When a school advertises that it's an accredited university, many students just shrug it off as a typical explanation of a college or university. But what does getting accredited really entail? And why does being accredited set one college or university apart from the others?

Governors State University (GSU) was last accredited ten years ago and will be going through the review process by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) again in November of 2009. As explained by Dr. Eric Martin, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the HLC is a subgroup of a larger Midwest accreditation association, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. There are four accreditation groups which report to the federal Department of Education. These groups are separated geographically into four regions: east coast, west coast, southern states, and the Midwest.

Though the HLC is evaluating the University, Dr. Martin says this is a great opportunity to "validate what's happening at GSU, and enable the university to identify weaknesses for continued improvement."

"The university will be able to learn and grow," he added. "There may also be an opportunity to increase the University's online programming by means of a parallel HLC process."

The HLC is the largest group spanning from Virginia to Arizona and is based in Chicago. Its role is to insure that all universities within this region are meeting mandated quality and effectiveness standards. Accreditation status is also linked to federal grants and financial aid made available to students.

A major component of the accreditation process is evaluating the school's mission statement. The GSU mission statement is currently being revised and will be posted throughout the school in fall once it is approved by GSU's Board of Trustees. A mission statement describes the goals and motivations of the university, and soon, GSU's mission statement will be tested.

The HLC's accreditation committee will compare GSU's mission to its daily efforts and activities to insure that they are aligned. For example, if the school's mission was to attract students from the surrounding community, but instead spent the majority of funds on international student recruitment, there would be an inconsistency in the University's mission which would need explanation.

GSU has a three-tier plan to prepare for the arrival of the HLC. Dr. Martin and Dr. Ann Vendrely are overseeing the planning as executive co-chairs. Since February, they have been working with a steering committee and five subcommittees. Each subcommittee will focus on one aspect of the University that the HLC will be evaluating. These criteria include mission and integrity, preparing for the future, student learning and effective teaching, acquisition and application of knowledge, and engagement and service.

There are still opportunities for students to get involved in the accreditation process. The subcommittees consist of faculty from all departments, administrators, and students. These students volunteered at the last HLC information meeting in April because it was an opportunity to share their experiences as GSU students and their insights into GSU's strengths and weaknesses. Participating in this type of forum is excellent experience for any students who want to make an impact at GSU, gain valuable communications experience, or prepare for a career that requires group collaboration.

In fall of 2009 the HLC will send five to seven Consultant Evaluators (CEs) to the GSU campus. These individuals are volunteers from states other than Illinois, have gone through rigorous evaluation training and currently work as university administrators. Students may be approached by these individuals in the cafeteria, before class or in the hallways. The CEs may ask about your experience at GSU or to explain the schools' mission. The GSU committees will also be asking students to join focus groups and participate in individual interviews.

Though fall of 2009 seems distant, students will see and hear about HLC preparation this fall — if not already. Look for the revised mission statement in the cafeteria, hallways, and classrooms. Students are also encouraged to attend the HLC information meetings; the next one is scheduled for October.

Most importantly, it is never too late to get involved in the process. The HLC committees are still looking for more student volunteers to share their input into this accreditation process. Please contact either Drs. Martin or Vendrely if you are interested in learning more.

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Music Theatre Camp Lights Up CPA Stage

By Chris Goff
Contributing Writer

Oompah loompa doompadee doo, I've got a perfect puzzle for you.

What do you get when you bring more than 40 area youth and the Northwest Illinois theatre company Light Opera Works to the CPA Summer Stage? The answer is this year's CPA Musical Theatre Summer Workshop for 8-13 year olds and their production of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" which took place on June 23 – 27.

"Part of our mission at the CPA is to help children connect with performing arts, organize activities that will enhance children's enjoyment of theatre, and enable children to develop their own creative voice," said CPA executive director Burton Dikelysky. "We’ve been fortunate to create a partnership with Light Opera Works in providing a quality youth theatre camp for the last four summers."

Light Opera Works is a non-for-profit, professional theatre company based out of Evanston, Ill. In addition to producing multiple musical theatre productions throughout the year on Northwestern University's stage, the company presents various summer youth theatre camps. Light Opera Works was again contracted to organize and staff this year's camp.

