

HOUSING

Fire forces evacuation



HENRY MANICE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Firefighters arrived on the scene only a few minutes after the alarms sounded early Sunday morning. The fire, which was contained to the trash chute and basement trash room, is thought to have been started by a flaming object dropped down the trash chute. Many students chose to sleep in other dorms on campus rather than wait more than three hours for the all-clear.

“It was crazy. The fire alarm went off and they came banging on doors to get people out.”

—Senior Julian Terrell

Students wait more than three hours to re-enter.

BY RYAN FARHA
HUSTLER FEATURES REPORTER

A fire broke out early Sunday morning in Carmichael Tower 4 after an unknown burning object was thrown into the trash chute.

According to Wayman Battle, spokesman for the Metro Nashville Fire Department who delivered a statement at 1:45 a.m. and as university officials, the object ignited a fire at roughly 12:15 a.m. in the building's trash room, causing smoke to rise.

Dense smoke was reported, especially on the top three floors.

A resident on the 13th floor of Tower 4 called VUPD citing smoke at 12:32

a.m. VUPD officers arrived two minutes later.

The building's fire alarm went off at approximately 12:45 a.m. Remaining residents of both Tower 3 and Tower 4 were quickly evacuated.

The sprinkler system was set off in the trash chute and trash room but not in the halls themselves.

Firefighters entered the building at 12:59 a.m.

Police directed residents who were standing, shivering in the parking lot into Towers East.

At roughly 1:30, the fire alarms in Towers East went off. The buildings are

Please see FIRE, page 5

The timeline

12:15 a.m.: A burning object ignited a fire in the Tower 4 trash chute and trash chute room in the basement.

12:32 a.m.: A resident of the 13th floor of Tower 4 called VUPD from Tower 4 after smelling smoke.

12:34 a.m.: VUPD officers arrive.

12:45 a.m.: The fire alarm in Tower 4 went off. Students evacuated the building.

12:59 a.m.: Firefighters enter Towers West.

1:20 a.m.: Firefighters begin to successfully rid the top floors of Tower 4 of smoke.

1:30 a.m.: Students in Towers East evacuate the building.

1:45 a.m.: Fire Department Issues statement.

4:30 a.m.: All students in Towers 3 and 4 allowed to return to their rooms.

CAREERS

Lower GPA might not hurt future

Vanderbilt grads say grades not everything in the job market.

BY BECKY TYRRELL
HUSTLER FEATURES REPORTER

Despite Vanderbilt's lower grade point average at undergraduate commencement, recent alumni and the career center stated that grades are often only a critical issue for a few select finance banking industries.

“My impression is that grade inflation here is similar to other schools,” said Bill Fletcher, associate director of the Career Center. “Does it impact hiring? It depends on the field and industry. The consulting, finance and banking rely a lot on GPA, so if you don't make the cut, you've better have great connections or a plan B.”

Vanderbilt's average undergraduate student GPA at graduation is 3.2, compared to Emory's 3.33 and Notre Dame's 3.4

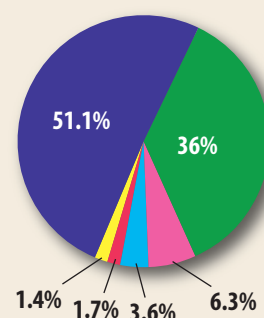
Although U.S. News & World Report ranks these colleges together, the differences in average GPA have raised concerns as to how the job market views Vanderbilt graduates.

“From my perspective, whether your GPA is high or low, you're benchmarked against your peer institutions,” Fletcher said. “When employers are recruiting, if it's a 3.5, it's a 3.5 at Vanderbilt, Harvard and at Duke.”

Fletcher also believes that there are still many factors that go into consideration when evaluating candidates.

Please see GPA, page 2

2005 Grads Plans



- Employment
- Graduate school
- Undecided, other, no response
- Military, volunteer service
- Additional undergraduate course work
- Traveling

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SGA presidential powers fall under close scrutiny

BY TONY MCCALL
HUSTLER FEATURES REPORTER

The Southeastern Conference — Student Government Association funding controversy has brought to light questions about SGA presidential negligence, involvement of other SEC schools, how “strong” the SGA budget is and the dangers of past SGA presidential commitments.

At the Feb. 1 Senate meeting, Kate Morgan announced that the SGA budget would pay \$9,000 for the cancelled SEC-SGA conference.

The SEC-SGA conference is traditionally held each year at a different member school.

In 2004, without consulting with the SGA executive board, then-President Andrew Maxwell volunteered Vanderbilt to host the 2005-2006 conference.

In a series of three SGA resolutions in the 2004-2005 academic year, \$6,000 was approved by the Senate for the cost of the conference.

Hurricane Katrina forced SGA to reschedule the cancelled conference for January from September.

The cancellation resulted in an additional unexpected loss of \$3,000.

Morgan cancelled a week before the conference after receiving confirmation from five people.

“The remainder of schools would not respond no mat-

Please see SGA, page 3

COMMONS

Communication a 'need to know' with the Commons

BY ROBERT PROUDFOOT
HUSTLER SENIOR FEATURES REPORTER

Administrators cited the need for student responsibility and rotating nature of the student body as principal reasons for allegations of a lack of communication regarding The Commons.

The Commons, the first stage Vanderbilt's residential plan called College Halls, will be completed in 2008 and will house all freshmen. After the Board of Trust approved a \$150 million last spring, a number of students raised concerns about off-campus housing, Greek Life, safety and programming.

Susan Barge, associate provost for Residential Colleges, said that the four year cycle of undergraduate students makes it hard to effectively communicate about The Commons. The seniors, whom know the most about The Commons, graduate while the freshmen come in know almost nothing.

Please see COMMONS, page 5

Bobby Johnson flies with Angels



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAPT. CHRIS CLARK

Football Coach Bobby Johnson prepares for his flight with the Navy Blue Angels. Johnson, who has been a strong supporter of the Naval ROTC on campus, was invited to fly with the famed aerial group last week at their winter training grounds in California. Johnson sat in the navigator seat of the F/A-18 Hornet as his pilot, callsign Kojak, took him on a 45 minute thrill ride.



OUR VIEW
Read why we feel that the Student Government Association should make changes in its bylaws so as to prevent any given SGA President from committing future SGA organizations to substantial obligations.
See Page 6

BASKETBALL
Men's Basketball team wins a crucial road game against the South Carolina Gamecocks in the final seconds. Read the Hustler sports team's report of the 57-56 victory.
See Page 8

2006 WINTER GAMES

COUNTRY	11	12	6	TOTAL
Germany	11	12	6	29
United States	9	9	7	25
Canada	7	10	7	24
Austria	9	7	7	23
Russia	8	6	8	22
Norway	2	8	9	19
Sweden	7	2	5	14
Switzerland	5	4	5	14
South Korea	6	3	2	11
Italy	5	0	6	11

The top-10 medal-winning countries in the Turin Olympics; 84 medal events total

QUOTABLE
“If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude.”
—Maya Angelou, who will be speaking tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Gymnasium.

POLL
66%
Percentage of Americans who think there is too much sex on TV.

WEATHER

60 45
HI LO
» Extended forecast on page 2

INSIDE

- In the Bubble 2
- In History 2
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PAGE 2

Today is Monday, February 27, 2006

IT IS THE	THERE ARE		
34th	42	5	74
day of classes	class days until exams	class days until Spring Break	calendar days to commencement

WORD OF THE DAY

LIM-PID

- adj. 1. clear, transparent
2. serene
3. clear in style

Source: Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1801	The District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.
1922	The Supreme Court unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution that guaranteed the right of women to vote.
1960	The U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, Calif. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)
1972	President Nixon and Chinese Premier Chou En-lai issued the Shanghai Communique at the conclusion of Nixon's historic visit to China.
1986	The U.S. Senate approved telecasts of its debates on a trial basis.

Compiled by the Associated Press

FORECAST

TUESDAY	Partly Cloudy	High: 64	Low: 53
WEDNESDAY	Partly Cloudy	High: 69	Low: 56
THURSDAY	Scattered Showers	High: 63	Low: 48

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Lisa Guo

Safe Spring Break Week

Finally ... Spring Break is almost here! Have some R&R but stay safe too! Drop by the table on the Wall 11am-1:30pm this week to pick up the Safe Spring Break Pack and other tips to keep you having fun!

