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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

RLO IS THERE

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WRITE FOR THE YOWL. EMAIL BOKENNER OR JEYEAKEL.

THE YOWL

Your Davidsonian Honor Section

Editors: Bobby Kenner and Jeff Yeakel

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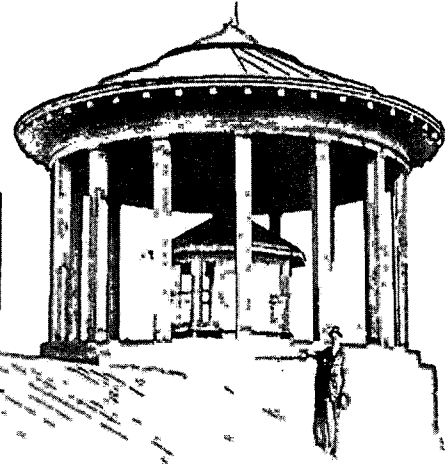
Students with story suggestions or interest in writing should contact the editors at bokenner@davidson.edu or jeyeakel@davidson.edu.

Note: The Yowl is the humor and satire section of The Davidsonian. Hence, nothing in it should be taken as truth.

THE YOWL

UBI ORTA UBERTAS

DAVIDSON'S NEWS FOLLOWER



Caution: Contains Drivel

January 25, 2006

The Davidsonian

Administration investigates reports of 'academic hazing'

Dean of Faculty Jay Wilkins received three letters of protest this week from students claiming they were being treated improperly upon declaring an academic major.

The letters, while varying in specific reports, agreed that professors took too many liberties with what they could demand of newly declared majors.

The English, Chemistry, and Psychology departments were named specifically, but since these letters became public knowledge, Wilkins has received complaints about many other departments as well.

Ellen Huggins '08 declared last semester as an English major with a concentration in Creative Writing and chose Albert Granville, the James Kerrigan Chair of Creative Writing and three-time Gordon Hewitt classroom excellence award winner, as her advisor. She wrote one of the three initial letters to Wilkins to report that Granville, along with Professors Friedrich von Klausen and Janice Pinter, forced her to smoke an opium pipe as part of her "homework" while studying Romantic poetry.

"They said I had to do it if I wanted to really understand what Coleridge was talking about," said Huggins. "He did it, and he was a creative writer. If I want to be a creative writer, I have to follow the tradition. At least, that's the way they put it to me. At the time, I was about six or seven beers in, so I was willing to go along with it."

In retrospect, Huggins feels that it was a poor decision on her part, as well as departmental manipula-

tion on the part of the professors.

Granville declined to respond, although von Klausen, who happened to be smoking a long pipe when he was interviewed,

and deal, or they'll move on to more oxidized pastures."

Bridgers also dismissed the accusation that she and her colleagues forced sophomores to mix

several organic chemicals together and chug them. She claimed that while drinking the chemicals may occur during afternoon labs, it is always optional and done under the supervision of a professor.

"No one has to do anything if they don't want to," Bridgers said.

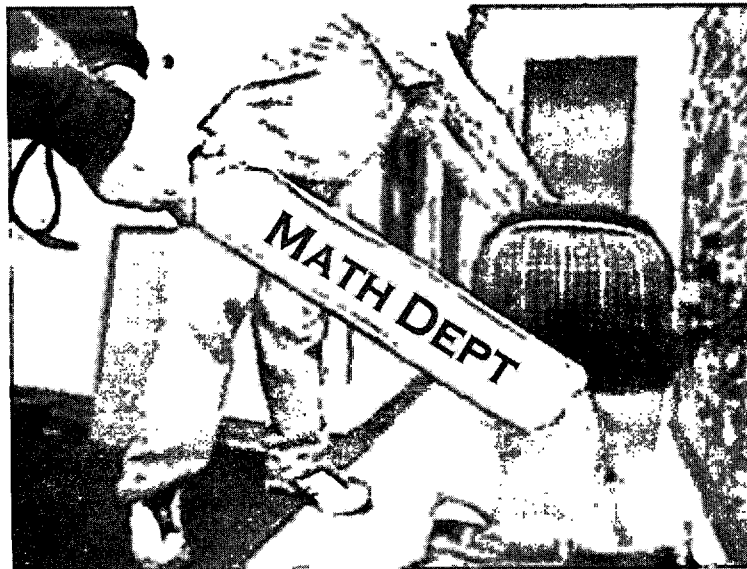
Anonymous reports have also come in claiming student abuse by several other

the Education, Humanities and Chinese departments to investigate the alleged "academic hazing" in the three accused departments.

