Student Senate Election Results

By Corrie Gray

With an unprecedented increase in voter turnout, 80% over the previous year, GSU’s Student Senate recently announced the results for the 2012 elections.

Interim Dean of Student Life, Sharee Sanderson cited the highly contested nature of both the IBHE representative contest and the race for student trustee as catalysts, noting that both contests featured very popular candidates who were extremely successful at turning out the vote.

“This was an exciting election with all of the candidates and the record number of students that voted this year,” said newly elected Student Trustee, Erin Fletcher.

Online voting began on Monday, February 27 and was extended through Friday, March 2. During the period, candidates were seen canvassing the campus handing out everything from campaign flyers and literature to baked goods and pastries.

“Students realize that their voices are being heard and are therefore much more engaged. This has been the most campaigning that we have seen,” said Sanderson.

Overall, Sanderson acknowledged that she was pleased with what she saw and emphasized the importance of student government, “Student government helps the administration to understand its students and our elected student officials work actively with the administration in shaping the universities goals,” she said.

The latest legion of student officials have already began planning for their upcoming terms in office and they all agree that an effective line of communication between the student body and the administration is important.

“I sought the IBHE post foremost, as a way to serve the student body in ways that transcend status-quo expectations,” said newly elected IBHE representative, Brandon Sanders. Sanders is determined to learn as much as he can about the dynamic systems, people and procedures currently in place and contribute his time, new ideas and other resources to improving the quality of student life at GSU.

“Among my list of priority objectives is to connect students with administration, on-another, as well as their government representatives in a manner that is conducive to their ‘commuting’ lifestyles, as networking and

Continued on Pg. 3

“Our main goal is to promote the general welfare of students by addressing the student concerns, viewpoints, and interest to faculty, administration, and staff.”

Lisa Wallace

For a complete list of the 2012 Student Senate winners, turn to Pg. 3

Admins denounce police monitoring of Muslim students

By Jessica Stallone
Columbia Daily Spectator, Columbia U. via UWIRE

Students and administrators are condemning the New York Police Department for reportedly monitoring Muslim students at Columbia University.

The Associated Press reported on Saturday that as recently as 2007, the NYPD monitored the websites of Muslim student groups at universities including Columbia, Yale, U. Pennsylvania, and New York U., and embedded undercover agents in Muslim groups at several other schools.

Columbia President Lee Bollinger and Barnard President Deborah Spar both expressed opposition to the NYPD’s actions on Tuesday. Bollinger told Spectator in a statement that the University neither knew about nor took part in police surveillance of its students.

“We want to be sure our Muslim community knows that we support everyone’s right to carry on their lives and their studies without the feeling of being watched by a government that exists to protect us all,” Bollinger said.

Bollinger also emphasized the importance of students’ rights to free speech and worship as “essential values of

Continued on Pg. 3
Keep allowing Affirmative Action

By Minnesota Daily Editorial Board
Minnesota Daily, U. Minnesota via UWIRE

When the U.S. Supreme Court reconvenes next, they will hear a case involving Abigail Fisher’s denied admission to U. Texas which was, she claims, due to affirmative action. This case should be of interest to all students and will without a doubt have implications for admission to all state universities.

Affirmative action clearly moves our society in a direction where the hurdles and barriers that exist, especially socio-economic ones, due to race are consistently being diminished. Universities should be able to continue considering race in their admissions processes if they choose to — not as the sole factor, but as a prudent consideration that is good for the public it serves and makes for a better, more vibrant and diverse university.

As the racial achievement gap in Minnesota unarguably shows us, opportunities for citizens of different races are not equal. The extra hurdles those of lower socio-economic status — who are disproportionately minorities — have had to overcome ought to augment a less-than-perfect record on admissions tests and other quantifiers. Judged holistically, their unique perspectives and viewpoints are valuable to a university and can make up for the couple of points lower they may have scored on the ACT.

Diversity in our country is what makes it great, and homogeneity in the populations of our universities will only lead to a stagnant and acutely unequal society. We need to take the steps to pull the disadvantaged peoples in our community up in class and opportunity, and our universities need to have the power to lead that fight. The Supreme Court needs to see the value of affirmative action and grant our universities their own discretion in deciding whom they admit.

