



# The GW Hatchet

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER • WWW.GWHATCHET.COM

VOL. 99 No. 60

SERVING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY SINCE 1904

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003



Jamie Lebowitz/Hatchet photographer

**LIVIN' IT UP**  
Geoff Cleaveland and Katie Mills look at a model room in The Gallery in Rosslyn, Va. The building is offering 125 rooms for juniors and seniors in the fall. See the Hatchet Housing Guide, p. 18-19.

## GW weighs new academic plan

by Andrea Nurko  
Hatchet Staff Writer

Several students and faculty members are expressing concern about significant academic changes, including a mandatory summer session and a new course structure, under investigation by a University taskforce.

The taskforce, dubbed the Alternative Academic Calendar Committee, is "strongly leaning" toward converting to a four-credit, four-course-per-semester curriculum, said Douglas Jones, a member of the committee and an associate dean in the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

The committee is also investigating a calendar that would consist of two 14-week semesters and one 10-week mandatory summer session for all rising juniors.

The committee is seeking student feedback on the proposals this week and plans to distribute a survey in the Marvin Center to gauge opinions of academic changes. It will also be available online at sa.gwu.edu (see "Committee distributes student survey," p.7).

Charles Karelis, chairman of the committee, said criteria for looking at new options are based on what will best utilize University resources and provide the best educational improvement. But faculty members are expressing concerns about effects such changes would have on everything from academics to student life.

Jones said SEAS would need a waiver if GW officials decided to implement either of the proposals.

• Committee seeks student response. See story, p. 7

See COMMITTEE, p. 7

## CCAS cuts language dept.

■ EFL professors, students uncertain of future at GW  
by Mosheh Oinounou  
News Managing Editor

International student Rafet Kahraman said his friends in Turkey are no longer planning on applying to GW after the University decided earlier this semester to cut the Department of English as a Foreign Language.

"Unfortunately, they will not be able come here," he said.

Kahraman said his future at GW is also questionable, depending on whether he is accepted to the School of Business and Public Management for the fall. If he is rejected, he said he may have to transfer to George Mason

University.

EFL department Chair Candace Matthews said she and nine of her fellow full-time faculty were "surprised" by the administration's decision to replace the department in late February.

"We knew they were considering changing us from a department to a program ... but we were surprised that the decision was to close the department altogether," Matthews said.

William Frawley, dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, said the University is looking to replace the EFL department with a Center for Language Learning and Teaching.

"GW will continue to meet all EFL needs, but with a different organization," Frawley wrote in an e-mail Wednesday. "This structure will position us better to offer

EFL in a targeted and effective way."

Frawley said a majority of the CCAS faculty approved the closure of the department after "reviewing the long history of CCAS studies of the functioning and effectiveness of the department."

Frawley did not respond to questions about whether the decision would save the college money in the midst of University-wide budget cuts.

Matthews said GW officials cited both economic and academic reasons for closing the department but declined to give details. She said cutting EFL puts GW at a disadvantage.

"I think it's important for the University to provide maximum

See EFL, p. 6

## Officials discuss senior e-mail

by Julie Gordon  
University Editor

University officials said seniors will receive sufficient notification before their e-mail service is terminated after graduation.

Director of Alumni Benefits and Services Jason Miller said the University would like to give seniors "two or three months notice at least" before their current addresses become inactive.

"We would not make a decision to cut (seniors') e-mails off in the middle of May," Miller said.

Graduating seniors will receive "@alumni.gwu.edu" accounts when their current Webmail subscriptions expire. Seniors can either choose a

new username or keep their current one, provided that another student does not take the name first. All e-mail names must contain at least six characters, not including the "@alumni.gwu.edu" portion.

The new addresses will act as forwarding accounts, which will bounce all incoming mail to alternate addresses. An outside company will manage the accounts.

"I think the e-mail forwarding service we're marketing right now is a very, very valuable benefit ... and we are committed to that in the long term," Miller said.

Despite a common misconception that all alumni since the class of

See E-MAIL, p. 8

## Colonial Cash attracts locals

■ New dining plan allows students more options  
by Zach Ahmad and Rachel Gould  
Hatchet Staff Writers

Area restaurant officials could see more business from GW students next year when the University combines meal points and debit dollars in a new program called "Colonial Cash."

The new payment plan will provide a wider variety of eating options but will force many students to purchase larger meal plans.

This range of options places Aramark, GW's food-service provider, in direct competition with off-campus restaurants that accept Colonial Cash, including

### On-Campus Resident Minimum Meal Plans

	This year MEAL POINTS	Next year COLONIAL CASH*
Fresh.	2,500	3,000
Soph.	1,700	2,500
Juniors	1,000	2,000
Seniors	300	1,000

\*Colonial Cash allows students to purchase copies, laundry and food at more than 70 city locations

Au Bon Pain, TGI Friday's and Pizza Italia. Steve Gibbs, district manager for Aramark, said the new plan presents the company with "a year of uncertainties." The University contract with Aramark ends in June 2004.

Ben Lipetz, general manager

of Au Bon Pain, which has accepted debit dollars for about three years, said the 2000 Penn cafe's business would benefit from the system.

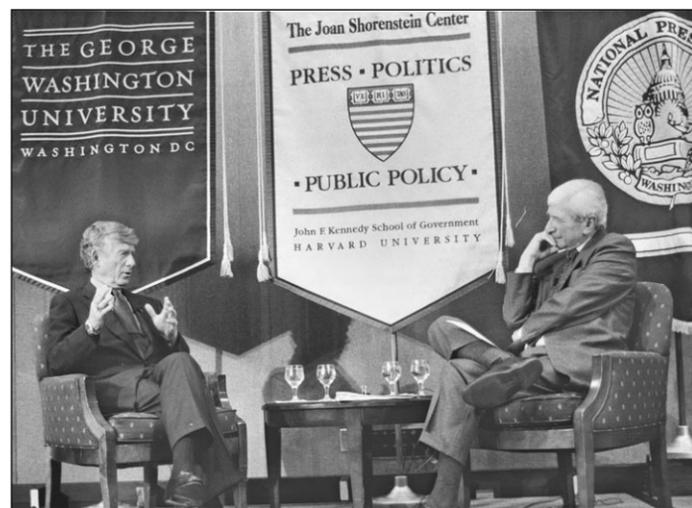
"As long as transactions are still done the same way, with the GW card, (Colonial Cash) sounds like a great idea," Lipetz said. "We could certainly expect an increase in business."

Cemal Altayhli, manager at the Little Cafe, a takeout restaurant in Georgetown, said about 25 percent of its business is from students.

"We do accept a lot of (debit dollars)," Altayhli said, noting the restaurant has participated in the program for almost three years.

GW is pursuing several new off-campus partners to participate in the Colonial Cash arrangement,

See MEAL PLANS, p. 8



Alex Kingsbury/Hatchet photographer

**WAR STORIES**  
News veteran Ted Koppel (l.) talks with Marvin Kalb on the challenges of war coverage at the National Press Club. See story, p. 6.

### INSIDE

2 NEWS  
Mount Vernon shuttle may increase service

4 OPINIONS  
Voluntary library fee necessary

12 G.WEEKEND  
Holly Hunter: a Southern belle in search of complex characters



20 SPORTS  
Freshmen shine on softball, baseball teams

