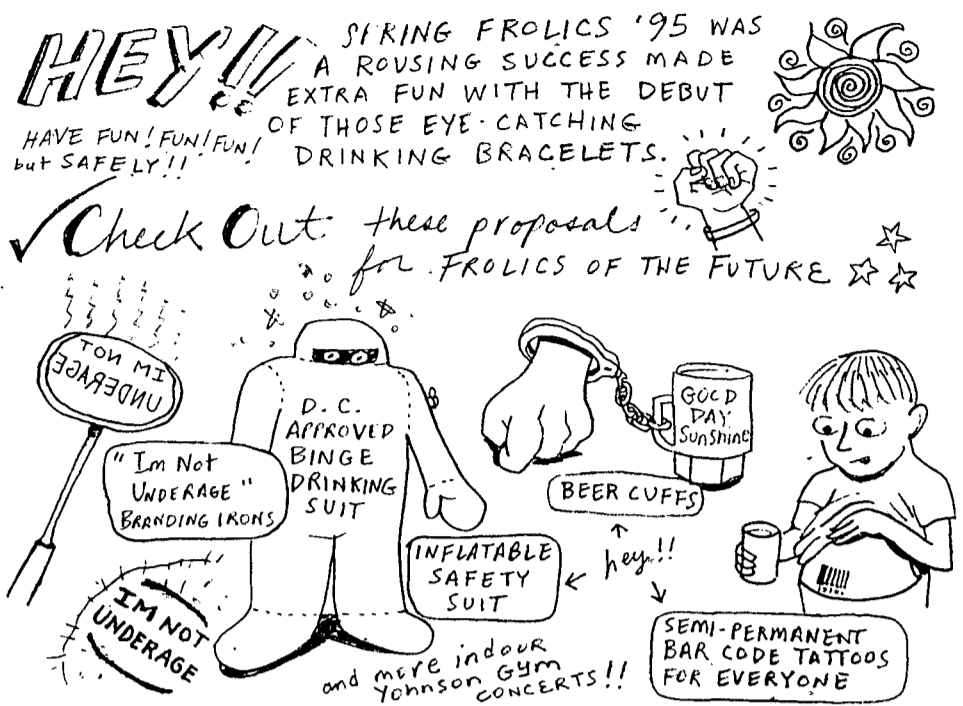


# The Davidsonian

ALENDA LUX UBI ORTA LIBERTAS

<b>Executive Editors</b> MANDY CURTIS ROBERT RAMSAY	<b>Opinions Editor</b> JEFF KENT	<b>Copy Editors</b> DAVID SANTSCI TERESA WHITE
<b>Associate Editors</b> WILLIAM ROBERT RUSS TARVER	<b>Arts &amp; Living Editors</b> JACOB ABRAHAM JOHN COPENHAVER	<b>Business Manager</b> KATHERINE HASH
<b>News Editor</b> MARY CLARE JALONICK	<b>Sports Editor</b> MATT PITZER	<b>Advertising Managers</b> WALT BARRON CAROLINE BYNUM
<b>Assistant News Editor</b> MATTHEW EIRICH	<b>Photography Editor</b> ROB KOSICKI	<b>Circulation Manager</b> CRAIG MURPHY

Founded in 1914  
"The South's Foremost College Weekly"



## Waiving the FLAG

As we speed without brakes in a car whose destination is "The End of the Term," and as another class prepares to graduate, leaving its home of the last four years, the question of what lessons we will take away from Davidson becomes an important one and one that we who remain should ask.

Hopefully, this process will illuminate the fact that college is about more than studying and partying, that the most important lessons are learned outside the classroom. Hopefully, these lessons will extend beyond textbook knowledge and give us support and guidance as we confront the difficult moral issues which constantly confront individuals living in our society. Hopefully, we will realize that the most important lesson we will learn in our time at Davidson is how to overcome our differences and get along with others.

Unfortunately, however, these hopes for openmindedness and acceptance seem not to have been fulfilled — at least in Davidson's past. Several letters printed in the Spring 1995 issue of the *Davidson Journal* detail the opinions of older alumni who condemn the existence of FLAG, Friends of Lesbians and Gays, on campus; one of these letters appears in its entirety on page four of this issue of *The Davidsonian*.

These individuals express amazement and disgust at the "acceptance and ... introduction of gay culture" at Davidson. They quote Scripture passages which process conformity as the only route by which an individual may "inherit eternal life." One goes so far as to say that because of the current awareness about gay and lesbian issues and concerns, "I will always be proud that I [graduated] from the 1950 Davidson. I will never feel this way about the 1994 Davidson."

Many of these alumni base their arguments against FLAG — and hence against openmindedness and acceptance in general — on religious grounds. They assert that a Presbyterian college founded on Christian ideals ought not to allow, much less support, such a blatant violation of Biblical mandates.