Affirmative Action is racist by nature

By Stephen McGarvey
Daily Texan, U. Texas via UWIRE

In view of our nation’s tragic history of segregation and discrimination, lawmakers realized that action was necessary to correct the many wrongs done to blacks and other minorities during this period. This solution, “affirmative action,” includes giving minority citizens preferential treatment for college admission and scholarship purposes. At the time, this reverse-discrimination was exactly what the nation needed, and it served as an apology to those citizens whose lives were hurt by prior policies.

However, the continuation of affirmative action into modern society has become more of a plague than a benefit. For the good of Fisher, the University and the nation, the court should take Fisher’s side and abolish affirmative action in college admissions.

The biggest problem with affirmative action is simple. Using discrimination to combat discrimination encourages racial hatred in our society. By being discriminated against, whites and Asian-Americans may feel resentment toward those races that have been selected as the new elite of the disadvantaged.

In turn, African-Americans and Hispanics could feel inferior because the government is essentially telling them that, for no reason other than the color of their skin, they need special assistance to put them on par with their peers.

Ideally, we would like to reach a state where society does not judge its members based on the color of their skin but rather on the content of their character. If he could only see how his speeches are being interpreted and where the direction of racial equality is going in our nation today, he would surely be rolling in his grave.

Reversing the direction of inequality does not bring anyone closer to equality.

Perhaps what is most foolish about affirmative action is that it doesn’t even directly target the problem it is trying to solve. It makes the assumption that since blacks and Hispanics are typically more economically disadvantaged than whites and Asians, blacks and Hispanics should be given extra support.

However, it would seem to make monumentally more sense to give the economically disadvantaged more support, regardless of race.

Supporters of affirmative action point to the racial gap in socioeconomic equality. While they point to valid statistics, they have somehow come to flawed conclusions in their goal to help level the playing field. It is true that blacks and Hispanics represent the impoverished at higher rates than the general population, but by taking a socioeconomic approach to the problem, the government does not have to use racist policies to fix it.

Good arguments can be made for factoring financial need into scholarships. And while more of a stretch, factoring socioeconomic position into college admission criteria could have positive benefits. Race has no place in either criterion. Though this may seem to be a complicated issue, it all boils down to a single underlying question: Should it be legal to discriminate against people based on the color of their skin? Answer that, and you’ve answered whether we should continue affirmative action.
interaction remain critical well beyond the collegiate career phase,” Sanders said. “In all, my intent is to communicate with stu-
dents, colleagues, and all who are com-
mittied to further improving a good thing.”

Long term south suburban resident, Erin Fletcher feels that she brings a great deal of familiarity to the Student Trustee 
post. “This position allows me to act as a liaison between the university, the stu-
dents, and the surrounding community,” Fletcher said. “As an aspiring education in higher education, the position of Student Trustee will expose me to another side of how the University operates, how that affects students and staff, and where we stand in financial growth and sustain-
ability.”

Student Senate President, Lisa Wallace believes that helping others and being an agent of change is important. Wallace lists several reasons why she sought out another term as the Student Senate President; amongst them she lists her experience and leadership abilities and her love for helping others.

“Student government is very important because our main goal is to promote the general welfare of students by addressing the student concerns, viewpoints, and interest to faculty, administration and staff,” said Wallace.

The induction ceremony for the new Student Senate members will take place on Wednesday, April 4 in the Hall of Honors from 12:00pm – 3:00pm.

Immediately following the induction will the new Student Senate will assemble for their first meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year.

Columbia

Continued from Pg. 1

any great university.”

“We are deeply concerned about any government activity that would chill the freedom of thought or intrude upon student privacy, both of which are so essential to our academic community,” he said.

In an email to Barnard students, faculty, and adminis-
trators, Spar said that Barnard’s Department of Public Safety “does not participate in or condone unlawful sur-
veillances or monitoring of any kind, with any law enforcement agency, including the NYPD.”

“The College is firmly committed to protecting the civil liberties of our students and stands by the Muslim Students Association in its concerns about the actions of the NYPD and its calls for further explanation,” Spar said.

