



BEAUTIFULMIND



Sam Sherraden/assistant photo editor

Theoretical cosmologist Stephen Hawking and his wife Elaine exit the stage after Stephen was awarded the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal at Lisner Auditorium on Monday night.

Copy center faces lawsuit

by Catherine Villnave
Hatchet Reporter

Seven publishing companies are suing a Foggy Bottom copy shop for allegedly reproducing classroom materials without permission.

Publishing firms from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University and England's University of Oxford, along with four other companies, filed a suit last week accusing Washington Printing and Copy Center, at 2100 Pennsylvania Ave., of "routinely and systematically" reproducing materials without copyright clearance.

Employees at the copy center declined to comment about the case.

The publishers have identified 44 different instances of alleged unauthorized copies made for GW classes. The class subjects range from psychology to journalism to political science. Additionally, the publishers believe that there are many more undiscovered instances of copyright infringement.

Copy shops such as Washington Copy collect and bind compilations of selected readings on behalf of professors in books known as course packs. Course packs usually include collections of book excerpts, journal articles and other readings that are bound and then sold to students for a profit.

Even though Washington Copy does much of its business with the

University, the lawsuit poses minimal consequences for the University, GW officials and a lawyer representing the publishers said.

Linda Schutjer, a GW lawyer, said she does not think the case will have legal ramifications for the University. Washington Copy is located in a GW-owned office complex.

Bill Strong, one of the lawyers for the publishing companies, said his clients have "no reason to fault the school" and said he believes the University had no knowledge of the allegedly illegal acts.

GW Law Professor Robert Brauneis, an expert on trademark law, said that if Washington Copy is found guilty, students may have to absorb the licensing fees, which he said are "not very high." Most licensing fees run at 10 or 12 cents per page copied, according to Copyright Clearance Center, the non-profit organization that oversees copyright clearances.

Strong said there will be no consequences for students who are using illegally copied course packs for classes this semester.

"All we're trying to do is raise the consciousness of the copy industry," he said.

Prosecuting copyright infringement cases for educational purposes changed dramatically after 1991. That year, a suit brought against Kinko's Graphic Corp. found that producing course packs

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Aramark makes layoffs

■ Company has given pink slips to 25 workers since August

by Elizabeth Wozobski
Hatchet Staff Writer

Seven J Street employees are out of work after Aramark, the company that runs the food court, announced a round of layoffs on Valentine's Day. Since August 2004, 25 positions have been eliminated at J Street. The reductions now bring J Street staffing to below May 2004 levels.

Leanne Scott-Brown, a spokesperson for Aramark's business unit, wrote in an e-mail that the seven full-time positions were eliminated for several reasons, including a decrease in J Street customers. She

did not provide J Street traffic statistics. University officials also do not release traffic numbers.

Aramark reported a 30 percent reduction in food court traffic last academic year. The J Street renovations, which cost about \$4.5 million, were meant to stimulate more student demand.

While the seven positions were officially eliminated on Monday, workers won't know who will remain employed and who is out of a job until the end of the week, one J-Street employee said. The staffer also added that this most recent round of layoffs is only the first stage of dismissals and said there will be more job losses come March.

University officials noted that Aramark is responsible for managing J Street and said they are not involved in Aramark's staffing.

Louis Katz, GW's executive vice president and treasurer, said last week that he thinks Aramark has enough workers manning J Street. He spoke with The Hatchet before Monday's layoffs were disclosed.

"The question is, are they (laying off people) in a reasonable way?" Katz said. "And the workers themselves have to judge that."

Employees said they believe the quality of service they can offer customers will drop now that the food court is operating with fewer hands. They did not want their names used out of fear for their employment status.

One J Street worker said he expected service to plummet, and another said service would become "terrible."

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G-Unit to rock Quad

■ Rapper Lloyd Banks likely to headline Spring Fling

by Michael Barnett
Senior News Editor

Rapper Lloyd Banks will likely bring his bulletproof vest and tales of street hustling to GW's largely middle- and upper-class population.

The artist, a protégé of 50 Cent who released his own album last year, is slated to headline the Program Board's annual Spring Fling on April 9, two officials at his management company said.

Program Board Chair Eric Wiegand would not confirm booking Banks, saying he cannot talk about acts until they are signed. He would not disclose how much acts are typically paid.

"Nothing's been signed yet," he said. "I can't confirm it."

Program Board typically gets rap acts to headline its annual spring concert in University Yard, Wiegand said, and looks for alternative bands and singer/songwriters for Fall Fest.

Last year's concert featured Kanye West, who won best rap album and best rap song at the Feb. 13 Grammy Awards. Other past Spring Fling acts have included Jurassic 5 and the Roots.

Wiegand said his group tries to sign "someone with name recognition." He added that GW was fortunate to land West last year.

"We got extremely lucky," he said. "It's a tough business to work with."

One rapper who will not be coming to GW is 50 Cent, whose Web site on Monday mistakenly listed GW as one of his upcoming tour stops. On Monday, an official at ML Communications, the booking agents for 50 Cent and Banks among others, said 50 Cent's site was showing Banks's tour dates.

"(50 Cent's) Web site is completely messed up," said the official, who did not want to give his name until the company resolved the site errors.

50 Cent's site (50Cent.com) showed GW as a tour stop until 2 p.m. Monday. Though Banks's site abruptly removed GW from its list of stops on Tuesday, ML Communications officials said the rapper is still coming to Foggy Bottom. Asked why Banks's site was not listing GW, Mike Lighty, CEO of ML Communications, said on Wednesday, "They will have to fix it."

Banks entered the mainstream rap world in 2003, as a member of 50 Cent's G-Unit. The rapper's first solo album, "The Hunger For More," hit number one on the Billboard charts when it debuted in summer 2004. Banks is one of several G-Unit members who has worn a bulletproof vest on stage.

Some students approved the

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Some admire, others ignore Borf's graffiti around campus

by Molly Gannon
Hatchet Reporter

"BORF?" said freshman Hayley McDonough when she was informed about graffiti around campus by the anonymous humorist. "What is BORF?"

Despite writing in high visibility areas of campus, such as outside the Marvin Center and near the Foggy Bottom Metro stop, some students have not taken notice of what some call art and others call vandalism. But quips such as "Taking showers are for dirty people" and "BORF is immortal" are not the only examples of BORF's exhibitions.

The person's graphics and inscriptions can be seen along the Whitehurst Freeway, on M street in Georgetown and past

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