GSU joins eight Illinois public universities to rally for funding and a state budget

By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

On October 20, the GSU Student Senate hosted a trip to Springfield to join eight other public four-year universities in Illinois rallying for much needed funding to higher education and to pass the already 144 day late state budget. GSU students and staff congregated with their counterparts from other universities at the Springfield Visitors Center about a block from the Capital Building before marching over to meet with government officials. Chants of “Cut back, Fight back!” and “Cuts mean us!” permeated the area as the rally came to the steps of the Capitol.

This was the second trip the Student Senate has organized to Springfield to rally for proper funding. The current budget impasse is the first of its kind; never before in Illinois history has a budget gone un-passed this late into the year.

GSU students and staff got a chance to speak with representative senators Will Davis, Toi Hutchinson, and Michael Hastings who offered their support. “We cannot do anything alone,” said senator Hutchinson to the GSU group and many other representatives from other universities, showing her appreciation for the large turnout.

Unfortunately, the senators the group intended to speak with were in session and unreachable. “I think it went very well considering that there may be a few people that were hiding from us,” said Assistant Dean of Students Sheree Sanderson, “Our reputation probably preceded us, especially with the enthusiasm we had going into Springfield.”

Sanderson reaffirmed that it is the republican senators that support the governor’s budget cuts that we need to contact. She also made it very clear that students and members of the community at large must make it clear the Illinois government that higher education is an investment that improves the quality and productivity of Illinois citizenship and helps to secure its future.

When asked what the plan post-rally plan is, Sanderson was hopeful that a third trip would not be necessary but also said, “if we need to make another trip, we will make another trip.”

For more information about the budget crisis, see staff writer Bob Meyers article below.

GSU Rally group after meeting with Pres. Maimon, Photo by Kyle H. Horn

Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

GSU President Elaine Maimon made a strong statement to the audience of WTTW’s Chicago Tonight in her efforts of bringing awareness to the state of Illinois’ budget.

“The public universities in the state of Illinois are a very important investment for the state,” she said. “The fact that we have been completely without an appropriations budget until the end of October is putting tremendous pressure not only on us but it is affecting the reputation of the state of Illinois.”

During the interview conducted by Chicago Tonight correspondent Eddie Arruza, President Maimon lauded GSU for being “good fiscal managers” but she cautioned that, without a budget, it makes it hard to plan strategies.

President Maimon said, “We put students first and that means that we’re moving heaven and earth to make sure that our students have their MAP (Monetary Assistance Program) grants, even though the state hasn’t provided it.”

Maimon pointed out that GSU has been able to keep operations running without a budget plan because of tuition money from students, but she said 45% of the operating budget comes from appropriation.

“What we’re doing now is we’re spending the student tuition money and trusting that the state of Illinois is going to come through with appropriations for its public universities.”

House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, Senate President John Cullerton, Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno and House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, the leaders whom the university presidents met with during the Save Our Education efforts in Springfield this week, were open to discussions.

“(They) seemed to understand that we were appealing to them not to govern by crisis but to govern in a way that would highlight the importance of the public universities to the economic development of the state,” Maimon said.

Maimon, as well as the other presidents of universities, met with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner in groups Thursday to send him the message that the lack of agreement is hurting the state of Illinois and that a new way of looking at things is needed to move the state forward to serve students.

Continued on p.6
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Prior to I pursued Candice Robbins. Over Dr. Patka is a professor of Patka and Candice Robbins. relationship in Dr. Mazna successful advisor/advisee happen. I was fortunate to and steps to make that into developing your This article looks at why advisor relationships. One of the survey that the Graduate last semester, over Columnist By Matt Gentry my career as a graduate and I began working here at my school to study writing. The what got you interested in becoming a teacher? Smith: As early as my sophomore year in college, I was interested in being a teacher, but what really sold me on teaching college writing and rhetoric was a course that I took the first semester of my Master’s in English program. The course was a seminar in teaching writing, much like our version of ENGL 7500. As I read the scholarship on teaching writing and rhetoric, I recognized kindred spirits—people who were fascinated with the same kinds of problems that I enjoyed thinking about. I valued their approach to learning about writing, and as I applied what I learned to the classes I taught, I experienced joy in knowing I was doing something that really mattered, both to me and to my students.

