Larry Dagenhart elected to chair
Davidson College Board of Trustees

BY LINDA WILSON
Staff Writer

On Friday, Feb. 6, Davidson’s former train depot was once again awakened by a buzz of passenger activity. The depot, along with three others on the Norfolk Southern rail corridor, was visited by an Amtrak passenger train as part of a promotion for North Mecklenburg’s “Ride the Rail” campaign.

The campaign, which is sponsored statewide by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Amtrak, aims to reintroduce the use of passenger trains on many of North Carolina’s more infrequently used rail lines.

The Norfolk Southern/New Haven 115 rail corridor is a prime target for this program.

In order to excite citizens about the prospect of commuter rail service to Charlotte, the towns of Davidson, Huntersville, Cornelius, and Mooresville all worked in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Amtrak to bring the train through on a demonstration run.

Each town held festivities at the site where the train made its stop. For Davidson, that site was the old depot. The area was encompassed by red, white, and blue balloons, and portions of Depot and Jackson streets were blocked off so citizens could safely await the train’s arrival.

The event was attended by approximately 300 people, roughly 90 of whom were able to board the train and “Ride the Rail” on an Amtrak train, much like the ones that might service the Davidson area in the future.

There is no official timetable as to when the train service could begin. Over the next six to eight months, local town officials will continue to hammer out all the details to find out when the service might actually start.

According to Tim Keane, Davidson Town Planner, the whole process of actually bringing the trains in could take anywhere from three to five years. One of the major advantages to bringing in this type of transit, according to “Welcome to the Future,” is the “Ride the Rail” campaign, is that no new infrastructure would need to be built to accommodate the trains.

The rail vehicle is capable of traveling up to 120 miles per hour, through the area and condition of the Norfolk Southern line would probably permit the trains to travel no more than 60 miles per hour. Due to the high-speed, structural improvements on the existing rail lines would be necessary.

The speed at which the Amtrak would travel would allow commuters to travel faster than they could legally go along Highway 115. And, since a two-car rail vehicle with one driver can carry as many passengers as six buses or 180 single-occupant cars, the service would also cut down on pollution and overcrowded roads.

The rail service would begin by serving a primarily commuter market with a larger number of departures and returns in the morning and evening.

The number of runs made would increase as ridership increased.

This type of rail service could have many, long-reaching effects, according to “Welcome to the Future.” One of the most obvious effects would be a heightened accessibility to new towns for commuters from other areas. This influx of commuters would channel growth along the rail corridor, bringing more activity and change to traditionally small and stable towns such as Davidson.

Keane said the service “would bring changes, but more positive changes without building new roads or intersections.”

Over time, residents should expect to see more train and commuter-related services spring up along the corridor, but what they won’t see is the bumper-to-bumper traffic that comes with other transit improvements such as his O’Keefe Express.

“The permission to build would only go to the rail service, not the homes that would go along with it,” Keane said. “This is more of a commuter service for people who need the rail service or people who want to walk to the train station and then take the bus or a mixer ride into the city.”

Larry Dagenhart, who has been elected chairman of the Davidson College Board of Trustees, has been a long-time supporter of transit in the area. Since 1972, Dagenhart has been an independent member of the Board of Trustees. He was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1993 as a member of the Davidson College Foundation.

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The competition was fierce, and sometimes people got really angry over losing.”

BRITTEN TAYLOR, commenting on the teams that participated in the recent College Bowl.
Vietnam remembered in the Gallery

University of Kentucky professor Dr. George Herring discusses "The War That Seems to Never Go Away"

By Morgan Duvner
Staff Writer

In spite of the entertainment of a basketball game and the Winter Olympics, nearly every seat in Chambers Gallery was filled when Dr. George Herring, a professor of history at the University of Kentucky, spoke about the impact of the Vietnam War on the United States. The audience mainly echoed the theme of his discourse. The War That Seems to Never Go Away. In fact, he pointed out, Vietnam has haunted our view of ourselves as a nation, as well as tempered our foreign policy initiatives.

In March 1962, Herring began his work with the military service of a desert storm, former President George Bush triumphantly announced that "the ghost of Vietnam had been laid to rest."

Large numbers of troops had landed on foreign soil and achieved a smashing victory. Signs proclaiming "Iraq is Arabic for 'Vietnam'" had disappeared. The nation stood united behind the war effort.

Yet just days before this proclama-
tion, Bush had refused to send the armies on to Baghdad for total victory, in part to protect American lives and also to avoid a media disaster. The US intervention in the Gulf War in 1993 and the situation in Somalia in 1993, recalled the very reality that Bush claimed to have beaten.

Even now, the nations of the world shrunk from the possibility of returning to war with Iraq. Americans clearly have not forgotten.

The question Herring addressed was: Why is the war still there? Why it is so pernicious and lasting. Why, after 20 years, does it still have such a hold on our nation? Why.

First, Herring stated, Vietnam was America's longest war. The U.S.'s direct involvement spanned a quarter of a century, and the U.S. did not normalize relations with Vietnam until 1995, under President Bill Clinton. Technically, the Vietnam War was not dead when Bush declared the disengagement of his troops.

Also, fighting the war itself was extremely difficult and peculiarly frustrating. The heat in the mountainous jungle could kill a man, bake his brains, ring the sweat from him until he died of exhaustion. A heatwave had been reported.

Americans also had suffered due to the language and cultural gap between themselves and the Vietnamese. It was hard to tell friend from foe.

Perhaps the worst predicament for the soldiers was the nature of the warfare. There were no fixed objectives or clear battle lines.

One-quarter of the casualties came from mines and body troops.

The mood at home was unfortunately eased from the fighting continuing. While protests of war were not very common in the U.S., the country during the war was also suffering a social upheaval, in which all of the old values and institutions were being questioned and challenged.

In May, a group of Vietnamese came to the United States to participate in the celebration of the National Day of Reconciliation. The Vietnamese had intentions of making a compelling argument that the war was just or necessary in terms of national security. The Vietnamese of the war at home and abroad then spurred a desire to get out of it, no matter what the consequence.

Yet at the end of the war proved both traumatic and bitter. The U.S. did not lose. It withdrew. In effect, the U.S. quit. It was difficult to explain or accept, and when South Vietnam then rapidly collapsed, the question of what was all for? was asked. What did all die for?

Where was the ideal, the philosophy?

This war, Herring astutely, asked the nation to continue its belief in the U.S. and the American character.

The idea of "American exceptionalism" was founded on the belief that the U.S. holds that the nation has acted kindly and generously to others, never to take advantage of them. As the myth crumbled, Americans began to perceive and actively look for evil in America's enemies. Americans wanted to know all the truth, even though its purpose is in instruction, its actual truth.

The idea of "American invisiblity" was also badly shaken. The U.S. had to look for reasons why it could not bear a "second-rate" country.

Americans even attempted to convince themselves that they could have won it if they really wanted to.

But whether people blamed the antiwar media, the limited leadership, or the restrictions imposed by Johnson (who held back a full military effort in favor of a strategy of pressuring the enemy accept a 'peace in our country'), the results were still there, unchangeable.

The war will never end, Herring concluded, until the memory of these results has been erased by time, until the generation that fought and opposed Vietnam has passed on.

The men and women of that generation are now in a position to offer comments and ask questions. One after the other raised a hand and began, "I'm a Vietnam veteran."

"Colonel Quincy Collins, an Air Force pilot and a Prisoner of War for four years, was speaking of honor and patriotism mixed with dismal circumstances and the home of war "I believed in what I was doing," he said, "and I cling to that belief for the sake of the country."

"I think," he said, "that the Department of Defense and the government of the United States don't really tell the truth."

Amercorps encourages students to become more active

By Carol Arthur
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what really happens in the Amercorps? America and the Amercorps Foundation are offering an opportunity to find out with the America Amercorps Program. what Community Service Coordinator Bill Abrams said will get (students) deeper into the community.

