



The GW Hatchet

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER • WWW.GWHATCHET.COM

VOL. 99 No. 37

SERVING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SINCE 1904

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2003

GW seeks additional housing

by Mosheh Oinounou
News Managing Editor

GW is apartment hunting for at least 500 more beds before this year's housing lottery, postponed until late March so officials can ensure housing for all students who request to stay on campus.

Many of the more than 2,500 students who arrived as freshmen in 2001, GW's largest class ever, will seek campus housing as rising juniors this year. The University is struggling to find housing for them and next year's freshmen and sophomores, also expected to

top 2,000 students each.

With a new 700-bed residence hall scheduled for completion in fall 2004, GW is looking for a temporary fix to accommodate a burgeoning undergraduate population.

"Clearly, in terms of accommodating the projected demand, we are going to need to find some other (housing) option for next year," said Robert Chernak, senior vice president for Student and Academic Support Services. GW's undergraduate enrollment has increased by more than 1,800 students since the class of 2003

entered GW.

He said the University has been negotiating with several different housing companies during the last few weeks to find a facility before the spring housing lottery in an effort to prevent a waiting list.

GW is attempting to prevent a situation the school faced two years ago – a 400-person waiting list following the 2001 housing lottery. The University went on to lease the City Hall and Pennsylvania House residence halls during the summer of 2001.

"We are examining a lot of

possibilities," Chernak noted, stressing that the University is looking outside Foggy Bottom for facilities in the District and Virginia. He said the University would like to comply with the "spirit" of a Board of Zoning Adjustment ruling demanding GW house students in on-campus facilities or outside Foggy Bottom.

"We won't stop looking until we find the necessary number of beds," he said. He added that the University hopes to find one facility

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Housing Quick Fixes

Summer 1999
Hall on Virginia Avenue
purchased – 444 beds

Summer 2001
City Hall, Pennsylvania House
leased – 743 beds

Spring 2003
GW seeks residence hall –
at least 500 beds



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

Thousands of demonstrators gathered to show their support for the pro-life cause Wednesday. The march is an annual event, held near the anniversary of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision.

Abortion debate hits streets

■ Pro-life, pro-choice advocates march through D.C.

by Jane Black
Hatchet Reporter

On the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, approximately 5,000 demonstrators gathered at the Supreme Court Wednesday to both protest and support the 1973 decision to legalize abortion. The demonstrations were relatively peaceful, with no arrests, according to police.

Pro-life demonstrators began their protest at the National Mall and walked up Constitution Avenue toward the Supreme Court, where they met pro-choice demonstrators. Protesters carried signs that read, "Abortion is a Weapon of Mass Destruction" and "How Can I Bless A

Nation Sullied With the Blood of Unborn Children?"

"Groups like Planned Parenthood kill almost 200,000 babies every year, and we support them with our tax money," said Edward Callahan, a member of the Christian group Faith of Truth Tour. "Abortion denies God the opportunity of being blessed by another person's life."

Abortion opponents said the current administration is their best chance in years to possibly reverse the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

President George W. Bush, in Saint Louis, Mo., during the protests, made a phone call broadcast to send his support to anti-abortion demonstrators. In the phone call, Bush supported legislation banning late-term abortions, referring to the procedure as "abhorrent."

Many pro-life demonstrators had religious objections to the medical pro-

cedure, associating the right to life with the will of God.

Meanwhile, on the steps of the Supreme Court, GW sophomore Melinda Cooperman waved a wire hanger in her left hand, a device popularly used by women to abort fetuses before abortion was made legal in 1973, and in her right hand is a poster that said "Save *Roe vs. Wade*."

Debra Hadricks, a student from Alexandria, Va., said her religious values did not impinge upon her belief in the right to choose an abortion.

"I myself am very religious and I don't see why it is an equitable argument against abortion," Hadricks said. "My class was canceled today, and I took that as God's way of telling me that I had a mission to come here and show that religion should be accepting

See PROTEST, p. 16

Men rob students in Northeast

by Alex Kingsbury
Metro Editor

Three men stopped and robbed 11 students as they returned from a Northeast elementary school Tuesday evening. Witnesses said one of the men may have had a gun.

Four GW students were robbed when the men stopped their group of 11 volunteers, including one Howard University student. The men emerged from an alley while the students were walking on Anacostia Avenue near the Minnesota Avenue Metro station.

The University is reviewing safety at all of its community service sites across the city after the incident, which involved participants in the Jumpstart tutor program. The students were all tutoring at the Neval Thomas Elementary School with the program, run through the Office of Community Service.

"We are looking at all the programs and assessing them," said Bob Ludwig, assistant director of media relations. Ludwig said a review of the project sites involves a study of area crime rates, proximity to Metro stations and other factors.

"The Neval Thomas program has been suspended pending a review of the site," he said.

The students were robbed of cash, wallets, a jacket, a backpack and a gold chain.

"We knew the risks when we went there," said Sarah Chester, the Jumpstart team leader for Neval Thomas Elementary. "I have a greater appreciation for the neighborhood where these children live."

The Jumpstart program, based in Boston, has been affiliated with GW for the past two years. The students involved belong to Americorps and spend 12 hours per week working with children.

University officials said this is the first time such an incident has occurred involving a community service program.

Students take an orientation course before they agree to participate in the community service projects, which includes a neighborhood walk and a description of the surrounding community. Ludwig said the students are trained to travel in groups for safety.

"We are eager and really want to go back," said Christine Keeves, a senior who was one of the four robbed. "The police told us it was a one-in-a-million chance that we would get robbed while in a group like this."

Two GW students were robbed at gunpoint while returning from Club Daedalus in late October.

—Andrew Snow and Michael Barnett
contributed to this report.

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