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SA officials resign

by Alex Kingsbury and Mosheh Oinounou
News Editors

Two Student Association officials have resigned as an internal power struggle continues to shake GW's student government. While leaders including SA President Phil Robinson and Senate members said they are ready to move past the internal squabble and address student issues, evidence continues to arise that implicates senior SA officials in questionable behavior.

Senator Don Jacobsen (GCCAS) unexpectedly resigned his Senate seat Saturday, calling the SA "the most dysfunctional, impotent, captured and corrupt organization ... in Washington."

Jacobsen, 35, who submitted his resignation in a public e-mail statement, admitted to participating in a recent effort to remove Robinson from office that included multiple meetings and an incident in which a senator claimed to have secretly recorded a conversation with the SA president.

Robinson's Chief of Staff Damien Gardner also resigned this weekend, citing ROTC commitments and weariness with SA politics, Robinson said.

A Senate investigation into SA funds Robinson spent for a dinner with Presidential Administrative

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GW employee dies in shooting

■ MPD officer shoots Odetta Emanuel in arrest gone wrong

by Elizabeth Brown
Executive Editor

A Metropolitan Police officer shot and killed GW employee Odetta Emanuel during a botched arrest at the intersection of 49th Place and Blaine Street NE at about 8:15 p.m. Thursday night. A plainclothes officer and a murder suspect in the car with Emanuel were also shot and wounded, according to a police statement.

The vehicle Emanuel was driving had been stopped by a plainclothes officer attempting to execute an arrest warrant for her companion, murder suspect William Wade, 26. Two officers responding to a backup call mistook the plainclothes officer, Investigator Joseph Gatling, for an armed suspect and opened fire, wounding both Gatling and Wade and killing Emanuel with a shot to the head, police said in a statement released Friday.

Emanuel, an executive assistant in the Office of Student and Academic Support Services, began working at GW about a year ago. SASS Vice President Robert Chernak said the killing shocked him.

"She was a terrific worker, very nice," Chernak said. "She would always go out of her way to be helpful."

Though Chernak said he heard about the shooting on his way to work Friday, he did not know Emanuel was killed until Friday evening.

He said he was concerned when Emanuel did not come in to work Friday morning.



Ellen Rockower/Hatchet photographer

GW executive assistant Odetta Emanuel was killed Thursday evening on the corner of 49th Place and Blaine Street in NE. An MPD officer shot her, a plain-clothes officer and a murder suspect.

"She was the type of person that, if she was not coming into work, she would call," Chernak said.

Chernak said Emanuel, who lived in the 1100 block of 13th Street NW, was planning to move back to her home in Minnesota this December to help take care of her ill parents.

"She only was planning to be in the area for about a month. It just makes the story even sadder," Chernak said.

Student Association President

Phil Robinson said he was friends with Emanuel "in and out of the office."

"She was really outgoing, really student-oriented," Robinson said. "She was really important to the SA. She let me know what things were being discussed, what the administration's take was."

Senior Joshua Hiscock said he got to know Emanuel last summer when she worked for the GW Summer Tour day camp. He said she helped with scheduling and talked to many parents.

"She was a very kind, caring person," Hiscock said. "She took a great interest in the camp."

Presidential Administrative Fellow David Burt also worked with Emanuel in the

(Emanuel) would always go out of her way to be helpful.

—Robert Chernak, VP for SASS

See EMANUEL, p. 8



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

D.C. councilwoman and Republican mayoral candidate Carol Schwartz debates with Mayor Anthony Williams earlier this fall at GW in preparation for Tuesday's elections.

Mayor hopeful speaks

■ Republican Carol Schwartz discusses GW expansion

by Sarah Levin
Hatchet Reporter

Republican mayoral candidate Carol Schwartz addressed the Foggy Bottom Association Monday, speaking about taxes, budgets and GW expansion. Mayor Anthony Williams was invited to the FBA meeting, held at the Melrose Hotel, but was unable to attend.

Schwartz is a D.C. councilwoman running for mayor in her fourth election.

"I wouldn't have run four times if I didn't want this job," Schwartz said. "I'm tired of cleaning up everyone else's messes."

This year's mayoral race has been mired in scandal. Current mayor Anthony Williams, who is favored to win a second term, won the Democratic nomination as a write-in candidate after his original nominating forms were found to be fraudulent.

The D.C. Office of Campaign Finance also accused Williams last week of violating personnel rules by raising \$1.5 million for political events using government resources and time. The mayor's office has taken full responsibility, according to a Washington Post article.

Williams won not only the Democratic

ticket but also the Republican nomination due to write-in votes. District law prohibits a candidate from running for both parties, so when Williams accepted the Democratic slate, Schwartz accepted the Republican nomination.

"It is hard for me to pass up people that say, 'I need you,'" Schwartz said. She said the "petition debacle opened up the door a little bit" and made it possible for her to run.

Schwartz voted against GW in the recent case to issue a city bond to authorize the University's expansion.

Schwartz said she would be "in everyone's face who wants to take our taxable land and turn it into non-taxable land."

"Steve Trachtenberg doesn't even want to see me," she said.

Undergraduate students expressed little concern for the upcoming elections.

"I just don't have an interest in D.C. politics," sophomore Tano Akiya said. "I'm more interested in politics back home. They affect me more."

Some Law School students seemed more invested in local politics.

"D.C. is the only city that is managed by the federal government. We need leadership that can handle that additional responsibility," law student Adam Nyhan said.

Send comments to news@gwhatchet.com

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