GSU’s main access road, Stuenkel Rd., is riddled with potholes and is crumbling badly along its gravel shoulder, and the crossing area between the University Park Metra train station and GSU’s Alumni Footpath (shown) has no crosswalk or sidewalk, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road.

by Jonathan Bulthuis, EIC

The constant deterioration of GSU’s main access highway, Stuenkel Road, is perhaps the most universally common transportation obstacle that almost every GSU commuter is forced to navigate each day and night. Stuenkel’s pothole-ridden pavement and crumbling asphalt shoulders are at their worst between the Governors

Student fees and tuition rates frozen for 2014

By Kyle Horn
Staff Photographer

A recent fiscal decision by GSU’s Board of Trustees brings good news for students who value the contents of their pocket book. GSU President Elaine Maimon recommended a tuition and fee freeze for the 2014-2015 school year at the boards February 28 meeting, which was confirmed by a unanimous vote. During the board meeting, President Maimon suggested that keeping tuition rates as they are would build trust between students and the GSU community. President Maimon also mentioned that with the first freshmen cohort arriving in the fall, raising prices would be “no good at all,” and that rates should remain as they have been advertised this year. The tuition and fee freeze was planned with incoming freshmen in mind, according to President Maimon, and budget changes and compensations were made to ensure the quality of the academic experience for all of GSU’s students in the coming year.

So what does this mean to the students of GSU?

Continued on page 4

Highway (Hwy 50) intersection and the main university entrance. This stretch of road is traveled by every driver arriving at the GSU campus from the west and I-57, as well as local residents, the GSU shuttle bus system, pedestrians walking to campus from the train station, and an intermittent flow of semi-trucks moving freight to and from local warehouses; not to mention the destructive, winter-long passage University Park’s huge metal snowplows. To complicate matters, the damaged road is transsected by a well-travelled passenger and freight train track, and Governors Highway’s congested four-way stop intersection.

“Stuenkel Road is a serious concern for the whole university,” said GSU President Elaine Maimon, “and the administration has been working very hard on making it a safer road. “We have been exerting pressure on University Park to fill the holes, and they have been responsive,” said President Maimon, referring to recent temporary road repairs. “But it’s a bigger problem. The road needs to be completely reconstructed. It needs to be widened, making the whole road a safer road.”

Continued on page 5

Illinois becomes last US state to ratify concealed carry of firearms

By Jonathan Bulthuis
Editor-in-Chief

On July 9, 2013, Illinois became the last US state to ratify a law permitting and regulating the concealed possession of guns in public, the Firearm Concealed Carry Act (Public Act 98-93), which went into effect in February this year with the issue of 5,000 Concealed Carry permits to qualifying Illinois residents by the Illinois State Police.

The most universal effect of the law for gun owners and non-gun owners alike is the new familiar sticker of a crossed-out handgun on the entrance to virtually every public place: from the GSU campus to the mall to your local Starbucks, pictures of handguns are everywhere. Apparently so are handguns.

Over 46,000 Conceal and Carry applications were received before February 28 of this year, according to a statement issued by ISP on that date. In addition to Concealed Carry applications, ISP Firearms Services Bureau “is experiencing a record number of Firearms Owners Identification card applications” as well, according to the ISP website.

The new law requires all public and private institutions prohibiting guns to clearly display the official ISP sticker depicting a crossed-out handgun on every public entryway.

Continued on page 3

GSU Board of Trustees elects new Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

By Bob Meyers
Contributing Writer

Governors State University’s Board of Trustees recently elected three individuals to new positions on the board at their most recent meeting on February 28th. Those newly elected are Brian D. Mitchell as Chairman of the Board, Eileen Dirkin as Vice Chair, and Bruce Friefeld as Secretary.

Prior to becoming Chairman, Brian D. Mitchell has been a qualified leader with the Cook County Bureau of Human Resources. Mitchell holds a Master’s Degree in Human Services from Spertus College of Jewish Studies, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology and Criminology from Northern Illinois University.

Mitchell has proven his leadership abilities through his work with PSI Services for seven years, focusing on the Department of Child Services. While working with DCS, Mitchell also served the Village of Matteson in 2008 as the Director of Human Resources.

Continued on page 4
Letter from the Editor

Comrades;

The Phoenix is currently facing a major obstacle in our publication process; we don't have enough room! In this issue, our space limitations have prevented us from including a number of projects that we wanted to cover in this issue. Bottom line, you could be laughing right now, but you're not, because we've got work to do.

The GSU Library will begin renovations this week that will likely continue throughout the rest of the semester. Check out the Phoenix front page in our April 15 issue for a complete rundown on the awesome new changes to the Library.

The GSU Public Safety Department is currently selling hats and t-shirts for the annual Special Olympics Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run in June. For more information about the Torch Run, contact 1-800-394-0562 and just stop by the campus police office in C Building to purchase SOIL attire. More coverage to follow on April 10.