The year-and-a-half long program will begin this summer and continue until the end of the next summer. During this time, a maximum of 20 participants will perform 900 hours of community service for a grant of $2,962.50 from the federal government.

The program will be broken up into three phases, one during each summer and one during the school year, from which requires 300 hours of service. Two hundred fifty hours will be spent on direct service, while 50 will be spent on reflection and leadership training.

Abrams said that the program is "designed so students already doing the work can get more money," because some of those affected cannot handle the financial burden of the program.

In fact, many students, including those who are already employed, have not been able to replace the majority of the required hours. Also, Pittard said that there are already "people here with the same attitude as the program to create their own program."

Despite the grant, the money is not the primary source. Associate Dean of Community Service, Dr. H. A. J. Herring said that the students would be doing it (the service) for a love of what they're doing.

"Instead of looking at 20 participants for the community as well as the College, will serve as staff for programs that cannot afford to hire additional help."

Instead of completing what Abrams and Pittard believe is the important but peripheral part of the program, the participants will work in the running of the program and gain a more thorough understanding of what occurs.

The program will involve policy making, volunteer training, research, connections with national organizations, and needs assessment. Abrams said that the participants will complete a "different genre of work.

This will choose from 20-30 internships chosen by the College, but the internships will not be limited to these choices. Everything is required. The interns who have Pittard and Abrams plan to offer internships at organizations such as the Davidson Housing Coalition, the Ada Jenkins Center, and the Davidson Youth Activity Center. These students can choose one experience, and the Davidson Housing Coalition, the Ada Jenkins Center, and the Davidson Youth Activity Center. Pittard said that they "encourage people to look at your几乎没有" personal passions, spiritual base you operate from that your own personal goals of your own life," and "choosing the service work relating to those beliefs.

No matter what the participants choose to do, Abrams said that the work will be "focusing on the education of the participants, and the Davidson, not Cornelius, Huntsville, or the surrounding areas. Pittard added that the program is "designed for students to live in a way in which you are not open to any student."

Pittard and Pittard said that the program is "open to anyone willing to do the work" who needs money for his or her education. Of the 670 students who applied, there are approximately 15 Davidson students and five community members.

The community members could be students with extra money, who want to give back, or people who have very important personal obligations. Abrams wants to include community members because they are "looking for diversity in the group."

The Davidson student must be current freshmen, sophomores, or seniors, who are willing to remain after graduation.

Anyone who is interested should contact Abrams as soon as possible.

If the program is successful, Pittard said, "I will work with a small group," and enrollment is likely to continue.

But renewal depends upon political circumstances for the Corporation for National Service, the parent organization of Amercorps, is one of President Clinton's programs.

Pittard and Abrams are optimistic about the effect the program will have. Pittard said that the group is "firing up the students who want to make a difference in the world."

At a Davidson, Pittard finds that the program will "encourage ties between the student body and the college as well as strengthen existing bonds."

Pittard hopes that it "will part of the process and the solution" of helping the community heal after the Christmas Day shooting, although it is "not the solution."

It feels that it will increase the cooperation that already exists between the college and the community. Abrams said, the program "ties into the mission of the College, to prepare students for meaningful lives of leadership and service."
In the Archives... The lengthy process of integration at Davidson College

By BRYON LAMMSTAFF WRITER

When the Davidson Board of Trustees held their annual meeting in February 1955, the members agreed to "study the question of admitting black applicants." A year later, the same board of trustees declared that "it was not in the best interests of Davidson College to integrate at that time." By 1960, the College's stance had once again changed, this time voting to eliminate race and color as a qualification for admission. Ironically enough, however, this decision was legally meaningless, since Davidson's charter had "never set race, nationality, creed, or class as a condition for admission." It was a farce: non-decision that was eventually to provide the gradual integration of Davidson College, a process which has very gradually continued to the present day.

The Board's decision to begin considering black students as candidates for admission came in the wake of an inquiry led by the Board of World Missions of the Presbyterian Church. President of the Board of Trustees at that time Dr. J. McDowell Richards admitted that the overtures to the anti-integration stance by both conservative and liberal groups, were so frequent and so persistent that it was necessary to make a decision. In March 1964, for example, an anonymous letter was sent to a member of the Davidson community asking for students to participate in secret organizations that would divide students into separate groups.

The letter read, "Just a note to tell you how much we enjoyed having your son, Joe, in our church Sunday school with the negroes. We hope they will come again. Is it legal?"

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Expansion of sewers debated at town meeting

BY ROBERT TROTTMANN
Staff Writer

The Davidson Town Meeting this week, held at Davidson Town Hall last Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., was rather well-attended because a heated issue was up for discussion, and the regular rules had been altered to allow citizens unlimited speaking time.

The issue up for debate was when to go through with Project 32, a sewer-expansion project. The sewer system is to be expanded past Rocky River Road to Gray Road. The question is whether to go ahead with expansion as scheduled or to postpone it.

If the town chooses to go ahead as planned, the added sewer will be completed in mid-2001.

There are several reasons Project 32 was proposed. The plan will eliminate pumping stations, which are expensive, break down, and could harm the environment.

The town is divided on the Project, but the people in attendance at the meeting seemed to want to go ahead with the project as soon as possible.

The real meat of the debate was not over sewage, or how to dispose of it. The true debate hinged on one fact: a sewer system means neighborhoods.

The extension of the sewage system would clear the way for developers to build neighborhoods (with the town’s consent). These neighborhoods would go into what is currently green space — land owned for weeks, or decades, by Davidsonians.

Much of this land, however, is slated to be sold.

Whether this land goes to developers or to individuals hangs on whether it has sewage or septic systems. Many people at the meeting didn’t want to see this land — which will be sold regardless of when Project 32 is completed — turn into neighborhoods, which means more traffic and more suburbs.

Also, it was noted that just down the road, the children of the town are attending school in trailers. Money could be spent elsewhere now and on sewage in underpopulated areas later.

Most people in attendance, however, took a different view. The land that will receive a sewage system is going to be sold soon because those who own it are ready to sell.

If the sewer is built soon, this land will be sold for a much higher price than if the project is postponed. The land will be sold to developers, who are ready to buy if the land has a sewage system. (It is possible to build a neighborhood with its own sewage system, but the last attempt was not approved by the town.)

There is also a question of infrastructure. If neighborhoods are built (as opposed to breaking the land into small pieces), the taxes reapled will be greater.

“Also, the only way for the town of Davidson to receive state and federal monies to improve roads, schools, and sidewalks if more people are affected. Neighborhoods could indirectly bring the funds necessary to fix roads, add to schools, and create sidewalks.

Regardless, the sewer system will be improved and will extend down Rocky River Road. The land out there will be sold soon.

Whether that land becomes neighborhoods with their benefits and costs, or small homes on tracts of land with their benefits and costs, is up to the Town Board, and will be decided today.

Time management class teaches stress-relievers
Staton stresses scheduling, organization

BY DOUGLAS CUTTING
Sports Editor

Davidson can be a demanding place. Between academic work, athletics, socializing, and additional jobs, there is little breathing room. Without question, time-management skills are in demand on this campus. Dr. David Staton in the Student Health Center can help anyone acquire these skills.

Staton has conducted a small-group time-management class for the past three weeks. Although he would have enjoyed more attendance, Staton was pleased with the course. He is more than willing to do more classes if students show interest, but Staton understands that many people would rather meet one-on-one.

“Time management is not a piece of knowledge, it’s a skill,” noted Staton. “Dividing the course up into three sessions provided some concepts for developing these skills.”

The first-time-management session dealt with scheduling.

“Some of us avoid scheduling because we want to be spontaneous. We think that organization will limit the spontaneity. I’ve found that students who make schedules for themselves discover just the opposite.”

According to Staton, some simple organizing during the day or specific study hours can eliminate “procrastination,” and can actually work against any rigidness.

Staton also had his groups journalize their progress, which was found to be extremely helpful. “This format provides group support and visible progress,” Staton added.

