Shaky State Budget Drives Up Tuition

By Carole Sharwarko

The state of Illinois is facing a sluggish economy and its appropriations to institutions of higher education are lower than they have been in 10 years. Also, the amount of money the state is requiring the university to pay out has increased.

"We had to reserve $666,000 to pay back to Springfield to cover health insurance costs for university employees, for retirees and for their dependents," said Slovak. "(This was the) first time that all Illinois universities were required to make such a payment."

In addition to this, the payouts for sick leave, vacation time, and retirement are slated to increase by 28.3 percent this year. This is due to what Slovak calls "funny demography." GSU is just over 30 years old.

Many of the employees that work here began when the university opened in 1969. As such, many are retiring all at the same time.

Determined to tell the facts straight out to the Student Senate, Slovak said he wouldn't "dance around this." He explained the tuition shortfall that GSU is experiencing. Enrollment is already down and is expected to fall 29.9 percent next year. Though there was a slight tuition increase between fall 2001 and fall 2002.

Welcome Week Ready to Rock

By Zach Donaldson

Governors State University welcomes incoming students for the Fall trimester during Welcome Week. Sponsored by Student Life, it takes place in the atrium and the Hall of Governors, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 26 through 29.

For those interested in joining extracurricular activities at GSU, the event is the place to be. The Student Senate, Chi Sigma Iota, the Center for Performing Arts, and the GSU student newspaper will be represented, along with outside vendors such as US Bank and The Star and Daily Southtown newspapers. Meeters and greeters will be on hand to direct those with questions.

Lorraine Sibbet, executive director of Student Life, says, "It is a means for the university to showcase the many amenities available to students that they may not be aware of." It is also a way for the student organizations to recruit new members.

Aside from the clubs, there will be refreshments such as popcorn, hot dogs, and pop. Door prizes from Baker's Square, Aurelio's Pizza, Bath and Body Works, Chicago Dough Company, and Wal-Mart will be handed out.

Also, students can win on-campus prizes like gift certificates for the GSU Follet's bookstore and the fitness center, and free tickets to the Center for Performing Arts. There will be three d.j.'s playing music, and blues guitarist Keith Schott will round out the week on 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 29. There will also be a scavenger hunt of the university's facilities, with prizes of $100, $75, and $50.

Many of the giveaway items are donated by outside vendors and university organizations. The remainder of the $5,000 cost of the event comes out of the student activity fund.

"This is the way the student activity fund is used," says Sibbet. With 31 tables reserved, this will be the largest Welcome Week during Sibbet's tenure as Student Life director. "We're hoping for a good turnout," she says.
Liberty Tour Exposes Historical Sites, New Food

By Kathleen Frossard

The Access to a College Education Student Support Services Program, or ACESSS, "seeks to expose our students," according to Academic Coordinator Martha Brooks-Lawson.

In an effort to do that, the program hosted the Liberty Tour, a ten-day trip to various locations on the East Coast. Stops in Niagara Falls, Boston, New York City and Philadelphia proved to be both an academic and cultural experience for the students. ACESSS chose the locations of the trip because of the cities' historical values, the events of September 11 and its status as territory to which ACESSS had never before exposed students.

From Niagara Falls to Philadelphia, the group experienced the history of each area fully through a series of unique tours. Not only did the group learn about the events that shaped each city, but also got a flavor of the local people in the form of the tour guides. A variety of museums supplemented the history of the cities.

A visit to the John F. Kennedy Museum in Boston brought back the days of the early '60s while the African-American Museum in Philadelphia exposed students to the diverse history of African-Americans. The ACESSS students appreciated the opportunity to experience each city's history.

“ACESSS students appreciated the opportunity to experience each city’s history.”

According to LaToya Jones, an ACESSS student, “I was able to see things that I would only hear about or see on television. I have a greater respect for history now.”

The trip was also a cultural experience for the students. “We were exposed to the people of the area, their customs, and their foods,” explained Brooks-Lawson.

