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Authorities charge grad for murder

by Mosheh Oinounou
News Managing Editor

GW Alumnus Kirk R. Palmer was charged with first-degree murder by Boulder, Colo. Police Thursday in the death of an Angolian immigrant who once worked for him. Palmer, who graduated with a master's degree in business administration from GW in May 2001, could face the death penalty if convicted.

Palmer, 25, is suspected of shooting and killing Antonio Vieira in the early morning July 26, after an argument during which Palmer accused him of sleeping with his girlfriend, according to the Boulder Daily Camera. He also faces first-degree burglary charges.

Vieira, 25, an emerging hip-hop artist, worked in Palmer's Grassroots Hemp store for three

weeks before he quit in early July, the Camera reported.

The GW graduate is being held on \$2 million bond because he poses a significant flight risk, said Boulder Police Sgt. Kurt Weiler.

Police detained and arrested Palmer July 27 at a Canadian border crossing in Montana, trying to escape north with his girlfriend in a pickup truck full of personal belongings, the Camera reported. No charges have been filed against Palmer's girlfriend, Weiler said.

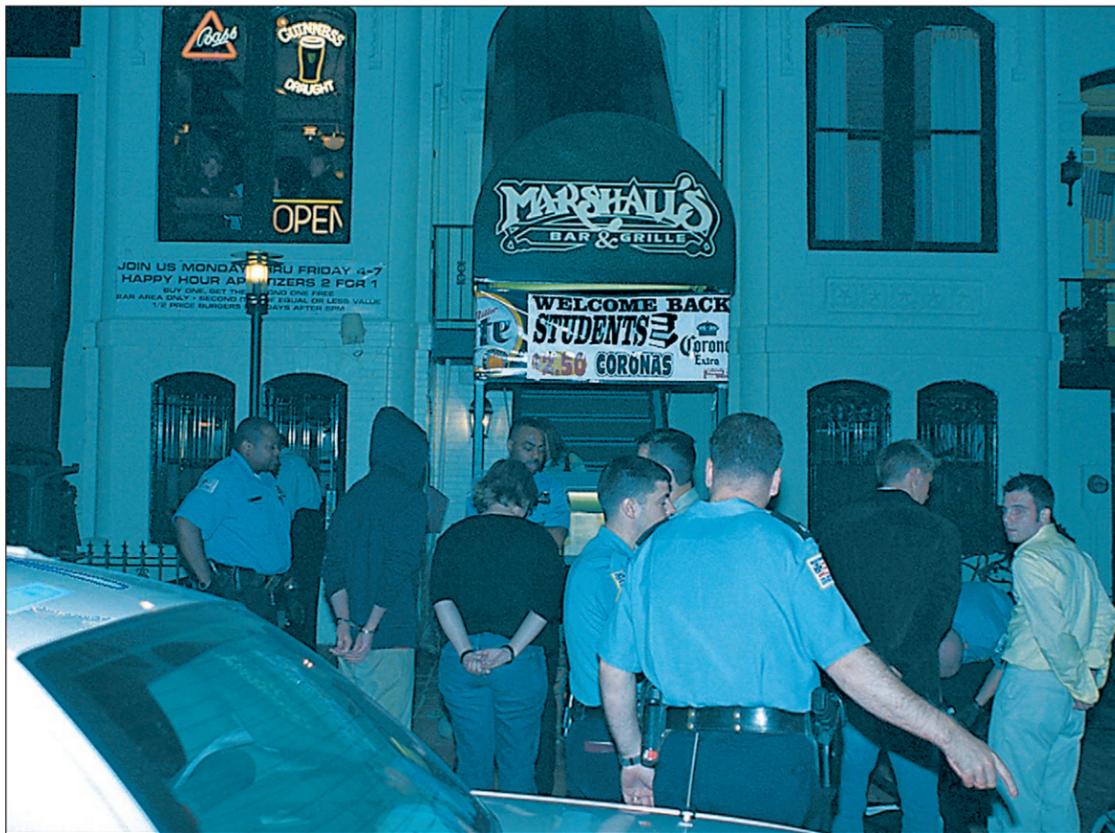
Montana police held Palmer until Aug. 7, when he was flown to a Boulder jail.

Boulder Police contacted the GW University Police Department for a picture of Palmer, Weiler said. School of Business and Public Management



Courtesy Boulder, Colo. Police
GW alumnus Kirk R. Palmer could face the death penalty.

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Andrew Snow/photo editor

Seven students were arrested at Marshall's on 25th and L streets Thursday night for underage drinking.

Police net local students

■ Almost 70 area students arrested in first weekend of MPD alcohol busts

by Alex Kingsbury
Metro Editor

Metropolitan Police mounted a major crackdown on underage drinking this weekend, arresting almost 70 area students for alcohol-related crimes. At least 11 GW students were among those caught around the city Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Marshall's Bar & Grille, at 2524 L St., was one of the first establishments raided by MPD. Just after midnight Friday morning, police entered the bar checking for underage drinkers, witnesses said.

