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Student Life

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New Student Central provides better service

By Emily Leary
Contributing Writer

Over the past few months, you may have noticed some changes going on near GSU’s main entrance. This newly renovated area now referred to as Student Central, will be more conducive to new students, visitors, registration and instant decision days. It is GSU’s latest effort to improve student life here on campus.

The new facility will now be home to the Student Information Desk, the Admissions Office, Financial Aid, and two academic advisors for the IDSS program. A cashier’s section will also be open during the busiest times of each semester. Otherwise, the existing cashier’s office will remain open.

The main part of the improvement to the area

GSU tuition and fees to increase

Courtesy of PR Dept.

In a recent Board of Trustees meeting, GSU’s undergraduate tuition rates for the 2011-2012 academic year were unanimously approved for a 2.5 percent increase, according to GSU’s PR department.

GSU is the first Illinois state university to approve tuition rates for 2011-2012. It is likely that the state’s other public universities will increase their tuition for the coming year and that GSU will again be one of the state’s most affordable universities.

Under GSU’s new undergraduate rates for Illinois and Indiana residents, tuition is $243 a credit hour, up from $237 an hour. In-state tuition for graduate students varies from program to program, with 2011-2012 rates increasing between 2.4 and 2.7 percent.

The Board of Trustees also approved a $5 per semester increase in the Parking, Walkways, and Transportation Fee.

For undergraduate students who are eligible under the Guaranteed Tuition Rate Policy at GSU, tuition rates will not increase for the 2011-2012 academic year. For clarification of your eligibility and upcoming rates, please contact the Cashier’s Office at 708-534-4055.
In the Zen Zone

By Deb Majewski
Contributing Writer

So where is your mindset these days? Are you feeling good about yourself? Are you filled with belief in your potential? Are you excited about your gifts? Are you focused and centered? If not, is your mindset affecting your actions? Are you stressed? Irritable? Out of balance?

What if the natural state of our minds is clear, spacious and compassionate? If so, then how did we become so far removed from that?

What comes to mind when you think about a newborn baby? That they are perfect? Brand new? Not yet battered and bruised by the world? Babies, in all of their innocence and newness are magnificent. They are ALL potential. We still have that potential in us. The only thing separating us from that inherent magnificence is the way the world has clouded our perception of ourselves and our surroundings.

The sun is still shining beyond the clouds. If we are somehow convinced when we are young that we are lacking or helpless or insignificant, then as adults, we may still believe it. If given our reflection and attention, perhaps we can reconnect with that initial knowledge that we are filled with potential and have limitless capacity.

One of the best ways to create space for reflection and attention is through meditation. By calming our thoughts and focusing our minds, it becomes possible to create an environment for ourselves where we can clear the cloudiness in our mind and rediscover our warmth and openness to life and the potential of our being.

Several meditation times have been offered during the week at GSU. Consider giving yourself the gift of this time to promote clarity and balance within.

Monday afternoon: 12:00-1:00 in Room D3406
Tuesday morning: 8:30-9:20 in Room D2442
Thursday morning: 8:30-9:20 in Room D2442
Thursday afternoon: 3:30-4:20 in Room B1240

Until next time... Namaste.

The Meditation Committee

Student Central

Continued from pg. 1

Before the renovations, students and visitors were greeted by a long row of closed offices inside the main entrance. There were often no people visible, and students had to search for someone to help them find their way around. Now, there is a group of friendly faces, ready and waiting to help anyone who needs it.

When students have an appointment with their financial aid advisor, there is now a more spacious, comfortable waiting area with more chairs to accommodate students and family members who may accompany them.

Student IDs and locker rentals will also be in the same area as registration, making it easier for students to obtain their IDs upon registration.

The new offices in the space may appear somewhat familiar, as all the old furniture was saved and reused in the new space. The space used for the old financial aid office is currently being renovated for a new office for the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean Sherilyn Poole.

The Student Central staff is excited about the new space and look forward to providing better services to new and existing GSU students.
DUI potentially affects everyone

Nicole Marie
Contributing Writer

On Christmas Day 2009, at precisely 10 a.m., the phone rang and I found out that my father, step-mother and little brother were in a near fatal two-car crash, the result of a DUI. My family was driving south on Weber Road in Romeoville, IL when another car, driving north, swerved into our lane head on. The driver got out of his car and left the scene of the accident. My step-mother, who was driving, suffered chest injuries, bruises up along the whole right side of her body. My little brother suffered bruises and a deep incision along his knee. My little brother suffered the worst with his nose pushed up into his brain, a skull fracture, and a deep incision across his entire forehead. He spent two months at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Paramedics said that none of them should have survived.

The driver did turn himself into police several hours after the accident. He had no valid driver’s license, was operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and was driving under the influence. He suffered an injured ankle.

