Chat with the President

The budget impasse, campus activities and annex transformation discussed

By Kyle H. Horn
Editor in Chief

Students got the chance to ask the big questions and to tell their stories during the Chat with the President on Nov. 19. President Maimon hosted along with other key administrators including Provost Deborah Bordelon and Vice President of Student Affairs Aurelio Valente.

The first questions set the tone for the event noting a lack of activities and events on campus perceived by Prairie Place residents. “It looks like the tennis court isn’t being used,” said one student, “Why not put in a basketball hoop to help with student engagement?”

More than once the issue of activities and entertainment on campus was raised to which the President reminded students of the resources on campus provided by student and of the eighty plus student organizations. “There is always a way to get involved,” said Student Senate President Mychael Vanarsdale who continued by insisting that if a student is unsatisfied with the range of organizations available to them, to organize their own and pursue their interests with likeminded peers.

The topic continued to be brought to the table despite multiple responses. “Use your resources. This is not high school,” said senior student and former Hall Council member Felice Kimbrew. She continued by encouraging Prairie Place residents to take advantage of the programs run at Prairie Place and to get involved with organizations and events. Primarily, she insisted that students use their voice and speak up to let administration know what they want or need.

Continued on p.3

Terror attack in Paris leaves over 100 dead

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

On the night of Friday, November 13, six separate attacks were carried out across Paris.

President of France Francois Hollande was reportedly targeted during the first attack, which was at the Stade de France soccer stadium. Hollande was in attendance for that night’s game between France and Germany before his evacuation amid the attack.

The second attack occurred at the Eagles of Death Metal concert inside the Bataclan concert hall, where at least 80 people were killed. The four other attacks were at other locations in the 10th and 11th districts of Paris, where gunmen targeted bars and restaurants. Police said some attackers first sprayed cafes outside the venue with machinegun fire before continuing the assault inside the concert hall.

At least 129 people were killed and 352 were injured, according to ABC News. As reported by CNN, ISIS released a statement the following day claiming responsibility for the attacks.

In an audio statement released online in Arabic and French, the group said ISIS “soldiers” targeted the “capital of prostitution and obscenity.” The statement claimed the attack was the “first of the storm and a warning to those who wish to learn.”

While the city of Paris still mourns, the city underwent three days of a lockdown while identification of suspects became priority number one.

A day after the attacks, French jets were bombing the defacto ISIS capital of Raqqa, dropping 20 bombs targeting a terrorist training camp, a command center and a weapons warehouse, according to the French Defense Ministry.

Continued on p. 2
Welcome to the Amazon (jungle), we got everything you need

By Misturat Ganiyu
Assistant Editor

Earlier this month Amazon opened its first brick-and-mortar store in Seattle, Amazon Books, which is the name of the bookstore, sells goods according to its customer’s reviews, “popularity on Goodread, pre-orders and sales.” The books are priced the same as Amazon’s website.

Customers ask sales associates to look up books for them, or the customers can search for a book themselves. Similar to electronic stores, customers can try out Amazon tablet such as the Kindle and Amazon Echo, before heading to the checkout line.

“The iconic Amazon logo released in 2000. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.”

Amazon in Joliet

Amazon hopes to hire 100,000 seasonal workers during the holidays in its warehouse in Joliet, according to Business Insider.

Amazon’s warehouse in Joliet is the first for Illinois. The hiring process for seasonal workers via Integrity Staffing kicked off in October.

Since the tragedy, police have carried out 150 raids and arrested multitudes of people in a new crackdown.

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

“Bridge of Spies” opens by showcasing a dimly lit hotel where Rudolph Abel (Mark Rylance) is finding solace as he escapes the reality of government surveillance as he paints.

His room is searched amid suspicions that Abel is a Soviet spy as the Cold War progresses.

Upon Abel’s arrest, the firm led by James B. Donovan (Tom Hanks) is contacted and Donovan becomes entrusted with taking on Abel’s defense just to show he received a fair representation and due process.

Moreover, the U-2 spy plane piloted by Francis Gary Powers (Austin Stowell) is shot down over the Soviet Union, and he is held captive by the Soviets.

The more that Donovan attempts to seek justice for Abel, the more resistant his firm becomes.

Nonetheless, the fight rages on. Despite a guilty verdict on all counts, Abel is sentenced to 30 years as Donovan has convinced the judge to let Abel remain alive under the argument that he is a necessity for future trade if any U.S. airmen are captured by the Soviets.

