

TALENTED

TENTH



NEW GROUPS SPARK INTEREST IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

By: Chenise Upshur
MANAGING EDITOR



Are You M.A.D? (Making A Difference)

The mission of Are You M.A.D. is to help students commit to community involvement and service. Their function is to initiate change on campus, in the Nashville community, and nationally as well as internationally through the exploration of issues that are of concern and taking action to improve on those issues. The members will not be individualistic but will work together as a group with a common goal – the betterment of society.

Contact: hamida.s.labi@vanderbilt.edu
rhyana.n.robinson@vanderbilt.edu



C.A.R. (College As Reality)

C.A.R. is a student run organization that encourages college enrollment to high school students at Maplewood High School through mentorship. Each student who participates in C.A.R. is enrolled in a college prep seminar and receives a mentor who guides them through the college application process. The ultimate goal of C.A.R. is to drive ALL students to succeed, excel, and go to college. This is done through participation in various college events, community service projects, and group and individualized attention. C.A.R. has over 100 mentors who are all African-American Vanderbilt students and is federally funded by the Corporation of National and Community Service.

Contact: l.franklyn@vanderbilt.edu



R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. (Relating Experiences of Achievement; Lending Inspiration to Youth)

R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. seeks to inspire middle school children enrolled in Nashville-area educational institutions to strive for excellence in all academic settings. To reach this end, R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. will primarily host motivational speaking sessions in local 8th grade classrooms led by R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. members regarding their personal struggles in both academia and society (e.g. gender issues, racial prejudices, social dilemmas, socioeconomic limitations, etc.) and their methods for overcoming these obstacles. R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. will provide informational resources in the areas of high school success, the college application process, and standardized test preparation.

Contact: erin.n.bryant@vanderbilt.edu
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Homeless AGAIN?



NPHC loses house to Sigma Nu after three years.

Sean Dawes/Talented Tenth

By: Corey Ponder
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After living in the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) house for four years, in 2006 the NPHC are homeless again. The house was temporarily shared amongst four fraternities, but now all organizations only have the NPHC sorority apartments on Westside Row as their own.

The physical representation of Vanderbilt's historically Black Greek organizations is now non-existent, and there is nothing that can be done.

Temporary housing options are solutions all too familiar to the NPHC. In the spring of 2002, Kappa Alpha Order was suspended and the idea of NPHC housing came about. In the fall of 2002 the NPHC was allowed to move in, and living there

See HOMELESS, page 3

Student Leaders Embrace Diversity

By: Samora Legros
STAFF WRITER



Devin Donovan

InterHall.

Lancaster and Donovan have been involved with their respective organizations for the past three years.

Connecting the community is an ideology embraced by both Boone Lancaster, president of Student Government Association, and Devin Donovan, president of

The goal of Student Government Association and Interhall is to promote diversity through multi-cultural events.

As President of Interhall, Donovan believes social, educational, and service programs in Peabody, Kissam and Branscomb will be pivotal in the cultural



Boone Lancaster

See STUDENT LEADERS, page 3



Vandy Remembers Sheltia Murray

By: Shelby Gambrell
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sheltia Shafrnal Murray died June 19, 2006 at Middle Tennessee Medical Center of complications stemming from undiagnosed diabetes. She was 21-years-old.

A senior in the Vanderbilt University College of Arts & Science, Murray pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology while maintaining active involvement as secretary of a student ministry organization, The Jeremiah Generation. She also served as a mentor and tutor to high school students in the Synergy Mentoring and College Prep Program as well as the

Bridge Program.

In her time at Vanderbilt, Sheltia positively impacted the lives of the many students who will remember her as a close friend.

Senior Samora Legros said, "I remember Sheltia as a hard-working and dedicated student. We all should remember Sheltia for her willingness to help others and for her genuine character."

Other close friends of Sheltia echoed similar sentiments.

"Sheltia always went out of her way to make me feel comfortable around her. That's the kind of person she was. I don't think anyone anywhere can say a bad word about her," senior Terrance Brown said.

See SHELZIA MURRAY, page 2

Dean of Admissions Implements New Recruitment Strategy

By: Gavin Fletcher
STAFF WRITER

Douglass Christiansen has officially assumed his role as Associate Provost for Enrollment and Dean of Admission.

Christiansen replaces William Shain, who served as Dean of Admissions since 1998. During Shain's administration, the rate of admittance went from 61% when he arrived to 35% last year.

As the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions of Purdue University, Christiansen increased the total number of applicants by 48%. One of Christiansen's goals for Vanderbilt is to increase the number of applicants by 3,000.

One of the strategies Christiansen plans on employing is to make all the admissions counselors responsible for building relationships with high schools in their assigned territories. "Our counselors will be experts not only in evaluating applications

See ADMISSIONS, page 2

NASHVILLE BLACK COVENANT COALITION OFFERS HOPE

By : Gavin Fletcher
STAFF WRITER

With The leadership of Pastor Henry Blaze III, from Progressive Baptist Church, the Nashville Black Covenant Coalition (NBCC) will host a citywide meeting to address prevailing issues in some of Nashville's most impoverished Black communities.

Among them are economic empowerment, equitable health, gentrification, criminalization of youth, and education.

