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Virginia campus expands

by Amanda Mantone
News Assistant

LOUDON COUNTY, Va. — As GW develops its 43 acres in Foggy Bottom to full capacity, the Virginia Campus in Loudon County is busy expanding from 50 to 90 acres in a long-term plan to innovate its current graduate and research programs and introduce new opportunities.

"We are bulging at the seams in our current buildings," Executive Dean of the Virginia Campus John Wilson said.

A \$27 million purchase of a PSINet building and the surrounding 40 acres in February should help future plans for expansion, which could bring more transportation and bioterrorism research to the sister campus.

The Loudon campus opened in 1991 and now houses a 77,000 square foot research and graduate education complex. The campus offers more than 25 graduate and research programs, primarily in information technology, transportation and biotechnology.

Funding for research and facilities comes from private donations, Virginia campus tuition and research overhead. Partnering companies offer GW grants and typically give the University extra money to help with expenses, GW officials said.

A stroll down the facility's "Technology Avenue" features

See WELCOME, p. 8



Michael Itti/photo editor

Freshmen Al Boulier (l.) and David Feldman fight each other to place their marker the farthest at the Freshman Block Party Saturday afternoon. Organizers said cold weather hurt attendance.

Bash makes chilly return

by Jesse Krinsky
Hatchet Reporter

Despite cross-campus advertising and a popular band, Saturday's Freshman Block Party on the Quad drew a smaller turnout than organizers had hoped for.

"We had a smaller turnout than we would have liked," said Mitchell Hall President Kelley Rowe said "But considering the weather, I think it was respectable."

Organizers and students said cold weather discouraged many people from attending.

About 1,000 students attended throughout the day, but fewer than 100 stayed for jam band Strangefolk.

The Block Party returned after a two-year hiatus

due to International Monetary Fund and World Bank protests in 2000 and scheduling problems last year.

Freshman Jess Jaross agreed the weather was a problem.

"There was a lot to do ... but I think the cold kept a lot of people away," said Jaross, who spent the afternoon sumo wrestling and jumping around in an inflatable spaceship.

Some participants were irritated by what they called false advertising.

"The fact that we had to use our points to pay for food" irritated freshman Janet Wolff. Advertisements on campus did not mention free food.

See WEATHER, p. 14

Groups call for worker rights

by Artemy Kalinovsky
Hatchet Staff Writer

A day of protests by the Progressive Student Union Thursday culminated in a picket line outside the MPA building an hour before the taping of CNN's "Crossfire."

About 20 students and community members who gathered for the evening demonstration said they were protesting Oncore Construction's alleged abuse of immigrants working at the Virginia Campus who obtain work visas through Oncore. The demonstration was one of many on campus Thursday, as students joined a national day of protest.

"The contractor has incredible leverage over the work force. If they complain, Oncore can fire them. If they leave their job, they have no legal right to stay here," labor organizer Steve Lanning said.

The Progressive Student Union set up an inflatable rat on the H Street side of the building. The rat, which was displayed at least once before outside of the Marvin Center and the Media and Public Affairs building, held a sign that read, "President Trachtenberg supports the exploitation of D.C.'s African-American and Latino workers."

Protesters marching outside the building said they were trying to put pressure on GW to use contractors with fair hiring practices.

Following the last protest in late March, GW officials denied the accusations and said the allegations may be a "smokescreen" for employee unionization.

"We will continue to pay attention to the claims and support good labor practices," GW Director of

See PSU, p. 9

Students debate Mideast solutions

In response to six suicide bombings in seven days, Israel launched an offensive into the West Bank to eliminate terrorists threats. President George W. Bush called for an immediate Israeli withdrawal last week.

- Above: boxed territories were captured by Israel in 1967
- Right: Israel went into bulletted cities in the past week.

by Julie Gordon
Hatchet Staff Writer

As Secretary of State Colin Powell prepares to travel to the Middle East to attempt to broker a cease-fire between the Israelis and Palestinians and quell the recent upsurge in the violence, students and Middle East scholars disagree over who is to blame and possible solutions to the conflict.

The U.S. Role

Political science professor Maurice East said he believes the United States is focusing too much attention on the region and needs to concentrate on its own war against terrorism.

"I'm not one of those who thinks the U.S. can make a great difference," East said. "I don't see why President Bush should be threatening his own position, risking his own war on terrorism, which is far more important."

East said the world has already reduced al Qaeda's ability to attack and is making progress in its war on terror.

East also said the United States cannot show its favor toward one side, in order to mediate the conflict.

"If (the United States) says

it's not going to do business with Yasser Arafat, how good of a help are we going to be as a third party?" he said. "If we let it be known to Israel that we don't care for Yasser Arafat, we won't be (an ideal mediator)."

Vice President of the Arab Student Association Mira Browne, a Palestinian, agreed the United States should stay out of the conflict because of its own biases.

"Right now I'm completely disheartened with what our government is doing," Browne said. "It is completely turning a blind eye to (the Palestinians' suffering) over there. I don't think lately America can be a true mediator because of its own biases."

Others said they think the United States should intervene. They say Israelis and Palestinians are incapable of coming to a decision on their own, and they do not trust any other countries as much as they trust the United States.

Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum, a Middle East think tank, said the United States should support its Israeli ally. He said he does not think

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Michael Itti/photo editor

Progressive Student Union member Alison Robbins urges GW to join the Workers Rights Consortium outside Rice Hall Thursday.

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