GSU will hold its first annual Colleges Against Cancer Relay for Life Event on April 5, from 2 – 5pm in the Recreation and Fitness Center. The event is open to any and all members of the GSU Community.

Finally; we're getting a ton of last minute requests from GSU organizations that would like coverage in the Phoenix. Please bear in mind that in order to provide the GSU community with a quality publication, it is necessary for us to have all advertising materials on hand before deadline, which is one week prior to each publication. Our remaining publications for spring 2014 are the April 15 and May 6 issues. Student-run organizations and GSU students are eligible for a substantial 50 percent discount. The more advertising we receive, the more pages we can run.

Have a great April Fool’s Day!
- Jon Bulthuis, EIC

Editorial

Veterans Resource Collection

By Brian Bock
Staff Writer

New opportunities and experiences are on the horizon for the many members of the United States armed forces that are coming back home. With the cutting of the military spending budget, more and more veterans will be returning from overseas and using their GI Bill funds to further their education, leaving behind the stress of military life in favor of a less chaotic, civilian existence.

This transition is a difficult one for many veterans. Governors State University’s library is doing its part to help vets accommodate to post-military life with its Veterans Resource Collection. The shelf containing the collection is located near the main computer area of the library, close to the reference desk. Items in the collection include DVDs and books relating to all aspects of military life. The collection comes to the GSU community through Josh Sopiarz, a librarian for the university.

Sopiarz was able to furnish the collection for GSU by competing for and winning a Back to Books grant from the Illinois State Library. The Back to Books grant program allowed for $5,000 worth of material to be acquired for the Veterans Resource Collection. Sopiarz’s stated goal is to reach out the veteran community in GSU, and provide information to “pre-deployment, deployed, and post-deployment service members and their families”.

Information in the Veteran’s Resource Collection provides valuable information about the transition from military to civilian life, and helpful information for those thinking about pursuing a career in the armed forces. For those who are considering such a vocation, the Veterans Resource Collection includes titles like Surviving Deployment, The Military Advantage, and Deployment. The materials in the section also include works for returning veterans such as The Wounded Warrior Handbook, Life After The Military, and Veterans’ Journey Home. A good number of the books and DVDs acquired for the collection deal with the unfortunate reality of high rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among the returning service personnel.

For those who’ve loved ones are in the service, the collection offers such books as Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors, Families Under Fire, and The Military Marriage Manual. These resources not only help provide military personnel and their families with vital information, but also act as a way for civilians to better understand their peers who have seen combat.

Dean of the GSU Library, Lydia Marrow Ruettet, hopes that this collection will help to not only aid GSU’s veteran community, but allow for the GSU community overall to accept and nurture its veterans returning home. It is the goal of the library for this collection to grow and change with the needs of America’s military and their families.

As the military budget for the United States comes to a post-Cold War era low, it is the duty of civilians to help veterans adjust to their new lives at home. Service personnel put themselves in the line of fire on a daily basis to ensure the interests and freedoms of every citizen.

It is only right for citizens to give back to their veterans by offering them a chance to continue their education, leaving behind the stress of military life in favor of a less chaotic, civilian existence. The veteran’s story. Satire is here to stay, and more effective than ever. Every night viewers tune into The Daily Show with Jon Stewart for a big serving of satire based on current news, for the sole reason that news sources can be humorous.

News media becomes more transparent when it is funny, and is more memorable. In an effort to create pieces that allow for maximum retention, satirical writers must allow for maximum humour. Sometimes a point can land in the hearts and minds of readers only through laughter. Laughter keeps us thinking and happy.

We hope you enjoy our attempts at satire as much as we enjoyed working on them. While reading them, have an open mind and open heart. There is no malice intended with these works, every one of them is an act of whimsy. Keep in the spirit of the holiday and enjoy. We hope that in these works of folly you are able to find some grains of truth. Though these works are intended to bring laughter, we hope they stimulate your mind as well.
By Brian Bock
Staff Writer

Hundreds of students daily utilize Illinois’ roadways and bridges to reach Governors State for class, co-curricular activities, and work. Fifteen of these bridges in Illinois have been cited for needing “critical repair” by the Illinois Department of Transportation. These bridges range from ramps off I-90/94, like the Ohio Street ramp, to the Wilson Avenue Bridge over the Chicago River.

Closer to the GSU community, three bridges within a 5 mile radius of campus have been labeled as “structurally deficient”. These bridges are the Manhattan-Monee Road Bridge along I-57, the Thorn Creek Drive Bridge in Will County, and Bridge IL 364 Street Bridge over Plum Creek in Will County. These bridges were built between 1932-1967, and are in need of repair.

