Fagan Plays Budget Hardball With Senate

Stephanie N. Blahut & David Chambers, Editors

Fagan asks Senate to "show him the money."

The Governor's Budget Initiatives
In February 2004, Governor Rod Blagojevich presented his proposals for the state budget for fiscal year 2005 to the General Assembly. The proposed budget would total $233.8 billion, and would show an increase over fiscal year 2004 of $732.6 million. The higher education portion of the budget would total $2.26 billion in state general funds support. According to an BHE memorandum dated Feb. 18, 2004, "fiscal discipline, accountability and efficiency," were key themes in proposals made in reference to legislative proposals, management actions, and agency consolidations. Some of the key initiatives outlined by the governor's budget proposal included: K-12 education and healthcare.

Operating On A Bare Bones Budget
Over the last three years, Governors State University has endured a total 18 percent cut in state appropriations. As a result, the university has had to lay off employees, reduce administrative expenses, leave faculty positions unoccupied due to retirements, and eliminate class offerings. "GSU is as empty as Mother Hubbard's cupboard," said GSU President, Dr. Stuart Fagan. "Governors State University is operating on a bare bones budget."

According to the June 15, 2004, GSUUniverse, a two and a quarter percent contingency fund, created by the university, was given the Senate's approval. This was also the case in fiscal years 2003 and 2004. The contingency is subject to the condition that it would be held by the state and used to balance the budget. Dr. Fagan also added that further proposed reductions in appropriations have the potential to exceed two percent and would leave the administration no choice but to "take drastic action." Such actions could include more class cancellations, outreach program cutbacks, and the possibility of even more layoffs.

Another cost-cutting option being reviewed by the university included outsourcing the services provided by "Budget" continued on Page 11

Online Forum For WebCT
Students Aids Administration

Stephanie N. Blahut
Editor in Chief

The College of Business and Public Administration has recently made available a discussion forum for students registered in summer online courses. Hosted by Dean William Nowlin, the forum titled, "Dean's Cyber Discussion of Learning on the Internet," will ask online students to provide information on their likes and dislikes on Internet courses.

"The purpose is essentially to give students in our Internet courses, in spring/summer, to tell the Dean what they like or dislike about the courses," stated Dr. Nowlin. "The information we're collecting through the cyber discussion will be used to at least inform the faculty of the students' likes and dislikes, and some faculty members will take advantage of this information and enhance their courses."

The university has a number of ways to collect feedback from students in the form of Student Evaluation Instructions (SEI's) and student polls. In the past, information has also been collected through a student advisory board, which is now in the process of being recreated.

"We require administering SEI's in each course in the college at the end of the term. We are probably one of the few colleges if not the only college that administers the form using students, grad assistants and staff as opposed to giving the forms to the faculty and asking the faculty to distribute the forms," said Dr. Nowlin.

The SEI's are then collected and given to the department chair. After reviewing the input given by the students, the department chair will then meet with faculty members if the division chair "deems a discussion is necessary."

According to Nowlin, the results of the SEI's are not publicly available for students to view. Their purpose is to aid in the evaluation process of tenured and tenure-track professors. The SEI's, along with their creative activity and research and service the college and university are critical components of professor evaluations. On the other hand, the SEI's are generalized evaluations, and were not specifically designed towards the evaluation of online courses. In contrast to that, the cyber discussion was initially created for two reasons: to give students the opportunity to talk to the dean directly about their "WebCT" continued on Page 11
Letters to the Editor

From the 'X' Files: Does GSU really appreciate Dr. Sibbett?

At first glance, this university, as large as it is, might seem to be run invisibly, almost as though it were an auto-pilot. However, if you stop, listen, and look at your surroundings for a moment, you might notice some hint of the human aspect that has been accomplished as much as meets the eye. For example, there is PPO, the Preventative Parking Program, those folks who keep the temperature comfortable, the trash picked up, and perform other tasks that help make the environment here pleasant. They seem to have places everywhere, going back and forth. In response, to the question of its seriousness in its intent, it is underscored by a courtesy that is quite refreshing. This in no small part due to the leadership of Susan Rakstang.

You can find these folks performing their tasks all over the campus.

As an example, the GSU campus is beautified (and what a beauty it is) by Jo Shaw in PPO. Jo has created a virtual oasis of gardening delights on the campus grounds, and anyone who has not noticed is way too busy to stop and smell the flowers. Although most people are not aware of this, landscape gardening is a degree, licensed profession, and requires continuous education. It is one of the non- traditional professions such as law, medicine, and even education. Jo Shaw has accomplished so much that even all those candidates who are everywhere on the campus grounds you may look, there are few people who can say, her dedication to the entire university community. She ought to be listed officially as the best GSU employee.

It would seem to be a safe assumption that the PPO department has a plan, a strategy. Some people, such as Jo Shaw, the guards their daily and monthly duties, so that the procedures are followed. These procedures can be performed in an efficient manner. As a matter of fact, the very people who are going to see the next to nothing in the course for a department that has personnel with civil engineering degrees working for it, can be educated in the PPO Department.

This universally accepted practice does not hold any water with the director of Student Life, Dr. Lorraine Sibbett. From all this it is clear that this writer can ascertain, she seems to have run Student Life without a written plan. Indeed, she has, in previous discussions, stated in plain language: she does not recognize the need for any kind of procedural manual. This gives rise to her practice of issuing orders and instructions as they occur to her. Sitting outside her office on different occasions for different reasons, this writer has overheard her speaking of things, other than those that are a matter of firsthand. She delegates in a manner that makes it obvious that, in even the most efficient person, the inefficiency could be more than distracting. For example, she has a practice of calling out her instructions to her assistant, whose office is right next door to her own, even continuing to do so as she walks away down the hall from her office. I have even heard her discussing student’s records with others over the phone, with her office door wide open for all to hear. This is not only inefficient, but also seems quite inapropriate.

It has also been reported to me, that with no regard to some of the stated pay she must issue, she has an established practice of working until it is convenient for her to issue pay vouchers, even though by doing so, she is clearly violating various contractual agreements with those who are under her authority. At this point, it is only student’s who suffer this ignorevity; the very students whose interests she claims to serve. This does not even address how that inconveniences the staff members whose bills come as regularly as Dr. Sibbett’s bills do, nor the checks that may bounce as a result.

As regards her schedules, hers appears to be created on an ad hoc basis, and if there ever were an operational manual for Student Life at GSU, she would obviously have trouble for it. In essence, I wonder if this writer has employees seem to be, in the opinion of this writer, based on a scattershot style of management. This from someone who was quoted (from a university function) as stating, “We gather to scatter.” Funny, it seems to indicate a pattern of her thinking process.

She has made public statements including “I do not have the time to create written procedures.” This is the very same person whose salary is paid out of student funds, and who has stated at a Student Senate and Finance Committee meeting in winter 2004 (with 9 witnesses present). “I cannot do it. I will not spend time itemizing those (Student Life) accounts.” My personal favorite was, “I was never asked to itemize the (Student Life) accounts before.”

Fascinating! Utterly enthralling! An educated person, with decades of experience, has accepted complete responsibility for the entire budget for Student Life, and then tells me to answer the Student Senate’s request for an accounting of those funds. 1. Gee, whiz, Dr. Sibbett, what were you thinking? 2. Why would you take such a position? 3. Do you even care at all if the students you allege to represent might have an impression that your stewardship of their interests is less than competent? 4. Whose interests do you actually represent, Dr. Sibbett? 5. Is it...

"X" Continued on Page 12

Dear Editor:

How are you doing? Have life been fair to you lately? Couldn’t find a qualified republican in Illinois to run against Barack Obama in the November 2004 U.S. Senate elections. I sincerely hope that the nation will find a better and worthy republican to run in the 2008 U.S. Presidential. Isn’t there a residency requirement that Alan Keyses has to adhere to before he runs for the office of U.S. Senator from Illinois? Just wondering about your strategy. Mr. Alan Keyses’s campaign is a fossil in Reagan’s destructive ideology cloud.

Again, the voters have no choice. We have a “For Sale” sign on our intelligence. A choice is against affirmative action and uses the Declaration of Independence as its foundation to spread his philosophy of well educated idealism that reaches back into the Dark Ages. I wonder who is pulling his strings as Illinois’ new puppet from Maryland. Illinois voters do not want Keyses. America didn’t want you in 2000 as the U.S. President. Why the hell do we need a backwoods-thinking fool to lead us into the Dark Ages? Obviously, I don’t like Keyses. He is newest puppet of the Republican Party and an insult to every African American voter.