Affirmative consent panel and Q&A session

MPAS is sponsoring a panel presentation plus question-and-answer session in response to the Task Force on Safety and Security's recommendation that the University adopt an affirmative consent sexual misconduct policy. The panelists will explain what an affirmative consent policy is, how one would differ from the current policy, and how one might impact members of the Vanderbilt community. The panel will be tomorrow, Tuesday Feb. 28, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Wilson 103.

Rites tickets to go on sale Wednesday

Tickets go on sale March 1 at 10:00 a.m. CST for the Rites of Spring Music Festival at Vanderbilt University. The event will be held Friday, April 21st and Saturday, April 22. The event is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations, online at www.ticketmaster.com, Grimey's New & Preloved Music in Nashville (www.grimeys.com) or by calling 615-255-9600. Tickets can also be purchased with Cash or Check with no service fees included only at the Sarratt Box Office on the Vanderbilt campus. For more information, call 615-343-3361. Tickets: In advance: \$25 - Day Pass: \$40 Weekend Pass Day of Show \$30 - day Pass: \$50 - Weekend Pass

Part two of the Templeton Research Lectures

The Center for the Study of Religion and Culture presents part two of the Templeton Research Lectures: "Neglect and Dedication: The Dynamics of Ancient Religious Markets." A series of four lectures by Professor Rodney Stark, Baylor University. The second lecture will be in the Student Life Center this Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. with a reception at 5 p.m. Tickets go on sale March 1 at 10 a.m. for the Rites of Spring Music Festival. The event will be held Friday, April 21st and Saturday, April 22. The event is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased at all Ticketmaster locations, online at www.ticketmaster.com, Grimey's New & Preloved Music in Nashville (www.grimeys.com) or by calling 615-255-9600. Tickets can also be purchased with Cash or Check with no service fees included only at the Sarratt Box Office on the Vanderbilt campus. For more information, call 615-343-3361.

Compiled by staff from various sources. Check out <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Lisa Guo

Feb. 23, 9:22 a.m. — An aggravated assault occurred at 222 Appleton Place (Peabody grounds); one Vanderbilt employee pulled a knife on another employee during an altercation. The suspect has been identified and the investigation is still active.

Feb. 23, 3:30 p.m. — A subject was seen exposing himself in a 1996 Maroon Blazer parked in back of the Alpha Tau Omega House. The suspect is described as a male white, 40-50 years old, gray moustache, wearing a green shirt and ball cap. No suspects have been identified and the investigation is still active.

For complete listings visit <http://police.vanderbilt.edu>.

CORRECTION

• In Friday's article entitled "A House Divided" it was stated that those students compensated with an extra-quarter point would receive no advantage in the off-campus housing authorization process. This was incorrect. Eight levels of priority typically are used in the process. This year, those sophomores will be placed at a level between the sixth and seventh levels of priority. Rising juniors with senior academic standing will have sixth priority. Rising juniors who have junior academic standing who lived in the affected areas of Memorial or East Halls will have the next highest priority followed by all other juniors who have junior academic standing. *The Vanderbilt Hustler* regrets the error.

SERVICE GUIDE

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Sports results: Call 343-0967 or e-mail sports@vanderbilthustler.com

CORRECTIONS

The Hustler strives for accuracy and fairness and will correct errors of substance. See our correction policy on the Opinion page for information about notifying us.

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One semester's delivery via U.S. Postal Service is available for \$125 or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

Asian New Year festival draws a crowd Saturday



ANAS OTHMAN

The Tinikling act of the Asian New Year Festival performed to an audience of 500 Saturday evening. The Asian American Student Association organized the annual celebration culture. Tinikling is a traditional Filipino dance that uses bamboo sticks to keep rhythm.

Starting salaries for 2005 Vanderbilt graduates

MAJOR	N	RANGE	MEAN	MEDIAN
All Baccalaureate Majors	268	\$18,000 - \$71,000	\$43,380	\$45,000
ARTS & SCIENCE				
Liberal Arts	66	\$20,000 - \$65,000	\$37,523	\$36,000
Economics	87	\$21,000 - \$70,000	\$47,772	\$50,000
Communication Studies	10	\$26,000 - \$55,000	\$37,100	\$37,500
Mathematics	22	\$30,500 - \$60,000	\$46,227	\$50,000
Sciences	5	\$23,000 - \$50,000	\$32,800	\$30,000
BLAIR				
All Majors	2	—	\$42,500	—
ENGINEERING				
Biomedical	11	\$23,000 - \$55,000	\$45,818	\$48,000
Chemical	2	—	\$41,000	—
Civil	8	\$40,000 - \$48,000	\$45,625	\$47,500
Computer	9	\$42,000 - \$55,000	\$49,222	\$50,000
Computer Science	22	\$40,000 - \$63,000	\$50,432	\$51,000
Electrical	7	\$48,000 - \$71,000	\$58,143	\$56,000
Engineering Science	10	\$35,000 - \$56,000	\$46,000	\$47,500
Mechanical	18	\$30,000 - \$65,000	\$50,306	\$52,500
PEABODY				
Cognitive St. & Childhood Dev.	7	\$25,000 - \$55,000	\$40,714	\$41,000
Human & Organizational Dev.	33	\$18,000 - \$61,000	\$41,712	\$42,000
Education	9	\$18,000 - \$45,000	\$36,289	\$39,000

GPA: Financial sector jobs consider grades

From GPA, page 1

"It's not just about what GPA a student has, but what is the reputation of the school, the caliber of the candidates and it's also the quantity of the candidates applying," he said.

For all positions posted fall 2005 and to-date spring 2006 at the Career Center, 19.7 percent of jobs require a minimum GPA, with an average required GPA of 2.98, according to Fletcher.

"You can be extremely intelligent and have a great GPA, but not know the least thing about the field in which you're attempting to interview, and it shows," Fletcher said. "They want to know even before you interview, what your interests are, how you spend your time outside of class, how you write your cover letter and whether you come to the employer information session. It's all part of the package."

Rachelle Soderstrom, a 2004 Vanderbilt art history graduate who now works for UBP Asset Management, agreed with this perception of an overall package deal.

"I found that employers were less concerned with my GPA and more concerned with my major and previous work experience, such as summer jobs and internships," she said.

For positions in the finance, analysis, and consulting sector, however, GPA does play a crucial role.

Of the jobs posted this academic year with a GPA requirement, 50.3 percent of them were for jobs in this sector, with an average requirement of 3.2.

Laura Fitzgerald, a 2003 Vanderbilt finance graduate who now works for CIGNA agrees that GPA is important for jobs in her sector.

"GPA matters for hiring," she said. "A lot of companies have minimum GPA requirements, even if not blatantly stated, and are more likely to interview and hire people with higher GPAs. All the finance-related companies usually require their candidates to meet a minimum GPA before they will even interview you. Most of the jobs I was looking at required a 3.5 or higher." ■

GREEK LIFE

New business fraternity founds official chapter

Alpha Kappa Psi begins to recruit.

BY BEN SWEET
HUSTLER NEWS EDITOR

After nearly four months of work, the Omega Nu chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi, the nation's oldest and largest professional business fraternity, was established at Vanderbilt on Feb. 18.

Members of Alpha Kappa Psi from the University of Tennessee, Austin Peay State University, the University of Alabama and Middle Tennessee State University initiated 32 new members into the Vanderbilt Chapter.

According to Alpha Kappa Psi spokesmen, potential founding members began meeting last October to discuss the feasibility of a chapter on campus.

Fraternity members, which will begin to recruit new pledges next week, say they wanted a chapter at Vanderbilt in part because there is no specific course of study for business.

"Vanderbilt doesn't actually have an undergraduate business program, so we're hoping this will be a way for people who have that interest to follow through on it," junior Christopher Barr, chief of public relations, said.

"It is the largest business frat in the United States and we wanted to bring it to the school because we would like to make a support network for students interested in business," senior Tim Chan, fraternity CEO, said. "We also want to network with corporations to help students find jobs and teach them how to run a business."

