Promoter rallying youth against violence

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, December 14, 2011

A Greenville event promoter, radio host and youth program manager is using a large online following to rally the area’s young population against violence.

Jumail “Havknot” Blount, 30, will lead a 3 p.m. “Stop the Violence” event Saturday at the South Greenville Recreation Center, 851 Howell St., where he works as an athletics director. He hopes the grass-roots movement he calls Greenville Residents Against Crime Everywhere — GRACE — will dovetail with efforts by police and other community leaders in response to recent homicides and ongoing gang violence.

“The young people of inner-city Greenville need to see that just because you’re born in a gang-infested urban area, it doesn’t mean you can’t end up graduating from East Carolina University,” Blount said Tuesday.

A standout basketball player who graduated in 1999 from J.H. Rose High School, Blount grew up in Kearney Park near South Greenville Gym. He was forced to think about life after basketball following a serious knee injury in college.
His interest in fashion design led him to develop a clothing line called Havknot, then Blount’s interests widened to music and entertainment promotions, he said.

He hosts “Real Talk with Havknot” on Saturdays on Soul 92.1 FM and uses social media to promote his clothing line and concerts. He has more than 5,000 Facebook friends and 1,000 followers on Twitter.

His decision to challenge young people to make good choices reflects his upbringing, he said.

“I grew up in a working class home and watched my mother work so hard for everything we had,” Blount said. “When I was able to work, my goal was money, but that pursuit took me to unhappy places that didn’t seem to fulfill my sense of purpose. I asked myself whether I wanted to make it big or make a big difference.”

The young entrepreneur said he could not feel comfortable while he is the only one benefiting from his growing success.

“In the environment that I grew up in, if somebody didn’t reach back and help me, I would be the one you read about in the paper who committed the crimes,” Blount said. “I walked a tightrope, but others saw something in me and helped change the direction of my life.”

Blount said he is fascinated by the idea of generations in a community. He believes age differences make it difficult for old and young to relate, so the younger generation has to be responsible for itself.

“I think Greenville needs its young people to step up and provide the solutions to our problems,” he said. “If the problems exist among our young people, who better to solve them?”

Blount hopes GRACE will marshal a multi-ethnic group to support youth who want to break away from their circumstances and find new alternatives to gangs and crime.

The guest list for Saturday’s event includes commitments from Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas, City Council members Rose Glover and Dennis
Mitchell, and representatives from the Greenville Police Department, NAACP, SCLC and Pitt County Schools.

Event sponsors include Club Phoenix, Trendsettaz and Kevin Faison.

“Let’s not wait for the next news story when you can play a part in changing it,” Blount said.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
Universities rush to keep their brands off .xxx porn sites

By Jenna Johnson

Here’s an interesting task for university public relations offices: Come up with a list of potential porn sites that might be created using your school’s name, and buy those domains before someone else does.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers created xxx domain names earlier this year in an effort to corral pornography and adult entertainment in a separate space on the Internet. The general public was allowed to start buying up these naughty addresses on Dec. 6, but owners of registered trademarks were given first grabs months ago. The onetime blocking cost is $200 per address, and most buyers (which include celebrities and major companies) plan to do absolutely nothing with the sites after buying them.

Many of those trademark holders were colleges and universities — an industry that has long seen its bright-eyed students, nerdy librarians and philandering professors become erotic fodder. I am guessing that having to come up with a list of addresses to purchase was not only a lesson in modern brand protection, but also an exercise in creative thinking.

So, which addresses made those lists?

Most schools bought just the basics, such as variations of its name and athletics teams. For example, Brigham Young University bought two addresses, BYU.xxx and BrighamYoungUniversity.xxx. Penn State University bought up four .xxx domains: Penn State, PSU, Nittany Lions and The Pennsylvania State University. Indiana University spent $2,200 to purchase 11 domains, including Indianauniversity.xxx and Hoosiers.xxx.

