



# The GW Hatchet

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Chris Zarconi/photo editor

Construction on Townhouse Row at 23rd and G streets is underway for a scheduled fall 2003 completion. The \$16 million complex could house up to 300 fraternity and sorority members.

## Greeks debate housing

■ Deadline approaches to apply for new on-campus townhouses

by Brian Weiss  
Hatchet Reporter

Sparse amenities and the smell of stale beer may typify many Greek-letter living experiences. Beginning in fall 2003, however, several Greek organizations on

campus will be able to enjoy new accommodations in the \$16 million townhouse complex currently under construction on the corner of 23rd and G streets.

### Encouraging a growing trend

The University broke ground this summer on Townhouse Row, a group of eight townhouses on the old Smith Center parking lot on 23rd Street, set for completion next fall. Fraternities and sororities have until November to sign

up to live in the townhouses.

The new townhouses will accommodate what the University hopes will be a growing number of students interested in fraternities and sororities, Associate Vice President of Student and Academic Support Services Mike Gargano said.

"This will be perhaps the greatest addition to Greek life that this campus has ever seen," he

See HOUSES, p. 13

## GW falls short of top 50 rank

■ U.S. News places GW between 51 and 55 on list

by Mosheh Oinounou  
News Managing Editor

Students will have to wait at least one more year before the University regains a spot in U.S. News and World Report's top 50 schools in the country. GW ranked in the second tier for the fourth year in a row on the magazine's annual college listing published this week.

While the University was ranked in the second tier, which lists the number 51-100 schools alphabetically, U.S. News officials said the University would rank between the 51-55 spots if the magazine was to rank the second tier.

"GW is at or near the top of being in the top 50," said Bob Morse, director of data research for U.S. News. "It's within the top five."

The magazine ranks schools based on seven weighted criteria including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity and financial resources.

The University ranked 50 in 1998 and 46 in 1996.

GW officials said the University's applications numbers have been consistently rising regardless of GW's ranking and called the listing "flawed."

### National University Rankings

- 18 Emory
- 24 Georgetown
- 35 NYU
- 43 Tulane

### Second Tier

GW  
American  
Boston U.  
U. of Maryland

source: U.S. News and World Report

"What U.S. News is trying to do is to turn sentiment and opinion into fact," University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said. "They may have an opinion ... but it's an opinion that is not sound."

He said the magazine changes the criteria each year to "sell magazines" and fails to account for

See RANKINGS, p. 11

## Budget forces Gelman to cancel book purchases

by Julie Gordon  
University Editor

Gelman Library officials said they had to curtail book buying plans for this academic year after collection prices went up and the library failed to receive an operating budget increase. Although administrators gave GW libraries a \$1 million combined annual increase last year, Gelman officials scratched about 12,000 volumes

from their shopping list this year because of inflation.

The cost of buying books and maintaining electronic collections rises about 7.5 percent each year, University Librarian Jack Siggins said. He said the library requests a budget increase based on this rate to cover inflation costs, about \$365,000 this year.

The library's operating budget for books, electronic journals and other collections is \$4 million.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Lehman said GW looks at "priorities" each year. Because the libraries received a \$1 million annual increase last year, he said the University focused on other academic areas this year.

Graduate support services, the Elliott School of International Affairs, the Law School and the honors program were given operating budget increases, while the libraries only received a "salary

pool" increase.

"I'm trying to set priorities in the academic budget so that I can keep improving the academic strengths of the University," Lehman said.

Lehman noted administrators "consider our addition of \$1 million very good" and that those funds came from a tuition increase.

Now Siggins must make "priority decisions" as to what types

of collections the library really needs, Lehman said.

"The librarian is charged with using that money strategically; (that's) specifically what I directed him to do," Lehman said. "When you have an additional million dollars to purchase books, that puts a major job (before the librarian)."

Siggins also noted "the support (from administration) has

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## MPD targets Foggy Bottom

■ Area liquor stores, bars see decline in underage business

by Heather Sala  
Senior Staff Writer

Police target liquor stores and restaurants in Northwest D. C. for underage drinking because of their proximity to college campuses, officers and store owners said.

Metropolitan Police Lieutenant Patrick Burke said officers in MPD's Second District, which encompasses GW, Georgetown and American universities, are "more

vigilant in enforcing underage drinking laws."

"In the last five years the MPD has really stepped up our efforts," he said. "It should get stronger every year."

The Alcoholic Beverage Control board has put several Foggy Bottom bars and restaurants on alert, telling owners to be aware of underage drinking on and around GW's campus said Hien Bui, who owns Froggy Bottom Pub on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"We don't measure our success by the number of underage drinking arrests we make," said Burke, who has led the underage drinking campaign in the area for the past

five years. "Our success is measured by crime we prevent by restricting youth access to alcohol."

Bar owners and police said the ABC watches stores closely, and the price for breaking the law is high.

"Whoever busts you are the people that determine what the fine is (for selling to minors). It's to their discretion," said Laura Bonita, a bartender at Brass Monkey on 18th Street.

Burke said the fines for serving alcohol to minors start at \$300 and offenders could get up to a year in jail, depending on the offense.

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Andrew Snow/photo editor

**UP IN SMOKE**  
Students who incur drug violations could still lose federal financial aid for college unless a stymied congressional bill makes progress in the coming weeks. See story, p. 2.

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