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Prof travels to Iraq

■ SBPM professor criticizes U.S. policy toward Middle East

by **Bryan O'Keefe**
Hatchet Reporter

While President George W. Bush continues to warn Americans about the dangers Saddam Hussein's regime pose to the nation, a GW professor recently visited Iraq, a so-called member of the "axis of evil."

Business professor Tom Nagy returned from a two-week humanitarian mission to protect Iraqi children from what he believes would be unwarranted U.S. attacks on their country last week.



Courtesy Tom Nagy
Professor Tom Nagy

"I will do anything to slow the rush to war which endangers Iraqi children," Nagy said in an interview from Jordan, shortly before he returned to the United States last week.

Nagy performed a variety of tasks while in Iraq, including providing estimates of the number of civilians needed to act as a human shield to protect infrastructure and buildings for Iraqi citizens.

"My colleagues expressed fear for my life from the Iraqis, but I feared U.S. bombs more," Nagy said. "Happily, there were not any problems from either source."

While in Iraq, Nagy worked in conjunction with two international humanitarian groups, Voices in the Wilderness and Generation Peace, in protecting infrastructure such as water and sewage plants by using their bodies as shields. Nagy said the idea behind the project is that the United States will be less likely to bomb targets

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photos by Andrew Snow/photo editor

Josh Coover (l.), a business school graduate student, shovels dirt during the groundbreaking of the new SBPM building Thursday. Below: GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg talks with donor Dawn Duques (BA '69).

GW 'breaks ground'

■ University holds ceremony, awaits building permit

by **Carolyn Kendzia**
Hatchet Reporter

Although a construction start date for the building has yet to be set, about 200 University administrators, trustees and students gathered at the future site of the new School of Business and Public Management Thursday afternoon for a ceremonial groundbreaking.

GW is awaiting a city building permit to begin construction on the 167,000-square-foot facility, which the University will obtain within the next few months, officials said. The ceremony was held last week to coincide with the Board of Trustees meeting Friday.

Instead of breaking ground, administrators set up a pile of dirt on top of the Fungler Hall parking lot to symbolize where construction will begin. Diggers, including GW President



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Man robs students at gunpoint

by **Michael Barnett**
Hatchet Reporter

Two GW students were robbed at gunpoint early Wednesday morning as they were returning home from Club Daedalus, a nightclub on Vermont and K streets. Metropolitan Police are investigating the incident.

At about 2:30 a.m. at 17th and K streets, an individual approached the two students from behind and threatened them with a gun. The assailant then struck sophomore Zach Gore in the head with the butt of the weapon.

"He yelled, 'Give me your wallet' several times before I told him to take whatever he wanted," Gore said. "He then put his hand in my pocket and took my wallet."

The assailant then turned the gun on Gore's companion, sophomore Kim Simon, and demanded her bag.

"I wasn't trying to make a move or anything. I didn't want to try to knock the gun out of his hand," Gore said. "I just wanted to make sure no one got hurt."

The man, who Gore described as a black male wearing dark clothing, snatched the bag off Simon's shoulder and ran away.

Simon said the assailant seemed nervous and amateur, noting that he was shaking his gun.

"I didn't realize what was happening. I never thought something like that could ever have happened to me," she said.

Off-campus robberies have increased in the past few years, according to University Police Department records. There were nine off-campus robberies in 2001, up from seven in 2000 and four in 1999. Eight off-campus robberies have been reported to UPD so far in 2002.

The UPD Web site advises students to travel with someone when walking in the city, particularly at night.

Although personal safety in D.C. is a concern, many students still venture out late at night.

Despite the incident, Gore said he is not deterred from District nightlife.

"It's not preventing me from going out, but I'm scared to walk alone at night," Gore said.

Simon said she will take a taxicab in similar circumstances in the future.

Most students said they feel safe on campus despite the incident.

"I've never felt threatened on campus, but if I were to go anywhere else, I'd make sure that I'd be in a large group," said freshman Sarah Kofke-Egger.

Send comments to news@gwhatchet.com

Women, men face violence

■ October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by **Brett Levanto**
Hatchet Reporter

Recent GW graduate Melisa Pardes knows all about domestic abuse.

When she was 12, her 17-year-old boyfriend raped her. Pardes also grew up with emotionally and physically abusive parents. Afraid to tell anyone about her rape, Pardes kept her problems to herself. With nowhere to turn for help, she plunged into alcohol and drug use and self-mutilation practices.

She had a string of abusive relationships - boyfriends would hit her during arguments. As peers learned of her reputation for a "wild" lifestyle, they began to treat her accordingly, expecting her to act in certain ways or "hook up" with any guy, Pardes said. "(I) sought out abusive relationships because it felt right," she said.

Pardes was a victim of a problem thousands of Americans face. President George W. Bush proclaimed October Domestic Violence Awareness Month last year and urged Americans to learn about what he referred to as a "social blight."

Metropolitan Police received more than 19,000 calls of domestic

violence in 2000, according to the D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Domestic violence and emotional abuse are defined as behaviors and actions used by one person in a relationship to control another. Those involved may or may not be married, can be homosexual or heterosexual and can have many different relationships with each other.

Women who find themselves in abusive relationships usually make excuses to justify the actions of their partner, according to the Web site for My Sister's Place, a local shelter for battered women.

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Joe Gidjunis/Hatchet staff photographer

Freshmen Matt Cohen, Zac Cypress, Josh Meixner, Andrew Kalt and Charles Calloway clean up Foggy Bottom Saturday afternoon. See story p. 12.

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