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Virginia Tech Tragedy: are we prepared?

By Anthony Sanchez
Design Editor

For most students at GSU April 16 was the close of the winter trimester, stress, burning the midnight oil, and more importantly cramming for finals. In addition to that people were shocked in disbelief over the Virginia Tech massacre

which took the lives of too many, too soon. Many students around campus could not stop talking about the shooting incident, leaving many asking the same questions; are we safe on campus, who's next, and what should we do if something like this were to happen here on our campus... are we ready, and how do you prepare for something like this; a senseless massacre of violent proportions?

In light of the VT incident, arose the question does GSU have an emergency plan and if so how is GSU’s preparedness in dealing with an emergency crisis situation? That question was asked of Steven Horton, Interim Director of Public Safety.

GSU has an emergency management plan which is a broad document that meets a multitude of emergency situational response scenarios; however, it is impossible to simulate each and every scenario imaginable. Horton also indicated any one incident never plays out the same way so the plan needs to have enough latitude to allow ongoing implementation which is based on the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS) incorporated by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

The ICS consists of an incident commander; the person responsible for crisis management during an incident, requesting aid from various departments in the university and then the student. The Emergency Management Team and Tech (pictured) many universities ask themselves, “Are we prepared?”

After the recent attack at Virginia other agencies, utilizing emergency response teams effectively, evacuations, and other disaster relief. At most universities (including GSU) the President is the Chair of the Emergency Management Team and management. Several years ago various departments in the universi­ety were instructed to draw up their own individual unit plan.

See ‘Virginia Tech’ Page 3

Obama discusses restructuring student loan system

By Karina Martinez-Carter
Daily Northwestern (Northwestern U.)

(UPTOWN) Evanston, III. — When Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and his wife, Michelle, graduated from law school, their combined debt surpassed their apartment mortgage for about eight to nine years.

“Cost is one of the biggest problems in higher education, and it’s something you and I are aware of intimately,” Obama said during a conference call Tuesday with representatives from several college newspapers.

With his experiences in mind, and the concerns college students on the campaign trail have voiced, Obama discussed his plan to restructure the student loan system to be more cost-effective and provide aid to more students.

Obama’s plan focuses on eliminating the relationship between private lenders and universities, which he said would save billions in taxpayer’s money. Instead of banks disbursing loans to college students through financial aid offices and then having the government make subsidy payments to banks, all loans would be distributed from the government through a direct loan program.

“One way we can make college more affordable is by reforming a wasteful system that profits private banks at the cost of taxpayers,” Obama said. “Through a direct loan program, this year alone we would’ve saved $6 billion that could’ve funded one million need-based Pell Grants for struggling students.”

Obama’s proposition, which he originally pitched in 2004, comes in light of the rising cost of public and private universities and recent scandals involving illegal arrangements between school and private lenders. Over the past five years, according to the College Board, the cost of public universities for in-state students has ballooned 35 percent, and the cost of private colleges and universities has risen 11 percent.

In February, Northwestern President Henry Bienen announced a 4.96 percent increase in tuition for the 2007-2008 school year.

“(The plan) doesn’t solve all the problems, but by taking this one step we can start making college more affordable for every American,” Obama said.

Communication freshman Benjamin Singer said his family would be unable to pay Northwestern University’s sticker price without financial assistance. Singer said while work-study, scholarships and need-based assistance all help to pay for his education, loans do not.

“I qualified for loans, but the process was so complicated that I decided it wouldn’t be worth it for the amount of money I would be loaned,” he said. “I would just have to pay interest on it later, anyway.”

The interest rates on all federal loans is 6.8 percent, regardless of whether it is through the William D. Ford Direct Loan program or a loan administered through the Federal Family Education Loan program, said Breanna Picculli, a customer service representative for Federal Student Aid. The biggest difference is that for loans under the FFEL program, the federal government pays banks subsidies. Tax dollars pay for these subsidies.

Control loans are disbursed through the U.S. Department of Education, so the money travels from the government to the university and then the student. The government makes no payments to private companies.

