

The Davidsonian

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Trustee Chairman Ben Craig dies at 55



Ben T. Craig, Chairman of Davidson College's Board of Trustees.

By MICHELE MILLER

The flag hangs at half mast today in honor of Ben T. Craig '54, chairman of the Board of Trustees at Davidson College, who died Monday morning of brain cancer at his home in Charlotte.

His death came three days after members of the board, knowing of his terminal cancer, reelected him for a second term as chairman. Craig, 55, had been a longtime friend and active supporter of the college ever since his graduation in 1954.

As a measure of his love for the college, he directed that he be buried in the Davidson cemetery. Graveside services were held in Davidson at 3 p.m. today. Classes were canceled after 3 p.m. and college offices closed. A memorial service is scheduled for tomorrow morning, at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

"I really couldn't have gone to college without a full scholarship," Craig once said, "and while I received a couple

offers for partial aid, Davidson's was the only full scholarship offer I received. And I think the offer came not so much because of my athletic ability as because the Davidson coach had a good relationship with my high school coach." He was a solid 205-pound tackle for the football team for four years, serving as captain his senior year.

A self-proclaimed "linthead from Gastonia," Craig grew up working alongside his parents, Ben W. Craig and Louis Sams Craig, who owned a small grocery store there. He listed his experience in his youth as "common laborer, pipeline inspector, dry goods sales and loader in trucking terminal."

He was outstanding at Davidson, earning a B.S. degree in economics. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa, Scabbard and Blade and Who's Who. Upon graduation, he worked for Wachovia Bank and Trust

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Trustees vote to end sexual admissions quotas

New plan to base gender breakdown on number of applications received

By THOMAS H. MOORE

Davidson's Board of Trustees voted Friday to modify its standing policy restricting female admissions. The new plan will take into account a five-year average of the male-female breakdown of applications.

The 31-1 vote rescinds the 1982 policy, which has set freshman classes between 60 and 67 percent male. The new plan is effective immediately and will be applied to next year's freshman class.

Jim Batten chaired the newly formed Trustee committee studying the issue. "Our

first assignment was to look at the effectiveness of the 60 percent floor and make recommendations as to whether it should stand," he said.

"As we worked on the problem, we came as a committee increasingly to the view that the best interest of the college would be served by a change in the policy."

"As we learned more about the workings of the admissions process at Davidson, it became more and more clear that the 60 percent floor really does not provide the admissions office and admissions process

the kind of flexibility that is desirable in making the best set of choices."

The change that the committee recommended consists of basing each freshman class' gender split on the average of the last five years' applicant breakdown. A four percent margin is allowed in either direction. As applications have run 58 percent male over the past five years, the class of 1993 will be between 62 and 54 percent male (see table).

The five-year strategy was chosen to reduce as much as possible large yearly fluctuations in the numbers of males

and females. "The ratio of applications has been remarkably steady, an extraordinarily steady phenomenon," says Batten.

"Our feeling was that we needed to provide the admissions staff with more flexibility in selecting from the best male and female applicants," he said.

"I asked for the decision," said Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Rob Gardner. "We felt that a four to five percent leeway would be equitable," he said. "We now have a floating standard with the leeway we need."

"The Trustees and Ruth Ault and John Kuykendall and I met three times. It was a joint effort. What we tried to do was look at all the different arguments that had been advanced for the current policy and respond to those arguments," said Gardner. Psychology professor Ault is chair of the faculty committee examining the matter.

"We looked at the giving records of women and nine or ten things in all to see if they were in fact valid arguments," said Gardner.

As part of the report, the committee submitted to the Trustees a study done on college donation records.

An argument against a higher percentage of women at Davidson has been a perceived lower giving level from women. "The evidence indicates that it doesn't hold water," Gardner said.

"The available evidence suggests that Davidson's women graduates, are firmly committed to the financial support of the College," said the committee's report (See table).

