

tunnel vision

A publication for alumni of student media at Vanderbilt University

ALUMNI

A LOOK BACK

A major market sports writer discovers lessons learned on those long *Hustler* nights paid off

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HISTORY

TIME MARCHES ON

Follow the Vandy student media timeline and see snapshots of moments that changed lives

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If you'd only spent that much time on class papers, who knows? Calculate the investment of effort in VSC by the numbers.

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VTV has gone from few staff in a small dark basement room to many staff in a big bright basement room. Read about the most watched TV on campus.

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TURN UP THE HEAT

Focusing attention on hot button campus issues not only guarantees readers, it can inflame them. See what *The Torch* staff learned.

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...OUR DEBUT

Welcome to the first edition of *Tunnel Vision*, a biannual publication for alumni of student media at Vanderbilt University. In this issue we'll provide you a glimpse of the 10 active media organizations and the students who lead them. We're proud of what we're doing at VSC and want you to know that your contributions and traditions carry on. And we know you're proud of what you're doing now, so please, take time to fill out the update form on page 11 and return it to us. We'll share your news with current and former students in our Spring 2003 issue.

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WRVU General Manager Jennifer Sexton.

Fifty years for WRVU

WRVU staff from years past might find it difficult to recognize the station today. But if they dial up 91.1 FM and listen, they'll know their legacy lives on.

Gone is the dark-roomed labyrinth of graffiti etched walls and sticky carpet, replaced with new construction during the 1999 Sarratt renovation, but the format of independent and non-mainstream music continues as a Nashville fixture.

"WRVU exists to serve both its listeners and the artists whose music we play at the station," said Jennifer Sexton, station general manager and a junior biological sciences major from Niceville, Fla. "Our mission is to expose this area to music you cannot hear elsewhere."

The staff of 80 students, alumni and community volunteers at the station is reminded of WRVU's role by the programming lineup, which includes a number of shows broadcast continuously for more than 10 years. Programs like "George, the Bluegrass Show," "Kynd Veggie Show" and "The Old Record Shop," the latter with host Ken Berryhill, a 1953 Vanderbilt and WRVU alumnus, provide younger DJs a glimpse of the station's mission and roots.

"We appreciate and love what the alumni have done before us," Sexton said. "It's the people who came before us and worked so hard that allows WRVU to be what it is today. What we do each day with a little piece of broadcasting time can change people's lives."

WRVU has been changing the lives of its staff and listeners since its first broadcast in 1953. The station will celebrate its 50th birthday with a concert on Alumni Lawn and special on-air programming on March 28 (see related story on page 4).

As with so many past staff members, WRVU has become a home away from home for Sexton.

"Some of my best days have been spent at the station with some of the best people at Vanderbilt," she said. "Being general manager has taught me confidence, made me more focused, more organized, and given me the opportunity to give back to the music that has given me so much joy and happiness."

"Vice Chancellor Mike Schoenfeld (who currently shares a Wednesday morning WRVU slot with Vice Chancellor David Williams) has said that all he ever needed to know, he learned in college radio. That statement is true for me as well," Sexton said.

Recently, Sexton and her staff were forced to learn to deal with adversity when the rules enforcing the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 went into effect. The act established a new sound recordings performance

We're throwing a party!



You're invited to WRVU's 50th Birthday Bash!

See page 5

Hustler wins national award

The 2001-2002 staff of *The Vanderbilt Hustler* was awarded its first ever ACP Pacemaker at the National College Media Convention in Orlando, Fla., in early November.

Associated Collegiate Press and the Newspaper Association of America Foundation have co-sponsored the Newspaper Pacemaker competition since 1971. ACP began the awards in 1927. The Pacemaker is often referred to in the student media arena as the "Pulitzer Prize" of college journalism.

Judges select Pacemakers based on the following: coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting, leadership on the opinion page, evidence of in-depth reporting, design, photography, art and graphics.

Newspaper Pacemakers are judged in three categories: four-year dailies, four-year non-dailies and two-year papers. Pacemakers are selected by the staff of a professional newspaper in the host city



of the ACP/CMA National College Media Convention (2002 entries were judged by the *Orlando Sentinel*).

Other 2002 ACP Newspaper Pacemaker Winners include: *Auburn Plainsman*, Auburn University; *Golden Gate [X]Press*, San Francisco State University; *Advocate*, Contra Costa College;

Valencia Source, Valencia Community College; *Sentinel*, North Idaho College; *Daily Egyptian*, Southern Illinois University; *Daily Illini*, University of Illinois; *Daily Northwestern*, Northwestern University; *College Heights Herald*, Western Kentucky University; *Hullabaloo*, Tulane University; *Harvard Crimson*, Harvard University; *Tech*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *Central Michigan LIFE*, Central Michigan University; *Eastern Echo*, Eastern Michigan University; *Daily Pennsylvanian*, University of Pennsylvania; and *Advance-Titan*, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.



Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. Celebrating 35 years

expanding the tunnel

a Director's note...

Gaining our Vision

by **Chris Carroll**, Director of Student Media

Consider this an unexpected call from an old friend you haven't heard from in a while. I hope it finds you doing well. I'm eager to use it to learn where life has taken you. And it's great to have this chance to tell you that everything here is better than ever, though we still miss you sometimes.

Whether it's been just a few months since you left us, or a few decades, I hope the time you spend reading this new publication fills you with rewarding memories and a sense of pride. You've earned both.

I've seen six classes of you graduate since the idea to create a publication for Vanderbilt student media alumni popped up in conversations with seniors during my first year working here. Well, guys, it's finally here. In conjunction with this Fall's 35th anniversary of the founding of Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc., I'm proud to introduce you to *Tunnel Vision*. You old media tunnel dwellers will immediately recognize the significance of the name, though you might not recognize its namesake. The 1999 Sarratt renovation may have sterilized the halls, but the tunnel spirit remains.

For you graduates from 1996 and before, my name is Chris Carroll, and I'm the media adviser for VSC. I'm the third to fill this role, following in the footsteps of Jim Leeson and Laura Hill. You may learn more about me and my VSC colleagues in the story to the right, but first, I want to let you in on a secret that Jim, Laura and I each know. This is the greatest job in the world. Let me tell you why.

First, it's all about you. The students I work with at Vanderbilt represent some of the brightest, most talented, creative, passionate, respectful and dedicated people anywhere. You offer intellectual challenges, boundless energy, earnest curiosity, and very often high drama and rollicking entertainment.

And it is, after all, a time machine. Though I get older each year, the students in front of me stay pretty much the same age. Can't put a price on that.

Then there's Vanderbilt. Simply mention the name in higher education circles and the well-deserved reaction you see says it all. Truly important things happen here daily. It's humbling to share in that magic. And maybe better still is to enjoy the autonomy of VSC — Vanderbilt without the bureaucracy.

Next is the heart of this whole endeavor. The people who choose to work with Vanderbilt student media make real differences. Every day. You offer contributions to the campus, and beyond, that are critically essential to the vitality of the community. The information you share and forums for debate you provide are the foundations upon which academic freedom and democracy are laid. You serve as a catalyst for positive change with a degree of impact that other student leaders and organizations can only dream about.

But here's the best. Whether it's a former WRVU station manager who just graduated from medical school, a former *Vanderbilt Review* editor fresh out of law school and clerking for a judge, or a former *Hustler* editor knocking them down in the big leagues at a major west coast paper, nothing beats hearing from a VSC alum that his or her experience working in student media was among the most meaningful during a long Vanderbilt college career.

So, please let us hear from you. Email, call, fax or mail the form on Page 11 to us. We want to share your news with other alumni and current students in the next issue. It's time for us to catch up. I promise it will only be six months, not six years, before you hear from us again. So, old friend, give us a call.

Meet the VSC staff of advisers

So, who are these Vanderbilt student media advisers, anyway, and what do they do? Not an uncommon question from students, current and past, and from the occasional grumbling University administrator. Alumni from before 1998 might also ask, "and why are there three of them?"

By design, the industrious students running Vanderbilt media groups have enjoyed a great deal of autonomy. For most of the groups' history, advising duties were handled by a variety of faculty and administrators. In 1977, 10 years after the chartering of Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. the corporation hired its first consulting journalist, Jim Leeson.

