



ORBIS

Life beyond the bubble

Seniors search for career
opportunities, page 8

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Controversial changes at WRVU, pages 10-11

a note from the editor

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new semester at Vandy.

January always feels like a time to plan for the future, and with that in mind, we've included several features in this month's issue of Orbis that deal with looking ahead. Read up on family planning options around campus (pg. 4-5), planning out a career after graduation (p. 8-9), and planning for the future of our state's political leadership (p. 6-7). We also take a light-hearted approach to New Year's resolutions by profiling some of our fellow students' witty (or just plain weird) yearlong goals on our back page.

This month also marks the start of another election year, which is always exciting for political buffs. Although voters won't reach the polls until November, I am already consuming unhealthy amounts of coverage about polling numbers, campaign strategies, and would-be contenders. Does this sound like you too? Get involved by writing for Orbis about your favorite political issues. Email vanderbiltorbis@gmail.com to come to our next staff meeting, to get on the listserv, or to talk to us about your favorite Glenn Beck on-air meltdowns.

Our next issue will be out in mid February. We'll cover the Tea Party Nation's invasion of Nashville when they host their first national convention, headlined by intellectual heavyweight Sarah Palin. That should be fun to watch. We also plan to spotlight Lambda, another LGBT-focused organization on campus, as they gear for up for the annual Rainbow ReVU week, scheduled for late March. If you are a leader in a progressive campus organization that would like to be part of the Orbis spotlight series, contact us at vanderbiltorbis@gmail.com.

-Erika Hyde

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Amplifying Vanderbilt's Progressive Voices

January 2010

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Please recycle.

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number of American military deaths in Iraq since March 2003

Cover design: Sam Abney

What is Orbis?

Orbis aspires to change the atmosphere on Vanderbilt's campus and provides a voice for liberal, multicultural and minority viewpoints. This publication strives to inform the public about issues that these groups face as well as to promote diversity and unity within our community. It is a forum for discussion of social, political and religious commentary relevant to Vanderbilt, the nation and the world. Orbis was founded by a coalition of students seeking to raise consciousness about diverse ideas, cultures and backgrounds in our society. We hope to challenge the existing social atmosphere at Vanderbilt and promote a rebirth of acceptance.

HRC shifts gears for the new semester

By Aimee Sobhani
STAFF WRITER

The Vanderbilt chapter of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) plans on making several changes in the upcoming year but will still adhere to its progressive goal of furthering equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

The group, which was started in 2007 by former Vanderbilt student Nick Wells (class of 2008) after

"We're a little bit like Madonna—constantly reinventing."
— Ben Grimwood on HRC

he interned with the national chapter of HRC, is currently undergoing a transitional period. HRC originally focused on gay politics on campus and led a successful campaign that resulted in the inclusion of transgendered individuals in Vanderbilt's non-discrimination policy.

Now, the group hopes to bring more attention to gender issues.

Liz Scofield and Ben Grimwood, president and vice president of Vanderbilt's HRC, anticipate that the group's change in focus will result in a name change and altered mission statement, as the group's new focus differs from the more politically-oriented national HRC organization.

"We're a little bit like Madonna—constantly reinventing," said Grimwood, a senior.

HRC's shift away from politics on campus reflects what both Grimwood and Scofield observe to be a change in attitude about students with alternative lifestyles.

"Vanderbilt has changed drastically," said Scofield, a senior, who feels that being out at a young age is more common for students now

than it was a few years ago. Students and faculty have also become more accepting.

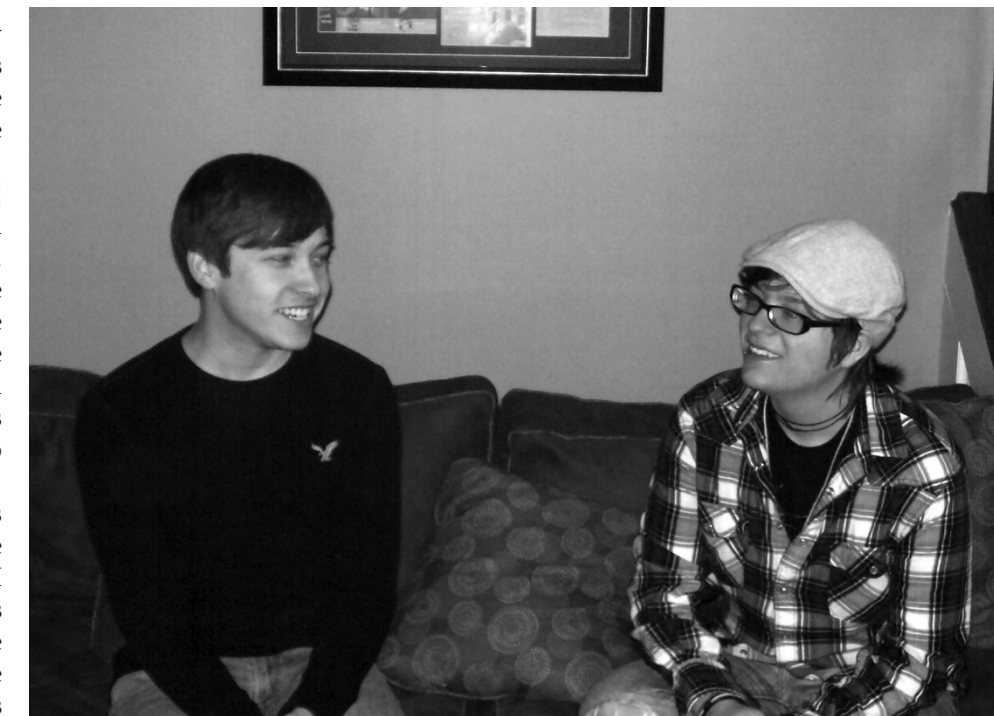
"Most [students] are open-minded now," said Scofield. "It's a strike against you [to be homophobic]." She added that the trend towards openness is "not unique to Vanderbilt."

