“Navigating Our Colliding Worlds” lecture series features well-known writer

By David Lipowski
Associate Editor

GSU welcomed bestselling author and journalist Alex Kotlowitz to campus on April 11 as a part of the GSU Honors Program’s “Navigating Our Colliding Worlds” lecture series. The lecture was entitled: “Making Sense of the Madness: Reflections from Twenty Years of Reporting on Urban Violence.”

Kotlowitz’s is the recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, the George Polk Award, the Thurgood Marshall Award, and the George Foster Peabody Award. He has been published in the New Yorker, the New York Times Magazine and the Wall Street Journal, but he is best known for his book “There Are No Children Here” which tells the true story of two children growing up in a gang-ridden neighborhood on Chicago’s West Side.

The lecture, which lasted from 5 to just after 7 p.m., was originally set for the Hall of Governors, but changed the night before the event to Sherman Recital Hall after the event generated a high amount of interest.

The venue change turned out to be an exceptional idea, as GSU students, faculty, students of other universities, and members of the public filled the room.

Dr. Larry Levinson, director of the University Honors Program, and GSU President Dr. Elaine Maimon introduced Kotlowitz, citing how incredibly excited they were to have such an important speaker come to campus.

Kotlowitz spoke primarily about his work on the book “There Are No Children Here” and on the film “The Interrupters,” a documentary on...
Column: Reintegration requires reform

By Alex Rubin
The Dartmouth, Dartmouth College via UWIRE

This past weekend, President Barack Obama traveled to Cartagena, Colombia to attend the Summit of the Americas hosted by the Organization of American States. Although the summit made progress in easing inequality and other gaps between the United States, Canada and Latin America, the debate stalled over the issue of whether to reinstate Cuba into the OAS and allow the country to attend future summits.

Many Latin American nations have criticized the United States for its embargo on Cuba and its continued practice of isolating the island nation. However, to include the oppressive regime of the Castro brothers into the OAS, weeks after it committed oppressive crackdowns on peaceful democratic protesters, would be to disregard the principles of American foreign policy and society. It is in the interest of the region to reintegrate Cuba, but such an action must be taken solely with the aim of promoting a more democratic and open Cuban government. Thus, giving Cuba membership in the OAS must be in response to signs that the Cuban regime is submitting to international pressure — not just U.S. pressure — to reform their governmental institutions.

U.S. relations with China were improved under the Nixon administration through increased contact and China’s reintegration to the international community. This should be the same objective of any U.S.-Cuban policy. The idea that the Cuban regime can be waited out, or that it will fall under its own volition from internal pressures, has proven, at least in the short term, to be unrealistic. Therefore, the U.S. must move to reform the Castro government through engagement and reintegration. However, this process must be started in response to signs from the Castro government that it is willing to reform. Such interactions must be driven, like our opening to China, with the expressed aim and unrelenting pressure to restore Cuba’s democratic institutions and to promote greater freedom for the Cuban people.

Whether or not American policies, specifically the embargo, are either functional or beneficial to progress in re-forming Cuba or the U.S.-Cuban relationship are irrelevant to this argument. The issue at hand is whether the incorporation of Cuba into the OAS and its inclusion in its summits will promote reform in the island nation and foster better relations between the United States and Cuba. Some argue that international organizations can better pressure its members than individual states. However, Iran and North Korea have shown that such international pressure is not sufficient or effective in curbing their nuclear development. Therefore, the premise that including Cuba in the OAS will allow the OAS and the U.S. to better pressure the Castro government is misguided. By contrast, allowing Cuba to join the OAS at this time, weeks after the government’s crackdown on peaceful protesters during Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to the nation, would demonstrate that the regional community is willing to ignore — and to legitimize — the illegal and inhumane practices of the Castro government in the name of regional integration.

Further, it is not in the interest of the OAS to include the nation of Cuba. As ideological differences have grown between the United States and the leaders of Latin America, the OAS has become less relevant to regional affairs. Therefore, including Cuba in the organization would only add to the ideological polarization and contribute to further inaction in addressing the pressing concerns facing the region, such as the drug war and economic deficiencies and inequalities. The addition of Cuba would add strains to the debate within the OAS, as it would incorporate longstanding conflicts that are unlikely to change, subsequently stalling any actions aimed at addressing a variety of other issues that the OAS is in a position to address.