The Phoenix: What is your favorite part about teaching? Smith: I like working with students who learn something about themselves during a writing course. A lot of the students that I work with have writing anxiety. People have told them throughout their lives that they are no good at writing. For that reason, many of these students become ambivalent toward writing, or they begin to actively hate it. I approach teaching writing as an opportunity to change such students’ relationship with writing—to make writing enjoyable. Once students begin to enjoy writing, I find that they are more willing to work at it. That’s when the fun starts. When it works, it’s a powerful and rewarding experience.

Improving your faculty advisor relationship

By Brenda Torres Associate Editor

By Brenda Torres Associate Editor

This week Professor Profile is Dr. Bradley Smith from the College of Arts and Sciences, division of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Phoenix: What classes do you teach at the university?

Smith: I regularly teach the first-year writing courses, Writing Studies 1 and Writing Studies 2, and I often teach our Advanced Composition course. At the graduate level, I teach seminars in rhetorical theory and the theories and practices of teaching college composition. ENGL 1000, Writing Studies 1 ENGL 1010, Writing Studies 2 ENGL 4100, Advanced Composition ENGL 7200, Seminar: Studies in Theory ENGL 7500, College Composition Theory and Practice

The Phoenix: How long have you been in the field of education?

Smith: I’ve been teaching writing for 14 years. I started my career as a graduate student at Illinois State in 2001. My first full-time position was as a lecturer at Columbia College Chicago, and I began working here at GSU in 2013.

The Phoenix: Prior to teaching, you worked in journalism. Can you tell about that?

Smith: My first job after college was at a small newspaper in central Illinois, the LaSalle NewsTribune. It was a job that I both truly enjoyed and really hated. As a writer, I valued the opportunity to explore, think about, and communicate what I learned directly to a dedicated audience. I wrote stories about a wonderful variety of topics, like the interactions between neighbors, using Robert Putnam’s book Bowling Alone as a point of discussion. This story grew out of a moment when I saw my neighbor walking down her driveway dressed as a clown, and I realized I knew nothing about her. For other stories, I got to hike through Starved Rock State Park to interview people who climbed the waterfalls that had iced over during winter and go inside a hydroelectric dam on the Illinois River in order to see how it worked. These kinds of stories made the job a rewarding experience, and I learned so much about the area and about writing through the process. But then there were other stories and tasks that made it a stressful and depressing job. I’m not the kind of person who enjoys walking up to strangers to ask them their opinions about the plans for the new Walgreens or what they think about the Bush tax cuts (to give you an idea of when I was working as a journalist). Yet that task was part of my daily routine. Working as a journalist meant that I had to sit through three-hour meetings about things like whether RVs should be parked in driveways or in backyards, work until midnight writing a story, and then be at the police station by 7 am to copy the police reports for the next edition. I had to sit through rape trials and the sentence hearings of drug dealers. I had to read through marriage dissolutions. These tasks really wore on me and rekindled an earlier interest I had in returning to graduate school to study writing.

The Phoenix: What got you interested in becoming a teacher?

Smith: As early as my sophomore year in college, I was interested in being a teacher, but what really sold me on teaching college writing and rhetoric was a great for my CV. Q: What does your advisor/advisee relationship look like? Dr. Patka: The key to having a good faculty advisor relationship is excellent communication so determine what works best for both of you. I expect students to check in with me weekly. I understand that things can come up in life, so being made aware of what is going on is essential. I actually require my advisees sign a contract that they create with me. The contract conveys what we expect from each other.

Candice: A lot of our work now is done through email/ collaborative projects, and I find ways to make that fit into my life and my goals.

Q: What is the best way to approach an advisor? Dr. Patka: One thing that is important for me is to understand why my students chose me as their faculty advisor. Candice knew that I have a passion for research, and she knew that she needed research experience. Thus, students should have a good reason for choosing a particular faculty advisor. Also, I worked with Candice beforehand as a mentor through the Student Leadership Institute.

Candice: I pursued the relationship. When I was asked to work on some projects, I said yes. I had to do a bit of extra work, but I grew as a professional. Many students are busy non-traditional students so it is important to recognize opportunities and taking advantage of those.

Q: Any other last tips? Candice: Having a great faculty advisor does take work but it is well worth the time. I have grown academically and professionally in a way that would not have happened without professional academic help. I am very thankful that Dr. Patka has taken the time to help me. Students should get over the fear of ‘bothering their professors’ because the truth is that most professors are willing to help students.

Thank you to Dr. Patka and Candice for their time and willingness to share.
Campus

Whose Live Anyway!?

