Three Student Senators Lose Their Seats
By Carole Schrock

Student Senate President Linda Williams had a difficult time keeping a lid on the monthly meeting of student government on Wed., June 18, when tempers flared.
Williams called a point of order after discussion regarding some senators' performances led to raised voices that could be heard down the hall from the Student Commons.

Where was this scene on campus earlier in the month? Turn to page 6 to find out.

GSU Student Retention Needs Attention
By Victoria Hosey

Last fall, 690 students withdrew totally from all classes. That is 12 percent of the student body that decided not to pursue higher education through GSU. The Winter trimester was slightly better. Only 10 percent left.

While these figures may not seem astronomical, they have summoned the attention of GSU officials.

"We need to slow down the erosion rate of new students," GSU President Stuart Fagan said. "The colleges need to make retention a priority for the Fall Trimester."

The university's Retention Committee will meet over the next few weeks to develop strategies that will help the colleges with this new priority. The Committee, which is comprised of about 12 faculty and staff members, is co-chaired by Larry Polselli, executive director, Enrollment and Management, and Joyce Harris, Lead Academic Advisor, BOG.

Both Polselli and Harris came up with several suggestions they plan to present to the Committee this month. The Committee will review the suggestions and vote on the proposed actions. The selected proposals will be presented to the provost for endorsement.

"We want to increase enrollment, but we also want to retain students. We want to make students happy and give them what they want," said Polselli.

"We want to retain students. We want to make students happy and give them what they want."

-Larry Polselli, executive director, Enrollment and Management

What is it that students want? "This is what we are trying to find out," said Harris.

Thus far they have been informed of a few reasons why people drop out of GSU - class schedule conflicts, inability to collaborate with advisors, classes are unrelated to careers and waiting list difficulties.

Most students drop out within the first month of the trimester. A large percentage of the remaining students who drop out later do not consult with their advisor or complete the required study plan.

As the Committee's proposals are implemented, they expect to gain a greater understanding of the retention problem. They plan to develop specific strategies to improve quality and retain students.

A survey regarding student's retention concerns is tentatively scheduled for the July issue of the Phoenix.

If you would like to voice your opinion on the student retention issue, please contact Joyce Harris in BOG, ext. 4092 or Larry Polselli in Admissions, ext. 4490.

"Student contact and awareness is key. We need to know what students think," said Harris.

See back pages for Winter 2003 Dean's List.
Academic Excellence at Ninth Research Conference

By Laura Andrea Casal

Empower yourself. This is not only the slogan of the school. It was also the leitmotiv behind the 9th GSU Student Research Conference, which took place in Engbretson Hall on May 28.

The encounter was a unique opportunity for students to present their research papers and learn about the research accomplishments of the school. Students from the four colleges participated, bringing a variety of topics to be discussed in all 14 podium presentations together with seven poster presentations.

Soretta Patton, a GSU MS in Analytical Chemistry graduate, presented her research project of eight months on "The synthesis and photocatalysis of a thioincarboxamate."

According to Patton, during her research, "I dealt with ugly chemicals that were really dangerous," she said. "I took great respect for them."

The project was Patton's graduate thesis and, according to her, was "time-consuming, stressful."

The conference gave the student participants an opportunity to present their research work

Addiction Studies Classes Get Wired

By Soraida Rivera

The Addiction Studies program is offering new lessons in online learning beginning with two online classes called Changing Behavioral Health and Introduction to Online Learning.

The graduate health course, taught by Dr. Judith Lewis, began as a correspondence class during the last Winter trimester. The class covers all aspects of behavioral health including weight control, exercise, alcohol, drug use and dealing with pain. The goal is to teach students about the options people have to change their health-related behaviors.

The change in format from correspondence to the Internet, "allows for a level of interaction that's not present in mail correspondence courses," said Lewis. Students have a chance to introduce themselves and discuss important ideas related to each topic as well visit and evaluate behavioral health programs in different areas.

The Addictions Studies program is also offering all students at GSU the chance to learn more about the WEB CT program and its capabilities in a new course called, "Introduction to Online Learning." If students have ever questioned whether the online format for a class was a fit for them, this is the chance to find out.

Jan Engle, the course's creator, has taught online courses for several trimesters. "I've found that those students who struggled with online learning often lacked the experience of using the computer for communication and had minimal experience in internet-related activities," she said.