The rough winter that is still gripping the area has had a severe effect on infrastructure. Large potholes pock nearly every street in Cook County, the streets torn up by the rough winter. Nearly ten percent of all Cook County bridges are labeled as “structurally deficient”. The vast majority of damage to bridges comes from their overuse, out datedness, and harsh weather. Bridges labeled as “structurally deficient” have damage to one or more of three main components that define bridge integrity. These three components are driving surface, horizontal supports, and vertical supports. The damage present in Chicagoland’s bridges is mostly to its driving surfaces.

Bridge roads have faced stalled repairs, increasing use from more and more commuters, and a growing number of potholes. These potholes are not only a driving hazard and inconvenience for commuters; they also lead to increased exposure of support beams, which is a potentially dangerous situation in which the means to keep the bridge elevated are exposed to less buffering, and absorb more and more tension, weakening the structure. Chief of Illinois’ Bureau of Bridges and Structures, Carl Puzey, said in a statement to the Associated Press, “In very rare cases, if it’s necessary to ensure the safety of the traveling public, we will close the bridge. So, if a bridge is open, it’s safe”.

The majority of the bridges and infrastructure in the US that were built during the 1960’s and 1970’s are now outdated and in need of repair. During the latest State of the Union address, President Obama pledged to help fix the over 70,000 bridges in the US that are in need of repair.}

Concealed Carry Act

By Brian Bock

Continued from page 1

The southern end of NYC, NY. The tallest structure in the western hemisphere, Freedom Tower, can be seen in the image center.

CBS Evening News anchor and keynote speaker Scott Pelley spoke to students Thursday, March 12, about his experiences and ethical dilemmas he has faced in the his journalism career.

On the last day of the conference, a final keynote speaker and award ceremony was held. After an address from Russell Simmons political director Michael Sklonik, the David L. Adams Apple Awards were given out for categories such as best yearbook, best newspaper, and best magazine.

The host of this event, the College Media Association, has been helping student media outlets and their advisors since its founding as the National Council of College Publication Advisors in 1954. The Spring convention is held every year in New York City, and is part of a wide range of services and events that CMA provides. A corresponding Fall conference in collaboration with the Associated Collegiate Press is held at various locations around the country.

The CMA maintains its flagship journal, College Media Review, in both print and digital distribution and is a leading academic journal on collegiate media. The CMA Spring Conference was a learning experience to both the TWAG and Phoenix staffs, and an important opportunity for student journalists to explore their profession.

Concealed Carry Act

“The guns-prohibited stickers” is a good thing,” said University Park Police Chief Bradley. “People have a right to say ‘no weapons in my store, no weapon in my restaurant;’ they do have that right.”

“If [a building] has the sticker on the door, you cannot carry a weapon into the place,” said Chief Bradley. Otherwise, the new Concealed Carry law takes precedence, “if they don’t have a sticker, and as long as you’re legal, and you’re carrying your FOID card and your Concealed Carry License is denied to US citizens who have been convicted of a felony or who have been committed either voluntarily or involuntarily to a mental health institution within the last ten years.

“We believe in the constitution,” said University Park Police Chief Edward Bradly. “That people have a weapon on them.”

Legislation in states that require a concealed weapon license to purchase a firearm, is designed to protect police officers, and “releases the officer and the [defendant] of that pressure, so they can get past it right away,” said Chief Bradley. “It’s something else when an officer was just asking for your license, registration, and proof of insurance. Now we are asking people whether they have a gun on them, or in the car. That’s another layer for us, because if someone with the wrong intentions does have a weapon in the car, they’re not required to notify us. We have enough going on without that.”

Orbis

TWAG and Phoenix representatives attend CMA conference in NYC

By Brian Bock

Staff Writer

Representatives from GSU’s media outlets attended the annual College Media Association conference at the Times Square Sheraton Hotel in New York City from March 12 to March 17.

During the three day convention, students were able to hear keynote speakers from major major media networks, attend workshops, and participate in a photography contest, an awards ceremony, publication critiques, and a trade show.

The seminars and workshops included topics geared toward improving the quality and efficiency of student news media outlets. Topics covered a variety of different media including photo-journalism, broadcast journalism, and web based journalism. Many seminars and roundtables were dedicated to macro-level themes such as the fourth estate in the digital age and journalistic ethics.

In the main atrium of the conference, CMA members and advisors went over student publications with staff members, offering their advice and critiques. Adjacent to the critiques, various vendors set up shop for the trade show, offering a variety of different services for students, including internships, website advertising, and newspaper Brooks.

Within the CMA conference, CMA members and advisors went over student publications with staff members, offering their advice and critiques. Adjacent to the critiques, various vendors set up shop for the trade show, offering a variety of different services for students, including internships, website advertising, and newspaper Brooks.

The biggest concern of the new law may be the way it affects Illinois Police and Public Safety Officers. The big thing that bothered me about the law is that in a lot of states, people are required to notify an officer immediately that they have a weapon on them,” said Chief Bradley. “In this state, that came up in all the litigation, but it wasn’t passed. I think that is a big mistake.”

