

A Reader's Guide To The Davidsonian

By Ben Towle '92 and
Curt Perkins '91

The following is a needed explanation of several literary devices. I use the word "needed" because a number of *Davidsonian* readers appear to be having difficulty distinguishing between articles written in a serious vein and articles written with humorous intent.

Writers throughout history (a generalization) have employed a number of linguistic tricks to provoke a humorous reaction from their audience. The following examples (some taken from *The Davidsonian* itself) illustrate some of these and should hopefully serve as a paradigm for readers who find themselves befuddled by articles such as D.A. Thompson's:

a) "The Baker Sports complex is a very accessible facility, where the people are warm and friendly; a worthy investment to be sure."

This is an example of both irony and bitter sarcasm.

b) "Davidson was featured in ... William F. Buckley Jr's *The National Review College Guide*."

This, unfortunately, is not an example of intentional irony, sarcasm, or onomatopoeia; it is, however, true.

c) "If other schools give away money and cars in order to beef up their athletic programs, why don't we follow suit and start schlepping out a few drinks?"

This statement is an exaggeration: the use of a preposterous suggestion to generate a humorous effect. Note: do not construe this quote as an endorsement of the distribution of alcoholic beverages at sporting events, such would be *truly* preposterous.

d) "I honestly believe that pop music can help solve our problems in the Middle East."

This is yellow journalism.

e) "... try singing the Davidson College Fight Song. If by some unbelievable coincidence you do not know it, feel free to call me."

This quote intentionally utilizes bitter sarcasm in that it presupposes that the "you" to whom it is addressed does not know the Davidson College Fight Song. It is also ironic, though, in that it suggests that knowing the Davidson College Fight Song is of some great value.

f) "The professors at Davidson are paid ridiculously meager salaries, but our sports facilities are quite posh."

Too bad this isn't sarcastic.

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Youth Student Service Corps (YSSC) Needs Your Help

Lend Your Hand! All this week, February 18-24, the Youth Student Service Corps (YSSC) will be having sign-ups for program coordinators in the Union Pit. Interviews for all interested students will be held, beginning on Sunday February 24.

Program coordinators are responsible for the organization, budget and volunteers involved to their program, for one year. Any interested persons should go by the Union Pit and pick up application and description of the programs, and sign up for interview time. Lend a hand. Get involved in Davidson Service.

Davidson YSSC Program: Adult Literacy, Big Brother/Big Sister, CROP, Hunger Awareness, Davidson Day Care, Davidson Elementary Tutoring, Florence Crittendon, Habitat for Humanity, Prison Visitation, Recycling, Seigle Avenue's Wonderful Wednesdays, Adopt a Grandparent, Homeless, Arosa House, North Meck High School Tutoring, Consortium of Concerned Colleges.

If you have any questions call

Kathy - 6292

Erin - 6049

Next week - Program Profile of Florence Crittendon and Adopt-a-Grandparent.

Rude Notes & Random Scriblings

On Overly-Spirited, Alcoholic Homosexuals

Bet that got your attention, now didn't it? Well, tough (rhymes with kitty). I'm not even going to deal with all the crap I and my fellow columnists have been catching this week. Even though Mr. Woods' roommate has decided to add to the list of reasons why I should be immediately impaled upon the sort of spire which Mr. Jasper contemplated one opium addled dawn, I'm just going to let bygones be bygones. I.e. @*&% 'em if they can't take a joke.

(That's a literary allusion in the third sentence of the last paragraph, not an advocacy of hallucinogenic intoxicants. Sorry to disappoint those of you who had so quickly hoped to pen a letter in which you could call for my arrest.)

Actually, this week I've come stand to think of those two for so long without approaching conniption. So, here we are, I hope you'll enjoy these briefs from the Rude News Wire Service:

Depth, Relevance!

A Debate Of Presidential Proportions

The other day I was prying. I overheard one Davidsonite express to another his concern that the average students (there are a few) on campus did not reflect the growing national tendency towards political apathy in their attitudes concerning the upcoming SGA elections:

"Man, anybody that would



David "Pundit"
Scott

wanna' be SGA pres. must have the brain of putrid peanut."

"Yeah, sort of like one those shriveled pasty kind that people drop in their beer at baseball games."

"Point well taken Dood. Point well taken."

Having recently recovered from a similarly bestial political stance, I took offense and accosted the infidels.

"You infidels, you're supposed to CARE. Things matter. Why must you be such slaves to the national consciousness?"

Ire puddled at my feet.

"Dood man... chill out. Dood."

Staggered by this retort, I

HOLLYWOOD, Ca. (RNWS) - Those asinine swine at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have published their little



D.A.
Thompson

list of nominees again. Get this: Julia Roberts for Best Actress! Obviously somebody's been drop-

ping acid into the espresso machine. God, next thing you know those schmucks might nominate *Ghost* for best picture.

WASHINGTON D.C. (RNWS) - The powerful lobbying group, Americans for the Repeal of That Meddlesome First Amendment, suffered a disturbing setback in their crusade against everything but Glenn Miller records when supreme Grand Dragon, and Master of Ceremonies, Jesse Helms was caught exposing himself to East Asian mongooses last week. "They remind me so much of Libby and Tipper," he was overheard saying. According to various sources, Helms was distributing poster size prints of Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs to the animals, when he decided to "show them somethings overheard saying. According to various sources, Helms was distributing poster size prints of Robert Mapplethorpe photographs to the animals, when he decided to

I wanted my endorsement to be unbiased, to truly reflect the

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salient features involved, and to be consistent with what the SGA is all about. I pondered for days, yet the necessary criteria avoided my grasp.

Leadership? Snicker. Influence? Hee-hee. Rhetorical skill? My side ached. Posters? Bingo!

SGA time at Davidson means the smell of overheating Xerox machines hangs heavy in the air. Candidate's hands cramp painfully and pulp wood barons wallow in greenbacks while the campus organism convulses in a poster heaving, resonant belch.

Thus I set off on a tour of the vital locations on campus in search of posters and, in the resulting tally, the perfect President for our SGA. The results I found intriguing.

To increase the efficacy of the final count, I divided the campus up into various subsections and compared results from each.

First, in the general dorm poll

(excluding bathrooms) the three candidates ran fairly even. Covington tallied 27 (remarkably pleasing to the eye) poster units; Carberry 26, while Manjooran swiped the first stage with a strong showing at the senior apartments for a final total of 40.

In the Bathroom category Manjooran owned the competition; a significant victory considering the vital role played by commode cages in Davidson politics. (As we all know, the SGA minutes appear weekly in symbolic propriety on

stall walls to enlighten our times alone.)

Anyway, colorful "P's" basically wall-papered lavatories from the union to Knox and beyond. In all I counted 54 "P's" in campus johns and several times encountered as many as four in one bathroom (once two in one stall). Nice work. Covington and Carberry totaled only about 2-5 signs apiece (though I must admit I went in more little boy's than little girls rooms, but "P's" prevailed even in those ladies rooms I did enter).

In reporting the results from here on, totals will be listed in the following order: Manjooran, Covington, Carberry.

Manjooran took Chambers 20, 5, 8. Carberry and Manjooran split the union 6, 4, 6 while Covington and Carberry registered one apiece

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