

# Letters to the Editor

## Elkins supported

Dear Sir:

I would like to congratulate the brilliant efforts of The Daily Cavalier in "breaking" the story on Bob Elkins. You have again shown that the journalistic boobyery of last year still lives on. At least several good things have come from this: 1) The Cavalier Daily was able to scoop the story and save Mr. Jefferson's University from disgrace. How would it look to have the University's school newspaper print the story after the big papers have already done so? 2) Marjorie Leedy is assured of getting a job this year. How many people have the credentials of our dear editor... phoning the story into the Associated Press, deciding journalistic "scoops" have priority over individual feelings and telling people where Bob is from so they are ensured of the deprivations of privacy, and 3) Mike Vitez now has a copyrighted story, which will give more prestige to his career.

Congratulations for the contribution to today's society; through the guidance of such reporting, how could University students sleep well in their beds tonight. I think a thank-you note might be in order for Bob Elkins for his role in assuring the journalistic success of everyone involved. Thank you.

Dora Rosapepe  
Coll. II

## Yellow journalism

Dear sir:

We at the Discordian Society wish to thank the editors of The Cavalier Daily for their fine display of responsible yellow journalism in their publishing of the recent front-page article concerning one gay resident advisor.

Despite outright pleas and abased begging on the part of that particular resident advisor and his many friends and supporters, The Cavalier Daily never lost sight of its lofty goals of sensationalism and self-glorification. By placing the story over the Associated Press wire service, The Cavalier Daily may have destroyed a family and one man's future, but at least Marjorie Leedy may win an award

and make a name for herself. This is certainly worth one man's life.

In closing, we wish also to thank the Editorial Staff for the great service they have done for the University as a whole. Although a great deal of extremely harmful publicity has now been unnecessarily released about a matter which could have been handled quietly and fairly, at least the students' right to know has been self-served again. We can only thank our lucky stars that this "right to know" is more important than either the welfare of the University or the right to privacy and decency that is often mistakenly afforded many human beings.

Stephanie Selice  
Coll. II

## Freedom abused

Dear Sir:

In a characteristic and nauseating display of fatuous self-righteousness, The Cavalier Daily has ensconced itself in the glittering white armor of the First

Amendment in an attempt to justify a flagrant abuse of journalistic freedom.

Citing a sense of "duty" as its motivation, the Managing Board of The Cavalier Daily, in a September 21 editorial, defended its front-page disclosure of the fact that an ad hoc committee appointed by University President Frank L. Hereford Jr. is considering the expulsion of a self-professed homosexual from the resident advisor program.

Any responsible newspaper, in dealing with such a delicate subject, would have chosen one of three alternatives: It may have withheld the story altogether; it might have delayed publication of the story until the report of the committee could be finalized; or at the very least, it could have withheld the name of the person whose private life was to be examined. Had any of these courses of action been adopted, this unfortunate individual might have been spared a tremendous amount of unnecessary humiliation and pain.

Instead, The Cavalier Daily, in its tireless pursuit of shabby journalism, produced the story as soon and as prominently as was absolutely possible; thereby causing a great stir at the expense of a completely innocent person.

The staff of The Cavalier Daily should entertain no delusions regarding its importance, even to its readers. Few, indeed, await breathlessly the sort of revelation which this second-rate newspaper in defiance of the community it is intended to serve seems all too eager to provide.

I have great respect for responsible journalism. I have nothing but contempt for the recent conduct of The Cavalier Daily. The newspaper staff may continue to intone platitudes concerning the public's "right to know" in the future; but for my part, I intend to defend to the death the sacred right of The Cavalier Daily to keep its mouth when appropriate tightly and securely shut.

Michael Leshner  
Coll. I