Introduction to Online Learning will teach students to perform functions and tasks typical in online courses, as well as give each student the ability to assess their own potential for success in online learning.

According to Engle, "Online learning provides an excellent learning environment by meeting the education of lifelong learners who find it difficult to adjust personal and professional schedules to the scheduling of traditional classes."

Intro to Online Learning is available to whomever is interested. Originally, the course was going to be offered under the Communications Program, but due to budgetary problems funding had to be located in the Addiction Studies Program. Students are encouraged to register early because enrollment for this course's premier, Fall trimester, will be limited to 20 seats. Additional sections and enrollment may be raised during the following trimesters.
Faculty Office Center
Opening Postponed Until End of June
By Dawn Ladillas

The long awaited faculty building, which was scheduled to be completed May of 2003, has been postponed. The expected "substantial completion" date is now June 30. The building will provide much needed offices for the colleges of education, business, and health professions.

"We expect to begin the move mid to late July with the completion of moving of the Colleges of Health Professions, Education and Business," explains Mike Hassett, director of the Physical Plant.

The entire faculty in the Colleges of Education and Business will be moving to the new building, and most of the faculty in the College of Health Professions, with the exception of the Nursing and Communication Disorders departments. It is hoped that by late August, everyone will be in the new building.

There are new changes to this building. For example, instead of seven-foot cubicle partitions in which professors are currently housed, the new offices have walls. Though difficult, the cubicle walls could be jumped, if need be. The new offices won't have this problem.

Other positives that faculty are excited about are that they can control the windows, and lights, as well as the heat and air conditioner. Faculty like the fact that they are able to secure their office doors.

When a building reaches its "substantial completion" date, it is turned over from the contractors to the school. At this point, tours will be available. Due to insurance reasons, people are not allowed in before this date.

There is a photo online for those interested in seeing the new furniture. The website is www.govst.edu/its/facultyoffice.

---

News Briefs

Upward Bound Pre-college Program

The Upward Bound program on campus has received funds from the Department of Education to hold a Career Work- Study program for the summer. This annual program enrolled 42 students from Crete-Monee High School, district 201 and Bloom-Bloom Trail High School, district 206.

Students are taking classes at GSU in English, Science, Math, Sign Language and Spanish. After classes, 23 students participate in work-study programs in various departments and offices on campus. The remainder of the students continue their day learning and study skills in the afternoon.

The intent of the program is to increase the number of high school students enrolling in and graduating from post secondary education. To help in this, students are aided in improving personal and academic skills, exploring career options, experiencing new and diverse cultures and nontraditional recreational activities.

---

Breaking Up Fallow Ground

The Foundation Directors met on June 5 to determine priorities and revamp plans to increase financial support for the university. The directors determined that fund raising, attracting new Board members donors were priorities. They will also focus on recruiting a leader for the Foundation to spearhead the vision.
BROWN AND
THE ROAD TRIP

Sometimes the open road just calls.
Brown helps me get where I'm going. With great
starting pay and plenty of weekends off,
UPS knows all about having a good time.

WHAT CAN BROWN DO FOR YOU?SM

To learn more about the UPS Earn and Learn® Program at
Governors State University, contact Nicole Lutes at:

708-225-5827

www.upsjobs.com/chicago

Part-time Package Handlers enjoy weekends & holidays off • Earn $8.50 per hour, with increases of 50¢ after 90 days
and 50¢ after one year • Get up to $23,000 in college financial assistance through the UPS Earn and Learn® Program
Receive outstanding benefits (medical/dental/life/401k) • And much more! Equal Opportunity Employer
Club Presidents Decide to Work Together for the Benefit of All Clubs
Club members will help others with fundraising, activities

By Maher Husseini,
Club President's Council chair

A meeting of the Club Presidents Council was held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Student Commons on Wed., May 28. The amended agenda included a budget allocation and general functions procedures for clubs.

One topic covered was an overview of the importance of GSU’s clubs’ cooperation and alliance with each other to function well. This will benefit club members along with all students in GSU. By working together as one student body, club members feel they can accomplish a lot more if each does activities separate.

There was a favorable acceptance to the idea that in upcoming events, clubs would share in helping each other’s activities as appropriate.

Club budgets also were discussed. Help is available to clubs who need directions and information about financing their activities, filling out budget forms, and understanding general financial rules and procedures. Contact Dr. Lorraine Sibbet, executive director of Student Life in room A2151, call ext. 4555, or email l-sibbet@govst.edu for more information.

