

Cell phones get a thumbs down in this week's Verdict. page 9



The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

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LECTURE

Theater troupe puts new face on Holocaust experience

Third Holocaust Lecture Series event held tonight.

By Sydney Wilmer
STAFF REPORTER

The award-winning mask and puppet theatre troupe Company of Angels will present an unspoken narrative complete with music, movement and lighting today at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Belcourt Theater.

This performance, based on the true story of German-Jewish artist Charlotte Salomon, is the third installment in this year's Holocaust Lecture Series.

Faculty chair of the series Jay Geller said that the event encourages the audience to reconsider what they already know about the Holocaust.

"Seeing real images of the Holocaust can give the impossible illusion that you understand what Charlotte Salomon was going through," Geller said.

Following the performance, Vanderbilt professor emeritus Fred Westfield, who was rescued from Germany at age 12, will discuss the Third Reich.

Student co-chair of the series Davis Scott said that the events, all of which are free and open to the public, are a "phenomenal opportunity" to experience something new.

"How the troupe performs will probably be illuminating for Holocaust scholars and students that don't know much about the Holocaust," Scott said. "I think it will be terribly unique."

"There is an assumption of obscurity, for a lot of students, about the Holocaust," Scott said. "I hope that it shows how it is immediately relevant in the world today."

The series will also explore issues of genocide in today's world in conjunction with Students Taking Action Now: Darfur.

Students will have the opportunity to see and discuss "Darfur Diaries: Message from Home," a film about the ongoing genocide in Sudan, with the filmmaker Nov. 1. ■

Free flu shots now available in the Student Health Center



The Student Health Center is offering the flu vaccine to all registered students in Sarratt Promenade from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Student Health Center.

SCIENCE

Vanderbilt researchers locate gene that increases autism risk

Discovery takes significant step toward finding cause of disorder.

By Harish Krishnamoorthi
STAFF REPORTER

Scientists at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development have taken a significant step toward finding the cause of autism.



CAMPBELL



LEVITT

Scientists from Italy collaborated with Vanderbilt researchers Dr. Daniel Campbell and Dr. Pat Levitt to locate a gene that they found increases the likelihood of inheriting autism.

"The crux of what we're doing is first looking for changes in the DNA that could be associated with autism and seeing if those changes could have passed down from parents," Campbell said. "What we discovered is a genetic variant that predisposes people to autism."

Operating out of Medical Research Building III and collaborating with an Italian team led by Antonio Persico, scientists screened 80 DNA samples from individuals with autism for genetic variants specific to those with the disorder. Once these were found, they took DNA samples from over 700 families to see how the variants were

passed down from parents. Here, they found a gene that strongly suggests autism is a genetic disorder.

"This is a vulnerability gene," Levitt said in a Reuters interview. "There are not genes that actually cause autism. It raises the risk. The gene exerts the strongest effect detected thus far among autism candidate genes."

Instead of focusing on genes related to the brain, Levitt and Campbell focused on the entire spectrum of symptoms of autism, which commonly include immune and gastrointestinal problems.

"People have been looking for the autism gene for a long time," Campbell said. "What's really cool about this gene is that it is involved with the immune system, brain and stomach. It really connects not only the neurological symptoms but also problems with the stomach and the immune system."

The mutated gene does not affect the function of the gene. Instead, it affects how much of the gene is translated into proteins in the neurological, immunological and gastrointestinal systems.

"Whenever you have this particular chromosome, you have less transcript made of a particular gene, and that is involved with how the brain develops," Campbell said. ■

TECHNOLOGY

LAN Party descends on Sarratt Friday evening

Computer Society to host multiple video game tournaments.

By Michael Young
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Vanderbilt Computer Society will host a LAN party in Sarratt Friday at 6 p.m., and will give away prizes such as an Xbox 360, an iPod Nano and a Nintendo DS Lite.

The event, which is co-sponsored by VenUE, Peabody College and Information Technology Service's DigitalLife, gets its name from the computer networking term "Local Area Network" and can be described

as a temporary gathering of people and computers for the purpose of playing multi-player computer games.

The party will feature multiple video game tournaments, including Halo 2 and Dance Dance Revolution competitions. Contestants are encouraged to bring their own computers, but a variety of other games are offered for those without PCs.

LAN parties aren't simply a chance to compete, however.

John Ahlbin, graduate adviser of the Computer Society, said

that for those who want to stay away from the contests, plenty of other games will be around.

"The learning curve has been taken into account to attract as many people as possible," he said.

The tournaments are more of a draw for ambitious gamers, rather than the focal point of the event, said Brian Turnbull, vice president of the Computer Society.

"You can do everything at a LAN party in your own room on the Internet, but it's a completely different experience

when you're all in the same room playing against each other," he said. "You can beat someone in the game and holler across the room at them. There's a lot more interaction there."

Aaron Thompson, a freshman member of the Computer Society, said that the purpose of a LAN party is simply to get together and have fun.

"It's a marathon of over-cafeinated electronic action," he said. "I know I'll have a blast regardless of the competition."

Computer Society President

Jason Roberts said that one of the aims of ITS's Digital Life is to "support legal alternatives for music, software and movies."

The event's game selection reflects the attitude that electronic media should be respected, he said.

"We try to pick games that are cheap enough to encourage people to bring legal copies."