Leeson worked as the first VSC employed adviser until the mid-1980s, when Laura Hill was hired to fill the part-time role. Midway through her 10-year tenure, Hill saw her job upgraded to a full-time position. Hill left the position in 1996. Chris Carroll was brought on as media adviser in December 1996.

Each of these advisers was charged with the same multi-faceted role, which centered primarily around providing journalism education, fiscal management and student development.

In recent years as the quality, quantity and complexity of the students' operations grew, Carroll recognized both the necessity and benefit of adding more full-time professional staff. Following financial decisions that resulted in dramatically reduced expenses and increased new revenue, a second full-time adviser, Jeff Breaux, was added in 1998.

In 2001, after yet more successful fiscal management decisions allowed the opportunity, a third full-time position was filled by Aleesa Ross.

Here's a brief biographical sketch of the current advisers:

Chris Carroll

For six years, Chris Carroll has served as the director of student media for VSC, Inc. He fills the role of general manager for the corporation, supervising staff, managing legal and fiscal concerns,



working with the University and external communities and providing training and career counseling. He also serves as the primary adviser to *The Vanderbilt Hustler*, WRVU, VIV, *Orbis* and *The Slant*.

Prior to VSC, Carroll has served as the director of student media at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C., director of student media at Tulane University in New Orleans, La., and journalism instructor and media adviser at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Ark. The media he has advised have been multiple award winners on state, regional and national levels, including ACP Pacemakers and CSPA Gold Crowns.

In commercial media, Carroll served as a reporter and later chief photojournalist for a regional daily newspaper, *The Northwest Arkansas Times* in Fayetteville, Ark.

Carroll has been very active in regional and national journalism education associations. He served as national vice president and then president of College Media Advisers, an association representing 550 colleges and universities. He also served as president of the Southeast Journalism Conference, an association of some 45 schools in seven states.

He has been awarded many of the profession's highest awards, including the Student Press Law Center Distinguished Service Award in 2000, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Key Award in 1999, the CMA Distinguished Four-Year Multi-Media Adviser Award in 1997, The CMA Broadcast Honor Roll Adviser Award in 1991, and the CMA College Newspaper Honor Roll Adviser Award in 1989.

Carroll, a native of Arkansas, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Arkansas Tech University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, respectively. He is married to Mary Beth Carroll, a former program coordinator in the Dean of Students Office at Vanderbilt. They have two daughters, Sarah Harper, 3, and Lindsey Lee, 18 months.

Jeff Breaux

Jeff Breaux joined the VSC staff in 1998 as the marketing director for *The Vanderbilt Hustler*. His role was later expanded to working with all of VSC as assistant director of student media.

Breaux's primary responsibility is serving as the corporation's business manager, which includes overseeing the *Hustler's* advertising operations and the accounting for each of the 10 student divisions and the administrative division.

Additionally Breaux serves students as a technology and graphic design consultant. He is also the primary adviser for the magazine *Spoon*.

Before coming to VSC, Breaux served as the director of student media at Tulane University in New Orleans, La. and as art director for student media at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

Breaux's professional experience in freelance graphics includes working as the creative designer for the band Hootie and the Blowfish, and designer for the National Orientation Directors Association scholarly journal. He also serves as an instructor in yearbook design and organization for an independent national college yearbook workshop.

He is active in national student media organizations and has served as the vice president of Southern University Newspapers, art director of College Media Advisers' flagship journal *College Media Review* and editor of CMA's *Best of Collegiate Design*.

Breaux's work in student media was recognized by his peers in 2001 when he was presented the national CMA Distinguished Four-Year Business Adviser Award.

During his undergraduate career, he served as sports editor, assistant editor and editor-in-chief of *The Potpourri Yearbook*.

Breaux, a native of Louisiana, earned a bachelor's degree in advertising design from Northwestern State University in Louisiana and a master's degree in media arts from the University of South Carolina.

Aleesa Ross

Aleesa Ross is the newest addition to VSC's full-time staff. She has served as assistant director of student media since August 2001.

Before coming to Vanderbilt, Ross was a high school journalism and English teacher at Fairview High School in Williamson County near Nashville. While at Fairview, Ross advised the yearbook and newspaper staffs and the student council. Under her leadership the students on the yearbook staff revitalized the newspaper, *The Jacket Journal*, and began printing issues again.

She is the primary adviser for *Commodore*, *Versus*, *The Torch* and *The Vanderbilt Review*. Because



of Ross' high school advising experience, she serves as the executive director of the newly formed Middle Tennessee Scholastic Press Association. Ross also works on recruiting new students for the staffs, serves as the VSC board of directors secretary, maintains all student association mem-

berships, critiques publications and assists with staff training, media workshops and student career counseling.

Ross, a native of Texas, graduated from Texas Tech University in 1998 with degrees in journalism and English. During her college days, Ross worked on the *La Ventana* yearbook staff for three and a half years, serving as reporter, section editor, copy editor and editor-in-chief. The volume Ross edited, the 1997 *La Ventana*, was an Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker finalist. Additionally, she worked as a reporter and copy editor for Texas Tech University's student newspaper, *The University Daily*, and was the assistant editor and editor-in-chief of the *Amigos! New Student and Freshman Directory* staff.

Ross is married to Brent Ross, assistant media relations director for the Vanderbilt University Athletic Department.

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Tunnel Vision is published by Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc.

Edited by **Chris Carroll**
 Stories by **Chris Carroll** and **Aleesa Ross**
 Photos by **Chris Carroll**
 Layout and Design by **Jeff Breaux**
 Printed by **Franklin Web Printing, Co.**

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VANDERBILT
 STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
 Student Media at Vanderbilt University

Versus grows in size, frequency



Versus Editor-in-Chief Kate Zabbia.

Campus student magazines are known to suffer from the occasional identity crisis. Not so with *Versus*.

"In relation to the other publications on campus, *Versus* is like the cool older sister," said Editor-in-Chief Kate Zabbia. "She's been around for a long time, but she still knows the places to go, people to meet, and restaurants to hang out and eat in. She's the creative, artsy one who always seems to have something to say."

Versus began as a weekly newspaper in 1968 as a conservative alternative to the more liberal *Hustler*. In 1972 *Versus* turned from news to literature and art, and then in 1973 became focused on countercultural issues. Sometime in the 1980s, *Versus* changed to its current traditional magazine format.

"There is a file cabinet in the office with magazines dating back to the early 1970s," said Zabbia, a junior Human and Organizational Development/Women's Studies double major from Ponchatoula, La. "We cherish that file cabinet."

"The decades of indexed magazines are a wealth of knowledge and heritage that we do not take lightly," she said. "We use the

cabinet for direction and inspiration."

Versus has grown in both size and frequency compared to its recent past. The student staff of about 25 publishes eight issues of 24 pages each year.

"Because our magazine is bigger this year, my demand to the rest of the staff is larger," Zabbia said. "We sometimes have to brainstorm more, stretch ideas longer and spend more time in meetings."

"Brainstorming is a key ingredient to our success," she said. "Each meeting we brainstorm

ries that have to do with Vanderbilt and Nashville community," Zabbia said. "We also do restaurant, web, movie, music and book reviews, opinions and in-depth interviews, all to reach the different aspects of Vanderbilt culture."

In addition to the printed publication, *Versus* has now launched an active website, www.versusmag.org.

"The site allows people to see the magazine from anywhere. Students abroad, parents, alumni and virtually anyone can see the forum we have to present," Zabbia said.

Zabbia said she gravitated to the magazine initially looking for a creative outlet.

"I decided by the middle of my sophomore year that I really loved and respected the magazine, and I wanted to take a leadership role within the division.

"Nothing motivates me more than seeing the finished product, being able to rip open the brown box when the printer drops off the magazines and see stacks and stacks of the staff's ideas and efforts put into paper and ink," she said. "That is a great feeling."

with everyone present — editors, writers and designers. Together we discuss openly what we want published."

And what is published is described by the staff as a barometer of Vanderbilt culture. Recent cover stories have tackled topics like diversity and academic integrity.

"We write general interest sto-

bright lights *an alumni column...*

Covering Vandy's past

by Lee Jenkins, staff writer, *Orange County Register*

Sometimes, my friends and I break out our old bound volumes.

We thumb through the faded newsprint, with stories about Playfair and the Provost, reciting our favorite headlines and laughing at our most egregious typos.