Rush informational sessions are scheduled for Feb. 28 and Mar. 2 in Wilson 112 at 6 p.m. The process itself, Chan explained, will be markedly different from Greek rush.

"We will be approaching everything like a business," Chan said. "Our rushing...will be more of an interview process, like interviewing for a job, and we might call the rushing process and internship."

Members also say that the fraternity itself will have a different function than others, providing more of a base for future business contacts and experiences.

"We want to make sure this is a worthwhile organization and not just a resume padder," Barr said. ■

“It is the largest business frat in the United States and we wanted to bring it to the school because we would like to make a support network for students interested in business.”

— Senior Tim Chan, fraternity CEO

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Lock and load the potato



NIELS HAUFF

The annual potato gun competition, hosted by the Vanderbilt chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers, took place Saturday afternoon. Jonathan Witten and Frank Zhao won the contest and the cash prize of \$100.

SERVICE



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pictured from left is Natalia Sanchez, the ScholarBowl's founder, and winning team members Alex Useted (alternate), Sarah Salter, Steve Frooman, and Seth Wilson.

VUT team wins first annual contest

BY MINNIE MILLER
HUSTLER REPORTER

"A UPN pilot for this show cast William Shatner as the Chairman; the original, which uses the score to the film 'Backdraft' for its sound effects, was filmed in Japan. For 10 points — name this TV show that features 'theme ingredients' in its battles among culinary masters."

Such was the final question of the final round of this Friday's ScholarBowl.

The Vanderbilt University Theatre team, with its answer of "The Iron Chef,"

broke the tie and propelled itself to a win over other semifinalist, Vanderbilt Inner-City Programs.

Eight teams competed on Friday, buzzing in answers to questions about everything from art to politics to geography.

At the conclusion of the event, a check for \$1,000 was made out to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, ScholarBowl's chosen benefactors.

According to ScholarBowl founder Natalia Sanchez, this year's event can be viewed as a success on several levels, be-

cause not only was it able to raise a good amount of money for the charity, it was also made an official student organization, meaning it will become an annual event.

"I keep reminding myself that you have to start somewhere, and I think this was a pretty good place to start. I know that next year, it can only get better - more attendees and more money for charity," Sanchez said.

Future volunteers are encouraged to contact Sanchez for more information at Natalia.j.sanchez@vanderbilt.edu. ■

SGA: Current president sees need for accountability between outgoing, future leaders

From SGA, page 1

ter how many letters or emails I sent," Morgan said.

As president, Morgan headed the planning committee for this year's SEC-SGA conference and has been involved deeply in the planning process since almost immediately after taking office.

"The committee was established in the spring semester of '05 after I had been elected, and this was now my job," Morgan said. "We initially found we were going to host

the conference in the fall (of 2004) because the president made the decision."

The lack of involvement from SEC schools may be attributed to the specific timing of the conference. Although the SEC schools initially agreed to attend the conference, Morgan feels that the conference "lost momentum" after Hurricane Katrina.

SGA bore the entirety of the cost of the conference because the absent SEC schools had agreed to help defer conference costs by paying registration fees. The registra-

tion fees were intended to cover the \$3,000 shortfall paid to the Marriott.

Although the SGA budget suffered a \$3,000 loss, Morgan said that SGA received \$2,000 from an unusual source of revenue — organizing the distribution of the Coupon Mint book on campus.

"The \$2,000 of the \$3,000 came from the Coupon Mint...that is an extra source of income that we initially didn't have that fortunately we had and so that only \$1,000 came from the unallocated fund," Morgan said.

However, the Coupon Mint is another example in the lack of communication between past and current SGA presidents.

According to Vanderbilt Student Communications Director Chris Carroll, Morgan was not originally aware of the Coupon Mint book revenues.

Although the SEC-SGA conference only depleted the unallocated fund by a \$1,000, the issue of past presidential commitments still remains a salient one, especially with the upcoming SGA elections.

Morgan said that the SGA president should not act as a singular decision maker but consult with the executive board when making decisions that have long-term consequences for the university. 2004-2005 President Andrew Maxwell did not do so when he committed SGA to hosting the conference.

Morgan said she pledged to do differently.

"This year there has not been one major decision without the full consultation of the executive board," she said. ■

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NATION

Deadly substance found at UT Austin

BY LIZ AUSTIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — A University of Texas student found a substance in a roll of quarters that tested positive for ricin, a potentially deadly poison, but more tests were needed, officials said Saturday.

The 19-year-old student, who said she unwrapped the chunky powder in her dormitory laundry room Thursday, and her roommate were checked at a hospital for potential exposure to the poison, although neither had any symptoms, officials said. Preliminary tests for ricin came back positive Friday.

"I guess you can say I was just weirded out," said Kelly Heinbaugh, a freshman kinesiology major. "It seemed out of place ... I figured I'd rather be safe than sorry."

Because people with ricin poisoning develop symptoms within a few hours of exposure, university

officials were confident all the students would be fine, said Dr. Theresa Spalding with university student health services.

Symptoms can include anything from difficulty breathing, fever, cough, nausea and sweating to severe vomiting and dehydration.

The substance was sent to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for further testing, Spalding said. The incident was being investigated by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. An FBI spokesman did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

Officials said the roll of quarters had been in the students' room at the Moore-Hill dormitory for several months.


The dormitory was sanitized and inspected, and students were cleared to return, the university said. ■

Synchronized swimming or disorganized fighting?



HENRY MANICE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Delta Gamma sorority organized an Anchor Splash event on Saturday as a fundraiser for their national service project, Service for Sight. Pictured are sorority sisters look on as Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity brothers liven the crowd with their chicken fight.



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Never in my life...

...would I have thought that waving hello to Wolf Blitzer would be part of my daily routine. That was just one of the many memorable experiences I had during my internship at the CNN American bureau in Washington, D.C. last summer.

Behind the scenes, I interacted daily with some of the nation's leading broadcast journalists. I assisted in the production of live TV shows like *Inside Politics*. And, I participated in a major transformational venture at the bureau which involved the introduction of the new show *The Situation Room*.


This once-in-a-lifetime experience was the product of last summer's first Vanderbilt Internship Experience in Washington (VIEW).

I'm giving my \$20.06 to the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, which organized and sponsored the 2005 VIEW program.

I hope that my contribution will help future undergraduate students to secure fascinating internships and continue to connect with Vanderbilt alumni in the media or political sphere in D.C....and across the nation and maybe even around the world.

Jacqueline Wilde, Senior Class Officer

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Commons: Communication will improve

From COMMONS, page 1

Nim Chinniah, deputy vice chancellor of Administration and Academic Affairs, referred to student publications as an example of how students need to be responsible in engaging administrators.

"It is responsibility on both sides," he said. "For us to be honest and open with students, but the people publishing articles about The Commons have to be responsible."

Howard Sandler, associate provost of Special Projects, said that the attitude of students changed when the spade broke ground last year. He also said students, as well as administrators have an obligation to learn more about The Commons.

"The need-to-know factor isn't as great as when The Commons was on the drawing table," Barge said regarding the current state communication.

Administrators said they plan to improve communications through the Common Ground Executive

Board and the new VUcept orientation. Both groups will provide younger students information about The Commons.

"The CGEB is really the spark for The Commons," Barge said. "Everything else is two years old. The real magic is the involvement of the students. The CGEB will create a dialogue with some real substantive ideas that are being implemented now."

The CGEB is comprised of students representing large organizations on campus such as Greek Life and Blair. It serves as a committee to give input to administrators for The Commons. It will also be involved in the selection of the Dean of Commons, faculty member living on Peabody in charge of programming, in April.

Stuart Hill, sophomore and member-at-large of CGEB for Blair, said he would encourage student input by contacting him and other members of the board.

The CGEB list of members is not readily available to students on-line

because of security concerns. Barge did state a willingness to publish this names in the future.

"I deliberately left student names off of the website because it is available to anyone in the world," she said.

Currently, pictures, timelines and the status of the project are on the College Halls website. The CGEB met Friday and discussed communications issues. Hill said articles in The Vanderbilt Hustler about The Commons myths were suggested at the meeting.

