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Michael Itti/photo editor

President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg watches as U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson (l.) presents a \$1.1 billion check to D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams at the GW Hospital.

D.C. gets anti-terror aid

by Kate Stepan
Senior News Editor

Speaking at the GW Hospital Thursday, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced an increase in \$1.1 billion in federal funds to help states become better prepared for bioterrorism.

"This is the largest one-time investment in national public health ever," Thompson said, drawing applause.

Local and national media crowded the lobby for Thompson's speech, after which he presented D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams with the District's \$12 million cut of the

government money.

"Since September 11, we have made emergency preparedness our first priority," Thompson said.

He recognized the GW Hospital, which created the first decontamination to respond to biomedical attacks.

"GW has truly been on the edge of emergency response planning," Thompson said.

He explained that 20 percent of the funding was sent Thursday to state governors, with special appropriations for Los Angeles, D.C., Chicago and New York City. The rest will be doled out after each state and city submits a comprehensive plan, endorsed by the

state governor, to respond to bioterrorism or other outbreaks of infectious disease.

Thompson said the plans are due to HHS by March 15.

"We want a plan so the money is not wasted," he said.

The funds were carved out of a \$2.9 billion bioterrorism appropriations bill that President George W. Bush signed into law Jan. 10.

Each state received a \$5 million base award, and the rest of the funding is determined by population.

Nationwide, Thompson said the money will purchase more

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GW gets MCI as grad backup

by Russ Rizzo
Editor in Chief

This year's graduation will take place on the Ellipse as it has since 1992, and for the first time the MCI Center will be sitting ready if the outdoor event is canceled because of security risks or bad weather.

The University finalized the deal with the MCI Center Thursday, offering to pay \$40,000 for the option of moving the event to the Washington Wizards' home as late as May 19, the day of the ceremony. This is the first year GW will have a back-up plan to accommodate all guests.

Vice President for Communications Mike Freedman said he put in a request for the MCI Center the day after last year's ceremony, which came close to cancellation because of rain.

"I think it's the best of both worlds," said Student Association President Roger Kapoor, who negotiated with administrators to keep the Ellipse ceremony. "For the first time we can say that every family relative will have a seat to see their son or daughter graduate."

Kapoor said political and economic issues led some GW officials to support making the MCI

Center the primary graduation site.

A 1998 University report on Commencement reads: "The benefits of the MCI Center are so compelling that they bear repeating." Benefits include a covered space, better views, state-of-the-art sound and video equipment, ample restrooms and parking, a nearby Metro stop and "excellent security arrangements" that the Ellipse does not offer, according to the report.

Cost is another factor motivating supporters of the MCI Center. The 1997 Commencement cost \$580,000 to put on, according to the report.

But Freedman said students have consistently indicated that they do not want any other graduation site.

"It was very clear that students did want to stay on the Ellipse," he said. "On a beautiful day it's the most wonderful thing in the world."

An added concern this year is security, as the nation remains on edge after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the spread of anthrax. Because more attacks are possible, Freedman said GW is prepared to move from the open-air site if asked.

See MCI, p. 11

GW shows close links to Enron

by Patrick W. Higgins
Hatchet Staff Writer

Although several major news organizations have included a teaching stint at GW in former Enron CEO Kenneth Lay's background, no record of him as a professor exists at the University.

At least one GW alumna has authentic ties to the scandal. Leslie

Caldwell, who earned her law degree at GW, is lead prosecutor in charge of investigating the now defunct energy-trading giant.

Lay is reported to have been an associate economics professor at GW from 1969 to 1973, but the head of GW's economics department, Harry Watson, said he has

See LAW, p. 18

GW endowment drops

SELECTED SCHOOL ENDOWMENT CHANGES 2000-01 (IN %)

GW	-3.3
Georgetown	-8.0
Catholic	-0.4
Howard	+4.9
NYU	+8.5
BU	-27.2
Tulane	+0.4
U. Maryland	+1.6

by Joseph Pollak
and Russ Rizzo
Hatchet Staff Writers

In a year when university endowments dropped nationwide, GW fared better than most schools with similar sized portfolios. GW's 3.3 percent loss translates to a loss of about \$24.6 million in investments, which officials say will not affect operations.

From July 2000 to June 2001, GW gained ground on universities it competes with for applicants and fundraising dollars. The University's current \$713 million endowment is now larger than Georgetown University's, which lost 8 percent of its endowment, and Boston University's, the biggest loser percentage-wise of 610 universities studied by the National Association of College and University Business Offices.

According to the study reported in the Chronicle of Higher Education, BU lost a third of its endowment.

GW's large stake in real estate is one possible reason GW did better than most schools with at least \$500,000. Fifteen percent of GW's endowment is invested in real estate, compared to a national average of 2.5 percent. Forty-five percent is invested in stocks, 5 percent less than the national average.

GW's endowment drop will not impact students because the University does not draw significant operational funds from it, said Catherine Lynch, GW vice president for treasury management.

The University does contribute a portion of its earnings on investments to student life,

See UNIVERSITY, p. 10

Judge denies GW professor tenure

GW owes a former professor more than \$75,000 in damages for improperly denying him tenure but is not obligated to grant him the highest professorial level, the D.C. Court of Appeals ruled Thursday. The decision upholds an earlier ruling.

Former Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science assistant professor Apostolos Kakaes was hired in 1987 and on tenure track until 1993, when he was denied tenure, according to court records.

Proceedings in 1996 established that GW breached the Faculty Code by failing to give Kakaes timely notice that he would not receive tenure. He left to pursue business interests.

Kakaes appealed the ruling, claiming that the awarded damages are inadequate. Kakaes also argued GW should grant him tenure.

Judges found that the Faculty Code was breached but there is no remedy suggested in the code. According to GW rules, faculty members must be notified of tenure by June 30 of the year before their appointment expires.

Kakaes received an initial letter from former Vice President for Academic Affairs Roderick French on June 28, 1993 denying tenure, but the court found it was not sufficient, according to court documents.

-Trevor Martin

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