

Baker strengthens security system

By Martha Knight

Anyone who uses Baker Sports Complex can now enter only through the front doors.

Baker administrators recently installed an alarm system that connects to all back and side entrances of the building. If one of those doors opens, the Baker staff can immediately respond to the situation.

Anyone who admits another person without authorization is subject to lose his or her privileges at Baker for an indefinite amount of time.

Director of Physical Education Ron Morrow describes this added security as "pro-active rather than reactive."

Those who use the facilities have always been required to come to the main entrance and present their identification card to a work-study student, who then runs it through a scanning machine that records their presence in the building.

However, Morrow says that, in the past, students and members

of the community knew that they could also be admitted simply by knocking on a side door and waiting for someone to open it from the inside. Some people unknowingly added to this problem by leaving doors ajar so that outsiders could enter at any time.

Morrow cites an incident that occurred two weeks ago, in which five high-school students who were denied access at the front desk went around to another door. An unidentified Davidson College female opened the door and allowed them inside.

Although no harm resulted on this particular occasion, Morrow says that problems can arise when people admit others who may not be students.

Once inside the complex, unknown individuals could sustain injuries for which the school would be liable. These people might also use the opportunity to steal from the locker rooms at times when athletic teams are practicing or participating in games.

Newly extended hours at



The Baker Sports Complex will be safer with the new technologically advanced equipment. Photo by Ed Matthews

Baker require the staff to enter dark rooms late at night in order to lock up the facilities. The new security system ensures that workers know who is in the building at all times and do not fear for their safety.

Morrow believes that these measures serve the same purpose as the coded locks on the dormitories and on the Visual Arts Center. "We did not do it to inconvenience

the students. We want to make Baker more secure for students, faculty, and staff," he says.

The new system affects many athletes, particularly members of the soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey teams, which practice on fields behind Baker.

Sophomore lacrosse player Jennifer Lake says that it takes more time to reach the training room, which is located on the ground floor at the back of Baker.

"It is very frustrating to run from the back to the front and down and up stairs when you need

to see the trainer during practice," she said.

Lake also feels that it would be helpful to make changes that would allow athletes to exit through the side doors of Baker after practice yet still prevent others from entering.

The training room staff believes that the administration has compensated by providing all coaches and Baker employees with private codes that will disarm the alarm when it becomes necessary to use an entrance other than the front door.

F.L.A.G. forum to promote openness

By Mary Laura Moretz

Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and "straights" willing to be honest and open about their sexuality will serve as the panel for the third annual Exploring Sexuality Forum.

The forum, sponsored by F.L.A.G., Committee for Women's Issues, and SHOC, will kick off the third week of National Women's History Month at 8 p.m. on March 14 in the 900 room.

Meg Jones, moderator for the forum, aims to "make a healthy environment for discussion where sex is concerned."

Jones will begin the program

by asking three questions which each panel member will answer. The forum will then open for both anonymous and open questions from the audience.

According to Jones, F.L.A.G. encourages such open discussion in an effort to "make people more sensitive to the issue of sexuality." Jones says, "Being gay at Davidson was really hellish a few years ago. We hope to change that."

The forum will be held during Women's History Month during which the Committee for Women's Issues supports educational programs on issues of gender and sexu-

ality, but it is not, Jones stresses, aimed specifically towards women.

More than half of the panel is male, and Jones expects a good mix of men and women in the audience.

Late start on Christmas break not to happen again

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In it, he will propose that the break dates never go past December 20.

Dr. Sandy McKelway, secretary of the Executive Committee, is still unsure that students would prefer to begin school earlier in August in order to ensure an earlier Christmas break.

Jennifer Humphrey, chair of the Council on Academic Affairs, suggests that some sort of student poll be taken in order to see how students feel about this issue. She feels that students would most likely prefer to return earlier. Humphrey says that the decision to institute Sunday exams was "the best that they could do for next year."

As a hall counselor, Wendy McHugh was obligated to stay at Davidson until December 23. She

feels that student opinion would definitely lean towards an earlier start. "I think people would much rather start earlier so that we can go back early," she said.

McKelway is still struggling with the issue and its complications.

He says that the faculty would definitely not want to start earlier and would always want school to start on a Monday.

If school started an entire week earlier, he feels it would cut into many people's summer plans.

He says, though, that what happened this year at Christmas Break will never happen again. Classes will resume earlier in August before break reaches dates so close to Christmas. Right now, the calendar is moving back one day each year, but eventually the dates will move forward again.

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