Grimwood cites the expansion of the Office of LGBTQI Life in 2008 as another positive modification. The office gives students a "physical space to develop community," and makes Vanderbilt more appealing to prospective students, he said.

The creation of a new chapter of Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men, shows just how welcoming the Vanderbilt community has become, Grimwood said.

"It's one thing in a series of progressive changes."

Additionally, both Grimwood and Scofield agreed the administration has made constructive changes and provides support for the LGBTQI community on campus.



Ben Grimwood and Liz Scofield discuss HRC at the K.C. Potter Center.

Image: Erika Hyde/ORBIS

Women's Center and the Office of LGBTQI Life, speak about the intersection between the two centers. The decision to have Spencer head both organizations caused controversy last semester, but Grimwood believes the two centers "overlap like a Venn Diagram" and represent "groups that don't get a lot of voice."

Another event that HRC has in the works is a talk by Professor Claire Sisco King of the Communication Studies department about the cultural and linguistic speech of gender. HRC also hopes to continue its annual "Speak Out," an event that coincides with National Coming Out Day.

HRC will strive to collaborate more with the Vanderbilt Lambda Association in the future. The two groups have different personalities and events but share some goals, Grimwood said. "We're two sides of the same coin."

HRC includes five board members and a liaison between the group and the Office of LGBTQI life in addition to its student members.



Image: Vanderbilt HRC website

express gender however they wish without having to worry about typical social "rules" about dress and appearance.

"On campus there are so many gender rules we don't even think about," she said.

In March, HRC plans to have Nora Spencer, the director of both the Margaret Cuninggim

**To get involved, join the
the "HRC Vanderbilt"
Facebook group and come
to HRC's first meeting on
Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. at the
K.C. Potter Center.**

Safe Sex at Vandy:

Last year, Orbis published an overview of places on campus that sold or gave away condoms to students. This issue, we've collected information about a few locations around Vandy where students can access other forms of birth control—contraceptive pills, shots, and patches—as well as family planning services like pregnancy tests, STD screenings, and counseling.

By Erika Hyde

CVS Pharmacy

- 426 21st Ave S
- www.cvs.com
- Call (615) 321-2590

The pharmacy provides multiple types of birth control pills available with a prescription, including generic and brand name forms of daily contraceptive pills.

Without insurance, the cost of these pills range from \$29 to \$82 per month. Under the Gallagher Koster student insurance plan, generic birth control pills cost between \$5 and \$20 per month.

Plan B, the emergency contraception option, is available for \$39.65.

CVS also offers the NuvaRing for \$74.59 per month (\$25 under Koster insurance) and the Ortho Evra patch for \$80.99 per month (\$45 under Koster). The DepoProvera shot, which is effective for 3 months, costs \$52.99 per month.

ID for proof of age is required. Patients 17 and older do not need parental consent to purchase birth control.

The pharmacy is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



CVS offers a variety of family planning options.

Photo: Erika Hyde/ORBIS

Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee

- 412 D.B. Todd Blvd. Suite 102
- Contact: Steven Emmert, VP of Patient Services
- www.plannedparenthood.org/mid-east-tennessee/
- Call (615) 321-7216

Planned Parenthood offers several types of birth control, ranging from the Depo-Provera shot, implantable IUDs, condoms, and a wide variety of contraceptive pills. In addition, they provide STD testing, free HIV testing, pregnancy testing, abortion services, and emergency contraception, which is available on a walk-in basis.

There is a sliding fee scale for all patients with a special rate for students. Full-time college students can get birth control pills for about \$6 per month.

PPMET is open Mondays from 9:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Hours vary on Saturdays.

To receive monthly birth control, students need to schedule an appointment. The clinic can guide students through the best contraception to use, taking into consideration the patient's preferences, lifestyle, potential side effects, and health issues.

Students should always consult with a health care professional before choosing a method of birth control. Consider effectiveness rates, STD protection, and potential health risks.

Birth control around campus

Student Health Center

- Zerfoss Building near the Medical Center
- Contact: Louise Hanson, Medical Director of Student Health
- www.vanderbilt.edu/student_health/
- Call (615) 322-2427

The Student Health Center offers 10 to 12 different brands of daily contraceptive pills, with inexpensive brands ranging from \$9 to \$15 per month for students. Patients on a birth control regimen can have the pills delivered by mail-order instead of picking them up at SHC.

In addition to pills, SHC offers the NuvaRing and the Depo-Provera shot. Patients who prefer the implantable IUD are referred to a gynecologist at the Medical Center.

