

Faculty visit Court for Connor late-night

By JOANNA JOHNSON
Staff writer

Connor House invited all faculty members to a cookout and late night March 31 with invitations that read, "No Essays, No Tests, Just Class Participation," emphasizing their desire to socialize with professors without the stress of academics.

Approximately 25 faculty members out of almost 150 attended the event with their families. Among the departments represented were psychology, history,

english, and math.

Dr. Donna Molinek was encouraged by several students to attend and feels the reinforcement was helpful to recognize which of her students were members of the eating house. She felt that the turnout was good, given the differing opinions about the Court and other commitments made by members of the faculty, such as a math conference.

Dr. Scott Denham felt that faculty members may have been more inclined to accept the invitation had it been more personal. "The

house inviting the faculty is backwards. Students should be inviting professors." Denham did not attend as he was out of town.

Connor members tried to reinforce the general invitation by inviting their professors directly. Though it undoubtedly made a difference in the turnout, many feel that it would be unreasonable to expect a personal invitation.

Dr. John Wertheimer stated: "[Professors] shouldn't expect to be invited personally when the whole faculty is invited." Wertheimer recognized that the

effort to invite the faculty was "out of respect."

He included that the event allowed him to become more comfortable with the procedures of the court. He also enjoyed the chance to talk with former and current students and advisees in a more comfortable atmosphere.

Dr. Sara Beasley was also approached by Connor members encouraging her to go.

Although she feels it is not necessary, "Personal invitations do make a difference." Of the whole event she commented, "I was ex-

tremely impressed that they had gone to that trouble."

Connor members were pleased with the event overall. Jill Dyer, President of Connor House, states, "I appreciated that the faculty came, and I liked talking to them outside of the classroom... It offered a different avenue to get to know them."

Molinek added that the even smaller number of faculty represented at the late night was due to the time. "I'm not a late night person, anyway," she says. "I wouldn't have been awake."

LADIES' LOTTERY



Junior women wait anxiously to see how many rooms in Duke are left.

Rob Kosicki

Speakers discuss race issues

Ross, Watson talk about surviving on a "white" campus

By PATRICIA EVANS
Staff writer

Friday evening, 30 students and faculty of different ethnic origins gathered to discuss issues and concerns about going to a predominantly white school like Davidson.

Moderated by RJR Consultants Michelle Watson and Ron Ross, the program began with an anecdote about Ross' own background, one spent at UNC-Chapel Hill among about 50 minority students.

The second stage of the discussion was a combination of answering the question, "Why are we at Davidson?" and identifying issues that minority students or any students here at Davidson face.

Among reasons for being at Davidson were the opportunities — to go abroad, to have student-teacher interaction, to get involved and have good resources, the fi-

nancial aid generosity, the personal attention from students, and the size, rigor, and environment that Davidson provides as a liberal arts college.

Issues that the discussion brought up were academic, economical, emotional, and financial and related to identity, society, and alienation.

In the third stage of the evening, Ross and Watson split the audience into six groups of four to five students and faculty each. Each group's job was to list issues which they saw within the previously issued categories.

Some of the more localized issues included the misconception that work-study equals financial aid, the social issues of being a minority at Davidson College, the closed-mindedness of many students, and the questioning of identity.

Senior Jason Burt said, "I just

hope that it keeps going in future years." Ron Ross expressed a key point in dealing with racial tensions: "Don't push back."

Dr. Nancy Fairley pushed the importance of upperclassman role models for minority students: "Upperclassmen have to tell the truth... they need to take responsibility and really be honest [about Davidson]."

In closing, the group formed a circle and, holding hands, recited the affirmation, "If I am honest, open, and willing, I will be successful."

Ross' final remarks were reminiscent of the reasons for coming to Davidson and the resources that Davidson offers: "Never forget why you're here. If you feel alienated, it's probably because you're doing it to yourself. Everything you need to be successful is right here. College is recognizing that all I need is right here."

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Panel

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only a tiny change in a gene will make, by calling to mind how easy it is to change grocery store bar codes with a single pen mark.

Lewontin, whose landmark research in population genetics has been cited in *Newsweek*, brought up the startling fact that the most genetic difference is found within members of the same race, not between those of dissimilar ethnic backgrounds, as is commonly thought. "Eighty-five per cent of all human polymorphism occurs in local populations," he said, "only 15 percent is between groups of different races, which is surprising given our prejudices."

When asked whether advanced genetic engineering will lead to the extinction of the modern-day surgeon, alumnus John Porter said that "there will always be room for us to do what we do." As much as scientists know about DNA, little of that knowledge is now applicable to fighting disease. "The number of diseases that this is open to is very small," he said.

In the afternoon, board members were able to attend small group meetings with Davidson life science professors, to discuss more specific issues such as the "psychology of learning" and the durability of the human brain.