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Elevator failures increase

by Michael Barnett
Hatchet Reporter

Elevator stoppages are on the rise, with 107 cases of students getting stuck in elevators since January, a 35 percent increase from last year, according to October University Police Department statistics. Facilities Management officials said they are looking to replace elevators in problem buildings but have yet to receive funding.

Project Manager for Facilities Management Tony Jones attributed the increased stoppages to "older, mechanized elevators in GW buildings." He cited the elevators in International House as examples of where the "system is dying."

Jones said Facilities Management has had plans to replace elevators in International House for five years, but the University hasn't allocated money for the project.

Jones said he hopes GW will "give the go ahead" to replace the elevators this summer.

Elevators are evaluated by Facilities Management to determine which ones need replacement and repair. The department then sends its recommendations to the budget office.

The University is set to replace elevators in Burns Law Library and Stockton Hall this summer.

The Hall on Virginia Avenue and New Hall are leading all residence halls with the most repair calls since January. Officials have made 55 repair calls to HOVA and 47 to New Hall through October, according to Property Management statistics.

HOVA and New Hall face the same problems as older

See ELEVATORS, p. 12



Ellen Rockower/Hatchet photographer

Junior Phara Serle (center) points at the TV screen as more election results are announced in the Hippodrome Tuesday night.

Election stirs emotion

by Zach Ahmad
Hatchet Reporter

Hundreds of GW students packed the Hippodrome Tuesday night for an election night bash sponsored by the Program Board. Students waded in a pool of leather couches and folding chairs to keep watch on the latest election results pouring in from across the nation on CNN and the Fox News Channel.

The crowd was a potpourri of politi-

cal identifications, with self-proclaimed Republicans, Democrats, independents, libertarians and socialists all coming together to see who would take control of Congress as the entire House and a third of the Senate went up for grabs. Students sported stickers, buttons and T-shirts bearing partisan slogans, logos and candidates' names.

"A lot of spirited people showed up,"

See ELECTION, p. 2

SA probes suspect documents

by Alex Kingsbury and Mosheh Oinounou
News Editors

The investigative arm of the Student Association is examining a series of questionable expense reports by Sen. J.P. Blackford (G-SEAS) for alleged offenses that may lead to his removal from the student government.

The office of Judicial and Legislative Affairs began an investigation Wednesday into an expense report Blackford filed on behalf of the Engineers' Council for a conference he attended in January. Blackford both filed and approved the Expenditure Approval Form, which paid for conference registration fees totaling \$440.

SA bylaws state that only an executive financial officer can approve such forms and that individuals cannot approve their own expense reports.

A separate JLA investigation is looking into an April 30 expense report filed by Blackford for \$136 allegedly spent on "soda and ice" at Riverside Liquors.

In the most recent investigation, Blackford has come under fire from the Engineers' Council, a parent organization for student groups within the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

An EAF filed by Blackford on Nov. 26, 2001 shows he spent \$440 for an engineering conference he attended in Nova Scotia, Canada, in January. The form, which requires the signature of the requesting organization's financial officer, was signed by Blackford, then-vice president of the group, who identified himself as a financial officer.

Current Engineers' Council President Vikrant Duggal said only the president and treasurer are authorized as executive financial officers of the group. Duggal called the EAF "suspect."

Blackford, chair of Senate Rules Committee, said then-Vice President for Financial Affairs Josh Friedman was responsible for catching procedural errors in EAFs.

Duggal said the form indicates Blackford broke an SA bylaw which states "no individual shall sign off as an authorizing signature on any form in which they will receive any personal benefits."



Leanne Lee/Hatchet staff photographer
J.P. Blackford

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4-RIDE use breaks record

■ UPD, SA to analyze increased student use

by Michael Barnett
Hatchet Reporter

University Police Department officials said they are attempting to cope with record 4-RIDE use, as more than 9,000 students used the University escort service in September, the highest monthly volume in 4-RIDE history.

The number represents a significant increase from last September, when 6,500 people used 4-RIDE, according to UPD statistics released last week.

UPD Chief Dolores Stafford said she cannot attribute the

increase to a specific cause. She said UPD will be looking at usage in the upcoming months to determine whether or not more 4-RIDE vehicles and drivers are needed.

"We'll be looking at upcoming months to see if there has been a steady increase in usage," Stafford said.

She said if the increase continues UPD will ask GW for additional funds to buy more vans.

The 4-RIDE budget, included in UPD's budget, is about \$500,000 per year, Stafford said.

When it began in 1994, the 4-RIDE escort service had one car and one driver. Now 4-RIDE has eight vehicles and a full-time staff of 14. From July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002, 4-RIDE escorted more than

73,000 people, according to UPD statistics.

The service carries its passengers to any destination on or within three blocks of the Foggy Bottom campus. The service operates between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. every day.

Both students and 4-RIDE drivers have voiced the need for more vehicles, citing long waits due to greater demand.

"For the weekends, we need more buses. There are just too many people requesting our services," said a 4-Ride driver who called herself Maria.

Students agreed the service is not keeping pace with its demand.

"4-RIDE is very reliable during

See 4-RIDE, p. 11



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

A 4-RIDE van drives by Thurston Hall. The UPD service was used by more than 9,000 students in September.

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