The CMA maintains its flagship journal, College Media Review, in both print and digital distribution and is a leading academic journal on collegiate media. The CMA Spring Conference was a learning experience to both the TWAG and Phoenix staffs, and an important opportunity for student journalists to explore their profession.
GSU Board of Trustees holds elections

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Chairman Brian D. Mitchell
Vice-Chair Eileen Dirkin
Secretary Bruce Friefeld.

GSU Board of Trustees holds elections

Richton Park.

GSU Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Eileen Dirkin holds an MBA from Loyola University of Chicago; a BS in Health Information Management from UIC where she also serves as a Clinical Professor; and a BA from the University of Charleston. Dirkin was the Vice President of Resurrection Hospital in Chicago. Before that, she was the Executive Director of Howard Brown Health Center. Eileen was also the CEO of Neumann Family Services, which serves people with disabilities. Since 2012, Dirkin has been the President and CEO of Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, which has helped found Together for Health and Accountable Care Chicago, or C4, which provides clinical health services for over 12,000 children, families and individuals. Dirkin was appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to the Illinois Human Services Commission as well as serving a Chair of the Illinois Institute of Public Policy.

Bruce Friefeld is a veteran of the United States Navy Reserves and received his law degree from DePaul University College of Law and his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Louisville. Friefeld is a longtime resident of Mokena and was previously president of the Mokena Chamber of Commerce.

Friefeld was originally appointed to the GSU Board of Trustees in 1996 and served as Chairman of the Board for seven years, from 2000-2007, as well as serving as Chairman of the Civil Service Merit Board, legal counsel and special assistant to the Will County Executive, Chief of Staff of the Will County Board, supervisor of Frankfort Township, and an elected member of the Mokena Board of Trustees, the Mokena Chamber of Commerce, as well as serving as an administrator of the Lincoln Way H.S. Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Lambda Lambda's first annual banquet and panel discussion is “Nursing, a Leading Force for Change.” The discussion panel will be made up of faculty members, nursing leaders, and entrepreneurs from the community.

Attending the panel and the Lambda Lambda banquet provides GSU nursing students with one Continuing Education Credit, an annual prerequisite for the renewal of a Registered Nurse license, and at least 12 Continued Education credits per year.

This is the first time GSU’s Lambda Lambda chapter is doing this, and we’ve had a good number of folks interested,” said Comer. “We’re hoping for a hundred and fifty people. A lot of schools will have a nursing banquet to celebrate at the end of the year, and we haven’t had anything like that for quite a while. I thought it was time now to see about reinstating it.”

Lambda Lambda’s executive committee is comprised of former doctoral students from GSU “who have been very committed to all aspects of the honor society, as well as planning the event,” according to Comer.

Checks for the $50 banquet tickets can be sent directly to Professor Comer directly, or attendees can purchase tickets on PayPal.

Tuition freeze

Continued from page 1

For students taking a full class load (12 credit hours), tuition will remain under $5,000, a decision that trustee Patrick Omrysh referred to as “just outstanding”, since it keeps GSU’s rates substantially lower than many public and private schools.

Tuition freeze continues as a welcome sigh of relief for students attending GSU for its low tuition rates. “Governors State University truly cares about their students,” said GSU student Yulonda Whisby. “They understand how expensive education is, and they try to make it as affordable as possible.” Recipients of financial aid can rest easy knowing that their education costs will remain as they were, and that they will not have to add any more costs than expected to the burden of student loans.

GSU was built upon the principle of quality and affordability, and with the influx of Freshman in the coming fall semester, the university is holding fast to those core values. If nothing else, the recent tuition freeze is a testament to GSU’s commitment to its students and the affordability and quality of their education.

Vote for GSU’s Mascot April 7

By Brian Bock
Staff Writer

As the semester begins to draw to a close, the transition of GSU to four-year university becomes increasingly more present. This transition includes genesis of GSU collegiate sports team, and the adoption of an official mascot by the GSU community. Earlier in March, the student body was asked to submit ideas for the mascot. Over 400 mascot entries were submitted for the Operation Mascot contest, and are now under review by a the Student Life Mascot committee.

On April 7, the committee will release four selected submissions for a popular vote by the entire student body. Opening the voting up to the students allows for the community to have a voice in the decision. A mascot represents the school community and unites us all. All of campus should be excited for the opportunity to help decide the new mascot. Be sure to look out for announcements from the Department of Student Life regarding the mascot contest and voting, and remember to find out which four entries will be offered April 7, 2014.
Stuenkel Road reconstruction is ongoing, extensive

Plans for the reconstruction of Stuenkel Road, which is also the northwestern section of University Parkway, have been in the works since the 1990’s, when the Illinois Department of Transportation first began work on a bridge and possible freeway exit that would connect Harlem Avenue (Hwy 45) with Governors Highway by way of Stuenkel. Since then, a three-phase construction plan for Stuenkel, from Central Avenue on the east to Crawford Avenue on the west, has been taken up by a consortium of organizations motivated to improve the road, including the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and the Village of University Park.