The visit to Canada allowed the students to experience another country and its unique set of ideas and people. New York City showed how it is truly "the melting pot" where numerous groups of people interact with each other on a daily basis. The food spoke volumes about the local culture. The group was excited to experience lobster and fish in Boston, a New York hot dog, a Philly cheese steak and soul food.

“We were exposed to the people of the area, their customs, and their foods.”

“We were exposed to the people of the area, their customs, and their foods.”

“I was able to try new food and to my surprise, the food was great,” Jones said.

The cultural experience came alive in a series of plays as well. Students experienced Broadway by means of the “Phantom of the Opera.” The history of Harlem was expressed at the Apollo Theater in “Harlem Song.” These experiences allowed students to better understand the culture of the cities that were visited. Also unique to this trip was the variety of students involved. In order to be a part of ACESSS, one must be a first-generation college student earning a degree, meet low-income criteria as determined by the U.S. Department of Education, have documented learning disabilities or have various other academic needs. These criteria allow for ACESSS students to be a diverse group of people.

The students who participated in the trip were diverse in age and ethnicity, which was quite a learning experience.

“We are about diversity and acceptance in this program.”

“We are about diversity and acceptance in this program.”

Over the course of the trip, the group went from a bunch of loosely connected people to a sort of a family.

“I had fun on the trip and I really enjoyed (my co-travelers) as well,” Jones said.

ACESSS, lead by Director Vela Gray, offers a variety of opportunities for its students over the academic year. In addition to cultural activities such as the trip, ACESSS offers workshops and one-on-one interaction to assist students in meeting their academic needs.

Students’ Opinions, Experiences Integral in Web Site Reconstruction

By Carole Sharwarko Connelly

On Tuesday, Aug. 6, the Public Relations office at GSU held three student focus groups to find out what current students think about the university’s Web site. Steven Reagan from the Chicago-based BHI ran the focus groups to consult with students about rebuilding the Web site.

BHI, which is a graphic design, marketing and communications company, is contracted with GSU to examine the functionality and design of the current Web site in order to improve it.

The university is currently suffering a decline in enrollment, and redesigning the Web site is an "integral part of developing a comprehensive marketing enrollment program," according to Chuck Connolly, director of GSU’s public relations department.

This marketing program includes a newly-created series of advertisements that students will soon see around campus and in area newspapers. The focus groups analyzed the participants’ thoughts about GSU’s Web site in order to improve it for current students and make it more attractive to prospective students.

In a tape-recorded session, Reagan asked several questions regarding how the students chose GSU and how they collected the information to make their decision. Only a few students said they perused the Web site before enrolling, but they use it now, they said, for many purposes.

Most of the students use the Web site to research items in the library and check class schedules. They said one way to improve the Web site was to make sure the information on it corresponds with information from other sources, like print media or university employees.

Reagan had print-outs of the home pages of several Illinois universities, including GSU, and asked the students to rate them on their attractiveness and accessibility. Most of the students rated GSU’s in the middle of the group, and said it was organized well, but could look more attractive.

Toure Peck was in one of the focus groups. “We can do a better job with the website,” he said. "It needs to be livened up."

Reagan asked the students other various questions about features they’d like to see on the Web site. Almost every student said they would register online, but almost all said they would not pay online if they could.

Overall, the students were excited to participate and Reagan took many notes during the session.

“It’s a good thing they’re doing,” Peck said. “The focus group was very thorough.”

Just got a new job offer!

Apply/Register Today!
Fall Classes Begin August 26th

Call 708.526.4990 www.govts.edu
One in a series of advertisements involved in the new marketing campaign.
Tuition, from front page

this fall, enrollment is suffering and the school's income from enrollment is down.
Because of the state's financial situation this past year and its projections for next year, the school sees no choice but to raise tuition and student fees. Right now, GSU students pay four fees when they enroll in classes. The student activity fee is $25 and hasn't been increased since at least 1989. The student center fee and the career and counseling fees have been increased $1 each since their creation in 1992 and are now at $21 each. The technology fee is the most recent and has been increased since at least 1996. The student center fee, reading from a prepared statement, Keys said the proposed increases are not large in dollar amounts and are long overdue.

