

## Diversity about more than just skin color

BY JOE TAYLOR  
Staff Columnist

According to every single article posted on the campus homepage, Davidson is "a highly selective independent liberal arts college for 1,600 students." These articles fail to mention, however, that most of those 1,600 students are Caucasian.

Across the country, institutions of higher learning face the dilemma of maintaining a diversified student body without overstepping legal boundaries of preferential treatment. The U.S. Supreme Court's investigation of the undergraduate and law school admissions processes at the University of Michigan is one exemplary case of the controversy involved with affirmative action.

The media present these investigations as exaggerated, melodramatic stories about discrimination and intensify the debate to such a fevered pitch that there is stigma associated with being content with any type of student body whatsoever.

Consequently, schools are forced to create picturesque campuses filled with every single type of ethnicity on the planet. In a horrendous submission to the status quo, anxious admissions officers combat uniformity with a barrage of minority scholarships and disingenuous view-books depicting kaleidoscopic student landscapes.

The real problem is the misconception that diversity means a wide range of skin pigmentation. Rather than attracting people with different types of personality, talent, perspective and creativity, admissions offices attract people of a certain color or nationality and assume that they will have the aforementioned qualities.

Some claim that it is racist for Davidson to have such a disproportionate number of white people as compared to other ethnicities; I think that it is more racist to equate diversity with skin color. Is it not racist to claim that a black person is different from a Hispanic person because he or she is black?

True diversity is exhibited through intellectual rather than corporeal forms. Most admission officers, however, operate with the assumption that someone of a particular color or ethnicity will contribute more to a society than someone of a more common color or ethnicity.

Students are also to blame for this debauchery. Rather than differentiating themselves with accomplishments, thought and circumstances within their control, some students exploit things beyond their control and hope that "under-representation" will help them succeed in life.

*Rather than attracting people with different types of personality, talent, perspective and creativity, admissions offices attract people of a certain color or nationality and assume that they will have the aforementioned qualities*

People need to stop identifying themselves with certain countries and/or religions and start thinking for themselves.

One example of this useless segregation is the historically black fraternity here at Davidson. Rather than integrating everyone together, this fraternity is actually causing a schism in the social atmosphere. Why don't Hispanics have their own fraternity or eating house? How about black women? Should we have an Asian fraternity? How about an Icelandic eating house?

It seems that everyone wants to feel like a part of their own little isolated comfort group in this fabulous "melting pot" called America. Everyone hides behind some group for their identity and exploits that group whenever possible. White people think they are disadvantaged because they are white and black people think they are disadvantaged because they are black; every single group claims to be the victim of one type of discrimination or another and it is disgusting.

I once read in the Davidsonian "Cat Walk" that white people are stuck in their little white worlds. If this is true, then black people are stuck in their little black worlds and Christian people are stuck in their little Christian worlds. Although every group claims to be a victim, every group is to blame. We need to stop segregating ourselves into our special, exclusive groups and start integrating with one another. I don't care what skin color you have; stop demanding attention and special treatment because you are exploiting an incidental technicality.

So, is Davidson to blame for its lack of "diversity?" If the 1,600 students here are the most intelligent, qualified, and creative applicants available and the majority of them just happen to be white or black or Asian or Hispanic or whatever, then so be it.

## Immigration: an inevitable concern?

BY RICHARD GUYER  
Staff Columnist

Few things get conservatives riled up like immigration policy. I should know — as a summer intern at the Republican National Committee, I got used to being yelled at by the daily immigration caller. I am admittedly not so familiar with liberals and their reactions to the question at hand; I have never, I'm afraid, worked at the DNC. But in my experience, liberals are just as willing to get angry over immigration policy as Republicans.

So President Bush was sure to kick up a storm with his recent immigration proposals. The core of his proposal is to give legal status to currently undocumented workers. This would amount to temporarily legalizing lots of illegal immigrants.

As we know, the public at large has not disappointed. There has been predictable cackle among pundits of all political stripes. Some have endorsed the plan, some condemn it, and all feel that God Himself told them the correct way to handle things.

Since this is the Perspectives page, I'm supposed to tell you what to think. But I'm afraid I'm going to bend that rule, because I don't know what the correct policy is. Both sides have compelling arguments, and I question whether there is a perfect solution.

There are certainly reasons to be concerned about immigration, specifically from Latin America. Immigrants take jobs away from Americans, although I don't think that's always bad.

Impoverished immigrants strain our welfare and healthcare systems; just ask any doctor how often he is compensated for life-saving surgery on a migrant farm worker. However, immi-

grant patients — who often arrive in the ER in worse-than-normal condition with no available medical history to guide the surgeon — are just as much of a malpractice threat as John Edward's wife would be.

This result is higher healthcare costs for anybody who actually pays. Human rights watchdogs also have reason to worry, as recent events at Wal-Mart show.

On the positive side, immigrants are a source of relatively cheap labor; even at minimum wage they live better here than in Tijuana slums. They are often hard working folks who just want to live a better life.

Many immigrant workers send large portions of their income to friends and family back home. In fact, such transfers to family members make up a significant portion of the national income in Central American nations, and cutting off this flow of money could severely hamper Latin American development. As Latin nations develop, the incentive to immigrate to America will decline, and immigration will fall accordingly. So the problem should alleviate itself — at least to a degree — as time marches on.