Why don’t you recruit David Duke of the Klu Klux Klan? He can also misrepresent Christianity and burn all his problems away. The Republican Party believes that running an anti-American against an African American is a clever strategy. Who writes his strategies, MAD TV? Mr. Keyses is forgotten that the Declaration of Independence was written while African Americans were in slavery, and that Abraham Lincoln didn’t free the slaves out of this country to maintain the Union.

The Declaration of Independence was written for rich white men with property. Basically, the declaration of Independence was written to justify the atrocities that the Caucasian Americans was presently doing and any future crimes. It is a lot of B.S. Conscience that these inhumane bastards used to justify their crimes. So, obviously, I don’t like Keyses. My new president is a Republican from the Illinois’ 1st District who I have never heard of.

I have no idea what the right thing to do is. How can this be? I was under the impression that the Phoenix is a “student newspaper.” Students learn to do layouts, create stories, interview and take photographs of the campus news. So, I wonder if this writer has any idea about what a student newspaper is.

I know of students who applied for the Editor in Chief position, and were not given the opportunity to interview. To me, this is unfair. To me, this is a “shame.” Why should you make other students suffer this ignominy; the very students that this writer claims to serve. This does not even address how that inconveniences the staff members whose bills come as regularly as Dr. Sibbett’s bills do, nor the checks that may bounce as a result.

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Sincerely,

Vera Rahn

A Letter To Illinois Republicans

Dear Editor:

From the ‘X’ Files, I have heard the new Editor in Chief of the Phoenix is a member of the GSU faculty. How can this be? I was under the impression that the Phoenix is a “student newspaper.” Students learn to do layouts, create stories, interview and take photographs of the campus news. So, I wonder if this writer has any idea about what a student newspaper is.

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Seven Years After: The GSU Tradition Continues
by William Kazak

I recently had the opportunity to revisit GSU after a seven year absence. My goal was to look for old friends and teachers, see the changes made to the campus and record my impressions. I carried my new digital Nikon camera, photographed the people I met and the things that impressed me the most as I walked through the school. I was on my way to through the sculpture park.

Once I was a student at GSU, a group of photographers in the photography department. I had stayed on for the longest possible time taking Masters Classes in photography without finishing a Masters degree. I married seven years ago and moved to Florida to make a living. I got married, I photographed the people, and decided to show her just what she must have forgotten about me (little did I know). She had used! You see, most of the time I took pictures for the school newspaper, but were unaware of the existence of the photography department. He now teaches in Pedone and photographs weddings like I do. They were my classmates and my friends in the photography department. He would talk for hours together discussing photography and everything else.

The sculpture park is still on the door, but it being summer, he is not in his office. I met Mike Purdify, without the hint of a smile, and he was the principal instructor. Mary Bookwalter’s name is still on the door seven years after. The BOG program seemed ideal, and at first everything went rather smoothly with some people giving me the heads-up on how to keep even the most demanding administrative officers happy. My friends and the faculty gave me a new glass addition outside the entrance but with the familiar sound of the bell announcing the beginning of class.

For the first three semesters things were O.K., and I actually thought that the university ran quite smoothly. Except for the fact that, since my computer skills were limited to nothing more than basic MS Word, I had trouble with Internet-based learning initiatives. As time went on, I knew, is when you’re having trouble with a course, and the only communication you have with the professor is via e-mail, something is drastically wrong. This Internet-based learning is one new barrier that students should not be expected to go any further without the help of the professor. It appeared that very little testing was done to every student, the professor did not even have an e-mail address.

After attending GSU for four trimesters being blissfully unaware of the existence of a student newspaper, I actually saw one, picked it up, and answered an ad for the position of section editor. I was really happy to love, except that it is a form of tension release for me (psychic tension, of course). On some level, I was attracted by the opportunity to critique the scribblings of others. So I applied for section editor, and received a packet describing the duties of all of the staff members. Immediately it occurred to me that the number two spot was for me - assistant editor - since that kind of thing was right up my alley. At any rate, I did not hear from Stephanie Blahat, the Editor in Chief, right away, at least not by the usual methods. She had e-mailed me, but since I was a “lame-o” with regard to computer use (I still have a mountain to climb), I never got the message. Thinking that she must have forgotten about me (little did I know), I picked up a copy of the Phoenix and decided to show her just what she was missing out on (did I mention my confidence issue? Arrogant? Not me).

Someone said to me once, when I was really unsure of how to communicate my abilities, "If you can do it, and do it better than others, then it's not bragging to tell people - it's just blowing your own horn." I disagreed. I told them that if you are laughing about what you said, you are not being taken seriously, but if you are ill at ease, you will be taken seriously. I knew that I had stayed on for the GSU Tradition Continues.

My Academic Reflection by Lisa Apone-Soto

My academic journey at GSU has been a rewarding experience. When I began the MHA program degree in the Fall of 2001, I was not expecting to accomplish the first two trimesters, my interests in the program and student body grew. I quickly became involved with the faculty and program activities. I tapped into many resources as possible that would enhance my academic journey at GSU. I participated in the student chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Health Administration department research, and the Phoenix. Above all, being involved with the Phoenix has been a blessing in disguise. I had the opportunity to meet a group of talented individuals who take pride in educating others through the art of writing.

Lisa Apone-Soto, graduate student from the College of Helath Professionals, wrote a monthly health column feature in the Phoenix. Lisa was recognized by the Phoenix as an Outstanding Club Member.

A Reflection On My Life As A Student At GSU
by David Chambers

I woke up one morning and decided that if I was going to go to college, I should be better to finish what I started. So after researching upper-division schools, GSU seemed a good choice, because with the 130-something credits already in my record, it was not only getting expensive, but it was also time to wrap it up and graduate already.

The BGS program seemed ideal, and at first everything went rather smoothly with some people giving me the heads-up on how to keep even the most demanding administrative officers happy. My friends and the faculty gave me a new glass addition outside the entrance but with the familiar sound of the bell announcing the beginning of class.

After attending GSU for four trimesters being blissfully unaware of the existence of a student newspaper, I actually saw one, picked it up, and answered an ad for the position of section editor. I was really happy to love, except that it is a form of tension release for me (psychic tension, of course). On some level, I was attracted by the opportunity to critique the scribblings of others. So I applied for section editor, and received a packet describing the duties of all of the staff members. Immediately it occurred to me that the number two spot was for me - assistant editor - since that kind of thing was right up my alley. At any rate, I did not hear from Stephanie Blahat, the Editor in Chief, right away, at least not by the usual methods. She had e-mailed me, but since I was a "lame-o" with regard to computer use (I still have a mountain to climb), I never got the message. Thinking that she must have forgotten about me (little did I know), I picked up a copy of the Phoenix and decided to show her just what she was missing out on (did I mention my confidence issue? Arrogant? Not me).

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Reflection by David Collins

December 2003 was a very emotional time for me. After four short months of life in Illinois, I was going home. I was an exchange student from UniSA in Australia, coming to GSU for the fall semester. As the end of the semester approached, I began saying goodbye to friends that I had made, not knowing if I would meet them again (and hopefully I will), but I won’t.

During my long flight home, with each passing hour I was moving further from the friends and the life I’d become accustomed to in the States and closer to my old friends and family and life I used to have. I actually felt torn between the two countries. The sun rose as we flew over Australia. As the darkness lifted, I had glimpses of the landscape miles below. I had not seen this country, my country, for so long. Although we were still hours from landing, I was home.

Walking into the Sydney airport terminal, I was startled by Australian accents. For a few minutes, it seemed strange hearing everyone speak so loudly. I do laugh at this now, but then I was filled with patriotic pride and identity. I thought that I had severed left, and so much of my environment seemed to think so too. Australia was exactly the same, while for some reason, I guess I expected things to change while I was away, as though my absence would somehow alter the feeling. There was one thing new - everyone seemed to be talking about a longer named Guy Sebastian. He had won Australian Idol. I was away, and it was a fact that I had been sheltered from in the States.

Cold Beer: Epilogue To The Wandering Alumni by Claude Hill IV

I realize that today was my birthday. My gal pal reminded me that it’s important once in a while to just stop and enjoy life. Usually, I would appreciate this philosophy that my dogs would piss on my left shoe and like a well mannered English man who would bow his hat. I saw myself doing my first few days in America – a “twilight zone” feeling of being in normal surroundings, but nothing seems to sense that it’s not normal. Cars, toilets, faucets, money, TV shows, and brand names are a few of the elements that I realized are almost the same in the USA and Australia, but are just a little different ...