“We’re not trying to think of every variation of Girls Gone Wild or Girls of Indiana or Hoosier Girls,” Valerie Gill, the university’s director of licensing and trademarks, told the Associated Press. “The possibilities are endless, and we could be spending thousands and thousands on that. The majority of us
are just trying to hit our main trademarks and use that as a means for fighting uses we can’t even dream up at this point.”

Still, some schools dreamed that big. The University of Kansas dropped nearly three-grand on a bunch of addresses, including KUgirls.xxx and KUnurses.xxx.
In January, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the nonprofit association tasked with managing the Internet’s addresses, known as domain names, will begin taking applications from anyone with $185,000 and a desire to reserve their own suffix on the Web.

**ICANN is ready for battle over expansion of Web suffixes**

By Hayley Tsukayama and Ylan Q. Mui

There’s been a scramble to snap up domain names for the Internet’s newest designation — .xxx — but not necessarily from those you’d expect. Adult sites have reserved their spot in the newly labeled section of the Web, but so have companies, charities, celebrities and politicians.

Try “barackobama.xxx,” “angelinajolie.xxx” or “redcross.xxx” and you’ll find yourself faced with a black screen with gray type stating: “This domain has been reserved from registration.” In other words, someone’s made sure those brand names are protected from the association with porn.

Companies, the rich and famous and regulators in Washington now are worried that the rush to defensively buy Web addresses will only worsen — and grow more costly — as the organization in charge of doling out real estate on the Internet prepares to unleash an infinite number of Web suffixes to add to the familiar .com, .net and .edu. Some experts say the move will change the landscape of the Internet forever.

In January, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the nonprofit association tasked with managing the Internet’s addresses, known as domain names, will begin taking applications from
ICANN, based in Marina del Rey, Calif., says that the new suffixes will promote innovation and it will make sure the Web addresses do not fall into the wrong hands. But lawmakers and regulators want ICANN to delay its process.

A hearing on the matter will be held Wednesday by a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee, though no legislation is planned at this time, committee spokeswoman Debbee Keller said.

Federal Trade Commission Chairman Jon Leibowitz said last week that implementing the program could be a “disaster” for consumers. Regulators are concerned that ICANN is not doing enough to prevent scam artists from setting up fake sites and confusing average people. The commission is preparing to send a letter to ICANN outlining its concerns about how consumers will be protected under the new registry, said a person familiar with the commission’s thinking who spoke on condition of anonymity because the letter is being drafted.

The U.S. government does not have direct oversight over decisions made by ICANN, which was created in the Clinton administration at the request of the Commerce Department as the Internet was taking off. Its creators resisted regulation because they wanted the Web to stay open.

The FTC, for instance, cannot reverse ICANN’s policies. It can only go after owners of the new suffixes if they engage in deceptive consumer practices — and if they operate in the United States.

The expansion of suffixes may also compel anyone with a brand name to buy multiple Web addresses to protect its image and prevent customers from being tricked by artfully misspelled sites. ICANN, for instance, handed over .xxx to ICM Registry, which has been charging $200 to trademark holders for each Web address they want to reserve.

The National Retail Federation, an industry trade group, has sent letters to Congress criticizing the rollout of the domain names for lacking transparency — and for the potential cost. Besides buying Web sites to prevent themselves from being associated with a .xxx or a .sex suffix, companies may have to fork over $185,000 to ICANN, plus legal fees, to
control a suffix of their own. Plus they would have to maintain useless domains at a cost of $50,000 to $100,000 annually, the NRF said.

“It’s a little bit like the Oklahoma land rush,” said Mallory Duncan, NRF general counsel. “You come in now and pay a quarter of a million dollars or forever hold your peace. That’s not a prudent way to run a business.”

The Gap has said it would not only have to defend the names of its eponymous Gap stores, but also for its four other brands: Banana Republic, Old Navy, Athleta and Piperlime.

“ICANN’s domain-name expansion will require us to considerably increase our efforts and costs to monitor and police cybersquatting, counterfeiting, online fraud and phishing, thus diverting resources that could otherwise be used for job creation,” Toby Lenk, president of Gap Inc. Direct, wrote in a letter to Congress.

