

Dore Ways

A forum for exchanging ideas

From the Editor

Photo Synthesis

THIS SPRING *Vanderbilt Magazine*'s office moved from the Baker Building on 21st Avenue to the Loews Vanderbilt Complex a block away on West End Avenue. It was the excuse we needed to clean house and purge ourselves of thousands of old photos dating back to The Leisure Suit Age. We gave them a good home in Vanderbilt's Heard Library Photographic Archives, bless them.

All those forgotten photos got me to thinking what it would be like to work as a professional photographer, knowing most of the shots you capture will never see their way into print. Once the photo shoot is over, the photographer pretty much loses control.

Nowadays the photos you see in *Vanderbilt Magazine* are most often the work of Neil Brake or Daniel Dubois. These terrific university photographers provide images not only for *Vanderbilt Magazine*, but for hundreds of other university periodicals, Web sites, brochures, posters and more. They don't have the luxury of specializing in portraiture or campus scenes or action shots—they do it all, working many nights and weekends. And they must keep reinventing themselves, finding ways to make the same campus and the same buildings look fresh. I asked Steve Green, who schedules photo shoots and also photographs for Vanderbilt, how many shoots their office does annually. "Last year it was more than 1,800," he said. "This year we'll probably reach 2,000."

Sometimes I tag along with Daniel or Neil when they're shooting. Here are three things I've learned about taking photos:

1. You want spontaneity in a photo. But not too much spontaneity. Last spring when Daniel shot a *Vanderbilt Magazine* cover image of alumnus Brian Reames, BA'87, involving a wienie roast over a fire of rival-school souvenirs, a gust of wind nearly set greater Pegram, Tenn., ablaze.

2. College students are all photogenic—men and women alike. I don't know whether this is a universal truth or something peculiar to Vanderbilt. Maybe it's the modern miracles of orthodontia and dermatology.

3. Researchers like to demonstrate that their work is a team effort by pulling everyone remotely associated with their labs into the photo. Take the group photo. Then take the photo you need.

Finally, here's something I learned from a freelance photographer whom *Vanderbilt Magazine* no longer employs: Instructing a woman to "lick your lips, baby," while apparently a tried-and-true technique when photographing on Nashville's Music Row, works less well when the subject is a chaired Vanderbilt professor.

Thanks, Neil and Daniel. Your talent shines through in every issue of *Vanderbilt Magazine*.

—GayNelle Doll

From the Reader

When 'Dores Were Undeclared

GARY GERSON'S excellent and refreshing article concerning his experience on the 1981 football team ("A Pipsqueak Among Giants," Fall 2006 issue, p. 40) brought back memories of the undefeated "V-Model" 11 of 1943.

In the fall of 1943, the Southeastern Conference was inactive—put on hold because of the Second World War. However, there was enough interest on campus to form a "fun" team coached by Herc Alley and Doby Bartling. This team played such powerhouses as Milligan, TPI, Carson-Newman and Fort Campbell, Ky., and ended the season without a loss.

Like Gary Gerson, I was in my freshman year at Vanderbilt in 1943 and wanted to play. Also like Gary I was quite small, about 5-foot-8 and 140 pounds. Due to the limited number of male students on campus because of the war, I was readily accepted.

During scrimmage each day it was the job of the left guard and the left tackle (each about 200 pounds) to block me out. They accomplished this without much strain.

Each day during the football season of 1943, Fred Russell, '27, of the *Nashville Banner* wrote an article about one of the players. I knew my time would come, but I didn't know what he would say because I was the smallest and the slowest man on the team. Mr. Russell was most generous. He commented that "if everyone tried as hard as David James, the team would do just fine."

I am most appreciative of having had the opportunity to be a part of the last undefeated and untied Vanderbilt football team.

DR. DAVID H. JAMES, BA'48, MD'51
West Memphis, Ark.

Remembrance of Pipsqueaks Past

THE FALL 2006 ISSUE is full of examples of the extraordinary and eclectic legacy Vanderbilt instills in its graduates. There are two articles, "Mysteries and Miracles" [p. 32] and



Dubois and Brake

"A Pipsqueak Among Giants" [p. 40], that I would love to pass along to my kids in digital format. Is that possible?

