

Admissions office finalizes '03 selections: Females outnumber incoming males

By Kells Hetherington
Arts and Living Editor

A total of 840 students have been invited to join the Class of 2003, a third of whom were accepted under one of the two early decision programs, both of which are binding. The Admissions Committee met late into the night most of last week to ensure that decision letters would go out on time in the regular decision program.

The series of long meetings of the Admissions Committee in the final hours of Davidson

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1999 is representative of the increase in well-qualified applicants. According to Dr. Nancy Cable, Dean of Admissions, while the total number of applicants dropped off slightly, one must look at more than just the total number of applicants when determining whether or not a year has been successful. One main factor that goes into determining the success of admissions is the percentage of the applicant pool that is comprised of so-called "qualified" applicants, where a qualified applicant refers to a candidate that meets the College's standards and could have been proudly accepted. The ratio of candidates who were of "Davidson stock," or those who met the College's lofty academic standards, was high — perhaps the highest in Davidson history.

The admission of the Class of 2003 repre-

sents one of the biggest changes in Davidson's history. For the first time ever, Davidson has offered admission to more women than men; the numbers of women and men, however, do remain close. Moreover, the decrease in male applicants, coupled with a rise in female applicants, is representative of a similar trend nationwide in applications to small, highly selective liberal arts colleges such as Davidson, Haverford, Bowdoin, Williams, and Swarthmore. More recently, males have tended to apply to larger universities. The reason for the shift in preference is not yet fully understood.

Several members of the Admissions

committee such as Cable, who has just completed her seventh year as the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, feel that this is indeed the trend, although the trend has not been documented. Leonard Satterwhite, Assistant Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, whose region is New England, said that there is a noticeable rise in the number of students from first-tier New England boarding schools applying to Davidson. Some Connecticut preparatory schools have had as many as thirteen applicants apply this year.

Many attribute Davidson's increasing consistency in attracting large numbers of highly qualified applicants to Duke University's tremendous success over the last several years. Wake Forest's increas-

ing national notoriety has also done much to aid Davidson in attracting first-rate students. This may be because families who come to North Carolina to visit Duke and Wake Forest will often visit Davidson as well. Evidence for such thinking lies in the fact that Davidson shares more applicants with Duke than any other institution in 1998 admissions, and the same should hold true for 1999. Three years ago, however, Wake Forest, located in Winston-Salem, led the pack in cross-over applications for Davidson. Other first-tier institutions with whom Davidson has experienced overlap in applicants for the past couple of years, great enough to attract the attention of Admissions, included UNC-Chapel Hill, the University of Virginia, Vanderbilt, Emory, and Princeton.

One of the biggest questions on current students' minds is where Davidson will be ranked in the U.S. News & World Report issue ranking colleges and universities. Cable said she could not speculate upon whether or not Davidson's ranking will improve.

Gay Judge Straight Talk

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Along with his serious agenda for the evening, Mr. Warren displayed an appreciation for humor. "For the past couple decades, Charlotte has been trying to bill itself as the 'Queen City of the South,'" Warren joked, "I'm just trying to do my part." Speaking of his assignment in the vicinity of Bryson City, Warren said, "The fundamentalists are right; they always said I would go to Hell, and now the court system has sent me there."

Throughout the talk, whether addressing a lighter topic or a more serious one, Mr. Warren retained focus upon the fact that homosexuals are not different from heterosexuals in any way that should be pertinent to public life. "The sameness of being human," he summarized, "is much more important than the difference of being gay." He feels that the true agenda of the gay community is to dispel the illusions that make homosexuals seem inherently different from the rest of the population. "My goal," concluded Warren, "is that someday a judge will stand up and announce 'I'm gay' and the press will say 'Big deal.'"



