Affordable Child Care Right Next Door

By Derek Curtis

Governors State University's Family Development Center offers child-and-daycare services at a reduced rate for university students.

The center, located at the far south end of the campus, charges $3 per hour for children ages 3 through 12. A full day, pre-kindergarten program is also available at the same rate. The rate for non-students is $42 per day.

"It's a wonderful alternative for parents who can't make arrangements for someone to watch their children while they're in class," said Jane Cecil, program coordinator for the center.

"We focus on [the child's] strengths, capabilities and interests. We also strive for consistency and increasing their learning."

The center uses a unique approach to education called Reggio Emilia, named after a city in Italy. Instead of believing that children are born ignorant and needy, the Reggio philosophy is founded on the premise that children are born competent with a desire for knowledge.

"What I like about the center is it's really convenient for my class schedule and the faculty is very available for questions," said Christina Siern, a GSU junior and criminal justice major.

Helping create a brighter F.U.T.U.R.E.

By Steve Schering

Phoenix staff reporter

When Juan Ellis started attending classes at Governors State University, he planned to breeze through to get his Bachelors Degree. Now he hopes to accomplish much more.

Currently working as a security guard at Ingalls Hospital in Harvey, Ellis, from Robbins, had previously worked in law enforcement.

Ellis, 47, began taking criminal justice classes when he started attending GSU in the fall of 2002 and soon found a new career path. Ellis is working with local high schools and is developing a program to help the students resolve anger issues.

"Through advising with him and taking several classes with him I know he's interested in finding something different as a career goal," said Dr. James Coldren, one of Ellis' professors. "He took some criminal justice courses, a restorative justice course and he's currently taking a course on conflict resolution and mediation."

It was through GSU that Ellis began a minority internship with the F.U.T.U.R.E foundation. Through the internship Ellis began working with the students at Bloom and Bloom Trail High Schools in Chicago Heights.

"At the high schools I do restorative justice and peer mediation," said Ellis. "When children get suspended I work with the parents and the students. I try to help them work out the problem and focus on them getting back to being students."

Through the F.U.T.U.R.E Foundation Ellis helped put together a program that can be put into high schools for anger management.

"The main purpose is to prevent kids from getting into trouble," Coldren said. "It means getting them to channel their anger and understand that their anger is mounting and finding different ways to resolve conflict. It will probably not only be used as a preventative tool, but also an intervention when conflicts do arise."

In between all that Ellis is an Associate Minister at Stratford Christian Center and works in the GSU Registrar's Office as a student worker. Ellis has come a long way since he was just hoping to get his Bachelors Degree and move on.

"I really fell in love with this, GSU has a great criminal justice program that helped me out," said Ellis. "I've been really fortunate being able to go back to college."

Not only does Ellis now plan to get his Masters Degree, but he hopes to help the community and make sure the students he works with go on to bigger and better things.

"I hope that with me going into this field that I can make sure that a higher percentage of young people go to college," added Ellis. "I would love to see more of them getting college degrees."

GSU opens second satellite facility

By John Conrad

Governors State University has officially opened its second permanent satellite facility on March 1. It is located in Naperville.

Currently GSU has over 30 temporary satellite facilities open in its outer lying service region. They are located in facilities such as grade schools, libraries, and municipal buildings, according to John Stoll, Dean of GSU's University College, who oversees the off-campus learning centers.

The Naperville Education Center (NEC) however, is a permanent facility, located at 2344 W. 95th Street in Naperville, IL. The site currently has two main classrooms, with access to "share space" (several more classrooms and labs) in the same building from the College of
Could SB 0729 saving campus free speech?

By Robert Wolff
Editor

The future of free speech for college press could be getting a little brighter.
Illinois Senate bill 0729, which was, as of Friday, March 29, 2007, in the Rules Committee in the Illinois Senate, would allow for, among other things, no prior review of student-produced campus media by college or other public officials.

This bill would serve to undermine an Appellate Court ruling in June of 2001 that allowed for prior administrative approval from university officials for any news articles as well as approval for future issues.

The bill was introduced by Susan Garrett (D-Lake Forest) and seems to have solid support from members of the general assembly. The Student Press Law Center, a non-profit organization advocating free speech rights for college media, quotes one Illinois representative, Kevin McCarthy (D-Orland Park), chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, saying the bill will receive a "good reception" from the committee.