Hill thought that any brochures about The Commons for the student body would quickly become outdated. Last year, Vanderbilt administrators decided not to distribute already created brochures about residential colleges.

Chinniah said that administrators have been proactive in engaging students about The Commons. Barge has talked to about 85 different groups on campus last year.

Sandler met with InterFraternity Council Sunday to have a dia-

logue about The Commons.

After being asked "good tough questions" by the IFC members, Sandler stressed the need for flexibility and student input.

"I don't know the answer to some of these questions and, honestly, I don't think you want me to know," he said. "That's where student input comes in; I want students to shape The Commons."

Students said that these meetings are helpful.

"Before, I didn't know that much about The Commons, but after the meeting I felt more informed and I have someone (Sandler) to contact," Jeff Chamberlain, Zeta Beta Tau president and senior, said of the meeting.

IFC President senior Johnny Karageorgiou said that looking forward to the construction of The Commons Greeks would need to be more active in seeking out members. He cited the success of the pilot project Greek Ambassador and Fraternity rounds increasing interested freshmen to 406 from 276 last year. ■

Fire: Smoke fills top floors of Towers 4

From FIRE, page 1

connected underneath 24th Avenue South on the first floor, which is below the lobby.

Students were then evacuated from Towers East for a short period of time and instructed by Residential Life officials to wait in Tolman, McGill or Branscomb.

While residents of Towers 1 and 2 were allowed to return earlier, residents of both Towers 3 and 4 were not allowed to return to their rooms until 4:30 a.m.

Senior Julian Terrell was doing homework in his room on the third floor of Tower 4 when the fire occurred.

"It was crazy," he said. "The fire alarm went off and (the Residential Advisors) came banging on doors to get people out."

Alex White, a senior who lives on the 14th floor of Tower 4, described the heavy smoke at the top of the tower.

"I was studying on a Saturday night," he said. I went into the common room and smelled burning. I opened the door and smoke was in the hall. I was like, 'Oh, God!'"

White then woke up his roommate.

"I was screaming at him because I couldn't even see down the hall," he said. "The smoke was so thick."

He ran down the stairs and told staff at the front desk what was happening.

White said that he was concerned that the front desk personnel seemed to believe that it was a false alarm.

Upon arrival, firefighters proceeded to the top floor to extinguish the fire from above by shooting water into the chute and to attempt to ventilate the building.

The sprinkler system had by that point already put out most of the fire.

It was contained within the chute and the

adjoining room in the basement. According to Vanderbilt officials, damage was limited to that area.

Interhall president Kyle Southern said he believed the fire was an accident.

"These kinds of fires are fairly common," he said. "They happen once or twice a year. We are assuming that it was unintentional."

It is not presently known what exactly started the fire. Further investigation is planned. Devin Donovan, the recently elected Interhall president, was on duty as an RA in Towers 3. She commended the residents of Towers for their conduct during the fire.

"We are really appreciative of how cooperative the students were," she said. "We have to work together to improve fire safety and the way these situations are handled in the future." ■

Tanya Alvarez and Sean Seelinger contributed to this story.

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OPINION

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OUR VIEW

SGA should change bylaws

Andrew Maxwell, Student Government Association President during the 2004-2005 academic year volunteered Vanderbilt to host a conference that would occur after his graduation. This action committed substantial expenditures to the future SGA budget and assigned substantial amount of time from a yet-unelected SGA President, Kate Morgan.

The fact that Maxwell made such a decision without the consent of his executive board, the SGA general body or Student Life is concerning.

We applaud current President Kate Morgan for pledging to do differently than her predecessor Andrew Maxwell and consult with her executive board on all important matters.

However, the Vanderbilt community should remember that it elected Andrew Maxwell, a leader that failed to include his in cabinet in crucial decisions. Thus, we feel that it is necessary for the current SGA to develop and implement a series of checks on presidential power.

Maxwell's intentions were certainly noble.

We can assume that he wanted to invite members of Southeastern schools to visit our beautiful campus for a productive exchange of how to run a better student government and thus volunteered to host the conference. Indeed, the principal behind the conference was a good one. However, even if the conference had not been cancelled, Vanderbilt SGA would still have had significant expenditures out of this year's budget.

Surely, such decisions that affect the future should not remain in the hands of a single person.

Current SGA officials should take advantage of the controversy caused by the SEC-SGA conference cancellation. SGA members should use this momentum to develop and implement changes to its bylaws and procedures. They should attempt to prevent such a substantial commitment, both from a time and financial perspective, from being agreed to without the consultation of the Executive Board, the Office of Student Life or the SGA General Body.

An effective government is an evolving government. That is why the U.S. Constitution has such a strong and precise framework for the passage of amendments. We encourage SGA to do just that.



Surely, such decisions that affect the future should not remain in the hands of a single person.

OPINION POLICY

The *Vanderbilt Hustler* opinion section aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in *The Hustler* and will not be published. *The Vanderbilt Hustler* welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on our website.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to *The Hustler* office or via e-mail to editor@vanderbilthustler.com. Let-

ters via e-mail must either come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the Editor-in-Chief. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of *The Vanderbilt Hustler* and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which *The Hustler* is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to *The Hustler* office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at 615-322-2424 or the Editor-in-Chief at 615-322-3757.

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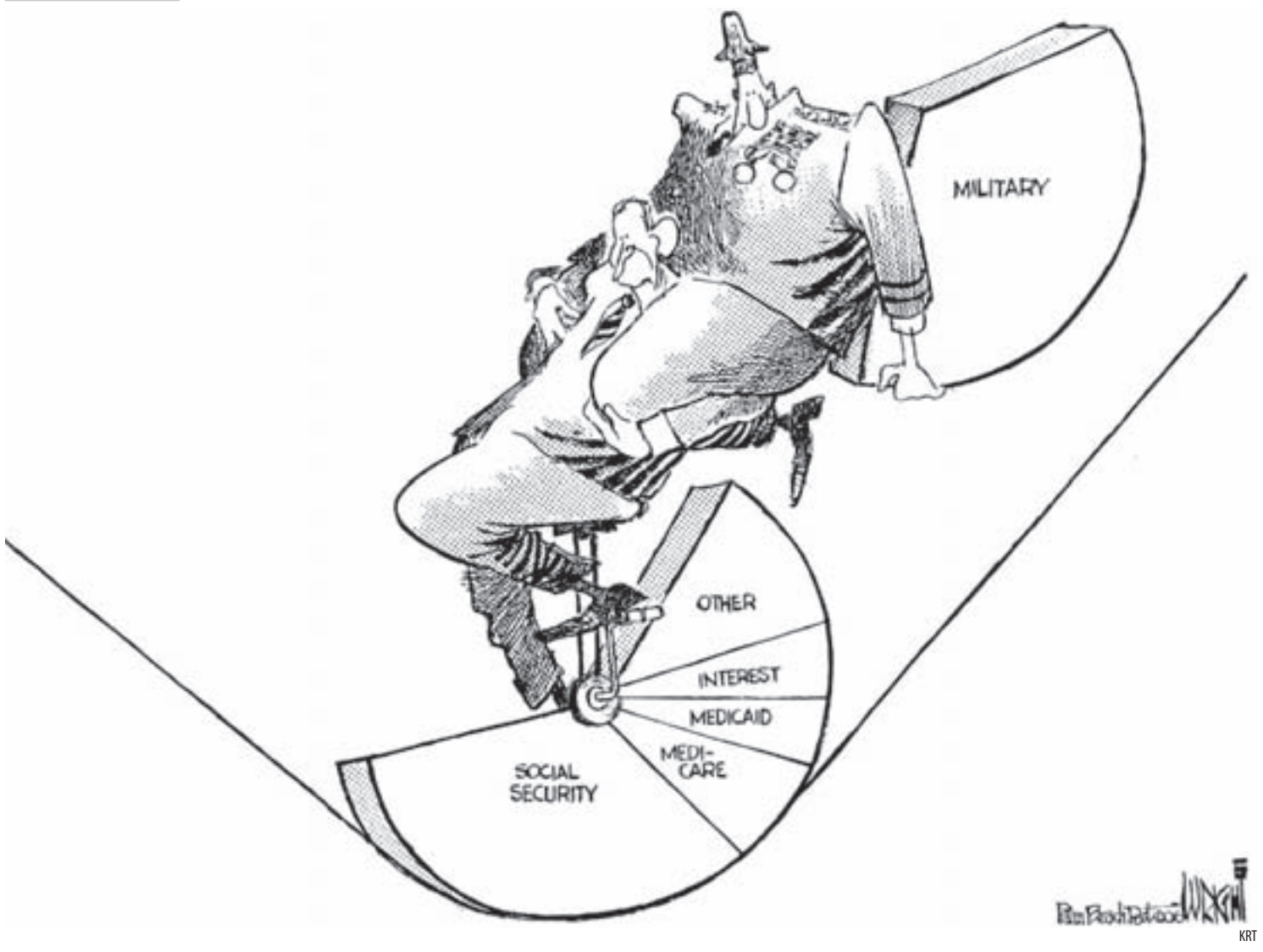
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The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