DUI fatalities are at an all time high. A total of 11,773 of the nation’s 37,261 traffic fatalities were caused by drunk drivers, according to a comprehensive look at drunk driving released in time for the 2009 holiday driving season by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The statistics represent an average of one drunk driving death every 45 minutes.

"In Illinois, of the 1,043 people killed in traffic accidents, one in three (362) were legally drunk and one in four (252) had a blood alcohol level of almost twice the legal limit (.15 or higher)," said Chicago Lawyer Dave Abels.

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, "Each year, about 310,000 people suffer injuries in alcohol-related traffic crashes, an average of one person injured approximately every 2 minutes. A blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or greater is the level at which a driver is considered legally intoxicated in Illinois."

Although 16 to 24-year-olds make up only 15 percent of the licensed drivers in the state, they are involved in 38 percent of all fatal alcohol-related crashes. In 2002, nearly 52 percent of the fatally injured teenaged drivers (age 16-19) were legally intoxicated. Two hundred twenty-four college students were killed in fatal crashes in 2002. Of these, 106 had a BAC level of .08 or greater.

To my fellow Governor State University peers, the simple fact is...don't drive under the influence. Although my family did survive the accident, someone else might not be so lucky. Along with my family, I’ve had friends in DUI-related accidents and I don’t want it to happen to you.

If intoxicated, please make sure to call a cab, have a designated driver etc. And, if you don’t drink and drive, take precaution. When you’re on the road, keep a look out and always have your eyes open.

Steve’s Reviews

Sucker Punch

By Steve LaVoie
Contributing Writer

"Sucker Punch" is an action film that tries to be lots of things at once, and though your mileage will almost certainly vary, I felt that it was an incredibly fun film.

The film opens with a flashback set to a cover of "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," where Babydoll’s stepfather isn’t too pleased that his deceased wife left everything to Babydoll and her little sister. After little sis’s accidental death Babydoll gets shipped off to a drab and deary asylum where stepdad bribes the orderly into forging a signature approving Babydoll’s date with a lobotomy pick in five days.

However, the creepy asylum twists into the creepy brothel where inmates turn into dancers, the orderly becomes the sleazy brothel owner, complete with mustache, and the looming lobotomy is replaced by being sold to a client known only as the High Roller. Eventually Babydoll discovers that her dancing not only transports her to a fantasy world where she and her compatriots Rocket, Sweet Pea, Blondie, and Amber are capable of defeating swarms of orcs, robots, or clockwork zombie soldiers, but literally hypnotizes any man who watches her. So their plan involves Babydoll dancing for whoever has one of the items they need to escape while the others do the dirty work of actually taking the item.

The film has great looking set pieces, everything from the asylum to the World War I backdrop, complete with trenches populated by the aforementioned clockwork zombies and a zeppelin and plane filled sky, all look incredible and are effective at creating the necessary atmosphere.

All the action sequences are great, even if they aren’t very tense considering the five girls are almost unstoppable. The soundtrack, while a bit overused, is surprisingly good, the only clunker is the "I Want It All/We Will Rock You" mashup, but thankfully it is over quickly.

While it won’t be winning any screenplay awards, the writing is not cringe-worthy, there are some great lines sprinkled here and there. It would have been nice to see the Amber and Blondie characters given a bigger role in the proceedings, at times they feel like afterthoughts. The performances are all good, the best performance is Jena Malone as Rocket, although Carla Gugino deserves honorable mention for her overly exaggerated accent.

Overall I thought the film was a joy to watch and one of the best action films in years. It’s certainly not a film for everyone, so it might not be a bad idea to wait for it to hit DVD or Blu-Ray, if you’re on the fence about it.

4 stars out of 4
Rated PG-13, running time 1 hr. 50min.
Regard,
Resist,
React

By Steve LaVoie
Contributing Writer

The work of many area artists was featured, alongside the work of Wafaa Bilal, Assistant Arts Professor at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, in GSU's Visual Arts Gallery throughout the month of March.

The show, called “Regard-Resist-React” featured works that are an artist’s reactions to the various issues facing the world.

“One of our goals for this exhibit is to give artists and the public an opportunity for discourse around otherwise avoided issues like war, politics, religion, immigration, and sex,” said Jeff Stevenson, co-curator of the exhibit, via press release.

One of the area artists whose work was featured is Sioban Lombardi. Lombardi says her “Secret Life of Men” series of oil paintings is “an attempt to observe my opposite, and notice the role he accepts versus the role he may desire.”

Lombardi says that objectification of men is about “physical prowess and wage earning capacity” versus objectification of women which she says is more about “fantasized, psychosexual perfection.”