He added, "I don't think censorship has many supporters from the General Assembly."

Despite the promise of free speech for college media like The Phoenix, however, it still remains unclear how another case of possible libel would be handled.

In 2000, Governors State University shut down the then innovator for what administration officials considered to be libelous material being printed.

Members of the Innovator responded by using the school for violation of freedom of speech, resulting in the infamous Hosty v. Carter ruling and, subsequent, a very negative perception of Governors State.

The Phoenix went through a period of troubles, losing steam and eventually shutting down for reasons not related to administration intervention.

Since it has been restarted in June of 2006, administration officials at Governors State have taken an almost eerie hands-off approach, with members of The Phoenix staff having virtually no contact with any university officials about production or publication of the newspaper.

Whether that hands-off approach will continue remains to be seen. So far, no accusations of libel have been leveled since press liberation since the June 2006 restart date.

Recently, The Star newspaper covered SB 0729 and spoke with members of Governors State University, including Phoenix staff and Charles Connolly, Executive Director for Marketing and Communications.

Connolly agreed with the university not interfering with content publication, but would not elaborate when asked about what might happen if there is an issue of libel in the future.

The Phoenix maintains that the senate bill, although not unimportant, may not have the expected strong impact on content since GSU officials have been hands off and that the paper is "more conservative" with the content it publishes.

Calls for comment to Dr. Sherilyn Poole, Dean of Student Activities and Services at GSU, and Connolly, were not immediately returned.

Pa. college makes move toward all-Mac campus

By Albert Sun
Daily Pennsylvania (U. Penn)

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA -- At Wilkes University, it's more like, "Dude, you're getting a Mac."

Last month, the Pennsylvania college announced its plan to switch all 1,700 of its computers to Intel-based Macs, the latest indicator of a resurging popularity of Macs on college campuses.

Wilkes spokeswoman Christine Seitzinger said the ability of Macs to be signed, and serve the underserved populations in our region...this (satellite facilities) is a key way to accomplish this.

Currently only two programs will be offered at the NEC, Criminal Justice and Communications. This is the result of a direct request of the three community colleges (DuPage, Waubonsee, and Joliet Junior College) the facility will be serving, according to Stoll.

Stoll expects that Master's level Education programs and undergraduate level Psychology programs will soon be added to the facility, with the College of Business and the College of Health Professions soon to follow suit.

GSU has no plans set in stone for future off-campus learning centers, but for media-oriented computer labs, Macs would typically be used, while PCs would be chosen for more general purposes.

"The machines satisfy different needs for different people," Winston said. "We don't want to be so prescriptive that we limit the use to it."

College freshman Sarah Feldman, by SAS Information Technology Director about which they replace all computers.

Ira Winston. College junior Graeme Brown, also made by each individual school, "There's not a whole lot of difference depending on the lab's purpose. As for labs run by SAS, Winston said that, depending on the lab's purpose. As for labs run by SAS, Winston said that, depending on the lab's purpose.

"More than half the people [at Penn] use PCs -- getting rid of all [the PCs], there would kind of be an uproar," Feldman said.

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Popular majors face higher tuition, report shows

By Jared Mason
Daily Texan (U. Texas)

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas -- As tuition at the University of Texas continues to increase each year, some of the most popular majors are becoming even more expensive, according to data provided by the University Budget Office.

The University implemented the current system of flat-rate tuition, which includes all fees associated with particular programs, University-wide during the 2005-2006 school year, said Mary Knight, associate vice president and budget director for the budget office.

She said the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee first decides on the cost of tuition for each school or college, and then deans and advisers may make recommendations to change that amount based on the costs of specific materials or services.

The proposals are then reviewed by the committee, Provost's office, president, UT system chancellor and the UT System Board of Regents before a decision is made.

The most expensive undergraduate programs, based on flat-rate tuition, are the School of Pharmacy, the McCombs School of Business and the College of Engineering.

These schools currently cost between $4,216 and $4,973 per semester for an in-state resident and between $11,031 and $14,185 for an out-of-state student, based on data from 2006-2007 from the budget office's Web site.

Urton Anderson, associate dean at the McCombs School of Business, said that although tuition for the business school is more expensive than some other schools at the University, students understand that it is a small price to pay for the quality of education relative to other business institutions across the country.

"We're still really cheap," he said.

