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Poll reveals feelings on importance of diversity

Partisan rift evident in latest survey results

BY DARCIE DRAUDT
Staff Writer

Always a hot topic in the college arena, a recent Davidson survey revealed the majority of its students considered diversity "very important."

While students may not talk about diversity on a day-to-day basis, when questioned, they expressed views that varied from disdain for quantitative diversity to encouragement of it.

The Political Science Public Opinion course polled half the student body, of which 544 students responded.

Among other things, the survey collected opinions on five types of diversity: geographic, including states and countries; racial and ethnic backgrounds; religious traditions; socioeconomic backgrounds; and political and ideological perspectives.

Students could respond that each type was "very important," "somewhat important" or "not at all important."

What the survey says

According to the survey, while diversity is important to many students, the percentage agreeing from category to category varies. While the survey did not ask students to rank the diversities, certain types received larger percentages for high impor-

tance than others.

"Often people criticize diversity without thinking of other types of diversity," said political science professor Dr. Patrick Sellers, who teaches the Public Opinion course. "[The survey] shows that students don't think every type of diversity is 'created equal.'"

For example, the biggest disparity occurs between religious diversity and political and ideological diversity: 68 percent of students believe political and ideological diversity is "very important," whereas 47 percent believe religious diversity to be "very important."

This trend surprised McLean Quinn '05, co-president of Young Democrats. "I think of this as an apolitical campus. The campus is dominated by religious and cultural organizations. I always thought politics was something 'people didn't care about,'" Quinn said.

John Pitts '04, president of College Republicans, agrees with the sentiments expressed by the survey's results. The emphasis should be on how a student thinks, not what quantitative data can be associated with that student, he said.

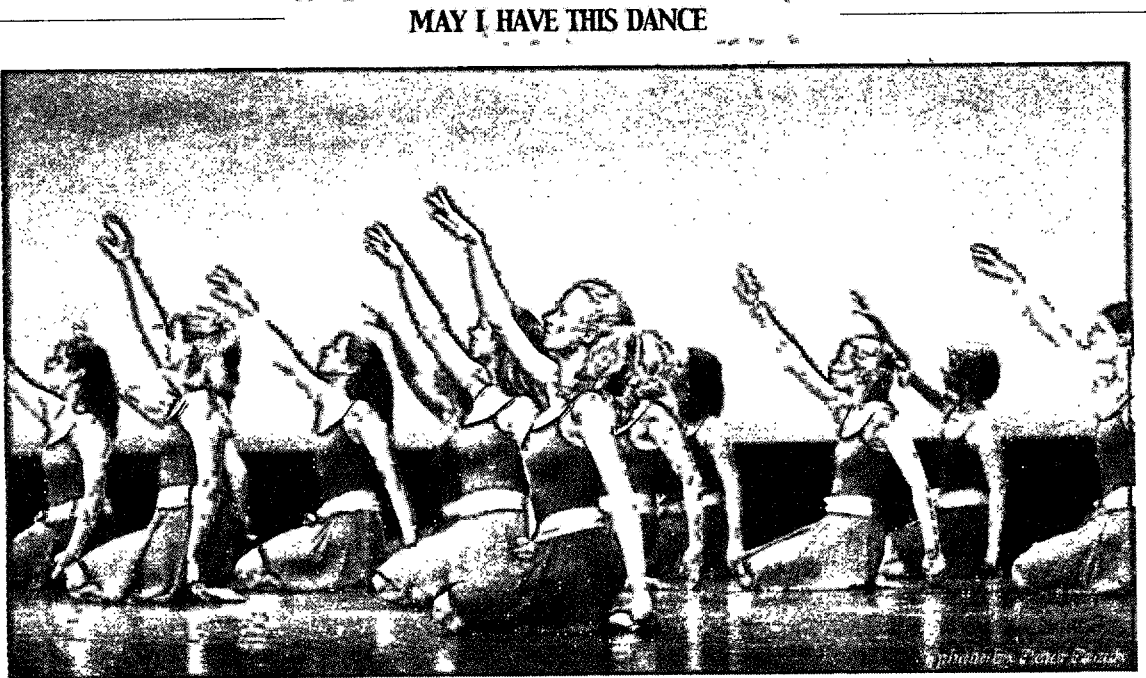
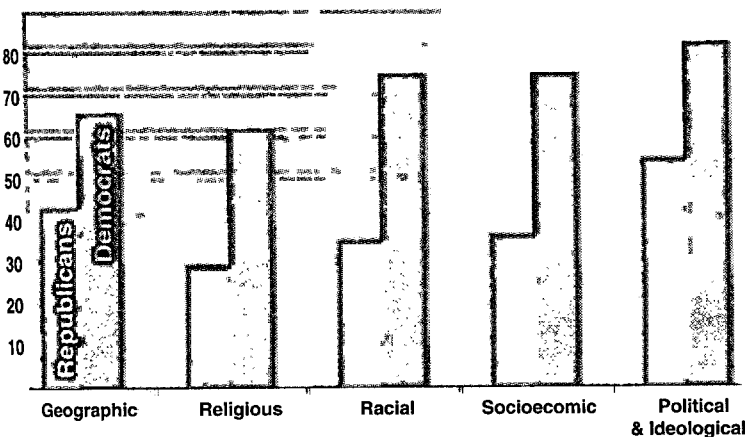
"We should be looking for students on the basis of their intellect, experi-