I open it with my hand. To me, the system allows me to exclude the problem here. It took me nine separate trips or phone calls to admissions just to get all of the information necessary to register, it seems reasonable to believe that I should have been met with a higher-quality of customer service, for example, a “one-stop-shop” of information and answers. After completing all of your registration, it ought to be suggested by the staff to move on to the next appropriate department. 

The contract brought my mood down for a while, until I adjusted to real life again. My time in your country was an enriching, rewarding experience that I will always cherish. Six months on, I continue to be very grateful to all the staff, faculty, and students of GSU who gave me their time and their friendships. Thank you, not just for making it possible, but for making it fun too."

Staff Notes

Turning Back The Clock: Magna Est Veritas Et Praevalebit by Stephanie “Sam” Blahut

Re-starting my education at GSU in July 2003 as a first generation college student, and the oldest child in my family, there was no example close at hand to model myself after, nor was there the opportunity to learn from anyone else’s experiences, so there were a great deal of questions I just didn’t know to ask. It had been a little over five years since my feet had left for themselves heading towards a classroom (after graduating from JJC in 1998), and naturally I experienced some trepidation about returning to the classroom environment. Having spent the last four years working for a large health insurance company, and a year prior to that working as an EMT-B for a small, private ambulance company, in both instances I found that the advancement was relatively scarce, especially without a strong educational foundation from which to leap.

After making the decision to leave the insurance company in March and deciding to register for two classes during the summer 2003 trimester, after failing to find all the information I needed online, I walked into admissions and began to ask questions.

Please keep in mind while reading this article that its purpose is to serve as an end of the semester and as a personal reflection of what transpired as a rant.

Having started several times (to several students, faculty and administrators) that it took me nine separate trips or phone calls to admissions just to get all of the information necessary to register, it seems reasonable to believe that I should have been met with a higher-quality of customer service, for example, a “one-stop-shop” of information and answers. After completing one part of your registration, it ought to be suggested by the staff to move on to the next appropriate department.

Although considering myself relatively skilled on a computer, Thank you for reading my commentaries with internet searching. I found that the "Clock” continued on Page 5

Stephanie Blahut is a student in the College of Business and Public Administration, and the Editor in Chief of the Phoenix.

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The Wandering Alumni

GSU graduate student, Claude Hill, is the author of “The Wandering Alumni” column featured monthly in the Phoenix.

My Year At GSU by Jay Dobbs

For the past year as a student at Governors State, I have to say that my time here and writing for the paper has been great. Although there have been a few bumps on the road with some of my classes, I have to say overall it has been a good year and I hope that I will continue writing for the Phoenix and share my viewpoints, mostly political points of view to the students, staff and faculty at GSU. My classes here at GSU haven’t been too bad so far and I manage to make it out ok doing my very best to achieve my goals to further my education and reach my career goals. The year isn’t over yet, I still have many more commentaries to write and with the upcoming Illinois Senate race and the race for president between Bush and Kerry I’m going to have a lot to say. Thank you for reading my commentaries for the past year and I hope to write many more for the people at Governors State University.

Jay Dobbs, student in the College of Arts and Sciences, has written political commentaries for the Phoenix over the past year.
Phoenix staff members, Taheria Brown and Claude Hill, chat about their experiences on the Phoenix.

"Clock" continued from Page 10

"My Life" continued from Page 3

continued from Page 4

expose to talk to her? Higher reasoning is so difficult!"

As I began working with her, and interacting with the other students working at the Phoenix, like Claudia, Christina, Monica, George and Cory, and the various people who came by the office, it became obvious that there was much controversy about what school policies were, and how they affected students. It also became apparent that there was much more to learn about how a university is run, and the more I saw, the more confusing it became. So much to say that even when Stephanie made me love her. That's right, it's all her fault (It's really her fault!); and I have control over what happened to me. I thank my lucky stars that I walked into that office and decided to keep my ego under some kind of control, because she put me into this world a little at a time, and after a while, I couldn't leave. I finally found love, and it snagged right up on me (the rascal). There was something else about that time, though, that really got my attention. I began to hear about how certain administrators would deal with the students in ways that seemed like what I was hearing of. It's so difficult to feel so true. But it has kept listening, and evaluating, it became clear that the University had thought that the first two years was just had some serious personal issues, I guess this is probably when you work with the newspaper--everyone has a story to tell, and they just keep getting more interesting anyway.

Since enrolling in the BOG program at GSU, I have had a different advisor (due to changes) about every other semester, I can only say that this does not inspire confidence in the BOG program itself, and the explanation from Dr. Balin, (who should go out to all students in the BOG program, one is left with the impression that the student's program's position is, "Oh, don't tell.") It does not feel that why when conversing with Dr. Balin, who gives the impression of someone who cares deeply about students' concerns, and has plenty of time for them. So maybe they have just had a hard face-to-face turn over lately. I just hope to not be afraid to let students know what the department is going through, so that students don't get the idea that something is wrong.

It is significant to mention that my first full month on the newspaper was hell, and either the supposed to be a job? There were times where purchase orders were submitted, or even someone who would email her about them. At that point she would hand-write a response and stick it in a little notebook, in order to write down ideas for the "Clock" continue from Page 10

"Clock" continued from Page 10

"My Life" continued from Page 10

What I've Learned at GSU by Tina Carney

The last few years I've attended Governor's State University have been marked change from my last semester at a big four-year university where I earned my just as much from my first. I have come to truly appreciate the greater opportunities offered at a smaller school. Although Governor's State may have fewer clubs and organizations, I wouldn't have had the courage nor the encouragement to participate in extracurricular activities. Not only did I participate at GSU, I excelled.

The other nice difference at GSU is the true understanding of the professors and university itself for working adults. At my four-year college, there was a lack of flexibility in scheduling, and as a result my last semester was spent commuting 200 miles twice a week. They didn't offer evening courses or online courses. The instructors were not very understanding, especially when they taught several courses that included hundreds of students. There was more of a number, while at GSU I was an individual. It has been nice to be in smaller classes with other students that I would see again again, and in other courses. Although this is mostly the result of having fewer choices in times available, it was reassuring to know that I would recognize other students and professors. It is clear that my experiences from working with the Phoenix have been more rewarding than I could have expected. Not only was I forced to break out of my routine, but I've also learned so much more about events going on around the campus and community than I ever did as well as interviewed many interesting people that are all diverse in their own ways. Writing and editing for the Phoenix has given me another perspective when looking at things in life. I dare say I've learned to write my newspaper experiences as I have from my courses. My courses taught me theories and the Phoenix has taught me applications. I hope Governors State University and the Phoenix both continue to grow and improve as they have all along my attendance.
Reading And Writing Strategies Offered At The LZ

Amy Burns, a graduate student in Reading Education at GSU, and a tutor for the Literacy Zone (LZ), said that being a part of the tutorial program has given her a new love for teaching.

Burns, who also teaches first grade at Coralwood Elementary School in Orland Park, says that the LZ is a one-on-one teacher to student tutorial session that enables her to target specific areas of concern in child reading perplexities. With this one-on-one extensive tutoring strategy, Burns said she has seen students advance tremendously in just four weeks of comprehensive tutoring.

"My student, Cornelius (Ricky) Hall, has improved in reading while being a part of this program. I have seen him go from being a very shy reader in the beginning of the program to becoming a more open, influential reader now," said Burns.

The LZ is a free tutorial program for students who wish to improve their reading abilities. It also offers free, individualized tutoring for elementary school children in grades 2-6, for middle school children in grades 6-8, and high school students in grades 9-12.

GSU also offers the LZ during each trimester. In the fall and winter trimesters, the tutorial sessions are offered to middle-and-high school students on a one-on-one basis for 2 hours once a week. During the spring/summer trimester, the tutorial session is offered to elementary school students on a one-on-one basis for 2 hours, 4 days a week.

Each student enrolled in the LZ will learn reading and writing strategies to address their specific area of need. The older students will learn study strategies, strategies to help with reading their textbooks, and techniques that will help them with writing research papers.

Parents of Literacy Zone students observe the reading and writing session offered during the spring/summer trimester at GSU.

Phasing Out Cheaters Is Made Easier Via The Internet

Cheating may have become a thing of the past at GSU, due to a new web service called Turnitin. This tool is allegedly able to determine if a student’s work is original.

Both teachers and students are able to submit papers via an online interface. The paper is compared to all student work ever submitted. Then, the paper is contrasted with millions of pages on the Internet, books and journals. The findings are returned in the form of originality reports. Any matches are highlighted along with links to the sources.

