



LISA GUERNSEY/COLLEGE TOPICS

CDAA President Diane Krehmeyer enjoys food and camaraderie at the CDAA's 20th anniversary party last fall.

PRESIDENT

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For example, during our discussion, it became clear that we no longer needed a bulky 21-member Board of Directors to operate the organization. In addition, while we wish to maintain the CDAA mission, we seek to streamline our activities to the most basic level of support for these goals and eliminate any extraneous activities that consume time but do not provide the value they used to.

Some of our feedback from CD alumni has shown that many would like to be more involved with the CDAA, but don't have the time or energy to commit to a full Board seat. With the new structure we hope to implement soon, it should become clear that alumni can participate however they prefer—whether organizing a block of football game seats for fellow CD alumni (as Steve Wells, '73, has done for the upcoming Nov. 6 game against Maryland), or hosting the annual CD Open House during Reunions weekend (as Jennifer Gilbert Barnes, '94, and Melissa Tomlinson, '94, did for us on June 5).

Finally, I would like to stress that the goal of this "reorganization" is not all that radical—it should not in any way lessen what we do, or try to make us somehow exclusive.

Rather, we hope to become only more productive, and have even more alumni participate in organizing and running our activities. Whatever your interest in helping out, we're interested in having you!

We should have the Board's reorganization decisions completed by early Fall, and we will report them to you in the next College Topics.

In the meantime, we're looking forward to continuing to meet The Cavalier Daily's needs as they arise in the years to come, and we invite you to join us.

Interested volunteers can email me at dianeakrehmeyer@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

ETHICS

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plagiarism and fabrication of stories.

In the workshop's final segment, Kirsten Martin and Bidhan "Bobby" Parmar from the Darden Graduate School of Business walked the staff through a multi-part interactive case study that raised various thought-provoking ethical issues and prompted considerable discussion among the participants.

The case study, involving a secret society member wanting to be an anonymous source for an article on the society, pointed out how ethical decision-making frequently occurs in gray areas, Wilson noted. "Everything comes down to a judgment call."

Each new Cavalier Daily staffer now receives an orientation packet that includes information on ethics, much of which was gleaned from the CDAA workshop, Wilson said.

Reporting to the CDAA on the workshop's success, Bernick commented that "this was the most useful workshop that I've ever attended through the Cav Daily, and one with the potential not only to encourage the careers of future journalists, but to directly impact their current work for the CD."

"I definitely want ethics to be a major part of future conferences," Wilson said. Krehmeyer, Bernick, CDAA Program Director Sarah Hall and CDAA Vice President Lisa Guernsey organized the ethics workshop.

CHANGES

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make the organization stronger and more effective in providing support to the newspaper."

In addition, board members say restructuring is a natural response to the changing needs of both the CDAA and the CD over time and is necessary to best support the CD and the continued well-being of the staff.

"The reason several alumni, including myself, created the Cavalier Daily Alumni Association in the early 1980s was to provide a lasting resource for The Cavalier Daily and to institutionalize alumni support," Neel said.

During his term as CD editor-in-chief in 1979, Neel drew on the support of CD alumni during a dispute with the University administration over the extent of oversight the University-sponsored media board could exercise over The Cavalier Daily.

"After the dispute was resolved, we thought The Cavalier Daily would be well served by having a permanent organization of alumni who could offer support for the newspaper, as well as emergency support, should it become necessary," Neel said.

"The structure worked very effectively at the time the CDAA was founded," Krehmeyer said. "The Cavalier Daily was under such fire from the administration, there was a role for all of the people to play—from lawyers, to journalists and even businesspeople—all of their expertise was needed."

DIRECTOR

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agreement that saves us a good deal of money.

In addition to saving more money, we also now have the option of running internal color and two-page spreads, allowing staff members to be more creative in their coverage and their special projects. We plan to run internal color at least once a week this coming semester, including color comics.

The Community

As any Cavalier Daily alumnus knows, there is never a shortage of people with an axe to grind about some aspect of the paper. In the interest of remaining as transparent as possible (so that people might at least understand why they're angry), we organized a community concerns forum, held in late March in the Newcomb Hall Ballroom. Attendance wasn't particularly high, but those who did come spoke vocally of their concerns, and the editors had an opportunity to respond.

It is always difficult to strike the right balance between remaining attuned to the concerns of the community while maintaining objectivity. We'll continue to experiment with different means of outreach this semester, hopefully striking a balance that can be productive.

Plans for Fall

There is quite a bit on our plate this semester—so much that it's a bit staggering to think about.

We're extremely lucky to have a major election to cover under our watch, and we'll take advantage of it. We're already planning our election coverage, and we'll be sending reporters up and down the East Coast—if not farther—in the days and weeks prior to the election. I hope to have at least a dozen reporters and photographers in the field on election night.

