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## GW cuts alumni e-mail

by T. Neil Sroka  
Hatchet Staff Writer

Alumni need to find alternative e-mail accounts by June 2, after GW informed graduates this month the University will terminate their "@gwu.edu" accounts.

Although GW has allowed alumni since the class of 1999 to use their accounts indefinitely, administrators recently decided to cut the service because of high costs and e-mail volume.

Alumni will be able to sign up for new "@alumni.gwu.edu" accounts in June, which will act strictly as forwarding addresses that bounce all e-mails to alternate addresses, such as Yahoo or America Online accounts.

However, former students will be unable to send and receive e-mail or view old messages stored on their GW mail accounts with their new "@alumni.gwu.edu" accounts.

All future graduates will be subject to the new policy, although no details have been provided to this year's graduating class.

Director of Advancement Creative Services Andrea Marsh sent an e-mail April 8 to all alumni affected by the new service.

Information Systems and Services Technical Director Ron Bonig said increasing e-mail volume and use - equaling increased costs - necessitated the policy change. Bonig also said the "exponential growth" of GW's e-mail use in recent years resulted in more junk e-mail spiraling through University servers, which in turn raised University e-mail costs.

Bonig declined to release specific figures.

"It just isn't possible for the GW system to carry this many accounts indefinitely without causing technical difficulties and significant expenses," Bonig said.

An outside company unaffiliated with GW's ISS department will manage the forwarding accounts.

Although alumni e-mail accounts were not directly to blame for e-mail outages in late January - which left students without e-mail access for a few weeks - technology officials said the extra accounts played a part in preventing officials from bringing the service up sooner.

"The very large number of alumni accounts that were totally filled, mostly with spam, dramatically increased the time it took to institute any efforts to bring the system back up," Bonig said. "The mail store was taking

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Paul Goodman/Hatchet photographer

Democratic presidential hopeful Rev. Al Sharpton criticized the Bush administration in Fungler Hall Thursday night.

## Rev. Sharpton addresses Dems

by Andrea Nurko  
Hatchet Staff Writer

The Rev. Al Sharpton, a 2004 Democratic presidential candidate, criticized the war in Iraq and underscored the importance of promoting civil liberties to a packed Fungler Hall Thursday.

Sharpton promised he would not impose his religious beliefs on others and scolded the Bush administration and religious conservatives for blurring the line between church and state in education and school prayer.

"Next year's election is not a partisan battle seeking a winner," Sharpton said. "Next year's election will determine the direction (in which) the country's going and how we relate to people around the world."

Sharpton was the first speaker in the College Democrats' 2004 Challenger speaker series. Ryan Hutcherson, president of the CDs, said he hopes to have all the Democratic candidates speak on campus.

"He seemed to really energize the audience," Hutcherson said. "He's definitely on the more outspoken side of the Democratic field, and I think that resonates with lots of young people."

Sharpton said he would use his presidency to encourage Congress to strengthen civil rights legislation.

He said constitutional protections for voting, education and equality would be priorities in his administration.

Sharpton frequently used the war to highlight civil liberties issues.

See SHARPTON, p. 15

## Economy forces tighter budget

Endowment decline slashes student life, academic spending

by Julie Gordon  
University Editor

Students may see The Washington Post and The New York Times disappear from residence halls in the fall, one of several cutbacks administrators are considering in response to a \$5 million drop in the University's endowment spending for next year.

The decrease will affect some student support initiatives, staff hiring and faculty merit pay increases. Officials said they anticipate additional endowment spending reductions for the following fiscal year that could total \$10 million.

The value of GW's endowment

declined by more than \$135 million since June 2001.

Endowment is the funds and property donated to an institution as a source of income. GW's trustees-approved endowment spending rate has been 5.5 percent over the course of the last three years. David Sanders, interim chief investment officer, said next year's rate will be lower.

As of December 2002, GW's endowment was valued at \$578 million.

Administrators attributed the reduction in value to a decline in the stock market and a decrease in contributions because of poor business conditions. The value of most stocks declined about 20 percent in the past two years, according to Dow Jones Industrials.

Student and Academic

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## Hospitalizations double this year

by Matt Windman  
Hatchet Staff Writer

The number of students hospitalized for alcohol-related incidents has almost doubled from last year to this spring, according to a report released this month. Despite the increase in hospitalizations, there has been a slight decrease in the total number of liquor law violations.

Seventy-four students were hospitalized as of April 18, compared with 38 students at this time last year, according to Student Judicial Services records.

Officials attributed the rise in hospitalizations to students' increased willingness to call University Police in cases of excessive alcohol consumption.

"The numbers show that students are continuing to call (UPD) for their friends if they are in need of medical attention," said Rebecca Sawyer, director of SJS.

Brian Hamluk, director of the Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education, attributed the rise to an increasing student population and more upper-classmen living on campus.

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Jeff Baum/Hatchet staff photographer

**HALLELUJAH!**

Students get into the groove at Gospel X-plosion in the Marvin Center Grand Ballroom Saturday night. See story, p. 12.

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