

## **Pogo, Peanuts, and Carroll's Tea Room, 1954-58**

**By Tom Hawley, CLAS 1958.**

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From 1954-58, the Cavalier Daily was housed in the basement of one of the University's buildings near the Corner. I was on the sports staff or sports editor during this time. I was a veteran of the Korean conflict with a wife and two children. Copley Hill was my home and it was not too far from where center court in University Hall is now. We had a relatively small staff and operated with limited advertising revenues and help from the Student Activity Fund. There was a token check at the end of the semester for those who worked on the CD. Mine was \$120.00 if my memory serves me well.

I was a sports writer and sports editor, covering the sports efforts of the University and the attitude and actions of then Athletic Director Gus Tebell. Lindsey Mount was the editor at the time and Chris Cramer was a very capable sports editor who also was the radio voice of the Cavaliers.

The paper was printed by the University Press with the letterpress process, which required more skills than the present computer-generated copy. It was my job several nights a week to watch over the production and proof read before printing. If there was open space, I usually threw in a free ad for Ballentine beer or a bit of support for Rock Weir and the annual Alumni Game at the end of Spring football practice. It must be remembered that beer was an essential nutrient for aging alumni and was rolled on the field at timeouts to refresh the returning alumni.

The big news during this period was the battle between Pogo and Peanuts as the comic strip for the newspaper. It was so close that we ran both comic strips at the same time. On the University front, there was a rape trial in which the accused student was found innocent and a raging civil rights debate occasioned by the Brown vs. Board of Education decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.

I raised the ire of the Athletic Department with a feature about facilities at the Memorial Gym and pointed opinions regarding the direction taken by Tebell and others.

The Cavalier Daily did a great job reporting the removal of Carroll's Tea Room from the path of progress. It stood on the site of what is now Barracks Road Shopping Center. When it departed, beer drinkers cried in their beer. I did, too.

Fraternities dominated the staff and most elections were very political. This never bothered me.

This was also the period that William Faulkner was writer-in-residence. I remember that in one news story, he was quoted as saying, "I love the State of Virginia. Virginians are snobs, and I like that."