

# The Cornell Alumni Sun

MARCH 2005 ■ ITHACA, NEW YORK ■ EIGHT PAGES

## Vonnegut, Schaap to Headline Events Celebrating Sun's 125th Anniversary

By LARRY ARNOLD '88  
*Alumni Sun Editor*

When you hit 125, one birthday party just won't do.

The Cornell Daily Sun Alumni Association and the student staff of The Cornell Daily Sun are planning celebrations in New York City and Ithaca this September to commemorate the 125th anniversary of America's oldest continuously independent and daily college newspaper.

The New York City event, a dinner banquet on Saturday, Sept. 17, will feature novelist Kurt Vonnegut '44, the celebrated author of *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Breakfast of Champions* and many other works. He was a Sun columnist, assistant managing editor and associate editor during his years at Cornell.

Vonnegut's speech at The Sun's traditional end-of-year banquet in 1980 is one of the best-remembered tributes ever delivered to the newspaper. (An excerpt: "I was happiest when I was all alone — and it was very late



Tim McKinney '83 / Sun Photo

**Back at The Sun again.** Kurt Vonnegut '44, former columnist and associate editor, will help celebrate The Sun's anniversary.

at night, and I was walking up the hill after having helped to put The Sun to bed.") To brush up on your Vonnegutia between now and September, check out his official Web site, [www.vonnegut.com](http://www.vonnegut.com), and the unauthorized but thorough [www.vonnegutweb.com](http://www.vonnegutweb.com).

Vonnegut will be just one of several expected special guests. Other speakers will offer their recollections of The Sun over the decades. The banquet will be held at the Cornell Club in Manhattan.

The celebration in Ithaca will take place a week later, on Saturday, Sept. 24, and feature Emmy Award-winning ESPN correspondent Jeremy Schaap '91, who served as a Sun sportswriter, sports editor and senior editor, continuing the Sun legacy created by his father, the late Dick Schaap '55.

All alumni and friends of The Sun through the years are invited to attend either event, or both. Details will be announced later this year.

See **VONNEGUT** page 5

## A Talk With The Sun's First Female Editor in Chief

When female Cornellians win election as editor in chief of The Cornell Daily Sun — a regular occurrence these days — they carry on the legacy of Guinevere Griest '44.

In 1943, Griest became the first female editor in chief in the 63-year history of The Sun. The same tumultuous event that led to her barrier-breaking promotion — World War II, which

drew young men into military training and service — also truncated her historic term: Griest had a chance to write just one editorial before The Sun finally gave in to circumstances and suspended operations until after the war.

That editorial, excerpted in *A Century at Cornell* by Daniel Margulis '73 and John Schroeder '74, expressed an optimistic view

about The Sun's future that, sadly, proved unrealistic:

"We are taking over the reins of Ithaca's Only Morning Newspaper at one of the most critical periods in its history. In 1918 the exigencies of war caused a temporary setting of The Sun for the first and only time in its history. Though the war we fight today reduces that struggle to the stature of a mere

pre-view, circumstances have happily allowed us to keep our heads safely above the horizon, if below the zenith attained in the past."

For the final months of her time at Cornell, Griest served as editor of the Cornell Bulletin, a once-weekly fill-in for The Sun published mainly by former Sun

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# The Cornell Alumni Sun

March 2005

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Larry Arnold '88

PRODUCTION

Linda Holzbaur &

John Schroeder '74

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*The Cornell Alumni Sun needs your columns, stories, and other submissions.*

*What are your favorite memories of The Sun? Did your experience at The Sun help guide you to your current vocation, or avocation? Please send the submissions to The Cornell Alumni Sun, P.O. Box 1503, New York, NY 10021, or e-mail them to [editor@cornellsun.org](mailto:editor@cornellsun.org).*

*Please write!*

*The Cornell Daily Sun Alumni Association's homepage is overflowing with information about Sun alumni, upcoming events, and Sun history. Try to check the page at least once a month.*

[www.CornellSun.org](http://www.CornellSun.org)

*And send info and updates about yourself.*

## UPCOMING SUN ALUMNI EVENTS

- Manhattan Reunion April 22
- Ithaca Reunion June 11
- Manhattan Celebration of 125th Anniversary Sept. 17

# ELC Griest Witnessed History

EDITOR

*Continued from page 1*

staffers with official backing from the University.

