

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

The editorial board calls for GW to be flexible in light of Metro delays. **Page 4**

Culture

Check out a conversation with R&B musician and alumnus Cautious Clay. **Page 5**

Sports

Men's soccer concludes the season with a bittersweet win at an away game. **Page 6**

What's inside

Tracking COVID-19

Oct. 21 - Oct. 27

Weekly COVID-19 cases: 27 Weekly positivity rate: 0.23% Change in cases since previous week: -3

Tau Kappa Epsilon reports Torah scroll vandalized at on-campus house

ISHA TRIVEDI
NEWS EDITOR

ZACHARY BLACKBURN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A Torah scroll at Tau Kappa Epsilon's on-campus house was broken into and Jewish texts were "desecrated," adding that the chapter was cooperating with University officials and the Anti-Defamation League. University President Thomas LeBlanc condemned the vandalism Sunday night, calling it an act of antisemitism.

"I want to be clear: I condemn all such acts of antisemitism and all forms of hatred, discrimination and bias in our community," LeBlanc said in the statement. "Any act of antisemitism is an attack on the entire GW community and cannot, and will not, be tolerated."

LeBlanc said he was "appalled" by the incident and the GW Police Department was working with the Metropolitan Police Department

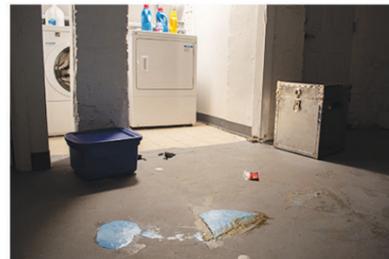
to investigate the incident and find the perpetrators.

"The safety and well-being of our students and all members of our community remains our foremost priority, and the University is providing all resources necessary to the investigation and to support our community," he said.

Chris Osborne, the president of TKE, said the Torah scroll was one of several religious texts that belongs to the chapter, which usually uses them to swear in new members of the fraternity. Osborne said other religious texts, which were all stored in the basement of TKE's house, were left unharmed, but a bible was moved from its original place.

"Our entire chapter is outraged and saddened by this blatant act of antisemitism and violence against our brothers," the chapter wrote in a statement.

Osborne said the vandalism occurred approximately between midnight and 2 a.m. on Sunday, and a fraternity brother found the vandalism at about 3 a.m. Hot sauce was smeared and fire alarms were ripped out of



TKE chapter president Chris Osborne said a Torah was vandalized and hot sauce was smeared over kitchen appliances, floors and walls in the chapter's on-campus house.

the walls, he said.

"There was hot sauce poured all over the kitchen walls, the ceiling, the fridge, the kitchen appliances, floor, etcetera," Osborne said. "And other miscellaneous items were thrown around, there were decks of playing

cards sprawled out all over the floor on the first floor."

Osborne said he estimates about a quarter of the fraternity's members are Jewish.

"Jewish brothers and non-Jewish brothers are just, in general, angry and upset

that this would happen, that our house would be broken into," Osborne said.

Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Cissy Petty called the vandalism at TKE "horrific" in a tweet Sunday afternoon.

"I know this has fright-

ened and hurt many in our community," Petty wrote. "I am angry and saddened by this disgusting, self-centered act."

GW Hillel said in a statement Sunday that the organization was "deeply concerned" and invited students to visit the Hillel building on Monday to talk through the incident.

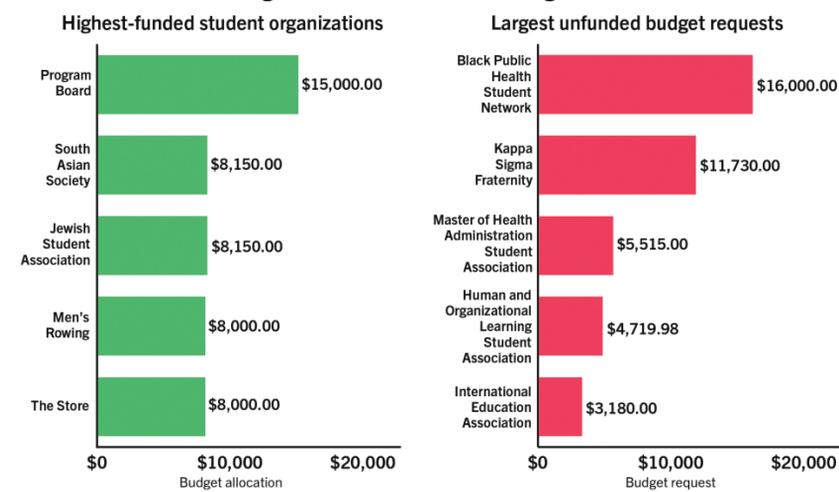
"The Torah is the foundation of the Jewish faith, and its desecration is an antisemitic act of disrespect toward the Jewish community on campus," the group said.

Rabbi Levi Shemtov, the director of Chabad GW, said he was angered by the desecration of the paper Torah, which he saw after he visited the TKE townhouse Sunday. Shemtov spoke at an event discussing antisemitism on campus last week.

Shemtov said it appeared the intruders purposefully targeted the Jewish text but left texts of other religions untouched.

"What I saw appalled me because it was clear that the person specifically sought out the Jewish text and left another one nearby untouched," he said.

SA budget allocation for student organizations*



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Student organizations' funding requests exceed shrunken SA budget

CLARA DUHON
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

SEJAL GOVINDARAO
STAFF WRITER

The Student Association approved 17 percent of student organizations' requested funding for the remainder of the academic year, according to SA financial documents.

SA leaders granted undergraduate student organizations about \$440,000 to use beginning Nov. 1 after the groups submitted \$2.4 million in funding requests, according to an SA budget report released last week. Student organization leaders said they are now forced to scale back their events or find other methods of fundraising, like soliciting alumni donations, to support their organizations because of the shortage of allocations.

SA Sen. Yan Xu, ESIA-U and the chair of the finance

committee, said the University cut the SA's annual budget down to \$1.6 million this academic year, which Xu said is about \$100,000 less than previous years.

The SA had previously allocated \$430,850 to graduate student organizations for the entire academic year in accordance with the SA's bylaws.

SA leaders have earmarked a total of \$766,000 for undergraduate student organizations this academic year, including \$430,000 in previously approved requests.

Xu said 244 organizations submitted requests compared to 224 in the previous funding round. Organizations are now requesting more money since the University has returned to in-person operations, Xu said.

Xu said only 11 student organizations received their full request as the SA struggled to meet group's needs due to a lack of funding.

Anne Graham, the Uni-

versity's director of student involvement and leadership, said the SA receives funding from a \$3 fee per credit hour GW charges students each semester, which is capped at \$45 per student, and a supplemental University donation of 50 cents per credit hour.

She said GW had historically provided financial support to certain student organizations, including Program Board and the Residence Hall Association, that "partner closely" with the Division for Student Affairs.

The GW Program Board received \$15,000 – the highest amount given to any student organization – followed by the GW South Asian Society, which received \$8,150, according to the report. Student organizations that received no funding from the SA include the Black Public Health Student Network and the Multicultural Greek Council, which requested about \$16,000 and \$1,500, respectively.

University net assets increased during FY 2021, documents show

ERIKA FILTER
REPORTER

ISHA TRIVEDI
NEWS EDITOR

The University's net assets increased by about \$300 million during Fiscal Year 2021, GW's audited financial statements show.

University spokesperson Crystal Nosal said GW's "strong performance" in its endowment investments – highlighted by a 30.8 percent uptick in its pooled investment, which excludes real estate holdings – helped drive the \$300 million increase last fiscal year. The documents indicate that the University's total assets increased and total liabilities decreased during the fiscal year, while officials implemented a series of budget mitigation efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, including 339 staff layoffs.

Grant Thornton LLP, an accounting company that reviewed the University's financial statements, found in its audit that the statements accurately represent GW's finances, according to the document.

Advertisement
"In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of The George Washington University and subsidiaries as of June 30, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in their net assets and their cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America," the

document states.

Nosal said officials' repayment of a \$175 million line of credit is the reason for the decrease in the University's "long-term debt."

Officials initially secured a \$300 million line of credit in response to the pandemic, according to a finance report last fall.

The increase in net assets during Fiscal Year 2021 came during a year when faculty called for officials to tap the University's endowment to avoid implementing budget mitigation efforts, like layoffs and a hiring freeze. But, Board of Trustees Chair Grace Speights said last May that officials would not do so in the interest of protecting the University's long-term wellbeing.