Pastor Blaze envisions the citywide meeting will be a beacon of hope. "This meeting will offer some measure of encouragement to the communities under siege," says Blaze.

With issue-driven workshops, expert assessments, and members of the community giving personal testimonies, the NBCC plans to outline a non-violent, proactive course of action to alleviate problems.

The NBCC has taken Tavis Smiley's bestseller book, *The Covenant with Black America*, which is a selection of policy-based solutions, to address the ailments.

"We are using the book as an organizing tool and as an infrastructure," states Blaze.

Pastor Blaze hopes to further the movement concerning issues propagating hopelessness and to identify new community leaders.

The Nashville Black Covenant Coalition will be meeting at Pearl-Cone High school on October 21, 2006. The doors open at 9 a.m. and the seminar starts at 10 a.m. ■

NPHC REVEALS SECRETS

By: Nathan Ford, Gavin Fletcher
STAFF WRITERS



Students discuss prospective sororities Charles Stanley

Colors Ignite Healthy Discussion

Wide-eyed underclassmen of Vanderbilt flocked to the Student Life Center eager to learn all they could about Greek Life on campus.

Arguably, fraternity and sorority colors were one of the most interesting topics of discussion.

Historically Black Fraternities and Sororities are identified by their respective colors.

Some students attending the Greek Mystic were surprised to find out they should not wear colors of the organization they are interested in joining.

La-Toya Franklyn, president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., believes anyone seeking membership into her sorority should not wear the colors of her organization before becoming an official member.

She says doing so could cause problems.

"Pink and Green is a strategically placed combination, in order to avoid complications with members of AKA, one might want to consider the color combinations you choose," says Franklyn.

Greek Life: More than Social Clubs

The second annual Greek Mystic was held in early September and hosted by the undergraduate chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

Along with dispelling myths regarding the membership intake process, representatives from each organization gave a synopsis of their organization's history, motto, slogan, and philanthropic service projects.

The introduction of each group was followed by a question and answer session.

Some of the main topics addressed were hazing, fraternity and sorority colors, and membership costs.

Justin Amaker was one of many students that left Greek Mystic more knowledgeable.

"They're not just social frats," says freshman Justin Amaker. "They're actually geared towards service and scholarship."

Fredrick Harris, Vice-Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi, believes the purpose of all Greek organizations is to uplift the African-American community.

"Joining any one of them is a great step towards the betterment of who you are as an African-American," says Harris. ■

ADMISSIONS: Under New Leadership

From Admissions, page 1

but in marketing and recruitment," states Christiansen.

Counselors will also be held accountable for ensuring a diverse applicant pool. Informing all students about Vanderbilt and its accessibility to a range of prospective students is a paramount goal for Christiansen. "I believe there are students who have the background and the ability to go here," states Christiansen, "but they don't know about Vanderbilt or don't think they can afford Vanderbilt."

Along with ensuring diverse applicant pools, Christiansen will employ an Affirmative Action policy through a holistic review process. "We need to view merit and the whole of a student and not simply quantify them. Merit comes in all forms."

For Christiansen, progress is not possible without diversity. "Until we can get to a point where people from different backgrounds can come together we will not move forward."

Christiansen believes that a commitment to diversity must also be a personal one. "If we as a community do not stand up we will not move to a better society." ■

WHY DO WE NEED TALENTED TENTH?

Check out Editor's Note on page 6.

Sheltia Murray: A Saint Amongst Us

From SHELZIA Murray, page 1

"I will always remember Sheltia as being a happy person who always had nothing but positive things to say," said senior Tinesha Allen. "She had a contagious laugh."

Sheltia's cheerful and infectious spirit not only affected those who knew her well, but beamed outward to those who only knew of her.

"For someone I did not personally know, she touched my life by being a blessing to those I do know. Sheltia will always be missed," stated senior Althea Jack.

A campus memorial service is being planned as well as a Health Fair on Diabetes in her honor. Those interested in participating should contact Shelby Gambrell or Charles Stanley. ■

The Mu Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta presents

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS WEEK

October 29th - November 4th, 2006



Come visit the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center in October

3rd	Blaxploitation Film Series - Shaft Noon @ BCC Auditorium	12th	Documentary Feature: Still Black, At Yale Discussion following with filmmakers Andia Winslow & Monique Walton 6:30pm @ BCC Auditorium
6th	OBGAPS First Friday w/ Film and Music Tribute Noon @ BCC Auditorium	17th	Blaxploitation Film Series - Superfly Noon & 7pm @ BCC Auditorium
9th	Holocaust Lecture Series Against Cultural Genocide Documentary Feature: The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till Discussion & historical observations w/ Q&A Noon @ BCC Auditorium	20th	Jazz at the Center and Soul Food Buffet Featuring Darrell Levine Noon & 4pm @ BCC Auditorium
10th	Blaxploitation Film Series - Foxy Brown Noon @ BCC Auditorium		Artist Reception The Art of Charly Palmer Discussion w/ Palmer and Provost Nick Zeppos 2:30pm @ BCC Auditorium
11th	Observations on Media: Portrayals of Blacks 7pm @ BCC Auditorium		

TALENTED TENTH VTV SHOW

Are you interested in being on VTV?

