

The Davidsonian

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DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Students turn out in large numbers to watch debate

BY BEN WHIGHAM
Senior Staff Writer

Students packed the 900 room last Thursday evening to watch the first of three presidential debates this fall. After the debate students attended a panel discussion in the Duke Fam-

ily Performance Hall.

Professor of Economics Vikram Kumar, Professor of Philosophy Lance Stell, and Professor of History Ralph Levering were among those on the panel.

The presidential debate was tightly controlled and did not allow for di-

rect questioning between the candidates.

The regulated debate was the product of an agreement between the two campaigns.

"The format of the debate will rely on the candidate that wants the greatest amount of restrictions," said Kumar.

Kumar also said that the format might have practical purposes.

"If you have an open debate, you might hit a new level of nuance that the audience likes," he said, "or you might get a cat fight."

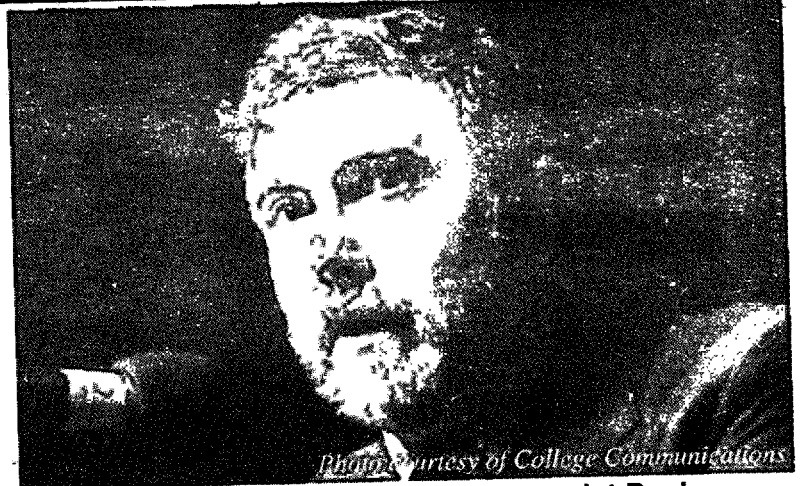
Student reaction largely depended on their political stance entering the campaign.

College Republicans President Joseph Adams '06 credited Kerry with a stylistic performance but awarded Bush the overall advantage in the first debate.

"Style went to Kerry, but substance went to Bush," said Adams.

Adams found a potential "fatal-error" in Kerry's aggressive stances

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New York Times columnist and economist Paul Krugman gave this year's Wearn Lecture.

Krugman criticizes Bush administration

BY JACKIE MCKEON
Staff Writer

Princeton professor of economics and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman gave the Davidson College Wearn Lecture in Duke Family Performance Hall last Wednesday.

Krugman's speech was a criticism of the Bush administration's foreign and economic policies.

Krugman pointed out in the beginning of his lecture that he did not originally intend to write about politics. Krugman said that when the New York Times approached him in 1999 about writing a column on international trade and finance, politics was not included.

But the column evolved as Krugman said he "gradually became radicalized" due to what he believed were troubling political events.

He argued that the government exploited the September 11 terrorist

attacks and used it as an excuse to go to war with Iraq.

Krugman said, "The towers were still burning and they were saying, 'How can we use this to go after Saddam?'"

Krugman was also critical of the Bush administration's handling of the war and its effects.

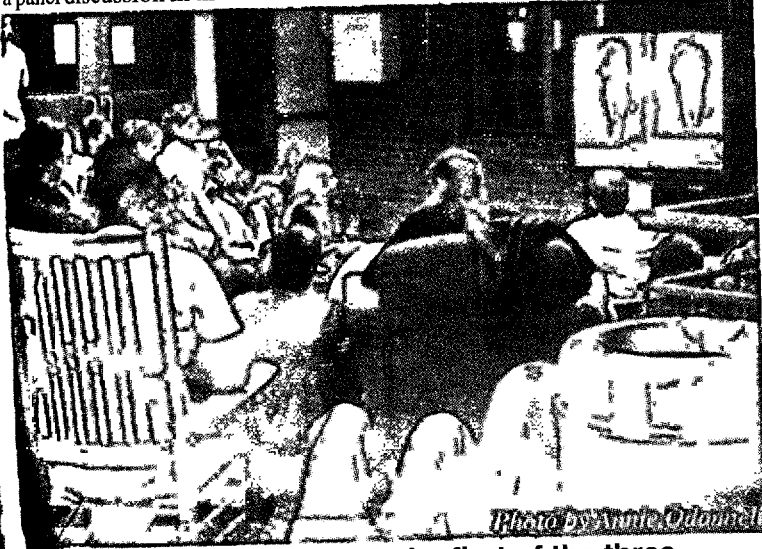
"The aid projects and post-conflict efforts are not allowed to have any input into policy," he said.

Krugman favored invading Afghanistan and felt "dismayed as they lost interest." The Bush administration's handling of Afghanistan gave him a "bad feeling of how they would handle the aftermath in Iraq."

Krugman addressed what he called a lack of expertise in government today.

"Everything is political," he said. "The experts are not allowed to have

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Students in the Union watch the first of the three presidential debates.

College seeks greater religious diversity

BY ZACH KAZIOR
News Editor

This Friday, the Executive committee of the Board of Trustees will present their recommendation to the entire Board regarding whether or not to maintain a requirement that all members of the Board of Trustees be "active members of a Christian church."

As the Trustees begin to deal with this issue, some Davidson students have looked to the College's Statement of Purpose to see if we are fulfilling our stated mission.

According to the College's Statement of Purpose, "The loyalty of the college thus extends beyond the Christian community to the whole human community and necessarily includes an openness to and respect for the world's various religious traditions."

Yet the recent scheduling of Homecoming during the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur has called into question

Davidson's commitment to the various religious traditions represented on campus.

Although many members of the Davidson community felt this conflict was a blow to relations between the college and religious minorities on campus, most still believe the college holds true to its Statement of Purpose.

"It seems to me accurate to say that Davidson has sought to encourage religious diversity on campus, and to provide support for student groups of faith traditions other than Christian," said College Chaplain Rob Spach. "We clearly identify that we are rooted in a particular theological tradition, and articulate how that tradition leads the college to have a loyalty that extends beyond the Christian community and engenders a respect for and an openness to all the world's religious traditions."

Muslim Student Association (MSA) member Alaa' Odeh '05

see *Diversity*, page 5

COMA replaced by DCC

BY AUBRY BRACCO
Staff Writer

The executive board of the newly formed Diversity Coordination Council (DCC) held its first meeting last Thursday.

The group discussed their current agenda as well as the implementation of a new constitution.

The DCC, which serves as the umbrella organization for all minority organizations on campus, will replace the Committee on Minority Affairs (COMA), which was created in the early 1990s.

According to DCC Chair Hanako Kawabata '06, COMA was "created to oversee and give a voice in the SGA seat for all minority groups on cam-

see *DCC*, page 3



Ben Nelson '05, Physical Plant employee Jimmy Freeze, and Durham Barnes '05 play bluegrass music on Friday nights. See story, page 4

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