Moody's Investors Service gave GW an A1 rating with a stable outlook last October and Standard and Poor's Global Ratings affirmed GW's A+ credit rating in January. Moody's downgraded the higher education industry as a whole to a negative outlook in March near the start of the pandemic.

The documents also state that the Medical Faculty Associates, a physicians group part of GW's medical enterprise, employs a liability insurance company that is based in the Cayman Islands.

The MFA owns all the shares to the organization, called the MFA Physician Insurance Company. The group acts as an "insurance captive," which is a form of self insurance in which the overarching company owns its insurer. "The Cayman Islands

has an efficient regulatory and tax structure for insurance captives," Nosal said. "The Cayman Islands is the second largest captive insurance jurisdiction worldwide, number one for health care sector captives."

Nosal said officials at the insurance company are in the process of relocating from the Cayman Islands to the District by November given that D.C. has become a "leading jurisdiction" for insurance captives in the United States over the past few years.

Experts in higher education said the increase in net assets indicates that the University has been able to weather the pandemic.

Frank Fernandez, an assistant professor of higher education administration and policy at the University of Florida, said despite an overall decrease in liquid capital for Fiscal Year 2021, Fernandez said he was optimistic about GW's standing.

"Generally, I think the University is trying to bunker down and get through this terrible, ongoing pandemic like many universities are trying to do," he said. "It may not feel like it, but it doesn't seem like things are getting worse at GWU."

Robert Kelchen, a professor of higher education at the University of Tennessee, said the pandemic likely played a role in the increase in net assets.

Kelchen said a "healthy" university would aim for a profit margin between 3 and 5 percent.

Officials silent on strategic plan timeline amid leadership transition

ISHA TRIVEDI
NEWS EDITOR

As the University gears up for the arrival of an interim president without the guidance of an overarching strategic plan, officials have yet to provide updates on when they expect to establish a long-term vision for GW's future.

University President Thomas LeBlanc was in the midst of overseeing a five-year strategic plan when the COVID-19 pandemic upended GW's operations last year, leading administrators to suspend the process amid growing concerns from the GW community over a potential enrollment cut outlined in the plan. Now as GW

prepares for an interim president to replace LeBlanc in January, the timeline for the University's next strategic plan remains up in the air.

Administrators haven't announced if incoming interim President Mark Wrighton will form a strategic plan during his tenure, which could last until June 2023 as officials search for a permanent leader.

Officials did not return a request for comment about when they will implement a strategic plan and what impact the absence of a strategic plan has had on planning efforts for the University's long-term wellbeing.

Some administrators have said they can't move forward with ma-

major University planning efforts without an overarching strategic plan.

Officials had intended to launch a major fundraising campaign this fall in conjunction with GW's bicentennial. Instead, officials launched a smaller fundraising effort this month targeted at increasing financial aid.

Donna Arbide, the vice president for development and alumni relations, said in an interview last month that the larger push would be delayed until GW establishes a strategic plan to guide the campaign's priorities.

Even as University-wide strategic planning efforts remain at a standstill, administrators are con-

tinuing to develop a long-term vision for GW's physical campuses with the Strategic Campus and Facilities Master Plan.

LeBlanc said at the meeting that officials are "on the clock" and must move forward with the facilities plan. He said administrators likely must approve proposed designs by the end of 2022 so they can be implemented before GW's developmental rights expire in 2027.

The now-suspended strategic plan included as an underlying assumption the implementation of the 20/30 Plan, a hallmark initiative to cut undergraduate enrollment by 20 percent while increasing the proportion of STEM

majors to 30 percent. The strategy was regarded as "obsolete" once the pandemic drove down enrollment levels below officials' already reduced targets.

But the plan fueled tensions between LeBlanc and members of the University community, who said the strategy was conceived without following principles of shared governance to hear their concerns.

Jamie Cohen-Cole, a faculty senator and an associate professor of American studies, suggested at last month's senate meeting that the facilities plan could be a way for officials to implement the 20/30 Plan in "stealth." Chief Financial Officer Mark Diaz rejected the implication.

News

Nov. 1, 2021 • Page 2

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

"LEADERSHIP LESSONS LEARNED AS THE PRESIDENT'S BRIEFER" WITH BETH E. SANNER
Thursday • 12:30 p.m. EDT • Free
Join Senior Intelligence Officer Beth Sanner as she shares her experience providing analysis to senior policymakers in the White House.

ASEAN'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN POST COVID-19 WORLD
Thursday • 2:30 p.m. EDT • Free
Join the Organization of Asian Studies for a discussion with Bruneian ambassador to the U.S., Serbini Ali, on ASEAN countries' development throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Nov. 3, 1986

The Office of the Registrar plans to announce that juniors and seniors will be given priority to register for classes before freshmen and sophomores, *The Hatchet* reported.

SafeRide requests increase this fall following safety concerns on campus

RIYA SHARMA
REPORTER

The number of SafeRide passengers has surged this fall as more students seek out safer methods of travel across campus in light of recent safety concerns.

Officials said they have received 7,419 student requests for SafeRides so far this semester, a 16 percent increase from the 6,385 requests during the same time period in fall 2019, the last semester when the service was fully operational before the pandemic. In interviews, more than 15 students said they started regularly using SafeRide this academic year as a precautionary measure to move across campus, after a GW staff member suffered serious injuries from an assault with intent to commit sexual abuse in the G Street Garage earlier this month.

Destiny Jackson, the director of Transportation and Logistics, said officials currently operate nine SafeRide vehicles and employ 10 drivers. She said students should typically wait no more than five minutes for a ride, but the average wait time is currently about seven minutes.

"We need the community's help in keeping the system efficient by immediately canceling rides that are no longer needed," she said in an email. "Everyone is also encouraged to download the GW Guardian app as another safety resource when walking or ride sharing in the area."

Anuka Upadhye, a junior majoring in international affairs, said she never used SafeRide her freshman year, but she's used it about

five times since returning to campus. She said she stopped walking alone after a man harassed her and a group of friends, commenting on their appearances while walking alongside them, and she had to file a police report against him.

"Just the fact that [SafeRide] exists, makes you feel safer," she said. "Even if I don't use it all the time, the fact that it's an option that I have, a choice, that makes me feel safer."

Upadhye said SafeRide is more accessible than Uber or Lyft because of its free cost, and she will generally call a ride instead of walking home alone.

"Uber and Lyft are so expensive, especially after dark," Upadhye said. "You're paying \$30 to \$40 to get somewhere."

Grace Tobias, a junior double majoring in international affairs and women's gender and sexuality studies, said she uses SafeRide about once every two weeks, so she doesn't have to walk on campus after dark. She said she feels safer taking SafeRide than Lyft or Uber because drivers are hired through the University, meaning officials are aware of the drivers' identities and can track drivers if needed.

"If I can take a SafeRide, I will," she said. "I know that if something were to happen, the University has probably more tracking and can identify the driver, whatever the scenario is, whereas Uber and Lyft is completely separate. This is for students, so I assume more safety is involved."

Officials added three off-campus stops to SafeRide in September – including 2400 M Apartments, The Flats at Dupont Circle and the



CAMILLE DESANTO | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Following Student Association advocacy, officials expanded the reach of SafeRide to three new locations in September.

Lincoln Memorial – after the SA Senate voted earlier in the month to support expanding the service.

"After the incidents happened, we felt very valid in using it whenever and wherever," Tobias said. "Whereas before we were like, 'Oh, maybe we don't need this, someone else could benefit more.' But then you're like, no it was literally made for us, so use it no matter what."