“We have been working very hard with the Village of University Park to make the case that this is a regional road,” said President Maimon. “Not only do students and staff use the road, but so do members of the community who are attending the Center for Performing Arts and dropping their kids off at the Family Center. In the last month we gained support for this project from the SSMMA,” said President Maimon.

Reconstruction of the rest of the road depends largely on the substantial financial contribution being made to the community by the SSMMA, a percentage of which must be matched by funds appropriated by the Village of University Park and Will County.

2014 Graduation Celebration
May 3, 2014 - 11am to 3pm

Governors State University is pleased to host the 2014 graduates and their families.

Join your fellow graduates and celebrate with great food, games, karaoke, bingo, trivia, caricatures, balloon artists and a live DJ with special entertainment from hypnotist

Dr. Jim Wand - 1:30pm in Sherman Hall

Reservations and payments may be made for Graduates bringing more than two guests.

The Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014.

In order for students to be eligible they must be willing to meet for an interview on Friday, April 11, 2014 between 10am and 3pm.

Stuenkel’s crumbling surface and shoulder at GSU’s main entrance.

“University Park will continue [construction] where the IDOT project leaves off,” said SSMMA Deputy Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Thomas Vanderwoude. “That phase will extend from east of Central Avenue, west past Cicero to Home Avenue: about halfway between Cicero and Governors Highway,” said Vanderwoude. “That project is a 5.1 million dollar project. The SSMMA just awarded 3.2 million dollars in funding for the stretch of road in front of the university, and the village of University Park and Will County will have to appropriate 800,000 dollars in funds to match that.”

The financial contribution being made to the community by SSMMA constitutes almost half of their annual funding. “These are federal dollars that come to the SSMMA,” said SSMMA Executive Director Ed Paesel, “and we are providing about eighty percent of the revenue for the project. SSMMA receives a budget of around 6 million dollars a year, so you can imagine that we have requests [for funding] that far exceed that figure each year.”

“It was about five years ago that the state agreed to fund the new interchange at Stuenkel,” said Paesel. “Consequently, it was decided that the Village of University Park would implement [the Stuenkel road] project in three stages. The interchange project, which was awarded a contract on February 28 of this year, is totally planned and funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation, and involves the interchange between I-57 and Stuenkel Road. IDOT invested about 28.8 million dollars in the project,” said Paesel.

The timeline for reconstruction of the rest of Stuenkel Road is not set, but President Maimon is optimistic about the future outcome of its reconstruction. “I am somewhat hopeful that with the tremendous cooperation that we are getting from the SSMMA and Will County, that the road can be reconstructed and widened as early as 2015,” said President Maimon. “What’s really uplifting is that they understand that this road has regional significance. What’s important is that we’re working together on this.”

GSU Goes Blue
April 15 in the Great Hall of Honors from 11:30 - 1:00.

Autism Speaks created Light It Up Blue as a way for people around the world to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. Last year, more than 250 college campuses and 3,000 iconic landmarks and buildings in 45 countries turned their lights blue in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

We are asking students, faculty and staff to wear blue in honor of Autism Awareness Month. We will capture the moment with a group picture at noon in the Great Hall of Honors.

Refreshments will be served.
By Kyle Horn
Staff Photographer

Still Life, directed by GSU Asst. Professor of Communication and Visual Performance Arts Dr. Patrick Santoro, is based on a documentary by Emily Mann about a Vietnam veteran, his wife, and his mistress.

After an unwelcoming return from a controversial war, the marine struggles with returning to normal society; but the trauma of war has taken its toll.

The marine’s psychological burden manifests itself in abuse and violence against his pregnant wife, who suffers from the beatings he used to cope. The marine’s wife tries to ignore the atrocities that haunt her husband, hoping that the memories will pass with time.

In an attempt to fill the void created by his self-imposed isolation and destruction, the marine looks for comfort from an angry feminist mistress who believes his rage stems from the male gender scripts he was raised with.

The three major characters and the complex weaving of their lives eventually become a representation of the country as a whole. The story dives into an exploration of the life of veterans of war, with an arc that spans from the Vietnam War, the colloquial (shellshock) to the clinical (post-traumatic stress disorder).

Still Life includes an eclectic array of mediums to add to the documentary feel of the play, using lines verbatim from the original documentary interviews with the marine, his wife and his mistress.

See the play April 17th and 18th at the CPA, and find out what happens when war comes home.

Tickets are $10 and $5 for students, and can be acquired at www.centertickets.com.