Cindy Brown, director of compliance and training at the College of Engineering and former assistant dean of business affairs, said costs are relatively higher than other schools because of computer-based technology and equipment that is specific to the majors they offer.

She said engineering students have paid more for several years with various fees added after tuition, but the new system enables directors to distribute money to departments where funds are most lacking.

To some, however, the tuition differentiation results from the higher anticipated starting salaries for students in the fields of business and engineering.

"There's some conceptual framework based on the earning prospect of these particular majors," said educational administration professor John Roueche.

"The students are going into fields where the starting compensation is way above average."
GSU Artists Rewarded for their work

By Steve Schering
Phoenix staff reporter

The 2007 Student Art Exhibition that ran in the GSU Visual Arts Gallery from March 12-30 ended with an awards reception to honor the students who contributed the best work. The reception and awards ceremony took place March 23 where graduate student Jody Reno’s untitled painting took the award for Best in Show.

"It's a tremendous honor, I can't believe it," said Reno. "It's definitely a great opportunity for students to show their art."

Also taking home honors were Benjamin Ward, who took second, and Michael Costanza, who took third. Also receiving honorable mentions were Robert Catania, Jennifer Jackson and Sarah Cundari.

"This is our annual exhibition that's open to any GSU student who has taken art classes in the last year," said Professor Javier Chavira.

"They are required to submit two pieces to the exhibit and we bring in an outside person to judge."

This year’s judge was Professor Adrian Tio, an art professor and Director of the School of Art at Northern Illinois University.

"This was a strong year," added Chavira. "There was a lot of really good work in there."

There will be two upcoming shows featuring the work of two GSU graduate students.

A show featuring Barbara Newman’s artwork will be on display April 9-13, with a public reception April 13 from 6-8 PM.

Joshua Rains’ work will be on display April 16-23, with a public reception April 18 from 7-9 PM.

Both exhibits will take place in the GSU Visual Arts Gallery, next to the E Lounge.
Is Shooter on the mark?

By John Conrad
Associate editor

As far as action goes, Shooter is on the mark. However, a semi-weak plot laden with clichés almost causes this film to miss its target.

The latest film from Antoine Fuqua, the director of Training Day, is a conspiracy theory caper, adapted from the pages of Steven Hunter's novel, Point of Impact.

In the story, a trained assassin named Bobby Johnson (Danny Glover) is called out of his early retirement to assist Colonel Isaac Johnson (Danny Glover) and the U.S. government in stopping a presidential assassination. Soon after his mission has begun, Swagger finds an assassination has been made, and he was framed as the shooter.

Now, Swagger must use all of his basic survival skills to avoid capture, and bring the fight back to a government he can no longer trust. Aided with the help of his ex-partner's girlfriend (Kate Mara) and a rogue FBI agent (Michaël Pena), the trained assassin must battle corruption, clear his name, and win back his life.

This wasn't the best movie in the world, but it was definitely fun. Action packed to the gills, it seemed that every fifteen minutes another highly stylized and explosive action sequence began. The action was beautiful with some moments of pure suspense thrown in for good measure, that's not my complaint. However, there can be too much of a good thing. When a film is fueled by action, rather than plot and character interaction, it leaves something to be desired.

I'm not saying that this is a bad movie by any means. I just think it should have been much more in-depth. I would have liked to delve much deeper into the government's plot and what they had to gain from it. But in Shooter, the only reasoning given is the reasoning always given, namely-money.

The bad guys (especially Glover and Ned Beatty) weren't really that bad, or at least the audience didn't have a chance to appreciate their diabolical ways due to the barrage of bad-guy-cliché dialogue spewing from their mouths. I couldn't take them seriously; I was too busy chuckling to myself.

A few of my favorite lines were, "Sometimes to catch a wolf, you have to tie the bait to a tree." "What it is, is human weakness. And you can't kill that with a gun." "I won you lost, get used to the idea son." And of course, "Things are about to get a lot messier."

Despite this somehow comical dialogue Beatty (as a corrupt U.S. senator) actually gives a surprisingly powerful speech about the state of things in America, and why they'll stay that way. Topics covered in his speech include the inner workings of politics, why we have rich and poor, and why the "haves" will get richer while the "have-nots" will always get poorer. The monologue may have not been the intense revelation I make it out to be, but after nearly an hour and a half of inane dialogue, it was a breath of fresh air.