One of the committee's concerns was

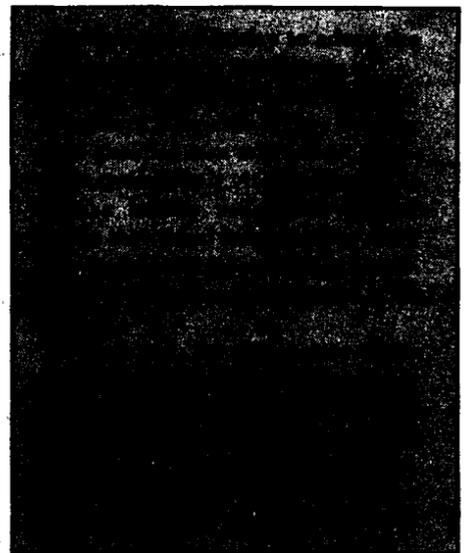
legal. Although the college's counsel has advised that restrictions on admissions

policies do not apply to private schools, officials were concerned that an expensive, embarrassing, if ultimately unsuccessful nuisance suit might result from current policies.

The Trustee committee decided early on to modify only slightly the policy. "There was not within our committee any feeling that Davidson ought to go to gender-blind admissions or that we would want to see Davidson become a predominantly women's college," says Batten.

The University of North Carolina at

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Anti-apartheid groups "Teach-In" over Homecoming

By MARGARET CARROLL

Amidst the Homecoming festivities on Saturday, some 75 people gathered behind Vail Commons for a "Teach-In" sponsored by the Charlotteans for a Free Southern Africa and Davidson alumni in favor of divestment. The teach-in consisted of speakers, booths, music and banners in favor of divestment in South Africa.

The participants also marched in a silent vigil around the campus carrying a huge canvas sign depicting a "show of hands." The sign, seven feet square, showed a map of Africa in blue with South Africa highlighted in red and a Davidson seal with a sword piercing through the seal into the heart of South Africa.

The Charlotteans are an organization which provides information to the community about the situation in Southern Africa and how the policies of the US government and various multinational corporations support apartheid.

Senior Julie Mayfield, president of Davidson Students Against Apartheid, acted as coordinator of the event, working with the Charlotteans and Monroe Gilmour, head of the alumni in favor of divestment.

Speakers at the teach-in included NAACP regional representative Katherine Egland, up from Gulfport, Miss., state NAACP President Kelly Alexan-

der, Jr., Davidson religion Professor David Kaylor, Gilmour, Mayfield, senior Kevin Dunn, and two black South African students who did not introduce themselves for fear that their government would reprimand them.

Africa.

Kaylor said, "Most of the speakers stated that Davidson is a leading institution with Christian commitments that should exercise moral leadership by supporting divestment."

The *Observer* also reported that Davidson officials calculate that total divestiture would cost the school's \$67 million endowment as much as \$275,000 per year.

Mayfield claimed that the teach-in was a great way to attract

of companies in South Africa by supporting equal employment, wages, and improved housing for the blacks.

Sullivan himself has now renounced the principles and realizes that the mere presence of companies in South Africa shows support for apartheid. Although the Trustees of Davidson acknowledge that the situation in South Africa needs improvement, they still hold on to the Sullivan Principles as the answer.

Mayfield said that overall the teach-in was "a great success," and she claimed that "it showed that the community is aware of the situation in South Africa."

One of the signs at the Homecoming game read "Davidson IN the end zone; OUT of South Africa." The two South African students, although they would not speak about the situation,

pointed at a pro-divestment sign as the crowd yelled, "Davidson out of South Africa." Also, the two sang their national anthem, which is illegal in South Africa now.

"The pressure will continue until Davidson has divested," stated Mayfield firmly.



Senior Kevin Dunn once again graces our pages, this time teaching in Saturday as founder of Students Against Apartheid.

