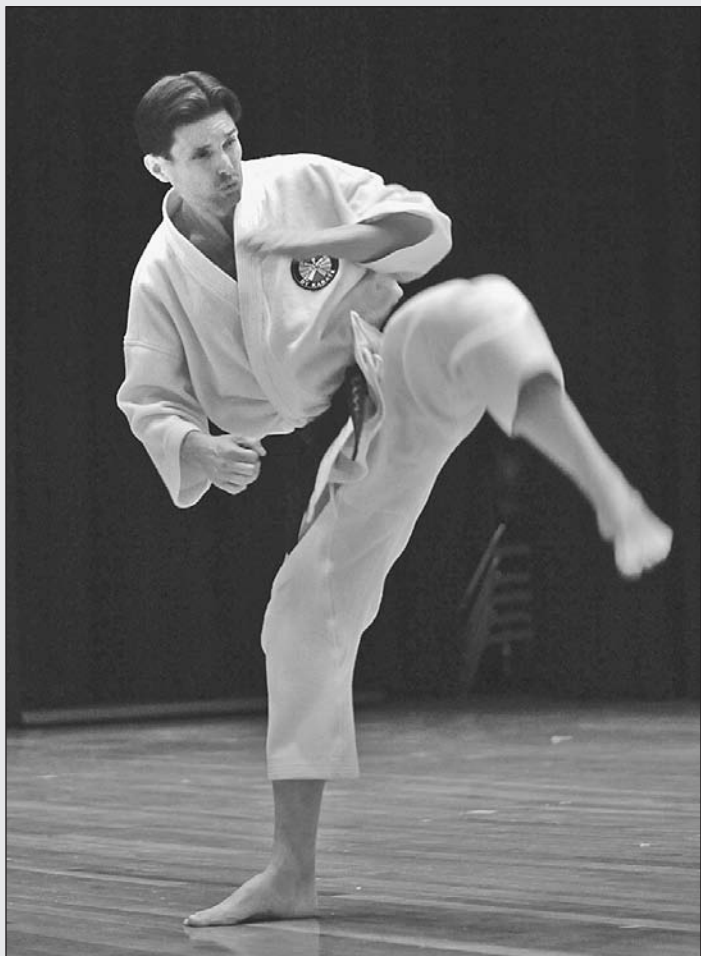


THE NORTHWEST CURRENT

KICKIN' IT



Bill Petros/The Current

Sensei John Mirrione, a karate, fitness and spiritual teacher, brought his anti-bullying campaign to Hardy Middle School on Tuesday afternoon. See story, page 3.

AU releases draft of campus plan

■ **Development:** Sites for dorms remain contentious

By **CAROL BUCKLEY**
Current Staff Writer

American University released a draft of its 2011 campus plan this week, and while the proposed building program for the next decade varies in its particulars from the plan recently filed by Georgetown University, neighbors are seeking

strength in numbers by linking their cause to that of their Ward 2 neighbors.

“Like the residents near Georgetown University ... residents near AU have expressed concern over the last 15 months about the impact of locating student housing beyond the gates of the traditional or core campus,” advisory neighborhood commissioner Tom Smith wrote to The Current. He also noted the concerns of residents near the expanding University of the District

of Columbia.

“It is exactly like Georgetown,” said Susan Farrell, president of the Westover Homeowners Association. “There is definitely a coalition among university communities. ... Everyone would like to see students living as much as possible on the center of campus.”

In Georgetown, that sentiment led to the scrapping of a plan to build graduate housing on the university’s property but outside the See **Campus**/Page 24

Six years later, Tenley library reopens

By **KATIE PEARCE**
Current Staff Writer

For a Monday morning at a library, the scene was abnormally raucous.

At the brand-new Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library, dozens packed elbow-to-elbow in the front room, waiting for the official ribbon-cutting. Cameras flashed, school kids chattered, and drums beat in the background.

A cadre of city officials, including Mayor Vincent Gray, took the mic at the center of the room. Most displayed a sense of humor about the library’s long-delayed reopening.

“This has been a journey, hasn’t it?” Gray said to laughs.

“I will say with the rest of you — at last, at last,” said Ward 3 Council member Mary Cheh.

See **Library**/Page 24



Bill Petros/The Current

Council members Sekou Biddle, Mary Cheh and Phil Mendelson joined Mayor Vincent Gray for the event.

City prepares for Giant construction

By **TEKE WIGGIN**
Current Correspondent

As Cleveland Park residents continue to voice concerns over transportation issues raised by the impending Giant redevelopment, the D.C. Department of Transportation is making efforts to address their worries, especially those pertaining to truck activity and parking shortages.

“This development [team] knows that many eyes are watching them, so I’d expect them to take extra care,” Transportation Department associate director Karina Ricks said of the “Cathedral Commons” project. The development will create a new, larger Giant supermarket, 72,850 square feet of additional retail, 138 apartments and eight town houses near McLean Gardens.

Residents, concerned that noisy vehicles going to



Bill Petros/The Current

City transportation officials last week responded to worries about the project’s impact on area traffic.

and from the construction site will invade their neighborhood, took up a large portion of a recent meeting’s question-and-answer session asking about the rules governing truck routes and how they are enforced.

They also pressed the department to explain how it intends to compensate for parking shortages that would See **Giant**/Page 5

Budget woes may impact voting for special election

■ **Council:** Officials debate how to open all 143 precincts

By **CAROL BUCKLEY**
Current Staff Writer

As candidates gather signatures for the April 26 election that will choose an at-large D.C. Council member, city officials are scrambling to figure out how to run the contest — and how to pay for it.

The special election has become an early victim of the city’s struggling finances. The council budgeted \$590,000 for the event, but elec-

tions board executive director Rokey Suleman said at a recent oversight roundtable that he could not open all 143 voting precincts with that level of funding.

During the roundtable, Suleman said a full election would cost over \$1 million, but a memo distributed among council members yesterday announced an updated estimate of between \$768,000 and \$883,000.

“Discussions are currently underway to identify the necessary funding,” reads the memo, sent from Ward 3 Council member Mary Cheh’s office to her fellow legisla- See **Election**/Page 7

NEWS

- **Group seeks funds for improvements to area trails. Page 3.**
- **Water main project elicits questions in Barnaby Woods. Page 2.**



PASSAGES

- **Stock soars for Palisades investment club. Page 13.**
- **Runnymede Singers raise their voices. Page 13.**



SPORTS

- **Nationally ranked St. John’s tops Visitation to stay perfect. Page 11.**
- **St. Albans comes all the way back to beat Gonzaga. Page 11.**



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