Hereford Namesake Research Project

Initial Research Report

This is a compilation of resources used in the research process of this project.

## **Premise**

On February 17, 2020, the *Cavalier Daily* published an op-ed advocating that the University rename Hereford Residential College because President Hereford’s presidency should not be commemorated. The Hereford community wished to learn more about this issue since it is our college that carries the Hereford namesake. We set out to respond to the article and elaborate on Frank Hereford’s presidency and personhood. In our research and interview process, we posed the following questions:

1. Who is Frank Hereford, and what was his presidency like?
2. What can we find on these 3 issues highlighted by the *Cavalier Daily*?:
   1. Hereford’s affiliation and resignation from the Farmington Country Club
   2. The controversy surrounding RA Bob Elkins
   3. The Board of Visitors decision regarding the *Cavalier Daily*
3. What was the racial and social climate like on Grounds during his presidency?
4. Why was the New College renamed Hereford Residential College?

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## **Resources & Snippets**

### Farmington Country Club:

**Adam Bernstein, “Frank L. Hereford Jr. Obituary,” *Washington Post*, September 24, 2004,** [**https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2004/09/24/frank-l-hereford-jr/86f1927e-ca39-4e05-bbab-6cd1b694f91e/**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2004/09/24/frank-l-hereford-jr/86f1927e-ca39-4e05-bbab-6cd1b694f91e/)

“His tenure was marked by several episodes of vocal dissension. He spent several months defending his membership in a socially prominent, racially segregated country club before quitting after a faculty group censured him, a department chairman threatened to resign from the school and others expressed worry about the school's ability to recruit black students.”

**Eston Melton and Janet Wilson, “Hereford Quits Farmington,” The Cavalier Daily - University of Virginia’s Student Newspaper, February 10, 1976,** [**https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/11/hereford-quits-farmington**](https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/11/hereford-quits-farmington)

**“**University President Frank L. Hereford Jr. will announce his resignation from Farmington Country Club today, he told The Cavalier Daily last night. Farmington Country Club’s board of directors last night reaffirmed the club’s racially discriminatory guest policy, causing at least three other prominent club members to resign and prompting expectations for further resignations”

“Calling the resignation ‘acceptable, but less than timely,’ Black American Student Association (BALSA) President Bruce Atkins said ‘the real test lies ahead of him (Hereford)...His membership was only a badge of possible discriminatory practices… and he must now live up to the duties of being University President.’”

“‘I am delighted to hear that Mr. Hereford has resigned from Farmington,’ German department chairman Ruth K. Angress said last night, adding however she still intends to leave the University at the end of the year. Angress announced last week she was resigning from the University because of its racial and political atmosphere, and said Hereford’s Farmington membership had been a contributing factor. She added it was “fitting” Hereford should resign during the University’s Black Culture Week.”

**The Daily Progress staff, “Farmington Board Upheld Policy Prohibiting Black Guests on This Day in 1976,” The Daily Progress, February 9, 2017,** [**https://dailyprogress.com/125yearsofprogress/farmington-board-upheld-policy-prohibiting-black-guests-on-this-day-in-1976/article\_cf345470-ee47-11e6-9e0f-a3ae8ab2f46a.html**](https://dailyprogress.com/125yearsofprogress/farmington-board-upheld-policy-prohibiting-black-guests-on-this-day-in-1976/article_cf345470-ee47-11e6-9e0f-a3ae8ab2f46a.html)

“The decision led University of Virginia President Frank L. Hereford to leave the country club. He was followed by a number of prominent city, state and county officials including former governor and University of Virginia president Colgate Darden; Joseph H. McConnell, a former UVa rector; state Del. James Murray; and City Councilor Jill Rinehart, whose husband was president of Farmington’s Board of Directors. The resignations were the climax of a nearly year-long controversy over UVa faculty, officials and members of the Board of Visitors being members of the racially exclusive club, and the University’s newly implemented affirmative action policy.”

**“Club History - Farmington Country Club,” n.d.,** [**https://www.farmingtoncc.com/web/pages/club-history**](https://www.farmingtoncc.com/web/pages/club-history)

**“**Restoration of the old house began in the spring of 1929. Fortunately, the University of Virginia possessed Mr. Jefferson's original plans for the octagonal room, making it possible to restore the interior, which had suffered considerable alteration. Partition walls that had divided Mr. Jefferson's principal room into four were removed, and the house now reflects the vision of its great builder. Since that time it has been known as the Jefferson Room. In 1976, the Jefferson Room was completely refurbished to portray the perceived intentions and vision of Mr. Jefferson.”

