

The Handerbilt Hustler

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2006 • 118TH YEAR, NO. 62

INSIDE In the Bubble Crime Log Opinion Sports Fun & Games

Interfaith dinner plans to stimulate discussion

Groups co-sponsor event to raise money for victims of Israel-Lebanon conflict.

> By Ryan Farha STAFF REPORTER

The Vanderbilt Interfaith Council is bringing students of different religions together through the power of food in a Tuesday night event entitled "Talking, Eating, Growing."

The fundraiser, to be held in the Towers West lobby from 7 to 9 p.m., aims to raise money for the victims of the recent Israel-Lebanon conflict. Admission is \$5, and the

proceeds will be donated to the Red Crescent, the Red Cross and Magen David Adom.

Interfaith Council President Greg Maurer-Hollaender said the event is a cooperative multireligious attempt to provide charitable assistance to these groups.

Nine groups will co-sponsor the event, including Interfaith, SGA, Vanderbilt Hillel, Masala-SACE, Black Student Alliance, Lambda, Muslim Student Association, Middle Eastern Student Association and African Student Union.

"We are people from a lot of different backgrounds, with different political agendas, but the fact is that we're humanitarians, and we're willing to help the other side," Maurer-Hollaender said.

However, according to Krish Vigneswaran, a co-chair of the SGA Multicultural Committee, "Talking, Eating, Growing" is not just a fundraiser. One of the main purposes of the event is to foster dialogue between members of different religions.

"It's a good place for people to have a safe environment to talk about things and to ask questions about religious topics that they might not be able to say just in passing," he said.

Galaal Elsamadicy, Muslim Student Association's representative to Interfaith, emphasized food, provided by eight different multicultural organizations, as an important aspect of the event.

"It is using food as a means of propagating discussions among the different faiths," he said.

As a part of the event, each group will explain the dishes they have brought and their cultural or religious significance.

Maurer-Hollaender said that he believes this will be useful because "food brings people together, especially if the food has some sort of significance."

He also said that he hopes the food will be a catalyst for discussion once those attending are split up into groups to talk about understanding of and respect for different religions and cultures.

"It's very good to be informed about religious diversity," he said. "I think there are a lot of misconceptions about how religions are practiced and what different religions expound."

Vigneswaran also said that the event could be a potential learning experience Vanderbilt students because those students in attendance are all informed about their own religions and other religions.

Elsamadicy agreed and said that he would like to see a greater level of openness regarding religion on Vanderbilt's campus.

"Going into a religious realm by itself at Vanderbilt is hard enough, let alone experiencing it with different people of different faiths," he said. "I would wish for the whole student body to quit worrying about stepping on everybody's toes. If you have a question about a religious event, go to it."■

DANCELINE



Members of the 2005-2006 Danceline perform at a Vanderbilt football game last season. The team ranked eighth in last year's National College Dance Competition.

Dancing to the top

University will not fund Danceline trip to national competition.

By Nicole Floyd ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Vanderbilt Danceline will not receive university funding to participate in the upcoming National College Dance Championship, despite an eighth-place

finish in last year's competition. Last year's trip, a first for the team, was made possible by an anonymous donation to the program.

As a part of the Spirit of Gold Marching Band, the Danceline's budget is determined by Brock Williams, director of sports operations. He cited lack of money in the budget as the main reason funds were denied.

"I don't have any money in the budget for this particular trip," he said. "To do that, I would have to take away from other programs. I wish I could do more f o r them."

Issues concerning insurance coverage also played a role in his decision, Williams said.

The current insurance policy the university holds for the band, cheerleaders, Danceline and all student-athletes covers injuries that occur during practices or sporting events. Since the national competition is considered an extracurricular activity, additional coverage for the event would cost a couple thousand dollars.

"I would be remiss to send them to something like this without the proper coverage," Williams said.

Danceline members, including senior captains Lindsey Williams, Alex Schwarzman and Melissa Hodges, said they are not satisfied with the administration's reasoning, especially in light of the Sept. 26 Wall Street Journal article about Chancellor Gordon Gee's spending.



an article comes out the next day in the Wall Street Journal talking about extravagant spending, it's hard to believe that the university cannot support us," Lindsey Williams said.

Likewise, Schwarzman said, "I find it hard to believe there is no money to give to us." Danceline members began their efforts

to secure university funds in a meeting with Gee at the beginning of the school

Although the captains said they were surprised to learn in their meeting that Gee was unaware of how high they had placed in the previous competition,

they said they left the meeting feeling they would receive financial support, until they received a letter from Brock Williams stating otherwise on Sept. 25.

The captains said they believe that the administration's lack of financial backing is representative of their overall lack of support for the team. They said they feel that while the Danceline has improved dramatically over the past few years, the administration's support for them has remained stagnant.

"It's like a one-sided relationship," Schwarzman said. "We give, but we don't get anything back."

Brock Williams that university is proud of the Danceline and referred to the recent mirroring of a practice area, new uniforms, a trip to the Vanderbilt football game against Michigan and the issuance of scholarships to members of the team as a testament to their support.

Schwarzman and Lindsey Williams said they feel that these references are the Please see DANCELINE, page 2 **POLITICS**

Democracy Matters aims to reform campaign finance

New student group to hold first meeting after break.

> By Kay Robinson STAFF REPORTER

Sophomore Tom Byrne has started a Vanderbilt chapter of Democracy Matters, a student organization that seeks to make students aware of issues surrounding private campaign funding and engage youth in pro-democracy organizations.