By Brenda Torres
Associate Editor

“Whose Live Anyway?”, the improv (improvisation) theatrical adaptation of “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” performed at the Center for Performing Arts on Oct. 16 for an almost full audience.

The night began with the introduction of the keyboard player, Bob Derkach, who has been with the company since its establishment in 1999.

Following Derkach, came Greg Proops, who asked the audience what they saw on campus. Many shouted with their answers, Proops grabbed what they shouted which was “condoms” and “coyotes”.

Afterwards, Proops introduced Jeff B. Davis, Joel Murray and Ryan Stiles. While bowing, Davis comically fixed his socks.

Proops mentioned to write down sentences on strips of paper that were passed to them.

For their first improv performance the group picked out an audience member, Dianne Rewerts to join them on stage. They asked her many more questions such as, where did she buy her boots, what did she do for a living, etc.

Rewerts said that her husband and friends accompanied her because they were celebrating her birthday. Therefore the group sang to Rewerts, “This is your birthday song it isn’t very long” this one verse was the length of the song.

The group continued to ask her questions and based on her responses they performed her answers.

A few moments later the group went to the front rows to collect the strips of paper and placed them in their pockets. They performed a skit of Teen Wolf and his lover based off the topics and sentences of the strips of paper such as “trap stamp, my nats smell like bacon, pick me H37, these pants don’t fit right,” etc.

Following that skit, Proops asked the couples of the audience who had been married the longest. Proops left the stage to go help the couple that was married for 45 years, Joan and Rich. The group asked how they met, which was in Boston because Rich was a Navy Sailor from Chicago and Joan was from Boston. Based on how the couple met they performed a skit. The couple sat on stools for the improv and were given a horn and a call bell. The bell was to be used if the group was on target with certain lines and the horn if the group was off target. Rich hit the bell many times and made the skit all the more humorous.

For one of the group’s last skits they picked Holly Britton, a film student from GSU and her sister Sharvon, to come up on stage. The group performed a skit while Holly and Sharvon provided sound effects to the performance.

Due to the enthusiasm of the audience, the group performed an encore.

Get to know the Safe Zone

By Mishutar Ganiyu
Assistant Editor

In the fall of 2014, Safe Zone was brought to campus by Dr. Howley, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies and Student Academic Affairs and Dr. Zingsheim, Associate Professor of Communication. Safe Zone is a “welcoming, supportive, and safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, an intersex (LGBTQI) people,” according to the Safe Zone training manual.

Those who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and intersex are still confronted with “bias, prejudice and discrimination” on college campuses.

University stresses diversity; Safe Zone is present in numerous colleges and universities but it could also be beneficial and other places as well.

“Most people are supportivewhether or not they know it, to hear stories of discrimination or heterosexism—sort of assumption that get made and that can be difficult for some students,” said Howley.

He added, “Heterosexism is the assumption that everyone is heterosexual and we also have the word heterocentric, which means that our world focuses on heterosexual folks and that can hurt students.”

“It can lead to internalize homophobia because it is very subtle” Howley said, “people don’t realize a lot of time that they’re not seeing images of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transsexual folks in the media.”

On our campus, this program strives to “address the oppression of LGBT people."

...There are allies on campus, professional staff and faculty who are supportive, who can lend an ear for them to talk, and who can put them in touch with resources that can help.”

Safe Zone works closely with the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), which is a club organization at Governors State University.

Students, faculty and staff are welcome to participate in Safe Zone training that occurs at least twice an academic semester.

The session lasts two hours and during the training, the co-directors of Safe Zone (Dr. Howley and Dr. Zingsheim) instill awareness through discussions and scenarios.

“I participated for one reason, to learn, said Michelle Sebasco, an Academic Advisor. “It is extremely important for me to be an advocate!” Participants choose whether or not to become an ally.

Either way, they will leave the training with a Safe Zone manual, to assist him or her through their journey as informative individuals. They will also receive a Safe Zone pin, sticker, and refrigerator magnet to demonstrate to their peers that they are a member of a program that supports LGBTQI people.

Safe Zone is present in numerous colleges and universities but it could also be beneficial and other places as well.

“It is most useful and educational spaces, particularly in colleges, where you have students who may have for the first time left families that may or may not be supportive,” said Zingsheim...

Health care (mental and physical) is probably another industry where it is important for folks to know that they can be completely open and getting health needs met.

One does not need to be a part of LGBTQI to become an ally, as written in the Safe Zone manual.

“Everybody has the potential to be an ally and that includes the respect, appreciation and the embracing of differences” said Zingsheim.