To incorporate Cuba into the OAS would reward the Castro regime for its brutal crackdowns on peaceful protesters, as well as legitimize such action within the scope of promoting regional integration. The isolated island nation must be eventually reintegrated into the regional community. However, this process must begin with signs on the part of the Castro brothers that their regime is open to reform and is willing to follow international standards of governing.
When pepper spray is the face of education

By Trent Kays
Minnesota Daily. U. Minnesota via UWIRE

Recently, students protesting fee hikes at Santa Monica College were pepper sprayed by members of the college’s police force as they attempted to enter a Board of Trustees meeting. The police officers involved kept the protesters at bay and from airing their grievances and voices with the Board of Trustees. Adamant not to let the protestors into the meeting, the police force held them back, and in an all too damning photo now spread across the internet, a police sergeant stands pointing at the protestors while holding his baton over his head ready to strike.

This scenario is a horrifying one, and much like the U. California-Davis incident in which seated students were pepper sprayed, one I never thought I’d see on a college campus. When did it become wrong for students to air their grievances? When did it become wrong for students to stand together on their campus? Students have a right to their opinion and anger when they see their education becoming less valuable but more expensive. Yet, incidents, like the one at Santa Monica College, are examples of a system rotting from the inside.

A university education is still the goal of many people. Even though the value of that education seems to be dwindling at some levels, people still flock to college campuses around the country to study in the hope that they may bet- ter their life circumstances. However, students seem to only be permitted to disagree if that disagreement doesn’t get in the way of the university administration’s politics.

All education is political, but universities don’t always educate students on how to navigate such politics. If the UC-Davis and Santa Monica College incidents have taught us anything, it’s that students aren’t allowed to voice their opinions to people who control the politics of a campus, that students don’t deserve to be around those who take the control of their education away from them.

Students should control their education. Students should have a say about their education and future. Yet, students’ voices on campus are increasingly unvalued. This phenomenon will destroy education in this country. Without stu-dents, there is no need for universities. Protest and debate should be encour- aged on all university campuses because it is the passion of students that keeps higher education afloat. So, when events transpire that exemplify the lack of respect by administrators and university officials for students’ voices, it’s dis-heartening and counter to what a university should exemplify: respect for and service to the public good.

Reports of police brutality and overzealousness have become commonplace in the news media. Reports of police arbitrarily arresting people without proba- ble cause, pepper spraying randomly and without direction and bullying citi- zens engaged in protest are common news stories now. College campuses are not immune. But what does it mean for the future of education and protest? These types of incidents create a hostile environment in a place where hos- tility should not exist. Universities are supposed to be centers of learning and expression. Students should be able to peacefully protest and challenge those officials who would stand in the way of their education. What becomes trouble-some is when those officials dismiss the issues of students as not their problem.

Indeed, education is becoming far too expensive in this country, and there aren’t enough protests about it. How long are we going to let the price of educa-tion rise in this country? Soon only the very wealthy will be able to afford education, and those without will continue to be subjugated to those with advanced privilege.

Access to education is no longer enough. We must have access to those who will control and direct our education. University administrators and those in power must be held accountable and must be accessible to the students whose lives they hold in the palm of their hands. The examples of police officers arbit- rarily pepper spraying students, professors, children and others in their way is symptomatic of a system run amok. It is symptomatic of administrators who are out of touch with the populations of their universities. It is symptomatic of how university officials see students: as cattle. Students, who continuously see their rights eroded, are becoming cattle that are seen as nothing more than PEZ dispensers forking over loan money that they’ll never be able to pay off.

So, when students finally stand up and protest such lack of respect, what happens? They get pepper sprayed by baton wielding, overzealous police offi-cers. Welcome to your college experience. This type of behavior is unaccept-able on many levels, but none so more than that it is an overt example of oppression in a place that should be fighting oppression. The issues at stake are not merely about tuition hikes; it’s about a student’s constitutionally protected rights being eroded in the one place many thought they’d never see them eroded: a university.

The future of higher education in the U.S. is an ambiguous one; however, at the heart of that future will be the students and their teachers. It would be a shame if that future was one of voiceless students and teachers locked inside their walled classrooms instead of a passionate group of people working for a better and more equitable world. George Orwell once remarked, “If you want a vision of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face — forever.” I really hope Orwell was wrong, but the path we’re heading down doesn’t look promising.
save more with a college grad rebate*

get an extra $500

2012 FIESTA
2012 FUSION
+ FUSION HYBRID

2012 FOCUS
2012 MUSTANG*

2012 ESCAPE
+ ESCAPE HYBRID
2012 EXPLORER

VanDrunen Ford
183rd & Kedzie • Homewood • 708-798-1668
vandrunenford.com

find us on by searching VanDrunen Ford

*program #33468. Proof of student eligibility required i.e. school i.d. class schedule, diploma. Excludes Mustang Boss 302, Mustang Shelby GT500, F150 Raptor. See dealer for complete details.
GSU’S NEW ONLINE ART & LITERARY JOURNAL

RECONSTRUCTED

IS CELEBRATING ITS DEBUT ISSUE.

