Democrats rally as part of national protest

College Republicans stage separate event in response.

by NICK BEAUCHAMP
Co-Chairman, Young Republicans

"No More War" read a sign held by a standing student amidst a small crowd on Rand Terrace. "Out of Iraq Now," said another, as students chanted and prepared for the peace rally about to take place.

Across campus at Boston Chapel, at a similar event, the sign read differently. "Support Our Troops," and "Victory Not Defeat," were written across cardboard banners held by equally enthusiastic students.

College Democrats across the country designated Thursday as a national day of student protest against the war in Iraq. Vanderbilt College Republicans decided to hold a rally because they wanted to ensure that the democratic voice was not the only one heard.

"The majority of us on campus support victory, not defeat, and that means supporting the war in Iraq," said College Republicans President Evan Slsrank. Eagerly standing with the gathering by the Boston Chapel, he continued, "It's fine to say, 'Let's get out,' but what does that do? Leaves Iraq in chaos and promotes terrorism."

"I've often been disillusioned by how few Vanderbilt students really take a stand and speak out," he said. "I think that this (rally) is a definite opportunity for students to do just that."

The College Democrats had advertised the event all week with posters and flyers present around campus. The College Republicans efforts were more impromptu and generated chiefly to combat those of the College Democrats.

"I think it's good to make the student body aware that people at (Vanderbilt) do have thoughts like this," said sophomore Donna River. "We're generally conservative campus, but it's definitely not unanimously."

Search underway for faculty heads of house

by ANNE MALIN
Staff Reporter

The search process is underway for 10 faculty members who will live in The Commons starting in fall 2008 as faculty heads of house. The College of Arts and Sciences, including students and faculty, will select the recipients from four producers: computer science, mathematics, philosophy and the arts.

"We've got professors who are interested in working with the student body from computer science to the outdoors to music," said search committee member Graham Thompson, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences. "They're as varied as the student body."

Heads of House will live in The Commons and help shape students' first-year experience as members of The Commons' Dean's Council. They will receive an incentive package including salary supplements, reduced course load, research grants, and conference travel.

"It's a nice role for Patricia Fox, Schwartz's family apartment is in the Commons at this stage," said Dean of The Commons Frank Weis.

Study records increase in autism diagnoses

Students react to report's implications.

Sophomore Ashley Hanson expects to field questions when she tells people she tutors a 5-year-old autistic child.

"People are usually impressed or surprised that I do something like that," Hanson said. "Basically, they ask what I do with him and what kind of programs we use."

Hanson does not mind answering the questions, but she said she hopes that a recent study regarding the increased prevalence of autism released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will create an even greater awareness of the disorder.

Autism is one of a group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders. According to the CDC, ASDs are "developmental disabilities that cause substantial impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests." They affect 1 in 150 children; however, the CDC study found the rate to be significantly higher, citing that as many as one in every 136 children may have the disorder.

Hanson, who also works at a camp for children with disabilities, said she has seen the increase firsthand.

"I think it is somewhat of a trend," Hanson said. "It would be a camp for children with disabilities, and in the last couple of years I feel that the diagnosis of autism has increased."
WORLD
U.S. and British rank last in child welfare in industrialized world

The United States ranked 20th and Great Britain ranked 21st in a U.S. survey of child welfare in 18 healthy countries.

The survey assessed everything from infant mortality to whether children could eat dinner with their parents or were bullied at school.

The Netherlands, followed by Sweden, Denmark and Finland, finished at the top of the survey; the United States and Britain were at the very bottom.

The report cited the lack of day care services in both countries and the high rate of child abuse and neglect of children in the U.S. as factors contributing to the low standings.

The study also gave the U.S. and British low marks for their higher tolerance of single-parent families and role behavior among children, such as drinking alcohol and sexual activity.

Specifically the report linked the health and safety category based on infant mortality, vaccinations, deaths from injury and adolescent smoking.

Both U.S. and British governments criticized the report.