The Student Health Center is taking advantage of the professional staff and their accessibility. Dr. Staton is extremely flexible and can set up more group or private meetings.

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Op-Ed
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1998

It’s all about balance

When I became Co-Editor in Chief at the beginning of this semester, I promised myself that I would never write the dreaded Knute editorial. no time, no space, etc. Not that I don’t think Mike has a valid point; he does. But one can only play Chewbambambambwa for so long before it becomes repetitive and tiresome, and yet another editorial complaining about how little time students who are engaged in extracurricular activities have just seems, well, stupid. You go to Davidson, so you know that most of my friends are buried in the library; others are at play practice, or PCC meetings, or tutoring, or any number of other endeavors.

But is it true? Of course not. Davidson students seem to take almost as much pride in their activities as their studies. But did anyone notice that it was nearly shorts-weather last Saturday? Moreover, did anyone enjoy that perfect Saturday weather? Does anyone else see spring approaching with Schnellizing quickness? It seems as if the semester — life, even — is flying by, but barely notice; I’m too involved trying to keep up with everything else to I can “get somewhere.” Somewhere: for me, journalism school; for others, law school, business school, med school, whatever.

In pursuit of the future, I’m mired in the present. And the sad thing is, I can’t see things changing any time soon. Where will I go from here? Graduate school, I hope, and from there to some dream job I’ve wanted since I was in kindergarten. Always there will be the need to accomplish, to do, to fill my time with something.

But at what cost? Will I look up from my computer screen one day and suddenly realize that my life is half over? When I look back on my accomplishments, will they seem nearly as important as they do now?

I’m not saying that what we do here is aimless, or worse, meaningless. I understand that this is what we have chosen to do. I just need to remember what it’s like to have a free day — or even a free hour — when I’m not worried about the next assignment.

It’s all about balance. What we — or at least I — need to do is restore equilibrium. Work, play, “good” life, all the walls; remember what it’s like to think without constraints. Slow down. Because, as it’s been said, “What matters in life is the journey, not the destination.”

Sarah E. Odgen

Letters to the Editors

Davidson grads to speak on Feb. 24

To the Davidson Community:

I want to urge everyone to save an hour on Tues., Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. to hear “One Black Woman’s Journey.” Mary Leazer Rogers ’92 will speak in the College Union’s Morrison Room about her childhood, her struggles here at Davidson as an African American student, her initial academic difficulties and her eventual achievements. A graduate of UNC Law School and married to Mike Rogers ’92, Mary is now an Assistant District Attorney in Charlotte. Previous talks. Mary has given here have been most inspirational. She is funny, blunt, wise, and wonderful. I hope you will come hear her — you will not be disappointed. This is a great way to celebrate Black History Month at Davidson.

Sally McMillen
Department of History

Practical jokes cause pain, grief

To the Editors:

I have recently played a role in a very serious matter, which I feel is my duty to warn others in our community about. On the surface, it appears to be merely a practical joke gone wrong. When one digs deeper, however, one quickly realizes that it is much more than simply a joke when it involves the emotions of another person.

The incident to which I am referring is an incident in which I personally sent a mass e-mail to another person repeating the same derogatory message. In hindsight, I can easily see how stupid this was and how easily I have hurt the feelings of the recipient of these e-mails. I stress the word hindsight because I feel it is at the base of the issue which concerns me. Many times people act without considering all at the possibilities of their actions, and my prank was no exception. I did not stop to think before I acted. I never considered that the person I was playing this joke on could possibly take it seriously and be very much hurt by it.

Unfortunately, the person did get hurt badly by what I said. I am truly sorry. I never set out to hurt anyone, but I did.

Don’t put yourself in the position to seriously hurt someone else just for a laugh; it isn’t worth it. I know I can never make up for what I did, but if someone is spared emotional turmoil because of this letter, then it is at least a step in the right direction.

And as a final note, I would like to ask each person of this unanswerable grief, who shall remain nameless, I truly am sorry for what happened.

Thank you for taking the time to consider what I have said.

Matt Williams ’00

Drawing a crowd

To the Editors:

We are writing to hopefully gain support for an idea we have been discussing recently. We believe our suggestion will (1) increase student support for the Davidson football team; (2) increase school spirit which has been a victim of too much complacency; and (3) provide a promising weekend social function which would not be located on the court. Throughout the Southeast, many schools — some much smaller than ours, have tremendous turnouts for football games.

These turnouts are not due to an oversubscription of football fans, but rather to the stressing of a football game as a social event. Suittle compromises allow these small private schools to successfully appeal to the desires of student spectators as well as local ticket buyers.

Allowing fraternities, eating houses, and any other community organizations to set up tents either in front of Johnson Gym, on the track below the score board, or on the road running adjacent to Jackson Court and Richardson Field could enable considerably more participation in the weekly games. These tents could serve refreshments, finger foods, and isolated alcoholic beverages. These tents and their service could draw a wide range of students to watch the game or socialize.

If the tent areas were separate from the stadium, alcohol would increase as well as fan support. Placed out of the stadium spectators’ view, these tents would not disrupt the enjoyment of the game. And, if isolated well, alcoholic beverages could be served to students with proper IDs. Without sacrificing local support, this method could increase both student and alumni ticket sales.

Many other schools, for example Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, Va., have adopted and embraced this practice, which has quickly grown into tradition.

I thought our idea merited and developed, we feel that with a little organization and a lot of support, a positive change could be made for all parties involved. If anyone is interested or would like help please contact us at 896-6336.

Sincerely,
David A. Parker ’01
McNair Evans, Jr. ’93

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Op-Ed

Reminisce much?

I have received numerous comments concerning my previous editorial. For those who have yet to read the piece, I can summarize the article in two words: Black pants. I have been able to file the comments I received into three different categories based loosely on their underlying theme: 1) I understand how you live, my black comrade; my life is like yours; my wardrobe is complete. 2) Why didn’t you say something about something of this ilk? Like the Iraqi conflict or the Common’s chicken parmigiano?. 3) Hey, Randy, what color is this? All I have to say, to respond to each individual category, is I’ve been an editor since I was a kid, and pants, and when I’m stuck for an editorial at two o’clock in the morning, I write about what I like.

And now onto more pertinent editorial comments.

Now, a number of you will say that thinking about the past is a waste of time, worrying about the present only makes it become the past sooner, and planning for the future is a futile attempt at venturing fate. I cannot respond with anything other than that.

While analyzing my past, I found myself remembering good times with the Transformers, M.A.S.K., the Shit Tales, and the Blue Falcons. My friends agreed with me, and for over 45 minutes we found ourselves discussing the cartoons of yesteryear and their significance in our lives. Some of us talked about the toys we owned, while others became extremely animated and demonstrated how Turbo Teen, upon being doused with water (which a friend accompanied by pouring the clear beverage upon himself), turned yellow.

Finally, what do I have to say about the future? Well, I guess I should express to you my position on fate. Until recently, I always believed that if you thought something was meant to be, it would happen on its own — no matter what. However, isn’t it true that if you really want something to happen, anyway, you’d do whatever you can to make it happen? Think about that. You’ve got time.
The Davidsonian, "Titanic," and work: A nomad's view

This week, however, has done considerable damage to my inner peace, and my disposition has suffered as a result. Here’s what happened:

Thursday, I left work early to drive back to campus. I learned that they were really only upset because 1) Leonardo was too good-looking to die and 2) The old lady shouldn’t have thrown the diamond into the ocean because it was worth a lot of money and would have been a great gift for them. Apparently, I had missed the point of the movie entirely.

My second reason for seeing in a bad mood stems from a recent job interview. In fact, it was my only job interview, but it was surprisingly a job for which I was qualified — the perspective involved knowledge of the alphabet and the ability to write the letter "x" in cursive. So when I walked into the room for the interview, I was confident that I would at least get past the first round of cut. But here’s a transcript of what actually happened:

Interviewer: "It’s nice to meet you, Mr. Front. Tell me a little bit about yourself. Why do you choose to come to Davidson?"

