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Israeli bill passes

■ Robinson weighs veto of controversial Senate resolution

by T. Neil Sroka
Hatchet Staff Writer

A controversial piece of legislation pledging the Student Association's support for the U.S.-Israel relationship has stirred controversy within SA branches and among students on both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Senate passed the bill by a narrow margin Tuesday and SA President Phil Robinson is currently deciding whether to approve or veto the resolution after an emotional two-hour debate Sunday night, during which the sponsor of the legislation called for its veto.

Students from the pro-Israel community, including the Student Alliance For Israel and Israel Peace Project, proposed the legislation as part of an effort to get student organizations to sign on to the coalition's petition in favor of "maintaining and enhancing a mutually beneficial relationship between the U.S. and Israel."

See ISRAEL, p. 19



Matt Ricciardi/Hatchet staff photographer

ALMOST THERE
Sophomore T.J. Thompson drives to the basket in GW's near-upset of No. 2 Texas Saturday. See story, p. 22.

Hospitalization numbers up

■ Semester alcohol-related incidents surpass last year's total
by Matt Windman
Hatchet Staff Writer

More students have been hospitalized for alcohol-related incidents through November than the entire 2001-2002 academic year. University officials are calling the increase a positive sign, noting that more students are willing to call University Police for intoxicated friends.

Forty-four students were hospitalized by the end of November, while a total of 43 students went to the hospital all of last year, according to Student Judicial Services records.

"There are now more hospitalizations because students are now more willing to call (UPD) for their friends," said Brian Hamluk, manager of the Substance Abuse Center and

director of the Center for Alcohol and Drug Education.

Officials also attribute the rise in hospitalizations to a drug awareness campaign targeted at freshmen.

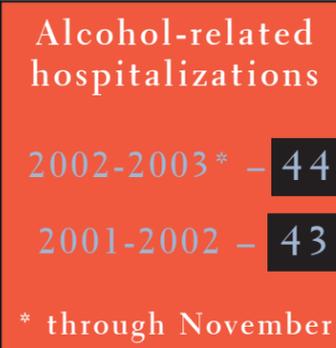
Hamluk estimated that at least half of this year's total alcohol violations have involved freshmen. The campaign included "Real Deal" drug and alcohol education sessions and skits relating to alcohol use at Colonial Inauguration. About 75 to 100 students attended the sessions, according to CADE.

Officials said the rise in hospitalizations proves that students are becoming more responsible for their friends' actions. Some students, however, said more students are drinking larger quantities of alcohol, which can lead to hospitalizations.

"There has been more serious drinking - more binge drinking," sophomore Carole Emory

See HOSPITALIZATIONS, p. 18

•For an update on GW's new drug and alcohol parental notification policy, see story, p. 18



Upgrades to fix persistent Webmail woes

by Michael Kelly
Hatchet Reporter

Technology officials said they will begin upgrading Webmail software this winter to combat problems persistently plaguing students this semester. The changes to the system will improve Webmail services and fix unexpected log-outs, inability to log in to accounts and slowness, according to Information Systems Services.

During winter break, ISS will lay

the groundwork for the entire upgrade, which will occur throughout the spring semester.

"We expect it to solve some of the problems caused by looping messages, broken addresses, etc. that confuse the current software, in addition to it being a more robust system in the way it stores and manages the messages," said Ronald Bonig, executive director of ISS Technology Operations. "It is also designed to work more seamlessly with the anti-virus software pack-

ages."

The current Webmail system, which uses a program called Sun Internet Mail Server, will be replaced with new, upgraded software called Sun ONE Messaging.

"By the end of the next semester, we intend for all parts of the e-mail system to be new and more robust," Bonig said.

Early next semester, ISS will begin switching all accounts to the new system, but students will not have to change any of their settings.

The current Webmail system will be upgraded for the first time since its introduction in August 2000. GW has been planning the upgrade for about a year, during which ISS officials decided how they would fix the current problems, conducted surveys and tested different potential servers.

Webmail slowness is attributed to an increase in e-mail use, with almost 6.5 million e-mails being processed each month, officials said.

The system is also slowed

because the University scans each piece of mail to protect against viruses, Bonig said. About one in six e-mails contains a virus.

"The massive growth in sheer volumes of e-mail, plus the increasing percentage of e-mails carrying viruses, have strained the system," Bonig said.

Most recently, students found Webmail's L-Z server was "down" when they returned to campus after

See WEBMAIL, p. 21

Greek Village spots named

by Rachel Gould
Student Life Editor

GW announced the names of three sororities and two fraternities receiving a spot in the Greek Village townhouses, currently under construction and set to open next fall. University officials said property negotiations with some fraternities are continuing and the groups receiving the remaining three houses will be announced before Dec. 18.

The Alpha Delta Pi, Delta Gamma and Sigma Kappa sororities and the Phi Kappa Psi and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternities received spots in the townhouses. Officials announced the acceptance in letters to the Greek-letter

organizations Friday afternoon. Sixteen groups applied to live in the six 24-person houses and two 30-person houses built in a row on the east side of 23rd Street by the Smith Center.

"In all the committee weighing of the criteria, these five scored the highest," said Robert Chernak, vice-president for Student and Academic Support Services.

While the five groups stood out in the consideration of the 16 Greek-letter organizations who originally applied for the houses, the remaining three became more difficult to decide, officials said.

"Each group has various strengths in different categories," Chernak said. "The was a little less comfort level in deciding the

final three."

Kappa Sigma, Tau Kappa Epsilon and Lambda Chi Alpha are the three fraternities still in contention for the new townhouses that currently maintain privately owned houses on campus.

Chernak said the acquisition of these properties would play a role in the decision and that this criteria "would take precedent over other criteria."

"We are always interested in purchasing property that is for sale to improve GW academically," said Mike Gargano, associate vice-president for Student Academic Support Services.

Greek-letter student leaders

See VILLAGE, p. 20



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

DANCING FOR A CAUSE
Freshmen Lauren Clarkemoe (l.) and Jenny Wei tear it up at the Charity Ball Friday in the Marvin Center Ballroom. See story, p. 19.

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