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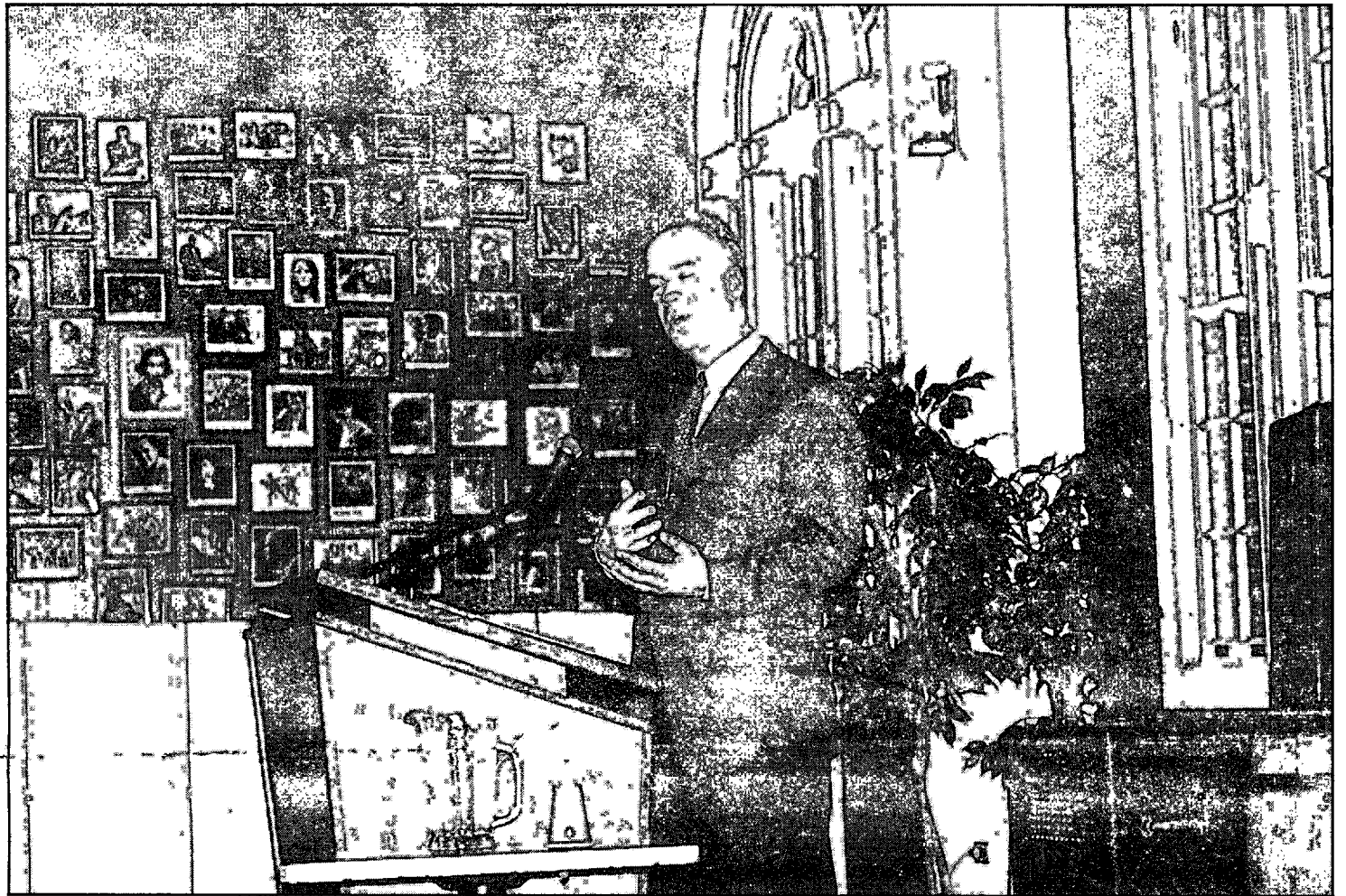
Brewster offers new perspectives on "The Century"

