

Dore Ways

A forum for exchanging ideas

From the Editor

Brawn, Brains and Beauty

BY AND LARGE, WE AVOID ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CALLED A “theme” issue in VANDERBILT MAGAZINE, on the theory that we’ll draw in more readers with a smorgasbord of subjects than a steady diet of stories on a single topic. But as I look over the contents of this issue, I think I see a theme emerging: strong women.

You’ll notice the first of our strong women on the cover, in the sun-tanned person of Fonda Huizenga, who wrangles with needle-nosed fish four times her weight. And in the S.P.O.V. you’ll learn about Kara Mann, BE’06, the North American Strongman Society’s 2004 women’s national champion, whose idea of a good time is pulling a jet or hoisting a couple of Mini-Coopers.

It was a woman’s strength of conviction that played a crucial role in the founding of Vanderbilt University, as you’ll learn in Michael McGerr’s entertaining story about Cornelius Vanderbilt. Frank Crawford, the Commodore’s second wife, was so influential in moving her husband to think finally about philanthropy during his last years on earth that the university recently named one of its new residence halls for her.

This issue also offers a surfeit of females who are less virtuous than Frank Crawford Vanderbilt but are strong women nonetheless. As McGerr tells it, Cornelius Vanderbilt’s fraternization with two buxom con artists—one of them the first woman in U.S. history to run for president—also played important roles in influencing the Commodore to redeem his name.

Then there is Bettie Page, Peabody College’s 1944 graduate, who continues to generate intense interest decades after retiring as the nation’s first famous pinup model. She was the subject of a major motion picture released earlier this year, *The Notorious Bettie Page*. A Nashville girl raised in poverty and molested by her small-time criminal father, Bettie set her sights on the full Vanderbilt scholarship that went each year to Hume-Fogg High School’s valedictorian. Instead, she graduated second in her class and went to Peabody, working as a secretary to Professor Alfred Leland Crabb. But for most of her subsequent career, Bettie eschewed the traditional job opportunities available to women of the day and instead turned to modeling and films. Famous though she is, she’s not the type to win the Distinguished Alumna Award.

Finally, in Lisa DuBois’ article about the ROTC, you’ll read the story of Heather Grayson, who joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps to help pay her Vanderbilt tuition and wound up in Kuwait. When three men under her command were killed by explosives during a hot ordnance cleanup, Grayson faced court-martial. She was acquitted, and to help herself work through the trauma and guilt, she created a one-woman off-Broadway show.

Strong women—from Vanderbilt’s founder’s wife to today’s alumni.

GAYNELLE DOLL

From the Reader

Evolution and Creationism

BASED ON THE REMARKS PRINTED IN “Science Friction” [Spring 2006 issue, p. 60], it appears Vanderbilt’s panel discussion was very one-sided. I read with interest the piece noting the holes in intelligent-design theory, but looked in vain for something comparable pointing out the major flaws and contradictions in the theory of evolution. How can you have a “discussion” when one viewpoint is completely missing?

Many of America’s elite universities are so “sophisticated” that they see nothing wrong with ignoring opposing views on the major issues of our day. I have always hoped that Vanderbilt, somehow, might be different. I trust this one-sided panel was an aberration, rather than a trend.

I did find it amusing that Professor Le-Sturgeon thinks it preposterous that all humans could be descended from Noah, but apparently has no difficulty believing we are all descendents of the first two fish to crawl out of the ocean. What faith!

JAY A. YODER, MBA’83
Westfield, Mass.

I ENJOYED THE SPRING 2006 VANDERBILT MAGAZINE, particularly the article “When John T. Scopes Came to Peabody” [p. 40] by Frye Gaillard. I was a graduate student at Peabody in April 1970 and was among the standing-room-only crowd for the afternoon presentation by Mr. Scopes.

