

PERSPECTIVES

Ticketing Policy

STAFF EDITORIAL

After Tuesday's Voice Your Choice Food Show at Vail Commons, which showcased the offerings of over 20 potential food suppliers, we and our stomachs have to commend Davidson's Dining Services for their efforts in improving the campus culinary experience (though our after-lunch professors may think differently as they observe the soporific effects).

All three dining locations, Vail Commons, the Union Café and the Wildcat Den, have expanded their menus, adding a number of healthy and international-inspired choices.

The changing menu at Commons and the daily specials at the Union Café and the Wildcat Den help to break the monotony of the typical college diet. We particularly enjoy the ever-exquisite specialty salads the Union offers for lunch and the improved offerings of the 'Du Jour' station at commons.

Although we would still like to see the addition of a few delectable items (one of our staff members lamented the loss of chicken wings at Commons after the first week of school), we are quite appreciative of the effort Dining Services has shown.

But while our stomachs may be growing, our wallets are shrinking. Prices have significantly increased since the last year so that many sandwiches at the Union Café and the Wildcat Den now cost \$6.00 — not to mention sides and drinks. Door prices at Commons for breakfast, lunch or dinner demand \$7.20, \$8.50 and \$10.20, respectively — not exactly prices that suit a college student's daily budget.

Meal plans still don't make any sense to us. Why are discounts off door prices so small for the student that pays in excess of \$2200 a semester for a full meal plan? Why does the meal plan that's worth \$10.20 for dinner at commons suddenly shrink to under seven dollars with the Union Café's equivalency system?

While the diversified menus of campus dining locations are exciting for any hungry student, the spike in prices is disconcerting.

We all know that food costs are rising at unprecedented rates, but we hope that the college will make a concerted effort to keep the cost of basic needs manageable for all students. After all, it seems we must save money now in preparation for the frightful job market that we hear so much about.

Homophobia is elephant on campus



ASHLEY SEMBLE

assemble

Is it easy to be gay at Davidson? With several gay members in all kinds of student organizations, one might say that gay is the new black — highly in fashion and widely accepted. As of late though, I would tend to disagree.

A recent episode involving the verbal harassment of a gay individual gained minimal attention from the administration and was barely mentioned amongst the student body. I can't help but wonder, where is the outrage? Why is it that an act of homophobia goes unnoticed, while in the past, acts of racism sparked heated debate and enormous attention across all levels of the Davidson hierarchy?

The word 'faggot' is blurted out all across campus. It might seem like harmless name-calling to some, but let us analyze the consequences of using other slurs at Davidson. For example, why is the word faggot so prevalent, while the n-word (the slur for African Americans) does not, and cannot, exist?

Why is it that an act of homophobia goes unnoticed, while in the past, acts of racism sparked heated debate and enormous attention across all levels of the Davidson hierarchy?

Here at Davidson, it's implied that if the n-word is spoken, especially in a threatening matter, that God will come down and slap you upside the head. If a racist incident occurs, the students' are flooded with informative, "tsk tsk" emails, letters are sent home to parents, rallies are organized, and President Ross will mostly likely give a speech.

All of these acts show the college's united stance against racism and disrespect. Where is the stance against homophobia? Where are the emails, the rallies, and the speeches? Gay students are a minority population on this campus just like African-Americans, yet where is their voice?

Well, I suppose since I decided to mouth-off about this issue, I'll be the "equality for all" voice of the week. Despite my heterosexuality, I feel very close to this issue. I have a number of gay friends and if any of them were ever attacked, either verbally or physically, I don't know what I would do.

As a Jew, I also know a little bit about being a minority. My grandfather was often called a "Christ-killer" on the streets of Depression-era New York.

It was widely known and accepted that my parents wouldn't "fit in" at our town country club in the late 70s. I went to an elementary school, a little girl called my sister the k-word (racial slur for Jews...this article is also a lesson in bad word use in case you haven't noticed) and proceeded to rip up her hair. Yes, the world is messed up.

These intolerant acts are so blatantly wrong that they're almost laughable in this day and age; however, anti-Semitic incidents of the past are homophobic incidents of the present. Instead of being called "Christ-killers" or the k-word, homosexuals are laughed at and called faggots. Instead of country clubs rejecting Jewish couples, they reject gay couples. This is all proof that I'm lucky to live in a time and place where Jews are not only accepted, they're relatively embraced. My friends in the gay community are not quite as lucky.

The question then becomes, how do we fix the problem? How can the student body prevent acts of homophobia and create a Davidson bubble of tolerance? Unfortunately, there is no miracle cure for prejudice and seemingly harmless name-calling.

I know I can't write an article that will magically make everyone go out and hug the next gay person they see. (No, I would not do that to the gay community. Can you imagine the amount of awkward hugging? That's a lot of awkward hugging even for Davidson.) I think the easiest baby-steps toward a more gay-friendly Davidson are personal acts of kindness toward gay individuals.

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My method seems rather silly and corny but I'm a direct product of its success. If my mother hadn't had several gay friends, I might not be writing this article today. Showing your friends that you are okay with homosexuality then perhaps they will jump on the bandwagon. Acceptance breeds acceptance. And hopefully, acts of homophobia will one day outrage the Davidson community as much as acts of anti-Semitism or racism.

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The Davidsonian

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Elevator etiquette from the Big Apple

DOUGLAS GORDON GOLANN
Guest Writer

For the first time since I have been a Davidson student, I have encountered a situation in which New Yorkers are more courteous than the students on our campus. When I am interacting with New Yorkers, it's commonplace for doors to slam in my face or have people bump into me and tell me to move out of the way. However, when it comes to riding the elevator, these people are usually very polite. I cannot say the same for Davidson students. I feel that many of them need a lesson in elevator etiquette.

Growing up in an apartment in New York City, I think it is safe to say that I have had plenty of experience riding elevators. When I am home, it is rare that a day will pass without my entering one. It is required if I want to go anywhere.

Growing up in an apartment in New York City, I think it is safe to say that I have plenty of experience riding elevators. When I am home, it is rare that a day will pass without my entering one.

Fortunately, since I have been at Davidson, I have had the pleasure of taking the stairs everywhere I go. I have to walk up two flights as opposed to ten. However, this year I am living in Duke, and inevitably, I have taken a ride on the shaking machine that takes me from the first floor to the third.

So far I have found my experiences on the elevator to be

surprising. I have always considered it common knowledge that you let someone off the elevator before you get on, apparently I am mistaken. I have encountered numerous people who charge into the elevator before letting me off. It is very frustrating and very rude. I don't think people understand just how annoying it is.

Back in New York, if I consistently rushed into elevators before letting people exit, I am certain that I would receive several nasty looks and angry comments. This is not a result of New Yorkers being disrespectful. Rather, it is a result of New Yorkers expecting things to be done right. They know that in every scenario, you let people exit the elevator before entering. Even if a female is entering and a male is exiting, the person inside the elevator always has the right of way.

Students seem to have a similar problem when it comes to entering and exiting classrooms. I can't tell you the number of times students will stampede into a classroom before letting someone leave. The rules that apply to elevators apply to classrooms as well.

While entering an elevator before someone exits may seem like an insignificant action, it is one that many people notice. It surprises me every time someone does it. I have frequently considered saying something, but I never felt it was appropriate to do so in person.

Even though elevator etiquette may not be an issue for you, the next time you're waiting to get on an elevator, simply take a step back from the door. Then, you can wait to see if anyone is in the elevator. If not, you may proceed inside. If someone is inside, let them get off before you enter. It's a simple action, but apparently one that people don't practice.

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