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Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Freshman Erin Adams (r.) greets friends Jenny O'Brien and Kate Planitzer in front of Thurston Hall Sunday afternoon as they return for the start of the spring semester.

## ESIA classrooms remain closed

by Julie Gordon  
University Editor

While faculty members initially planned on moving into the new Elliott School of International Affairs building over winter break, the facility remains under construction as classes begin Monday. Students will attend classes in other buildings across campus until the facility is completed, and officials said an end date for construction has not yet been determined.

ESIA officials anticipate the facility will be ready by April; however, they are currently deciding whether the school will change classroom locations mid-semester once the building is ready for use.

"We're anticipating moving soon, and then of course the added difficulty is, do we start our

classes and move?" said Kathleen Reilly, ESIA director of public affairs. "It creates a lot of difficulty when the optimal time is once we get going into the semester."

Until the facility is ready, ESIA offices and classes will be based in their current buildings, Lisner and Stuart halls. Students will also take classes in locations such as the School of Media and Public Affairs' Jack Morton Auditorium, the Gelman Library and Building XX.

Although the University planned to open the academic portion of the building at the end of the fall semester and start classes there in the spring, construction delays and waiting for a certificate of occupancy curbed GW's plans, Reilly said.

The University held classes in

See ESIA, p. 15

## Taking shots with Trachtenberg

by Jeff Nelson  
Hatchet Sports Writer

There's an unofficial club here at GW that you won't find on any list or Web site. Racquetball is the activity, but conversations and friendships are at its core. While the members range in age, ability and status, whoever participates is always treated as an equal. And this club will allow anyone to join ... even me.

On the day before Thanksgiving, I ventured to the Smith Center at eight in the morning for my first event with the unofficial club. On that crisp November morning, there were four members other than myself participating.

1. Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, GW president. It was the first time I had met him personally, and his stories were as humorous and witty in private as they are in his public speeches. On the court, however, he was quiet and focused, with an occasional smile or "nice shot." Wearing a T-shirt tucked into his blue sweatpants, it

was the first time I had ever seen him out of a suit.

2. David Watts, executive director for the President's Initiative on the City. He sets up the times and players for the club and wears a brace on his left knee from seven operations, but don't let that fool you. He moves pretty darn well on the court and he was the best player there.

3. Minh Yhun, a part-time faculty member in the political science department. On this particular morning, President Trachtenberg was teaching him how to say a Hebrew prayer. Though he had a little trouble with the throaty 'ch' sound at the end of melech, Yhun was now prepared to bless a cup of wine. As far as I could tell, Yhun is not teaching Trachtenberg any other languages or prayers.

4. Dr. Arthur Weinstein, professor of medicine and the director of rheumatology at GW. He had the misfortune of playing doubles with me for two games. While I'm

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## University Police officer killed in car accident

University Police Officer Dustin Boothe, 23, of Beltsville, Md., was killed Dec. 15 in a motor vehicle accident in Laurel, Md., in Prince George's County.

Boothe, who had served with UPD since July 2002, is remembered as dedicated and well-liked by fellow officers.

"He was a sharp kid and he will really be missed," UPD Chief Dolores Stafford said. "It is very sad. Dustin seemed like he had lots of potential and really loved the job."

"He was always very professional and got along well with his fellow officers and students," said Lt. George Brittle, Boothe's supervisor. "He just did his job and never complained."

—Alex Kingsbury

## MPD busts Lindy's thief

■ District police nab area safe-robber after restaurant burglary

by Alex Kingsbury  
Metro Editor

A daring daylight burglary of Lindy's Red Lion Wednesday led to the arrest of a Northeast man police say may be connected in a string of more than 40 District thefts over the past few months.

A Lindy's manager interrupted a robbery in progress Wednesday morning when he opened the restaurant at 7:30 a.m. The burglar, who was carrying a bag of liquor bottles taken from the bar, threatened the manager and fled.

The thief had apparently forced open a steel-reinforced rear door of the restaurant and stolen a safe and more than 30 bottles of liquor, said the manager, wishing to remain anonymous.

Lindy Adams, owner of the restaurant, called the internal damage to the restaurant "serious and substantial."

"I heard a noise upstairs when I came to open up," the manager said. "There was a lot of damage, so the guy must have made a lot of noise in the process. It is hard to believe that no one heard anything going on."

The Washington Post reported that Robert Bellemey, 41, was taken into custody Wednesday morning shortly after the Lindy's burglary. Bellemey was arrested after he let detectives into his Northeast apartment, where they found a safe stolen from the near-campus restaurant.

The Post reported that police were tipped off about Bellemey in December and found money boxes and 10 safes, some weighing up to 300 pounds, in his apartment on North Carolina Avenue, N.E. Police Commander Jeffrey Moore



Andrew Snow/photo editor

The damaged back door of Lindy's Red Lion, which was broken during Wednesday's burglary, has since been replaced.

of the Second District called the case one of the largest he has seen.

"Volume-wise, this is one of the biggest (burglary) cases I'm aware of," Moore told The Post.

"It is really unbelievable that something like this could happen in broad daylight so close to the University," Adams said. "This area is so safe. I guess it is just a sign of the times."

The lower door of the restaurant had been reinforced with

metal bars following a robbery several months ago and, though the robbery was captured on video surveillance equipment installed in the restaurant, Adams said she plans on installing an improved security system soon.

The Lindy's manager said this is the third burglary of the establishment in the past year and a half.

Send comments to [akingsbury@gwhatchet.com](mailto:akingsbury@gwhatchet.com)

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