

# Discrimination against homosexuals narrowminded

Peter Wright

I am writing in response to the article published in *The Davidsonian* by Grant Morain, "Davidson should not support gay movement." I do this with a degree of regret since I have nothing but respect for Grant as a person, however I most strongly disagree with his views on this matter. I am not writing to support or criticize the formation of the committee concerned. I am not gay and therefore feel inadequate in judging the feelings and wishes of the gay community at Davidson. However, I believe views such as Grant's are dangerously narrowminded and are detrimental to society as a whole.

Grant begins his argument with an appeal to law and order. North Carolina law states that buggery (male-male intercourse) is a felony offense, therefore, according to Grant we should shun and alienate the gay members of our community. I ask Grant to reflect on his own life and see whether he has been in violation of any laws during his Davidson career. The serving of alcohol to persons under 19 years of age is an act prohibited by law. Should the

Davidson administration close down all fraternities and eating houses where this abomination is known to occur?

My home state prohibits the sale of alcohol on Sundays. This law was passed in an earlier age when religious doctrine maintained a strong hold on the policies of the government. The regulation serves no purpose today. It is an outdated document which does nothing but hinder the freedom of the citizens of the state. However, it also is not controversial enough of an issue to generate the expulsion of this "blue law." The North Carolina statute which prohibits buggery and thus the freedom of gay persons is such a "blue law." It is behind the times and is not in accord with the modern understanding of psychology, etc., for many reasons.

"Crimes against nature" obviously means occurrences which will not be found in the natural environment. The use of this term is self destructive to the N.C. regulation since many species in the animal kingdom have members that display homosexual activity. Not only this, but it appears that a biological determinant exists in the causation of same sex preference. Biological, mind you, does not necessarily mean genetic. Psychologists have observed that a high correlation exists between emotionally over-stressed pregnant women and the birthing of homosexual children. Above

and beyond this, I wonder how many people feel in control of their affections along heterosexual lines. Not many individuals I know would say that they consciously plan out to whom they will become attracted.

Finally, I do not intend to argue with biblical quotations; I have found that to be a very fruitless endeavor. However, I believe that enlightened administrations need to keep policy separate from religion. I have faith that the human mind is capable of making noble and sound decisions without the crutch of religious doctrine to taint or blind individual perception.

Therefore, I hope all of Davidson College will maintain an open mind and heart in its acceptance of people who are not along the "norm." Everyone is different, and as long as their actions do not harm others, they should not be outlawed. Segregation laws present an example of a society lacking respect for its entire community. They were eventually defeated and a group of individuals gained new freedom (many years overdue). Let's only hope that the future will hold a similar outcome for another minority in our nation.

*Wright is a sophomore psychology major from Lexington, KY*

## Morain's views on homosexuality outdated

Andrew Yon

Let go, all you Grant Morains of the world. Let go of the pitiful remnants of an archaic societal supposition — that homosexuality is evil and unnatural. In a changing world, there seem always to be those who cling frantically to old and regressive ideas. As I recall, there were in the 1950s and 60s some hardcore fanatics — supported by law for a while — who actually believed that Blacks should not have the same rights that whites have. What's left of those fanatics marched for their cause on Main Street in Davidson last Saturday. Aren't we all glad that society passed them by?!

So here we are today with another issue, sides chosen: those who believe that gay people should have a place in our society, those who don't. Fortunately, cities and states are already moving to eliminate anti-gay bias. New York

City last month passed legislation to protect gay people from discrimination in the workplace, and it's my hope that Davidson College and/or North Carolina will follow this progressive lead. Or rather, do we want Davidson to be on the level of moral self-righteousness with Campbell, Bob Jones, and Liberty Universities, where we all abide by such institutional standard as: "Let it be known henceforth and forthwith that the sex act shall not be performed while standing, lest it be construed as dancing, an act universally recognized as a crime against nature."

Okay, so I exaggerate. The point is that Davidson College need not adhere to outdated conventions established by heterosexual politicians. This school should instead — as it has been for the last two and a half years — look for ways to make relevant contributions to society in the future.

On a more personal level, a primary responsibility — if not the primary responsibility — of Davidson College is promote the intellectual and social development of its stu-

dents. If the needs of the gay minority are ignored, then Davidson will have failed in its responsibility. There are students enduring everyday a painful struggle with their sexuality, (a struggle made painful by hostile environment), who would benefit greatly from a college-backed support group. And much to Grant Morain's surprise, a typical meeting would NOT lead from light refreshments to gay orgies. Had Grant attended the panel discussion on homosexuality of Feb. 10, his ill-conceived notion of homoSEXuality may never have come to fruition.

One last and rather peripheral point . . . In light of the fact that oral sex is still considered a "crime against nature" in some states, I doubt seriously that any of our venerable lawmakers are innocent of being involved at some time in such a hideously criminal act. You see Grant, some laws were just meant to be broken . . . and I think we live in a happier world — indeed, a more satisfied world — for it. Oh my.