In determining whether cheating was a significant problem, a Gallup poll found that an overwhelming 80 percent of college-bound students admitted to cheating. Ninety-five percent of those students claimed they had never been caught.

GSU has experienced some plagiarism in the past couple years. In the Communications Department, three graduate students had been caught plagiarizing their thesis.

"When you plagiarize you’re cheating yourself," said Professor Eli Segal. Segal only checks for plagiarism if he has reason to be suspicious and doesn’t feel that it is necessary to check every paper. He believes if you treat students fairly, they respond fairly.

Turnitin has already been in use by high schools, a number of colleges in the U.S. and all colleges in the United Kingdom. One subscriber is the College of St. Francis (CSF) in Joliet, Ill. Mark Shull, an education major at CSF said that he would use Turnitin in his classroom. He believes that Turnitin is a useful tool to teach students how to cite sources correctly and show students what plagiarism is.

"I wouldn’t be doing my job if I didn’t use Turnitin," said Shull.

The web service originated from a series of computer programs designed to prevent the reuse of student papers by University of California-Berkeley researchers. UC Berkley then developed the programs into the first internet-based plagiarism detection source: www.Plagiarism.org. The program’s success led to the development of www.turnitin.com, which is now used by about 3,500 national and international institutions.

For more information on Turnitin, please visit: http://www.turnitin.com.

In August, the GSU Library will be offering workshops on Turnitin. For more information, please contact Beth Hansen-Shaw at b-hansen@govst.edu.

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In The Spotlight: Backstage At The Center

Stephanie N. Blahut
Editor in Chief

Once again, the stage lights shine bright, the instruments are in tune, and the performers take the stage as the audience applauds enthusiastically. It is time for the 2004-2005 season to kick off at The Center for Performing Arts. While this season marks the 10th Anniversary of The Center, its success can be attributed in part to the dedication of the staff and management who work off-stage to recruit, schedule, promote, and organize performers and performances.

"If there are shows we would like to book, I generally strive to make them happen," said Kurt Dikelsky, executive director at The Center.

Members of The Center’s management attend seminars as well as meetings of the boards of the artists and performances touring each season and that are available for booking; then the choices are discussed with the board program committee. Audience surveys are also utilized in determining the popularity and interest in performing artists.

"I believe that the two operas we have done have had a great impact on our audiences," said Dikelsky. "They were thrilled to have professional opera in the South Suburbs."

"The Broadway touring productions always do well here, so I love it any time we can book those," said Delmer (D.J.) Wells IV, theater manager at The Center and student at GSU.

Wells, a graduate student, is currently pursuing his MA in English and teaching certification at the high school level, earned his MA in Media Communications from GSU in 2001.

"I have always been a people person, so I mostly enjoy the elements of my job that have me working with people," said Wells.

The connection between the performers and the audience is something that both Dikelsky and Wells expressed to be part of their job fulfillment.

"I take great pride in the fact that the performers and their managers and road crews frequently tell us that we are among the most professional and accommodating of the theaters they play; they feel that we make them feel special and make their shows successful, that people attending our shows say they had a great experience here, and that experience is based largely on how well we treated them while they were our guests," said Wells.

Another dimension to their work in The Center is the ability to get up close and personal with the performers. Although these opportunities may seem rare and have a significant impact on audience members, as a liaison, Wells maintains a professional demeanor when dealing with performers.

"Because I worked for several years in the entertainment industry in Hollywood, I have a somewhat jaded view about entertainers," said Wells. "I know that they are just people, so very few have a special impact in my eyes unless they are particularly difficult to work with."

Despite previous experience and years in the industry, there are still instances of excitement when certain performers take the stage or when certain acts are added to the schedule.

"My most thrilling memories to date were when Artie Guthrie and David Crosby walked on to our stage, but I think my biggest thrill will be to welcome "Cats" and Joan Baez to The Center this fall," said Dikelsky.

"I enjoyed working with the people from "Cats."

Photo by Stephanie N. Blahut

The Center for Performing Arts will start off their 10th Anniversary season with the musical, "Cats."

Victory Gardens Theater, who did a traveling production of the original play, Free Man of Color, here last year, because that was such a powerful production," said Wells. "I am greatly looking forward to this year’s collaboration with VGT, entitled Shoes."

The popular opinion has quite overwhelmingly when it comes to the 2004-2005 season at The Center; Broadway’s longest running show and seven-time Tony Award-winner, Cats, has captured the area’s attention.

People are talking about our entire season, and I think having Cats at the top of that season is playing a major role in raising our visibility for the coming year," said Wells. "There’s nothing like being the only Chicagoan venue for a major touring Broadway show to drum up some local excitement; Cats is definitely doing just that."

For more information on The Performing Arts Center at GSU, or for ticket and price information, please visit www.govst.edu/center or call (708) 235-2222.

Famous Civil Rights Leader
Speaks at GSU

Dana Corlett
Section Editor & Staff Writer

On May 10, 2004, Julian Bond, Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), spoke at the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. The event took place in the Center for Performing Arts at GSU. The Brown v. Board of Education decision ended segregation in public schools and declared "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

Bond pointed out it is easy to forget the importance of Brown v. Board of Education because of race relations today. He discussed former civil rights by talking about Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Emmett Till, a man murdered for whistling at a white girl.

According to Bond, the work of Brown v. Board of Education is not done. He believes "the promise of Brown has been broken."

In his opinion, the government reacted very slowly to the decision and in some cases made no attempts to follow it. He doesn’t believe that the intent of the decision can be realized until all schools, especially those in poor minority neighborhoods, are equal.

Bond served on the Georgia House of Representatives and sponsored over 60 bills that eventually became law. He has narrated several documentaries, published his poetry and articles, and is a commentator on the oldest black-owned show, America’s Black Forum.

In honor of the anniversary, the GSU library set up a section with material on the Brown v. Board of Education decision. It can be found directly inside the library doors. More additional information is available in a weblog. It can be accessed via the GSU Library website or viewed at www.govst.edu/library/Brown.

Photo by William Kozak

Appreciating the peace and quiet, a student gazes at the pond between classes.
Welcome To The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, containing one of America's largest outdoor collections, may well be the most enduring contribution to south metropolitan Chicagoland of that turbulent and exciting period in art, the 1960s and '70s. Sited across the university's 750 acre campus, all of the pieces selected for the park represent the work of an innovative, renowned sculptor, many from the early stage of the artist's career.

Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park/GSU Foundation
Wagner House, University Park, Illinois 60466
Phone: (708) 534-4105 E-mail: sculpture@govst.edu
http://www.ecn.bgu.edu/users/gsculpt/index.html

"Falling Meteor," by Jerry Peart (photographed by Anitra Frazier & William Kazak); "Illinois Landscapes No. 5," by John Henry (photographed by Stephanie N. Blahut); "Throne (for Martin Luther King, Jr.)," by Ted Garner and "Passage," by James Brenner (Photographed by Charles Connolly).
Seasons by the pond...
“Clock” continued from Page 5

for article submission and formatting needed to be created. Another contributing factor was the change in my role to become the newsletter layout. Since the Mac-technicians are only available on Tuesday and Thursday, the use of Macs became increasingly inefficient and counterproductive.

Let me further advise you that our budget was not the issue with reference to technological advancements. The Phoenix has a very sizable budget, all of which is needed to maintain the newspaper’s current look and function, but it is not always under the jurisdiction of Student Life, and because of that “an administrator” essentially controls the Phoenix funds. Because “an administrator” really has no concept of desktop publishing or office workflows, that relate to a student publication, any purchase orders submitted to her that she does not deem necessary are rejected. The thought of “an administrator’s” membership on the Information Technology Policy Council (ITPC) is laughable. The University’s commitment with regard to incorporating technological advances and making informed technological decisions what could possibly be contributing to this committee other than her name and title, used to take up six pages of the newsletter.

There have been several occasions in the past year in which the issue at hand was the lack of written procedures for the submission of purchase orders. The problem with this was that the budget was being processed on a regular basis. For example, a purchase order made by a club would need to be sent to the advisor for authorization, then to purchasing. Next week the same purchase order would have to go through five authorization processes and then it had to be typed. It seemed as though the process might include retina scans and blood samples! I specifically remember on one occasion that I was required to give a detailed explanation of the Phoenix’s use of highlighters before submitting the purchase order to Student Life, because initially “an administrator” had rejected it.

