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COLONIALS WEEKEND: JOKES AND JAMS

by Zach Ahmad and Robyn Keyster
Hatchet Reporters

Despite security concerns after the recent sniper shootings and threats of inclement weather, more than 3,000 alumni, friends and relatives visited Foggy Bottom this weekend for what University officials are calling a successful attempt to "showcase the University to all of its constituents."

The first ever Colonials Weekend combined alumni and family weekends to increase student networking opportunities, officials said.

Visitors strolled down a closed H Street between 20th and 22nd streets this weekend on their way to carriage rides, speakers and numerous banquets, as well as the most well-attended events - Midnight Madness and Jay

See WEEKEND, p. 11



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

Sophomore guard T.J. Thompson gives a fan a high five as he enters the court during Midnight Madness festivities Friday.

Midnight Madness changes focus

by Brian Costa and Lauren Silva
Hatchet Sports Editors

"Five ... four ... three ... two ... one ..." GW students counted down the final seconds until the GW basketball team's first official practice. The pep band erupted into the fight song and team captains Ugo Oha and Chris Monroe led their respective teams onto the court. The only problem? It was 20 minutes after midnight.

In a return to the hoopla of years past, this year's "Xtreme Madness" focused less on basketball and more on professional and student acts to kick off the start of the 2002-03 basketball season. Nearly 5,000 fans packed into the Smith Center to see the long-awaited men's and women's first official practice of the season Friday night.

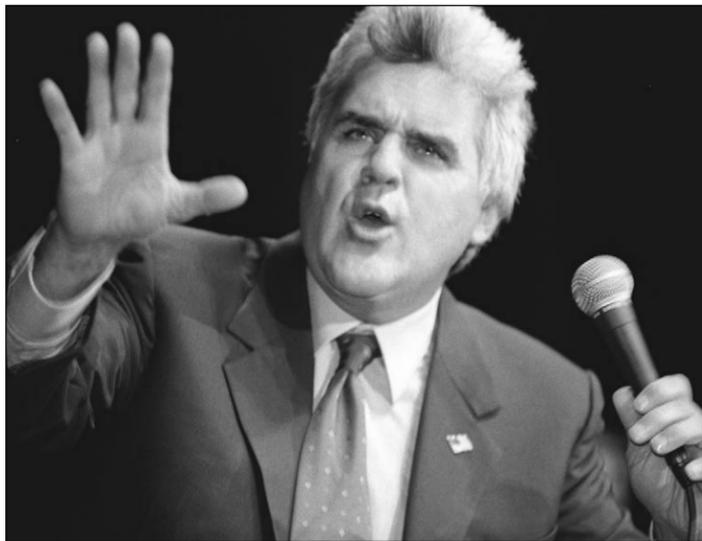
"Finally, pre-season's over," junior women's guard Marsheik Witherspoon said. "Now I can touch a ball."

The event culminated when 93.9 FM DJ "Antonio" introduced the basketball teams at about 12:20 a.m. The players, who usually scrimmage each other after introductions, shot around for about twenty minutes as a waning crowd stumbled out of the Smith Center.

Women's head coach Joe McKeown said the compromise between basketball and entertainment was a tough one, but that he and his players were pleased with the turnout.

"It's a good problem to have. As a coach, you want to see (basketball), but you don't want to dampen the crowd's enthusiasm," he said.

See MADNESS, p. 13



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

Jay Leno performed for two packed houses at the Smith Center Saturday night as part of an expanded Colonials Weekend.

Leno entertains all ages

by Dorothy L. Cascerceri
Hatchet Reporter

Lines stretched around Fungler Hall, up 21st Street, around Madison Hall and ended across from Fulbright Hall twice Saturday night. Families were treated to cross-generationalized shows, which most people gave good reviews, at the 8 and 10 p.m. sold-out Jay Leno performances.

Despite complaints that the host of NBC's "The Tonight Show" failed to cater his act

specifically to GW, audience members said they enjoyed Leno's quips about Osama Bin Laden, drunk airline pilots, cloning and his own family.

Leno performed in front of a classic motorcycle before an audience of about 4,000 people at each show, said Jamie Ahrens, assistant manager of scheduling and events at the Smith Center. The audience included D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, CNN anchor Wolf

See LENO, p. 10



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

Students cheer on activities during Midnight Madness. Though stands were initially full, bleachers were half empty by midnight.

See TGIF, p. 8

TGIF'S alleges fraud

Local restaurant claims University owes \$7,000

by Alex Kingsbury
Metro Editor

University officials said they are investigating allegations by T.G.I. Friday's managers that GW owes the 2100 Pennsylvania Ave. restaurant at least \$7,000 in outstanding Debit Dollar transactions.

The restaurant is still listed as an "off-campus" partner for Debit Dollars on the GWorld Web site, but a Friday's official said that he stopped accepting Debit Dollars because the University has yet to pay for transactions dating back to last semester.

"The University owes me too much money to keeping accepting Debit Dollars," said John Faison, general manager of T.G.I. Friday's. "It is a real shame because, you know, students like to come here. I want to do business with GW and GW students, but I am scared."

Faison said the restaurant's Debit Dollar machine, which scans GWorld cards, broke at the end of last semester, prompting the restaurant to write down GWorld card numbers and names in lieu of using the machine.

"Our machine went down and no one came to fix it," Faison said.

He said the restaurant has not been paid for bills charged to the Debit Dollar accounts after the machine broke.

Ayodele McClenney, a senior project manager in the Office of Auxiliary Services, said the University is "looking into the situation," but declined to comment on the specific allegations.

Students said they are disappointed that Debit Dollars are

The math of financial aid

GW'S PRICE TAG

tuition and fees \$27,430
student government fee \$30
books and supplies \$850
room and board \$9,920
personal fees \$950
total \$39,180

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION:

- Tuition and other costs
- Total family income and assets
- Family size
- Number of children attending college
- Extenuating circumstances

+ GW proposal:
cost of living

Student costs - Expected contribution = Proposed aid

GW looks for aid reform

Financial aid office requests government consider cost of living

by Julie Gordon and Becca Schwartz
Hatchet Reporters

University financial aid officials are requesting that the government include cost of living in the "expected family contribution" criteria for students applying for federal financial aid. Financial Aid Director Daniel Small said the current system should be altered to give greater weight to regional cost of living

differences in calculating students' financial aid packages.

The new criteria would "recognize where students are coming from" and help them "meet daily expenses," Small said.

When students apply for need-based aid, their expected family contributions are determined by tuition and other costs, total family income and assets, family size, number of children attending college and extenuating circumstances. The expected contribution is subtracted from the cost of attendance to generate the amount of money the government will contribute.

This method leaves cost of liv-

ing out of the equation, although these costs vary widely across the country. The Department of Education, which evaluates federal aid applications, subtracts state income tax, which varies from state to state. Some officials say more regional distinction is needed.

Small said altering the criteria is a "big issue in discussion with parents," and the office is taking preliminary steps to make changes.

"People are paid a higher income because of where they're living," Small said.

See AID, p. 8

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