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Webmail still in limbo

■ Technology officials work to re-index stored messages
by **Kate Stepan**
Editor in Chief

After almost a week of sporadic e-mail service, technology officials brought recent and new e-mails to user inboxes late Wednesday night. Students should be able to view e-mail received Tuesday and Wednesday and send and receive new e-mail Thursday, said Bret Jones, director of technology engineering.

Information Systems and Services staff have taken all saved e-mail off the system to re-index and re-send, which should appear in student inboxes over the next 48 hours, Jones said.

Experts from Sun Microsystems, the company that manufactures GW's e-mail storage hardware, still have not identified the cause of Friday's severe hardware failure of the controller that allows students to view e-mail. Jones said that while the Webmail site most students use to access e-mail experiences occasional slow-downs and failures, GW's system of e-mail storage has not failed in the two years since it was last upgraded.

Students should not lose any e-mail because of the downed hardware, Jones said, unless their inbox reaches its 20-megabyte quota.

Mail sent to students was



Leanne Lee/Hatchet staff photographer

Director of Technology Engineering Bret Jones points to the new disks technicians are using to store old e-mails from the failed server.

returned with a message notifying the sender it was undeliverable, and attempts to re-send itself for about four days. If an inbox reaches its quota, it returns all mail to the sender with a message that the inbox is full.

Students named inconveniences from missed assignments and graduate school correspondence to health concerns as a result of the downed e-mail.

"I rely on Webmail for my medicines," said Andrew Tabler, a freshman, whose political science and film studies classes also rely on the e-mail system. "I send the information to the company online and need the e-mail to work."

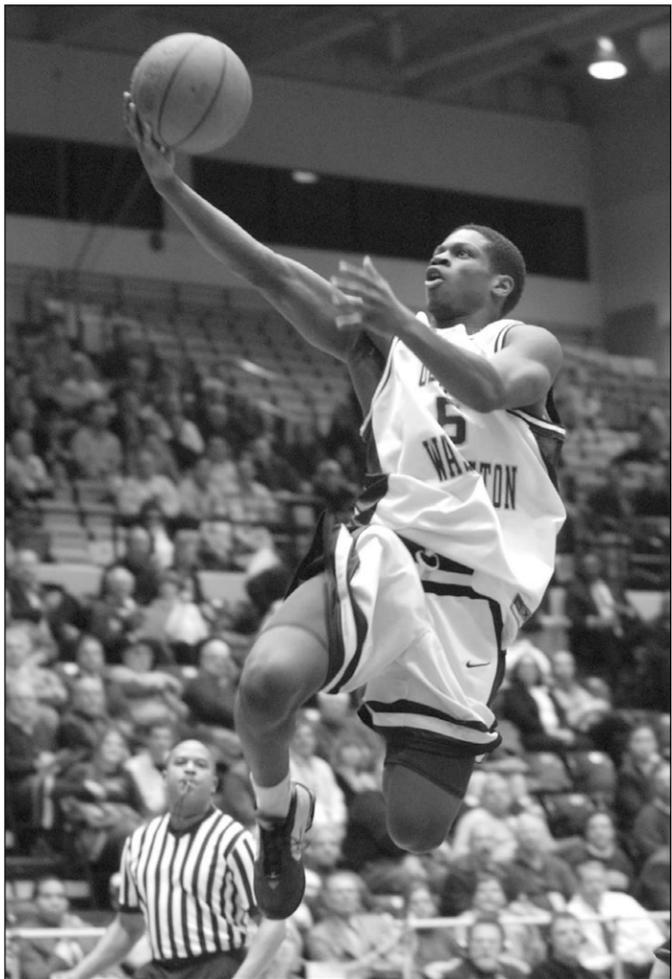
"No one in the business world could run without an e-mail sys-

tem," said Jim Rector, a sophomore, whose English professor had sent e-mails to his class only to find that the system failed to deliver them to the class. "(The outage) is unbelievable."

Charlie Spann, who runs the ISS help desk, said the e-mail server processes 150,000 messages in an average day and the backlog of e-mails sent to student inboxes over the weekend is approaching one million.

Eagerly anticipating the repair of GW's e-mail system, students were let down once again after being able to use it for only part of the day Wednesday for the first time since Friday afternoon. Officials had to bring the server

See **WEBMAIL**, p. 15



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

DRIVING TO VICTORY
Sophomore guard T.J. Thompson scored GW's game-winning lay up with 29 seconds remaining to break the Colonials' six-game losing streak. See story, p. 17.

UPD to seek additional 4-RIDE funding

by **Michael Barnett**
Hatchet Staff Writer

Increased demand and long wait times led University Police to request additional funding for the 4-RIDE escort service, which has seen a 54 percent increase in student use this year.

UPD Chief Dolores Stafford said she cannot attribute the increase to a specific cause but said it is not a "fluke." She said

UPD will evaluate 4-RIDE to determine where additional funds would be most effective in meeting students' needs.

"We need to look at staffing, and what we can do to the best of our ability to keep up with the increase in usage," Stafford said. "Right now, we're dealing with students' requests as fast as we can."

Stafford said she does not think the service will be "cut down" if additional funding is not

provided, but more money is needed to maintain an efficient level of service. The 4-RIDE budget is currently about \$500,000 per year.

UPD used money from the department's general budget to hire three part-time drivers to drive during peak times because the 4-RIDE budget was exhausted, Stafford said. Drivers work eight-hour shifts.

Stafford said students should

expect an average waiting time of 20 to 30 minutes for the service, and that they may spend up to 10 minutes trying to reach a 4-RIDE operator.

"4-RIDE is definitely a good service, but it's very unreliable," freshman Mary Ann Knot-Craig said. "You never know when they're going to come. The wait time could be anywhere from 15 to 45 minutes."

The escort service currently

has one operator handling five phone lines. If 4-RIDE receives more funds, UPD would look into hiring more operators and adding more phone lines, Stafford said.

Longer wait times have led some to question the service's ability to boost campus safety.

"4-RIDE would help campus safety if it was more efficient in picking up people," freshman

See **4-RIDE**, p. 15

President speaks on possible war, economy

■ Student reactions mixed on annual presidential address

by **Matt Windman**
Hatchet Staff Writer

GW students had a range of reactions to President George W. Bush's second State of the Union address Tuesday. Bush spoke about domestic issues but focused on making his case for a potential war with Iraq in the one-hour speech, during which he called his first two years "a good start."

The first half of the speech was dedicated to the domestic issues of the President's political agenda. He also announced social initiatives including AIDS relief for Africa and the Caribbean and new environmental programs, including billions in funding for hydrogen-powered automobile research.

But Bush spent a significant amount of time

See **SPEECH**, p. 15



Alex Kingsbury/Hatchet photographer

Students watch the State of the Union in the Hippodrome Tuesday.

■ Domestic issues eclipsed by impending military action in Iraq

by **Alex Kingsbury**
Metro Editor

In his second State of the Union address, George W. Bush sought to reassure the country that his attention was focused as much on the economic news analysis woes of the world's last remaining superpower as it was on its foreign policy.

Steeped in partisan political rhetoric and an almost Wilsonian championing of American ideals, Bush called on Congress to support his economic, social and military agendas.

The address was essentially two speeches. The first, a typical Republican stump speech on the upcoming executive agenda for Congress, a rallying

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