By William Wright
Contributing Writer

The novel The Flamethrowers, follows a female protagonist, Reno, as she navigates the New York art scene in the ‘70s, determined to turn her obsession with speed into art — when the reader first meets her, she is on her way to the Bonneville Salt Flats to take part in the land-speed trials on a motorcycle – But Reno is also surprisingly passive, allowing herself to be moulded and walked over by those around her, particularly the men in her life, providing a juxtaposition with a classically macho protagonist, who is still in casual subordination to the men around her.

Reno’s passivity would become tiresome were it not for the vivid characters Kushner surrounds her with, including a womanizer, a former prostitute, and an Anarchist; all of whom are curiously likable, and all of whom are completely unreliable; the reader must analyze all their monologues and the stories they tell fastidiously to get even a hint of truth.

The Flamethrowers is, arguably, a historical novel; but like the character’s stories, some of the history is real, some, like that of the Valera family and their motor company, is entirely a fabrication, but Kushner has injected the entire novel with such realism, it is hard to tell which is which. It is Kushner’s prose, though, that sets this novel apart, bringing to life all the characters and their stories so brighty, and that will be the reason you can’t get this novel out of your head.

By Sean Johnson
Contributing Writer

When crisis threatens your life, would you strap into the driver’s seat and drive? Director Scott Waugh has brought yet another adrenaline-laced racing movie to the big screen with Need for Speed. A few familiar faces like Captain America’s Dominic Cooper and Rami Malek – a funny and comical actor who previously appeared in Night At The Museum- bring some hilarious scenes to this movie and will make you sh*t bricks.

Audiences are also introduced to a couple new characters, Aaron Paul and Imogen Poots, who deliver an amazing lovers story:

By Adan Alvarado
Contributing Writer

The Grand Budapest Hotel is all about the love between a concierge and his lobby boy, but it is also about the bitter sweet nature of life. That nature is revealed in a familiar style as there are glimpses of Anderson’s previous work throughout the film.

This is not to say Anderson does not venture into new territory because he certainly does. The film is much darker and far more violent than anything the director has done before. While works like The Royal Tenenbaums and The Life Aquatic flirted with dark comedy, The Grand Budapest is a full on romp with the genre.

The cast is also one of the best Anderson has ever assembled. Each actor throws ego out the window and plays each character with selfless pluck.

Any synopsis of The Grand Budapest Hotel would be remiss without discussing the film’s aesthetics. Each shot is a work of art worthy of its own gallery and vital in telling the story Anderson wishes to tell. Each shot creates the delicate balance of beauty and despair required to expose the cruel reality that we live to love and love to live; and if it all goes right, it ends with excruciating pain.

In the hands of other directors this film would have had this film critic moping from the theater under a nimbus cloud of existentialism.

Yet somehow, at the end of The Grand Budapest Hotel, one simply feels fortunate to be a part of it all.
Grad life on-campus
By Katrina Koltz
Guest Columnist

In the fall of 2014, graduate students will have the privilege to join the Prairie Place community in new, fresh suite and apartment style living right here on GSU’s campus. This new opportunity will provide students with a safe and convenient environment that is conducive to graduate student learning and community.

Prairie Place has been designed to facilitate maximum convenience for today’s busy graduate student, from all inclusive amenities that include cable TV, internet, Wi-Fi, gas, electric, and water, to an on-site convenience store that will promote independent living and eating. This will be accomplished through refrigerated, pre-prepared, and frozen options provided in the convenience store, in addition to apartment kitchens and an extensive menu available through cafeteria style dining.

For students who travel a considerable distance to attend classes, their daily commute will be eliminated along with the ever-changing gas prices that drain our pocket books.

Complimentary shuttle service will be provided year round to get students to and from housing, classes, and parking lots. From cameras to electronic access to student living areas, every step has been taken to ensure student safety throughout the day. One unique advantage to graduate students who hold jobs outside of GSU is the ability to come and go from student living and parking areas with the security of these extensive safeguards.

Graduate students have been recognized as a significant population on campus that has unique needs and concerns here at GSU. The grad student community environment will be a dynamic and contemporary new setting for students to develop academically and personally; a big change from having a peaky landlord breathing down your neck and demanding rent.

Immerse oneself in graduate student culture will help to steep students in the unparalleled campus culture and diversity that GSU has to offer. Floor plans and policies are tailored to facilitate housing with individuals of similar age and interests.

The building has the extensive housing options and multitude of services that are available, Prairie Place is a valuable resource in the midst of GSU’s transformation into a four-year university.

Check out all that Prairie Place has to offer at govt.edu/housing.

Lift on Plan B’s age restriction repeals law
By Kara Trojan
Online Content Editor

The Food and Drug Administration will now allow generic versions of Plan B One-Step — one of the most popular types of emergency contraception — to be sold over the counter to women of all ages, as of March 2014. Previously, Plan B and generic versions of it were only available to women 17 and older without prescription, whereas women who were 16 and younger had to obtain a prescription from a doctor before purchasing the emergency contraceptive pill.

