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Diversity week DAREs students to think about their differences

BY BRIAN MORAN
Senior Staff Writer

The Black Student Coalition, Residence Life Office (RLO), Union Board and Patterson Court Council banded together last week to host several events promoting diversity awareness through a program titled "DARE: Diversity Awareness Reaching Everyone."

"The goal for the week is to get information out there and let people feel more comfortable talking about race and diversity issues," Diversity Program Advisor Sabrina Brown said.



photo by Lauren Mas...

Luminaries mark World AIDS Day.
The idea for a week of diversity awareness programming began with Brown's suggestion to bring the Human Race Machine to campus. The Human Race Machine is a computer that uses morphing technology to display what users would look like as members of different racial groups.

"I approached Dean Jeffries with the idea, and he thought it sounded like a great idea," Brown said, "but he thought it was important to do some programming around the machine so students could understand the purpose of the event."

Following his suggestion, Brown worked with several different organizations to organize an array of events designed to promote dialogue.

"A number of us sat down to discuss what sort of programming would best suit our goals," Brown said. "We wanted to get this information out to the student body at large and ensure that discussion of racial issues was extending beyond mandated programming for student leaders."

Eventually, the group settled on a mix of movie screenings and panel discussions.

The week began with a screening of a documentary entitled "Race: the Power of an Illusion" on Nov. 28. The documentary asserts that race is a socially-constructed idea that is not defined by particular physical characteristics.

"I have taught a number of Davidson 101 classes on diversity and have heard many different misconceptions about what distinguishes different races," Brown said. "We figured that by putting this information out there in the beginning, we could then move forward to more informed discussion later on."

Discussion continued the next evening with a screening of the movie "Crash."

Two participants from the reality television show "Black White" gave a speech entitled "Nothing is Just Black or White," on Nov. 30.

Union Board Speakers Committee chair Lee Anthony '07 suggested the idea to Brown and helped to organize the event.

"Black White," which aired on FX this past spring, documented the experiences of two families, one black and one white, whose members wore heavy make-up and

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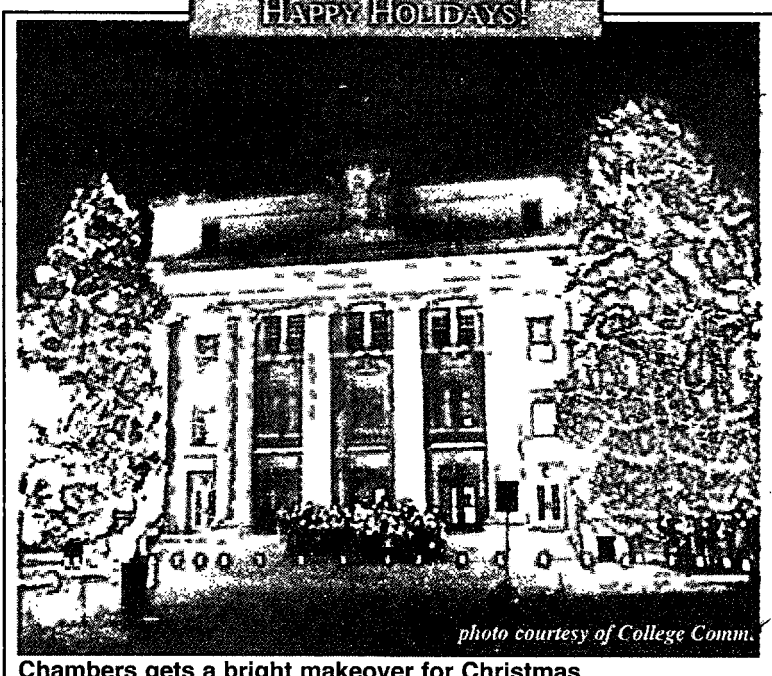


photo courtesy of College Comm.

Students anxiously await answer from black sorority

BY JESSICA ANDREWS
Senior Staff Writer

Earlier this semester, Davidson extended an invitation to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to establish a branch on campus and is currently waiting to hear if it has accepted the invitation.

"We have hopes that we will have a line by the spring semester. While I completely understand how anxious the ladies interested in membership must be, I think it's important to continue being patient. Expansion is not a quick process and takes time in order to establish an organization the right way," Patterson Court Advisor Cheyenne McPherson said.

To those that are pushing for the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority to be a part of Patterson Court, it means much more than just a Greek name.

"This sorority is an effort to reach everyone on campus, only coming from a certain cultural framework. It appeals to minority

women, but it also appeals to everyone because all women can be a part of this organization," said Whitney White '08.

The sorority will have a strong focus on service, providing an outlet for a diverse student population to give back to the community.

"It is very important to think about the students that have interests different from those already present in Patterson Court," Ashley Moore '07 said. "It is great to have a social life but even better to do a lot of meaningful community service. The sorority will offer that for a diverse group."

When the sorority is up-and-running at Davidson, it will boast impressive criteria for membership.

Women will be required to apply in a college-admissions fashion, filling out a detailed application. A GPA of 2.5 must be maintained, an interest in community service must be demonstrated, and a personal

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Admissions addresses concerns about affordability

BY ALISSA IREI
Senior Staff Writer

Like most private colleges and universities today, Davidson has an annual price tag that is hefty enough to warrant a double take.

Now, the Office of Admission and Financial Aid is worried that the comprehensive cost of a

Davidson education is scaring away highly-qualified prospective students before they even fill out an application.

Studies conducted by the Office of Admission and Financial Aid have suggested that this is the case, but the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Chris Gruber points out that the available research may

not even tell the whole story.

"We have information on the students who apply to Davidson," he said. "But I don't know who else could have been out there."

The Office of Admission and Financial Aid is now launching new initiatives to educate prospective students and their families about the availability of financial

aid options at Davidson.

"For people that are ideal for a place like this, we don't want them to say, 'I can't go to Davidson because I just can't afford it,'" Gruber said. "If Davidson is on your list, know that it can work."

Davidson has a need-blind

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College hosts Southern Sports Awards

BY WILL BRYAN
Sports Editor

Davidson is hosting the second annual Southern Sports Awards in the Duke Family Performance Hall tonight to celebrate major achievements in Southern sports. The show will air on Charlotte's WJZY on Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. and on other television networks in the South over the next two weekends.

This year's show will be hosted by political pundit James Carville and comedian Jon Reep, who gained national press for his famous line in Dodge truck commercials: "that thing got a hemi?" Awards range from Team and Coach of the Year to Fan Favorite and Big Ticket.

Co-executive producer and Davidson graduate Ken Neal '87 was instrumental in bringing the taping of the show to Davidson. Neal, who owns his own sports production company in Charlotte, pushed for Davidson as a prime venue.

Last year the show was taped in Atlanta and though the taping went smoothly, Neal said the producers came away realizing that they wanted a more energetic audience.

"We really aimed to create a collegiate feel in this year's show," co-executive producer Ken Neal said. "We hope that

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courtesy photo James Carville

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Preparations begin for RSC residency

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Integrity of course evaluations threatened

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Spotlight on club crew

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