In addition to the information provided by Mr. Gaillard, I have a recollection of Mr. Scopes’ presentation that put the whole Monkey Trial in a different perspective. Mr. Scopes did talk extensively about teaching evolution in a high-school classroom in violation of Tennessee law. However, he stated that the major reason the issue came to trial in Dayton, Tenn., was that the city fathers were worried about the declining economy of Dayton. Knoxville and Chat-



tanooga were growing, and Dayton was dying. Officials felt that a major trial would draw national media attention and help the local economy. It was under this pretense that Mr. Scopes agreed to teach evolution as a substitute teacher and be charged with violating state law.

Keep up the good work with the magazine.

JAMES GOETZINGER, MA'69, PHD'72
Santa Fe, N.M.

[FRYE GAILLARD REPLIES: *James Goetzingler makes an interesting point in his letter. All the literature on John T. Scopes and his famous trial—including Scopes' own autobiography—makes it clear that the city fathers of Dayton were, in fact, motivated by public relations in their decision to challenge the new state law on evolution. And it's also clear that Scopes, then a young teacher who was new to Dayton, was aware of those motivations and did not object to them. But then as later, Scopes was genuinely concerned with the issue of academic freedom,*

and in his talk at Peabody, he defended that principle with humility and passion, predicting that the issue was almost certain to come up again.]

YOUR ARTICLE "SCIENCE FRICTION" provided an astute analysis of the perpetual dispute between creationism and evolutionism. Contributors were insightful as well as informative. I quickly realized it would constitute "must" reading for my graduate philosophy class at Ottawa University, where each week we deliberate the polemics of similar existential issues. The problem with full consensus on such matters is simply that each argument is predicated, in varying degrees, on a *priori* assumptions.

In light of the above, I would like to take the issue of creationism (or intelligent design) versus evolutionism to the next level. In *The Phenomenon of Man* (c. 1930s), Teilhard de Chardin refutes the notion of an inherent conflict between creationism and evolutionism. Evolution, he contends, is evidenced throughout the universe and is well beyond dispute. The only remaining question is that of First Cause.

Consistent with the notion of intelligent design, de Chardin contends, human beings incurred the capacity to contemplate cause and effect, and thus the meaning of existence, when they were inspired or imbued with a soul. It was at this point that they began considering a purposive life and the possibility of a First Cause. This spiritual awakening, if you will, could have occurred at any point in the evolutionary process, just as the child develops the capacity to reason at a cer-

tain age but is incapable of doing so at birth. It is not a mere matter of creationism over evolutionism. As de Chardin so aptly put it, "Man alone constitutes the last-born, the freshest, the most complicated, the most subtle of all the successive layers of life."

This convergence of spirit and matter in a continually changing universe shows man to be not a static or end product but rather a promising link in an evolutionary process seeking reunification with a universal will. If this sounds too much like church-driven doctrine, the reader must be reminded that de Chardin's writings were banned by the Catholic Church. All his works were published posthumously.

What makes total agreement in this matter difficult, if not nearly impossible, is not the absurdity of the proposition but the fact that we do not yet know all the variables. Time and evolution will tell.

Thank you to VANDERBILT MAGAZINE for an inspiring article.

ROBERT F. SCHAMBIER, EDD'85
Peoria, Ariz.

Reading Dr. Moffett

Wow! THE SPRING '06 VANDERBILT MAGAZINE — what a treat. Two articles really hit home with me: The first is "Meeting Dr. Moffett" [S.P.O.V., p. 64]. What a warm and beautiful human being (the interview being none too soon, either). But what are the names of some of his poems, and where might they be found?

The second article is "Science Friction" (excellent description). I have been doing research for an article about the Scopes Mon-

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key Trial and was most interested to find that John T. Scopes had actually spoken in Nashville on the Peabody campus in 1970. And, to the end he had defended his cause—"The Fundamental Right of Men to Ask Questions."

VIRGINIA PERRY JOHNSON, BS'49
San Jose, Calif.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Read one of Dr. Moffett's poems, "Night Nurse," in the Summer 2005 issue of Vanderbilt Medicine by going to www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltmedicine/vumc_summer05/departments6_1.htm.]