Another dilemma was that “an administrator” only offered information with regards to the internal policies in her own time – which means some people would have the new information and some people would remain uninformed. As a part of the university, can you really be run on a calendar? It would seem that those sorts of inequities would be the top priority, but I digress.

Up to this point I have reflected on the majority of my negative experiences; however, there have been exceptions. The power of the positive experience is undeniable. You had me on my life in the past year. Although this may start to drag on like the speeches given at the Academy Awards, I feel that it is important to share my experiences, bad and good alike, with the readers, and for my own personal reflection.

“I feel that it is important to share my experiences, bad and good alike, with the readers, and for my own personal reflection.

When you think about it on a broader scale, the work flows in other departments of the university may operate with the same inefficiency, wasting time and money. That is, those in the administration who do not understand the importance of, or the potential cuts that might be made for a budget, who do not have the foresight of the 100-year-old chairman, who do not have the door ever open for suggestions, and who do not care that the door is disorganized, and the door is left open for misunderstanding and poor communication. Even the use of a simple database to track member information and to spot trends in involvement would assist the Student Life department in being better able to handle the time, confusion and stress, and could initiate better marketing practices on behalf of the Student Life department. Perhaps this sort of technological advance would be too innovative and possibly ahead of its time.

When you think about the impact of your daily work life, the work flows in other departments of the university may operate with the same inefficiency, wasting time and money. That is, those in the administration who do not understand the importance of, or the potential cuts that might be made for a budget, who do not have the foresight of the 100-year-old chairman, who do not have the door ever open for suggestions, and who do not care that the door is disorganized, and the door is left open for misunderstanding and poor communication. Even the use of a simple database to track member information and to spot trends in involvement would assist the Student Life department in being better able to handle the time, confusion and stress, and could initiate better marketing practices on behalf of the Student Life department. Perhaps this sort of technological advance would be too innovative and possibly ahead of its time.

You had me on my life in the past year. Although this may start to drag on like the speeches given at the Academy Awards, I feel that it is important to share my experiences, bad and good alike, with the readers, and for my own personal reflection.

I had learned from my last job the importance of learning who your upper-management is, and what functions they serve. If I weren’t for meeting Chuck Connolly, the director of Marketing and recruiting at the National Book Store Club, I might not have had on my life in the past year. Although this may start to drag on like the speeches given at the Academy Awards, I feel that it is important to share my experiences, bad and good alike, with the readers, and for my own personal reflection.

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I have been an incredible mentor to me, and I hope to learn as much as I can from him during the time in the marketing department.

There are many professional and talented employees at the university. I have had the pleasure of working with several of them, including Susan Rashtak, intern director of the course I am exceptionally talented, and has always made time to answer or meet with me about questions I have had with regard to services provided by PPO. I also have had the pleasure of working with Detmer (DJ) Wells, the theater manager in The Center for Performing Arts. He has an effort has made to keep supper with me, and keep reminding me of the Phoenix stronger and as a result it has benefited our readers. The people that staff the HELP desk and work within the IT department at GSU (specifically Ruby Washington, Michelle Bishop, Eileen Kelly) have always been great to work with. Also, there have been many staff, sometimes far from our campus, that I have come to know over the past year. Staff members include Lisa Apolinar, Michael Barns, Monica Bass, Jean-Bita Brown, Tahirah Brown, Tina Carney, Laura Casal, David Chamberlin, Don Collins, Claire Collins, Claudio Hill, Beth Pohl, Agnes Adolf Saadat, Husein Tayan and Yvonne Yowman. (If I missed anyone, it was definitely not on purpose. Unlike me, these staff members do not receive even a simple “Thank you,” with the readers, and for my own personal reflection.

I also learned that the administration at the university does not seem to be aware of how precious your time is, how Excellent your money is, how hungry your mind is, and how much you just want to learn. All of this because you simply want to go out and learn. Perhaps this is a sign of what is to come. Perhaps our expectations of better service, and begin demonstrating an improved attitude, especially from the faculty who seem to avoid dealing with student concerns. Let me say that the majority of the faculty seems to be fine, professional and caring educators. The administration seems to be doing the best it can as well.

There is a clow in every crowd, however, and unfortunately, there exist some here at GSU. I have seen some who have been indifference. For example, a political science professor is so lazy writing books that the professor’s teaching must be suffering – because after all, at least one class where enrollment started at 30, then went to 5, of these students received a grade of Incomplete. How often has this happened with this professor is unknown at this time, but someone who stands over students while they fill out instructor evaluation forms, when it CLEARLY STATES on the paperwork that the instructor is to leave the room (for OBVIOUS reasons, ethical considerations being only the beginning). This is not something I would rush to give tenure to (this professor recently was awarded tenure, by the way). Perhaps it is just this sort of behavior that led to an impression that the students really think a lot of this professor, and led those who awarded it to decide that tenure should be awarded. Let us pray this administration did not fail victim to this kind of subtle manipulation. We can only hope that this is a behavioral anomaly, and that the future will show us that.

The way I see it, GSU is as good as the service it provides, and if you students are satisfied, speak up and say so. If you have a complaint, get up and tell the president, your provost, your president, if necessary, but remember this: if you want something done, then go do it! Last but not least, you part-time faculty (Krasnotezky, Yurki, Mantel, Glumec, etc.) that seem to outshine some of the entrenched regulars (who can’t seem to find the time to interact with students to facilitate the learning process), you know who you are, and you must keep on doing the right things you are doing! You keep your light shining brightly, and some, maybe one or more of us former students will come back to GSU and walk in your footsteps, and spread proper example of educational excellence to the students!

Those of you who do that now, my hat goes off to you. You make the difficult simple, the obscure clear, the mysterious comprehensible, and we are all better for it! I have known a few professors who those who will listen to what murmurings there are, and can read the writings on the wall, will know that as long as you keep students coming in, and as long as they keep staying in, to graduate, Governors State University will have someone to thank. It is never too late. You are the powers that be who will lead this university through the current crises, and you have my earnest gratitude.

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"Budget" continued from Page 1

departments, such as ITS and PPO, "we can do it, but we will look into outsourcing," said Dr. Fagan, during his convocation speech in October 2003.

Along with a review of the outsourcing options, Dr. Fagan also made reference to a university-wide evaluation of efficiency during the same speech. The evaluation would be part of a larger organizational effort made to "improve quality and service, not to reduce staff."

"We would like a comprehensive evaluation of all operations including marketing, legal, purchasing, processing, bursarial functions and so on," said Dr. Fagan. "Will we ask the same question, can we improve the delivery of service?"

Other areas impacted by the budget have resulted in support cuts to the Financial Aid department and the Registrar's Office. Another result of the reductions was to defer maintenance. Despite the restrictions placed on the university's buildings, a focus has remained focused: "work had to protect the students."

One Size Does Not Fit All

GSU's mission, unique in Illinois, is to provide high-standard, tailored, quality education. The governor's proposed budget calls for across-the-board reductions, putting GSU into the same category of other public universities despite its differences.

"We've been telling Springfield that each of the public universities has its unique mission and purpose. U of I is a world-class research institution; GSU's mission is to serve the working adult," said Dr. Fagan. "We've argued that one size does not fit all," stated Dr. Fagan. (See the full letter referenced in the president's convocation speech in 2003, called the result of the experiment "nothing short of a total disaster.")

GSU has served not only the stereotypical college student but blue-collar adults, minorities, economically disadvantaged, and first-generation students.

The university has won the approval for funding by several federal TRIO programs including: ACESS, Upward Bound, and the McNair Scholars Program.

"On the one hand, legislators and ISHE have nothing but praise for Governor Blagojevich," said Dr. Fagan. "Accreditation is a process that now gives us the highest marks and independent evaluators rank our programs the best."

Fagan's Testimony Appeals To The Senate

To combat the results of further budget reductions, Dr. Fagan appealed to the Senate Appropriations Committee in Springfield on June 18, 2004. Accompanied by Student Senate President, Linda Williams, Dr. Fagan pinpointed the departure from achieving Gov. Blagojevich's and Human Services awarded four CHP grants for scholarships for appointed Director of Advancement original initiatives as a result of the programs.

"We've had to say 'no' to requests for cohorts from El Valor and local school districts. 'No' to requests for preparation of alternative teacher certification programs. 'No' to requests for cohorts in the health professions," said Dr. Fagan before the committee.

The original key initiative, outlined by the governor's proposed budget to focus on K-12 and healthcare, would fall short due to the lack of funding to train teachers and other professionals in these areas.