Sibbet explained some general rules guiding the council and club activities at GSU, including fundraising procedures and ways that clubs could perform better. She also mentioned that each club should check its mail box in the Student Life leadership suite (A2100) because it has important information about various kinds of activities.

The Club/Organization Fair will take place on Sept. 16 and 17, 2003. This event is for clubs to recruit new members. During those two days, the clubs are encouraged to “Sell Their Clubs” to GSU students.

Sibbet mentioned that the Student Life Unit is developing a new brochure for the active clubs at GSU, she asked for feedback from the clubs concerning information about their clubs by June 23.

Club President’s Council Chair Maher Husseini also presented a calendar of events that will be made available to the GSU community. This calendar will include events that will take place in GSU annually.

Therefore, if anyone has an idea or an event supportive to the entire GSU community and he/she would like it included in this calendar, contact Husseini at (708) 218-6916, or Email him at Mhuss3062@mail.govst.edu.

There will be a Leadership Conference on Sept. 12, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the President’s Conference Center. All Student Senate and Club officers will be invited to enhance the conference, she said Thompson. “This isn’t even about summer. We’re talking about him missing lots of meetings since the beginning of Winter ‘03 trimester.”

Asaf, Griffin, Allen and other senators were mailed a letter earlier in the month, addressing their lack of involvement. The letter asked students to call or attend the next meeting to indicate continued interest. If they failed to do so, according to the letter, it would be taken by the senate as a definitive sign. Their seat would be vacated by the senate as a definitive sign. Their seat would be vacated by the senate as a definitive sign.

The letter was read aloud to the senate, and the senate made the motions to vacate the seats. Senator Toure Peck made a motion to vacate Asaf’s seat and Senator Karen Reynolds provided the second. Husseini said, “They can’t just kick him out. He was elected by the students.”

Husseini claims that Williams operates like a dictator and that the senate members are racist and ganged up on certain people. He says he will appeal the matter to the Provost’s Office.

“This is business,” said Senate Secretary Troy Roseborough. “It is in no way racially motivated.”

Roseborough says the senate is very racially diverse. He maintained the issue is about involvement.

“When you don’t inquire about senate, when you don’t even check your mailbox, it’s pretty clear that you aren’t involved.”

-Troy Roseborough, Student Senate secretary

When he didn’t respond to the letter we sent, “said Roseborough, “what are we supposed to think?”

Many senators allege Husseini is just upset because he and other senators didn’t receive their full stipend for the Winter 2003 trimester. An ad-hoc committee deemed that five senators didn’t meet the involvement requirements to receive their entire stipend.

Husseini said he wants to know why he and others didn’t receive their full stipends.

“I don’t understand it,” he said. “I work my (expletive) off.”

Peck and Roseborough say the reason was clear on Husseini’s trimester’s end self-evaluation of his performance. On the form, after a line asking for office hours, Husseini wrote, “Don’t remember.” And for the line asking for Welcome Week hours attended, Husseini again wrote, “Don’t remember.”

Husseini appealed his lowered stipend and his appeal went to the full senate for a vote. He did not receive the required two-thirds vote to overturn the decision.

“Troy’s gonna be the new president,” Roseborough said. “It’s about time.”
New Logo Depicts Senate's Unity, Diversity
By Carole Schrock

Student Senators will now be more visible around campus. Members of student government will sport new black polo shirts emblazoned with a newly-designed senate logo.

Student Senate Secretary Troy Roseborough created the logo, which is in the shape of a shield. "It was such an honor for me to do this," he said.

Student Senate President Linda Williams presented the idea of the senate having a logo, something they've not had in the past. Senators then decided Roseborough should sketch something for their review.

He basically had free reign. After brainstorming a bit with some fellow senators, Roseborough went in search of a symbol of pride and unity. "I've always been interested in shields and what they represent," he said.

Twenty-two stars line the shield, representing the 22 members of senate. Inside the ring of stars is the GSU three-pointed logo and a torch. "I added the torch last minute," said Roseborough. "I think it shows the unity of the Student Senate." There are arms of different skin tones holding the torch, intended to show the different nationalities of the members of senate.

When senators saw Roseborough's sketch, they approved. Patches of the logo were professionally stitched on shirts for each senator.

Roseborough is a junior elementary education major at GSU. He says drawing has always been his hobby.

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE
The Phoenix is now offering free classified advertising space to the university community.

