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SA vote garners little interest

by Mosheh Oinounou and Joe Pollak
Hatchet Staff Writers

Fewer than 300 students voted on the Dec. 11 Student Association referendum that saw the passage of all three issues on the ballot, including the addition of a third, non-voting freshman senator.

SA members said short notice prevented many students from hearing about the election.

Students passed all three proposals by significant majorities: to add one more non-voting freshman senator, to review the Code of Student Conduct and to form a group to examine student judicial procedures.

SA Executive Vice President Josh Singer said he was disappointed with the turnout but pleased with the results and said the SA will begin accepting applications for the third freshman senator position as soon as possible.

"Those who were opposed to the addition of the Senator felt that freshmen were already over-represented," Singer said.

Singer and two senators created the referendum, which the SA estimates cost \$2,500 to hold, by completing a petition. Their original proposal for a referendum on whether to add a third freshman senator was rejected by the Senate, prompting students to garner the 2,200 signature petition necessary to hold the election.

Zack Beyer, SA vice president for student activities, said the other issues were added to the ballot during a Senate meeting.

Singer said the SA should have been prepared to conduct a vote because senators were informed three and a half weeks in advance.

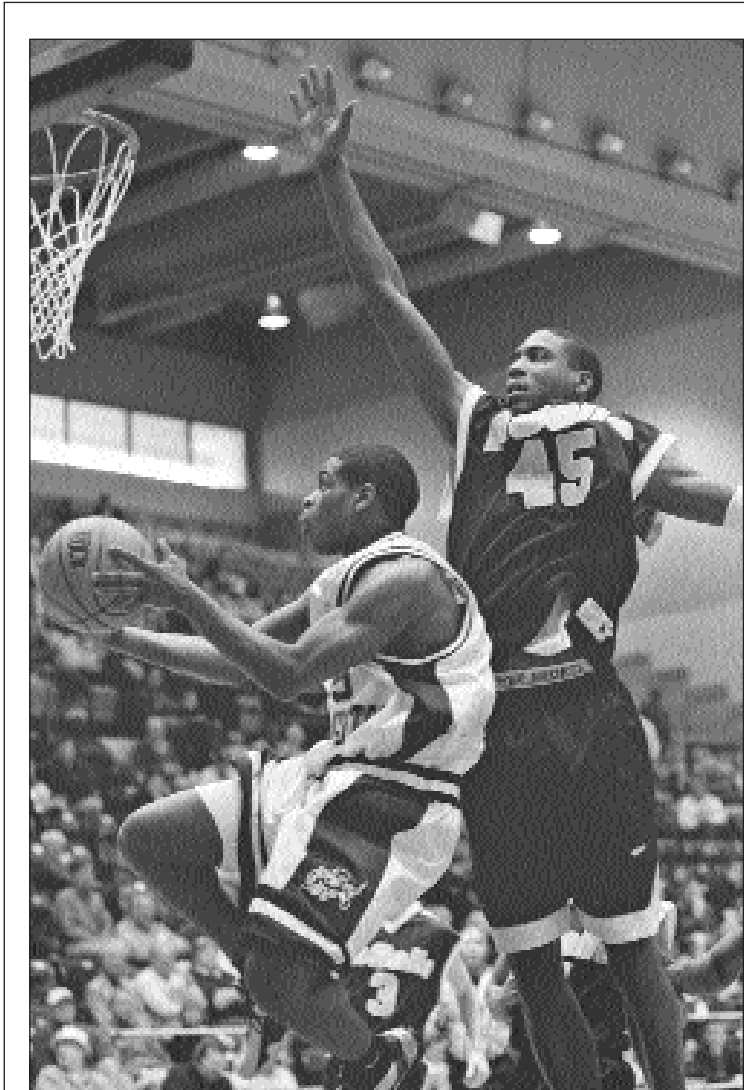
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SA REFERENDA

RESULTS

	support	oppose
To add a third non-voting SA freshman senator?	218	67
To recall the current Code of Student Conduct for revision?	260	21
To establish a committee to oversee and recommend procedure changes for Student Judicial Services?	246	39

source: SA



Michael Itti/photo editor
La Salle forward Rasual Butler attempts to block GW guard T.J. Thompson as he goes for the hoop in GW's Sunday victory. See story, p. 13

GW to revamp crisis strategy New emergency manager evaluates emergency plans

by Amanda Mantone
News Assistant

Former Naval Commander John Petrie said he is eager to talk with students and administrators regarding security concerns after being named the assistant vice president for public safety and emergency management.