Muslim Religious Life Advisor Khalid Abdur-Rashid, who works out of the office of the University chaplain, said he was pleased with Bollinger’s statement, adding, “I’m happy it came out and that he stepped up.”

“The president of NYU is having a town hall meeting about the issue … we got amazing statements from the presidents of Yale and NYU and from President Spar,” he said. “This isn’t a Muslim issue. It’s a student issue.”

Columbia’s Muslim Students Association released a statement on its website Tuesday expressing frustration and disappointment with the NYPD.

“We are disturbed by the fact that Muslim students are targeted and profiled based on their ethnic back-
grounds and religious beliefs alone without any evi-
dence or suspicion of wrongdoing,” the statement read. The MSA added that it has contacted administrators about working together to ensure the safety of Muslim students.

“We hope that President Bollinger, President Spar and the University will stand with our community ... and protect the student body from any violation of our civil rights,” MSA said in its statement.

Abdur-Rashid said that he’d like to put together a small group of representatives from the MSA, Hillel, and other student groups to meet with Bollinger.

Students “need continued reassurance that he [Bollinger] understands their grief and that he’s working 100 percent,” Abdur-Rashid said. “They can thank him for his leadership directly and allow him to reinforce the points in his letter about ensuring their safety on cam-
pus.”

He added that he is concerned about Columbia’s image in the wake of the reported surveillance.

Open Position with The Phoenix

Are you a social media fanatic, who finds yourself “tweeting” and updating your status frequently? Are you interested in new media trends and online journalism?

The Phoenix Student Newspaper is looking for a new Digital Media Editor. The DME will be responsible for engaging the GSU campus community on our social media plat-
forms as well as monitoring and loading content to the new Phoenix website.

The ideal candidate will be creative, flexible, and work well with others—enjoys social media interaction and stays connected with the latest online media trends.

Must have regular and consistent access to mobile media via laptop and/or mobile phone, with ability to update Phoenix website and social media networks in cases of breaking campus news. The DME must be sensitive to the diversity of the GSU commu-

Experience with web design, graphics, and digital media is a plus.

This position pays a student stipend and will provide the candidate with invaluable experience in the area of digital media. All staff members of the Phoenix must be enrolled in at least 6 hours at Governors State University.

If you would like to take advantage of this awesome opportunity, please stop by the Phoenix in room E1500 on Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:30pm or email us at Phoenix@govst.edu.

Graduating this semester?

Has a GSU professor or faculty member made a lasting and profound impact on you?

The PHOENIX invites 2012 graduates to take out a free “thank you” ad to send a very special message to faculty members who made a difference in your academic journey. Thank you messages should be addressed directly to the faculty member and be no longer than 200 words. Include your full name, name of the class you took with the faculty member (if applicable) and the semester and year it was taken. Please forward messages to phoenix@govst.edu by Friday 4/13/12. Letters will run in the April 18th issue of the Phoenix.

Continued from Pg. 1

Election Results
Continued from Pg. 1

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GSU Salutes Our 2012 Graduates

Scheduled Activities:

Graduation Preparation
- Cap & gown portraits
- Class ring ordering
- RSVP for Fiesta celebration
- Alumni Association and Fitness Center membership information
- Commencement questions and Refreshments
- Wednesday & Thursday March 7 and 8, 11am to 7pm
  Hall of Governors

Fiesta Celebration
- April 15, 11am - 3pm
  Governors State

Cap & Gown Pickup
- May 8 and 9, 11am-7pm
  E-Lounge
- May 17, 9am-5pm
  Engbretson Hall

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony
& Reception
- May 17, 6:30pm
  Center for Performing Arts (ticketed event)

Commencement Ceremony

May 19, Tinley Park Convention Center
- 10am - College of Arts and Sciences
- 10am - College of Business and Public Administration
  - 5pm - College of Education
  - 5pm - College of Health and Human Services

For questions regarding graduation activities please contact the Commencement Hotline at 708-534-4488

Faculty and Staff: Regalia orders due to commencement coordinator by March 13.
Retiring from GSU after 34 amazing years

By David Weinberger

I’m retiring March 31. I can’t say goodbye to each of you individually, so I wanted to write this article.