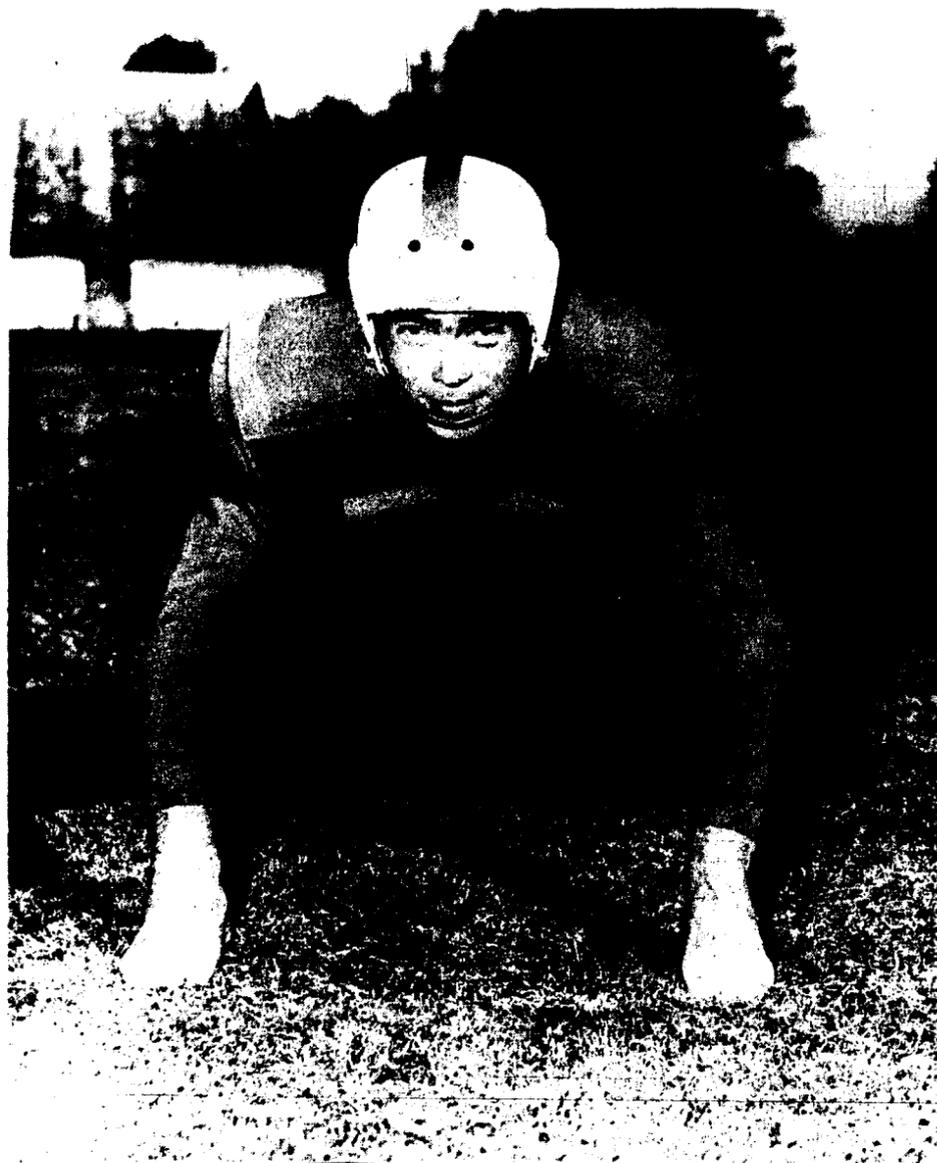
Photo by Alex Hayden

Egland commented to *The Charlotte Observer* that Davidson is betraying its affiliation to the Presbyterian Church by not pulling out of South Africa. The Church has already made plans to liquidate its stock in South Africa and is on its way to being completely out of South

Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State, and Johnson C. Smith are North Carolina schools that have completely divested. Alexander said in *The Observer*, "Davidson isn't any backwater institution. It trains the elite. It is more important for you to be morally right than to save two or three dollars."

alumni and student attention and to continue to give the Davidson Board of Trustees a message that they need to hear. The Trustees still support the Sullivan Principles, which were established by Rev. Leon Sullivan.

These principles tried to improve the behavior the behavior



Craig attended Davidson on a full football scholarship and played tackle.