“I think Obama’s plan is good in that it sounds like it will cut out a lot of the bureaucracy and lower the chances of students getting stuck with loans they can’t pay back,” Singer said.

Obama said many college students have already discussed the issue of the cost of college with him, which led him to revive his loan reformation plan from 2004.

“A lot of young people don’t understand why the system isn’t more efficient and beneficial,” Obama said. “I think this generation is less interested in partisan bickering and more interested in practical solutions to solving problems, which is reflected to some degree in this college loan debate. The special interests in Washington have been dictating the terms in which student loans operate.”
GSU Hosts Regional Honors Conference

By Steve Scherring
Phoenix staff reporter

Governors State University welcomed several area colleges as they hosted the first Regional Honors Students Research Conference.

College of DuPage, Moraine Valley Community College, Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, South Suburban Community College, Wheaton College, University of Illinois-Chicago and GSU were represented at the April 21 conference that had 33 students participating.

"Each student presented a different research topic," said Larry Levinson, Director of GSU's Honors Program. "There were at least three different presentations being heard at any given time."

The presentations covered a vast majority of topics including: Disappearing Languages, Girl Talk, Running faster to stay in the same place, Bipolar disorder and stigma, Aids and the African American woman and How marshmallows went Vegan in America.

GSU students Irene Ramaze, Cindi Knox, Alberto Donaldson, Ella Duff, Nancy Gallegos, Marla Johnson, Bridget Kitch, Roslyn Lampkin, Marita Eliza Murray, Jeanne Hendrickson and Karen Mayo took part and each presented their research findings to the academic audience.

Participating students also heard from keynote speaker Professor William Ayers, a Distinguished Professor of Education from the University of Illinois-Chicago. His keynote address was titled "Learning to Change."

"[It] is a very important message for our students as they, themselves, become agents of change," Levinson said.

The next weekend had several members of GSU's Honors Program rehabbing a house in Markham through the Rebuilding Together-Metro Chicago program.

"This is the third year that we have participated in this program," said Levinson about the April 28 event. "It's very much like Habitat for Humanity except we are rehabbing a home, not building one. It is a chance for us to help others in a very substantial and direct way."

GSU is also hopeful of hosting this regional conference again next year.

Forest View Farms

Things to do At the farm

Trail rides
$2.00 for 10 minute ride
$5.00 for 1 hour ride
1 hour private ride reserved ride
Half hour private ride reserved ride

School and scout group rates
Free for 10 or less
$5.00 each for 11-24
$7.50 each for 25 or more

Birthday Parties
Packages starting at $75.00

Riding lessons
All ages, all experience levels
Good for horse animal lovers
Honors and citizenship

Driving lessons
Ages 6-14, $15.00

Horse hay rides
$6.00/person
20 person minimum
Campfires
$5.00/hour
Reservations required

Haunted Hay rides (October)
$9.00/person
Individual tickets

Pumpkin patch
October 1-31
$5.00/person
Includes:
- Petting zoo and Hay ride
- Pumpkin patch
- Pumpkins $.50/lb

School group rates
$6.00 to $8.00/person
Pumpkin included
particularly on page eight, which deals with http://www.govst.edu/uploadedFiles/ProvostJDocument/s
ment managers have empowerment they communicate
personnel so directs.

people contacted the safety committee asking the same
afety-book-06.pdf) which has a complete list of topics,
addressed updating unit plans from all departments
each department is run differently, what may work in
administration micromanaging the departments.

Intruders (including terrorist activity on pages

Electronic copy is available at

Can't from page 1

On the day of the VT incident, Horton said many

Coincidently, predating the VT incident, the safety
Training

In the wake of widespread panic across the country

It 

As a result student profiling could become a reality

However, the health Insurance Portability and
Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 has strict regula­
tions on the governance of patient health information;
deviation is a violation under the privacy act which

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The brave die never, though they sleep in dust: Their courage nerves a thousand living men. ~Minot J. Savage
28 Weeks Later, the outbreak returns

By John Conrad
Associate editor

In the beginning there was the rage virus. 28 Days Later, it spread throughout England, decimating the population by turning them into bloodthirsty zombies. 28 Weeks Later, the zombie population has died off from starvation, and Britain is deemed safe for repopulation.