Democracy Matters will hold its first meeting on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

The group supports financing campaigns by a process called Clean Elections, which entails full public funding of campaigns. Candidates forego offers for private funding in exchange for public funds and has already been implemented in states such as Maine and Arizona.

Byrne plans to start with Vanderbilt and work outward, ultimately ending with Clean Elections in Tennessee.

Byrne said that his interest in politics and dissatisfaction with the campaign finance system was enough to propel him to create a Vanderbilt chapter of the organization.

"I was originally interested in politics, but the more I read about it, the more I thought it didn't get anything done and it was a lot of red tape," he said. "I was kind of disengaged, and then when I saw this opportunity, I thought it was a perfect match."

Clean Elections ensure that candidates are elected on the basis of public interest, instead of who has the most money, and they allow candidates to spend more time on relevant issues rather than focusing on getting reelected, Byrne said.

In order to qualify for public funds under the Clean Election system, candidates have to collect a certain number of signatures and small donations, usually \$5, from individuals to demonstrate public support.

"With the Clean Election, once you're in, you don't have to pay attention to special interest groups that gave you a lot of money; everyone gave you the same amount of money in small donations, so you can pay more attention to what the voters want," said sophomore Jay Laughlin, a member of Democracy

Sophomore Amit Patel stressed the importance of reforming the campaign finance system.

"If you want to change anything else, you have to change this first,"he said. "Right now, elections are like a monopoly; it's hard to enter to get elected, and it's not as competitive as it should be, where everyone has an opportunity to get elected."■

A pirate's life for DG

Delta Gamma Pirate Night benefit, held Saturday, raised money to send blind children to space camp. The night featured

henna tattoos and a pirate who ate swords.

Workshop offers lesson in business ethics

Alpha Delta Pi event focuses on corporate social responsibility.

By Ryan Farha

Alpha Delta Pi and Ben & Jerry's are bringing students free ice cream in a workshop intended to address the issue of corporate social responsibility.

The event, which is co-sponsored by the Vanderbilt Center for Ethics, is scheduled to take place on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Schulman Center. The workshop will feature a panel composed of three individuals with extensive experience in CSR: Brian Heuser, Denyse Hammen and Jeff Gowdy.

While students may be unfamiliar with the concept of CSR, it refers to the idea that corporations are obliged to consider the social and environmental impacts of their decisions, in addition to the financial impacts.

"CSR is companies doing what's right over the five pillars of human rights, environmental sustainability, employee relations, community investment and business ethnics," said Heather Webb, a second-year student in the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management.

Liz Bennett, a junior member of Alpha Delta Pi, was behind the idea for a workshop on CSR. She says that she was influenced by an HOD class on the

"I learned a lot about how you can do good while doing well," she said.

Bennett said that the CSR workshop is especially relevant for a university like Vanderbilt.

"Vanderbilt is a very communityoriented school, so it only makes sense that corporate social responsibility is an extension of that attitude into the real world," she said. "It's important because it's about being not just a corporate

leader but a community leader as well."

Heuser, a doctoral candidate in Peabody College, will speak about CSR as it relates specifically to Vanderbilt

Hammen, the manager of the Ben & Jerry's on 21st Avenue, has been lauded as an extremely dynamic speaker, said senior Jessie Foster, a member of Alpha Delta Pi who helped organize the

Foster said that, because Hammen "represents perhaps one of the most well-known socially responsible companies," she is more than qualified to speak on the topic.

Gowdy, a recent graduate of Owen, has a strong focus in CSR and founded J. Gowdy Consulting, LLC in Nashville.

"Jeff will be a great resource for students who are interested in learning what it takes to start your own socially responsible organization," Foster said. ■



NOTABLE

North Korea informed China it may drop its plan to test its first atomic bomb if the United States holds bilateral talks with the communist country.

North Korea warned the Chinese official, however, that it would accelerate its preparations for a nuclear test if the United States moves toward imposing sanctions or launching a military attack.

Source: CNN

MONEY

Gas prices declined an average of nearly 15 cents a gallon in the last two weeks, but are expected to begin rising as the winter approaches.

The national average for a gallon of self-service, regular gasoline was \$2.28 on the Oct. 6 survey date, compared to \$2.42 two weeks earlier - a decline of about 14 cents.

Gas prices declined a whopping 75 cents during the eight weeks between Aug. 11 and Oct. 6. The average gas price on Aug. 11 was \$3.03 a gallon.

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY Mostly Sunny, 81/59

TUESDAY Mostly Cloudy, 81/67

FRIDAY Scattered T-Storms, 73/57

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Nicole Floyd

BCC sponsors Viewing of "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1985."

Tonight from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, the BCC, along with the Black Student Alliance and The Commons, will present a television viewing of episode three of "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1985." This award-winning PBS documentary is the best living history of American life during its struggle to achieve civil equality for all. Episode three chronicles black college students' leadership role in the Civil Rights Movement. The viewing will include a free dinner from 7:30 to 8 p.m., as well as a roundtable discussion following the documentary.

Vanderbilt Interfaith Council and SGA **Multicultural Committee hold fundraiser**

On Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m., the Vanderbilt Interfaith Council and SGA Multicultural Committee will hold a fundraising event entitled "Talking, Eating, Growing." The event will take place in the Towers West lobby with a dinner at 7 p.m. followed by an auction at 8 p.m. The fundraiser will benefit the Red Crescent, the Red Cross and Magen David Adom. The cost is \$5. Call 322-2457 for more information.