In a letter released by the FDA, the agency explains its decision to lift the age restriction on Plan B and its other forms after they obtained a study that assessed “whether women ages 16 and below could comprehend certain key elements concerning the product itself and how it is intended to be used.”

Dr. Andrea Leonard-Segal, Division Director of Non-prescription Clinical Evaluation, voted to lift the age restriction and commented, “[t]he actual use data demonstrate that adolescents can appropriately self-select to use [Plan B One Step] based on their own medical circumstances and that they take the medication properly without healthcare provider intervention.”

The labeling on Plan B and generic versions of the emergency contraceptive will still read, “Intended for use by women 17 and older,” however, adolescent females will still be able to purchase the emergency contraception. In fact, the Planned Parenthood in Orland Park revealed that any individual under the age of 18 who purchases emergency contraception will receive it at half-price — so the female patient would actually pay $18 instead of $36.

In addition, the Planned Parenthood staff will also ask the patient if she has taken Plan B before, and if she has any questions as to how to take it. The Orland Park location also stated that many adolescent females have stopped at their clinic to purchase emergency contraception, so this new ruling by the FDA will have a positive impact on the women’s reproductive healthcare.

The emergency contraceptive Plan B and its generic forms are designed to prevent pregnancy by unprotected sex or in the event that other forms of birth control fail. Females can use the pill up to 120 hours after unprotected intercourse, although the individual should take the pill as soon as possible.

Adolescent females younger than 16 previously had to visit a doctor for a prescription before they could even consider obtaining emergency contraception, a significant obstacle for dependent adolescents running on a non-negotiable five day deadline. Now that the age restriction has been lifted, adolescent females are able to freely obtain the pill.

Emergency contraception pills work by keeping a woman’s ovary from releasing an egg for longer than usual. Pregnancy cannot happen if there is no egg to join with the sperm. Plan B makes pregnancy prevention possible even after intercourse since conception can take up to six days for the sperm and egg to meet after having sex. In addition, women are rarely aware of the exact date that they ovulate, so they cannot risk the chance that they are either early or later in their respective cycles. The morning-after pill is not an abortion pill. Emergency contraception is birth control, not abortion, since it prevents conception.

“The IUD or ella are better options for overweight women who need emergency contraception,” according to Planned Parenthood’s website, www.plannedparenthood.org. Levonorgestrel pills, a generic form of Plan B available at Planned Parenthood, may not work as well for women who have a body mass index (BMI) higher than 25. Individuals and females who are concerned about reproductive health or alternative forms of contraception are encouraged to contact Planned Parenthood through their website or by visiting a local PP office.

Vitae

CDC gets dead serious about zombies
By Snehal Chavda
Guest Columnist

The threat of zombie apocalypse seems imminent. If you come from a family similar to mine, you already have a survival plan set in place. My brother and I have mapped out every single detail as we collaborate with our team across the states all the way to the other end of the coast, where, if need be, my sister’s husband will be holding down the fort and preparing for the arrival of our family. C’mon now, I know I am not the only one; all you Shaun of the Dead and Walking Dead fans have your own version of a possible encounter with zombies. For those of you who are skeptical or believe me to be a little insane, let me tell you that my reasoning has been confirmed by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC).

So what is CDC doing to prepare for such an occurrence? According to their website, “CDC works 24/7 with states and local health departments to save lives and safeguard communities from public health threats.” What can you do? CDC has an answer for that as well; just visit their webpage, where you will find a list of things needed to survive a zombie attack.

For those of you who learn best through classroom setting, Central Michigan University is currently offering a course delving into religious texts and apocalyptic. So when such a time does come, one has already been prepared with the tools to establish the spiritual connection to help deal with the real life “walking dead.”

In all seriousness though, CDC has prepared a survivors kit for times of natural disaster, such as hurricane, storm, etc, under the guise of “Preparedness 101: Zombies Apocalypse.” So whether you believe in zombies or not, here is a good way to review basic emergency protocols, and a fun way to educate your young ones about it. For those of you who are much like myself and get carried away by the fantasy of things, let’s get ready and connect, so that we could have our little own group of people living in the Walking Dead style.
BP oil spill devastates outraged Bikini Bottom residents

By Bob Meyers  Contributing Writer

On March 13, 2014, it was announced that the ban on the British Petroleum Oil Company from engaging in any federal contracts has been lifted. You may recall that the the oil conglomerate pled guilty in 2012 to charges pertaining to the Deepwater Horizon Gulf of Mexico BP Oil Spill in 2010. The EPA has agreed with BP and is now allowing them to resume business in the Gulf of Mexico after the 16-month ban.

The news has hit Bikini Bottom hard. Squidward Tentacles may be thankful that he was not cooked for calamari over the course of the 16-month ban, but the spill has left him drenched in oil, leaving him unable to work at the Krusty Krab and play his beloved clarinet until he was properly cleaned.