The Talented Tenth VTV Show is looking for on-air hosts, skit directors, set managers, actors, camera persons, etc.

If you are interested in getting involved with the movement, contact

Gavin Fletcher at

gavin.m.fletcher@vanderbilt.edu or by phone at

(615) 403-7682.

24TH Annual Festival Serves up African Culture



Local vendors display products at Afrikan Street Festival

Morgan Turner/Talented Tenth

By: Angela Moore
ASSOCIATE CULTURE EDITOR

The sweltering heat did not keep hundreds of people from attending the 24th Annual Afrikan Street Festival.

For years the Afrikan Street Festival has been heralded as a cultural experience.

A West African vendor, Kimani, was part of the Tinga Tinga African Art Gallery. He sets up for the festival every year.

"These events remind you where you come from," says Kimani.

Kimani displayed his best artwork, olive wood utensils, and handmade jewelry.

People who stopped by his booth also enjoyed authentic crafts from Cameroon and Ghana.

According to Vanderbilt University's local event calendar, 10 Culture, an estimated 100,000 people packed the western stretch of Jefferson Street during the three-day event held in mid-September, near Ed Temple Boulevard.

Hosted by the Tennessee State University African American Student Union, the event united people of all ages, races, and socio-economic backgrounds. Because of it, vendors made sure to include a variety of attractions, including live African music, food, and arts and crafts.

Dr. Frank Dobson, director of Vanderbilt's Black Cultural Center, attended the festival.

Members of Vanderbilt's African Student Union also enjoyed the festival.

ASU President, Veronica L. Calvin, says the Afrikan Street Festival was a great opportunity to experience cultural diversity.

"The Afrikan Street Festival is extremely important because it is a way to explore our roots and enjoy each other's company in a safe environment," says Calvin. ■

Interhall and S.G.A. take Measures to Unify Student Body

From STUDENT LEADERS, page 1

education for the students.

Boone Lancaster participates in helping run multi-cultural, athletic, and community service programs. Both aim to exhume better community through education. On September 21, 2006, Interhall participated in a dinner promoting diversity in the Board of Trust Room, sponsored by Multicultural Council (MCC). In addition, on September 27, 2006, a

dinner discussion about immigration will be held.

The creation of MCC resulted from Homecoming 2005, with the Pre-Stomp Tailgate Cookout. The success of this event led the Student Government Association to create its own multicultural liaison. Since its creation in August of 2006, the MCC has organized events, such as community outreach during Rites of Spring, and events with different student organizations.

"Student run, driven, and funded is essential to creating diversity among students," says Lancaster. Since the fall of 2003, the Vanderbilt community has made greater strides toward diversity. According to Lancaster, the lack of student presence has a negative affect; because change begins on the grass roots level. ■

HOMELESS:

NPHC Fraternities have no residence on campus

From HOMELESS, page 1

for a year gave them a place to host programs.

When Kappa Alpha Order returned, in much the same fashion as Sigma Nu Fraternity, the NPHC had to move.

The fraternity Sigma Nu's return to Vanderbilt in 2006 is the new cause for displacement of the NPHC. Returning from a spring 2003 suspension, Sigma Nu gains the house back due to stipulations in a lease agreement.

Clayton Arrington, the Senior Director in the Dean of Students Office, states, "Housing for the [NPHC] men had more temporary implications as opposed to the housing for [NPHC] women; simply because housing only became available in response to negative issues regarding Greek organizations."

The loss of a second facility sparked instant dialogue amongst the administration and students.

Mark Bandas, who has recently adopted the oversight of the Greek Life program, has begun meeting with other staff such as Dr. Frank Dobson, Director of at the Black Cultural Center.

With the guidance of Bandas and Dobson, spaces have been identified

in Westside Row apartments and the Black Cultural Center to serve as a temporary solution.

Mark Bandas expresses logistical concerns in having a NPHC house. "For running a facility, it would probably require more than 18 people to build and run it. 60 people are the operational break point to run a facility, generally, at Vanderbilt."

Although the loss of a house has crippled the NPHC, they have remained active.

Steven Harris, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and current NPHC president, expressed that the house loss was "definitely disheartening to NPHC members, but that they must continue to move on with their respective aims and goals."

As a result, the NPHC formed a House Committee, whose pupose is to formulate a proposal that conveys the options the NPHC wants considered.

The Administration and students alike agree that this is not an issue that a temporary solution can alleviate.

For now the NPHC fraternities will remain homeless and separated from the rest of Greek Row. ■

The Men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated Support the 2006-2007 Outstanding Senior Candidates



Charleson Bell

Biomedical Engineering

ACTIVITIES: Student Government Association; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



Chantavia Burton

Civil Rights Law & Sociology

ACTIVITIES: Black Law Students Association; WNFL; BSA; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Latoya Franklyn

Sociology

ACTIVITIES: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc; CAR (College As Reality); Ingram Scholars Program



Gabriel Hemphill

English & Philosophy

ACTIVITIES: Momentum Dance Group; Expressions Dance Group; Ingram Scholars Program



Jasmine Talton

Sociology & Political Science

ACTIVITIES: Honor Council; VuCept; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

HURRICANE KATRINA

THE FORGOTTEN STRUGGLE

By:Krishana Donaldson
STAFF WRITER

If the levees never broke in New Orleans, would the media and the world still have continued to ignore the residents of Hattiesburg? Are the cities of Hattiesburg, Pass Christian, Biloxi and Gulfport that forgettable and unimportant?