So, to recap: a lot of stylized action + a little plot + many clichés + mediocre acting = Shooter. Well there it is, the basic formula for an action movie. If all you're looking for is a good time and you want to see some stuff blow up, Shooter is for you. If you years for a little something extra in your action films, stay home and rent one of the Bourne films. I give this movie 2 ½ stars.

20 Questions with...

What do you do at GSU? Coordinator - Student Disability Services, DS/Career/Academic Advisor.

How long have you been at GSU? Seven years.

How did you come into your position? Incredibly good fortune.

In your view, is the glass half empty or half full? Half full, unless it's a good chardonnay. Then it's completely empty.

Weather preference, cold or hot? Cold.

What is your favorite food? Depends on the day - my mouth is fickle.

Where do you like to go for vacation? Anywhere near the ocean.

If you could change anything in your life, what would it be? Wouldn't change a thing.

One thing you've always wanted to do? Be a back-up singer in a band.

Where would like to retire? Nowhere - never want to retire.

Name the top 10 cd's you've recently purchased, and which is your absolute favorite? I don't buy CD's, but I'm addicted to my iPod & iTunes...most recently...Pat Benatar:

If there was one person you would like to meet who would it be and why? Eve - I'd like her opinion on how she feels womankind is doing after all these years.

20 Questions with...

ROBIN SWEENEY

Coordinator - Student Disability Services, DS/Career/Academic Advisor.

What is the meaning of life? Monty Python is pretty darn funny.

What is your favorite TV show? Tie - Criminal Minds or House.

What is your pet peeve? People who don't use their turn signals and drive slowly in the left lane.

What is your favorite movie? Tie - Oth Brother Where Art Thou & Fargo.

Would you say you're a pessimist or an optimist? I would say I'm an optimistic pessimist.

Do you have a family heirloom? My big backskirt - inherited that from my female relatives on both sides.

What was the worst thing you did as a child and did you get in trouble with your parents for it? Created an explosion in my 7th grade chem lab...surprisingly my parents were glad that I had learned something...not mad at the explosion.

What is your favorite toy as a child? My little red portable record player.

What is your favorite book? (for a child)?
Governors
State
University

Office of Career Services
Winter 2007 Calendar of Events
Valuable Professional Techniques
"Gained through Training & Experience"

3-in-1 Workshops

Designed to help prepare you to gain the skills you need to get the job you want, our 3-in-1 workshops focus on:

• Conducting A Job Search
• Interviewing
• Resume/Cover Letter Preparation

Thursday, April 5
5:30 – 7:15 p.m. / Hall of Honors

Tuesday, April 10
5:30 – 7:15 p.m. / Cafeteria Annex

Saturday, April 14
9:30, Continental Breakfast
10 – Noon, Workshop / Hall of Honors

Wednesday, April 18
5:30 – 7:15 p.m. / Cafeteria Annex

Saturday, May 5
9:30, Continental Breakfast
10 – Noon, Workshop / Hall of Honors

All-Majors and Education Career Fair

Network with top area employers. Please dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes.

Tuesday, April 24
1 – 4 p.m. / GSU Gymnasium

For additional information: 708.235.3974    www.govst.edu/careerservices
Teach the Bible in public school

Fernando Rayas, a young Mexican student from Governors State University, has received the Juan Andrade scholarship. The $1,000 scholarships, established by the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute Board of Directors in 1994, were presented at the USHLI national conference held from March 15 to March 18, 2007 in Chicago. To qualify, applicants must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time student in an undergraduate program in the U.S. or U.S. territories who demonstrate a verifiable need for financial support, and at least one parent must be of Hispanic ancestry.

Congratulations to Fernando Rayas

By Eric Strand
The Daily Vidette (Illinois State U.)

(U-WIRE) NORMAL, Ill. -- As a self-proclaimed agnostic, albeit spiritual individual, I believe the Bible could be taught in public schools. I do not think, however, that what is needed for this to take place is the creation of a "Department of Religion." Nor do I think schools should hire religious professionals — priests, pastors, nuns, Sunday school teachers — to teach the material of the Bible.

Instead, like all other mandatory readings, the Bible should be taught in high school English classrooms by high school English teachers along with works like "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Great Gatsby." Why?

Because the Bible is perhaps the most fundamental religious text in American society, as well as one of the greatest stories ever written. Why do we read anything in school?

There are many reasons, but the most obvious seems to be to expose ourselves to ideas. In other words, we read because as human beings we are naturally curious. We want to know things.

