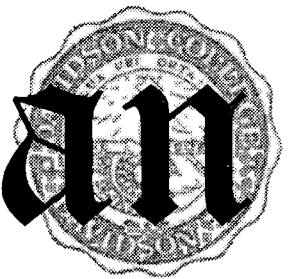


The Davidsonian

A L E N D A L U X U B I O R T A L I B E R T A S



DAVIDSON COLLEGE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1998

VOLUME 90, NUMBER 9

"The World's
Foremost College Weekly"

ESTABLISHED 1914

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Capitalists get more money.
Student investors receive endowment.

NEWS 4

Opinions explode.

OPINIONS 5-8.

Concert wows parents.
Choir, symphony, et al do Love.

A & L 11

Basketball preview.
Kruse returns.

SPORTS INSERT

Racist act sparks student dialogue

BY KELLS HETHERINGTON

Staff Writer

Early on Saturday, Oct. 24, two residents of 1st Central Belk found a defaced poster advertising a talk by Dylm Glenn '91. Glenn's face had been crossed out by a green X, and a racial slur had been written in light blue lettering. Students found the poster in a section of 1st Belk where six out of the eight residents identify themselves as minorities.

Since Dean Shandley sent a voice-mail message to every member of the Davidson College community on Monday, Oct. 26, many students were asking exactly how the College is going to respond to the incident. In several interviews with Dean Jeffries, Assistant Dean of Students and advisor to the Black Student Coalition; Dean Shandley, Vice-President of Student Life and Dean of Students; and President Vagt have made clear that the administration will take action. "Not to respond at all," Vagt said, "is like you get a chunk of the mortar that holds this community together and do nothing to repair the damaged area. After only a little while so much mortar has fallen to the ground that not enough remains to support the community." No reforms have been implemented yet, nor has any restructuring been done because "real reform takes time," said Jeffries.

According to both Vagt and Shandley, Ann-Harriot Fisher '99, SGA President, and Chris Tuttle '99, SGA Vice President, were the week's leaders. "Monday morning, Ann-Harriot and Chris were in here talking with me about the idea of a having an open student forum," Dean Shandley remarked. President Vagt commended Fisher's leadership, "she really understands the flag has to be carried by the majority of students."

Several minority students expressed a positive reaction to the College's initial response. Marie Sharp '01, a resident of first Belk and one of the first to see the defaced sign, said, "I spoke with President Vagt and Dean Shandley personally, and they are very motivated to do something in reaction to what happened." She continued, "I don't really want to say that the College is doing all that it can, but at the same time, I think I speak for the whole minority population when I say that I can appreciate the community response." Ainsley Natta '99, the Black Student Coalition President, said, "I spoke with Dean Shandley who said that he would do everything he could to remedy the situation." Natta hopes that the incident will get the attention he feels it deserves and not "be brushed under the rug as past episodes like this have been." Allen Lee '01, co-chair of the Council on Minority Affairs, said of the College's initial response, "I was extremely pleased with the SGA's planning the forum for Wednesday night before their regular Tuesday meeting."

Upset students put up yellow signs that carried the racial slur written across Dylm Glenn's face in bold lettering. Below the racial slur on these signs in substantially smaller print appeared an appeal to all who were offended by such language to attend the SGA meeting on Tuesday. Although the signs disappeared within several hours of their being put up, many students of all ethnic backgrounds appeared at the SGA meeting.

After President Fisher dispensed with the business on the Senate's agenda on Tuesday Oct. 27, a lengthy question period followed. Even President Vagt left a gathering in Charlotte, where his former boss Mario Cuomo was speaking, to sit in the gallery and listen to the questions that the students put to SGA. Although the question period was intended to be a time when students could ask questions about what exactly happened and not voice their personal sentiments on the incident, the question period erupted into a debate over whether putting up the yellow signs was appropriate.

At Wednesday night's open forum, several students suggested solutions to ease racial tension at Davidson: shutting down the College for Martin Luther King Day, making a course in African American history a diploma requirement, amending the Davidson Honor Code to include acts of racism, and hiring more black professors.

When asked how she and her roommate Rebecca Essah '01 felt when they first heard about the incident, Sharp responded, "Essah and I really wanted to throw (the defaced poster) away, burn it, never see the thing again. We were mad." Speaking of how the incident has changed the consciousness of minorities here at Davidson, Essah said, "We as a hall are much more aware of our surroundings now and who is coming through."

