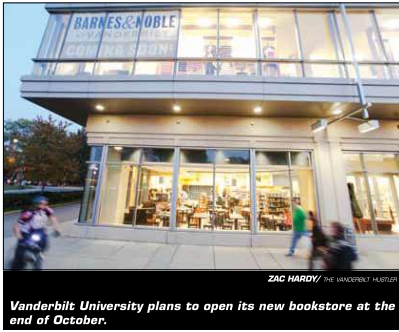


# THE VANDERBILT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011 ★ 123<sup>RD</sup> YEAR, NO. 59 ★ THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888



**ZAC HARDY**, THE VANDERBILT REPORTER  
Vanderbilt University plans to open its new bookstore at the end of October.

## New Vanderbilt bookstore opens Monday

**GRACE AVILES**  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Vanderbilt's new bookstore on West End will open at 10 a.m. on Monday with more books, apparel and merchandise than ever before. The grand opening will include live music, author signings and Nook giveaways.

On Nov. 3, a special open house will be provided exclusively for the

Vanderbilt community featuring 50 percent off at the cafe, tours, raffles and more giveaways.

Walking into the bookstore on the first floor students and patrons will be met with the typical selection of Barnes & Noble books, a cafe and a technology center for the Nook with Nook merchandise. On the second floor students can find more books, a children's literature and games center, a

textbook center, apparel and other Vandy-branded merchandise.

According to Vice Chancellor for Business Services Frank Gladu, while Vanderbilt had originally requested alternate cafe options be explored given the close proximity to an existing Starbucks, Barnes & Noble and Starbucks ultimately decided that a Starbucks cafe would be the most attractive option for students.

While numbers are unconfirmed, some employees who had worked at the old bookstore and are beginning tenures at the new location estimate that the new bookstore has over three times as many titles in stock. As with a regular Barnes & Noble, patrons have the option of ordering books not currently stocked to be picked up at the bookstore.

see **BOOKSTORE** page 2

## Scramble for Africa

Mounting evidence suggests Vanderbilt University's investment in emerging African markets may be creating a commodity crisis in the region, even as university officials and a hedge fund manager directly involved in the fund tout their potential for high returns and local benefits.

**University accused of participating in African land grabs**

**KYLE BLAINE**  
SENIOR WRITER

The Oakland Institute, a California-based policy thinktank, released a report in June entitled "Understanding Land Investment Deals in Africa" implicating Vanderbilt in an African "land grabbing" investment scheme. The report is based on investigations of investors, purchase contracts, business plans and maps of the region.

According to the report, Vanderbilt, along with Harvard and other U.S. colleges, is investing in African land development through London-based hedge fund Emergent asset management, which runs on of Africa's largest land acquisition funds. The report claims Emergent's investments in African land are forcing small farmers off their lands and creating insecurity in the global food system while not fulfilling promises of increased native employment and development. The investments, according to the report, are aimed at developing the land for agricultural exports.

"The same financial firms that drove us into a global recession by inflating the real estate bubble through risky financial maneuvers are now doing the same with the world's food supply," said Anuradha Mittal, executive director of the Oakland Institute. "In Africa this is resulting in the displacement of small farmers, environmental devastation, water loss and further political instability such as the food riots that preceded the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions.

In response to the report, Vice-Chancellor for Investments Matthew Wright called into question the truth of the report and said university investments undergo a thorough process of investigation and due diligence. However, Wright said his primary role is to serve the financial interests of the university.

"The social (benefits) are not the number one priority. This institution requires us to provide a contribution to it so that it can maintain its quality of education and the quality offering it's providing," Wright said. "We can have the best social



see **AFRICA** page 2

## Meyer escapes vote of no confidence 21-2



**KATIE KROG**  
STAFF REPORTER

**ZAC HARDY**, THE VANDERBILT REPORTER  
Kenny Tan speaks before the VSG House Wednesday night.

Alumni Lawn Area Representative Kenny Tan shocked the VSG House Wednesday night when he motioned for a vote of no confidence in Student Body President Adam Meyer. After a period of heated debate, the motion failed, with 21 of 23 House members voting against the motion. The two votes in favor of the motion came from Tan and Highland Area Representative Patrick Eads.

"It is clear from the outcome of tonight's vote that the members of the VSG House have full confidence in my abilities and potential to serve as student body president," Meyer wrote in an email

to the Hustler. A vote of no confidence must be affirmed by two-thirds of the House. If passed, the motion would have called for an official investigation into Meyer's actions. The investigation results would then be reported to the Senate, which would have to vote on whether to remove Meyer from his office as Student Body President.

"I'm disappointed that VSG was not willing to hold an official investigation into these matters; however, I understand why some House members would feel uncomfortable in a vote of no confidence." see **VSG** page 3



**LESLIE RODRIGUEZ**, FOR THE VANDERBILT REPORTER  
Protestors brandish signs at the Occupy Nashville protest Oct. 6, 2011.