**“Education: Jeffersonian Dilemma,” *Time*, February 9, 1976,** [**https://content.time.com/time/subscriber/article/0,33009,917976,00.html**](https://content.time.com/time/subscriber/article/0,33009,917976,00.html)**.**

“But in one area, the college and the club differ completely. The University of Virginia admits and is actively recruiting blacks; Farmington does not accept blacks as either members or guests. Last week, after members had voted overwhelmingly to continue the club's restrictive policies, Hereford was undergoing pressure to resign from Farmington.”

“By staying in the club and lobbying for admission of blacks, he insisted, he could do more good than by resigning. His argument: ‘A change in Farmington would help to change the setting in which the university exists. This isn't an ideal community for blacks, but I'm trying to make it better.’ Despite protests by students and many of the faculty, Hereford stuck to his guns. Finally, at the urging of Hereford and others, Farmington's management in December decided to poll the 3,867 members on the club's racial policy. The questionnaire ignored the subject of membership, asking only if blacks should be admitted to the club as guests. The answer, by a 2-to-1 vote: no.”

### Resident Advisor Bob Elkins:

**Bob Godec, “BSA Blasts Efforts to Remove Elkins,” *The Cavalier Daily*, September 23, 1976,**<https://blackfireuva.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/black-student-alliance-bsa-blasts-efforts-to-remove-elkins-cavalier-daily-september-23-1976.pdf>

“On Friday, University President Frank Hereford Jr. appointed a special committee to advise him on the possible removal of Elkins from the Resident Staff program. The committee is expected to report tomorrow. The final decision on whether to remove Elkins from his RA post will be made by Hereford, according to students and administrators involved. Elkins confirmed that Hereford cited a ‘conflict of interest’ when he asked Elkins to resign from the Resident Staff program last week.”

“After becoming a member of the Resident Staff, Mr. Elkins assumed the role of President of the Gay Student Union. University president Frank L. Hereford Jr. believes this present position of leadership presents a ‘conflict of interest’ with his role as resident advisor. However, Mr. Elkins has offered to resign from his GSU leadership role and Mr. Hereford has informed him that the ‘conflict of interest’ will remain.”

“Mr. Hereford stated that the alumni are the driving force behind his request that Mr. Elkins leave the dormitory. The students residing on Mr. Elkins Hall have given him their 100 per cent support.”

**Lesbian and Gay Student Union, “Bob Elkins Versus Frank Hereford - Pages 14-15,” Documented examples of Homophobia at UVA: 1957-1990, n.d.,**<https://takeback.scholarslab.org/files/original/fe2d317be44a0e06844fb15171612845.pdf>

“From conversations with Hereford and dorm counselors evaluations it was clear that Elkins’ capabilities were of no concern to Hereford. Since no complaints had been filed with the University about Elkins, it was unclear as to how this issue came to Hereford's attention.”

“When the story was published in the national newspapers in Elkins, parents found out about his homosexuality and presidency in the GSU. They threatened to cut off his financial support and disown him.”

“As Hereford's ad hoc committee deliberated, Elkins took actions that he hoped would punch through all of Hereford's arguments about a ‘conflict of interest’. In late September, Elkins resigned his position as president of the GSU… ‘There are two possible reasons that objection to my being GSU president could be based on...The first is that the duties of President of the GSU might create an actual conflict of time and duties with the responsibility of being a resident advisor. By resigning, I am eliminating that argument. The second objection to my participation in the GSU is that it implies a personal attitude of worth and self-esteem towards my own homosexuality. My resignation will not affect this attitude.’”

**“Bernard D. Mayes Award,” QVA, August 11, 2015,**<https://aig.alumni.virginia.edu/qva/awards-2/bernard-d-mayes-award/>

“2017 Recipient: Bob Elkins”

“In the fall of 1976, Bob unwittingly became the subject of national press coverage over his role as an openly gay RA when then President Frank L. Hereford sought to remove Bob from his position after this was reported on by the Cavalier Daily and released nationwide. Hereford then convened a committee of faculty, students and administrators to investigate and determine the suitability of an openly ‘homosexual’ RA. After weeks of hearings, the tide of public opinion shifted to supporting Elkins, primarily due to the Black Student Alliance president announcing full support of Bob’s remaining an RA, stating that discrimination against any person, for any reason, will not be tolerated.”

**“History — UVA Student Council,” University of Virginia Student Council, 2018,**<https://www.uvastudco.com/history>.

“Fob James, a conservative representative on Student Council, challenged openly gay student Bob Elkins’ right to be a resident advisor. The incident became public, but all candidates running for election that year condemned representative James’ comments and ultimately a resolution was passed in 1977 opposing “discrimination on the basis of effectual or sexual orientation,” essentially adding sexual orientation as a protected class in the non-discrimination clause of the constitution.”