We live in New York, in Atlanta and in Denver. From my apartment in Los Angeles, I call them whenever Vanderbilt's football team blows a lead in the closing minutes, and I'm searching for someone to share my rage.



Jenkins as pictured in his columnist's photo in *The Vanderbilt Hustler*, 1998.

We're all still in newspapers, trying to re-create the fun we had in college, writing the kinds of stories we pushed past editors at *The Hustler*. Of course, it was much easier back then because *we* were the editors.

Since graduating in 1999, I moved from the college paper to a mid-size paper to a large paper, where I now cover the UCLA football and men's basketball teams.

Though my weekly road trips no longer take me to The Grove at Ole Miss or The Swamp at Florida, I am constantly reminded of the experiences and relationships forged in the wee hours of production nights at *The Hustler*.

We covered a plane crash, a suicide and a tornado, all of which taught us the importance of depth and the value of compassion.

We covered people bigger than ourselves, like presidents and chancellors and Nobel Prize winners, who taught us to grow up and act older than our age.

And we covered Vanderbilt students who reminded us that it's easier to write about an audience when you're one of them.

But we also fought for rights as reporters and respect as an independent medium. When our funding was cut in half, we went on strike. And when no one seemed to care, we came back two weeks later, refusing any university assistance help. For many of us, that meant more than a diploma.

Since we couldn't afford certain new-age computer equipment, we had to bring back some of the most old-school newspaper traditions.

Before sending the paper to the printer at night, we would cut all of the pages with an exacto knife and then tape them to cardboard sheets with glue sticks. The exercise, called "paste-up," felt like high-level arts and crafts.

Since we were usually exhausted, and the exacto knives were always sharp, we often gave blood to those pages. But we left with something more vital.

Although my Vanderbilt experience included creative writing classes, fraternity parties and memorable Nashville nights, most of my lasting memories and friendships came courtesy of *The Hustler*.

I remember my former editor, *New York Times* baseball writer Tyler Kepner, reminding me to always make one more phone call to get a story straight.

I remember my managing editor, *Greenwich Time* reporter Neil Vigdor, missing most of his classes so we could get the paper out by deadline.

And I remember fellow Grantland Rice scholarship winner Daniel Wolken, who's now a *Colorado Springs Gazette* sportswriter, penning his third story at midnight to help fill the last few inches.

I think about them -- not only when Vanderbilt loses a game -- but also when it's late at night, and I'm sitting in an 80,000-seat stadium, and the sentences are starting to blur on my computer screen.

That's when I recall the sweet smell of Pancake Pantry on a morning after we worked all night.

And the words always seem to come easier.

Submit your work to the Review

Alumni are invited to submit their original poetry, fiction and art for consideration for inclusion in 2003 edition of *The Vanderbilt Review*.

The receipt deadline to send materials to be considered is Jan. 6, 2003.

Contributors should send two copies of an original work, one that includes the creator's name, address, phone and email, and one copy with no identifying information. Art and photography submissions should be sent in the form of 35mm slides/transparencies.

All submissions should be sent to The Vanderbilt Review, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, VU Station B 357016, Nashville, TN 37235-7016.

Questions may be directed to vanderbiltreview@hotmail.com or by phone to 615-322-6594.

Reach out and click someone on new list

Student media alumni now have a new way to keep in touch.

Want to re-live one of those long nights on deadline with a fellow former publication staff insomniac, celebrate or commiserate the latest Commodore athletic outcome, or simply locate and catch up with a former student media colleague?

Vanderbilt's Office of Alumni Relations has created an email discussion list open exclusively to former staff members of any of the University's student media. Alumni discussion groups are designed for alumni with similar

interests, members of the same class year, or members of the same student organizations. Once subscribed, members of the discussion list may read and post messages.

To join the list, point your web browser to the Dore2Dore online community page at www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/onlineserv.htm. You will need to log in (instructions are provided for first time users), then click the link for alumni discussion groups.

Next, click on group "vu-VSC (VU Student Communications)" and follow the instructions provided.

Second-term editor a first for *Review* staff

The editor of *The Vanderbilt Review* began this school year with the knowledge that she had some big shoes to fill. Her own.

For the first time in the *Review's* history, this showcase for prose, poetry and art is under the leadership of a re-elected editor-in-chief, Jennifer Casale, a junior English-creative writing major from Indianapolis, Ind.

"We're very proud of last year's edition. We worked hard to publicize the deadline, and in turn, we got more submissions than ever before and we were able to produce a really strong book," Casale said. "Now we want to continue to build on last year's growth."

One way to ensure that growth, she said, is to include as many voices as possible.

"I'm proud that we have increased the staff size from nine people two years ago to 23 students on staff today," she said. "It is important for more students to get involved and it's clear that the increase in staff has had a successful and positive impact."

Since its debut in 1985, the *Review* has developed an exemplary reputation for quality. The publication has received many awards, including multiple national Gold Crowns from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Heading an organization with these traditions would be daunting to some.

"I have to admit that the responsibility of continuing the legacy is motivating," Casale said. "Plus, I feel there are so many rewards. I get to learn how to handle myself in different situations, I get to read and see a lot of really talented people's work from Vanderbilt, and I feel like the final product is a huge reward."

"There was nothing like opening that first box last spring when the shipment of books arrived," she said. "Then to have people approach us to tell how much they appreciated the publication and how much they enjoyed reading it. The positive feedback is an amazing reward



The Vanderbilt Review Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Casale.

as well."

In past years, the *Review* has featured interviews and work from writers such as Robert Penn Warren, Roy Blount, Jr. and Bobbie Ann Mason. This year's edition, available in early April, promises to make its own mark.

"We are going to have some really great features in this issue," Casale said. "I don't want to ruin our surprises, but it will be amazing, so don't miss it."

Special recognition is given in each year's edition, along with a cash prize, to the student winners of the Vanderbilt Review Art Award, Vanderbilt Review Fiction Award and the Guy Goffe Means Poetry Award. Faculty members in the

University's art and English departments serve as judges for the competition.

The *Review* was formed as a consolidation of three previous published volumes of student work: *The Poetry Review*, *The Photography Review*, and *Scrivener*. Staying true to its roots, the *Review* accepts submissions of poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, photography and art from Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and alumni.

This year's staff is working to

initiate some traditions of its own, Casale said.

"Some of our staff volunteered to work at The Southern Festival of Books," she said. "It

literary event."

Though the role of editor of the *Review* is not new to her, Casale said the second term experience is equally meaningful.

"I would say that every challenge that has come up has been an amazing learning experience," Casale said. "The lessons we are learning together, from meeting deadlines to solving

"I have to admit that the responsibility of continuing the legacy is motivating. Plus, I feel there are so many rewards. I get to learn how to handle myself in different situations, I get to read and see a lot of really talented people's work from Vanderbilt, and I feel like the final product is a huge reward." Jennifer Casale

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VSC, by the numbers...

• Copies of VSC publications distributed in 2001-02	434,200
• Student portraits printed in the 2002 Commodore	1,785
• Popsicles in October 2002 <i>Versus</i> cover photo	41
• VSC students attending national media conventions in 2002	17
• VSC divisions (media organizations) in Fall 2000	6
• VSC divisions (media organizations) in Fall 2002	10
• Decades during which WRVU DJ Ken Berryhill has been an active DJ	7
• National awards won by VSC media in 2002	4
• Former <i>Hustler</i> editor-in-chiefs elected to the U.S. Senate	1
• Macintosh computers in use in VSC offices	28
• Hours of Persian music broadcast on WRVU in October 2002	8
• <i>The Slant</i> t-shirts featuring Chancellor E. Gordon Gee	2
• Hours "Vanderbilt Sports Weekly" on VTV each week	10.5
• Square feet of Sarratt Student Center space occupied by VSC	3,158
• Square feet of Stapleton space occupied by VTV studio	1,060
• Pizzas consumed during typical <i>Orbis</i> production night	3
• Percentage of 2001-02 VSC funding generated by sales, service and other revenue efforts	60
• Former <i>Hustler</i> staffers currently working for <i>The New York Times</i>	2
• Presentations showcasing VSC before the Vanderbilt Board of Trust since 1998	2
• Students on staff of VSC groups Fall 2002	437
• Years Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. has existed	35
• Pulitzer Prize winners featured in the 2000 <i>Vanderbilt Review</i>	1
• Copies of <i>The Torch</i> burned in protest on live campus television	1

You're invited to WRVU's 50th Birthday Party!

