

NETWORKING GOALS OUTLINED; 2005 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

NETWORKING

Few formal resources exist at UVa for aspiring journalists. The Cavalier Daily, therefore, is the university's unofficial journalism school. But many CD staffers and graduates do not know of the resources available to them. The Networking Committee should close that gap by providing resources and advice for aspiring journalists, as well those who are already in the field.

Immediate Goals

- 1) Develop a Journalism Jobs guide for Cavalier Daily staffers on the CDAA web site.
- Contact young Cavalier Daily alumni who are currently working at newspaper/magazine/public relations jobs for input on the journalism guide
- Dedicate a portion of the CDAA web site specifically for aspiring journalists, complete with a list of Internet resources and real-life advice from recent graduates
- Include link to join the recent graduate Yahoo group list serve
- 2) Launch web page

- Spread word among current Cavalier Daily staffers of the available resources, which includes advice from young journalists and phone numbers/email addresses of people who can help.
- Contact the American Society of Newspaper Editors to receive a copy of its journalism internship list poster, which could be sent to the Cavalier Daily office and posted somewhere visible.

- 3) Seek input from Cavalier Daily Managing Board/staffers as well as young alumni
- 4) Talk to recent journalism graduates who are interested in maintaining the networking initiative and see what steps should be taken next

Longer Term Goals

- 5) Use Networking Committee and existing Cavalier Daily Alumni Association committees to contact older alumni who are more established in journalism
- Ask them to contribute their stories/advice/input on how to succeed in the field, perhaps updating the CDAA Jobs page with this information
- 6) Include on web site a list of all newspapers/magazines, Virginian-Pilot.

etc., where Cavalier Daily alumni have worked/work.

- Include links to newspaper/magazine web sites as well as email addresses or telephone numbers for a contact person there.

—Nicola White

SCHOLARSHIP

The Cavalier Daily Alumni Association has awarded the following scholarships for the summer of 2005:

Kris Pierson Memorial Photography Award: To Laura Michael, 3rd year, photo editor. Laura will be spending four weeks in Egypt photographing the lives of children in rural and urban poverty.

John Herring Scholarship Award: To Maggie Bowden, 3rd year, opinion editor. Maggie will be working at Creative Direct, Inc., a political communications firm.

CDAA/PA Scholarship for Community Journalism: To Douglas Melchior, 3rd year, photographer. Doug will be working for three specialty publications of the Virginian-Pilot.

DIRECTOR

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a readership survey, to be distributed in the beginning of the fall, is a major goal for the summer. With private-sector rates approaching nearly \$20,000, the CD is planning on collaborating with the Vice President of Student Affairs' Office and the Office of Institutional Studies and Assessment to accrue critical information from our readers. Armed with this information, the CD can hopefully better understand critics, especially minorities, of the CD while also having better data to provide our advertisers.

The 116th also hopes to organize the CD's finances, ending years of guestimating and reliance on outsiders. Using new accounting software that would make the chief financial officer and editor-in-chief more informed of the assets and liabilities of the newspaper, hopefully The Cavalier Daily can wean its dependence off Alumni Hall and its office manager.

In efforts to improve the transparency of The Cavalier Daily, I also plan to write a report on the history of The Cavalier Daily and its controversies over the years regarding race. In addition, a "Frequently Asked Questions" link will be added to the web site to provide critical information for our readers about how we operate.

From the infrastructure side, Operations Manager **Dan Bagley** is planning on greatly improving the network, allowing more compatibility between the "front room" and the "back room." With the new system, edits in the front room would

automatically be made in the back room. Eliminating the clogs in the system, the new network should work seamlessly and curb frustrating technical delays. He's also planning on creating an online photo assignment system, eliminating paper work and haphazard emails.

The basement of Newcomb Hall will certainly be buzzing with activity this summer.

Features in the fall

Last fall, the CD amended its constitution to move recruitment responsibilities from the managing editor to the assistant managing editors, to help ease the often overwhelming burden off the head of the literary department. With this change, we've been able to improve our active recruitment—teaching students who don't regularly read The Cavalier Daily. The shift has been successful in the spring and we're planning very heavy recruitment in the fall.

The housing supplement, a great resource for first years scrambling for housing, will hopefully be revived. Also, a potential supplement, tentatively titled "A Legacy," will feature articles using the archives and interviews with alumni to compare and contrast the modern University to former eras—hopefully giving our readers a better understanding of the University today.

It's been a busy and exciting spring, and summer and autumn look no different, but if there is any group of individuals ready to step up to the challenge, it is the 116th staff of The Cavalier Daily.

editor-in-chief.