Love the Magazine, Hate the Jumps

I LOVED YOUR SPRING 2006 ISSUE OF VANDERBILT MAGAZINE. I found the articles very interesting and informative, and I read it from cover to cover. However, I found one component very annoying. While reading each article, I had to stop in the middle and thumb to the back for the remainder. Is this necessary? I know there is a format/marketing reason why the larger commercial magazines do it, but is it necessary for your (private/educational) magazine to do it? Why not put each article in one place, and then move on to the next one?

Thank you for your good work.
BRAD DARNALL, BA'64
Brentwood, Tenn.

Vanderbilt Lineage

WITH THE GREATEST DEFERENCE TO, AND respect for, Emeritus Professor Walter Sullivan, and solely in the interest of historical accuracy, I offer one minor correction to his "Visitors from Far and Near" [Spring 2006 issue, VJournal, p. 7]. Harold Vanderbilt was not Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt's grandson. Rather, he was a great-grandson. Harold's father was William Kissam Vanderbilt, whose own father was William Henry Vanderbilt, Harold's grandfather. In turn, William Henry's father was the Commodore.

I had the pleasure and honor of meeting Mr. Harold Vanderbilt in 1965, in Chancellor's Heard's office in Kirkland Hall, an event I chronicled in a series of essays about Consuelo Vanderbilt, Harold's sister. I have two lasting memories of that meeting. One, Mr. Vanderbilt, then 81 to my 22, was a total gentleman. Two, he looked like a tall Claude

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Raines ("Round up the usual suspects!").

Harold, as many know, not only invented the game of contract bridge, but also is arguably the greatest yacht racer of all time. He successfully defended America's Cup three times—a record that still stands. He skippered the *Enterprise* in 1930, the *Rainbow* in 1934, and the *Ranger* in 1937. Considering that America's Cup racing has occurred only 31 times since it began in 1851, I'd say that owning 10 percent of the victories is not insignificant. The next America's Cup race occurs in 2007.

Harold avoided marriage until he was 49. The woman he married was a slim, attractive, athletic 32-year-old blonde by the name of Gertrude Conaway, the daughter of a Philadelphia society family ("Mrs. Vanderbilt" in Professor Sullivan's entertaining memoir).

They met in 1929, when she was 28, during training for the 1930 America's Cup defense. Gertrude loved to sail as much as Harold, and she was good at it. In fact, either for that reason or for another, Harold gave her a posi-

tion on the crew of the *Enterprise* in the 1930 race, and she became the first woman in history to race on board an America's Cup boat during an actual defense. They were married in 1933. She also was a member of her husband's winning crews in 1934 and 1937.

JOHN R. BRANCATO, JD'67
Navarre, Fla.

THOSE WHO ENJOYED WALTER SULLIVAN'S remembrance of the formidable Mrs. Vanderbilt may also like to read my late classmate Allen Gunn's (BA'56) tale of Chancellor Harvie Branscomb's dinner for a group of 1956 seniors at which Harold and Gertrude Vanderbilt were the guests of honor. Gunn's account appears in "VU '56 at 45," a collection published for our 45th Reunion in 2001. A PDF file may be found at www.wam.umd.edu/~calmon/vandy56.htm. "Dinner with the Chancellor" is on page 88.

DOUGLAS CONNAH, BA'56
Baltimore

Quinq Pride

I COMMEND ALL OF YOU FOR PUBLISHING an outstanding edition [Spring 2006]. I have been watching Amy-Jill Levine on CNN and appreciate her work immensely. Glad you included such a nice write-up on her [In Class, “Common Ground,” p. 26].

As a mytho-poet I find the discussions on “intelligent design” and “evolution” fascinating. I think Father Edward Malloy’s position is nearest to mine, but every one you included is provocative [“Science Friction,” p. 36].

My former wife, B. Kate Baldwin Haggerson, BSN’49, was a public health nurse for 25 years. I used to be a frequent visitor to Mary Kirkland Hall and still keep in touch with some of the Class of ’49. It is interesting and very understandable that the School of Nursing now awards only master’s degrees in nursing. I have served on several doctoral committees in the Arizona State University School of Nursing and have tried to keep up with trends in both nursing and nursing education. Your “Critical Condition” article [p. 46] is most informative. All the articles in the Spring 2006 edition are interesting and make me proud to be a Quinq of Vanderbilt University.