Evidently, these individuals have forgotten a basic tenet of Christianity articulated by Jesus as part of the supreme commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus didn't say, "Love your neighbor as yourself unless he or she is gay, in which case banish him from society." Rather, openmindedness and acceptance were two of the most important lessons Christ taught both in word and in deed, and to exemplify these ideals is to truly be a Christian.

It seems, then, that to accept and embrace gays and lesbians as they are is to follow the teachings of Christ, who himself defied traditional mores by interacting with Gentiles, lepers, and others which society shunned. It seems that as a religiously affiliated college, our moral duty is to espouse Christ-like openmindedness and acceptance of all of our differences. And this, as one of the alumni letters states, "is not an option."

Above all, in our roles as individuals living in a world which emphasizes diversity, we must champion our openmindedness and acceptance of our individual differences as the most important lessons we take from our time at Davidson — lessons in the fundamental human activity of getting along with others.

## LETTERS

### Cultural diversity, Davidson style

To the editors,  
"Cultural diversity!" screams the Dean of Adutents.

"Cultural diversity," reminds the registrar.

"Cultural diversity!" proclaims the president.

"Cultural diversity," symbolized by crosses on the lawn of Chambers.

Hardly.  
Davidson College policy has injected the term

"cultural diversity" into the familiar language of its students and employees apparently in an effort to broaden the minds of those who work and study on the Davidson campus. Appreciation of diversity is a noble and worthy endeavor for every thinking person, a pursuit which invites the destruction of stereotypes, ignorance and insensitivity. Diversity, however, is not a word that comes to mind when imagining an academic building adorned with Christian symbolism.

Without question, crosses erected to celebrate the salvation of Jesus Christ are in line with the religious affiliations of the majority of Davidson students. Undoubtedly, the construction

of crosses for the Easter season is well-intentioned and not designed to suppress any other religion here.

The problem lies in the placement. Why are crosses placed in front of the main academic building? Surely the church 100 yards away is a more appropriate place. Chambers is the one place where every student can expect to spend some time. No other building stands as a physical example of everything that Davidson intends to be. Yet crosses, the supreme symbol of Christianity, stand in front of this building. There must be at least one person on this campus who is not a Christian.

The diversity expressed in the composition of the student body is done a disservice when the views of the many are forced upon those of the few. Forced is a strong word, but is another applicable? Three seven-foot wooden crosses are firmly planted in the ground of the lawn shaded by the school's primary academic building. Further, of the four sides of Chambers, the trio of crosses stand between it and every one of the school's

residence halls, meaning that every trip to class for every on-campus resident is highlighted with Christianity.

The world is currently experiencing a communication revolution which is quickly making this planet a very small place. Strange and unique cultures, environments, and religions are now exposed with a few clicks of a remote control. The global village is a reality, and it is our duty as citizens of the planet not to exclude the smallest minority. The Davidson experience is attempting to taste the many flavors of the world's variety but is obviously unable to swallow. Crosses in the most public place on campus do not create an ideologically open atmosphere for the few minority groups this school has been able to attract.

Davidson is a traditionally Christian institution tucked into a traditionally Christian region and nation, but this must not hinder the spread of the world's wealth of diversity.

Sincerely,  
Cormac Conner '95

### Trustees are required to . . .

To the editors,  
According to the by-laws of Davidson College, the Board of Trustees shall consist of men and women who are active members of the Christian church. Presumably this policy seeks to achieve several objectives. It recognizes the Presbyterian roots of Davidson and alleges to continue the ethos such a heritage establishes. The perpetuation of such values occurs, because theologically, deeply Christian trustees will enforce policies that reflect such character. Another common argu-

ment suggests that changing the policy so that non-Christians could be trustees would cause some Christian alumni to stop giving money. These arguments carry very little merit for me. Until the current Board of Trustees repeals this rule, I will abstain from giving my senior class gift to Davidson College. Requiring trustees to be Christian is not only exclusive and anti-semitic, but also is contrary to the Davidson College Statement of Purpose.

The Board of Trustees oversees operation of the

college and consists primarily of men and women chosen for either their wealth, power, or dignified status. To be a member of Davidson College's Board of Trustees, one should possess outstanding character, common sense, intellect, and the ability to raise money. Are these traits present only in Christians? I could be the most successful alumnus of Davidson College ever. I could be the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 30 years, but I could

See Denali on page 9

*The Davidsonian* is published weekly on Monday during the spring term by the students of Davidson College. Please address fan mail and correspondences to: The Davidsonian, P.O. Box 219, Davidson, North Carolina 28036. Phone (704) 892-2148 or -2149. Our offices are located on the third floor of the Grey Student Union building. Opinions expressed in letters to the editor or commentaries do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board of *The Davidsonian*. Subscriptions cost \$32.50 per year. Advertising rates are available upon request. Copyright is held by the Trustees of Davidson College.