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Culture Shock



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The GW Hatchet

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GW gauges damage

■ University fronts estimated \$1 million for hotels, overtime pay

by Michael Barnett
Metro Editor

Hurricane Isabel, which left the Mount Vernon Campus without power for three days and turned its 350 residents into refugees, cost GW about \$1 million, University officials said Wednesday.

Mount Vernon regained power Monday morning, ending an ordeal for students who were temporarily housed in local hotels and Foggy Bottom residence halls. The relocation came after officials determined Saturday morning that the outage, which occurred after a tree fell on a campus power line Thursday night, would last through the weekend.

Robert Chernak, senior vice president for Student and Academic Support Services, said the \$1 million

price tag was a "ballpark estimate" that included the cost of relocating students to hotels and paying Aramark and facilities employees overtime to work throughout the storm.

"It's not without cost, but these things happen," said Chernak, adding that the office of the executive vice president and treasurer would give a definitive account of the costs incurred in the next few days.

Walter Gray, director of Facilities Management, said the University experienced no major damage on either campus. Facilities crews worked around the clock to clear fallen trees and stop flooding in the basements of several townhouses during and after the storm.

Gray said his department also felled several trees that were not firmly rooted to the ground and that they would be replaced in a joint effort between the city and GW.

University officials said they are looking at ways to develop additional contingency plans for crises.

Senior Associate Dean of Students Jan-Mitchell Sherrill said the University would forge relationships with local hotels to secure housing for students displaced by future emergencies.

On Saturday, GW officials scrambled to find beds in six hotels for the approximately 200 students that requested them. On Sunday night, with Mount Vernon still in the dark, the University made plans to house students in the 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md., after determining that hotels were booked through the business week.

Sherrill called the 4-H Center a "blessing" because, with the capacity to house 350 students, it would have allowed GW to put up all of its students in one place.

"That's good to have in your back pocket," said Chernak, noting that GW would look to temporarily relocate students to the center in future emergencies.

Relying on hotels to house students is risky because an emergency



Adam Levine/Hatchet photographer

Facilities Management works on a generator to power the Mount Vernon campus Friday following Hurricane Isabel.

could occur during a convention or during Colonials Weekend, Chernak added.

"It sounds good in theory, but it depends on the scheduling of a day in Washington that you can't plan," he said.

Chernak said the University doesn't have contingency plans for all emergencies and added that GW would have a hard time finding temporary housing for the more than

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Paul Goodman/Hatchet photographer

An electronic media class practices interviews on a studio set in the Media and Public Affairs Building Wednesday.

Students to launch online TV station

by Kari Hirsch and Elizabeth Chernow
Hatchet Reporters

A group of GW students is preparing to launch an Internet television station around November that will broadcast up to five programs per week. Although the University has television channels available for student use, the group - GW-TV.com - has no plans to broadcast on them in the near future and will solely rely on its Web site.

The University has space to broadcast on channel 22, among other channels, in residence halls. GW's cable provider,

Starpower, sends in some channels without a station affiliation, allowing the University to use them, said Alexa Kim, director of Student and Academic Support Services technology communications. She said GW feeds shows including foreign language programming on the channels and allows student organization WRGW to use channel 22 for radio broadcasting and publicity.

Kim said students looking to broadcast television programming would have to run the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She said the University would not allow students to only broadcast one or a few

shows per week.

She said students would have to prove they have staffing, equipment and time to run a full-time station.

Sophomore Brian Weiss, a journalism major and organizer of GW-TV.com, said he became interested in starting a student-run television network at the end of last year. He said he posted a message on the GWired network and received more than 220 responses by the second week of school from students eager to help.

He said GW-TV.com is only interested in broadcasting online for now.

"We want to make sure to

start small because I've heard and seen student groups start up and fail because they started too fast," Weiss said. "Right now we're not the premier publication, but we could eventually snowball into something bigger."

Weiss said he would like to broadcast shows concerning sports, GW life and D.C.

GW-TV.com organizers said their biggest obstacle is getting University space to store, drop off and pick up videos and equipment.

Weiss said his organization needs \$5,000 to \$10,000, which

Mitchell awaits 7-Eleven

■ New Hampshire Ave. 7-Eleven loses 24-hour bid

by Ashton Tebbe
Hatchet Reporter

Students will soon be able to enjoy slurpees and Slim Jims 24 hours a day when a 7-Eleven store opens in Mitchell Hall next fall.

Cynthia Baker, public relations manager for 7-Eleven Inc., the company's international branch, said the store is set to open in fall 2004, with construction beginning early next year. She said 7-Eleven is in the process of securing city zoning permits to build the store in the Mitchell Hall lower level, which has been vacant since Subway and Bene Pizza moved to J Street this summer.

"7-Eleven at Mitchell Hall will make available a wide variety of products in a convenient location for students who live in and take classes near Mitchell Hall," said Michele Beamer, project manager for GW's office of business and operations.

Baker said 7-Eleven, which opened a store last year at Temple University, has embarked on a campaign to locate stores on or near college campuses.

"We're always looking for unique and different places to locate stores," she said.

University officials said they chose 7-Eleven to occupy the Mitchell Hall floor after receiving positive feedback about the store in student surveys conducted by the Office of Student and Academic Support Services.

In another development, a local 7-Eleven store, faced with unyielding opposition from some Foggy Bottom residents, failed Tuesday to obtain permission to

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