

The Davidsonian

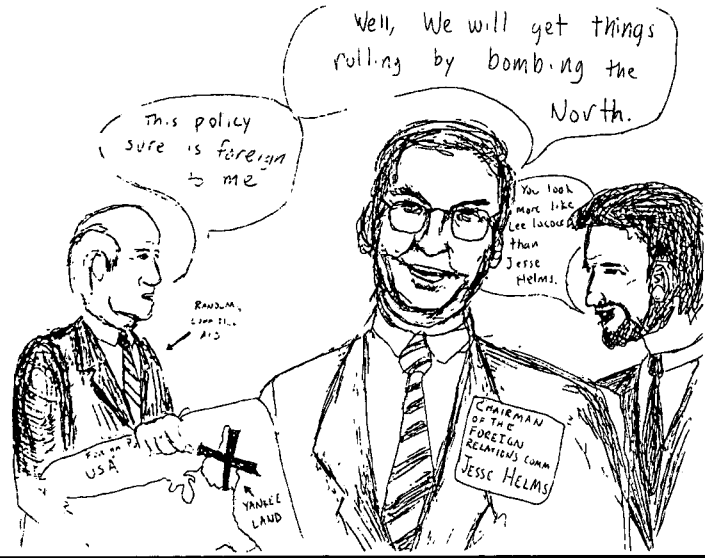
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LETTERS

Pro-life and Paul Hill

To the Editors:

I have a few thoughts to share in response to E.J. Dennis's article, "Martyr or Murderer," which appeared in last week's Davidsonian. For those of you who didn't have a chance to peruse this piece, I will say that Mr. Dennis presented an argument in defense of Paul Hill, an avid pro-lifer who will stand trial for the premeditated murder of an abortion doctor. It is made clear to the reader that Mr. Dennis is not necessarily advocating Hill's actions, but simply asking us to "consider the paradigm from which [we] judge him versus his own paradigm of the world."

The central argument Dennis employs is that of the genocide which took place in Nazi Germany. Were I a citizen then, he asks, would I not be justified in choosing to murder a Nazi soldier responsible for mass murder of innocent Jews? "Do not the deaths of many justify the killing of this one?" I say no. Unequivocally.

The moral that may make abortion "wrong" is the SAME moral that makes murdering the abortionist equally wrong. The death of many NEVER justifies the death of one. Even in Nazi Germany. How can a Christian (like Hill claims to be) possibly think they can get

away with violating one of the Ten Commandments using the Hebraic moral of "an eye for an eye" in his defense?

Whether or not abortion is a "moral wrong" is so obviously controversial that no one has the right to impose a penalty on those who disagree. Mr. Hill has violated the basic premise of the Constitution of this nation. The Constitution that allows him to believe in his subjective condemnation of abortion is the same Constitution that protects the rights of those who choose to have one. What I am trying to say is that the stated purpose of the Constitution, to provide equality for ALL, makes it inherently pro-choice. That's what pro-choice means. It is sad that people are often too quick to forget this. Pro-choice means believing in the freedom to choose. Anyone who recognizes that the rights granted them by our laws to believe in what they may are the same rights that grant others the disposition to disagree is pro-choice, whether they realize it or not. Pro-life-ers seem to think all too often that pro-choice means pro-abortion. It doesn't. Learn the difference.

Who gave pro-lifers the right to impose their beliefs on others? No one. They've simply assumed it. What

they fail to see, though, is that they have no more right to PREVENT me from having an abortion than I have the right to MAKE them. Any pro-life-er, though, will disagree with this. (At least the one's I've talked to.) The reason they have a God complex is that they insist they're right and I'm wrong. Well maybe they're right for the way they see the world. But that doesn't give them the right to force those beliefs on me. Isn't that the premise of Mr. Dennis's article? To ask us to look at the world through someone else's eyes? Well, maybe if Paul Hill had done that from the start, we wouldn't be having arguments about it now. In the murder he committed, Hill demonstrated to this nation that he has zero respect for anyone else's beliefs should they differ from his own. If he has no respect for me, what incentive will I ever find to respect him?

If you don't believe in abortion, then don't have one. But you have no more right to make that decision for someone else than I have the right to make it for you.

What Hill did was wrong, and there's no rational reasoning in the world that can mollify that.

Sincerely,
Jenn Williams '95

A good cause,
a good effect

After Saturday night's stunningly successful FLAG Fashion Show Benefit, the ecstatic coordinator was overheard saying, "I have never loved Davidson so much as I love Davidson right at this very minute."

Well put. Our college has come a long way in its history, evolving gradually from an all-white, all-male institution to the increasingly diverse, national power that we now know. These changes, especially the incorporation of women and minorities, have not always come easily, at Davidson or in the rest of the country. But they have come, and they continue to come.

In fact, some very noticeable changes have occurred even in the last three years. Seniors who remember the controversy that erupted when FLAG tried to get a charter here in the fall of 1991 might be surprised that an event like the fashion show could meet with such success at Davidson. One Patterson Court house, a house which participated enthusiastically in the show last weekend, voted down the proposal to give FLAG a charter only three years ago.

There is no question that Davidson is much more progressive in its collective attitude toward homosexuality than ever before. This past weekend represents the furthest that Davidson has ever come in its expression of togetherness and social awareness. The effort of the entire campus to organize Health Awareness Week, from the FLAG benefit to Dr. Ruth to the AIDS Quilt, proves that most of us have overcome our problems with talking about sex and AIDS.

But, while basking in the glow of our week of progressiveness, let's not forget that we still have a long way to go. Davidson is still not a place where homosexuals can feel completely comfortable in a social setting. There are very few gay students out of the closet on campus, and those who are bold enough to come out might not feel comfortable being seen out with a companion. Gay students still encounter a bigoted attitude at Davidson, expressed in places like cartoons on dormitory doors that say: "AIDS— It stomps fags dead." There is always more progress to be made.

FLAG is making an important effort to establish a scholarship for a student who works in the gay community, but, unless they receive help, it will take long time for them to endow it. It may also take a long time for us to begin including courses in gay literature or sexuality in our course curriculum. But these are the next steps we must take.

We need to have the courage to institutionalize the same progressive attitude our campus has shown in the past week. Until we do, our support for FLAG's cause can be called little more than a fashionable show.

Thanks to NAMES Quilt
volunteers and visitors

To the Editors,

We would like to give a hearty thanks to Davidson College for supporting the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt this past weekend. We could not have done this event without the 452 volunteers and the more than 2000 visitors. You all helped

us to raise lots of money for our beneficiaries and for the NAMES Project Foundation.

This event has brought together many members of our college community, both from the college and the community at large. In learning about the enormity of

the AIDS pandemic, we hope that discussions initiated this weekend will continue, and that no one will forget the great strides that Davidson has made this fall.

Sincerely,

The NAMES Project
Host Committee

Write letters to the editors.

Mail to P.O. Box 219, Davidson, NC 28306.

Or, deliver to the Davidsonian office
on the top floor of the Union.

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