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SUNKBYNAVY



GW water polo goalkeeper freshman Chris Whittam gets ready to block a shot during GW's 13-6 loss to Navy Wednesday night in the Smith Center.

Jeff Baum/photo editor

Reps. seek to repeal D.C. gun laws

by Ryan Holeywell
Metro Editor

D.C. may soon be a city with virtually no gun restrictions.

The D.C. Personal Protection Act, sponsored by Rep. Mark Souder (R-Indiana), would end a ban on handguns and semiautomatic weapons and eliminate the criminal penalties for owning unregistered guns. A majority of representatives are sponsoring the bill.

"We're furious about it," said Mary Cuthbert, who serves on an Advisory Neighborhood Commission in Southeast D.C., which has a high murder rate. "That law helped cut down on a lot of homicide in this city. I think everyone in every state needs to go to their congressman and fight for them to put it back."

But a representative from Souder's office said that the ban has been ineffective at combating murder and is causing more harm than good for District residents.

"Clearly, the ban on gun ownership imposed on law abiding citizens hasn't worked," said

Martin Green, a spokesman in Souder's office. "While they have been disarmed, criminals have successfully gotten guns and used them in violent crimes. We see this as nothing more than as a failed experiment in gun control policy."

Green said that from 1976, the year the ban was introduced, through 1991, the city's homicide rate doubled, exceeding the national rate.

"D.C. has earned time and time again the sad distinction of being the murder capital of the country," Green said. "While D.C.'s murder rate has increased 200 percent, the national rate during that same time rose by a comparable 12 percent."

Green's statistics may be misleading - 136 homicides have been committed this year, down 23 percent from a year ago. If the trend continues, D.C. will see less than 200 killings in a year for the first time since 1986. Cuthbert said allowing greater access to guns is not going to protect anybody, regardless of

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Hart challenges ANC member

by Tommy Siegel
Hatchet Reporter

Former Student Association President Kris Hart is challenging Dorothy Miller, who has lived in Washington since World War II, for her seat on a local board that helps make zoning decisions in Foggy Bottom.

The local Advisory Neighborhood Commission represents area residents and makes recommendations to the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment on issues relevant to the community. Miller, who serves as the ANC's chairperson, is a vocal mouthpiece for the group and her allegations against the University are often controversial. For years, the ANChas challenged GW's expansion in Foggy Bottom. Hart said he is running because Miller does not want dialogue with the University and has no desire to achieve real progress on neighborhood issues.

"Right now in Foggy Bottom, we have some commissioners on our

ANC who are always negative, and they always seem to be fighting," Hart said. "They're not looking to achieve progress. They're more interested in being divisive rather than bringing people together."

Because Hart did not file his petition and paperwork on time to run for the office, he said will be running as a write-in candidate. Senior Graham Long, the only student who serves on the ANC, said he empathizes with Hart's situation.

"It's a complicated thing," Long said. "When I was originally intending to run for re-election, I was misled on the time period to get the petitions in."

"The Board of Elections has a lot going on, and there are over 200 ANC commissioners in the city, so they have a lot of work. It's hard to find someone with all the right information," he added.

Miller has accused GW of destroying the character of Foggy Bottom and said she is clearly a

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Officials eye 2010 for site

GW wants to give most of hospital site to private developers

by Zach Ahmad
Senior Staff Writer

University officials said they do not expect to walk into any new buildings on the old hospital grounds until 2010 as they continue to look at developers for the site.

"If you see anything significant there within six years from now, we would be extremely lucky," Executive Vice President and Treasurer Louis Katz said Friday before the Faculty Senate at the group's first meeting of the semester.

Though GW is considering a range of options for the facility, Katz said the tentative plan is to lease out most of the space for private use while retaining "a portion" of the site for University use. The area is currently zoned for academic and residential purposes, and other types of use would require permission from the city.

The site, located at 22nd Street between I Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, has been vacant since workers completed the demolition of the former GW Hospital in December 2003.

Just how much of the property will remain in GW's hands has yet to be determined, though the decision may rest largely on whether the University receives zoning rights from the District to increase the density on campus - not including the hospital site - by an additional 200 square feet. Katz said that if such rights are not afforded, the University may have to retain "most of (the site), if not all of it" for school purposes. Increasing the campus' density would allow GW to construct larger buildings.

The University has identified four potential developers for the site: Boston Properties, Carr

America, Hines and JBG. Officials said they are gauging feedback from all parts of the neighborhood and University communities as they go through the development process.

"What GW is trying to do is make sure we have as much input from the Foggy Bottom community as possible," said Tracy Schario, director of Media Relations. "One of the requirements for the developer is that they have community affairs expertise."

Schario said a developer would likely be chosen by early 2005; the Board of Trustees is expected to discuss the four developers at its October meeting. After a developer is chosen, GW will start discussing specific uses for the site and file with the city for the

appropriate zoning rights, a stage that could take up to 18 months.

Many have weighed in on what to do with the area, including students, faculty and neighborhood groups. Some department chairs have asked that the space be reserved exclusively for academic purposes; but administrators have previously said the site will most likely house some sort of retail outlets. Schario said the space is a highly valued site and that the University will proceed carefully in deciding

what to build.

"It's prime real estate," Schario said. "If you look at the District of Columbia and the large plots of land downtown that are undeveloped, this is number one." ■

QuickTakes: Hospital site

Fast facts

Construction on the former hospital site will not take place for a few years

A building on the site may not open until the next decade

Men masturbate in Foggy Bottom

University Police are on the lookout for three men involved in separate public masturbation incidents that took place in Foggy Bottom last weekend. The most recent incident, which occurred at the International House, prompted UPD to post Public Safety Advisory notices in all residence halls.

On Sept. 10, an unknown male approached a first floor International House window, knocked, waited for someone to approach the window and began to masturbate. The previous incidents happened in the same manner but involved different suspects.

"We are asking that if someone knocks on your first floor window, don't look and call UPD,"

UPD chief Dolores Stafford said. "People who are most vulnerable are those on the first floor."

Because the exposures occurred outdoors, the suspects could not be seen on security cameras, Stafford said. UPD is looking for three white males. The first is described as five-feet-six-inches tall, 19 to 25 years old with a goatee. The second subject is 30 to 38 years old, and the third is 5-feet-10-inches tall, 25-30 years old with no facial hair.

This is not the first time men have exposed themselves on campus. On May 4, a female student standing near Townhouse Row said a man revealed his buttocks to her. ■

-Nathan Brill

WAITING TIME



Sam Sherraden/photo assistant

Students wait in line for the Mount Vernon shuttle bus Tuesday afternoon. See story, p. 3.