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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

SA erases debt

■ Senators accuse Robinson of miscommunication

by **Kate Stepan**
Editor in Chief

With help from the University and summer GW students, the Student Association recovered all but \$500 of a \$50,000 debt they faced after distributing too much co-sponsorship money last spring.

Some senators have accused SA President Phil Robinson of taking undue credit for negotiating with the University, which contributed \$25,000 to help the SA out of debt. About \$24,500 was recovered from summer students' \$1-per-credit fees.

The SA budget is now at \$399,500 based on student fees from last year.

Robinson met with Johnnie Osborne, chief financial officer for Student and Academic Support Services, and other budget officials last week. Robinson announced the deal to senators and student groups by e-mail Monday evening, when he said he made sure the money was received by Joan Mitchell, who keeps the SA's books for SASS.

Finance Committee Chair Dan Moss (U-SBPM) said Sen. Tayseer Aldaghlis (SMHS) approached Osborne and asked for help before Robinson. Moss said Robinson withheld information about the status of the debt last weekend and has created a "deafening lack of communication from the executive (branch)."

Robinson said he was meeting with University officials, including SASS Vice President Robert Chernak, Wednesday.

"We like to make sure we keep everything in house until it's finalized," Robinson said, adding

he planned to get the Senate's approval of the arrangement at their meeting Tuesday.

Robinson said the atmosphere was "intense" as he delivered his president's report to the Senate at their first meeting Tuesday night in the Marvin Center. Ten newly-elected senators and Executive Vice President Eric Daleo ran on the "Working for Us" platform last spring that included Robinson's opponent, senior Josh Singer.

"It's going to take some time," Robinson said after the meeting, at which senators grilled him on purchases like business cards for his cabinet and computers for the SA office. "I was glad there were so many questions, that they're engaged. There's potential."

Several former "Working for Us" candidates deny the platform still exists after the election. "That is so over," said Student Life Committee Chair Kris Hart (U-at

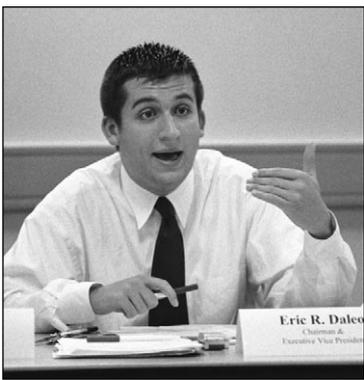
large), but said politics as usual within the SA have continued this year.

"I think (Robinson) and we can do great things if we get beyond the petty. Business cards – get over them," he said after the almost three-hour Senate meeting Tuesday.

"I have my friends," Moss said of the slate, adding Robinson worked with some senators more than others this summer. He named sophomore Omar Woodard (U-ESIA), who did not run on the "Working for Us" platform.

Moss said he is looking for communication that is "clear as Waterford Crystal," and mentioned that creating an SA mission statement may alleviate some problems.

"I hope the whole SA gets it together," Robinson said.



Chris Zarconi/photo editor
Eric Daleo chairs the SA Senate meeting Tuesday night.

Send comments to kstepan@gwhatchet.com

Ceremonies mark 9/11

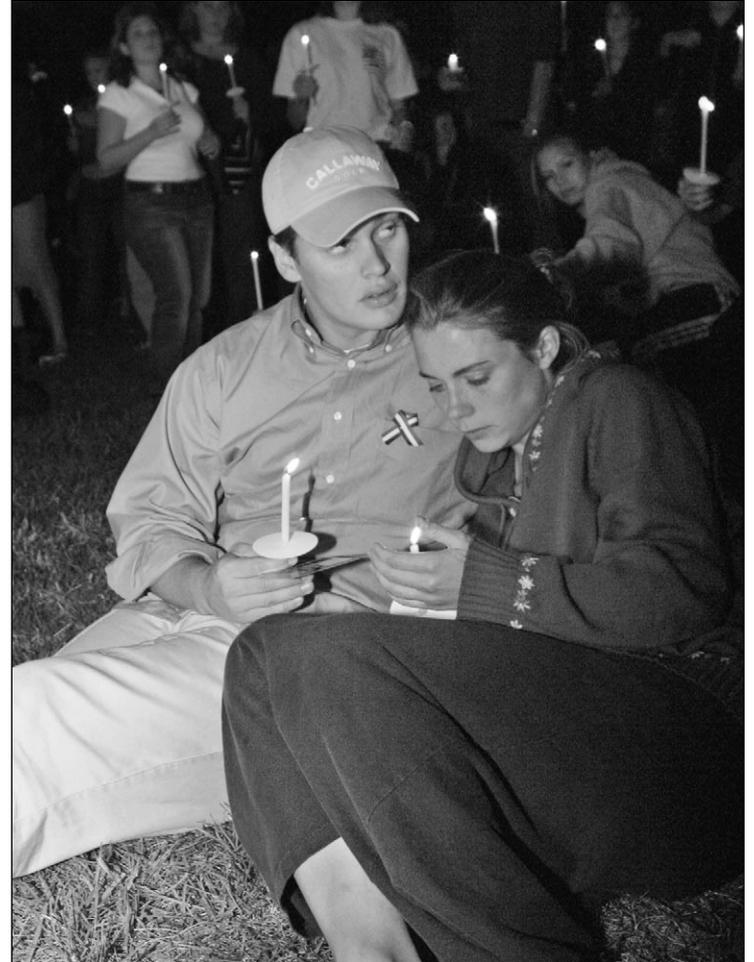
■ Campus, city commemorate terrorist attacks