“Without focusing on our differences, our similarities become less meaningful.” he said.

The group continued to ask her questions and based on her responses they performed her answers.

A few moments later the group went to the front rows to collect the strips of paper and placed them in their pockets. They performed a skit of Teen Wolf and his lover based off the topics and sentences of the strips of paper such as “trap stamp, my nats smell like bacon, pick me H37, these pants don’t fit right,” etc.

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President Maimon talks budget cont.

“I think all of us, all the university presidents, trust that the leaders of Illinois are going to appropriate funds to the universities and we have to move forward with that assumption. The students’ success depends on the investment in the public universities.”

Maimon continued, “Students’ ongoing communication with legislators and with the Governor will make a positive difference. I hope that every GSU student takes seriously the responsibilities of citizenship. That means becoming informed on the issues and speaking out.”

Playing nice, Playboy changes focus to cleaner magazine

By Andrew Kriz

Intern Reporter

and

Playboy, an iconic rite of passage for millions of young boys in the mid-20th century, will be shifting the magazine’s focus from nude women to a PG-13 platform as the magazine’s subscription base slipped under 800,000 subscribers.

Cory Jones, a top editor at the magazine, approached the aging 89-year-old Hugh Hefner to pitch the change that Playboy should stop the publication of naked photos.

“You are now one click away from every sex act imaginable for free. And so, it’s just passed at this juncture,” said Scott Flanders, chief executive to the New York Times.

Both Jones and Flanders cited that with the advent of smart phone technology, young boys have no need for shock magazines when the content the magazine used to provide can now be found online.

The change to tone down the print publication is massive since Playboy was so substantial between the 1950s and 1990s due to its cultural influence of provocative content, celebrity interviews and widespread brand awareness that rivaled Apple and Nike.

Three years ago, Playboy toned down their magazine to create a more “safe for work” edition with the emphasis on articles and cover up models but even that was not enough. Penthouse, their closest competitor, took a different approach to digital competition by printing even more provocative pictures but the company folded.

Maimon was proud of the students who showed up to participate in the discussions, “I think that the Governor and the General Assembly pay attention to students. I was proud of our students’ respectful and articulate communication of GSU’s importance to their lives, That was civic engagement in action.”

By Holly Britton

Columnist

“I’m not a good test taker but have mid-terms and finals. What do I do?”

This is something common for many students finding study/test taking tips that actually work. This isn’t an easy to answer question, because different things work for different people. However from experiences I have learned that becoming a better test taker begins before the test itself. Some tips that may assist I found in several locations, pulling most from personal experience and The Huffington Post.

Tip number one is find a study group even if it’s just one or two other people. This offers the opportunity to ask questions and share knowledge that perhaps the other may not know. Each person can bring a different perspective or interpretation of the material. This is one method that I discovered in the Huffington Post but also one that I tried to incorporate whenever I can myself, especially for science courses.

Creating flash cards is another method. However I feel like this form of study focuses on the memorization instead of learning. Test taking isn’t about the about the knowledge of the material but also one that I tried to incorporate whenever I can myself, especially for science courses.

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By Andrew Kriz
Intern Reporter

Candidate: Donald Trump

Trump, during a campaign rally in Tyngsborough, Mass., said he would be open to closing mosques in the United States to help fight ISIS. While on FOX, he was asked if he would be willing to follow the same steps Britain did by shutting down potentially dangerous mosques. Trump then said that he was not sure about the legality of closing mosques, but that it was certainly something that should be looked at. “It depends if the mosque is, you know, loaded for bear,” he said. Polls: Trump’s popularity continues to rise with the latest CNN numbers suggesting 32 percent of Republican voters would turn up in support of the candidate.

Candidate: Ben Carson

Quinnipiac University surveyed 574 Iowa Republican caucus participants and 28 percent said they would choose Carson as the Republican candidate. Iowa, a key early primary state, is a historic battleground for Republicans trying to make a serious run for president. The survey found that 34 percent of participants would vote for Trump. Polls: Carson is at 22 percent and trails Trump by 10 percent according to CNN’s data.

Candidate: Jeb Bush

Bush has adopted a new strategy in the Republican arena “to win over the other candidates,” according to the New York Times. After failing to rise in the polls during the two Republican debates, Bush then switched to mailing out letters to voters for support. Since neither strategy panned out, he is going to focus on collecting money and big-name sponsors for his super PAC. Polls: Bush still sits at fourth place with only seven percent.

