



President Bobby Vagt

"I think the clarion call to action was great - and I hope that those actions do not limit their focus only to race, but extend to all those areas of inequity which may exist in this community . . . I hope that our continuing conversation sensitizes all of us to the reality of these actions as well."

Dean Ernest Jeffries

"I challenge each member of this community to silence the doubter. Keep the discussion of race in the forefront. . . . Hold this institution and all members of the community accountable when it comes to diversity."

Dean Tom Shandley

"The discussions that have stemmed from the incident have restored a sense of community that had been damaged and affirmed for some students that they truly belong here. But those are just first steps and can't be forgotten as we look inside and outside the classroom."

Debunking the DC Bubble

**Carrie Arthur
Sophomore Perspective**

We, Davidson students, live in a protected bubble, an utopia of sorts, where we believe that the common ailments of ordinary, real society do not affect us. Many of us have no clue about the events in the outside world. When was the last time you read a newspaper or watched the news (however flawed it is)? Can anyone tell me something about current events (not including political science majors) other than Clinton and Monica?

Unfortunately, real society and its problems do exist here. We are not immune to real problems despite our comforting claims that "Davidson isn't like that"; we merely ignore their existence. Although we can pretend that Davidson is an ideal world in itself these delusions cannot change the reality of what Davidson is. Ignoring problems does not make them disappear; ignorance merely comforts us.

Bad things do happen at Davidson. Girls (and possibly guys) are raped, computers and bikes are stolen, and strangers do come on campus with ill intentions from which the Honor Code or Code of Responsibility cannot protect us. Last year, two police officers and one teenager died too close to our beloved school in the town of Davidson. Captain Stancil of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office gave his life in the line of duty this year. Just tonight, I heard stories of people from off-campus chasing students, and last year when I went to Dance Davidson (in the town hall) a strange man hung out by the exit and harassed students.

I wish that our vision of the ideal Davidson, where our only concerns were the selection at the Union Cafe and the closing

of Chambers, the VAC, and other buildings, were the real Davidson. Yes, our community is probably safer and more honest than most. Similar to many people, I have a great Honor Code story where someone returned to me a lost pearl earring two weeks after I lost it. I still leave my door unlocked, take reviews in my room, and enjoy a library without detectors, but the Honor Code and Code of Responsibility which we follow do not pertain to the outside world, a world which the College cannot escape. Not even every student follows these codes all of the time (if everyone did, the Honor Council would be unnecessary).

The time has come for us to confront openly what is wrong with Davidson as well as what is right. We should destroy the superficial image of a happy, cheery world because our feelings of superficial safety and comfort do no good; they serve us an injustice.

Our ideal world where everyone is honest is wonderful as a vision for what we would like society to be, but it is not a realistic description of the world in which we live. We need to meet reality with an open mind instead of rejecting any comment about the imperfection of Davidson, the most common response. Just because someone says that our school is not perfect does not mean that he

or she is trashing it.

If we pride ourselves in our ideals we also need to accept the truth as well. By discussing instead of hiding our problems we can better face them.

The time has come for us to confront openly what is wrong with Davidson as well as what is right.

We should destroy the superficial image of a happy, cheery world right next to Smurfs and Carebears because our feelings of superficial safety and comfort do no good; they serve us an injustice.

If we accept our actual environment, we will find it to be not as horrible as it seems and we will be better prepared for it.

Senseless Acts of Hate

**David Rosenberg
Sophomore Perspective**

In all truth, a bigot did not write those words.

I know who wrote it.

Just some drunken kid who thought he'd amuse his friends by disrespecting a public figure in a chilling way.

He doesn't wear a white robe with a pointed cap. He doesn't carry a noose in his left hand and a cross in his right. He shops at JCrew and dances on Patterson Court. He studies on the first floor of the library and when he goes to the Outpost for a study break he orders a Chicken Caesar Bagel.

He is not a fictitious character dreamt up as a sociology project to study racial relations at Davidson. He is one of us, a smiling comrade who upholds the same morals each of us calls Davidson standards.

Thank goodness he scribbled. It shows us where we are.