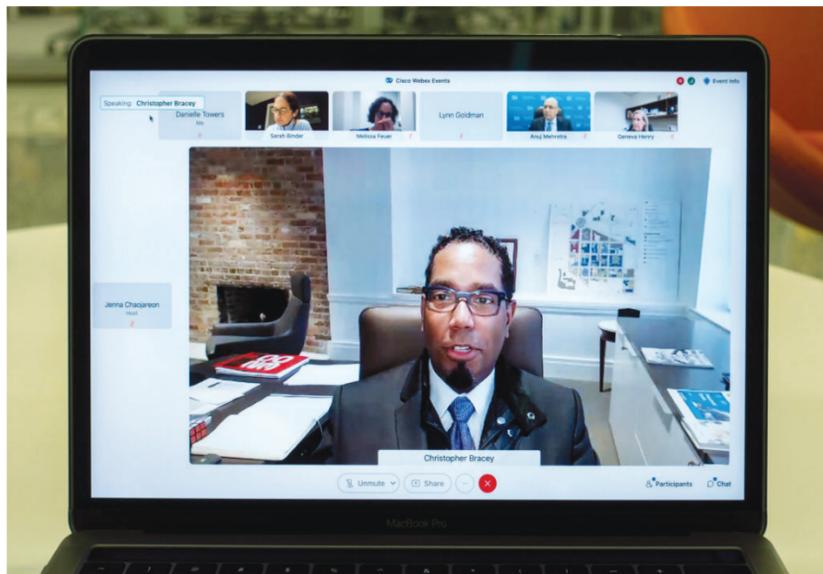
Sofia Campo, a junior majoring in psychology, said she never used

SafeRide in previous years until the G Street assault. She said other recent threats to campus safety, like reports of stalking and multiple assaults by non-GW members, have greatly influenced her desire to travel with SafeRide instead of walking by herself.

She said SafeRide travels off campus to her residence hall in the Aston and helps her avoid what used to be an "uneasy" walk by herself to her residence hall at night.

Genevieve Fleming, a freshman majoring in human services and social justice, said despite delays in pickup times, she was glad the option is available to students.

"It's made me feel more safe, especially at night, more safe just because walking home alone has always been a thing," she said. "You don't want to wake someone up if you're leaving the library just to walk you back. So I do like that we have that available."



FILE PHOTO BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Interim Provost Chris Bracey said the majority of untenured, tenure-track faculty have requested extensions.

Higher education experts support extension of tenure clocks for faculty

ISHANI CHETTRI
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Experts in academic policy said officials should continue to extend the period tenure-track faculty have to develop their research for a tenure position, as other institutions that enacted similar measures have received positive feedback.

Officials granted tenure-track faculty the option to request a one-year extension on their tenure clock in March 2020 because of research delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which would set back the process of achieving tenure on time. They said extending the tenure clock will help faculty struggling with these delays, after a University task force report on post-pandemic academic innovations recommended implementing the measure last month.

Interim Provost Christopher Bracey said 113 out of 147 untenured tenure-track faculty members at the University requested an extension for the tenure clock because of the pandemic.

Bracey declined to say how officials will respond to the report's recommendations to either extend or pause the tenure clock for tenure-track faculty and their research.

The Post-COVID Academic Innovation Task Force, a 19-member group of faculty, staff and students that conducted town halls and

research surveys for almost nine months, released its report with various recommendations to upgrade the University's academic environment.

The report urged administrators to extend the tenure clock beyond the "insufficient" one-year pause and consider their decision's effect on faculty involved with "caregiving and service in response to racial unrest." The report recommends re-examining the tenure timelines, removing or extending the expiration of start-up funds for research projects and studying the impact of the pandemic's influence on faculty who felt disregarded, like women and faculty of color.

The report states that officials should offer faculty support tools, like delays to tenure reviews and increased flexibility in service expectations, course loads and scheduling. The report also states that officials should consider lowering the student course load from five to four courses per semester because GW's "teaching load" for tenure-track faculty is higher than other top research universities.

"To remain nimble and responsive in the pandemic and post-pandemic era, GW needs to consider a number of issues focused on faculty development and retention, and also address concerns related to tenure time clocks, which even despite an institutional pause could result in the unconscious penalization of

women and faculty of Black, Asian and Hispanic descent," the report states.

All of GW's 12 peer schools extended the tenure clock by one year for either all faculty or all faculty hired during the pandemic, but none have extended the clock by a second year.

Rebecca Givan, the vice president of the American Association of University Professors-American Federation of Teachers chapter at Rutgers University, said GW officials should "absolutely" consider another extension for tenure-track faculty, especially for minority groups, like female faculty of color, to prioritize tenure equity. She said Rutgers tenure-track faculty received a one-year extension on their tenure clocks during the first year of the pandemic, and they received an additional second-year extension this year.

She said the extensions relieved the Rutgers tenure-track faculty of "massive" amounts of stress and burdens from their workloads.

Charles Chang, the chair of the equity and inclusion committee of Boston University's Faculty Council and an associate professor of linguistics, said GW administrators should extend the tenure clock because of the ongoing effects of the pandemic on research and faculty's personal responsibilities. He said faculty members should be able to opt into a second year of an extension so they can decide whether they personally need the extra year of tenure.

Goldman accepts invitation to serve on CDC advisory committee

EDDIE HERZIG
REPORTER

MICHELLE VASSILEV
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Lynn Goldman, the dean of the Milken Institute School of Public Health, accepted an invitation to serve on a committee advising the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention late last month.

Goldman said the Advisory Committee to the Director of the CDC will tackle challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, experimental errors in labs and the flow of public health funding to states. She said she hopes to build University relationships with CDC leadership and provide expertise on critical public health issues, like environmental health challenges and chronic disease.

"Part of this for me as the dean is relationship building, as well as obviously the honor of being able to advise the director of the CDC and the really critical issues that she faces as a leader," Goldman said.

Goldman had previously served on the 14-member body before former President Donald Trump's administration terminated the committee in 2019.

The committee will advise CDC Director Rochelle Walensky and Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra. Goldman said her term on the committee will end in June

2023.

Committee members like Julie Morta, the executive vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Crystal Gary, the chief advocacy officer of Amrita health, specialize in public health disciplines like health equity, health care delivery, communications and health education.

Goldman said her role as chair of the nonprofit organization Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health qualifies her to serve on the committee because she can represent "all of the public health educational system."

Goldman said the committee will meet twice a year to read reports from working groups and decide which proposed public health policies to adopt and reject. She said she must also attend any emergency meetings in times of crisis when the director seeks immediate advice from experts who can view issues from an outside perspective.

"It's so important for top government decision makers to be receiving outside advice from experts who see the issues, not just through the lens of the agency, because obviously the agency leaders can be concerned about just protecting their budget, protecting their staff," Goldman said.

Goldman said her expertise in public health as an epidemiologist and her

background as a former assistant administrator for toxic substances at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given her experience making "very tough" public health decisions.

Goldman said she won't sacrifice her "GW time" when serving on the committee. She said she will spend time after business hours preparing for her advisory committee responsibilities.

"This kind of commitment really causes me to put in a lot of overtime," Goldman said. "I tend to do a lot of work at night on the weekends. I find the time."

David Fleming, the chair of the CDC's advisory committee and a clinical associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Washington, said Goldman has a "great history" working in the government and in academia.

"She's very knowledgeable about a range of issues including environmental health and in a committee setting just operates in a wonderful way of saying what she thinks but also respecting other members," Fleming said.

Daniel Dawes, the executive director of the Satcher Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta and a member of the committee, said he anticipates the committee will also address issues of health equity in marginalized and vulnerable communities.



COURTESY OF LYNN GOLDMAN

Goldman said the group will hold two regular meetings per year to advise CDC Director Rochelle Walensky and Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra.

CCAS institute introduces project tracking religious freedom

ABIGAIL MITTENDORF
REPORTER

KATELYN ALUISE
REPORTER

The Loeb Institute for Religious Freedom in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences recently launched a project mapping disparities in religious freedom worldwide in collaboration with two non-governmental organizations.

Officials at the Loeb Institute teamed up with 21Wilberforce and Genocide Watch to create and publish the Religious Freedom Data Spectrum that uses qualitative data to locate places of religious oppression and identify early warning signs of genocide. Collaborators on the project said the initiative aims to provide NGOs and policy-makers easy access to data on religious freedom and persecution for advocacy and documentation.

The Loeb Institute introduced the project at a kick-off event Wednesday with 21Wilberforce and Genocide Watch, where they said the project expands access to a diverse set of data on religious freedom and the documentation of research on religious persecution will help broaden existing perspectives on religious freedoms worldwide.

Samuel Goldman, the executive director of the Loeb Institute and an associate professor of political science, said members of the institute helped 21Wilberforce compile data from various research organi-

zations on government restrictions, social hostilities and other roadblocks to religious freedom. Goldman said the Loeb Institute worked with 21Wilberforce to create a publicly accessible interactive map with these categorized measures of religious freedom for each country.

"It's our hope that this is a resource that will be useful, not only to students and researchers but also to journalists, activists and political staffers who are trying to get a better sense of the condition of religious freedom around the world today," he said.

Goldman said the Loeb Institute provides fiscal resources, like grants and internship support, for students who want to research religious freedom.