Davidson: "I’m sorry, but that’s really all the time I have. Here’s my card. If you have any questions about the company, feel free to give me a call or e-mail me. Good luck with everything!"

Now, that wasn’t exactly how I expected things to go, and it’s disheartening that the Career Services Office never prepared me for such a rigorous and selective process.

I was feeling pretty down about myself, but then a friend told me to consult the ultimate vocational source, the Book of Jobs, which offers the following advice:

— So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord, and took possession of the barren earth of the sole of his foot the crown of his head."

— This profound guidance offered me little comfort, if I may say, if the Lord can’t help me get a job, who can?

So basically, this week’s moral is three-fold: 1) Only read The Davidsonian if you are feeling self-satisfied, 2) Don’t be too shallow-mindedness of "Titanic" can be found in its poignant treatment of material loss. 3) Don’t get a job. Instead, join Billy and Brittain and go on a spiritual odyssey in search of exotic fungi and eternal happiness.

"Youth, Money, and Politics: Is this all There Is?"

I have had my trust in the idealism of young people active in the political process sorely tested. For 18 years I have known teaching American Government at the college level, including Davidson College, the School of the Arts, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Through my teaching and research, I have tried to understand the political beliefs and attitudes of young people. My research, which has been published in a number of professional journals and presented at annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, has focused on the political beliefs and attitudes of young people.

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Home is not quite so sweet anymore

Ah, home sweet home. It’s not quite like I remembered it. Driven by necessity, (the imminent demise of my car), I returned home to Georgia for a weekend, only to be reminded of the many reasons to be here at Davidson. For those of you who live too far away to even think about going home for the weekend, your situation may be better than you think.

Milk #1: Mom and Dad suffer from the Empty Nest Syndrome. Returning home from Davidson, are you shocked to find that your parents actually have lives without you? Though it may be crushing at first to find that they have not spent every passing moment pining for your return, this reaction should be expected. In fact, they may secretly or not so secretly have been waiting for your departure for years.

When I arrived home for the first time during my sophomore year, my bathroom was filled with exercise equipment. “As soon as you move your furniture out,” my mother informed me, “we will be doing a major renovation of your room.” I glanced out the window, half-expecting the presence of a U-Haul truck in the driveway. “Oh! Mom added a bit too vigorously, “take all of the furniture with you, too.”

We feasted on milk and cookies prepared with homemade cookies. If your parents are anything like mine, much of your time at home is spent scavenging for anything remotely edible. Do not mistake me for a picky eater; I am not. Case in point: winter break. I entered my empty house following a long week of exams and a somewhat shorter drive to Georgina. Emerged by my temporary reserve from exams, I decided to cook dinner for my hardworking parents. The only thing I found in the fridge, however, were a half-eaten turkey (likely left over from Thanksgiving) and some assorted fruits that were a bit past their prime. I checked the cabinets. A lonely can of tomato soup stood at me. This was not an isolated incident. My mother and father ѐuth grocery shopping with a curious passion and literally spend weeks seeking who can last the longest without buying food.

Fiercely I believe that my mother would rather be charmed by a wild hippo than set foot in Harris Hall if it meant that I could either be sponsored or just be invited to join the college. They would make do for six or seven weeks until my next visit.

Milk #2: Your parents will expect you to work hard, not just enjoy your time off. “You were not given an island vacation,” my mother said. “The island is not an island,” my father added. “The island is part of the mainland.” My mother immersed me in yard work and my father in a variety of farming tasks which I suspect would be more entertaining if not for the constant reminder to “tend to the soil.”

In vain attempts at satisfying everyone on a freshman hall, not all goes according to plan. Some people get included, while others are excluded simply by chance. Just like room assignments, roommate selection is not at all fair to those who do not get an early start. In addition, there is no encyclopedic cover to dates each student must adhere to. There is no code of ethics. That is just the way it is — and another wish I had known ahead of time.

But yes, fortunately I do have a roommate next year. Now we just need a room.

In pursuit of the perfect roommate

“S o, who’s going to be your roommate next year?”

The procedure is so simple for entering freshmen. You fill out a form with preference forms, take the Myers-Briggs, and in Davidson-time you eventually receive a partial name and an address. Then, like the impatient, technology-minded students we are, we get on the Internet and search. With crossed fingers we look for the full name and number of the person we will spend the next year sleeping across from in a closet-sized room.

But this is not a bad thing. Finding out your roommate is not the first brick in what soon will turn out to be Belk, or Rich, or Little, or Cannon, or Watts — your freshman hall, my freshman hall.

The first awkward — or so awkward — conversation is your first memory of what a part of a full 7:37 as far as the eye can see. The two of you agree, very seriously, to be friends forever, or gravity, on who is to bring what to the room you both have yet to see.

This time around the stakes are different. A fluorescent-yellow packet instructs us in detail — the second semester freshmen, sophomores, juniors — on what we can and cannot do, what will help us get the room or apartment we want. The process is fun, personal, less exciting, and more unknown than anything we might have been doing during the first week.

The room “petition” provides only part of the answer. The next question, besides the one concerning a little number next to your name, is, of course, "Who is my roommate going to be next year?"

Let the betting and the logistical nightmares begin.

“Well, if Sally rooms with Kim, then you will be roommates,” and Bill will still have no one to live with. (If you are a guy, substitute male names for female names.

In vain attempts at satisfying everyone on a freshman hall, not all goes according to plan. Some people get included, while others are excluded simply by chance. Just like room assignments, roommate selection isn’t all that fair to those who don’t get an early start. In addition, there is no face cover to dates each student must adhere to. There is no code of ethics. That’s just the way it is — and another wish I had known ahead of time.

But yes, fortunately I do have a roommate next year. Now we just need a room.

Breaking it down

Court good for dancing

I like to dance. It is one of my favorite things to do. Not only do I like to dance in my room by myself to artists such as Del Leppard and Bon Jovi, but I also like to shake my grooves with my friends on occasion. The only time that I am able to exercise this endeavor at Davidson College is at parties that are sponsored by the various fraternities and eating houses on campus. These parties, which are interpreted by some as being drunken festivities are actually valuable hours for me and my dancing aspirations.

The parties on Patterson Court provide an ample amount of dance floor which enable me to "cut the rug" with my comrades and lady friends. They don’t call it "cut the rug" in my room, but there just wouldn’t be enough space for people to maneuver comfortably on the dance floor with the provided space.

Some of my friends like to break dance, and in order to perform moves such as the windmill and worm, a far enough space is needed. This much-needed space is provided at the houses on Patterson Court. The parties on Patterson Court allow my friends and I to dance with my friends while providing us with enough space to optimize on our moves and be the best dancers we possibly can.

Have an opinion? Write it down.

Give it to Erin (x6306).

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Novelist Sheri Reynolds to read from "A Gracious Plenty" in 900 Room

By Karen McCarty

College Relations

Novelist Sheri Reynolds, a 1989 Davidson graduate and honoree of Oprah Winfrey’s Book Club, will speak at Davidson College on Thursday, Feb. 14, in the public reading from her newest novel “A Gracious Plenty.” The reading will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the 900 Room of the College Union. Reynolds, who is the author of three novels, will read from her latest work, which was a New York Times bestseller. Reynolds will be joined by several faculty members, including Professors Jane Comfort and John Coddington, who will discuss the novel's themes and implications for contemporary society.

The gospel of safe sex

By Mitche Smith

Student Health Advisor

It’s that time again, boys and girls! Hope you all had a nice weekend, and I hope that your week is going off well, too. We have gotten a few questions at the last minute this week, and I will be the first to promise that they will be addressed in next week’s article.

Okay, so I am grasping desperately deep into my own world to find something to say about this week. You have probably heard about sex so many times in your life by now that it is becoming very easy to avoid, but it if there was anything that could keep my interest more, then I would be fascinated. To me you cannot talk about sex enough, so here it goes.