In addition to the games, free food and drinks will be provided. Full tournament times and details are available at www.vandy.com. ■

Showdown: Tequila vs. Liver



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Dressed as a tequila bottle, Micaela Rosenthal chases Alexis Bashinski, the liver, on the Wall to promote Liver Appreciation Week, sponsored by the Office of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention.

ACADEMICS

With new director, PTY program gets a facelift

Students asked to offer opinions on summer school for middle and high school participants.

By Kay Robinson
STAFF REPORTER

Elizabeth Schoenfeld was hired this summer to revitalize the Vanderbilt Program for Talented Youth, a program for gifted middle and high school students similar to the TIP program at Duke University.

PTY will hold a meeting Thursday at 8 p.m. in Sarratt 112 to discuss upcoming changes to its summer programs. The meeting is open to all students who have participated in PTY or similar programs.

Sophomore Downs Reese participated in the Duke program and said he is thankful for the opportunity to experience college life during high school.

Please see PTY, page 2

Students wear ribbons, dress in pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Fashion for a Cause members hand out pink M&Ms Tuesday on the Wall to raise awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Susan G. Komen Foundation will sponsor Race for the Cure, a 5K run or walk, held on Nov. 5.

THE WALL

QUOTABLE

"Over the year, we found that males gained 5.6 pounds and females gained 3.6 pounds, with the large majority of that weight gained in the first semester."

— Elizabeth Lloyd-Richardson

The Brown researcher led two of the largest and longest studies ever done of weight gain among college students.

She found that the "Freshman 15" is more like five to seven but is followed by the "Sophomore 2 or 3."

NOTABLE

Rock 'n' roll legend Elvis Presley ceded his crown to Nirvana lead singer Kurt Cobain on Forbes.com's list as the top-earning dead celebrity.

The list, published on Tuesday, said grunge rocker Cobain earned \$50 million between October 2005 and October 2006. Presley wound up in the No. 2 slot with \$42 million, down from last year's \$45 million.

Forbes.com bases its dollar amounts on licensing deals for using the deceased celebrities' work or image in advertising or elsewhere.

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY
Partly Cloudy, 57/48

THURSDAY
Rain, 58/51

FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy, 56/47

SERVICE GUIDE

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the academic year except for during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break.

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CORRECTIONS

The Hustler strives for accuracy and fairness and will correct errors of substance. See our correction policy on the Opinion page for information about notifying us.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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One semester's delivery via U.S. Postal Service is available for \$125 or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

CORRECTION

The article "Habitat for Humanity holds strong" in the Oct. 20 issue was incorrectly attributed to Cappi Williamson. Sydney Wilmer wrote the article.

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Allison Smith

College Democrats and Republicans to debate Thursday

The College Democrats and College Republicans will square off in a debate covering topics such as immigration, national security and fiscal policy in SGA's Issues Awareness Debate. The debate is sponsored by the Issues Awareness Committee and will take place Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. in Wilson 103.

Commodore Trot held today

Habitat for Humanity will hold the Commodore Trot, a 5-K run/walk around campus, today at 6 a.m. starting at the Recreation Center. All the proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity and "The House that Vander-Built," the home the Vanderbilt chapter has sponsored for a Vanderbilt employee.

Jewish Studies Department sponsors Lox, Bagels and Jewish Studies event

Students will have the opportunity to find out more about Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Thursday at an event in Buttrick 140. Meet the faculty and preview the Spring 2007 courses at a lunch information session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Interhall Dinner Discussions held tonight

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy a catered dinner with graduate students, professors and Vanderbilt staff members while informally discussing the History of Islam and Conflict in the Middle East. The third Dinner Discussions will be Oct. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Rand Function Room. If you are interested in attending Dinner Discussions e-mail Interhall@vanderbilt.edu.

Check out <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Allison Smith

There is no crime to report.

PTY: Program focuses on Vanderbilt's strengths

From PTY, page 1

"I really think it was good for me to experience an environment with students who are intellectually motivated and enthused about learning," Reese said. "Having a slice of college life at a young age motivated me in high school."

David Dault, recruitment coordinator for PTY, said he hopes to generate a discussion at the meeting that will help Vanderbilt in its efforts to revamp the program.

"We're basically welcoming and inviting anybody who has been a participant in one of these summer programs to come and eat some free pizza and tell us what worked and what didn't work in their programs," Dault said.

"We're in the process of completely changing our program around, and we'd like to talk to Vanderbilt students who participated in similar programs and find out what they liked or didn't like so we can create a great program," Schoenfeld said.

Schoenfeld, wife of vice chancellor for Public Affairs Michael Schoenfeld, said the changes are partly due to low enrollment numbers in the last few years.

"The numbers were not where they needed to be for a Vanderbilt program," she said, adding that until she was hired, PTY was run

part-time by Vanderbilt professors.

PTY was established in 2000 and seeks to engage gifted middle and high school students in challenging academic endeavors they may not encounter in their schools. While all summer programs share this goal, each has its own character, Dault said.

"Unlike other programs which focus on enrichment across the board, we really try to cater to Vanderbilt's strengths," he said.

As an example of this, Schoenfeld mentioned the nanotechnology class, which will be taught from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Schoenfeld said some of the courses to be offered this summer include a mini medical school, forensic anthropology, a course about civil rights and hip-hop, and a course on law and war. PTY will also hold weekend events during the spring semester and will soon offer programs for students in grades K-8.

