

The Cavalier Daily

FOUNDED 1890



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"For here we are not afraid to follow the truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it." —Mr. Jefferson

Ave Atque Vale

As the Managing Board of The Cavalier Daily, we now bid the University we love, "Hail and Farewell."

Three hundred and sixty-six days ago, we greeted the University with high hopes and noble ambitions. We then put aside our academic concerns and took up the mantle of this newspaper's leadership. Three hundred and sixty-six days later, we come to the point when we must pass that mantle on to our most worthy successors and take up again our respective academic pursuits. When our names first appeared above this column we have used so freely, we pledged to work not for ourselves but for the attainment of that ideal which inspired Mr. Jefferson to prefer a free press over a good government. While at times we have undoubtedly failed, we have done so through our own human weaknesses, not through any weakness of that ideal. We leave our offices more committed to the necessity of a free press than when we entered them. We leave confident that through a free press, our heirs to The Cavalier Daily may always serve rather than be served.

Our first efforts to improve the product we supply the University were directed at its technical make-up. We have totally renovated the format of The Cavalier Daily. The change to the optimal layout—that is, from eight to six columns—for all pages but this one and the concomitant increase in type size, has produced a more readable newspaper. A quick glance at any old Cavalier Daily attests to that fact. With the move to a larger type size, the amount of space available for news was reduced. It was through the unqualified success of the advertising staff and its managers that we were able to maintain sufficient copy space to combat that reduction. Four-page newspapers have become all but obsolete, with fewer than one a month. Eight-page issues have become more and more common, rivaling six-page newspapers as the most frequent.

With the increase in available space from the use of additional pages, we have expanded our

delved considerably into the theoretical concerns of a "student press." With the creation of the Media Board, the University marched backward in time to the darker days of man's history—for the poorest of reasons. We had hoped that our handling of The Cavalier Daily would be seen as the best argument against the need for any such board. We regret that it has not been regarded as such.

Editorially, we have filled this column with qualifying words and phrases, to the dismay of many experts of the English language; nonetheless, this style was intentional. Our measure of editorial quality has been the results the editorials elicit. Among other positions we have advocated which helped to influence the outcome of events were criticism of the PIRG funding scheme, our belief that Honor Committee meetings must be open, our commitment to improved lighting around the Grounds, our support of tightening the requirements for Dean's List recognition and recommendations for resolving the Honor Committee's problems. Clearly we have not single-handedly directed the course of University events. Instead, we have stated our opinions while also considering in print the opposing views. We have expanded the use of the remainder of the editorial page exclusively for non-editorial opinion. We can without reservation state that no letter to the editor or colloquium was ever rejected for the views it expressed. Indeed, few, if any, were rejected during our tenure in office. Our concept of fairness, as it applies to the management of the newspaper, has deviated somewhat from that of our predecessors. We have been accused of many things by various people in the past year. Some of that criticism came from within the staff, which is essential to the operation of any credible newspaper, and we have always tried to listen rather than simply hear. Our dealings with the rest of the University community have been similar in that respect. We have always been prepared to meet with even our most vocal and irrational critics and explain to them our actions. Contrary to the

With the increase in available space in the use of additional pages, we have expanded our coverage of news events which had been neglected before, while attempting to reduce the amount of unnecessary Associated Press reports. More features and in-depth projects stories were high on our list of priorities for this year, and there have been more through our efforts and the efforts of the fine staffs in those departments. We added a daily news digest to replace missing AP reports and meet the demand for non-University news which so many students would otherwise lack.

We abandoned the old system of half-toning pictures and have instead stripped-in negatives, resulting in a clearer, more detailed reproduction of the original. The format of classified advertisements has been revamped to improve their readability and increase their use. Other minor changes, such as the use of shorter datelines and less cut-off rules, have contributed to the newspaper's move to a cleaner, more simple-to-read product.

With the superior efforts of the advertising, sports and projects staffs, among others, we were able to publish four special supplements to The Cavalier Daily, providing detailed coverage of subjects of special interest to the University community which otherwise would have been ignored. Aesthetically, we believe our special Rotunda Issue, published last spring to commemorate the Rotunda's renovation, to be our greatest success. And finally, we have returned humor to the pages of the University's daily newspaper, through articles as well as editorials and the special "Loser's Day Issue" last fall, an issue which we enjoyed creating perhaps even more than students enjoyed reading it.

We have worked successfully to strengthen the financial resources of The Cavalier Daily with an eye to eventually attaining complete editorial and financial independence. In 1956, four of the five dollars each student contributed to the Student Activities Fee went to finance The Cavalier Daily. Two years ago, two of twelve dollars was assessed to finance this newspaper. Today it is less than \$1.70. Consequently, each student pays less than 1.3 cents for an issue of this newspaper.

Aside from our emphasis on the technical aspects of producing a daily newspaper, we have

with even our most vocal and irrational critics and explain to them our actions. Contrary to the opinions of many students, we have agonized long hours over important decisions. It took no less than three days to decide how to report on the Elkins controversy. We remained editorially silent during its evolution, commenting only on the wisdom of decisions already made rather than the decision to be made.

At times our critics have been correct. When they have been, we were quick to correct our errors. We corrected them with regret, not because we fear corrections, rather because we detest the errors which require them. Our status as students and journalists, and the one we view as our primary concern, has plagued us all year and never been resolved. We cannot avoid the belief that we are both. In news decisions we used the fairest standard we know of—the journalist's. But editorially, we remained at times both student and journalist. With respect to the honor system and the difficulties which plagued it this year, we could not devoid ourselves of devotion to the system's noble tenets. But we believe we have trodden that thin line between the two successfully.

Looking back at the past year, we recount the long hours locked away from the University's personal and physical warmth, often in excess of 50 hours each week. We recall the futile attempts to keep up in class, turn in late papers and placate offended professors. We remember dark, lonely nights mulling over an editorial or journalistic decision. We reflect on what we have sacrificed—a large portion of our classroom education, a number of friends and months of sleep. But in the end, we can admit few regrets of any substance. Like it or hate it, as we have both, The Cavalier Daily is needed. We chose it as the means by which we could serve our University.

And so, like Shakespeare, even if we wished it, we can neither "Call back yesterday" nor "bid time return." Instead, we prepare to descend the steps of our own "fire escape, one last time," remembering on each one a service we have tried to render and a job we have tried to do well. We again take our places among the closing ranks of the University's children in our last days here and pause only to bid the University, and The Cavalier Daily, our humble "Hail and Farewell."