by **Alex Kingsbury**
and **Mosheh Oinounou**
News Editors

"It hardly seems possible that a year has passed," University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said Wednesday night, echoing the thoughts of more than 1,000 students at a candlelight vigil on the Quad after a day of national reflection.

Almost exactly one year after students filled the Quad last Sept. 12 for a vigil, Trachtenberg, Student Association President Phil Robinson and University religious leaders addressed students while the U.S. and University flags blew at half mast in the brisk wind.

Dressed in windbreakers on the crisp night, students attempted to keep their candles lit while they listened to prayers from Christian, Muslim and Jewish campus chaplains. The religious leaders explained that students needed to have faith in a god even after tragedies like the terrorist attacks.



Andrew Snow/photo editor
Graduate students Dan Kretz and Jenny McDonough join more than 1,000 students for a vigil on the Quad Wednesday night.

See **PROGRAMS**, p. 12

GW hero reflects on rescue

by **Julie Gordon**
University Editor

A piece of cloth found on the fourth floor of the Pentagon Sept. 13 brought strength to a GW graduate student rescue worker as he was losing hope.

Eric Jones was at the Pentagon for three straight days after the September 11 attacks, when he and three others found an intact Marine Corps flag amidst debris near the area where the building collapsed.

"It was such a sense of pride that the flag had survived (the attack)," he said. "(Flags) are a symbol of everything our country stands for."

Jones, who received the Department of Defense Medal of Valor in July, began his patriotic work by chance while driving to class on the morning of Sept. 11 last year.

A trained paramedic with a degree in Emergency Health



Courtesy Eric Jones
Eric Jones at ground zero.

See **JONES**, p. 6

UPD increases H St. safety

■ Officers direct traffic, pedestrians – but cost Marvin Center \$2,600

by **Evan Stern**
Hatchet Reporter

Although GW placed a University Police officer in front of the Marvin Center last week because of construction, there are currently no plans to permanently station an officer there or close off H Street, officials said.

Michael Gargano, associate vice president for Student and Academic Support Services, said officers may be stationed outside the H Street crosswalk for a few more days if necessary.

At the beginning of last year, the Marvin Center put an officer in the same spot for about a week, but this year pedestrian safety concerns and traffic problems caused the University to station one there for a week longer, said Director of Marvin Center Operations Mike Brown.

"The first week back to school gets pretty hectic, and the officer is there to slow down traffic and protect the safety of the students," he said.

UPD Chief Dolores Stafford said the additional officers cost \$2,600 for nine days of service. She said the funds will come from the Marvin Center's budget.

Construction on the J Street addition has caused congestion problems for motorists and

pedestrians, Gargano said. He said he hopes traffic direction will keep students safe.

"You have a lot of obstructed views (with equipment and workers) outside the Marvin Center," Gargano said. "It's not the best environment for street crossing."

Metropolitan Police Commander Phillip Lanciano said southbound traffic diverted from the State Department adds to the gridlock.

Some students said the officers only add to traffic, and some students disregard them.

"Everybody pretty much ignores the officers anyway," sophomore Sandy Durnin said. "I think it's useless because kids are going

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Ellen Rockower/Hatchet photographer

A UPD officer directs traffic this week in order to alleviate student safety concerns at one of the busiest spots on campus.

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