To celebrate 50 years of broadcasting, the staff of student radio station WRVU are inviting alumni, current students and area community listeners to a birthday concert on Vanderbilt's Alumni Lawn on Friday, March 28.

The celebration is scheduled to include concerts from 4-11 p.m. by local bands, a headline act and performances from WRVU alumni now working in the music industry. The station will also broadcast live from Alumni Lawn and include special guest DJs representing WRVU's five decades of programming.

The celebration will also serve as the opening event for Vanderbilt's annual Parents' Weekend event.

WRVU aired its first official program March 30, 1953 at 8 p.m. Station Manager Jim Buchman, Program Directors Ray Gill and Dick Thorpe, and Head Engineer Raphael Smith broadcast programming through the electrical wires on campus to dormitories and most fraternity and sorority houses.

Birthday organizers continue to seek sponsors and volunteers to support the event. To help, contact Station Manager Jennifer Sexton at jennifer.c.sexton@vanderbilt.edu.



Hustler staff maintains celebrated legacy

As *The Vanderbilt Hustler* enters its 115th year of publishing, the students determining its content today are constantly aware of the difference the newspaper has made in the past.

"This newspaper is an institution," said Editor-in-Chief Alex Burkett, a senior American and Southern Studies major from Dalton, Ga. "We try to live up to the difficult job we have, realizing we have no formal journalism training. But we try our best to fill the shoes of former *Hustler* staff who have gone on to do great things, acting as the stewards of something great."

The staff's efforts to maintain the paper's legacy were recognized recently when the 2001-02 *Hustler* received a national Pacemaker award from Associated Collegiate Press, long considered the Pulitzer Prize for college media (see related story on page 1).

"It's exciting and encouraging to be part of an organization that is enjoying national recognition for the work that it has done," Burkett said. "But I think our biggest accomplishment is breaking some major stories that have made national ripples: the renaming of Confederate Memorial Hall, a story we broke, stands out."

With nearly 100 students working in various roles delivering information to the Vanderbilt community, *The Hustler* still struggles with the age-old challenge of student body apathy, according to Burkett.

"I don't think enough people understand what we're trying to do here," he said. "We provide information that stands potentially to change their entire modus operandi at Vanderbilt.



The Vanderbilt Hustler Editor-in-Chief Alex Burkett.

Some of the things we report could theoretically cause them to act in dramatically different ways.

"A great many students simply don't care about some of the important issues facing this University. And that makes it very difficult to attract quality reporters — people who are interested in making a difference."

Fortunately, *The Hustler* has an impressive track record for finding the few students who are passionate about working for positive change. Many of these luminaries were featured in "The Hustler Chronicles" which appeared in the Fall 2002 issue

of *Vanderbilt Magazine* for alumni.

This reminder of former editors' achievements helps motivate the current staff to continually improve the newspaper, Burkett said.

"Our current goal is to expand our readership, to incorporate more of what more people want to read. It's their paper.

"One of the things I've stressed this semester is that *The Vanderbilt Hustler* is a communi-

ty newspaper," Burkett said. "People don't want to read about wide-reaching and abstract issues all the time. They need some local color.

"I don't think enough people understand what we're trying to do here. We provide information that stands potentially to change their entire modus operandi at Vanderbilt." Alex Burkett

"And I think we'll truly capture the entire marketplace of readers

once we put something in the newspaper for everyone," he said. "We've come a long way this semester in adding content, but we've still got a way to go." Burkett suggests that his staff

members hold some of the highest-stress student jobs at Vanderbilt. There's no question that the jobs require a tremendous investment of time and sacrifice, but at least for Burkett, the reward is worth it.

"Picture it this way: you're sitting in the back of a crowded lecture hall before class," he said. "You're looking forward at about 200 students, all of whom are reading the newspaper, reading and pointing at articles you edited or wrote.

"You get the sense that they're going to do something different as a result. That's when you know your work is important."

WRVU, cont. from page 1

royalty that webcasters must pay to copyright holders. The new fees, coupled with onerous record-keeping requirements have proven prohibitive to most college radio webcasters.

"Our station had a rather large webcasting audience, with some particular shows having a worldwide Internet following, but the DMCA forced us to shut down our RealAudio broadcasts," she said. "It was difficult to both understand the technical jargon of the ruling and to convey that information to the staff."

The blow to the station's programming did bring an unexpected result, however.

"I was so proud of the station after the ruling became effective. Everyone pulled together and effectively signed petitions, researched the ruling and generally became more pro-active," Sexton said. "I've seen more unity and harmony at the station and the willingness to work together to become a better radio station. They've stepped up to the challenge."

Though WRVU's Internet broadcast is at least temporarily silent, Middle Tennessee listeners will soon be hearing the station with greater clarity and reg-

ularity than ever before.

A new state-of-the-art transmitter and antenna will be installed at the WSM Nob Hill tower site within the next couple of months, replacing the more than 20-year-old existing equipment.

The old transmitter and

"We appreciate and love what the alumni have done before us. It's the people who came before us and worked so hard that allows WRVU to be what it is today." Jennifer Sexton

antenna models, which are no longer manufactured, were becoming increasingly difficult and costly to repair, and were prone to failure during cold weather, according to chief engineer Carl Pedersen.

The nearly \$75,000 cost for the new equipment will come from the Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. reserve fund. The VSC, Inc. Board of Directors voted for the allocation after attempts to solicit underwriting from the University and other sources failed.

The new equipment should

secure WRVU's place among Nashville's airwaves, representing a quantum leap from the station's beginning.

WRVU began as a low-power AM carrier current station that could only be heard by students in campus buildings. In 1973, the station moved to the FM band and increased power to 430 watts. In 1980, stereo broadcasting was added, followed in 1985 with a power increase to 14,500 watts.

In 2002, the student staff maintains ambitious goals to add to the station's progressive past.

"I see WRVU as one of the top college radio stations in the nation and one of the best places to find under-represented music," Sexton said. "I see a station that works to bring the best music acts to Nashville, works hard to promote them, and is an asset to Music Row.

"It is the drive to take something I love and to improve upon it that keeps me pushing through the stress of being the general manager," she said. "It's my way of leaving my mark on Vanderbilt University."

VSC board revises bylaws

In its first major bylaws revision in years, the Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. board of directors voted to change its structure beginning in Fall 2002.

Operating under the old bylaws, the membership of the board had grown to 28 members, an increase necessitated by the creation of four new student publications.

"The size of the board made meetings with full attendance practically impossible," said Director of Student Media Chris Carroll. "Coordinating the busy schedules of so many students and faculty was unwieldy, which resulted in meetings being less effective."

After spending the entire 2001-02 academic year discussing changes and drafting proposals, the board unanimously approved a bylaws revisions on April 10, 2002.

"The number of voting members was reduced to eight, with the spirit of the original bylaws retained with respect to ensuring majority student representation," Carroll said.

As required in the bylaws, Vanderbilt Chancellor E. Gordon Gee approved the revision on Sept. 5, 2002.

The voting composition of the new board includes three faculty members, four student representatives from the student body and one student representative from the newly formed Media Council. Non-voting members of the board include the associate vice chancellor for student life, one professional print journalist, one professional broadcast journalist, the director of student media and the board secretary.

Each of the student leaders of the 10 VSC, Inc. media organizations hold a seat on a new Media Council. The leaders elect one from their membership to represent the Council on the VSC, Inc. board.

A full copy of the revised bylaws is available online at www.vscmedia.org.

Commodore develops photo-focused book

Even though it is the oldest student publication on campus, the *Commodore* may surprise readers this year with its new approach to yearbook content.

"I've set out to use some nontraditional elements in creating and sculpting the 2003 *Commodore*," said Editor-in-Chief Houston Ruck, a senior American and Southern studies major from Newark, Del.

Getting the staff of 20 to open creative channels and question the importance of visual representation in relation to journalistic content has been a major focus, Ruck said.

Ruck is expanding an approach begun with the 2002 book that departs from classic yearbook format in favor of more informal, photo-oriented content. The 2002 *Commodore* was awarded a third place ranking at the Associated Collegiate Press Best of Show competition in Orlando in early November.