Plan B is available behind-the-counter at \$15 each. The center will dispense Plan B to male students who are purchasing the pill for female partners.

SHC also administers the Gardasil HPV vaccination, which costs \$450 for 3 shots over a 6 month period. Insured students



Vanderbilt's Zerfoss Student Health Center is conveniently located near the Medical Center.
Photo: Erika Hyde/ ORBIS

can qualify for rebates to recoup part of this cost.

They also offer STD, HIV and pregnancy testing, as well as resources for pregnant students.

SHC is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Know your options

find the contraceptive method that's right for you

- Depo-Provera is an injectable contraceptive shot that is effective for up to 3 months. The NuvaRing is a hormonal vaginal ring inserted for 3 weeks at a time. Ortho Evra is a contraceptive patch applied to the skin with a weekly application for 3 weeks. The IUD is a T-shaped device inserted into the uterus by a healthcare professional that can be effective for up to 10 years.

- Emergency contraception, including the brand Plan B, can prevent pregnancy if normal forms of birth control fail or are not used. Although it's commonly called the morning-after pill, emergency contraception is effective up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. The pill works by preventing ovulation and it is available without a prescription. EC is a form of birth control. It does not induce abortions.

- Parental consent is not required to take advantage of family planning services in the state of Tennessee, even for students under 18, according to Dr. Hanson of the SHC.



TN horse race for governor's house begins

November elections may seem far away, but that has not stopped the race for Tennessee governor from heating up. The incumbent, Phil Bredesen (D), is term-limited and cannot run again so we have a number of candidates.

When Bill Frist decided not to run in early January, it completely changed the game. A Chattanooga Times poll found that 58% of Tennesseans have a favorable opinion of the former U.S. Senator who currently holds joint appointments at Vanderbilt with the Medical School and Owen. While observers believe that Republicans have an upper hand in the election, the absence of Frist may be a boon to Democrats.

To help you be more informed come November 6th, here is a quick overview of our choices. These only include the major-party candidates that have announced their candidacy, although it is fairly certain that one of these will win this year. Significant people not running are also listed.

By Carol Chen

Republicans



BILL GIBBONS

Bill Gibbons,

Shelby Co. District Attorney General

Career: Vanderbilt B.A. and J.D. (and president of the Vanderbilt College Republicans), private practice law, Memphis City Council 1984-87, appointed to district attorney position for Shelby County (which includes Memphis) in 1996 and won the seat by election in 1998.

Positions: against state income tax, strong interest in crime prevention, supports death penalty and stronger sentences, against plea bargaining for violent crimes, promotes charter schools.

Prognosis: solid candidate who has the benefit of a more focused platform. He announced his candidacy right after Frist declined to run.

Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey

Career: B.S. East Tennessee State, advisory board of the Farm Credit Association, member of the Tennessee House of Representatives for Sullivan County 1996-present, Speaker of the Senate, Tennessee Lieutenant Governor (by statute granted to Speaker of the Senate).

Positions: pro-life, supporter of right-to-carry, and wildlife preservation, has supported cuts on food taxes, encouraged tort reform as a means of fixing health care system.

Prognosis: strong contender who will appeal to those primarily concerned with economic recovery. He has the benefit of already working closely with the gubernatorial office and the state senate.



RON RAMSEY



ZACH WAMP

U.S. Representative Zach Wamp

Career: successful real estate broker, chairman of Hamilton County (Chattanooga) Republican Party, U.S. House of Representatives member for Tennessee's Third Congressional District (1995-present).

Positions: strong gun rights advocate, as member of the House Appropriations Committee has nursed projects such as repairing Tennessee Valley Authority dams and fighting methamphetamine abuse, proposed putting the Ten Commandments in public buildings.

Prognosis: Wamp will appeal to the ideologically conservative voters, which will help him in a race that observers say favor the Republicans, although his admitted past drug addiction may erode that support.

**BILL HASLAM****Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam**

Career: vice president of family business Pilot Corporation, mayor of Knoxville.

Positions: pro-life, heavily focused on job recruitment, supports education reform that encourages growth of homeschooling and charter schools, against a state income tax, favors imposing monetary limits on medical malpractice lawsuits.

Prognosis: leading contender for the Republican nomination, has collected the most amount of money through fundraising, endorsed by Howard Baker (long-standing Republican from Tennessee).

**KIM MCMILLAN****Democrats****Senator Jim Kyle**

Career: J.D. University of Memphis, Tennessee State Senate Minority Leader with membership in the Finance and Judiciary committees among others.

Positions: emphasis on graduating students, creating jobs and lifting Tennessee's economic status, increasing per capita income.

Prognosis: Probably the strongest Democrat in the race. He considers his strongest opponent to be Mike McWherter.

Kim McMillan

Career: J.D. University of Tennessee, Tennessee House of Representatives 1994-2006, Majority Leader 2002-2006, Senior Advisor to Governor Bredesen, Political Science Professor at Austin Peay, Board of Vanderbilt's Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital.

Positions: expansion of health care, supported increasing minimum wage while representing Clarksville, environmental protection.

Prognosis: McMillan is probably behind in the Democratic race with less name recog-

**JIM KYLE**

inition or fundraising, though not completely out of the picture.