"The big thing I remember about Robert is how enthusiastic he'd be about any good story," said George Rodrigue, Cavalier Daily editor in 1977-'78 and now managing editor of the Dallas Morning News. "He'd just get electrified. He'd get a goofy grin and start typing, and you could almost see the steam rising all around him, he was so powered by what he was doing."

"I think Robert made a real difference at the CD and at the University," said Robert Godec, who shared the job of city editor with Melton and is now deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. "He worked hard, played fair and did what all great reporters try to do: report the truth and let people judge."

In 2002, Melton broke his biggest story at the Post when he reported that S. Vance Wilkins Jr., speaker of the Virginia House, had paid \$100,000 to a 26-year-old Amherst, Va., woman to settle her complaint that he had repeatedly made advances toward her. Wilkins, who spent 26 years climbing to that

important post, resigned from the Assembly within a week.

"His coverage was fair and balanced and, as with so many things that Robert did, his reporting set the agenda for the rest of the state," Armao said.

He was nominated that year for a Pulitzer in beat reporting.

Two days after his first heart attack, VCU doctors implanted a stent to relieve a clogged artery, a routine procedure.

A few days later, at home feeding his daughters lunch in the kitchen, he suffered the second, major heart attack. The oxygen deprivation severely damaged his brain, and he spent three days in a coma.

"He had very early on what appeared to be a promising recovery," said Page, a University of Virginia graduate

*George Rodrigue
CD Editor-in-Chief
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OLD FRIENDS' STORIES OF THEIR FATHER WILL BE LASTING LEGACY FOR ROBERT MELTON'S DAUGHTERS

FORMER CD CITY EDITOR SUFFERED BRAIN DAMAGE AFTER HEART ATTACK

By **MIKE VITEZ**
College Topics Staff Writer

In September 2003, former Cavalier Daily City Editor Robert H. Melton was working at his office in Richmond when he felt chest pains—what he thought were the repercussions of a bad salami sandwich at lunch.

A reporter for The Washington Post, he walked across the street to the VCU hospital where he learned his indigestion was, in fact, a heart attack.

Tragically, less than a week later, Melton, 48, suffered a much more severe heart attack that left him in a coma for three days and caused permanent brain damage. Today, he is living in Brighton Gardens, an assisted living facility in Richmond, just eight minutes away from his wife and two young daughters.

Melton, who graduated from the University of Virginia in 1979, suffered extensive memory loss, both short and long term. For instance, said his wife Page, he knows he went to Virginia, but can't remember much about his experiences there.

Over 6 feet-4 and whip-thin, Melton was a model reporter and demanding editor at The Cavalier Daily. In 21 years at The Washington Post, Melton set the standard for political coverage on the metro staff. He covered the District, Maryland and Virginia, giving him a unique perspective to combine with his well-known passion for the job.

"He had a matchless set of contacts," said Jo-Ann Armao, assistant managing editor for local news at the Post. "He had a real sense of history not only of Virginia but the region. He was so smart and thoughtful. He really elevated our coverage."

Melton, a native Northern Virginian, served as city editor of The Cavalier Daily in his third-year at Virginia. His older brother, Dusty, had previously served as



PHOTO COURTESY PAGE MELTON
Former CD City Editor Robert Melton, pictured with daughters Hopie and Nell, suffered a heart attack in 2003 that left him with extensive memory loss.

(maiden name Boinest) who first met her husband in Richmond when she was working as a reporter for UPI. "We took a lot of hope in that."

Melton's condition improved, but eventually plateaued. One of the ways he compensates for his memory loss is by constantly writing things down in a reporter's notebook, which he carries with him always, Page said.

He also loves to email friends and family as a record of his activities, she said.

After the devastating injury, the outpouring of support from Washington Post staffers, sources and old friends was overwhelming, said Page. "People were just pulling for us," she added. "You could almost feel it. It was a physical force."

Staff members of the Post contributed over \$25,000 to a college fund for Melton's daughters, Hopie and Nell, ages 5 and 3, and the newspaper matched the contributions with another \$25,000.

One of the greatest gifts from friends and colleagues, said Page, has been letters and emails remembering and recounting stories about Robert. These will be a wonderful way for the girls to learn about their father's accomplishments and contributions when they are older. Page said old friends are encouraged to write or visit.

How to Contact the Meltons

Robert is at rhmelton@verizon.net. Page is at PBMelton@aol.com.
Brighton Gardens is located at 1800 Gaskins Road, Richmond, Va., 23233.