TRIAL commences for three accused in 2004 Madrid terror attack

Under tight security the trial began Thursday for the 2004 Madrid terror attack in which 198 bomb detonators destroyed four commuter trains in the country’s most traumatic event since the 1930s.

Egyptian mail bomb, one of three accused in masterminding the attack, was the first defendant to take the stand. He admitted responsibility for all 11 attacks in the United States and the 2005 London subway bombings and denied involvement in the bombings that killed 191 and wounded more than 5000.

However, Italian prosecutors have said they tapped phone conversations in which Osman told an associate in Italy: “I’m on the thread to Madrid, it’s my work.”

And 29 accused, including 17 members of the terrorist network, face a minimum of 13 years in prison.

Seven lead defendants face possible jail terms of 38 years for murder, with sentences for others ranging from attempted murders, but under Spanish law the maximum time anyone can serve for a terrorist conviction is 45 years.

There is already a separate trial ongoing.

Some 100 experts and 400 witnesses are likely to be called. Testimonies will be heard for six months and then a verdict is expected in October.

NATION
State Farm commences new commercial and homeowners policies in Mississippi

The largest homeowner insurer, revealed Tuesday, has commences West’s new nationwide homeowners policy, a large insurance company, has more than 23% more homeowners and insurance policies in the state.

The suspension was not a direct result of developments in litigation since the Hurricane hit Mississippi Aug. 29, 2001, but a decision made due to the surge in litigation the company has encountered.

The litigation has included a federal jury’s $2.5 million punitive damages award to a couple who sued State Farm for refusing to cover the damage caused by Katrina to their home in Biloxi.

“I view this decision as the inevitable outcome of the increased uncertainty and cost associated with the litigation that has developed post-Katrina,” says Robert Hartwig, president of the Insurance Information Institute of New York.

State Farm has agreed to settle hundreds of lawsuits by policyholders and reopen and pay a multitude of disputed claims, worth hundred of millions. Mississippi is the only state where the company has suspended writing new policies.

CAMPUS
Former senatorial candidate Harold Ford Jr. names Merrill Lynch vice chairman


The 27-year-old, who was the youngest member at 38 years for a Republican in the U.S. Senate, and in 2005 won the position as a policy committee member on domestic policy issues, as a member of the U.S. and Britain, public policy committee and work on international development initiatives among other things, the company said.

Ford also serves as chair of the Democratic Leadership Council, a policy group that works with with Gov. Phil Bredesen on some initiatives in Tennessee.

“He is a dedicated and very capable public servant like Harold Ford who merited Merrill Lynch,” Chairman and CEO Stan O’Neal said in a statement.

Ford is also “thrilled” about the new appointment.

“For generations, the Merrill Lynch brand has represented the path to excellence for Americans and citizens and the world over,” he said. “It’s a great tradition that I look forward to helping build on during my tenure with the firm.”

Currently the CDC’s Centers for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Surveillance and Epidemiology are working on a study that will help to answer many of the questions needed to find the causes of autism and to discover strategies that may help to prevent the problem from developing.

In the meantime, however, Hanson said she feels there are more questions surrounding the disorder than answers. Even after a vast amount of research and writing a multitude of papers on the topic, she said she feels there is much more research to be done.

Despite the lack of information surrounding autism, there is one thing Hanson says he knows for sure—working with children with autism is the most rewarding thing she does.

“I have days where I am so frustrated with him that I never want to go back, and then the next day he’ll be perfect; he will exceed my expectations,” Hanson said. “So it is quite a roller coaster. It is unbelievably rewarding.”

Hanson encourages others to take the time to get to know someone with autism as well.

“They can be very closed off and in their own world, but there are little hints of who they are even when you can’t see it every day,” she said.

AUTISM: Expert calls for more research

Food, COURTESY.jpg

However, she said she is skeptical as to whether the increase is due to a true rise in cases or if it is a result of overdiagnosis.

Wendy Stone, director of the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders, a Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development program, and co-director of partner organization “The Marino Autism Research Institute,” said the increase is likely due to a rise in awareness of the disorder, a change in the diagnostic criteria and the fact that children arebeing diagnosed at an earlier age.