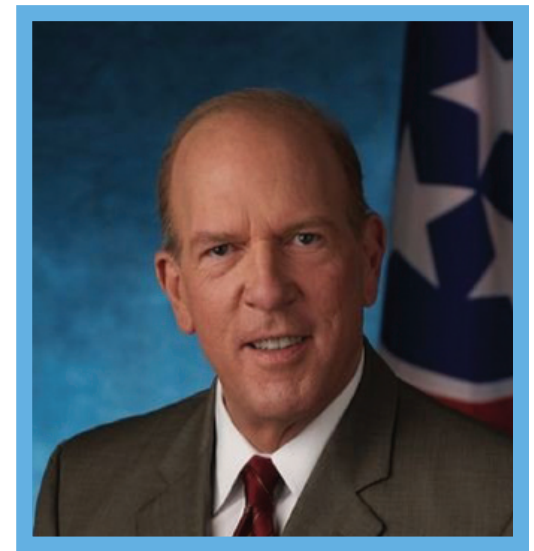
Mike McWherter

Career: J.D. Vanderbilt University, private practice law, chairman of First State Bank, Board of Directors for the Jackson Energy Authority.

Positions: supports ban on unmarried couples adopting children, opposes a state income tax, supports building on Tennessee's

existing presence in automotive and healthcare industries.

Prognosis: McWherter is at a disadvantage for never having been elected to a government position. However, as the son of former governor Ned McWherter, he has the advantage of strong name recognition.

**MIKE MCWHERTER****Not Running****Harold Ford, Jr. (D)**

Ford, whom many of us have seen as an adjunct Political Science professor here (such as last year's PSCI 150 U.S. Elections) was a member of the House of Representatives for Tennessee's Ninth Congressional district from 1997-2007. He can claim residence in New York and is currently considering challenging Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) for the seat she inherited from Hillary Rodham

Clinton that is up for special election this November.

Bill Frist (R)

The former Tennessee senator (1995-2007) and Senate Majority leader has name recognition and the personal fortune to run an expensive campaign even without fundraising. Before he entered politics, he was an accomplished doctor and is currently a professor at the Vanderbilt Owen and medical schools. He is considered a leader in pro-life

legislation and worldwide AIDS awareness. Frist has announced he does not intend to run for Tennessee governor in the foreseeable future.

Tim McGraw (...country singer)

Rumors popped up that McGraw was considering a career change, but his rep shot it down. "It's something he is interested in, but not for 2010. Later in life." This is simply too bad, as Tennessee could surely benefit from having a celebrity governor.

Seniors look toward life post-grad

A guide to finding government and non-profit job opportunities

Every May, Vanderbilt's graduating class walks out of commencement and into the "real world." This year, many second-semester seniors will be making that walk into an uncertain professional future. The Class of 2010 is not only plagued by the thought of losing four day weekends and fraternity keggers, but with the reality of a failing economy and mass unemployment. Here, Orbis asks two Career Center coaches how undergraduates can land a job that makes a difference.

By Allie Diffendal
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Finding a job generally takes approximately six to nine months. According to Career Center coach Shannon Beeman (Education, Community Organization, Non-Profit), that number doubled as the stock market plummeted. "Now we've learned that because of the economy it has taken some people twelve to eighteen months to find their first professional opportunity."

they had anticipated or they might not know if they're going to be able to hire for an extended period of time."

Beeman sees the job hunt as a numbers game. "You might put out twenty applications and get one interview, and then you might have to go on a dozen interviews to get one job offer. So you could potentially be sending resumes and applications to hundreds of employers." Although networking is key, Beeman said, so too is quantity. "Cast your net wide at first and then start reeling it in. That's my suggestion."

In order to find enough potential employers to make this method possible, Beeman said, you have to know where to look and what you are trying to target. To help students with this task, Beeman provides students with a list of particularly useful websites, including idealist.org, nonprofitjobs.org, and cgcareers.org. Beeman also suggested students take advantage of the Vanderbilt alumni network in such places as Atlanta, New York, and the Dallas/Houston area.

Students interested in government jobs consistently look at D.C. and New York, according to Career Center Coach Christy Waggoner (Government, Public Policy, Pre-Law). However, Waggoner emphasized the pros and cons of looking for a job in such popular locations. "There are a lot [of opportunities] in D.C. but there is also a lot of competi-

tion... A lot of times you have to go out there and intern upon graduation, not receiving any payment and you have to figure out how to pay your bills- or before you even have an internship you just find a way to get out there and just stay there to network."

Waggoner, however, suggested an alternative to this financially difficult situation. She said students should not discount their local and state governments. "If you're interested in actual politics," Waggoner said, "a lot of political figures value hiring on front desk staff from their home state. That's good representation."

Hiring time scales vary between non-profit and government jobs. Because federal jobs require security clearance, government organizations such as the CIA and the State Department will begin recruitment in the fall for summer positions. A qualified applicant is hired as soon as he or she is cleared. "That could be six months, eight months - it could be three months," said Waggoner. "It kind of depends on the different places you've lived and how bogged down they are at the same time." Waggoner also noted that, while the FBI requires security clearance, it has rolling admissions, and thus more application opportunities.

