



SJT comes to GW, students protest apartheid, pp. 9-11



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SMPA looks ahead

Students, faculty weigh curriculum changes, EMDA cuts

by Caitlin Carroll
Hatchet Staff Writer

Freshman Matthew Saunders, an electronic media major, said he was accepted to several of the top communications schools in the country but thought that GW would best help him launch a career in television direction. He said he was attracted by the School of Media and Public Affairs' selectivity and its boasting of hands-on experience with equipment.

However, after learning of an SMPA task force's recommendation to phase out the electronic media program, Saunders said he is thinking about transferring to another University. This semester, students could no longer apply to the program.

"They're dismantling the program and pulling the rug out from under us," Saunders said. "What they are trying to do is pool the three majors. What they are doing is taking away electronic media and beefing up journalism."

Al May, interim director of SMPA, told students at an SMPA majors meeting on Tuesday that current electronic media majors will be able to finish the major. He added,

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Kennedy backs student fight

MPD arrests nine GW students demonstrating in MC

by Gabriel Okolski
Hatchet Staff Writer

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) called on GW to increase its employees' salaries and benefits at a Kogan Plaza rally Friday afternoon.

The event, organized by the Progressive Student Union and Students for Peace and Justice, came several days after nine GW students were arrested for staging a Marvin Center sit-in to protest the University's employment policies.

Standing in front of signs reading "GW students support GW workers," Kennedy told the 100 students and union activists that their campaign was similar to one he has been waging on Capitol Hill for more than 30 years.

"I commend students because you are on the frontlines of social jus-

tice and social fairness in this country," said Kennedy, who in recent months has supported a raise of the minimum wage.

Kennedy called on the University to provide higher pay for Aramark workers, custodial employees and adjunct professors. He also urged the U.S. Senate to raise the national minimum wage to \$7 an hour and criticized the Bush administration's education policy.

Sophomore Timothy Kaldas, who helped organized the event, said he felt the rally was a success.

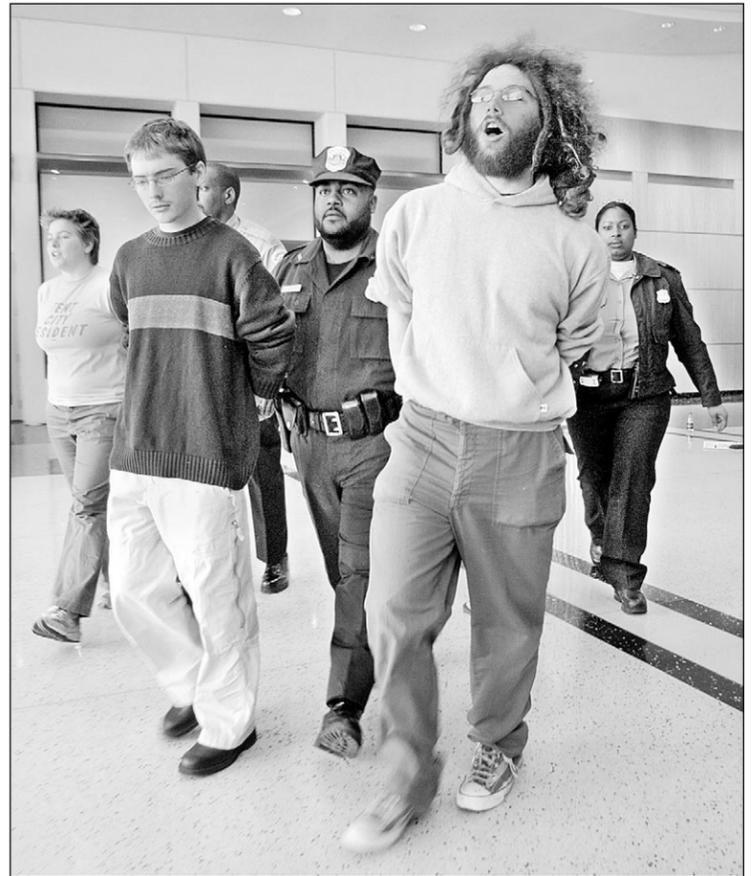
"The turnout was more than I expected, especially considering the weather," said Kaldas, referring to a light drizzle that continued to fall through Friday night. "It just shows that the students really care about the issue."

At the rally, demonstrators also demanded that GW drop charges against the arrested students and join the Worker Rights Consortium, an oversight group that ensures companies aren't violating labor laws.



Erin Shea/Hatchet photographer

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) talks to students on Kogan Plaza.



Paul Goodman/Hatchet staff photographer

MPD arrested 11 students in the Marvin Center Monday afternoon.

The Student Association Senate also urged the University to drop criminal charges against the students in a resolution passed at its Tuesday meeting.

SA President Kris Hart said he was reluctant to sign the resolution because he said the students violated University policy.

"Right now with the facts I have, I'm skeptical of asking the University

to drop the charges," he said.

Hart added that he would meet with the arrested students, GW administrative officials and Metropolitan Police officials early in the week to finalize his decision.