Big mistake.

As 28 Weeks Later opens, Don (Robert Carlyle) and Alice (Catherine McCormack), are a married couple living with a group of survivors in a small boarded up house. Zombies inevitably attack them, and when backed into a corner and forced to choose between saving himself or his wife, Don takes the less chivalrous route, sacrificing his wife to save his skin (literally).

After being rescued, Don becomes a big wig in the repopulation process, and has his two children brought into the quarantine zone to live with him. He lies to them about the death of their mother, explaining that there was nothing he could do. However, Alice is found alive, and brought into the area being repopulated for testing. A blood test confirms that Alice has been infected, even though she shows no symptoms. She is a carrier, who cannot be affected by the virus, yet can still spread it through the transmission of bodily fluids like blood and saliva.

After Don apologizes to his wife, he unknowingly kisses her and becomes infected. The outbreak quickly spreads throughout the repopulation zone.

Now, Alice's children (who share her blood) may be mankind's only hope at finding a vaccine or cure for the virus. The problem is that the only people that know this are a doctor and a sniper, and the powers that be just ordered the military to exterminate everyone in the repopulation zone.

Will they be able to get the children to safety and save mankind, or will military forces unknowingly kill the human race's last chance for survival?

I'm not going to lie, when I found out this movie was written and directed by different people than those that made the original, I was worried. Usually a new writer plus a new director equals a sub-par-sequel. I was pleasantly surprised to find this isn't the case with 28 Weeks Later.

However, this movie is a lot different than the first one. 28 Days Later was more of a character study with a zombie subplot. Although the movie was violent, gory, and had its share of zombie attacks, it was more about how the different characters reacted in times of fear, panic, and increased stress. It was a more intelligent zombie film than most are used to, which is one of the reasons critics praised it.

This movie, while remaining smart, is a more conventional zombie film. There is a lot more action, violence, gore, and scary situations in this film. But that doesn't detract from the film one bit.

Although I thought the original was a better movie, this one is more exciting and entertaining.

There is also some great camera work and suspenseful situations in the film. One of my favorite scenes involved the doctor and the children being forced into a subway tunnel. The power is out, the tunnel is dark, and the trio has one night vision scope between them. As they attempt to measure their way through a sea of bodies in the tunnel, I was literally biting my nails, wondering about who (or what) is behind the next turn.

I also couldn't help but notice some correlations between the film and present day events. A couple examples are the American Army's arrogance at tackling a job so immense and dangerous, that it seems like they didn't know what they were getting themselves into. Another aspect of the film that I thought mirrored our war in the Middle East occurred when the outbreak initiates. As people run from the building the outbreak occurs in, military forces are positioned outside and ordered to kill any infected attempting to exit.

The problem is, in a panicked crowd, it's almost impossible to determine who is infected and who is a friend. It's a bit hard to fight against a force that so easily blends into the surrounding population.

For me to give the movie 3½ out of four stars, and recommend that all you zombie and horror fans go see it. Even if you didn't like the original give this one a shot, it's a whole new monster.

20 Questions with...

What do you do here at GSU? Catering Manager, Night Supervisor, Aramark Cafeteria

How long have you been here at GSU? A little over a year.

what is your favorite color? Purple

What is your favorite food? I really don’t have a favorite food. I’m a pastry chef so I just love the look of food.

Burger King or McDonalds? Neither

Male or female president? Competent

Do you have a pet? Yes, a fish! His name is Skittles, like the candy.

If you could get a free vacation would it be California or Florida? Florida, California is falling off the map

If you could do your life all over, would you? No

What was the first CD you bought in 2007? Tye Tribbett, a new radical gospel hip hop type

What is your favorite Ice cream? Black walnut

What is the last movie you saw? Spiderman 3

Who would you like to meet someday? Wolfgang Puck, and Kat Kora, the only female Iron Chef

Who is your least favorite presidential candidate? Umm...I’m not too fond of any of them

For a FREE shopping spree, would you choose Wal-Mart or Target? Target! I love the selection of clothing & shoes

What was your high school mascot? I want to say a tiger?

