

Dedication set for new college union at Davidson

People at Davidson College love what they hear in the new Alvarez College Union. Ruth Pittard, director of the college's community service office, describes a constant, comforting chatter rising through the lofty atrium and drifting into her top floor office.

"It's like the murmur of a waterfall all day long," she said. "It reaffirms the life and energy that this place attracts."

Though it only opened to students a month ago, the Alvarez College Union has already surpassed high expectations people had for its potential to enliven and unify the campus community. The sounds of life in the space also include pool balls clicking against each other, the sharp "tock" of ping-pong balls against paddles, and laughter of friends enjoying snacks at the cafe.

Members of the extended Davidson family will gather to express their appreciation for the new 66,000-square-foot, five-level facility at a formal dedication ceremony at 5 p.m. on Thursday.

The Davidson community had been considering construction of a new college union building for more than 20 years before President Robert Vagt finally pulled together the resources and commitments to proceed early in his tenure, which began in 1997. The former union was a converted library, which was less than ideal because of its location at the edge of campus, and the chopped-up nature of its floor plan.

The Pittsburgh architectural firm of MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni gutted the college's

Johnston Gymnasium, located in the heart of the 100-acre campus, to renovate it as the Alvarez College Union. The architect's plan clusters a wide variety of campus services and amenities as an open and inviting village piazzas that accommodate accidental daily encounters as well as formal presentations.

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and cultivates interstudent communication," said Joel Sadler, a junior from Cary.

The Charles Worth Johnston Gymnasium, named for a 19th century alumnus, is commemorated within the new Alvarez College Union just inside the south entrance. On one of the original brick walls, a memorial plaque, a collection of photographs, and other memorabilia recall four decades of athletic competition, including a heyday of men's basketball when Davidson was ranked among the top teams in the nation.

The original cornerstone, laid in 1948, is still part of the renovated building.

The building is constructed on five levels, unified by the towering central Brown Atrium, which is capped with a large skylight. It includes offices, meeting rooms, multi-purpose rooms, lounges, bookstore, fitness center, a climbing wall, post office, copy center, information desk, cafe, the C. Shaw Smith 500 Room for lectures and intimate performances, and offices for several campus services and student organizations. It is the new home for the career services office, chaplain's office, and community service office, as well as student publications, student government, and the student radio station, WALT.

The facility will provide space for both large and small events. It has been used already for freshman registration, a campuswide benefit dinner for the Davidson/Cornelius Day Care Center, the college's volunteer fair, and extracurricular activities

fair. Its C. Shaw Smith 500 Room will be the site for lectures by visiting speakers, a few academic classes, band concerts, comedians, and coffee house performances.

Students seeking a diversion from their day's studies can find in the Alvarez Union a foosball table, ping-pong table, television lounge area, and pool tables. The building is equipped for wireless access to the Internet, so students can take their laptops there to get some work done. In addition, several e-mail stations are scattered among its floors so passersby can check and send messages.

The Nisbet Fitness Center, which is open 24 hours a day, is already attracting large crowds of students, faculty, and staff to use its aerobic step machines, weight stations, and free weights. A glass wall in the fitness center opens onto the climbing wall for Davidson Outdoors, which occupies the lowest level of the building. The location gives that program convenience for loading in and out its stores of camping equipment, canoes, and kayaks.

While construction of the Alvarez College Union is complete, work continues toward the January opening of its associated facility, the 580-seat Duke Family Performance Hall. The two buildings together comprise the Knobloch Campus Center, a \$36-million structure that creates a new center for campus activities.

The naming gift for the college union was made by a San Antonio, Texas, couple with a relatively young relationship with Davidson. Carlos Alvarez and his spouse, Malu, have a daughter, also named Malu, who is a senior at Davidson this year. Carlos Alvarez is currently president of Gambrinus Company in San Antonio.

The entire campus center complex was named by the Knobloch family of Jackson Hole, Wyo. Carl Knobloch is the retired chairman and CEO of Production Operators Corp. Two of the Knoblauchs' daughters graduated from Davidson in the 1960's.