Although government jobs typically entail security clearances, some non-profit and government jobs maintain a recruitment policy called "just in time hiring." "When they have a need, that's when they post," Waggoner said. "And they need somebody soon." Think tanks and even some government departments implement this policy, according to Waggoner.

Since the economic downturn, Waggoner has noticed a definitive increase in student interest in government jobs. "In numbers and in conversations where we hear people say 'You know, I don't want to go into the financial industry or corporate America right now. The economy kind of scares me, so my next plan is to go through government.'"

The post-grad employment rate for students in the government sector is also grow-



Many members of the class of 2010 may graduate without certain plans for the future.

Photo: Vanderbilt Career Center website

To improve their chances of getting a job offer by May, Beeman said, job-hunting undergraduates should start early and be persistent -- especially in the non-profit sector. "It's tough right now," said Beeman. "A lot of non-profits are privately funded or funded by the government and so their budgets have been cut. They might not be able to hire like

ing, Waggoner said, "because with the current administration, the way it's changed, the government's getting bigger so they're adding more positions." However, Waggoner noted that such a change will have a top-down effect. "Entry level positions are not going to pop up right away, but it's more on the scene than it used to be. And with the financial industry being so in question, a lot of students are considering their sort-of plan B, and sometimes that means going into the government sector."

Waggoner cited an increase in student subscribers to the Career Center's government listserv as an indication of increased student interest in government jobs. As of Jan. 13, the Career Center's government/public policy/pre-law listserv had 697 subscribers, while the education/community organization/non-profit listserv had 220 subscribers.

No matter what career path a student pursues, the Career Center staff places great emphasis on networking. "Networking is the name of the game - period," Waggoner said. "But especially in [the government] industry."

Waggoner discussed the desired path for a student interested in D.C. politics. "You'll start networking in D.C., you'll start getting into the right circles, and then you'll be invited to someone's special listserv, and you're kind of in their circles and you're learning about the insides of what's going on in your field of interest."

Waggoner, like Beeman, suggested students use the Vanderbilt alumni network to identify alumni active in their desired field

and work their way into such professionally beneficial positions. According to Waggoner, the Career Center is about to launch a program which will allow students to contact the alumni chapter in their city of interest so that students can use the solidarity of Vanderbilt to network effectively.

Both Beeman and Waggoner agree that students should not wait to start networking. "I do think that a lot of people get into the mentality that 'Maybe around March I'll start reaching out to people' and then they feel frustrated and find themselves in crisis by the time April, May rolls around," said Waggoner. "That's not a wait to do kind of thing. That's an always thing."

This semester, the Career Center is offering more opportunities for students to network. Focusing on "more intimate conversations with high level alums or employers of great interest to students," Waggoner said the Center will be implementing information sessions called "career conversations." Waggoner expects to hold a few career conversations, headed by local government figures, in the next few months.

Waggoner noted an increase in student participation in Career Center activities. Undergraduate students are being more assertive in their job hunt due to the uncertainty of the job market, said Waggoner. "I feel like last year, with the economy the way it was, we saw a little bit more of a scared attitude and sort of a paralyzed response. I feel like this semester, reality has sunk in ... and students are coming back, asking for assistance."

Nashville Area College to Career Fair & Teacher Recruitment Fair

**Tuesday, February 23,
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tennessee State Fairgrounds**

*Open to juniors, seniors,
graduate students, and alumni.*

Don't miss your opportunity to:

- *Network with employers from business, industry, government, and education.*
- *Identify employment opportunities offered exclusively to students and alumni from participating colleges.*
- *Meet recruiters to learn about careers and internships, and to enhance your job search.*

**You must have a ticket to attend.
Free tickets are available at
the Vanderbilt Career Center.
For complete information,
go to www.nashvillefairs.org.**

Thanksgiving break goes 'alternative'

By John Chen
FEATURES EDITOR

While students at most other universities get only a couple days off for Thanksgiving, Vanderbilt students are lucky enough to have a week-long November break. Still, while



Image: John Chen/ORBIS

Vanderbilt has been a leader in offering service learning experiences through its alternative break programs in the winter, spring and summer, the Thanksgiving break remains without such an opportunity. Wenyu Qu and I hope to change this, and we are currently in the process of founding Vanderbilt Alternative Thanksgiving Break.

Vanderbilt Alternative Spring Break was the very first program of its kind in the nation. We hope that ATB will continue in this tradition of service opportunities as the fourth installment of the alternative break program on campus. We will be working closely with the existing alternative break organizations to formulate an educational curriculum that will culminate in a trip. In the years to come, we plan to increase our selection of trips, including both trips that end before Thanksgiving Day and others that continue through the entire week. These trips are designed for participants to engage in direct service, increase their awareness of social and environmental issues, participate in group discussions, and build lasting relationships with

other Vanderbilt students.

Although we have already made headway, these ambitions cannot be realized without an ATB executive board filled by bright, reliable students. If you are interested in applying, send an e-mail to john.h.chen@vanderbilt.edu. The application deadline will be Friday, January 22. Available positions include site development coordinator, director of publicity and treasurer.