After Cornell, Griest earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago and wrote *Mudie's Circulating Library and the Victorian Novel* (Indiana University Press, 1970). She became an associate professor of English at the University of Illinois but found her life's work at the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington.

As deputy director of the fellowships division in the early 1970s, she helped develop a mid-career fellowships program for professional journalists at Stanford University and the University of Michigan. The programs remain highly competitive among print and broadcast journalists, who vie for the chance to spend

ment with The Sun. She began by reviewing the excerpt of the sole editorial she wrote as Sun editor in chief before the newspaper went on wartime hiatus in 1943.

GG: That was my last editorial. My first, my last.

CAS: Upon your election, were there hopes that The Sun could continue publishing at least a few times a week?

GG: Yes, there was hope that we could continue three times a week but it just couldn't be done, economically. And so the transition was to the Cornell Bulletin.

CAS: Did you work on the Bulletin your last few months before graduating?

GG: Yes, I was editor of the Bulletin those last months. I graduated in late January or February (1944), at the end of the accelerated schedule. You see, The Sun had published during the summer of 1943; I was there taking courses, and I had enough to graduate early.

CAS: Let's go chronologically through your time at Cornell.

GG: I entered in the fall of 1940.

CAS: Did you join The Sun early on?

GG: Very early. I had never really been away from home before. And The Sun soon became what I was interested in, journalism and writing. So I started to compete at that time for the women's page, and the women's page office was in Willard Straight Hall. That was so we didn't have to go downtown and work late at night. That changed, because I did work downtown

in my sophomore year. That's how I know it was icy cold in the rooms at The Sun building (the Colonial Building at 109 East State Street, The Sun's home from 1936 to 1987).

CAS: Was the women's page the only opportunity for women to be on The Sun?

GG: Yes. Women also competed on the business side; that was a separate competition.

CAS: Where did you grow up?

GG: Evanston, Illinois, near Chicago. I wanted to see what the world was like, since I hadn't been away. (At Cornell) I was very lost and kind of lonely and amazed at everything, and I loved The Sun right from the start. The quality of Cornell, the classes, impressed me. But The Sun just made me more loyal to Cornell.

CAS: What was it about journalism and newspapers that attracted you at that age?

GG: I guess just seeing what the world was, and telling it. You know, passing it along. It showed up in the courses I took. There was a famous professor at Cornell named Robert Cushman, and I had his course in constitutional law in my senior year. That was a real eye-opener for me. I think it was supposed to be for graduate students and law students, because he gave it at the law school. But he admitted me, he let me come, and it was just wonderful.

CAS: What did you major in?

GG: English.

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Heather Arnold / Alumni Sun

*Griest at home today.*

an academic year on campus, pursuing studies of their choosing.

On a Saturday in January, Griest sat in her Washington home and discussed her history-making involve-

## *Dear Sunnies, Sunsters, Alumni, and All Friends of The Sun,*

Compet is in full swing, the newsroom is in a constant buzz, and Sun elders are starting to get nostalgic. This can only mean one thing: The current crop of editors will soon switch places with a fresh, bright, and energized group of students. Soon, the 122nd editorial board of The Cornell Daily Sun will complete its remarkable term and leave in its wake a talented bunch of editors and managers to build upon the progress of the last year.

None of these recent accomplishments — going free on campus, printing in full color every day, doubling our circulation and readership, redesigning the newspaper, launching a new website and upgrading The Sun's software and hardware to the latest industry standards — would have been possible without one thing: the permanent home we now occupy.

Our newsroom's open environment and classic architecture have been no small contribution to the culture of teamwork and creativity that permeates our various departments. And as a downtown Ithaca business, we can feel pride in being able to work at one of the most beautiful buildings in the city.

