

The Davidsonian

Founded in 1914

"The South's Foremost
College Weekly"

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LETTERS

Racism still alive in Davidson

To the editors,

The sun is shining beautifully. The warmth from the sunshine lends memories of a day of springtime. Laughter is in the air, causing smiles from the inside out. *Oh No!* A dark cloud shows its ugly face.

As I walk into Dover's Supermarket around 12:40 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26th, I head for the butcher's counter to get a pound of lean turkey breast. Yes, I'm trying to get rid of the extra pounds. I told you spring is in the air, so already, I'm preparing for that "great day."

To my surprise, when I arrive at the counter, I find that I'm the only customer. I think, this day just keeps getting better and better! Two

employees, one male and one female (oh, did I forget to say *white* employees), were behind the counter. Both looked at me when I got there, but chose to continue doing what they were doing. As he was completing wrapping a package of beef, and she a package of bacon, I was ready to place the order for my *lean* turkey breast. *Oops!* It was not my turn. Both started on another package after once again looking at me standing there.

Then, the dark cloud I mentioned earlier began to wipe away my sunshine. After at least five minutes had passed, I asked if I could get someone to serve me. The female once again looked up, saying yes. The male continued to wrap

meat, never looking up again.

Being the proud African-American woman that I am, I had a need to inform them that I realized the game plan. Although it did not disturb my character, it definitely worked my nerves!

I thought, even if it does not cause the individuals to change their narrow-mindedness or enhance their personal growth, I had to inform them of the ignorance and insensitive mind-set they allowed to encompass their world.

As I shared this experience with the store manager, I was appalled by his response, "Thank you for telling me; we'll take care of it."

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A simple solution?

We are under the impression that the Student Conduct Council and five faculty members have spent a large amount of time studying Davidson's definition of plagiarism. The tangible result of this study is a new phrasing of that definition: "Intentionally presenting someone else's work as your own in a research paper, written work, lab report, musical composition, computer algorithm, or data file is, therefore, cheating."

This seems a simple and obvious definition. We ourselves had problems figuring out how to document the above quote, since the phrase "presenting someone else's work as your own" first appeared in Sheridan Baker's *The Complete Stylist and Handbook*. We intended to give the author credit. Still, it is often times difficult to properly document any source, especially considering that most students get so caught up in their own thoughts that it is easy to be guilty of oversight.

And intent does seem the key. Doling out Honor violations for simple mistakes is contrary to the purpose of the Code. However, the new definition, which is actually over a page long, also provides an easy escape for students who have presented others' work as their own. "I am sorry, I just didn't know how to document that."

This escape route could easily become a problem for an Honor Council that has recently come under heavy scrutiny concerning its ability to govern the activities of the student body. Though we can think of no clear solution to an interesting problem, we also do not envy those who must now enforce this new definition.

A simple documentation mistake can be confused with an intentional deception. It is sometimes hard to differentiate between the two and the new definition leaves that distinction up to the judgment of members of the faculty and the Honor Council.

Perhaps the "clarification" places more "academic control," as one faculty member has argued, in the hands of professors. But the ultimate ruling lies with the Honor Council, and their decisions affect lives. That places a lot of responsibility on their shoulders.

Still, we think that the true responsibility rests with the professors and their students. The key to not making documentation mistakes is good paper writing skills, and as with every academic issue, it is up to the teacher to teach them and the pupils to learn them.

Handling the Heels

We at the *Davidsonian* have been doing a little math, putting our knowledge of geometry to work, so to speak. We are going to apply what we know about the transitive property to this year's men's basketball team. So here goes.

Davidson beat N.C. State. Then N.C. State beat Georgia Tech, who had already beaten the Tarheels of the University of North Carolina. Therefore, it is not hard to believe that, on a good day, the Cats could handle the Heels. See how that works? Unfortunately, *The Charlotte Observer* and Jason Byassee actually pointed that out before we did, but it is a good argument anyway.

But all kidding aside, this team is a serious contender in the Southern Conference, and it is not hard to see why Saturday's reunion of the 1969 SoCon championship team was appropriate. With stars like Janko Narat and Brandon Williams and scores of others, the team is in a great position to return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1986.

Congratulations are certainly in order for Coach McKillop and all of the players and assistant coaches.

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Dating at the big "D"

To the editors,

Seeing as it is my final semester at the big "D," I plan on living it up. Sure, I'll keep up with my classes, but let's just say my extracurricular activities will not be diminished in terms of frequency of occurrence.

To many of you, these activities consist of going down on the court or going to Back Street or Davino's some Wednesday or Thursday night. Others of you think of going white water rafting, or bicycling. Still others might just think of getting high and listening to music, just hanging out with

friends.

There are plenty more activities, most of which I cannot begin to go into, because they involve variations of the above, or none of the above.

The bottom line is: whom do you do these activities with? Looking from my perspective, I usually do them with my friends, most of whom happen to be females. I don't have a boyfriend, but I feel the social climate at Davidson limits my association with males in a setting outside of academia and the court.

I understand many of

you Davidson women have plenty of guy friends that would be willing to go with you to see a movie, play frisbee at the lake, or do whatever. But what about that one guy you would like to get to know better? I do not mean necessarily to hook up with, but spending time with someone you'd like to spend time with that you don't see that often. This is where the dilemma comes in. If you would like to go out with him, and you usually just see him on the court, or on your way to class,

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Favoring athletes over students

To the editors:

I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks to whomever in the athletic department finally decided to make Davidson just like any other school—one that favors its athletes over students. Under the guise of "equal facilities," students who do not play varsity athletics will no longer be able to use the free weights in the Baker sports complex.

But wait! Students can use the new Nautilus equipment upstairs, or they can use the free weights at the

football stadium. However, as two of my roommates have found out, there is limited space and limited time slots at the football weight room. Not to mention that it is mandatory for each student to sign up for four days a week. If one misses their time slot three times, the time slot is taken away and given to a student who is more serious about lifting weights.

I wouldn't be so hacked off if I had time to work out four times a week, or if students had actually been consulted about the possible

change. My point is that my parent's 20+ grand a year deserves better. Why build such an excellent facility as Baker only to restrict part of its use to a fraction of Davidson's tiny student body?

I would also like to point out that it has been quite some time since the Supreme Court corrected the mistake of *Plessey v. Ferguson*. "Separate but equal" no longer applies—except at Davidson, that is.

Sincerely,
Bryan Allison '95