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State of the Union in the Union

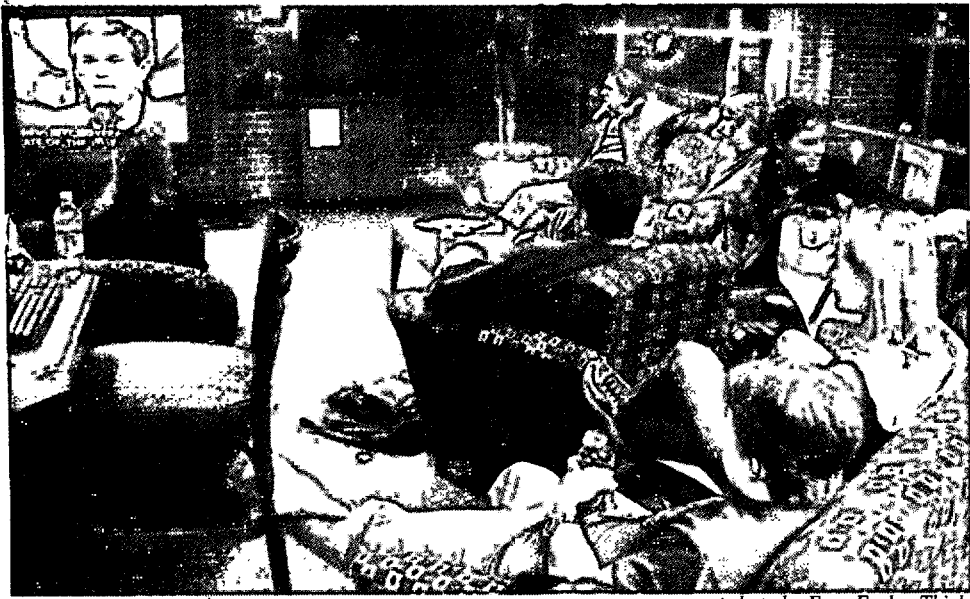


photo by Eron Earley-Thiele

More than 100 students gathered in front of Union televisions to watch President Bush's State of the Union address last night.

Students offer mixed reactions to Bush's State of the Union

By BRANDON CARROLL & AMEE PATEL
News Editors

chuckles from skeptics of Bush's environmental record.

Hundreds of students from across the campus watched President Bush's State of the Union address to Congress last night, many of whom gathered in the 900 Room of the College Union. The large turnout consisted of students concerned and curious about the issues. Indeed, just as the floor of Congress remained divided during the State of the Union, the students filling the 900 Room reflected all points on the political spectrum.

The address, which began with economic policies, pushed the tax cuts that Bush proposed earlier this month in Chicago. "Our first goal is clear," Bush said, "we must have an economy that grows fast enough to employ every man and woman who seeks a job." Bush went on to spell out other domestic priorities, including health care reform and environmental issues, such as preserving the forests of the United States and proposing over a billion dollars to promote "clean, hydrogen-powered automobiles." The environmental measures drew a few

Bush also mentioned millions in federal money for mentors of junior high students, raised the profile of his faith-based initiatives, and reiterated his commitment to privatizing Social Security in some form.

The most anticipated part of the speech was Bush's stance on foreign policy. Initially dwelling on increasing aid to combat AIDS in Africa, he soon turned to the current tensions in the world: Iran, North Korea, and Iraq, which constitute the "Axis of Evil" that Bush posited in last year's State of the Union address. The foreign policy topics drew by far the widest and largest responses from the observers.

Of Iran, Bush said that it the government "represses its people, pursues weapons of mass destruction, and supports terror." Speaking to North Korea, Bush accused the Communist nation of attempting to blackmail the world for increased concessions with its ill-gotten nuclear

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Parking crunch not as bad as some think

By AMEE PATEL
News Editor

A good parking spot is always a prized possession, and now finding accessible parking on campus has become increasingly difficult this semester.

One reason for this strain has been the return of students studying abroad to campus. According to the Registrar's Office, 1,599 students were registered in classes last semester. This semester, the number has jumped to 1,667. Along with these new students have come their cars. The result has been longer searches for empty spots through Belk, West and satellite parking lots.

However, Director of Public Safety Sam McKelvey, claims parking is no greater a problem this semester as it was in the last. "We are fortunate to have 1,900 parking spots available and only 1,600-1,700 vehicles each day. Although there are a few more cars from students bringing vehicles second semester, there has been no significant change."