The appeal of the new building made this semester's staff recruitment drive a success and improved our staff retention. Also, being a local institution right down the street, with doors open to all, builds trust between us and our readership.

On behalf of the Sun's current generation, I want to thank you for the generous contributions that allowed the Cornell Daily Sun Alumni Association to purchase and renovate our new home. The Alumni Association continues to accept donations to help finance this beautiful building and its related costs.

There are exciting things ahead — the 125th anniversary of The Sun not least among them — that the new editorial board will help bring to fruition. It is my hope that you will share some of our excitement with us.

I know full well that I won't have an office this nice for a long, long time after I leave Cornell. I hope future generations of Sunnies will enjoy the benefits of this former Elks building as much as we have.

*Yours in Sun love,*  
Andy Guess  
Editor in Chief  
122nd Editorial Board




**ANDY GUESS**

## *About The Cornell Daily Sun Alumni Association*

The Cornell Daily Sun Alumni Association, Inc., is a volunteer organization dedicated to building contacts among Sun alumni while strengthening The Cornell Daily Sun and improving the experience of students who work there.

In January 2003, the Alumni Association purchased the former Elks Building on West State Street in Ithaca to be the first permanent home of The Sun. The Alumni Association collects rent from The Sun and from the Elks, who remain tenants in the basement.

The Alumni Association will keep the

Sun's rent stable so the newspaper, which had three homes from 1987 to 2003, never again is forced to relocate.

The Alumni Association has invested about \$564,000 in the building and renovations. Approximately \$412,000 of this was obtained via loans that are still outstanding, including a mortgage (\$139,000 outstanding, net of compensating balance), loans from Sun alumni (\$219,000) and a balance owed the building contractor (\$54,000).

The Alumni Association received approximately \$68,000 in contributions in 2003 and \$25,000 in 2004, which were

used to reduce the contractor balance.

Monthly rent payments from The Sun and the Elks slightly exceed expenses (including mortgage payments) but don't permit much reduction in the contractor balance or cover payback of the loans, the first of which reach term in January 2006.

You may use the enclosed envelope to send donations. The Alumni Association is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, so donations are tax-deductible.

For more information on giving to the Alumni Association, see [www.cornellsun.org](http://www.cornellsun.org) and click "Info About Gifting."



# Editor Griest Broke The Sun's Gender Barrier

## EDITOR

*Continued from page 2*

CAS: Before you became women's editor, you were a writer at The Sun?

GG: A writer. I had beats and covered things. Women were more sheltered in those days — there were restricted hours in the residence halls; it was a very different university than the one you went to.

CAS: You talked about the office at the Straight that was specifically for women staffers. Some women say working on The Sun allowed them some extra freedom, that they were allowed to be out later.

GG: Right. I experienced that in my sophomore year. I forget when the paper went to bed, but we stayed until it was absolutely in bed. As I remember, we took taxis back to campus.

CAS: So even though the Straight office was available for the women's page, you'd go downtown?

GG: Yes, because that would be the final place for the women's page. And as we got downtown we started doing more things. We started editing the AP copy that was coming in and writing headlines in other sections. Once we got downtown, that was the place, and we looked forward to getting out of the Straight and going downtown and having that special privilege of being able to sign out late to The Sun. The University was very much *in loco parentis* at that time — they wanted to know where we were, where we could be reached, and all that.

CAS: During The Sun election for your junior year, you ran successfully for women's editor and served a full year in that position. Let's talk about the editor in chief position as it came up for your senior year. Do you recall

anything about your decision to run? Were you aware you were breaking a gender barrier?

GG: Yes, I did. And I was delighted. I was a little surprised they chose me.

CAS: Do you recall whether it was a contested election?

GG: I can't remember. I'm sure there must have been other candidates. I wasn't politicking or anything.

CAS: At the time, was it surprising, or disappointing, that The Sun had to take a break from publishing?

GG: It was disappointing to me, yes. But at that time we didn't question it, because there were more important things going on.

You do the best you can during the circumstances. And the Bulletin — we lost a little independence with that, although Cornell, as you would expect of a great university, tried to keep its hands off.

CAS: What did you do after Cornell?