For ICANN officials, the calls from Washington to delay the process seem odd. ICANN has been working on the expansion for six years and has held more than 40 comment periods where thousands of copyright holders, computer scientists and businesses have weighed in.

ICANN spokesman Brad White said the organization has put protections in place to prevent the creation of deceptive Web sites, such as requiring those wanting to reserve suffixes to provide more contact information and submit to background checks. ICANN also is giving those with trademarks the right to reserve any suffix associated with their brand name.

“This has been a very long and inclusive process,” White said. “It’s simplistic criticism to say that because you will have more space, you will have more fraud.”
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

8:07 p.m. Tuesday, December 13, 2011

**FAMU hazing incident brings lawsuit, criticism**

By Bo Emerson and Katie Leslie

Clarinet player Bria Shante Hunter had to decide which option was more painful: turning in the FAMU bandmates who, she now says, had administered a serious beating, or walking around on a broken leg.

For a week the Atlanta freshman tried living with a fractured femur. But on Nov. 7 she reported the incident to FAMU band director Julian White, who sent her to the hospital and referred the case to the campus police.

Hunter told authorities that her injuries -- including blood clots as well as the cracked thigh bone -- were the result of being struck repeatedly for failing to live up to the credo of the Red Dawg Order, a sub-group made up solely of students from the Atlanta area, within the renowned and prestigious FAMU Marching 100. The existence of the order is one outward indication of the profound ties between Atlanta and the band many regard as the best in the world.

The consequences of Hunter's decision to come forward -- she has decided she can no longer remain at the school, and will relinquish the $85,000 scholarship she won as a member of the band -- illustrate the powerful and complex bonds that tie members to the band.

The Red Dawg Order, a fraternal organization for Atlantans playing in marching bands at HBCUs around the country, began in the 1990s on the FAMU campus according to Ormond Moore, assistant director of bands at R.L. Osborne High School in Marietta.

Moore said there are perhaps 21 chapters at predominantly black schools around the South. "It was supposed to breed you to be a better musician," he said, "to teach you the ins and outs . . . Somewhere along the line the situation has changed to become a pledging process."

Twelve days after Hunter told her story to White, another Atlantan in the band, drum major Robert Champion, died, reportedly after a similar hazing incident. No criminal charges have been filed in that incident, which is still
under investigation. The president of the school has been reprimanded by the
trustees and all band activities have been suspended. Three students were
suspended but later reinstated; two were from Atlanta.

Monday, three FAMU band students were arrested and charged with
assaulting Hunter. The defendants, Sean Hobson, 23, Aaron Golson, 19 and
James Harris, 22, are all from Atlanta. Hunter and Hobson were both
students at Southwest DeKalb High School, a school that boasts a
powerhouse among Atlanta marching bands; Harris attended Druid Hills
High School.

Lawyers for the defendants said Tuesday at a hearing in Tallahassee that
they will fight the charges.

Hunter said members of the Red Dawg Order forced her to lift her legs
in marching position while they punched her upper thighs and struck her
with spatulas, book binders and metal rulers.

At a press conference Tuesday, her attorney, Atlantan B.J. Bernstein,
announced that Hunter will file a lawsuit against the university, which
Bernstein accused of failing to correct a problem that administrators have
known about for more than a decade.

“This open secret at FAMU once and for all must end," she said.

FAMU officials had no immediate comment Tuesday but said they were
drafting a formal statement.

Hunter, 18, was not present at the afternoon news conference in Bernstein’s
Atlanta law office. Bernstein said she was still at school, completing her last
exam.

“Parents trust schools," Bernstein said. " [Schools] can’t block everything,
but they can do a heck of a lot.”

While some former FAMU band members acknowledge that some forms of
initiation exist at the school -- students might be forced to get haircuts or run
laps -- few would speak openly about anything more severe.

Students associated with the Red Dawg Order have kept silent in the wake of
the news reports. Indeed, the topic of hazing seems to be met with a code of
silence. An AJC Twitter request to speak with Red Dawg members drew
derisive responses. Students seemed outraged that any person would
consider “snitching” on other band members.