NELSON L. HAGGERSON, BA’49

*Professor, emeritus
Arizona State University
Tempe, Ariz.*

Family Matters

YOUR SPRING 2006 ISSUE WAS FULL OF items relating to my family in one fashion or another. Robert Allen [“The Education of Robert Howard Allen,” p. 28] from Carroll County, Tenn.—as was my father’s family—was raised by kinsmen, and it was my uncle, Wendell Holladay (former dean of the College of Arts and Science and provost), who was instrumental in obtaining his admission to Vanderbilt. Donald Davie, a dear friend, used to tell me that Wendell had made possible one of the highlights of his career.

Another uncle, Jack [Clayton] Holladay, BA’50, MS’71, was the most loyal Vanderbilt sports fan I ever saw. [See “Dores Who Love Too Much,” p. 54.] From 1945 until 1995, he did not miss a home football game and rarely missed one on the road. Three nights



after a triple bypass in late 1994, his son wheeled him from the hospital to the stadium to keep his streak going. He loved the university and its sports teams so much that when he died, in January 1998, he was buried in a Vanderbilt jacket, in Vanderbilt colors, and wearing a Vanderbilt watch.

He had a unique ritual for the (few) times Vanderbilt defeated UT in football. Since the game

was usually played in cold weather, he invariably wore a wool knit toboggan to the game. Afterwards, if Vanderbilt won, he would surreptitiously make his way down to the 50-yard line, douse his toboggan with lighter fluid, burn it, and bury its ashes at mid-field. This worked very well until the advent of artificial turf; when Vandy won in Knoxville in 1975, he dutifully made his way to mid-field and, somehow escaping the eyes of the security guards, burned his hat and scattered the ashes. He would have been quite pleased last November.

BOB HOLLADAY, BA’77
Tallahassee, Fla.

Corrections

THERE WAS AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE VU-UT game in the Sports section of the Spring 2006 issue [p. 18]. It says Moses Osemwegie intercepted the last pass. Actually, it was Jared Fagan. Moses was rushing the UT passer, causing him to under throw.

All of us fans would like to see the record set straight. Great magazine!

BILL GOODSON, BA’57, MD’60
*Grandfather of Hamilton Holliday, #53,
Class of 2008
Huntsville, Ala.*

THANK YOU FOR RUNNING AN ARTICLE about the nation’s nursing shortage that details the current situation, different perspectives, and the many ways Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is trying to help solve the problem [Spring 2006 issue, “Critical Condition,” p. 46].

I am writing because of a miscommunication that resulted in the Vine Hill Clinic’s being described as hosting four to five students a year. In fact, we generally have two to three students rotating through our site on a weekly basis. Most students are assigned to the clinic for multiple weeks and/or months.

We are proud of all our programs and are always looking for new ways to educate our students while also serving unmet health-care needs in the community. With the VUSN-run Vine Hill clinic, we’ve struck a successful balance of both. The clinic serves up to 20,000 mostly low-income and uninsured patient visits each year. We can do that because of the students who work with our faculty. We typically have 40 Vanderbilt nursing students rotate through each year working with a preceptor. On top of that, the clinic frequently hosts nursing, master of public health and physician’s assistant students from other universities as well as medical students and management students.

Vine Hill has gained a reputation among the area’s nursing educators outside the Vanderbilt community as a well-run clinic that offers a great training ground for a wide variety of health-care students. Thanks for bringing this issue to the forefront and for clarifying Vine Hill’s strong involvement in education and community service.

BONNIE PILON
*Senior associate dean for practice
Vanderbilt University School of Nursing*

Letters are always welcome

in response to contents of the magazine. We reserve the right to edit for length, style and clarity. Send signed letters to the Editor, VANDERBILT MAGAZINE, VU Station B #357703, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37235-7703, or e-mail vanderbiltmagazine@vanderbilt.edu.