Despite their lack of glory and fame, these cities in Mississippi were still home to many people who were left stranded, ignored, and desperate in the wake of Katrina.

Hattiesburg, my once comfortable hometown, is just 100 miles from New Orleans and has a population of approximately 45,000 people; yet still maintains the small town sentiment of "everybody knows

everybody."

The hurricane hit Hattiesburg roughly 3 weeks into the 2005-2006 school year. In just a matter of hours, half of the city's residents lost their homes, jobs or both.

Even worse, in the late hours following Katrina, many Hattiesburg residents realized that they might not have enough supplies, or even food to survive long power outages and road blocks.

It was a harsh and bewildering experience for all of us who thought that nothing ever happened in Hattiesburg.

After the roads began to clear, stores opened to provide relief for residents. My organization, Hattiesburg High School Forensics, in conjunction with the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) saw that there was a definite need to capture the stories of Mississippi and Gulf Coast residents after such a disaster.

Eight students from HHSE, including myself, were trained in gathering stories; using equipment on loan from the Cultural Heritage

and Oral History Department of USM.

Stephen Sloan, the student advisor of the Oral History Department, suggested that we work in pairs and alternate between who conducted the interview and who handled the equipment. He also prepared us to handle the intense emotional reactions of our interviewees.

Immediately following our training, we set out across Hattiesburg and Southern Mississippi to gather stories from evacuees living in Hattiesburg and New Orleans, military personnel, and various volunteers.

Church members delivered supplies and helped patch roofs. Red Cross volunteers, radio personalities from Clear Channel and military personnel helped keep order in the city after the storm.

My high school, Hattiesburg High, has done much for the victims of Katrina.

My school's campus was a command post for the distribution of school supplies for students

on the coast and also the drop site for many items donated by organizations and private individuals.

In April of 2006, Hattiesburg High delivered several trucks of food, clothing, and other items to residents in Pass Christian who were still living in tents *nine months* after Katrina.

Today, many schools have opened and many of those living in shelters have found temporary housing and jobs.

Hattiesburg and the surrounding cities are continuing to recover from Katrina, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

I survived Katrina and I remember the feelings of indescribable fear and confusion the day it happened. The effects of Katrina stemmed past my family and community; it affected us as a nation. ■

Check out the HHSE website for more information on their efforts to help Katrina victims: www.tigerforensics.org/katrina

Spike Lee Has Done It Again!

By: Dominique Harris
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

On August 16, 2006 Spike Lee's third feature length collaboration with HBO, titled, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*, premiered at the New Orleans Arena.

This powerful tear-jerking documentary includes four hours of news footage, still photos of Katrina, and interviews.

According to an HBO executive this documentary is one of the most important films HBO has ever made.

Spike Lee made sure the documentary focused on the people affected by the disaster as well as their will to survive.

One of Lee's main objectives for the film was to reveal unknown facts about the disaster.

Some of the major interviews include Marc Morial, Ray Nagin, Mitch Landrieu, and Garland Robinette; plus interviews with historians, engineers, and residents of New Orleans.

The film made its television debut in two parts on August 21st and 22nd on HBO.

On the one year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, August 29th, the film aired in its entirety.

This documentary was

also shown at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival on the 15th and 16th of September.

For those with HBO On Demand check out *When the Levees Broke* and hear the true story behind this devastating, life-altering disaster. ■

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE FILM?

"I applaud Spike Lee for showing all of America an extreme tragedy---not the Hurricane itself, but the inexplicable lack of response by the federal government, What's even more disturbing is that the nightmare of Katrina is still ongoing and few people are doing anything to help."
- Zakiya Smith, Class of 2005

"I am mad at the government and I feel empathetic towards those exploited..."
- Sunni Brazley, Class of 2007

"I cried."
- Anonymous, Class of 2007

"I could only watch two minutes before I begin to tear up...it was just too much for me to take in at that moment."
- Anonymous, Class of 2008

Vanderbilt Students Speak Out:

We have heard from the officials and reporters, now it is time to hear the voices of Vanderbilt...here are their stories.

Q: How did Hurricane Katrina affect you? Your family?

A: It was rough in the beginning, but I think one learns to adapt to almost anything.

It's still like the Twilight Zone when I go home--a ghost town you might say--I wonder if things will ever be the same. It's doubtful.

The hardest part was not knowing where my dad was for two weeks: I got a voice message from him the morning of Katrina and he sounded out of breath.

He said he was in the East (eastern New Orleans) evacuating hotels. Elevators were down so he was running up the stairs. That was about 10am and he said he would call me back in two hours to keep me posted since I didn't know what was happening, but I didn't hear from him until two weeks later.

My stepmother was 7 months pregnant when Katrina hit. They evacuated her and my sisters to Houston and later had to induce labor because her blood pressure was approaching stroke levels.

