

The Davidsonian

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Davidson professors, staff substitute in Charlotte classrooms

Jackson leads group support for teachers' demonstration

By SUZANNE CRAYMER

When Charlotte-Mecklenburg public teachers walked out of the classrooms Tuesday to demonstrate for a pay increase in Raleigh, the state capital, they left many students behind. The district education office only had 900 substitute teachers eligible to fill 1,200 February 14 vacancies. Frantic, the office called upon the community to help.

Several Davidson College professors responded to the need. Without being asked by the education office, professor of mathematics R. Bruce Jackson called to volunteer the services of certain college staff as substitute teachers.

Myra Joines at the education office quickly accepted the offer. "We are so pleased because of their interest and high credentials," she said.

Professors secured permission to take personal leave days from Dean of Faculty Robert Williams. Williams approved all requests.

Participating faculty also sent a

letter to Governor James Martin, a Davidson graduate and a former chemistry teacher, asking for support.

As members of the teaching profession, professors such as Bob Manning of the department of physics and Hansford Epes of the German department felt obliged to lend their support.

"I have a very great professional and personal interest in the demonstration," said English professor Randy Nelson. "Support for the community is important," he added.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg teachers are presently paid on an experienced-based salary scale which has not been altered for a number of years. Senior teachers thus receive the same salary as beginning teachers.

The decision to protest resulted in reaction to remarks made by Governor Martin three weeks ago.

Martin stated that due to inadequate revenues, teachers might have to wait until April 1990 for

the state to fund its long-promised salary increase. The announcement sparked an uproar among teachers, many of whom organized to protest.

In Raleigh teachers hoped to impress state legislators in favor of the pay raises. Legislature will ultimately decide whether to fund the pay schedule immediately or to wait for a year.

When the school board met with legislators on Monday, February 13, they received a lot of support. Because of this hopeful meeting, the teachers went to Raleigh with high hopes. They were supported by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg administrators, who promise to initiate a raise upon approval from the state.

Both parents and students are also aware of the problem, according to Ken Roberts, principal of North Mecklenburg High School. He added that he, along with many people throughout the district, look on with pleasant surprise at the amount of support the teachers have received.



Senior Bill Sellars and the rest of the Wildcat team had their shot at a victory blocked by William and Mary last weekend. For full basketball coverage, see page 15.

Photo courtesy of Sports Information

AIDS Action Committee formed to educate campus

By SUZANNAH WELLFORD

Last Wednesday, February 8, a small group of students and faculty gathered for a follow up discussion on the AIDS lecture by Richard Keeling. The meeting, led by Assistant Dean of Students Harriet Fulton, posed the difficult question: "What can Davidson as a campus do about the AIDS problem?"

The first step was to form an AIDS Action Committee that will meet weekly to discuss what needs to be done. Professor of biology Don Kimmel stressed that up until now AIDS education on campus has been "extremely intermittent". Davidson provides one or two lectures a year on AIDS, but this is not enough to bring the reality of the problem to the campus.

"Something must be done to wake people up and shock them" says senior Jeff Koenig, who is currently working with the Metrolina AIDS task force.

"Students must be taught that they are not invincible" to the AIDS virus.

At this point education is our best weapon towards stopping the spread of AIDS: "Students are the best bearers of the message," Fulton explained, "but the faculty and staff will stand behind the students to provide advice and support."

The newly formed AIDS Action Committee has several objectives at this point, one of which is to bring more AIDS lecturers to campus. Keeling's speech was a huge success, and Davidson needs more agents of the outside world to come and tell us about AIDS and bring the problem closer to home. The committee will also work on more openly publicizing Davidson's school policy on AIDS. Soon copies of the Davidson AIDS policy will begin

See AIDS, page 2

VCRs: hot campus property

Video villains hit Patterson Court

By MARGARET CARROLL

Over the past two months VCRs have been stolen from Spencer House, Kappa Sigma, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Perkins Auditorium in Chambers. Also others have reported stolen VCRs from rooms in Belk, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Kappa Alpha.

On Friday night of Midwinters someone entered Spencer house after 1 a.m. and stole the VCR by entering through the basement window and taking off the front piece of a wall.

Junior Amy Herndon, Spencer house manager, said that the thieves were "polite thieves" since they took the rented movie

out of the VCR and left the other rented movie also.

Spencer house had been locked up by the police, as it is every night around 1 am; however the windows do not lock. Spencer

is now taking new security measures to add windows that will lock.

Senior Ash Ahsanuddin, Sig Ep's house and grounds manager and last week's Davidsonian cover boy, reported that the VCR was stolen

from Sig Ep three to four weeks ago. Although the Sig Ep house is not usually locked, the closet containing the VCR is always locked.



How secure are Patterson Court houses?

Photo by Holt Hathaway

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