Sex, as you all know, is a very beautiful thing, and we shouldn’t get into it. Personally feel that there is only one thing that we should consider more important, and that is protection. The first thing we must say is that I am scared of something, and does that abstain the safest sex there is.

The word abstinence is almost synonymous with the Ten Commandments here in North Carolina, and it is very important to abstain from sex if you really want to avoid any risk of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease. However, if you have already indulged in the sin of bedroom and you cannot find your way back to the cell block, then I would suggest you just tightly to the Safe-Sex Lifeline.

There are a lot of different options you can take when considering which method to use to have Safe Sex. Lifeboat, if you feel sure of your partner — which you never should unless you have both been checked out at the local free clinic. Now, when I say checked out, I mean you have been through the STD test from hell.

We all know it’s a: illustrator; you have to have sex and keep sex as safe as possible from the beginning to the end. Take in next week for an article I am going forward to writing. The Libido Killers!! If you have any questions or comments, please write.

The Student Body

Mittie Smith

PO Box 418

Davidson NC 28036

On the Scene at Davidson College

CROP Lunch. Meet the bountiful harvest, at some friends, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the 900 Room. "How and When We Die." Morbid, huh? 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. in Chamber Gallery.

Cheap Donuts. The perfect pastry for frugal people, 8:00-9:00 p.m. in the Union Lobby.

Solidarity Week. We think we aren’t going now. All week long. 8:00-9:00 p.m. in the Union Pit.

Beverley Davies Book Chat. Ugh, you said beaver, heh heh. 11:15 - 2:15 p.m. in the Union Conference Room.

Black History Month Event. That’s all they told me. 7:00 - 12:00 p.m. in Chambers Gallery.

Room in the Inn. Away in a manager. Saturday night in Johnston Gym.

Community Dinner.Barbecue. Eat warm shredded salsa. 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Arts Jenkins Center.

Juggling. The only class where you can throw things at the teacher. 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Morrison Room.

Jumper’s Cafe. Cairns. 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at the Outpost.

On the Scene at Davidson College

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Tuesday, February 17, 1998

DR. C. Symphony Concert. Play, symphony, play. 8:00-9:30 p.m. in the DCPC Sanctuary.

Sheri Reynolds. A kick-ass book reading. 8:15 - 9:45 p.m. in the 900 Room.

Friday Afternoon Club. Alcohol awareness week is over; let’s drink to that 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Arts Ensemble Talent Show. Groups of artists display their talents. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. in Chambers Gallery. "Chasing Amy." Haven’t you caught her yet? 8:30 p.m. in the 900 Room.

University of Edinburgh Study Abroad. Chew the nepal. 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Union Pit.

University of Edinburgh into Meeting. That’s your pajama and 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Morrison Room.

East I. University of South Carolina. That’s your end of the deal. 8:15 - 10:15 p.m. in Love Auditorium. Pennsylvania Meeting. It’s in the schedule, but we won’t be there. 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Wilson
Grapplers lose three in conference play last week

BY BRATTON HOLMES
Sports Editor

At the tail end of the most successful season in two decades, the Davidson wrestling squad received a major wake-up call this past week as they squared off against three of the best teams in the Southern Conference.

Despite having the majority of a big win over Anderson and an averaging victory over Norfolk State last week, the Wildcats could not hold their ground against the conference powerhouses.

Davidson was closest in the Appalachian State match, which was held in Baker last Wednesday.

Davidson had to give up forfeits at 118 and also at 134, and also lost the 126 and 142 classes by technical fall, giving Appalachian a quick 22-0 lead.

The next class was 150, filled by Davidson's most successful wrestler this season, Ian Kaplan.

Kaplan defeated his opponent by decision with a score of 9-4. Rookie Ronald Williams followed Kaplan at 159 and also won his match by decision. 5-2. Next was another rookie, Jeff Libeart, at 167. Libeart won his match by injury default.

This brought the team totals to 22-12 in favor of Appalachian with the Cats threatening to make a comeback and upset the Mountaineers.

Unfortunately, Appalachian responded by sweeping the remaining three classes with two decisions and a technical fall, bringing the final score to 33-12.

Davidson's conference woes continued with a trip to Charleston to face the Citadel and UTC-Chattanooga.

In the first match of the day, the Citadel defeated Davidson with a final score of 35-9. Three wrestlers had wins for the Wildcats. Andy Sterling won with a 3-1 decision at 142. Kaplan continued his hot streak with a win by major decision, 20-10. Gray Broughton also registered a win at 190 with an 8-4 decision.

The two decision gave three team points each, and the major decision netted four. Davidson was penalized one team point for unsportsmanlike conduct to bring the total for the match to 9.

In the final match of the day, Davidson narrowly avoided a sweep at the hands of UTC-Chattanooga. Davidson's sole victory came from, once again, Ian Kaplan. In what Kaplan modestly referred to as a "quick match," he pinned his UTC opponent in eighteen seconds, an unbelievably quick victory.

To top this achievement in perspective, there were six other pins in three dual matches that day.

The fastest pin of those six was in 2:35. Kaplan's pin took nearly a tenth of that time. The shortest pin of the day was in 6:45, and the victory in this match took over twenty times as long to pin his opponent as did Kaplan in his match.

Lady Wildcats dominate ETSU

BY BRATTON HOLMES
Sports Editor

In one of the most dominant displays by any Davidson team this year, the women's tennis team played sixteen matches against conference rivals East Tennessee State and Wofford in the Davidson Doubles Tournament, and lost only one.

ETSU was expected to be the Wildcats' main competition for dominance in the Southern Conference, but this weekend did not seem to even be on the same level. If Davidson continues to dominate ETSU, then few obstacles will remain in their path to the conference championship.

Dana Caster and Kristin Koeng, playing at the #1 doubles spot, swept all four matches that they played in the tournament. Claire Cleworth and Amber Bradford filled the #2 spot for the Wildcats, and they won three of their four matches in the tournament.

The #3 doubles spot varied between several different members of the team. Clark Marks, Lynne Shore, rookie Brenna Tindall and Anna Holland rotated in throughout the tournament. However, one thing remained constant: the #3 doubles spot always won. For that matter, so did the #4 spot.

Neither of the opposing teams posed any threat to the Wildcats in the tournament. These results are very promising for the women's conference schedule. Shore commented on the team's performance, "We played really well... This is a good indication that our doubles will be stronger that they have been in the past."

Men's tennis team proves to be tough at South Carolina

BY WILLIAM MORETZ
Sports Lariat Editor

Over the weekend, the men's tennis team posted some impressive victories. Francis Marion University and the Southeastern Conference giant, University of South Carolina, faced the Davidson team at the USC campus in Columbia, South Carolina.

Coach Jeff Frank led the Wildcats to a perfect 5-0 match record against Francis Marion, with wins from all four singles matches and the top doubles team. Brett Llacuci and Alex Okubshi handily defeated their opponents, while John Pastel played another near-perfect match of his incredible season. Jeff Tonidandel was also able to defeat his opponent with his aggressive tennis style. Ted Kapan and Judson Sutherland were the doubles winners against the Francis Marion team.

The Wildcats also played the University of South Carolina tennis team on Sunday. Though the team was not able to defeat the Gamecocks, the third seed doubles team and John Pastel, Davidson's top tennis player, were victorious. Jeff Tonidandel and Ty Epp used their doubles expertise to triumph over the tough South Carolina doubles team. Scott Briggs and freshman Billy Boykin also joined the top Wildcat singles players against South Carolina.

Backed by a home crowd, Vladimir Pavicic, the top player of South Carolina, entered the court with John Pastel. Ranked fifth in the nation, Vladimir was the overwhelming favorite to win the match. Pastel defeated Vladimir Pavicic, the fifth ranked tennis player in the nation, in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2.

John Pastel's roommate, Matt Gaughan, noted that "He is an under-rated player; he could beat... any player he wanted."

The Davidson tennis team, led by Coach Frank, left South Carolina with an optimistic attitude about the rest of the season.

