

## Carding at F

STAFF EDITORIAL

Last weekend saw the increase of police presence at the Martin Court F apartment building, raising student concern over carding for underage drinking. The reason for the increase had less to do with drinking policy than with student disrespect.

Apartment F is an eyesore after party nights on campus. Heaps of beer cans and Solo cups are strewn about in the grass, and physical plant staff members must later take responsibility for cleaning up after students too drunk or too inconsiderate to dispose of their waste themselves. Just two weeks ago, students living in the apartment threw several trash bags full of garbage over the balconies and onto the ground below. Raccoons later spread the junk all over the lawn, and again, this was the physical plant's problem. This kind of student behavior is unacceptable and certainly an embarrassment for both Davidson and the student body as a whole.

Contrary to what many students believe, the suggestion to raise the number of policemen down the hill, specifically at apartment F, did not originate with RLO. Instead, after a series of discussions with senior apartment residents, students requested that more trashcans and recycle bins be placed outside and in the stairwells. When that solution failed to provide results this semester, it was again students who suggested the next step: upping the police presence.

The response to the increase after this first weekend has been less than positive from the student community. Many students worry that the social atmosphere on campus is under threat and that underage students will no longer go to the senior apartments on Friday and Saturday nights for fear that they will be carded. Such concerns are justified. At a college where students study with intensity and sincerity, a healthy social environment is necessary.

But what exists now is not healthy. Few would argue that Davidson students conduct themselves in a respectful and considerate manner, but why do some students think that the rules do not apply after they have a couple of beers? Why does respect get thrown out the window (like a beer bottle or trash bag, apparently) when Friday night rolls around?

The police monitoring Martin Court aim to stop drunken students from sliding down railings or throwing televisions over balconies. According to Director of RLO Dean Patty Perillo, the idea is not to card random students or those displaying appropriate conduct.

So long as this is the case, the policy sounds like a positive force on campus from which both students and staff members will undoubtedly benefit.

## Does my presence make you uncomfortable?

DAVID DENNIS

Guest Columnist

Last Friday night, 20 African-American, non-Davidson students came to watch my performance at the Outpost. Afterward, we all decided to go to one of the fraternities to enjoy a party. On our way from the Outpost to the house, my friends and I were bombarded with the following statements:

"Wattup Homies?"

"Hey dawgs."

One guy even demanded that we start stepping in the middle of the street before admitting he had no clue who we were. Another female just started rapping to us and beatboxing.

When we approached the house, one member of the fraternity (who was not the official person to check cards) told us that we could not enter because he did not know who we were.

Once I showed him and the actual door manager my CatCard, we were allowed into the party. However, as we walked in, the same person who did not want to let us in repeated many times, "Don't start any fights, dog."

I made sure to keep an eye on my friends at the party because they were my guests. They were completely respectful, mostly keeping to themselves. When it was time for them to leave, I walked the guys to their car and came back to the fraternity house where two police cars were waiting.

Apparently a complaint had been made that my friends were making people "uncomfortable." Several officers who had already been in the house listened to the complaints, and did not see my guests causing any trouble.

A few other African-American Davidson students were told to tell "their friends" to leave. I wonder why it was assumed that the African-American guests were assumed to be friends of other African-American Davidson students.

One of my friends was accused of rummaging through the coats in the back of the house. I admit, I did catch him going through the pile of jackets. How else he would be able to retrieve his own jacket from the pile?

Throughout the night, my friends were heckled, threatened

and essentially alienated from a Davidson party. 20 young men left Davidson Friday night and returned to their respective communities with tales of racist greetings and complaints that they made the students at Davidson "uncomfortable."

I know that a few Davidson professors have advocated the removal of some houses at Patterson Court because they harbor racist and sexist sentiments, especially when alcohol is involved.

Last weekend, I saw those sentiments rear their heads. I believe, though, that blaming what happened at Patterson Court on alcohol simplifies the down-the-hill activities that only expose racist sentiments some students already harbor.

I will concede that it is possible that people were uncomfortable simply because strangers were at a party in large numbers.

However, this does not begin to excuse the racist comments, accusations and admonishments not to start fights.

It is also important to mention that nearly every African-American student at Davidson has had to encounter some sort of racial insensitivity while trying to enjoy a Friday night.

Unfortunately, when incidents of insensitivity occur on this campus, a discussion is set up somewhere in the Union or Chambers and a room full of people with similar opinions generally agree about the racial insensitivity present on campus.

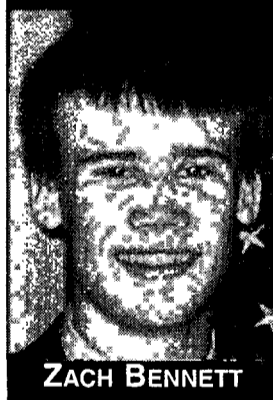
As a move toward more an inclusive, open discussion, I believe that some sort of requirement should be put in place for Patterson Court organizations to put on diversity or multicultural events at least once a semester. Members of each house must attend their and other houses' events.

Hopefully, with more discussions and open conversation, terrible events like the one that happened last weekend will not occur again.

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## John McCain's running mate difficult to foresee

vox libertatis



ZACH BENNETT

For John McCain, choosing a vice-presidential nominee is uniquely significant. Because of his age, the fitness of his running mate is acutely important; youth and experience become especially attractive characteristics. Experience renders the running mate capable while youth mitigates McCain's advanced age. Based on these considerations, his running mate will likely have presidential ambitions. Thus, McCain has the opportunity to elevate a successor to lead the

and independents.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who endorsed McCain early on, has often been mentioned as a potential running mate. He would add youth and executive experience to the ticket.

Pawlenty recently undermined his appeal to conservatives, however, by supporting the Senate's economic stimulus package. Although choosing a native son might improve Republican prospects in a newly competitive Minnesota, polling suggests this is not the case.

Both socially and fiscally conservative, South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford would help McCain among the base in the South. Like Pawlenty, he has youth and executive experience. Though a purer conservative than McCain, Sanford has made his reputation as a maverick sports hawk. Thus, McCain and Sanford are kindred spirits, even though Sanford did not endorse McCain in 2008 as he had in 2000.

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, whose endorsement may have enabled McCain to win the Florida Primary, has also been mentioned. Yet Crist's liabilities outweigh his loyalty to youth: he has been governor for only a year and is a moderate who would not rally conservatives.

Pennsylvania Gov. and former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge would complement McCain as a pragmatic conservative.

Though not an ideologue, Ridge would likely satisfy many Republicans while appealing to independents. Though Ridge is pro-choice, he supports limits like the partial-birth abortion ban. His national security and executive experience would render him fit for the vice presidency. Very popular in Pennsylvania, he could secure that swing state for the Republicans.

Others with marginal chances at the vice presidency include Sens. Joe Lieberman (Conn.), Richard Burr (N.C.), Lindsey Graham (S.C.) and John Thune (S.D.), and Congressman Mike Pence (Ind.).

With the nomination all but won, McCain faces the challenge of uniting conservatives without alienating moderates as well as the opportunity to chart the course for the Republican Party in selecting his running mate. He should seize that chance with prudence.

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