

Sewage, from page 1

cern that granting improved lottery numbers to the base-Rich residents might challenge the fairness of the current system.

"RLO has not adjusted lottery numbers in any case except when directed to do so by the Honor Council or Judicial Board as a sanction for one of their cases," said Marsicano. "RLO's position has been that the fairest thing to do is to preserve the random number system."

**"That's ridiculous...I don't see a correlation between an accident and lottery numbers. Should the people who fell out of their beds get better lottery numbers too?"**

**--Erik Knelson '07**

Altering the number system based on hardship, said Marsicano, would raise the question of what exactly warrants an adjustment to the lottery system.

"Some other students in basement Sentelle and Duke had mold problems at the beginning of the year, Watts people had bats, some students were forced off campus into College-owned houses and some first-year students have had difficulties with the roommates RLO assigned them," said Marsicano. "I imagine these people would like a lottery number adjustment as well."

"The problem with any lottery adjustment system is determining who gets to decide what

constitutes a 'hardship.'"

Reactions to the base-Rich residents' request have been mixed.

Some students have reacted negatively toward this idea of lottery number compensation.

"That's ridiculous. Does the City Parks and Rec. department compensate citizens whose sewage pipes burst?," said Erik Knelson '07. "I don't see a correlation between an accident and lottery numbers. Should the people who fell out of their beds get better lottery numbers too?"

Other students were more supportive of the idea.

"They should definitely be compensated in some way," said Jesse Johnson '07. "If not through better lottery numbers, then at least with a reduction in room and board expenses."

The school's response has left Ippolito skeptical about his chances of receiving compensation such as improved lottery numbers.

"It was nice of them to set up a meeting, but it just wasn't very constructive," said Ippolito.

Ippolito felt the meeting was arranged primarily to "placate" the residents.

Reassuringly, the overflow of sewage stemmed from misuse of a cotton towel and a toilet rather than a problem with the Richardson drainage system.

"I think we have finally got the drainage system working but I guess there is always the possibility of some yahoo doing something he shouldn't," said Marsicano.

Marsicano also reminds residents with housing-related problems to fill out work order forms.

"We want it to be right for the students, but the only way we're going to know about it is if they fill out a work order," she said.

# Diversity issues becoming increasingly more important

By LIZ BARRY  
Senior Staff Writer

An African American student feels pressured to give the popular "black" opinion instead of his own during class discussion.

An openly gay student experiences hostile glares at a Patterson Court party.

A recent alum expresses frustration when she cannot return to Davidson for homecoming because it conflicts with Yom Kippur.

"Diversity" is a buzzword that often permeates discussion about campus life.

As the minority population increases and Davidson expands its demographic scope, students face important questions regarding the nature of diversity at Davidson and how it affects our community.

"I think as we become more diverse, we need to move our focus from getting students here to inclusivity," said Jill Williams, Assistant Director for the Theological Exploration of Vocation.

According to the Statement of Purpose, Davidson's educational mission is "to teach all students to think clearly, to make relevant and valid judgments, to discriminate among values, and to communicate freely with others in the realm of ideas."

Because a diverse student body is integral to achieving this mission, admission officers have increased efforts to recruit qualified applicants from minority groups that are under-represented on campus.

"Preparing humane students for future leadership is not possible unless our learning environment reflects different areas of thought, experience and culture," said Wookie Payne, Director of Multicultural Recruitment.

To foster a community that embraces diversity, students must make a concerted effort to interact with students from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences in and out of the classroom.

"Prospective students always ask about diversity," Payne said "I want to be sure that they will take an active part in diverse dialogues and experiences once they are here and are not just asking the question because it seems like the right question to ask."

A recent survey reveals student opinion concerning the relationship between diversity and the educational experience.

The survey addressed diversity in terms of geography, race and ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic background and political ideology.

Students felt strongest about diversity of political and ideological perspectives, with 67 percent of students rating it "very important" to providing the best educational experience possible.

In regards to racial and ethnic diversity, 59 percent of all students rated it as "very important."

Further breakdown of the results reflected a significant disparity between the opinions of minority and white students.

Seventy nine percent of minority and international students ranked racial and ethnic diversity as "very important" compared to only 57 percent of white students.

Phia Salter '05 suggests that the disparity may stem from the tendency for white students to underestimate the importance of racial identity for those in the racial minority.

