



The GW Hatchet

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER • WWW.GWHATCHET.COM

VOL. 99 No. 8

SERVING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SINCE 1904

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Intruder enters City Hall

■ UPD takes two hours to respond, students say

by Julie Gordon
University Editor

Three City Hall residents said University Police failed to respond to phone calls for almost two hours early Tuesday morning after a friend walked into their room to find an intruder. The residents said their requests for immediate UPD action were initially disregarded, but officers were finally sent to the location after a third phone call.

"The dispatcher (who answered the telephone) made a mistake" and UPD did not "dispatch (an officer) on the first call," said UPD Police Chief Dolores Stafford.

She also said corrective action was taken against the dispatcher for his lack of action.

Stafford said six officers were sent to the scene. She said the man, whose name is being withheld, was apprehended at 2:45 a.m., about 30 minutes after the residents said UPD arrived at City Hall. Stafford said the man is barred from campus, and he will be arrested for trespassing if seen on campus again.

The black male is 5 feet, 6 inches tall, weighs 150 lbs. and has black hair and brown eyes, according to UPD. Residents said the man has a "very low voice."

Junior Nicole Kaplan, a resident of the 11th floor City Hall room, where the individual was found, called UPD's late response "unacceptable."

"I'm really disappointed with UPD," Kaplan said. "There was no reason why action shouldn't have

See POLICE, p. 10



Andrew Snow/photo editor

Democratic mayoral candidate Faith responds to questions at an SA debate Wednesday night.

Animated Dems debate

by Alex Kingsbury
Metro Editor

What began as a formal mayoral debate Wednesday night disintegrated into a political circus with the sitting mayor abandoning the forum early, one candidate talking on his cell phone and another mayoral hopeful singing her closing statement.

About 150 GW students were treated to the full flavor of the District's unique political culture at the Student Association-sponsored Democratic Mayoral Debate in the Marvin Center Betts Theater.

The debate was held in the closing days of the campaign with the primary set for next

Tuesday. The event featured the primary's two front runners, neither of which are officially on the ballot.

Mayor Anthony Williams, running as a write-in candidate, was on hand, though he left without explanation within the first half-hour of the two-hour debate. He was joined by five other mayoral candidates - Douglas Moore, James Clark, Willie F. Wilson, Osie Thorpe and the eccentric Faith, who goes by one name.

Though the event was designed to encourage students to become more involved with District politics, many who witnessed the fiasco of the debate were more put off than turned on to the mayoral race.

"I was very disappointed," senior Andrew Stone said. "It was disrespectful to the other panelists and to the audience when the mayor left without explanation."

The candidates answered questions posed by a panel of journalists including City Paper columnist Elissa Silverman, Hamil Harris from the Washington Post and Kate Stepan, editor in chief of the GW Hatchet. Questions ranged from "when did you last cry?" to asking what role the mayor and the city administration plays in the GW experience.

"We need to add to (GW) students' quality of life,"

See WILLIAMS, p. 11

SA loses \$50K

■ Officials can't explain shortfall in budget

by Joseph Gidjunis
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Association cannot account for more than \$50,000 of its budget after overdrawing its account last year, the SA announced Monday. The figure makes up more than one-eighth of their total budget and breaks down to \$3 per student based on the SA \$1-per-credit fee.

Senators and executive financial officials are baffled and unable to explain the missing funds.