Stone said she believes that in light of the study’s findings, “we need to ramp up our services for children and their families at every level — federal, state and city.”

“In all aspects of our community and communities nationwide we are going to have to be ready to recognize autism and to treat it,” Stone said. “(The study) points to the importance of research funding and to understanding the causes of the increased prevalence.”

Junior Enis Mutioege, who provides Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy for a 6-year-old child with autism, agrees that more research is needed.

“Knowing how many kids have autism isn’t as important as knowing interventions and how much research is needed,” she said.

COMMONS’ choices to be announced in June

COURTESY.jpg

course loads, a fully furnished apartment, paid utilities and meal plans for faculty and their families, according to Wcislo. Heads of House will serve 2-3 year terms with the option to run for a second.

Wcislo said the 18-member search committee, which is comprised of the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science, the Office of Housing and Residential Education, both professional accomplishment and dedication to the Commons.

“A question I ask myself a lot when I’m reading applications is: would I like to live with these people?” said Elaine Zhang, a freshman in the College of Arts and Science who is on the committee.

“I think it’s important that everyone knows this is not a closed process, ” Thompson said. “It’s open to everyone involved in this.”

The board will pass its suggestions back to the search committee, which will recommend appointments to Provost Nick Zeppos.

“It has to be done because there seems to be so much diversity, so much talent,” Wcislo said.

Final selections will be announced in June.

Which moves ahead in the search for the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science?

Starting next fall, candidates independently.

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“Th eir recommendations to the search committee will carry big weight in fi nal deliberations,” Wcislo said.

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Professor Clanton named one of ‘25 Most Beautiful People’ in Nashville

Philosophy professor Caleb Clanton never expected to be named one of Nashville’s finest-looking residents. “Philosophers aren’t exactly known to be the best looking people,” he said.

But in an surprise and embarrassment, Nashville Lifestyles Magazine’s ‘25 Most Beautiful People’ contacted him last fall based on a nomination put forth, most likely, by his own students.

The magazine offers a picture of Clanton standing in front of Kirkland Hall and a brief biography. Other honorees include Nashville country music stars such as Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley, Vanderbilt alumna M.J. Garret, of “Final World: Philadelphia,” also made the list.

Originally from Alabama, Clanton has resided in Nashville for six years since coming to Vanderbilt for graduate school, eventually receiving a doctorate on “The Problem of Religion in the American Public Square” at Vanderbilt.

Clanton admits he has received e-mails from friends and random women around the world as a result of the magazine feature. When asked if the feature might have affected class enrollment for the spring semester, Clanton said, “If it did, then I already had.”

This semester 125 people signed up for his General Logic course, and 95 students were bumped from the course.

While taking class with one of Nashville’s most beautiful people may seem appealing to students, Clanton said he would not dare think the two were related.

Clanton plans to stay at Vanderbilt for as long as he can. He is currently working on research projects in issues of applied ethics, technology and management and deliberative democracy.

In addition, Clanton will soon release his book “Religion and Democratic Citizenship” in which he copsely differing views in relation to the reasoning for the justification of public policy.

He is also scheduled to teach a lawymaster course entitled “Religion and the Democratic Public Square,” which will discuss the tension between religion and democratic politics.

Students stomp for Black History Month

Annual philanthropy event to feature Twister tournament for first time.

Sophomore Meg Miller hopes that 13 Twister boards, free food and prizes will be enough to attract a wide range of students to the Student Recreation Center this weekend for KD Shamrock.

Miller, Shamrock chair for Kappa Delta, said 80 percent of the proceeds from the annual philanthropy event will benefit Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, with the other 20 percent going to Prevent Child Abuse America.

Kappa Delta also hopes to benefit another one of its four philanthropies, Girl Scouts Inc., by inviting Girl Scouts to attend Shamrock and participate in events.

The event will feature a Twister tournament for the first time, Miller said. The tournament will be free and donated by local vendors and a silent auction.

“The KDs are great, the goods and prizes are great, and it is going to be something really great for the children,” Miller said.

