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GW officials weigh video surveillance

by Amanda Mantone
News Assistant

University Police and the Music Department agree on a plan to heighten security in the Academic Center basement, where more than \$20,000 in student instruments have been stolen since December.

While administrators said no plan has been finalized, Associate Vice President for Academic Planning Craig Linebaugh said "cost is not an issue" in the decision.

UPD's plan includes installing cameras and GWorld card readers.

"I am very pleased with this plan," Music Department Chair Laura Youens said. "I would like to see it implemented immediately."

University Police Department Director Dolores Stafford said she recommended installing cameras and GWorld card readers that could restrict access to the basement of the Academic Center to students taking music classes. Stafford estimated it would cost \$50,000 to install cameras.

"The Music Department or someone above them will have to find a way of funding it," Stafford said. "There is no money in the UPD budget to add security equipment. Funding determines when this goes into effect."

Linebaugh said he hopes to have new measures in place by fall.

Student desk employees on the first floor of the Academic Center currently check for GWorld cards before allowing access to the department after 11 p.m. weekdays and throughout the weekend. Stafford said the students will still man the desk next year.

Stafford said the cameras would record activity all day and would be checked daily. She said the GWorld card readers would not be turned on 24 hours a day, and their hours of operation will be determined by the Music Department.

"I think these improvements will deter people and stop theft," Youens said.

Linebaugh said GW may also consolidate the instrument storage area. Instrument lockers are currently located in several different hallways in the basement of the Academic Center.

"We want to keep (lockers) close to where the practice rooms are," he said. "We are looking at every option."

Linebaugh said UPD will determine the effectiveness of the cameras. He called the plan a "joint decision," saying he will consult Risk Management, the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences dean's

See SECURITY, p. 13



Andrew Snow/photo assistant

Rapper Busta Rhymes performs alongside Spliff Star for more than 1,500 students packing H Street Saturday for the largest Spring Fling ever.

Busta fires up H St.

by Tomoko Kawamura
Hatchet Reporter

The more than 1,500 students gathered on H Street Saturday afternoon for Spring Fling were all "niggas," according to performer Busta Rhymes, who rapped for longer than an hour mixing in messages of love for all races.

Rhymes was a crowd-pleaser

as he quipped with students in the audience and acted out skits to show off his fast rapping style and reference the joys of drinking and smoking marijuana.

Students started to pack in front of the stage between the Academic Center and Gelman Library as early as 2:15 p.m. to get a good view of the Rhymes

See SPRING, p. 6

GW ups Elliott ante

by Trevor Martin
News Assistant

The University responded to Zoning Commission requests last week by putting dollar figures and timeframes on offers for final approval of the new Elliott School project. Community members said the proposal is still unsubstantial. They have until May 7 to officially respond.

The Zoning Commission will rule on the package May 13.

University General Counsel Charles Barber said the revised package includes more detailed language which "makes the conditions of the agreement more enforceable."

The current amenities include:

- Offering space in the Hall on Virginia Avenue for Scholl's Cafeteria and \$750,000 in financial assistance.
- 5,000 square feet of retail space in the new building and Mitchell Hall.
- \$10,000 for a traffic light at 21st and F streets.

The proposal previously failed to state how much and where retail space would be provided and how much the traffic light would cost. Many of the amenities provide a second option if they are not met within a year.

Other measures include additional University Police patrols, a graduate student to serve as a librarian, who will get free tuition and boarding, in the West End Public Library and 20 free "Crossfire" tickets for each show for the neighborhood.

"Most of the task we had was to present (the amenities) in detail where they could be enforced as conditions of the zoning order," Barber said.

Barber cited the condition that binds the University to allow students and faculty from the School Without Walls to take free GW classes.

"We added that the School Without Walls faculty and students use 120 courses per year; it was something that was specifically requested," he said.

Barber said many of the additions came from a discussion with the West End Citizens Association, a local advocacy group.

"We feel there were a substantial set of benefits added from that discussion, like the West End Public Library," Barber said.

WECA Chairwoman Barbara Kahlow declined to comment but said she is submitting a statement to the Zoning Commission May 7.

Barber said another, larger residential association in Foggy Bottom, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, has a "broader set of concerns" with the new building.

"It's unfortunate that they have always been on the sidelines and have never come forward to negotiate," Barber said.

He said the ANC is "out of step" with the

See GW, p. 12

Leaders win top honors

Students take home Excellence awards for service

by Carrie Gilman
Hatchet Reporter

About 400 students, faculty and staff members gathered at the 17th annual Excellence in Student Life Awards Thursday night at the Smith Center to honor student leaders and organizations.

"Tonight celebrates a very important component of our University community," President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said in his welcoming address. He said GW is not exclusively committed to classroom achievements and strongly believes in honoring activities outside the classroom.

Vice President of Student and Academic Support Services Robert

Chernak presented the highest leadership awards, the Baer Award for Individual Excellence, to six students.

"These students are being recognized for their individual excellence. Their contributions to student life transcend the activities of the organizations with which they are involved," said Barbara Luchs, daughter of David A. Baer, for whom the award is named.

The six winners of the Baer award were junior Joshua Hiscock and seniors Benjamin Getto, Vanita Jindal, Roger Kapoor, Matt Kernkraut and Lee Lubarsky.

"This is a huge honor because it is celebrating overall excellence. It is nice to join in celebration with

others for everyone's accomplishments this year," said Kernkraut, a Class Council member and former Colonial Inauguration cabinet member.

Awards presented to students and organizations included the Outstanding Community Service award to senior Andrea Laepple for the Newswatch Television Program and the Joint Committee of Faculty and Students Scholarship for Student Leadership and Development Award to seven students, including sophomore Nell McGarity, editor in chief of the GW Blitz

JCFS Scholarship winners

See SIX, p. 12



Brandon Perlman/Hatchet photographer

NOT JUST A GIRL
No Doubt lead singer Gwen Stefani performs for a sold-out Smith Center audience of fawning teeny boppers and GW students Friday night.

INSIDE

6 NEWS
Student bikers prepare to go cross-country



8 FEATURES
Non-athletes excel off the field



10 ARTS
Hatchet gets Woody

14 SPORTS
Baseball preps for first place rubber match