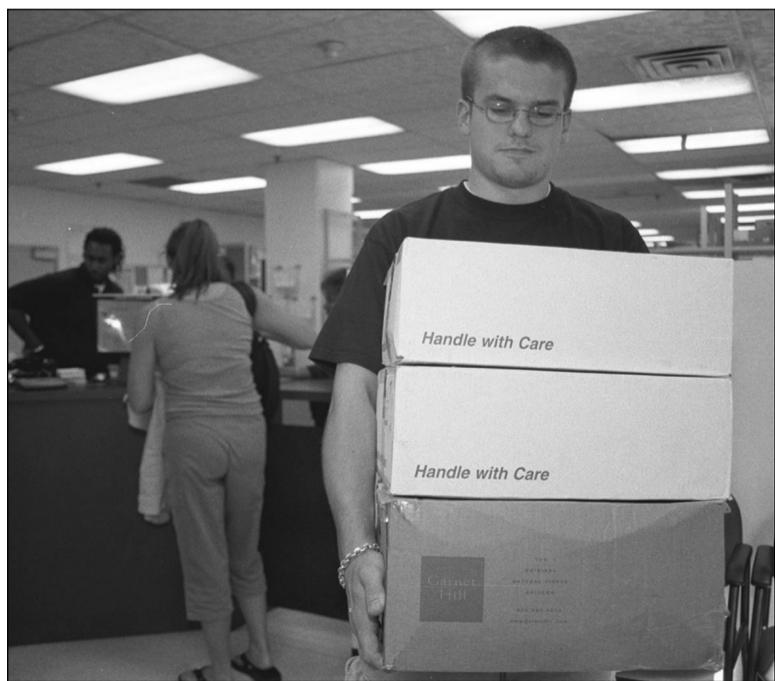
"We have some facts from the University, but we don't have enough to point any fingers," said Dan Moss, chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

At the end of the fiscal year, the SA claimed to have more than \$7,000 surplus, but University records showed a \$50,574 debt.

SA members said University accounting officials attribute the deficit to 17 student groups spending more money than the SA actually allocated. Members of the SA executive and legislative branches said University books are also missing transactions, claiming both sets of books are inaccurate.

To discover the cause of the problem, SA President Phil Robinson issued an executive order asking the University to audit the SA's financial records. He said only an audit will reveal the extent of the errors. The University has not yet responded

See SA, p. 4



Brandon Perlman/Hatchet photographer

Freshman Ben Traverse picks up packages at 2025 F St. Despite student complaints, officials say system is running smoothly.

Packing officials fix flaws

■ Students complain about notification problems, location

by Artemy Kalinovsky
Hatchet Staff Writer

Despite student complaints about the inconvenience of the new package pickup system and a lack of e-mail notification, mail services officials said the facility at 2025 F St. is running "smoothly."

A "handful" of students told package services officials they did not receive e-mail notification of package arrival last week, but the problem has been corrected, said Nancy Haaga, director of Auxiliary Services.

"We've had our system technician diagnose and fix the problem," Haaga said. "All students should receive the e-mail notifica-

tion (now) if they have a gwu.edu e-mail address."

She said students should also receive a slip of paper in their mailboxes within one business day announcing a parcel's arrival.

GW decided this summer to require all students living on campus to pick up parcels at the 2025 F St. facility instead of receiving them directly in their residence halls. Officials said package security and student safety concerns following last fall's anthrax scare led to the change.

Packages are then scanned by "The Arrival System," a tracking system that ensures that packages do not get lost.

However, students said they still are not receiving notices.

"I didn't receive an e-mail or a hard copy," sophomore Adam Levine said. "The only reason I knew I had a package was because 1-800-CONTACTS e-

mailed me and let me know (my contacts) should have arrived."

Freshman Gregory Clarke said he received a note in his mailbox, but not an e-mail. However, he said the paper notification in his mailbox failed to detail the location of the package facility.

Students said they also find the location of the building on the south side of campus inconvenient.

Senior Johann Aakre said he made his way across campus to the new facility but was told by officials that they could not find his package. He said they told him to come back later in the day.

Besides notification problems, officials said the system has no problems.

"Many students and their parents expressed a high level of satisfaction with our services during

See FACILITY, p. 13

INSIDE

2 NEWS
Students not impressed with Web classes

5 OPINIONS
Shape up, SA



7 GWEEKEND
A cigarette break with Lewis Black

14 SPORTS
GW grads tear up the minor league