

**CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION** BY VU NEWS SERVICE

**WECAR COMES TO CAMPUS**

WeCar, a division of Enterprise, now has five vehicles on campus. One vehicle each is located in Lots 27, 84 and 96; two are located in Lot 3. The new program runs alongside the current Zipcar program and will only enhance your car sharing experience.



Quick facts about the new WeCar program at Vanderbilt:

- Any current Zipcar member may join for free using Promotional code NEW2WE.
- Through April 2012, the hourly promotional rate has been reduced to \$6. Each rental includes 200 free miles per day, Fuel, and rental coverage consistent with the Business Rental agreement in place with Enterprise Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental.

- WeCar also has rates that start as low as \$3.75/hour plus a \$.25 surcharge per mile, which is a great option if you do not need to drive long distances.
- WeCar has an overnight option that has a flat rate of \$35 during the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Enroll in both programs and take advantage of the increasing alternative transportation and car sharing opportunities on campus. ★

**SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT** COMPILED BY VU NEWS SERVICE

**TOM BROKAW TO SPEAK AT COMMENCEMENT**

Tom Brokaw, one of the most trusted and respected figures in broadcast journalism, will receive Vanderbilt University's prestigious Nichols-Chancellor's Medal in May 2012 when he addresses graduating seniors and their families during Senior Day. ★



**STUDY SESSION** COMPILED BY VU NEWS SERVICE

**VANDERBILT'S LIBRARIES NOW FOOD FRIENDLY**

Food and drinks in covered containers are permitted now in all libraries in the Jean and Alexander Heard Library system except for those areas with rare books and special materials, such as Special Collections and the WT. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies. "Our libraries should be as welcoming and comfortable as possible,"

Connie Vinita Dowell, dean of libraries, told VU News. "For our students who often study late into the evening, this is an especially important policy change. In many ways, it is a natural next step with the cafe and our other user-friendly policies. I have confidence our students will act responsibly with consideration for our facilities." ★

**Bill of rights**



**ZAC HARDY** THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER  
John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center, speaks during the Bill of Rights dinner in the Student Life Center Board of Trust room Monday.

**Zeppos contributes to Perry's campaign, may benefit local businesses**

**CAMILLE PARKER**  
STAFF REPORTER

Chancellor Zeppos donated \$2,500 to Republican presidential hopeful Rick Perry's campaign in August, the maximum donation allowed for a primary election. Although Zeppos has donated to both Democratic and Republican campaigns in the past, he does have a closer personal tie to Perry, whose son graduated from Vanderbilt five years ago. However, questions over the appropriateness of the Chancellor's donations have been largely dismissed.

"I do not feel that his position makes it inappropriate for him to make political contributions," said Political Science Professor James Ray. "Influential business leaders have always contributed to viable candidates of both parties so they have influence over whoever wins," said Stephen Siao, president of Vanderbilt Republicans. "Of course he should be allowed to make political contributions. He has earned the money through hard work and it's his constitutional right." Regardless of the candidate, recent Vanderbilt re-

search has suggested that individuals who make political contributions, whether they are representing their organizations or not, directly benefit businesses in their communities. "These contributions appear to matter. What we mean by that is that these contributions appear to be related to a firm's underlying performance," Alexi Ovtchinnikov, professor of finance at Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, told Vanderbilt News. "The decision-making on the politician's part could have a very significant impact." ★

**Wesleyan students steal \$19,000 of dishware, Vanderbilt dining theft minimal**

**LAUREN KOENIG**  
STAFF REPORTER

Students have stolen almost \$19,000 worth of campus dining dishware at Wesleyan, according to an article published in the Wesleyan Argus in November. The university's food provider, Bon Appetit, has replaced 11,000 bowls, coffee mugs, tumblers and utensils throughout this semester alone. In light of concerns that Wesleyan could be spending this money on improving dining services instead of replacing already adequate cutlery, the university intends to promote amnesty campaigns.

Emerson College also reported less extensive accounts of student theft at dining halls. Vanderbilt's dining halls do not appear to be facing similar pressure, according to Camp Howard, director of Vanderbilt Dining. "Theft isn't a huge concern of ours," Howard said. "I think Vanderbilt students are pretty honest. We just have a replacement budget for plates, cups, silverware and so forth. We try to keep an inventory because we don't want it to run down." According to Howard, dining expects that students will walk out with a coffee cup or some uten-

sils throughout the year. This "cost of business" is already factored into the meal plan and is similar to any other type of restaurant management. If students are caught attempting to steal items from the dining halls or munchie marts, staff will ask them to pay. Repetitive cases are brought before student conduct, but these instances rarely occur. "We would like to discourage students from taking food with them on a plate or items that they don't pay for in our markets," Howard said. "We would prefer obviously if students didn't take our stuff, but we're not out to try to catch people stealing things."

Amnesty week at the end of the academic year encourages students to return any dishware that they may have borrowed. "When housing cleans up at the end of the year, they see that students throw away china. That is a bit of a problem," Howard said. Returning these items, dirty or clean, is highly preferred to throwing them down the trash chute. According to Howard, the cost of replacing dishware and lost products is minor when compared to the environmental benefits gained from using reusable dishware or making students feel at home by fostering communal



**ZAC HARDY** THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

dining at the Commons (which doesn't offer to-go options). "Students look at it as we're their living room, their dining room, and their kitchen," he said. "Just return anything when you're done." ★

**While other universities have reported problems with students stealing cutlery, the problem at Vanderbilt is minimal according to Vanderbilt Dining staff.**

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The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday and Thursday during the academic year except during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break. The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student, and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each. The Vanderbilt Hustler is a divi-

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Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn. **BACK ISSUES** Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours. **SUBSCRIPTION RATES** Subscriptions are available for \$125 per semester or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler. A pdf subscription order form is available at <http://www.vscmedia.org/hustler.html>