

The Davidsonian

"THE SOUTH'S FOREMOST COLLEGE WEEKLY"

VOLUME LXXXIII

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1992

NUMBER 17

Students Come Out In Force For FLAG Forum

By Kevin Miller

On Wednesday, February 19, the newly chartered FLAG organization held its first open forum in the 900 room. Student Body President Anthony Foxx chaired a panel that included Campus Chaplain Chuck Hasty, FLAG president Beth Willard, Davidson graduate Eric Bone, '91, and two members of the Charlotte area chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Milt Thompson and Marcia Solomon. The panel talked with a group of some 150 Davidson students faculty and community members, about their personal experiences and views on the topic of homosexuality.

Hasty opened by stating that 10% of the population of the United States is homosexual, and that, by the numbers, there could be as many as 150 gay and lesbian stu-

dents on campus. "This is an issue, something we should be talking about," he said.

Thompson, a father of a son "born gay", told his story of how at age eight, his son showed, after psychological testing, the possibility of being gay, and by age thirteen, homosexuality was a reality. He explained how hard it was to learn that his son would never be the person he hoped for. But, he said, as his son grew, so did he, and his love for him was never compromised.

Today, as a member of PFLAG and the Disciples of Christ, Thompson believes that religion everywhere has contributed to the negativity that homosexuals face every day. By not asserting itself as a leader and a supporter, the church has left many gays and lesbians searching for a good an-

swer to the "big" question on the issue, "Is this right in God's mind?"

A student did ask Hasty what he would do if a student posed this question to him, and he answered by saying, "I would never say whether it was right or wrong because I don't know that person's situation. I would tell them to search their scriptures."

Thompson also asked the audience to put themselves in a gay's place and to think of the little things they would have to tolerate in almost every social situation. He said that, as people, homosexuals are no different than anyone else. "Members of the band don't discriminate against the football team, and marketing majors don't discriminate against engineering majors. So why should gays and lesbians be discriminated against by straights?" he said.

Solomon explained that she did not get an opportunity to see her son as often as the normal parent because of her divorce. Thus, when her son told her during a visit with him at college that he was gay, her lifelong image of him as the normal, loving, young boy was shattered. She said that the PFLAG saying, "when children come out of the closet, parents go into the closet," directly applied to her.

She said that she went through a grieving process, and that she went through a grieving process with the realization that her son would never reproduce. But, with the help of PFLAG, she said, and the recognition of the "world of hate" that surrounds her son, she came out of her closet. Now, she says, she is closer than ever with her son.

Solomon said that the discrimi-

nation and cruelty towards homosexuals has to stop. "By speaking to groups, I do try to change people's beliefs. You can believe what you want to believe, but you have no right to hurt my child," she said.

Bone opened by saying that when he was at Davidson there was no way he could have possibly spoke out about his homosexuality. He said that although his experience at Davidson was positive, it was positive only because of a great amount of support he received from a small group of friends that allowed him to be himself with no fear of ridicule.

He said he received no support from his parents when they learned of his homosexuality during the summer after his freshman year at

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Medical Humanities Speaker Addresses Assisted Suicide

By Jeff Oller

On Tuesday, February 18, Dr. Velvi Greene, a professor of epidemiology at Ben Gurion University of Negev, Israel, gave a lecture concerning assisted suicide as a part of the Medical Humanities Series.

At the beginning Greene asserted that he was basing his interview on personal opinions drawn from his experiences and his study of the Jewish tradition. He then defined assisted suicide as, "intentional infliction without malice in time of severe illness."

Euthanasia is defined as the action of killing an individual for reasons of euthanasia. A few forms of euthanasia that Greene cited were a patient's refusal of pain killers, a patient's decision to chose another person to decide when the doctor is to discontinue treatment, a patient's refusal of intravenous hydration, suicide for a cause, suicide for another's preservation, and

a patient's refusal of antibiotics.

Throughout his talk, Greene insisted upon referring to assisted suicide as murder, not euthanasia. He said, "this is the age of euthanasia, and I'm going to make a case against euthanasia of any kind."

Greene pointed out that the subject of assisted suicide has only been a public controversy since the 1980's. He asserted that this is largely in part of the fact that, "technology allows us to consider euthanasia as a realistic option."

Greene, in support of his assertion that he would draw greatly upon the Jewish tradition, referred to the Bible several times. He cited Jonathan's mercy killing of Saul in the book of Judges. Jonathan was put to death for putting Saul out of misery. He also referred to the three cardinal sins in the Torah, incest, idolatry and murder, and he referred to the book of Genesis with its condemnation of assisted suicide.

