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Andrew Snow/photo assistant

LOUNGIN'
Sophomores Tom Kollever (l.) and Andrew Young take a break from studying Saturday and enjoy the warm weather outside the Dakota.

Campus split on speaker

by Julie Gordon
Hatchet Staff Writer

Brown University President Ruth J. Simmons will keynote GW's Commencement May 19 on the Ellipse, GW announced Monday. Simmons became the first black president of an Ivy League school when she took over at Brown last year.

Simmons, a child of Texas sharecroppers and great-great-granddaughter of slaves, wrote a 1993 report that became the model for affirmative action plans at campuses across the country.

Simmons served as president of Smith College from 1995 to 2001 and is noted for establishing the first-ever engineering program at an all-women's college. Simmons will also speak at Washington University's Commencement May 10.

While some students said they were disappointed not to get a well-known political figure, officials said Simmons is a good choice as a speaker because she focuses on education.

"I thought that GW has, with some notable exceptions in the last few years ... been heavily tilted toward political figures, and I thought it would be refreshing to have an academic to get us back to our core mission," GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said.

University Marshal Jill Kastle said after Sept. 11, the University wanted Simmons because she would demonstrate to students that education is "eternal."

"The world will have to come to an end before education comes to an end," Kastle said.

Many seniors said they did not understand why Simmons would be GW's top choice.

"To have your speaker be the president of another university isn't that interesting," Katie Mc Mahon said. "I'm curious to see who backed out."

"I'm not very impressed," Jeff Ackley said.

Other seniors said Simmons is a great choice.

See SPEAKER, p. 16



Courtesy Brown University

Brown University President Ruth R. Simmons will address the Class of 2002 May 19 on the Ellipse.

See HOSPITAL, p. 11

Sexual assault reports rise

Officials attribute increase to better response system

by Trevor Martin
News Assistant

Preliminary numbers from Student Judicial Services for disciplinary violations this year show a "concerning" hike in sexual assault complaints, suspensions and expulsions, while alcohol violations remained flat and fraternities saw a marked decrease in violations with no hazing charges.

Sexual assault victims come forward

Senior Assistant Dean Mike Walker reported that Student Judicial Services received 17 complaints of sexual assault or rape since August, a number that is "two to three times as much as normal."

Last year the University Police Department reported 10 forcible sex offenses, some of which may not have been brought before a SJS hearing board.

Walker said five of this year's sexual assault and rape cases went to the hearing board, meaning students could be either suspended or expelled. One

student was suspended, and one was put on deferred suspension, which means the student will be suspended if he commits another offense.

The others were found not in violation.

Walker said SJS hears one to two rape cases in an average year and called the increase in the cases "concerning."

University Counseling Center psychologist Kim Burghardt said it is difficult to say what caused the rise in complaints.

She said it might be attributed to more students having better knowledge of where to report assault and campus advocacy groups offering students support.

Senior Melisa Pardes, leader of a student-run rape support group, said she does not think rape or sexual assault is occurring more frequently.

"I think people are reporting it more," Pardes said. "People are getting the support they need to come forward through campus-wide events."

See MPD, p. 16

SJS figures	
2000-01	2001-02
SEXUAL ASSAULT	
1-2 cases	17 complaints, 5 cases
ARRESTS (as reported by SJS)	
88	60
HOSPITALIZATIONS	
46	38
DRUG EVICTIONS	
54	49
SUSPENSIONS	
5	8
EXPULSIONS	
2	4

MC gets face-lift

Plan will expand J Street by 92 seats

by Amanda Mantone
News Assistant

Students will find more J Street seating space next fall, after GW completes a \$20 million Marvin Center renovation project.

The University will expand J Street by 35 tables and enclose an outdoor patio over the summer to provide year-round eating space.

"The student population has increased, so the demand is there to have more seating," Associate Director of Marvin Center Operations Michael Brown said.

The outdoor terrace on the H Street-side of the Marvin Center will be enclosed in glass, adding 92 seats to Columbian Square, the J Street seating area. Brown said

the area will overlook H Street and have vertical blinds.

"It will be like a sun room," said Michelle Honey, director of architecture engineering and construction. "There will be lots of light."

A 960 square-foot outdoor terrace will also be added to the new eating area but will not have seating.

Construction will begin in June and should be ready to use by the start of school in September, Honey said.

"We may have to do some finishing touches to the outside in the fall, which could mean an October completion," Honey said.

See HOSPITAL, p. 11

Preliminary freshman class size quickly approaches 2,250

Admissions officials said incoming deposits to attend GW are coming in "as expected." As of Tuesday, the Admissions Office had received 1,885 deposits compared to last year's 2,095 by that point.

Director of Admissions Kathryn Napper said in an e-mail that she still expects to receive enough deposits to reach the targeted 2,250 class size.

The University received 205 more deposits at this time last year and 2,566 freshman registered in the fall, far more than GW expected.

Napper said GW admitted 6,800 applicants, 40 percent of the 16,900 applications received this year. She said GW accepted 7,740 students last year, 48.5 percent of the 15,960 applications received.

Napper said she expects more deposits before the middle of May. "Even though May 1 is the deadline to respond, students usually wait until the last minute to let us know they are coming," Napper said.

She said the University allows deposits to be postmarked May 1, meaning deposits could trickle in "for a few days" after the deadline.

So far, there deposits have arrived from every state with the exception of Wyoming, Utah and Mississippi.

-Trevor Martin

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