### The Cavalier Daily:

**Adam Bernstein, “Frank L. Hereford Jr. Obituary,” *Washington Post*, September 24, 2004,** [**https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2004/09/24/frank-l-hereford-jr/86f1927e-ca39-4e05-bbab-6cd1b694f91e/**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2004/09/24/frank-l-hereford-jr/86f1927e-ca39-4e05-bbab-6cd1b694f91e/)

“In the late 1970s, he enforced a Board of Visitors decision restricting the independence of the Cavalier Daily, the student newspaper that had taken an increasingly liberal editorial line. After the paper declined to buckle, the administration forced it off campus. Protests ensued, resulting in an effigy of the president being hanged from a tree.”

**Emma Scales, “How the Cavalier Daily Became Independent: A lesson in resilience and integrity,” November 6, 2019,** [**https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/11/how-the-cavalier-daily-became-independent-a-lesson-in-resilience-and-integrity**](https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/11/how-the-cavalier-daily-became-independent-a-lesson-in-resilience-and-integrity)

“In 1979, University President Frank Hereford attempted to censor The Cavalier Daily after it had reported extensively on tense race relations at the University. The publication’s leaders refused to accept the administration’s attempts at oversight. This decision escalated the push for editorial and financial independence that had been developing since 1978 — when the paper first rejected allocated funding from Student Council’s Student Activities Committee.”

“It was amidst the publishing of these stories and editorials condemning racist traditions at the University that the Board of Visitors and President Hereford created the Media Board, which was comprised of students, and mandated that The Cavalier Daily recognize its authority. This body had a constitution which enabled it to force student media outlets to publish letters of censure and fire problematic editors.”

“Neel received a letter April 2, 1979 from Hereford that gave an ultimatum — acknowledge the authority of the Media Board or the University would withdraw its support of the newspaper, including office space, equipment and University-affiliated status.”

“‘I am not prepared to allow The Cavalier Daily to operate in defiance of the Board of Visitors,’ read a letter from Hereford, evicting The Cavalier Daily from its Newcomb office on April 4. The Cavalier Daily packed up and moved to rented space at The Daily Progress’ offices in downtown Charlottesville.”

“The University eventually agreed to enter into a ‘good faith negotiation’ with The Cavalier Daily, acknowledging its independence and leasing the paper office space in Newcomb Hall. ‘I have also thought that an independent newspaper had merits,’ President Hereford said at the time.”

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### Increased Minority Enrollment:

**“Frank L. Hereford Jr. (1974-1985) | The University of Virginia,” July 27, 2018,** [**https://www.virginia.edu/aboutuva/presidents/hereford**](https://www.virginia.edu/aboutuva/presidents/hereford)**.**

“He was committed to increasing the number of African-American students and faculty at the University, where for so many years they had been excluded. Part of that commitment included resigning from Farmington Country Club when efforts to pressure the club to change bylaws prohibiting African-American membership failed. The greater part of his commitment to racial equity came from appointing a dean of admissions, John Casteen. Central to Mr. Casteen’s mandate as dean was to increase enrollment of African Americans at the University.”

“John Casteen’s admission work

To accomplish this goal, Mr. Casteen traveled nearly all the roads of Virginia, and sat down with parents in their homes and convinced them that their children were welcome and would thrive at the University. In 1976, there were fewer than 171 African-American first-year students enrolled in the University. That same year, the Office of Afro-American Affairs opened in a house on Dawson’s Row. By the end of Mr. Hereford’s administration in 1985, African-American first-year undergraduate enrollment had grown to 207. By 2008, Mr. Casteen’s eighteenth year in the President’s Office, entering undergraduate African-American students numbered 354.”

### Race Relations & the Office of African American Affairs:

**Claudrena, “The Creation of OAAA,” *Black Fire* (blog), February 10, 2014,** [**https://blackfireuva.com/2014/02/10/the-creation-of-oaaa/**](https://blackfireuva.com/2014/02/10/the-creation-of-oaaa/)

“On the night of October 7, 1975, more than 300 students at the University of Virginia (UVA) stormed Carr’s Hill to confront President Frank L. Hereford about his conspicuous absence at the Student Council’s Open Forum on Minority Affairs. The spontaneous protest occurred minutes after Council President Paul Freeman abruptly adjourned the forum upon word that Hereford had been spotted in attendance at the premiere of “The Threepenny Opera,” held at the Culbreth Theatre. At one of the more contentious moments in the forum, when African American students complained about Hereford’s absence, Freeman informed the crowd that UVA’s President wanted to hear the students’ concerns but a previously scheduled luncheon in Washington, DC prevented his attendance. Frustration quickly turned into outrage when Eston E. Melton, the editor-in-chief of the Cavalier Daily, revealed that Hereford had been seen at Culbreth Theatre. Disgruntled students then marched to Carr’s Hill to “demand an explanation for Hereford’s failure to attend the forum.” His absence, in the view of many students, confirmed their growing belief in the administration’s disregard for the concerns and needs of African American students.”