A similar investigation took place several years ago to discern whether or not there was student abuse in the German department. When it was discovered that there were, in fact, no students majoring in German, the investigation was summarily halted.

Students, however, feel that not only will this committee be ineffective, but it will also ignore the larger problems in the academic departments.

Thompson Pfeiffer '07, said, "Forget what goes on in the Psych and Chem departments. They should be looking at the CIS. Those professors over there are kind of crazy. It's like they're separate from the rest of campus, so they don't have to worry about the police coming by and doing a routine check. And you know how Center majors are always kind of their own little group? There's definitely a reason for that. I heard that each incoming class has to chug a bottle of street wine and the loser's proposal gets rejected."



This photograph, taken from the Math department's bulletin board on the third floor of Chambers, suggests "academic hazing"

explained that there are many traditions in the English department, especially with the creative writing concentration.

"They're all harmless, of course, but it's a kind of initiation so the newbies feel like they're, you know, part of the group," explained von Klausen. "The administration has always turned a blind eye to little infractions of school policy in favor of tradition. That's what you have to keep in mind here: it's tradition."

Chemistry department chair Hannah Bridgers voiced her lack of concern over the protests.

"We're not going to lose any pledges—errr, majors, I meant, of course, to say majors—over something like this," declared Dr. Bridgers. "Chemistry is a demanding field; if a few of the people who thought they could handle it are having second thoughts after declaring, they'll either suck it up

departments.

One report claimed that Biology majors were forced to run from campus to the wildlife preserve dressed only in their "epidermis," thus exposing their "reproductive organs."

Another report claimed that the entire Math department stayed up until 4:30 a.m. getting drunk and then marched onto their newly declared majors' halls and woke the students up.

This caused a disturbance to the students' hallmates; who were awoken to drunken chants of the Pythagorean theorem and the instructions for how to take an integral with a TI-89 calculator. The new majors were then forced to walk back to one of the Math professor's house, where they were doused in whipped cream, chocolate syrup and numbers.

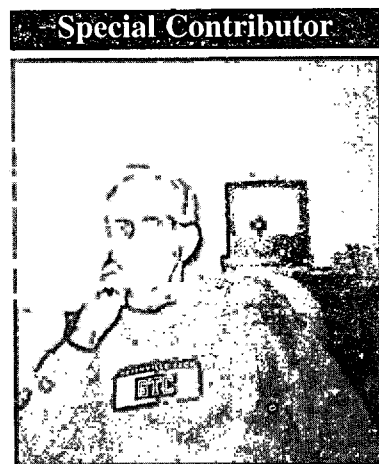
Wilkins has appointed a committee consisting of members of

"No one has to do anything if they don't want to."

Since there is no policy regarding what is required of newly declared majors for any department, SGA is considering creating a set of bylaws to deal with such situations.

Until then, however, it may be safer for students to remain undeclared to and enjoy the academic rush.

Movie Review: "Brokeback Mountain" makes cowboys seem gay



Bob Woodward Local Man Mooresville, NC

Before I begin my review of "Brokeback Mountain," let me assure you that I have not seen the picture. I did, however, see part of the preview as I was walking into "Grandma's Boy," so I'm pretty sure that I get the gist. And I must say I am simply appalled.

One of America's finest figures is the cowboy, and "Brokeback" has no respect for the traditional image of the cowboy. Or, at least, the trailer doesn't.

When I think of a cowboy, I want to think of John Wayne, Clint Eastwood or the Marlboro Man. Cowboys are supposed to do honorable, masculine things like ride horses, shoot bad guys and sell us cigarettes.

It used to be so simple and pure.

Cowboys would ride on horses for hundreds of miles, herding livestock across dangerous terrain. They would carouse about local saloons, drinking whiskey and gambling. And sometimes when they played cards, they would argue about who cheated until one of them was dead.

What has Hollywood done to this whimsical, fanciful image of the cowboy? Like so many of our other traditions, they have destroyed it by trying to make it hipper for a younger generation. Kids today want everything to be fast-paced, glitzy and homosexual.

When I was younger, I used to dress up like a cowboy every Halloween. I used to imagine what it would be like to herd cattle,

drink whiskey and shoot cheaters. Now, because of this flashy Hollywood blockbuster, that beautiful image is tainted for me.

I do applaud the local theatres that have thought better than to let this cowboy-bashing run rampant. If you want to see "Brokeback Mountain," you have to go to Charlotte or some other 'metro' area.

Lucky for me, I don't traverse around those parts; I stick to more traditional, rural areas. Like a cowboy.

My Review:

★ (I like horses)