"Administrators, and to some extent students, can live with many of the difficulties and inconveniences the budget cuts have created. But no one can accept the devastating long-term impact of these cuts on the communities we serve especially in the areas of primary and secondary education and health care, two priorities for the governors and the legislature," said Dr. Fagan in his appeal. The consequences of cutbacks on the state level have the potential to affect the educational priority of the federal government as well. The lack of education for future teachers, would result in the decreased opportunity to fund education for children. In his appeal, Dr. Fagan cited the committee, "Cut funding for higher education and many children will be left behind."

A Renewed Vision

On the side of higher education, political allies such as Senator Richard Durbin, Representative Debbie Halvorson, Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr., and Senate President Emil Jones, have joined the university in its struggle against the latest round of fiscal paralysis required by the state.

In addition to political efforts, strategic preparation on behalf of the colleges within the university has included securing federal funding for GSU's, new teacher training initiative, An Adventure of the American Mind (AAM). AAM is a program from the Library of Congress that trains and supports K-12 teachers in making available the resources of the Library of Congress, for use in schools.

"A project like AAM leaves the playing field for students by giving their teachers unparalleled resources to promote intellectual freedom as well as intellectual diversity," said Dr. Fagan. "We provide them with the tools to facilitate the process in which they run their courses."

A feature recently added to the cyber discussion is the ability to post anonymously.

"It is possible that students have not told us everything they want to know," said Dr. Fagan. "As you know, students' participation is not anonymous, and so the fact that it is not anonymous may have some bearing on what students are willing to share with me, given that they know who they are." The cyber discussion will remain accessible to all students currently registered in the summer 2004 trimester's online courses until the end of August. To log into the cyber discussion, students should log into WebCT at http://www.webct.com/govst. For questions or comments regarding the "Dean's Cyber Discussion of Learning on the Internet," please contact Dean William Nowlin via e-mail at wnowlin@govst.edu.

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Illinois Republicans: Rise Up And Stand Up
Jay Dobbs
Commentary Writer
Since the 2002 Illinois elections the Illinois Republicans seem like they are having trouble making a comeback and uniting as one party. I say its time to RISE UP and STAND UP, rise up and fight back with the strength and might to win back the great state of Illinois, RISE UP AND STAND UP; its time to show the people that the Illinois Republican party is ready to fight and win. This is our last opportunity for Illinois Republicans to show how the Democratic party in Illinois are playing politics with the citizens of Illinois, for example, look how long it took to get a state budget for the year and the fighting between the Democratic Speaker of the House Mike Madigan our Democratic governor over the budget. Illinois Republicans should take this opportunity and use it to their advantage and show the true colors of the state Democratic Party or at least their leaders and show the people of Illinois that its time for a change, its time to rise up and stand up and unite as one strong Republican Party, stronger than the Democratic Party, lets stop the infighting and unite, lets win back Illinois in 2006, lets just win one for the Clapper, its time for Illinois Republicans to have fire in the belly in taking back Illinois in 2006.

Plans To Eliminate School Psychology MA Program
Dear Editor:

With disdain I learned recently that administrators at Governors State University have communicated to the faculty their plan to eliminate the School Psychology master's degree program. Faculty, students and alumni will undoubtedly question the process underlying this plan, and I am writing to express my disappointment in this turn of events.

I served as chairperson of the Psychology and Counseling division for 22 years, from 1981, when the Illinois State Board of Education approved the program, until 2002. During that time, the program became accredited with the National Association of School Psychology after a brief period of probation. The probation resulted from stretched resources due to great demand, and the program has hired an excellent director for the program, Dr. David Dolton, Country Club Hills, Kankakee, Joliet, Homer Township and Lockport, among others.

The proposed elimination of such a successful and productive program leads me to question the decision-making process and the wisdom of those involved in the decision. Although there are the usual pressures of cost, state budget cuts, and recruiting and retaining competent faculty, I believe that good leaders with vision can find ways to overcome these challenges. I would encourage GSU’s president and other administrators to find a way to preserve this valuable program, which fills a very important need in the greater Chicago area.

Sincerely,

Dr. Addison E. Woodward, Jr.
Professor Emeritus
Paula Park, IL 60444

Focus on Campus Safety

Dear Editor:

I noticed that GSU does not have any cameras in the hallways or in the parking lots. Where is all of the student life money going? This is 2004! Is a new gym floor more important than our safety? I say no! If I was a student, staff or faculty member was attacked in the hallway? How would we feel then? What a price to pay for lack of insight!

The high paid faculty and administration should donate to the cause of increasing student safety by purchasing cameras to monitor the student center fees and the magnitude of that conflict of interest is such that it reminds me of an ancient proverb, which states ‘Evil avide, avoids the appearance of evil’. I say, words, no doubt, but it just needs to be mentioned that since there are so many issues and so little noisy, one could get the impression that Dr. Sibbet activities are not being examined very carefully. Does it seem coincidental that Dr. Sibbet has chosen well in appointing Dr. Lorraine Sibbet as the Director of Student Life? Since no one here is ready to ask the question, that question is left to the readers. One would think that in a setting where the student body has the highest pursuit, this kind of situation would not, even could not exist. Any indication that GSU administrators are not doing all they can to ensure the safety of students in providing an explanation for collecting student fees totaling approximately $1 million this year and prevailing less in student activities than some community colleges. After all, if there is a reasonable indication that student fees are being used to support activities, then a letter to the Editor would seem to go a long way toward answering the students concerns

My major question is as follow: Why would an administrator, who is not a civil service employee, hired to manage monies belonging to the state to Monies, which, by definition, are to be used to serve student interests? This may mean that anything Dr. Sibbet does is not actually performed by an agent of the state of Illinois, therefore, does that mean that if anything is later found to be not in keeping with GAAP, the administrator hired to manage monies belonging to the state is not responsible, because she is not actually representing the state? How can the hired agent of the school’s administration; as such, her actions are directly attributable to the administration that hired her? They might be well-advised to take a look, a good look, at what is going on in Student Life. Especially because GSU just got a new gym floor, which according to Dr. Sibbet, was paid for out of Student Center Fees, and from Student fees. Hmmmm. I don’t know about you, but that sounds like it really needs further clarification, if the students are going to believe that they are NOT in fact, paying for a new gym floor. This is a capital improvement, by the way.

My only conclusion is that the school administration is either being negligent for having an administrator in charge that refuses to account for her monies, and has increased student concerns with her management style, while decreasing the services.

Know this: every dollar that is paid in state monies must be accounted for at some point. So, someone, somewhere, some day comes, ‘The Song Remains the Same.’

Sincerely,

Hamilton Adams
African-American Men & Cheating

Does History Reveal the Truth?

Tracy Brittum
Staff Writer

Kenneth Williams, 51-year-old former husband of v-paggy Vogel and father of two and a former student of Governors State University, who says that cheating among African-American men has origins that go back to slavery.

ConWills believed that cheating in the 21st century is an existing problem because during slave times, African-American men who had a strong body makeup and worked hard was only allowed to sleep with the African-American women in order to impregnate them for their children to have the same body make up of their fathers.

Williams believed that because of this historical fact, African-American men continue the cycles of cheating on their significant other. He said that African-American men could not control the urge to be with more than one woman. He says that in other countries it is expected of men to have more than one partner.

For some African-American men, cheating is a genetic disorder. I believe that slavery times encouraged men to sleep with many different women, and because of this it is the black men genetics to be with more than one woman at a time,” said Williams.

According to Jermaine Pelt, a graduate student in public administration at Governors State University, African-American men and cheating is a problem that cannot be if resolved from slavery or any genetic defect. However, Dr. Conley says that African-American men continue to cheat because of behavior that African-American men develop from their surroundings and society.

“By society tend to minimize monogamy. In part, cheating on your spouse or longtime partner is not accepted by society that is oblivious to commitment and monogamy. Wilhelm said Pelt.

According to Dr. Conley, African-American men learn this behavior from family members, word of mouth, friends and perpetuation through music and video media.

According to Dr. Conley, African-American men continue to cheat on their spouse or longtime partner and believing that allowing them to do so. She believes these women tend to accept this behavior out of fear, and being alone and believing that their spouses or partners will change after they have experienced cheating one time.

Pelt believes that cheating is a problem because they have been hurt in past relationships and others cheat because it is viewed by their peers as being popular.

“Most men cheat because they have a void inside of them and they do not know how to fill it in life, so they cheat on their significant other to avoid what they feel inside,” said Pelt.

Pelt believes that cheating is a problem because they have been hurt in past relationships and others cheat because it is viewed by their peers as being popular. Pelt says that everyone plays a part in that. He says that the women accept it, peer pressure encourage it, and the cheater continues to cheat.

