

Culture Shock

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Hurricane threat cancels classes

by Michael Barnett
 Metro Editor

The University canceled Thursday classes because Metro officials announced that bus and rail service would stop at 11 a.m. as Hurricane Isabel barrels toward D.C. University officials are readying the campus for possible flooding and power outages and are urging students to stay indoors for the storm's duration.

Robert Chernak, senior vice president for student and academic support services, said officials would decide whether to cancel Friday classes Thursday afternoon but said that a Friday cancellation "is a strong possibility."

"My suspicion is that it's really going to be contingent on what's going to be the area damage," he said.

With Metro closing Thursday morning, the University didn't want students and faculty living

outside Foggy Bottom to be stuck on campus, Chernak said.

He said all GW dining facilities would remain open Thursday but noted that they will be operated by a "skeletal staff." GW libraries and the Health and Wellness Center will also be open Thursday, but all

University events, including athletic events, are canceled. Shortly after officials announced the cancellation of classes at 9:30 p.m., students yelled out of residence hall windows and packed Provisions, forming a line that snaked through the store. Students waited patiently in line and were more excited about school closing than nervous about the approach of the hurricane.

"I don't see any signs of a hurricane so I don't see what all the hype's about yet, but I'm expecting some fun times this weekend," sophomore Melissa Welesko said. "I'm getting some good videos

The American Red Cross suggested supplies:

- Adequate food and water
- Transistor radio
- First aid kit
- A flashlight and extra batteries
- Prescription medications

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Jeff Baum/asst. photo editor

Students flock to Provisions on the ground floor of the Marvin Center Wednesday night after the University announced that classes will be canceled on Thursday because of the impending storm.

Hospital E.R. visits increase

District hospital closures force GW to take in more patients

by Zach Ahmad
 Hatchet Staff Writer

Recent area hospital closures and a nationwide nursing shortage led to a 27 percent surge in emergency room visits at the GW Hospital between June 2002 and June 2003. While the hospital has been forced to turn away some patients because of overcrowding, officials said they are making a concerted effort to treat all students needing medical attention.

The closing of D.C. General Hospital, which stopped providing inpatient care in 2001 and downgraded its emergency department last May to an urgent care center, is now only suited to treat minor ailments. The status of Greater Southeast Community Hospital, which suffers from staffing shortages and is under

review by the D.C. Health Department for having inadequate treatment facilities, exacerbated the closure.

The result is an increase in traffic at other D.C. hospitals, particularly GW. Besides the Children's National Medical Center, which registered a 28 percent increase in emergency room visits, GW's visit increase is the highest, according to a report from the D.C. Hospital Association.

"Over time, we have seen an increase, and a lot of those patients seem to be coming from (the Southeast) quadrant of the city," said GW Hospital spokeswoman Marti Harris said.

Harris said the GW Hospital's emergency room is so full that incoming ambulances are sometimes directed to other hospitals.

"Sometimes if emergency rooms are full they will tell ambulances that they need to be diverted to other hospitals," Harris said.

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University to broaden wireless Internet access

by Julia C. Morris and Andrea Nurko
 Hatchet Reporters

The University plans to expand wireless Internet use to "hot spots" around campus this semester, including J Street and some classrooms in the Hall of Government, Tompkins Hall and buildings used by business school students. GW is also pursuing a deal with an outside commercial provider, which could expand wireless Internet access to additional campus locations.

The wireless network GW currently uses gives students high-speed connections in parts of the Gelman Library, Kogan Plaza, the Academic Center and two classrooms in the law school.

"We're working to see how partnerships with wireless providers can aid GW in bringing leading-edge technology to the GW community," said Bill Mayer, assistant University librarian for information technology.

Johnny Bret Jones, director of technology and engineering, said GW is exploring deals with Sprint and Verizon concerning wireless technology. Jones said he could not elaborate on the details of a Verizon deal because it is a "pre-market trial." The system in which GW is interested will not go on the market until Oct. 1 and will be available only in the D.C. and San Diego areas.

Mayer said Verizon's wireless technology pro-

vides mobility, meaning more places could turn wireless, but is not as fast as GW's current wireless system. He said Verizon's speed is comparable to a dial-up modem, while GW's is comparable to the speed of Ethernet connections in residence halls.

"This is innovative right now simply because a higher-speed commercial (network) hasn't been around for that long," Johnny Bret Jones said.

Chief Technology Officer Guy Jones said the University must continue to test the capabilities of Verizon's new wireless system.

"Because it's a commercial partnership, we don't want to roll something out and have a lot of people having trouble with it," Guy Jones said. "Plus, we want to evaluate Sprint's service as well to see what's the best service for students."

Officials said they wanted to expand wireless Internet access to more academic buildings last year, but plans were postponed while the University addressed funding and hacking issues.

Guy Jones said messages were not encrypted over wireless Internet, which could have given hackers easy access to passwords. The University is now trying a pilot VPN client, which should encrypt transmissions while in the air and stop hacking. He said the VPN would solve the security concerns for GW's current wireless system and a commercial

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Keri Osborne/Hatchet photographer

Campus fraternities recruit new members at an Interfraternity Council barbecue on Kogan Plaza Monday. Fall rush ends Saturday.

Rush tactics worry IFC

Unrecognized recruitment irks on-campus fraternities

by Bryn Flager
 Hatchet Reporter

Interfraternity Council leaders said they are concerned about recruitment tactics being used by unrecognized fraternities during this fall's rush period, which began Monday night.

Members of the unrecognized Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Mu and "APES" fraternities recruited outside Thurston Hall and attended an IFC-sponsored barbecue on Kogan Plaza Monday.

Unrecognized Greek-letter organizations are not governed by the University and cannot participate in formal recruitment activities sponsored by GW or the IFC. The University currently recognizes 13 fraternities.

"We've had conversations with University officials and student leaders to decide on an appropriate course of action," IFC President Norman Pentelovitch said.

He declined to comment further on the IFC's plans.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon recruitment chair Andrew Call said attending the barbecue should not be considered "an active recruitment tactic."

"We're handing out flyers for our events so guys can come and

see what we're about. It's more about the history of our frat," he said.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon has been unrecognized since 1993.

On Monday night Sigma Alpha Mu members pulled up in two school buses prior to the official rush period to take prospective members to the group's rush event. Members of the "APES" group were also seen recruiting freshmen outside Thurston Hall.

The "APES" group, which included former members of Zeta Beta Tau, is unaffiliated with any national fraternity organization. Zeta Beta Tau took away recognition from the group because of

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