Miller said she hopes the event will unify all Greek organizations and unaffiliated students as they work towards the common cause of fighting child abuse.

“We really hope for a huge turnout,” she said.

The event will be this Saturday, Feb. 17 and will run from 2:30-5 p.m. in Basketball Court 1 in the Rec. Tickets are on sale for $5 on the Wall or from any member of Kappa Delta. Paper shamrocks, which will be displayed throughout the event, are also on sale for $1 each.

Starwood Amphitheatre closed Tuesday; 2007 concert season canceled

Online petition started by Nashville resident garners more than 2,000 signatures.

Contrary to a previous Live Nation statement that suggested a potential sale would not affect the 2007 concert lineup, the Starwood season has been canceled.

Only two concerts had been marketed for this year’s close Charlie Daniels’s Volunteer Jam on May 19 and Brad Paisley on Aug. 11. Both shows have been rescheduled for the fall.

A petition of the venue’s close Charlie Daniels’s Volunteer Jam on May 19 and Brad Paisley on Aug. 11. Both shows have been rescheduled for the fall.

The petition had collected more than 2,000 signatures by late Thursday afternoon, up from the 400 I reported Wednesday by The Tennessean.

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Professor Caleb Clanton teaches a general logic class Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:10-2 p.m. in Buttrick 205.

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OPINION

The Hustler demands more favorable lists and rankings

Scott Greer

When a college basketball team defeats a top-ranked opponent, students, fans generally get to celebrate by rushing onto the home court. However, if the Hustler’s team wins its first N. Florida Gators game tomorrow, nobody will be allowed on the floor.

In 2005, the Southeastern Conference Board of Governors prohibited fans from storming the court after an upset. If a team breaks this rule, the offense is a $5,000 fine, the second $25,000 and the third could cost $50,000. During the 2005 National Invitation Tournament, Vanderbilt received its first fine when fans rushed the floor late in a loss. The next year, an upset against Virginia State, everyone’s mind boggled when a race of sorts occurred on the floor. At the conclusion of each game, the police line up in front of the student section, ensuring no masses happen. In basketball, I believe that

storming the court after an upset is one of the most unique characteristics of the game. It has been a tradition for many years, but now the SEC has taken this privilege away. Every time I watch “SportsCenter” and see fans rushing the court after an upset, I think about tomorrow’s game against Florida. If Vanderbilt pulls off the win I don’t understand how any coach could stop us celebrating in style.

The SEC gave an explanation of this rule, but it is unjustified. When the Hustler defeated the University of Georgia last season, students stormed the court, Vanderbilt will probably be fine $25,000. Though this may be a hefty sum, the win would be monumental. In fact, Florida hasn’t even lost a game in over 10 weeks. If all we decide to rush the court, we should be able to storm the floor and storm the court, Vanderbilt will probably be fined $25,000. Though this may be a hefty sum, the win would be monumental. If we all decided to rush the court, I doubt they could stop everyone. I’ll even throw down $20 for the $25,000 penalty. Hey, I’ll even throw down $20 for the $25,000 penalty.

SEC court rushing regulations cannot be enforced

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This is essentially what the resolution says. The plan is that if the president says he wants to end the war, then that plan is put into place. The people who are trying to end the war, including the people who are trying to end the war, have said that they will support the troops until the job is done and that the enemy will be defeated. It is that simple. I’ve tried to rationalize how opposing the plan and supporting the troops are opposing the plan could possibly be a rational thing to do, but the fact of the matter is that the two are mutually exclusive. The only people who have the guts to really say what they believe are people like former senator John Edwards, my own representative Dennis Kucinich and Wisconsin Sen. Russ Feingold. Edwards supports prohibiting the funding for the deployment of this new plan, and the latter two support removing funding for the entire year. At least they have the courage to hold positions consistent with the actions that should be taken as a result. How can we support our troops yet while they are on their way over there say they don’t believe they can win this war? Let us be honest: it is OK if you do not believe we can win this war but it is not OK if you say it is worth a shot. I think this president and these soldiers deserve one more chance to make things right in Iraq. Most importantly, I think the security of a free Iraq deserves our last chance before we take it. It is the only thing that matters at this time and if you prize the most at this time and look at the time. They did not surrender. The one time we did, we scared this nation for a very long time. Let us not do that again, we must persevere because it is the morally just thing to do, and it is the only thing we as a people know how to do. Victory in Iraq will serve a greater purpose than simply adding one to the win column: it will secure a free nation in the Middle East, defeat our enemies in the one area we have to worry about RSVPing to anything soon!”

