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*Kate Frucher*  
*F.Y.I.*  
*CL*

February 3, 1993

Directors

Laura L. Mann  
H. Michael Magevney

Eli J. Segal  
Director  
Office of National Service  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Advisory Board

William Aaron  
Junior Achievement

I am going to be in Washington D.C February 8-9 for The New Citizenship Project press conference and luncheon on Monday, and would like to meet with you or someone on your staff to discuss the role of higher education in President Clinton's National Service Plan.

Fawn Balra  
Bowdoin College

Break Away is a national student community service agency that works to promote service through alternative break programs. During a school vacation an alternative break program places teams of college students in communities to engage in community service and experiential learning. We serve as a clearinghouse of information on alternative break programs and provide key information on planning and running a quality break program to colleges and high schools in our network. We also help to place volunteers with community organizations through our SiteBank, a database of volunteer opportunities both nationally and internationally. The office is based at Vanderbilt University in Nashville and has been up and running since June 1991.

Edith Buhs  
Students Y  
University of Illinois

Sarah Clark  
Campus Chapters  
Habitat for Humanity, Intl.

Barbara Clinton  
Center for Health Services  
Vanderbilt University

We see alternative breaks as a way for community groups to use volunteers to staff their programs and complete their short term projects and as a springboard into lifelong community service for the students that participate in them. Last year over 2,500 students from colleges, universities, and high schools in the Break Away network participated in alternative break programs and this year at least 5,000 students will be participating.

Mark Constantine  
Jesse Ball DuPont Fund

Hubert Dixon  
Environmental Outreach

David Driver  
Noble Press, Inc.

Todd Savage  
Outside Magazine

Elizabeth Shexnailder  
Trinity University

Dr. Lorraine Williams-Greene  
I Have A Future  
Meharry Medical College

I have been in conversations with task force members of Young People for National Service and worked with the Commission on National and Community Service last year as a grant reviewer for Subtitle B.2 Higher Education and am concerned about the role of higher education institutions and the organizations that work with them in any National Service plans that might be adopted by the President. I would like to be able to meet with you or someone on your staff while I am in town Monday and Tuesday and will be calling your office later this week to try and set something up. Thank you for you time.

Karen Young  
Youth On Board

Sincerely,

*Laura L. Mann*

Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt  
Vanderbilt University

Laura L. Mann  
Co-Director

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6026 Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235

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## **Break Away: the Alternative Break Connection at Vanderbilt University**

**Break Away: the Alternative Break Connection**, founded at Vanderbilt University in 1991, evolved from a need recognized by leaders of Vanderbilt's Alternative Spring Break program. Vanderbilt's Alternative Spring Break more than quadrupled in size since students started it in 1987, and through the college grapevine, student groups from across the country heard about its success and wanted to know how to start similar programs on their campuses.

The 1991 ASB co-chairs, then seniors H. Michael Magevney and Laura L. Mann, were swamped with calls from students at other schools and realized that something bigger than the two of them was needed to foster this momentum and give the fledgling programs legitimacy as they broke new ground. Magevney and Mann set out to establish a national clearinghouse at Vanderbilt that could take the organizational burden off of individual programs and facilitate information and communication between all involved parties.

After they graduated in May of 1991, Magevney and Mann laid the foundations for a national clearinghouse to link students and communities to promote service on the local, regional, national, and international levels through alternative break programs. With seed money and support from Vanderbilt's Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt, **Break Away: the Alternative Break Connection** at Vanderbilt University was born. Break Away has also received additional funding from the W. K. Kellogg and Ford Foundations.

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6026 Station B, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235

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**Break Away: the Alternative Break Connection  
at Vanderbilt University**

**FACTS:**

- **Break Away: the Alternative Break Connection** is a national, non-profit organization located at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

- **Break Away** serves as the national clearinghouse for volunteer break programs, linking students with volunteer organizations and needy communities. More than 500 colleges, universities and community organizations currently work directly with the **Break Away** office.

- **Break Away's** mission is to promote service on the local, regional, national, and international levels through break oriented programs which immerse students in often vastly different cultures, heighten social awareness, and advocate life-long social action.

- **Break Away** co-directors H. Michael Magevney and Laura L. Mann, 1991 Vanderbilt graduates, conceived of the national office during their stint as 1991 co-chairs of Vanderbilt's Alternative Spring Break (ASB), which had more than quadrupled in size since students started it in 1987. As ASB co-chairs, Magevney and Mann were flooded with inquiries from other schools seeking information and guidance on starting their own volunteer break programs. They recognized the need for a national headquarters to support break programs across the country.

- **Break Away** was started by Magevney and Mann in June of 1991 with seed money and support from Vanderbilt's Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt.

- **Break Away** has received grants of \$91,750 grant from both the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

- **Break Away** serves a bridge between schools and communities. As a clearinghouse for alternative break programs, the office provides:

- training and consulting for schools requesting help in starting new programs, which can include conferences led by Mann or Magevney addressing site-planning, orientation and training, financial management, community building, liability, publicity, etc.

- school to site matching through the **Break Away SiteBank**, which is a computerized database consisting of more than 120 community organizations cross-references by location, type of work, number of students needed, etc.

- a second database with student contacts and information on alternative break programs at more than a 200 schools to help facilitate the exchange of ideas and information from one group to another.

- Connections, a newsletter, which provided a communication link between student groups, existing volunteer organizations and community groups.

- **Break Away** has a national advisory board which includes students, college and university administrators, members of national volunteer organizations and contacts on location at volunteer sites.

- For more information on **Break Away**, please contact H. Michael Magevney or Laura L. Mann at 615/343-0385.