

Asian 21/m/ny looking for articles and fun

SUNNY LEE

Listen - this article is not about politics. It's about how hard it is not to get bummed out when we're short a few articles and I have to try to solicit some from people. It's a litany of insecurity, of general apathy, disinterest and disdain. "I don't really have anything to say", "I'm not a great writer", or the always tactful, "Man honestly I only read the police blotter". It disappoints me because I think the Perspectives page is incredibly important to the overall culture of Davidson, and when there's a dearth of articles we're all left a little poorer for it. This is, in fact, the thesis of my article.

Why does the Perspectives page matter? Well, let me tell you all about it: the Perspectives page is a forum that provides the campus with the unique opportunity of collective introspection, a literary crossroads where academia, individual reflection and general frivolity can mesh together briefly on two fantastically expressive pages. That's how I felt when I originally applied to be editor, and I still feel as strongly about it today. If I didn't, you can sure as hell bet I wouldn't be spending my Tuesday nights in this cramped, stuffy office that sometimes smells eerily of Domino's, even when there's none around.

As I'm fairly sure some great man (probably Jesus?) said sometime, "everyone has a perspective, so everyone should totally write a Perspectives article at some point or another" (Leviticus 7:16). I agree with this suspiciously relevant and not fictional quote whole-heartedly. Year after year I find myself amazed at the seemingly endless number of fascinating people I meet who are doing, thinking and living things that completely blow my mind. Articles like this are exactly the kind I wish I didn't have to be writing, not just because it's midnight and 21 year old night is hopping downstairs, but because the space on this page could be used for something so much more enriching and interesting.

So please - be brave, be bold. Bike across America, bake a cake, work at a soup kitchen, kick around Europe on \$50 and a guitar and take classes on subjects you know nothing about. Do to the canvas what jazz did to music, or just jam out to the Eagles on the porch with some friends and enjoy a nice Friday afternoon. Wherever you venture and whoever you are or become, feel free to drop us a line anytime. Tell us a story. We'll listen.

Sunny Lee '11 is the Perspectives Section Editor and a psychology major from Harlem, NY. Contact him at sulee@davidson.edu

NOVEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE: Race/Ethnicity

SARAH CLINE, MAC GILLILAND, JAMIE HOFMEISTER

We loved getting to hear your responses to ability/disability and had another great forum discussion last Wednesday in the multicultural house. But, can you believe a new month is here? And with that, we move onto a new Perspectives topic. That is not to say we are forgetting about ability/disability, that we no longer care about it, or that you should not keep thinking about it and talking about it. It just means we will be inundating you with new facts, new questions, and soliciting perspectives for a new topic of identity. Welcome to Perspectives on race/ethnicity. We hope you enjoy your stay.

Think about it. Yes, I want us to talk about the categories, how it plays out in society and at Davidson. But then I want us to be able to go beyond that, go beyond the academic conversation or the ideological debates and get to the heart of our stories. Let's engage this with our whole selves. How does race/ethnicity affect your story, your life, your identity? Have you ever thought about how it might affect someone else's? What's the difference between race and ethnicity? What do these words really mean? How does race/ethnicity play into your identity? How does it affect your interactions, your friends, or the way you see and hear the world? Do you think race/ethnicity are talked about too much? Not enough? Just right? (Am I beginning to sound like Goldie Locks?). Do you feel comfortable at Davidson as a person of your race/ethnicity? Is race/ethnicity something you think about a lot or don't think about at all? Why? How does race/ethnicity play into your activities, your likes, your dislikes, your humor, your wants; your sense of community? And, why is diversity so often equated with racial diversity? Whew, and that is just a sampling of the discussion potential. The questions once again are numerous, and perhaps the perspectives are just as numerous. We cannot wait to find out.

Start thinking, daydreaming, and mulling. Have conversations with your friends. (You could even have a conversation with an acquaintance or stranger. Maybe you will make a new friend.)

Submit articles to go into the Davidsonian. Get interviewed for our documentary. Read one of our flyers. Submit a response to the box by the piano. Get on Facebook (ok, we know you are already on), and check out our Perspectives at Davidson Facebook page, become a fan [click Like!] and post some thoughts, ask some questions, link some articles, you know Facebook. We are so glad that Perspectives can be a place to really share the core of what we think and the heart of who we are, so be honest, respect yourselves, and respect others. And, of course, we invite you to come to our discussion forum Wednesday _____ at 8pm in the Multicultural house. As always, we'll provide the snacks, you provide the perspectives. We can't wait to hear what you all have to say.

Love,
The Perspectives Staff
Sarah Cline, Mac Gilliland, Jamie Hofmeister

*In case you missed either the Perspectives on Gender or Perspectives on Ability/Disability forums our technology guru Mac Gilliland will be putting the documentaries on youtube soon. Thank you all for the interest and requests. Check them out either on youtube directly or find the link on our Facebook page. Thanks Mac!

**And for those of you forward thinkers: Our topics for the spring include:

- January: Socio-Economic Status
- February: Sexual-Orientation
- March: Geographic Heritage
- April: Religion

Student groups, we would love it if you would help us get people thinking by sponsoring programs related to these topics during their months.

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Mature Content Warning

CASEY GRIFFITH

This morning November 2nd, 2010, the United States Supreme Court met to hear the case of *Schwarzenegger vs. The Entertainment Merchants Association*. The basic premise of this case is that the state of California is trying to pass a law to prevent the access of minors to the "deviant" levels of violence in videogames. From the start, I cannot pretend to be unbiased in my opinion of this. As a "gamer" since as early as middle school, I've spent countless hours of my time playing videogames, from the Mario Party series all the way to Resident Evil. In all honesty, I've probably spent more hours of my life playing bloody, violent games than the average person will ever spend with a controller in their hands. Some of my fondest memories from time spent with friends involve what we were doing in one game or another. Needless to say, I tend to get a bit defensive when the topic of imposing regulations on video games comes up, especially when the criteria for what games will be affected is as vague as "deviant". I stand against such things as a matter of principle. But even with this bias, I can understand why such a law might be appealing to some. Even I wouldn't argue that there's nothing wrong with a young child sitting in front of a television for hours, brutally hacking people to bits in a particularly violent game. While I agree

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that there is something wrong with that picture, I think people are looking in the wrong direction, so to speak. While the state of California seems to take issue with the fact that the child has access to the game at all, I see the fact that the parent isn't a part of the picture as the true cause for concern. Currently, many retailers will not sell any game that the ESRB has rated as "M for mature" to a minor. Realistically, minors can still get their hands on the game without too much difficulty, but the most convenient way to do so is to ask their parents. I can understand that many parents are not well informed about the up and coming video game releases, but it does not take a great deal of effort to realize the nature of the game that you're bringing up to the register. Titles such as *Left 4 Dead* and *Manhunt* aren't exactly secretive as to what their content is, with pictures of hands missing fingers and masked killers on the cover art. In case that isn't enough of a warning, flipping the case over and reading the back may prove a bit more insightful, especially if one takes the time to read the reasons listed next to the "M" rating. Even leaving all of that out, is it really so hard for a parent to take a few minutes to actually see what their kids are playing? My problem with the bill California is trying to pass isn't the fact that they're trying to keep young children from spending hours immersed in a world of blood and violence, it's the fact that they're trying to pass a bill that places what should be a parent's responsibility in the hands of the government. A parent should know their child enough to determine what is and is not okay for them to be exposed to, and little parental guidance seems a lot more attractive than having the government decide what games are okay for everyone.

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