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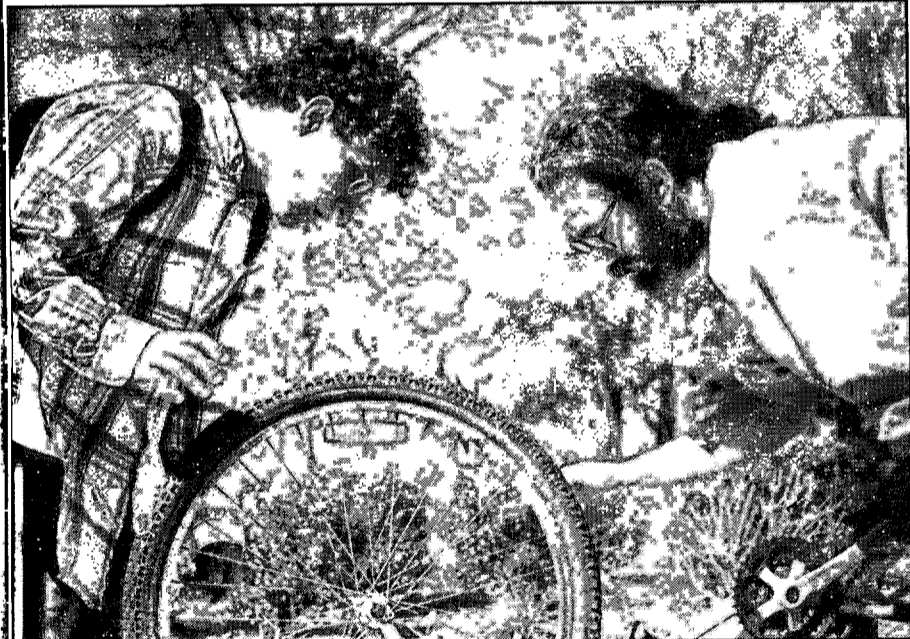
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Stowe Beam '99 and Evan Kruppenbach repair a bike during Davidson Outdoors Get Outdoors Week. *Anna Judy*

Why do women enter the pornography industry?

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"Why do you think women end up in the industry of pornography?" was a question Dynes posed to the audience. She suggested that women don't choose to enter this profession but do so out of necessity when they have no other options for income. "I guarantee if you had the choice between becoming a lawyer, doctor, psychologist, or porn star, you wouldn't choose a career in pornography."

Although Dynes presented only what she calls "mainstream porn market" images, rather than the XXX market, her slides still made some audience members uncomfortable and captured the entire audience's attention. Some slides depicted bondage and torture pornography, especially those from Larry Flynt's popular semi-hardcore pornographic magazine,

"Hustler." "This sort of pornography takes violence against women and sexualizes it, so the violence is disguised," Dynes said. Images of abortion pornography and violence against women of color were shown, as well as images based on sexual slavery. She also linked the images of women with milk mustaches in the "Got Milk" campaign to a standard image in pornography.

Women are dehumanized and reduced to male masturbation facilitators.

In addition to adult pornography, Dynes showed some child pornography slides. She said, "Just about every pornographic magazine and video depicts women looking like children or pre-pubescent girls. What are the implications for the next generation of men that are getting stimulation from this?" Dynes also added that child pornography has become a "massive, multi-million dollar industry. Psychology has shown us that the worst thing you can do to a

child is rape them." She referred to the damaging psychological effects of pornography on women in general. "A study found that women in pornography and prostitution suffered more post traumatic stress disorder cases than Vietnam War vets. Sixty-eight percent of those women said they had been raped in the past year, and 92% said they would get out of the industry if they could."

Dynes said men must play an active role in combating these images that make women appear vulnerable. She concluded her discussion by encouraging the audience: "We must have a vision and believe in it: a world without rape, battery, and poverty. You must always have a vision. Once you know of inequality, you have to go out

and change it." The debate was scheduled to last from about 7:30 to 9:00 PM only, but Dynes kept the audience engaged past 10:00. A question and answer session and a reception then followed Dynes' presentation.

Ann Culp '00, Women's Issues Committee Chair, reflected on the evening, saying, "She was extremely engaging. When Nadine Strossen had to cancel, we were really disappointed, because we had wanted to present the full spectrum of feminism. Dynes' examples were so thorough though... and she managed not to put men on the defensive."

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