A faculty member, staff member or student can place a classified for no charge.

Advertise your small business, sell a car or your old textbooks.

For more information, or to place an advertisement, call ext. 4517, email phoenix@govst.edu or place your ad in Carole Schrock's mailbox in the Student Life, second floor of A-Wing.

SENATE EVENTS COLUMN
Elected Student Reps to Attend First Meetings
By Maher Husseini,
Student Senate vice president

Student Senate is wishing everyone a safe and fun summer. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the fall trimester.

The GSU Student Board of Trustees Elect Joy Farmer, will be sworn in June 20, at the Board of Trustees meeting.

The next Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee (IBHE-SAC) meeting will be held at Joliet Junior College on Aug. 9-10. GSU's IBHE-SAC Representative Curtis Crims will be in attendance.

The next Student Senate meeting is going to be Wednesday, July 16, at 10:00 a.m. GSU community is welcomed to attend meetings. Student Senate meetings are held in the "A" building, second floor Student Commons area.

Summer activities are going to be held in the near future and more information is forthcoming, so stay posted.

Meanwhile, we encourage students to use the Webboard, and the best way to log on is as follows:

-Go to GSU main Web Page
-Then click to the Campus and Community Life
-Then go to Students Affairs and Services
-Click into Student Government Link.

For comments or questions contact the Student Senate at ext. 7056.
Mom: Child Care Center Like ‘Miracle Grow” for Kids

By Vanessa Aceto

Just this past October the Family Development Center moved onto GSU’s campus. The center has been offering programs to parents and children starting at birth and up to 12 years of age for over one year. The programs being offered currently are Smart Start for ages 0-5, Charter School for ages 5-12, and starting June 16-Aug. 8 Summer Day Camp.

The Director of Family Development, Dr. Susan Kinsey said, “Since October the programs have been growing rapidly.”

The development center already has a waiting list of over 80 children for their new infant toddler program, which is awaiting approval. The summer program has enrolled over 40 children, which greatly exceeds the expectations of the center. And the numbers continue to rise.

So, who are the parents enrolling their children at the Family Development Center? Out of all the children, over 70 percent are children of students and faculty here at GSU. The remaining children are from the community.

Loretta Jones, a staff member in Human Resources, brings her children to the center. “It is terrific,” Jones said. “It’s the best thing that happened to me as a parent! It’s like Miracle Grow for plants, because the leadership, skills and programs are so nurturing.” Jones has her 10-year-old daughter enrolled in their programs as well as her 4-year-old son.

“Both children love going to the development center,” Jones said. “My 10-year-old needs to be some place to boost creative thinking and self-esteem and my son now has the ability to constantly question and know he fits in.”

What makes these programs so great is a combination of factors. First, the development center has a staff of a little over 20 people, who say they have formed a family of their own at the center and work together as a team.

“The childcare teachers are the best I have ever had,” said Jones. Also, the environment is exceptional. Upon entering the facility, the colorful environment lends a sense of creativity.

Last, the programs are affordable. The Family Development Center is aware that most parents enrolling their children are students, so the center’s fees are very inexpensive.

Children learn and participate in a number of activities while at the center. In the Charter School, “the children are educated in reading, math, science, as well as sports,” said Kinsey.

The summer the Day Camp will offer activities such as fieldtrips, swimming, arts and nature walks. These are two of many programs for all ages.

Jones said, “I want to see the Family Development Center thrive for years to come. It’s important to the students and the kids.”

For more information and prices for these and other programs you can call Audrey McIntyre at (708) 235-7320.

Pres. Fagan Introduces Plans to Counteract Nasty Budget

By Timika Nunley

GSU President Dr. Stuart Fagan spoke Thurs., June 6, on the budget and outlined five priorities he plans to work on in the near future. He responded to the recent announcement of the budget cut of $112 million, or 8.2 percent, to public colleges and universities by state legislature. The budget cut called for restructuring of the university’s spending.

The budget cut caused reorganization of courses. A total of 68 classes out of the targeted 100 were eliminated, 20 were delayed and 23 merged for the Fall 2003 trimester.

“I just hope the communications disorders courses aren’t affected because that would affect the courses I need as a prerequisite,” said April Clayborne, a speech development major.

Tuition and fees have been increased by an average of 20 percent due to the budget cuts.

However, administrators stress GSU is still the second most affordable university in the state. Chuck Connelly, Public Affairs director, stated the budget’s increase of tuition and fees would not affect the enrollment for the fall semester.