EDITORIAL CARTOON



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical reference in editorial confusing

To the Editor:

As a graduate student, I am not well informed enough about the SGA/Student Life/Marriott Hotel fiasco to comment on the accuracy of last week's editorial on the matter, but as a historian and a former colonial oppressor, I am well aware of the phrase "taxation without representation," and so was struck by your editorial's assertion that Student Life's handling of the contract with the Marriott was nothing but a "crueler, subtler form" of this.

Now, I appreciate the value of a clichéd rhetorical flourish as I do the heartwarming laughter of a rosy-cheeked small child, but nonetheless, I read your concluding sentence's likening the Vanderbilt student body to the 18th century American revolutionaries and could not for the life of me figure out what you meant.

If you are implying that students are not represented, then what is SGA doing? If you are implying that SGA is not represented, then why all this fuss about Student Life's "representing" them for the purpose of signing contracts? Who is doing the "taxation"? As I understand it,

this must be Vanderbilt – does this mean you are going to organize a mob disguised as University administrators to dump official VU merchandise ceremoniously into the "harbor" of Alumni Lawn?

Finally, in what way is Student Life behaving in a "crueler" fashion than King George III? Have they been quartering soldiers in your dorms without your consent? Suspending your right to jury trial? Failing to support your attempts to expand onto Native American lands? Imposing military law on people from Boston? Threatening your right to own slaves?

If this has been going on, then I urge *The Hustler* to expose in more detail the ruthless acts of these tyrannical despots to help Vanderbilt liberate itself from their oppressive rule. If not, then is there any chance of perhaps retaining a little more perspective in *Hustler* editorials, before one appears describing the Residential Colleges as little more than a "crueler, subtler form" of concentration camps?

Tim Boyd
Graduate Student
Department of History

Column on Arab-Israeli conflict is misleading

To the Editor:

The Hustler should exercise more responsibility and better judgment in printing articles about the Arab-Israeli conflict. The issue is a complex, delicate, and controversial one, and I'm not sure that a student newspaper is the best place to discuss it.

I can sympathize with Hymowitz's anger, because I had the same reaction to his article he did to Richmond's. Hymowitz, obviously well versed in Zionist propaganda, wrote an article that was imbalanced and as "heinously twisted" and "perverse" as the one he complained about. For example, he justified Israeli military aggression as self-defense, while claiming invading Arab armies are rapists and torturers. He went so far as to deny existence of Palestinian land and stated that as fact. "Rife with inaccuracies, selective omissions and mutations of fact": all descriptors that can apply to his article.

My favorite of his "facts" that he so objectively presented: "an orgy of rape, slaughter, and torture would've been visited on every Jewish man, woman and child by the invading Arab armies." I'd be curious to know what his sources are on that one.

The point being, people have spent lifetimes studying the conflict. It is not black or white, and one does not become an expert by doing Internet searches on Encarta and the UN website. By refusing even to acknowledge that there is another side to the story, I find that his article is "deliberately misleading and deviously bigoted to the point where it narrowly, absolutely, zealously, and intolerantly skewed the situation." Hymowitz complained that Richmond's article was "too biased" when his article was clearly equally, if not more, biased in the other direction. If he thinks he knows what good journalism is, he needs to think again.

Samira Halabi
Graduate Student
Peabody College

COLUMN

U.A.E. port deal does not risk U.S. national security

Last week, as anyone who even scans the news would know, when the White House announced that it was contracting security at six of our ports to a Dubai firm that had been purchased by a

aisle failed to realize about this deal is that the United States is not handing over its security to the United Arab Emirates. Despite the fact that two of the 9/11 hijackers came from the region, the United Arab Emirates has been a strong ally in the War on Terror since then. The U.S. Coastguard is still going to be in charge of all the security. All that is changing is the company that owns the ports. I think that after reviewing the deal, which may be required before it goes into effect, most sensible member of Congress, as well as the American people, will see that this deal in fact poses no security threat whatsoever to the United States.

British company, members of Congress from both sides of the aisle were up in arms. Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI), ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, expressed immediate concern about having a firm from the United Arab Emirates be at all involved with our port security. Congresswoman Sue Myrick (R-NC) sent a punctual letter to President Bush: "Dear Mr. President: In regards to selling ports to United Arab Emirates, not just No -- but Hell No!"

However, what people on both sides of the

What is so funny to me about this whole hysteria is what is going on with the Democrats. People like Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, who represent New York, were among the first to say after 9/11 that it was wrong to equate Arabs with terrorism and wrong to do any type of racial profiling. However, if the reaction by members of Congress to this port deal was

not profiling, I don't what is. I agree that the White House did a terrible job at communicating with the Congress and the American people before this deal was announced. That is probably why many people were so shocked by the deal.

However, just by taking a step back for a minute, anyone could see that this is not going to change anything -- the United States, especially under this president, will always be in charge of our security, no matter who actually owns the ports.

—Chris Donnelly is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

What is so funny to me about this whole hysteria is what is going on with the Democrats.

COLUMN

“Brokeback” should be viewed, not avoided

A Vanderbilt student, knowing that I am something of a film buff, asked me if I had seen “Brokeback Mountain,” the oft-mocked “gay cowboy” movie. Every year, I try, usually successfully, to see

OPINION EDITOR

REEVE HAMILTON

all the Best Picture nominees. So, I said that yes, of course, I had seen it. His response to this answer, which he had clearly anticipated, was one of the more embarrassingly idiotic things I’ve heard at Vanderbilt. “You are so gay,” he said, with a disapproving shake of his head, as if seeing “E.T.” had made me an extra-terrestrial. While this example may be something of an extreme on the ignorance spectrum, several Vanderbilt students I have talked to seem to be wary of Brokeback Mountain. Though, in most cases, such feelings are unjustified.

Larry David, of “Curb Your Enthusiasm” and “Seinfeld” fame, has given the best reason for refusing to see the movie thus far. In a piece entitled “Cowboys are my weakness,” published in *The New York Times*, David wrote that he refused to see the movie because it would cause him the undesired agony of self-doubt. “If two cowboys, male icons who are 100 percent all man, can succumb, what chance do I have, half to a quarter of a man, depending on who I’m with at the time?” he writes. David is a comedian, of course, and his line of thinking might not sit well with all Vanderbilt students. Possibly these same Vanderbilt students like Willie Nelson, though his latest single, “Cowboys are Frequently Secretly (Fond of Each Other),” is probably not right up their alley. Unfortunately, students I have talked to opt for a much more untenable rationale for refusing to view the film; they talk about Christian values and say something like, “It promotes a lifestyle that I disagree with.”

A friend of mine actually made that exact statement, and it was no secret that his disagreement was due to his interpretation of Christian morality. Many people believe that the Bible is clear in its assertion that homosexuality is a sin. Basically, my friend was claiming that he’d be uncomfortable watching people sin on screen that much. But of course, homosexuality is not the only sin, and it is not an unforgivable sin. There are many sins. Romans 1:29 provides a nice list, which includes “fornication.” Ephesians 5:18 says, “Do not be drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the spirit.” Yet

somehow, the drunken fornication in “American Pie” did not make this same friend uncomfortable enough to prevent his viewing of it. It should not matter to my friend which sin is being committed; they should all make him uncomfortable. But, apparently it is just this one that is too unbearable to witness, though drunkenness has equal power in determination of afterlife location. Of course, this is disparity is one of the intriguing issues the film explores.