THE PHOENIX IS PROUD TO PRESENT THIS PREVIEW.

FEATURING THE WORK OF AMIE BERNARD, HEIDI STACHULAK, RAVEN ELIZA HODGE & OTHERS.
Dear Phoenix readers,

What you are about to look through is a preview for the premier issue of Reconstructed, GSU’s new online literature and arts journal. Reconstructed is student driven—a place for students from any major to have an outlet for their creative work. Whether you’re a business student who writes short stories on the side, a social worker in training who dabbles in poetry, or an art student looking for additional exposure online, we’re here for you.

This insert, generously put together by the Phoenix team, features a sample from some of the students who have submitted their work for our first issue. Each of these artists and poets has additional pieces which can be found on our website:

www3.govst.edu/reconstructed.

Whatever your artistic pursuits are, we want to publish it. We accept short fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, spoken word, visual art, and – beginning with our next issue – short films. You’ll find a little bit of everything on our website. Check it out. You’ll be as impressed as I was by the amount of hidden talent walking our halls every day.

This is just the beginning. Reconstructed’s student editors are already looking toward our next issue, Fall 2012. Send your stuff, along with any questions to:

reconstructed@govst.edu.

Submission guidelines can be found on our website under the “Submit” tab. Trust me, your art and literature looks much better on our website than it does sitting dormant in your hard drive.

Enjoy the samples here and see the full sets, alongside other interesting and compelling work, included in our first issue online now!

Dan Petersohn
Student Editor, Reconstructed

---

Supertime Sonnet

The chicken is poppin in the fryin pan.  
The Blues is wailin from the needle’s drag.  
Her foot is tappin to the beat of the band  
as she follows Billy’s lead in a vocal dance.  
The steam swirls up ‘round her head like a veil.  
I sit on the washer by the seat of my pants.  
I keep up time tappin feet on the pail  
while I watch her turn the chicken in the pan.  
She wipes her brow as she and Billy wail.  
I watch as she fans the steam with her hands.  
Her voice tapers off with the poppin’s refrain.  
I lick my lips as the chicken turns tan.  
She rests the chicken on the paper to drain.  
This image of grandma will always remain.

Amie Bernard  
Graduate Student from the Marriage and Family Counseling Program

---

“Occupation 6”

MFA in Independent Film and Digital Imaging Program
Behind The Orange Trees are My Bones

We cut the twilight’s heavy air with an eagerness that lovers bare
Poisonous Beatrice - The Garden’s Voyeur
Her breath caresses your neck and I can see your eyes turn black
Her scent lingers upon the juniper, as we rendezvous behind the orange trees
Oleander on your lips
Bruises on my hips

Raven Eliza Hodge
Undergraduate Student, Interdisciplinary Studies with English Minor

Cavemen on Walls

There is a cathedral somewhere
Around Sicily with walls of
Gilded Biblical Mosaics
Lofting up toward ceilings skyward
As if to say: Are we True?
To the One who might know
Whether decadent yellow metal
Might’ve been put to better use.

Matt Praxmarer
Graduate English Student
I SEEK THE SWEET NECTAR OF A THEORETICAL UNIVERSE

i seek the sweet nectar of a theoretical Universe. As it were, you are the bulbous worm, squirming through my apple on an Otherwise perfect day in the orchard awakening from dreams, emerging from the conceptual landscape painted on the inside of my skull,

i try to remember what i have just seen,

less it be lost to me for eternity

David Lipowski
Undergraduate Communications Student
Study: Researchers see connection between Facebook and narcissism

By Drew Oroz
Daily Collegian, Penn State U. via UWIRE

The amount of likes on a Facebook status or the number of comments and uploads of pictures may be an indication of narcissism, according to a recent study.

A study conducted by Dr. Christopher Carpenter, assistant professor of communication at Western Illinois U., tested 294 participants whose ages ranged between 18 and 65. The volunteers participated in an online survey that asked them questions about Facebook use, according to the study.

