



The GW Hatchet

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER • WWW.GWHATCHET.COM

VOL. 99 No. 49

SERVING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SINCE 1904

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2003

Points, debit combine

■ Plan will force Aramark to compete with off-campus vendors

by Zach Ahmad
Hatchet Staff Writer

GW will combine meal points and debit dollars into a "plan dollars" system next year, which will allow students to purchase items at all venues that currently accept points and debit dollars with a single meal plan.

Plan dollars, which has not officially been named, will broaden students' spending options and hold campus vendors more accountable for quality service, University officials said.

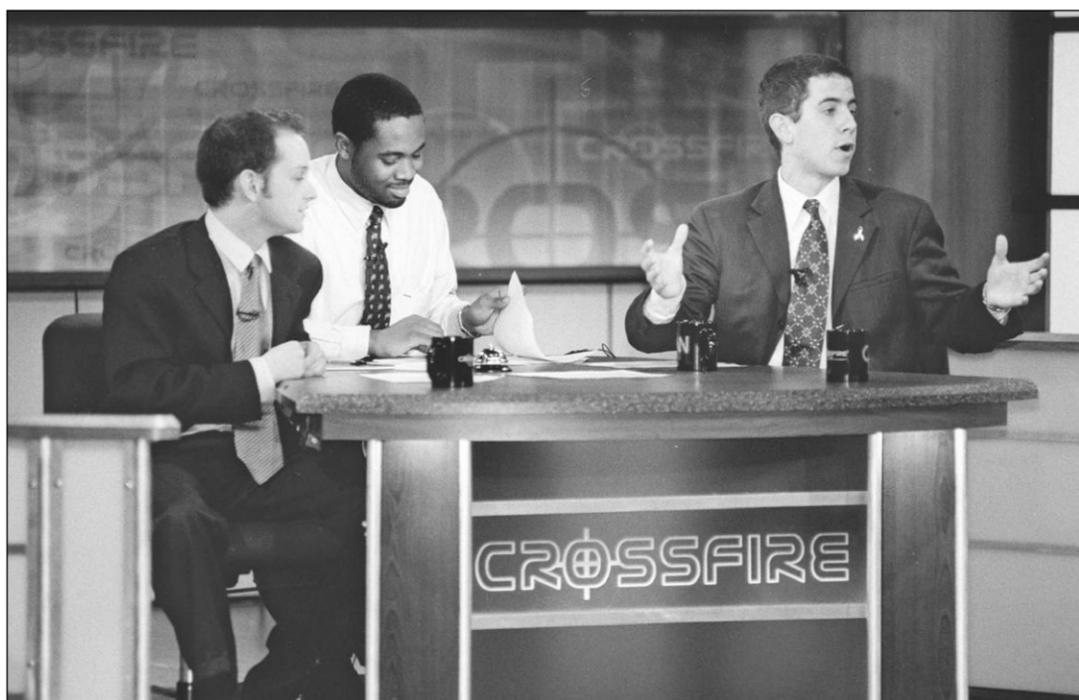
"The impetus is to provide students with the utmost flexibility," said Michael Peller, managing director of business services. "Students want more choices. Plan dollars give them the opportunity to go more places with their meal plan."

The new system will be required for all students living on campus and will be made available at a dollar-for-dollar rate during housing registration. A system for purchasing additional plan dollars is still in the works.

GW's current meal plan offers students points that allow them to make tax-free purchases at on-campus venues, all of which are operated by Aramark. A separate debit dollars account that does not offer the same tax benefits is available for laundry services, vending machines and a number of off-campus merchants.

Officials said plan dollars will force Aramark, which profits from all students' points spent on

See DINING, p. 17



Former SA president David Burt (center) questions SA presidential candidates Steve Sobel (l.) and Kris Hart (r.) at a mock "Crossfire" Tuesday in the MPA Building.

Leanne Lee/Hatchet staff photographer

Low turnout marks runoff

■ SA presidential race heads into final day of voting

by Thane Tuttle
Hatchet Staff Writer

Candidates and election officials said voter apathy is their biggest concern during the Student Association presidential runoff this week, characterizing Wednesday's 800-student turnout as "very low." Students can vote Thursday, and Joint Elections Committee members expect to announce results at about midnight Thursday in the Hippodrome.

Though this year's election almost mirrored past elections with a court dispute, the Student Court's decision not to hear a complaint brought by former candidate Adam Greenman Tuesday cleared the way

for the runoff.

Kris Hart and Steve Sobel stood among supporters outside the Marvin Center throughout the day Wednesday, with many supporters noting that they were campaigning for turnout rather than votes.

"We're fighting voter apathy," said SA Sen. Chrissy Trotta (UCCAS), a Hart supporter. "It's been difficult to get people to turn out."

Hart estimated there were fewer than one hundred voters by lunchtime.

"Turnout has been low," he said. "But we're doing what we can to get the voters out there."

Some students inside J Street seemed apathetic, as only 10 of 30 interviewed Wednesday said they were planning to vote.

"I don't feel informed enough to vote," freshman Jessica Zdenek said.

Some students said they didn't

support either candidate.

"I just think it's a bad idea to encourage these people," senior Emily Filler said. "Whoever gets elected will do pretty much the same thing anyway."

Sobel campaign officials also complained about low turnout.

