

# The Davidsonian

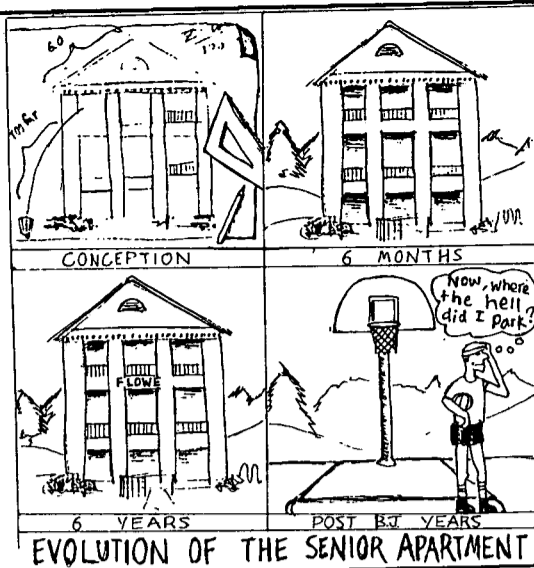
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EVOLUTION OF THE SENIOR APARTMENT

## LETTERS

### Confederate flag is inflammatory symbol

To the editors,

I would like to sincerely express my appreciation to Ike Bailey for contributing his recent editorial, "How important is the Confederate flag?" to

the Davidsonian. I would like to add that although slavery was not the central issue of the Civil War, the flag has indeed been used by the KKK and white supremacist groups to symbolize their

message, and everyone should be sensitive to what feelings that fact may and should arouse.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Kreiling '96

### Another financial proposal

To the editors,

Recently, the SGA was challenged with the difficult problem of a new outdoor basketball court. Reflecting on the many problems associated with this challenging proposal, we have come up with a

suggestion. We think we should take all the money allocated for the construction of the on-campus post office, the co-ed eating house, the new Union (the one we were promised as perspectives), the new track, and the basketball courts, and

build an underground parking garage below Richardson Field. Now that's something worthwhile.

Two concerned  
students,  
Bruce Bannister '95  
and Kevin Miller '95

## Honor Code: On Trial

Recently, the SGA established an ad-hoc committee on the honor system to answer concerns that the Honor Code's presence isn't felt on campus as strongly as it used to be. The committee will look into many facets of our honor system, but the basic question we need to consider is this: Do students still respect the Honor Code?

We think not. Not the way they should, at least. Typical Davidson students do not have contempt for the Honor Code, but it is not a part of their lives as it needs to be to work properly. As important as it is to the life of our college, the unfortunate truth is that students don't think about the Honor Code enough.

Our experience as newspaper editors has taught us that it takes a lot to get somebody's attention. It is difficult to force students to think about the code every single day, but the Honor Council needs to take measures to bring the code back to the forefront of our minds.

We could take lessons from Washington and Lee about how to do this. They require that students write out the honor pledge on every paper and test. They have a copy of the pledge hanging in every classroom. Students there are afraid of the wrath of the Honor Council, but at Davidson, that feeling most often fades by the end of freshman year. At W&L, the Honor Code is a felt presence on campus, and at Davidson, it is not.

Our Honor Code has faded not because Davidson students are less honest than they need to be. It is our day-to-day awareness of the code that has faded, and fortunately, that something we can bring back. But if we recognize the problem and fail to institutionalize change, then we are compromising our moral integrity.

The next few months are crucial to the future of Davidson College as we know it. As the SGA and the Honor Council examine Davidson's moral system, the entire community needs to become aware of our waning regard for honor and ask itself an unpleasant question: Is the Honor Code still the backbone of Davidson College, or have we lost our

### Best to Dress as if Your Life Depended on it

Somewhere out there, a young man is reading this. Ah yes—there you are. Whoever you are, wherever you're sitting or standing, this one's for you.

Yes, you.

I don't know your name. I have no idea where you live, what schools you've attended, what you want to do with your life.

But I'm going to give you some advice: Tonight, tomorrow, the next time you're in a position to, do yourself a favor.

Wear a condom.

Wait. Before you turn back to the Sports section or drop the paper entirely, I'll admit the obvious. For most guys, wearing a rubber during sex doesn't feel as good as going "bareback." I've heard some guys joke that it's like "making love with a glove."

Now, I'm no man. But as a twice-married woman, the sister of three men and the best female buddy of several more, I've heard enough men talk straight-up about sex to know this:

With a condom, sex still feels good. So good that you are going to want to feel that way, over and over, for many years to come.

Which brings me to what's making a closet prude like me speak so brazenly to a stranger. A front-page article from Wednesday's *Washington Post*, that's

what.

It stated that AIDS has surpassed homicide to become the leading killer of black men age 25 to 44 in the Washington area, according to local health officials. Before young white guys get comfy, they should know that according to Centers for Disease Control epidemiologist Richard Selik, AIDS has become the leading cause of death nationally for all men in the age group, based on provisional data for 1992. The disease is spreading faster among heterosexuals.

Bottom line: More young men are dying from sex and drugs—the primary ways of spreading the blood-and-fluid-borne disease—than from bullets.

That's saying something.

Once upon a time, the chief killer of young guys practically everywhere was car crashes and other accidents. After that, heart disease. (That's still true in much of the United States.) Young men died from the kind of stuff that devastated family members could say was "God's will.... It couldn't be helped."

Nowadays, in places like D.C., thousands of young, healthy guys die because somebody points a loaded gun and them and pulls the trigger. Even more die of Aids.

Like homicide—which

is another column altogether—AIDS is often about choices. It can be prevented. By not using intravenous drugs. And by using something as cheap, smart and widely available as a condom. That's so well publicized, my 8-year-old knows it.

So why aren't you using one?

We just dealt with the feel-good issue. Because dead guys generally don't have sex—and you want to have lots of it—it's in your best interest to stay alive. Condoms can help.

Perhaps you have a partner problem. Your girlfriend will hate rubbers or question your wanting to use one. Trust me, a woman too dumb to comprehend that condoms protect you and her is someone with whom you won't want to exchange phone numbers, let alone body fluids.

I know how it is.

When you get down to it, only you can protect you, anyway. And in this crazy, out-of-control world, this is one thing you can control.

You're smart and it's simple.

Buy condoms. Use them. Live a little. Got that? You can thank me later.

*-This is an editorial written by Donna Brit and published in the July 1, 1994 issue of The Washington Post Writer's Group.*

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