Candidate: Marco Rubio

According to the Huffington Post, Rubio may have violated an ethics rule by making a direct appeal for donations while in a federal building. Rubio was being interviewed by FOX in the Russell Senate Office Building and was asked about why he was so far behind his competition. In an attempt to play off the question and showcase his strength, Rubio mentioned how strong his fundraising is despite not being a leading candidate. “I knew we would not be the leading fundraiser in this race because we are not the top choice. But I’m confident we have the resources and continue to build the resources to communicate our message. And obviously if someone watching this program wants to help us, they should go to marcorubio.com and chip in.”

Pollo: Rubio has not moved from third place with 10 percent after overtaking Bush last week.

The Democratic campaign

By Misturat Ganiyu
Assistant Editor

Vice President Joe Biden Jr. announced on Wednesday, Oct. 21 that he will not join the run for the 2016 presidential election, as per the New York Times. “As my family and I have worked through the grieving process, I’ve said all along what I’ve said time and again to others, that it may very well be that that process by the time we get through it, closes the window on mounting a realistic campaign for president, that it might close,” said Biden in his speech.

“I’ve concluded it has closed.”

Candidate: Hillary Clinton

Clinton will premiere "American Africans for Hillary" on Oct. 23 at Clark Atlanta University (CAU) in Georgia according to WXIA news. She will speak on issues that are important to African Americans not only in CAU’s community but also across the United States. Moreover, she will inform the audience about her plans to fix those issues. Polls: Clinton leads the Iowa Democratic Presidential Caucus with 48.5 percent of the public vote, according to RealClearPolitics.

Candidate: Bernie Sanders

Sanders appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live where he touched on legalizing marijuana, college education and his spirituality, as per USA Today.

"I’m stepping aside from the Democratic primary process, but I will never abandon my loyalties to the people who do the hard work of keeping this country great at home and secure abroad, and we’ll just have to see what happens next," said Webb, National Journal reported.

Webb emphasized his desire to understand other political parties. He is considering re-entering as an Independent.

In the first Democratic debate, Webb’s total time for speaking throughout the event was 15 minutes and 25 seconds—the second lowest to former senator Lincoln Chafee. Before Webb dropped out of the race, he stood at 1 percent among Democratic candidates.

Migrants face detention camps, in already critical situation

By Misturat Ganiyu
Assistant Editor

United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein expressed displeasure about the Czech Republic’s placing of migrants and refugees in detention camps according to the Office of the Higher Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Czech Republic, located in central Europe, is believed to have imprisoned people between 40 days to 90 days in “degrading” conditions. Hussein said “Many of these people are refugees who have suffered horrendously in their countries of origin as well as during their journey to the Czech Republic,” Hussein said in his statement.

The Czech Republic is a member of the European Union (EU) and must follow proper procedures when handling immigrants. “This is a matter of international law is quite clear that immigration detention must be strictly a measure of last resort. And as for children, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has emphasized that detention of children on the sole basis of their migration status, or that of their parents, is a violation, is never in their best interests, and is not justifiable,” said Hussein.

The UN Commissioner stated that President Milos Zeman has made repeated “Islamicphobic” statements, as noted by Hussein. Hussein pressed the Czech Republic government to change their treatment of migrants and refugees immediately.

Interior Minister Milan Chovanec of the Czech Republic said he invited Mr. Hussein to see any of the facilities that holds migrants and refugees, according to Reuters. “The president has long warned of the threat of Islamic fundamentalism. He stands by his opinion and he will not change it under the pressure from abroad,” said a spokesman for Zeman, as reported by Reuters.

“Exxon Mobil funded research that was supposed to undermine what all the scientists in the world are saying today about fossil fuels and public health. "Exxon Mobil knew about the truth about fossil fuels and climate change and lied to protect their business model at the expense of the planet," Sanders said.

Candidate: Jim Webb

The Democratic debate, Webb’s total time for speaking throughout the event was 15 minutes and 25 seconds—the second lowest to former senator Lincoln Chafee. Before Webb dropped out of the race, he stood at 1 percent among Democratic candidates.

Playboy magazine changes cont.

Continued from p.5

Playboy’s website in August announced several new changes that took down the nude photos and instead focuses on articles pertaining to entertainment, video games, style, nightlife and culture. With those changes, Playboy’s average reader age online dropped from 47 to the coveted 30 which is a key demographic when trying to reach Millennials. Joseph Knoop, a fellow Manteno High School graduate and journalist, began writing for Playboy while finishing his degree at Ball State University.

