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Zoning Board delays ruling

by Drew Wiseman
Senior Staff Writer

GW is "brainstorming" changes to its Elliott School plans after D.C. Zoning Commission officials decided Monday that the University has not offered enough amenities to the surrounding neighborhood.

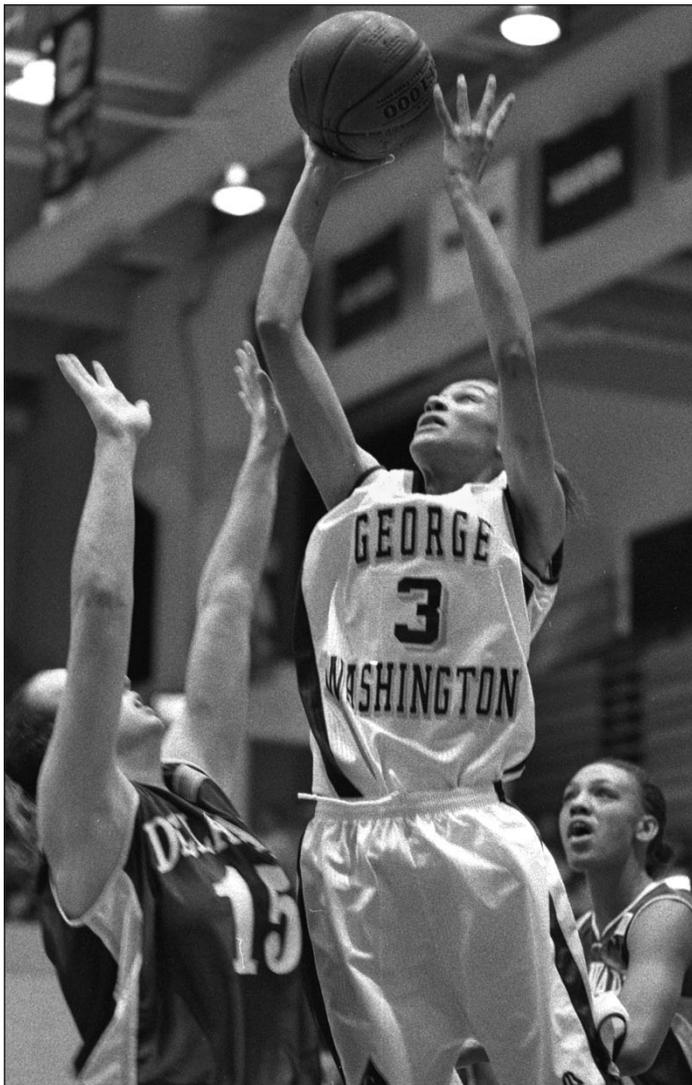
Foggy Bottom residents also argued at a Zoning Commission meeting Monday that students should not be permitted to live in the residential portion of the 1957 E St. building, although commission members said they have no power to enforce such a rule.

The meeting marked the latest chapter in an ongoing fight against the building, which has been under construction since May 2000 and is slated to open in time for school in September.

University Senior Counsel Charles Barber said the Zoning Commission seemed to accept the plans for the building, although it asked for more amenities. Barber said the University is "brainstorming" and will resubmit a proposal later this month.

The two-year history of the

See ELLIOTT, p. 7



Chris Zarconi/Hatchet staff photographer

WNIT WIN

Erica Lawrence lays in two of her 23 season-high points in GW's first-round WNIT win Wednesday. She became 19th woman Colonial all-time to score 1,000 career points. The Colonials advance to play at Virginia Tech Saturday. See story, p. 13.

Theft victims to receive money

by Joshua Riezman
Senior Staff Writer

Two more instruments were reported stolen last week from the music department despite repeated theft reports since winter break and requests from the department chair for tighter security. GW may start reimbursing theft victims for costs of stolen instruments students' insurance will not cover, Risk Management Director Barry Dempsey said.

Freshman Adam Silverman reported his trombone, case and music books stolen March 5, a loss he estimates at \$1,200. He had stored the items in a music department locker since Feb. 28.

Junior John Monroe said he had two saxophones worth about \$800 each stolen from his locker in the music department in the last six months.