Trenton Martin, the advocacy and training coordinator for 21Wilberforce and the project leader, said his organization joined Genocide Watch and the Loeb Institute to create an interactive map with 14 layers of data that display each individual country's ranking in terms of religious freedom. He said 21Wilberforce originated the project to consolidate a diverse range of religious freedom data and used student research assistants who helped collect data and build the website.

"It also helps to ensure that we do not remain blind to the wide range of perspectives and issues that exist in many of the countries that we engage in," Martin said in an interview. "The situation of religious freedom is often a very



ANTHONY PELTIER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trenton Martin, the advocacy and training coordinator for 21Wilberforce, said collaboration among the three groups will add annual reports from NGOs and other international perspectives.

complex story within each national context and this project helps us to understand those stories."

Martin said collaboration among the three organizations will add new annual reports from NGOs and other international perspectives to continue improving the project. He added that the data

is missing some religious perspectives, including Hindu and Sikh, that are necessary to fully represent religious freedoms worldwide, and he hopes to add more indicators of religious oppression to the map.

Gregory Stanton, the president of Genocide Watch, said his orga-

nization's staff provided 21Wilberforce the technical expertise to map the compiled data on religious persecution around the world. He said Genocide Watch became involved because of their previous research on religious freedom revealed that religious persecution is a significant predictor of genocide.

Faculty assemble interdisciplinary research to launch Climate and Health Institute

ISHANI CHETTRI
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

SARAH HENDRICK
REPORTER

Faculty from across GW's nine schools are advocating for policies on climate health, air quality and global warming as part of a collaborative research institute that publicly launched earlier this semester.

The Climate and Health Institute is composed of professors who are conducting policy-based research in areas like nutrition and greenhouse gas emissions to help mitigate the global climate crisis. Susan Anenberg, the director of the Climate and Health Institute, said the research will focus on shifting away from fossil fuels, improving air quality and eliminating extreme heat waves.

"The long-term goal is to help governments and stakeholders around the world mitigate the climate crisis to equitably improve public health, so we're really bringing a health and equity lens to the climate change policy debates," she said.

She said the professors who are part of the institute specialize in a wide range of topics including the effects of global warming on seasonal allergies and protecting the infrastructure of drinking water systems.

Anenberg added that professors formally "chartered"



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The institute is planning to begin accepting students to a master's of public health degree program with a concentration in climate and health next fall.

the institute in May, but they built the official website over the summer and launched the site this September.

She said since its launch, the institute hosted several guest speakers over Zoom, like Allison Crimmins – the director of the Fifth National Climate Assessment, a report analyzing recent climate change policies – and John Balbus, the interim director of the Health and Human Services Office of Climate Change and Health Equity, a sector of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services pursuing environ-

mental justice and equitable health care.

Anenberg said the institute is working to launch a master's of public health degree with a concentration in climate and health – a program that will accept students starting in fall 2022 to integrate climate change into the Milken Institute School of Public Health curriculum. Milken currently offers one online master's of public health concentration in health informatics and analytics.

She said the members of the institute plan to work

with other groups like Sustainable GW, Planet Forward – a project based in the School of Media and Public Affairs that teaches environmental storytelling – and the Environmental Justice Action Network, a new student-lead environmental justice organization.

David Michaels, a professor of environmental and occupational health epidemiology and a member of the institute, said the institute will incorporate the research of its 28 faculty members, including his own on the impacts of extreme heat exposure.

CRIME LOG

SEXUAL ASSAULT, SIMPLE ASSAULT

Various
Multiple – Multiple
Closed Case
GW Police Department officers made contact with multiple female students who reported a male student committed several instances of sexual abuse and simple assault at various locations on and off campus. Officers made contact with the student, who was then barred from campus.
Subject barred.

HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR WRITTEN)

Hensley Hall (Mount Vernon Campus)
10/19/2021 – 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Open Case
A female student reported she was harassed when an image of a swastika was sent to her residence hall room.
Case open.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Public Property on Campus
10/27/2021 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Open Case
A female EMERG staff member reported that a tire on the EMERG vehicle was slashed.
Case open.

THEFT II/BICYCLES

Public Property on Campus (600 Block of 22nd Street NW)
10/28/2021 – 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Open Case
A male student reported his bicycle stolen from the bike rack near the Smith Center.
Case open.

–Compiled by Carly Neilson

Student Court formally invalidates first-year senate seats after extended debate

LAUREN SFORZA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The Student Court issued its final judgement invalidating first-year Student Association Senate seats Thursday, sealing a six-week debate on the issue.

The SA Office of the Legislator General filed a complaint in September opposing the senate's approval of a fall referendum asking the student body whether the SA should amend its constitution to designate senate seats for first-year students. Associate Justice Zamin Raza, a second-year law student and author of the unanimous decision, said in the decision that first-year students are automatically represented by their school-specific senator so they would be represented twice if senate seats were reapportioned.

The court issued a preliminary judgement striking down first-year senate elections shortly after holding a hearing last month. Raza said the court ruled that first-year senate seats were "inconsistent" with the "essential representational equality" requirement outlined in the University Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities.

"Senators are elected at-large from their respective school-degree divisions, with no distinction as to class year, with the expectation that they will represent these school-degree-specific interests in the debates

and legislative process that occur in the deliberative body of their University-wide student government," the judgement reads.

The court also struck down the Fall Senate Elections Act, which would have codified the referendum into the SA's bylaws if approved by the student body.

Raza said apportioned seats are not limited to school-degree constituencies under the SA constitution, but they must comply with the SRR Statement. He said the SA must ensure that any new proposed apportionment methods must not be "inferior" to the current method because changing the apportionment scheme would influence the decision making of the SA governing bodies.

With a 5-1 vote, the court also upheld a resolution challenged in the complaint that scheduled a referendum on proportional representation, which, if passed, would divide at-large senate seats for the Milken Institute School of Public Health, School of Nursing, School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the College of Professional Studies into separate undergraduate and graduate positions. The court invalidated a section of the resolution that would have solved procedural issues to move the process along faster if both the first-year and proportional representation referenda had passed.

Associate Justice Devin Eager,



GRACE HROMIN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The court ruled that the Office of the Legislator General is expected to have "allegiance" to the executive branch over other branches because the office serves at the "pleasure of the president."

a second-year law student and the lone opposer of the decision, said in his dissent that the court should either validate or invalidate the entire law instead of striking individual sections of the bill.

The court also declared in the ruling that the legislator general's office is expected to have "allegiance" to the executive branch over other branches in lawsuits because the office serves at the "pleasure of

the president." But in other cases when the executive branch has no role in an ongoing lawsuit, the legislator general can represent any SA member or branch, the judgement states.

Opinions

Nov. 1, 2021 • Page 4

Metro delays are a headache for students. GW can help. STAFF EDITORIAL

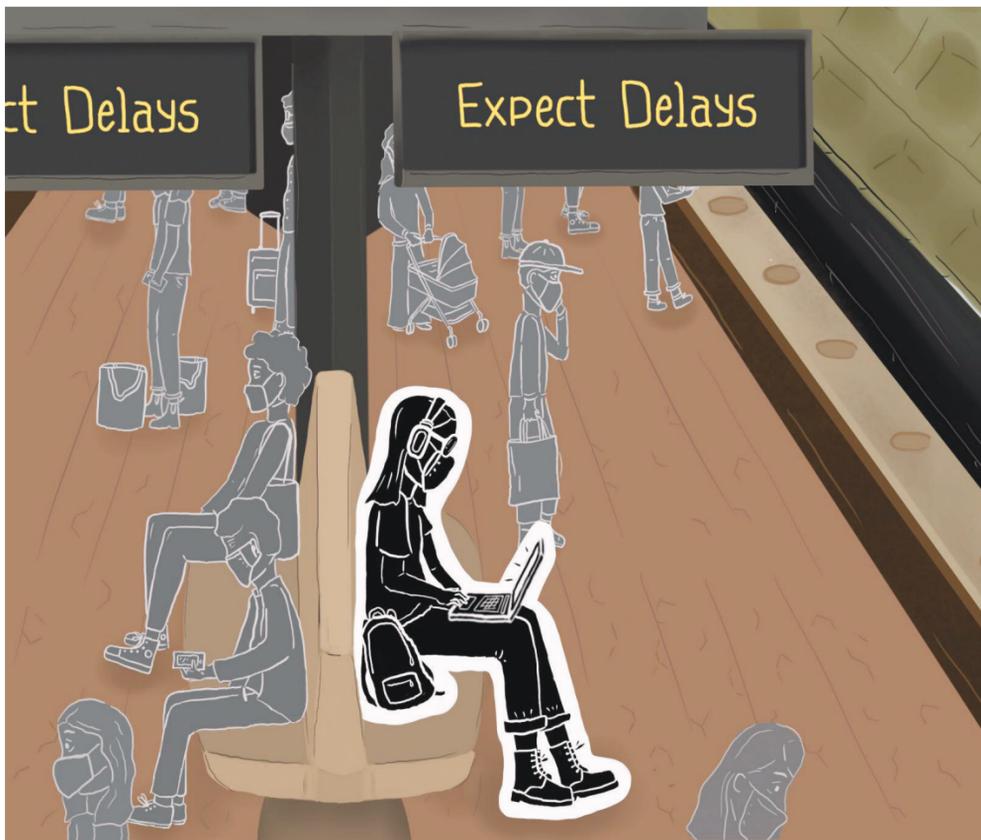
Nearly everyone in D.C. has either directly experienced or heard about the grievous Metro delays that are snarling the commute into, out of and within the District. Although most students live on campus within walking distance of classes, there are plenty who do not – and they're being squeezed by wait times of up to 40 minutes more than usual. Staff and faculty, a greater percentage of whom live a Metro ride away from campus, are affected even more.

