

Serving The Cavalier Daily and Its Alumni

**EDITOR**

Kim Ramsey

**CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ISSUE:**

Justin Bernick  
Fred Hebllich  
Diane Krehmeyer

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## Cavalier Daily Alumni Association

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The Cavalier Daily Alumni Association,  
University of Virginia  
P.O. Box 4731, Charlottesville, VA 22905

# THANK YOU FOR 20 GREAT YEARS

In 1983, a small group of Cavalier Daily alumni banded together to found the first-ever student organization alumni association at the University of Virginia. At the time, the act seemed necessary and prudent, as the student organization had come under fire from the University administration and sweated in the spotlight of the national media. The newspaper's alumni stepped in to provide resources and guidance, and the Cavalier Daily Alumni Association was born.

But for something that probably seemed a no-brainer at the time, 20 years later we acknowledge that this effort was not just Herculean, but pretty cutting-edge. Only in the last few years have other alumni worked to form their own groups to support student organizations such as the University Guide Service, Madison House, etc. As I am approached from time to time by alumni who are interested in how to get started,

these folks have been on the board since the beginning, some have cycled on and off depending on life's circumstances, others have just joined us, and sadly, some, like former long-time board member Staige Blackford, have recently passed on.

New or old, they have all contributed something of value to our organization. For that we are very grateful, especially to Rick Neel, our founder, and the group that got it all started: Steve Wells, Tim Wheeler, Sam Barnes, Jim Grossberg, Bill Spatz, Stuart Jones, Bob Godec, Jim Fox, Mike Fagan and Chuck Culppepper.

So, to the original Board of Directors, as well as all the folks who have passed through our lives on the CDAA Board during the last 20 years, we say: THANKS, and please come join us to celebrate our anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 18. We'll look forward to seeing you!

accomplishments we have achieved in the last 20 years, but the fact is, without such fantastic people to do that work, there would not be much to say. The CDAA Board of Directors is an amazing group of people who care passionately about the future of The Cavalier Daily and its staff. Some of

the literary staff has tackled some difficult and important issues this past semester. In the wake of the alleged racially-motivated assault on Student Council President Daisy Lundy, intense national media scrutiny surrounded the issue of race at the University, and the staff has consistently led the way in unraveling the

new SLR digital cameras and the creation of a new archiving process for digital photos, the staff has moved completely into the digital age.

I remember when I first arrived at The Cavalier Daily three short years ago. Pages were still rolled out by hand and shipped to Culppepper in the back of a truck. The paper has come a long way since then—not a single roll of film has been developed in the darkroom since the purchase of the cameras, and every part of the production process is completed faster, better and cheaper with computers. A new laptop computer was purchased, allowing staffers to easily transmit digital images online when reporters go out in the field for away games and other events,

string of complex and controversial events surrounding the race issue for our readers. The war in Iraq, the economic downturn, budget cuts and their effect on the University, the Columbia disaster, student elections scandals and reforms and the expansion of the ACC all have left their mark on our pages and on students at the University.

The sports staff is also working on a new football supplement, "the Gridiron," to complement our basketball, book review and film festival

board this past year. The new batch of department editors brought ample experience and lots of energy to the table, making the managing board's jobs incredibly easy and avoiding the "bump" in roll times. In fact, roll times actually went down after the transition, and have been relatively stable since.

Speed is, however, a poor measure of performance on its own. But the quality of work the staff has produced this past semester is testament to the fact that they can produce incredible work every day, and do it faster than anyone else.

Justin Bernick  
CD Editor-in-Chief

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## 20 YEARS

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a kind of "back door" that allowed her to bypass the competition for the Times-Dispatch's limited openings. Working in the Metro section at the daily paper is an "unique opportunity that I probably wouldn't have gotten otherwise," she added.

Not all of the CDAA's activities are directed toward assisting current students. The group also plans social events and provides networking opportunities for its alumni membership.

And its primary fund-raising focus today is not on the present or future survival of The Cavalier Daily but rather on preserving the paper's past. The alumni group is working with Alderman Library to convert more than 100 years' worth of the newspaper's print archives to a digital format.

"The alumni group has grown dramatically since its early days—from nine members to more than 2,000—but its original goals have remained unchanged," says Krehmeyer, "and I think that says a lot about the vision of the CDAA founders."

"You cannot give Rick Neel enough credit for starting this organization and seeing it through those early years," Jones added. "A lot of other student organizations do not have alumni groups, and that is because there are not enough people like Rick to do the hard work to make it happen."