I will truly miss helping the students, as I have found it very rewarding to work in the GSU Financial Aid Office for these 34+ years. The years have flown by.

I like GSU – it gives a practical education. We have a wonderful mix of students and staff from many backgrounds, and it is fun and helps keep me young. I also like that we are very inexpensive, so people can actually afford getting a degree. This also helps keep down student debt. Loans are no fun to pay back later. Also, I advise that if you have to take unsubsidized loans, it is wisest to pay the interest on it as you go. If you don’t, you will end up paying interest on interest.

Stress levels can run high sometimes when dealing with money. I can remember one time many years ago when I was helping a student at the front counter. I had to tell him we couldn’t do something he was asking for, some increase in his aid, and all of a sudden he got a glazed look in his eyes. He fell back against the nearby wall, and then slowly slid down the floor vertically until he ended up sitting sort of slumped over on the floor. We called, and the paramedics came and helped him. It turned out he had an illness that caused it, not me. But it was unexpected.

One year, the other financial aid advisor had left, so I was the only financial aid advisor for the school for a while. Somebody asked if I liked my job, and I said, “I really enjoy playing clarinet in the GSU Concert Band.” I joined at the very start in about 1980. The conductor, Dr. Charles Hicks, chose me as the Concertmaster.

Over the years, much has changed at the university. There is no more concert band (but we have the CPA). At the start, there were no grades, only a pass/fail system. Now we have a traditional grading system.

Trimesters have been replaced with a semester system. Years ago, registration for classes was all done in person, in lines at the gymnasium! My boss innovated touchtone telephone registration!

Technology has certainly moved forward. In 1977, to apply for financial aid, the student completed a Financial Aid Form and sent it to CSS. If we had to correct something on it later, we sent that in by mail, and it came back in a few weeks. Then when the advisor awarded the student’s aid, I was the secretary who typed the award letter on a multi-page form with carbon paper between each page, and it was mailed to the student.

When I became our MAP Grant Coordinator some years later, I requested payment to the university for our students’ MAP Grant scholarships using bulky rosters through the U.S. Mail! Later on, faxing was the new technology to speed up the processing!

Now it’s all on the web – applying, making corrections to the SAR (which is almost overnight), and requesting payment for the MAP Grant Program. Now our students can accept their aid right away on their GSU web portal page. And here’s a dream come true – the aid can be disbursed via direct deposit!

The Directors of Financial Aid have been amazingly smart individuals, great problem-solvers. I have worked under 5 of them. And under 4 different presidents of the university. I have worked under 5 different job titles, from secretary at the front desk in 1977 to Assistant Director.

Things have sure changed, and I’m glad to have been a part of helping students get through school. I appreciate my colleagues, as well as the students I have served. I will miss you all. I thank the Lord for the wonderful job I’ve had at GSU in the Financial Aid Office!
Phoenix

FEATURES

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Viva la Vita

Steve takes a look at Psyonix’s new handheld console to see how it holds up

By Steve LaVoie
Contributing Writer

The Vita is a surprisingly well made handheld and a huge step forward from its predecessor, although there are a few potential issues that could drag it down.

The graphics are quite impressive, they really pop and you can nearly trick yourself into thinking you’re playing its big console brother on a really, really, really, really, tiny television. Even older PSP titles look better due to the increased resolution on the big screen.

While I thought the buttons would be too small to press effectively, they ended up working pretty well. They were easy to hit and the two analog sticks are precise and easy to move. The built-in Skate Axis game is by far the best game ever that requires you to tilt the system, even if it is just a simple minigame.

The biggest flaw of the system is the lack of support for PSP UMDs, and only playing digital copies of the old games. If you have a favorite PSP game you want to play on your new system, you get the sheer joy of buying it all over again! Only time will tell if having a rear touch pad is worth losing UMD support, as there is not a title that really puts that rear touchpad to amazing use.