GW officials announced the creation of the new post in December, calling for an examination of the current system and a person to oversee and manage GW crisis and emergency preparedness plans.

Petrie, who previously served as commanding officer for the world's largest naval complex in Norfolk, Va., will report to GW Vice President and Treasurer Louis Katz and work closely with other University departments.

"All large organizations have people who professionally focus on security," GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said. "With the September 11 agenda in mind, we have decided to put a little more energy into security."

Trachtenberg said he expects Petrie to help analyze GW's current security system and suggest

procedures to ensure future security.

"We really want to take a look at the whole issue at arms length," he said. "We need to see that GW has thought through all concerns from the small things, like making sure all the fire extinguishers are in the right places, to developing an overall plan."

Petrie said he plans to build on the existing security strategy the University has in place.

See PETRIE, p. 5



Courtesy By George

Newly appointed administrator John Petrie, said he plans to modernize GW's crisis strategy.

Students travel to Israel despite security risks

by Mosheh Oinounou
News Editor

Watching from atop the last Jewish stronghold during the Roman conquest 2,000 years ago, 13 GW students watched the first sunrise of 2002 glisten off the Dead Sea and light up the Jordan Valley.

This year's GW Birthright Israel group, significantly smaller than last year's total, traveled to Israel to show solidarity with the Jewish homeland despite security concerns stemming from 15 months of violence that scared away many applicants.

Retracing the steps of their forefathers and rediscovering their roots, the 13 students and GW Hillel Student Life Coordinator Sarah Raful participated in the Birthright Israel trip along with thousands of

other students from around the world.

The Birthright Israel program offers a free trip to Israel for Jewish students and sent more than 22,700 students to Israel in the last two years, according to a November press release.

Founded by Jewish executives Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, the program is sponsored by the Israeli government and a number of international Jewish organizations.

This winter marked a severe decline in the amount of Birthright participants at GW and nationwide. More than 200 GW students applied for the trip and more than 60 students attended last winter, versus 45 applications and 13 participants this year, Raful said.

See BIRTHRIGHT, p. 5

Residents return to soaked rooms

by Kate Stepan
Senior News Editor

Several students returned from winter break last weekend to find fallen ceilings and flooded floors in their Schenley rooms. GW has placed at least two in temporary housing.

"It's quite a present to come back to," said sophomore Stevie Rousey, who lives on the sixth floor of the Schenley.

Rousey, who returned to GW Saturday, found a patch of ceiling that fell onto his roommate's bed in the Schenley triple bedroom.

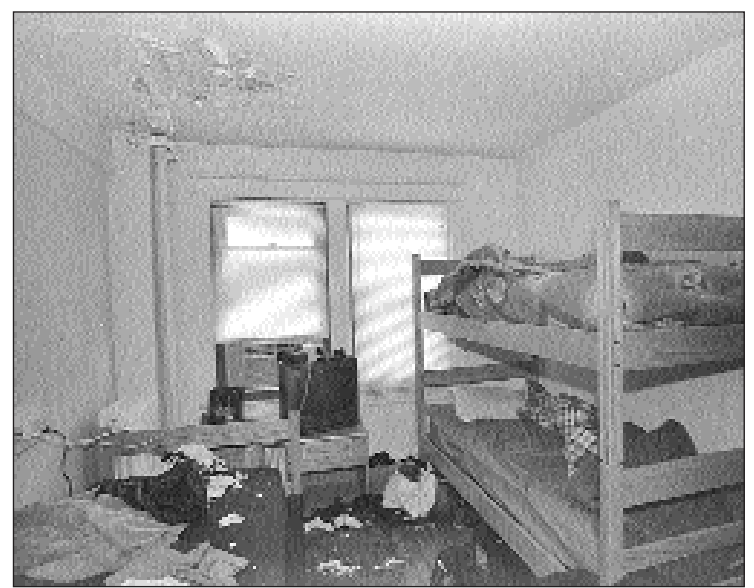
Rousey said GW officials told him they would repair the ceiling Monday.

Sophomores Vanessa Couzzo and Dana Monchick also arrived Saturday to find water damage in their sixth floor Schenley room.

Couzzo said she found about a half inch of water on the floor that had leaked from their radiator across the room. Monchick and Couzzo are staying in the JBKO guest room.

"It was like a pool in the middle of the room," Couzzo said,

See WATER, p. 11



Michael Itti/photo editor

Plaster falls from the ceiling of a sixth-floor room in the Schenley.

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