The state of the budget is also causing the elimination of 16 positions among the administrative and academic wings, civil service and A & P. Fagan stated that “it’s very unfortunate we had to take these actions,” but there was no other option, he said.

With the new budget challenges, the question arose of current projects such as the Office Center, E & F Wing renovation and how will the funds for those projects be affected.

Fagan stated that there would be no interruptions of those projects, since those funds were allocated some time ago.

“These projects are funded by the Capital Development Board and approved a few years ago,” he said.

The following are the projects and the cuts made:
- Executive Wing cut by 22.5 percent.
- The Administrative Wing cut 13.9 percent without utilities.
- The Development Wing and the Academic Wing – including the Admission, Registrar, etc. cut by 13.2 percent.

Some of the colleges included in the Academic Wing were cut by 8.5 percent.

Fagan addressed five priorities in working toward the school’s aim of protecting the quality of academic programs that continue to be affordable and accessible.

The following five priorities are to increase enrollment, find new sources of funding and increase revenue, continue to encourage scholarship, scholarly activity needs to increase at GSU and implement the strategic plan.

For more information you can call Audrey McIntyre at (708) 235-7320.
From William Shakespeare to Harriet Tubman  
CPA Helps in Fight to Keep Arts in Education 

By Sharon Brannigan 

The preliminary schedule for Governors State University’s Center for Performing Arts, Arts in Education (AIE) division for the 2003-04 season is available. 

Executive Director of The Center Burton Dikelsky and the Board of Directors as well as the Program Committee have brought together a fine assortment of performances for AIE to the theatre for educational field trips designed for area primary and secondary school students. These include Chicago Shakespeare Theatre’s “Romeo and Juliet” and “Slim Goodbody,” as seen on PBS across the nation. 

Each year, AIE performances attract over 30,000 children from local schools. Dikelsky said, “their primary directive is having children connect with the artists and it is very, very important to have strong programming.” According to Dikelsky, the key to keeping a pulse on great programming is to poll area educators about the curriculum currently ongoing at community schools. 

Dikelsky says that a very important aspect in making AIE successful is the Docent Program. Jackie Small, the director of development for The Center works in conjunction with Jean Bernstein, a member of the Center’s Board of Directors and chairperson for AIE’s Docent Program. Small says that Education Degree-seeking GSU students are offered an opportunity to participate in the Docent Program. 

It is a stipend-based program whereby students are trained by Bernstein to give workshops at schools that intend to attend any AIE performance at the Center. Small says that this Docent Program prepares the students who attend any AIE field trip to understand more completely the performance they will be viewing. 

“I’m very, very pleased with the response from students at GSU that participate in the Docent Program,” said Small. 

Small conducted a short written classroom survey that asked, “Would you recommend participation in the Program to other GSU students?” Student Mary Barnas responded, “Yes, it’s a great way for education majors to get experience in front of a classroom.” 

Another survey question asked, “Was the Docent Program a good experience for you?” Student Rosaly Tam responded, “I loved being a docent. I think that being with children and in the classroom further prepares me to be an effective teacher.” 

Small describes The Center and its programs as “very diverse, ranging from tap to opera to comedy with a wide range of disciplines.” She is now See Center, page 10
GSU Students Make Great Teaching Candidates

Despite Lower Pay, Harder Work, One Woman Opt to Teach

By Jean Biba-Brown

Sixteen children surround Anne Summers on the blue carpet in Room 118, listening as she flips through the pages of the "Big Book." Later in the week the children will read the same story back to her. Some of the children will read with confidence and precision, while others will read haltingly, looking to Summers for encouragement.

For many years Summers was the director of Operations at a busy public health clinic in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Now instead of writing grants, Summers teaches subtraction at the chalkboard. Instead of fielding complaints on the phone, she consoles a child with a hug.

Currently a student in GSU's Alternative Certification Partnership Program, Summers will become a certified elementary school teacher in August. Summers traded in her director's title for the teaching assignments of second graders at Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center in Ford Heights.

The money definitely isn't better. Prestige is only recognized in the small daily successes of the children. Yet thousands of other professionals, like Summers, are swapping their corporate lives for the challenge of teaching in urban and rural areas.

Alternative certification programs such as Teach For America and the Golden Apple Teacher Education program are springing up around the country to address teacher shortages in urban and rural areas. GSU's program grew out of a demand for teachers in some of the low income districts in the south suburbs.