"We bring in a professional director, choreographer, and vocal director in addition to myself and two or three college-age theatre students to facilitate the camp," said Light Opera Works' summer camp manager Anya Plotkin. "The staff spends seven hours each day — from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. — instructing the students and developing their stage posture, voice, and movement."

This year’s students were instructed while preparing an abbreviated production of "Willy Wonka" for friends and family that culminated the week’s events. Students performed the show at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 27.

"No one is the star in our camp productions," said Plotkin. "Everyone gets their chance to shine in one of the leading roles."

"It’s not about creating a professional production," added Dikelysky, "but rather about giving children an opportunity to discover theatre and develop their own self esteem." Production costumes were limited to t-shirts and shorts and the show featured simple, abstract sets.

The camp is limited to 40 children every year. This year's camp was overbooked and registration closed with a total of 44 students.
Debating Prozac Use Among Returning U.S. Troops

By Sarah Sillan and Michelle Hulet
Editor and Contributing Writer

Time Magazine recently featured an article titled, "America's Medicated Army." In this article, the author, Mark Thompson, discussed the impact of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq on American troops. He explained that many soldiers have become increasingly reliant on antidepressants and sleeping pills to cope with multiple extended deployments. Thompson says medicating troops is not a new phenomenon. More than 200 years ago, George Washington supplied his troops with rum at Valley Forge, and in more recent history, the use of metamphetamines added soldiers throughout World War II and the Vietnam War. However, is the increased availability to psychiatric drugs the best solution? Here are two sides of the issue to consider.

Yes

By Sarah Sillan
Editor

Though Americans have become more and more dependent upon prescription medications to attempt to solve every health issue known to man, I truly believe that many of these drugs are making a positive difference for those who need them. It is true that many people in the civilian world rely too heavily on drugs like Prevacid, Ambien or Ritalin to deal with everyday stresses which could probably be alleviated with simple changes in lifestyle. However, this is not the case for U.S. troops returning from the war in the Middle East. Simply making different life choices is not always an option for them. Many of the soldiers have seen unthinkable atrocities and will potentially suffer the consequences of these nonfiction nightmares for years to come. Using antidepressants and other prescription medications to alleviate the post-traumatic stress disorder or sleep deprivation which can accompany these war-torn soldiers as they come home is simply another way to help them more smoothly transition back into civilian life. While it would be ideal for each soldier to receive counseling or psychiatric help, many soldiers may not have access to doctors in their hometowns or simply may not be able to afford it if their insurance does not cover the medical expense. For these soldiers, the ability to "pop a pill" and feel better may be the only viable solution. Until the war ceases and all our soldiers are brought back home safely, I'm afraid antidepressants and prescription drugs will simply have to take the place of alternative medical options.

No

By Michelle Hulet
Contributing Writer

While I do believe our troops can benefit from antidepressants, I am worried with the way these medication issues are being handled. With psychological problems, depression and stress reaching record highs among our nation or庆典 is providing our soldiers with little more than a band-aid solution to a progressively serious problem. Sergeant Christopher LeBeaune, a soldier who spent 15 months in Iraq, states that "you only see the veterans once or twice, but you continue to give drugs constantly." Statistics show that the military is providing only one mental health professional for every 734 troops. Instead, the military is supplying the troops with a steady stream of antidepressants without simultaneous access to therapy or crisis counseling. The drugs simply provide a means to conserve soldiers' strength for longer repeated deployments. According to recent research, the current 12 months between tours is insufficient time for the soldiers to recover from the stress of combat. Without sufficient time to recover from long deployments, antidepressants can provide little relief from the rapid burnout and frustration that soldiers are facing. It is true that antidepressants can be an invaluable tool in dealing with combat stress and depression. Even so, to truly benefit our soldiers, these drugs must be combined with crisis counseling and shorter deployments.

Celebrating America: 365 Days Each Year

This past Fourth of July, I started my day by walking my houlage, Bella, part around my neighborhood. Virtually all the houses on my block, as well as on the surrounding blocks, were displaying the American flag. It got me thinking, "Why do I only see the flag on patriotic holidays?" And then it dawned on me. Maybe we're all too busy spending our days focusing on our differences to realize our everyday, common bond as Americans.

