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University buys Gallery

by Mosheh Oinounou
News Managing Editor

Upperclassmen will be able to live with their boyfriend or girlfriend, a friend from another D.C. school, their cat or their grandmother in University housing next year after GW finalized plans to purchase a luxury apartment building in Rosslyn, Va. this week.

The University signed a deal Wednesday with The Gallery, located two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro stop at 1800 Wilson Ave. The 381-unit apartment building is set for completion in June, but opened the first few floors to tenants earlier this year.

University officials said rising juniors and seniors with lottery

numbers will have the first opportunity to choose apartments and will be able to pre-reserve rooms starting Monday.

"We wanted to provide a lifestyle option that is different from what is readily available within the system," said Robert Chernak, senior vice president for Student and Academic Support Services.

As long as one GW junior or senior lives in a room, Chernak said students will be permitted to live with anyone they wish including non-students and members of the opposite sex.

"This is the closest thing the University provides to independent living," he said, adding GW hopes to eventually open the

building to professors, staff members and graduate students.

The University will initially make 125 units available for juniors and seniors and provide shuttles to the building starting Monday, which will leave Fulbright Hall every 30 minutes from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students will have the opportunity to tour the rooms in the building, which is planned to have an outdoor putting green, heated pool, Jacuzzi and underground parking garage when completed.

Parking will be available for student residents of the building for \$35 a month. Additional campus parking deals are available for

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Jeff Baum/Hatchet staff photographer

The Gallery in Rosslyn, Va. will offer upperclassmen luxury apartments through GW housing in next weekend's lottery.

GW will not comply with zoning regulations

Alex Kingsbury
Metro Editor

The Hall on Virginia Avenue will remain a freshman residence hall next year and study abroad students will be able to choose from all upperclassmen residence halls, officials announced Wednesday with other housing selection changes.

The University will not comply with the Board of Zoning Adjustment's order to house 70 percent of undergraduates, including all freshman and sophomores, on campus next semester, allowing GW to change some housing plans, officials

said. "We are not going to be in compliance and it will take us longer than this fall to become in compliance," said Vice President and General Counsel Dennis Blumer. "We hope to get there."

Plans for making HOVA an upperclassman hall were made in an effort to meet the BZA's requirement. Officials said the school made a "good faith effort," including purchasing a new building in Virginia (See "University buys Gallery," above) and rearranging student housing options, to comply with the BZA order.

The BZA is withholding construction permits for University projects, including one for construction of a new business school, while GW fails to comply with its restrictions.

Blumer said GW was in negotiations with the city to resolve the issue of the business school building permit.

"We are hoping that (the city) will be helpful," Blumer said.

Officials said the housing changes were made primarily in response to student concerns.

"Allowing study abroad students the pick of junior and senior halls just makes sense," said Andrew

Sonn, director of Housing Services. "We had a lot of feedback from students and it was not entirely positive. Students like to have the freedom of choice."

Sonn said Madison Hall will be redesignated as a sophomore hall and single rooms in Crawford, Guthridge, Strong and Francis Scott Key halls and the International House will be held for upperclassmen.

Student Association President Phil Robinson and President-elect Kris Hart were instrumental in bringing student concerns to the administration, officials said.

"The administration has been very receptive," Robinson said. "We told them what the students' concerns are and they have worked to address them."

Students were glad to hear about the housing changes.

"I think it's a good thing because it's not fair for upperclassmen to be put in rooms without kitchens when sophomores get the nicer dorms," freshman Emily Egan said.

—Andrea Nurko and Mosheh Oinounou contributed to this report.

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Jeff Baum/Hatchet staff photographer

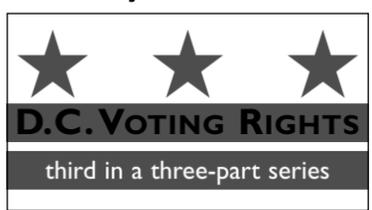
D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams (seated) and Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans (l.) applaud after the Mayor announced D.C. will hold 2004's first Democratic presidential primary in Freedom Plaza Tuesday.

Residents rally for voting rights

by Michael Barnett
Hatchet Senior Staff Writer

More than 300 people gathered in Freedom Plaza Tuesday afternoon to protest District residents' lack of voting representation in Congress.

The D.C. Voting Rights Rally,



sponsored by D.C. Vote, an organ-

ization campaigning for District voting rights, featured several prominent District politicians including Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and Mayor Anthony Williams.

The rally coincided with the

See VOTING, p. 6

Space crunch hurts scheduling

by Rachel Gould
Student Life Editor

Some students registering for classes next fall may still see "classroom TBA" on their schedules as the University deals with an academic space crunch. Major building renovations in the next few years and new scheduling strategies, including more Friday classes, will lessen the impact of the classroom shortage, University officials said.

A report released to the Faculty Senate last week noted a decline in GW's general-purpose classroom space because of a growing student population and planned renovations of campus academic space.

While 20 fall 2003 classes have yet to be scheduled, fewer than five classes were canceled altogether, said Craig Linebaugh, associate vice president for Academic Planning and Special Projects.

Officials said to alleviate the crunch, individual departments must take scheduling procedures seriously and slate classes only in time slots allotted. Linebaugh said departments are given scheduling guidelines and a distribution of classes across the time span of a day. Departments failed to follow these policies, causing problems

prior to fall registration.

"We waited as long as we could, but as of March 28 we still had 97 classes in the schedule that we did not have room for," Linebaugh said, noting that the departments were then given 72 hours to rearrange the schedule. Twenty-five departments received memos citing scheduling difficulties, he said.

Changing the day and time of classes by using a room normally controlled by a specific department, as opposed to a traditionally general-purpose room, or moving courses to the Mount Vernon Campus helped relieve the scheduling pinch, Linebaugh said.

"There were some small problems, but it was resolved easily," said statistics department chair Tapan Kumar Nayak, noting that his department worked closely with the scheduling department throughout the process. "We are concerned (for the future) but we also trust that the people (in charge) will do their best to solve the problems."

The current freshman and sophomore classes are among GW's biggest ever, putting new pressure on class space as these students enter upper-level sections.

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