Knoop, who is a video game journalist, never dreamed of writing articles for Playboy when thinking of his career path. “I created BYTE at Ball State to cover video games as part of the Journalism program but one day I found out that Playboy was looking for freelance video game reporters on their website... Needless to say, I now have my own name published on their website and a check from Playboy which my dad says I should frame.” said Knoop.

Martin Luther King Jr., Jimmy Carter, John Lennon, Yoko Ono and Malcolm X were all interviewed in stunning articles that profiled the celebrities which gave birth to the line “I’m reading it for the articles.” A judge even ruled that denying blind readers a Braille version was a violation of First Amendment rights.

In November of 1972, 7 million copies were sold and that was the magazine’s best-selling issue.
Across
4. Fruit comprised almost entirely of water, spiky
10. Water vapor with a dislike for parasites
13. Someone who does chants and works
14. Small mammal related to the otter and weavers
16. The gas blanket separating the Earth from the vacuum of space
18. The abbreviation for forty thousand
19. The villain from Conan, forms after injury
21. The cloud that follows a nuclear explosion
gets its name from this life form
22. Acid is...
23. Item used for subjugating long hair, can be used to pick locks
25. Coin comprised primarily of zinc

Down
1. The color of the fruit for which the fruit is named
2. Thumb armor for a seamstress
3. Someone who considers the meaning of life
4. A relatively tail circuit
5. A watch must be wound daily
6. _______? We don’t need no stinkin’
7. Decorative sculpture featuring creative jets or streams of water, sometimes used with chocolate instead
8. The answer to life, the universe, and everything
9. Scorpion mermaid
10. Backpacker, migrant, one who travels by the kindness (or stupidity) of others
11. Simple device that holds papers together without causing damage
12. The setting for horror movies, also where the laundry room and furnace are in many homes
13. Armored sea spiders
14. Male pronoun
By Bob Meyers
GSU Golf Head Coach

Governors State University Jaguars men’s Golf Team competed in their fourth event of the 2015/16 season participating in the Naperville Collegiate Invite. The event was hosted at a difficult Naperville Country Club Golf Course. The Jaguars had three golfers participate as individuals in the 10 team tournament. The Men’s Golf Team in its first year of competition will be at full strength in the Spring with several golfers becoming eligible to compete in the spring of 2016.

Kevin Holtz led the team with a round of 80 and a 144 place finish out of 57 golfers. The winner shot 74. Kevin had a difficult start with a triple bogey on his first hole and a bad bounce double bogey on his last hole. It was a remarkable grind for Kevin to finish with an 80 even though he did not have his best game. Holtz’s last four tournament scores have been 80, 76,78 and 74 playing as the Jaguar’s number 1 golfer. Tony Roop shot a 91 recovering from a poor front nine of 51. He shot 40 on the back side despite a quad triple bogey on hole 16. Freshman Joshua Janiec shot 99 to round out the scoring.

A look at insider trading allegations against fantasy sports and proposed regulations

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

Recently, the ethics of fantasy sports came into question after it was alleged that an employee for Draft Kings was accused to have partaken in “insider trading” while on FanDuel, a competing website, and using information not available to the public to win monetary prizes.

As a result, law enforcement agencies across the country have begun investigating the legality of fantasy sports companies and whether or not they are a form of gambling, which could cause cash put into fantasy football accounts on sites such as FanDuel or DraftKings to be frozen indefinitely.

Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Florida have officially banned DFS (Daily Fantasy Sports) websites until they obtain gambling licenses, according to ESPN.

In a statement given to the Washington Post from FanDuel spokeswoman Justine Sacco, the company strongly disagreed with the idea that federal law enforcement could freeze players’ accounts. “We’ve heard nothing from anyone anywhere — in a position to know indicating it is remotely under consideration, and there is no reason it would be. Offshore poker was a very, very different industry. Further, we segregate player funds into a dedicated master client funds account to ensure player cash is segregated and we have more than sufficient funds to meet any player’s withdrawal requests at all times,” Sacco wrote.

Despite the uncertainty that surrounds daily fantasy sports, District of Columbia white-collar criminal defense lawyer Jeff Ifrah maintains an outlook that the current controversy could ultimately strengthen the industry through the establishment of consumer protection regulations. “As far as the cheating allegations are concerned, it all comes down to policies and procedures. As relatively new businesses, I am giving them the benefit of the doubt and some time to develop their company’s particular rules and regulations.”