## Occupy Nashville 'already a success'

**LAUREN KOENIG**  
STAFF REPORTER

Standing in the shadow of the city's tallest buildings, several bearing prominent banking logos, about 70 people waited to commence Occupy Nashville's 18th general assembly on the lower steps between War Memorial and the head of Deaderick Street Tuesday night. The organization may be leaderless, but it is far from disorganized. According to senior Travis

Snyder, protesters can volunteer to participate in facilitation training and subsequently act as moderators for the meetings. Each person has an equal opportunity to make his or her voice heard. "That really brings the democracy and it's a growing thing," protester Cecily Friday said. "It's an organic movement ... we've coalesced around a diversity of issues." Occupy Nashville meets at 7 p.m. every day of the week, with four

nights devoted to general assemblies and three nights devoted to working groups. Members follow a code of conduct and as a strict process of procedure that resembles Congress's own parliamentary procedure. Proposals must meet a 90 percent consensus in order to pass. According to Friday, who represented the media working group, working group nights are when the real work happens behind the movement.

"We have working groups for a reason, to manage all the tasks at hand specific to the movement," Friday said. While Occupy Wall Street does not claim to have any enumerated goals, Occupy Nashville has outlined three primary issues that they support: to end corporate personhood, remove money from politics and support the Occupy Wall Street movement. After the working groups have met for an hour, the protesters re-

convene on the steps and listen to representatives from each group discuss that evening's progress. Every few minutes a passing car honks its horn in support and everyone cheers. "We're just trying to rethink the binaries we've been working in," said Snyder. "We're changing a paradigm. We're teaching each other how to think and backing the world. No matter who gets arrested, you can't take that away." see **OCCUPY** page 3

**SAT OCT 29**

**TRIBES**

**HAUNTED FOREST**

with costume contest

Also Oct. 30, Halloween Showtunes with the cast of Wicked

**MON OCT 31**

**HEROES AND VILLAINS**

**HALLOWEEN NIGHT**

**PLAY**

**\$5,000 CASH & PRIZES**

Best Costume

Best Drag

Best Hero/Villain

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# VSG: Vote of no confidence falls flat

from **VSG** page 1  
confidence. I will be proposing that we do an official investigation into these matters without using that title," Tan said after the motion failed.

On Oct. 20, The Hustler reported that Meyer refused to disclose VSG's financial information outside of the organization.

On Oct. 24, The Hustler reported that Meyer said he recognized that this non-disclosure policy was

in violation of Vanderbilt Student Government Statute 6.6 and that he accepted responsibility for the mistake.

The VSG budget is now posted on the VSG website, in compliance with VSG Statute 6.6.

In his speech before the House, Tan said, "I sincerely thank our Student Body President for taking corrective measures to resolve this issue. Unfortunately, despite his apology,

in the eyes of our student body, our Student Body President, acting as the official representative of VSG, appears to them as having failed in his duty to uphold our governing documents."

He added, "Our goal in passing this motion should be to find the whole truth, in order to demonstrate our commitment to be transparent and accountable to the students whom we represent and who

elect us into these offices. By passing this motion, we encourage within the entire student community our organization and inspire trust that we will continue to act on behalf of their needs and interests."

Attorney General Lucas Scholl wrote in an email, "As Attorney General I was happy to see that parliamentary procedure was followed concerning the

complicated motion, particularly for a House that has only met a few times since being elected this fall. A vote of no confidence is a very grave accusation of an official being derelict in their duties and I believe that the 21-2 vote in support of Student Body President Adam Meyer speaks for itself in terms of an appropriate response regarding the issue the motion brought up and brings it further closure."

Carmichael Towers Area Representative Lauren Holroyd said, "I think that at the end of the day, the student's confidence in Adam came through ... He'll continue to do a great job for VSG."

"I am thrilled with the accomplishment of the Meyer-Manard team thus far, and I am excited to see many more of our upcoming initiatives come to fruition over the next few months," Meyer wrote. ★

## Juggling for the cure



**LIZ FURLLOW**  
NEWS EDITOR

Senior Jessica Rutsky, vice president of the Juggling Physical Arts Club, practiced "juggling" or juggling while running, for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Alumnae Lawn Wednesday night. JPAC members will participate with Team Catch It Early, a group that plans to raise breast cancer awareness and funds while entertaining spectators and other runners with their juggling skills at the race on Oct. 29.

"We're working closely with Catch it Early, and it'll be the first time juggling in a race for the Vanderbilt students. I think it's going to be sort

of fun to juggle through the race," Rutsky said.

Eight Vanderbilt students, three alumni and three other jugglers will participate in the race with Team Catch It Early.

Bob and Trish Evans, husband and wife from Wisconsin, are high school teachers on a year-long traveling trip across America. Trish broke the 5K women's juggling record of 16:55 and this race Bob plans to break the men's record of 19:45.

"We learned when we were engaged," Trish said. "We were both college athletes and after we graduated we needed something to fill all that extra time."

"We tried swim dancing, juggling, rock climbing, lots of stuff. But we went back to juggling," Bob said.

Last year's Catch It Early team poses for a photo while juggling.