Monroe said the first instrument was taken in October and the most recent theft, a rental instrument, occurred last week.

The thefts come after music students reported about \$20,000 worth of instruments stolen from the department over winter break. University Police officials at the time suspected the job may have been an organized effort because similar reports arose at other area schools, including the University of Maryland.

The University does not plan to pay students back for the winter break thefts because Risk Management could not prove that

Instrument THEFT

WINTER BREAK THEFTS

Nine instruments

- total value \$22,600
- University did not offer compensation

MARCH THEFTS

Two instruments

- total value \$2,000
- University offers compensation

GW "did or failed to do something that caused the theft or damage," Dempsey said. In this instance, he said, more thefts in the same location with few security improvements may demonstrate GW's negligence to protect student property.

UPD Associate Director Anthony Rocco Grande said there are security improvements in place and planned for the future. He said patrols have been increased in all three daily shifts and there are some security changes UPD does not want to release for security purposes.

Dempsey said no students have contacted his office about

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Spring Break trips: more than meets the eye

by Samantha Saifer
Hatchet Reporter

No one ever said spending a week on the beach was cheap. As Spring Break approaches, students find themselves scrambling for money to pay for their expensive vacations.

Students said that although travel agencies publicize low cost, all-inclusive Spring Break packages as early as November every year, there is often a catch. The packages that offer all-inclusive trips to tropical destinations like the Bahamas or Cancun with free meals, drinks and access to popular night clubs may be deceiving.

Freshman Sabrina Bells planned a trip for her and 16 friends to Cancun through Student Express Travel Agency. The trip was originally supposed to cost each student \$843, which included airfare, lodging, drinks, food and entrance to

certain spots. But Bells said the travel agency has not kept this set rate.

"It is a week before the trip, and we owe all of this money all of a sudden, because Student Express said that we have to pay a \$35 fuel surcharge that they just recently added on before the trip," Bells said. "You cannot depend on these people at all; they are so unhelpful and such a rip-off."

Bells said these companies tend to target college students because they are easier to rip off and don't know as much about travel expenses.

"They really take advantage of us," Bells said. "Who knows? We could get down there and have nothing."

Sophomore Emily Gabriel experienced a similar situation when dealing with Leisure Tours for her trip to the Bahamas with six of her friends.

"This has been the most horrible experience; the

company had so many last minute issues. I would never go through them again," Gabriel said.

Gabriel's trip cost her \$680, which includes a ticket, a hotel room, drinks and entrance to certain spots but no meals.

Gabriel said the agency informed the group of a lack of flights at the last minute and they now have to pay their own way to Newark in order to get a flight to the Bahamas.

GW offers several alternatives to the typical Spring Break trip.

This year the Office of Community Service will host two trips for students. Assistant Director of Student Activities Tim Miller said this year 13 students are going to Guatemala to do a variety of community service projects and 11 students will travel to Miami to build houses with

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GW wines, dines alumni

by Joseph Gidjunis
Senior Staff Writer

Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fl.) and University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg schmoozed with alumni to discuss D.C. congressional representation and GW networking opportunities Tuesday night on Capitol Hill.

The well-received black-tie event, which was largely a push for alumni donations, was catered with spirits and hors d'oeuvres in an elaborate caucus room with

chandeliers and a string quartet.

Stearns, a member of GW's class of '63, emphasized the University's role in his life to a crowd of about 100 congressional staffers and policymakers.

The list of alumni in attendance included research, think tank and government employees who are part of a recent GW initiative to earn more federal funding. Five U.S. senators are GW graduates, according to Alumni Relations. Stearns asked the crowd, gathered in the Canon

House Office Building, to act as delegates for GW in their public service roles.

"You need to speak positively of GW and your experience," Stearns said.

Trachtenberg said the University is "stronger" than it has ever been and applications are "breathtaking."

"How can I put this gently?" Trachtenberg asked. "Nobody here would get into the University

See CONGRESSMAN, p. 10



Joseph Gidjunis/Hatchet staff photographer

GW alumna Kathy Megyer (l.) talks to University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and other graduates involved with Congress on Capitol Hill Tuesday night. Five U.S. senators are GW graduates.

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