My daughter has three children, the sweetest and most loving grandchildren my wife and I could ever hope for. All three are autistic to a degree—a statistical improbability, if not impossibility, but nevertheless a reality that my daughter and our son-in-law deal with and endure every day of their lives. Jeanie is very involved in Autism Speaks and its research.

Having played football at Vandy in the late '60s (we even had a winning season my senior year), I knew and played with a number of walk-ons who were adopted and accepted by the team. Truth be told, a couple of them probably had more talent than some of our scholarship players.

How can I get the magazine in digital format? Is it possible to send individual articles, or are there copyright restrictions?

STEVEN ERNST, BA'70

Layton, Utah

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *Issues of Vanderbilt Magazine dating back to 2000 are available online at www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/index. Readers are welcome to pass items of interest along to others. Reprinting of articles in other publications, however, requires permission from the magazine.*]

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

I URGENTLY NEED at least one, and preferably three, reprints of your cover story on Muhammad Yunus ["Peace Through Prosperity," p. 30] from the Fall 2006 issue, please. A local group in Louisville wants to start a micro-lending program, and this article would give us useful information.

Sadly, your magazine is so good that my wife already cut out the article on autism that began on page 32 of the same magazine, so all I have is page 30.

Your magazine is one I read cover to cover, almost every issue. It's wonderfully written and beautifully executed.

GARRISON COX, MBA/JD'81

Louisville, Ky.

The Magazine Goes to Drug Court

I ALWAYS ENJOY receiving the magazine and sharing interesting information with friends and co-workers. The Fall 2006 issue found me cutting out the article about the freshman class diversity and entrance stats [p. 12] for my high school daughter and her guidance counselor, clipping the article on autism ["Mysteries and Miracles," p. 32] for a friend who parents an autistic child and chairs a local parent support group, and copying the information in "Crystal Menace" [p. 54] and its effect on the Vanderbilt community for my Drug Court staff. It is obvious you are working hard to relate to your readers. Kudos.

KIMBERLY WINKENHOFER SHUMATE, JD'87

Hardin District Judge

Elizabethtown, Ky.

It Doesn't Compute

YOU'LL WANT TO CHECK the facts contained in the page 12 article on the new freshman enrollment [Fall 2006 issue, The Campus, "First-Year Students Bring Diversity, High Scores"]. It's been almost 45 years since I took calculus and statistics at Vandy, but it does not take a math whiz to quickly perceive sta-

tistical inaccuracy. Attesting to Vanderbilt's increasing selectivity, the admissions office asserts that "of the 12,192 applications, 1,590—or 33.9 percent—were admitted." Better instruct your editors to look at that again—my calculator says 13 percent, a considerably more impressive figure.

DUDLEY WARNER II, BA'65

Nashville

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *We should have included the fact that Vanderbilt sent out 4,128 letters of acceptance—hence the 33.9 percent. Of those, 1,590 chose to matriculate at Vanderbilt. For more about Vanderbilt admissions, see page 28.*]

Autism and the Thimerosal Controversy

THANK YOU for publishing "Mysteries and Miracles" [Fall 2006 issue, p. 32]. As an alumna and a parent of a child diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, I am always pleased to see media coverage relating to alternative treatments and therapies for children suffering from this silent epidemic. However, I was stunned that your magazine printed such unscientific inaccuracies in the article. Lisa Dubois stated that "for a while, some people argued that thimerosal, a mercury-based additive in childhood vaccines, was behind the rise in autism cases—but that theory has not held up under scientific scrutiny. Thimerosal was removed from American vaccines in 1999, and as far as anyone can tell, there has been no subsequent decline in ASD in children born after that time."

These statements are false. The March 10, 2006, issue of the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* published a report concluding that since mercury was removed from many childhood vaccines, the alarming increase in reported rates of autism and other neurological disorders in children not only stopped, but actually dropped sharply—by as much as 35 percent. A 2003 congressional report had previously concluded that thimerosal did pose a risk and was related to the epidemic of autism. According to that report, the epidemic might have been prevented "had the FDA not been asleep at the switch regarding the lack of safety data regarding injected thimerosal and the sharp rise of infant expo-

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sure to this known neurotoxin. Our public health agencies' failure to act is indicative of institutional malfeasance for self-protection and misplaced protectionism of the pharmaceutical industry." Another U.S. study that inadequately examined this issue did not properly clarify comparisons between children receiving thimerosal and those receiving none. Its lead author concluded that "an association between thimerosal and neurological outcomes could neither be confirmed nor refuted and, therefore, more study is required."