Kensington Avenue to close for Homecoming activities

Due to Homecoming activities, Kensington Avenue will be closed off from Tuesday, Oct. 17 to Saturday, Oct. 21. Cars must be moved from this street at the beginning of Fall Break. Any cars left on Kensington will be ticketed and towed on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7 a.m. Please be prepared to park in another F permit lot throughout Fall Break and Homecoming week.

SGA to run airport shuttles for Fall Break

On Friday, Oct. 13, from 12 to 6 p.m., buses will leave for the airport from Branscomb every hour on the hour. Buses will also leave at 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. The service costs \$2, using cash or CabCash. Shuttles will also run continuously from North Hall to

On Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 8 p.m., shuttles will leave from the ground transportation level of the airport every hour on the hour. The cost is \$2, using cash or CabCash. Shuttles will also run continuously from Branscomb to North Hall.

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

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Nicole Floyd

There is no crime to be reported.

Check out http://police.vanderbilt.edu/crimelog.htm for complete listings.

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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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

Call (615) 343-3064 9 a.m. — 5 p.m., Monday — Friday. 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.

DANCELINE

DANCELINE: Coach disappointed in decision

From DANCELINE, page 1

administration's attempt to inflate the things they have done for

They acknowledged that the university mirrored a practice room for them but also added that the room is in the basement of Towers and is equipped with concrete floors covered by tile. This, they said, has resulted in a multitude of injuries.

They also said that many of the members will be "giving back" the little scholarship money they received in order to try and help pay for the competition.

Lindsey Williams said that the fact that members of the administration have not matched the student support of the Danceline is most disheartening to her.

"The thing that hurt me the most is that we have so much student support, but the administration doesn't take that lead," she said.

Danceline coach Jessica Hill said she shares the sentiments of

"I definitely think the student body recognizes their efforts," Hill said. "That, and the fact that they love what they do, is what gives them the drive. I think the administration doesn't know enough about the competitive process and the fact that Danceline helps put Vanderbilt on the map, and I think that sucks."

"We placed eighth nationally," she added. "I don't think that clicked with the administration."

Danceline members still hope to make the trip to nationals. They have planned a letter writing campaign and a dance clinic for local elementary school students in an effort to raise the money.

They also hope to get students involved in the fundraising project by hosting a benefit at Bar Car on Oct. 26 and holding a "Dancer for a Day"raffle, which will allow one student to join the Danceline on the sidelines during the Nov. 3 football game against Florida.

"While we are disheartened by the decision of the university, it has not lessened our drive," Lindsey Williams said. "We are determined to make it to the competition."■

Candidates campaign at community picnic



NATHALIE MIQUEL-ELCANO / The Vanderbilt Hustler Howard Switzer, Green Party candidate for governor in Tennessee, addresses the Vanderbilt community at the Meet the Candidates Picnic Friday afternoon.

TECHNOLOGY

MySpace organizes concerts in support of Darfur

By Sydney Wilmer STAFF REPORTER

MySpace.com will organize 20 concerts featuring bands promoted on its site as part of a campaign to raise awareness and money for humanitarian relief in Sudan.

The site, which grew in popularity thanks to its early adoption by emerging bands and their fans, has in recent months taken a more active role in promoting social causes, such as environmental awareness and voter

"The crisis in Darfur is a global concern and, as a global community, we have a responsibility to take action," Chris DeWolfe, MySpace's chief executive, said in a statement. "MySpace's reach gives us an extraordinary opportunity to spread the word and empower individuals to help address the horrors in Darfur."

Hustler

stories

InsideVandy.com

While Facebook.com is a more widely used Web site among Vanderbilt students, freshman Ellen Black questioned the possibility of a similar Facebook initiative.

"I think what MySpace is doing is great, but I think it would be harder for Facebook to do something like that," she said. "They don't promote bands like MySpace does, so I don't know how effective that would be."

Black did acknowledge the possibility of promoting these events through group invitations, however.

Freshmen Aaron Villarreal and Vernon Pearson said although the MySpace initiative is a good idea, Facebook should not feel obligated to offer services of this

"I think that MySpace's initiative to raise money is admirable, but Facebook is under no obligation to follow suit," Villarreal said. "They are they're own company."

"Facebook is a part of the community, so they should be involved; however, they already offer a service to the community," Pearson said. "They can do what they want because they are a private organization."

The Oct. 21 concerts will take place in Sacramento, San Diego and San Francisco, Calif.; Melbourne and St. Petersburg, Fla.; Atlanta; Louisville, Ky.; Minneapolis; Reno, Nev.; Baltimore, Asheville and Winston-Salem, N.C.; Medford, Ore.; Philadelphia; Charleston, S.C.; Seattle and Spokane, Wash.; Milwaukee; and Washington, D.C. A Canadian show will take place in

Bands—pop, rock, country and reggae, among others—agreed to donate part of their ticket proceeds to Oxfam's relief efforts in Sudan and neighboring Chad. ■

Comment

facilitated at dinner, with topics focusing on understanding different cultures/religions

Talkina

tating

Talking, Eating, Growing

A fundraiser benefiting the Red Crescent, Red Cross, & Magen David Adom

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Towers West Lobby Tuesday Oct. 10, 2006 Dinner @ 7:00 **Auction @ 8:00**

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Mock refugee camp displayed in Centennial Park

Doctors Without Borders brings national exhibit to Nashville.