At the Children's Museum

Here's the lineup of upcoming activities at the Children's Museum of Iredell County, located in Statesville. For details on any program, call 704-872-7508.

Terrific Tuesdays

Drawing Classes for Young Artists. Tuesdays 10:15-11:15 a.m. for ages 4 and up. Great for homeschool and pre-school children. Taught by Hiddenite Artist in Residence Martha Burgin, your child's creativity will be blossomed as they learn to draw and have fun with colored pencil, crayons and watercolor. Fee: \$35 a month (\$30 members).

Kidnastics

Tuesdays 5:53-6 p.m. & 5:30-6 p.m. Ages 2-5. Kidnastics with Kristie Love continues each month as children learn coordination through tumbling, balance beam and mat activities. Kristi works with 2-3 year olds from 5:53-6 p.m. and with 3-5 year olds from 5:30-6 p.m. \$35 a month (\$30 for members)

Karate

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:34-5 p.m. for ages 2-6, 4-4:45 p.m. ages 7-12. Under the instruction of 7th degree black belt Bryant Harrell, both boys and girls increase self-discipline while enhancing self-esteem, concentration, memory, and motor skills. Great program for children with Asthma or Attention Deficit Disorder. \$45 a month (\$40 members)

Writer's Cramp Class

Each Tuesday from 4:15-5:15 p.m. at the Museum's Court Street location. For rising 4th to rising 8th grades. Learn how to stretch your imagination, develop characters and their personalities, thicken the plot and resolve the story. Taught by local author Hunter Darden, the small class size allows for one-on-one creative assistance. \$35 a month (\$30 members)

Storytime

Each Wednesday at 10 a.m., children will be enchanted listening to their favorite stories. In addition to developing listening skills, Museum Storytime will foster the joy of reading in young boys and girls. A small craft activity will follow storytime. The third Wednesday of every month enjoy creative science stories through a Magic Bus book or video. Free to Museum guests.

"Songs and Stories with Suzie"

Friday's at 10 a.m. Sponsored by Signal Hill Mall in conjunction with the Children's Museum. Toddlers are entranced as professional music therapist Suzie Shelton performs her creative and energetic songs and story telling. Free to Museum guests.

Pinewood Derby Car Workshop

Starting in October, local scout Derrick Wilson, and his dad, Steve, will teach participants how to build a pinewood car from a derby kit. You'll design, sand, paint and properly weight your car. Then you'll test it against others in a race on the Museum's officially sanctioned 6-lane pinewood derby racetrack. Kits provided. Call the Museum for the exact day and time that this four-class workshop begins. \$20 (\$16 members)

Mad Science Club

Back by popular demand, from the instructors of Mad Science Summer Camp, Mad Science Club is for students eager to explore all aspects of science through inquiry and hands-on activities that truly capture the student's interests and imagination. For one Saturday each month, students ages 5 to 12 years will meet at 134 Court St. from 9 a.m. until noon to explore two topics during each class. Topics covered are dry ice, polymers, harnessing heat, magnetic magic, sonic sound, tantalizing taste, light-color-action, and matters of fact. Minimum of 12 students needed for each class. \$25 (\$22 members) per class. Class dates: Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Tiny Doubles Photo Sculptures

Appointments available Oct. 12 and 13. Create your own personal photo sculpture with costumes, sports equipment, musical instruments, or toys. Ideal gifts for birthdays or Christmas. Photography appointments must be made in advance. Oct. 13 almost full so second date added: Oct. 12. Proof view date is Oct. 19 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Prices range from \$11 to \$35 per photo sculpture. At Signal Hill Mall.

