

RESPONSIBILITY, from page 10

mends the use of a spermicidal lubricant with at least a 6.5% concentration of nonoxyl-9, along with a condom, to prevent AIDS. If condoms are distributed in first aid boxes placed on dormitory halls, as suggested by Dr. Kuykendall, the boxes should also contain the type of spermicide mentioned above.

In a classic example of a journalistic red-herring Mr. Miller states that the "[AIDS] virus is many times smaller than the human sperm" in an attempt to infer that a condom's effectiveness in preventing AIDS is lower than their effectiveness in preventing pregnancy. A reader is left to infer from Mr. Miller's statement that because the AIDS virus is smaller than sperm, the former will often "slip through" the protection of a condom. A distorted statement like this one comes from being uneducated about latex condoms [latex condoms, as opposed to natural-skin condoms, are the only one recommended for preventing sexually transmitted diseases]. According to *Consumer Reports*, latex condoms when stretched "won't even let water—one of the tiniest molecules—filter through."

Mr. Miller argues against sex education and easy access to contraceptives by quoting Barrett Mosbaker as saying, "for the past 17 years, the prescribed 'solution' to the teenage pregnancy problem [and now the AIDS problem] has consisted of sex education...and easy access to contraceptives. Yet despite 17 years of effort and the expenditure of more than \$2 billion, pregnancy and abortion rates continue to climb." In this connection Mr. Miller negates the

value of sex education and easy access to contraceptives. He even presents sex education and the availability of contraceptives as somehow a cause of high pregnancy and abortion rates. Mr. Miller fails to look at global examples where these very practices have been highly successful at preventing abortion and pregnancy. Western European countries, especially those in Scandinavia, have proven that progressive sex education and availability of contraception do, indeed, lower pregnancy and abortion rates.

After spending three and a half months in Sweden, I saw first hand the positive aspects of these measures. Sweden has an incredibly progressive sex education program, starting at a very young age and contraceptives are very accessible. In fact, in light of the current AIDS problem the Swedish government sent condoms to every male sixteen years old and above. The result of these progressive practices speak for themselves when one takes Sweden's incredibly low number of teen-age pregnancies and AIDS cases into account. As I can personally attest, Sweden's more "liberal" attitudes concerning sex education and the availability of contraceptives did *not* promote promiscuity but, oppositely, instilled in Swedish youth an incredibly mature attitude towards sex.

Refuting the tireless claims of the Surgeon General, Dr. Kimmel and AIDS experts around the world, Boyd Miller argues against the claim that condoms are effective means to stop the spread of the AIDS virus. He seems to believe that because condoms are not 100% effective they need not be considered by Davidson College as a method to protect students from AIDS. Mr. Miller along with many people embroiled in the Davidson condom controversy fail to see

that condoms are effective. Condoms are effective in saving the lives of those who choose to be sexually active. One need only listen to Dr. Kimmel as he commented on the present demographics of the AIDS virus. The rate of infection among homosexuals is declining because of safe sex practices which includes condom use. Just as seat belts are not 100% effective in preventing traffic fatalities, it doesn't change the fact: seat belts save lives. Condoms also save lives.

It is clear that Mr. Miller showed an absence of responsibility by presenting distorted facts and uneducated statements in the midst of an AIDS crisis where factual education is of paramount importance. The question of responsibility, however, still remains, raising serious questions Davidson needs to answer. Is it responsible for Davidson not to provide the opportunity for students that choose to have sex in a heat of the moment situation, to protect themselves? Is Davidson being responsible if it denies such instances occur? Is Davidson being ethical if it takes the stance that students who get themselves into such situations justly deserve the outcome because they didn't think ahead to buy a supply of condoms? Will Davidson College be able to responsibly say five years from now that the wallets of trustees or the "image" of a presbyterian college was worth the life of a student who wasn't "responsible?"

Brennan Guh is a freshman from Missoula, Mont.

FAITH, from page 12

even when you don't love yourself, but there is another kind. Consider for the moment the fundamental teachings of Christianity that have existed from its birth and continued throughout the ages. There is a heaven and a hell and a judgement. You should be very suspicious of those who ignore this doctrine in talking to you about Christianity.