According to the University of Virginia Alumni Association's Director of Alumni Programs Wayne Cozart, The Cavalier Daily is one of only a handful of student groups on Grounds to have an organized alumni association. It was also the first.

When asked why the CD would be the first, Cozart cited the newspaper's independence as a primary motivator. "In its unique position as an independent organization working on Grounds, the CD needs its alumni to support its existence and needs."

Asking the CD's alumni themselves why they participate in the CDAA—some as many as 70 years after graduation—will elicit a quite different answer. "There's an ongoing romance with the paper," said Trevor, CD editor-in-chief in 1985-'86. "It's like someone you care about that you then want to nurture me, and now I want to help nurture it."

CDAA Vice President Lisa Guernsey cites a desire to continue being "part of the collective learning experience" of the CD. "There's no journalism school at U.Va., but the students produce an amazing newspaper anyway, out of sheer oomph and passion. I wanted to stay connected to that energy."

For CDAA founder Neel, staying connected is what it's all about. "What excites me is that after 20 years the CDAA is still going strong," Neel said. "At the University you can create a tradition in two or three years. But to keep it going for 20 years shows the strong feelings and great pride that the students have for The Cavalier Daily."

(CD alumni Diane Krehmeyer and Tim Wheeler also contributed to this article. An abbreviated version is scheduled to appear in the fall issue of the UVA's newsmagazine, Alumni News.)

## ESSAYS

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and told him of our plight. He was incensed by Dean Runk's action and agreed to print our paper and drop it in Charlottesville each day, at a price that was one half what we had been paying the University Press.

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## 1970

Bob Cullen  
... The paper was blissfully unenlightened about feminism in general. I recall that one of the staples of our national advertising budget was something called the Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics Institute. It regularly placed big ads that featured a photo of a fetching, recumbent girl in a very short skirt. She was smiling and she had a book somewhere in front of her, but it didn't look as if she was smiling because she could read 800 words a minute. These ads irritated some of the pioneering feminists at the University, who were enrolled in the graduate school or the education school. They protested by ripping the offending page out of the paper and scrawling across it in red marker, "The CD is sexist." Sometime in the early morning hours, they taped the marked-up pages to the doors of our offices. They even taped one to the door of my office that said, "Bob Cullen is sexist." It took me a while to realize they did not mean I was handsome and attractive.

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## 1973

Steve Wells  
... While editor-in-chief, I received a note from a third-year law student challenging me to a duel on the Lawn as part of a raging battle over whether the third-party candidate he supported in the 1972 presidential election should get treatment from the CD equal to that afforded Nixon and McGovern. Finally, after a rancorous extended battle over it, the managing board voted and overruled me, 3-1 (for the only time that year), and we gave him the equal coverage he demanded. The following day, I received a note from him saying he'd arrive in my office that afternoon for a "spleen-venting" session during which I could spend as much time as I wanted telling him exactly what I thought of him. At first I thought it was a joke, but when I realized it wasn't, I had someone call him off.

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## 1977

Steve Wells  
... What else do I remember about my CD days? The federal Drug Enforcement Agency launched a sting operation at several U.Va. fraternities. Even though I wasn't on the news desk, I still remember rushing out to Rugby Road, seeing the flashing red lights from the cop cars and watching agents in black T-shirts and jackets start to wrap yellow tape around the perimeter of the properties.

A few days later, Trey Hanbury (the other Life editor) and I visited the courthouse to get the documents surrounding the raid. I remember standing at the counter leafing through the docs and trying to write down what I could, since we were not allowed to take them with us and we had not yet persuaded the receptionist that we had a right to copies. I remember writing down details about hallucinogenic mushroom incubators and marijuana-growing paraphernalia, things that sounded utterly exotic to me, a workaholic goodie-two-shoes.

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Rick Neel  
... It was the end of transition week at the paper, and I was looking forward to taking over the reins the next day as editor-in-chief of a proud and venerable student newspaper. My reverie ended abruptly; I would have no honeymoon; I found myself in the middle of a crisis even before my first day on the job. [Then-University President Frank] Hereford had picked the most vulnerable time for The Cavalier Daily in which to launch his strike. Hereford did not summon our managing board to his office to be officially informed until Monday, April 2 (my second day as editor-in-chief). Twenty-four years later, I can still see Hereford leaning back in his chair and trying to get his pipe started with his hands visibly shaking. Of course, he wasn't the only nervous guy in the room that day. (For more of this story, see Page 4.)

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## 1980

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FROM THE CAVALIER DAILY ARCHIVES

During his first week as CD editor-in-chief, Rick Neel was thrown into a fight for the paper's survival.