WHAT, DO WE HAVE TO TWIST YOUR ARM?

The Davidson Staff is still looking for a few students to fill vital positions within the organization. If you are interested at all, please contact either Sarah Ogden (x6508) or Randy Skattum (x6667).

WEB PAGE MANAGER
PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
NEWS EDITOR
ARTS & LIVING EDITOR
GENERAL LAYOUT STAFF
SPORTS WRITERS

DAVIDSONIAN SPORTS.
BECAUSE THERE IS NO OFF-SEASON
Call Bratton Holmes or William Moretz for layout opportunities.
Ozone signs with NBA’s Warriors

By MICHAEL J. KRIE 
Senior Staff Writer

It was playing a stunt in France’s top professional basketball league, a solid showing at the Toronto Raptors’ pre-season camp, and a productive camp with France’s national team that prepared him for his first NBA season.

Jenny VanLancker, who in 25 minutes scored 18 points on 9-of-15 shooting, was the team’s best player at the Raptors’ camp.

Western Carolina by a score of 83-58. The Wildcats played a solid game from the outset, leading by 40 points in the first half. The game was so lopsided that there were several empty seats in the upper deck.

The story of the game was senior Western Carolina guard and starting point guard Jenny VanLancker, who contributed 13 points and five assists.

In the first half, VanLancker scored 13 points on 5-of-8 shooting, including 2-of-3 three-pointers. Her performance was a key factor in the Wildcats’ win.

VanLancker said her goal was to play a solid game and lead the team to victory.

The Wildcats’ defense was also strong, holding the Bucs to just 38 points on 41% shooting.

The victory was the Wildcats’ fourth in a row and improved their record to 7-1 on the season.

It was a great day for the Wildcats, who outplayed a team that had previously lost five straight games.

Men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams take first place again at the Southern States Championships

Seminole head coaches Jason Prince and Jenny VanLancker were pleased with their teams’ performances at the Southern States Championships.

"It was a great day for our swimmers," Prince said. "They had a strong showing and our diving team also had a solid performance.

"Our goal was to compete at our highest level and I think we accomplished that.

"I’m proud of the work our teams put in and the hard work they put in between practices and in the pool.

"We have a lot of talent and depth and I think we’re in a good position to make a run at the national championships.

"Our focus now is to keep working hard and get prepared for the next meet.

"I’m confident in our ability to perform at a high level and I think we’ll be a tough team to beat.

"We have a lot of strong individuals and a good team chemistry.

"We’re excited to see how we can improve and how we can grow as a team.

"I’m looking forward to the next meet and I’m excited to see what we can do on the road.

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Baseball from page 12
In the fifth, the Bears center-fielder Jed Madlorn got things started with a double. The next batter, Scott Collier, hit the ball in the gap between first and second. Drew Williams made a spectacular play as he dove to his left, snagged the ball, and threw to first for the out, saving a definite run.

Not to be outdone, on the next play catcher Don Talvaccho dove behind the plate to catch a pop-up. It was another tremendous play.

In the sixth and seven innings, Strooker used the double play tandem of Ben Brown and Drew Williams to end the Bearcat threat.

Stuart Strooker, who has been hitting the ball, started things in the bottom of the sixth inning. He grounded to first and was out on the throw to first. Tom Torres, a second baseman from Yonkers, New York, started out South. After two singles by Williams and Brown, Brian Joyce stepped up to the plate with the bases loaded. Talvaccho scored when Joyce made up a fielder’s choice. Joyce was out at first and the runner on second, Matt Wilson, was tagged as an error by Cincinnati’s third baseman Kevin McMillin.

Davidson put the game away in the bottom of the seventh with five runs on five hits. Joyce, DeChellis, Strooker, Talvaccho, and Luke Goodwin all had hits. DeChellis and Strooker each had an RBI in the inning. Talvaccho capped off a strong performance as he finished 4-for-4 with 2 RBIs. Robblee relieved Strooker as he pitched two hit-less innings.

Ryan Strooker hit the only fresh man who will play an important part this season. Starting right fielder Jeremiah Pierwin had a strong game on the field, along with Mark Brown and Tyler, the new starting third baseman, who had a good game at the plate with two doubles. Catcher Kurt Davis also had two hits on the day.

In the end, Davidson fell to Cincinnati 9-3. West Virginia struggled on the plate at Friday, rocking Cincinnati starter Casey McEvo for eight runs in just four innings. The battery had continued all afternoon as Davidson managed 12 runs in 12 hits. All but one starter for the Cats had at least one. Marshall and Tyler and Stewart and Sloan both continued to hit well. Tyler went 3-for-5 with four RBIs, while Sloan went 1-for-4 with four RBIs, also. Sloan had both a double and a triple.

On the backdrops, Davidson managed nine stolen bases against catcher Matt Bechtof. The high man was run Brian Joyce with four. Lake Goodwin and Jeremiah Drawifin managed two a piece. Davidson starter Eric Bowers had three RBIs in five innings, keeping the Bears on their toes. After two hits, Bowers walked three in six innings. We were up with six runs on 11 hits. After letting Cincinnati back in the game, Davidson scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth and one in the bottom of the sixth.

Bowers was relieved by sophomore Garfield Yarborough. Yarborough gave up three runs on two hits in the seventh inning, crossing tainted areas.

When asked about prospects in the conference, coach Porath said, "You can expect the typical mix of Western Carolina, Cid, Georgia Southern, and the rest of the conference. We took out three of UCF from the top of the tenth when Cincinnati's Greg Dikos homered."
Men's basketball beats UNCG again

By Michael J. Krue
Senior Staff Writer

Ali Ton was right where the Wildcats wanted him at the end of Saturday's game against UNC Greensboro — on the bench.

No need for a last-second, game-saving steal this time around. Thank you very much.

After escaping with a one-point win Feb. 7 in Greensboro, Davidson used a stifling defensive performance to top the Spartans 76-59 in the rematch at Belk Arena. The Wildcats were led by post players Stephen Marshall, Landry Noskmaln, and Ben Eboh, as the post players formed a virtually unstopable triple threat in the paint.

Marshall again tied his career high with 20 points — the 6-foot-8 center has now reached that plateau three times this season — and added eight rebounds. Noskmaln recorded his third double-double of the year, and first since Dec. 20 at SMU, notching 14 points and 11 boards. And Eboh chipped in with 16 and nine, continuing his hot play of late.

Overall, Davidson outrebounded the Spartans 48-39.

"When you get that kind of performance from three post players, it's a real good sign at this time of year," coach Bob McKillop said. "Their aggressive interior play allowed the Wildcats to make 45 trips to the free throw line, by far a season best. "Their inside players posted up, and we either fouled them or they scored off easy rebounds," said an exasperated UNCG coach Randy Peters. "They play extremely hard and are an extremely physical basketball team."

"If you don't match that, you're going to get beat."

Although it didn't look that way with six minutes before halftime. Thanks to a 16-2 UNCG run, the Spartans held an impressive 28-16 lead in the first half.

After a Davidson comeback, though, the Wildcats precd together an 11-0 run to close the half. Despite shooting a miserable 30.8 percent from the floor in the first 20 minutes, Davidson did hold UNCG to a 24.7 percent shooting mark for the game, and 20 percent from three.

"We were playing extremely well defensively in that first half, and the defense was big for us in the second half," Krue said. "We held them to a 1-for-17 shooting performance on the bench.

See Basketball on page 11

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Baseball takes two of three

By Brian Maltz
Sports Editor

After dropping their first two games of the season to national powerhouse Duke and South Carolina, Davidson looked to rebound against the Cincinnati Bearcats.

This weekend the Wildcats showed why they will be a force in the Southern Conference. While Davidson lost to the Bearcats 9-3 on Friday, they came back with 12-7 and 8-0 wins on Saturday and Sunday.

The highlights of the weekend were clearly Ryan Stroker's brilliant performance on Sunday. In his first collegiate start, Stroker went seven shutout innings, giving up six walks and a mere five hits. He also struck out five.