Even former band members who had little but good things to say about their
experiences would speak only on the condition of anonymity. One former
snare drum player who marched in the early 1990s said he is heartbroken by the hazing allegations, saying they bring shame to what has been a meaningful and outstanding program.

“It is a slap in the face to the late Dr. William P. Foster, who founded the band, for all the thousands of individuals who marched in the band, for Dr. Julian E. White’s name and for the university as a whole,” he said.

The drummer, who wanted to be identified only as James, said participating in the band is among his greatest accomplishment, even 20 years later. “You have to be the cream of the crop” to earn a spot, he said.

He said he is disappointed more people aren’t speaking about what may have become a problem in recent years with hazing.

“That is not what we were about, what the band is about, not what the university is about,” he said.

The code of secrecy is one of the factors that allows hazing to continue, said Mary Madden, associate research professor at the University of Maine, and coauthor of a 2008 study on hazing at college campuses.

Because retribution is likely, "It takes a lot of courage to come forward," said Madden, who reviewed online responses from 11,000 students and interviewed staff and students at 21 college campuses around the country.

"Robert Champion's death points out two major things," said Madden. "One, that hazing happens across a range of student groups and two, it can be harmful or even deadly."
A Serious Illness or an Excuse?
As Awareness of Mental Issues Rises, Colleges Face Tough Calls; Playing 'Detective'
HEALTH & WELLNESS
DECEMBER 13, 2011
By ANDREA PETERSEN

Earlier this semester, college senior Leah Nelson emailed one of her instructors to ask for extra time to complete a paper. "I have been going through a rough patch lately and am making the decision to take care of myself this week," Ms. Nelson wrote. Her mental health, she continued, would "take priority over everything else."

Ms. Nelson, a 21-year-old student at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, struggles with depression. Her symptoms often flare when exams and papers pile up. She says the timing of a suicide attempt in March of 2010, when she took an overdose of Tylenol, was influenced by the pressure of the three exams and paper due she had that week.

Ms. Nelson is one of a growing number of college students asking for wiggle room with their academic workloads due to mental health issues.

In some cases, students make direct pleas to professors. In others, students work through their university's disability office to receive official academic "accommodations." These can include extra time for exams, the opportunity
to take tests in a quiet room, or flexibility with class attendance and assignment deadlines.

Schools are required to extend "reasonable accommodations" for students with documented disabilities—including psychological ones—to comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

But there's hand-wringing among university administrators and faculty about how to support college students with mental health issues while making sure young adults progress academically. One of the goals of college, after all, is to prepare students for the working world. And not every boss may be OK with a blown deadline for a critical client report, no matter the reason. Professors also want to make sure they're being fair to all students.

"There's the danger that we take too much care and when they hit the real world that same kind of support isn't there," says David Cozzens, dean of students and associate vice president of student affairs at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Some formal accommodations, like additional test time, are fairly standard across universities and apply to students with physical and learning disabilities, too. But, schools diverge widely on formal accommodations for flexibility with assignment deadlines, class attendance and participation. Some schools leave it up to individual instructors. Others intervene more directly on students' behalf.

Schools say they are seeing a rise in the number of students registering with their disability offices due to psychological problems. At Pace University in New York, the number of requests for accommodations from students with disabilities related to psychological disorders tripled in the last three years.

At the University of Texas at Austin, 33% of the 1,687 students that registered with the disability services office during the spring 2011 semester listed psychological problems as their "primary" concern. In the spring of 2008, only 23% out of 1,175 did. (The increase was due, in part, to a procedural change that routed more students to the disability office.)

Colleges say they're seeing more students on campus with psychiatric illnesses. About 11.6% of college students were diagnosed or treated for
anxiety in the last year, and 10.7% were diagnosed or treated for depression, according to a survey of more than 100,000 students at 129 schools conducted by the American College Health Association. Many mental illnesses, particularly depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, emerge during late adolescence.

Psychiatric disorders like depression and anxiety can have serious academic consequences because they affect concentration, sleep and cognitive processing, say mental health professionals.

