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U.S. goes to war in Iraq, campus reacts

■ Students, faculty discuss military strikes, news coverage
by **Matt Windman**
Hatchet Staff Writer

Students returning from spring break became fully engaged in debate over the justification, coverage and future of the war in Iraq this week.

Most students said they have constantly been tuning into the news, while others said war coverage has taken over the airwaves and they have decreased their television watching. Professors said they have turned classroom discussions toward war to address student concern.

"I've been watching the news three to four times a day, probably too often," junior Patrick Linsey said. "You can definitely watch this stuff too much. CNN and the other networks repeat the same stuff over and over again."

"The news keeps repeating the same stuff. Fifteen minutes a day is all that you need," sophomore Ramino Gonzalez said.

Despite constant coverage of the war from media outlets, most students said they feel safe at GW. The University sent out an e-mail to all students over spring break stating that GW's alert status was at "normal." The University also posted "preparedness helpful hints" in residence halls and online Sunday.

"I'm not going to attempt to be extra careful," sophomore Jeffrey Buckler said. "It feels the same as if

See WAR, p. 16



Andrew Snow/photo editor

Jessica Savage traveled to the National Mall from Boston last weekend to protest the war with Iraq. The District has hosted anti-war and pro-war demonstrations for the last two weeks.

■ GW recommends student precautions during higher alert
by **Alex Kingsbury**
Metro Editor

University security officials are advising students to take extra precautions, including informing roommates of their whereabouts and acquiring a battery-powered radio, in light of the federal government's decision last week to push the national security alert level to orange.

A GW security alert distributed to residence halls and posted on the University's Campus Advisory Web site also suggests students have a plan for contacting home. Someone who lives in another area code could also pass a message home or keep extra prescription medications and a flashlight, the Web site advises.

"We are working with the same procedures that we have used in the past when the terror alert was raised," said John Petrie, assistant vice president for Public Safety and Emergency Management. "We have sent a flyer around to the residence halls to keep students informed and we have been updating the Web site."

Petrie said the campus alert Web site, www.gwu.edu/~gwalert, has received more than 10,000 hits per day since the terror alert level was raised the first time in February.

The Department of Homeland Security increased the terror alert level to orange again last week, when the United States launched the

war on Iraq. The University has not increased GW's alert, though campus security is operating at a heightened level.

"If the alert level rises, there will be a tightening of security that will be very obvious to community members," University Police Chief Dolores Stafford said. "Obviously, we're concerned when the government goes to Code Orange. But there has been no intelligence that GW or any other college is a target."

Stafford would say little about the steps the department would take if the national alert level were raised to red; however, she said the presence would be much more noticeable and students would need to use their GWorld cards to enter campus buildings.

The University's alert system is unconnected with the Department of Homeland Security's system, a quality Petrie said is advantageous.

"The national alert system has to respond to threats against the whole country, while our system deals with concerns specifically to the University," he said. "Since (the two systems) are not connected, it gives us the flexibility of not having a specific set of responses."

Stafford said UPD has raised its alert level several times since the September 11 attacks. UPD bases its security decisions on intelligence from MPD and the federal government.

Stafford said each of UPD's 22 vehicles, including 4-RIDE vans, are equipped with loudspeakers for emergency broadcasts. She said the

• Muslim students fear backlash. See story, p. 7

See SECURITY, p. 8

GW to reissue housing numbers

■ University narrows options, eyes Virginia luxury apartments
by **Mosheh Oinounou**
News Managing Editor

As GW closes in on a northern Virginia housing option for next year, students faced major technical difficulties when receiving housing lottery numbers this week.

The University plans to allow rising sophomores to reapply for new Intent to Return numbers next week after a programming flaw caused freshmen to only receive the upper portion of housing lottery numbers.

GW may also be considering a luxury apartment building in Rosslyn, Va., for upperclassmen next year that includes amenities such as fireplaces, a swimming pool and a putting green.

Housing selection snafu

Rising sophomores signing on to the GWeb Banner system should have received a random number between 4,500 and 7,699 but instead received numbers 6,135 and higher.

"For a reason we can't figure out, the numbers 4,500 through 6,134 did not get assigned," said Brian Selinsky, director of Banner Applications, who noted that the problem was limited to rising sopho-

mores.

Information Systems and Services is investigating the problem and will be ready to redo the process next week, he said. Students faced no problems with ITR selection last year, when the system went online for the first time.

Director of Housing Services Andrew Sonn said the University decided to allow rising sophomores to resub-

Housing Timeline

March 31 - April 4*: GW to offer rising sophomores new ITRs

April 15*: New residence hall announced

April 26: Sophomore housing lottery

April 27: Junior/senior housing lottery

*Dates tentative

mit ITRs because of the "perception that the process was not random."

While he said that numbers 6,135 and 7,699 were allotted randomly, he said he believes it is important for students to feel confident about the process

and fix the problem quickly.

"We want to make sure students are sure it's random generation ... our hope is to not have students waiting around too long," Sonn said.

Selinsky said ISS officials will test the system before next week and reshuffle the range of numbers to ensure students receive random assignments.

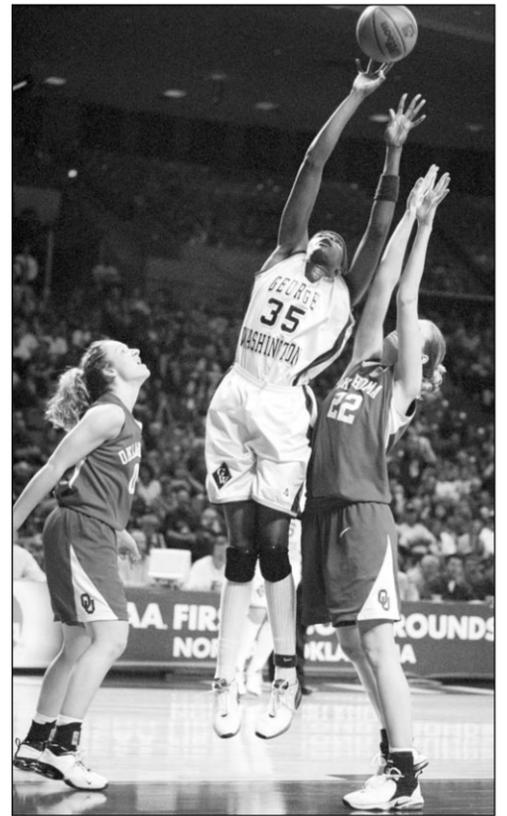
Another change to this year's housing process, adding 12 credit hours to student class standing, is also drawing protest from freshmen.

While the Community Living and Learning Center has used accumulated credits as well as credits students are currently taking to determine class standing in past years, GW decided to add a projected 12 credits to each student this year.

Freshmen who arrived at GW with at least 18 credit hours from Advanced Placement tests or other sources and took 30 hours this year will be considered rising juniors because they will have 60 credit hours. The change makes it more difficult for freshmen to choose roommates because housing regulations currently prohibit sophomores from pulling in juniors.

"It's our formula for figuring out class standing in response to the (Board of Zoning and Adjustment) rulings," Sonn said.

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Chris Zarconi/asst. photo editor

Ugo Oha led GW to a first-round NCAA victory over Oklahoma Sunday, but her team lost to Villanova in round two. See story, p. 19.

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