"To pitch like that in his first start, all you can say is that (Stroker's performance) was outstanding. He struck three, made great pitches, and was able to get out of any tough situations," said assistant coach Chris Poliand. "Ryan has worked hard all year and has made the mechanical adjustments he's needed to make.

On Sunday, Davidson bit Cincinnati starter Nolan Landy hard and early. While Brian Joyce grew and a chance, Stewart Sloan doubled in the second, and Mike DeSimone doubled in the fourth, Davidson was unable to capitalize on any of these opportunities.

Still, Stroker was able to keep the game scoreless with defensive help and the ability to pitch out of several jams.

Due to two walks and a passed ball, the Bearcats had men on second and third and no one out in the top of the fourth. Stroker came up with a great first基层 basemate Greg Diokos to line out to Drew Williams. He followed this up by striking out Matt Bechtel and Anthony Snowsell. See Baseball on page 11

Swimmers defend Southern States title

By Bill Brashear
Staff Writer

The T-shirt swimmer Jay Rosenquist was dosing at Cannon Pool on Feb. 14 and "Southern States: 98. Busiest as Usual." However, heading into the final three events, it was unclear if the men's and women's swimming and diving teams would take care of their "usual business" and repeat as Southern States champions.

"This year was a lot harder," head coach Rick DeSelm said. "I had told the team at our first meeting that repeating would be more challenging than winning the first time.

"We had talked about how we shouldn't be surprised if we were down after the first day (when the men stood in fourth place, and the women third). We took the attitude that we had to be way better than everybody else in the next four sessions."

That attitude paid off, as both teams vaulted into first place during the evening session on the second day. Still, with only the 200 breast, 200 fly, and 400 free relay remaining on the third and final day, the women were locked in a dead heat with Evansville and Louisville, and the men trailed George Southern by 16.

But the Wildcats poured it on in the last two individual races (200 breast and 200 fly) to create some breathing room between them and their closest competitors.

On the women's side, Beth Wilson (2:27.30), Karen Fittch (2:30.32), and Erin Woodall (2:34.69) claimed fourth, sixth, and 14th, respectively, in the breaststroke; while Kathleen Paffensh (2:10.60), Jennifer Howard (2:18.87), and Mary Noel George (2:18.70) grabbed third, eighth, and 12th in the fly, pushing their lead over Louisville to 16.5, with only the relay remaining.

"It was nervous, especially the last day," triple winner Mary Shell Brosche said. "For me, I knew I was going to have a race in the 200 back. In the end, we still had to get up and swim the relay, and I was pretty nervous about that."

The relay team of Brosche, Elisah Weddle, Britta Tolman, and Allison Beebe needed sixth to secure a win, but they swam like they didn't know it. The group cruised past the Louisville team 6th, 200, and 400 free relays. See Swimming on page 10

John Pastel

Men's Tennis 5-0 vs. 4-1 Singles

Pastel defeated the fifth ranked player in the nation, Vladimir Pasicak of the University of South Carolina Sunday in Columbia, South Carolina. Pastel would not be intimidated by USC's top player. He destroyed the Yugoslavian star in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2. Pastel proves that the Davidson tennis team will not be underrated.

See Tennis on page 12

Men's Basketball vs. App. State Thursday 7:30

In this pivotal regular season game, Davidson goes up against the number one team in the Southern Conference. The Wildcats defeated App. State in the first meeting this season, and now has a chance to sweep the season series against the Mountaineers.
Budget cuts force College to eliminate staff positions

Vagt, administrators balance 1998-99 budget

Personnel cutbacks facilitate cost-cutting efforts

By Michael J. Keane
Senior Staff Writer

In an effort to balance the budget for the 1998-99 school year and pointing to "fiscal realities," President Bobby Vagt eliminated or halved "less than half a dozen" jobs at the College in the past two weeks.

Vagt declined to mention names, but Lt. David McLaurin and Ray Ligouri of the campus police department were fired, while some administrative assistants — including Ruth Ann Swart of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and Ann Callahan of the Physics Department — were demoted from full-time to part-time.

There are also some positions currently open that will not be filled. According to Dean of Students Tom Shandley, occupations in academic departments, the Athletic Department, and Student Health Services were affected.

Overall, according to Shandley, over half a million dollars worth of cuts were made.

"We're going to do more with less," Vagt said in his office last week. "So we can go forward in what I call managed growth."

Vagt stressed that the recent personnel changes were not the beginning of a massive series of layoffs.

There are still some holes in the budgets for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, but those will reportedly be filled "on the revenue side."

"As far as we can see now, we have done what we think needed to be done," said the businessman-turned-college-president. "This is not the first of two shoes."

Of the $646 million-dollar budget set for 1998-99, $27 million will be spent directly on people — nearly 60 percent of the College's total expenditures.

"That verifies, quantitatively, how important people are," Vagt said. "But it also means you're not going to modify the budget without affecting people, and we're going to do that carefully."

Tuition and the number of students have steadily gone up in the last 20 to 25 years. In 1975, Vagt explained, 24 percent of the average household income was used to pay college bills. In 1985, that number had skyrocketed to 20 percent.

"That growth cannot continue," he said. "To be the kind of community we say is important, arguably we are too far already, but we can't go beyond where we are right now."

In recent years, Davidson's tuition has increased by as much as 13 percent annually. Thanks to some changes in the budget for the coming school year, including the personnel cutbacks, College administrators are expecting just a four percent rise next year — the lowest such number in 21 years.

"We looked at the budget and, quite honestly, ways we could lower the tuition increase for students," Shandley said. "It got extremely hard to do that and not look at ways we could cut back."

The budget modifications will also allow the school to continue its commitment to technology in the dorm room and classroom; provide expensive lab equipment in the soon-to-be-completed Life Sciences Building, which will have a $300,000-dollar operating expense; and facilitate the recruitment and on-campus experience of international students.

The College will also pay particular attention to methods of greater energy conservation; it will soon install new light fixtures in Chambers which will reduce lighting costs to 60 percent of the current level.

"There are some exciting things in the budget made possible by the kind of budget decisions we've made," said Vagt, referring also to a three percent increase in the salary pool for 1998-99.

"Davidson's not in dire shape," Shandley said. "But with the student body staying constant and tuition not going up like it used to, there's not new revenue coming into the College."

"We're in a good situation right now, and we want to maintain that," Vagt added. "We don't have to cut back to the bone. It's better to have a little hurt now than a big hurt later."
McLaurin has questions, but no answers

By Michael J. Keefe
Senior Staff Writer

It's the people that make the place. That has been Bobby Vagt's credo since taking office as Davidson's 16th president some seven months ago. So in making a swift half dozen personnel changes — or eliminations — over the past two weeks, has he broken a promise?

Lt. Emory McLaurin thinks so.

"I remember all that it's a family thing and this, that, and the other," said McLaurin, who was fired from his position as detective for the campus police. "There are areas they could have cut back on before they did what they did.

"I'm sure there are things they could have cut before personnel and the safety of the students."

In particular, McLaurin points to the elevator recently built in the president's house as an unnecessary and extravagant expenditure.

"Why do they need to put an elevator in President Vagt's house?" said McLaurin asked in a telephone interview from his home in Mooresville on Thursday evening. "Yes, I'm in PO because I lost my job, but why does he need that elevator? He doesn't look that much older than me."

Ultimately, McLaurin believes the safety of students is being compromised because of these recent developments.

"They don't have anybody looking after investigations anymore," he said. "One man can't do it all, and that's basically what they want. It's impossible."

"Maybe some cuts are necessary, but you're talking about the safety of the students here."

McLaurin, as will the others who have been directly effected by the budget cuts, will pick up the pieces and move on. With the help of the school, McLaurin is putting together a resume and will send out completed applications in coming weeks.

Even so, McLaurin said, "I sacrificed my family for that job. I loved my job at Davidson College. I enjoyed getting up in the morning and going to work."

"It's going to be hard to replace that. It's going to have to be a damn good job."