One can argue that this is one insignificant case of random racism. But ask any minority student, and they will tell you of at least one instance in which they have felt discrimination because of their skin color. Go ahead, ask them. "One instance," white students say, "It's just one." But ask enough people and add one and one and one . . . That number soon becomes disgustingly large.

Many spoke at the Student Forum of demanding a full holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. They also insisted that the honor council insert racial discrimination clause into the Code of Responsibility.

It's a start. These are both arguments that we need to address and follow up.

But its only a start. It does not accomplish more than put a fancy prom dress on a dateless high school senior. It pretties her up a bit and makes her feel good, but in the long run she finds she still can't go the party.

How can we deny that prejudices exist

when the only openly gay student on the Davidson campus withdrew his attendance because he found the social environment too uncomfortable? Why does this not embarrass us? Racial and sexual orientation discrimination are not things that we can dismiss.

We are cheating these students from their college experience. No student can possibly fathom what courage it must take to attend a school with a majority of a different race. If one believes that he or she can imagine what courage it takes then I encourage them to enroll in a semester at Howard University and be one of 180 caucasian students in a university of 9,000.

I encourage them to picture themselves there. Think about it.

This cannot be left untouched. The momentum from this incident must be used to inform the white population of Davidson College that we do have a problem here and they are part of it. It takes an effort to change.

Students must understand and accept that racism exists here. Though the SGA sponsored student forum last Tuesday was impressive and needed, those who attended were not those who needed to. Those who attended were the concerned, not the ignorant. Mandatory programs won't do the changing and neither will the implication of a racism policy. The simple empathism, understanding, and recognition that racism exists can bring about change.

Some might say that this is an insignificant practice of random prejudice and a senseless act of hatred.

And it just might be. But at the same token, it is just that: a random act of prejudice and a senseless act of hatred. This is not an issue that the nervous butterflies of SGA get strung up about and eventually dies down. This is real.

So are men with white robes and pointed caps.

What they feel is real.

Empathize.

Solutions to Racial Friction

**Cort Heroy
A Fresh Opinion**

Hello again, fellow students of Davidson. Just to let you know, this is the second time I've written this column. The first one was featured me tirading about the person who felt it necessary to defile Glenn's poster as well as write racial epithets below it. However, after last Wednesday night's SGA meeting, I decided that poking fun at this mental midget was just too easy. Instead, I have chosen a rewrite which reveals my feelings about the meeting itself.

For those who were not in attendance, first of all, you should have been. Heinous acts of hate like the one that was perpetrated last weekend cannot be allowed to continue, and we must do all that we can to stop them.

Wednesday night's forum, which was called in response to this issue, was a good start in what needs to be done to improve race relations on this campus. I will now dissect the meeting.

The beginning of the forum was nice but not helpful. The first twenty minutes consisted of just blowing a lot of sunshine up the asses of the non-minority students who were in attendance. Don't misunderstand, I think it was great that so many white students attended, it certainly does say something about the constitution of the students here at Davidson.

However, now that I have done a little of

the same thing, let's get down to the real issue at hand. I am young, white, and liberal. I have little in common with Mr. Dylan Glenn, but that does not mean that I will tolerate acts of racial hatred on my campus. It may be impossible to change the way a person thinks, but it is possible to educate people so that they might be aware of the plight as well as the triumphs of those people

We need to stop further acts of racial hatred from occurring on this campus and education is the way to stop that

they choose to hate. This school is decidedly lacking in the realm of ethnic studies, and this is something we need to change. A vast library of literature written by African Americans as well as other minorities exists out there. Also, a great amount of history regarding those ethnic groups other than white and male is ours for the reading.

Here are a few ideas that were brought forth in the meeting that I feel hold enough merit to appear in print for others who were not there to hear. First, we need to take Martin Luther King Day off, but not as a mere break from classes but as an opportunity to learn the message of love for all that Dr. King preached. Second, let's actively look for those professors who come from minorities of all kinds. Finally, let's institute an ethnic studies program at this school, or rather a larger one than we have now. I realize that none of these changes will occur overnight, but they do need to happen. We need to stop further acts of racial hatred from occurring on this campus, and education is the way to stop that.