While this is not a cataclysmic and life-changing situation for those affected by it, it has impeded students' lives enough that the University should take some action to ease the burden a bit. From tapping into hybrid learning technology to transportation reimbursements, GW should step in to make life a little bit easier for a community experiencing transportation-related headaches.

The problem began last month, when a Metrorail train on the Blue line slipped off its tracks near Arlington Cemetery, which caused officials to suspend the Blue line service between Foggy Bottom and the Pentagon.

A couple days later, the Metrorail Safety Commission ordered the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to remove all 7000-series trains as the National Transportation Safety Board investigates the issue, causing 60 percent of the trains to be removed from circulation. This investigation has led to reduced train service, which will last through mid-November.

Students, professors and staff, especially those who live



MAURA KELLY-YUOH | CARTOONIST

off campus and rely on the Metro to travel to campus, have been affected by the delays. Metro delays might cause some to wait upwards of 30 minutes to make a train. Trains can also get delayed at the last minute, which adds to the uncertainty of getting to campus on time for a class or another time commitment. Those who cannot make it to campus on time because of these delays have also had to rely on other means

of transportation, like Uber or Lyft, or use the city's bikeshare program, Capital Bikeshare, which is now free for one month due to the Metro delays.

But these are not sustainable. Both Uber and Lyfts can cost much more than the cost of a Metro ride, especially for those who live on the outer edges of D.C. or in Northern Virginia. For those with disabilities that hinder them from being able to ride bikes, the bikeshare

program is not a feasible option to make it to campus, either.

This is the type of situation in which GW didn't cause the problem but has the capacity to work to solve it. One key means of alleviating the problem would be to lean on the pandemic-era hybrid learning infrastructure that is already in place. As of now, all classrooms should have some element of a virtual option for students who are either quarantining

or isolating due to COVID-19. Some professors allow students to appear over Zoom, others have recorded lectures that are posted to Blackboard. With students and professors already familiar with operating with some element of a hybrid capacity, and with the infrastructure already in place, it would be simple to extend that to students who are affected by colossal Metro delays.

The University can also urge professors to be understanding of students who have trouble making it to campus over the next few weeks due to the delays, the same way professors have been directed to be lenient with attendance policies due to the pandemic. Once again, this relies on existing policies and practices – it just expands them slightly for a few weeks.

But easing attendance policies is far less relevant to faculty and staff, whose presence in-person is crucial to doing their jobs. For them, the University should consider options like need-based transportation subsidies for those who are forced to pick between rideshare and hellishly delayed public transit.

GW did not cause the 7000-series Metro car to go off the rails, but an institution that touches so many elements of the lives of its community has the capacity to step in and make things just a little bit easier.

GW prides itself on how its student body is integrated into the D.C. community and how involved students are with extracurriculars and jobs throughout the District. In the spirit of helping to support that vision, GW should step in to help students who are impacted by transportation delays outside of their control.

Administrators must enact a plan to solve facilities issues

When students arrived on campus in August, we expected that residence halls were carefully surveyed by facilities workers to maintain student safety. For many students living in University housing, ongoing facilities issues quickly squashed this expectation.

Mia Adams
Opinions Writer

Throughout the past two months at GW, facilities employees have been run ragged. After the evacuation of almost 200 students living at Townhouse Row due to mold, students across campus began examining their rooms for the harmful fungus and while some students found what appeared to be mold, others shared circulating pictures of vents and crevices plagued with dirt. Furthermore, multiple students reported feeling sick with symptoms consistent with mold exposure and received medical treatment. Soon after the mold outbreaks, a torrential rainstorm left JBKO, Fulbright and Munson residence halls with water leaks. More than 70 students claimed to find mold and water leakage in their residence hall rooms in September. GW has had mold complaints in the past, but 2021 should be the breaking point. Officials must make changes.

GW executed a series

of layoffs to financially compensate for the impacts of the pandemic in 2020. Layoffs included 52 facilities employee positions. There has been evident student dissatisfaction with both residence hall conditions and the 2020 layoffs, which has damaged the relationship between administrators and students. GW needs to allocate more money toward rehiring laid-off maintenance workers to conduct more thorough residence hall inspections.

Although my own facilities issues have not posed serious health risks, they have definitely caused me to distrust GW's ability to both maintain upstanding residence halls and communicate with students about residence hall conditions. It's especially sad that this feeling of skepticism is so prevalent among those new to GW.

The first step that GW should take in solving the facilities crisis and gaining more student trust is to create and release a comprehensive maintenance plan, which should maintain transparency, encourage student feedback and exhibit a genuine effort toward housing improvement. The plan should include detailed protocol for summer residence hall inspections. Releasing a comprehensive plan to the public would give frustrated students hope that GW is dedicated to improving housing conditions.

Next, GW must rehire

laid-off employees, and focus on strengthening the HVAC team. Finally, GW should institute at least two campus-wide residence hall inspections over the summer. After learning from the mistakes of this semester, residence hall examinations should focus on areas like mold, leaks, dirty vents and more, all with a greater sense of seriousness than before. This will better ensure safe residence hall conditions by allowing facilities employees ample time to specifically evaluate current and potential issues. Further, facilities employees must evaluate issues across all rooms in residence halls with recurring issues. For example, JBKO, Fulbright and Munson, which all experienced water leakage, should be entirely inspected for ceiling problems. If irregularities are found, they should be fixed completely.

In the future, residence hall issues should not cause students distress nor trips to the hospital. The best way to ensure safe residence halls for all students is to allocate more money toward rehiring laid-off facilities employees and instituting serious maintenance inspections in every residence hall. In turn, these actions will help to build a strong relationship between administration and students for years to come.

—Mia Adams, a freshman majoring in political science, is an opinions writer.

GW should implement a community service learning requirement

It's clear that there is a cultural distance and dissonance between GW and the diverse residential community encompassed by the District. The experience of most GW students is isolated, disconnected and out of sync with the rest of the city. What's less clear is why this is a problem and how it can change. Administrators have a responsibility to encourage students early on to burst out of the Foggy Bottom bubble.

William Bosco
Opinions Writer

Each year, GW holds its Freshman Day of Service hosted by the Honey Nashman Center. Overall the Nashman Center does great work, but I remember the inadequacy inherent to my day of service. My group and I were placed on a bus that carried us across the Anacostia River to Grant Park where we worked with the non-profit City Gate to paint the fence surrounding a dying garden. But what if that same group of students returned to Grant Park every week? They could replant that garden, make other sustainable improvements, and most importantly, they could truly get to know the people who benefit from their work. A University-wide commitment to recurring service could provide both. I see a way of bursting the Foggy Bottom bubble that would enrich the lives of GW students and Washingtonians in solidarity – a University-wide service learning curriculum requirement.

When I say service learning, I don't mean learning about service. I mean learning through the practice

of service. And when I say "University-wide" I mean a curriculum as ubiquitous and normalized as the University Writing requirement. I'm talking about GW setting an example for all major universities, showing that it's not only possible but powerful for every undergraduate, at some time in their four years, to enroll in a semester-long course that places them on the ground doing service work for the surrounding community.