We'll also be publishing a feature supplement in late October, tentatively titled "The Future." This supplement will draw together every department in carefully examining the direction that the University is taking and where it will be 5, 10 and 15 years from now.

This summer we began preliminary discussions of reviving the Cav Daily's weekend supplement, to be inserted in the paper every Thursday. It is a large operation, but thus far we are all optimistic that we can make it happen.

It will be an eventful semester, to say the least. And hopefully we'll all take the time, now and again, to step back and admire how the paper continues to grow and improve day by day.

However, the CD no longer faces the challenges it once did.

"The Cavalier Daily has become much more stable and financially secure and has had far fewer rocky moments in the past decade," Guernsey said. "The previous model is not as necessary anymore. The safety net doesn't need to be quite as big."

Since the type of alumni support needed has changed over the years, the CDAA's restructuring aims to refocus the organization's support of The Cavalier Daily rather than discontinue it. As a result, the CDAA board is in the process of reassessing the value of all of the organization's activities. Functions that do not have active alumni support will be discontinued, at least temporarily.

The CDAA will continue to offer scholarships to members of the CD staff, as well as services such as journalism workshops and financial and business consultation, Krehmeyer said.

According to Krehmeyer, the process of restructuring has met no significant opposition among members of the board, and the reorganization and is moving forward in a spirit of cooperation and hope that the effort will bring greater efficiency and effectiveness to the program.

"Everyone is in pretty full agreement that it is important to re-evaluate where we are as an organization," Krehmeyer said.

The board is anticipating changes to take full effect by this fall.

FEATURES

COLLEGE TOPICS

RODRIGUE RETURNS TO DALLAS AS MORNING NEWS' MANAGING EDITOR

Pulitzer-Prize Winner Comes to Texas to "Unleash a Lot of Energy in Here"

as a sacred cow."

In Texas, there's no shortage of cows to punch. Rodrigue notes that the Lone Star state is roiled with outsized controversies over privatizing social services, building toll roads and school funding, among other things, as well as a litany of abuses of people in the care of the state's health and human services system.

"It's a state that needs a good newspaper, and it's our aim to be that," he says.

Journalism has been in Rodrigue's blood since high school days in the Atlanta area, when an injury derailed his ambitions to play football. "I got my start as a suburban sports writer," he recalls. "It took me about four hours to write my first three-paragraph story." As he left a summer internship with the Atlanta Constitution to enter the University of Virginia, he says, "the city editor told me he'd hire me if I promised not to major in journalism." At a university without a journalism program, that wasn't a problem. He majored in history, and landed the job in Atlanta upon graduation.

Rodrigue took a reporting job in Dallas in 1982, where he covered City Hall then graduated to writing projects. He earned his first Pulitzer Prize in 1986 with reporter Craig Flournoy for an investigative series documenting racial discrimination in public housing in East Texas. He was promoted to day city editor, but took a year off in 1989 to spend a year as a Nieman Fellow attending Harvard University, in his hometown, Cambridge, Mass.

After the fellowship, Rodrigue went to Berlin as Europe bureau chief for the Morning News from 1990 to 1994. There, he covered German reunification, the Yugoslav civil war and Operation Desert Storm.

Even with his renewed enthusiasm for all things Texan, though, Rodrigue indicates he will maintain his journalistic detachment—at least when it comes to fashion. "I do not own a pair of cowboy boots," he says. "I have never owned a pair of cowboy boots."

In 1994, Rodrigue returned to Washington as a national correspondent, then jumped to the West Coast in 1998, when he became editor of the Riverside, Calif., Enterprise, a daily in the far suburbs of Los Angeles with a circulation of about 275,000. After three years there he returned to Washington to manage the capital-based national coverage of the Belo chain, which includes three daily newspapers and 19 TV stations.

Each milepost in his career has had its rewards, Rodrigue says. His stint at The Cavalier Daily is no exception—he met and later married Wendy Meyer ('79), the paper's production manager. They have two children: Pete, 12, and Susannah, 9. Now, with his family moved to Dallas, he's raring to immerse himself back in the culture and controversies of the state where he shone as a reporter.

"Texas is a place that has a good sense of itself," he says, with its "rugged individual attitude on life. In some sense it has worked. There's an interesting sort of energy to the state that I like. ... It's a little crazy here, but a good kind of crazy."

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COURTESY DALLAS MORNING NEWS

As that list suggests, it wasn't all fun. Sarajevo, Rodrigue says, was "absolutely the most poignant, saddest place I've ever worked." While abroad, he was part of a 30-person team that produced a series on violence against women that earned a Pulitzer for international reporting.

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— George Rodrigue, new managing editor of the Dallas Morning News

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