But McLaurin leaves Davidson waiting for an explanation that will likely never come.

"I was in total shock," McLaurin said, referring to the meeting in Dean of Students Tom Shandley's office two weeks ago, at which he was told his job was being eliminated. "I'm still in shock. I don't understand why."

And why was the police department singled out to seemingly hear the brunt of the financial cutbacks?

Said McLaurin, "I guess you'll have to ask President Vagt that."

Swart held Center together

By Michael J. Keefe
Senior Staff Writer

At the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Ruth Ann Swart is the mother, and the 28 majors are her children.

Swart, the department assistant, makes lunch for the students and their faculty advisers every Friday. If a blue-eyed student is glaring at a late night in the Center, she leaves a pillow and a blanket.

"She brings us all together," said Samia Mohammed, a junior Center major. "We know her so well and she knows us so well. She's part of our family."

But due to the College's recent round of personnel cutbacks, Swart, who had been a full-time employee for five years, will have to do that on a part-time basis from now on.

She had her hours reduced from 37-and-a-half a week for 10 months of the year to 20 hours for nine months. With those hours went her benefits, including health insurance.

"For me, it's been my family," Swart said last week from her Mooresville home. "Part of the Center's atmosphere is to provide a home for the kids. I think our kids are the best of the best, and they need a special place."

"It's a terrible decision," she said of President Bobby Vagt's layoffs. "It's wrong, just plain wrong."

"Ruth Ann means a great deal to me, personally and professionally," said Bob Manning, the Director of the Center. "She is a wonderful and loving person."

Who's going to do the work Swart once did? "Me," Manning said bluntly.

"Is it going to affect the productivity of the Center? "Yep."

Swart's spirit of work, however, was not deterred by the College's recent round of personnel cutbacks.

"I feel like it's a kick in the face of Dr. Manning — to feel like his department is not important.

But for Swart, this situation goes far beyond one particular department. As a child growing up in North Carolina, Davidson was "the hallowed place to go to school — and it was trustworthy."

"My faith in Davidson has just dropped to the ground," she replied. "I didn't think they would treat me like this."

And Swart points to Vagt the businessman as the prime culprit.

"I think he's used to a corporate life," she said. "In the corporate world, there is no family. It's the bottom line that matters."

"I don't think he even considers the people involved. I've never talked to him. He doesn't know that exist. It hurts so much. It's just like now I'm not important. So I take that very personally."

Swart pointed out an interesting parallel between Vagt's family and the Center: Both are run by a Robert and a Ruth Ann — Bob and Ruth Ann in the Center, Bobby and Ruth Ann at the president's house.

"I thought he would have realized that," Swart said. "But I guess he was just too busy doing what he does to form personal relationships."

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Thursday, Feb. 19
Sheri Reynolds '89
8:15 p.m., 900 Room (Book Reading)

Saturday, Feb. 21
Talent Show
9:00 p.m., 900 Room

Sunday, Feb. 20
Community Dinner
12:30 p.m., Ada Jenkins Center (Barbecue!)

Monday, Feb. 20
National Theatre of the Deaf
8:15 p.m., Love Auditorium

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The “business” that is Davidson College
A Center major attempts to understand the recent cutbacks

Bobby Vagt, President

Bobby Vagt, who has developed a reputation during his first seven months in office as a peoples’ president, maintains that the recent layoffs do not violate his original pledge to Davidson.

“People are the most important asset we have at this college,” Vagt reiterated in his office last week. “We have gotten the recognition we have because of their qualities.

“I don’t think it goes back on the pledge at all,” he continued. “Our pledge is to have the very finest institution in the country. We can only do that if we have sufficient funds for academic progress second to none and the faculty that attracts the best students.

“And you can only do that with some modifications.”

Tom Shandley, Dean of Students

Dean of Students Tom Shandley expressed similar sentiments.

“People do make the place,” Shandley said. “He (Vagt) doesn’t feel any differently about that. We’ve tried to do this as humanly as we can. This has nothing to do with the two officers who were affected. They have served this college well.

“I’d love to be in an organization where we never had to do this, but our economic circumstances forced us to make some tough choices.”

WHOLEHEARTEDLY DISAGREE. I am a Center major, and this whole issue has come to my attention recently because of a departmental announcement made last week: as part of the budget plan for this year, our committee’s job is to be cut from full-time status to part-time within benefits. She’s not the only one, and some people on campus will lose their jobs completely.

Not only your secretary, but important persons (Center majors) because we care for her as a person, is vital to the running of the Center.

Editor Center for Interdisciplinary Studies — the department with the highest GPA and 26 majors who are all required to do a thesis — is run by two people: Dr. Bob Manning (also a professor of Humanities and Physics) and our secretary. A part-time secretary will mean a step backwards for the Center.

So you’re not a Center major — what does this mean for you? It means a lot. As I said, we’re not the only department getting cut. The “higher-ups” are focusing on decreasing the number of personnel as a means to cut the costs of this school’s existence and tuition. Is it me, or is that the wrong place to focus?

Even if you argue that Davidson is a business, the fact remains that its purpose is not to make money — its purpose is to broaden our minds and give us a high-quality education. If we start cutting back in areas vital to this purpose, we start burying Davidson.

“Even if you argue that Davidson is a business, the fact remains that its purpose is not to make money — its purpose is to broaden our minds and give us a high-quality education. If we start cutting back in areas vital to this purpose, we start burying Davidson.”

We need to cut out the fat, not the muscle. I met with Dr. Robert Norfleet, Vice President for Business and Finance, last week. He said that these personnel cuts were necessary because an institution should look at its area of highest expenditure if it wants to cut costs, and personnel is our area of highest expenditure. That may work fine in the corporate world, but here our area of highest expenditure makes up what we are.

Norfleet was quick to note me that there are other areas would be looked at. Look harder. We have the students, not entertaining the idea that the budget and finances of this school are any of their business, because it’s not their business.

Well, it might not be our job, but it’s our business. Our money pays the bills.

Norfleet’s main concern was for the kids who want to come here every year and can’t because of the tuition — it’s just too high. So he and others in the power positions here want to use this downsizing to lower it.

I’m sorry, but we’re already here; we’ve paid our $72,000, and as selfishly as this may sound, we come first.

Don’t take away from our education to benefit people who aren’t even here.

We are a school known for its academic excellence and small-school environment. We’re not supposed to be a number; we’re supposed to count.

If President Bobby Vagt, Norfleet, and others start running this school like a corporation, we can kiss Davidson’s academic excellence and closely knit environment goodbye. And we can kiss our school goodbye, because it won’t be Davidson College anymore. It’ll be just another place to get a degree.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

A train wreck at Davidson

To the Editors:

It has been more than a week since my husband, Emory McLaurin, was involved in a train wreck. The engineer of the train was a pen, a piece of paper, a steam the human.

I’m sure that, by now, anyone who knows and cares realizes Emory is no longer at Davidson College. On Feb. 3, 1998, he was hit full-force by the train’s engine. Yes, it ran right over him. He didn’t even see it coming. The bottom line of my analogy: Emory’s position as Detective Lieutenant was eliminated.

“Heartbreaking” can’t begin to describe how both of us felt. Maybe the impact would have been less devastating if the train’s light had been seen down the track, but it wasn’t. I was with my husband when he gripped and cried over the passing of his dad, and it’s him with him now as — as we — experience a pain and hurt almost as traumatic.

His job of 12 years has been rewarding and, yes, even fun for Emory. How many people do you know who could say the same thing? Can you? The main reason for my writing this letter is to ask, “Why?” Did someone, anyone, talk with Emory before this happened? Scary, isn’t it?

“To Protect and Serve.” I guess that doesn’t mean a great deal anymore, does it? In closing I’ll say I’ll pay the pain, hurt, and total disbelief Emory and I feel will ease. We have our faith in God, our family, and friends. We will survive. Thanks to those who know and love Emory.

His loving wife, Cynthia.
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