
The GW Hatchet

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Gym already too crowded with students

In response to the article entitled "Lerner Health and Wellness Center may open to locals," (Oct. 22, A3) I want to voice what a horrible idea this would be for the University. As it is, with just students and professors utilizing the facility, the gym is always crowded. Students are already forced to wait their turn to use various machines in the fitness room. Lines to join pickup basketball games are way too long already.

There are 19 Washington Sports Clubs in the D.C. metro area, as well as The Sports Club/LA at 22nd and M streets, so alumni upset about not having a local gym have no reason to complain. Offering the Health and Wellness Center for free to local neighbors is a mistake as well, due mainly to the overcrowdedness.

Ben Sugarman
Junior

ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 22 02-26A
EXHIBIT No. 23
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-26A
EXHIBIT NO.23

Subj: **No Subject**
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Dorothy --

Although GWU has asked for "only" 300 passes for FB residents to the Health and Wellness Center, at the FBA meeting last week Mr. Knapp claimed that GWU has 1,200 alumni living in the FB/WE neighborhood. That would be 15% of our population, so I am somewhat doubtful but that is what he said. So we know where they are going with these passes to the H & W Center.

Ron

Peek-a-boo FREE Tricks & Treats for You! Get 'em!=

GWU breaks ground on new F Street dorm

By **GUY LOGAN**
Current Correspondent

After about 10 years of planning, the latest addition to George Washington University's residence halls is under way following a celebratory groundbreaking last Friday.

Students, staff and administrators took part in the ceremony, using golden shovels to turn mounds of earth, officially beginning the project.

"It [was] a long process to go through," said George Washington University's president, Steven Knapp. "But I think that it's all been an entirely positive process, and



Bill Petros/The Current

Work is under way at the F Street site of the new dormitory.

we're certainly very happy with the way it's turned out."

The hall, which will include several green features, is on F Street, partly on land that was formerly the parking lot of the city-owned School Without Walls. The university paid the school system more than \$12 million to develop on the site, money that is going toward the modernization and expansion of the G Street high school.

"[The process] has enabled us to do multiple things," said Knapp. "We're now able to house more of our students, but at the same time we've

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DORM

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deepened and strengthened our partnership with the School Without Walls, which is a very important partnership. One of the nice features of this process is we've had so many of our own students involved in helping to make the case for why this was important to them and why it would help enhance our campus."

Several students involved with petitioning the Zoning Commission — which had to sign off on the project because it is bigger than the zoning allows — on behalf of the school also participated in the groundbreaking.

The building is expected to open in time for the start of school in fall 2009. It will feature approximately 474 beds in four-bedroom apartments and approximately 178 underground parking spaces. Since 1999, George Washington University has added more than 2,800 beds on its Foggy Bottom campus.

"We've found over the years, students do like to have private living space," said Alicia O'Neil, director of real estate for the university. Rather than units with two double bedrooms, as found in some of the university's other residence halls, "here we were able to accommodate four single bedrooms for students ... with a shared

kitchen and living area, so it's essentially a four-bedroom apartment."

The F Street hall will feature several green initiatives outlined in the 20-year George Washington University Campus Plan, including areas on each floor for recycling five separate types of materials, low-flow faucets and toilets, energy-saving lights and the use of low-emitting adhesives for paints, sealants and room coverings.

"The university has made many sustainability commitments in its campus plan," said O'Neil. "That is a baseline, and we're certainly looking to do things that incorporate green features to all of our buildings as we move forward."

Cooperation between George Washington University and the School Without Walls began in 1980 and was updated in 2004 to allow the public-private development partnership that resulted in the new dorm. High-performing upperclassmen at the city high school also can attend classes at the university.

"It certainly is a good partnership for all involved," said O'Neil. "It provides the university with a good neighbor, ... with the opportunity to reach out and be involved in the [community]. In the past we have used their facilities in the evening for some courses, and it gives Walls the opportunity to take their students and faculty to classes at GWU."