



Perhaps the men's basketball team is taking this "team bonding" thing a little too far.

Support group emerges at Davidson

As you walk through our beautiful campus waving to your acquaintances, you can easily imagine being in a protected bubble, where death, disease, hurt, pain, and grief are absent. However, how often have you taken the time to look past a friend's bubble and question what he is truly feeling? One sophomore on our campus has; Laura Crim realized that not all of us live in fairy tale worlds. In fact, a surprisingly large number of students have to cope with serious problems that accost them daily.

To specifically address the problem of students who have to deal with friends and family members with serious illnesses, she has started a weekly support group.

The inspiration for starting this group is personal in nature. Her father has had Alzheimer's for the past five years. When she left for college she was worried about dealing with her changing relationship with her father. Once she arrived at Davidson, she felt there was no one who she could turn to for helping her with these emotions. She thinks that part of the reason behind this loneliness is that Davidson students have the tendency to create a façade of perfection that only close friends are allowed to look past. After having three semesters to shatter those fronts and develop strong relationships with other students, she has discovered that several people are working through a similar predicament. The support group's weekly sessions, she hopes, will help any one else who might be

experiencing feelings of grief and guilt because of the illness of friends and family.

This group will have two formally trained counselors that work at the Buddy Kemp Caring House, an affiliate of Presbyterian Hospital that provides support for families of people who have cancer. These adults will not be the "leaders" of the group, but they will facilitate the discussion and make sure students are dealing with their emotions in a productive manner. This association will have no dues and no formal membership. People can come as often or as little as they want. No formal counseling will take place; it will essentially be a group of friends who discuss issues bothering them. If additional therapy is needed, the counselors will be more than willing to provide access for one-on-one grief support and various workshops. The first meeting is on Sunday, February 20 at 7 PM in the Morrison Room in the Union. The group will be small enough to remain personalized but large enough so it will not be considered "exclusive."

Laura realizes that she doesn't have all the solutions to these type of problems, but she also realizes that she has much to share from the experiences with her father. Ideally, this group will learn from each other and emerge better able to cope with the emotions a situation like this can incur.

Casey Sams '03

Can Davidson take action in the confederate flag debate?

Isn't it time for members of the Davidson community to do something to protest the continued flying of the Confederate battle flag on the state capitol building in Columbia, South Carolina?

Shouldn't we at least collect signatures for a petition to be sent to South Carolina's governor and to leaders in the state legislature, with copies to newspapers in Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, and Charlotte (many readers of the Observer live in South Carolina)?

Might at least some members of our community pledge not to vacation in South Carolina until the battle flag is removed?

I do not know exactly what action we should take either collectively or as individuals. But I am convinced that we need to act, and act now. South Carolina is only thirty miles away; a good number of our students live there; and many of us enjoy vacationing in the scenic, hospitable Palmetto State and have friends who live there. If we think the flag should come down, we need to make our voices heard.

As is usually the case, arguments can be made on both sides of this issue. But the arguments for taking down the battle flag strike me as much more compelling. The flag was raised in the early 1960s by white legislators in a largely segregated state in defiance of the civil rights movement. The flag symbolizes southern secession in the Civil War, which was prompted above all by the election of Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Party on an anti-slavery platform. Slavery—one of the great blots on the American record and our nation's belief in the equality of all people—clearly was involved in secession, and hence in the Confederate battle flag. The circumstances under which the flag was placed on the capitol reflect hurtful, outdated attitudes of white supremacy.

Like the nation in which we live, Davidson stands for the equality of all people. As a southern College, that itself was segregated until recent times, Davidson especially stands for equal rights and respect for fellow Americans whose parents and grandparents experienced discrimination first hand.

Shouldn't we act when the issue is so clear, as it is in this case?

Ralph Levering
History Department

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Will Cannon's top 7 questions for the Davidson student body

1. If no Davidsonian article can be anonymous, how does "IdNEgo" see print each week? And is there any better example of sad Davidson humor than a student pretending to be Sigmund Freud?

2. If the administration ignores Patterson Court Council's vote not to accept a co-ed eating house, can PCC ignore the administration's prohibition of kegs?

3. Granted the absence of alcohol plays a huge role, but without pledges how does the BSC stay so clean?

4. How many girls on campus broke out the Duracells in excitement when they learned that Matt Kelley had moved back on campus?

5. How frustrating is the ratio of blocked off roads to construction progress?

6. If I claim that someone left an unsigned message on MY dry erase board, could I convince the school that I too have a stalker? And could I get a police escort to drive me to Chambers? Especially on cold mornings.

7. How did the college hire a man that was capable of being fired, only weeks into his new job, for staring into the windows of middle school girls at Davidson Soccer Camp? And do you think he had self-selection night circled in red on his calendar?

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