



# The GW Hatchet

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Michael Itti/photo editor

Junior Faith Jensen attempts to open the door at the Marvin Center elevator located on the ground level to gain access to the building. The elevator was out of service for months, she says.

## GW's disabled denied access

by Rachel Gould and Kate Stepan Hatchet Reporters

Junior Faith Jensen presses the button for the elevator outside the ground level of the Marvin Center. Unable to open the door, she turns in her wheelchair and leaves.

Jensen says her next move is usually a phone call to Marvin Center operations. She talks to Mike Brown, the building's maintenance director, or another employee who tells her the door is being fixed. Construction workers use the elevator to transport supplies for ongoing Marvin Center renovations, she is told, causing it to break down by damaging it with building materials or equipment.

Jensen then waits for someone to let her into the elevator from the inside, or she does not enter. If she does make it up to the platform outside J Street, she says she often finds the button to open the automatic door is also broken.

Jensen recounts the preceding events like she would describe any normal day, but a potentially

life-threatening problem arose when she was in the Marvin Center during a fire alarm about two weeks ago. Jensen said people around her were unsure how to get her out of the building. She was eventually removed from her wheelchair and carried into the stairwell. Elevators cannot be used during a fire, and there was no alternate method of removing disabled students from University buildings.

Jensen is one of about 23 physically disabled GW students who work with Disability Support Services to get classes and housing in accessible buildings.

While Jensen said she is content at GW, she said the University has "done a very minimal amount" to accommodate students who need special access.

"They've done just as much as they have to," she said.

Jensen said the Marvin Center elevator door has been broken since the end of last semester. The door worked when tested Wednesday.

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## Admission rate improves

### GW predicts 'gentle landing' to 2,250 enrolled freshmen

by Trevor Martin News Assistant

Preliminary admissions numbers indicate the University accepted about 1,000 fewer students this year than last year and could end up with an acceptance rate of about 40 percent – a 10 percent drop from last year.

With a housing crunch fresh on his mind from an unexpectedly large freshman class this year, Robert Chernak, vice president of Student and Academic Support Services, said GW is being "conservative" with admissions and anticipates a class of 2,250 students.

"The acceptance rate is going to be less than last year," Chernak said, noting GW has not taken students from the waiting list yet.

Director of Admissions Kathryn Napper said in an e-mail that although the admissions

process has not ended, the University has accepted 6,645, down from 7,740 acceptances last year.

GW received about 17,000 applications this year, about 2,000 more than last year, and has accepted about 39 percent of them so far.

Napper said final numbers of students on the waiting list are not available but that it has about 400 more students than last year.

If GW accepts no more students and gets the class size it anticipates, the yield will be 34 percent, almost exactly the same as last year's rate.

Chernak anticipates that about 2,350 students will send in deposits by early May.

"If we are lucky we will be in the neighborhood of 2,350 to 2,400 after the first week in May," Chernak said. "We will probably lose 5 percent of that during the

summer and need to take about 75 from the wait list to come in at 2,250."

Chernak said he expects the University to come in for a "nice, gentle landing of 2,250 freshmen."

"We were conservative in our acceptances," Chernak said. "The overall quality of the people we accepted was better."

Expecting a yield below 30 percent last year, GW got about 450 extra freshmen. The unanticipated freshmen led to long-term leases with the St. James Suites hotel and Pennsylvania House.

The Columbian School of Arts and Sciences also spent an extra \$1 million to hire an extra full-time professional faculty adviser and improve other services to accommodate the unusually large class.

Send comments to [tmartin@gwhatchet.com](mailto:tmartin@gwhatchet.com)

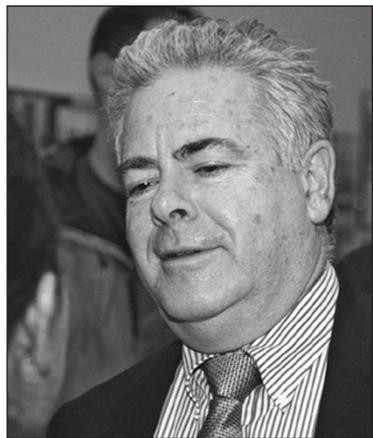
## Sneh speaks on Mideast peace

by Arianna Gleckel Hatchet Reporter

Israeli Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh addressed Israel's agenda of eliminating terrorism and reaching peace at the GW Hillel Tuesday night in front of 200 students.

Sneh, a member of the Labor Party, said he hopes Secretary of State Colin Powell can convince Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to accept American proposals of a cease-fire and help the two sides reach an agreement. Powell, who is set to arrive in Israel Thursday, is scheduled to meet with Arafat at his compound at Ramallah in the West Bank Saturday.

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Andrew Snow/photo assistant

Israeli Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh discussed eliminating terrorism with students at the Hillel Tuesday.

## SA disputes drug question

by Joe Gidjunis Senior Staff Writer

GW students are joining others around the nation in fighting a law that strips them of financial aid for past or current drug offenses.

Question 35 on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form asks students if they have been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs while over the age of 18 (tobacco and alcohol are excluded). If they leave it blank, aid is delayed. If they have been convicted, aid can be permanently restricted.

On Tuesday the Student Association joined more than 100 student governments around the nation in signing a petition encouraging Congress to remove the question because it unfairly denies

students needed funds.

"This law unlike any other law pulls students out of the classroom for minor mistakes," said junior Sam Mcree, president of Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, at the SA meeting. "This law is preventing people from bettering themselves."

During former President Bill Clinton's administration, the question was more vague and students often left it blank, leading financial aid offices to assume the student had no conviction, said Daniel Small, director of student financial assistance at GW. But the Bush administration has taken a stiffer policy on the question, forcing students to answer yes or no.

The online FAFSA form no longer allows students

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### B.E.T. announces GW Busta Rhymes concert

Although the Program Board has remained tight-lipped about this year's Spring Fling concert, a Black Entertainment Television broadcast Wednesday announced a Busta Rhymes show at GW that day, April 27.

Program Board organizers said they are securing street permits for H Street because the event falls during the law school's reading week, bumping it from the Quad.

PB Concerts Chair Josh Bhatti said GW is in the final stages of contracting a "hip-hop act with a wide appeal" but would not comment on who it is. He said GW officials will not allow PB to announce the act before a contract is finalized, which he expects by early next week.

Bhatti said PB had difficulty booking a rock act. The Roots played last year's Spring Fling, rapper Redman came last fall and Cypress Hill played in fall 2000.

Some students said they look forward to the concert. "I think Busta will be good for Spring Fling if he doesn't rock his new (music) and he goes old school," freshman Wes Davidson said.

—Kate Stepan and Josh Riezman

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