Dault said that he also hopes students at the meeting will be interested in participating in the program as resident advisers or other support staff.

"We are looking for interested people who have been participants in these programs to help us in terms of our summer staffing; the meeting is not just to get their ideas but their involvement as well," he said. ■

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Vanderbilt students take back the night



Project Safe hosted its annual Take Back the Night rally on Monday, an international event organized in communities to unify men, women and children in awareness of violence against women.

JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

GRE to undergo significant changes

Students are recommended to take the test before it changes in September.

By Ellie Atkins
STAFF REPORTER

The GRE will undergo numerous changes, following the lead of other standardized tests such as the SAT and the MCAT.

Beginning in September 2007, the length of the test will be increased by approximately two hours and the content will be revised, affecting the 500,000 students who take the exam annually.

"I had heard rumors about these changes last summer, so I already decided to take the test before the changes are implemented," said sophomore Emily Morris. "Since the scores last for five years, I'd rather be able to take a test where I would have a better chance of getting a good score than a harder test that could hurt my chances of getting into graduate school."

Susan Kaplan, director of Graduate Programs at Kaplan, said that Kaplan has also advised students to take the test before the changes are implemented.

"Kaplan recommends that the students take the test before the changes," Kaplan said. "The new test will require a lot more stamina because it will be over four hours long, and many people may find the content to be more challenging."

The verbal section, quantitative section and analytical writing section, whose title will be changed to the critical thinking and analytical writing section, have all been lengthened. There will be a much larger emphasis on analytical thinking and reasoning abilities with new questions such as more reading comprehension, more complex sentence corrections and real-life scenarios.

In addition to the time and content

changes, the test score range will also be completely revised. In November, a table will be made available so that scores can be compared between the old and new test formats.

Furthermore, the text of students' essays will be made available to schools in addition to the essay score.

Kaplan called these changes "the most significant change to the GRE in its 55-year history."

Sophomore Peter Butler said that he believes the harder test may be beneficial in the long run.

"I think the harder test will certainly discourage some students from pursuing graduate school, but at the same time, it will allow graduate schools to recruit more dedicated students," he said. ■

SERVICE

Report finds college student volunteerism on the rise

Tennessee records fourth lowest student volunteer rate.

By Becky Tyrell
STAFF REPORTER

Keeping with the national trend, Vanderbilt has posted steady increases in student volunteerism over the past few years.

More than 3.3 million college students engaged in volunteer activities in 2005, up 20 percent from 2002, according to a recent report based on survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Nearly 30 percent of students engaged in some volunteer activity, up from 27 percent three years prior. The percentage of students volunteering and the growth rate of volunteer activities among students surpass those of the general population.

Mark Dalhouse, director of Vanderbilt's Office of Active Citizenship and Service, said he has seen a definite increase in volunteer efforts on campus since his start in 2003.

"Alternative Spring Break continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and the number of applicants for the new Alternative Winter Break program floored us," Dalhouse said. "There has also been an increase in the number of faculty asking for help arranging service opportunities for their classes, especially in the past six months."

While the report said Tennessee has the fourth lowest student volunteer rate, Jay Tseng, vice president of mentoring for Vanderbuddies, said he doesn't think Vanderbilt's volunteer rate is consistent with that of the state.

"I think that we have a very healthy level of volunteer effort on campus," Tseng said. "There are so many student groups out there that do some sort of service, and I feel like pretty much everybody is in at least one of those groups."

Though it is not entirely clear why volunteer efforts have increased over the past few years, the report notes recent events such as Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina as potential causes, as well as increased awareness about the genocide in Sudan.

"The Darfur issue has touched a real chord with Vanderbilt students, and we've seen phenomenal growth in the number of volunteers at the Sudanese Community Center," Dalhouse said.

Consistent with the national findings, Dalhouse said tutoring and mentoring are the most popular volunteer activities at Vanderbilt.

Dalhouse said he expects the growth of student volunteer efforts to continue.

Not only are students expressing more interest, colleges are creating programs to help match students to volunteer opportunities and link community work with academic programs, he said.

"We're trying to inculcate a way of life," he said. "Service is not just an activity, it's a way of looking at the world. It's about taking the Vanderbilt education that teaches you to be discerning and critical and using that in the world." ■

