

Culture Shock



Interview special: Billy Bob Thornton, Richard Donner and the cast of "21 Grams" pp. 12-13



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Robber mugs student

by Rachel Zavala
Hatchet Staff Writer

Metropolitan police are investigating the armed robbery of a student in residential Foggy Bottom last Tuesday.

An unidentified assailant robbed a male student at gunpoint on 25th and I streets, according to a University Police crime report. The male assailant brandished a silver pistol and demanded the student's wallet.

As the student was reaching for his wallet, the gunman punched him in the mouth and stole his keys and wallet. After the gunman fled, the student flagged down a 4-RIDE van and reported the incident.

The D.C. Fire Department evaluated the student, who declined transportation to the emergency room. He was treated and released at the scene.

Channing Philips, spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office, which prosecutes suspected criminals in the District, said reports of robberies on college campuses peak during the holiday season.

"It is not just limited to D.C. Across any college campus, typically robbery rates go up because there are not as many people around the dorms - it makes for easier prey," Philips said. "The demand for cash around the holidays is also higher."

"Officers are giving special attention to this and are aware of the trend," UPD Chief Dolores Stafford said. "They are looking for individuals that appear to be suspicious or are acting in a suspicious manner."

The last reported armed robbery of a student on or near campus was

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WHO'S YOUR DADDY?



Jeff Baum/asst. photo editor
Sophomore Pops Mensah-Bonsu goes up for a dunk in last Tuesday's game against Florida International at the Smith Center. The Colonials started the season 4-1 (see "Win streak slips away," p. 22).

GW nixes plan

Officials drop mandatory summer session, four-by-four proposal

by Aaron Huertas
Hatchet Staff Writer

University administrators have backed away from efforts to implement a mandatory summer session following staunch opposition from faculty and students. After more than a year of study, the University is indefinitely postponing further research of the alternative calendar as well as a four-class, four-credit course structure, officials said.

GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg proposed the mandatory summer session last November, saying it would increase revenue and allow the University to be more "efficient" by utilizing residence halls and academic facilities year-round.

"Some ideas are ahead of their time," Trachtenberg said. "It's clear that we fell short in the persuasion department. But that doesn't mean we're not right."

A task force of faculty and administrators convened last winter to study the effects of a mandatory 10-week summer session for rising juniors. Students would have been required to take three or four classes during the summer before their junior year and then take a subsequent semester off. The task force, which also researched a change to a four-class, four-credit structure from the current five-class, three-credit system, released a report on the changes in June.

The University could have brought in an additional \$12 million annually from a mandatory summer session for rising juniors and would have been able to enroll 1,000 additional undergraduate students.

The Faculty Senate unanimously opposed calendar and credit system changes in late October after reviewing the task force's report. The Senate cited drawbacks including overworking small departments, forcing faculty to teach in the summer and lack of coordination with the GW graduate school schedule.

The Student Association and other student groups also cited a host of concerns with the plan, noting that the session would cause leadership issues in student groups, housing problems and possible separation from friends during different semesters off. The debate took over GW's campus this fall, with a number of town hall forums and a frenzy by groups this October to meet the University's Nov. 1 feedback deadline.

Trachtenberg said that without a mandatory summer session the University will be forced to find additional revenue through other means, but he declined to give specific ideas. It will be harder for the administration to meet the concerns and desires of students, facul-

See TRIMESTER, p. 18

GW to fund external SA audit

by Tiago Forte and Julie Gordon
Hatchet Reporters

The University will finance an external audit of Student Association finances after SA leaders found major discrepancies in financial records. The accounting firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers is scheduled to conduct the audit by early spring, SA President Kris Hart said.

SA members are pressing administrators to evaluate the University's financial records after the SA discovered dozens of inaccuracies in last year's books that listed student group expenses. Hart told the SA Senate Tuesday night about the discrepancies and the need for an external audit.

"I really want you to understand how much of a problem this is," Hart told the Senate. "I'm telling you this with a lot of trust, that you will ask the right questions and be part of the team to find the answers."

Currently, the SA and the Student and Academic Support

Services financial office keep records of SA expenditures, including student organization spending. The SA asked the University for a copy of its records at the beginning of the academic year to review.

After looking through the SASS books for a few months, SA leaders said they found allocations to people and organizations that were never given out. Transactions included a \$52,612 allocation to Hart for "miscellaneous expenses" by the Interfraternity Council and an \$11,000 allocation to the Residence Hall Association, even though it is funded by the University and not the SA.

Hart and University officials both said he never received a check, nor was a check intended to reach him.

The 54-page report Hart received states that the SA's end of year bottomline totaled \$0.00 - meaning the SA perfectly budgeted its more than \$400,000 allocation. Hart said the numbers don't make sense.

Johnnie Osborne, associate

vice president and chief financial officer for SASS, attributed all of the problems to posting errors. He said someone in the office either typed in wrong information from

an Expenditure Approval Form or payment request form or looked at a figure incorrectly, concerning the

See SA, p. 19



Paul Goodman/Hatchet staff photographer
Student Association President Kris Hart discusses an external audit of the SA at a Senate meeting Tuesday.