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustl

By Sydney Wilmer

Doctors Without Borders, an international medical humanitarian organization, brought its touring exhibit, "A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City," to nearby Centennial Park this weekend.

The interactive, educational exhibit gave visitors a chance to come face-to-face with the living conditions and circumstances of refugees around the world.

"I think a lot of people haven't been exposed to what a refugee camp looks like," said Ronit Schlein, a publicist for Doctors Without Borders. "What this camp is trying to do is give people a sense for what its like to live as a displaced person. I think the camp helps to raise public awareness. There are more than 33 million displaced people."

Junior Taylor Daynes and freshman Michelle Wijaya were two of nearly a thousand Nashville residents and Vanderbilt students who toured the mock refugee camp.

"My anthropology professor, Patricia Foxen, told me it would be interesting," Daynes said. "I came hoping to learn more about what it's like to be a refugee."

"I feel like here we don't always know what's going on

around the world," Wijaya said. "I came because I want to become more socially aware. I learned a lot. It makes you realize how serious things are."

Exhibit guides, some of whom worked in Africa

Exhibit guides, some of whom worked in Africa and other countries as humanitarians, explained the backgrounds of displays of sandals made of old tires and toys made of discarded cans of insect repellant.

Wijaya said that she was moved by artifacts she encountered.

"It was sobering to see what these camps look like and see original artifacts," she said.

"It was nice being able to talk to actual aid workers," Wijaya, who is considering a career in humanitarian work, said. "We were able to ask a lot of questions."

The tour also offered visitors a taste of the emergency BP-5 protein bars that serve as sustenance for hungry refugees before supplies arrive at a camp.

"They are very bland," Daynes said of the gritty bars. "It would become very monotonous to eat them every day. They taste like old sugar cookies."

"I didn't see how this could be very authentic," Daynes said. "I thought it was very well done and informative, though. It makes you not want to take things for granted."

20112166

First Tennessee senatorial debate takes place in Memphis

Doctors Without Borders member Bresnik Doli hands out BP-5 emergency food bars to demonstrate the daily rations that are given out to refugees.

Debate first of a series of three, ending at Vanderbilt

By Allison Malone
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Republican Senate candidate Bob Corker on Saturday called his Democratic opponent Harold Ford Jr. a member of a family engaged in "machine-type politics," while Ford accused former businessman Corker of doing nothing about illegal immigrants working on his job site.

Ford, a Memphis congressman who would be the first black U.S. senator from the South since the Reconstruction, and former Chattanooga mayor Corker are vying to replace Bill Frist, the Republican Senate majority leader who is retiring.

The Nov. 7 election's outcome could determine whether Democrats can take control of the Senate.

Ford and Corker will square off for their third and final debate at Vanderbilt University's Ingram Hall on Oct. 28, less than two weeks before the Nov. 7 election.

At the debate, candidates will answer questions submitted by audience participants.

According to Evan Shlank, president of Vanderbilt College Republicans, Vanderbilt's selection to be the host of the debate is an indication of the university's prestige.

"We should be proud of that as students, regardless of our partisan affiliation," Shlank said.

Kelson Bohnet, president of Vanderbilt College Democrats, said that candidates realize the political gains that could be made by appearing at the university.

"Vanderbilt is the biggest employer in middle Tennessee, so I think candidates realized that it is good to do outreach to Vanderbilt and the community that surrounds it," he said.

Bohnet said the College Democrats will participate in the event to support the Democratic candidate.

"We're having an information table at the debate with campaign materials for Congressman Ford, and we are planning a pre-debate rally in conjunction with the Ford campaign," Bohnet said.

The College Republicans have also been active in the senatorial campaign.

"We have been working very hard from the beginning of the semester to make sure that Bob Corker is the next senator from Tennessee by making phone calls, knocking on doors and working with the Republican party's Get out the Vote program to make sure that happens," Shlank said.

Bohnet said that the most important issue for college students is securing the country's financial future.

"People our age want to know they can go into the job market and provide for themselves and their family when the time comes," Bohnet said.

Shlank said that other issues were also important for students.

"The most important thing is the national security situation, which affects us all, which goes hand-in-hand with the immigration issue," Shlank said. "Students should also look at who is for lower taxes, because when we enter the work force that is going to impact us."

As a Tennessean, Shlank added that he is confident in the result of the election.

"I think we will make the right choice like in 2000 and elect a Republican," he said.

In the first of the three scheduled debates, Corker called it unusual that a Ford has held the 9th District congressional seat for more than three decades and his family has long been active in Memphis politics.

"Let me be clear: I love them," Ford said about his family. But he urged Corker to stick to the debate between the two candidates.

Corker had previously shied away from bringing up the Ford family history. Over the years, members of Ford's family have won numerous local elections in Memphis and won seats in Congress and the state Legislature.

Ford's uncle is awaiting trial on federal bribery charges, and his father once was indicted in a federal bank fraud case but was acquitted by a jury.

Ford's brother is running as an independent to succeed him in Congress, and an aunt is running for the Tennessee Senate seat she was ousted from earlier this year following voter irregularities.

"I'm making an observation that it's pretty much a family business," Corker said about the Ford family's political involvement. "And I think it's something we all see and know ... that there's a sort of machine-type politics."

