

Spike Lee Promotes New Film on Campus

Bomb Threat Forces Event to be Moved to Johnston Gym Minutes Prior to Speech

By Tom Koonce

On Wednesday October, 21 filmmaker Spike Lee spoke to a large Davidson audience and fielded questions from the crowd during a "Rap Session" held in Johnston Gym. The program was moved to Johnston after a fictitious bomb threat was called in two minutes before the talk was to begin in Love Auditorium.

Lee has directed six films in the past seven years, including *Do the Right Thing* and *Jungle Fever*. He is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta and NYU Film School. He was brought to Davidson

in order to help solve underlying problems of racial intolerance on campus. Several different college groups, including the Union and the Dean of Student's Office, sponsored Lee's talk.

Lee spoke from the middle of the gym to a crowd which filled one side of the building's bleachers. He wore a black "X" hat as he walked around the temporary "stage." Speaking casually to the audience, Lee began the program by talking for ten to fifteen minutes about his new movie, *Malcolm X*. He spoke about the length of the movie (over three hours), Denzel Washington's "amazing" performance as Malcolm X, the film's budget, and why he wanted to direct this production. Lee said that *Malcolm X* is "the best thing I've done so far."

After finishing this promotion of the movie, Lee told why he decided to accept the invitation to speak at Davidson. He said, "One of the reasons why I speak at colleges and universities is because I realize you make up a large part of the audience who sees my films and to combat the negative press I get."

Lee later cited how the media took a comment of his telling people to skip work and class to go

see *Malcolm X* on its opening day, out of context. "That statement got blown out of proportion. I still don't think that's a radical statement. I don't think learning and

know who he is..., but it's alright if it's a beginning), his opinions of the Muslim religion, etc.

Lee also spoke some on racism after he was asked about his past comments on that subject. He said, "I find it very hard for black people to be racists. To me racism is an institution. You have to have power to enforce rules. Everybody can be prejudice. To me racism is a lot bigger danger than prejudice." Lee also said that he thinks every African-American has felt racism in this country.

Davidson was the first stop for Lee on a fall campus tour. His new movie is scheduled to open on November 20, but that date is subject to change.



Photo By Bill Giduz

education have to take place within four walls," said Lee.

The questions lobbed at Lee by the audience covered a wide spectrum of issues, but the majority centered on the speaker's films and the various components that went into making these movies. Only one question dealt with a topic specific to this campus.

Lee was asked whether or not he thought black fraternities and establishments contributed to a separatist movement. The student questioner mentioned that Davidson was just granted a chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha. Lee said, "By granting a charter of A Phi A, that is not separatism as well as establishing a Black Cultural Center at UNC (is not). Pro-black does not equal anti-white. They are entirely two different things."

When asked how he feels racial tensions will be in this country ten years from now, Lee said, "I'm a filmmaker. I pose the questions to get people thinking. I don't have any answers."

Lee also answered questions about his opinions on the presidential race ("I think Bush is gone"), the Anita Hill allegations against Clarence Thomas, Malcolm X articles as fashion symbols ("I acknowledge that they might not

REACH OUT AT DAVIDSON

Habitat for Humanity

After a rather slow start, Habitat for Humanity has been working in two programs in Charlotte: the Charlotte Habitat program and the Charlotte Genesis Project. Charlotte Habitat builds new houses, whereas Charlotte Genesis Project renovates old ones. People in the Genesis Project purchase run-down houses in a low-income area of Charlotte and help to renovate the neighborhood as well as the houses. Next semester, we hope to help construct a house in Davidson, and possibly will help Mooresville Habitat with landscaping and other jobs. Habitat is a great stress relief! New volunteers are needed! Call Andrew Bazemore (-6324), Alex Crumbley (-6035), Jennifer McDonald (-6639), or Chris Wells (-6226).

Davidson Hot Meals

You don't have to be a great waiter to participate in Davidson Hot Meals. Every other week, students provide various types of entertainment while others sit and visit with the seniors who come to the Ada Jenkins Center for a hot lunch. All that is required of volunteers is one and a half hours, on Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and a smiling face. Hope to see you there! Ada Jenkins Community Center, next Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call either Patrick White (-6106) or Alice Chakmakian (-6623).

Homelessness

Reach Out's Homelessness Committee has been volunteering at the Uptown Men's Shelter this semester, mainly on a random schedule. Besides working with the meal service, volunteers have worked in the clothing closet, providing help with the shelter's maintenance, and sorting donations.

The committee will also soon begin volunteering at the Salvation Army's Women's Shelter. The late start is due to a complete overhaul of the shelter's volunteer program, but we hope the response will be great. Volunteers will be taking care of the children at the shelter in the evenings, once a week. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call John Franklin(-6245).

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TEACH FOR AMERICA

Information Session
Davidson College

November 3, 1992
at 7:00 pm
Morrison Room
Grey College Union

For more information
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