But according to an article recently published in Time Magazine, we don't know much about the Bible at all.

In fact, while polls show that nearly two-thirds of Americans believe the Bible holds the answers to "all or most of life's basic questions," only half of U.S. adults know the title of even one Gospel and most cannot name the Bible's first book. Statistics like this make it seem less likely that Americans who claim to "believe" in the stories of the Bible even know what those stories are about.

This ignorance is the frontier of American stupidity. If we are a Christian nation, which most certainly are, our schools have an obligation to teach the Bible for the simple fact that it is a significant part of a generalized way of American life. But let me pause for a moment and explain what I mean by "Christian nation."

America is a Christian nation in the sense that Christianity is embedded deep within our history, just as democracy and racism are embedded deep within our history.

Even for someone like myself, who does not necessarily believe in the Bible in the sense that I think it is just one of many places one can turn to in order to find credible moral frameworks, Christianity is so prevalent and relevant in American culture that it is impossible to separate it from everyday life. And this is OK.

Now what I am proposing is not for the Bible to be taught as divine wisdom. I am simply (and I am aware of the irony of using such a word here) stating that American students should be exposed and made to discuss the stories in the Bible for the same reasons they should be introduced to Shakespeare and F. Scott Fitzgerald: because analyzing literature exposes them to art and provides them with material which can be used to engage tough philosophical questions.

Controversy over the Bible in schools, such as the teaching of Creationism next to evolution, is for the most part fought by two feeble-minded camps. If the Bible is the secularists who believe it is a violation of the Constitution to teach anything remotely related to God in schools for fear that science will turn into nothing more than mere speculation. On the other side are the Evangelicals who believe everything can be answered by referencing God.

In the setting of an English classroom, students would analyze the Bible in the same way they would analyze any other book, and teachers would be held accountable for removing themselves from their personal beliefs about the Bible, just as a teacher who might absolutely love "The Catcher in the Rye" must still teach it with an open mind as part of the curriculum.

Similarly, student essays which assert thesees based on nothing more than a belief in the Bible would be met with the same harsh criticism as an essay which "believed" in The Great Gatsby.

In other words, the focus of studying the Bible in school would not be about propounding the word of God in order to identify Christians and non-Christians, but to analyze an important religious text under academic guidelines in an environment which cares more about critical thought and intellectual integrity than filling pews.

The Phoenix welcomes letters to the editor and/or editorials. Letters can be submitted to phoenix@govst.edu. Letters may be edited for space or content and must include your name and a contact number or e-mail address by which you can be reached.

Crossword Answers
from puzzle on page 6

www.phdcomics.com
Master of Occupational Therapy Information Session
April 14
Join faculty and staff from the College of Health Professions to learn about the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. The information session will be held on Saturday, April 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the G-127. Call 708.534.7293 for information.

Naperville Education Center Open House: April 17
Join us as we open the new Naperville Education Center. Learn how you can now earn your bachelor's degree in Psychology or Criminal Justice in the western suburbs. Conveniently located near the intersection of Route 59 and 95th Street, the Center is convenient for students from Joliet to Aurora.

The event will be held on Tuesday, April 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Call 708.534.4099 or visit www.govst.edu/nec for details.

Psychology B.A. Information Session - Naperville: April 26
Learn about earning your Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the new Naperville Education Center on Thursday, April 26. Faculty and advisors will be on hand to discuss program specifics. For more information or directions, visit www.govst.edu/nec.

College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecture Series at Kankakee Education Center
Tuesday, April 10, 2007 - Room 310 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Speaker Dr. James R. "Chip" Coldren, Jr., Criminal Justice Program Coordinator at GSU Topic: Restorative and Community Justice.

University Open House at Kankakee Education
Wednesday, April 25, 2007 - Center - Room 310 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

National Museum of Mexican Art
Art Program Assistant Professor Javier Chavira will showcase his work at the National Museum of Mexican Art, March 15 – July 8, 2007.

The museum is located at 1852 West 19th Street, Chicago, Illinois. For additional information visit www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org or contact Javier Chavira at 708-534-4017.

If you wish to advertise in the Phoenix, please call Business Manager, Sylvia Mcghee at 708-534-3068, or e-mail her at phoenixad@govst.edu.

Library hours at GSU
Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Recreation / Fitness Center hours
Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m.

Closed Sundays during the Spring/Summer trimester.