"We didn't know how judges and audiences would approach the 2002 *Commodore* since it rejected so many elements of a traditional yearbook," Ruck said. "To win third place in Orlando means that we're being recognized for our departure from the norm, which is very exciting for us."

Despite the changes in style, the essence of the *Commodore*, according to Ruck, remains capturing the school year in words and pictures.

"I think the yearbook has a unique opportunity as a journalistic tool for student media," he said. "The *Commodore* has the duty of reminding its reader of the social, academic and political environment over a time span from today to 50 years from today."

"I want this year's *Commodore* to function as a witness to the year's most pressing issues, either through the visual medium of compelling photographs or the textual method of good article copy. Capturing the year and giving it the distinction of showcasing this year alone is what I want the book to do."

The *Commodore* carries with it a rich history, including being the most critically celebrated of the Vanderbilt student media. The book has won a number of national awards including multiple Associated Collegiate Press Pacemakers and Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Crowns.

Members of the University's fraternities first published the yearbook as the *Comet* in 1887. In 1909 the book's name was changed to *Commodore* in response to a campus movement to unite the school under a common mascot and identity.

About 1915 the *Commodore* evolved from a fraternity publication to a University-wide yearbook. The book came under Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. control in 1967.

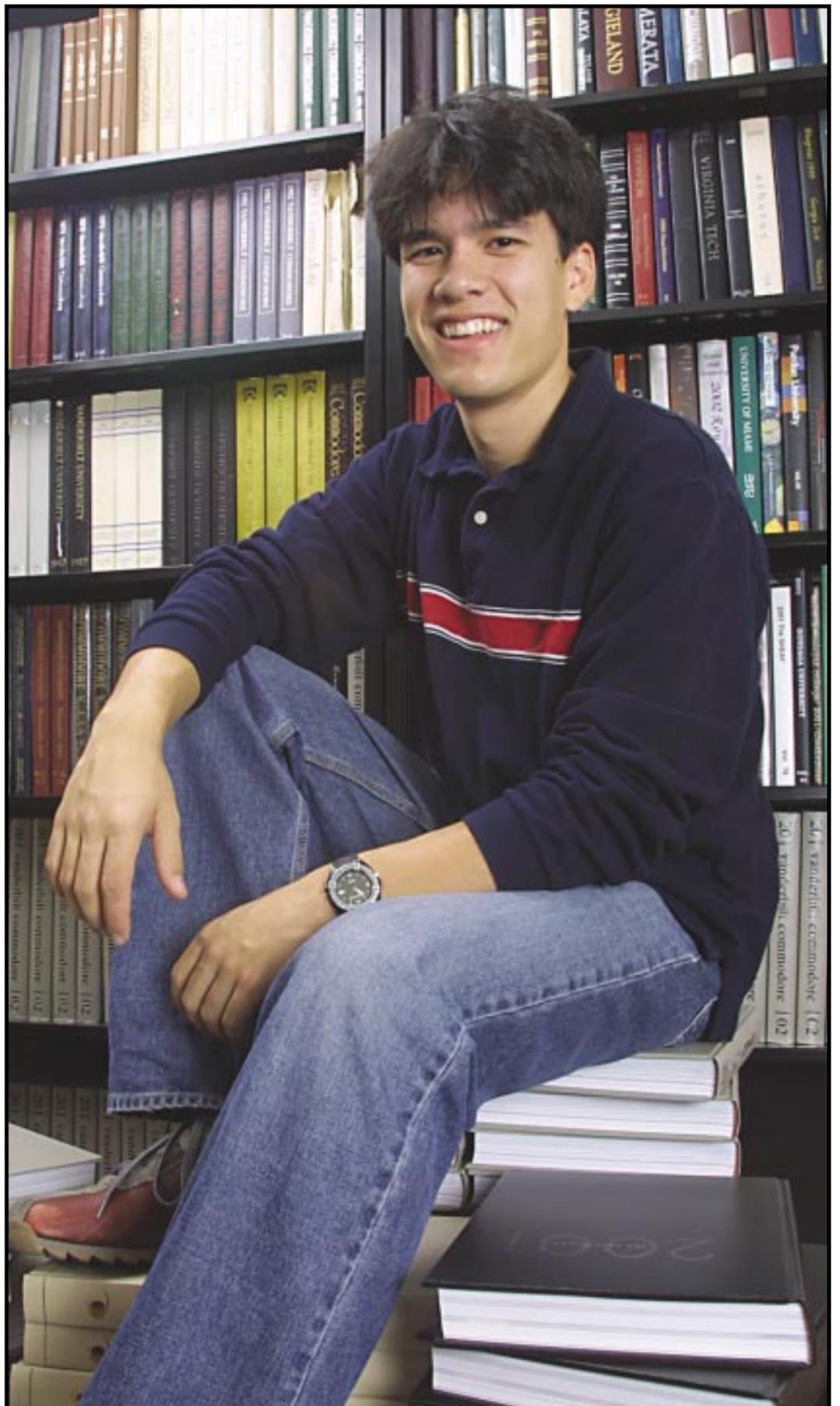
Ensuring the yearbook is representative of the entire campus in staffing and content is a continuing goal.

"Assembling a staff that speaks to a cross section of the University has been something I've been proud of," Ruck said. "I feel like we can easily include a wide spectrum of the Vanderbilt community through the extra-organizational associations of this staff."

Ruck came to his leadership role at the *Commodore* after holding four editor positions with *The Vanderbilt Hustler*. Despite his experience, Ruck said there is still much that he may learn.

"I regard my involvement with the *Commodore* as well as the years spent with *The Hustler* as an integral part of my Vanderbilt education," he said. "Time spent at the *Commodore* is not so much a sacrifice, but an opportunity to spend time with friends and expand my skills as a journalist. In effect, I'm supplementing my Vanderbilt education."

"The *Commodore* has the duty of reminding its reader of the social, academic and political environment over a time span from today to 50 years from today." Houston Ruck



Commodore Editor-in-Chief Houston Ruck.

Breaking the mold...

The 2002 edition of the *Commodore* broke away from typical yearbook tradition, focusing heavily on photography and not using the standard section divisions. Instead, the staff divided the book chronologically.



Student media began making an impact at Vanderbilt as soon as four years after the University's founding in 1873. Follow the timeline to the right to be reminded of a few of the student media turning points. Notice important dates missing? Be sure to let us know.

1887

The *Commodore* yearbook (then called the *Comet*) is first published



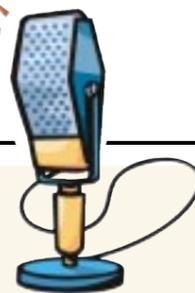
1888

The *Vanderbilt Hustler* begins publication



1909

Comet yearbook changes its name to *Commodore*



1953

WRVU begins broadcasting as an AM carrier current station

1967

Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. formed



1968

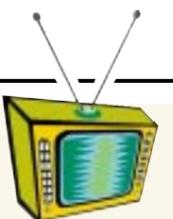
Versus begins publishing

1973

WRVU moves to the FM band with 430 watts

1980

WRVU begins broadcasting in stereo



1985

Vanderbilt Video Productions is formed

1985

The Vanderbilt Review makes its debut

Moving to all-digital format big step for VTV

Major television executives might be surprised by the shows Vanderbilt students tune into each night. The most popular don't appear on the networks or prime cable providers.

Campus Channel 6, with original student-produced programs like "Vanderbilt Sports Weekly," "Arrested Development," "VuPoint" and "Vusic," has captured the attention of campus residents, thanks to the efforts of Vanderbilt Television.

"VTV has a lot of momentum right now to become one of the best campus television stations in the nation," said Station Manager Matthew Saul, a senior economics major from Dalton, Ga. "There was a lot of potential with VTV that was not realized until the past couple of years."

VTV began as Vanderbilt Video Productions in 1985 with a focus on videotaping events on campus and producing a video yearbook. That mission evolved into a television station in 1992 with a goal to produce original programming created by students for students.

"The station has grown steadily in the past four years," Saul said. "At the beginning of the academic year 1999, there were only seven people working at the station. The only show on the air on a consistent basis was VTV Sports."

"Now our numbers have grown to include more than 50 people working for the station and we have five student produced shows that air every week," he said.

The biggest problem VTV faces, Saul said, is recruiting students and keeping them interested in television. Another challenge is keeping the station in good working order and having the best equipment to produce professional programs.

