

# THE DAVIDSONIAN

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## Racism

Two years ago, the Black Student Coalition made their Project '87 proposal as a means toward improving opportunities and the quality of life for black students at Davidson. As the target date for this project draws nearer, Davidson students are being confronted on the issue of racism from many sources. Last week, four Davidson students built a shanty to awaken the student body from their apathy on the issue of South African apartheid. This weekend, as the Admissions Office conducts its annual Minority Recruitment Weekend, the Ku Klux Klan will march in Davidson. Davidson students are once again being challenged to show they are not racists.

Davidson should look on all these events; Project '87, the building of the shanty, and the Ku Klux Klan march; as an opportunity: an opportunity to show that Davidson College is not a racist institution in any aspect.

The shanty built to represent the homes of the South African blacks that suffer under apartheid did not stand on Chambers Lawn for more than five hours. Predictably the administration ordered it destroyed so as not to detract from the Alumni Weekend ceremonies to be held later that day. Whether or not the actual shanty remains standing is unimportant. The chief goal was to get more students more involved in Students Against Apartheid. If students will become more active in the fight against apartheid, the short lived shanty will not have been made in vain.

The arrival of the Ku Klux Klan is an aspect of racism that hits much closer to home than apartheid. Yet instead of more action as in the case of apartheid, the best policy to use against the Klan is one in which Davidson students are quite proficient: a policy of apathy. The Ku Klux Klan thrives on attention whether it be from a national television network or a few Davidson students. To "fight" the Klan, don't show up at their rally. No crowd at the rally means no coverage for the them.

The arrival of the Klan arouses one's curiosity to see just what the robes look like or just what they intend to do at their rally.

Don't.

Going to a Klan rally, even just to watch, helps the Klan. Use your imagination; Klan rallies are predictable and you can probably guess what they'll do.

Some people may want to go heckle the Klansmen.

Don't.

By heckling or physically opposing the Klan you only surrender to the hatred the Klan represents.

Instead of going to the Klan rally, go to the Solidarity Gathering to be held behind the Commons on Saturday afternoon. Refreshments will be served, fun will be had, and, best of all, you will be opposing the Klan by not giving them your attention.

These are important times for Davidson's stance on the racism issue. Davidson cannot afford even to appear to be racist institution. Project '87, the shanty, and the Ku Klux Klan rally challenge Davidson to prove it is not a racist institution. Every member of Davidson's student body, faculty, and administration can take a stand against racism both at Davidson and abroad simply by going to the Commons on Saturday afternoon.

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 THE DAVIDSONIAN



TO HECK WITH THIS DEAL! LET'S GO CHECK OUT THE PARTY THEM OL' DAVIDSON BOYS IS HAVIN'!

## Letters

### Klan

To the Editors:

This Saturday, April 26, the Ku Klux Klan will march down Main Street in Davidson. As everyone should know the Ku Klux Klan is a national organization based on their hatred for blacks and other minorities. To compound the situation, this weekend the admissions office is bringing in minority students, from across the nation, to look at Davidson.

When I first heard of this march my reaction was similar I'm sure to that of many others. "The Ku Klux Klan here? in Davidson?" Believe it. Iredell county is the most active Klan county in North Carolina. "Well since they are coming, let's go out and make them see that they are not welcome." This preliminary instinct should not be obeyed. If you give yourself over to this hatred, you become no better than the Klan itself.

So what can be done? This Thursday at 4 p.m. in front of Belk a group of concerned students met and considered their options. A member of the the Davidson Town Council and [SGA President] Mark Sandy spoke. The Ku Klux Klan are going on this march for one reason: to get publicity. There would be nothing they would profit more from than if a bunch of rowdy people protested their march. The Ku Klux Klan want publicity. The thing that will hurt them the most is if no one shows up to watch them.

All of the Davidson merchants are going to close their stores. Entertainment and free food will be offered behind the Commons. I urge everyone to go to the Commons, students and townspeople alike. Do not give the Klan what they want the most: media coverage. The more people that show up the more media coverage the Ku Klux Klan will get.

Every year it becomes more and more apparent that yes, Davidson is in the real world. The Klan is one aspect of society that exists, and it will not just go away. Do not become an inadvertant supporter of the Klan. If anyone you know plans to go to the march, either to protest, taunt or out of curiosity, discourage them. Nothing could discourage the Klan more than if they had to

walk through a deserted town. If you have the time go out even before the march and encourage students and townies alike to come to the activities behind the Commons. The Klan is rising out of Iredell county. Want to stop this? Do not show up at the march! Actively discourage other people from going also. Turn Davidson into a ghost town.

Matt Mathew

### Council

To the Editors:

This past Monday night I took an ill-timed nap on the second floor of the Carolina Inn. Ill-timed because I missed another attempt on the lives of those on the Honor Council. Most of it was okay, from what I hear, but I have a simple question must ask again. Why does the issue become so personal? People seem angry at the Honor Council much of the time and I don't understand it, as a student and as a retired chairman of the Council. Listen, okay?

The Honor Council is composed of students who are elected by the students to do a job that is clearly outlined in the Codes. Privacy must be maintained in many cases because we don't want people to be mortified to the point of not coming back to Davidson. But rather than empathizing with defendants on that issue, some people have immediately assume that privacy to be a cover-up of some sort. One person this past Monday even asserted that innocent people are the prey of the Council. He compared innocent defendants to Steinbeck's Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*.

I'm not sure how innocent defendants would react to being compared to a retarded, hulking man who has no idea what he wants out of life, but the comparison is important. People at Davidson are not retarded. If they are brought up before the Council, it is because evidence suggests they may have committed an Honor Code Code of Responsibility violation, not because they carelessly killed a woman — Lennie does in the book.

The Council always considers intent, hard as it is to judge, and always gives the

## Letters

defendant the benefit of the doubt that such doubts are so personal, a Council itself. If Codes, we should change things. Fine a group of headstrong people: Defendants proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. We're all friends here.

## Argument

To the Editors:  
 It's a shame when



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