In the Chicago Tribune Magazine on July 6, both presidential candidates were asked their thoughts on what it meant to be an American. Senators Barack Obama and John McCain both gave poignant answers about patriotism, the American dream and the beauty of this country we all call home. But while the words of their articles were inspiring, it wasn't the text that stuck with me. Instead, it was the fact that for the first time in a long time, they weren't labeled as a member of any specific political party. They simply gave their thoughts — as men, as fathers, as Americans — on the nation they both so passionately hope to lead.

From now until November, we will all be inundated
Who's Who at GSU?

By Sarah Silhan
Editor

Dr. Maimon commented on the loss of Professor Timpone as well.

"As a professor and alumna, Helen Timpone exemplified the best of GSU," Dr. Maimon said. "She is fondly remembered by faculty and students. Community members valued her stellar work as a psychologist and counselor. She leaves an important legacy and will be missed by all."

So we want to know, what was it about Professor Timpone and Mobherg that YOU will remember most? What legacy do they leave as mentors, teachers and colleagues? In our August issue, we'll feature a special memorial article, hopefully including more than just names and dates. Instead, we want to show that these two professors truly did touch the lives of those whom they taught.

Please send your submissions to Phoenix@govst.edu and put "Memorial Tribute" in the subject line. Submissions will be accepted through August 1.

GSU Sponsors Genealogy Workshop

When someone asks, "Where are you from?" the common response is to name your hometown. But what about your ancestors? While some families have been in America for centuries, others are just beginning their lives here.

To help answer questions of heritage and ancestry, the GSU library will sponsor a workshop focused on genealogy on Thursday, July 24. Aimed at helping students better research their family history. The "Starting Your Family Tree" workshop will enable individuals to get started at the basic level - drawing a family tree.

The workshop will also familiarize the participants with the latest tools and software programs that can be useful in the process. Individuals can begin with basic information available to them of their immediate families and trace back their roots to as long as few centuries back.

Library specialist Pam Taylor will be presenting the workshop. Apart from her degree in psychology, she has devoted the past 10 years of her life to developing her family tree. To read her blog on the subject, you can visit [link removed].

Anyone interested in working on a family tree is encouraged to enroll. The workshop is free and open to all, and will meet in room D2401B of the Library between 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on the workshop, contact Taylor via email at p-taylor@govst.edu. Registration for the workshop can also be done online by visiting the library website at www.govst.edu/library.

 Colleges Misrepresent Diversity

By Ryan Miller
The Daily Trojan

(U-WIRE)-A study based on random sampling of material from 371 U.S. colleges and universities, shows the accuracy of racial representation based on actual average percentage breakdowns of the student body. The study found that black students were overrepresented in promotional ads, appearing in a higher percentage of ads than enrollment figures suggest there are on campus.

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Pippert's study shows this seeming difference between what the appearance of black students in university advertisements. The study also found a slight overrepresentation of Asian Americans in college catalogs. The result of Hispanic representation is not yet complete, Pippert said.

"We do wonder if there are cases when students have found themselves on campuses that, in actuality, look nothing like how they were portrayed in the brochures," Pippert said.

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GSU is committed to providing access to an excellent education.

With expenses rising everywhere, we are faced with hard choices. One option, however, will never be considered. Any diminishment of the educational quality we offer is out of the question.

To continue to offer a first rate education, maintain and improve our facilities, GSU increased tuition and fees for Fall 2008.

We are pleased, however, to continue our tradition of providing accessible and affordable educational opportunities to our students at the best tuition rate in the State.