That problem was at its worst when VTV was housed in two small, cinder block rooms in the basement of Lupton Hall. The station was difficult to find and presented an image that turned away all but the most dedicated



VTV Station Manager Matthew Saul.

volunteers.

To provide VTV with a step up, Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. struck a deal with University Housing in the summer of 1999 and invested in the construction of a new 1,060 square foot studio in the basement of Stapleton Hall.

The new facilities, coupled with the purchase of much needed new equipment, provided VTV leaders with the tools to transform the station.

"We have been able to make our studio user friendly in every aspect, from sound to cameras," Saul said. "This allows the students to produce shows without taking too much time or having too much technical expertise. Now we've increased our staff numbers and we put out quality

programming 24/7."

A primary focus of the station now, Saul said, is content.

"We have developed a programming lineup and shows that should last for many years," he said. "This year we also added Zilo television, a syndicated program for college audiences. Zilo combined with Burly Bear (another syndicated show) gives us alternative quality programming from outside the Vanderbilt bubble."

The next challenge for VTV is keeping up with the ever-changing technology of television.

"I hope the station can progress to a fully digital status," Saul said. "By moving the station to an all digital format, we will be able to produce high quality programs that are not currently possible. It would also allow more students the opportunity to produce shows."

A number of VTV alumni from the organization's early years have gone on to be successful in local and national television. Saul said he is aware of the high standards set by these

former students.

"The station has progressed every year since I have been here,

and I want to do everything possible to ensure it will continue to grow after I'm gone," he said.

"By moving the station to an all digital format, we will be able to produce high quality programs that are not currently possible. It would also allow more students the opportunity to produce shows." Matthew Saul

Live, from Kirkland Hall!



New technology has put a long-held dream of VTV within its grasp.

"We have focused on developing the capability to produce live programming from any point on campus," said Station Manager Matthew Saul.

The installation of a campus-wide fiber optic cable network and the development of audio/video encoders and decoders have combined to provide a relatively inexpensive alternative to satellite trucks and microwave links.

Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. allocated \$14,000 this fall to purchase the new digital equipment that will enable VTV to broadcast by accessing any data jack on campus.

"This will help us connect with our audience and give instant access to every residence hall room on campus," Saul said. "We are looking forward to using this technology for sporting events, lectures, programs and other various on-campus events."

The new equipment is expected to be in use this spring.

- 1985** WRVU increases its broadcasting power to 14.5 kW
- 1997** Vanderbilt Video Productions becomes VTV
- 1998** *The Vanderbilt Hustler* becomes financially independent
- 1999** VTV moves into new studio in Stapleton Hall
- 2000** *The Slant* first published as product of VSC, Inc. associate division
- 2000** Sarratt renovation completed
- 2001** *The Torch* first published as product of VSC, Inc. associate division
- 2001** *Orbis* first published as product of VSC, Inc. associate division
- 2001** VSC, Inc. process for receiving AcFee funds changed
- 2001** *Orbis* granted VSC, Inc. full division status
- 2002** *Spoon* first published as product of VSC, Inc. associate division
- 2002** MTSPA created
- 2002** *The Torch* granted VSC, Inc. full division status
- 2002** Newly revised VSC, Inc. bylaws ratified by Chancellor Gordon Gee

Orbis strives to challenge social atmosphere

To address a perceived global view on campus not as fully rounded as they would like, a group of students launched *Orbis* in the Fall of 2001.

Created to focus on liberal, minority and multicultural viewpoints, *Orbis* covers news, politics, art, religion, culture and student opinion in an attempt to "change the atmosphere on Vanderbilt's campus," said Editor-in-Chief Jay Prather.

"Orbis is Latin for both 'world' and 'circle,'" Prather said. "We felt the word 'orbis' exemplified the unifying goals we had in creating *Orbis*."

Orbis traces its roots to the aftermath of the 2000 presidential election, when a group of students saw an opportunity and a need to establish a forum for the growing but largely unorganized population of liberal-leaning students on campus.

Four students, led by Andrew Harris (class of 2001) and including Prather, began building a coalition of students representing various progressive and multicultural organizations. This group was charged with establishing a direction for the publication and selecting permanent leadership. A number of the organizations represented, along with faculty, students and parents, provided the initial financial backing for *Orbis*.

"Despite Vanderbilt's conservative reputation, there is an opportunity for this school to have even more vibrant and active liberal and multi-

cultural communities than exist now," Prather said. "Vanderbilt is continuing to build diversity in every area, and the campus needs an organ like *Orbis* to bring those sometimes disparate communities together."

Orbis fulfilled all of the requirements established by the Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc., Board of Directors and became a full division in the Spring of 2002. *Orbis* now has a staff of about 40 students.

"Transitioning to our status as a full division of VSC, coupled with a more rigorous publication schedule than last year, and being sure to fully take advantage of the resources that are now available to us have been some of the biggest challenges for me as editor," said Prather, a senior economics and political science major from Somerset, Ky.

In just over a year of publica-

tion, *Orbis* has tackled a number of important campus, local and national issues. Much of the material in the first few issues of *Orbis* was devoted to covering the repercussions of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, particularly the impact of the attacks on Vanderbilt's Muslim community.

Since then, *Orbis* has covered topics ranging from campus multicultural events to Tennessee politics and from religion and sexuality to the "Vandygirl" stereotype. Earlier this year *Orbis* covered a downtown peace rally organized in part by the dean of the Divinity School. Another issue explored the ongoing debate over the income tax in Tennessee from the perspective of some of the most hard-core proponents of the tax, who spent weeks over the summer camped out on the steps of the state capital. The paper recently profiled third-party gubernatorial candidate Ed Sanders.

In another issue, reporter Erin McVay discovered that Vanderbilt's Munchi Marts are wrongfully applying Tennessee's recent sales tax hike, thus overcharging students who purchase basic groceries. Prather, who served as *Orbis'* issues editor and associate editor before becoming editor-in-chief, said the cover-

age of this issue has made him the most proud.

"Our staff worked overtime to get the story on the front page of the next issue, and after the

story ran, Vanderbilt Dining took steps to eliminate the overcharging," he said.

One popular recurring feature, Vandy Faces, profiles a student or faculty member with a unique background or extraordinary accomplishment that sets him or her apart from the image of the typical Vanderbilt student. Each issue, writers debate some timely campus or national issue in the Issues section. The debate is presented alongside a sampling of wider student viewpoints.

According to the mission statement, the founders of *Orbis* hoped to "raise consciousness about the diverse ideas, cultures and backgrounds in our society ... [and] challenge the existing social atmosphere at Vanderbilt."

"I want *Orbis* to build on the solid foundation we laid during our first year of publication by continuing to improve our con-



Orbis Editor-in-Chief Jay Prather.

tent and design with every issue and by developing a new generation of leadership that can really take *Orbis* to the next level," Prather said.

Prather said he sees *Orbis* continuing to thrive in the future.

"I hope *Orbis* will continue to be a voice for Vanderbilt's progressive community while publishing more frequently than the current 10 issues per academic year schedule and expand into more hard-hitting, investigative journalism, as well as continuing to build its audience on campus and in the surrounding community," he said.

Many students and other members of the Vanderbilt community have expressed appreciation that *Orbis* has increased coverage of liberal perspectives and important local issues on campus, Prather said.

"The rewards come in little ways, whenever a student, faculty, or alum tells me how thought-provoking a recent article was, for instance, or how glad they are that liberals have found a voice at Vandy," Prather said.

Prather said media on this campus is as active, diverse and alive as ever.

"Vanderbilt is a world-class

institution, and its media organizations are helping to facilitate a world-class exchange of ideas among students," he said.

Orbis publishes a full online edition concurrently with the release of each print issue. The Web site, including complete archives, can be accessed at www.vanderbiltorbis.com. Alumni and other interested individuals are invited to visit the site and sign up for *Orbis'* online news updates, which are sent out each time a new issue is released and feature links to some of the most compelling articles from each issue.

Help!



Please help us find any student media alumni that may not be receiving *Tunnel Vision*.



The Torch staff illuminates issues

The founders of *The Torch* hoped to spark some incendiary discussions with their new publication, but didn't expect readers to take its name literally.

It happened last year when the publication was "torched" in protest against an opinion piece about need-based financial aid during a live student television show.

