



Jack Black comes clean p.11



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PROUD TO BE AT AMERICAN



Paul Goodman/Hatchet staff photographer

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev speaks at American University Tuesday. See story, p. 6.

Vehicle hits student

Accident prompts H Street safety concerns

by Julie Gordon
Managing Editor

A silver Lexus hit a female graduate student in front of the Marvin Center Tuesday evening. The heavy traffic flow of the 2100 block of H Street has prompted officials and the city to discuss closing it off in the past.

The student, Jessica Burt, was taken to GW Hospital, where her bruised left foot was bandaged.

After leaving the Marvin Center at about 6:25 p.m., Burt said as she looked to her right before stepping off the sidewalk onto the H Street crosswalk. She said as her foot was "just leaving the curb" as she looked to her left, where she saw a car. Burt said the driver made eye contact with her.

"The next thing I know I'm flying through the air," said Burt, a student in the Elliott School of

International Affairs. "The car was going ... faster than I know cars normally go."

Burt received a \$10 ticket for "walking to create a hazard."

Sharon Moran, of Alexandria, Va., was driving the Lexus Sports Utility Vehicle that struck Burt, according to a Metropolitan Police accident report. Moran is assistant vice president for communications for Players Inc., the D.C. licensing and marketing arm of the National Football League's players' union.

Moran and the male who picked her up after the accident declined to comment.

Several University Police officers, an MPD car, two ambulances and a fire engine were at the scene of the accident. Several students and GW employees stopped to look at the flashing lights and commotion outside the Marvin Center.

UPD Chief Dolores Stafford was unavailable for comment as of press time.

Alan Etters, D.C. Fire Department and Emergency

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Paul Goodman/Hatchet staff photographer

Cpl. Williams investigates the area outside the Marvin Center Thursday after a graduate student was hit by a car on H Street.

SA, faculty debate proposal

by Jennifer Nedeau
Hatchet Reporter

A mandatory summer session was the central focus of a tense meeting between administrators, faculty and student leaders Tuesday night.

CALENDAR CHANGES

Charles Karelis, chair of the University's committee to explore academic calendar options, answered student and faculty questions and discussed pros and cons of the proposed system.

Under a changed calendar, the University would mandate rising juniors to attend a summer session. Students would then be required to take one of their last four semesters off. GW is also considering a switch to a four-by-four

credit system, instead of its current five-course, three-credit system.

SA and faculty representatives each gave 10-minute presentations about their perspectives on the potential calendar changes. The rest of the 90-minute meeting consisted of conversation between Karelis and SA and faculty leaders.

"(The summer session) is a huge concern, probably the most important issue of the year," said Shaina Schallop, chair of the SA's Sub-committee on the Alternative Academic Calendar. "Implementing this plan could completely disrupt the natural rhythm of academic life that everyone is accustomed to."

GW is looking at the mandatory summer session at Dartmouth College as a guide for its potential changes.

"GW is not Dartmouth, and

GW won't become Dartmouth if it tries to implement a mandatory summer session," said Christian Berle, co-chair of the Joint Committee of Faculty and Students.

Administrators have said that the system would be implemented in fall 2005 at the earliest. The term would affect most aspects of student life including housing, participation in student groups, financial aid, Greek-letter life and social lives.

Summer jobs, time with family and studying abroad could also be affected if GW creates a summer term, students said.

"(GW) trying to do something different is not something we can afford," Berle said during the meeting, adding that it could "blow up in our faces."

Several meeting attendees

See CALENDAR, p. 16

Groups protest new SAC policy

by Julie Gordon
Managing Editor

Several student organizations are protesting a new rule mandating all groups to hand in the names of their members to the Student Activities Center. The requirement, effective this semester, is a way to ensure all members of registered organizations are students, officials said.

Tim Miller, SAC associate director, said the University now mandates all members of organizations to be students, in part because "it's called a student organization for a reason."

"Literally, in the past if a group wanted to, someone's mom could be a member," Miller said. "(A student organization) is meant to be run by students."

He said there were times in the past when alumni were involved in leadership and financial roles in

organizations and had the ability to dissolve groups.

He also said an "emergency situation" last year involving a student organization member caused the University to rethink its policies concerning membership rules. He declined to comment on the specific incident.

The Student Organizations Aligning for Rights group, speaking out against the policy, is made up of 14 registered student organizations. The organization includes the College Democrats, College Republicans, the Out Crowd, the Student Alliance for Israel, the Islamic Alliance for Justice and the Muslim Students' Association.

Graham Murphy, executive director of the Out Crowd, said SOAR is giving GW a week to "act in good faith and change the policy," before "upping the heat."

See MEMBERSHIP, p. 15

Provost enables SJT to travel

by Ori Korin
Hatchet Reporter

The appointment of a University provost last semester is allowing GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg to travel abroad more freely this year.

Trachtenberg, who recently returned from a trip to London, is set to visit the Middle East in October and China in December, both GW-related trips to "follow up on resources, plan joint ventures and ultimately make sure that GW continues to play a role as an international institution," he said.

Trachtenberg declined to comment on details of his upcoming Middle East trip.

In London, Trachtenberg said he met with alumni to "renew their interest" in the University for fundraising purposes and traveled to Oxford to see the head of Pembroke College.

Trachtenberg said trips

abroad help cultivate and maintain relationships with foreign university leaders.

He said he has a "full agenda" for his December trip to China, where he will forge relationships with other universities and foreign officials.

Trachtenberg also said GW continues to actively seek members of the international community to join the student body.

The University's provost, John Williams, is first in command while the president is away from the University, and will serve for at least the next three years, when his contract expires. Williams is also director of health affairs.

Williams' appointment also allows Trachtenberg to become more involved in the city. He recently took the position as chairman of the city's Chamber of Commerce, a 1,500-member D.C. organization that works to improve the city's business climate.

"What's good for the District

of Columbia is good for GW," Trachtenberg said.

He said his duties as chairman involve working with the government to enhance business in the community.

"It keeps you going full time," he said.

He said his position with the Chamber of Commerce will not detract from his job at the University.

Among Williams' top priorities are GW's homeland security issues, which involve the University's emergency response and preparedness, as well as school-wide communication efforts.

"He's a strong right hand," Trachtenberg said. "Since he's not as focused on a specific portfolio, we're doing our best to give him a chance to grow. As new things come up, we're making room for him to help."

Williams said the transition ran "seamlessly."

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