Outdoor Adventures

• Hike Pilot Mountain — Sept. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This full day trek on Pilot Mountain near Winston-Salem offers the opportunity for those aged 9 and up to enjoy and learn more about the great outdoors. Limited to 6 participants. \$25 (\$20 members) includes lunch and transportation. Registration deadline: Sept. 24. • Enjoy Mountain Hiking and Biking — Oct. 20-21. Spend Saturday hiking Stone Mountain in Allegheny County, then spend the night under the stars (cabin available if weather necessitates). On Sunday, you'll bike down the Virginia Creeper Trail in Damascus, Va. for a breathtaking ride all the way down the mountain. \$140 (\$135 members) includes transportation, all meals and bike rental. Registration deadline: Oct. 15.

Holiday FUN

For the Young and Young at Heart. Each Saturday morning at the Museum at Signal Hill Mall.

Dec. 1, 9-10 a.m. — Breakfast with Santa Claus.

Dec. 8, 10-11 a.m. — Gingerbread Houses.

Dec. 8, 2-3 p.m. — Christmas Around the World. Food, crafts, songs, folklore and holiday traditions of Germany, China and Mexico.

Dec. 15, 10:30-11 a.m. — Plaster Handprints

Dec. 15, 2-3 p.m. — Gingerbread Houses

Holiday Crafts

Under the guidance of Fine Arts Teacher Debbie Hauff, children will make beautiful holiday crafts that can be given as fine gifts. For students in second through sixth grades, each Saturday will be different as activities include making Christmas balls, Christmas wreaths and other festive projects. Each child will leave with two or three finely made holiday presents. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Dec. 1 & 8. Maximum 12, minimum 5, \$24 (\$20 members). Price includes all materials and art lesson. Location: 134 Court St.

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Section B

For a survivor with no sense these I fear

Everything, they say, is relative. Dad used to tell me that. I never believed him. Little did I know then how much he knows now. I probably never will.

I've never considered myself much of a survivor. And all those questions on those growing number of trivia shows cause my bald spot to grow bigger. But now that they've come out with this new "Fear Factor" reality show, that's something I can relate to.

Some of the things these contestants are asked to eat look a lot like what I lived on when trying to make those loose ends meet attending college summer school and making apartment payments. In fact, if I knew some of the things they are eating were edible, it would have made those ends

come a little closer together.

The way I see it, falling off buildings, jumping from boats onto helicopters, leaping from one moving truck to another, and squirming around an airlifted car, all the while carefully hooked up to ropes and wires making sure that if they do fall, they remain safe, isn't that much of a challenge. Being covered up with rats and snakes, and climbing through sewage pipes, sounds a lot like stuff my brothers and I did while growing up along a dye creek.

If they really want something to be afraid of, then they ought to face the kind of every-day thoughts that are so frightening they often keep me awake nights.

Stuff like this:

• The possibility that it might rain out the entire three-day mountain golfing weekend that I have to work so hard all year just to be allowed — and afford — to take;

• The growing chances that the shorter the length of a putt I have for a birdie, the more likely it is that I will miss it;

• The increasing trend that more and more golf courses are favoring the long ball hitter who utilizes a controlled draw instead of more target-like layouts playing right up the preferred alley of an old power-fade ball striker;

• That once again this year, turnout for the upcoming Iredell County Open golf championship will be lower than expected. Golfers want so much, but the more you give them, the more they gripe about not getting more;

• That metal spikes will make a come back on the golf course, allowing those less careful to once again scrape, scratch and damage tender areas, particularly around and on the greens. Golfers would love to use that as an excuse;

• That I am, indeed, addicted to golf like my wife Tammy says I am. Looking at this list so far alone lends credence to that possibility;

• That aluminum bats will appear in the game of baseball at higher than the college level. Pitchers should already be wearing as much protective gear as their catchers. Heaven only knows what could be prevented from happening if wooden bats were used throughout all levels;

• That the bouncing of the basketball three times, followed by a deep breath and fluid release will some day result in hitting less than my career average of eight out of every 10 free throws I try. Feel free to test me;

• That those who happened to take part in our opening week of the high school and college football contest will not be able to accept our deepest apologies for not providing the complete list of featured games. It was not intended, and it will be corrected beginning this week;

• That rivalries like those that exist between Mooresville and South Iredell will fade away;

• That winning at all costs continues to be the highest thing on adults' minds, leaving the gates wide open for such detestable acts that may have stained the name of Little League Baseball for many seasons to come.

