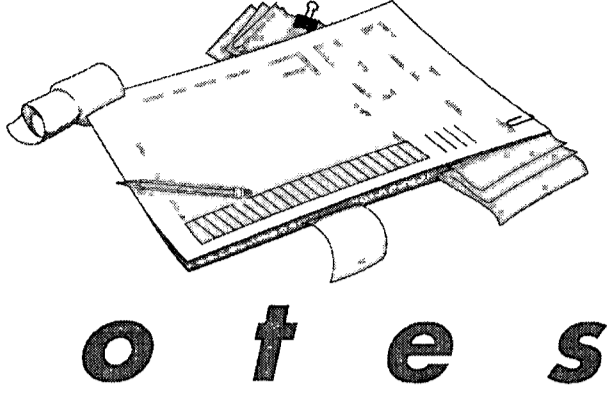


# SGA Notes



minutes from Tuesday, Apr. 21

## Communications

- ◆ Will Thompson, who did the Union announcements, said that the Union was working on the Day at the Lake Idea, but they are not sure what will happen yet.
- ◆ SGA President Ann Harriot Fisher announced the President's Initiative on Race at colleges. She explained some of the activities and asked that all senators be involved. Conner Eldridge, PCC President, asked for volunteers for one of the activities.
- ◆ SGA Chancellor Mitch Shores reminded everyone that they are expected to help pass out exams.

## Updates

- ◆ Sophomore Senator Julie Chevalier updated the group on SGA Day. She reported that things went well, and she thanked everybody who helped. Fisher thanked Chevalier for all her work.
- ◆ Freshman Class President Dane Erickson spoke about the prospectives table for Decision Davidson, reporting that there was a lot of interest in the table. He thanked those who helped.
- ◆ Independent Senator Jesse Smallwood reported that the Admissions and Financial Aid committee meeting went well. The group was told of the new statistics for the Class of 2002. Smallwood also mentioned the meeting's focus on selectivity, diversity, and affordability.
- ◆ Smallwood also reported on a poll conducted about the new Union, the first e-mail poll ever used. He added that the results are not done yet, but many students have voiced their opinions.
- ◆ Fisher said that things went smoothly at the Plenary Session and CCRL meetings. The resolutions for student representation on the other two trustee committees passed with ease. Other topics discussed were diversity and the BYO policy.
- ◆ Fisher also mentioned Faculty Committee sign-ups. The Chancellor will call the interview committee chairs about this.
- ◆ Fisher reported that the Marshals for graduation will be Julie Chevalier, Brew Davis, Brook Bagwell, Chase Coffey, and Travis Barton.

## New Business

- ◆ **Allocation to Earth Day:** Melody Cadogan moved to allocate \$143 to Earth Day festivities. The motion was seconded. Chevalier donated veggie burgers from SGA Day. The motion carried.
- ◆ **Allocation to Academic Affairs Council:** Warner Hall Senator Margaret Hoover moved to allocate \$400 to the Academic Affairs, and the motion was seconded. She said that the money would be used to publish the course guide. There was some discussion. The motion carried.
- ◆ **Resolution from Academic Affairs Council:** Hoover also moved to accept a resolution from the Academic Affairs Council regarding the pass/fail process. After discussion, the motion carried.
- ◆ **Renewal of Charters:** Senior Class President Tim Saintsing presented three more organizations for renewal of charters: Alpha Epsilon Delta, Amnesty International, and WALT. Saintsing moved to renew the charters, and the motion was seconded. The motion carried.
- ◆ **Allocation to the Senior Class:** Saintsing also moved to allocate \$400 to the senior class for an end of the year party, and the motion was seconded. The motion carried.
- ◆ **ATC Allocation Approval:** ATC President Wes Hart moved to accept the ATC allocations as written, and the motion was seconded. There was some concern from senators about why some organizations were given less money, and Hart explained. The motion carried.
- ◆ **SGA Budget Approval:** SGA Treasurer Fred Lowrance presented the SGA budget for the coming fiscal year. He moved to accept the budget as written, and the motion was seconded. There was some discussion about changes in the budget. The motion carried.
- ◆ **ODK Nomination:** Fisher opened the floor for nominations of an outstanding representative of SGA to go to the ODK Banquet. Erickson nominated Saintsing. There was a motion to accept the nomination, and the motion was seconded. The motion carried.

## Gallery Response

- ◆ BSC Senator Marie Sharp expressed some concern about the tenure process and the loss of two professors who offered classes very valuable to some students. This led to an open discussion about race relations and diversity on the Davidson campus. Fisher said she was committed to taking this issue on. She expressed great concern about the issue. Vagt spoke about some of the concerns brought up during the discussion. He also expressed his concerns about the issue of diversity on campus.

COMPILED BY SARAH OGDEN

# Knoller and Stuntz win the Vereen Bell Award

By CARRIE ARTHUR  
Staff Writer

On Apr. 21, Thomas Mallon presented the Vereen Bell Award for Writing, what English professor Tony Abbott called "the oldest, most prestigious award" for writing. Senior Jennifer Noller and sophomore Cornwell Scholar Jim Stuntz shared first place for prose and poetry. Junior Jason Ferris, a Cornwell scholar, and senior Abigail Bergsma shared second place for their fiction and poetry respectively. Juniors Cintra Pollack and Vic Brand received Honorable Mention.