When the two girls who found the poster showed it to the Black Student Coalition's members during the Kindred Moment, an open forum that follows each of the group's meetings, Natta said that he was "speechless" and that "there were no words to describe how I felt." Natta believes that the Davidson Community is finally being made aware of the racism here on campus. He credited the membership of the Black Student Coalition with not allowing the incident to be forgotten as many similar incidents were in the 1980's.

Lee expressed his lack of shock or surprise from the incident because he feels that it was not isolated. Dean Jeffries said that all day Monday he was getting visited in his office by African American students upset about the weekend incident and received many e-mails expressing concern.

what's happening TO davidson

DAVIDSON COMMUNITY PUT ON EDGE BY RECENT EVENTS

Suspicious persons reported

BY CARRIE ARTHUR

News Editor

Two reported incidents involving suspicious persons have occurred on campus. In each incident, Davidson students were either chased or followed.

On Oct. 13 around 11 p.m., two female students went to the Post Office. While they were in the lobby, a white male with dark hair and a dark complexion entered. He was wearing a long sleeve black t-shirt, black jeans, black gloves, and a clown mask. Because he did nothing but stare at them, the two women left the Post Office. Once they reached Phi and Eu Halls, the students noticed a man who was standing by the bushes staring at them. They described the man as being white, between eighteen to twenty years old, approximately 5'6" tall, and around 140 lbs. He had a pale complexion and short blonde hair. As the women passed the man, another man wearing a white mask and black clothing came out from behind the bushes and pursued them. The two students then ran to Belk Dormitory without turning around to see if the man had followed them.

These two women also reported that another student told them about an incident involving possibly the same men. As she was running around the track at Richardson Field on Oct. 13, the student saw a similar group of men watching her run. This student immediately ran to her dormitory.

The other incident occurred on Oct. 17 at approximately 11:50 PM. Two students were returning from the Union to their rooms. As they took a shortcut through Chambers, a suspicious male began to follow them. The women then decided to jog, but the man continued to follow until they found another group of students. The man then left. The two students described the man as being white, approximately 35 years old, 5'11", 170 lbs, and a brunette. He was wearing glasses, jeans, and a light colored tshirt.

Sam McKelvey, Director of the Campus Police, said of the incidents, "it concerns me, and we would like to identify who was responsible and have a better feel for who it was." Still, he emphasized that the suspicious persons could have been coming from a Halloween party and playing a joke. McKelvey explained that the lag time in reporting the incidents makes finding the perpetrators difficult: the first incident occurred on Oct. 13 but was not reported until Oct. 22; the second happened on Oct. 17 but was reported on Oct. 18. Both

McKelvey and Officer Marshall Fleming stressed that reporting occurrences as soon as they happen is vital.

As for safety on campus, McKelvey said, "even though it's a relatively safe campus, I think individuals still need to take precautions" because "public safety can provide some protection, but the students themselves need to" look out for their own safety as well. McKelvey feels that the physical location of the campus and make-up of the community is safe, but he said, "I'm reluctant to say it's free from any potential crime because that's not accurate." I-77 provides easy access to the College.

McKelvey is concerned about the women he has seen jogging alone at night and students he has seen walking by themselves through dark areas of campus. He hopes that no one jogs on the cross country trails at night. As for the safety measures on campus, McKelvey said officers read the reports daily and then cover those areas more. Depending upon the night and its activities, one or more officers are always on duty 24 hours, and more support is available during the day. Also, two light surveys each semester check how well the campus is lit, and the police test the emergency phones once a month. McKelvey wants to elicit the input of concerned students and the SGA.

When asked what his advice was for students being chased, McKelvey suggested that students "run to an area that they believe will be populated and will be well lit," such as the Student Health Center. Although each situation varies according to its unique circumstances, McKelvey saw confrontation as "not advisable."

When asked if the lack of a detective on staff from last semester's budget cuts caused difficulties, McKelvey replied, "my experience has been with a department this size in an environment like this. I think that we have adequate man power to do investigations. Do we suffer any from the reduction? I don't think so." He explained that each officer has undergone standard North Carolina police training which includes investigation techniques. McKelvey feels, "individual the officers have the expertise to conduct their own" investigations.

McKelvey plans to continue investigating the incidents if "other people offer information." He cannot confirm stories about other suspicious people because they have not been reported, but McKelvey encourages students to report suspicious people and occurrences as soon as possible.

INDEX

OP-ED	5
ARTS & LIVING	10
SPORTS	16

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
Davidson, NC 28036