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Warner to give address

■ Virginia governor set to speak at Commencement

by Alex Kingsbury
Metro Editor

Virginia Governor Mark Warner will keynote Commencement May 18, a spokesman in the governor's office and GW officials confirmed Tuesday.

Warner, 48, a Democrat, graduated from GW in 1977 and is a former member of the University's Board of Trustees.

"The governor feels a personal connection to George Washington (University) and the city," said Kevin Hall, a Warner spokesman. "It was where he was bitten by the political bug."

GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg said Warner had been GW's first choice as Commencement speaker in previous years, but he was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

"It all came together," he said, adding that the Democrat was the University's first choice this year.

"He is a GW alumnus, he is a successful entrepreneurial businessman, he is a public servant in an adjacent state," Trachtenberg said.

Now a self-made millionaire with an estimated fortune of \$200 million, Warner has worked as a paperboy, a dishwasher, a stock boy, a shoe salesman and a janitor at a hospital, according to The Washington Post. He was the first member of his family to receive a college degree and became an active member of the Democratic Party.

Warner graduated from Harvard Law School in 1980 and went on to be a founding partner in the Columbia Capital Corporation, a venture capital fund in Alexandria, Va. The organization started more than 65 businesses, which employ more than 15,000 workers, according to Warner's official biography.

In 1996, Warner lost a U.S. Senate bid to popular incumbent Virginia Republican John Warner by six percentage points.

Warner was inaugurated as the Virginia governor in January 2002 to find that the projected budget shortfall in Virginia had been drastically underestimated and that the state was in a severe financial crisis. He managed to present a balanced budget within the first 100 days in office.

An advocate of gun rights and

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Jeff Baum/Hatchet staff photographer

NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK
Sophomore Anne Lipsitz (r.) leads participants of Take Back the Night, including Ari Mittleman (l.), down G Street Monday night as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. See story, p. 7.

D.C. fights for representation

by Michael Barnett
Hatchet Staff Writer

The red and white "Taxation Without Representation" flag flying outside the U Street office of D.C. Vote is stained and tattered, a symbol of the ongoing struggle to secure voting rights for District residents.

Inside the office, paid staff and volunteers scurry about with a renewed sense of purpose, as Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton's (D-D.C.) bill to give 600,000 District residents congressional representation makes its way through the hallowed halls of Congress.

The No Taxation Without Representation Act of 2003, introduced by Norton in March in the

U.S. House of Representatives, would grant District residents full representation in Congress by creating two seats in the Senate and one seat in the House.

At issue is Norton's status as a delegate, which prevents her from voting on legislation, severely limiting District residents' ability to influence congressional proceedings and legislation. The complete absence of the District in the Senate is also a barrier to congressional influence. District residents are subject to federal taxation even though they don't have voting representation in Congress.

Norton, a six-term congresswoman whose legislative efforts have earned her the nickname

"warrior on the hill," appears to be a modern-day Sisyphus, forever condemned to pushing voting representation up Capitol Hill only to see it defeated by overwhelming Republican force year after year.

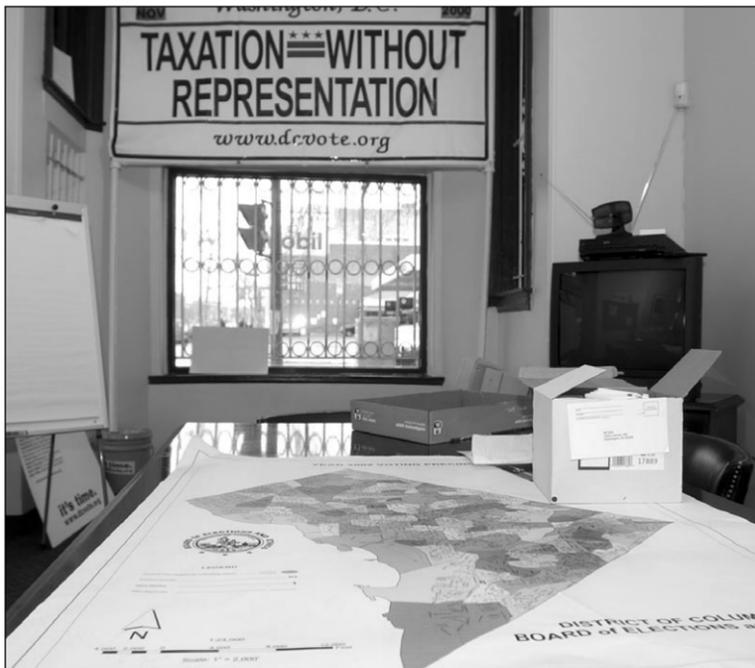
In an effort to secure the passage of her bill, Norton has enlisted the support of her democratic colleagues in the House and Senate.

Norton's staunchest supporter, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), has brought a similar bill to the floor of the Senate, which is co-sponsored by several democratic senators, including presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.).

"With the Lieberman-Norton bill, we've crossed that initial hurdle, which is to get a consensus on

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Jeff Baum/Hatchet staff photographer

A map of the District decorates a table in the D.C. Vote office. The fight for D.C. voting rights is stronger than ever, supporters say.

University faces additional problems reissuing ITRs

In the latest in a long line of technical snafus that have highlighted the 2003 housing lottery process, the University had to shut down the reissuing of lottery numbers Wednesday when more than a dozen students received number 10,000.

Sophomores and juniors should only have received numbers between 1 and 4,499. Housing and technology officials said they pinpointed the problem and contacted the 16 students who received the erroneous numbers. The students were told to reapply for another number, officials said.

"We caught the problem very early on, shut it down and added logic to the system," said Brian Selinsky, director of Banner operations. He said the system will now send an error message to students asking them to choose a new number instead of issuing number 10,000.

"We are confident this will help the system," Selinsky said.

Housing Director Andrew Sonn said the reissuing of rising sophomore Intent to Return forms, which started last Thursday, went off without a hitch and that he is "confident" there will not be any more problems regarding rising juniors and seniors.

ITR distribution originally took place the week of March 24, but a problem with an equation meant to randomize the numbers led instead to some sequential allocation. Students have through Saturday to resubmit ITRs.

Sonn said officials are doing "full scale testing of the lottery process" prior to the April 26 and 27 lottery dates. Selinsky added that the lottery is a "simpler process," and he does not expect to experience any problems.

—Mosheh Oinounou

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