While downloading games and DLC from the store was pretty fast, I did encounter a bit of lag during online play. The system is also really bulky, and while I don’t find it a drawback that it has some meat on the bones, it won’t be fitting into anyone’s pocket anytime soon. There is a built in camera that can shoot photos and video, but its nothing spectacular and the system could have been better off without it. The system naturally is not very cheap, being $250 for the cheaper model without 3G and $20 for the cheapest memory card.

The Vita has a lot of potential. With some must have titles it could overcome its drawbacks and avoid its predecessor’s fate.

Will Ferrell delights in new “Casa de mi Padre”

By Tiffany Linter
Golden Gate Xpress, San Francisco State U. via UWIRE

First came a crazed frat guy, then a culture shocked elf. Then came a high-strung news anchor, followed by an over-the-top NASCAR driver. Now, Will Ferrell has crafted another hilarious and memorable role, a Mexican daddy’s-boy.

His newest film, “Casa De Mi Padre” is about Armando Alvarez, a man who lives with his father on their poverty stricken ranch. Armando is much like the Ferrell characters we have known and loved—a socially awkward, unintelligent man.

But there’s a twist. He speaks only Spanish throughout the movie.

When Armando’s brother—the golden child—Raul (played by Diego Luna) comes home with his bride-to-be Sonia (played by Genesis Rodriguez), hope is restored that the ranch will survive. Things become intense when it is rumored that Raul is a part of drug trafficking ring to the United States and Armando begins to fall in love with Sonia. Armando sets out to find out if Raul is really a part of the drug trafficking and at the same time steals Sonia from him. Ferrell didn’t speak much Spanish before the film, which has English subtitles.

“It’s kind of an out of body experience,” said Ferrell in a conference call when asked about learning a new language. “It was weird for language to be the first part of concentration, acting almost came third because it was all I could do to memorize Spanish. Then my focus was on pronunciation, because I didn’t want the joke of the movie to be that I spoke Spanish poorly. I wanted it to be so you were halfway through the movie, and it sneaks up on you that you’re like ‘oh my god, I’ve forgotten that he doesn’t speak Spanish.’”

If Ferrell’s primary focus was to perfect his Spanish, he was in good company. The cast included several Spanish-speaking movie stars including Diego Luna, Genesis Rodriguez and Gael Garcia Bernal—all award-winning actors known for their work in film and television. Another notable actor in the film is Efren Ramirez, who is best remembered as Pedro from “Napoleon Dynamite.”

The production value—or lack thereof—is all part of the joke. Everything from the horrible fake sets, to the animatronic tiger and partial love scene with a manikin, are intentionally awful.

“We knew that it could [add] another level to the comedy, along with the premise of me speaking Spanish and the jokes that go along with the movie,” said Ferrell. “I was like, ‘we should have more mistakes.’”

Like most Ferrell movies, “Casa de mi Padre” is likely to spur plenty of inside jokes for viewers to share with other friends who have seen the film.
By David Lipowski
Associate Editor

Suzanne Collin’s young adult series The Hunger Games Trilogy is not quite the new Harry Potter or Twilight, but it’s close, selling hundreds of thousands of copies, developing an established youth-oriented fan base, and now spawning a much-anticipated film adaptation.

In preparation for the film coming out on March 23, Universal Republic Records released “The Hunger Games: Songs from District 12 and Beyond.” The “soundtrack” features original music from Taylor Swift, the Civil Wars, Arcade Fire, Maroon 5, Kid Cudi, and various other famous artists.

It used to be that a film “soundtrack” was a copy of the music used within a film. That’s where the word “soundtrack” comes from—it literally references the component of a physical film that carries the sound to be played alongside the video.

Because the tracks on “District 12” will allegedly not be in the film (the closest one of them has gotten is Arcade Fire’s “Abraham’s Daughter,” which some have claimed will be featured in the film’s ending credits), the term “soundtrack” is inaccurate. What we have here is supplemental to the movie, making it a promotional item, like a t-shirt. Or advertising.

This cheapens the value of the compilation as a whole, but if you can accept (or ignore) the premise, there is a lot to get out of “District 12.”