"If we had a reasonable fee structure, some of the things we're talking about like communications and televisions," said Keys, "we might have been able to do earlier."
According to Keys, fee increases would go toward improving the Career Services Department and strengthening the child care program on campus, including creating a child development center to improve the children's education.
In addition, "We obviously need to improve advising," Keys said. "And we need to link that with Career Services and other counseling services."
The administration wants to avoid cutting other services which, Keys says, are already at a minimal level. They are also interested in hearing from students what services are important to them and what they'd like to see created or improved.
On September 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., students will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum for the new fee, which is called the Service Enhancement Fee. According to Slovak and Keys, the proposed cost of the fee would be $10 per credit hour of the registered student, up to 12 credit hours, for a maximum of $120.
"This fee would be applied directly to implementing projects and programs that would directly benefit students," Keys said. "But this will only be invested with Student Senate and other student input."
Keys gave many examples of the types of things the fee used for, including the acquisition of digital equipment for students and the improvement of the school's physical appearance.
"The president and the cabinet would like your guidance, your discussion, your input on the size of these fees, on the timing of the increases, before we make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees," Keys prompted the members of Student Senate. He emphasized that no decision had been made yet, but the matter would be brought up before the Board of Trustees on September 15.
Keys mentioned that enrollment has fallen because of the university's bad press, including the current lawsuits regarding the Innovator student newspaper and the social work program's lack of accreditation.
Finally, Keys asked for the senate's support in whatever agreement of increased fees is reached. He stressed that the administration is attempting to locate every source of income it can obtain for the school, including state grants and other outside appropriations.
President’s Israel Trip Informative, Inspiring

By Carole Sharwarko

Sitting at a table in the middle of his office, GSU President Stuart Fagan is still jet-lagged from his nine-day trip to Israel, but speaks about the trip with enthusiasm. Despite and also because of the overwhelming turmoil in that area of the world, Fagan and his wife desired to visit family in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. A special visit was paid to Fagan’s brother-in-law, who is very ill.

"It was very surrealistic," says Fagan, describing the tension that pervades each moment of the lives of the people there as they perform merely their daily tasks.

"Every decision involved some tension," Fagan explained, "because a decision to go to the bank meant that one would have to go into an area which is very close to where the suicide bombings tend to be concentrated.

Errands in town are executed with as much expediency as possible. At one point, however, Fagan’s relatives were tarrying in a shop in town when they heard an explosion. They soon found out that it had indeed been a suicide bombing about one block away.

Despite the danger, they saw many people running toward the disaster scene, anxious to offer their help. Also, the ambulance arrived about 30 seconds later and an emergency crew was on the scene.

"They’re ready for it," Fagan said.

While Fagan witnessed first-hand the tragedies being incurred by his family and their friends, he also observed their concurrent attempt to lead their lives the way they always have. Children go to day camp, people go to the beach and have dinner with friends.

"There’s the attempt to try to maintain some sort of normalcy in one’s life," Fagan said. "On the other hand, there’s nothing normal about it because there’s the fear of random terrorism in the background."

Fagan admits he felt a relieved of the tension of the area upon leaving. But overall it was a great experience for him.

"There was a great deal of positive feeling toward us being there," he said.

He and his wife did not run across any other Americans during their stay. "Because there are, of course, no tourists," he said.

A family friend made an impression on him. They visited the man’s office in town and as they were leaving, the man offered Fagan and his wife some flowers. The flowers were a gift, the man said, for having the faith to come and visit the area.

"It was a wonderful moment," said Fagan.

He is having to readjust, not just to the time difference, but to his extremely busy schedule as university president. It was important for him to go visit family, though.

"We had put it off because of all the terrorism," he said.

"But we couldn’t put it off any longer."

Alum Struggles to Aid Troubled Teens

By John DeYoung

Her employees consider her a kind and giving person. She was once honored as employee of the month and continues to strive to help economically disadvantaged children within her community. Her name is Annie Ware, and she has been an employee of Governors State University for twelve years working in the university library.

Ware started as a student at GSU in fall of 1979 and finished in 1996. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree and two master’s degrees, one in art and the other in psychology. While receiving her education, Ware worked part-time at the university library and also the Elizabeth Ludeman Development Center, helping the mentally challenged.