Ford responded, "There's too much joy in my heart to respond to that, so I'll let

After the debate, Ford said that Corker's comments about his family show a desperate campaign "grasping" for issues to bring up against him.

Both candidates said they want to control government spending, clamp down on illegal immigration and reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil.

But, Ford charged that Corker did nothing after illegal immigrants were found to be working on a Memphis construction site he was developing in 1988.

"Mayor Corker is the only candidate I think in the country who has ever been cited by the Immigration and Naturalization Service," Ford said.

there were illegals on the site, why didn't you fire the subcontractor?" Ford asked Corker, who did not have an opportunity to respond during the debate.

"That was 18 years ago." Corker said

"My question is, when you learned

"That was 18 years ago," Corker said afterward, adding that his company cooperated with federal immigration officials.

Corker criticized Ford's votes against

a ban on late-term abortions, a position Ford said he has since changed. "You flipped-flopped on abortion also,"

"You flipped-flopped on abortion also," Ford said to Corker. "You were for abortion before you ran the last time, and now you're against it."

During an earlier run for the Senate in 1994, Corker said government shouldn't be involved in the issue.

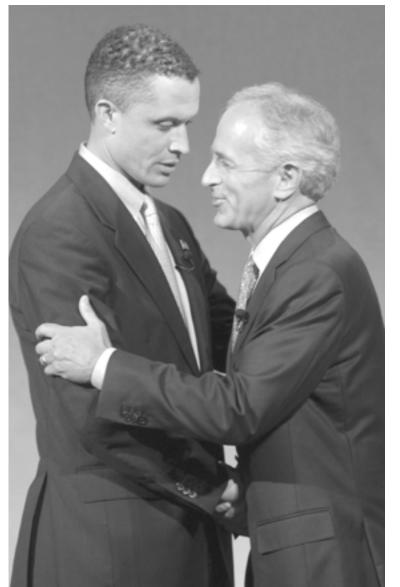
"I was wrong in 1994," Corker said Saturday. "I didn't understand the issue in a proper way – it was the first time I ran for public office."

Ford has said he backs upholding the "law of the land" that grants a woman the right to an abortion.

After the debate, Corker said Ford was trying to make himself appear less liberal to make himself more electable.

"Ford represents himself to be very different than he is ...," Corker said. "Tonight I thought I was debating Ronald Reagan."■

The Associated Press contributed reporting to this article.



GREG CAMPBELL/ AP PHO

Harold Ford, Jr., (left) shakes hands with Republican challenger Bob Corker after their debate Saturday in Memphis.

Sizzlin' Student Specials! 1 Block from Campus!

MON	9:30am	12 noon	4:30рм	6:00рм	7 :30pm
TUE	6:00am		4:30рм	6:00рм	
WED	9:30am	12 noon	4:30рм	6:00рм	7 :30 _{PM}
THUR	6:00am		4:30рм	6:00рм	
FRI	9:30am	12 noon	4:30рм		
SAT	9:30am		4:30рм		
SUN	9:30am		4:30рм		

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OPINION

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



ALLISON MALONE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **GLENNA DEROY,** NEWS EDITOR **REEVE HAMILTON, OPINION EDITOR JARRED AMATO,** SPORTS EDITOR MONIKA BLACKWELL, LIFE EDITOR

JONATHAN DIETZ, PHOTO EDITOR

OUR VIEW

Being a fan can be a struggle

Vanderbilt football is at it again.

In another tragic effort on Saturday, the Commodores fell 17-10 to Ole Miss. The nature of the loss was even more traumatizing than the final score indicates. The Dores controlled the time of possession, racked up more than twice the total yards of the Rebels' offense and held their opponents to an abysmal 31 passing yards.

Still, they found a way to lose the game.

For those who have followed the team for the past two decades, this scene is all too familiar. These dedicated souls cringe at the memory of the 21-point lead given up in the final eight minutes against Rutgers in 2004. They are dumbfounded that being led by a top-15 NFL draft pick at quarterback could not yield a winning season, as happened all four of Jay Cutler's years in Nashville.

Last year, the team opened the season 4-0, and talk swirled around campus of postseason play and a season to remember. Then, the team fell to MTSU after a potentially game-winning field goal was blocked as time expired. This same team then went to Knoxville six weeks later and defeated UT for the first time in

These drastically differing results do not seem to make much sense. However, if anything, it is indicative of the emotional roller coaster that Vanderbilt football fans perpetually find themselves

There is no one source of blame for the Commodores' lessthan-stellar path. A tough schedule, high academic standards for prospective recruits and just plain bad luck have plagued Vanderbilt for seasons on end.

Each time the team looks like it is about to turn the corner due to fantastic individual performances or a series of well-played games, another hurdle presents itself and we are all reminded why being a Vanderbilt fan is so painstakingly difficult.

Keep the faith, though, because one day it will all pay off. There will come a season when fans rally around a Vanderbilt football team that holds on to their leads, fully utilizes their talent and beats the teams they outplay. After Saturday, it may look like this season is not to be the one, but it is always too early to tell. If not this season, it could be next season, or the season after that, or any

Keeping this hope alive, even after games that seem to stretch your loyalty to its limits, is what it means to be a true Vanderbilt football fan.

OPINION POLICY

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come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editorin-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.

