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Celebrating solidarity: trying to dispel "voices of hate and ignorance"

By Naresh Nagella Assistant News Editor

In 1985, the Ku Klux Klan held a march on Main Street. The day the march was held, the Davidson Community decided to boycott it completely as everyone stayed in their room, and created a "lonely march" for those voices of hate and ignorance. That event was called "Solidarity Day."

To remember that strength in community, the Union organizes a "Solidarity Week" full of serious, fun, and intellectual events to help promote ethnic awareness and to remind Davidson of the "unity" in community. This year's theme is "Celebrating CommUNITY."

The week started on Saturday, at one of the Davidson communities' biggest volunteer service projects ever, the "roof raising" ceremony for the Habitat House.

The rest of the week features

nightly Union sponsored events at 7:30 p.m. in the 900 Room. complemented by "theme" meals at the Commons.

Monday, the Jumping Java Coffee House will have a poetry reading, featuring poets from the student body, faculty, and community at 9 p.m. in the Union Outpost.

Tuesday, Naa Addo, a Ghanian native, will teach a class in preparing fine African cuisine at 6 p.m. in the Alumni House. Reserve your space by calling the Union Information Desk.

Wednesday, an important 'Rap on Race" will be held in the 900 ròom at 7 p.m. Davidson students will perform a production that will address race relations on campus. Dr. Shannon will lead a discussion afterwards.

Thursday, a "Community Servers" panel will be held as outstanding service volunteers from the community discuss and answer questions about their experiences

Friday, John Singleton's "Higher Learning," a film about racism, sexuality, and dating on a college campus in the 90s will show in the 900 Room.

The week will finish with a "Casino Night Down Under" at 9 p.m. in the 900 room. Here, casino games from all around the world will be played as the finale of another Solidarity Week is celebrated.

Sophomore David Jackson enjoyed Solidarity Week last year and urges everyone to attend the events, so that, "a strong sense of togetherness and shared experience can be formed within our small but diverse community."

Overall, Union Board Vice President Martin Young says that, "the Union is always trying to bring people together, but this week focuses on solidifying the community. It is a time to celebrate being together."

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Psychology Professor Ruth Ault stressed the need for a president who is familiar with the "small-college, liberal-arts" experience, one different from that of a "mega-university."

French Professor Homer Sutton noted each candidate should have "demonstrated the potential to be an excellent fundraiser." History Professor Jonathan Berkey urged the consultants to find an

"academic," someone "sensitive to the ... mission of the college."

The group made further general suggestions until a trend was obvious: Anthropology Professor Rosemary Zumwalt jokingly noted -that, "What we're asking you to do." is find someone like John."

The faculty present concurred, and most went on to describe what particular traits of Dr. John Kuykendall they would like to see most in the next president .: approachability, work ethic, humanity, stamina, vision, and past at Davidson were all mentioned.

After getting as much input as

possible from their campus visit, Chandler and Young left to begin a pre-search study. They will organize an applicant pool, from which they will select a limited number of candidates to be reviewed by the College's Presidential Search Committee.

That committee is divided into three sub-committees: the Trustee Committee, which will be the authority during the search process, a Faculty Advisory Committee, which was formed last week, and a Student Advisory Committee, which is still under construction.

The Trustee Committee will

be chaired by Larry Dagenhart, who is the Board of Trustees' secretary. Fellow committee members are trustees Ted Baker, Katherine Belk, Ed Crutchfield, Laurie Dunn, Isaiah Tidwell, and Bill Wood.

"The Faculty Advisory Committee will be chaired by Bob Manning by virtue of his position as Vice Chairman of the Faculty pro-tem. Other faculty members are Biology professor Verna Case from the Sciences; Sutton from the Humanities; and Anthropology professor Nancy Fairley from the Social Sciences. Mathematics professor Bob Klein will serve as the

faculty member at-large.

Though the faculty committee has no voting power in the search, this is not unusual. "It's a pretty established procedure that the ultimate decision is the responsibility of the trustees," said Dean of Students Tom Shandley. He describes the faculty and student committees as "fully involved" in the search, and he credits Dagenhart as "instrumental" in involving them in the process.

The Student Advisory Committee will be formed in the coming weeks. Students who signed up in the Dean of Students' office last week will be interviewed by a fourstudent committee of SGA members and alumni. The SGA committee will then nominate a group of five, which will comprise the SAC after they are approved by the Senate.

The entire Presidential Search Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet for the first time February 26.

Young and Chandler predict the search for a new president will last from April until November.

After the Trustee Committee es its final selections, the Board as a whole will vote on who will serve after Kuykendall leaves in the Spring of 1997.

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