Furthermore he cited a precedent in Jewish law that refers the idea that a person's body does not belong to himself, but instead belongs to God. Therefore, life cannot be tampered with except to preserve.

He pointed out the fact that, "euthanasia was performed discreetly." The idea of euthanasia, he said, arose from the desire to do away with those that were seen as unworthy or useless. Mental patients, mentally retarded persons, severely deformed or handicapped individuals and others who were "incapable" of contributing to society were seen as a burden.

Greene described his deep concern about the fact that we, as a society, are considering allowing doctors to euthanize those patients who are either dying, in extreme discomfort or have no hope of living a normal life. Greene referred

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UNC Professor Details Genetic Research

By Cindy Ebbs

Dr. John Graham, Emeritus Professor of Pathology at UNC Chapel Hill Medical School visited Davidson on Thursday, February 19 and discussed "Using Genetics in Clinical Research".

Graham graduated from Davidson in 1938, and then went on to UNC Chapel Hill Medical School and Cornell University for further study. Graham, with the help of many student interns, has written over 185 scientific papers, many of which are located in the E.H. Little Library.

Credit for the appearance of Dr. Graham goes to a student of his, Dr. Donald L. Copeland, '56 who now practices family medi-

cine at the Lake Norman Medical Park.

Graham's lecture was based on the importance of family history in medical genetics. Through his close study of the genetic family history, Graham illustrated examples of hereditary genes.

Through a detailed diagram of the history of a family containing eleven fathers and eighteen mothers, Graham used Hereditary Benign Intraepithelial Dyskeratosis, a condition otherwise known as "Red Eye", to show an example of a simple autosomal dominant trait.

Graham also determined that the Hageman Trait and an abnormal blood clotting trait are au-

tosomal recessive traits. These types of traits usually point to inbreeding as a cause for its appearance 25% of the time, as Graham proved through two specific family studies of these traits.

Graham proved through genetic family studies, that rickets is an X-linked recessive trait, a trait which is located only on the X-chromosome. Also, Graham discussed the difference between lethal, unable to be perpetuated, and sub-lethal, able to be perpetuated, traits using a type of Muscular Dystrophy and Hemophilia as respective examples.

Graham proceeded to switch

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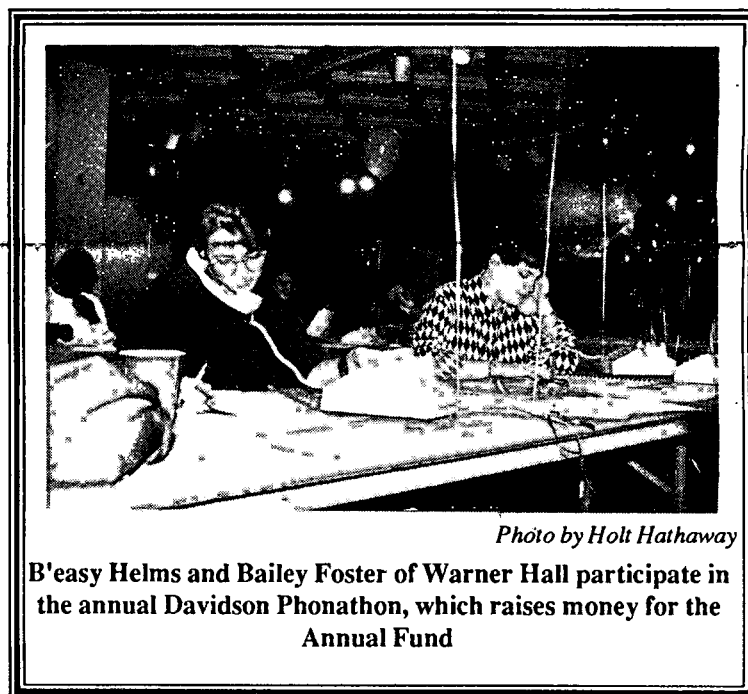


Photo by Holt Hathaway

B'easy Helms and Bailey Foster of Warner Hall participate in the annual Davidson Phonathon, which raises money for the Annual Fund

Wilson Discusses Davidson Students "Breaking the Barriers"

By Leslie Goff

Last Monday evening in the 900 Room, Dr. Greer Wilson, a faculty member at University of Virginia, lectured to a gathering of students on the issue of tolerance. While many students missed the chance to hear this speaker, Wilson presented a serious message regarding the breaking of barriers amidst our college community.

Wilson stated that Davidson is not unique in facing such hurdles that are currently plaguing the campus. Other schools about which she reported are Wake Forest and UVA. Both schools are examining their current situations as well.

Wilson began by describing three ways colleges handle multic-

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