Foolproof

Devils run roughshod in opening home win

Foolproof.

That, apparently, is just what Mooresville's varsity football team's game plan was during its home regular-season opener against Alexander Central Friday night.

Even the plays that went the wrong way turned out right as the Blue Devils ran every which way and more during a rousing, 58-0 bashing of visiting Alexander Central in the Mooresville Stadium.

Mooresville's second straight win and first shutout gives it a 2-0 record heading back on the road this week.

"Obviously," stated Mike Carter, Mooresville's head coach, "it was a total team effort on our part. Our kicking game, offense and defense played a super all-around game. There was no weakness on our part. Of course, we had no idea we would score like we did. Our second team played most of the second half, and they did a great job, too. We even had some plays that went the wrong way, but they turned out to be good, too. It was just one of those nights when just about every-

thing we did was right."

That was the case almost from the outset. The hosts tallied a touchdown directly courtesy of its defense in the first period and scored on three offensive drives and used another defensive unit's tally in the second quarter to forge out to a 30-0 halftime lead. In the second half, the offense ruled with two touchdown charges each in the final two periods to reach the winning margin.

All the while, the defense logged the shutout by forcing five

turnovers and also scoring enough points with a touchdown and safety to secure the win outright.

For the game, the Devils collected 340 total yards, running for 251 and passing for another 89. Meanwhile, Mooresville held the Cougars to minus yards rushing in the first half and surrendered just 106 yards total for the game, 77 of them through the air.

For the defense, linebacker John Holly fell on an Alexander County fumble in the end zone for

the first touchdown, and the same unit forced a safety for two more points in the second quarter. In addition to Holly, Daniel Sherrill, Sky McCombs, and Joe Brice each pounced on a fumble. Cornerback Nateo Knox collected a pass interception to complete the turnover list.

"A shutout feels great," beamed Joe Pinyan, Mooresville's defensive coordinator. "Both units really wanted it."

See BLUE DEVILS, page 2B

Devilettes get needed win on tennis courts

Several players, and the team, got just what Mooresville wanted, and needed, on the tennis courts Monday afternoon.

In their final appearance before cranking up inaugural-year North Piedmont Conference play later this week, the Lady Devils used enough points in singles alone to snare a win over host East Lincoln and padded that effort with triumphs in the majority of doubles to post a welcome, 7-2 decision over the Lady Mustangs.