Thimerosal has not been removed from all vaccines as stated in your article. Thimerosal-containing Hepatitis B vaccine, RhoGam, and flu shots given to pregnant women and infants as young as 6 months old all result in prenatal or newborn mercury exposures to children. It is not surprising to me that the Vanderbilt alumni magazine would attempt to bury the inconvenient theory that mercury in vaccines has caused the autism epidemic. Only a few weeks ago, Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University Medical Center told CNN's *House Call* that "we have an abundance of influenza vaccine. In fact, this year we're all working hard to make sure that we use all this vaccine." He recommended pregnant women and children from 6 months to 5 years get not one but two flu shots per year. It is well established that the adult version of the flu shot contains mercury in levels 250 times higher than what hazardous-waste regulations say is safe. Vanderbilt's obvious agenda is to promote vaccines, and promoting the injection of deadly neurotoxins into our children is wrong. I respectfully request that these errors be pointed out to your readers and that those who would like more information please refer to the Web site www.a-champ.org.

JENNIFER TALLEY KEEFE, BA'94
Dallas

[EDITOR'S NOTE: We asked Michael Aschner, Vanderbilt professor of pediatrics, professor of pharmacology, and the Gray E.B. Stahlman Professor of Neuroscience, to respond regarding the thimerosal issue. His reply follows:

Thimerosal was introduced as a preservative in vaccines in the 1930s. In 2001 it was removed from vaccines (U.S. market). An infant vac-



inated according to the recommended schedule (American Pediatric Society) will receive doses of mercury exceeding the cutoff levels established by regulatory agencies. However, conclusions on the toxicity of ethylmercury (thimerosal) are predominantly drawn from analogies to methylmercury. This practice is invalid as (1) mercury clears from the body much faster after the administration of ethylmercury than methylmercury, and (2) the brain-to-blood mercury concentration ratio established for methylmercury will overestimate mercury in the brain after exposure to ethylmercury. Sound epidemiologic studies in support of a link between thimerosal in vaccines and autism are not available.]

Inspiration in the Obits

I AM REPEATEDLY impressed with the level of journalism exhibited by "our" magazine. At my age, 77, I wish I didn't feel so compelled to pore over the obits. The tomorrows of the magazines are not in the obits, but with the passing of each alumnus I am reminded and proud of the very special people who have spent an important, though brief, part of their lives on the Vanderbilt campus.

JERRY L. HUGHES JR., '52
Altamonte Springs, Fla.

Career Choices

TIMES MAY NOT HAVE CHANGED as much as Audrey Peters thinks they have [Fall 2006 issue, A.P.O.V., "A Fork in the Road," p. 68]. Graduating with a B.A. in 1948, I had the same dilemma she has now about finding a job without a professional degree. Some of my classmates foresaw the difficulty and took education courses at Peabody so we could at least teach school after graduation.

The only teaching job I could find in Nashville was in the country, and not having an automobile, I had to try other options and found employment with Eastern Air Lines in reservations. At that time Eastern required

employees to have a college degree.

After I married a struggling young lawyer in private practice (Ralph E. Wilson, JD'49), I taught English and Spanish and was librarian at Osceola (Ark.) High School for many years, and ended up being Ralph's legal secretary for 46 years. Tell Audrey there are a lot of options out there.

MARY ANN MURRAY WILSON, BA'48
Osceola, Ark.

Smoke, Fire, Lebanon and Israel

I AM PLEASED TO HEAR that students at Vanderbilt are able to experience life in foreign lands. Given Ryan Farha's family history [Fall 2006 issue, S.P.O.V., "Peace to Beirut with All My Heart," p. 66], I also understand his biased position about the conflicts in the Middle East. (My family, too, was forced to leave Eastern Europe during pogroms at the turn of the last century.) But most important, I am saddened by his position about Israel's one-sided guilt with regard to the conflict.