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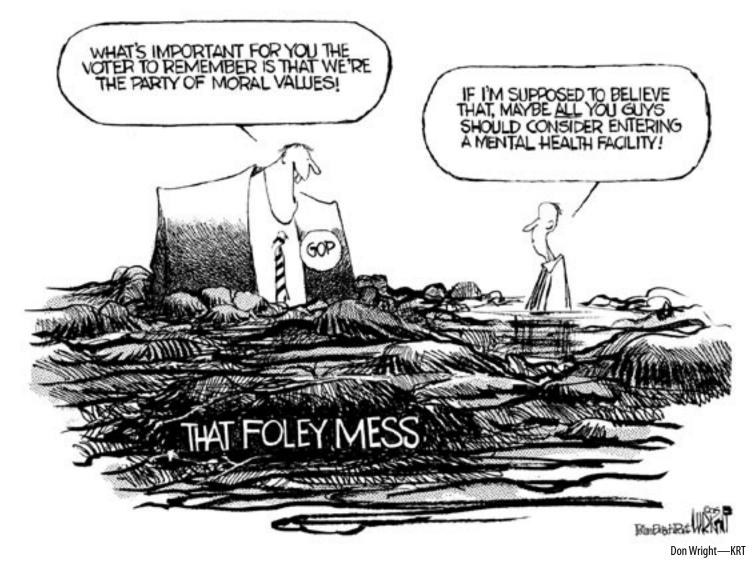
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



Response to criticism of 9/11 panel misses the point

Normally, when I write my Monday column for The Vanderbilt Hustler, I try to address a national issue in the news and give my opinion on it. However, because my appearance nearly

The Right Angle

CHRIS DONNELLY

two weeks ago on the Fox News program "Hannity and Colmes" has created a small controversy in the ensuing time period, I'd like to respond the Hustler's editorial opinion "Bias not an issue on panel," as well as address exactly what I did, why I did it and what the reaction has been from others.

The Hustler editorial focused on the fact that there was an "open and free exchange of ideas" on the panel because one conservative student, myself, was able to ask a question and have it addressed by the panel. There is no doubt that this is true. However, the panelists are supposed to be the experts, the authority on the topic of 9/11 and its aftermath. The fact that all of them, at least the ones who tried to answer the question, tackled the question from the same perspective was disappointing. This is true not just for my questions but for all the ones asked; invariably, questions were answered from what any reasonable person would call a "left wing" perspective.

The same thing is true for all the statements given by the professors on the panel. The Hustler says of the panelists: "They were respectful and thoughtful in their discourse as they addressed a range of issues including religion, aesthetics, politics, philosophy and history." I don't dispute that point at all, but it still misses the point that it would be nice to have a panel that addresses such topics from more than one angle. I understand that we shouldn't get caught up in "hardcore politics" and "soft-core sentimentality," but clearly some of the panelists made statements that were political in nature, and I don't blame them; obviously, politics is going to come up when talking about something as important as September 11th.

If one doesn't believe me about this, then let me cite a few examples. Professor Bill Partridge talked about Nelson Mandela's struggle against apartheid and said this would be a good model for overthrowing the United States's attitudes of war. Anthropology professor Beth Conklin alluded to government conspiracy theorizing when she said, "It's also very difficult to talk about causes when you are not sure what actually happened. Have we been told the truth? Have the questions been answered? Do we have all the information that we need? I don't think we do." Divinity professor Jim Lawson said he believes the United States was the "number one enemy of peace in the world," and the list goes on and on. The panel was clearly political at least in some aspects, and, as I've stated several times, did not contain one conservative voice. The fact I was able to ask a question, in my opinion, doesn't mean that's not still a problem.

That's why I talked to Young America's Foundation, an organization I have worked with in the past, about the 9/11 panel. At that point, events that transpired were beyond my control. They set up the "Hannity and Colmes" story, and so while I appeared on the show and was happy to talk about what I saw on the panel, I did not actively seek to get on television. The same thing goes for the local Fox interview and the two radio shows I appeared on. However, following these appearances, mostly the first one, I got about 30 or so emails and even a few letters, all of which were positive and thanked me for bringing this issue to the forefront. Obviously The Vanderbilt Hustler and apparently the panelists didn't like the actions I took, but many members of the Vanderbilt student body, as well as alumni and even a few people not from Vanderbilt, took the time to thank me. I even had two different alumni tell me that they were withholding financial contributions and complaining to the chancellor's office. Clearly I'm not the only one then who thinks it would be nice to have more conservative voices in academia.

Finally, I'd like to address what one professor called the "poison e-mail campaign" that supposedly has been waged against some of the panel members since the Fox News story. Young America's Foundation has chosen to post a video of the two-hour panel on its Web site, as well as take some of the quotes that they found to be egregious and put them up for students to view exactly as they were said. The quotes are time-stamped so viewers can easily figure out what part of the video to watch and see the statement in its context. Y.A.F. posted phone numbers and e-mails for the quoted professors (about six out of the nine panelists) so that young students who often access the Web site could make their voices heard. I have not chosen to e-mail any of these professors since the panel, and have not seen any of the e-mails that have been sent to them, so I don't know what they say. I have no doubt that some people probably went over the top in their criticism. However, I certainly denounce any type of incivility. That being said, people, especially professors at Vanderbilt, must take responsibility for the words they say. Many of the statements made on the panel were controversial, including some of the

COLUMN

SEC should secede from Bowl Championship Series

The chill of late September pierces the air, while the ghosts of secession storm through campus. Poor souls awakening from hibernation - until now drifting

Strange but not a Stranger

DAVID **ELLISON**

towards that reckoning of rekindled feuds and captivating vendettas - seize the day in order to snatch that second shot of glory. Honor, once lost on the field of battle, now percolates as the sons and daughters of the South avenge the transgressions against their beloved heroes.