GG: I went to graduate school at the University of Chicago, and I got a Fulbright scholarship to go to England after the war. Eventually I taught at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

CAS: When did you join the National Endowment for the Humanities?

GG: In 1969. I took a leave of absence from Illinois. I didn't think I ever wanted to leave teaching. I had just gotten tenure, and that made me very hesitant about going. And when I got here (Washington), people said, "You're going to stay." I said, "No, no, I have a leave of absence. I'm going back." But I found that there were more people at the Endowment that I respected and admired than there were in my department at Illinois. I extended that leave for three full years,

which was as long as the university allowed. So my department chairman wrote and asked me what I wanted to do. (Working at the National Endowment), I'd had more touch with universities around the country, I knew more about different fields, I knew more good people. I felt so much better educated. So I resigned.

CAS: What were the highlights of your work at the National Endowment?

GG: One of the great highlights, and one reason I stayed at the Endowment, was that we set up a program of fellowships for journalists, at Stanford and Michigan. I was so impressed with the idea that journalists could go to Michigan or Stanford. I could tell that our Council members and other staff members at the endowment were very suspicious: "They're not getting enough humanities!" I'd say, "They're getting enough, they're getting enough." You know, you can't force journalists into a mold. And I think those programs did a lot of good.

CAS: Do you make a connection between your background in journalism and the thinking that went on in creating the fellowships for journalists?

GG: Oh yes, I'm sure. I understood.

CAS: What do those nine-month fellowships do for journalists?

GG: It frees them, it liberates them. It develops their abilities to report, to analyze. They have time to step back, pursue new fields, do independent work, consult with top scholars, all without the pressure of deadlines. I've seen such good things come out of them — several Pulitzer prizes!

CAS: Tell me about your book.

GG: I kept finding references to "three-deckers." I was fascinated with the 19th century in England, in the poetry and in the fiction and in the prose. Shortly after mid-century there was a circulating library in London called Mudie's Circulating Library. Mudie was a very keen businessman. Novels had been published in separate volumes. He discovered that if he had three volumes, he could lend one novel to three people at once, so he made more money. So he kept telling publishers he preferred the three-deckers, and if you were a writer interested in getting published, you wrote a three-decker. I said, well, this is affecting the structure of the novel, then. (Decisions by authors) that we thought might just be artistic were being forced commercially.

— Larry Arnold



The 1944 Cornellian

**Bulletin Editor.** Griest's year-book photo as editor of The Sun's wartime successor.

## MARTHA HOWE, 1910-2004

Martha Howe, who served as The Sun's office manager for many years, passed away on December 28, 2004 at the age of 94. An article on her contributions to The Sun will appear in the next Alumni Sun. Sun alumni who served during Howe's years at The Sun are asked to send anecdotes or memories of working with her to [cornellsun@aol.com](mailto:cornellsun@aol.com).

## Redesign Emphasizes Readability

*Under the headline "Same Sun, New Look," this editor's note on Oct. 13, 2004, alerted Sun readers to several design changes:*

Readers who scampered out of town early last week for the annual pause in instruction known as "fall break" may have missed The Sun's Friday editor's note. In it, we politely informed our readership that upon its return, The Sun would have an entirely new design.

You're looking at it now.

The first thing readers may have noticed is the increased amount of white space and reduced clutter. We have consciously rethought our page design to make it more readable and more useful.

The fonts are all new, chosen to mesh harmoniously and to fit more words in the same amount of space. Their appearance certainly harkens back to the era of classical

See **REDESIGN** page 7

# Year 124 Packed With Changes

By **ANDY GUESS '05**  
*Cornell Daily Sun Editor in Chief*

The Sun's 124th year was one of change. A vastly increased readership, a circulation that more than doubled, a higher profile, and more influence are some of the many notable successes.

The changes were many. They included ditching the 25-cent rack price and going free; undertaking a serious redesign; going full color every day; switching to another printing press; upgrading the in-house hardware and software; and giving the website a facelift. We also fundamentally changed our workflow procedures, meaning we get more done in less time.

