



# The GW Hatchet

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## Report names senator

■ SA investigation leads to call for J.P. Blackford removal

by Alex Kingsbury and T. Neil Sroka  
Hatchet Reporters

The Student Association investigative branch has recommended the removal of Sen. J. P. Blackford (G-SEAS) after finding him in violation of multiple SA bylaws.

Justin Oshana, vice president of Legislative and Judicial Affairs, distributed a letter Monday reporting the results of an investigation into allegations of SA fund misuse by Blackford. The letter states Blackford violated several bylaws when he filed improper expenditure reports and covered up his actions. Oshana said a full report with further details will be released next week.

The Blackford investigation focused on two expenditure

See SA, p. 12



Sen. Blake Newmark (G-CCAS) reacts to student comments at the Student Association town hall meeting Monday.

Paul Goodman/Hatchet photographer

## Police seize cocaine in hall

■ Anonymous call leads to arrest for dealing in Thurston

by Michael Barnett  
Hatchet Reporter

Metropolitan Police arrested a Thurston Hall resident Monday afternoon for possession of a "large quantity" of cocaine in their second drug seizure on the GW campus this year.

MPD would not disclose the exact quantity seized but reported that the individual will be charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Police also seized a notebook and an envelope with drug information.

An anonymous phone call to University Police led Community Living and Learning Center staff members to conduct an administrative search of room 902 in Thurston Hall. After a warning by CLLC staff to produce any illegal substances in the residents' possession, one individual produced a bag containing a "white powdery substance," UPD officials said.

MPD arrived on the scene

and confiscated the bag; the substance tested positive for cocaine.

Witnesses reported seeing a male individual being led away in handcuffs by MPD and UPD officers.

"I wasn't surprised when I saw him in handcuffs," said one floor resident, who requested anonymity. "I kind of knew what he had been up to - everybody did."

UPD officials acknowledged the rarity of a cocaine arrest on the GW campus, citing inability to detect its presence when patrolling the hallways.

"We don't go into rooms unless we have reasonable suspicion that illegal activity is going on in there," said UPD Inspector Ross Trimarchi. "We're pretty helpless without information that leads us to possible suspects since cocaine is odorless, unlike other drugs such as marijuana."

"It would be unrealistic to think that there's no cocaine use on campus, but it would also be unrealistic to think that its use is as prevalent as marijuana or alcohol," Trimarchi added.

About 9 percent of all federal

See COCAINE, p. 2

## Groups break fast

by Sarah Wheaton  
Hatchet Reporter

Jewish and Muslim students said Tuesday's interfaith Iftar dinner should serve as a positive example for cross-cultural relations on campus and throughout the world.

The meal, which traditionally ends daily fasts during the month-long Muslim holiday of Ramadan, drew about 300 Muslim students and at least 100 Jewish students, as well as several faculty members, ambassadors and former students, to the Marvin Center Grand Ballroom Tuesday night. Organizers said they expected such numbers and were pleased by the turnout.

"I'm terribly moved. Frankly, I almost

cried, I was so touched by the group and good feeling in the room," said GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, who thought of the idea for the dinner and suggested it in September. "I can't imagine how it could have been better."

Most students said Muslim-Jewish relations on campus have been peaceful, but the event was a way to bring the two communities closer.

"The road to peace may be treacherous and difficult, but all journeys must start somewhere. Perhaps we can embark on that path tonight," said Mohamed Omeish, GW's Muslim chaplain.

Speakers at the event discussed similarities between Islam and Judaism, noting

See IFTAR, p. 11



Ellen Rockower/Hatchet photographer

From left, sophomore Lana Meriden and seniors Sara Chaudhri and Fatema Bukhavi enjoy traditional food to break the Ramadan daily fast at an iftar dinner Tuesday.

## GW limits registration

by Rachel Gould  
Student Life Editor

GW is eliminating priority registration for about two-thirds of students who traditionally register early. Officials said the number of students in organizations that register early climbed to about 26 percent of undergraduates this year and has caused upperclassmen to get shut out of classes.

More than 10 student organizations and programs were allowed to register before all other undergraduates because they have unique "scheduling demands," but the number of students got too high, officials said.

"It got to the point where we had to do something," said Craig Linebaugh, associate vice president for academic planning and special projects.

"The 26 percent of undergraduates that had privileged registration has had a tremendous impact on the 74 percent who don't have it."

Only athletes, athletic trainers, those involved with Emergency Medical Response, current Honors Program students and some students with disabilities will still be able to register early this spring for the fall 2003 semester.

The revised number of undergraduates allowed to register is about 10 percent of students.

Students who will lose early registration are members of the band, Cherry Tree staff, debate team, The Hatchet editorial staff, Neighbors Project and spirit team, new honors student, Student Admissions Representatives, those receiving Presidential Arts Scholarships and Trachtenberg Scholarships and some students studying

abroad.

"There should be one criteria (for privileged registration) - scheduling demands," Linebaugh said.

Linebaugh sent a letter to the organizations in mid-September outlining the decision, stating that privileged registration placed "the majority of undergraduate students at a disadvantage in obtaining those courses they need and desire to take."

Members of EMeRG, the Honors Program and The Hatchet approached Linebaugh to discuss the situation. No other organizations initiated discussion, Linebaugh said.

EMeRG will retain its privileges because it is a 24-hour "911" service with student volunteers, while the Honors Program will slowly be phased out of early registration, as students currently in the program will be

able to register early until they graduate, Linebaugh said.

Honors program officials said the elimination of privileged registration will put the program at a disadvantage when honors students are considering coming to GW.

"I strongly urge the University to reconsider," said Director of the Honors Program Peter Rollberg. "The program draws in first-rate students. It would be very hard to recruit good students to the Honors Program if (GW) drops (privileged registration)."

The Student Association passed a resolution against the new policy last week, emphasizing the importance of the Honors Program.

"GW is in direct competition with the universities in the top 50 and needs to be

See REGISTRATION, p. 12

### Students who will have priority registration in spring 2003\*

- athletes
- athletic trainers
- EMeRG
- some students with disabilities
- current Honors Program students

\* registration for the fall 2003 semester

### INSIDE

2 NEWS  
Colonial Computers plan move to bookstore



6 OPINIONS  
Palestinian children's rights demand attention

8 GWEEKEND  
The porn industry bares all



13 SPORTS  
Monthly club sports round up