The baby was born premature and I didn't get to see him for a month. When I did it was the saddest thing because he would spontaneously shake.

Doctors said it was his insecurity with being out of the womb before it was time. He was so little. I don't think I ever cried so much in my life. It seemed like I was crying nonstop for about a month.

Answers provided by Joey LaRoche, Junior, Peabody College

Q: How did this Hurricane affect you? Your family?

A: For a long time I did not want to go home because I feared the worst case scenario.

My first time back was November 2005, almost 4 months after. The sight of all the things you saw everyday being completely destroyed was a tearjerker.

I have gone back several times now and every time I go back down there, I still can't believe what happened.

I hate to see it this way but I don't like going back to New Orleans anymore simply because it is too depressing.

The sad thing now is that I don't even say home anymore when I talk about it. I simply refer to it as New Orleans...

Q: What do you think of the current conditions?

A: My dad gives me updates every now and then about what's going on in the city and everything he reports seems to be negative.

Crime is getting outrageous; the city council cannot come to a consensus about what should be done; people are not returning to the city; and everything is expensive (supplies, houses, rent, food, and the list goes on).

After hearing all of this it is hard to have hope for the future.

I know it is going to take several years to make New Orleans even somewhat close to what it used to be.

Answers provided by Danielle Jupiter, Junior, Peabody College



Chris Nickson

Vanderbilt Photo Archive

Is Vanderbilt Ready for Another Black Quarterback?

By: Justin Coleman
STAFF WRITER

Are Vandy football fans ready for a Black quarter back? The short answer is: they have to be, because 20 year-old Chris Nickson has been chosen for the position of leadership.

Nickson is a junior finance major from Brundidge, Alabama. He became eligible for the starting position this fall.

Head Coach Bobby Johnson describes Nickson as a natural who has earned the job as quarterback.

Already, football fans consider Nickson an all around great athlete. "One of his attributes is that Nickson is committed to learning the game and how to be a leader for the team," says Johnson.

Last season the Commodores were lead by quarterback Jay Cutler. He's remembered for his agility and his years of contributions to the team.

Cutler earned a spot in the first round of the 2006 NFL Draft with the Denver Broncos.

Jay Cutler was a celebrated white quarterback. The extent of Chris Nickson's reception is yet to be seen.

It is no secret that Vanderbilt is not the melting pot of diversity it

could be. African-Americans make up a small percentage of the student body. The fact begs the question, how will Nickson be received by his team, classmates, and fans.

Chris Nickson says he is comfortable with his new position and his responsibilities. "I feel no pressure at all," says Nickson.

Nickson is not the first Black quarterback in Vanderbilt history. He is, however, the first in the 21st century.

Damien Allen held the position of leadership from 1994 to 1997.

Like other Vanderbilt quarterbacks, regardless of race, Coach Johnson believes Chris Nickson will exceed expectations.

"Chris is a cross between the Vick brothers of Virginia Tech, and West Virginia University quarterback Pat White," says Johnson.

According to Coach Johnson, Vandy's newest quarterback will not rely on speed alone to emerge victorious, but Nickson's strength lies in his ability to complete each play.

Nickson promises fans he will work hard this season; and continuously strive to make improvements. ■

SPORTS FACT:

The last Black quarterback to lead the Commodores was Damien Allen in 1997.



"1st and 10" with a "Dore"

Earl Bennett

Sophomore
Wide Receiver
Peabody College
Major: Secondary Education

Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama

Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo

Favorite Television Show: ESPN Sports Center

Favorite NFL team: Carolina Panthers

Favorite Offensive Play: Scan 9, which are all Vertical Routes

Favorite Activity: Building camaraderie with my teammates

Hidden Quality: I am a very humble person. I thank God for giving me the ability and opportunity to play football.

Favorite S.E.C. Opponent: Florida; they have a great fan base and they were my favorite college team as a child

Favorite NFL Player: Steve Smith of the Carolina Panthers because like me, he constantly makes plays for his team and is a great competitor

Why Vanderbilt? I chose Vanderbilt because of its great academic environment and the chance to play in the S.E.C. Also, it's close to home which makes it easier for my parents to come and watch me play.



Earl Bennett

Vanderbilt Photo Archive

From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

LET THE RACIAL CONVERSATIONS BEGIN

Many students consider Vanderbilt University a stagnant environment when it comes to discussions about race relations.

The first edition of the Talented Tenth comes at a time when the Vanderbilt community is depicted as an ever divergent haven of segregation by both class and race.

Although there have been hasty attempts to stifle this inherent separation, members of the Nashville community still view Vanderbilt as the same racially divided society it was this time a century ago.

This publication will serve as a catalyst to provide a venue for conversations about racial discourse.

I charge my writers to research subjects they believe hinder Vanderbilt's growth.

To engage in meaningful and civil dialogue, statements and arguments must be based on factual information.

To participate in a worthwhile discussion of Talented Tenth, critics must begin by reading the proposal for our newspaper.

Had this been done, those who are of the opinion that a Black publication on campus further segregates the student body, would not have completely missed the goal of Talented Tenth.

Therefore, those arguments were without merit.

With that said, I would like to personally extend an invitation to those who want to have a voice on campus.