When an individual says this relatively inexplicit movie promotes a gay lifestyle, it instantly tells you two things about the person. He has not seen the movie, and he will not be going into advertising. The problem here is in the politicization of religion and, for that matter, every day life. Gay marriage is a hot-button political issue, so the “sin” of homosexuality is trumping “sins” like fornication and drunkenness in the public outrage department. With the “you’re either with us or against us” line of thinking popular on cable “news” shows, any movie that does not denounce homosexuality must be promoting it. But, in the movie, the love the two men, played by Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, have for each other brings nothing but sadness and destruction to their lives. They lose everything, because they are committing this one sin that society just cannot tolerate, despite the fact that it is private and harms no one, unlike murder, which actually is a generally tolerated sin in the film. That hardly qualifies as a promotion, though it is a pretty accurate depiction.

The screenwriter, Larry McMurtry, has said of the film, “It doesn’t present any kind of agenda, any politics at all, one way or the other at all. It just says life is not for sissies.” The movie is powerful, and it deftly conveys that message. I could, however, imagine a Christian’s being uncomfortable seeing this movie, not that anyone over the age of 13 is supposed to be perpetually comfortable watching movies in the first place. After all, Jesus said, “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.” Yet, as this film shows, sinful people cast stones every day, and when the majority is against you, that many stones can be fatal. Thus, life is not for sissies. So yes, the world portrayed in “Brokeback Mountain,” our world, is scary -- but because of a lack of love, not an excess.

Now, if I were to follow my friend’s logic, the movie I would refuse to see is the other front-runner for Best Picture, “Crash.” It is, after all, a depiction of racism, which is a lifestyle I completely disagree with.

—Reeve Hamilton is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

AROUND THE LOOP

What do you think of the full Rites of Spring lineup?



CARA BILOTTA
Sophomore

“I know my roommate is very excited for Ben Folds.”



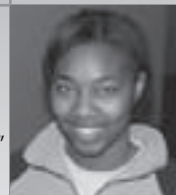
MONICA ECKLIN
Senior

“People have told me who is coming, but I haven’t heard of any of them except Ben Folds.”



NICK ECHEMENDIA
Senior

“I’m psyched for Ben Folds. It’s funny that he actually came through.”



WHITNEY KIMBLE
Junior

“I really don’t know what the lineup is.”



ALI LEMONS
Junior

“I love Ben Folds. I don’t know any of the others, but I’m excited!”

Compiled by Allison Malone

COLUMN

Third parties face obstacles, possibilities

With the 2006 elections approaching, dissatisfaction with the two mainstream parties is reaching almost ridiculous levels. Why, then, is no third party or third-party agenda currently viable at the national level? To some extent, the two mainstream parties do their best to

Democratic Party’s platform over a period of time and eventually put into law. It would, therefore, make sense if third parties began to realize that winning the highly visible elections, while the best way to ensure that the agenda of the week is passed, is not the only way. Cooperation with or infiltration of the mainstream parties might serve constituents better.

GUEST COLUMNIST

CEAF LEWIS

quell attempts at party-building, but as recently as 1992, a completely independent candidate without much of a party structure behind him garnered 19 percent of the vote. So while “the establishment” is a factor, it is somewhat disingenuous to claim that all competition has been quelled forever. Still, there are a number of reasonthird parties to not do well nationally.

First, there are few, if any, attempts to build a new party on the local and state levels. Third parties frequently attempt to field candidates for the presidency before building up a broad base of grassroots support. This does, in fact, give parties, such as the Greens, some press coverage they wouldn’t have received otherwise. It also hurls them directly into the deep end of the political pool before they’ve attracted the talent necessary to win a national election. One charismatic candidate is not enough to carry a party into the White House. Several talented and committed public servants at the state level, however, are enough to add some representatives and senators to the party totals, however.

Second, third parties with attractive issues tend to be absorbed into one of the main parties. For example, the platform of the early twentieth-century Socialist Party sounded pretty attractive to a subset of the population. Established party strategists weren’t stupid, so the agenda was almost entirely co-opted into the

Third, the issues that have broad support, but that both parties largely to ignore, tend to be too long-term or too intangible to have an effect on voters’ minds. This currently appears to be improvement in education, an idea the vast majority of Americans support, but to which both parties appear to be giving little but lip service. Neither party has a guarantee that its respective candidate will be in power when educational programs bear fruit in a decade or two. Neither party wants to do the work if the other will get the credit. The same is true for many long-term economic issues and for many financially risky scientific endeavors. Third parties seize upon these long-term issues, only to find that the two main parties are able to promise results now rather than in twenty years.

Assuming third parties simply want their agendas passed, they can make enough noise and gather enough support for their own pet issues that other party strategists get spooked and incorporate said issues as planks in their own platforms. If, however, a third party wants to succeed in its own right, it will have to take steps to make sure it entirely supplants an established party, as the election system ensures that there will rarely, if ever, be more than two parties contending for the top national positions.

—Ceaf Lewis is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He is also editor of ‘The Slant.’ A staff member of ‘The Slant,’ Joseph Hills is running for the position of Student Government Association President.

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SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Commodores catch break in Columbia

Cage sparks late rally to bring Vanderbilt back from nine-point deficit.

BY JARRED AMATO
HUSTLER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

As South Carolina guard Tarance Kinsey released a potential game-winning shot in the final seconds, Vanderbilt had to be expecting the worst.

However, Kinsey's shot failed to draw iron and Vanderbilt escaped with a 57-56 victory Saturday, improving its record to 15-10 (6-8 Southeastern Conference) and ruining South Carolina's Senior Day in the process.

"Sometimes you win when you don't deserve to," Vanderbilt head coach Kevin Stallings said. "Sometimes you lose when you don't deserve to."

That's the kind of season it's been for the Commodores, who went on a 16-6 run in the final 6:40 to steal one from the Gamecocks (14-13, 5-9 SEC). The game reminded Stallings of the teams' first meeting in mid-January, in which South Carolina overcame a late deficit to win 66-64 in overtime, but in a role reversal of sorts.

"In some ways, this game felt like the game at our place only in reverse," Stallings said. "We had the game won a couple different times in Nashville and somehow found a way to not finish the job. It seemed like they had this one a couple times."

Stallings was right. After Gamecock forward Brandon Wallace's put-back gave the South Carolina a 50-41 lead, Vanderbilt's fate did not look promising.

But, like they have done all year, the Commodores refused to quit, Dan Cage especially.

After nailing a three-pointer to tie the game at 52, Cage came off a flair screen and hit his third triple of the afternoon to put Vanderbilt up by one. The junior then assisted on a Derrick Byars lay-up, extending the lead to three.

"Dan Cage was huge for us off the bench," Stallings said. "I thought his play on both ends, not just shots, but the physicality he played with on defense and his energy really was a key for us."

Cage scored a team-high 13 points in 28 minutes of play, to go along with a pair of rebounds and assists. Shan Foster scored nine of his 11 points in the second half and Byars added 10.

The game's final minute was surely nerve-wracking for both teams.