These courses would allow faculty to direct the efforts of students in concert with community organizations to apply academic work to service in the District. GW already makes a strong effort at this, offering about 80 courses in the typical year, which allow students to engage in projects with local community organizations.

It's easy to feel like a visitor and not a resident as a student at GW, but few are compelled to address it. The wonder of GW, our website says, is that the city is its campus. But what this means is a part of the city where the University is located, the nice part, the safe part, the part with the restaurants, the nightclubs and the firms and federal buildings. There seems little cause for amendment when all our material comforts and ambitions are fulfilled within this urban terrarium. There seems little value in extending student life beyond Foggy Bottom, the Federal district, and the upscale metro area. But this is why an investment in universal service would show such visionary courage.

The University, with an endowment of \$1.8 billion, where 70 percent of students come from the top 20 percent of family incomes and just 2.5 percent from the bottom

20 as of 2017, should do more to spread the wealth. But if GW truly wants to align the rationale of this project with its mission, the University must think beyond this.

GW must see the prospect of a universal service curriculum not just as fixing a problem or righting a wrong, but as taking advantage of an opportunity. An opportunity for students to ground themselves in the city they inhabit during their time at GW, to gain the reward of communion with those who share it, and in doing so develop an identity which allows them to engage personally and passionately with the future of the District.

Leading with understanding service learning as an opportunity for the growth of students is a step toward upending conventional notions of charity that provide only maintenance of misery rather than liberation. We must recognize that when we work to improve the lives of others we do so not because it makes us look right, not even because it is right, but because the work improves our lives too. This allows charity to turn into solidarity.

Above all, a universal service curriculum is an opportunity to invest in people. On one hand, to ensure that the well-being of people in our nation's capital does not mock the promise of our nation. On the other, to make certain that GW students, who dream, perhaps more fervently than any others, of political success, understand what "public service" really means.

—William Bosco, a junior majoring in philosophy and political science, is an opinions writer.

The GW Hatchet

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Cost — Single copies free. Additional copies available for purchase upon request.

Culture

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THE SCENE

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS FEST

Saturday, Nov. 6 | Catholic University | \$15
Celebrate the Day of the Dead by honoring Mexican culture through face painting, live mariachi bands and Mexican food.

DC BEER FEST

Saturday, Nov. 6 | Nationals Park | \$50
Enjoy food trucks, live music and seasonal beers from dozens of craft breweries at D.C.'s largest beer festival.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "TELEPATH" BY CONAN GRAY

A conversation with musician and alumnus Cautious Clay

MOLLY KAISER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Since Josh Karpeh – otherwise known as Cautious Clay – graduated from GW in 2015, he's collaborated with artists like John Mayer and had one of his songs sampled on a Taylor Swift album.

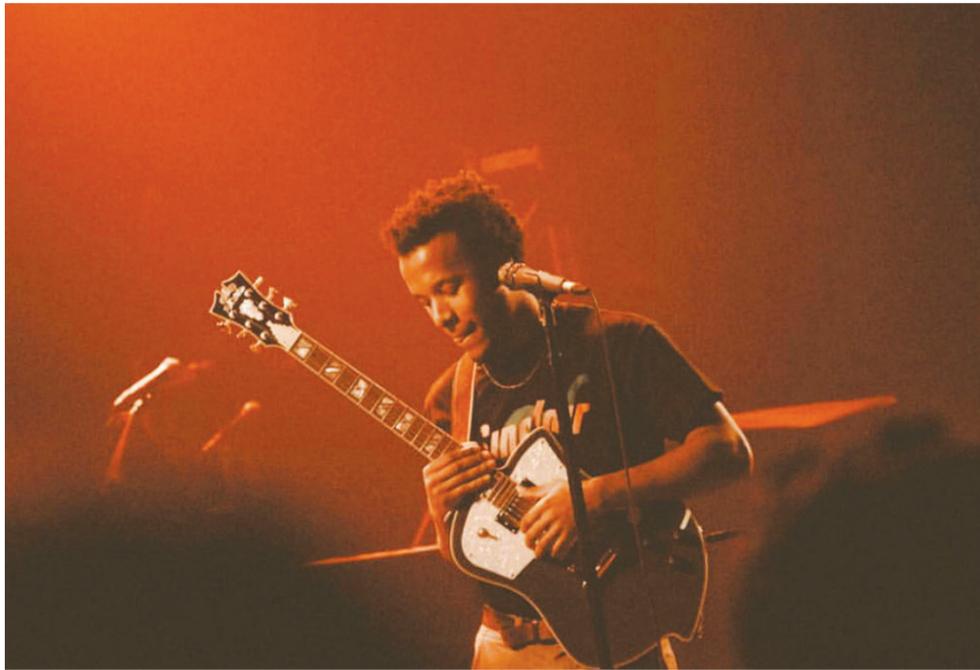
Karpeh, who has produced three EPs and an album over the course of his career so far, said his passion for music started when he was a teenager and took off when he taught himself to mix and produce music as a student at GW. Now based in Brooklyn, Karpeh is gearing up to tour across the United States and abroad in 2022, including a stop at the 9:30 Club in Northwest D.C.

I spoke with Karpeh about his experiences as a student at GW and how his career as a musician has taken off since his time in Foggy Bottom.

Here are some highlights from our conversation, which has been edited for length and clarity:

What brought you to GW?

Josh Karpeh, a.k.a. Cautious Clay: They gave a lot of support, a little bit of money, which was cool. But I also got into the Elliott School, which at the time was a really prestigious international affairs school and I thought I wanted to do geography and travel the world and stuff. I thought that'd be a



Karpeh said he considers his music to be a mix of lush and dynamic pop and soul.

COURTESY OF @MOKI.PHOTO

cool thing at the time. And I didn't think music was possible. So honestly, music school just sounded like a huge waste of money to pay \$50,000 to \$80,000 a year, just to do something that doesn't pay you that much. And so I ended up going to GW because I was like, "Cool, at least I'll have a degree that could get me whatever."

I've read online that you learned to mix music at GW. Can you tell me more about that?

JK: I was at GW DJing and doing a bunch of stuff. There's this bar called Above the Bayou, which I don't even know if it exists anymore, but it was off of Pennsylvania

Avenue, like right up near West... what was the place right above Foggy Bottom?

West End?

JK: Yeah, I used to live in West End and DJ at that spot, and we'd have a lot of parties and stuff up there. I had a little collective called Prop-

er Vibes back in the day and we would throw them with just this guy Rob Smoke's band. It was just a collective of artists and friends and stuff and we would throw parties. But then I also would mix my own music and put them out on those remixes and test it out when I was playing the sets.

What inspired the name Cautious Clay?

JK: To be honest, it's hard for me to explain a lot of things about myself. And I guess, in a lot of ways, I'm cautious about everything in my life because I just don't always know who I can trust. It's kind of a funny way of saying music is the easiest way for me to express my emotions and be myself. It's a very meditative act for me and I've always heard people saying, "Oh, you know, meditation is important." And for some people it is, but it's more about finding something that's meditative. For people that can be very different, you know, walking across the street, being like, "Oh, yes, I'm aware of my feet and my feet are walking. I'm not thinking about anything else right now."

Who are your musical inspirations and influences?

JK: I was huge into Outkast and Andre 3000. Red Hot Chili Peppers. I loved them as a kid for sure. What else? Joni Mitchell, Carmen McRae.



SOPHIA YOUNG | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The event included a slew of bands and solo musicians playing genres like indie rock and rap.

Student Music Coalition showcases student talent at Halloween concert

DAVID BROTHERS
STAFF WRITER

GW's Student Music Coalition presented its first Halloween concert Sunday night in collaboration with music streaming app Put Me On.

The coalition's co-presidents Jacy Case and Wyatt Kirschner alongside the club's e-board members organized the free event that was held in the basement of the joint National Panhellenic Council townhouse at 607 23rd St. NW. Six bands and musicians of student performers, who ranged from punk and indie to rap, rocked out at the "Sunday Scaries Show," which opened its doors at 7 p.m.

"We have a lot of really talented musicians around campus and we were like, 'You know, we need a concert,'" Case said. "So we made it happen."

The featured bands and solo musicians included indie rock band Citrus Maxima, indie duo Alphabet Soup, solo rap artist Collin Cadet, indie band Jacy Case and friends, rock band Static TV and solo rap artists Khari Crooms.

Several of the student performers were members of the SMC, which is located in Shenkman Hall's basement. Members can access three different rehearsal rooms equipped with drum kits, amps, microphones and keyboards with their 24/7 access to the space.