Police on the scene confirmed that seven GW students were arrested for underage drinking.

Manager Ulysses Covington said he checked IDs of all patrons he served alcohol to but did not serve the individuals police arrested. The bartender who served the students declined to comment.

"If (patrons) are under 21 and not drinking, they could sit and eat or hang out," Covington said.

Despite assurances that IDs were properly checked, numerous patrons in the bar confirmed that their IDs had not been checked.

"We were hoping they would ask us for ID, but they didn't," said senior Adam Coyle, who was in the bar at the time of the bust. "Some kids, that should have, left because they saw the cops. The other kids just stared. There was a time when you could have

escaped if you wanted to."

Other patrons expressed similar concerns about how well drinkers' ages were checked.

"The staff of the bar was not really checking IDs here before the cops came in," said Tamara Gonzalez, a former GW student who witnessed the bust. "(The police) came in and took out everyone, and then the place emptied out pretty quickly."

Fifteen people remained in the bar after the raid.

"In the past few months we've been getting younger students, so that's why we've been carding," Covington said. "We're very careful about who we serve."

Police said they were aware that students were returning to campus last weekend, and sources

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In the front seat with MPD

by Alex Kingsbury
Metro Editor

"Half the people that I'll arrest tonight will wake up in the morning and not remember half of what happened. It's like Jeekyll and Hyde," says Officer George Rusnak, his eyes scanning the quiet Georgetown streets from his patrol car. "Most of them are really good people that just drink too much."

Rusnak has been on patrol with the Metropolitan Police Department for 13 years, and sees the same things every night when Georgetown, GW and American universities begin their academic years. MPD allowed The Hatchet to ride along with them Saturday and see college drinking from the other side of the badge.

"College kids think that we don't know what goes on. We know where all the biggest parties are and which bars don't check IDs as well as they should," Rusnak explains. "Today is the first weekend of the year where students are back at school and they'll be lots of them who'll be breaking the law."

Officers in the Second District, who cover the campuses of GW, American and Georgetown, pulled in 20 underage drinkers Friday night and Rusnak expects to see about the same number tonight.

"We don't see many nice people on the street after midnight," he says.

Tonight is Rusnak's birthday, and he will spend it chasing one taxi fare dodger, a peeping tom and hordes of intoxicated college

kids. Some people he lets go with a warning and some people he takes to jail.

"Alcohol makes people brave," he says. "Sometimes you have to take people in and sometimes you let them go, it is all about discretion."

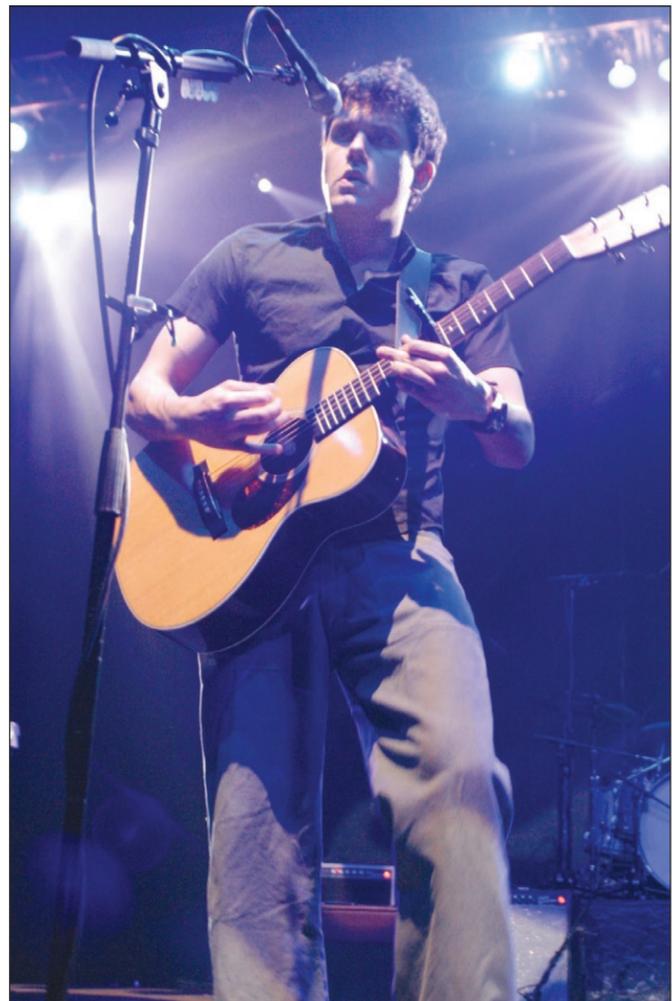
It is this way every night.

"Kids having fun at these parties and drinking on the street hate

"Most of them are really good people that just drink too much."

—Officer George Rusnak
MPD

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Andrew Snow/photo editor

MAYER FOR A DAY
Musician John Mayer closes out Welcome Week in front of a sold out Smith Center crowd Monday night. The weekend included a performance by comedian Lewis Black. See story p. 3.

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