Jacob Weiss, a Vanderbilt graduate school alumnus, is one of the founders of the Catch it Early Initiative, which works with Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and Playing by Air Productions, an entertainment company, to raise early detection, cancer awareness and support.

"We're creating awareness and adding fun to it. Other runners will look over and say, 'I can't believe I just got passed by a juggler.' We make a lot of people smile," Weiss said.

To register for the juggling team, go to [catchitearly.org/team](http://catchitearly.org/team). ★

## Alta Gracia apparel benefits workers, customers alike

**ELISE DIRKES-JACKS**  
STAFF REPORTER

With the return of the Alta Gracia line to the new bookstore, students will, "with the very simple decision to buy a t-shirt, have a chance to change someone's life," according to Alta Gracia founder and 1985 Vanderbilt alumnus Joe Bozich, who will speak at Vanderbilt this afternoon as part of the American Studies Sustainability Project.

"This year we wanted to make more of an effort to create awareness and educate people," Ari Schwartz, campaign leader for Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence, said. "The Sustainability Project is the perfect format."

Alta Gracia is an apparel brand made in the Dominican Republic by unionized workers paid living wage, the first and only brand of its kind. Workers are paid wages 340 percent higher than what is required by law, which is enough not only for workers' healthcare and housing costs, but to send their children to school.

Bozich started Alta Gracia in 2009 after a nearly yearlong period of hardship for him and his family, including his own diagnosis with multiple sclerosis.

"Having gone through all that, the good news for me was I always had hope, because I was born here, and I was blessed with resources," Bozich said. "I could get best medical care for myself and my family, and I didn't have to worry about taking time off work and bills and things like that."

Bozich wondered what his experience would have been like had he not had that good fortune. "I couldn't imagine what it would be like to go through what I went through, knowing that there is a cure but it's not available to you, and on top of that, what if those people were struggling to put a roof over their heads, or food on the table," Bozich said.

Bozich decided that what he could do to make a difference was to use his business, Knight Apparel, and the Alta Gracia project was born.

His inspiration came not only from his own adversity, but from the campaign that had been around for the past decade from college students calling for a living wage. Bozich says listening to students' passion is what convinced him the venture would be successful. After only a year, the line has expanded from being sold in 250 college campus bookstores at first to the current 400.

"Now that we're one year into it, the product is performing, but the key is awareness," Bozich said. "How do we get that story out there when the decision whether or not to buy that t-shirt takes only a few seconds? How do we say: because of your decision, there's a child whose parents will now be able to send them to school and give them hope for a better future? I want people to know that option's available. If they care, there's something they can do."

Alta Gracia was carried by the closing Sarratt campus bookstore and will continue to be carried by the new store, opening Oct. 31.

Bozich will speak at 4:10 p.m. in Buttrick Hall. ★

## OCCUPY: Concerns over lack of police presence

from **OCCUPY** page 1

One of the main topics of discussion brought up by the Direct Action group involved an incident on Sunday at 9 p.m. in which a protestor was assaulted by a person walking through the plaza. The young man, named David Yates, was hospitalized and treated for a number of injuries, including broken ribs and lacerated ankle wounds. According to Yates and other witnesses of the event, the attacker was briefly questioned by the police and then allowed to walk away with a citation for investigating a fight.

"Someone dragging you, that's a beating, not a fight," said Yates, who intends to press charges.

One of the protestors, who went by the name of Dan Wakely, drafted a letter to Mayor Karl Dean to be distributed to the Nashville community and targeted to the metro police. By the end of the meeting, the protestors also agreed to three marches, the first of which will take place this Friday at noon beginning at War Memorial and ending at the central precinct.

"We need to bring attention to the lack of police presence at the plaza and the threat to public safety," said a representative of the Direct Action group.

Another group, Sustainable Occupation, addressed the growing concern of maintaining the occupation on the plaza as the weather grows colder. Recently, the protestors moved to keep the plaza occupied 24 hours a day. Tents and donated food were made available for everyone on site.

"We're helping out the homeless within the plaza with rice, chili, vegan food," said protestor Sarit Jacobsen. "Some are just 18 years old. Being here is waking me up to the bottom pit of the 99 percent, I forget about separation from corporations."

When the meeting adjourned, some protestors left to return to their homes. Others stayed to demonstrate their support, while others remained simply because they had nowhere else to go.

Jonathan Fellows, a man in his early twenties, identified himself as a recent college graduate and homeless. "I've been staying up here because I like to see people getting along, persevering," Fellows said. "Something's busted in the world and people just shake their heads at them. It's a really big problem because it's no longer about a two-party system so much as it's about the corporations. It's very hard to become un-homeless."

Snyder expressed his admiration that a diverse group of people were able to unite under a common cause. He stated that he hopes that the movement will work to involve other outside organizations. In the meantime, the plaza has already hosted talks by members of the Nashville community, educational sessions and even musical performances.

"If you look at it, we've already succeeded," Snyder said. "It's the most creative experience I've ever been a part of." ★