"I think what I would really love to see is the

GW community coming and supporting their fellow student artists and just having a good time at a music and arts centered event," she said.

Case said she was glad to host the event in the NPHC townhouse, especially since several members of NPHC's six historically Black greek organizations were developers of the Put Me On app. "The SMC space is not the best for having a show but we have all the equipment, so locating people that can help us really put on a great performance for everybody has been a really good experience," Case said.

Along with organizing the event, Case played some of her original songs for the first time with her band, Jacy Case and friends.

"Sharing that with new people has been a really exciting experience and a really cool process to go about," she said.

Zack Basile and Max Cohen, the students behind Alphabet Soup, met two months ago through the SMC.

Alphabet Soup performed original songs at the concert that they collaborated on and self-produced independently during the pandemic.

"It's a really special thing to play in somebody's basement," Cohen said. "It's not something that has happened too much since COVID."

He said he was stoked when he heard SMC was putting on a concert, and

they hope they will organize more in the future.

"Any organization that takes it upon itself to put together live music is great," Cohen said. "SMC gave some big help to tiny dorms and everybody at the previous gig, I think it's great that they're putting on more."

Senior Wyatt Kirschner, the SMC's co-president, is a member of two of the bands that played, Citrus Maxima and Static TV.

Kirschner said he and others had the idea for the event because of the lack of house shows since Mystery Inc, a prominent house venue in D.C., closed.

"Kirschner said all of the artists participated in promoting the event.

Static TV was started during his first year at GW after he met other freshmen with a shared interest in punk.

His other band, Citrus Maxima, is from upstate New York and they have a more alternative indie sound. Their song, 1970, has racked up more than 130,000 streams on Spotify.

Kirschner said they'll be playing that song among others from earlier EPs as well as unreleased music.

While Kirschner is graduating this year, he said he hopes next year's e-board puts on another show.

"I think it'd be great to make it like an annual thing," he said. "There's real interest in house shows and a lot of people just aren't exposed to it, so hopefully it'll happen next year."

Review: Hasan Minhaj's 'The King's Jester' strays from past work's quality

SHREEYA ARANAKE
CONTRIBUTING OPINIONS
EDITOR

In case you ever wanted to watch a Hasan Minhaj show in an auditorium at the Kennedy Center, you missed your chance.

Minhaj's ongoing national, almost six-month-long comedy tour, "The King's Jester," comes after the success of his popular Netflix show, "Patriot Act," which he promoted via a comedy show at GW three years ago. Before that, he was known for the comedy special that launched him into becoming a household name, especially in South Asian-American households, "Homecoming King."

Unfortunately, "The King's Jester" strayed far from the quality of his previous work.

In both "Patriot Act" and "Homecoming King," Minhaj thrived off of using his personal experiences to discuss larger issues facing the country. The quality of both of these shows, though conceptually different, relied on a compelling thesis that grounded each joke in a message larger than the bit itself.

But there was no such thesis in "The King's Jester," which led to a muddled, self-centered show that relied more on Minhaj's newfound fame rather than an ability to say something true. The atmosphere in the Kennedy Center that night felt much more like a rally for a political candidate than a comedy show. Over the

course of the two-ish hours of the show, Minhaj tried to tackle too many topics but didn't adequately develop any of his punchlines. Instead, his jokes came off as a shallow front to complain about personal issues and bloat his new fame.

Each episode of "Patriot Act" was insightful, particularly because Minhaj chose to tackle topics that were not extensively covered in daily newspapers, while also being comedic. It was clear to see that the comedian was using his own experiences to inform his interest in these heavy topics, while still allowing his personality and humor to shine through.

Similarly, in "Homecoming King," Minhaj talked about his experiences attending school as a South Asian in a mostly white community, growing up with immigrant parents and being Muslim in a post-9/11 world.

In his current comedy tour, Minhaj tries to move farther away from these topics, broaching parenthood, his marriage and his newfound prominence in the comedy world. It's exciting to see any artist grow, especially if they are bold enough to address their willingness to wade new territory in both their life and work. But Minhaj doesn't adequately address this tonal shift from his previous works in the "Jester" routine.

Minhaj's comedic magic lies in his ability to tell a story that seems fabricated and bring it to life by illuminating a screen behind

him that completely validates every aspect of the story. Without giving the story away, he does a similar bit in "Jester" about his experience being targeted by an undercover government agent in his teens, and it's the most compelling part of the show.

But his charm falters when the anecdotal stories he tells sound like fabrications meant only for the purpose of empty laughs and ego boosts. For instance, he told several stories that tried to set himself up as a "hero dad," by widening his eyes and saying lines like "...but I can't do that now. I'm a dad," and pauses for reactions. It lacked connection to his routine and seemed like an attempt to elicit some 'aws' from the women in the room.

But now, in the sophomore stage of his career, and according to his extensive stories about his young family, these critiques and jokes are less potent. Instead of acknowledging the appreciation for his parents' lives like he did throughout "Homecoming King," the parental content in "The King's Jester" came off as a way to pull some of the old punches out just for the sake of relatability and shallow connection with South Asian audiences.

For anyone expecting content on par with his usual substantive comedy, Minhaj's "The King's Jester," will likely disappoint. But Hasan Minhaj fans who like Hasan Minhaj for the sake of Hasan Minhaj, will have a blast.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIA YOUNG | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

In his current tour, Minhaj broached parenthood, his marriage and his newfound prominence in the comedy world.

GAMES OF THE WEEK



MEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Hood College
Monday | 6:30 p.m.
The Colonials face off against the Blazers in an exhibition match.



MEN'S WATER POLO
vs. Fordham
Sunday | 3 p.m.
GW returns to the Smith Center after a two-week break from the pool.

NUMBER CRUNCH

1.06

Men's soccer's scoring average, down from its five-year average of 1.134.

Buff and Blue Fund Challenge raises more than \$350,000 after two-year pause

NURIA DIAZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

The Athletic Department's Buff and Blue Fund Challenge raised more than \$350,000 this calendar year as officials have completed the challenge for the first time since 2019.

Officials said in a release last month that the fund racked up donations from more than 1,200 donors after officials paused the program the last two years because of the pandemic. Associate director of development Danielle Grobmyer said 426 of the donors were former athletes while more than 200 were parent donors.

"It just goes to show how important our alumni are, and our student athletes, parents and then also our friends and family," Grobmyer said. "Like everyone says, it takes a village and this is a prime example of so many different groups coming together to unite under GW Athletics and show how strong we are and show what a force we are."

Last year's fundraising campaign, Together We Raise Higher, which was created to help student-athletes deal with the effects of the pandemic, accumulated \$136,764 from 376 donors. In the last version of the Buff and Blue Fund Challenge held in 2019, the fundraised \$166,521 from 849 donors with the help of Michelle Rubin, the president of the advisory council for GW Athletics.

Baseball and men's water polo obtained the most funding in their respective divisions for the challenge, earning \$7,000 each, and men's rowing and gymnastics

received the second most, winning \$3,000 each. Women's basketball and men's cross country and track took home the Most Improved Teams awards along with \$2,500 each.

Grobmyer said the fundraising campaign is typically launched in the spring, but this year the department decided to begin fundraising in September to capitalize on the beginning of the fall season. She said the challenge drew in more than 1,100 donors in the first week alone, partially as a result of its postponement over the last year.

She said this year's challenge was moved to a new platform called GiveCampus, which the University began using for its first-ever Giving Day, which raised a total of \$969,993 from 2,182 donors on April 7. She said the department has also conducted a "micro-campaign" for baseball that brought in revenue for the team.

"We knew that the platform would really help elevate it, and it certainly did," Grobmyer said. "And the great thing about GiveCampus is that when you make a gift, you instantaneously see that number change. And so I think that really is why our donors responded."

This year Rubin donated \$20,000 in additional funding for the athletic programs. Grobmyer said the funds will be allocated to the winners of the Buff and Blue Challenge to be used at their discretion.

Men's water polo came in first place while gymnastics finished second in Highest Student-Athlete Alumni Giving Percentage category. As a result, men's water



This year's fundraising total more than doubled that of last year's campaign, which assisted student-athletes facing the effects of the pandemic.

polo will be awarded \$5,000 while gymnastics will win \$4,000.

Gymnastics and water polo also topped all programs in the category of most dollars raised. This time gymnastics came in first and men's water polo placed second. Each team will be awarded an additional \$3,000 and \$1,000 respectively.