The result: a more polished newspaper, a growing staff, and a more efficient newsroom.

How we did it: A lot of energy, a little caffeine, and no sleep.

At the beginning of the 2004-2005 academic year, the effects of free distribution were immediately apparent. More people were reading the paper, and our visibility across campus multiplied. Rather than

being confined to dorm rooms, we're now out in the open — in Olin Library, Trillium, Collegetown Bagels, the Straight, the Statler, you name it.

After some initial befuddlement

move to go free was the upgrade to color every day on the front, back and centerfold pages. Thanks to a favorable deal with our new printer at The Corning Leader, the paper now uses color to grab readers, and the printing quality has unquestionably improved as well.

These improvements were vital because, as of this year, The New York Times and USA Today are available for free to undergraduates. Both are distributed on central campus, and both feature vibrant color. While it has certainly meant more competition for the attention of Cornell students, the end result has been an increase in interest for all three publications.

Over fall break — although "break" would be a misnomer — a core group of Sun editors bravely camped out in the Sun

See **CHANGES** page 7



among vendors who continued to charge for the paper (and readers who couldn't believe the change was permanent), the success of this move has been unquestioned.

A noticeable change that went hand in hand with the

## Anniversary Celebrations Slated for Ithaca, New York City

**VONNEGUT**  
*Continued from page 1*

Sun supporters interested in helping to underwrite the event, keeping ticket costs down, are encouraged to reach out to any of the Alumni Association's officers, or to send an email to [cornellsun@aol.com](mailto:cornellsun@aol.com). Donors will be recognized on the written invitations and in the event programs.

The very first Cornell Sun appeared on campus on Sept. 16, 1880, registration day for the 1880-1881 school year. The eight-page

newspaper, measuring 9 by 12 inches and costing 3 cents, was the product of months of work by a small group of Cornell students led by William Ballard Hoyt '81.

A century and a quarter later, The Sun is a newspaper of record for Cornell, a full-color, full-service daily distributed to thousands in Ithaca and available to countless others each day at [www.cornellsun.com](http://www.cornellsun.com). It hits 125 in grand style, comfortably settled into its first permanent home, a building purchased and renovated through the generosity of its alumni.

And about those alumni ... they hold, and

have held, prestigious positions in business, academia, the arts and, yes, journalism, their bylines appearing around the country and around the globe.

The Alumni Association and the Sun's current editors and managers look forward to celebrating with you in September. And don't forget the annual Sun alumni reunion to be held in Manhattan on April 22, and the special Sun events that will occur during the June 11 Cornell reunion in Ithaca. Save the dates!

*Larry Arnold '88, a former Sun associate editor, is editor of The Cornell Alumni Sun.*





Courtesy of Larry Arnold

**Summer session.** Above: Herb Eskwitt '44, who was on the Sun News Board, addresses other Sun alumni at a gathering at Willard Straight Hall during Reunion Weekend last June. Below left: David Abramowitz '89, a former assistant sports editor and senior editor, reviews bound volumes with Steve Weinstein '89, former associate editor. Below right: Tom Kahn '64, a former Sun business manager, with wife Michele.



# For The Sun, Year 124 Is Packed With Changes

## CHANGES

*Continued from page 5*

office and finished implementing a redesign that had been in the works since the previous semester. With advice from Alan Flaherty '62 and a nationally recognized design consultant, Phil Ritzenberg, along with plenty of input and creative ideas from our own staff, The Sun's editors, headed by design editor Katy Bishop '06, came up with a look that refined our image without ignoring The Sun's rich history.

The layout of pages is more logical and consistent, with the op-ed section closer to the middle and arts pages appearing daily, in addition to the weekly arts pullout, Red Letter Daze.

All of these changes were easier because of new computers and software installed over the

summer. We now have an Apple G5 for digitizing pages, and the newsroom operates on the latest QuarkXPress as well as an integrated content management system, Quark Publishing. Also, each night's desk has the pleasure of using our brand new, gorgeous G5 iMac.