Photo courtesy of College Relations

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for nine months before shipping off to Korea. He married Jane Smith who waited back in Easley, S.C., while Craig spent 1954-55 as an Army lieutenant overseas.

After his discharge, he returned to Wachovia to continue his banking career which lasted almost 40 years and took him through banks in Pennsylvania and several North Carolina towns.

His most recent move was to Charlotte and First Union Corporation, which he was serving as president at the time of his death.

He brought his keen business acumen to numerous Davidson alumni service posts, including the annual fund, the alumni association board, the Wildcat Club and the Board of Visitors.

He was first elected to the board of trustees as an alumni trustee in 1973 and succeeded Fred Stair '39 as chairman on Jan. 1, 1985. He headed the search committee that brought President John Kuykendall to Davidson, and has played a vital role in the formation and "silent phase" of the present

campaign for Davidson.

"He had a vision for Davidson that he did a great deal to bring about," Kuykendall says. "He really had Davidson at the center of his life. He was everything a board chairman and an alumnus ought to be. He loved Davidson for what it meant to him in the formation of his life."

"He was a great companion and boss to work with. He had a remarkable way of touching the lives of individuals. He supported students, faculty and staff in a multitude of ways. Many people at Davidson have lost a close personal friend."

A colleague from Charlotte said on his death that Ben Craig would want to be remembered not just for his professional career but also for his service to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. Craig served as a subcommittee chairman for the United Way and founded the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Council on Literacy, serving as its first president.

He is survived by his wife, Jane Smith Craig of Charlotte, and three children: Cathryn Craig Coles, Sarah Jane Craig '81 and Ben T. "Chip" Craig Jr. '86.

POLICY, from page 1

Chapel Hill adopted a gender-blind policy several years ago, which has led to freshman classes 59 to 60 percent female. "I don't think there was any appetite for such an outcome," says Batten.

"Chapel Hill is clearly the exception to what has gone on," says Gardner. "What we did is take the list of the 100 best colleges and look at the sex ratios and look at the policies in place. There were only a few that became predominantly female. The view that suddenly we'll be overwhelmed with women will not pan out."

"We are moving not toward sex-blind admissions but toward nondiscrimination in gender," Gardner said. He cited athletics, Scholastic Aptitude Tests and activities as sources that colleges cannot help but take gender into account. "It's dishonest to say we're sex-blind when we're not. A lot of schools aren't being up front."

Gardner noted that total applications in the United States run roughly 55 percent female each year. "What you have to do is look at selective colleges," he said. "What do applications look like at places like Davidson? If you pick out any, with one or two exceptions, they are predominantly male."

"The truth is, this is a very modest change," Batten said. "This is not a very dramatic shift of direction at all. I feel very good about it."

"It is an excellent approach that will serve Davidson's interests well. It was a good solution that was generally very well received [by the Trustees], and I think the college administration is very comfortable with it."

One strident critic of previous quota plans and of the new strategy is Davidson philosophy professor Robert Maydole. "We would be better off with a policy that

doesn't mention the sex of the applicants," he said. "I've heard that sex is supposed to be relevant, but I haven't seen any compelling arguments in favor of it so far. If we had a sex blind admission, we would get a distribution close to the distribution in the general population. I don't see a point in engineering it, especially when nature would take care of itself."

Maydole said he was surprised by the sudden alteration in policy at the Trustee

meeting. "I didn't even know that a change in policy was being considered. I would have hoped that people who care, who are concerned about policies would have been consulted," he said.

"In that sense I was called up by *The Charlotte Observer* 4:30 Friday afternoon and the reporter said, 'What do you think about the policy?' It's not something the faculty was given a chance to comment on. They were allowed no input as far as I know."

Maydole theorized that the faculty would recommend a sex-blind admissions policy if asked. "It's been quite a while since the issue came up, but my guess is that it would receive overwhelming support. I could be wrong. It's a guess based on the increasingly cosmopolitan makeup of the faculty."

"Why not just say, we'll take people not based on sex or creed, but based on merit.