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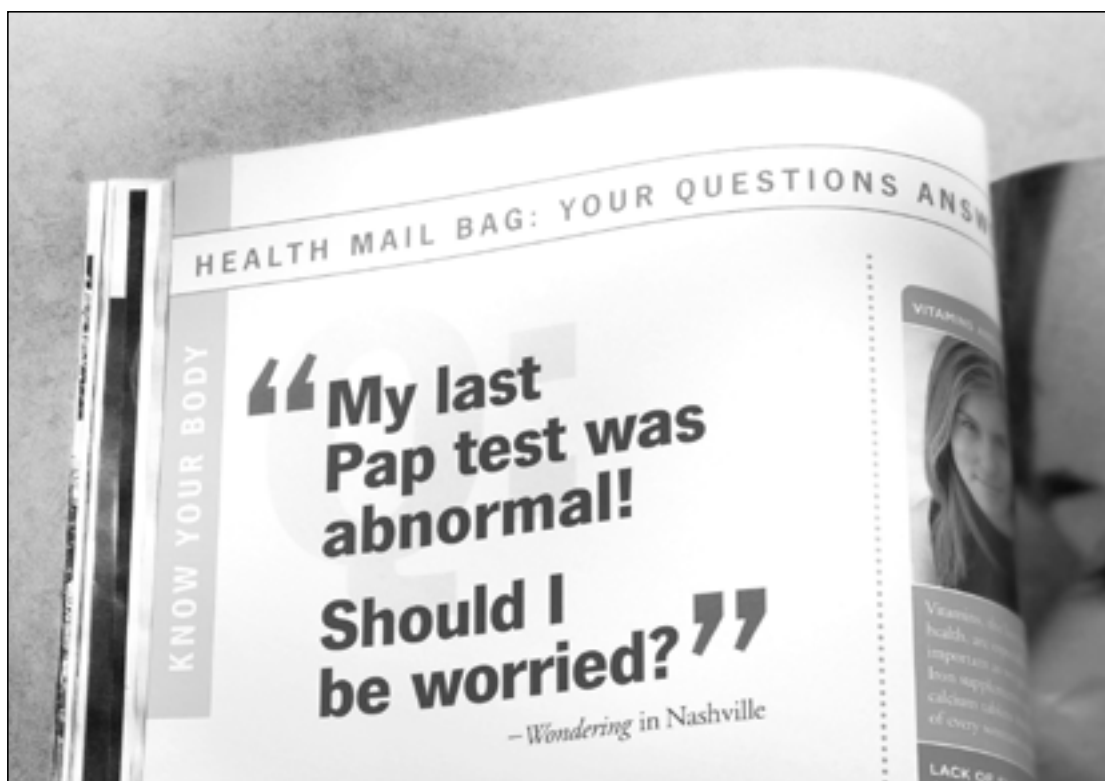
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Organ donation encouraged as part of Liver Appreciation Week



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Jack Bellows speaks with Frank Frey, a liver transplant survivor, about organ donation and decides to sign up to be an organ donor on the Wall Tuesday afternoon.

Vanderbilt economics professor honored with teaching award

The Southern Economic Association has honored Vanderbilt professor Stephen Buckles with a prestigious teaching award for his contributions to economics education.

Buckles, who has taught at Vanderbilt for 12 years, is a past president of the National Council of Economics Education.

He will be presented with the Kenneth G. Elzinga Distinguished Teaching Award during the annual meeting of the SEA, to be held Nov. 18-21.

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AUDITION

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11:00 am

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INTERNSHIPS

Vanderbilt Internship Experience in Washington to hold information session

Program offers students Washington internship, networking opportunities.

By Christina England
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Vanderbilt Internship Experience in Washington program will hold an interest session tonight at 7 p.m. in the Community Partnership House.

Coordinated by the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, the VIEW program provides students with the opportunity to complete eight-week public service internships in Washington, D.C. in a variety of arenas including government and politics, arts and media, education and education policy, and social justice and issue advocacy.

Applications for the 2007 program are already out. The priority application deadline is Nov. 17, and the final application deadline is Dec. 1.

Senior Amy Kaufman, who participated in the program last summer and interned in Bill Frist's office, said the internship

afforded her many extraordinary opportunities.

"The Hill interns had the opportunity to attend a lecture series that included speakers like Chief Justice John Roberts, Colin Powell and a variety of senators," she said. "I had my usual routine that included riding the underground train from the Senate buildings to the Capitol with John McCain, walking the halls with Senator Kennedy and Senator Lott nearly every day, and being in the Senate Chamber during nearly important votes that took place this summer."

Senior Meredith Toole, who interned at the Vanderbilt University Office of Federal Relations, said her job gave her the opportunity to participate in the public relations aspect of a private university operating in the capital city.

"I learned how to work in a professional setting and adapt to various tasks at the direction of my bosses," she said. "I also learned a lot about how things work in Washington."

VIEW also requires participants to contribute 10 to 20

hours of service a month to organizations such as domestic violence shelters, GLBT centers or soup kitchens.

"Some of the girls in the program organized a group of us to cook lunch at the Ronald McDonald House one Saturday afternoon," Kaufman said. "It was great to be able to contribute in this small way to the Washington, D.C. community."

All VIEW participants also have access to a variety of networking opportunities with Vanderbilt alumni and internship supervisors, Toole said.

"VIEW incorporates seminars with various leaders in Washington which gives you opportunities to come into contact with influential leaders and learn about things outside of your internship," Toole said. "The seminars gave me opportunities that I wouldn't have had as an intern on my own in Washington."

More information about the VIEW program can be found online at www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs. ■

For past issues of The Hustler visit *Sarratt 130.*

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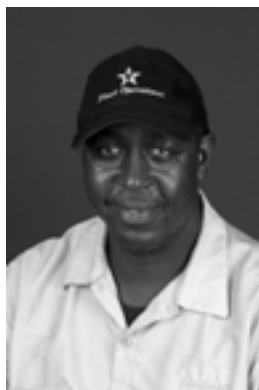
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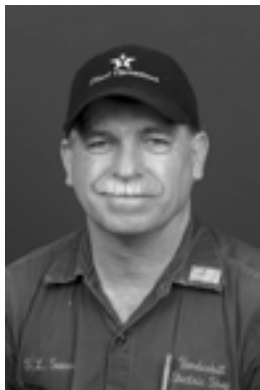
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NATION

China receives no apology from North Korean leader for nuclear test

Kim Jong Il makes assurances that second test will not occur.