It's unclear why the incidence of psychiatric disorders appears to be rising among college students. Better medications and treatments are likely making it possible for more young adults with even serious mental illnesses to attend college. Many schools have launched programs to identify students with psychological problems and get them into counseling. Student-advocacy groups like Active Minds Inc., an organization with chapters on 325 campuses, are trying to reduce the stigma around having a mental illness.

Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., has developed an extensive suicide-prevention program and a comprehensive disability services office. But it is pulling back on how involved it gets in student-faculty negotiations not covered by the office.

Over the last several years, the counseling center has stopped issuing dated "verification of visit" notes. Too many students were making appointments just to get the notes to provide proof of why they missed class or failed to turn in an assignment, says Greg Eells, director of counseling and psychological services. (The school's health center stopped giving notes for medical appointments, too.)

"It was just not a good use of the university's resources," says Mr. Eells. But professors pushed back. "The faculty wants us to be a detective to see if the student is telling the truth. That's not our job," he says.

If students complain of psychological problems, some faculty members will send them to the disability services office to avoid having to determine what's a serious issue versus what's a gloomy day. Then, "the instructor isn't having to make decisions on something they're not equipped to assess," says Steven Barrett, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Wyoming.
In the fall of 2010, Amy Goodnough, now a senior at the University of Vermont, started experiencing severe insomnia and excess energy. Some mornings, she couldn't get out of bed. Eventually diagnosed with bipolar disorder, Ms. Goodnough withdrew from one class, took an incomplete in another and appealed directly to other professors to turn in some assignments late. "It was difficult to know day to day what my energy would be like," Ms. Goodnough, 21, says. "I kind of crawled through the end of the semester."

Before the spring term, she registered with the university's disability services office and received letters to take to her professors stating that she be allowed "limited" flexibility with attendance and deadlines. Without those accommodations, "I don't think I could have stayed in school," that semester, she says. Now getting effective treatment, Ms. Goodnough has not needed the flexibility this term and has a 3.9 grade-point average.

Schools say they can't require faculty to adjust deadlines or attendance policies. And in some courses, like science labs and speech classes, participation is critical, but schools can push instructors to compromise with students.

Students with mental illnesses "don't know when the symptoms will happen, when they might be incapacitated," says Laurel Cameron, the director of ACCESS, the University of Vermont's disability services office. Even with a letter giving a student flexibility with deadlines and attendance, students are required to negotiate with each instructor at the beginning of the semester. They need to devise a plan, for example, of when to notify faculty of an absence and a timetable for making up work.

To help students prepare for those discussions, Ms. Cameron says she and her staff will role-play with students, taking on the tone of a skeptical professor.

Kim Larrabee, a faculty member at UConn and the instructor Ms. Nelson emailed for an extension, says she has a "sense of intuition of sincerity," when students approach her for flexibility with academic work. And she considers how committed the student has been so far to the course. She gave Ms. Nelson an extra 10 days to finish her paper.
"I think your decision to take care of your needs shows maturity and commitment," Ms. Larrabee wrote in an email replying to Ms. Nelson's request. Ms. Nelson got an A on the paper.

Write to Andrea Petersen at andrea.petersen@wsj.com
Universities have gotten into an unlikely business: buying .xxx website addresses.

By Mike Snider, USA TODAY
Updated 1d2h ago

New .xxx addresses became available to the public last week, but some schools didn't wait that long to secure important addresses, as a way to prevent adult content providers from profiting off them.

Beginning two months ago, ICM Registry gave trademark holders an opportunity to pay $200 per address for a one-time blocking charge to ensure that it not be used for adult content. At that time, the University of Kansas purchased the rights to several addresses including kansas.xxx and rockchalkjayhawk.xxx and jayhawks.xxx.

Then, last week when the public sale began, the college bought several more—including kustore.xxx, kugirls.xxx and jayhawk.xxx—bringing its total to nearly two dozen. "We settled on the ones that we thought it would be reasonable for us to protect," says Paul Vander Tuig, the university's trademark licensing director. "It's truly a preventative blocking measure, blocking others from doing it."