The victory follows late last

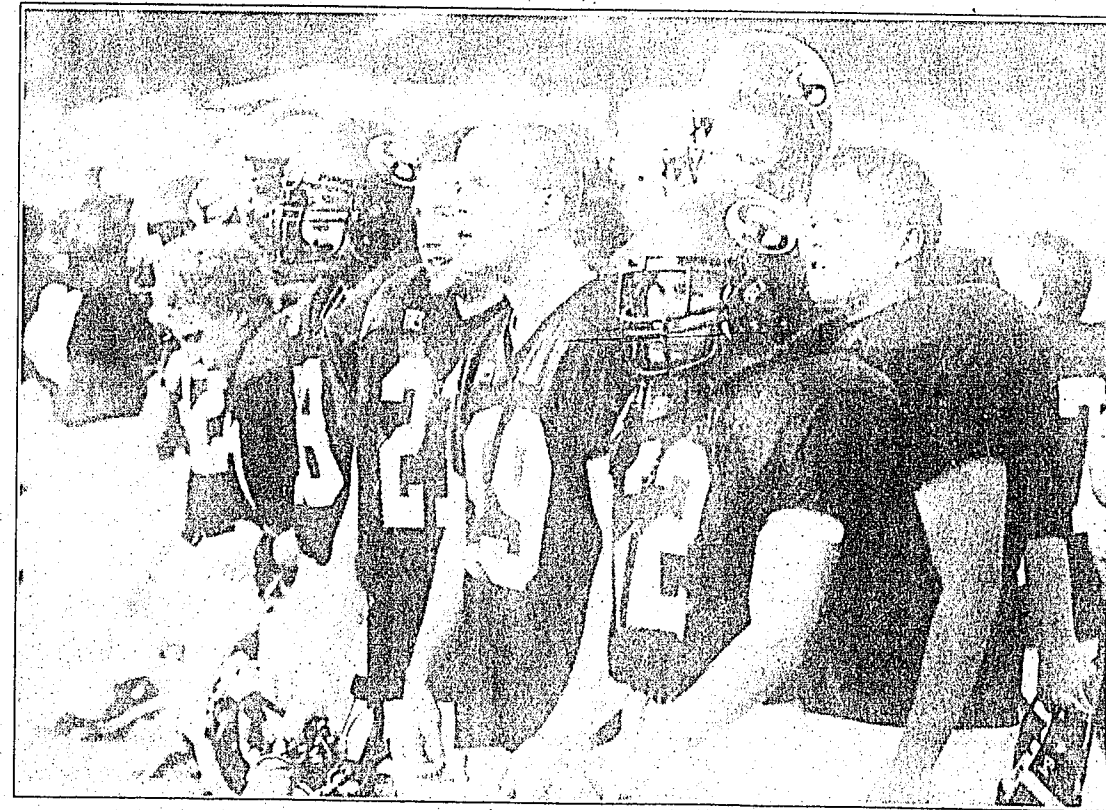
week's 7-2 defeat at the hands of St. Stephens.

"Hopefully," stressed Amy Smith, the Devilettes' first-year head coach, "this is a stepping stone as we head into conference play. We needed this win bad."

Mooresville got it in singles matches alone, where Allison Bean at number one, Mary-Grace Moon at two, Traci Pierce at three, Meg Kenyon at four and Allison Billings at six all captured favorable out-

See DEVILETTES, page 2B

Second wind, first win



Staying tune in along the sidelines, players watch intently while waiting their turn to take the field

Vikings sail to victory over county foe

South Iredell's varsity football team made the most of it second (half) wind Friday night.

Engaged in a halftime 7-7 tie with cross-county rival and guest West Iredell in their second at-home appearances in three weeks but last for an upcoming three-week span, the Vikings put the wind to their own sails during the second half, accounting for all the scoring over the final two periods and

closing with a three-touchdown fourth quarter to gather in their first official win of the season, 35-7.

In that respect, South Iredell now fields an official 1-2 overall record, tainted somewhat by what took place in the team's season-opener also on its home field three weeks ago. Then, the Vikes appeared to earn a 21-14 triumph over visiting West

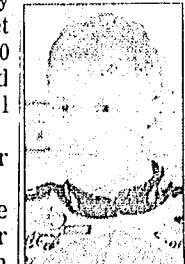
See VIKINGS, page 2B

Older, wiser Rudd rules Richmond

An older Ricky Rudd, second-year driver for Mooresville-based Robert Yates Racing on the NASCAR Winston Cup circuit, must not have responded harshly to what he considered "no polite bump" inside 20 laps from the finish of Saturday night's Chevrolet Monte Carlo 400 at Richmond International Raceway.

But a younger one would have. Instead, the now 25-year veteran relied on that experience to pay back the one responsible for that earlier tag — also a current rookie — and returned the favor in a much more strategic manner, taking the lead five laps from the finish and holding on from that point to claim his second win this season and second as a driver for RYR.

It comes a year after Rudd, a one-time driver/owner who when filling both roles once held the Winston Cup standard for most consecutive seasons with at least one win until the added duties of filling both positions began to affect his performance on the track, was dented a win with his then-new team. It also allows him



Rudd

See RICHMOND, page 2B

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