"Our program was a response to districts in the region," said Dr. Karen Peterson, director of the Alternative Certification Partnership Program at GSU.

One district was losing 40 or 50 teachers a year, according to Peterson. The districts wanted teachers who were ready for the challenges of students living in low socioeconomic areas. The "enriched backgrounds and maturity" of the students in GSU's alternative certification program provide the districts with committed teachers, Peterson said.

Summers welcomed the opportunity to work in Ford Heights. Problems in the neighborhood would often force families to move, disrupting the lives of the children.

"Many of [the children] saw more than the average second grader would see in their neighborhood," she said. Yet Summers credits much of her positive attitude to her years working in public health. Kids are kids, said Summers, regardless of where they live.

Summers approached teaching with a solid business plan. Her goal was for each of her students to show significant progress in reading by the end of the year. Beginning at 7 o'clock each morning, Summers spent over an hour preparing for the 16 students who would occupy the desks in her classroom.

Working on projects such as creating a neighborhood mural on huge rolls of paper, Summers needed her lessons to run smoothly. Then, there would be time to congratulate a student for a perfect test or wipe a runny nose.

"When you're in management, you're used to being in charge and dealing with people," said Summers. "I didn't have management control issues with my students as some new teachers do."

"Ms. Summers is coming from the corporate world, and she brings a lot of those skills not only to the students, but to her co-workers," said Medgar Evers Principal Richard Grisby. "We need more people of her caliber coming into teaching."

The alternative certification program for teachers at GSU recruits professionals who already hold a bachelor's degree and have five years work experience. Many students enter the program after a layoff or job dissatisfaction, yet they all have a genuine desire to teach.

"I was born to become a teacher," said Ghantel Perkins, a student just beginning the program. Working in a management position in New York at the time of the September 11, 2001, Perkins said she did some "soul searching." She and her husband moved back to Chicago where she entered the program at GSU.

Perkins looks forward to beginning her internship in August at Turner Elementary School in Robbins.

"I want my students to know that dreams can become a reality. I come from a poor background, and I could have become a statistic."

-Ghantel Perkins, alternative certification student

Anne Summers prepares before her Reflective Teaching III class begins.

"The enriched backgrounds and maturity of the students in GSU's alternative certification program provide the districts with committed teachers."

-Dr. Karen Peterson, director, Alternative Certification Partnership Program

"I want my students to know that dreams can become a reality. I come from a poor background, and I could have become a statistic."

-Ghantel Perkins, alternative certification student

"Every child improved from where they were when I got them," said Summers. "The fact that they all improved made me feel good. I did what I set out to do."

Grisby concurred. "Her students' scores were great for a first-year teacher on both the Iowa and the Terra Nova," he said.

As Summers finishes the last of her courses, Reflective Teaching III, she can only begin to plan for next year, when she has a new set of faces watching her from the blue carpet in Room 118.
FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Economic Concerns America’s Only Reason for Iraqi War

By Thomassin Gotingar

I was delighted to read the reaction of Professor Carl Stover to my article published last April in the Phoenix. Knowing that a University professor took the time to read my contribution is already a privilege. Having him react to the article is an honor.

Therefore, despite the great pleasure that is mine, I would like to place another opinion. I do not intend to turn our university newspaper into a political platform for this type of arguments. However, I feel compelled to make some clarifications.

First, my article about my country was not to blame the United States for any “misfortune” nor is it a sort of irritated statement in the way politics is made in this country. I would rather leave that latter issue to the politicians. It is evident that the major political and military decisions of the U.S. government are primarily based on economic factors.

Stover contended in his letter that the U.S. doesn’t help Chad because Chad is land-locked. However, the geographical position of Chad is irrelevant to this debate.

Also untrue is Stover’s claim that the U.S. has no mineral resources interest in Africa. Since the early 1970s, several American oil corporations have shown large interest in the unexploited mineral resources in Chad and in several Central African countries. As a result, there has been a foreign controlling eye on those resources. In the case of Chad, 27 years of political unrest is not the fault of the U.S., but I would not say it is due either to a lack of exploitable resources.

From the 1960s, when the so called “African nations” began to emerge, to the present day, how many conflicts, military coups, dictators, and other drastic situations have those countries experienced? Who provides guns to the rebels? When did the first political murder happen in an independent African nation, and by whom was it performed? The CIA along with the former colonial ruler decided to eliminate a young promising leader in Congo and appointed a ruthless dictator to serve their cruel intention of controlling the diamond trade in that Central African nation.