She says it was her sister who led her to GSU.

"She told me it was small and friendly and that the teachers were great," Ware recalls.

Ware remembers her scholastic years fondly.

"Teachers and students were close like a family," she says. "It’s a better way of learning when teachers have time to spend with the students."

Ware feels that another reason officials are apprehensive is because of the background of the teens that would be staying in the group home.

"All it is it’s a cry for help and a cry for love," she says. "And it’s all about the kids."

Despite Ware’s best efforts, her cause has been coming up against opposition especially from south suburban officials.

"Property is revenue, so because we are a non-profit tax exempt organization, they would not make any money from us," she says.

Ware feels that another reason officials are apprehensive is because of the background of the teens that would be staying in the group home.

Another setback is funding. "It’s difficult to find funding," Ware says. But she is diligent in getting finance through fundraisers, grants and donations. Much of the money comes mostly out of her own pocket.

Since starting the youth service back in October 1999, Ware has helped 30 teens. Some have made significant changes with their lives while others have not been success stories.

"Some go back on the street. Others go back to their abusive boyfriends," Ware says.

Ware feels there is a desperate need for a facility for the teens in the south suburbs.

Even through the struggles, her achievements have not gone unrecognized.

Recently, Ware and The Right Choices received the 2002 Community Service Award. She was presented a $500 gift from the GSU Foundation and the Alumni Association.

But for Ware, it’s not about the money or the attention: it’s all about the kids.

"We had put it off because of all the terrorism," he said.

"But we couldn’t put it off any longer."
New Faculty Office Center Slated to Open in May 2003

Photos by Carole Sharwarko
Digital Renderings courtesy of Public Relations
By Carole Sharwarko

President Stuart Fagan has a button in his office that reads, "But we've always done it this way," with the words crossed out. According to Fagan, he's not the type to make a decision based solely on what's been done before. He prefers to get all the facts before making up his mind.

He also believes that the students in the university he serves should have the whole story about an issue before they can be expected to make a decision. For this and many other reasons, including past experience, he supports student media wholeheartedly.

"I believe in complete freedom of the press," says Fagan. "That's always been my belief." Fagan's past substantiates his assertion that he encourages free press on campus.

From 1963 to 1970, Fagan attended University of California, Berkeley, where he gained both his master's and doctorate degrees. In the 1960s, UC Berkeley was a hotbed of political protests and controversial sit-ins. And Fagan was right in the thick of things.

Berkeley had always been a place, Fagan says, where students were very vocal about their positions on the political controversies of the day, mostly the war in Vietnam and racial integration. Berkeley was located very near Oakland, Calif., a very racially segregated community at the time.

"The university was the nucleus of the attempt to desegregate restaurants and housing, among other things, in Oakland, which was only a mile away from Berkeley," Fagan explains. "So there was pressure from Oakland to, in effect, to control these students at Berkeley."

There was much political literature distributed on campus speaking out against the Vietnam War and segregation. Booths were set up freely on campus to spread information about these and other causes. The steps of the administration building were routinely used as a soapbox for anyone to get up and speak during lunchtime.

"It was in this context that there was an attempt by the university, probably pressured by political authorities, to clamp down on the political freedoms on campus," Fagan explains.

Students were no longer allowed to distribute materials on campus, or orate about political issues. Several students refused to abide by the new regulations and banded together to create the Free Speech Movement. Fagan sat, or rather marched, on the executive committee of the Movement.

The group's aim was to try to negotiate with the administration to rescind the new rule banning free speech on campus. Unfortunately, they ran up against what Fagan calls, "a solid wall."

"The administration absolutely refused to give way," Fagan said. From there, the students organized sit-ins and protests at the administration building contesting the rule. Fagan was a part of many such protests.

During this time, some police officers drove a squad car onto campus and, in what Fagan describes as a "spontaneous act," several students surrounded the car and made it the center of an unplanned sit-in.

The car remained surrounded for several days. Fagan took his turn sitting by the cruiser, but was luckly not present when the police finally were called in to drag off the protesters.