see Survey, page 4

By the Numbers

Which types of diversity do we define as important?

Percentage of students who ranked the following types of diversity as 'very important,' broken into those who identified with the Republican party (either strong Republican, not very strong Republican, Republican-leaning independent) vs. those who identified with the Democratic party (either strong, not very strong, or Democrat-leaning independent).



Members of the Dance Ensemble perform during Friday's recital. More than 100 dancers participated in this year's program, continuing the steady growth of the past three years. For more, see page two.

Trustees voice support for Board's Christian membership requirement

BY LESLIE HEMPSON
Staff Writer

Members of the Davidson College Board of Trustees said that a section of their Bylaws requiring all trustees to be "active members of a Christian Church" has served the school well and indicated there were no current plans to discuss or alter the requirement.

Article I Section 4 of the Bylaws mandates that all trustees be Christian, and Article I Section 3 informs prospective trustees that they will be asked to affirm their commitment to

improving Davidson's "effectiveness as an institution of Christian learning" at their first Board meeting.

Article IV of the Bylaws reads, "It is natural and desirable that the educational service of a church-related College should be carried forward from one generation to another by persons committed to the Christian faith."

John Rogers, Jr., a trustee and Senior Minister at Charlotte's Covenant Presbyterian Church, said that it is the Christian orientation of the Board that permits it to open its arms to students of all religions.

He said, "I happen to think that Davidson is what it is because of the Christian faith, not in spite of it. I think the reason Davidson welcomes to its student body and to its faculty those who not embrace the Christian faith, I think it's our Christian values that allow us to do this."

Rogers went on to say, "I don't think it would help the Board to open it up to people who aren't Christians." Other trustees expressed no desire to amend Article I Section 4.

Patricia Rodgers, a trustee and

see Trustees, page 3

McGuire urges media, audience to 'get radical'

BY MATT BANDYK
Staff Writer

Tim McGuire admitted Tuesday night he was a radical, but not like you might expect.

The former Minneapolis Star-Tribune editor and visiting James K. Batten Professor of Public Policy, delivered the annual Batten lecture in Tyler-Tallman Hall.

Despite the title of his lecture - "Tim went to college and became a

radical—Twice" - Tim McGuire said before the lecture, "I was never a gun-toting radical by any means."

He offered his own version: an "impassioned believer" who has hope and faith for positive change in favor of ethics and standards in the news media.

The lecture's title comes from McGuire's two radicalizing experiences, as he described Tuesday night.

First, while a student at Aquinas

see Batten, page 3



McGuire fielded audience questions following his speech Tuesday night.

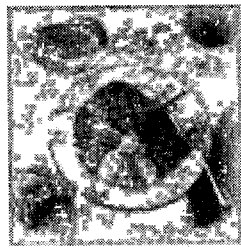
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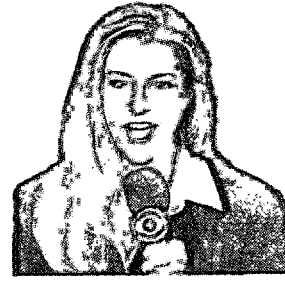
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