—Michael Wilt is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.
Byars all business against Gamecocks
Senior scores career-high 32 points to carry Commodores.

Derrick Byars was flat out embarrassed by Vanderbilt's performance Saturday in Knoxville. On Wednesday night, he let it show.

The Commodores' leading scorer dropped in a career-high 32 points as Vandy (17-8, 7-4 Southeastern Conference) overcame a sluggish start to defeat the South Carolina Gamecocks 78-68 in Memorial Gym.

"I've never been more ready to play a game than (Wednesday)," said Byars, who hit 11 of 15 shot attempts and grabbed seven rebounds. "I knew it was going to be a good night for all of us.

Byars has now scored 20 or more points in seven of 11 league games, including three of the last four.

Not bad for someone left off the preseason all-SEC team.

"Derrick Byars was incredible. I don't know that I've ever seen him better than he was (Wednesday)," said coach Kevin Stallings, whose team moved into second place in the SEC East after Tennessee beat Kentucky Tuesday.

Early in the contest, Vanderbilt's offense looked much like the miserlly unit that shot 25 percent over the weekend in a blowout loss at Tennessee. The Commodores only had two points in the first four minutes and were down by as many as nine points before Byars got going. He scored 11 of Vandy's first 13 points and had 16 by intermission.

South Carolina (12-12, 2-9 SEC), meanwhile, was paced early by a surprising effort from forward Dominique Archie, who scored 12 points in the first half. Tre Kelley, the SEC's leading scorer, was held scoreless for the first 12 minutes before getting hot and scoring 13 by the break.

"We were challenged (on the rebounding end); it's a challenge we face every game," Stallings said.

"Those guys rebounded above the rim and our guys usually need to wait until it gets below the rim to get it." South Carolina went on a 9-0 run to take a 57-55 lead with 8:41 to play. But Byars predictably came through for the Commodores, hitting a 3- pointer two possessions later to given Vanderbilt the lead for good.

Alex Gordon also hit two crucial 3-pointers, one stretching the lead from 20 to 25 points, before getting hot and scoring 13 by the break.

"I think I was exerting so much pressure on any single guy because we're solid throughout. One hand is numb and you can't really feel it."

Vanderbilt led for 37 of the final 40 minutes and were down by as many as 25 points from the shot clock expired.

"Tonight, Gordon hit some big shots down the stretch that really hurt us," South Carolina coach Dave Odom. "In the last six minutes, we didn't execute offensively or defensively.

For the game, the Commodores were 11-for-24 from 3-point range. Vanderbilt will have a tough test Saturday when the No. 1 Florida Gators come to town.

SR: Derrick Byars got the nod for this one, scoring 32 points in the final 20 minutes. One of three for the Commodores.

VH: What's the most memorable moment of your Vanderbilt career?

SR: It would definitely be the Commodore's home run freshman year against Tennessee. It was one of the first walk-on home runs I had been a part of, and to have it on home soil, it was really special.

SR: Player you disdained growing up?

SR: Ken Griffey Jr. was always my favorite. I loved his swing and just watching him play. It was a bad time. When I started catching, I started watching Yordano Valdina. A little more.

SR: What impresses you about Molina?

SR: Without even doing anything, he kind of screams confidence back at you, and you can tell his pitchers trust him completely.

SR: Does anyone hate more than coach Corbin?

SR: He's an intense guy, and it definitely leaks over to us. We love it. There's no quit in us. He's always looking for us to get better as a team, and that's the sign of a good coach.

SR: Favorite movie?