We recognize the difficulty of speaking about the elephant in the room, but as long as our community ignores obvious racial issues, the problem continues.

Talented Tenth intends to stimulate conversations where people are free to address their anxieties and problems without fear of social and moral sanctions.

Talented Tenth is committed to addressing issues relevant to our entire campus.

In return, for this commitment we ask for your willingness to join the dialogue, and share your thoughts and stories.

We ask that you listen with open minds and hearts.

Hopefully we all will be able to address problems and create solutions.

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OPINION POLICY

We at Talented Tenth appreciate any thought provoking comments and opinions that you feel would be a benefit to our readers. Any letters sent for possible submission as an opinion piece, needs to be well written, cohesive, and contain logical arguments to any claims made. Submissions that do not meet these requirements and are nameless will not be considered for the publication. Letters can be submitted in person at the Black Cultural Center room #111 or by e-mail to chenise.t.upshur@vanderbilt.edu no later than midnight on October 23rd. Once submitted, all articles become the property of the Talented Tenth and are subject to editing and condensation as the editor-in-chief deems necessary.

WORD ON THE STREET

How do you feel about Chris Nickson being the first Black QB since Damien Allen in 1997?



Courtney Shade (Junior)
"Surprised."



Lin Rowe (Sophomore)
"I don't think we should look too much into why we have not had a Black quarterback in so long."



Kenny Lipschutz (Sophomore)
"I love it. Love every second of it. He's good, faster than Cutler was, has just as good an arm. He is fun to watch."



Laura Webster (Freshman)
"I think it's wonderful that a Black athlete is the quarter-back because it's a leadership position that Black athletes historically don't get."

MANY RAPPERS OBJECTIFY AND DEMEAN WOMEN IN THEIR SONGS

Would you let Ludacris or Coolio SERANADE your mother, sister, or girlfriend?

Morgan Turner
STAFF COLUMNIST

Would you ever say this to your mother: "And I...just wanna take a lil ride on your curves, and get erotic giving your body just what it deserves"

How about your sister: "Let me give you some swimming lessons on the p**** Backstroke, breaststroke, stroke of a genius... YUPP."

What about your girlfriend: "Call me the Renaissance man, get up and I stay harder than a cinder block mannn....HEYYY."

These are a few of the lyrics to rap recording artist Ludacris' latest song "Money Maker" featuring Pharrell. It is the second most downloaded song on iTunes this week, yet again these are the lyrics to the song.

Though many of you would never allow women you know to hear those obscene words, we are buying it and listening to it. One wonders, if these lyrics are in the song, then why are people listening to it?

Ludacris is giving a concert for our homecoming event "The Commodore Quake". His impending performance has brought about a lot of excitement. However, if the students really listened to Ludacris' lyrics would they still be excited about Ludacris being the headliner?

I asked a few students to read and respond to the lyrics of Ludacris' songs, "Money Maker," "Splash Waterfalls," and "What's Your Fantasy," and respond to them.

Freshman Erin Fahey, says, "They're pretty gross, kinda inappropriate, and dirty."

D'Angelo Harris, a freshmen, says "Are these the real lyrics? That was horrible and the sad thing about it is that people actually believe stuff like this."

Junior Siantra Richardson says "The language is very degrading. The language sounds extremely unintelligent. Just what the song is insisting is degrading women

and lowering her standards, not uplifting women."

Ludacris is not the only rapper guilty of referring to women in such a derogatory manner. It is a problem that permeates the majority of the hip-hop recording industry. Degrading women is a common practice. Women are not viewed as human beings in these songs.

"Horribly, like objects" says Harris.

"They are portrayed like a dessert you can eat up...more like a thing," says Fahey.

During my interviews with students I asked if they really listened to the words in any of these hip-hop songs. They all said it was the beat that attracted them to the music not the words.

Some people argue that the reason the degradation of women is so prevalent is because sex sells. And it is true. Using sex as means to promote a product is an extremely popular method seen everyday, but it isn't really the problem. Listening is the problem, or rather the lack of listening. If people are only focused on the beat then they will never really know the horrible words these rappers are saying. The solution to the problem is listening. If we all listen enough and stop buying the music maybe rappers will change how they portray women.

So students, when you go to the "Quake" don't be so wrapped up in the fact that you are watching Ludacris on stage. I encourage you to listen to what he is saying. And before you go out and buy his next CD remember, even if you don't have a problem with how he talks about women, remember your mother, your sister, your daughters, and your girlfriends. By supporting Ludacris you are saying it is okay to talk this way to the women in your life that you care about. Just something to think about.

BRIDGING THE GAP

TALKING A PROACTIVE STANCE ON CREATING A MORE COHESIVE,
DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Sitting at the Wrong Table

Corey Sullivan
STAFF COLUMNIST

On Tuesday, I sat down in Rand as though it were a typical day at lunch. But instead of sitting with my friends, I joined a table of complete strangers. I sat down without introducing myself and began conversation as though we were good friends. Only after a few minutes did I tell them that I was doing a social experiment. I sat at three different tables, each of which was comprised of students from the same racial background. My goal was to investigate the racial segregation that strongly divides our campus' main dining hall.