By Alexa Oleson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

China gave its first full public account Tuesday of its mission to North Korea, saying it got no apology from top leader Kim Jong Il for the atomic explosion but did receive assurances there were no plans for a second nuclear test.

The North's reclusive leader also expressed a willingness to return to six-nation talks over its nuclear program if financial restrictions levied by the U.S. are first resolved, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao.

Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan met with Kim last week during a trip to Pyongyang with Beijing's top nuclear envoy and vice foreign minister that analysts and diplomats had called a critical opportunity to assess the North's intentions.

The meeting resulted in no breakthroughs, but China cast the discussions in a positive light.

Tang was told during meetings with Kim and other North Korean officials that the regime has no plans currently to carry out a second nuclear test, Liu said. "But if it faces pressure, North Korea reserves the right to take further actions," he added, citing Tang.

A second nuclear test has been widely believed to be a possibility. Earlier this month, U.S. media reported that Pyongyang may be preparing for another blast, citing suspicious activity at a suspected test site in the country's northeast.

But on Tuesday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported the U.S. military had not detected signs of preparations for a second atomic test.

Despite the apparently conciliatory tone of the Pyongyang meeting, Liu said Kim did not apologize for his regime's nuclear test, as some South Korean media had reported.

"These reports are certainly not accurate," Liu said. "We haven't heard any information that Kim Jong Il apologized for the test."

North Korean officials told the Chinese envoy Pyongyang was willing to return to international negotiations on its nuclear program but wants "certain questions, including the matter of U.S. financial sanctions against it, resolved first," Liu said at a regular press briefing.

The U.S. has sought to cut off the North's access to international banking as punishment for alleged counterfeiting of U.S. dollars and other illicit activity. Pyongyang has denied the charges and boycotted six-nation talks on its nuclear program until the U.S. ends the crackdown.

"All countries involved in the six-party talks believe the talks should be resumed but of course the parties do not all agree on how," Liu said, referring to the talks Beijing has hosted since 2003. They include China, the two Koreas, the United States, Russia and Japan.

"Consultations are required to find a way acceptable to all," he said. ■

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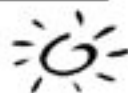
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OUR VIEW

Senate race is out of control

In a Senatorial race as important and as close as the current one between Republican Bob Corker and Democrat Harold Ford, Jr., the discourse is bound to heat up. However, with the latest negative advertisements, and subsequent reactions to them, it appears that any rules and decorum have gone completely out the window.

A recent advertisement produced by the Republican National Committee attacking Ford definitely approaches, if not crosses, the line of appropriateness. Among other questionable assertions regarding Ford's character and beliefs, the ad prominently features a white woman who claims to have met Ford at a "Playboy party" winking and asking Ford to call her. Many have charged that this is an appeal to racism.

Prominent figures that have spoken out about it include former Defense Secretary and former Republican Senator from Maine, William Cohen, who said, "To me, at least as I watch that, is a very serious appeal to a racist sentiment."

When asked by Wolf Blitzer on CNN's "The Situation Room," "Is the R.N.C. playing the racial card against Harold Ford in Tennessee right now?" Cohen responded, "I think they are coming very close to it, if not doing it exactly. And I think they ought to stop it."

Corker has even asked that the RNC pull the ad. However, in a statement to Memphis' Commercial Appeal last Friday, RNC spokesman Camille Anderson said, "The RNC stands by this advertisement, and I have no reason to believe that it will not continue to air on television stations across the state."

Negative advertising has marked the midterm campaign season. Texan Bob J. Perry, who was the leading financier of the dubious "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth" has even entered into the race, funding a similar 527 group's ads against Ford. Michael Powell, a senior advisor to Ford said, "Swift Boat politics have no place in Tennessee, and the ad should never make the air." Corker, however, who is not affiliated with the group, said, "They appear to have their facts right."

Meanwhile, the most surprising moment of the campaign may have come last week, when Ford showed up unannounced at a Corker press conference in Memphis and accosted him for running ads attacking Ford's family. Corker described the unexpected action as "desperate," and some have questioned if the ambush may have violated campaign ethics.

One thing about this race is clear – it has gotten very dirty recently. With the elections coming up in less than two weeks, it can only be expected to get worse.

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in The Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on our website.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to The Hustler office or via e-mail to editor@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either

come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editor-in-chief. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which The Hustler is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to The Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone on the news line at 615-322-2424 or the editor-in-chief at 615-322-3757.