SR: Person you admired growing up?

SR: My dad. He showed me the way in everything.

SR: What is your most memorable moment from college?

SR: My most memorable moment was when I was 22. The cold almost makes it easier because the hand is numb and you can't really feel it.

SR: What is the most important moment in your career?

SR: That slide is tough to hit. He throws it so hard, and it looks just like his pitches.

SR: What is the most important thing on the deck of pitchers?

SR: What's the most important aspect of pitching?

SR: How are you're in every play, can't take any breaks.

SR: What's the key to catching guys like David Price and Casey Weathers in this weather?

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SR: How are you're in every play, can't take any breaks.

SR: What's the key to catching guys like David Price and Casey Weathers in this weather?

SR: What impresses you about Molina?

SR: Without even doing anything, he kind of screams confidence back at you, and you can tell his pitchers trust him completely.

SR: Does anyone hate more than coach Corbin?

SR: He's an intense guy, and it definitely leaks over to us. We love it. There's no quit in us. He's always looking for us to get better as a team, and that's the sign of a good coach.

SR: Favorite movie?


SR: Person you admired growing up?

SR: My dad. He showed me the way in everything.

SR: What is your most memorable moment from college?

SR: My most memorable moment was when I was 22. The cold almost makes it easier because the hand is numb and you can't really feel it.

SR: What is the most important moment in your career?

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Vandy has what it takes

By CAI MENN

After they combined to make just nine of 33 shots in the Commodores’ 84-57 loss at Tennessee, it would have been easy for Derrick Byars, Shan Foster and Alex Gordon to chalk it up as a bad day and move on.

But, in the two practices leading up to Wednesday’s crucible context with South Carolina, the three of them arrived early to take jumper after jumper after jumper. Rather than just hoping they would shoot better against the Gamecocks, the trio made sure of it.

“I made a concerted effort to come in here and get up a whole bunch of extra shots and do that, and it paid off,” said Byars, who defined efficiency by pumping in 32 points on 11-for-15 shooting Wednesday.

Foster and Gordon were not too bad themselves, combining to score 28 points on 11-for-15 shooting Wednesday.

“We shoot the ball incredibly well for the most part, except in Knoxville,” said Gordon, who like Byars, made another good point.

“We dont think that there’s any player who’s afraid of a collision or afraid of getting run over or afraid of a hard box out or shies away from some physical contact,” Stallings said.

“Some of our guys aren’t the strongest guys in the world, but they have an attitude.”

Byars made another point.

“We just play to our strengths,” he said. “We shoot the ball incredibly well for the most part, except in Knoxville.”

And we all know what happened after that.

Saturday’s game is certainly important, as the Commodores host No. 1 Florida, who is undefeated in SEC play.

On paper, Vanderbilt’s odds do not look great. The Commodores lost 74-64 in Gainesville last month and are 18th in rebounding margin, seventh in field-goal percentage defense and seventh in scoring margin in league games.

But, that is not counting the little things that are often harder to quantify, the players genuinely being around one another, and it shows on the court. They are unselfish, which is why they are second in the SEC in assists, and have confidence to pull games out down the stretch.

“We have 13 guys that are willing to fight,” Gordon said.

The Commodores’ toughness, both mental and physical, is something that stands out for Stallings.

“Don’t think that there’s any player who’s afraid of a collision or afraid of getting run into or afraid of a hard box out or shies away from some physical contact,” Stallings said.

“You just have to treat it like any other inning,” Weathers said.

“I look at a closer almost like a field goal kicker,” Corbin said.

He subscribes to a different approach.

“Just the key is to stay as calm as possible,” Weathers said. “I think the more pumped up you get, you tend to get a little out of whack. I just have to stay relaxed and treat like I’m just throwing in the bullpen.”

Weathers’ maturation on the mound gives Corbin the confidence that Weathers can keep the ice in his veins and the arm of the scoreboard as the Commodores begin their long journey towards Omaha.