I was nervous about approaching people I didn't know in a setting that I assumed would be very unwelcoming because of my position as a White female. I was surprised to find, though, that while it was slightly uncomfortable for all involved, I wasn't turned away or ignored. In fact, I made friends with people I otherwise wouldn't have approached. We often make assumptions about why it is that other people sit together: "They're comfortable. They're set on sitting with the

same people. They don't want to sit with us." It is important to think about what it means and why it is that we choose to sit where we do.

When I asked about segregation in the dining hall, the general consensus was that it's too overanalyzed. If people want to sit with their friends, all of whom happen to be of the same race, then it's not hurting anyone.

Then the question becomes, why are all of your friends of the same race? And if they're not, why don't you sit with your other friends sometimes? It is true that people of your same race have often had similar life experiences and therefore may have things in common with you. However, there are plenty of people who aren't the same skin color who may share things with you, too—you won't know until you ask. We must value the life experiences of all kinds of people. We must challenge ourselves to occasionally step outside of our "comfort zone" and reevaluate our assumptions about "them."

Being in the minority is an uneasy and at times uncomfortable position to be in, especially while looking for a seat at lunch. Rand Dining Hall, our campus' main dining hall, is a place where students and faculty eat and socialize with fellow peers. From a bird's eye view, the tables of Rand appear as a kaleidoscope of racial islands. In order to better understand the reasoning behind this segregation, I sat at different lunch tables with people and asked a series of questions regarding their choice of seating. The first table interviewed was a group of Malaysian students, the second was a group of White freshmen, the third was a group of Black females, and the fourth were members of the Greek community.

The group of Malaysian students included two males and three females. Sitting together allow them to create their own Malaysian comfort zone. By sharing a home language and seeing familiar faces allowed them

to create a new familial bond at Vanderbilt. When asked if they would sit next to a stranger, the general consensus was a fear that an attempt at assimilation could end in rejection.

Next, I approached a group of White freshmen, two females and one male, who had met within their first couple days at Vanderbilt. As new students on campus, sitting with a familiar face put them more at ease. Both girls come from rural, small town backgrounds and were shocked and excited about the diversity on campus.

The third table was comprised of Black female athletes who run track. As teammates, their ability to cooperate exists on and off the race track. The consensus at the table was that similar interests are the driving force for their gravitating to one another.

The fourth group was comprised of brothers from the fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon and sisters from the sororities Kappa Gamma

Delta and Delta Delta Delta. Due of time constraints, free time during lunch is preferably spent with familiar faces. When asked about the willingness to be a minority at a lunch table, Hunter Dallas responded by saying, "The definition of minority has completely changed." He felt the term was no longer applicable in some areas because of the transformation and integration taking place all other the nation.

The assumption that segregation exists before even attempting to assimilate hinders the possibility for communicative interactions between students of different backgrounds. We need to ignore socially constructed stereotypes. As a Haitian-American student from New York City, meeting someone from a different background allows a reciprocal interaction, creating a culturally educational experience. The excuse for not sitting at a different lunch table is rooted by fear of vulnerability.

Confederate Hall Contradicts University Values

Joi Howard
ASSOCIATE COMMENTARY EDITOR

Equality is one of the esteemed values of the university; at least that is according to our Mission. Although this is one of the university's ideals, there has been long-standing controversy over the administration's capacity to live up to this value.

This controversy deals with the university's "inability" to drop the Confederate title on one of Peabody College's dormitories, Confederate Memorial Hall. Even though campus maps, publications, and housing assignments refer to the building as simply Memorial Hall, many members of the Vanderbilt community think it would be best to remove the inscribed name from the building because of the Confederacy's discriminatory values.

In 1861, Alexander Stevens, Vice-President of the Confederate States of America (CSA), gave a speech known as the Cornerstone Speech to express the "need" for the CSA government. The foundation of their government according to him;

"Rests upon the great truth that the Negro IS NOT equal to the White man; that slavery—subordination to the superior race—is his natural and normal condition. This, our new government, is the first, in the history of the world, based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth."- Confederate Vice-President.

Though the Confederacy may be a historical issue, the scars resulting from its disheartening oppression remain in the consciences of many African Americans of our university.

The legal battles between the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the University began in 2002 when Chancellor Gordon Gee cited school diversity efforts that would force Confederate Memorial Hall to be "renamed" Memorial Hall.

A lower court ruled in 2003 that the university had a right to remove the name if the UDC received reimbursement in an unspecified sum of money. The inscribed stone name remains on the building as "Vanderbilt continues to believe that they did the right thing for the right reasons to address a decades-long controversy by changing the name of 'Confederate Memorial

Hall," said Michael Schoenfeld, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs.

In actuality, the problem lies here, because the university has not "changed" the name of Confederate Memorial Hall. They have only managed to conceal this issue in media sources such as publications, websites, etc.

As capital seems to be the primary obstacle which prohibits our university from removing the inscribed Confederate name from Confederate Memorial Hall, are we to further believe that Vanderbilt is an "inclusive and welcoming university?" Evidently, the continued inscription of the name contradicts the university's ability to create an all-embracing environment.