The study was conducted to see if anti-social Facebook use could be attributed to narcissism. Anti-social Facebook use can range from a user retreating against a negative comment to becoming angry if someone doesn’t comment on the user’s status.

But, Carpenter said Facebook does not cause users to become narcissists. Narcissism is a trait people are genetically inherit, and Facebook gives those who share this trait a platform to interact, he said.

According to the study, traits of narcissism include a sense of self-importance or uniqueness, an inability to tolerate criticism, an expectation of special favors without reciprocation and greater leadership ability.

But Carpenter said the narcissistic tendency of leadership could be positive. Facebook users who have the narcissistic trait of "grand exhibitionism" are predicted to have a high friend count. They want the ability to gain attention from a large audience, according to the study.

According to the study, Facebook users who have the narcissistic trait of "grand exhibitionism" are predicted to have a high friend count. They want the ability to gain attention from a large audience, according to the study.

US Secretary of Agriculture speaks out for food security and education

By Sean Frye
Kansas State Collegian, Kansas State U. via UWIRE

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack spoke about the significance of agriculture in American society and the importance of earning degrees in agriculture at Kansas State U. on Tuesday morning. Speaking before a packed house at McCain Auditorium, Vilsack discussed agriculture’s impact on the economy and world affairs.

According to Vilsack, the world population could reach as high as 10 billion people in the lifetimes of the students currently attending K-State.

“We will have to increase food production by 70 percent to meet that demand,” Vilsack said.

Due to a rising population and a rising need for food, Vilsack said that increasing the number of people who are professionals in agriculture is a necessity in order to maintain peace.

“If the world is fighting over oil right now, imagine what will happen if we are all fighting over food,” he said.

Vilsack hailed the U.S. as a “food secure” nation, meaning the country is able to feed its citizens adequately. According to Vilsack’s lecture, 85 percent of all food consumed in the country is home-grown.

“If the ports shut down or if we as a country are hunkered down in some configuration, we will be able to feed ourselves,” he said.

Vilsack also touched on how American agricultural programs have a worldwide effect.

Specifically, he talked about the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which is sponsored by the USDA. Vilsack said that programs like the McGovern-Dole program not only help feed the world, but also help build positive foreign relations.

“We all are in this together if we want to meet this challenge of feeding the world,” Vilsack said. “It’s a challenge of a lifetime for the students here. And agriculture is at the center of all of this.”

In the lecture, Vilsack focused heavily on the economic success of the agricultural community. According to Vilsack, agriculture is responsible for 10 percent of all the country’s exports.

For 50 years, we have had a trade surplus in agriculture,” Vilsack said. “Last year was a record at $37 billion.”

Vilsack also said that with the rise of precision technology in the field of agriculture, more jobs have been created, and that has helped sustain the agricultural economy, which he hopes the rest of the country can model.

“We’ve got some tough decisions to make with reference to the federal budget,” Vilsack said to the media following his lecture. “We want to make them strategic. I think [President Barack Obama] is right when he says that we need to get back in the business of making things. Agriculture is a proof point that.”

The points he made seemed to hit home with many in the audience; Vilsack received a very warm reaction at the conclusion of his lecture.

One of the students in attendance was Nate Spriggs, student body president and senior in agricultural economics.

“I thought the lecture was great,” Spriggs said. “I think he gave a very important message as to the challenges that we face and the role of agriculture.”

Provost April Mason was also impressed with the lecture and how Vilsack emphasized food security.

“I have a passion for food security, so what Secretary Vilsack said about the need for agriculture to help us continue to be a food secure country was essential,” Mason said.

Vilsack, who is the 30th Secretary of Agriculture and the former governor of Iowa, also spoke about the developments of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, originally planned to be built on Kimball Avenue in Manhattan, just east of Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Despite recent concerns over funding and a risk of disease outbreak, Vilsack said that the facility remains an important priority.

“I understand the importance and significance of that facility and getting it done,” Vilsack said. “[The Department of] Homeland Security is doing an assessment on the site in the last year or two to quantify the risk of exposure. We are going to continue to work with members of Congress to figure out how and when, with tight budgets, we can fund this. I think it’s a national priority.”
By Greg Gonzales
Arizona Daily Wildcat, U. Arizona via UWIRE

After more than fifteen years in the grave, rapper Tupac Shakur joined Snoop Dogg on the Coachella stage to perform “2 Of Amerikaz Most Wanted.” And he did it via hologram.