Across the country, other colleges including Michigan, Penn State, Purdue, Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon and Indiana did the same thing. The University of Missouri secured the addresses missouri.xxx, missouritigers.xx and mizzou.xxx. "I think it's a smart thing to do," says Terry Robb of the university's information technology department.

Internet domain group Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers approved the .xxx domain earlier this year; ICM Registry originally submitted a proposal in 2000.
What is confusing is that current adult content sites are not required to move from .com or .net addresses, says ICANN's Brad White. "Half the porn industry likes it and half doesn't."

What the .xxx domain does do "is to clearly signpost adult entertainment on the Net. For those people who want to find adult content, they can easily find it," says ICM Registry CEO Stuart Lawley. "And for those who wish to avoid this kind of content, not only can you see that it has the .xxx as a suffix visibly … parents can set their browser settings at home and on mobile devices to filter this content out automatically."

Also before putting .xxx addresses up for sale, certain key addresses were sold, most notably gay.xxx for $500,000 to the gay film production studio Corbin Fisher.

As with universities, other trademark holders such as companies took advantage of the "defensive registrations," Lawley says. "A lot of famous brands did that."

Along with www.kansas.com, addresses such as www.disney.xxx and www.marvel.xxx indicate they have been reserved.

Acquiring the addresses as a defensive move makes perfect sense, says Barbara Brooks, co-senior partner at The Strategy Group. "It's to preclude anybody else from using their good name in an inappropriate way."

Once addresses become available to the public, cyber squatters can snatch them up and hold the sites for high-dollar ransom. "It's an unfortunate part of what one does today in order to do business and maintain the integrity of the institutional name, the brand name, the organization, the students, whatever it is that one has built the equity in that what we have to do in this digital age."

Contributing: The Detroit Free Press
Goldman Says Class Dismissed as Occupy Harvard Mars Session
December 13, 2011, 3:07 PM EST
By John Lauerman and Oliver Staley

Dec. 13 (Bloomberg) -- Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Morgan Stanley are getting a chilly reception at top colleges, including Harvard University and Princeton University, as campus offshoots of Occupy Wall Street target investment-bank recruiting events.

Goldman Sachs canceled visits to Harvard and Brown University last week following a November incident where Occupy Harvard protesters attempted to enter a recruitment session. Students at Yale University, Princeton and Cornell University have also rallied at campus events by investment firms.

Students of the eight elite colleges composing the Ivy League in the northeastern U.S., such as Sandra Korn of Harvard and Tom Moore of Cornell, are criticizing their universities for sending high numbers of graduates to Wall Street, rather than to jobs that emphasize community service. Careers in financial and consulting firms are frequently presented as the best or only option, said Korn, a sophomore majoring in history of science and gender studies who participated in the Nov. 28 protest.

“It’s kind of frustrating for students who think this is not the most ethical profession,” Korn, 19, said in a telephone interview. “When some people are making money by taking risks with other people’s lives and livelihoods, that’s detrimental to society.”

About 22 percent of Harvard 2011 graduates who planned to enter the workforce were headed into finance and consulting, down from a high of 47 percent in 2007, according to a Harvard Crimson survey published in May. Half the students entering those fields said they would have chosen to work in other professions if salary weren’t a concern. More than 11 percent were planning for jobs in education, and one in four were ticketed for graduate programs, according to the survey.
Targeting Blankfein

A Dec. 8 Goldman Sachs recruiting visit to the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based university was canceled “due to proximity to the Reading Period and commencement of exams,” according to an e-mail obtained by Bloomberg News. A session days earlier on Brown’s campus in Providence, Rhode Island, was scuttled hours before it was to begin, the Brown Daily Herald reported Dec. 5. Both sessions were rescheduled as Internet-based seminars.

Goldman Sachs Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Lloyd C. Blankfein, a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, canceled an October appearance at Barnard College in New York. Students at Columbia University, with which Barnard is affiliated, organized a weeklong protest against Blankfein, the Columbia Daily Spectator reported on its website. Barnard President Debora L. Spar joined Goldman Sachs’s board in June.