Fate would have it that as soon as Donovan learns of the identical intertwining occurrence he foreshadowed, he is sent to Berlin, Germany to negotiate the release of powers in exchange for Abel.

Donovan proves himself to be the lawyer that could give Atticus Finch a fierce battle for the title of Lawyer of the Century when he does one better by also negotiating the release of German economics student Frederic Pryor, who is charged with being a Communist.

Although the beginning was slow in pace, director Steven Spielberg offers beautiful cinematography of New York, Berlin, and Poland and it is exquisitely done. The screenplay offers the charm of Cohen Brother darkness, not surprising since Joel and Ethan Cohen wrote the screenplay alongside Matt Charman.

Rylance’s Abel should get him a Best Supporting Actor Oscar in the future and Hanks is a master of his craft.

I recommend “Bridge of Spies” as it is a well rounded and well written historical drama. It also can be viewed as a great learning experience for those unfamiliar with events and attitudes during the Cold War era.

By Bob Meyers
Assistant Editor

French authorities say Abdelhamid Abaaoud was identified as the suspected “mastermind” of the Paris attacks. On Wednesday, Nov. 18 French police and anti-terrorism units raided his apartment in St. Denis and killed Abaaoud in a gunfight where 5,000 bullets were fired according to the New York Times.

Abaaoud was from the Brussels neighborhood of Molenbeek, the same neighborhood in Belgium home to at least one of the Paris suicide bombers.

Abaaoud was previously linked to smaller terror plots in Europe, and after an attack that killed two policemen in January, he told an ISIS magazine he was able to escape capture and slip into Syria.

Authorities have indicated they suspect at least 10 people, including seven suicide bombers, had direct involvement in the attacks. Since the tragedy, police have carried out 150 raids and arrested multitudes of people in a new crackdown.

French policy expert and Assistant Professor in the Public Policy and Political Science Political and Justice Studies Program Khalid Marrar called the Paris attacks a “tragedy professionally planned and executed with terrifying precision, leaving little doubt of Parisian and international links” and says it points to “catastrophic failures of French and American intelligence and claims that “Western officials had advance warning through ample signs and chatter from both sides of the Mediterranean.”

Marrar additionally says that “the fall of Sinjar to Kurds under coalition air cover and ground support contributing factors as was the killing of terrorist Muhammad Jassim Abdalkarim aka Jihadi John.” Marrar goes on to suggest that “Monsieur Hollande and other presidential comments need much more substance and a bit of chutzpah to allay a terrified public opposed to French role in NATO war effort against ISIS.”

The United States of America and the Soviet Union square off with political tension in “Bridge of Spies. Photos by Wikimedia.”

The PHOENIX is published twenty four times annually. We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the GSU community. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership. All submissions must be credited, and include the submittor’s full name, graduate status, and field of study.

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He was breathing deeply. An even, a gentle snuffling of air through his nose, but gradually as he rose from the nightmare, awareness grabbed hold of his consciousness. It became a wheezing and whining sound interspersed with violent trembling of the body.

There was light from the sun through a little crack from the window. The joy of his heart began to rejoice; quite suddenly, his smile turned into something more blurred. The emotions flowing through his face could be described as shock and pain. There was no sound, nor was there anything flying the air... only the dark wet spot on the side of his arm gushing blood and the soft shiver of the earth as he hit it. Falling.

He could feel a searing pain where his heart would have been. His face felt terribly wet, as though he were standing in a blowing gale. He didn’t do anything except dropped his head low and let the tears flow. “Nothing would ever be the same again.” Keith thought to himself. It was just silence. The quietness rang in his ear. The air was thin, too thin to call out for help.

After a few minutes of huffing and puffing, a pain started up. Keith felt distinctly short of breath, despite being generally quite fit. The pain was like a stitch in his side, but in his neck, and he was not getting full breaths. He realized he was barely using his diaphragm to breathe, and so his scalene worked overtime to make up the difference, but it was hurting and failing. The tone of his breathing deepened but took on sounds that were unbearable to hear. A rasping, scraping, spluttering and ragged tortured noise, shallow and rapid, lips trembling with each outlet of air, the intake fluttering as it struggled to infiltrate his constricted throat and feed the heaving lungs and palpitating heart.