Spring practice teased devoted fans with blue-chip recruits and All-American dreams. Between cackling laughter of victory and bottled screams of frustration,

the faithful now flock to their Saturday sanctuary – be it in the Grove or Between the Hedges. With the arrival of SEC football, it's high time that the Southeastern Conference considers secession from the destructive Bowl Championship Series.

Far too long have our superior teams been deemed unworthy by an unholy cabal of eastern journalists and West Coast bums too lazy to look beyond the crop of usurpers that perpetually foil our dashing contenders. A flawed computer program marches through the ambitions of a storied Conference just as Sherman's cavalry burned a murderous swath years ago. Remember the LSU tigers of 2004! Avenge the Auburn Tigers of 2005! Curse the bastard title-holders Southern Cal and Oklahoma. Throw off the shackles of this peculiar institution!

Be glad that Paul W. Bryant did not live

to see this cursed day. But celebrate, for P.T. Beauregard, Thomas Jackson and John Bell Hood now walk under the guise of Spurrier, Richt and Fulmer. These brilliant few courageously marshal their troops on their annual autumnal campaigns in the pursuit of championship rings and football immortality.

Honor thy coaches, but also pay tribute to the common man. Independence for the SEC would delight the fans by providing greater scheduling flexibility. Flush with the knowledge that the winner of each division gets an opportunity to play for the SEC championship, more teams would be willing to schedule strong non-conference opposition. Ditch patsies like McNeese State, Temple and Idaho and resurrect the storied rivalries of Alabama-Oklahoma, Florida-Miami and Georgia-Clemson.

Please see ELLISON, page 5

Please see DONNELLY, page 5

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OPINION 5

COLUMN

American far left does not exist

The "Candidates' Picnic" that Vanderbilt hosted last week was entertaining for several reasons. For a start, the remarkable absence of actual candidates from either of the two largest political parties

Guest Columnist

TIM BOYD

suggested an optimistic rather than realistic title for the event. Then there were the unintentional rhetorical glitches from some of the speakers, including a Green Party candidate who declared "our willingness to destroy the planet is what makes the Green Party different from the others" and the Republican who appeared to be a closet anarchist, judging from his statement that "wherever there is government, there is no freedom."

The star turn, though, was surely the "Christian Conservative Party" candidate for Tennessee's 7th congressional district who used his two minutes to rail against the "socialism" that has taken over the United States. This socialism originated from the United Nations, and consisted of, from what I could make out, disrespecting the Bible and advocating gun control. Given that the candidate included in his sponsors of socialism the incumbent congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, a conservative Republican, it is fair to suspect that he was using a fairly broad definition of "leftism."

I imagine that even many conservatives might have considered this speaker to be on the wrong side of the fine line between genius and madness, there remains even in mainstream political discussion a bizarre obsession with the threat of "leftism" in America. I would describe it as bizarre for two reasons: firstly, because of its definition of what constitutes the "far left" and secondly, because the idea of there being a "far left" in American politics right now is hard to credit.

To begin with the definition: to be a "leftist" now seems to include wishing to end the war in Iraq, being supportive of gay marriage, abortion and Constance Gee's medicine of choice as well as having a predilection for tree-hugging. Whatever the merits of these individual policies, the idea that they constitute a "far left" is very strange. When socialists and communists organized and won power in several countries during the course of the twentieth century, hardly any of these issues would have been of any interest to them at all. The Winter Palace was not stormed in 1917 by men hoping to marry other men and abort their wives' babies. Nor did many of these far left regimes show much

concern for environmental issues, as can be seen by the legacy of industrial pollution in the former U.S.S.R and Eastern Europe.

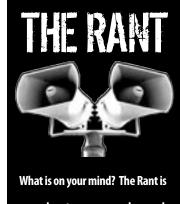
If there is a far left in American politics, it should be out there demanding an increase in income taxes, a redistribution of wealth, public ownership of industry, greater rights for trade unions, shorter working hours and a state-funded health care system. I haven't found any candidate with a chance of winning a seat in Congress running on this platform (with the exception of some who support universal health care).

To put this in a broader context, in the last two weeks, Tony Blair and his Conservative Party opponent, David Cameron, both gave major speeches to their party conventions in Britain. Both of them expressed support for almost the entire agenda of the alleged "far left" in the U.S. - gay rights, environmentalism and abortion. On some of the other issues, the war in Iraq and drug laws for example, the Conservative Party leader took a position that was more "leftist" than Blair by the American definition. Within his own Labour Party, Blair was not criticized as having gone too far left, but was attacked from the left as having become too moderate. The fact that Blair and Cameron, both political centrists, would be considered to hold leftist views in America is a powerful indication of just how strange the U.S. definition of the far left really is.

I would argue that if there ever was an American "far left," it was pretty much eviscerated during the Cold War by the association of left-wing ideas with the Communist Party. Even then, there remained constant concern that leftists were still out there—working to achieve power and likely to be successful without constant vigilance. It even reached the absurdity in the 1960s where there were more undercover FBI informers than actual members attending Communist Party gatherings.