What is it that you and I by virtue of our maleness do for Davidson College? The bottom line is, it just doesn't make any sense. It confuses the whole issue."

"Why we need a convoluted policy

statement, and make the world wonder whether we are taking the moral high road, is beyond me."

He noted that morality is one of the three criteria by which faculty members are judged professionally at Davidson. "That we are a Presbyterian college might underscore even more being conscious of incorporating moral ideals and theories in the making of policy. That's not to say that they're not going to be, but we ought to at least be deliberating and thinking hard about the other questions."

"We really need to take a look, a careful look at what drives our policy decisions, and the extent to which it is present or absent in our policy decisions. We ought to be vigilant about making our decisions in a moral or ethical context."

"My personal view is that admissions is admitting people to provide an optimal educational environment."

Gardner says. "We take into consideration ethnicity, economic background of the parents, schooling, sex, geography. They are all important in bringing in a mix of folks."

"It is important to maintain a healthy balance between men and women to provide the best, healthiest campus environment for both men and women."

THE DAVIDSONIAN

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Quotas

The hold of rigid quotas over the admissions process has been broken. It's a step in the right direction, but one that does not go far enough.

The reason for keeping any kind of gender system at all is ostensibly to keep in check "sharp year-to-year shifts that would be disruptive to the programs and logistics of the College," according to the new plan.

It seems odd that Davidson College alone cannot cope with yearly changes in enrollment. Many other schools seem to have endured through the years without the benefit of discriminatory quotas. We are a bright enough lot, and we should be able to come up with some solutions.

Dr. Maydole has a good point, and it's not solely because key staff members have him for class this term. There is no good reason to heavily base admissions on anything but merit. This merit may be determined through a variety of means, but gender should not be one of them.

What is the reason for the reluctance of the Trustees to go completely gender-blind?

Are we afraid of the *Chapel Hill Spectre*: 60-40 female-male? Of course, it is also *Chapel Hill*: the school busy establishing itself as one of the top research universities in the nation. We can't be too afraid of a similar, Davidson-sized fate.

Is it tradition? The ideal of The Davidson Man at stake? Do these seem too childish to bring up publicly? Davidson is chock full of tradition, and it is a valid concern that may be getting swept under the carpet in the hustle.

The financial factors have been thoroughly analyzed, the legal considerations scrutinized, the logistical problems looked at. Why not examine the deeply subjective elements of the admission decisions such as tradition? They're there. They may prove insufficient reasons to stop the march toward sex-blind admissions, but they should be looked at nonetheless.

Ben Craig

Those of us in the Davidson College community were shocked and saddened to learn yesterday of the death of Ben Craig, Chairman of Davidson's Board of Trustees.

Mr. Craig's list of accomplishments goes for pages, and it would be superfluous to list them here. What should be said, however, is that Mr. Craig served his college family well, first as able student and gifted athlete, then in various posts spread throughout the college structure, as a Trustee and, finally, as Chairman of the Trustees.

Today, Mr. Craig was buried in the college cemetery. He lies forever near his college and he will lie easy, among friends in his debt.

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Observes Opening of Davidson Office
With September 26 - October 14
Celebration.

SAIL INTO OUR NEW DAVIDSON OFFICE AND JOIN UP!

First Charter National Bank, headquartered in Concord, N.C., is having a Grand Opening to celebrate its arrival in Davidson and the Lake Norman area. And you're invited to join.



We'll start celebrating with a ribbon-cutting at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, September 26. We'll be serving doughnuts, sausage biscuits, juice, and coffee – and we'd love for you to come. If you can't make the ribbon-cutting, simply drop in any time during the Grand Opening (regular banking hours); we'll be serving coffee, punch, and cookies. Plus, while our supply lasts, we'll have colorful balloons for the young folks accompanied by an adult.

Free Gifts For New Accounts. Banking's a Beach at First Charter.

Throughout our Grand Opening, we'll be offering you your choice (while supplies last) of any one of three great gifts – a deluxe custom beach towel, or a no-slip porcelain boat mug, or a roomy, rayon/canvas boat tote – when you open a First Charter personal checking or savings account with \$500 or more. Towels, mugs, and totes will be on display in our lobby during the Grand Opening to help you with your decision.