Because "white culture" dominates many aspects of American society, white students may not fully recognize the importance of their own racial identities.

Although it's important to recognize and embrace Davidson's distinguishing characteristics, Trenita Brookshire '05 said that placing the school on too much of a pedestal can lead to disillusionment when the ideals do not match the realities.

"I think that it's important to acknowledge

see Diversity, page 5

## Campus Police Blotter

12/1 Sophomore Apartments Alcohol Find

While conducting a walkthrough of Knox Dormitory, officer observed an open door. Officer noticed the room was not occupied, but observed many bottles of alcohol, including one bottle of Jim Beam 1/8 full, one empty bottle of Honey Brown flavored lager beer, one mini bottle of Captain Morgan's Parrot Bay, and two flask containers with a liquid substance that had the smell of spirituous liquor. All alcohol was taken to the police department for disposal.

12/3 Martin Court Fire Alarm

Around 7:08 p.m., officer responded to a fire alarm at Ryburn Dormitory. Upon arrival, officer spoke with a fireman who advised him that someone had burned food and all was good.

12/4 Patterson Court Vandalism

At 1 p.m., investigating officer met with reporting person in reference to damage to property at Connor eating house. Reporting person stated that sometime between December 3 and 4, some unknown person had broken a window in the building. Reporting person stated that she thought the window may have been broken with an apple.

12/5 Sophomore Apartments Underage Drinking

Reporting officer was conducting a walkthrough of Akers Dormitory and observed a student standing in an open doorway with a can of beer. The student appeared intoxicated. He was unsteady on his feet, had an odor of alcohol about his person, and had slurred speech. After the student produced his CatCard, officer determined the student was underage.

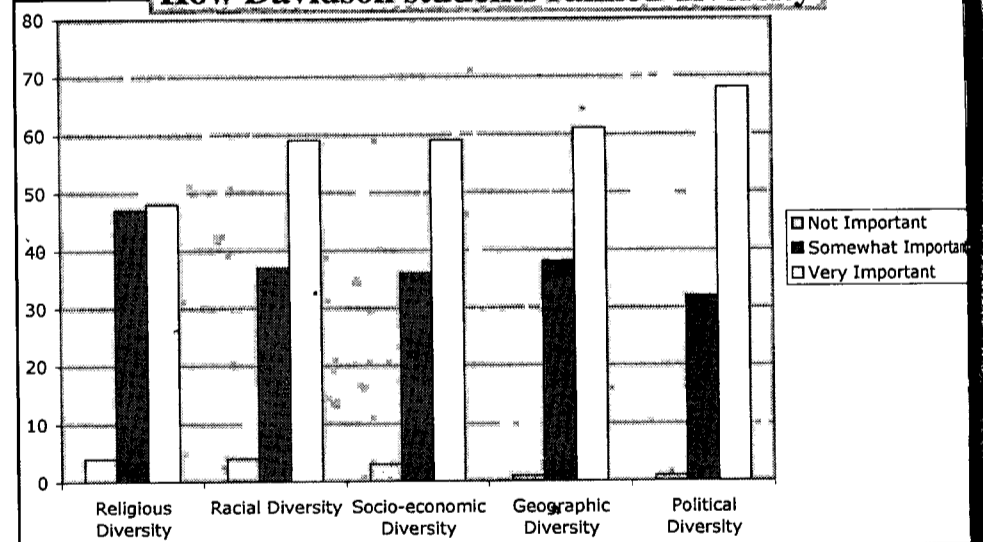
12/5 Sentelle Dormitory Mysterious Figure

At around 4:48 a.m., reporting officer responded to a call stating an unknown person was in a room in Sentelle. Officer spoke to the room's residents, who stated that an unknown subject was in their room. The residents stated that they were asleep when they heard the door shut. They said they woke up and saw someone who was standing over the bed then left the room. Officer checked the other halls of Sentelle, but did not observe any suspicious activity.

12/6 Tomlinson Dormitory Underage Drinking

At around 4:57 p.m., reporting officer conducted a foot patrol of Tomlinson Dormitory. Reporting officer found an underage student in possession of alcohol. Reporting officer called the area coordinator and advised him of the situation. Reporting officer then confiscated the alcohol and destroyed it.

How Davidson students ranked diversity



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