***If you are interested in
becoming an ATB board
member, please email
john.h.chen@vanderbilt.edu
for the application,
which is due on
Friday, January 22.***

VSC cap on community DJs stirs controversy

By Jon Christian
COMMENTARY EDITOR

In mid November, the Vanderbilt Student Communications board moved to cap the number of community disc jockeys allowed to host shows on WRVU at 25. In a vote of 7-1, the board decided that all existing community DJs needed to re-apply by Dec. 4 in a bid to keep their shows on the air.

The news broke when WRVU general manager Mikil Taylor sent an email to the station listserv, which read "the Vanderbilt Student Communications board met yesterday and set a limit of 25 for the number of non-affiliated individuals who may participate as guest DJs at WRVU for the upcoming semester break and 2010 spring and summer schedules."

Members of the WRVU Executive Staff have complained not only that they felt left out of the decision-making process, but also that they were not even informed that the DJ cap was being considered. However, a week prior to the official announcement, Taylor emailed the executive staff that "the VSC board has decided to begin setting a limit on the amount of community members who can participate in the station." Prior to meeting with the board, Taylor allotted time to meet with WRVU staff to discuss reservations and concerns.

Although no resistance was offered during the week before the cap passed, Vanderbilt students and community members drafted a now-rejected counter proposal after the board's decision. In the wake of the cap, about half of WRVU's community DJs lost their time slots, and music directors Skye Bacus and Hugh Schlesinger, both sophomores, resigned in protest.

However, VSC board members are sticking to their guns. "I'd say there were three main issues: keeping WRVU student-centered, supporting the student staff of WRVU, and managing liability," said Brendan Alviani, senior. He concedes, though, that there were transparency problems. "However, this measure was also intended to address a lot of complex issues that weren't conveyed well outside of the board room," Alviani said.

Some DJs whose shows were canceled in response to the cap are understanding of the VSC board's intentions. "I fully understood the need to re-establish student presence into a college radio station," said Nashville's Bob Sham, former DJ of The Magical Mystery Show, which did not survive the re-application process.

A post on the popular blog "Nashville Cream" quickly garnered hundreds of comments from irate community members, some calling for a boycott or counter proposal, and some just spewing vitriol. Bloggers were further angered by a source for the Nashville Scene who clarified that it was the number of community DJs, not the number of community shows, that was being capped. In other words, if two community DJs co-host a show on WRVU, as is often the case, they are claiming two precious community DJ slots even though they are using only one slot of airtime.

Many internet users corroborated these concerns online. "I also think it would make more sense to base the cutoff on number of slots, not number of DJs. It's better, not worse, for shows to have 2 DJs, since it

makes them less prone to needing fill-ins and more easily able to cope with technical difficulties," said a poster identified as Emily.

Back in September, there was a brief uproar over WRVU's cancellation of the well-received show "The Best of Bread," run by brothers and community DJs Chris and Greg Crofton. According to Director of Student Media Chris Carroll, the show was canceled because the Crofton brothers moved a web cam in the studio.

This was enough to concern some community members, but VSC insisted that it was just a matter of an equipment violation. According to the Nashville Scene, Chris Carroll was dismissive, saying that "nobody's getting rid of community DJs."

Just two months later, the VSC board introduced the cap on community DJ participation.

The groundswell of support for community DJs has not been limited to the non-Vanderbilt community. "After the proposal was rejected, we notified Mikil of our resignation," said former Music Director Bacus. "I am extremely disappointed in the VSC's decision."

Even though in the public eye the cap was primarily to free up radio time for Vanderbilt students, many have pointed out that WRVU's schedule is not that full right now. In fact, time slots during which no DJs are scheduled are filled in by a computerized song-queuing application which has been nicknamed "DJ HAL," after the antagonist in "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Taylor does not equivocate on the issue: empty air time will be filled by students, either current trainees or future recruits. "DJ HAL will take over the air over my dead body," said Taylor.

For Sham, the problem with the cap is one of pragmatism. He points out that many community DJs took slots that were not in high demand by students. Sham's "The Magical Mystery Show," for example, ran from 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

Taylor would debate this point, arguing that popular, longstanding community DJs use their power to lay claim to the choicest time slots. "Vanderbilt students get the first pick of shows in name only," said Taylor.

However, Sham emphasized that the DJ cap doesn't put a premium on desirable hours, or devalue unpopular time slots. "We would have done this show on a random 1 a.m. [on a] Tuesday... I felt it was pointlessly rigid how the cap was enforced," said Sham.

"We were very happy to have such a late slot," said Sham. "We felt that our time slot was out of the way of student and established shows, and left us room to play



DJ Tim Buchanan of "Old Timey Funky Fresh Jams" was one of 25 community DJs who were allowed to keep their shows. Photo: Erika Hyde/ORBIS

with musical themes and be creative."

Alviani said that it wasn't just about competing for space: he believes that by limiting community involvement, WRVU will end up committing resources to search for talent and interest within the student body. Alviani sees the cap as "an incentive for WRVU to go out and reach out to the students, because honestly, every single year, they could get enough people involved by just letting the community come in [instead of recruiting from the Vanderbilt community]."

Doyle Davis, DJ for the current radio show D-Funk on WRVU, explained this wasn't the first time that community DJ participation has been halted during his tenure. In 2003, according to Doyle, all community participation with WRVU was suspended, citing liability issues. All DJs were required to provide extensive contact information and were eventually allowed back on the air.