Historically black fraternity expected on Court this year

By CAROLINE K. HAUSER
Managing Editor

There's a new frat in town.

Davidson's first historically black Greek organization is expected to be chartered and have brothers on campus by the end of this semester.

Late last semester, the NPHC Expansion Committee recommended to President Vagt that Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. be invited to colonize at Davidson. Vagt extended an invitation to the national organization in December, and the chartering process is currently underway.

According to Ernest Jeffries, Assistant Dean of Student Life, 12 men have started the application process for membership in the fraternity—two first-year students, eight sophomores and two juniors. Two of the students are internationals, one is Latino, and the rest are black.

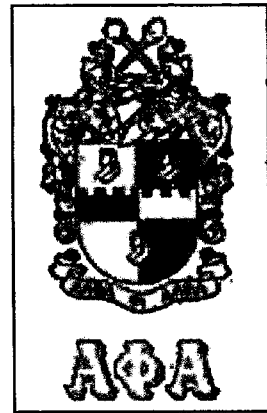
This mix is fulfilling a goal of historically black fraternities. Robert Norfleet, who chaired the expansion committee, said, "One of the things that's most exciting is that these fraternities have much more diverse demographics than historically white organizations."

"There's definitely a lack of African-American male role models on this campus," said Jeffries. "What an organization like Alpha Phi Alpha does is provide an automatic connection to a network of a lot of men who have a lot to offer."

Jeffries continued, "This will broaden social opportunities on this campus—this kind of organization can do nothing but help Davidson. First, it shows diversity in the Greek letter organizations, and, second, I think it will be something positive in trying to recruit African-American students. Some students look at schools from the point of view of 'Can I have that experience?'"

Frankie Jones '05 is one student who wants that experience. He agrees, "Though open to all male students, we hope that the fraternity will help in Davidson's minority recruitment as well as help contribute to create a more diverse

Alpha at a Glance



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is the oldest historically black fraternity in America.

Founded on Dec. 4, 1906 by seven Cornell University students, the organization promotes service, leadership and scholarship.

atmosphere on this campus.

"I personally felt that Alpha Phi Alpha was the best fit for Davidson," said Jason Scott '04. "I found that their ideals such as service, scholarship, and leadership are consistent with the ideals that Davidson emphasizes."

"I'm excited," said Jeffries, "because I have no doubt in my mind that, with the caliber of students we have, this will become a premier chapter in the national organization—quickly."

Last fall, Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma representatives visited Davidson and gave presentations about their organizations.

"I was gratified to see all the people who turned out [for the two public forums]," said Norfleet. "The student responses were very helpful and reinforced the sense of the committee about which fraternity was the best fit for Davidson."

"We were relieved by the ease of the choice."

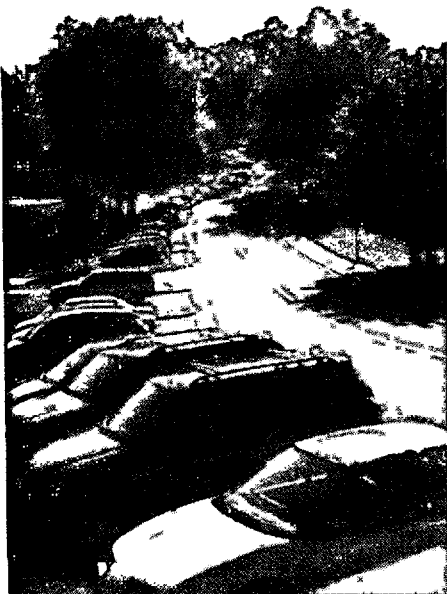


photo by Eron Earley-Thiele

A view of student parking spaces, filled to capacity.

Nevertheless, a quick glance towards West parking lots will indicate that something has definitely changed. On any given day, cars can be seen all the way to the back of satellite parking.

While over one thousand decals were issued last semester, only ninety have been issued this semester. However, some students who had registered their vehicles in the fall did not bring their cars until now. This trend accounts for part of an explanation to the parking dilemma.

Another growing concern that plays into parking on campus has been fears of vehicle safety in the satellite parking lot. Towards the end of September and the beginning of October of last year, 14 vehicles were broken into while parked there.

According to McKelvey, no one has been charged with the break-ins. He said, "A couple of folks in town are still being investigated by Davidson town police. The town has charged

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