

The Davidsonian

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Minors approved by majority of faculty

By ANN HATFIELD
Staff Writer

In a decision that surprised many, the faculty voted in favor of minors 63-41 on Tuesday April 2. Two faculty members chose to abstain.

By passing the proposal, faculty members agreed that minors might be offered at the discretion of each department.

The Council hopes that some

minors will be in place by academic year '96-'97, but expects that many will not be offered until the following year.

This news comes as a result of the proposal formulated by the Council for Academic Affairs as well as a SGA resolution.

Liz Abernathy, Co-chair of the Council for Academic Affairs, says, "We are naturally very excited about the faculty's approval

of the minors option. Many members approached us to say how impressed they were by the enthusiastic response from students in support of minors. We are grateful to students and faculty for their support and look forward to seeing minors become a part of the academic tradition at Davidson."

Professor of History Russell Snapp says he is "not surprised by the results because of the strong support voiced by many students,"

and adds, "That [support] definitely influenced the faculty."

However, he says, "I think we might have considered the proposal at greater length..." While Snapp says that he believes that "minors probably are a good idea for some students," he voices some concern that students may feel pressured to adopt a minor when greater exploration of the curriculum might be more beneficial.

Professor of Chemistry Mitch

Rhea says, "I've got no quarrel with minors. I think if you are willing to put forth the effort, you deserve recognition.... I think that by and large, this department is in favor of them."

In the wake of this student victory, however, many are left asking "what now?"

The proposal defines minors as a set of five or six courses designated by a participating department.

See **Minors** on page 3

Special section



Photos by Josh Glazer

RELIGION AT DAVIDSON?

The trustee's challenge: An in-depth look at the issue

By ADAM HICKEY
Staff Writer

It is likely that within the week yet another major date will be added into the history of Davidson's religious affiliation.

It is this weekend, April 18-21, that the Trustees will convene on campus for yet another semi-annual meeting. Raised as a significant issue during the trustee retreat in the Spring of 1993, faculty and students alike are waiting to see if any of the bylaws which govern the religious affiliation of the faculty and officers of the college.

Three main questions await the Trustees' answers: Should Religion professors have to give "evidence of strong Christian convictions"? Should all Trustees—even those elected from alumni associations—be "active members of a Christian Church"? And must the President demonstrate a "Christian faith and commitment" through an "affiliation with the Presbyterian Church"?

According to President Kuykendall, the Board

See **Religion** on page 4

Crossing paths:angry students fight over symbols

By NARESH NAGELLA
Assistant News Editor

Easter brought more than religious celebration to campus. It brought a good deal of discussion, debate, and controversy.

Continuing a year old tradition, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Intersity Christian Fellowship, and other Christian faculty and staff set up their Easter display consisting of three 5 and 1/2 feet tall crosses in between dormitory row and Chambers to remind everyone of "the true meaning of Easter."

Last year three students erected another cross covered in Rose's Easter flyers juxtaposed to the crosses set up by the groups, along with a small wooden bunny covered with Bible verses.

However, this year, those opposed to the display were direct in showing their disagreement.

First, three miniature crosses were anonymously put up next to the original display. A sign indicated that if the crosses were real the display would be a "thousand times larger."

See **Crosses** on page 5

Trustees to decide on alcohol policy CCRL recommends ban on kegs, but not purchase of alcohol

By BROOKE BAGWELL
Staff Writer

At their meeting Wednesday, the CCRL voted on their recommendations concerning the alcohol policy. These will go from CCRL-Chair, Dean of Students Tom

who will take them into consideration when he addresses the Trustees, who will vote on the issue.

The CCRL decided to recommend the ban of kegs, but eliminated the part of the clause regarding the purchase of alcohol by each

house.

Should the trustees accept the proposal, the decision whether to purchase alcohol or not is put into each house's hands. BYOB would be an option but not a necessity, and houses purchasing alcohol would not be violating a Davidson

not mandate whether alcohol can be purchased by members of the court, so this is not a major change.

SGA President Warren Buford emphasizes this. "If approved, our

See **CCRL** on page 3

Reviving the legend Two freshmen want to bring the tour guide tale to life with debate

By BRAD D. CHASE
Staff Writer

The balconies of Eumenean and Philanthropic Halls have been silent for years.

While the common tour guide lore about the debating traditions sticks in many students' minds, no one seems to care about why this tradition has ceased at Davidson. Almost no one, that is.

Two Davidson Freshmen, Austin Rios and Scott Geier, have started an effort to revive the tradition of debates from Eu and Phi Halls.

"Austin and I were walking out of the library one evening when we noticed Eu and Phi Hall's depicted on the opposing sides of the entrance. We thought it would be neat to revive that tradition," says Geier.

I think that the students are generally apathetic and this would

be one way to increase involvement."

Sara Beasley, Visiting Instructor in English and advisor to the proposed debate group, says, "I really would love to see it happen. I think that it is not only intellectually exciting, but it is also a tradition to revive."

"Imagine one person debating another in front of the student body," says Geier, "no one is going to want to lose, it would be like losing face."

While there is a Phi Society in existence now, they do not stage debates in the traditional format.

The group, which meets Sunday evenings, discusses current events, books, and other issues.

According to Geier, "we have some research to do before this happens. We want to possibly have a preliminary debate and see how the students react. I think that it will really catch on."

THIS WEEK

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Co-ed Eating house

tries to get off the ground.

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Davidson rallies for little Jack.

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Turkey

for you, turkey for me.