At a meeting between VSC board members, WRVU staff members, and community DJs which took place following the Nov. 11 announcement, a team of staff and community members presented a counter proposal, which was rejected. In the rejection notice, VSC board chair Kevin Leander noted that "we would also be happy to consider any newly developed proposal for a non-affiliate cap prior to reviewing the policy for the Fall 2010 semester."

Alviani too conceded that as the board observes how the cap affects the WRVU community, they will consider amending the cap. "I still feel sick to my stomach, just thinking about how many people are so angry... I just think about how much this has torn people up, and how much anger this has caused, but as I come back to it, I still stand by it, and I believe that we need to keep student media as student media," said Alviani.

Several ex-WRVU DJs declined to comment because they are holding out for a possible reinstatement after the dust settles. Director of Student Media Chris Carroll did not reply to Orbis by press time.

Letter to the Editor: Why I Resigned from WRVU

WRVU Music Directors Hugh Schlesinger and Skye Bacus resigned in protest of VSC's decision to cap the number of community DJs. Here, Schlesinger details the reasons for his resignation.

By Hugh Schlesinger
STAFF WRITER

Last semester's decision to cap the number of community DJs at WRVU (i.e. DJs with no affiliation to Vanderbilt other than WRVU) was a remarkable demonstration of irresponsible and willfully ignorant leadership by the Vanderbilt Student Communications Board, which is VSC's governing body. While the flaws abound in this decision to address the prevalence of Community DJs at the station, it is this failure of management that I find particularly astounding.

No one expects the VSC Board to instinctively act in WRVU's best interest. Members of the board typically have no experience with WRVU and little knowledge about it, as intended by the VSC's organization and demonstrated by the board members in their interactions with WRVU's staff and Executive Staff. Further, the VSC staff who advise them tend to have little concern for student media which is not printed twice a week at high cost and subsequently disposed of after remaining unread for a few days.

That said, members of the VSC Board are expected to recognize their lack of knowledge and experience when making decisions affecting WRVU and both

seek out and consider outside sources of information and advice.

Sadly, the board made no such efforts when considering the institution of a community DJ cap at WRVU. While transparency was severely lacking throughout their decision making process, it appears the board's main sources of information were Director of Student Media Chris Carroll, an individual with a history of less than harmonious relations with student radio leadership at both Vanderbilt and other institutions he has worked at, and WRVU General Manager Mikil Taylor, who has claimed that by the time the board came to him they seemed to have already settled on the need for some sort of cap.

Other options to address the issue of community DJ prevalence were not discussed with the radio staff at any point. Furthermore, the very nature of community DJ participation and what, if any, problems it posed at WRVU don't seem to have been understood by the board. Instead they acted based on an imagined idea of how WRVU does and should work and produced a solution equally out of touch with the reality of the station's operation.

In response to the initial decision to impose a cap on community DJs, many involved with WRVU attempted to expose to the VSC Board the errors of its decision. A meeting between board members and

the WRVU staff in which questions, concerns and suggestions were posed to the board members in attendance was held. During this meeting a plethora of problems with the cap which had not been considered by the board were brought to light, to which the board members in attendance can attest.

An alternative proposal, which I personally feel addressed the issue of community DJ presence far more constructively and effectively than the cap, was produced and submitted by the WRVU staff and Executive Staff and with the support of hundreds of WRVU listeners. Yet, in the face of all of this new information, the VSC Board refused to alter their initial decision in any way. In a final affirmation of the disconnect between the board and WRVU, Board Chairman Kevin Leander neglected to notify the WRVU Executive Staff of the board's decision until two days after it had been made.

For a body which aims to educate those who participate in student media, the VSC Board set a very poor example of management when it instituted the community DJ cap. Even if the cap had been a good policy, which I believe it was not, the board, like the VSC divisions it oversees, is meant to serve as an educational body for its student members. Alas, the board has, in this instance, failed both this task as well as its executive duty.

VSN urges university to divest from hostile hotelier

By Ari Schwartz
VANDERBILT STUDENTS OF NONVIOLENCE

Vanderbilt University's mission statement makes a commitment to the value of "intellectual freedom that supports open inquiry, equality, compassion, and excellence in all endeavors." These values are all evident in the university's academics, extracurriculars, faculty and staff. In Vanderbilt's investments, however, a commitment to these values is not as apparent.

Recently, the endowment has been widely discussed on campus due to its sharp downturn in last year's recession. But financial gains and losses are not the endowment's only relevant aspects to students. By investing the university's money in various companies around the world, Vanderbilt is in turn condoning the business practices of those companies. Just as Vanderbilt stays true to its commitment to equality in admissions and awarding scholarships, it must do the same in its investments by maintaining those same values.

Students at several prestigious universities across the country, such as the University of Pennsylvania,

Brown, and Princeton have organized to protest their schools' investment in a hotel management company called HEI Hotels & Resorts. This company has recently come under heavy criticism from workers, community and faith leaders, and students for its unjust treatment of workers. HEI operates by buying hotels, making them extremely efficient by overworking and underpaying its workforce, and selling these hotels for a profit. The universities invested in HEI earn a percentage of that profit.