In the coming year, GSU will

- Improve current degree and certificate programs
- Develop new degree and certificate programs
- Expand academic support services
- Update classroom furniture and equipment
- Expand technology access and services
- Renovate the Recreation Center pool, showers, and locker rooms
- Improve campus safety
- Reconstruct environmentally friendly parking lots
- Open a specialty coffee shop

For more information, call Dean Sherilyn Poole at 708.534.7594 or Karen Kissel at 708.534.4054
CAS Brings Presidential Election to Front of Class

By Chris Gloff
Contributing Writer

Oftentimes, when sitting through a class, many students think, "When will I ever use this information?" This coming fall, GSU instructors will have an immediate answer for some of their students. The College of Arts and Sciences, in conjunction with the Political Studies, Political and Justice Studies, Social Science, and History departments, are working to apply various theories and principles to the upcoming 2008 presidential election. "Educators and learners are fortunate when current events occur at the same time in regard to what students are being exposed to in the classroom," said Lisa Hendrickson, Coordinator of Academic Advising and Student Support Services. "Various Political Studies and Social Science courses are being adapted during the upcoming fall semester to incorporate study and analyze this historic election," Hendrickson added. History 516, Issues in U.S. History, Social Sciences 311, Survey of Social Science; and Political Justice Studies 815, Theories and Approaches to Political and Justice Studies are just a sampling of the courses planning to follow and incorporate the November election.

Dr. Larry Levinson, Academic Coordinator of Social Science Programs and Professor of Political Science, will be teaching the Political Justice Studies 815 course. "We are infusing many Social Science and Political Studies courses with issues surrounding the election," said Levinson. "Much of what will occur during the election relates directly to information we study in class."

Hendrickson added, "Applying what students see and hear while following the election to the various principles and approaches of given courses of study gives students and teachers an opportunity to enhance learning."

A number of the courses following the election are listed as seminar or graduate level courses but are open to all GSU students. For a more detailed list of courses incorporating the election into the course framework or more information about students' eligibility to take a specific course, students should call the respective department or the GSU College of Arts and Sciences at (708) 554-4101.

What's What in Sudan

Hancock: Great Idea, OK Movie

By Michelle Hulett
Contributing Writer

"What is the What" is a charming and loveable character. The movie opens with a car full of bad guys bringing a child to a room. Thus begins the story of Valentino Achak Deng, one of the thousands of children forced from their homes during the second Sudanese civil war. Using vivid imagery, the film portrays the harsh realities of the Sudanese civil war.

The film is a touching portrayal of a child's struggle to survive in a hostile and dangerous world. The child, named Valentine, is forced to flee his home with his family and to endure the harsh conditions of the war. The film captures the child's journey from innocence to survival, as he learns to adapt to the new reality of his life.

The film is directed by Dave Eggers, known for his work in the literary and film industries. Eggers' previous works include the novel "The Yellowing of Dynafoos" and the film "Where the Truth Lies." He is also the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "Operating Systems," which was adapted into a film by his brother, John.

Hancock: Great Idea, OK Movie

By John Conrad
Associate Editor

Hancock opens with a car full of bad guys racing through the streets of Los Angeles doing bad things. While most heroes would leap at the opportunity to save the public from such a menace, Hancock (Will Smith) is busy fighting a hangover as he naps on a city bench.

In the film a man with superhuman powers and no recollection of his past uses his abilities to fight crime. The problem? Hancock is a reckless, rude, alcoholic whose drunken crime-fighting exploits usually cause more harm than good.

Following a public outcry against the damage Hancock inflicts on the city through his pursuit of justice, the not-too-superhero rescues a struggling public relations specialist (Jason Bateman). The two pair together to try and change Hancock's image to a public that has grown sick of his brand of "help."

This movie is definitely original. And the release of this anti-superhero film couldn't have come at a better time. With this summer's release of the surprisingly good Dark Knight, the much-anticipated Hancock, the scene was ripe for a new twist on the superhero genre.

Hancock, as always, is as charming and likeable as his character. His charm and likability are his greatest assets. He is likeable as well. His character's naivete and wackiness is charming and endearing. He has a certain charm that makes him likable even when he is acting like a fool.

The film is a great idea, and it is definitely recommended. The movie is entertaining and will keep you laughing for most of the runtime. Even though the film has some flaws, it is still a great movie and a good time watching it. I give this movie 2 ½ stars out of 4.

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- Outdoor time and gym time
- Monthly parent meetings
- Meal times

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- Enrichment and activities include:
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- Studio time to work with materials such as clay, drawing materials, etc.
- Story time
- Outdoor time and gym time
- Meal times

To receive more information, call 708-229-3700.

