



Coates delivered the prestigious Reynolds lecture. Photo by Bill Giduz.

Coates addresses origins of black criminality

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later turned out the true suspect had dread locks, was fifty pounds heavier, and was a good many inches shorter than Prince, who was 6'4", had close-cropped hair, and the build of a NFL wide receiver.

Their common denominator, nonetheless, argued Coates, was their blackness. In the tragic tale of Jones's death, Coates provided a personal example of the implications of institutionalized racism. Coates said he was convinced that had Prince been white, he would not have been shot. The policies which have criminalized black people are interwoven in our nation's history, he explained. He spoke about the fugitive slave clause in the U.S. Constitution, old slave codes that forbade blacks to learn how to read, to worship in a church without a white pastor, or to gather amongst other blacks. The justification for lynching was that black men had allegedly raped white women. The criminalization of the black race is part of the foundation of our society. Coates calls it the "heritage that murdered my friend, that endangers my son."

After the lecture, the floor opened up for Davidson students, and the following day there was a small-group Q&A. Coates shocked his audience with his unceasing honesty and realistic view of the world. At both Q&A sessions students sought advice on how to change people's intolerant and dogmatic beliefs and asked if Coates's attempts to do so were exhausting. Coates responded that writers cannot change the minds of people who are not willing to listen. As an example, he spoke about some people's denial of slavery's tie with the Civil War despite documents from the nine-

teenth century that explicitly stated the purposes of the war. "Be careful of assuming the burden of other people's ignorance," he warned. "It does stuff to your humanity."

Dr. Tae-Sun Kim, Director of Multicultural Affairs, emphasized that Coates provided one of many opportunities for students to educate themselves about racial issues. "I thought Coates made a convincing case for self-directed education and liberation", Kim said in a written statement. "He described himself as a selfish learner who had the privilege of being raised in a home environment and attending a college that supported his intellectual development and journalistic inquiries. Though many of us in the Davidson community do not share a similar family or educational background as Coates, his point is still well taken. 'The lack of information' is not the problem, Coates insisted. For example, several faculty members at Davidson, several core Africana Studies faculty come to mind, have been teaching and preaching on the criminalization of black bodies, educational excellence in black schools, and African American literary masterpieces for decades."

Coates's visit to campus came as discussions about systemic marginalization of students of color are pervading college campuses nationwide. Last Thursday Davidson students voiced their solidarity with students at the the University of Missouri in a demonstration. (Read more on Page 1.) Furthermore, SGA Collaborative, SGA's Diversity Coordinating Board, and Residence Life Office are sponsoring an open discussion about the issues of college protests and anti-racist activism in the 900 Room at 4:30 p.m. today and encourage all those who feel their voice has not been heard to attend.

The Davidsonian would like to clarify a quote in the article "Transition to Atlantic 10 brings more intense travel schedules for athletes" published on November 11. A comment from a player on the volleyball team suggested that the team missed three days of Tuesday-Thursday classes, a number that would have exceeded the permitted number of missed classes for those days. The player has since clarified that the team flew to matches on three Thursdays but missed class on only two of those days. Therefore, the team did not exceed the permitted range.

crime log

Time	Description / Location
11/18/15 at 1437 hrs	Stalking at 409 Ridge Road and 102 Nelson Lane. Prosecution Declined.
11/10/15 at 1940 hrs	Larceny Misdemeanor (Placards)/Injury to Real Property at Chidsey. Prosecution Declined.
11/12/15 at 0114 hrs	Injury to Personal Property (Vehicle) at Eco House. Further Investigation.
11/12/15 at 1532 hrs	Larceny Misdemeanor (Bicycle) at Richardson. Further Investigation.
11/13/15 at 2345 hrs	Underage Consumption at Chidsey. Dean Referral/Medic Transport.
11/14/15 at 0041 hrs	Underage Consumption at Chidsey. Dean Referral/Medic Transport.
11/14/15 at 0219 hrs	Possession of Malt Beverage Underage at Armfield. Dean Referral.
11/14/15 at 0229 hrs	Underage Consumption at Watts. Dean Referral/Medic Transport.
11/15/15 at 1332 hrs	Injury to Personal Property (Vehicle) at Eco House. Further Investigation.

Demonstrators support Mizzou

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A list of participating schools, including Davidson, can be found on its website.

"As members of the Tau Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated here, typically we've been a part of that movement," Lara said. "Our chapter and students like us have been big leaders in events like these, in moments like these, and so we felt it was our duty and responsibility to react as well."

Although they were pleased with the turnout to the event, both Lara and Phillips noticed a disproportionate ratio of students of color to white students. "Where are 70% of white people?" Phillips asked. "Hello? Where are you?"

Lara blamed these absences on a desire to feel comfortable rather than challenged. "It's OK to be wrong. It's OK to try and fail when it comes to understanding race," Lara said. He hopes to encourage students to "ask the hard questions, to really try and step out of their comfort zone so

they can learn, and so we can actually progress."

Hannah Lukow '17, who spoke up at the demonstration about white silence, said, "this lack of reciprocity in racial dialogues is unacceptable."

She urged white students not to place the burden of racial education on people of color, but rather to learn to both listen and engage. "As a white person, my race profoundly affects my experience—I just have the privilege of not noticing," Lukow said.

The Rev. Rob Spach '84, Davidson's chaplain, ended the demonstration with a prayer: "How long, how long, how long must this struggle continue?" He invited students to participate in one-on-one prayer with him after dispersing.

The organizers hoped that standing in solidarity with Mizzou would bring to light the experiences of people of color at Davidson. Lara said his biggest goal for the event was "to continue to make the issue of race salient to students and faculty so that it can be addressed and changed and not just passed over, as it often is."



Students stand in solidarity with the University of Missouri. Photo by Shea Parikh.