According to Pelt, the only way to minimize cheating is to have a strong moral core and healthy relationships, respect of oneself and others, teach values, and morals. He believes that cheating is a problem because they are not taught to break the cycle of cheating if it is not so easily accepted by society. He says that society is needed to redefine monogamous behavior as a form of popularity and that because of these men think cheating is a reputation builder.

“They are so many ways to diminish cheating in our culture. The first way is to teach monogamy at home, whether it is a single family home or not. It can still be taught. Another way is to stop allowing those who cheat to believe it is builds their character, by making the cheater feel ashamed and embarrassed. Then there is a strong possibility he will stop cheating,” said Pelt.

Online Wedding Planning

Christina Carney
Section Editor & Staff Writer

Dangerously deciding to plan a last minute wedding, my mind has been a whirlwind. I have done a lot of research on and have bought my wedding dress,但是对于 a bride, a planning a wedding last minute is a whirlwind. Everyone can have a certain opinion on this, but statistics gathered show that most people who are voting these days feel that they most identify with the person they are voting for as an adequate candidate. For this to be accomplished you have to lure the voter in the proper direction. This seems to be the plan of the Democratic Party this year to gain the popular vote which could possibly exceed this number. The Democratic margin among voters is 20 percentage points above Republicans, explained Ann Lewis, head of the Democratic National Committee. The party’s goal is to get more young people to vote. All 4 days are key to their campaign.

“You need to have the messenger look like the person you’re bringing the message to,” said Malia Laz a the Chicago Redeye, national field director for the Young Voter Alliance, part of the Young Democrats of America. “Young people identify with their culture. I was raised in a hip-hop culture. It’s not a racial thing. About 70 percent of hip-hop music is black.”

Donald Washington, an undergraduate student in Information Technology at GSU, said his opinion of the overall campaign is that the decision to use celebrities to obtain votes.

According to Trenton Federick, a volunteer assistant for Barack Obama (Illinois Senate race, 2004-2006) and an intern for the Democratic National Committee, “You can’t win your own battle, you have to have the people who can get them to the polls,” said his opinion of the overall campaign is that the decision to use celebrities to obtain votes.

According to Jermaine Pelt, a graduate student in public administration at Governors State University, African-American men and cheating is a problem that cannot be if resolved from slavery or any genetic defect. However, Dr. Conley says that African-American men continue to cheat because of behavior that African-American men develop from their surroundings and society.

“By society tend to minimize monogamy. In part, cheating on your spouse or longtime partner is not accepted by society that is oblivious to commitment and monogamy. Wilhelm said Pelt.

According to Dr. Conley, African-American men learn this behavior from family members, word of mouth, friends and perpetuation through music and video media.

According to Dr. Conley, African-American men continue to cheat on their spouse or longtime partner and believing that allowing them to do so. She believes these women tend to accept this behavior out of fear, and being alone and believing that their spouses or partners will change after they have experienced cheating one time.

Pelt believes that cheating is a problem because they have been hurt in past relationships and others cheat because it is viewed by their peers as being popular. Pelt says that everyone plays a part in that. He says that the women accept it, peer pressure encourage it, and the cheater continues to cheat.

According to Pelt, the only way to minimize cheating is to have a strong moral core and healthy relationships, respect of oneself and others, teach values, and morals. He believes that cheating is a problem because they are not taught to break the cycle of cheating if it is not so easily accepted by society. He says that society is needed to redefine monogamous behavior as a form of popularity and that because of these men think cheating is a reputation builder.

“They are so many ways to diminish cheating in our culture. The first way is to teach monogamy at home, whether it is a single family home or not. It can still be taught. Another way is to stop allowing those who cheat to believe it is builds their character, by making the cheater feel ashamed and embarrassed. Then there is a strong possibility he will stop cheating,” said Pelt.

Online Wedding Planning

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Reduce your advertising costs
Advertising is usually measured in two ways: Reach and Frequency. Reach is the number of people that actually see your ad, and Frequency is the number of times that ad is seen. The lower the reach, the higher the frequency and in this case it can result in saving money. However, you should consider your target audience carefully before setting your budget.

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Look to PR
Advertising is expensive. PR (Public Relations) is essentially free. If you can gain some exposure through your local media outlets, you can save some money on advertising. However, keep in mind that there are some disadvantages to PR. You may not have control over who sees your ad, and you may not have complete control over the message that is conveyed. However, PR can be a cost-effective way to reach a large audience.

Will Dylan is the author of "Small Business Big Marketing" a powerful e-book for small businesses available through his website www.marketingyoursmallbusiness.com. Will also offers article and news release writing services.

Benefits of an Accessible Website
By: Trenton Moss

The DDSA (Disability Discrimination Act) states that service providers must not discriminate against disabled people. A website is regarded as a service and therefore falls under this law, and as such must be accessible to everyone.

Some organizations are making accessibility improvements to their websites, but many are seemingly not making the accessibility adjustments. Disabled people don’t access their website, they say, so why should they care?

There are, however, two very good reasons as to why businesses should start taking these issues seriously: an accessible website will make you more money and will save you money.

There are seven explanations for this:

1. Your website will be easier to manage - An accessible website separates the content (the text and images that we see on the screen) and presentation (the way that these words and images are laid out) of each page. Each page has an HTML document that contains the words and images for that page (the content), and calls up a CSS document that includes the presentation information - this CSS document is shared by all on the pages on the website. To adjust the layout of your website, you only have to make changes in the CSS file, saving considerable time (and therefore money).

2. Your website will be compatible with new browsing technologies - In the near future, the use of PDAs, mobile phones and in-car browsers will all regularly be used to access the Internet. The people making use of these new technologies are generally high-income individuals. In order to reach this lucrative target, you’ll need a website that is accessible to these machines. To test your website, try using it with the Wizapal (http://www.gelenet.net), which shows how your site will look on a mobile phone.

3. Your website will appear higher in the search engines - By making your website more accessible to web users, you’re also making it more accessible to search engines. Search engines cannot usually understand images, JavaScript, Flash, audio and video content. By providing alternative content to each of these, all areas of your website will be accessible to search engines, which will then be able to have a better understanding of its purpose. The more confident a search engine is of your website’s purpose, all other things being equal, the higher it’ll place your website in the search rankings.

4. You won’t have to incur legal fees - The RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) and the DRC (Disability Rights Commission) have been exerting pressure on companies and the government to make their websites accessible. Indeed, the DRC has now published their findings from their accessibility investigation of 1000 websites. They’ve warned firms that they’ll face legal action and the threat of unlimited compensation payments if they fail to make their websites accessible to people with disabilities.

5. The download time of your website will be significantly improved - Accessible websites generally download quicker than websites with poor accessibility. Just 25% of web users in the UK are connected to the Internet via broadband (source: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfs/int/c0504.pdf). You can be sure that if your website takes much longer than ten seconds to download then many of your site visitors will be clicking away and you’ll lose their custom.

6. The usability of your website will be enhanced - There is a certain amount of overlap between web accessibility and web usability. It’s been shown that a usability redesign increases the sales/conversion rate of a website by 100% (source: http://www.uset.com/alterbox/20030107.html).

7. You’ll gain good publicity - Make your website accessible to everyone and you can tell the world about it.
over the past years... even decades! As daily living activities such as bathing, for the parent. Assistive living programs people approach their senior years, we community - based events and seniors will face increasing physical and organizations, and living independently! the service s and accommodation s offered. the adequate support elder's need, but they the goal of enhancing individuality, privacy include: meals, assistance with daily living activities, personal hygiene and appearance, medication management, housekeeping and personal laundry, transportation and shopping. Monthly residence fees average between $1800 and $3000 depending on the services and accommodations offered, they face more physical and/or mental challenges. Residents can remain in their own home, in their own familiar surroundings without the institutional rules. Another advantage of this arrangement is that seniors save money by owning their own properties rather than renting. For additional information, contact the Eldercare Locator toll-free at (800) 677 - 1116. There are also several resources that can help you find assisted living facilities: www.assistedlivingonline.com, www.seniorhousing.net, www.alfa.org, or even the yellow pages of your phone book. The Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA) is the largest association exclusively dedicated to the assisted living industry and population it serves. ALFA provides an online resource directory. Assisted Living On-line also provides directory of facilities by state as well as list of national resources for seniors. Information for this article was contributed in part by Pat Edmond, director of sales at Renaissance Center, a senior advocate, and a MHA student at GSU.