*Yon is a senior math major from Chelsea, AL*

## Presenting the Residence Life Office

Tom Jennings

Sometime early in June, when Davidson is in a spot in your brain labelled "storage," while you are furiously slaving away at your summer work, and when your blood pressure returns to normal, a familiar place on campus will be changing its name. We are letting you know now so that you won't be lost (and look like a fall-term freshman) next year.

The Housing Office will be called the Residence Life Office. The change is intended primarily to reflect the full range of services and duties performed by the Housing staff. "Housing" services include such things as maintenance, keys, room assignments, housekeeping, furniture, and other administratively oriented tasks. Residence Life includes all of the Housing services and goes further to include: a staff of students trained in counseling skills, crisis intervention, referral and community building to help other students; lounge spaces with televisions, video games, and space for informal meetings; social and educational programs designed to foster a sense of community among the residents; a resident advisor program to assist in the development of personal growth to students; and a resident advisor program to assist in the operation of resident student activities. The operation is already providing a variety of services which more accurately describe our operation. The name change is not being diminished, however priority. Housing remains the responsibility of the residence life administration.

Residence Life titles began replacing Housing office titles in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Since then, residence life has become a common term at a majority of colleges and universities. This shift in terminology happened for several reasons. Faculty members and administrators began to realize, and research supported the idea that a significant part of a student's personal growth happens outside the classroom. Colleges began putting more money and staff positions in the student services area, especially in the residential areas. These new professional staff people began all types of creative strategies for improving students lives outside the classroom. The 1950s, 60s, and 70s were periods of intense growth for many schools, so that more housing was created for students, and more housing staff positions created to manage the increasing number of students.

During this period some other terminology came under scrutiny by college administrators. The words "dormitory" and "dorm" were used for centuries to describe student housing structures. These structures, and what is provided in them, have changes drastically since the word "dorm" was first used. Traditionally, dormitories were places to sleep and eat (many had cafeterias in the building) where little interaction was encouraged and community development was haphazard at best. Recently, some of the "extra" services I mentioned earlier have helped the residential areas become more comfortable and healthy communities. These areas have become much more than places in which to sleep.

In September of 1985 there was an article in the Charlotte Observer entitled "Crowded Prisons Plague NC." In the article, the author, Elizabeth Leland, refers to the housing for the prisoners as dormitories, just as we refer to our housing structures as dormitories. There is a vast difference between the two structures and the two communities, yet our vocabulary fails to reflect any difference.

A term which more accurately describes our housing structures and the communities within them is "Residence Halls." This term is more descriptive and does not carry with it the negative connotations and various meanings of "dormitories" or "dorms." The abbreviation of "Residence Halls" is simply "halls." If the new terms sound cumbersome, check them out; they have the same number of syllables as the traditional words. The main reasons I suggest that we adopt the "newer" language are the more positive images associated with the terms and the more appropriate description of our community.

Is this semantical aerobics, or is there a real benefit from the name changes? Consider some of your most vivid memories at Davidson; many are from classroom experiences, many are from special events on Patterson Court, the College Union, or elsewhere on campus, and many are from experiences in the residence halls with your friends. Shouldn't a college which promotes, advertises, and lives in a close-knit community, speak about it in a language which is positive and accurate? If you are still compelled to call the student housing structures, dorms, that's okay, we will still understand you. I just want you to understand the Housing staff when you hear words like residence life and residence halls, as we continue to try to build a positive environment on campus for our resident students.

We haven't gone on a rampage in here. We still call a key a "key," and a telephone a "telephone," so don't worry about some new language being spoken when you stop by or call. When you call us and someone says, "Hello, Residence Life Office, may I help you?," don't hang up. It's the same folks with a new name and a fresh start, we're happy to help you with your housing questions or your concerns about residence life at Davidson.

*Jennings is the director of housing*

Roy

The times at Davidson deal of talk on campus saying that is going on freshmen. As most freshmen will not be all right until the seventh year, and more and more are returning to their studies and faculty. It has changed a great last year. Perhaps, a person Court the temporarily remove the change in the social corner problem which demands closer attention.

I give you an example prospective students community," "the small attention" and so forth. stages that come with college. We seek to encourage family where there a unique education closeness, security and has provided in the

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Will

At Spring Convocation Davidson students for tremendous education college. Instead of a book, or simply Davidson students sports, playing card night party. What a waste these "wasted" educational opportunities are! One occurs inside a classroom one professor lectured as taught for thirty years takes place is usually decided that he that his role is merely a dialogue *Phaedra* maintaining that the wared speeches — w

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I'm so tired of signs decorating our improve of apartheid aid as much as the nstment can only hu To begin with, it no work in the auto id diamond mines. I ho's going to be la revenues, probably blacks lose their families and educate the wealthiest co ad in the past, I hav South Africa are mud