While men's water polo and gymnastics have typically done well with fundraising, Grobmyer said the lacrosse program has

"stepped up" over the past two years with the help of head coach Jennifer Uehla and the student-athletes improving alumni engagement.

This year their work paid off as lacrosse came in first place in the most donors category, followed by baseball in second. Lacrosse and baseball will be given the remaining \$4,000 and \$3,000 for their programs.

Jason Pappas, an associate teaching professor in the

Department of Sports Management at Florida State University, said the challenge pointed toward alumni from less professionalized sports as being more open to donate.

Pappas said institutions usually focus on high-profile alumni that can give back a high amount to the university. He said athletic officials at Florida State concentrate on providing special tickets or privileges to the alumni in exchange for donations.

Men's soccer grinds out overtime win to finish season

LIAM O'MURCHU
REPORTER

Men's soccer closed out their season with a win against Saint Bonaventure on the road Saturday.

The Colonials (5-10-2, 3-4-1 A-10) defeated the Bonnies (4-10-1, 3-5-0 A-10) in a dramatic 4-3 overtime victory thanks to a four goal performance by graduate student forward Oscar Haynes Brown. Despite Haynes Brown's heroics, the Colonials will miss the Atlantic 10 conference tournament after tying for eighth in the conference.

The Colonials came into the day with a chance to qualify for the A-10 Championship with a win and losses from Massachusetts and Dayton. But Massachusetts drew with VCU, putting them level on points with GW and through to the playoffs on a higher goal differential.

Saint Bonaventure was also looking to sneak into the tournament as they would have qualified with a win or a draw and a Massachusetts loss.

With his performance, Haynes Brown became the seventh highest scorer in program history. He has also scored the last four OT winning goals for the program, a streak that began in October 2017.

GW started the match strong as Haynes Brown opened up the scoring in the 11th minute. Junior

midfielder Tom Cooklin played an incisive pass across the field to graduate student midfielder Sandro Weber, who played Haynes Brown in through on goal.

Weber had a chance to double the lead in the 20th minute following a through ball by Cooklin, but Weber could not control the ball with his chest and he was unable to poke it past graduate student goalkeeper Trevor Wilson.

Four minutes later, Saint Bonaventure responded with a goal of their own thanks to an incredible solo effort from junior forward Joshua Pulla. After slinking his way past two GW defenders, he cut in and curled the ball into the top right corner from the top of the box.

The Bonnies struck again in the 30th minute. Graduate student midfielder Francesco Caorsi chipped a through ball over the GW defense into the path of senior midfielder Cunyet Vardar, who finished the chance with an acrobatic volley past junior goalkeeper Justin Grady to put the Bonnies ahead 2-1.

Just eight minutes later, Saint Bonaventure had an opportunity to score a third. Senior midfielder Issac Boamah blew past GW junior defender Ryan Cedeno and played a tantalizing ball across the face of goal but no one could tuck it away for the Bonnies.

GW retook the lead in the 62nd minute after sophomore midfielder Tim Neumann

scuffed a half volley from distance. The failed attempt fell to Haynes Brown, who sidestepped Bonnies graduate student defender Jaaziel Thompson and finished into the bottom left corner.

Grady had a heads up play with two minutes left in the match, jumping through a crowd to smother a bouncing ball in the box and snuff out the attack and maintain the Colonial lead.

But with 45 seconds left in regulation, the ball fell to Caorsi in the midfield, who played a through ball to a wide open Pulla on the right side. Pulla calmly took the chance on his right foot and chipped the ball over the sliding legs of Grady to send the game into overtime.

The Bonnies' celebrations were short lived however, as GW struck early in sudden death overtime. In the 92nd minute, Yurasits played a long throw into the box and the ball bounced through six Saint Bonaventure defenders right into the path of Haynes Brown at the back post, who converted for his fourth goal of the match, ninth of the season, and the 31st of his illustrious career.

Though the Colonials will end up missing the postseason after coming in as the runner-up last year, GW finishes the season with two wins and a tie in their last five conference games and six goals after netting just three in the first half of the A-10 slate.



Both the men's and women's head coaches said they are confident their teams can return to winning seasons despite their respective struggles in recent years.

Men's and women's basketball look to record winning seasons

SUNIT CHAKRABORTY
REPORTER

As they gear up for this season, men's and women's basketball look to post winning records for the first time since the 2016-17 season and the 2017-18 season, respectively.

During the 2020-21 season, men's basketball finished with five wins and 12 losses in total while the women's team fared slightly better with a 9-14 overall record. Both teams were knocked out in the second round of the A-10 tournament, but both men's head coach Jamion Christian and women's head coach Caroline McCombs said they are confident in their teams' abilities to get back on track.

"I definitely believe that we've made a ton of strides," Christian said. "Starting with the talent we've been able to put together on the roster, moving into our style of play, and just understanding a deeper belief of where we need to be to be a top four team in this league."

Christian, who is entering his third season as the head coach, said he has emphasized versatility this year as he has rebuilt the roster and is optimistic about the impact on the

defensive end.

"We've always had a system full of versatility and I don't think we've been able to do that to the fullest level that we wanted to maybe in the first two years, but I definitely feel like in the third year we've been able to build a roster with so much versatility."

McCombs, who is entering her first season as the women's head coach, said she has emphasized having a strong defensive identity.

"We're going to be a tough defensive minded team," McCombs said. "We're going to be scrappy, we're really going to get after it. We're going to be exciting in that way. We have to put our hand on something and that's going to be our defense, something that we know that we can control every day."

On the offensive side, the men's team will be led by senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr. and junior guard James Bishop.

In the seven games he played during the 2020-21 season, Lindo Jr. averaged 11.4 points, 10.7 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game while shooting at 52.4 percent clip. He recorded five double-digit rebounding games and four double-doubles, the

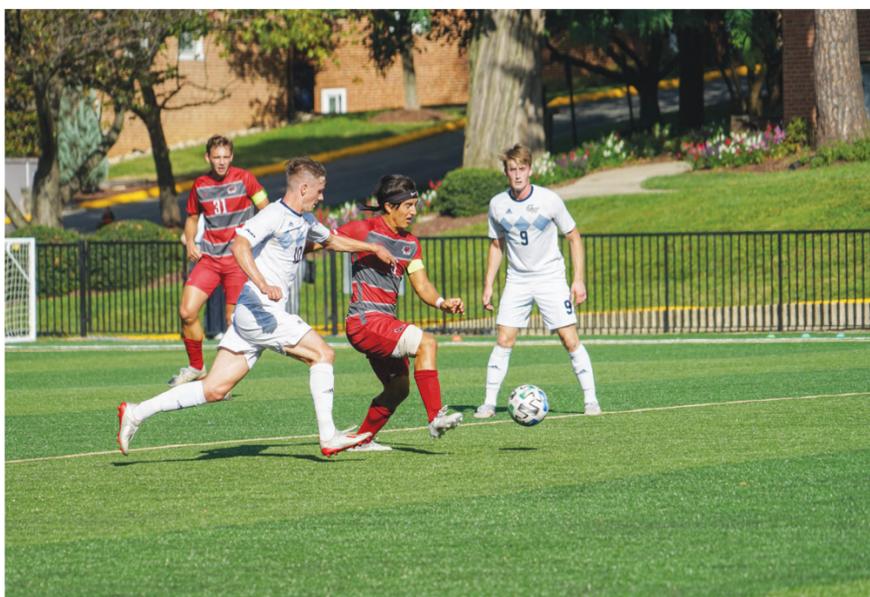
most of any A-10 player following his debut.

As a sophomore last season, Bishop averaged 19.1 points and 5.1 assists while hitting 42.7 percent from the field and his scoring average was the second highest in the A-10 conference. Bishop said he's been putting "long hours in the gym" this offseason and working out with his teammates to help create a "great connection" with each other.

Christian said he sees Bishop stepping into the role of a distributor, not just a scorer. He said he is confident in Bishop's leadership and ability to contribute to a winning culture as a second year player.

The Women's team will be led by senior guard Maddie Loder and graduate student guard Kyara Frames, who transferred from Albany. In the 2020-2021 season, Loder averaged 4.8 points and 1.6 assists at a 29.5 percent clip from the field. She led her team with 87.9 shooting percentage from the free throw line.

Christian said he's been focusing on building the men's team chemistry, especially since much of the team has remained on campus since April.



GW and Saint Bonaventure battled back and forth through 90 minutes, but the Colonials ultimately prevailed in sudden-death overtime.