

Josh Roberts

## Black Monday

Today, January 27, 1996, is Black Monday. Since I was abroad last semester I only recently learned about it and why it is taking place. The protest is a response to the exoneration of Michael Marlow, a white police officer, who shot James Willie Cooper, a 19-year-old black man, during a traffic stop. Marlow shot the unarmed Cooper because he believed Cooper was reaching for a gun.

A five-man review board made up of police officers determined that Marlow did not violate departmental procedures and that his use of deadly force was justified. Some community leaders were dismayed with the decision and called for a civilian review board to investigate future similar cases.

In light of this decision and the further deteriorating relations

between the police and the black community, black leaders decided to hold Black Monday to demonstrate the black community's unhappiness with the present situation. During Black Monday, the entire black community was to boycott all white businesses and patronize only those businesses owned by other blacks. And those who could were to stay home from work or school.

I became aware of Black Monday during a discussion last Tuesday in my Anthropology 205 class. My first reaction was that of indignation. It seemed like a case of reverse discrimination. I didn't understand

how a boycott would improve relations between people and police. I also believed that this boycott might only widen the gap.

But as the discussion continued, my views changed. My pro-

blem. It would help people to understand better the feelings of the black community.

Black Monday would also help black solidarity. One of the students in the class said that in order for the black community to rise up and defeat the problems of racism and poor relations with the police, the black community must first join together. She believed that Black Monday was an excellent means to this end. Another student agreed with her and remarked that it shouldn't only be for one day but continue indefinitely until the problem is rectified.

I found this very logical. Revenues of businesses would surely decline and the businessmen would wake up and realize something was wrong. Then they would fight alongside the black community for changes to occur. The increased support for black businesses would also increase the influence of these businesses in the political sphere. Undoubtedly, someone will clamor that Black Monday is unfair. Why should white businesses be hurt when the problem is with the police? I would respond that boycotting businesses is a much more effective demonstration than picketing in front of the police station or town hall.

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essor, Dr. Nancy Fairley, referred to the Montgomery bus boycott led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a similar type of demonstration. I realized that Black Monday would definitely draw attention to the

Stephen Cefalu

## I Only Read It for the Articles

Ever notice how students here always look for the perfect room in Chambers to take their exam in during finals week? They poke their heads in and out of a bunch of rooms as if hoping to find that "special" one in which the Buddha is sitting in the center of the third aisle huddled in a state of meditational repose. Then the ever-diligent room hunter would step back with a glitter in his or her eye, slyly take a quick look around, and say to him or herself, "Why gee! Know what, I think I'll take this room right here."

Be forewarned, though, these fanatical room-seekers are dangerous creatures come exam time, prone to fly off the handle at even the tiniest of provocations. They're also extremely savvy creatures and have been known to set up smoke screens at the front door of their "special" rooms to shoo away any would-be room sharers. Should anyone approach their "little domicile" in the midst of their taking an exam, they characteristically fly into a rage and give voice to a litany of (largely incoherent) monosyllabic prattle, of which the only translatable part is "My room! My room! Bam Bam! Bam Bam!"

And what's the story with these new members of E.H. Little's otherwise stellar library staff... Here I am down in the basement (or more fondly, "the morgue") trying to put in some

early morning studying and these two female librarians are standing around giggling over the fact that *Playboy* magazine is included among the library's microfilm archives. After a few minutes of listening to their infantile banter, my concentration was taxed beyond all limits, and so I decided I must confront the two giggling ninies.

### Let's declare February as Nude Olympics Month here at Davidson and make clothing optional for all classes.

"Ma'am," I addressed one of them, "I'll have you know that the Great Ones study down here. You're disturbing the Great Ones. Incidentally, ma'am, everyone already knows that the best pornography is found in *L'Espresso* magazine (God bless the Germans!) which is, after all, much more readily accessible than *Playboy*. I mean, honestly, ladies, who's really gonna go through all the trouble of rigging up *Playboy* on the microfilm machine when they can easily grab a *L'Espresso* off the back racks?"

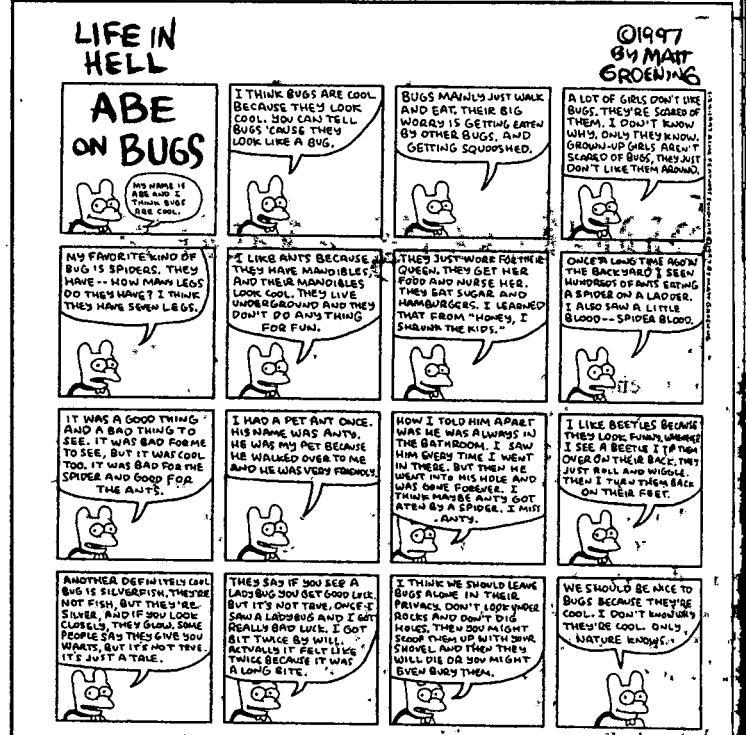
This got me to thinking about nudity's place in the world of academia. Former *Opinions* editor Jeff Kent '96 wrote an article last year calling for more spontaneous nudity on campus. I think his suggestion was indeed exemplary but in need of a little fine

tuning. Now at Princeton University they have the Nude Olympics on the night of the first snowfall each year. Davidson has no such tradition. Seeing as there's nothing worse than a school with an inferiority complex, I say let's one-up that Ivy League institution up north: let's declare February as Nude Olympics Month here at Davidson and make clothing

optional for all classes. Boy, could we ever shed our school's hopelessly conservative image in a heartbeat!

Lastly, who exactly was the mastermind behind the Computer Center's move from Main Street to the basement of Belk? What ambiance! It's so invigorating to feel like you're typing up your term paper amid the fiery furnaces of hell. I actually had to throw a disclaimer on my history take-home essay after I found myself concluding it with the statement, "And furthermore Jimmy Carter was a depraved, ego maniac with no redeemable characteristics whatsoever... so put that in your pipe and smoke it."

But what's really got me peeved about the Computer Center's move is that they've taken away my legendary 200 yard (4:59 p.m.) sprints from Main Street to Chambers to turn in papers due by 5 p.m. My times on some of those shuttle runs would've embarrassed Michael Johnson.



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