Kinsey made two free-throws with 1:02 remaining to bring the Gamecocks to within one. On the Commodores ensuing possession, they capitalized on South Carolina's defensive pressure by finding Foster wide open on a backdoor cut, but Foster missed the

Vanderbilt 57, South Carolina 56							
Vanderbilt	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS
D. Carroll	29	3-7	0-1	2-4	0-5-5	1	8
S. Foster	30	4-7	2-4	1-2	3-1-4	2	11
J. Terrell	29	4-7	0-0	0-1	2-3-5	2	8
A. Gordon	20	1-5	0-4	0-0	0-1-1	2	2
D. Byars	31	4-9	1-5	1-2	0-2-2	1	10
D. Cage	28	4-7	3-6	2-2	1-1-2	2	13
M. Moore	17	1-3	1-3	0-0	0-3-3	4	3
A. Metcalfe	16	1-3	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	1	2
Totals	200	22-48	7-23	6-11	6-18-24	15	57

Turnovers: 13 (Moore, Carroll 3; Byars, Gordon, Cage 2; Foster 1)
Steals: 8 (Carroll 3, Moore 2, Terrell, Gordon, Cage 1)
Blocks: 2 (Terrell, Cage 1)

South Carolina							
Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS	
A. Tisby	24	3-8	0-0	1-1	1-4-5	0	7
T. Kinsey	36	3-13	1-5	3-4	1-6-7	1	10
B. Wallace	30	2-6	0-1	0-0	4-2-6	0	4
T. Kelley	36	5-10	0-2	3-4	0-1-1	5	13
R. Trice	29	3-5	2-3	2-3	1-5-6	3	10
S. McDowell	4	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	0
B. Sheldon	6	1-3	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	2
D. Day	11	0-1	0-0	0-0	2-0-2	0	0
R. Balkman	24	4-6	0-1	2-2	2-4-6	0	10
Totals	200	21-53	3-14	11-14	11-22-33	11	56

Turnovers: 14 (Wallace 5; Balkman 3; Kinsey, Kelley 2; Tisby, Day 1)
Steals: 9 (Balkman 3; Kelley, Trice 2; Tisby, Wallace 1)
Blocks: 4 (Trice 2; Tisby, Wallace 1)

	1st	2nd	Total
Vanderbilt Commodores	27	30	57
South Carolina Gamecocks	28	28	56

Feb. 25, 2006
Technical: none
Ejections: none
Attendance: 13,079
Officials: Petty, Smith, Shows

lay-up.

After grabbing the offensive rebound, he turned the ball over to the Gamecocks with 25.8 seconds to go.

South Carolina had two chances to win the game – Kinsey missed a three with about seven seconds left and then came up short on a jumper from the corner just before the buzzer sounded.

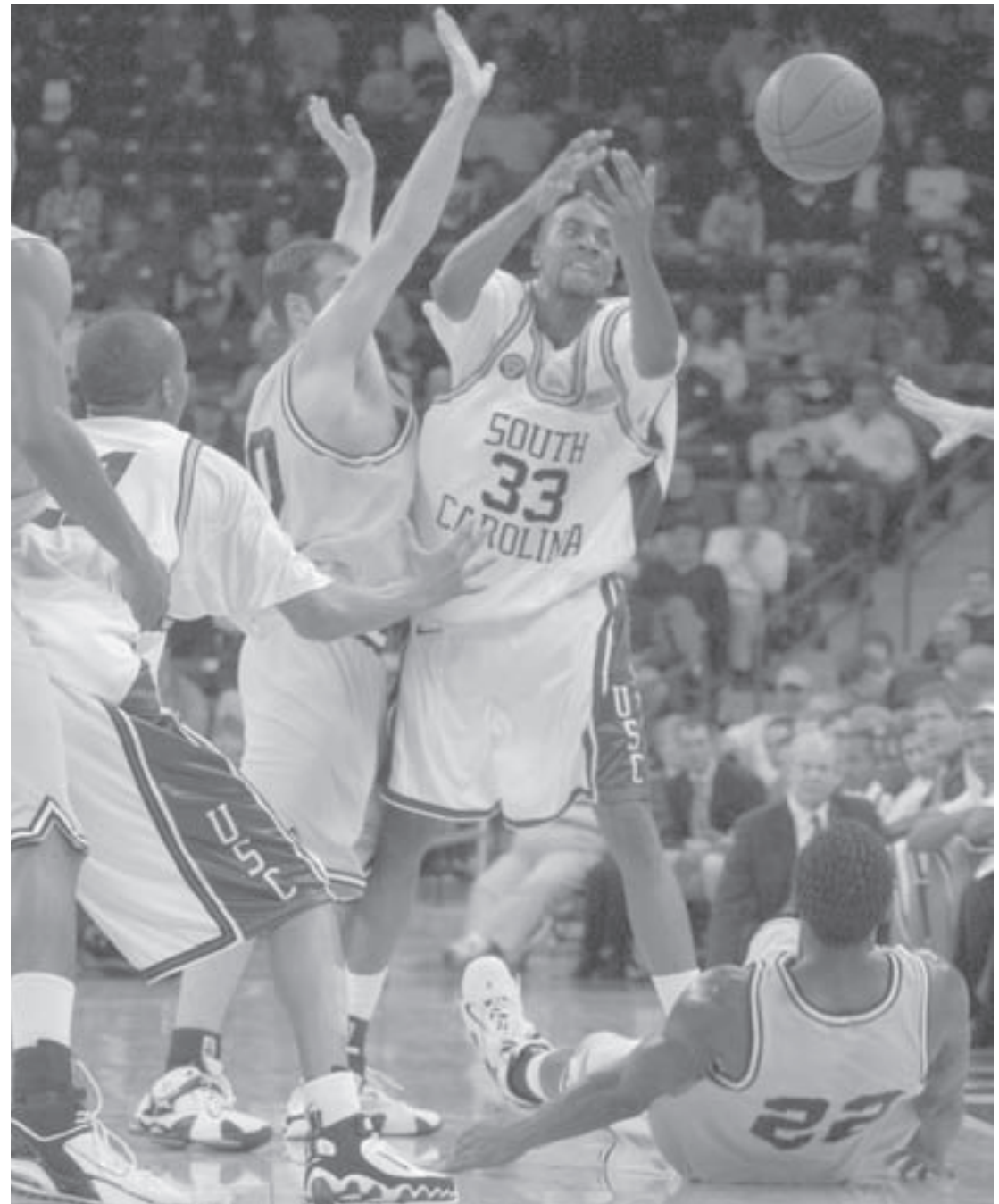
"It was a good look. I just rushed it," Kinsey said. "I wish I could take that shot again and hopefully get a better outcome. You make some, you miss some."

The Commodores had to be pleased to be in a situation to win the game down the stretch after the way they started.

South Carolina jumped out to a 22-10 lead, prompting a Stallings time-out.

Whatever the coach said, it worked. Mario Moore's pretty feed to DeMarre Carroll capped a 17-4 run that gave Vanderbilt a 27-26 lead. It was Moore's first action since the Georgia game three weeks ago.

"I thought our guys played extremely hard,"



KATY BLALOCK/The Gamecock

Vanderbilt's Dan Cage defends South Carolina's Brandon Wallace in Saturday's 57-56 victory. Cage led Vanderbilt with 13 points off the bench, making three of six three pointers. The win keeps alive the Commodores' hopes of finishing .500 in the SEC.

Stallings said. "I didn't think we played very well. After the first eight minutes of the game, we played extremely hard and with a lot of effort and energy."

Vanderbilt overcame a poor shooting first half, two of ten from three-point range, and one in which it was out-rebounded 20-12.

"We did a lot of things wrong and we were fortunate to win," Stallings said. "The one thing I really like about our team is that we've faced a lot

of adversity this year and they have refused to back down and give in to it."

With two games left in the regular season, Vanderbilt hopes to finish .500 in conference play and enter the SEC Tournament in Nashville on a three-game win streak.

The team travels to Ole Miss on Wednesday and will finish the regular season at home on Saturday against No. 11 Tennessee. ■

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Senior Day win special for Grimaldi, Jules

BY ALEKSEY DUBROVNSKY
HUSTLER SPORTSREPORTER

Senior Day was a festive event for Vanderbilt, as they defeated South Carolina 88-71. The team's two seniors both played key roles in their final games in Memorial Gymnasium. Nicole Jules had 15 points to lead the team in scoring alongside junior Carla Thomas, and Erica Grimaldi, a seldom-used but highly-respected team captain knocked down two late free throw attempts to seal the game.

"It was awesome to be able to go in there and have the fans behind you. This was a great experience for me especially since my parents were here," Grimaldi, a reserve point guard, said. "You want to get out there and play, and it was really fun for me."

The first half began as a back-and-forth affair, as neither team could get into a steady rhythm. The Commodores, however, put together a run at the end of the half, as Liz Sherwood hit a lay-up, Jules knocked down three free throws, and Caroline Williams, scoreless to that point, hit a three-pointer to extend the lead to 30-17 with four minutes left in the half. The Commodores took a 38-24 lead into the locker room after Rachel Brockman hit a last-second lay-up.