Geomart is held for educational purposes and can vary slightly.
Students Avoid Campus Bookstores

By Sarah Silhan
Editor

Since its founding on July 17, 1969, GSU has certainly undergone a number of changes. It was initially a university without grades—it instead had "competencies"—and lacked specific departments—its academic plan was simply "interdisciplinary studies." And while things have certainly changed over the past 39 years, one group on campus has dedicated themselves to promoting GSU's brief but rich history.

The Friends of the GSU Library Historical Society includes a sub-group of the Friends of the GSU Library. Started by Eric Nicholson, a member of the South Suburban Heritage Association and Coordinator of Interlibrary Loans at GSU, the Historical Society became one of the many "friend-raisers" at GSU.

"My particular interest was integrating all the various lines of the curricula laid out at GSU with each other and with the diverse interests and activities of the surrounding community in which we are embedded," Nicholson explained. "History is what unifies all of us, and historical inquiry is an active component in all of the colleges, departments and programs at GSU.

Nicholson says the goal of the organization is to promote the study of history as it touches on the lives of the University and the people in its surrounding communities. The group does this through "the identification, collection, preservation and presentation of historically significant books, papers, maps, photographs, electronic databases and other artifacts."

While the Friends of the GSU Library Historical Society primarily focuses on GSU's history, the members also enjoy looking into the history of the surrounding community, the South Suburban region, the Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area and, on a larger scale, the state of Illinois.

But their digging for information doesn't end there.

"We also look at the family histories of our members as well as the natural histories of the universe, the planet and life on earth," Nicholson says.

Currently, the group is working to digitize materials relevant to the history of GSU and organize them for Web-based public access.

"I would eventually like to see us sponsor a series of lectures or other presentations on work done or reviewed by members or outside guests," Nicholson explains. "I'd also like to see us develop indexes or inventories of historical resources in the region about the region and make the information available online to interested parties."

To get started with this project, Nicholson, along with Jon Mendelson, GSU Professor Emeritus, are working to process a collection of microfilm copies of the original land survey notes for the GSU region. Nicholson believes this process, and the work which will subsequently follow, can benefit the GSU community greatly.

"The Friends of the GSU Library Historical Society could enrich the lives of those who study, work and live here," Nicholson said. "It could also provide a channel for the University to reach out to the communities of the region around us and help discover and share a common identity and celebrate richly entangled diversity."

The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from noon until 1 p.m. on the library balcony. All are encouraged to attend. For more information, email Eric.Nicholson @gsu.edu.

For minutes and meeting times, please visit the Friends of the GSU Library link from the library's homepage, www.gsvt.edu/libary.

Students Avoid Campus Bookstores

By Pierre Bertrand
The Daily Texan

(L-WIRE)-Unice Kim went to the University Co-op for the first time Wednesday to perform a price comparison of a textbook she had recently bought on Amazon.

The advertising graduate student said she mainly buys textbooks online because they are cheaper than at the bookstore, which is the only establishment that offers new and used books for every UT course.

Students are turning to alternative options for purchasing textbooks because of high costs. Businesses have been popping up to cater to student demand for cheaper options.

In February, Congress proposed legislation to limit the price of textbooks throughout the nation. The proposed bill has provisions to make textbooks more affordable, such as requiring that textbook prices be available to students before the semester begins and requiring publishers to make unbundled and less expensive versions available.

The difference between the price of a new textbook at the Co-op and the same book sold on Amazon is sometimes up to $100.

A used biology book sold at Beat the Bookstore in Dobie Mall, which carries a limited selection of used UT textbooks, costs $35. The same book at the Co-op sells for $113.

One online book rental company, Chegg, claims to save students 60 to 80 percent on all textbooks.

Instead of having students buy textbooks, the Web site rents books to students a semester at a time.

Although online book providers boast great savings, using online services like Chegg may not be in the students' best interests, said Beat the Bookstore owner Bertrand Jones.

Jones said the key to keeping textbooks affordable is buying only needed textbooks while avoiding supplementary materials. Students also need to pay attention to the net price of the textbooks or how much a student pays for a book after having purchased and returned it.

Jones said the availability and price of textbooks at his store depends on how many students sell back their textbooks.

"There's a shortage of used books," Jones said. "It's caused by students. Students don't sell their books back."