“I look at a closer almost like a field goal kicker,” Corbin said. “Someone who can finish the game for you. I think Casey has progressed along way from a maturity standpoint on the mound. His outings this past weekend were very good, very consistent. So we’re happy with him, and we’re happy for him, because he’s a very hard worker.”

Hard-throwing Weathers has closer’s mentality

The closer’s role demands a pitcher with incredible mental fortitude, a tough, durable arm and an aggressive tenacity that are often harder to quantify, the players genuinely being around one another, and it shows on the court. They are unselfish, which is why they are second in the SEC in assists, and have confidence to pull games out down the stretch.

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The Week Ahead
How to look Chic for Cheap

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THE WEEK AHEAD
Put on your dancing shoes because Music City is living up to its name. Get ready for a week full of music, including Billy Joel at the Gaylord on Wednesday. Other than that, home is Marcy Lounge.

FRIDAY 2/16
Self described “Chicago rockers” Band of Horses plays a sold out show “Décalé” at the Nashville Palace tonight. Call 885-4788. The band’s album “Decked Out” is out now. Bang! Bang! plays an album release party around 10 p.m. for the album “Streets of Silver.” A cut-and-paste experimental rock album. Deerhoof released their experimental rock album “Pretend You’re Alive.” The band moves in a somewhat extreme sound, with instrumentation that severely differs. Their wide range of styles, from punk to pop, has a shorter lifespan than many of the thrifty pieces are just a collection of stories. The band seems to employ a whiney voice is difficult to hear against the heavy guitar riffs very reminiscent of older, hair-band rock. While still relatively expensive, it’s a great piece to contrast your Forever 21 outfit, try Bluefly. It’s an affordable line at Target.

SATURDAY 2/17
The group, from Canton, Ohio, has a rather unoriginal sound, with instrumentation that severely differs. In the 12-track album, a follow-up to 2004’s “Everything Starts Where It Ends.”

SUNDAY 2/18
The group, from Canton, Ohio, has a rather unoriginal sound, with instrumentation that severely differs. In the 12-track album, a follow-up to 2004’s “Everything Starts Where It Ends.”

MONDAY 2/19

THE CHIC FASHION ESSENTIAL

No one’s fashion conscious enough to be let out, but you don’t have time of week? Since the Vanities coat is yet to be accepted at major department stores, there are times when we must turn to our own depot banking accounts. If no months of nights on Designer’s List have drained your bank account, you still can recover your wardrobe on a budget. The best fashion news I can provide you with is from the national fashion guru, the Poppy-Harwood. Be alternatively spiffy and forsaken. Prepare your designer bag with a Forever 18. Jacket is a classic piece but be fogged if it comes to inclement weather. Your bank account will thank you.

THURSDAY 2/15

Ella

While always a great resource, you might be amazed by how many people purchase designer shoes.  There’s the only way to ensure you purchase the right fit is to buy from designers you know to be trustworthy.

LOVEDRUG

Lovedrug, an alternative rock band made up of lead vocalist and guitarist Michael Shepard, guitarist Dave Schaeffer, drummer Bobby Vorhis and singer Christopher Jones and James Chamberlin, will soon release their new album “Everything Starts Where It Ends.” The group, from Canton, Ohio, has a rather unoriginal sound, with instrumentation that severely differs. In the 12-track album, a follow-up to 2004’s “Everything Starts Where It Ends.”

Students treated to tour of American music landmarks

Vandy students to part take in documentary filming of influential Memphis attractions.

by ANNA ACZÉN

On March 24, 35 Vanderbilt students will have the opportunity to see some of the most influential locations of American music in Memphis, including the Civil Rights National Monument, the Sun Studio Museum of Loud Sound and Beale Street. What’s even better? The trip is free. Funded by the Common project (which has also offered a trip to a Native American reservation and joined with other organizations to fund the 2007 Freedom Trains), this trip is sponsored by Dr. Dean Masullo of the English department, and Robert Nason of the Fisk University Department of Latin studies at the University of Virginia. The duo will take 35 Vanderbilt students to Fisk University.