"At times we've angered a few people, from those who fashioned literal torches out of our first issue and set them alight, to a consumer activist in California who wrote in to object to our criticism of Ben and Jerry's corporate support of anti-globalization rioters," said Editor-in-Chief Jacob Grier. "Through it all we offered provocative commentary and produced some of the most original writing on campus."

The Torch, which provides the campus with monthly student commentary from libertarian and conservative points of view, was originally conceived by three upperclassmen who found themselves too busy to launch the paper.

In the summer of 2001, Grier

agreed to spearhead the project without any journalism experience.

"I did not have any media experience prior to editing *The Torch*, but when the opportunity to start a new publication arose I jumped at the chance," he said. "In the two previous years I'd become increasingly interested in political issues and wanted to express libertarian views outside of classrooms and coffee shop discussions."

By October 2001 Grier had assembled a team of two associate editors, a layout editor, a financial director, a webmaster and several writers. That month he took a proposal to the VSC Board, who granted *The Torch* associate division status.

"Just a month later our first

issue was on the racks and *The Torch* became an instant household name around campus," said Grier, a junior worldly philosophy major from Spring, Texas.

The staff produced three more issues that year and proved themselves willing to take on controversial issues and speak their minds, he said.

Grier said *The Torch's* name has multiple meanings.

"The most obvious references is to the Statue of Liberty, a symbol meaningful to all of our writers," he said. "For people who have read *Atlas Shrugged*," the name is reminiscent of Wyatt's Torch, a symbolic protest of government seizing property in that novel. Finally, the torch also represents a source of light, illuminating political issues and providing guidance to the future."

In October 2002, *The Torch* became a full division of VSC.

"While the libertarian and conservative elements tend to agree on economic issues, on social issues we often disagree strongly. It's a constant struggle to make sure everyone feels that his views are being presented while maintaining a coherent editorial policy." Jacob Grier

"Our greatest accomplishment so far is thriving through our first year and attaining full division status in VSC," Grier said. "We have now expanded our publica-

tion schedule to four issues a semester and have a very active staff."

That very active staff includes 10 titled members and about 20 additional writers.

"We're the first Vanderbilt publication to integrate the new phenomenon of blogging (short for web-logging) into our website, which promises to keep our staff engaged with the campus in between printed issues," he said.

Grier said to date the greatest challenge for *The Torch* staff has been to balance the views of the editors and writers.

"While the libertarian and conservative elements tend to agree on economic issues, on social issues we often disagree strongly," he said. "It's a constant struggle to make sure



The Torch Editor-in-Chief Jacob Grier.

everyone feels that his views are being presented while maintaining a coherent editorial policy."

As editor-in-chief, Grier said his primary goal is to ensure that the paper develops a life of its own so it will continue beyond the founders.

"This goal is being greatly aided by the addition of our new office, which allows everyone on staff to be involved in production," he said.

Grier said he hopes that in

years to come he will still see *The Torch* producing issues with some of the best writing on campus.

"Hopefully the staff will continue to become increasingly involved and the magazine will grow in popularity on campus and on the web," he said.

To Grier, the reward and motivation for working in student media is the gratification of seeing the product distributed on campus.

"It's a wonderful feeling to see people you don't even know reading your work or referencing *The Torch* editorials in conversation about political and campus issues," he said.

The Torch staff covers all of its own printing costs through advertisements and donations from supporters, Grier said, in order to maintain an edge.

All of the staff's work is available online at www.vutorch.org, including the new public blog.



Visit us online at www.vscmedia.org

Members of the Vanderbilt community are now able to gain up-to-date information about student media at Vanderbilt by accessing Vanderbilt Student Communications' new website www.vscmedia.org.

"The site was created to help alumni, parents and other community members keep in contact with their university through student voices," said Jeff Breaux, assistant director of student media and webmaster of the VSC site.

"Links to websites of each of our 10 media groups may be accessed by visiting our site," Breaux said. "In addition, we now offer subscription forms, advertising rate card packs and other infor-

mation that are normally sought by alumni and parents."

The new site also features information about Vanderbilt Student Communications, including the history of the corporation, a calendar of publishing dates for Vanderbilt's media groups, a list of current student leaders, a record of the awards and honors that student media has earned over the years, plus information about VSC's Alumni Mailing List and the Middle Tennessee Scholastic Press Association.

"We hope the site will be a helpful tool for those community members wishing to stay in close contact with their university," Breaux said.

The Slant provokes reader laughter, protest

Approaching campus life from a slightly skewed perspective has helped *The Slant* become one of the most highly read publications at Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc.'s student humor publication, *Slightly Amusing*, fell dormant in 1998 and was revived by a group of students in 2000.

"The founders immediately changed the name of the new publication to *The Slant*, for reasons unknown, but it probably has something to do with the amount they had to drink the night they came up with it," said Editor-in-Chief David Barzelay, a sophomore English and computer science major from Tampa, Fla.

Regardless of the name, the intent of the new publication remains bringing laughter and satire to the Vanderbilt campus, he said.

"What makes me most proud of our role on campus is seeing students actually reading, enjoying and respecting a student publication — especially one that by its very nature is offensive to many of those same people," Barzelay said. "It means we make people laugh, but beyond that, people are managing to laugh at themselves, which means we make people think."

Reviews on campus of the new humor publication have been mixed, and range from avid readers who snap up the 3,500 copies printed every other week to vocal opponents who charge that *The Slant* teeters over the edge of acceptability.

"Our greatest challenge has been convincing people that the laughter and thought-provoking satire we print is justified in the face of its occasional offensiveness," Barzelay said. "We are the only truly unfiltered and unbiased Vanderbilt forum for people to express an opinion that may not be popular to the masses, and as such, it often offends."

"People these days are more and more willing to give up their right to free speech in favor of political correctness, and we take a lot of crap because we don't submit to this sort of censor-



The Slant Editor-in-Chief David Barzelay.

ship."

The Slant was granted associate division status by the Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. board of directors in spring 2002. Associate division status gives the organization a one-year unfunded probationary period during which it must develop its campus audience.

"As far as funding goes, we are funded entirely through advertising — and the occasional small donation, hint, hint," Barzelay said. "We accept no University funds, because we wish to remain free to make fun of anything on campus we deem making-fun-worthy."

As a way to give the paper a personal touch and reach as many students as possible, the staff of nearly 80 writers goes out each publication day and hand distributes copies on campus, he said.

"Our primary goal this year has been to come out with an issue every two weeks that students actually read and some students actually enjoy,

and which stimulates thought and debate on campus in a way no one other student media outlet has managed to accomplish," he said. "Our secondary goal is

"We are the only truly unfiltered and unbiased Vanderbilt forum for people to express an opinion that may not be popular to the masses, and as such, it often offends." David Barzelay

to have fun making *The Slant* — to be not just a group of people who work on a newspaper, but to be a group of friends who produce a newspaper.

We have one of the most diverse, yet most closely-knit staffs of

any student group, and we like it this way."

Serving as the leader for a campus humor publication is a sacrifice but it has its benefits, he said.

"To be honest, being Editor-in-Chief of *The Slant* makes it very easy to pick up women," Barzelay said. "Of course, the people I work with are fun and all, and it's nice to see something you create making people's lives happier, but all of those rewards pale in comparison to the women... quite an ego trip, you know."

VSC launches association to educate area high school journalists

Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. launched a new organization this fall that will promote high quality student media at Middle Tennessee high schools.

The new group, Middle Tennessee Scholastic Press Association, will operate from within VSC, Inc. and provide educational outreach, potentially recruit strong media students to Vanderbilt and generally elevate awareness of VSC, Inc. programs on campus and regionally.

MTSPA was designed to provide networking opportunities for area high school journalism teachers and students, and to play host to workshops and events to encourage high school students to have a continued involvement with publications/journalism.

Aleesa Ross, VSC, Inc. assistant direc-

tor of student media and MTSPA executive director, said another main focus of the organization is to conduct contests, seminars, conventions and workshops with the intention of stimulating greater efforts from students and advisers to produce quality publications.

"As a former high school teacher in the area, I was always looking for workshops to take my students to or contests in which I could enter their work," Ross said. "There really was not anything like that in Middle Tennessee, and that is why I am so excited about

MTSPA."