A Look At Senior Living Today
Lisa Aponte-Soto
Health Columnist
Senior living has changed dramatically over the past years... even decades! As people approach their senior years, we imagine them sitting around relaxing and enjoying retirement. However, for many elders that will be far from reality. Some seniors will face increasing physical and mental limitations requiring assistance with daily living activities such as bathing, dressing, eating, housekeeping, and transportation. Traditionally the latter group would be placed in nursing home. "Active seniors and the real estate industry have debunked that ancient thought," says Pat Edmond, Director of Sales for the Renaissance Center in Chicago, which provides affordable senior residences along with assisted living. "Seniors today are vivacious, involved in community-based events and organizations, and living independently!" Retirement communities may not offer the adequate support elder's need, but they may be too independent to live in a nursing home. Assisted living bridges this gap.

Family members no longer have to carry the guilt conscience of placing their loved ones in a nursing home. Adult children are also relieved from the stress of caring for the parent. Assistive living programs have become the latest trend in senior housing combining apartment-style housing with personal care and other services. Residents can live independently and take part in decision-making of activities, services and amenities. According to Medicare, assisted living is defined, and in some instances in which personal care services are available on a need basis for people living in their own residential facility. Residences provide the opportunity to enjoy a maintenance-free home environment with the goal of enhancing individually, privacy, and dignity of residents. Assisted living services provided include: meals, assistance with daily living activities, personal hygiene and appearance, medication management, housekeeping and personal laundry, transportation and shopping. The GSU recreation center has recently acquired a new $49,991.00 gym floor. The floor installation was completed in July 2004. Although the project was led by student life executive director Dr. Lorraine Schuetz, the floor material and warranty information was generously donated to her and the rest of the GSU population.

College of Health Professions E-Pulse Newsletter www.govst.edu/chp/news

The Effects of Sleep Deprivation
Lisa Aponte-Soto
Health Columnist
The alarm clock rings. You drag yourself out of bed. As you prepare for work or school, you wonder how you will get through the day. If you often feel tired, you are not alone. You may be not getting enough sleep. According to the National Sleep Foundation, most Americans are sleep deprived as a consequence of modern culture. We work longer hours and stay out later. Overwhelmed by daily tasks, we simply try get too much done in a day. We stay up later and get up earlier to compensate for time limitations. However, not only do we sleep less hours, we sleep less well due to stress. "We have become a society of walking zombies, victims of high paced lifestyles, stress and overuse of energizing stimulants in our diets," says Hector Lopez, RN. "We trick ourselves into believing that we need less sleep or than we can train ourselves to sleep less. Yet, we do not generally recognize the effects of sleep deprivation." "It is important to remember that sleep deprivation does have detrimental effects, which we sometimes forget as we push workers, students and others to perform even when they are functioning with a lack of sleep," said Christian Gillin, MD, professor of psychiatry at UCSD and the San Diego VAMC, and an author of the Nature paper. How much sleep is necessary? While experts recommend 8 hours of sleep per night, a poll by the National Sleep Foundation revealed that the average adult sleeps less than 7 hours per night during the week. The amount of sleep necessary vary from person to person, decreasing as we age. You can determine the right amount of sleep by the number of hours that allow to awake refreshed and to feel energized throughout the day. What are the common causes of sleep deprivation? The effects of sleep deprivation are common people among with sleep disorders (obstructive sleep apnea, nocturnal myoclonus, and narcolepsy), medical illnesses (heart disease and respiratory disorders), and mental illness (depression). Other causes of sleep deprivation include the following: not allowing enough time for sleep, excessive worry, repeated awakenings from noise or trips to the bathroom, anything that causes insomnia or poor quality of sleep, medication that may interfere with sleep, lack of exercise, working at night, and traveling across time zones. What are the adverse effects of sleep deprivation? The effects of insufficient sleep may be observed in one day through fatigue, irritability, decreased productivity, and activity intolerance. Over time, too little sleep increases levels of stress, anxiety and depression. Additional effects of sleep deprivation include: health problems (breathing disorders, blurred vision, frequent infections, depression, hallucinations, heart disease), behavioral, learning or social problems, difficulties thinking of imaginative words or ideas, tiredness and vague discomfort, problems with concentration, memory and cognitive skills, and alterations in appetite. What habits influence a good night's rest? Consistently maintaining a regular sleep schedule is important to promote sleep. You can begin by going to bed at the same time each night, and waking up at the same time each morning. If you have trouble sleeping, avoid sleeping pills unless prescribed. Over-the-counter and prescription sleep aids have harmful side effects and addictive properties. There are natural herbs and approaches that may positive results. There are also different relaxation techniques and lifestyle changes that promote sleep including; breathing exercises and daily calisthenics; creating a serene sleeping environment; avoiding caffeine, alcohol, food or excess fluids just before bedtime; and monitoring illnesses or medications that inhibit sleep. Visit www.sleepnet.com for additional information, a sleep evaluation, helpful links, and resources.

WITH A STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.
Learn the warning signs at StrokeAssociation.org or 1-888-4-STROKE. American Stroke Association. ©2004 American Heart Association. Made possible in part by a generous grant from The Sugar Foundation.
January. Since I had chosen to go back to school and because my schedule put us on opposite schedules, our seven-year relationship with my boyfriend Will had become strained. By March I initiated our separation, and although it was pretty much a mutual break-up by that point, it was very hard on both of us emotionally. We had been very comfortable together and our home for the past seven years was with each other; but our paths were definitely going in different directions. We were not making future plans and we never discussed any goals; our paths were definitely going in different directions. We were not making future plans and

Just when my personal growth phase seemed to be winding down, at least for that month, I found there was more growth awaiting me around the corner. David Chambers had sent me an email at the Phoenix in January, following a very well-written email that used many words I had never heard uttered before in my life. When he made his first appearance in the Phoenix office, he had a confident and somewhat arrogant way about him. He said he wanted to apply for the section editor job, but after reading the description and his email, I knew there was more growth awaiting me around the corner. David has tirelessly promoted me, supported me and loved me; getting used to each other's bad habits was far less critical as getting used to the attraction we have on one another. It is not that it is negative except that we have the tendency to allow it to distract us from our path. This lesson I learned from David and I continue to learn from, and make adjustments to keep us focused on "the big picture."

I also want to say "thank you" to Claude Hill, for giving me some insight into the inner workings of the university. I did not know much about GSU's history, but thanks to my discussions with him, light was shed on some dark areas that still loomed over my basic understanding of it.

The last group of people I want to mention before wrapping up my reflection is my group of sisters who have become my official support group. My adopted sisters include Elizabeth Green, Cherron Sparr, Taharia Brown, and although I haven't seen her in a while, Linda Williams. Your friendship means a lot to me and I consider myself lucky to have each of you in my life. Thank you for all of your support.

During my year on the Phoenix and my first year as a GSU student, my life changed drastically in what seemed to be a roller coaster of ups and downs. But unlike the roller coasters at Great America, this ride didn't end in 45 seconds. In a year's time I moved back in with my parents (and that isn't any easier the second-time around), ended a seven-year relationship, dropped three classes, lost three jobs, lost my cat Dylan to cancer, lost touch with old friends, found a strong support group of new friends, begun a new relationship, experienced the pain of graduation physical limitations as a result of my work on the computer, took my first week-long vacation in four years (on which I took the March Phoenix with me to finish, and did not relax), became a McNair student, became the EIC of the Phoenix, created the newspaper's website, and met and interviewed numerous authors, politicians and musicians. My high school Latin teacher would be proud to see that I have also managed to find use for Latin in my life once again (magna est praestitutum: Truth is mighty, and will prevail).

I have also learned a great deal about my skills, capabilities and talents; as well as my emotional, physical and mental limits. Although many workplaces are full of much of the same experiences with regards to management and managerial control issues, a person can only tolerate a certain amount of stress and anxiety (especially unnecessary stress and anxiety). For this reason, I do not blame Carol Schrock for sprinting out the door and severing her ties as she did. The majority of her time and effort in building the basic foundation for the Phoenix has gone unrewarded and definitely unrecognized; but how many of you reading this newspaper can claim to not be overworked and underpaid? I definitely cannot; but I know that I have learned from the many diverse experiences I have had over the last year. Although many times I thought it might be easier on me to quit, I have come out on top with a stronger sense of who I am and what I am capable of achieving; and although I have taken a number of positive experiences and a better sense of self while working on the Phoenix, the Phoenix has taken a lot out of me as well. In all I will look back at my first year at GSU and as the Phoenix's Editor in Chief with great pride.