Who is your favorite actress? Angelina Jolie

What is your favorite automobile? It would have to be a Jaguar

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17 Years in fear is quite enough

By John Conrad
Associate editor

Seventeen years ago, I recall a younger version of myself frantically running from indoor refuge to indoor refuge, while feverishly waving my arms in the air like a little girl.

No, I wasn’t suffering from some rare type of muscle spasm, but rather escaping the swarms of cicadas that graced us with their presence for an all-too-long 3 week period. I look back at this time in my life and shudder.

That’s right, I, John Conrad, “grown man,” was, and am still scared of bugs. Compared to the millions of cicadas buzzing about my head. Nor will you see me flailing my arms in the air like a girl as I run to my room.

I’m even going to take it one step further: I’m going to show these bugs, and myself, who’s boss. I am going to do the unthinkable.

That’s right ladies and gentlemen; I am so determined to no longer be grossed out by bugs that I’m resorting to measures so drastic, I would make Joe Rogan proud.

In case you haven’t figured it out yet, I plan to eat, yes I said eat, at least one cicada this year. If it tastes good, who knows, maybe I’ll eat more.

Check in next issue, and I’ll let you know how they taste, and what I thought. Better yet, try one yourself. Send an email to the Phoenix and let us know, how you felt, how you prepared it, and most importantly how it tasted. For all we know there could be little six-legged steaks with wings flying around our heads, and just because they seem creepy or gross we’ll never know.

For anyone brave enough to eat some bug, I have included a recipe for cicadas found online. Make sure you remove the legs (cause their creepy), and the heads and wings (because they’re sharp and can cut your throat) before preparing them. Good luck my fellow bug eating friends, and Godspeed.

Cicada Larvae Recipe

Cicadas are best known in culinary world for its protein rich larvae. It’s best to prepare larvae since its skin is still soft. Larvae are basically young Cicada that are about to become adults. They usually hide underground for the most of their life and climb the trees in early May and this is best time to collect them for your protein rich dish.

For example you may prepare a meal called Soft-Shelled Cicadas. You need just 1 cup Worcestershire sauce, 30 finely chopped 1-year cicadas, 2 eggs, beaten, 1.5 cups flour, salt and pepper to taste. You should marinate cicadas in Worcestershire sauce for several hours. Dip them in the beaten egg, roll them in seasoned flour, and bake for 30 minutes, or until cooked through.

You will need: two tablespoons butter or peanut oil, one and a half pound of cicadas, two serrano chilies, raw, finely chopped, one onion, finely chopped, one and a half tablespoon ground pepper, one and a half tablespoon cumin, three tablespoons taco seasoning mix, one handful cilantro, chopped, taco shells, sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese, shredded lettuce.

All you need to do now is:
1. Heat the butter or oil in a frying pan and fry the cicadas for 10 minutes, or until cooked through.
2. Remove from pan and roughly chop into 1/4-inch cubes. Place back in pan.
3. Add the chopped onions, chilies and tomato, season with salt, and fry for another 5 minutes on medium-low heat.
4. Sprinkle with ground pepper, cumin and oregano to taste.
5. Serve in taco shells and garnish with cilantro, sour cream, lettuce and cheddar cheese.

(Cicada recipes courtesy of: http://recipe.cicadayear.com)
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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.

Psychology B.A. Information Session

Learn about earning your Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the new Naperville Education Center on Tuesday, May 29. Faculty and advisors will be on hand to discuss program specifics. For more information or directions, visit www.govst.edu/pec.

SIDL Portfolio Workshop

Learn how developing a Prior Learning Portfolio can help you earn credits toward your B.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. The two-hour sessions include an explanation of the process and what you are expected to submit to earn credit. The next workshop will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 30. For information, call the SIDL office at 708.534.4092 or e-mail SIDL@govst.edu.

Master of Occupational Therapy Information Session

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 Thursday, July 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the G-127. Call 708.534.7293 for information.

Master of Occupational Therapy Information Session

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, September 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the G-127. Call 708.534.7293 for information.

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Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m.

Closed Sundays during the Spring/Summer trimester.