

April 22, 1977

### BOYCOTT SPRING CONVOCATION

Acting in his official capacity, President Spencer offered by letter a teaching position in the Political Science department to a Jewish candidate unanimously supported by the designated student-faculty committee. Dr. Spencer made it known in the contract that Dr. Ron Linden would not be eligible for tenure in six years because of his faith. Dr. Linden eagerly accepted by letter but stipulated that he could not actively support the Christian tenure clause and would argue against that clause as an issue in discussion. Disturbed by this response, Dr. Spencer consulted several Trustee-lawyers who advised him to rescind the offer to Dr. Linden. In the mean time Dr. Linden had refused two other attractive job offers.

We are boycotting because an injustice has been done. Although the legality of the situation has not been determined, the moral implications are clear. A grave administrative error was made in not informing Dr. Linden the preliminary sessions that an outspoken stance could jeopardize his possible employment. According to the "reverent seeker" clause of the College By-laws, the Trustees may in special circumstances grant tenure to a person who respects the Christian tradition without commitment to all its tenets, traditionally at Davidson, however, "reverent seekers" have been silent seekers. Dr. Linden has been punished because he refuses to be a hypocrite.

In this particular case the Christian tenure policy has resulted in an unchristian action. Christian tenure policy excludes and condemns those with divergent points of view to create a cloistered community: is not that inconsistent with the with the Christian statement of purpose?

Therefore, as a protest to the irresponsible and unethical actions of the college administration we strongly urge students and faculty to boycott Convocation. By uniting in this common goal students and faculty will maintain the spirit of Convocation and assume that moral leadership which the administration has rejected.

During the Welcoming Address, SGA President Thom Young will present the concerns that many students and faculty have about the hiring and firing practices of the school, specifically in relation to the Christian Tenure Policy. He will ask that those in agreement with these objections stand for a moment of silence as a symbol of their support.

We ask that you lend your attention to Thom's explanation, and encourage you to stand up for the moral rights which many feel a truly Christian community should embrace.

The SGA