Christ mentioned Hell in multifold circumstances, and if you read them even superficially, you will realize He wasn't being allegorical. Decide if you must that the writings and teachings of Christ were actually a sociological device, or a coincidence, or grossly exaggerated, or even a mere story, but if you pay attention to anything He says, do not make the miss this important circumstance.

The Christians you should be wary of are the ones who feel satisfied believing the saving message of Christianity, and then for some odd reason, feel as if there's no need to tell anyone else about it. Imagine, if you will, someone driving down a dark road at night, and for no apparent reason, he slams on the brakes and brings his car to a jarring halt. As he

steps out of the car, he notices a large ditch directly in the road which he would have driven into had he not miraculously stopped. Now suppose that this person turned around, relieved and thankful that he had stopped, and drives the other way. As he drives, he sees other cars driving down the road in the direction from which he had just come. What would you think of this individual if he didn't attempt to warn those other unknowing individuals of the ditch he had escaped?

It is the same with the Christian who doesn't warn you that someday all men will be judged by God for their lives. The judgement will NOT be "good" or "bad," but rather, "forgiven" or "unforgiven." You can pay for your sins yourself, or let someone else. Perhaps now you can be patient with Christians trying to convert you; they are merely obeying orders and their own conscience.

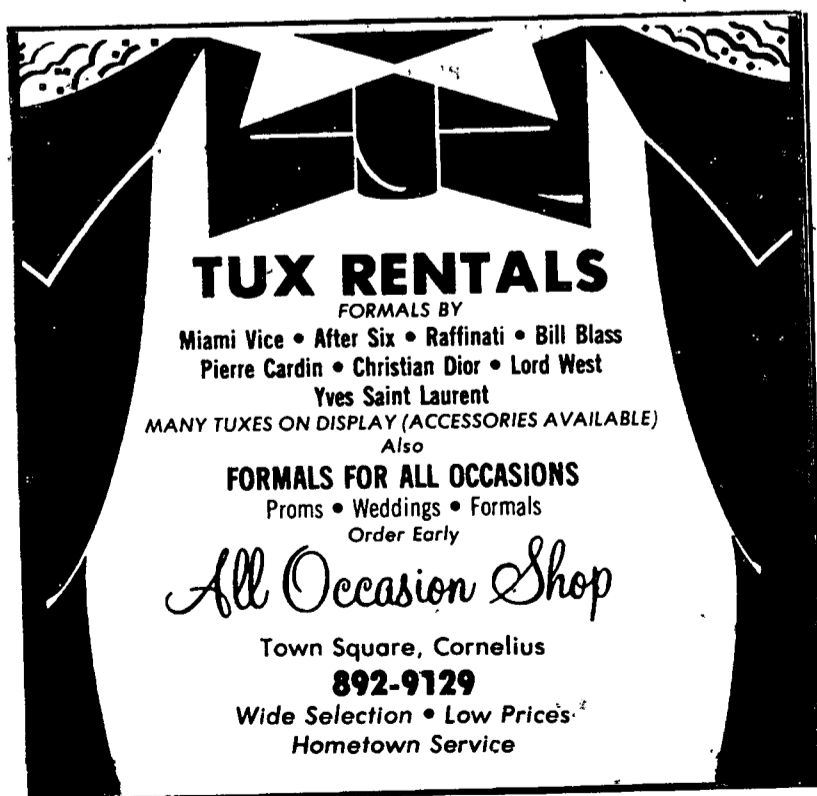
Now, just who is this article for anyway? It is not for those who have already arrived at an irrevocable decision, for or against. It is for those who waiver and wonder if there are others in the community who maintain faith. It is all right to believe that Jesus was real and cares about you today. It is all right to trust Him as Savior, because you don't have to

abandon your mind to do so.

Finally, at all costs, do not shut the door on faith. Someday, God Himself may reveal His glory to you in a way that will be far more meaningful to you than any terse, self-absorbed newspaper article, or any other human convention could do. Do not judge Christianity by what you see in Christians, for they are not Christ yet, and our interest in you in no way can express the fullness of His interest in you. Ultimately, Christianity is this: A renewal of a relationship with God, the melting down of the old man in the presence of Christ, and the creation of the new. If there are those who seek this, let them put their hope anew in Christ. Amen.