Perhaps Ryan's education and livelihood would be better served trying to understand both sides of the conflict by joining a more balanced organization such as Students for Peace instead of Dores for Palestine. It is the one-sided dogma evident in Ryan's thinking and writing that limit his ability to understand why peace in the Middle East is so complex and elusive.

MARK FISHER, MBA'85
Dallas

Omission

Versus Magazine (a Vanderbilt student publication) was our source for Ryan Farha's S.P.O.V. essay, "Peace to Beirut with All My Heart," which ran in the Fall 2006 *Vanderbilt Magazine*. We regret that we did not give *Versus* credit.

I FOUND RYAN FARHA'S S.P.O.V. essay very interesting concerning his experience in Beirut during the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah. What was more troubling was his viewpoint that only Israel is to blame. I guess he conveniently forgot that Hezbollah kidnapped an Israeli soldier and had been launching rockets into northern Israel from Lebanon prior to Israel's invasion. I guess that means it was OK for Hezbollah to attack Israel, but it was not OK for Israel

to retaliate. Maybe now Ryan has been able to read more and see different viewpoints on the news, and see who was really to blame for the invasion of southern Lebanon.

TOM PARRISH, BE'75, MS'77
Tullahoma, Tenn.

WITH REGARD TO THE S.P.O.V. article by Ryan Farha in the fall issue, I understand that articles do not necessarily reflect the editorial opinion of *Vanderbilt Magazine*. Secondly, I value the free and open exchange of different viewpoints, especially in the setting of a university.

I believe most all people are pained to see bombing of villages, the killing of innocents, or even the loss of combatants. Most all wars are ultimately senseless.

Mr. Farha's article is, in my judgment, quite one-sided. He describes the 15 years of fighting that ceased in the 1980s but fails to note it was principally a civil war between Christians and Muslims. The current crisis in Lebanon is quite similar, and not a single Israeli soldier (except for the two captives)

remains in Lebanon. He states that violence penetrated its borders, and that is certainly true. He fails to mention that the penetration of the United Nations-recognized border was begun by the cross-border penetration of Israel by the Lebanese Hezbollah.

Understandably, he was upset by the sound of aircraft and bombing, as were the Israelis by the sounds of incessant rocket attacks from Lebanon into Israel. He states that Beirut pulsates with energy at night. So does Tel Aviv; however, they at all times must be concerned about suicide bombers in discos, shopping malls and buses.

As to the last line of his article, the song lyric: "So how did it come to taste of smoke and fire?" For the answer I suggest he write to Sheik Nasrallah, head of the same organization that killed 215 American Marine peacekeepers with a truck bomb in the Lebanese civil war and ordered the rockets and invasion of Israel in the latest conflict.

DR. ALAN J. BROWN, MD'60
New York City
Stacking the Deck

THE "SOUTHERN JOURNAL" article in your Summer 2006 issue ["A Flaw in the Perfection of Inaction," p. 88], reminded me of an experience I had in the summer of 1961. I accepted a job as athletic director and basketball coach at a junior college in east central Alabama. I went to the county seat to register to vote. Unsmiling, the clerk notified me that there were two requirements: a poll tax of \$15—5.5 percent of my monthly salary—and the passing of a 25-question test about history, U.S. government and the Constitution. I stated to the clerk that there was no way I could pass it. He assured me that was not true. I repeated my statement. He smiled and said, "Yes, you can." I asked how he knew that, and he smiled and proclaimed, "Because you are white." My first thought was, What have I gotten myself into down here?

Less than two years later, I would find out. While fulfilling my Army Reserve obligation, I had the privilege (obligation?) to visit both Birmingham and Tuscaloosa. While in the armory in Birmingham, the infamous church bombing occurred. That event resulted in our unit's being issued live ammunition and put on alert for possible confrontation with angry civilians who were also armed. As a lieutenant, the thought of live ammo in the hands of sympathizers in the rear made me quite uncomfortable. Fortunately, the order never came to go out. Then it was off to Tuscaloosa, where our unit escorted the two black students to and from classes until things calmed down and I was discharged.

I would have wagered the remaining 95 percent of my salary that no student or professor, past or present, could have passed that voting eligibility test.

ALVIS R. ROCHELLE, BA'57
Guthrie, Ky.



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