Sadly, Tupac is actually dead. Still, reanimated from previous concert footage and with some creative effort on the part of effects powerhouse Digital Domain and A V Concepts, the image of Tupac was unmistakable. It had the Tupac swagger, it had the Tupac face and it even sported the classic Tupac tattos.

Almost immediately, photos and videos from the concert went viral. Networks like Twitter and Facebook blew up. Some users referred to the hologram as “creepy” or “too real.” Andrew Alejandre, a linguistics junior who posted a video of the concert on Facebook, wrote, “He kinda’ glides when he walks, like he is on skates, or ice or something, but that is pretty freaking real looking!”

One fan even responded by creating a Hologram Tupac Twitter page. Overnight, the Twitter page attracted upwards of 3,500 followers. In response to a fan’s question about why he isn’t following anyone on Twitter, Hologram Tupac tweeted, “Hologram Tupac don’t follow nobody.”

According to MTV.com, Dr. Dre was the main brain of this project. However, officials at A V Concepts, the company behind the actual projection, refused to discuss the mechanics and technology behind it with the Daily Wildcat and other news organizations.

After seeing such a realistic image, some students think that the holographic concert could become a thing of the future. “That’d be so sick to be in a restaurant and just pay a couple dollars (to see a long-dead band),” said Joe Putrelo, a pre-journalism freshman. He also said that he would be willing to pay $50 or $60 to see a holographic concert.

But the Tupac show wasn’t the first of its kind. Fictional band Gorillaz played with Madonna on a holographic stage at the 2006 Grammy Awards show, and Black Eyed Peas also incorporated holograms into their concerts. Not only do the images wow viewers, but this technology could allow an artist to perform at multiple venues simultaneously.

Even though Tupac can only live through fancy new equipment, Hollywood’s ability to wow audiences with something new is alive and well. And who knows? Maybe we can see all four Beatles playing together in the near future.

Game Review: Metal Gear Solid HD

By Nick Biecha
Michigan Tech Lode, Michigan Tech U. via UWIRE

Video game review: Metal Gear Solid HD

It seems pretty safe to say, at this point, that video game publishers have no problem essentially selling the same game multiple times, in the form of remakes and ports to modern systems. On some level one would almost expect the Metal Gear series to be immune to this trend. After all, series director Hideo Kojima is somewhat infamous among fans for mocking fans for wanting more sequels in his games. Yet, the Metal Gear Solid HD Collection, featuring ports of Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty, Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater, and Metal Gear Solid Peace Walker, is a thing.

The HD Collection is just that, a collection of those three games on a single disc, for PS3 and Xbox 360. The games are ports, not enhanced remakes: they look and play pretty much the same way they did on the PS2 and the PSP. However, the graphics are updated to take advantage of the PS3’s HD and widescreen capabilities. Thus, while the games have PS2 and PSP textures, they are very nice-looking and sharp PS2 and PSP textures. The widescreen support is also very nice touch for the PS2 games; since they originally had no widescreen support, and the games would go into a “letterbox” widescreen every cutscene, trying to play the games on a widescreen TV often meant having a big black border around the action.

In addition, many of the features from the special editions from Sons of Liberty and Snake Eater are present in the HD collection. Sons of Liberty has the Boss Survival, VR Missions, and Snake Tales from its special edition, and Snake Eater has the Theater mode as well as the original Metal Gear and Metal Gear 2: Solid Snake games for the MSX2. However, the Secret Theater and Snake vs. Monkey modes are missing. Peace Walker doesn’t include any new content, per se, but the PS3 version of the collection allows transfer of save data between the PS3 and PSP versions of the game. Finally, all three games (not counting the MSX2 games) have Achievement/Trophy support.
PHOENIX
WHAT’S UP

Comics

PHD: The Academic Homepage

"Red Tails" Film Discussion
April 23
5 p.m.
Engbreton Hall

Gay Straight Alliance
NOH8 Photo Shoot and Fundraiser
April 24
Noon to 6 p.m.
Hall of Governors

10 Keys to Longevity Workshop
April 24
1:30 p.m.
Cntr Perf Arts Lobby
GSU Wellness Club
Free

Solutions to crossword from Pg. 8

Solutions to sudoku from Pg. 8

PHD: Prospective Effort

"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

GSU Happenings

"PHD: Prospective Effort"

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Alt-Text: ‘It has a section on motherboard beep codes that lists, for each beep pattern, a song that syncs up well with it.

“XKCD” is a webcomic of “romance, sarcasm, math, and language” run by Randall Munroe. To read the latest, head to www.xkcd.com