At the HEI-owned Sheraton Crystal City in Virginia, 20-year employee Ferdi Lazo was suspended from work after organizing workers for unionization. HEI's stated reason for the suspension was that Lazo was not doing his job fast enough. In response to Lazo's suspension and other union busting actions by HEI such as interrogations, threats, and the firing of leading worker organizer, Crystal City workers filed charges. These charges moved the National Labor Relations Board to issue a formal complaint against HEI for illegal, anti-union activity. A trial is scheduled for April. In official statements, HEI has denied all charges and maintains that their company is union-friendly and

worker-friendly.

Students at several universities were alerted of their schools' ties with HEI through an Oct. 2006 presentation made to Cornell University hotel management students by HEI's two founders, Gary and Steve Mendell. During this presentation, it was revealed which universities make up HEI's investment fund. Vanderbilt was included on that list.

In response to a letter from Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence asking for clarification on our University's investment in HEI, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos stated that such financial information is not disclosed. According to Zeppos, Vanderbilt takes great care in selecting independent fund managers that share our values of fair practice and justice, but it is these fund managers who are directly responsible for which investments make up the endowment, not Vanderbilt.

Zeppos' response makes sense with respect to Vanderbilt's indirect handling of its endowment. He pointed out that the university itself simply cannot possess the means to successfully invest such a large and important sum of money.

(continued on pg. 12)

My New Year's Resolution is...

Orbis presents funny, random and oddly specific resolutions of our fellow Commodores.

Xavier Waller
Sophomore,
Mech. Engineering
...to cut back on
texting. I've decid-
ed that texting is
stupid, because
people don't know
how to talk to
people anymore.



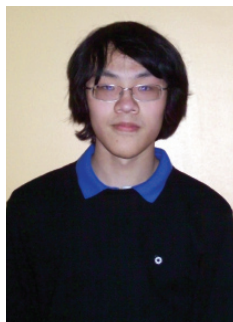
Daniel Cunningham
Junior, Philosophy
...to work out less
often, because I'm
getting too buff and
there's too many
women around me to
get my work done on
time.



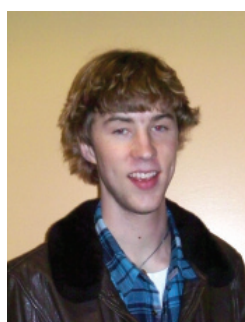
Lauren Pratt
Junior,
Piano
...last year, I made
the resolution to give
up the elevator, so
that I would be less
lazy.



Chuqing He
Freshman,
Engineering
...to become
a better pool
player so I can
beat my friend.



Thomas Hardy
Sophomore,
Mech. Engineering
...to not die, because
I just got my motor-
cycle license.



Rebecca Garden
Junior,
Psychology
...to eat three apples
a day, because an
apple a day keeps
the doctor away... I'll
never get sick again!



Abby McCullough
Sophomore,
Psychology
...to quit drink-
ing Dr. Pepper,
because I'm
addicted to it big
time.



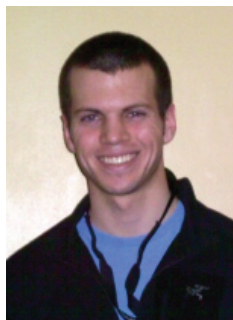
Ryan Moore
Junior,
Civil Engineering
...to work out every
day. But I already
broke my resolution
because I'm too lazy.



Elizabeth Lopez
Senior,
Political Science
...to run a half mara-
thon, just to see if I
can do it.



Kevin Holland
Junior,
Economics
...to learn West
Coast Swing,
because I love to
dance.



Rachel Phillips
Junior, HOD
...to like children,
because in a couple
of years kids will be
something to think
about... I'll focus on
not cringing when
they walk by.



Ben Brantley
Sophomore,
Mech. Engineering
...I don't make
resolutions- I just
live my life.



-Compiled by Erika Hyde

VSN: Vanderbilt fails to invest correctly, continued from 11

What makes no sense is a deflection of responsibility and with that blame to Vanderbilt's hired endowment managers. The bottom line is that our money is being used to fund unjust and cruel labor practices at 32 (and counting) HEI hotels across the country.

The profits of our endowment are being reaped and our scholarships are being created off the maltreatment of low-paid workers. Vanderbilt has chosen these fund managers to invest its money in accordance with its values; our University is responsible for where our money goes.

The notion that the University has limited discretion

is irrelevant. When our endowment's fund managers fail to uphold our values, as they have in pouring money into HEI, Vanderbilt fails to uphold its core values.

There is a great level of trust that flows between a university and its students when they choose to enroll. With their tuition payments, students are entrusting their university to use that money to deliver an education and experience consistent with its stated goals and values.

In return, the university entrusts its students with maintaining those goals and values by excelling on campus.

By investing in HEI Hotels & Resorts, Vanderbilt has broken that trust. We, as students, trusted Vanderbilt to invest responsibly and it has not. The university should no longer hide its investments behind a policy of nondisclosure. Our money is not being used in the manner we trust it to be and workers are suffering as a result.

To regain that trust and move toward an overall ethic of responsible investment, Vanderbilt must cut ties with HEI and keep a closer eye on the labor practices of the companies in which it invests.