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◆ "THE SOUTH'S FOREMOST COLLEGE WEEKLY" ◆

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FEEL THE BEAT



Christina Wilson '10 and Mike Parsons '08 dance in the fanale of Act 1 at last weekend's Dance Ensemble performance

Free Speech Board allows students to express thoughts, raises controversy

By KRISTINA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Students studying, eating or hanging out in the Union within the last few weeks have likely noticed Just Peace's Free Speech Board, a new way for students in the Davidson community to express themselves.

The board was the brainchild of Mac Cowell '06, who shared his idea of a forum for campus discourse on a chalkboard or similar medium with Just Peace, a student organization that fosters discussion of current affairs, social justice and issues of peace. Last year's Just Peace co-presidents Jackie Javerbaum '09 and Erin Jaeger '09 worked with Cowell's idea for a year and conceived a design for the board.

The current co-presidents, Nora

Golberger '08 and Ross White '09, obtained the Board from Physical Plant and worked with William Brown, Director of the College Union and Coordinator of Student Activities, and Tim Stroud, Assistant Director for Operations for the Union, to figure out the board's location and logistics.

The board enables students to anonymously share their views on a variety of important topics, including the environment and the death penalty.

"The purpose for the board is to spread awareness and dialogue on campus," Golberger said. "[Just Peace has] been trying to come up with topics around which to center the discussion that we think are important on campus and in the world, but also fit with our main themes of peace and social justice."

The controversy of the Free Speech Board's topics has garnered

a variety of written responses from students. In response to the board's recent topic of what students can do to save the environment, some students wrote earnest pleas to their classmates to conserve resources, while other responders wrote less serious responses, such as "Conserve water, shower with someone."

Students have been so responsive to the board that Just Peace moderators have to erase it on Sundays and Wednesdays due to the sheer volume of responses.

One writer questioned, "Should free speech be able to be erased?"

"There can't be speech if there is no room to write," someone replied.

Moderators also have to erase the board to censor comments that are laden with profanity or completely off-topic. For example, in response to the board's most recent

See White, page 2

Surplus lunches raise questions

By PIERCE TRUMBO AND SUMMERLEE WALTER
Managing Editor & Editor-in-Chief

Baskets of uneaten food lined table after table inside of Knobloch Tennis Center after last Saturday's Inauguration and Fall Convocation luncheon, prompting students and parents to wonder what happened and to complain about wasted food and money. In total, between 650 and 700 lunches remained uneaten.

The leftover food went to three Charlotte homeless shelters.

According to Jill Marcus '86, who owns Something Classic, the company that catered the event, the event was originally planned for 4,000 guests. The final count, however, ended up at 3,300 regular lunches and 100 vegetarian bas-

kets. The final numbers included a 10 percent overage from the College's estimate, a standard practice in the catering industry. The resulting 330 dinners, for which Something Classic did not bill the College, explain in part the 650-700 uneaten lunches.

Marcus, President Tom Ross and Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and Inauguration coordinator Leslie Marsicano all agreed that the inclement weather dissuaded many who had RSVPed that they were coming from attending the event. Marcus noted that the weather was so bad that Something Classic bought galoshes for the 18-person setup crew to wear as it worked on Friday.

Marsicano explained that she received several last-minute cancellations, especially among older

alumni. She also said that several people, not realizing that the meal was seated, told her that they attended the ceremony but chose to skip lunch because they did not want to wait in line.

Marcus, Ross and Marsicano also noted that student attendance was low.

"I would have to be honest and say that we didn't get student RSVPs," Ross said.

According to Marsicano, only half of the student body RSVPed to the multiple emails that she sent. Because so many students did not respond, the College decided to order 300 extra meals in order to avoid turning away anyone.

"It was very important to Tom to have the opportunity for students to

See Surplus, page 2



Hundreds of baskets of food were left untouched after the Inauguration luncheon

On the inside...

- News
 - Meet the new Math professor, page 2
 - Day of the Dead alive on campus, page 3
- Arts
 - PPC serves, page 4
- Yowl
 - Car troubles, page 5
- Perspectives
 - The Health Center responds, page 6
 - Notes from South Africa, page 7
- Sports
 - Basketball!, page 8
 - Basketball!!!, page 10
 - Basketball!!! (We're excited...), page 11



The men's basketball season opens this Friday at 8 p.m. at home against Emory. Check out Sports' coverage starting on page 8.

Election Results

- Mayor
- John Woods: 67%
 - William "Bill" Jackson: 32%
- Board of Commissioners
- Margo Williams: 15% (Mayor pro-tem)
 - Laurie Venzon: 15%
 - Brian Jenest: 14%
 - Bill Johnson: 13%
 - Evan Webster: 11%
 - Fountain Walker: 11%
 - Lenny McAllister: 10%
 - Rodney Graham: 10%
 - Ian Robb: 2%