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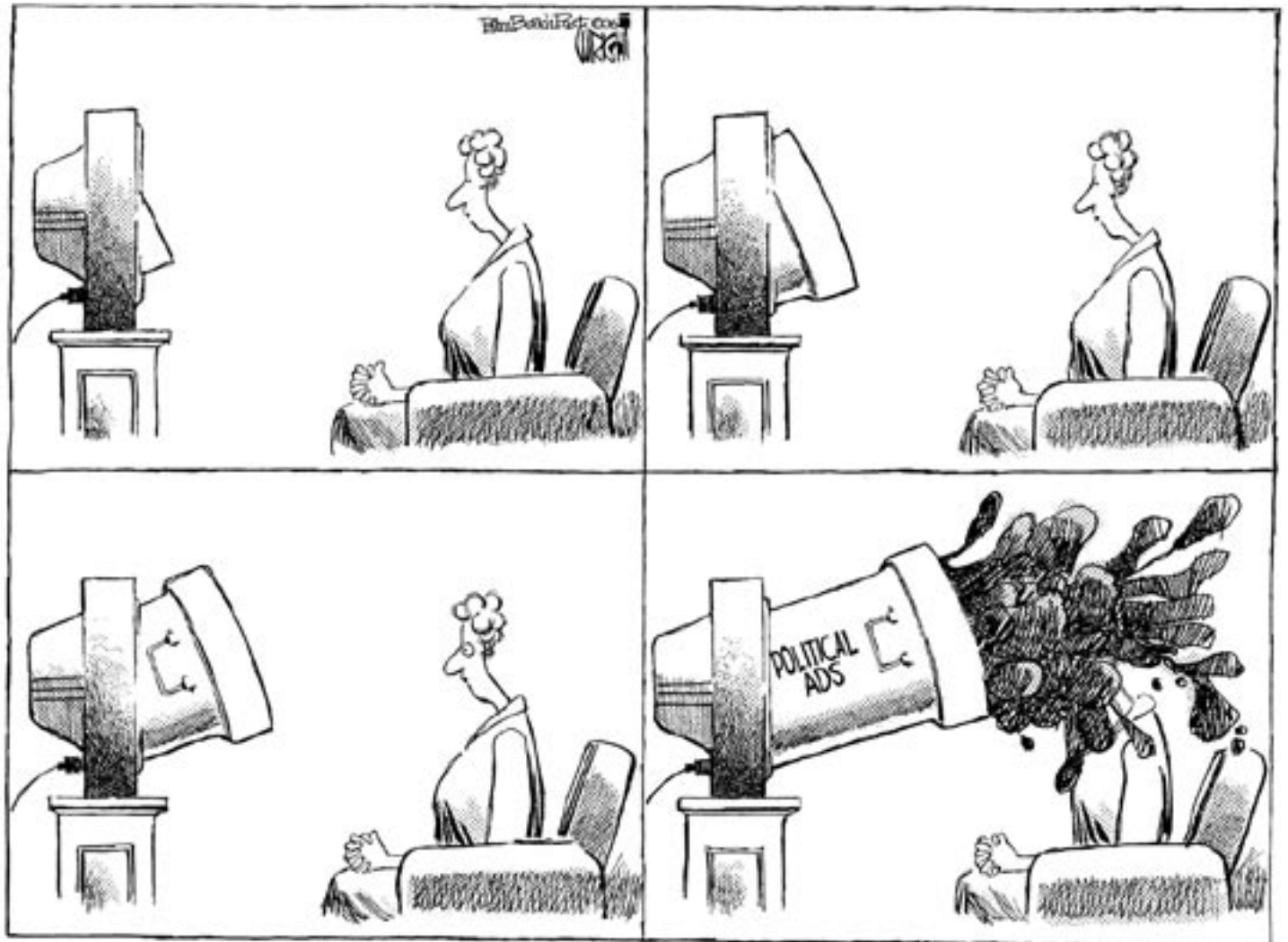
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



Don Wright —MCT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fathers deserve a choice in abortion matters equal to that of mothers

To the Editor:

With the recent discussion of abortion in The Hustler, I thought it would be interesting to bring up not another argument either for or against abortion, but rather a related issue. Abortion is technically a woman's ability to choose for herself whether or not she wishes to go through with a pregnancy. However, the father's input can be completely ignored in this matter if she so chooses. That said, why then should a father not have the choice to "abort" a child after birth by having the right to not pay child support?

Of course, the woman is the one carrying the child, but, in essence, abortion can be broken down to her deciding that having a child at this point in her life just doesn't suit her desires. If we do end up passing a law giving her this right, why shouldn't a man have the same ability? To be able to say, "This child will impact me just as much for the next two decades of my life, and I choose not to be a part of it."

It seems inherently hypocritical for abortion advocates to be defending a woman's right to have the sole power of deciding whether an unborn child might live or not and the father to just be a slave to her decision and have no choice of opting out of the obligation himself. After all, even though the child is within the woman, it is 50 percent from the man; it's just as much his child as hers. If he has no say in whether or not the child is born, then she should have no say in his decision to be a part of the child's life if it is born.

Some people might view this idea as ludicrous; however, they

should understand that abortion opponents view the idea of ending innocent life as equally outlandish. In my own personal opinion, if two people are irresponsible enough to have a child when they aren't prepared for it, then that is a problem of their own making. The easy, and wrong, way out is to opt for abortion. People need to understand that a wild night of debauchery can lead to these sorts of situations, and one must learn to live with the consequences of one's actions.

Women need to be aware that if the abortion debate does end up falling toward the pro-choice camp, a natural reaction will be the issue of men being able to "abort" a child post-pregnancy coming to the forefront. If women want to staunchly defend their right to choose whether or not their lives are "interrupted" by a child, then they must be prepared to raise children alone in the future – without monetary support from the father. Men should not, and will not, sit idly by as the fate of their children is wrenched from their hands. Of course, this all leads back to the fact that having a child should be an undertaking made by two people who care for one another and are in a committed relationship, where such issues are not a consideration.

If you break something, you don't sweep it under the rug – you pick it up and move on as best as you can. And who knows? For those who find themselves confronted with the situation of choosing whether a child lives or dies, they might discover one of the biggest joys of their lives in the first smile of their own child.