Ross said the MTSPA workshop, which will take place March 4, 2003, will offer invaluable experiences for high school students in the Middle Tennessee area. Students will have the

opportunity to have their publications critiqued by professionals and to enter their work in a number of different

award categories. Additionally, professionals from the area will conduct small group sessions and interact with students on a personal level.

"We think it will be extremely helpful



middle tennessee scholastic press association
AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

for students and advisers to attend the workshop in March," Ross said. "We plan to offer sessions that cover adviser issues as well as topics relating to newspapers, yearbooks, news magazines, literary magazines and broadcast staffs."

Ross also said that by having the workshop on Vanderbilt's campus, more area students would become familiar with the University.

"We certainly hope that if area students choose to attend Vanderbilt that they will consider continuing their efforts in journalism by joining one of VSC's 10 groups when they get here," Ross said.

Currently 38 different student staffs from 20 area high schools have joined the association.

Spoon offers new views on art, travel

Spoon, Vanderbilt student media's newest publication, grew out of two students' desire to look at something old in an entirely new way.

"The magazine integrates visual art into intriguing articles and encourages people to think outside the box," said Editor-in-Chief and co-founder Laurel Staples, a junior mechanical engineering major from Nashville. "Though the original idea was to have *Spoon* solely an art magazine, we decided to also incorporate personal travel experiences from around the world."

Staples, along with friend Heather Yost, developed the idea for *Spoon* last year out of a concern that Vanderbilt did not cater to the fine arts as much as it should, she said. Unlike *The Vanderbilt Review*, which is published annually, *Spoon* is published twice a semester and has a more hands-on approach to art.

The magazine was granted associate division status by the Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. board of directors in spring 2002. Associate division status gives the organization a one-year unfunded probationary period during which it must develop its campus audience.

The name for the magazine came from a scene in the movie "Matrix," Staples said.

"To us it means if you can get out of your normal mode of thinking, you can understand simple things in many different ways," she said. "This is one way of looking at art and travel. We hope that readers will form their own opinions of the art and then learn about the artist's point of view, which gives them two different perspectives and helps them see the 'spoon' in a different way."

Creating a new publication

out of thin air has presented its founders with some difficult hurdles to clear.

"Getting funding for *Spoon* has been the greatest challenge of the magazine," Staples said. "Heather and I were repeatedly told that we could never get enough money to produce a publication with such an expensive format. Yet, we have already put out two issues and gone

from a black and white cover to color on the front and back.

"*Spoon* is fully funded by businesses in the Nashville area," she said. "Selling advertise-

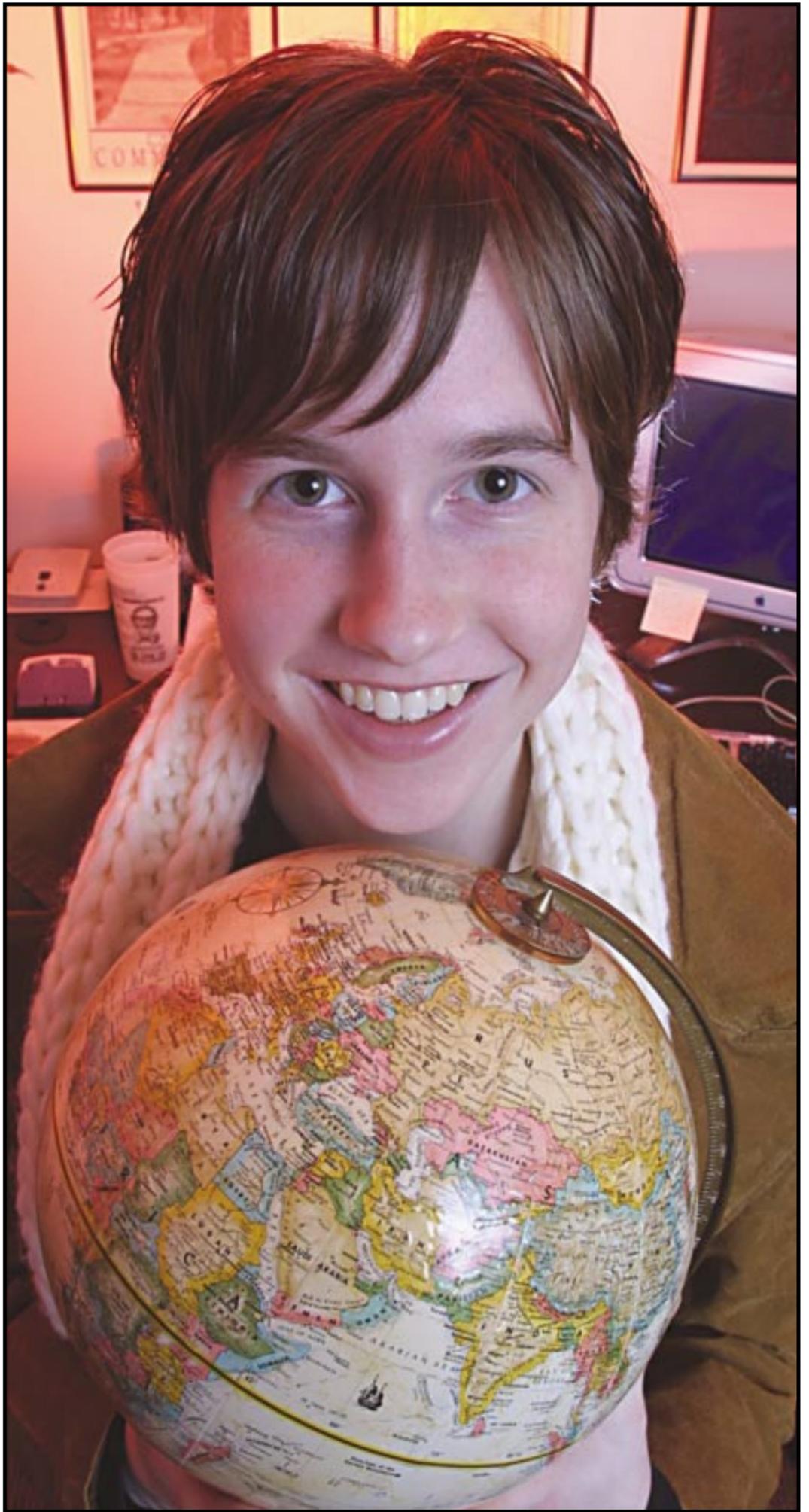
ments is time consuming and difficult, but luckily we have managed to get enough ads each time."

And for a new staff of a new publication, generating revenue is only part of the total picture.

"I would have never thought that creating something like this magazine would be a full-time job," Staples said. "Aside from fully funding ourselves, working with a small staff, and trying to do justice to people's artwork and writing, one of the more difficult aspects of getting started is getting accepted by other publications and the community as a whole."

But the struggles are ultimately worth it, she said.

"Photography has been a love of mine for a long time, and to be able to share this along with the creativity of many other people with the entire Vanderbilt community is a reward in itself," Staples said. "I produce *Spoon* because of my love for art and my curiosity of travel, but at the same time I hope that it is someone else's from of expression that gives even as few as one reader a desire to create something or the ability to think in a new fashion."



Spoon Editor-in-Chief Laurel Staples.



alumni updates

Please complete and return via mail or fax to:

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615-343-2756 (fax)

Questions? 615-322-6610

Our future issues of *Tunnel Vision* will include information about alumni of Vanderbilt student media. If you would like to be included, please complete the information below:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (optional) _____ E-mail (optional) _____
 Years at Vanderbilt _____ Class of _____ Major _____
 Which media group(s) did you work with _____

Tell us about your Vandy student media experience, your career since Vandy, awards and honors you've earned and about your family or other news you would like to share"

Yes, please contact me. I would be interested in submitting an **Alumni Column** for a future issue of *Tunnel Vision*.

***Please attach additional sheets if necessary**

★ **COMMODORE**

STUDENT YEARBOOK

★ **ORBIS**

STUDENT LIBERAL, MULTICULTURAL AND MINORITY VIEWPOINT PUBLICATION

★ **THE SLANT**

STUDENT HUMOR PUBLICATION

★ **SPOON**

STUDENT ART AND TRAVEL MAGAZINE

★ **THE TORCH**

STUDENT LIBERTARIAN AND CONSERVATIVE COMMENTARY MAGAZINE

★ **THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER**

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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