**Editorial Board, “Our Local Disgrace,” *The Cavalier Daily - University of Virginia’s Student Newspaper*, March 23, 1979,** [**https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/11/our-local-disgrace?ct=content\_open&cv=cbox\_latest**](https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/11/our-local-disgrace?ct=content_open&cv=cbox_latest)

“Two sororities and one fraternity plan to hold spring formals at a racially discriminatory country club this year, despite complaints from Afro-American Affairs Dean William M. Harris. The patronization of Farmington Country Club by these organizations must be regarded as a disgrace to the University, and an affront to the black members of this community.”

“Though minority affairs programs and services exist at the University, can one honestly say that students are committed to racial equality? At least one fraternity and several sororities have scheduled dances at Farmington over the past few years, leading us to believe that the Jeffersonian ideal of the University community is farcical. What “community” can exist here, when students opt to use the recreational facilities forbidden to fellow students because of their race?”

“The issue of racial attitudes at the University has been quieted, almost ignored since Hereford’s resignation from Farmington and the formulation of the Office of Afro-American Affairs. Only the more overt expressions of racial tension have abated, however social organizations continue to patronize Farmington. Fraternities and sororities are still largely segregated. Most major University organizations have few or no black members. Although each of these issues is tremendous in and of itself, they cannot be studied or solved in isolation. The university has pledged to make a good faith effort to boost black enrollment, but its reputation for frigid relations between blacks and whites lingers. The Black Student Alliance, the University Union and Student Council planned a forum to thaw that glacial atmosphere last semester, but their effort died. Lack of black involvement in major University groups was the slated topic. Only a student or two had signed up in advance to pose questions or challenges to student leaders. Later the forum coordinators decided that confrontation had been too risky an idea anyway.”

**Ervin L. Jordan Jr., “‘The First Generation: Thirty Years of the Office of African-American Affairs at the University of Virginia,’” November 7, 2006**

[**https://oaaa.virginia.edu/sites/g/files/jsddwu1021/files/2022-03/Jordan.OAAA\_.lecture.2006-1.pdf**](https://oaaa.virginia.edu/sites/g/files/jsddwu1021/files/2022-03/Jordan.OAAA_.lecture.2006-1.pdf)

“Dr. Donald W. Jones was appointed as President Frank Hereford’s advisor on minority affairs in 1973.”

“The Black Student Alliance’s 1975 “Proposal For The Establishment of an Office of

Minority Affairs At The University of Virginia” called for it to be operational by the summer

of 1976. Although President Frank Hereford had announced the appointment of Dr. Jones as

his minority affairs advisor, three hundred Black students marched to his Carr's Hill residence

whereupon he promised the University would begin addressing Black concerns. The chairman

of the Student Council’s Minority Affairs Committee, Leroy Hassell, now chief justice of the

Virginia Supreme Court, received Hereford’s pledge to make Blacks welcome.”

“The Office of Afro-American Affairs was established “temporarily” at #4 Dawson's

Row; Dr. William M. Harris, Sr. (School of Architecture), its first dean and assistant provost,

was appointed in July 1976; the OAAA formally opened on March 4, 1977.”

**Emma Scales, “How the Cavalier Daily Became Independent: A Lesson in Resilience and Integrity,” *The Cavalier Daily - University of Virginia’s Student Newspaper*, November 6, 2019,** [**https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/11/how-the-cavalier-daily-became-independent-a-lesson-in-resilience-and-integrity**](https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/11/how-the-cavalier-daily-became-independent-a-lesson-in-resilience-and-integrity)**.**

“The 1970s were a time of great change for the University. Female undergraduate students were only admitted to the College for the first time in 1970. The first African American undergraduate student was admitted in 1955. In fall 1979, the percentage of African American undergraduates doubled from five years prior, going from 3.3 percent in 1973 to 6.3 percent in 1979 — a number that has remained relatively stagnant for the past 40 years — and the black experience at the University was just beginning to be recognized and explored.”

“In the early 1970s, Hereford and over 100 faculty were members of Farmington Country Club, which was known to prohibit both black and Jewish people from entering the club either as guests or members. Students led efforts to force University personnel and Hereford to resign from the club — with one of the loudest voices being Larry Sabato, 1973 to 1974 Student Council President and current director of the University’s Center for Politics.”

“In 1978, Farmington re-entered the forefront of University race relations when the first Dean of African American Affairs William M. Harris was harassed by white students, who yelled slurs and bombarded his home with snowballs in the middle of the night. The attack came after Harris’ comments that had been published in The Cavalier Daily and condemned the use of Farmington’s facility for events by fraternities and sororities as a ‘deplorable act.’”