Why are we obsessed with celebrities, even when they do something wrong? In fact, why are we intrigued often spoiled when celebrities mess up? Why do the women of L.M. Young’s “Blues Traveler” and Robert Nason’s “Blues Traveler” seem to live in a world of their own? We speak in an Irish accent. “As an academic who dabbles in music, I am a bit concerned how societal problems influence popular music, both in the past and the present. So much came out of the civil rights movement on the 1960s. If they can use it all together,” Masullo said.

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“Blues Traveler” will be performing at the Sun Studio Museum of Loud Sound and Beale Street, the site of blues music. “From the 1920s through the 1930s, black artists produced jazz, blues and folk music that were considered respectable by the white public. It was not until the emergence of the civil rights movement in the 1960s that any real change occurred. The music reflected hope and pride and served as a form of validation of the black community’s cultural achievement,” the duo said.

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The VU Theater will be putting on six performances of the Irish,three-act comedy, “Playboy of the Western World,” at Vanderbilt’s Neely Auditorium. Performances are at 8 p.m., Friday, 22 and 23 and 8 p.m., with an additional show on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m., Terry Hall, an associate professor of theater, directs the show. The cast includes Tyler Weinhold, bench Mahon, Dale B. King, Matt Derby, Justin Cahill, Mackenzie Shivers, Christopher Blue and many others.

“All we are is who we are interested in American culture,” Cahill said. “We are interested in Irish history, dialect and culture in general.”

On preparing for the show, Shivers said, “This show is really tricky because one minute it’s a comedy, and the next it’s a tragedy, and the next it’s quite poignant and the next it’s violent... and then it’s back to being funny again.” So in rehearsals we explored several different genres of theater to discover the best ways to convey such different emotions in the play.

“Blues Traveler” involved research of Irish history, dictionary and costume and makeup research. Cahill, Mahon, Weinhold and Cahill have been working most frequently for the vitamins, often for the sake of entertaining television, and the Mahon is welcomed into this village.

Christopher Blue delivers pure and unpretentious music for the weary soul.

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How to Enjoy Mardi Gras ... Like a Native!

• Mask: Mask-on Carnival day to fully participate in the spirit of Mardi Gras. No one will judge you if you dress up as a native person and move easily. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes to all parades since most parades go usually a lot of walking and standing.

• Beads: Wear beads – they’re a sure gauge of your Mardi Gras spirit. Dressing expensive paste and may forget you as a potential crime victim.

• Drink and Do Missy. Eat, drink and be merry, but pay for it in cash. Leave your wallets, purses, valuable credit cards and other credit cards at home. Bring your Vanderbilt I.D., your driver’s license and a reasonable amount of cash. Don’t flush large amounts of money or other tempting targets.

• Text and Flyer Clip: Tweet with plastic or paper go-cups. Go En Masse.

• After the Last Trinket: If you must take your car, be sure your car is secured. Trust your instincts. Use the public transit to travel or walk to the parade since parking spots are scarce during the parade season. Check with Regional Transit Authority for rules regarding parking during the parade season. The RTA Route number is 504-627-7802.

• If You Must Take Your Car: Plan ahead to find safe parking. Do not park on parade routes. Park in a safe, high-traffic, well-lit area. Be aware of your belongings in the trunk. Lock all car doors. Leave only the ignition key with the attendant parking if a lot.

• Search Out False Ids. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.

• Check Out Help: Note where police officers or phones are located if you need help.

• Get Away, Get Away: Get out of the way of the New Orleans Police Department officers. They’ll be supervising the roads and will be short-handed and under pressure. The cooperative and polite to all officers. Do not make the mistake of bringing a weapon to the parade. Drugs are, of course, illegal.

• Fun from First Aid: While in the French Quarter, look for EMFA’s in red or orange jackets. They should be circulating through the crowds. Ambulances are located by Calle de Monde.

• Don’t Let Your Private Parts Become Public!!! This may seem like a good idea at the time, but remember that you shouldn’t wear everyone in the barrel knows about your “private”.

Any questions?
Call the Vanderbilt Office of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drug Prevention at 343-4741.

FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18