"Turnout is still lighter than it should be, but it is heavier than earlier (Wednesday afternoon)," Sobel said. Last year's runoff between Josh Singer and current SA President Phil Robinson garnered more votes than the general election. Last week, 2,890 students voted for president, cutting the eight-person field to two.

Robinson said it was tough to gauge why students were not voting and noted that this year's scandals may have affected interest.

"It may be that students are just

See SA, p. 17

GW appeals ruling

■ Housing selection set for last weekend in April

by Kate Stepan
Editor in Chief

GW is filing an appeal this week of a recent federal appeals court decision that restricts where students can live and could hold up construction of a new business school. The University is requesting review of a case by a full nine-member U.S. Court of Appeals after a three-judge panel ruled against GW last month.

University lawyers also plan to go back to court this summer in a D.C. Court of Appeals case fighting zoning restrictions on grounds that they violate students' human rights.

The decision, handed down Feb. 4, requires the University to house 70 percent of full-time undergraduates, including all freshmen and sophomores, on campus or outside Foggy Bottom. GW is prohibited from building new non-residential facilities until it complies with the order.

Dean of Students Linda Donnels said the U.S. Court of Appeals decision "isn't necessarily logical" and has pushed housing selection dates to April 26 and 27. GW plans to distribute Intent to Return forms the last week in March.

The U.S. Court of Appeals decision, which was set to impose restrictions this weekend, will not take effect until the court decides whether to re-hear the case or not, University Senior Counsel Charles Barber said. This process could take "a couple weeks or

See ZONING, p. 7

When records aren't enough

by Brian Costa
Assistant Sports Editor

In nearly four years, 2,186 points have earned Chris Monroe a lot. He's gained the respect of opponents, teammates and coaches alike. He's amassed a trophy case worth of individual awards and is the most well-known GW athlete of his time - look no further than his No. 4 jersey on sale at the GW Bookstore. And as the senior enters his final game at the Smith Center Saturday, 40 more points will cement his place in the University's history.

That's how far Monroe is from breaking GW's all-time scoring record of 2,226 points, set by Joe Holup in 1956. Monroe, whose career high is 35 points, will probably have to wait until next week's Atlantic

10 Tournament to come within reach of the milestone. But while Monroe may not put his name into the record books Saturday, he has already established himself as the face of GW basketball at the start of the century, a face that fans will get to see on the Tex Silverman Court one last time.

"It's going to hurt," Monroe said of his last Smith Center game, shaking his head. "It's going to hurt."

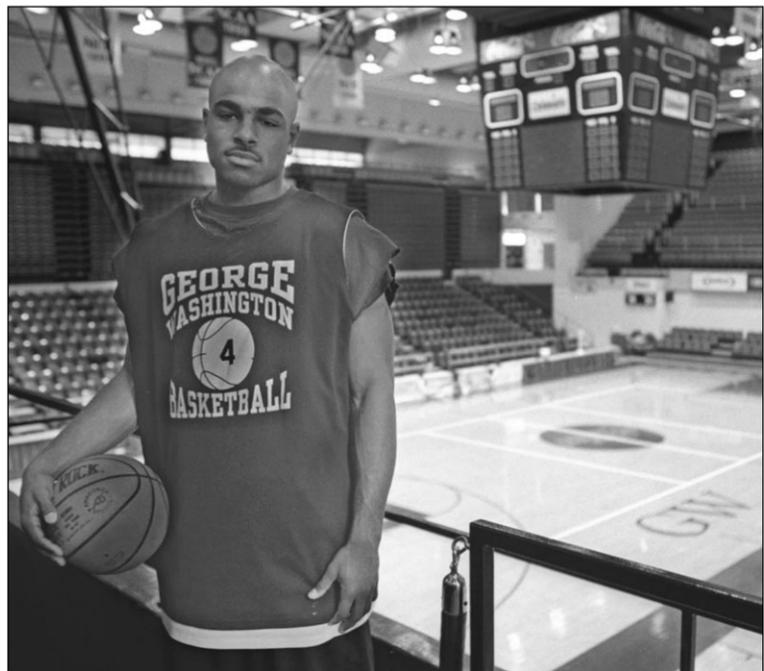
Before the game, which starts at 2 p.m. against Fordham, the shooting guard will be honored in a brief ceremony and will be presented with a framed jersey. But once the ball is in the air, expect Monroe to be all business, as the Colonials need to win to clinch the fifth seed in their division heading into the A-10 Tournament.

"Xavier is the 13th-ranked team in the country and we took them right down to the wire, and that just shows that I have a team with young guys that can play anybody," he said. "So I still have a lot of hope in the A-10 Tournament."

Hope, of course, is nothing new to Monroe, whose team has not finished with a winning record in any of his first three seasons and is currently just 10-16, barely out of last place in the A-10 West. Each year, Monroe has had to hope for GW to pull off an upset in the conference tournament for it to move on to the Big Dance, and each year the Colonials have come up short.

In fact, the disparity between Monroe's individual achievements and his team's success is

See MONROE, p. 20



Chris Zarconi/asst. photo editor

Senior Chris Monroe will play his last game in the Smith Center Saturday. He is 40 points away from becoming GW's all-time leading scorer.

INSIDE

2 NEWS
University delays e-mail upgrade

4 OPINIONS
Bush moves women's rights progress backwards



13 ARTS
Foreign bands rock out in D.C.

19 SPORTS
A-10 controversy hurts men's basketball team