University officials said they didn't have the authority to drop unlawful entry charges against nine GW

See RALLY, p. 13

UPD officer hospitalized after fire

A City Hall kitchen fire led to the hospitalization of a University Police officer and evacuation of the building for an hour Saturday night.

The D.C. Fire Department quickly extinguished the fire on the hall's seventh floor and transported a female UPD officer to the GW Hospital for minor smoke inhalation at 9 p.m., department spokesman Alan Etter said. Another UPD officer suffering from smoke inhalation was treated with oxygen at the scene, he added.

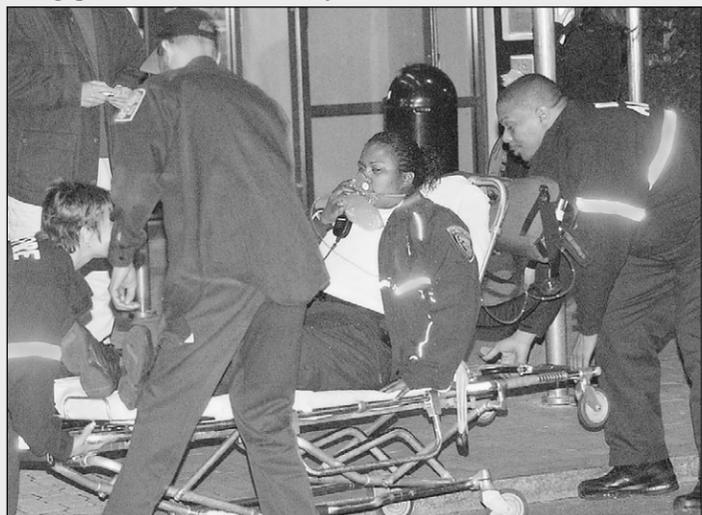
"We saw a UPD officer being put on a stretcher," City

Hall resident Michael Hill said Saturday night. "When she came out of the building they were giving her oxygen and she was limping."

The fire was the result of cooking that "got out of hand," said Etter, who speculated that a resident might have fallen asleep while preparing food.

Although firefighters contained the kitchen fire to room 714, the sixth and seventh floors sustained water damage, Etter said. He added that city officials have yet to assess the damage caused by the fire.

—Caitlin Carroll



Jeff Baum/asst. photo editor

D.C. firefighters treat a UPD officer for smoke inhalation in front of City Hall after a kitchen fire Saturday night.

Friends remember soph.

by Gabriel Okolski
Hatchet Staff Writer

Sophomore Elon Shore recalled his best memory of Philip Augustin under a purple sky in Kogan Plaza Thursday night.

"I was walking down the aisle, and I tripped, and I knocked over my books," said Shore about an embarrassing moment he had in class last year. "The seniors in the class kind of laughed, but Phil said 'Come over here, sit with me.'"

Shore was one of more than 100 students who assembled in the plaza to remember Augustin, 20, of West Orange, N.J., a sophomore who drowned in the Tidal Basin last week.

Flowers were laid at the base of the clock facing Augustin's room on Crawford Hall's eighth floor. As rain fell on the cold spring night, students, who took turns addressing the mourners, remembered Augustin as an outstanding friend and a warm-hearted student.

"I feel like an angel has crossed my path," said sophomore Arielle Zurolo, who worked with Augustin as a member of the poetry forum Think Tank Revolution. "Not one conversation with him went by when he didn't make me think about my life."

Sophomore Trent Simpson, who roomed with Augustin during Colonial Inauguration, said he owes many of his friendships to the New Jersey native.

"He just came into my room and asked me if I wanted to meet people," Simpson said.

"At the end it was just me and him ... we just went to get a burger at Lindy's," he continued. "I just have to say that I don't think anyone has ever found out so much about my life in such a short period of time."

Metropolitan Police are still investigating Augustin's death, which occurred the night of March 27 when he reportedly said something to his two friends and jumped into the Tidal Basin, located near the FDR Memorial at 22nd Street and Independence Avenue.

Tony Patterson, an MPD detective investigating Augustin's death, said it is being treated as an accidental drowning. He added that MPD officials know Augustin's last words but will not release the information.

Patterson said he would be conducting interviews with the two GW students who accompanied Augustin to the basin to determine why the sophomore

jumped into the 10-foot waters. One student who accompanied Augustin to the basin refused to comment Thursday about his friend's death.

Asked if Augustin's death was alcohol or drug-related, Patterson said, "It won't be confirmed (whether or not he was intoxicated) until the toxicology reports come out."

Adrian Lavalley, general counsel for the D.C. Medical Examiner's Office, said an autopsy was performed on

Augustin's body March 28. She said the city would not be able to release its findings until toxicology tests are completed in about a month.

The death of Augustin, a gregarious young man with a passion for hip-hop and jazz music, came as a "shock" to the GW community, said Jan Mitchell Sherrill, senior associate dean of students. University therapists talked to about 20 to 25 students the morning after Augustin's death, Sherrill added.

"Although everyone is grieving and everyone is sad, I honestly believe he's in a better place than this," said junior Ian Rogow at Thursday night's vigil.

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Augustin