



# The GW Hatchet

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER • WWW.GWHATCHET.COM

VOL. 99 No. 47

SERVING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SINCE 1904

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003



## Tuition increase to address needs

■ Officials set to release budget to Board of Trustees Friday

by Julie Gordon and Mosheh Oinounou  
News Editors

While a handful of students protested the upcoming tuition increase in Kogan Plaza Wednesday, administrators are stressing the academic and student life merits of next year's budget, which will be announced Friday afternoon.

The University will present its budget priorities and expected revenue numbers, including tuition figures, to the Board of Trustees for approval Friday. The board is set to approve the revenue numbers and will receive a finalized University budget at its May meeting.

University academic and student life officials said technology, 4-RIDE and financial aid will be among this year's priorities.

"Financial Aid is a big priority ... it's the single biggest item in terms of what our needs are," said Robert Chernak, senior vice president for Student and Academic Support Services, noting that GW boosted aid by \$9 million last year.

A higher unemployment rate, a smaller average family income and asset depletion led the University to increase aid this year, he said.

GW sent an emergency \$500,000 to the financial aid office this winter after the office depleted its resources last fall. Chernak said the University is estimating that the \$11 million increase will be sufficient.

The University plans to increase 4-RIDE funding by 50 percent to \$500,000 next year because of increased demand for the service. Use has almost doubled this year, according to University Police Department numbers.

He added that the University is also looking to add machines to the Health and Wellness Center and give Disability Support Services a funding increase.

Chernak spoke about a University plan to improve customer service by enabling students to use technology to do more administrative tasks, a more professional GW help desk and better trained staff within departments.

A part of the University

See TUITION, p. 16

### 2003-2004 budget priorities

#### Student Life:

- \$11 million Financial Aid increase
- Extra machines for HWC
- Disability Support Services
- GW Customer Service initiative

#### Academic:

- Gelman Library collections
- Classroom technology
- Freshman writing program
- Graduate teaching stipends

## Elections hit climax



■ Voting is smooth as candidates prepare for final push

by Matt Windman  
Hatchet Staff Writer

The first day of GW's second-ever online student election went smoothly, election officials said, despite snow and multiple campaign violations. Though some students reported computer problems, Joint Election Committee members said they are pleased with the turnout thus far and said they hope to announce winners Thursday night.

Poll watchers said it generally took students between one and three minutes to vote and lines appeared short at polling locations throughout the day.

The online voting process requires students to log on to a

See SA, p. 15

photos by Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer  
Top: Junior Anthony Heisler dances to attract support for his roommate and SA presidential candidate Adam Greenman. Below: SA presidential candidate Graham Murphy talks to potential voters outside of the Marvin Center Wednesday afternoon.

## Daleo implicated in fall scandal

by Alex Kingsbury  
Metro Editor

On the eve of the student government elections, the Vice President of Judicial and Legislative Affairs has released a report implicating former Student Association senator J.P. Blackford and incumbent Executive Vice President Eric Daleo.

According to the report, authored by VPJLA Justin Oshana, Daleo and Blackford knew student funds were being used to purchase alcohol for a party and concealed the purchase by mislabeling them in an SA expense report.

"I was not aware this report was going to be released," Daleo

said, calling the report's release "a gross and absurd abuse" of the VPJLA's power.

Daleo, who is running for reelection, declined to comment on the specifics of the report, saying he had not been given a copy and he didn't want to justify it with a response. Blackford failed to return multiple phone calls Wednesday for comment on the report or his potential campaign.

Oshana said he released the report to The Hatchet and SA President Phil Robinson Wednesday in an effort to prevent Blackford from being elected to the Senate as a write-in candidate.

The timing of the release, however, has raised questions both

about the power of the VPJLA, the investigative arm of the SA, and the political motivations behind it.

According to the SA bylaws, the VPJLA has nearly unlimited powers to investigate members of the SA for violating its rules.

Robinson, ultimately the only check to the VPJLA's office, was also unavailable for comment.

The report presents the conclusions of the VPJLA's investigation — that Blackford falsified an expense report for a \$136 receipt from Riverside Liquors and violated SA bylaws that were grounds for impeachment.

Witness testimony from former

See REPORT, p. 6



Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer  
Junior Stewart Lupton signs a petition in Kogan Plaza Wednesday while students protest GW's expected tuition increase. See story, p. 15.

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