Kyle Larson
Sophomore, Arts and Sciences

COLUMN

Students may not appreciate income inequality issues

Being at Vanderbilt in general has changed my outlook on many issues, but one that stands out specifically is economic inequality. The classes I have taken, the conversations I

offered 25. I took 11 AP classes, scoring highly by taking advantage of the qualified, educated teachers. I was well advised during the college application process by counselors who knew what they were doing.

Recently I made a comment about the discomfort caused in middle school from wearing braces. "Of course," I said, "I didn't mind wearing braces in 7th grade because probably 80 percent of the kids in my grade had them at the same time." When my friend remarked that I was apparently from a wealthy area, I began to see how fortunate I was. My dad's health care plan gives me dental checkups, orthodontic care, nearly free prescriptions and insurance for unforeseen hospital visits until I turn 25. Even without insurance, my parents footed the bill for the contacts, glasses and optometrist visits I needed.

At the young age of 19, I have been to almost every state and four foreign countries. A church youth group, backed by active, fundraising, (and generally wealthy) parents allowed me to sing in a choir tour in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City. An active band booster club made it possible for my high school to purchase new uniforms, sousaphones, drums and other instruments, and attract a qualified band director for all of our programming.

Very quickly, I realized that I am indeed very privileged. Repeatedly I was surprised to find out that my friends' high schools only offered two or three AP classes when mine

offered 25. I took 11 AP classes, scoring highly by taking advantage of the qualified, educated teachers. I was well advised during the college application process by counselors who knew what they were doing.

While I did not receive a brand new car for my 16th birthday, like so many of my friends, I drove one of my parents' cars whenever I wanted to do anything. Drive for an hour to the lake for an afternoon of boating and waterskiing? No problem. Tuxedo rental for prom at the Fox Theatre and \$400 for limo rental? That is half as much as last year! I went skydiving for my 18th birthday. I had enough food and drink for the 100 people who came to the graduation party my parents planned and executed.

My summers were perfect examples of the money that has enriched my life. I went to Duke to take a class on "The Mind and Brain" for \$3,000 one summer. The next summer I did it again, for the same cost. Every summer I went to Boy Scout camp, church camp, an international mission trip, a domestic mission trip, a church choir tour in charter buses, a family vacation in an oceanfront beach house (or Yellowstone, or Hawaii, or San Francisco). The list goes on and on.

To think that I complained that my friends got Gushers and Fruit Roll-Ups in their

While I came to Nashville, I kept hearing

Please see **KASBOHM**, page 9

Guest Columnist

DANIEL KASBOHM

KASBOHM: People are worse off than previously realized

From KASBOHM, page 8

lunches when I was forced to eat generic fruit snacks! I bemoaned my Target, Kohl's and JCPenney attire when all my friends shopped at Hollister and American Eagle. I asked why we only had one computer when my friends all had a laptop for their bedrooms. And in the most dramatic episode of teenage angst, I swore I was the last person on earth to get a cell phone when I finally received my sister's old phone in 10th grade.

Now I realize how many people on Earth do not have enough clothes for their families, or adequate health care, or options for food at all, or access to education, or transportation or housing. Forget about disposable income for trips, games, books and piano lessons!

It's not like I was stupid. I sensed that some people did not have what I had. But it didn't seem important. I felt like if only they tried harder, maybe they too would be able

to purchase a gold class ring for over \$400. Why don't the poor inner city blacks just go to an expensive, elitist, private university like I (and my two sisters) did? Why didn't my uncle just get his insurance company to pay so he could straighten his smile to perfection? Better yet, why couldn't he just pay the \$10 co-pay necessary to keep his teeth from falling out?

All across this nation, kids go to schools without computers, they take the bus and they work to support the family income. Their school libraries don't have subscriptions to 50 magazines and electronic databases. Their chemistry labs don't have a Bunsen burner, burette and beakers for each student. Forget about band, orchestra, choir, art, dance team and chess club. The idea that America is a place where everyone starts out on equal footing and ends in a position gained

entirely through ability and intellect is a complete myth.

Don't even get me started on the rest of the world. Does anyone care about Africa? Just to make payments on a car is a privilege that many citizens of Third World countries cannot even dream of accessing. Families live in landfills, entire communities drink contaminated water and AIDS wreaks havoc on whole regions of a country.

It's right at the moment you are contemplating this travesty of human condition when you always seem to pass by a Vanderbilt student on the phone screaming, "I said I wanted the black North Face and my stupid mom ordered the green one! My life is ruined!"

—Daniel Kasbohm is a sophomore in the college of Arts and Science

THE VERDICT

The opinion staff passes judgement on everything inside the bubble and out.

Cell Phones		New study says frequent use increases infertility. This is bad news for any guys at Vanderbilt that may own cell phones.
October		Already the deadliest month for U.S. troops this year and there are still six days left.
"Stay the course"		Familiar rallying cry gets tossed. Maybe "flip-flopper" will now make a comeback.
Earthquake McGoon		One of the first killed in Vietnam finally has remains brought back to America and had notably awesome name.
Electronic Voting		Glitches that cut off names and party affiliations of candidates in Virginia cannot be fixed by Election Day.
Manatee		Shows up in river in Memphis. That is one strong swimmer that, thankfully, cell phones cannot kill.

COLUMN

Columnist McGeady's understanding of American economy is flawed

To Christopher McGeady's credit, he possesses true, well-intentioned convictions; to America's credit, he's only a college sophomore. His article on the upcoming elections disregards basic economic

Guest Columnist

JUSTIN HARKINS

principles in favor of a more cuddly country and, to that end, proposes quick fixes to systemic problems.