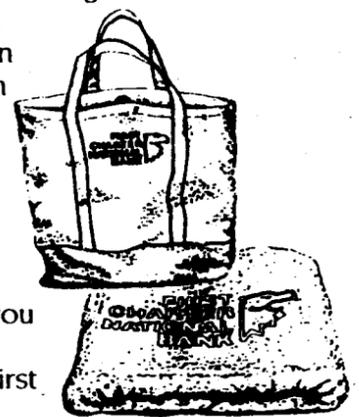
Enter To Win A Sporty Zuma Sailboat! You're Headed for Smooth Sailing with First Charter.

Our Davidson Grand Opening will culminate with a Grand Prize Drawing to be held Friday, October 14, at 6 p.m. The prize? A fabulous, 2-seater Zuma sailboat. Get all the exciting details at the bank.

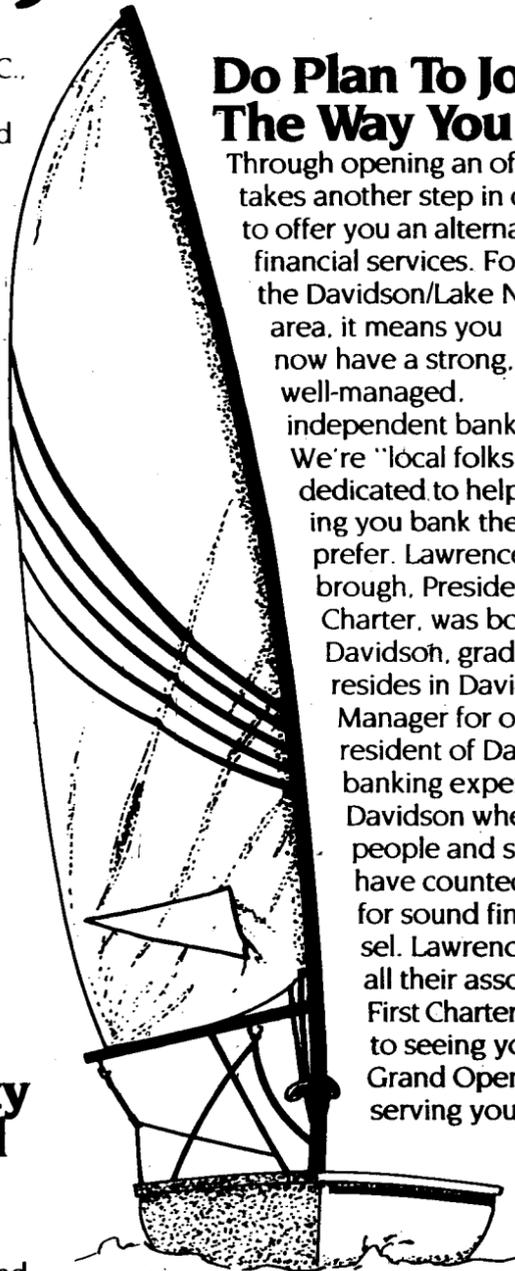
Do Plan To Join Us – And Bank The Way You Prefer.

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We're "local folks" dedicated to helping you bank the way you prefer. Lawrence Kimbrough, President of First Charter, was born in Davidson, graduated from Davidson College, and resides in Davidson. Mike Mittelman, Branch Manager for our new Davidson office, is also a resident of Davidson. He has over 11 years of banking experience in Davidson where townspeople and students alike have counted upon Mike for sound financial counsel. Lawrence, Mike, and all their associates at First Charter look forward to seeing you during our Grand Opening and to serving you for many years to come.



Mike Mittelman and
Lawrence Kimbrough.



Davidson Office Grand Opening

124 South Main Street
across from the Village Green
September 26 through October 14, 1988
During Regular Banking Hours
Gifts for New Accounts
Grand Prize: Zuma 2-person sailboat
Drawing: October 14, at 6 p.m.

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