By RICHARD VINSON
Staff Writer

On Thursday, October 21, in the 900 Room, Mr. Todd Brewster delivered a presentation both summarizing and interpreting the events of the past century. Brewster is senior editorial producer for the ABC News documentary series "The Century" and, along with Peter Jennings, co-author of the companion book to the series. The audience was treated to a combination of first hand accounts and a stunning visual record of key events of the twentieth century, both compiled by Brewster and Jennings. Brewster told the story of the century through the words of those who lived it. This gave rare insight into the perspectives of those who helped shape the era. Moreover, many of the pictures shown were chosen specifically because they were obscure. They too provided a new image of the past hundred years.

Brewster addressed the choices that he and Jennings faced when making the series. Perhaps most importantly, they had to choose the central theme around which they would construct the narrative. The twentieth century could easily be dubbed the Technology Century, the Killing Century, or even the American Century. Brewster explained that they ultimately chose the Century of the Common Man as their theme for several reasons. First, much of the scientific advancement that was compressed into such a short time had a very direct effect on the lives of ordinary people. Second, the two political ideologies whose conflict framed most of the twentieth century, liberal democracy and communism, advocated taking power away from the state and giving it to the common people. Finally, the culture that emerged from this epoch was not one dictated by the educated elite, as in previous times, but rather popular culture.

Another big aspect of this series was its emphasis on recurring themes throughout the course of the century. Though the narrative was chronological, Brewster made it clear that certain conflicts pervade the past hundred years and help



◆ Author Todd Brewster addressed a packed 900 Room last Thursday evening.

Jake Harrington

the observer to frame the flow of events. He highlighted three in particular. A great enthusiasm for the advancements made in technology characterized much of this century. However, this enthusiasm was accompanied by much uncertainty and doubt about what these changes would bring. In addition, since lifestyles changed so greatly in such a short period of time, people's desire for a new, better life collided with their intense fear of

losing traditional values. Finally, much of the political activity of the century pitted the individual, the "common man," against the state. This last struggle defined many episodes of the century, including the destruction of fascism, the eventual downfall of communism, and the fight for social equality in the United States and in other countries.

In conclusion, Brewster offered a few per-

spectives on the future. Besides the admonition to expect the unexpected and the anticipation of continuing rapid technological change, he quoted Salman Rushdie in warning against those who preach a doctrine of "purity." If the history of the past century teaches anything, it is that concepts such as racial or ethnic purity "lead straight to the gas chambers." One must be willing to accept "a little dirt."

Wildcat Soccer continues Southern Conference ascent



Jake Harrington

◆ Davidson's Women's Soccer goes 2-1 to improve upon its impressive SoCon standing. Story on page 10.

BGLAD comes out

By ANN GREGORY
News Editor

The former FLAG group on campus has recently changed its name and focus. In conjunction with National Coming Out Day on October 11th, Friends of Lesbian And Gays celebrated its new name, BGLAD (Bisexuals, Gays and Lesbians At Davidson). This name change, which was voted on by members of the club, signifies the changing philosophy of the club.

When FLAG reconvened this year, members decided to take the club in a different direction. New elections made co-presidents Alexis Boehmler '02 and James Everett '02 at the fore-

front of the change. Co-president Boehmler explained the reason for the new name by saying, "We changed the name because we wanted to change the spirit of FLAG, and the first place to start is with the name." BGLAD symbolizes the philosophy that Boehmler verbalizes: "We are not just friends of lesbians and gays. We are a group of people for all sexual preferences, being friends in secondary."

The club hopes to become more of a support group and gathering place for people of various sexual preferences. They celebrated Coming Out Day at Davidson last week, but Boehmler admits, "We didn't really expect anyone to come out, so

◆ See BGLAD on page 5 for continuation

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