Black people do not count in the American concept of “liberty” and “justice.”

Did the United States not know about the slaughter of millions of people in Rwanda in 1994, because it was a land-locked country? Alternatively, is the oil in Congo Brazzaville a significant reason to destroy the lives of millions of innocent people to feed the greed of the superpower? Moreover, what about the situation of millions of Black (I prefer this word instead of the politically correct “African Americans”, which for me is a nonsense) here in America, who are unable to get access to the same privileges as others because of their color and origin?

I think there is no need to talk about a country not having media exposure, as Stover implied. I think those issues were reported on American media. CNN made it big during the conflict in Congo Kinshasa in 1997 but that was not enough to call the attention of the U.S. government on the tragedy in Central Africa. I think it is a matter of color. Black people do not count in the American concept of “liberty” and “justice.”

Honestly, did you feel comfortable talking about “freeing Iraq”? Who needs to be freed from what?

The ideological enslavement is the worst form of bondage. Imposing a form of government just to secure a nation’s economical ambition has nothing to do with aspiring for the good and welfare of a nation. For the common American, Iraq is just a desert somewhere in the Middle East.

Therefore, fighting for Iraq is more a matter of economic power than an issue of restoring a democratic regime. Is it that important for America to be omnipotent? By the way, who would like this country to be the police of the universe? Neither me, nor my fellow Africans would.

Finally, I think the task of a university is to open the eyes of its students to a new approach of international relations. The world is no longer divided in two blocks as it used to be east and west. We are talking nowadays in terms of globalization and a world economy. For a hyper consuming society like the U.S., Africa might not represent an important slice in the overall world economy. The danger of this is to minimize and ignore those nations by selling your culture worldwide, and despising those consumers of your cultural imperialism.

The opinions and viewpoints expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the Phoenix staff or the Governors State University community.

Phoenix Editorial Policy

The Phoenix encourages letters to the editor and other editorial comments. Please feel free to drop us a line at x4517, phoenix@govst.edu, or in Carole Schroock’s mailbox in student life. If there is a concern you would like to voice about the university or the Phoenix, please feel free to voice it. While all comments are worthwhile, it is the policy of the Phoenix not to print any letters to the editor or any other editorial opinions anonymously. Beliefs are important, and the pride to stand up next to them is equally as important. Please help the Phoenix let your voice be heard.

Debra Holstein says, “It was very good for him and he was certainly prepared to see the play.” Generally, the response from her son and his friends was “overwhelmingly positive.”

A few of AIE performances coming this year include “Ralph’s World” slated for Oct. 18, “A Christmas Carol” scheduled for Nov. 21, and “Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad” lined up for Feb. 5, 2004.

Further information is available at www.govst.edu/center or the Box Office Phone 708-235-2222.

Center,

Debra Holstein says, “It was very good for him and he was certainly prepared to see the play.” Generally, the response from her son and his friends was “overwhelmingly positive.”

A few of AIE performances coming this year include “Ralph’s World” slated for Oct. 18, “A Christmas Carol” scheduled for Nov. 21, and “Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad” lined up for Feb. 5, 2004.

Further information is available at www.govst.edu/center or the Box Office Phone 708-235-2222.

Debra Holstein says, “It was very good for him and he was certainly prepared to see the play.” Generally, the response from her son and his friends was “overwhelmingly positive.”

A few of AIE performances coming this year include “Ralph’s World” slated for Oct. 18, “A Christmas Carol” scheduled for Nov. 21, and “Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad” lined up for Feb. 5, 2004.

Further information is available at www.govst.edu/center or the Box Office Phone 708-235-2222.

Center, from page 8

looking for new students to participate in the Docent Program this September.

According to Small, the strong support from concerned community foundations that fund the AIE programs, such as the Cus­tions Savings Foundation, Marshall Field’s and Bank One have made it possible to continue AIE’s performances.

This past season, David Gilman, a ninth grader at River Forest High School in Oak Park who came to see “Romeo and Juliet” was impressed with the production. “I wish it had not been the abbreviated format,” he said.

His mother and professor at GSU, Dr.
The following are the names that were placed on the Governors State University Dean's list for the Fall 2002 semester. To be on the Dean's List, a student has to be enrolled in at least six credit hours and have a trimester GPA of 3.695.

Continued on back page