While much of McGeady's article should be viewed with skepticism, it is the understanding of America's economy that is his article's greatest flaw. He says that "the Republican response" of lowering taxes to stimulate economic growth is incorrect and that this growth is "important, but improving the lives of all Americans is paramount."

His ideas to improve the lives of all Americans (read: lower income) would manifest themselves in social programs, including federal welfare programs and federal grants for public education. These programs seem sound on the surface, but they seek to resolve societal problems by pouring more money into an already inefficient system. The phrase "like putting a Band-Aid on a broken arm" would be well applied here. As a general rule, any plan purporting to improve the lives of

all Americans should be regarded with significant suspicion; to use McGeady's own words, this stance is not based in reality. At any rate, contrary to McGeady's warning, the transfer of tax money away from the federal government and into the economic market is a proven way to improve the lives of most Americans on a more lasting level.

He refers to "growth" and "performance" as Republican buzzwords that are without any real impact on the daily lives of lower- and middle-income Americans, but it is worth noting that tax cuts in 2003 have already garnered an economic growth rate of 3.5 percent, which is higher than the average for the last 20 years, and a 4.6 percent unemployment rate that is lower than the average for the last 40 years. In 2004 alone, the economy grew at a rate of 3.9 percent, which added to the American GDP the equivalent of the entire GDP of Taiwan (the world's 19th largest economy). Even if, as McGeady suggests, the growth primarily helps the "richest of the rich and large corporations," he would still have to contend with the low unemployment rate. It should go without saying that having a job has a direct impact on the daily lives of lower and middle-income Americans.

Even those in possession of a rudimentary understanding of economics will acknowledge that incentives drive progress. If you remove the incentives, you remove the progress. The relative lack of incentive is one of the major cases against

the implementation of universal health care, which McGeady also notes as a Republican miscue. In countries with socialized medicine, doctors earn, on average, less than half of what they earn here. Without the economic incentive, many of America's most talented students would choose other professions (and with due cause), thereby removing from the medical population individuals with high potential and high earning goals. Furthermore, American efforts are leading the world's medical research, and socializing health care would remove much of the incentive inherent in the development of new procedures and medicines.

Universal health care is a representative case. Frequently, government-subsidized social programs offer goods and services with little expectation of the return of any goods or services. In other words, recipients receive the incentive with no expectation of progress. (A notable exception is the recent reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which requires that states wanting to continue receiving money from the TANF block grant will have to prove that roughly 60 percent of families receiving TANF money are engaged in some sort of work-related activity and that number will increase by 5 percent in each of the next two years.

If, however, the money currently allocated to the programs were instead fed into the free market,

the former recipients would be able to fill the jobs that the economic growth would necessarily create. The benefits may not appear instantly, but worthwhile and lasting solutions take time in such a vast system. Ultimately, a quick fix will create more problems than it will solve.

McGeady's proposal that the federal government subsidize lower-income families through social programs is, at best, a temporary solution and, at worst, in direct opposition to the long-term interests of the programs' beneficiaries. (As an aside, the provision for the care of America's "less well-off citizens" as a function of the federal government, as McGeady suggests it to be, is conspicuously absent from the Constitution, and I would direct any concerns thereof to James Madison since he addressed the issue some 200 years ago.) A capitalist economy functions more efficiently and more productively when government influence is low, thereby allowing the market to determine the prices and standards of goods and services. Indeed, a strong case could be made that current government institutions (e.g., care for the poor and seniors and, especially, education) would benefit from the incentive/progress dynamic that accompanies increased privatization. After all, we all chose Vanderbilt for a reason.

—Justin Harkins is a graduate student in the Divinity School

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 - Surrounding glow
 - All the rage
 - More lustrous
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 - Reduce
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 - ___ Paulo
 - Bridge triumph
 - Tout's hangout
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 - Mistaken
 - Frosted
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 - Star quality
 - Item of value
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 - Wielded the blue pencil
 - Protect illegally
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 - Set free
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10/25/06

10/23/06 SOLUTIONS

T	O	T	S		K	A	F	K	A		S	T	A	R		
M	O	U	E		A	D	I	E	U		M	A	L	I		
C	O	R	D		A	L	D	A	S		O	M	I	T		
					Q	U	O	T	I	E	N	T	L	P	G	A
S	T	U	C	K		B	L	U	E	J	E	A	N	S		
W	O	O	E	R	S					N	A	N				
U	N	I			A	P	S	E	S		M	S	N	B	C	
N	A	S	A		Y	E	N	T	L		K	I	E	R		
G	L	E	A	M		P	L	U	M	B		N	R	A		
					R	O	D			N	A	V	E	L	S	
S	A	N	D	T	R	A	P	S		R	I	T	E	S		
P	R	O	V		O	B	I	T	U	A	R	Y				
R	O	T	A		W	A	X	E	R		G	O	U	T		
A	M	E	R		S	T	E	E	N		I	N	K	Y		
T	A	S	K		Y	E	L	L	S		L	E	E	S		

- 46 Teased
48 Wore away
51 Hold tight
52 Algeria neighbor
53 Go-between
54 Walkway
55 Pageant crown
57 Cairo's river
59 London streetcar
60 Scottish Gaelic
61 Indigo and anil
64 Possessed

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