Colleges Forces to Pay Soldiers' Loans

By Brett Alexander & Rachel Veroeff
The Daily Texan

(U-WIRE)-A new version of the Vietnam-era GI Bill will require colleges to pay off student soldiers' loans if they are called to duty in the middle of a semester. President Bush signed the GI Bill Monday, creating a new law designed to guarantee veteran's educational rights. Critics say the bill may become a burden to universities and could cause an increase in tuition for non-veteran students.

The bill will require colleges to pay off students' loans if they are called upon for active duty in the middle of a semester. It also allows students to use colleges or universities if the institutions fail to refund their loans, and requires veterans to be reinstated at the same academic level as when they left for military service.

"This bill properly provides a modern and fair educational benefit to address the needs of those who answered the call of duty to our country," said the bill's author, Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, in a Monday statement. "This is not simply an expansion of veterans' educational benefits. This is a new program, a deserved program."

Capt. Stefan McFarland, UT assistant professor of military science, said even under the current system there are several military programs students can join while in school. They can sign up for the National Guard, or go on active duty through scholarships and receive payment. However, getting the money can sometimes be a difficult and lengthy process, McFarland said.

"The world is a bureaucracy," he said.

"There are multiple sources of monies available to these students, but there's a lot of red tape to get through and paperwork to process, so sometimes there's a lag in getting these kids the money they need. We try to ensure these kids get all the benefits they're entitled to as fast as possible."

According to current University policy, students who are called upon for active duty have their loan payments deferred until they return, said Thomas Melecki, director of Student Financial Services. Melecki said he likes the idea of students not having to pay for the loan money they didn't use, but based on what he's heard, he sees a problem in the law that would affect current and future students.

"It seems to me like the bill would put the payment for covering the cost that the student incurred on the college or university," Melecki said, adding that other students may have to pay more in tuition to compensate.

Melecki said the law could be improved. He said the federal government could refund loans taken out by students and give the money back to the universities.

"When these kids are deployed, their priority is to us, so it shouldn't be an issue for the university," McFarland said.

"Friend-Raiser" Focuses on GSU History

By Brett Alexander & Rachel Veroeff
The Daily Texan

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GSU Happenings

Here's what's happening at GSU! Take advantage of all YOUR campus has to offer! To submit and event or "happening" for publication, please send an email to Phoenix@govst.edu and put "Happenings" in the subject line. Submissions are printed on a first-come, first-serve basis and when space allows.

July
- GSU's Quilting Group will meet Thursday, July 10 at noon on the Library Balcony. All are welcome to attend. Participants are encouraged to bring items for show and tell, things to work on, and their ideas for the group to the meeting. For more information, contact Dianne Kronika at x3979.
- CX (CARS) training will take place Friday, July 11 from 11 a.m. until noon in the ACS Lab.
- Registration for fall classes begins July 14. For more information and a list of available classes, visit www.govst.edu/register.
- The Friends of the GSU Library will meet Wednesday, July 16 at noon on the Library Balcony.
- Disney's "Aladdin" will be performed at GSU's Center for Performing Arts on July 17 at 11 a.m. Call (708) 235-2222 for tickets or more information. Ticket price is $9; $7 each for groups of 20 or more.
- The Illinois Counseling Association Chapter at GSU presents Career Counseling for Counselors Workshop, presented by Dr. Byron Waller, PhD, LCPC, on Tuesday, July 22 from 6-8 p.m. in Engbretson Hall. Refreshments will be served.
- The "Starting Your Family Tree" Genealogy Workshop will be held in Room 2410B of the GSU Library from 1-5 p.m. on Thursday, July 24.
- The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Trip to downtown Chicago will take place Saturday, July 26. Participants will visit Chicago's Millennium Park, the Chicago Cultural Center, and the Illinois State Museum in the J.R. Thompson Center. The fee for the event is $10 plus rail fare and food. Participants must have a photo ID for admission to the Thompson Center. For more information, call (708) 534-4486.

On Saturday, June 7, 2008, severe storms raged through the GSU community and its neighboring suburbs, tearing off roofs, uprooting trees and snapping light poles like twigs. Luckily, there were no fatalities or major injuries due to the storm. Here, a collapsed garage awaits repair at a local apartment complex.