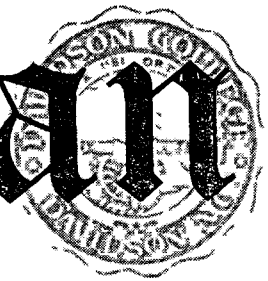


# The Davidsonian

A L E N D A L U X U B I O R T A L I B E R T A S



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◆ Bradley Oliver, a junior, eats rice at the Hunger Banquet Friday night in the Commons. The annual event attempts to dramatize the inequality in worldwide food distribution.

## Sorority debate wages on President Vagt to make final decision soon

By JESSICA GOODSON  
News Editor

The Council on Campus and Religious Life voted Wednesday on whether inviting sororities to Davidson College is advisable. Its recommendation, which was subsequently presented to President Vagt, reflected the results of the vote - 8 for, 8 against, and 1 abstention. In the next few days, President Vagt will consider the debate presented at the CCRL meeting, the recent poll conducted by the Student Government Association, and communications from students to reach a final decision regarding sororities.

Absent from the meeting were four voting members: sophomore Ann Culp, senior Eric Sapp, Professor Mark McCulloh, and Professor Malcom Campbell. Had three of these members—who are vocally anti-sorority—been present, the recommendation would indicate reservation toward sororities rather than irresolution. But the President's decision would be a difficult one, regardless.

Sapp, who cannot make the meetings due to football practice, expressed his disappointment at missing such a pivotal meeting. He had planned on voting against sororities.

"If you have a body like CCRL, you should make a real effort to have all members at a meeting," he said. Despite the fact that he has a time conflict, Sapp said the Council has done very little in seeking to ameliorate the situation. "The policy of not including members at all meetings can lead to unrepresentative council recommendations," he said.

Culp also had planned on voting against sororities. "Practically, Davidson doesn't want sororities, but ideologically, gender equality is a concern,"

she said. "I think President Vagt should base his decision on practicality and what is fundamentally best for Davidson College."

"Maybe men are missing out on self-selection as opposed to women missing out on the Greek system," said Culp. "I think that the addition of sororities in no way resolves gender inequality."

"What I perceived was that a number of people were inclined to vote for sororities, not because they want them here, but because they perceived an inequity," said Professor Jonathan Berkey. "When I introduced a motion recommending the systematic review of social life at Davidson, including the role of fraternities, the entire council was overwhelmingly in favor of it. Clearly, many of those who supported sororities did so exclusively in the name of gender equity."

Kurt Holmes, Director of Residence Life, said he didn't disagree with an overall review, but that consistency was important in offering this option to women.

Arguments in favor of sororities continue to hinge on gender equity and minority representation.

To paraphrase this argument: if fraternities are rooted in tradition and are therefore "untouchable," then Davidson has no choice but to offer an option for women comparable to men's fraternities, even if a majority of women are against it.

Although she did not condone the notion that fraternities are incontrovertible, Professor Sallie McMillen said, "when African-American fraternities were trying to get started, there was no opposition. African-American men or women are (conspicuously) disenfranchised."

See *Sororities* on page 5

## SHOC discusses the Davidson dating scene

By SARAH OGDEN  
News Editor

Student Health Options and Concerns (SHOC) held what numerous flyers advertised as "a frank discussion on sex and dating at Davidson" Wednesday night in the Union Home Room.

The discussion drew a sparse gathering of about 10, approximately half of which were members of SHOC.

Kelly Carter, Vice President of SHOC, began the talk by sharing some results of the research she had done in the library, including the apparent relationship between sexuality and self-esteem.

From there, the discussion contin-

ued, with hardly an awkward silence for the next hour. One student spoke of his experience dating a Brazilian, and the absence of game-playing and "double-talk" he felt was prevalent among relationships here.

At Davidson, he said, dating can be "such a source of stress" and that "there's so much stress that comes up with dealing with sex."

Most of the people present saw coed dorms as a positive way to promote male-female friendships. One SHOC member, who lived on a coed hall last summer, felt that males and females living together in such an environment was a matter of self-esteem.

"Living on a coed hall was so

wonderful," she said.

Another member of SHOC felt that coed halls removed sexual tensions between males and females.

One student disagreed, though, saying that although there is more comfort between genders on coed halls, there may also be more casual sex—or at least a more casual attitude about it.

Other topics of discussion included menstrual cycles, masturbation, oral sex, and signs of attraction—dilation of pupils, raising of the eyebrows, and "the look," which no one seemed to be able to define, except through ambiguous gestures and broken phrases.

Almost the entire group believed that Davidson's atmosphere makes it

difficult for males and females to be "just friends."

Some cited pressure to "hook up," but one SHOC member said, "I think a lot of people just don't want to make the effort" to sustain male-female friendships.

The discussion concluded on a hopeful note, however: Most thought that the younger classes mingle more as friends.

The group also praised Health Educator Georgia Ringle, who is also known as "The Sex Lady," for her work with students.

"Georgia is the best thing about sexuality Davidson brought on our campus," said one SHOC member.

"I think we have an extraordinary opportunity in front of us to bring national attention to Davidson College."

MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH BOB MCKILLOP ON THIS YEAR'S TEAM, WHICH HAS ITS FIRST EXHIBITION THURSDAY NIGHT

1997-98

WILDCAT BASKETBALL  
SPECIAL PREVIEW SECTION INSIDE



In-depth analysis of both the  
men's and women's teams.

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