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Students explore possibilities of new co-ed eating house

BY KIRSTEN RECKNAGEL
Assistant News Editor

There was no lack of ideas or enthusiasm among those who attended the open forum for a new co-ed eating house, held the Thursday before Easter Break. The forum provided an opportunity for discussion of the many options open to students interested in establishing a new eating house for both men and women.

Ross explained that the administration is willing to support students who have recently expressed an interest in creating such a house, provided they see a firm commitment on the part of students.

While co-ed eating houses have existed within the last ten years, most were abandoned due to lack of student interest. In addition, an attempt to begin a co-ed house failed two years ago.

However, interest in the social option seems once again to be gaining momentum, as shown by the 170 student signatures collected

on a petition in support of a co-ed eating house option.

At Thursday evening's forum, organizer Lora Chavis, a junior, voiced her opinion that "a lot of people are looking for a change in the monotony."

Forum participants strongly agreed and seemed to be enthusiastic at the prospect of inventing an additional option in Davidson's social scene.

Freshman Adam Hickey led a free-response discussion as to what kind of eating house students are interested in creating.

Views on alcohol were explored, and suggestions included proposals that the house be dry as well as proposals that the house maintain a BYOB policy.

Forum organizers said they would like to see a co-ed house established next semester if possible. Freshman organizer Jordan deBree reminded everyone that "the formation of a co-ed eating house is going to take energy and trust in the administration."

Crosses

from page 1

Freshman Julie O'Connor then taped a list to the original crosses:

1. Easter is about resurrection NOT the crucifixion.
2. No one needs FCA/IVCF/others to dictate his beliefs.
3. Your morals aren't better than mine.
4. Not everyone is Christian."

However, Sophomore Demian Dellinger took down the signs from the crosses. "I do not think (O'Connor) had a right to put the sign up on the cross," he says. "She could put it up somewhere else. We should all learn to respect each other's beliefs and question them appropriately."

Next, O'Connor put up a sign repeating her statement in front of the crosses. The sign had a sheet on which she wished anyone who agreed with her to sign.

That sign was then taken, and O'Connor put her message on large, red posterboard and placed them on the columns of the North entrance of Chambers. These signs stayed up for about half the day before they also disappeared.

No disciplinary action was taken on either side. The Dean of Students only told O'Connor to not put her message on the actual crosses.

More than anything else, the campus wondered about the protocol for displaying a certain group's message.

FCA President Eric Sapp says, "There is a clear set of rules to follow. It takes us two weeks to cut through the red tape. You need permission from the Dean of Students Office and you have to take credit for the display."

Sapp defends the crosses. "It is a freedom of expression. The idea came from a FLAG display a few years ago. It is interesting that when a minority group does it no one minds. When it is Christian, it is like someone is ramming it down your throat."

He defends "The right of everyone to express their views," but he wishes it could have been done in a "less confrontational manner."

O'Connor says she put up her signs because she believes everyone should be able to make their own choice. "At this stage in our lives we should all be able to decide what Easter means," she says, "But the groups putting up the crosses inadvertently feel that their views are the correct ones."

She also adds, "The manner in which I (opposed the display) was

not too different than the way they did it. The crosses are put up each day for everyone to view on a daily basis, whether they wish to or not. They could have put up an information booth or table in Chambers, where if people wanted to talk with them, they could."

She received a great amount of feedback from her actions - from both sides. "A plethora of students supported me. The students who did not, anonymously called, and left some fairly disturbing thoughts. I wished I could have discussed the matter with them."

Finally, O'Connor says, "I plan to have an open forum on the issue in the next couple of weeks. I hope everyone will come so that we [as a community] can learn and grow from this experience."

PLEASE COME



The admissions office held the annual "Decision Davidson" for students accepted for the class of 2000 this weekend. Activities for the prospectives included campus tours, student panels, faculty panels, and an address by Junior McGraw Scholar Megan Mitchell. The day ended with a meal on Chambers Lawn.

"Special day" will unite students, community in service festival

BY BETH BACON
Staff Writer

National Youth Service Day, held Tuesday, April 23, will consist of three service projects and a community dinner.

Reach-Out Vice-president Bill Abrams says, "The event's purpose is to recognize the union of the community and students through service."

Volunteers are needed to par-

ticipate in a spring clean-up at the Senior Nutrition Center at the Ada Jenkins Center from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. and will be doing work in the yard and cafeteria.

Habitat for Humanity will be building on April 23 in honor of the day. Also, students may participate in cricket with children from the community from 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. on the lawn in front of Chambers.

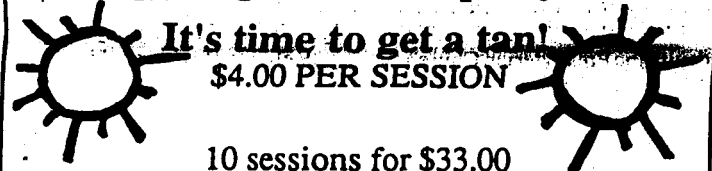
Sign-ups for these three events will be held in Chambers or the Union lobby throughout the week of April 15. Anyone may volunteer.

The community dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at the Ada Jenkins Center. The dinner has been publicized throughout the community to local groups, churches, and organizations. It is open to everyone free of charge.

Discussion topics will be presented in order to create interaction between students and community members. Games will be available for students to interact with the children of the community.

"We encourage all students to reach out and spend time with our community in some fashion on this special day," says Abrams.

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