Finally, some months later, the administration rescinded the ruling and students were once again allowed to voice their opinions aloud on campus to anyone who would listen. The controversy made national news, most of which Fagan believes wasn't truthful.

These experiences were a time in Fagan's life that shaped his views about the freedoms of speech and press to a great extent. He believed that the events at UC Berkeley were not reported accurately, but only from the administration's point of view. The Free Speech Movement sent representatives out across the country in an effort to counteract the incorrect reporting and tell their side of what was happening.

"The experience was an incredible experience, both personally and politically," Fagan says. "I don't think there was any other time in my life when I felt I was so correct, and so right, and so morally pure."

Coming from this background, Fagan believes that student media has only one purpose — to tell the truth.

"The student press serves a vital need within a democracy," Fagan says, "to tell the truth so that people can make decisions on their own. But they've got to know the facts in order to be able to make good decisions."

Fagan is a person who wants to be able to have all the facts to make appropriate decisions. He says he will look to the student newspaper to inform him when there is a problem within the university that requires his attention. Also, he looks to the students of the university. He stresses his open-door policy.

"I think it's necessary to investigate what may not be working, so that we may make improvements," he said. "But on the other hand, it would be useful to tell the university community about individuals and programs that they may benefit from."

Fagan believes that the student newspaper is the university's primary publication. He intends to read the student newspaper "cover to cover" and encourages students to do the same.

Opinion Survey: What Should be in Your Paper?

It is important that the student newspaper reflect the opinions and needs of the student body. What would you like to see in your student newspaper?

Information about the Psychology Club and other clubs, about times for their meetings and other activities.

— Robert Wysocki

The newspaper should keep students informed about changes that we might not know about so that we can have more input.

— Percy Amartefio

Local sports coverage for the Bears and Bulls, movie reviews. Also information about the Center for Performing Arts.

— Carl Julien

Horoscopes and an "around town" events listing. What's going on in the area? Also a listing of showtimes for movies at the Cicero Drive-In.

— Danielle Ostrowski

A book-trade program through the newspaper.

— Courtney Fortier

Activities that students can get involved in. Also conventions or other news from the area that deal with specific majors.

— Robin Greenery

I think a great name for the student newspaper is:

Name:

Address:

Phone #: 

Email:

Winner must be a current GSU student with a valid GSU ID. In the event that two people enter the same winning name, one name will be randomly drawn to decide the $200 winner.
I See “Signs”

Starring: Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix
Directed by M. Night Shyamalan

Reviewed by Zach Donaldson

“There’s a monster outside my window; can I have a drink of water?”

The new M. Night Shyamalan catchphrase in “Signs,” supplants “I see dead people” in his debut, “The Sixth Sense.”

In “Signs,” Mel Gibson stars as a widowed reverend-turned-farmer who finds crops circle in his north forty. And strange events ensue.

Shyamalan’s films characteristically should be taken as a whole, rather than a series of highlights strung together. Not to say that the director has adopted a formalKeil approach to his movies (“The Sixth Sense,” “Unbreakable”), but there are similar characteristics in all his movies. All are set in or around Philadelphia, all deal with the paranormal, and a child always plays a major role. He still has a flair for developing and heightening suspense.

Also, the camera stays mostly stationary and faces the action directly. Any camera movement usually means that something is about to happen.

A good director stays cognizant of what the viewer sees. But only a few directors today are able to really control what the audience is seeing to maximum effect (the best are Tarantino, Spielberg and Shyamalan). When Shyamalan shows you something, it’s for a reason.

There are several things that set “Signs” apart from its predecessors, including a lack of Bruce Willis. It’s not so much a movie about crop circles, flying saucers and little green men, as it is about a person’s beliefs and what happens when a person’s core beliefs are turned upside down.

The plot veers from tension to humor at the drop of a hat, and leaves you feeling off balance (much the way the characters feel). You often find yourself laughing, but there is an underlying tension throughout the movie.

The only part that I really didn’t care for was the ending. It did-

Keeping in mind: Students, faculty members and administration will not be the only people reading this publication. I am hoping in the near future this publication will reach outside GSU by way of the Internet and other distribution.

