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Singer squeaks by for win, awaits review



Joseph Gidjunis/Hatchet staff photographer

SA presidential candidate Josh Singer raises his arms triumphantly after the initial announcement proclaims him victorious Friday morning. The JEC is examining a ballot, which could lead to a run-off.

by Joseph Gidjunis
Hatchet Staff Writer

Josh Singer won the Student Association presidential election by nine votes over Phil Robinson, 867 to 858, election officials announced Friday. But the outcome hangs in the balance, as the Joint Elections Committee scrutinizes ballots and prepares to hear election complaints.

The JEC, which has not certified a winner, is focusing on a vote cast from one student studying abroad which has not been verified, said JEC Chairman Scott Sheffler. If one vote for Singer goes against him, the election will enter a run-off.

"It is more likely than not that we have a problem," Sheffler said. "(A run-off) is a possibility."

Junior Bryan Gless won the Program Board executive chair, and Eric Daleo won SA executive vice president unopposed.

According to the JEC, 2,167 students cast ballots in the first-ever GW online elections. Singer, a junior, took 40.0009 percent of the vote, slightly more than the 40 percent needed to win the election without a run-off election.

The JEC recounted presidential ballots Sunday because of the close margin. Robinson, a junior, lost one vote, and sophomore Dani Greenspan gained two from Friday's original count.

Sheffler said one of the 25 votes for SA president cast by study abroad students "is a potential problem." Sheffler said he will confirm whether the vote came from an eligible voter Monday morning by checking with the Office for Study Abroad.

If Singer loses a vote and falls below the 40 percent mark, a run-off election will take place Wednesday and Thursday between Singer and Robinson.

"I think it definitely proves that every vote can and does make a difference," SA President Roger Kapoor said.

Sophomore presidential candidate Dani Greenspan finished with 386 votes.

"We had a great turnout. It really showed students care about the issues," Greenspan said. "Unfortunately, Singer doesn't have much of a mandate."

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FTP lobbies U.S. Senate

by Samantha Saifer
Hatchet Reporter

While most students were still recovering from Thursday night out on the town, 17 members of the Free the Planet environmentalist group spent the day on Capitol Hill lobbying senators on environmental issues Friday.

The GW students joined five students from Georgetown University's ECO-Action group to lobby the staffs of 13 senators.

Members of national environmental organizations like the National Environmental Trust and the Alaska Wilderness League trained students on how to present themselves and the issues for three weeks prior to the visit, FTP President Amanda Fisher said.

Fisher, a senior, said Friday was the first time the club lobbied Congress and she hopes do it more in the future.

"One of the most important things about (lobbying) is building a relationship with people who work in the Senate so that it can make an impact on other issues in the future as well," Fisher said.



Chris Zarconi/Hatchet staff photographer

Senior Sarah Edelman discusses an energy bill with John Myers, a legislative assistant of Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) Friday on the Hill.

Students proposed three amendments to the energy bill, which recently passed the House, at meetings with Senate staff members who work on environmental policy.

The group proposed several amendments to the bill, including provisions to increase fuel

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Xavier shocks GW in A-10s

by Stephen Bernard
Hatchet Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA - The fate of the GW women's basketball team now rests in the hands of the NCAA Selection Committee. Xavier pulled a 67-64 upset in the quarterfinals of the Atlantic 10 Tournament Saturday, ending GW's bid to earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. For the second-consecutive year the Musketeers ended GW's tournament title hopes.

The loss at the Liacouras Center comes as crushing blow to a team that won 15-straight conference games, including a 22-point victory against the Musketeers in mid-January. GW head coach Joe McKeown, who earned his fourth A-10 Coach of the Year award last

week, said the game slipped away when his team had a six-point advantage just after halftime.

"I think we were up 38-32 and we have three or four possessions that we didn't score, and it seemed like we might have been able to break the thing open a little bit," McKeown said afterwards. "I thought that was a crucial point, to start the second half, if we could have got a little run going."

The difference in the game was three-point shooting, as it was in last year's championship game when Reetta Piipari scored 20 points with six three-pointers to knock off GW 81-56. This time it was three-point specialist Amy Waugh, whose seven three-pointers tied the tournament

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Andrew Snow/Hatchet staff photographer

THAT THON, THON-THON-THON-THON!
Freshman Sabrina Bells tears up the dance floor at the second annual Dance Marathon in the Hippodrome, which raised more than \$10,000 for the D.C. Childrens Hospital. About 100 students danced for 12 hours from Friday 8 p.m. to Saturday 8 a.m. See story, p. 3.

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