



Part three of The Hatchet's 100th anniversary series, p. 7



The GW Hatchet

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BEN FOLDS SHARES HIS 'PHILOSOPHY'



Erin Shea/Hatchet photographer

Musician Ben Folds plays for 3,400 members of the GW community in the Smith Center Saturday night. Concert highlights included hit songs "Kate" and "Army." See story, p. 2.

Profs. oppose new calendar

■ Faculty Senate votes against summer session, four-by-four

by Andrea Nurko
University News Editor

The Faculty Senate unanimously passed a resolution Friday opposing the implementation of a mandatory summer session and new credit system. The Senate found that proposed changes currently under consideration are not in the best academic interests of the University.

"It's really rare to have the faculty so unified about anything," said William Griffith, chair of the Senate's fiscal planning and budgeting committee, which researched financial implications of a calendar change. "Everybody recognizes the need to generate revenue, but this does not seem to be the way to go about."

University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg proposed changes to the academic calendar last November in an effort to raise additional revenue that could be used to fund academic initiatives. A committee researched Trachtenberg's proposal and released a report in June. The GW community was asked to respond to the report by Nov. 1.

The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the School of Business and Public Management also submitted individual resolutions about the report. Each school unanimously opposed the summer session and credit system in their reports.

The proposal under consideration would mandate rising juniors to attend a 10-week summer ses-

sion and take a subsequent semester off from their studies. The proposal also suggested students take four classes, each worth four credits - dubbed the "four-by-four" system - rather than the current credit system, by which students typically take five three-credit classes.

Trachtenberg downplayed the vote's significance and said he would continue to explore ways to increase GW's revenue, such as implementing a mandatory winter session.

Trachtenberg would not discuss ways in which his proposal could be amended but said he wants to allay the faculty's concerns about his proposal.

"This is a gestational event," he said. "Babies take nine months, so you can't say in the first week, 'How's it going?' It's going great."

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Lehman said he was not surprised the faculty rejected the summer session and four-by-four. He said part of the opposition might stem from a reluctance to change.

Although the summer session and the four-by-four do not carry endorsement of the faculty, Lehman said the University must still develop a plan that will generate significant revenue. He said this means raising \$10 million or more for a sustained period of time. Money would fund new buildings, faculty pay and programs.

The Senate's resolution will be submitted to Trachtenberg, and resolutions are typically reviewed at the end of the year in April. However, the Senate can request to have the administration review a resolution sooner, which Senate members said they will probably do.

Lehman said resolutions are

See FACULTY, p. 3

Workers may replace union

■ Employees point to high dues, rising health care costs

by Elizabeth Chernow
Student Life Editor

Housekeeping and grounds employees concerned about unfair labor practices, high dues and health care benefits will vote Wednesday on whether to replace their present union.

Current union dues are capped at \$50 per month, and they range depending on employees'

salaries. Most unionized housekeeping and grounds employees earn about \$13 per hour. The workers are currently members of Service Employees International Union Local 82, a division of the AFL-CIO.

Local 82, which is vying to represent GW groundskeepers and replace Local 82, charges members \$25 per month for dues.

"The (current) dues are way out of wack for employees that don't make adequate wages," said Steve Goldblatt, an attorney for Local 621.

While Local 82 representatives said they use dues to acquire resources necessary to run the

organization, representatives from Local 621 said they do not think Local 82 uses the money properly.

"I work for the people," Local 621 organizer Rafael Griffin said. "These people have been in Local 82 for 30 years and don't receive a call even for Christmas from (the union)."

Local 621 leaders said they will make it a priority to fight for lower health care rates and, if elected, they will work toward free health care.

Workers' health care rates have risen since the last contract was signed three years ago.

See UNION, p. 6

UPD investigates statutory rape allegation

University Police are investigating a male New Hall resident who allegedly had sex with a 15-year-old girl during Colonials Weekend.

On Oct. 19, the resident allegedly had sex with the girl, who was visiting a relative in New Hall for the weekend, according to a UPD crime report. The mother of the girl reported the incident on Oct. 27.

Under D.C. law, it is illegal for a person 18 years or older to have sex with a person under the age of 16.

UPD has no evidence that the student used "force or the threat of force" while having sex with the girl, UPD Chief Dolores Stafford said.

A student found guilty of sexual assault could be expelled from school depending on the severity of the incident, according to GW policy.

-Michael Barnett

GW may add Mid-East programs

by Andrea Nurko
University News Editor

The University may expand academic programming for GW students wishing to study the Middle East on campus or abroad, following a recent administrative trip to the region.

University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Lehman and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Dean Timothy Tong returned from a 10-day trip to Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait Wednesday. The administrators conducted fundraising efforts and met with foreign university officials to collaborate on joint academic programs.

"The trip was to reconnect with our alumni, meet new friends and see what the environment is like in terms of education," Tong said.

Lehman said GW might have an opportunity to collaborate with the University of Kuwait to boost Arabic instruction at GW. The University could receive additional faculty from Kuwait to instruct the University's short-staffed Arabic classes. Lehman said GW does not have enough professors to teach some Arabic classes, and the demand for Arabic instruction cannot be met as enrollment increases.

For example, GW does not have staffing to open another section of Arabic 2. There are

currently 130 students who take classes in GW's Arabic program.

"Kuwait might send someone to teach on a Fulbright scholarship," said Lehman, who added that plans are only in the discussion stages. "We would give them the experience of being in our University and in Washington, D.C."

Trachtenberg said there is a growing interest at GW in Arabic language and that Kuwait might be a good place to set up a study abroad program to learn the language or other fields of study. Many classes taught at the universities there are taught in English.

"We have no apprehensions, but these are daunting times," Trachtenberg said. "When people travel, you have to be concerned."

Lehman also said Kuwaiti educational system officials are "very interested" in expanding professional studies and continuing education. GW's College of Professional Studies might collaborate with education ministers in Kuwait to improve the country's continuing education programs.

Education ministers in Bahrain, a small island off the Arabian peninsula, have also requested GW's help to establish a new university in the country. Lehman said GW could provide logistical help in setting up academic programs and the infrastructure, which

See MIDDLE EAST, p. 6



Jeff Baum/asst. photo editor

GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and SEAS Dean Tim Tong returned from a trip abroad last week.