West Coast Shipping

David Wells, a spokesman for New York-based Goldman Sachs, declined to comment on the campus protests.

Profit and Equality

Protests spawned by the Occupy Wall Street movement that began in September have focused attention on Americans who lost homes and jobs as credit froze after the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. in 2008, contributing to the worst recession since the Great Depression, even as many U.S. banks rebounded. The movement that began in a New York park has spread to cities worldwide including Boston, London, Sydney and Toronto.

Occupy demonstrators yesterday protested to halt shipping operations at ports in Oakland and Long Beach, California, and Portland, Oregon, where Goldman Sachs owns a stake in the largest cargo-terminal operator. The economic value of containerized cargo at West Coast ports is about $705 million a day, according to Martin Associates, a Lancaster, Pennsylvania-based consulting firm.

College students are saying that Wall Street banks haven’t been held accountable for promoting the high-risk investments that led to the financial crisis.
“In general, they play a role in the crashing of the economy and the broadening of the income distribution gap,” said Luciana Chamorro, a senior at Princeton. “It’s the maximization of profit at the expense of social equality.”

Job Opportunities

Chamorro said she’s been disappointed by the focus on Wall Street and consulting jobs among the opportunities presented by the Princeton, New Jersey-based university’s career office. She was among about 20 students who interrupted a Dec. 7 JPMorgan Chase & Co. recruitment session on campus to voice their concern. There were about 25 students there who had come to learn about the investment bank, and five people from the company, three of them recent Princeton graduates, she said.

“I don’t think we seemed threatening in any way to them,” she said. “We both gave each other the space to say what we were thinking and I think that was really good.”

Yale’s Approach

Morgan Stanley experienced some “peripheral” protest activity at an event at Yale in New Haven, Connecticut, last month, said Jeanmarie McFadden, a spokeswoman for the firm.

“We have not changed our recruitment activities and we have not seen any impact on attendance,” she said.

Yale’s Approach

Yale respects the rights of students to protest peacefully, said Allyson Moore, associate dean of Yale College and director of career services.

“None of the companies were distressed by it,” Moore said. “They anticipated it.”

About 11 percent of Yale undergraduates take jobs in finance, less than the 18 percent that go to work in education, Moore said.

“Our philosophy is to support each individual student’s career aspirations,” Moore said. “If they want a career in the arts, we’ll do our level best to help
them achieve that and if they aspire to a career in business, we’ll work equally as hard.”

Korn, the Harvard student, said she has slept in a tent in Harvard Yard about 14 times as part of the Occupy protest. She said she heard speeches by university President Drew Faust that emphasized the importance of public-service careers.

Public Service

Under Faust, Harvard has increased opportunities and support for students seeking experiences and careers in public service, said Jeff Neal, a university spokesman. Efforts last year included a series of new Presidential Public Service Fellowships. She has also said that the university’s next fundraising campaign will include increasing summer public-service opportunities, according to Neal.

On Nov. 28, Korn said she and about 25 other Occupy Harvard protesters tried to enter the Goldman Sachs event. She said a staff member told her group they couldn’t enter because they weren’t properly dressed and didn’t have resumes.

The protesters remained outside, chanting anti-Goldman Sachs slogans, she said. Students who had come to hear the bank’s presentation were unhappy, she said.

“There were certainly some students who were a little annoyed,” she said.

Strained Friendships

Colleges should consider banning corporate recruiting, as they did military recruiters, as antithetical to the purposes of a university, said Moore, the Cornell sophomore.

“There’s a sense that they’re appealing to people who don’t have a lot of options, that graduation is coming near and debt is piling up,” Moore said. “People are becoming part of this profoundly unjust institution because they don’t see an alternative.”

Moore said his views have caused friction with classmates interested in Wall Street jobs.
“I’ve definitely had some friendships strained,” he said.

--With assistance from Christine Harper and David Scheer in New York. Editors: Romaine Bostick, Niamh Ring

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