The heartbeat of a fading ripple, in water was leaving too soon. Two voices in the background talked to each other. Keith couldn’t name them. He tried to cry out for their help, but he laid there, with his mouth open hoping a sound will come out.

“Hey, I got your call. I came as fast as I could. You said you found your brother, Keith. I don’t know what’s going on, but I have a feeling you must have done something wrong. I’m not going to leave till you tell me something. By the way, why is their blood on your hands and shoulder?” said Peter towards Nicole.
Student protests at University of Missouri

By Bob Meyers
Staff Writer

University of Missouri president Timothy Wolfe resigned November 9 as pressure mounted from protests over the response, or lack thereof, to racial tensions and related concerns on university campus.

As reported by the New York Times, Wolfe said, “The frustration and anger that I see is clear, real, and I don’t doubt it for a second. Please, please, use this resignation to heal, not to hate, and let’s move on together for a brighter tomorrow.”

As a result of what is described as blatant and ongoing racism on campus, Jonathan Butler, a Missouri student, had proclaimed that he would embark on a hunger strike until Wolfe resigned. This prompted fierce protests from activists throughout the school that came to a head when the University of Missouri football team refused to play as a gesture of solidarity with Butler as well as the activists.

Wolfe’s resignation was effective immediately. In his parting words, again reported by the New York Times, Wolfe said, “This is not, I repeat, not, how change should come about,” Wolfe said, adding that change comes from listening to others. “I take full responsibility for the inaction, not, how change should come about,” Wolfe said, adding that change comes from listening to others. “I take full responsibility for the inaction, and I take full responsibility for the frustration that has occurred.”

University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin also resigned. Loftin’s resignation takes effect January 1.

Since the events at Missou, several student activists at colleges all over the country are protesting and embracing themselves with the hashtag #BlackOnCampus as an expression of solidarity with Missouri students at the heart of the activism that inspired them.

In response to questions revolving around what her reaction is to the Missou situation as well as what would be done if something similar were to transpire here on campus, GSU’s Director of Communications and Marketing Keisha Tyson said, “Governors State University champions openness, innovation and diversity. We have students of every age and background who come here for a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree to advance their position in life, and we are here to help by creating an environment that supports learning and individual growth.

The university is committed to excellence and diversity and as a community we strive daily to maintain open dialogue with its students, staff, and faculty.”

Foreign students share their stories

By Misturat Ganiyu
Assistant Editor

On Nov. 19th of this year, Student Life Around the Globe event took place in Engbretson Hall. This event centered on a panel of international students: Ebenezer Okrah from Ghana, Keerthi Sunkara from India and Ammanuel Ayalew from Ethiopia, at the same time, International Educator Dr. Zinta Konrad led the dialogue.

Konrad started the discussion by asking each student about his or her first impression of America. “I thought everything is suppose to be glittering gold,” said Okrah as a response to the question. “I saw people on the street begging and I was so surprised.”

“I was expecting people to stare at me,” Sunkara said. She noted that in India foreigners receive stares from residents. Konrad then asked the panelists to tell the audience the worst comments or questions people had asked or said about their country. Their responses varied.

Ayalew mentioned how the media muddles consumers’ interpretation of Africa but people are using this very platform to highlight Africa’s beauty. He suggested the audience search the hashtag “The Africa the media never shows you” on Twitter. This hashtag is used to share with followers’ beautiful images regarding the continent and its culture. After a question about the students “biggest obstacle” in living in a foreign country, Konrad redirected the conversation into religion, which she noted, clearly excited the students.

The rest of the discussions elaborated on topics such as gender difference between the students’ mother country and America, dating and marriage.

Dr. Zinta Konrad created this premier program “to create awareness of various cultures” said GSU’s Study Abroad Coordinator Amy Schoenberg.

This event was a section of a larger program at GSU titled International Education Week. Between Nov. 16 and Nov. 20, the Office of International Services hosted numerous events throughout the campus that celebrates “the importance of international education in the United States.”

“The best thing you can do, make friends with international students—invite them to your house. There are international students clubs on campus,” said Konrad. “I’m sure that in the cafeteria you have groups of students who from one culture join and you might feel a little odd in terms of joining them but once you break through that level of discomfort, they’ll take you in and share their culture with you.”
By Andrew Kriz

Illinois was ranked 13th in a 2015 study by The Center of Public Integrity that reviewed government transparency and accountability. The report listed that Illinois’ lack of transparency, access to information and shady ethics are all negatives that knocked the state down two spots.

An ongoing investigation of Phyllis Wise, the former chancellor of the University of Illinois, reveals that she and university officials used private emails to avoid Freedom of Information Requests and to discuss the controversial promotion of a professor who made racist comments. Due to Illinois having no laws to enforce receiving copies of the private emails for the investigation, Illinois’ transparency took a major hit. Also, outside of a lawsuit there are no penalties for organizations denying requests for public information and any reason can block a request according to the study.

Another major blow to the state’s ranking was the lack of a state budget after four months. What salvaged that category was that busses still ran, bills were being paid and the government is still operational despite not having a budget on the records. What boosted Illinois was ranking first in procurement, the process of the government posting bids for projects and making them public knowledge while enforcing laws that prohibit businesses who were found guilty of bribery from participating in bids for work. Illinois’ second best category was the State Pension Fund Management and making sure all reported pension numbers are accurate and fall within the guidelines of the law.

Not passing but not failing, Illinois ranked 13th with D grade in state integrity ratings.

Second time is not always a charm, Jaguars fall to Eagles in final rematch

By Andrew Kriz

The 18th ranked Robert Morris Eagles (3-2) dispatched the Governors State University Jaguars (0-7) 95-54 on Saturday, Nov 14.

In a rematch against the Eagles, this second matchup would also be the last time these two teams tipped off against one another. In the first game, the Eagles took an 81-54 decision.

This time around the Jaguars kept the game within reach trailing 24-17 at the end of the first period. To start off the second period, the Jaguars scored four points to bring the game within three but the Eagles went on a seven point streak to go up 31-21 with 7:59 remaining until half.

Jaffyn Norris for the Trojans added four points on an 8-0 scoring run that buried the Jaguars in the second and a three point shot from Sabrina Trujillo before the buzzer had the Eagles soaring high with a 48-30 lead.

From there, the Eagles took a commanding position dropping 31 points in the third and limiting the Jaguars to 16 points with the scoreboard reading 79-46 in favor of Robert Morris.

The final period saw only eight points from the Jaguars while the Eagles let off the gas and scored 16 points.

Guard Niaha Williams of the Jaguars had 11 points and was four rebounds shy of a double-double. Center Marlynda Bishop had eight points and nine rebounds, falling ever so short of a double-double.

For Robert Morris, Norris had a career high 25 points and eight rebounds. Senior Megan Majors had 16 points and seven rebounds while junior Shalay Stevens had 12 points and nine rebounds.

The Jaguars will travel to Forest City, Iowa to participate in the Waldorf College Tournament on Friday, Nov. 27.

Jaguars blocked by Trojans

By Andrew Kriz

The Taylor University Trojans (3-2) claimed another victim as they improved to 10-straight wins over non-league opponents since 2014 as they beat the Governors State University Jaguars (1-8) 94-55 on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Four other Trojans piled on to the score sheet with double-digit point totals. Governors State fell flat in the shooting department, going 20-62 (32.3%) in field goals and 1-9 (11.1%) from the three.

Governors State did manage to outrebound the Trojans 37-27 but the buckets were just not there for the team. The Trojans piling on 17 turnovers on top of the low shooting percentage did not help their cause as the Trojans were lukewarm in scoring, going 30-60 in two point plays.

Freshman Deon Thomas had the best performance for the Jaguars with 12 points and seven rebounds.
Following the 2016 campaign trail

The Republican campaign

By Andrew Kriz
Intern Reporter

The attacks in Paris, France on Friday further fueled Trump’s opposition to allowing Syrian refugees into the U.S. Trump told CNN, “we have no idea who these people are, we are the worst when it comes to paperwork. This could be one of the great Trojan horses.” For weeks, Trump has said the U.S. should not accept refugees and now with six of the suspects in the Paris attacks having ties to Syria (and another having entered Europe with refugees), Trump’s concerns have some validation. He also had harsh words for German Chancellor Angela Merkel who has refused to budge on closing the German borders despite people rioting to forbid Syrians from staying in the country.

Polls: According to the HuffingPost, Trump jumped back ahead into first place at 27 percent.

Ben Carson

According to NBC, Carson told his supporters that he believes the United States should increase military action in Syria against ISIS since it is an “existential threat” to America and he also said that al Qaeda was not, “Saddam and al Qaeda at the time were not an existential threat to us. The global jihad movement is. They want to destroy us and everything that has to do with us.” Carson said.

Polls: Carson dropped four percent to 20 percent and is now back in second place.

Jeb Bush

Bush is a strong supporter of declaring war on ISIS, claiming that the coalition the size of Indiana is gaining strength and is a global problem. “You take it to you in Syria and Iraq,” Bush said Sunday on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” “You destroy ISIS,” he continued. “And then you build a coalition to replace this radical Islamic terrorist threat to our country and to Europe and to the region with something that is more peace-loving.”

Polls: Despite gaining some ground last week, Bush has fallen to fifth at 6.5 percent.

Marco Rubio

Rubio changed his mind on allowing Syrian refugees into the United States after the terror attacks in Paris and has closed off his state to accepting any refugees. Rubio told the Guardina, “It’s not that I don’t want to, we just can’t. You can have a thousand people come in and 999 of them are just poor people fleeing oppression and violence,” Rubio said. “But one of them is an Isis fighter – if that’s the case, you have a problem.

Polls: Rubio’s position has not changed and is still in third at 13 percent.

Russian troops in Syria, Western powers talk coalition and France begins bombings

By Andrew Kriz
Intern Reporter

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The Democratic campaign

By Misturat Ganiyu
Assistant Editor

Democratic Debate

On Nov. 13, CBS News hosted the second of a pair of Democratic Presidential debate in Des Moines, Iowa along with CBS Des Moines affiliate, KCCI, the Des Moines Register.

This time around, three candidates participated in the debate: Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders, and Former Gov. Martin O’Malley.

Face of the Nation anchor John Dickerson moderated the debate while CBS news Congressional Correspondent Nancy Cordes, KCCI anchor Kevin Cooney, and Des Moines Register political columnist Kathie Obradovich asked the candidates questions from the viewers. Around 8.5 million viewers watched this Democratic debate, as per CBS News.

Each candidate also gave a remark about the recent Paris attacks.

Sanders: Well, John, let me concur with you and with all Americans who are shocked and disgusted by what we saw in Paris yesterday. Together, leading the world this country will rid our planet of this war and is the worst when it comes to the conditions of armed conflict.

Clinton: “Well, our prayers are with the people of France tonight. But, that is not enough…”

O’Malley: “…And—and our hearts go out and our prayers go out to them we must remember this, that this isn’t a new face of conflict and warfare, not in the 20th century but the new face of warfare in the 21st century. And there is no nation on the planet better able to adapt to this change than our nation.”

Wall Street was the “most mentioned topic” between the three candidates. Sanders called out Clinton for accepting donations from Wall Street investors.

“I have never heard a candidate, never, who’s received huge amounts of money from oil, from coal, from Wall Street, from the prison industrial complex, not one candidate, go, “Oh, these—these campaign contributions will not influence me. I’m going to be independent.” Now, why do they make millions of campaign contributions? They expect to get something. Everybody knows that,” Sanders said

Clinton noted that she helped rebuild Wall Street after the 9/11 attack. In relation to Wall Street, she is against reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act. “I just don’t think it will get the job done.”

Some other topic that were discussed were whether the candidates would accept Syrian refugees into the US.

Cruz also said that Christians entering the Middle East. Cruz also said that Christians entering Europe with refugees), six of the suspects in the Paris attacks have been supporting pro-government forces in Syria with information provided by the United States as a way to retaliate against the factious’ attacks against the faction’s attacks

The hesitance to send in ground forces is due to the presence of Russian forces and planes in the area and a concern that Turkish forces could be caught in attacks when conducting missions to key targets. This could be caught in attacks when conducting missions to key targets.

Polls: According to RealClearPolitics polling average of the Democratic Presidential Nomination, Clinton holds 55.4 percent.

Candidate: Hillary Clinton

Polls: Clinton held 55.4 percent of the public vote among the Democratic Presidential candidates as per RealClearPolitics.

Candidate: Martin O’Malley

Polls: O’Malley stands last among the democratic presidential candidates with 3.4 percent of the public vote, according to RealClearPolitics.
Last year many GSU students lost thousands of dollars in free money for college because they didn’t fill out their FAFSA.

Don’t wait. Fill out your FAFSA in January.

www.fafsa.gov
GSU Federal School code 009145