For one, the album’s producer T Bone Burnett gave the compilation a concrete direction—rather than concentrate on the story’s science fiction themes, the tracks adopt country roots (many of the events in the book take place in Appalachia—at a future quasi-post-apocalyptic time period, but Appalachian nonetheless) featuring a lot of banjo and acoustic guitar. This overall vision, along with the need to stay true to the narrative, has forced some of these artists out of their comfort zones, and it is extremely entertaining to see what they’ve produced.

Specifically, the collaboration between the Civil Wars and Taylor Swift on the track “Safe and Sound” sounds drastically different than anything either of the artists could produce alone, combining Swift’s personal and emotional vocals with the Civil War’s ability to create serene musical landscapes. In “Safe and Sound” we see a capability in Swift to diverge from her country-pop background and develop as an artist.

Also on the album by Taylor Swift is “Eyes Open,” a song more true to her usual work but still containing intriguing elements.

There is also Maroon 5’s “Come Away to the Water.” This is not “This Love” Maroon 5; it is definitely not “Moves Like Jagger” Maroon 5.

“Run run run away/’ the lyrics drawl on, “Buy yourself another day/A cold wind’s whispering secrets in your ear/so only you can hear.”

Perhaps most surprising was Arcade Fire’s “Abraham’s Daughter.” Unlike pretty much everything the band has produced on their albums Funeral, Neon Bible, and The Suburbs (the last of which won Album of the Year at the 53rd Grammy Awards), their contribution to “District 12” manages to be both solemn and intense, featuring a steady snare and drum beat reminiscent of a military march and Régine Chassagne’s haunting vocals.

If you are a fan of Arcade Fire, “Abraham’s Daughter” makes the ten-odd dollars you’d pay for “District 12” worth it (or you could always pick up the song on Amazon for .99 cents and skip the rest).
WHAT’S UP

Comics

XKCD: Etymology Man

Earthquake!

We should get to higher ground—tides could be a tidal wave.

You mean a tsunami?

Tidal wave means a wave caused by tides.

You know that doesn’t add up.

Etymology man!

Remember that until 2004, there weren’t any clear photos or videos of tsunamis. Some modern writers even described them. Rising up and breaking like surging waves.

Of course, in 2004 and 2011, it was more clear. Everyone that a tsunami is more like a rapid, turbulent, surging tide—exactly what an external account describes.

Maybe those writing about Lisbon in 1755 used tidal wave. Not a description of scientific conclusion, but because it described the waves. Four—a description lost in our rush to explain “tidal wave” from English.

“Tsunami” is now the standard, and I’m not trying to change that. But let’s be a tad less goofy about describing “tidal wave” especially when “tsunami” just means “harbor wave,” which is hardly...

Alt-Text: “I can’t believe I’m saying this, but I wish Aquaman were here instead—he’d be able to help.” "XKCD" is a webcomic "of romance, sarcasm, math, and language" run by Randall Munroe. To read the latest, head to www.xkcd.com

PHD: Staring Contest

Probability you’ll come up with a brilliant idea

Does not increase.

Time spent staring at your computer.

www.phdcomics.com

“PHD” (“Piled Higher & Deeper”), a comic about being a graduate student, is by Jorge Cham. It is updated about twice per week. To read more comics, head to www.PHDcomics.com

Crossword

DON’T PANIC

We still have a crossword puzzle in this issue.

You will find it on page 5.

GSU Happenings

Criminal Justice
Career and Internship Fair
March 22
3 – 6 p.m.
Hall of Governors

Research Paper Workshop
Finding Help for APA and MLA
and Using Ref Works
March 24
1 to 3 p.m.
GSU Library
Free

David “Sonny” Lacks
Reception & Book-Signing
Monday, March 26
5-7 p.m.
Ctr for Perf Arts Lobby
GSU community
Online registration
by March 16

Carol Geary Schneider
Innovation & Creativity in General Education
March 27
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Ctr for Perf Arts
RSVP: Penny Perdue
Free

U.S. Healthcare System:
Reflected in the Lives of Henrietta Lacks and her Family
Featuring
David “Sonny” Lacks
March 27
1:30 p.m.
Ctr for Perf Arts
GSU Wellness Club
Free

Staying Fit While You Sit Workshop
March 28
1:30 p.m.
Ctr for Perf Arts Lobby
GSU Wellness Club
Free

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