The Krusty Krab and Chum Bucket both closed down as all of their ingredients were smothered in oil from the spill. Mr. Krabs has been in tears over the loss of revenue and Plankton was forced to put his evil plans to steal the revenue and Plankton was forced to put his evil plans to steal the

Mrs. Puff's Boating School is closed indefinitely, as all boats can no longer function properly on Bikini Bottom's oil-slick roads, and Patrick Star's rock has been covered in black oil, not unlike the rest of the town, rendered totally unidentifiable after the BP Spill.

This was an incident even Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy could not fix, something even worse than their respective nemeses, the Dirty Bubble and Man-Ray. Even SpongeBob SquarePants' ostia, the holes within his sponge, were filled with the black substance.

Pearl Crabs, daughter of Mr. Krabs, gave us a statement in an exclusive interview under the sea where she proclaimed, “the only safe haven is the home of Sandy Cheeks,” the air-breathing resident squirrel masteredmind from Texas. It was only a matter of time until the loveable creatures of Bikini Bottom formed a protest, which was catalyzed upon after a “Breaking News” report from Bikini Bottom's fishy TV station that BP was now allowed to engage in business once again within the Gulf of Mexico.

The “Gang Up on the Gulf” protest is occurring on a decimated ecologically endangered seafloor near you on April 1, mere weeks after the BP announcement. Given that the EPA is still going forward with their plans to allow BP to negotiate business with the troubled Gulf, we will have to wait and see how effective Bikini Bottom’s “Gang Up on the Gulf” protest really is.

2014 tuition rates to quadruple

By Kyle Horn  Staff Photographer

According to a strangely dressed itinerant wandering across the GSU campus that claimed to a member of GSU’s Board of Trustees, tuition rates for the upcoming fall semester will quadruple. “With our first class of freshmen soon to arrive, the expected expense to the university is substantial enough to multiply the cost of education by a factor of four, in order to ensure the quality of the student experience,” said the strange man, asserting that the board had voted unanimously in favor of his suggestion.

“The tuition hike is inevitable,” said the dubious source, citing soaring technology costs that provided for the issuance of complimentary laptops, tablets, and smart phones to all of GSU's incoming freshman in the coming year.

For students taking a full load (now 18 credit hours) this means that what would have been under $5000 for a semester will now be just over $20,000 for undergrads and somewhere in the six figure range for graduate students.

Enormous, ostentatiously expensive statue of Blue Ox Babe constructed and dismantled over Spring Break

By Jonathan Bulthuis  Editor-In-Chief

Rogue elements in GSU’s administration commissioned, purchased, constructed, and ultimately dismantled a gigantic blue metal ball over the course of the 2014 Spring Break, eventually saving the abortion sculpture in hasty clean-up operations, according to the testimony of a terrified GSU student who attempted to attend class on Tuesday and had a panic attack when he found the campus closed and a huge metal unguage being constructed on it.

The haunting apparition our original intrepid witness saw was in fact an immense metal sculpture of the mythological Paul Bunyan's aide and counterpart, Babe, the Blue Ox, which was designed and built in no less than three days to provide a friendly companion for GSU’s profoundly afflicted Bunyan. The 47,543 lb. cobalt blue Babe statue was commissioned Monday, March 17, and cost roughly 78 billion dollars, which was paid for by the University's Emergency Sculpture Fund, which is funded entirely by student balance late fees and library printing costs.

The fundamental flaw in this grandiose undertaking was perceived immediately following the installation of Babes immense ivory horns, which spanned 43 feet and cost more than the combined Gross Domestic Product of several second world countries. Great consternation erupted among the responsible parties, who immediately ascertained that Paul Bunyan was going to be grumpy regardless, and should probably just be left alone.

Old man winter overstay welcome, demands snacks, cannabis, couch

By Adam Ebert  Associate Editor

The most commonly lethargic and frequently least beloved of all the seasons, Winter, has decided to freaked out when winter gets on about global warming. So, we decided to ask him nicely.

No luck. Committees are currently being organized to figure out what can be done.

Local meteorologist Ron Gale had this to say: “It was 65 degrees last week and it snowed yesterday. This type of shit was never in any textbook I ever read.” Gale seemed incredibly upset, shaking his head at what winter had wrought. “My wife bought me swim trunks for Christmas last year. I’m becoming increasingly weary when I think that I might never wear them.” So are we, Bob. So are we.

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The most commonly lethargic and frequently least beloved of all the seasons, Winter, has decided to be that guy and not leave. All Midwestern occupants thought he maybe was only going to be around for Christmas and maybe New Year’s, but now it’s March, and the Midwest hasn’t been able to use its own couch for months. Living rooms can only smell so much of marijuana and Fritos. Netflix accounts can only handle so many viewings of the Trailer Park Boys, and, quite frankly, our kids get