I am expecting for students to get involved in their student papers. One person that I know who will rise to make this paper the publication that it should be is our editor-in-chief, Carole Sharwarko. She has such a passion for doing this, and I know that she will make sure that journalistic integrity and ethics will be a priority with each issue that is printed.

More Than Cage Liner

By Carole Sharwarko

Have you ever entered campus through the F-building doors and walked down that long hallway with the high ceiling? There are beautiful floor-to-ceiling windows on one side. However, the light coming in from those windows must have been too much for the workers in the offices next to them. On one side of windows, several copies of the Innovative, GSU’s student newspaper, are plastered as high up as someone could climb, diffusing the light trying to beam through.

The F-building entrance happens to be the one I use, so I walk by there every day. The sight of all that yellowed newsprint hanging, being so sturdy a sun-shield, makes me smile an ironic sort of smile. While I get kind of upset at the strange use of what should be a respected publication, I also get upset at the people that created the publication. Was it that trivial that it deserved to be nothing more than a makeshift curtain?

Then I usually laugh and shrug it off, because newsprint has historically been used in many different capacities than what was intended. It is common to see someone running across a rain-soaked street with the wings of a broadsheet spread above their head, because God forbid they mess up their ‘do. People mop up coffee spills with the classifieds. Heck, for a long time markets wrapped the skinniest animal on earth in the stuff because it soaked up those fish juices and killed the smell better than anything else available at the time. And I won’t even get into what it’s doing at the bottom of many a birdbase.

Certainly, all the secondary uses of newspapers make it a handy, if spontaneous, tool. But as someone who respects and revels in the art of newspaper-making, I hope that all those who appreciate those secondary uses first pay attention to the primary purpose – to inform. Every newspaper exists to inform its readers about something and the intended audience is always better off for having read it.

Whether the information makes the reader happy, angry, sad – even if the reader thinks the information is false – they now have more facts on which to base their opinion.

And everyone has an opinion about everything. People love having an opinion. Feel free to have your own opinion and feel free to voice it. Make sure that your opinion, however, is an informed one. The worst thing in the world to listen to is someone ranting on and on about an issue about which they know nothing. The best way to inform yourself and be able to make a good argument is to read the newspaper.

If you’re mad at the administration, fine but at least know why. If you disagree with the tuition increase, no problem but be aware of all the causes surrounding it. It’s simple to get irritated; it’s a challenge learn why you should or shouldn’t be upset. Reading and supporting your student newspaper is the only way to expose yourself to the whole truth and nothing but.

I’m not kidding myself here. Truth and journalism are my passions. I don’t expect them to be yours. I know you are busy. I know because I am your classmate, your peer. Between tests, papers, work, kids and mortgages, we are all happy if we can squeeze in time for some fun. But think of all the things you do make time for. Make reading the student newspaper one of those things.

Asking you to read the newspaper isn’t merely selfish (well, maybe a little). It challenges me. If I know you are going to be checking up on me, watching me, making sure I get things correct and keep things fair, I will be forced to raise myself up as high as I can reach. I will struggle to create a newspaper that is the most honest, interesting and entertaining little rag it can be.

So if you need to use the student newspaper to get mud off your shoes or swat a fly, go for it. Just do both of us a favor and read it a little first.

Thanks,

Your proud new editor-in-chief.

Newspaper Should Be By the Students, For the Students

By John Deyoung

I don’t know how many times I heard people say around here, “Well I didn’t know about this and I didn’t know about that.” This is just one of many reasons why I am a strong advocate of student media and why I wanted to be an adviser.
LIFE IS GREAT
IN THE DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Life & Learning Every Monday
Starting September 9th

Monday:
LIFE & LEARNING

Education
- Educational options
- Self improvement
- Local school news

Student Life
- With Honors
- The World
- According to Me
- KidSpeak

CyberScene
- Home computers
- Game reviews
- New technology

Every day
- Entertainment news
- Horoscopes
- Dr. Gott
- TV and movie listings
- Comics
- Crossword
- Bridge column
- Almanac

Starting September 9th