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Men's basketball wins season opener p. 10



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November 22, 1963 Remembering JFK

40 years later: D.C. commemorates the loss of a leader

by Aaron Huertas
Hatchet Staff Writer

GW reacted in shock and horror along with the rest of the nation 40 years ago Saturday, in the days that followed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

When news of Kennedy's assassination reached D.C., campus events came to a halt.

The Hatchet reported that several student events were canceled and many final examinations were postponed. The University held a memorial in Lisner Auditorium several days after the assassination. The service included Christian prayers and hymns, a benediction by a rabbi and a memorial speech by University President Thomas Henry Carroll.

Phil Amsterdam, a member of the GW Board of Trustees who graduated from the University in 1962, felt a personal connection to Kennedy, whom he met at the age of 16 when Kennedy was a Massachusetts senator.

"I was with my mother and we were in one of the Senate railways coming back from one of the office buildings," he said. "Who do I see in the same railway car but Senator Kennedy?"

Amsterdam whispered to his mother, "You know, he's going to be the president some day." Kennedy then looked at



Adam Levine/Hatchet photographer

Visitors gather at the resting place of John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery Saturday to lay flowers and wreaths. Nov. 22 marked the 40th anniversary of his assassination in Dallas, Texas.

him, laughed and said, "I hope you're right," Amsterdam said.

A Kennedy supporter, Amsterdam was at campaign headquarters on the eve of the 1960 presidential election.

"Kennedy could remember everything and anything he saw," he said. "This was five or seven years later and he recognized me. He came over and said, 'I hope you were right.'"

Amsterdam was at Brandeis University pursuing his graduate degree when he heard the news of Kennedy's assassination.

"As I walked out of one of the halls, two people came up running. They were yelling, 'The President's been shot! The President's been shot!'" Amsterdam said.

"We went to a TV. It was like a time warp. The world stopped," he continued. "In a micro-millisecond everything changed. Camelot died."

Peter Hill, a GW professor, was conducting research at the Library of Congress when he learned of the president's death.

"My most vivid recollection

was trying to phone my wife and for the first time that I can remember not getting even a dial tone," he said.

Former Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) said the halls of Congress fell silent upon hearing of Kennedy's death.

"We all went over to the Senate chamber when we heard," he said. "Everyone went over and just kind of milled around."

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Deans discuss degree

■ Officials consider six-year combined undergrad, law program

by Natalie Gontcharova
Hatchet Staff Writer

The University may offer a six-year combined undergraduate and law degree as early as fall 2005, officials said.

Deans of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the GW Law School are developing a program that would allow students to directly enroll in the University as undergraduates and stay to earn their juris doctor degrees.

Currently, GW seniors must apply to the law school by submitting an application, which includes grades and a student's law school entrance exam score. A combined program of six years would cut back overall studies by a year.

The idea needs approval from the deans and faculty of the law school and CCAS in order to move forward, officials said. Law School Dean Michael Young and CCAS Dean William Frawley are researching the idea.

Officials said they have not yet decided whether undergraduates enrolling in all schools or only those in CCAS would be eligible for the degree.

"It is a great idea, but it is not a formal proposal," Frawley said. "I would hope it would be well-received by the faculties of the two schools."

He said the program is still in the "idea stage" and that there is no set timetable.

Officials must work to resolve several questions before moving forward with the program - whether

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Government partially funds Isabel repairs

The University will receive about \$70,000 from the federal government to help cover costs associated with Hurricane Isabel in September, according to a University press release.

The campus incurred \$1.45 million in damages from the hurricane.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will give GW the majority of the \$91,482 that will go toward covering the costs of damage around the D.C. metropolitan area, according to the release. The District was declared a federal disaster area, making GW eligible for federal assistance.

GW spent \$30,000 to house Mount Vernon Campus residents in local hotels when the campus lost power.

The majority of damage on campus during the storm came from fallen trees.

-Andrea Nurko

FBA files complaint over gates

by Gabriel Okolski
Hatchet Staff Writer

The Foggy Bottom Association filed a complaint against GW with city officials Friday, claiming the University unlawfully built gates on the I Street pedestrian mall.

The complaint, lodged with the D.C. Corporation Counsel, alleges that the erection of open iron gates on the mall's east and west ends is illegal under an agreement the University signed with the city when it took control of the mall in 1979.

"It's like a cat marking its territory," FBA President Ron Cocomo said. The FBA has asked the city to force GW to remove the gates.

"Ultimately, we want to see the gates taken down as soon as possible," Cocomo said.

The mall, which lies between Ross Hall and the GW Hospital, is the section of I Street between 23rd and 24th streets that is closed to vehicular traffic. The ceremonial gates stand in the middle of the mall and two pedestrian walkways lie on

either side.

The D.C. City Council gave GW the mall in March 1979. In July of that year, the University entered into an agreement with the city, promising to make the space an unobstructed pedestrian walkway, according to council documents.

University Senior Counsel Charles Barber said it was GW's right to build the two gates, which were dedicated in August 2002.

While the 1979 agreement states that the University may not build any structures on the site, Barber said D.C. zoning officials reviewed the agreement and gave GW clearance to put gates on the mall.

"We got specific approval to build the gates from the (city)," he said.

Although the gates have been standing for more than a year, the FBA waited until now to file a complaint because it had been "naive" in thinking the University was complying with the agreement it signed with the city, Cocomo said.

Peter Lavalley, spokesman for



Jeff Baum/asst. photo editor

Local residents walk through the gates GW installed on the pedestrian walkway between 23rd and 24th streets on Eye Street.

the city's Corporation Counsel, said the complaint has been referred to officials in the D.C. Department of Transportation, who could not yet comment on the case.

Some Foggy Bottom residents who live near the mall said the gates should be taken down.

Steve Timlin, who lives on the

corner of New Hampshire Avenue and I Street, said he supports the FBA's efforts to get the gates removed.

"I find the gates to be offensive and just another example of the University trying to claim more real

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