It is clear that the immigrants who are here want to be. If they ever wished to return home, Tom Ridge would be happy to pay their travel expenses. What's more, many come with the knowledge that they are not welcome. Since we assume that they are rational folks, this means that conditions in the homeland are pretty crummy. So perhaps the optimal way to handle immigration — legal and otherwise — is to aid in the economic development of Latin America.

This is a problem that's not going away, so interns at the RNC better get used to it.

## Pornography Today: No Joking Matter

BY GEORGIE AHRENDT  
Staff Columnist

On one of the most popular sitcoms in the country, *Friends*, Chandler cracks a joke about pornography while the group hangs out in a quaint, New York coffee shop. Canned laughter immediately follows. Television stars and college students alike joke about porn because they think it's funny. We're laughing in the face of a serious problem in our country. There is nothing humorous about pornography. It's degrading; it's addictive; and it leads to horrible consequences.

I hate it and I can't get away from it. Porn has just recently infected my computer. This jaded virus puts an "Adult Links Daily" icon on my desktop. It also puts links in my favorites bar and on a toolbar in Internet Explorer. I also have been getting pornography pop-ups, which are nothing more than pornography itself.

There is something obscene about this picture. Some loser out there is forcing me to look at pornography. I feel violated, but others see a joke.

One day at lunch, I casually mentioned the porn icons on my computer desktop. A fellow male student teased, "Why don't you just click on it and enjoy it?" It is easier to laugh at a problem than to solve it. It is easier to say, "If it doesn't harm anyone, then it's okay," than to see porn for what it really is: a four-letter word. But I'll get to that later.

The fact that porn is available to any child with access to a computer frightens me. But pornography also harms families. Porn is a catalyst for divorce, breaking families apart with every secretive click and scroll of the mouse and every cautious push

of the play button on the VCR. People have been known to get addicted to porn, just as if it were a drug.

Our society has normalized pornography to the point that it is as ordinary as checking CNN.com for the latest headlines. I've heard fellow students laughing about porn as though it were nothing more than a dirty little joke between friends. The thinking is, if you're male and you don't enjoy pornography, you aren't masculine.

Children are learning about sex from pornography, and so are college students. If watched enough, porn can change the way its viewers regard sex. The sex in pornography is not normal sex. It isn't real. In real life, women are not always sexually aggressive nor are they always submissive. Also, it has been proven that men who watch a great amount of porn are more likely to find violence against women acceptable. So while society has been normalizing pornography, it has also been normalizing violence against women and a view of sex that is miles away from reality. Is this what we want to teach kids about sex? Is this what you are learning at Davidson along with economics and music theory?

I know that not everyone who looks at pornography is a pervert. I also know that sex isn't a dirty subject. Healthy families and societies talk about it. But it isn't necessary to defile a natural and personal act by portraying it publicly as something obscene. Porn should be regulated, kept in check and made a serious issue instead of a joke. I would at least like to keep it off of my own computer.

No, sex isn't a four-letter word. And some would say that pornography isn't either. But that's because they don't see it for what it really is: smut.

## Examining the Davidson 'Elite'

Davidson cults: the first article in a series

So I was planning on writing an article about Cults at Davidson, like the Davidson Outdoors crowd, always smiling and rustic looking. In brainstorming with a friend, we threw out a few others: *Libertas*, the KA Order, WALT and "hold on," she

comments & criticisms



NICHOLAS CARLSON

said, "What do you mean KA?" Well, you know, the pearls and sundresses crowd, out for a Saturday afternoon of home football, pastel Polos with the collars turned up.

To which she responded, and I quote, "if you are going to write this thing you are only going to alienate these people and thus make your chances of joining them very slim."

Now there's a frightening prospect. And I just finished decorating my cooler for Old South Day.

Here's the point: at Davidson we have a crowd of "elite" who don't know that they're only ones who hold their breath when they enter a room. An example:

I was drinking a Tetley's in a pub called The Anchor by a river named the Cam in the town of Cambridge last summer and an acquaintance of mine turned to me and said, "If you tell anybody what you just heard, I'll make your life a living hell next year."

Shocking, isn't it?

I might add that the position has already been filled. Thank you, Dr. Kuzmanovich, may I have another?

Sorry Phi Delta Theta, I stole your line. Oops, there goes my Talibanaza invite too.

What if my friend is right, though? What if out there, after college, in the "real world," we have to worry about alienating people like that and thus making "our chances of joining them slim"?

*The pearls and sundresses crowd... pastel Polos with the collars turned up*

What if that's what getting a promotion is about, or becoming a partner, getting your own practice, opening your shop, publishing your story, securing charitable underwriters?

It's just a thought for your nightmares, loyal column readers. I guess the good news is that individually these people aren't bad people. I know my friend is particularly funny, big-hearted, and admirably strong-willed. There's one KA who used to play *Warcraft III* with my roommate all the time. (Don't worry, your secret is safe with me.)

Next week in Part 2: What are Jamie Shelton and the rest of Davidson Outdoors smiling about all the time?