None of these sweeping changes would mean anything, however, if there weren't content to fill The Sun's pages. And last semester had no lack of compelling stories. Notably, the "Collegetown Creeper" case came to something of a close, with the arrest of a 23-year-old Ithaca resident who then skipped on his bail. Our reporters — who coined the term used widely by other media to describe the serial trespasser — followed the case closely, easily besting The Ithaca Journal's coverage with some

fantastic investigative work.

Around the same time, a brewing landlord scandal involving a hidden camera provided an opportunity for Sun writers to scoop the Journal almost daily.

Our readers offered generous praise for our series "Cradle of Civilization," which consisted of first-person narratives by guest writers who had spent time in Middle Eastern and North African countries.

In November, the campus-wide Mock Election, which The Sun co-sponsored, came to a close with Democrat John Kerry trouncing President George W. Bush, 70 percent to 22 percent. Events included two televised debates, one featuring four third-party presidential candidates, the other featuring Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and his two opponents. Former

National Security Adviser Sandy Berger '67 also paid a visit. The Sun netted a handful of exclusive interviews.

That co-sponsorship and others in the works are part of our ongoing campaign to boost our public profile and visibility through various marketing efforts.

And thanks to the help of Stan Chess '69, president of the Cornell Daily Sun Alumni Association, Sun T-shirts are selling out in Collegetown.

The editors and staff are excited to have lived through a significant period of change here at The Sun.

Improvements are always in the works. Expect another update in the next issue, when we'll be 125.

*Andy Guess '05 is outgoing editor in chief of The Sun.*

## Sun's Latest Facelift Emphasizes Readability

### REDESIGN

*Continued from page 5*

typography — the days when newspapers were churned out by blue-collared, visored men who edited copy and set the type manually with ink-stained hands — yet it attempts to look forward as well.

The Sun has had a rich and storied 124-year history, and we kept that in mind even as we contemplated the future in our redesign. And the various building blocks of our design, we hope, are more relevant — information boxes, for example, to accompany stories.

Yes, the paper has a new

look. But the changes are not confined to mere typesetting. More fundamentally, The Sun is arranged more logically.

• News content starts at the front and continues back, uninterrupted. A revamped Daybook on page 2 features relevant, upcoming events and integrated student-created weather reports.

And thanks to The New York Times and USA Today, national news is no longer a necessary focus for The Sun; it is now accessible in short briefs on page 3, next to a feature photo and Sunspecives, an interactive question-and-answer segment. Don't worry; big news and breaking nation-

al stories will still have prominence on the front page (we're thinking on November 3, for instance).

Starting Monday, page 5 will have weekly C.U. News Briefs about the goings-on of professors, departments and research on campus.

• The op-ed section is no longer anchored to a fixed page. It follows news, along with comics and the crossword, no longer relegating one lonely column to the back of the paper.

• Our new daily arts page — with two on Mondays for film reviews — will also reside next to opinion. The weekly Red Letter Daze pullout will

now be eight pages long on Thursdays.

• And sports, as before, starts on the back working inward.

Those are the changes. What stays the same: We're still free. We're still in color. We're still in handy tabloid size — a perfect fit for your desk during lecture. And, we're still Cornell's one-stop source for news, views, sports, and arts coverage on campus.

We hope our readers will find The Sun more useful, more accessible and more aesthetically pleasing. And good or bad, we're ready for your feedback.

Same Sun. New Look.

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**BOARD OF EDITORS AND MANAGERS, 1957-1958**

**Front Row:** Anna Jean Schuler '58 (Feature Editor); David A. Engel '59, at typewriter (Managing Editor); Marilyn Tugendhaft '58 (Women's Advertising Manager). **Middle Row:** John Guillemont '58 (Circulation Manager); Faith I. Apfelbaum '58 (Women's Editor); Stephanie Gervis '58 (Associate Editor); Robert L. Wegryn '59 (Photography Editor); Robert S. Malina '60 (Asst. Managing Editor). **Back Row:** Donald A. Schneider '58 (Business Manager); Robert L. Markovits '59 (Sports Editor); Howard N. Abel '58, holding sign (Advertising Manager); J. Kirk Sale '58 (Editor in Chief).