Previous winners include Sheri Reynolds, Charles Wright, Robert Gwynn, Rachel Newcomb, Shayna Bat Hesel Chazin, and Jack Livings. Poet Robert Hill Long won second place in 1975.

Noller is an English major. Mallon described her short story "Amy's Fish" as "a quietly persuasive story of how every small cruelty creates another." Noller has been writing since sixth grade, and she plans to continue after graduation. She won second place in the Vereen Bell Award during her sophomore year. Her favorite genre is the short story, but she occasionally writes poetry, and her dream is to write a novel. Noller's subject is small spiritual revelations: She likes "finding little moments of beauty in the mass chaos of the world."

Noller said that she would love to publish her work, but that she hasn't submitted anything yet. So far, her only publications have been in her high school literary magazine and her hometown magazine, "Macon Magazine."

Her other artistic interests include drama and singing (during high school) and playing the piano. Noller has played the piano since she was five or six.

After graduation, Noller is going

to work for a PR firm in Atlanta.

She has no definite plans, but she may go to graduate school for either teaching or creative writing. She knows that she wants to continue studying English.

Of the English department at Davidson, Noller said, "I think that the creative writing classes at Davidson are amazing." She strongly encourages students to take writing classes from the visiting professors.

Stuntz is currently abroad. Although it is unusual for a sophomore to win the award, Abbott said he has "already made a place for himself" on campus. Stuntz was a published writer before he came to Davidson, and he won the R. Windley Hall Award for freshmen.

The Vereen Bell Award began in 1947 in memory of Vereen Bell '32 by his friends and former college friends.

This annual award is given to the student who presents "the best piece of original writing during the year."

Bell was born in 1911 in Cairo, Ga. His parents were Chief Justice R.C. Bell of the Georgia Supreme Court and Mrs. Jennie Vereen Bell. After he graduated from Davidson, he moved to Louisiana to study under the writer Fred Litten. He was the editor of the magazine American Boy for two years. Bell wrote two novels, articles, and short stories. Volume XXXV of The Davidsonian said that his first novel, "Swamp Water," was a best-seller and adapted to film. The subject of both "Swamp Water" and his second novel "Two of a Kind" was outdoor life in Georgia. Many of his short stories and articles were published in national magazines. The Davidsonian said that "Bell was recognized as one of the South's most outstanding writers."

Bell entered the Navy in 1943. He died at the age of 33 while he was

serving as the Air Combat Intelligence Officer for the Carrier Gambier Bay. The carrier was sunk by Japanese during a surprise attack in 1944. He was survived by his wife and two sons.

His college roommate D. Grier Martin worked to establish the award, which was first given in 1947. The Davidsonian said that his friends and relatives wanted "to honor those traits of character that made him so popular throughout the country and to recognize his contribution to the American literary field."

The original fund contained \$2,000 with a \$50 prize for each annual winner. (At that time, the annual tuition for Davidson was \$250.)

Each year, Abbott said that the English department brings in a "distinguished group of judges." He feels that "bringing writers of this magnitude to the campus is very important. It means a lot to the students to have their work judged by writers of this caliber." Abbott said that students also receive "outside contact with a well-known writer." Previous judges include Robert Frost, Vereen Bell, Jr. '55; James Dickey, the poetry consultant of the Library of Congress; Robert Bly; Maxine Kunjin, the 1973 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry; Charles Wright '57, the 1998 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry; Sam Ragan, the poet laureate of North Carolina; William Styron '46; and Sheri Reynolds '89.

Mallon is a nationally known author, essayist, critic, and editor. He was the editor of GQ. Author of six books, Mallon combines fact and fiction in his historic novels, "Henry and Clara" and "Dewey Defeats Truman," to focus on what English professor Cynthia Lewis called "defining moments of history and their long-reaching consequences." Lewis said one of his greatest strengths is his characterization.

# "The Color of Fear" sparks discussion in 900 Room

By MELISSA ANN DE CASTRIQUE  
News Editor

Last Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the 900 Room, the movie "The Color of Fear" was shown, with a discussion of diversity following the film. The movie was presented by the Dean of Students' office, and a free Lotus dinner was provided for the first 200 students in attendance.

"The Color of Fear" is a 90-minute documentary of a discussion among nine men of different races. These men, on a weekend retreat in California, discuss the effect of racism in their lives.

As the discussion in the film progresses, underlying prejudices of all of the men are revealed. In particular, one white man, David, is seen as ignorant to racial issues by the men of color in the group. The other men try to provide examples to back their feelings and put their frustration in

terms David can relate to. When David finally grasps that the other men's concerns are real, a moment of breakthrough is felt by the entire group.

The film tackles other issues besides the white man's ignorance. Racism among minorities was also brought to light. Some men are distressed that minorities seem to be pitted against each other. They state that Asians, particularly Chinese, are viewed as the "model minority." All minorities in the group feel that this tension and stereotyping only serve to further alienate all minorities from whites. At the film's end, all participants stress the importance of increasing nationwide recognition of these issues.

After the film, viewers discussed the importance of the film and the issues it raised. They also addressed diversity issues on the Davidson College campus. Several students later stated that they felt that the movie's impact was so great that it should be mandatory for all Davidson students.

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