Joe Thomas is a junior biology major from Morristown, NJ.

Thanks to Tinsley Bates for her creative inspiration on this piece.



TUX RENTALS
FORMALS BY
Miami Vice • After Six • Raffinati • Bill Blass
Pierre Cardin • Christian Dior • Lord West
Yves Saint Laurent
MANY TUXES ON DISPLAY (ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE)
Also
FORMALS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
Proms • Weddings • Formals
Order Early
All Occasion Shop
Town Square, Cornelius
892-9129
Wide Selection • Low Prices •
Hometown Service

recycle a Mello Yello can, recycle *The Davidsonian*, recycle a Coca-Cola bottle, recycle *The Davidsonian*, recycle your ex-boyfriend, recycle *The Davidsonian*, recycle your best friend's ex-boyfriend, recycle *The Davidsonian*, recycle all your paper products, recycle *The Davidsonian*, recycle anything that hasn't turned green and moldy in your room, recycle *The Davidsonian*, recycle whatever turns you on, recycle *The Davidsonian*, drink Dr. Pepper, donate \$7,031.25 to *The Davidsonian*, have a nice day

This one is going out to our fairy godmother Lydia Lorenzin at the Computer Services Center for getting us the goods in time for this week. Thanks for your help! *The Davidsonian* is published during the school year by the good ol' girls and boys of Davidson College. Address correspondence to: *The Davidsonian*, Box 219, Davidson, NC 28036. Phone (704) 892-2148 and -2149. Offices are located on the tippy-top 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*. Unsigned editorials and stray pets in the office are the responsibility of the Editor. Subscriptions cost \$25 per year. Advertising rates available on request. Copyright is held by the Trustees of Davidson College. This rag is printed by the folks down at Mullen Publications, who enjoy it so much that they would do it even if we didn't pay them, we bet.

Special Projects Editor: Maria Douglas.

Assistant Features Editor: Bethany Deptuch.

Assistant Sports Editor: Bruce Newsome.

News Staff: David Bearce, John Burns, Peter Bynum, Jay Chandhuri, Suzanne Craymer, Maria Douglas, Beth Drummond, Rami El-Amine, Carol Gatewood, Gates Grainger, Heath Hardage, Stan Humphries, Delia Johnson, Joanne Maheras, Pete Mangone, Ed Powell, Mary Russ, Sharon Lee Schwartz, David Scott, Gary Wheeler, Molly Young.

Features Staff: Katharine Armstrong, Jennifer Bean, Lee Bushkell, Hilary Coman, Margaret Carroll, Suzanne Craymer, Bethany Deptuch, Heath Hardage, Tim Jacks, Robert Jones, Nusrat Khan, Frank Lord, Joanne Maheras, Prem Manjooan, Charles Marshall, Virginia Mischen, Mary Faith Mount, Kim Munsterman, Shannon O'Shields, Sharon Lee Schwartz, Anjali Sharma, Trent Stevens, David Thompson, Jessica Thurbee, Julie Zimmermann.

Sports Staff: John Burns, Lee Canipe, Dan Cotton, Larry Dagenhart, Robert Grubb, John Maheras, Charles Marshall, Mary Faith Mount, Bruce Newsome, Phil Prescott, Mark Puckett, Chan Sheppard, Larry "3rd West Hat's Me" Sledge, Bill Smith, Todd Stephenson.

Photography Staff: Brett Berry, Jonathan Bouwman, Matt Goad, Holt Hathaway, Stephen Keider, Tonja Lecklither, Robert Marshall, Lucy Siler, Mark Steen.

Staff Artists: Reese Boyd, Kevin Dunn, Michael D. Schill, J.W. Mullis.

Circulation Staff: Beth Mitchell, Robbie McKay, John Mullis, Moreland Smith.

Spiritual Consultant From Afar: John Scranton Harris.

Have a fun and safe Spring Break!
No issue next week!