The Gamecocks slowly climbed back into the game in the second half, as they used their size advantage to get several second chance opportunities. A lay-up by South Carolina forward Melanie Johnson cut the lead to eight at 55-47 with 11:51 left in the half, but the Commodores quickly responded with another three-pointer by Williams and a lay-up by Stringfield to push the lead back to 13 points.

After South Carolina whittled the lead to seven with a Shannel Harris jumper with 5:47 left, Williams knocked down yet another three to halt the threat. Williams finished with 14 points.

"It was really important for Caroline to hit the shots she hit under pressure," head coach Melanie Balcomb said. "At that point, we weren't getting any stops and [South Carolina] was hitting all their shots."

All five starters scored in double figures, the team knocked down seven of their twelve three point attempts, and outscored South Carolina 31 to 12 at the free throw line. The Commodores earned 21 assists and only 14 turnovers, while their swarming defensive

Vanderbilt 88, South Carolina 71

South Carolina	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS
M. Johnson	33	7-14	0-0	3-3	4-6-10	4	17
D. Adams	13	2-2	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	0	4
I. Burgrova	26	2-6	0-0	0-1	2-3-5	1	4
S. Harris	20	3-6	0-1	0-1	3-1-4	1	6
L. Fabbri	16	1-3	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	2	2
I. Slisovic	29	6-10	0-0	8-8	4-2-6	0	20
S. Booker	22	1-5	0-3	0-0	0-2-2	0	2
L. Simms	14	3-5	1-2	0-1	1-1-2	1	7
B. Dickerson	14	1-3	0-1	0-0	1-0-1	0	2
L. Tolliver	11	3-5	0-0	1-1	1-2-3	0	7
TEAM					3-0-3		
Totals	200	29-59	1-8	12-14	19-19	9	71

Turnovers: 29 (Simms 8; Fabbri 5; Johnson, Harris, Booker 3; Slisovic, Tolliver 2; Adams, Dickerson, TEAM 1)
Steals: 9 (Johnson 5; Tolliver 2; Harris, Simms 1)
Blocks: 4 (Burgrova 2; Johnson, Slisovic 1)

Vanderbilt	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS
C. Thomas	23	5-8	0-0	5-6	1-4-5	2	15
N. Jules	26	5-8	0-0	3-4	2-2-4	2	13
H. Rogers	6	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0
D. Davis	32	3-10	0-1	8-8	0-3-3	10	14
C. Williams	29	4-6	4-6	2-2	0-1-1	0	14
J. Risper	20	2-3	1-1	1-2	1-2-3	1	6
C. Stringfield	31	4-8	2-3	5-6	0-1-1	5	15
L. Sherwood	18	1-5	0-0	3-4	1-0-1	1	5
R. Brockman	7	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	2
E. Grimaldi	2	0-0	0-0	2-2	0-0-0	0	2
C. Wirth	6	0-2	0-1	2-2	1-0-1	0	2
TEAM					3-0-3		
Totals	200	25-52	7-12	31-36	9-13-22	21	88

Turnovers: 14 (Davis, Risper, Sherwood, Thomas 3; Jules, Williams 1)
Steals: 15 (Davis 4; Williams 3; Jules, Risper, Stringfield, Thomas 2)
Blocks: 1 (Thomas 1)

	1st	2nd	Total
South Carolina Gamecocks	24	47	71
Vanderbilt Commodores	38	50	88

Feb. 26, 2006
Technical: none
Ejections: none
Attendance: 4,722
Officials: Blauch, Humphrey, Morningstar

pressure forced the Gamecocks into 29 turnovers.

"We had to be more aggressive and attack them," junior guard Dee Davis said. "We really were aggressive on the ball and trapped the point guard as much as we could."

Davis put together an outstanding performance with 14 points, 10 assists, four steals, and just three turnovers.

The only sore spot for the Commodores was the numerous second-chance opportunities that the Gamecocks earned. They were out-rebounded 38-22 for

Please see WOMEN, page 9

MEN'S BASEBALL

Strong pitching can't cut it

BY DREW GOODWIN
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

It was the same old story for Vanderbilt this weekend. Senior Matt Buschmann pitched a complete game and gave up only two earned runs, but the Commodores lost 4-3 to Kansas Sunday at Hawkins Field.

Despite strong pitching, the Commodores have scored just six runs in their last three games and dropped to 3-4 on the young season.

Buschmann held the Jayhawks (10-4) scoreless until the fifth inning. With runners on first and third and one out, Kansas shortstop Ritchie Price hit a ground ball to Vanderbilt first baseman Brian Hernandez. Catcher Shea Robin mishandled Hernandez's throw, allowing the first run to score.

After walking the next batter on four pitches to load the bases, Buschmann allowed a double and a single to score all three runners and give Kansas a 4-0 lead.

"Outside of that inning, however, I have no complaints about his performance today," head coach Tim Corbin said. "He did a great job."

Buschmann was flawless the rest of the way, but he acknowledged that the one bad inning was too much to overcome.

"I'm pretty happy, but every time we lose I'm not that happy," Buschmann said. "I thought I pitched pretty well except for the

Please see GOODWIN, page 9



PETER TUFO/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Carla Thomas tries to score on South Carolina's Ilona Burgrova in the second half of Vanderbilt's 88-71 win on Sunday. The Commodores finished 8-6 in league play.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team tunes up for SEC with win over Rice

BY FRANKLIN PETR
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

In its last match before conference play, No. 14 Vanderbilt defeated the Rice Owls 7-0 Saturday. The match marked the Commodores fifth straight win and sixth win at home.

"I was really pleased with the way everyone hung together," head coach Geoff MacDonald said. "Everyone competed really well. Once we got warmed up we were ready to go."

In doubles play, Vanderbilt's No. 2 team of Taka Bertrand and Amanda Fish finished first, easily downing their opponents Madeja Egic and Kimberly Patenaude 8-2.

Caroline Ferrell and Liberty Sveke handled the No. 3 spot, and Amanda Taylor and Maggie Yahner completed the sweep at No. 2.

"I've been really impressed at how much this team wants to win," MacDonald said. "I think it has really shown in their doubles play."

The Commodores won all six matches single matches in straight sets, never allowing a Rice player to win more than four games.

After winning Southeastern Conference Player of the Week honors, Taka Bertrand extended her perfect singles record to eight games with a straight set win over Dao.

Playing at the No. 4 instead of her usual No. 5 spot, sophomore Caroline Ferrell clinched the match for the Commodores with her 6-3, 6-2 victory over Lee.

At the No. 1, Fish fell behind early but rallied to take the first set 6-4 against Rice's Blair DiSesa. Fish won the second set 6-3 and improved to 5-2 on the year.

Maggie Yahner returned to singles competition after a three-week absence. She replaced fellow freshman Courtney Ulerly, who was sidelined with a minor hamstring injury. Yahner showed no rust, however, and beat Egic 6-3, 6-2.

Vanderbilt (8-1) begins SEC play on Friday against Alabama in Nashville and then hosts Auburn on March 5. ■

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Final goal breaks Dores' hearts

BY ALEKSEY DUBROVENSKY
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

For the second consecutive week, the women's lacrosse team suffered an emotional loss to a prominent foe as they dropped a 9-8 decision to No. 11 Penn State. This defeat, the Commodores' American Lacrosse Conference opener, comes on the heels of last week's 10-9 loss to No. 5 Virginia, and it drops Vanderbilt to 1-2 on the season.

"Our effort is there and our kids are giving everything they need to, we're just, for some reason, not finding that edge to come out on top," head coach Cathy Swezey said.

"That certainly has been frustrating, but hopefully it will turn around a little bit."

After leading or keeping a tie for the entire game, the Commodores gave up a goal to Penn State's Kerry

Shea with 31 seconds left, and could not muster a goal on a flurry of shots in the final moments. The difficult loss overshadowed a breakout performance by sophomore attacker Margie Curran, who scored four goals on seven shots, assisted two others, and picked up a key ground ball late in the game.

"I went out there angry coming off that loss from Virginia by one, and I really didn't want to do that today," