



# The GW Hatchet

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER • WWW.GWHATCHET.COM

VOL. 98 No. 37

SERVING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SINCE 1904

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2002

## CLLC informs campus late

by Amanda Mantone and Russ Rizzo  
Hatchet Staff Writers

GW housing officials said they were aware in October of the University's decision to require sophomores to live on campus with a large number of possible exceptions, but students found out at least two months later. RHA President Noel Frame said she knew in December about the new requirement but did not know many students would be excluded until she came back from winter break.

In order to comply with a Board of Zoning Adjustment ruling passed in March, the University will require all sophomores to live on campus next year. But GW also created a special exception for students that allows them exemption for any reason, including financial difficulties, allergies or religious conflicts.

Jan-Mitchell Sherrill, associate dean of students, said he was told

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Chris Zarconi/Hatchet staff photographer

Construction workers strive to complete work on the new Elliott School building before next fall, when 200 students will move in.

## Elliott School faces protest

by Elizabeth Crawford  
Hatchet Reporter

As Foggy Bottom residents continue a fight that could prevent GW from using the new Elliott School of International Affairs building in the fall, worries about when and how much of the facility will be finished by the start of the school year are surfacing.

Housing officials, including Associate Dean of Students Jan-Mitchell Sherrill, are planning this year's spring lottery on the assumption that the nearly 200 beds in the Elliott School site will be ready for students in August and say GW is ahead of schedule on the construction. But at least one Elliott School official is not convinced.

"The builders are claiming they are right on schedule, but I am always a little cynical, and I don't know if it will really be done," said Harvey Feigenbaum, associate dean of the Elliott School.

Dean of Students Linda Donnell said finishing the residential portion is the first priority.

"With construction, there are factors that might impede it from being completed on time, such as construction and weather, but I know the residence part will be open," she said.

The 12-story building at 1957 E St. will include eight levels of academic facilities and a residence hall,

as well as a three-level, 200 space underground parking garage.

But even if GW breaks with past trends – Somers Hall at the Mount Vernon Campus, the Media and Public Affairs building and the Health and Wellness Center all opened late last year – neighborhood objection could force the project to a standstill.

At a Zoning Commission hearing Thursday night, GW officials faced off with local Advisory Neighborhood Commission members for the second session in two months, offering a number of concessions to reach a compromise with neighbors.

The Zoning Commission, which gives the green light for construction in the city, will decide March 11 whether GW can use the property, including the new upper-classman residence hall. The vote comes three weeks after the housing lottery for upperclassmen.

"I am hoping the zoning commissioners and various other commissioners will see what, to me, is the point for GW, and that's to build and use this property for a number of positive reasons," GW Senior Counsel Charles Barber said.

In a worst-case scenario, Barber said, the commission could rule that GW is violating the original building permit, making the building

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## Freshmen set to revive Sigma Alpha Mu

by Heather Sala  
Senior Staff Writer

A group of 25 GW freshmen are planning to bring the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity back to the University this spring regardless of whether they receive University and Interfraternity Council recognition. The historically Jewish fraternity has had two previous stays at GW and left for the last time

due to a lack of interest, Sigma Alpha Mu Regional Governor Ben Pearlman said.

The colony became the first Sigma Alpha Mu pledge class in December and hope to receive a charter.

Pearlman and Sigma Alpha Mu Field Representative Jason Stone have advised the 25 newly inducted members of Sigma Alpha Mu since October 2001, when the

group approached the fraternity.

"If they want to get chartered sooner, they have to show that they're able to recruit and become part of the campus community," Pearlman said, who also advises chapters at American University and the universities of Maryland and Virginia.

Pearlman said Sigma Alpha Mu originally colonized at GW in the 1970s and went unrecognized

in the early 1990s. The fraternity then had a second quick stint as they returned to GW in 1996 before disbanding in 1999.

"The members of Sammy in 1999 didn't feel like they were able to do their jobs well and basically just resigned," said freshman Scott Silver, prior of the Sigma Alpha Mu GW colony.

The group of freshmen said they approached Sigma Alpha Mu

because they had a number of things in common and were dissatisfied with the other fraternity options available on campus.

"We think that everybody should be able to find a fraternity that fits them. When we were looking there was no such fraternity for people like us," Silver said. "That's why we decided to start

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Brandon Perlman/Hatchet staff photographer

### WAXING POETIC

Folk singer Ani DiFranco sings, shares poetry for womens' rights Saturday night in Lisner Auditorium. See story, p. 2

## GW students paint school

### Volunteers renovate D.C. high school on MLK Day

by Mira Katz  
Hatchet Staff Writer

More than 400 students and community members came together Monday to commemorate Martin Luther King Day by painting Eastern High School in Northeast D.C.

More than 150 GW students – the largest group at the event – participated with students from Georgetown and Howard universities and volunteers from D.C. CARES and the D.C. Jewish Community Center, among others.

Richard Feldman, Director of D.C. JCC Community Service Department, said he chose the site for the project, basing his decision on need and the ability to have a large effect in a short time period.

"With energy conservation, freshly painted hallways will make the school much brighter," Feldman said. "D.C. does not have the budget to paint its schools."

Last year, the MLK Day project painted the first two

floors of Eastern High School with funds from the D.C. government. Feldman said that D.C. did not budget for the project this year and the project worked from funds donated by the National Service Coalition.

The larger than expected group took about five hours to paint the third and fourth floors of the building.

National Service Coalition members Ronda Taylor and Sivhan Dugan said that they had 150 more people than they expected participate in painting two floors of Eastern High School.

"We are thrilled with the turnout," Taylor said.

Senior Kendra Dean said she was excited to participate in the project.

"It feels great to give back," she said. "Every little bit counts."

Sophomore Patrice McMillan, a Pennsylvania House community facilitator, brought seven of her residents to paint.

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