

PERSPECTIVES

It's only a game

STAFF EDITORIAL

The Recess Committee of the Union Board here at Davidson College is at it again. First, there was Assassins, and now, there is the Davidson Zombie Apocalypse. We applaud the Recess Committee's efforts to bring great recreational activities here to Davidson. It is oftentimes difficult to create popular events here on campus that do not revolve around alcohol, but Ian Mangum and his cronies have done an admirable job. Numerous events created by the Recess Committee have become campus hits. Events like Assassins, which included almost 200 Davidson students, and last semester's Quidditch match are just a few examples.

We fully expect the first ever Davidson Zombie Apocalypse to be a success. Many Davidson students are passionate people with the strong drive to win. These people will naturally be attracted to this competition of strength, stamina, and cunning. That being said, we would like to remind all participants that, in the end, it is only a game meant for little more than recreation.

The intense passion with which many Davidson students live their lives is often a virtue, but not always. Oftentimes, students here apply that passion to all aspects of their lives, including those which are a probably much better off without it. This case can be seen quite clearly in the game of Assassins. The intensity with which some students played this game bordered on obsession. There would be numerous students who would end up cloistering themselves in their rooms refusing to ever see the light of day. Other students would take extremely obscure and elaborate paths to get from one point to another. Even more ridiculous, some students resorted to carrying around actual plastic shields, or, if they did not have toy shields, improvised and used umbrellas.

The game was taken to such an extreme that friendships were even strained. People who set up their friends, or who inadvertently gave away the whereabouts of friends who were still playing, were branded as Judas. Furthermore, friends of those playing the game became personal valets, fetching food, water, etc. for their paranoid peers.

Many students take the game too far and it ends up affecting their psyche and lives. While it is always good to be at least a little competitive, let us not forget that it is only a game. It is important to remember that the primary goal of these games is not the single prize at the end, but to have fun.

Hypocrisy and homosexuality

Eli Caldwell

Many people were disappointed when they got the email informing them that Chick-fil-a food would not be served at (Re)Defining Davidson: The Big Talk. According to the statement on the event's Facebook page, they cancelled Chick-fil-a food because, although their statement very carefully avoids the issue, they felt that Chick-fil-a's donations to anti-gay rights causes would not foster the tolerance of perspectives that we encourage here at Davidson College.

Using public record IRS documents, pro-gay rights website EqualityMatters documented Chick-fil-a's giving to a variety of homophobic groups. Chick-fil-a is clearly linked to a number of "pro-family" groups: Georgia Family Council, Family Research Council, and Focus on the Family. According to The New

roles in the church. While PCUSA does allow homosexual members, their policy of excluding gays from the church's leadership is blatant homophobia.

"Modern Christians, however, are unwilling to let go of their hatred of homosexuals. They are willing to fight tooth and nail to dehumanize and demonize our fellow humans.

Will we give them our tacit consent?"

If we were so willing to boycott Chick-fil-A, why are we so heavily affiliated with a group that is openly antigay, and derives its principle beliefs from the Bible, which is clearly antigay?

I was raised to believe that if I watched another kid get bullied, I was helping the bully; if I wasn't willing to help the oppressed, then I was the oppressor. Michael Spangler was right: homosexuality is against the Christian tradition of Davidson College. Unlike Mr. Spangler, I do not believe that means we need to reconsider our approach to homosexuality. It means we need to reconsider our approach to the Christian faith.

Homophobia is one of the most accepted forms of bigotry today. I've had plenty of discussions about gay marriage that end with "I believe

"Given the Christian faith as a major force of this homophobia, it makes more sense that Chick-fil-a would donate to such causes... if we were so willing to boycott Chick-fil-a, why are we so heavily affiliated with a group that is so openly antigay, and derives its beliefs from the Bible, which is clearly antigay?"

York Times, Chick-fil-a has donated money to "groups working to defeat same-sex marriage initiatives."

Antigay messages are myriad in our society, and the organizations that they come from seem to have one unifying reason to oppose gay rights: their Christian faith. The websites of groups like Focus on the Family are riddled with religious material. Last November, Mr. Michael Spangler of Davidson College, in his piece *Homosexuality against Christian Tradition*, accurately cited the Bible to give us evidence of how antigay the Bible, in multiple places. The King James Bible clearly states, in much quoted Leviticus 18:22, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination." Many people on campus found this article by Mr. Spangler incredibly offensive. His article led Rev. Spach to hold a forum on the subject and write a counter-perspective.

Given the Christian faith as a major force of this homophobia, it makes more sense that Chick-fil-a would donate to such causes. According to

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their website, Chick-fil-a's statement of corporate purpose begins with "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us."

Davidson College is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). At least eighty percent of the trustees must be Christian. The *Book of Order* of PCUSA states that its leaders must "live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness." This is frequently used by the leaders of the Presbyterian Church to prevent homosexuals from taking leadership

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in civil unions." I've had plenty of others that end with "I just don't believe in gay marriage."

By depriving a whole group of human beings of their civil rights, we degrade them. This dehumanization breeds hatred, and hatred breeds violence. Are we responsible for the cold-blooded murder of Matthew Shepard? Or the suicides of Tyler Clementi, or thirteen-year-old Seth Walsh?

No. At least I don't think so. At least I hope not. But, through our affiliation with the bigotry of Presbyterianism and Christianity, we have to wonder.

We have to ask ourselves, is our antiquated connection to Christianity worth creating a subclass of people?

This isn't the first time that the Bible has been used to abuse human beings. Jefferson Davis, leader of the Confederacy, once said, "[Slavery] was established by decree of Almighty God...it is sanctioned in the Bible, in both Testaments, from Genesis to Revelation." Indeed, in Leviticus 25:44, the bible says, "Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, [shall be] of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids," which translates

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