Confederate Hall

Leonard Silver/Talented Tenth

POETRY CORNER

I am an ordinary human being who is impelled to write poetry. I still do feel that a poet has a duty to words, and that words can do wonderful things, and it's too bad to just let them lie there without doing anything with and for them.

--Gwendolyn Brooks

Featured Poetic Genius: Gwendolyn Brooks

TO THE DIASPORA

You did not know you were Afrika
When you set out for Afrika
You did not know you were going.
Because
You did not know you were Afrika.
You did not know the Black continent
That had to be reached
Was you.
I could not have told you then that some sun
Would come,
Somewhere over the road,
Would come evoking the diamonds
Of you, the Black continent--
Somewhere over the road.
You would not have believed my mouth.
When I told you, meeting you somewhere close
To the heat and youth of the road,
Liking my loyalty, liking belief,
You smiled and you thanked me but very little believed me.
Here is some sun. Some.
Now off into the places rough to reach.
Though dry, though drowsy, all unwillingly a-wobble,
Into the dissonant and dangerous crescendo.
Your work, that was done, to be done to be done to be done.

ATTENTION POETS:

If you have poetic talent that you want to display in Talented Tenth, contact Angela Moore. (angela.p.moore@vanderbilt.edu)

"A POET HAS A DUTY TO WORDS"

Of Circadian Rhythm By Justin D. Glenn

Walking, talking,
Peering, stalking,
How well synchronized
With the tick of a tock!

Tick...of a tock,
tick...of a tock.

Faithful servants scatter to toil
Above a most vicious yet ingenious of cycles,
Only to realize this state
Of infinite dominion is
An uncontrollable manifestation
Of man's most talented
Yet tragic of assets.

Death of this dictator...
I think not!
'Tis a mighty regime
Independent of neurons,
But virally symbiotic
With their every impulse...

All I can do is sit and wonder,
Challenge the mind, then adamantly ponder,
This wealth and stealth
Of circadian rhythm
That pervades the most
Elusive of dimensions.

Bound in More Ways than One By Angela Moore

(1619)
I was bound.
Bound- by how they thought
Yesterday's tomorrow would be.
Bound by the whips that beat me,
Bound by the shackles
Fitting less pleasant than jewelry.
I was bound by what they thought
Yesterday's tomorrow would be

(1860)
I was bound
By how they treated me.
Still I moved on.
Bound by oppression they gave me
But this pushed me even more.
Bound by inequality detaining me
But I fought-
Fought for freedom
That I wouldn't live
To see

(1960)
So I, I too fought.
Fought for future's freedom
Like no one else could.
Defying every second
Even when some refused.
But you know the end to that story
You are future I only dreamt of

(2006)
But we- we too are bound
Bound and marked generation X.
X for the ones who'll fail
Fail because of forgetfulness-
Forgetfulness of the oppression-
Oppression others went through.
Now all some are concerned about
Are flashy cars and big necklaces

And so I choose
To live for them
The ones in the past
That fought for me.
The ones who were bound
To set my shackles free.

College Daysz

Monday, Sept. 25
12p - NAACP Organization Sign-Up @ Sorrell Hall
6:30 - Medical School Lecture @ the BCC

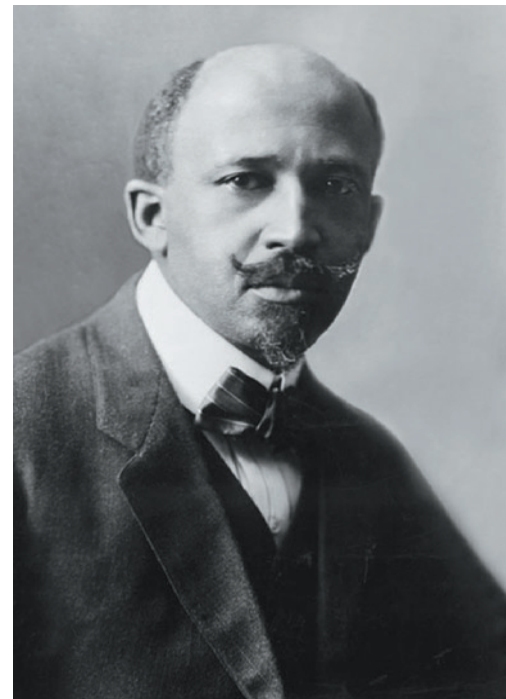
Tuesday, Sept. 26
12p - NAACP Organization Sign-Up @ Sorrell Hall
6:30 - Law School Lecture @ the BCC

Wednesday, Sept. 27
5:00 - Steppin' On The Yard @ Sorrell (by Cole)

Thursday, Sept. 28
12p - NAACP Organization Sign-Up @ Sorrell Hall
6:30 - Women's Appreciation @ the BCC

Friday, Sept. 29
12p - NAACP Organization Sign-Up @ Sorrell Hall
"First of the First" Party w/ Lambda Theta Phi of the Lambda
Theta Phi House on 25th Avenue!

A *First of the First* Production
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



TALENTED TENTH

We are looking for undergraduates and graduates at institutions of higher learning in the greater Nashville area interested in being trained as reporters, photo journalists, graphic designers, and advertisement salespersons.

If you are interested, please email us with your name and contact phone number at chenise.t.upshur@vanderbilt.edu