As a result of all this, it becomes hard to take people seriously when they worry in 2006 about the potential threat of leftism to America. To attack the far left seems to be little more than tilting at a political windmill. However, it does appear to have a powerful hold on the imagination of American conservatives. To someone who grew up across the pond, where the far left still exists, albeit with less influence than it once had, the obsession with a phantom far left in this country is as inexplicable as it is intriguing.

—Tim Boyd is a graduate student in the history department.



What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. Send

in your rants to with the subject

"Rant" to: opinion@vanderbilthustler.com I'm tired of seeing Allison Malone pick against Vandy football. Either stop letting her pick games or tell her to go edit the newspaper at Ole Miss.

Why can't I go to The Pub without them playing freaking Green Day over the speakers the entire time? Green Day

Gas prices go down right before November elections. Coincidence? I think not.

Why do we have to pay for the Quake? This may not be new, but it pisses me off.

Our football team needs to stop turning the ball over.

As much as I pay for housing every year, how come the bathrooms never have any soap?

If you are going to renovate Rand, can't you renovate the bathrooms, too? The stalls in the girls' bathroom are way too small, and the guys' bathroom apparently doesn't even have stall doors.

Compiled by Reeve Hamilton

Donnelly: Conservative professers are needed

From DONNELLY, page 4

ones I listed above, so I have no doubt that some people took issue with them and decided to tell the professors what they thought. People have the freedom to do this, and that's what makes America great.

As I finish this column, this probably puts an end to the story of this panel that has been going on for nearly two weeks now. However, it doesn't put an end to the problem of the lack of intellectual diversity in academia. That's why I believe that there needs to be some sort of "affirmative action"

for conservatives. Vanderbilt presumably takes factors like race and gender into consideration when hiring, so I see no reason why it shouldn't take people's viewpoints into consideration as well, as I believe these are much more meaningful than simply how somebody looks. That way, we will be able to see more viewpoints from authorities on campus, and something like this panel might be less likely to happen again.

—Chris Donnelly is a junior in the College of Arts and

Ellison: SEC would benefit from autonomy

From ELLISON, page 4

Create new traditions by inviting Virginia Tech to play Tennessee, Texas to challenge LSU and FSU to take on Auburn. These tempting confrontations of celebrated programs can only become a reality by withdrawing from this obsolete Bowl Championship union.

Secession benefits all of football through "football federalism." If the SEC were to have greater autonomy, it could innovate and serve as a laboratory for the entire sport. The recent Oregon-Oklahoma debacle illustrates the shortcomings of the instant replay system, but an independent SEC can seize the opportunity to perfect the rules through common sense and good judgment.

The benefits of federalism extend off the field as well. As a founding member of the conference, Vanderbilt's unique position potentially dictates the academic future of scholar-athletes from the bayous of Louisiana to the red hills of Georgia. Allow Vanderbilt to plot the course of academic success, so that athletes come to the SEC to earn an education rather than audition for the next level. There may not be a radical increase in GPAs, but our alma mater can lift all with a rising tide reminiscent of the Rolling Crimson of Tuscaloosa.

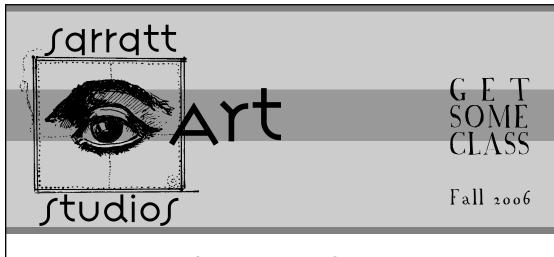
Nullify the skeptics of bold revolution. As the sole collegiate sport where the NCAA does not determine the national champion, Division-I football lays exposed to reform. Born of the suffering of the Great Depression, the Associated Press's annual coronation of the national champion continued unfettered until the BCS's brutal usurpation of authority. We are the heirs of the rightful victors! Slay the rotten Frankenstein! How much longer shall our gallant conference suffer under the weight of an illegitimate, soulless algorithm that turns

glorious Saturday spectacles into shameless jamborees? With barely a 10-year allegiance to the BCS, our conference stands on the brink of a unique opportunity to break ties with this unbridled tyranny. We proved instrumental in creation this foul compact, but the ability to create harbors the power to destroy.

The SEC has already developed a platform to spread the gospel with our allegiance with CBS. Outside of the BCS, the SEC champion will challenge any team across the republic for a New Year's showdown at the Sugar Bowl. The national title contenders will compete for the opportunity to duel the SEC's best, and the AP will pick through the battered remains between the end zones to coronate the proper national champion. Follow the Rose Bowl's precedent of dropping out of current system, but don't be content with the scraps of the Pac and Big 10. Appeal to honor – long extinct in the BCS - to attract those worthy enough to pick up the gauntlet. Whoever triumphs in New Orleans shall be elevated to a pantheon that includes the legendary Bo Jackson, Dan Marino and Herschel Walker, while the vanquished shall take solace in the fact that they acted honorably in fulfilling their duty before the adversary.

Why do we dally for Sumter? How much longer can we turn the cheek against an oppressor that doesn't know our ways? Shall we sacrifice pride, dignity and honor to idolatrous profit? The encroachments have continued to increase, further forbearance ceases to be a virtue; we must resume our unique place from amongst the separate conferences. Defend conference rights. Support secession for the

—David Ellison is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.



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