Holly Cahill's “Wreath for Hefei” is a memorial for the victims of the Chinese earthquake in April of last year. The piece is a reference to the red neck scarves worn by Hefei schoolchildren in a photo that she saw in the Chicago RedEye.

Other works included in the exhibit were “No to Racial Profiling” by Salvador Jimenez, “What is it Good For” by Jessica Munguia, “The War” by Nick Azzaro, “Rights of Passage” by Cleveland Dean, and “Village” by Lynn Basa.
Local artists take their social views to the canvas in GSU Art Exhibit

The Visual Arts Gallery is located across from the E Lounge and is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays and noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment.

"Rights of Passage" by Cleveland Dean 2010

"The___War" by Nick Azzaro 2009

"Wreath for Hefei" by Holly Cahill 2011

"What is it Good For" by Jessica Munguia 2008
Spirituality and Educational Persistence

Fifty community college graduates currently enrolled at Governors State University needed to participate in doctoral research on spirituality and educational persistence.

INCENTIVE:
The first 50 completed survey responders will receive a $5.00 GSU cafeteria gift card.

INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS:
contact the researcher, Shawn L. Govan
at shawnlgovan@gmail.com or via phone at (708) 381-0016

*This project has been approved for implementation by Governors State University's Institutional Review Board

Disclaimer: The researcher will make the final determination as to whether or not completed survey responses have been submitted seriously and for the purpose and intent of the research being conducted. Incomplete surveys and/or those submitted for any other purpose outside of the nature and scope of the research will not be considered, nor will any incentive be provided to the respondent. It is anticipated that there will be no risks to research participants. Participants and their responses will remain confidential and anonymous to all but the researcher, Shawn L. Govan.
WHAT SAY U GSU?

GSU student cogitate on what new programs GSU should adopt, as well as suggest changes they feel GSU should make regarding preexisting programs.

"Screenplay writing. I have a close friend who to school for arts, more classes on film and how the camera works. He goes to Tribeca Film School and they have the works."

Lyndsey Washington
Major: Business in Applied Science

"Basically improve the current program, make it more useful, less of a beginner class."

Derek Schumacher
Major: Computer Science

"Offer more broadcast-ing course programs. Offer more classes that are specific and less vague."

Tempie McInn
Major: Public Relations

"I would like more of an administrative track for the social work program."

Gianni Sansone
Major: Social Work

"Social working in the schools focuses on family and children, focus on additional areas."

Abiodun Opeifa
Major: Graduate in Social Work

"I feel the Bachelor's in Computer Science could use a lot more hands-on instruction. As it is, I felt ill prepared for a position in my field with only bookwork experience."

Randy Blanchette
Major: Computer Science

Crossword & Sodoku found on page 8.
Crossword: solution found below

Across
1. Jurisprudence
2. Zealous
3. Lowest part of the musical range
4. One of the two ends of a magnet
5. Travel by horse
6. Nocturnal birds
7. Woody plant
8. One of the two ends of a magnet
9. Travel by horse
10. Egg-shaped
11. Nocturnal birds
12. Woody plant
13. Artery
14. Encounters
15. Counterweight used to calculate net weight
16. Detail
17. Be nosey
18. Musical composition
19. Prevaricator
20. In favor of
21. Merely
22. Type of wood
23. Root vegetable
24. Stringed instrument
25. To a greater extent
26. Fish
27. Used to control a horse
28. Any high mountain
29. Sensory organ
30. A flight maneuver
31. Root vegetable
32. Not in active use
33. Playthings
34. Money risked on a gamble
35. Facial expression
36. Lubricants
37. Press down tightly
38. Gardening tool
39. Metal-bearing mineral
40. The courage to carry on
41. Male offspring
42. Term of enlistment
43. The courage to carry on
44. Large coarse fern
45. Small amount of liquid food
46. Poke
47. At that time
48. Elks
49. Kind of overlap
50. Range
51. Range
52. Boundary
53. Short sleep
54. Kind of overlap
55. Gender Matters Conference
56. Goings-on at GSU
57. Undergraduate Open House
58. Spring Break
59. Spring Break
60. Spring Break
61. Spring Break
62. Spring Break
63. Spring Break
64. Spring Break
65. Spring Break
66. Spring Break
67. Spring Break
68. Spring Break
69. Spring Break
70. Spring Break
71. Spring Break
72. Spring Break

Down
1. Bring down
2. Back street
3. Compass direction
4. Prowess
5. Merit
6. Notions
7. Cervid
8. Constrictor
9. Obviate
10. Kind
11. Location
12. Ceremonial splendor
13. Water barrier
14. Carbon black
15. Pitcher
16. Athlete who plays for pay
17. Any high mountain
18. Spoil
19. Communication tool
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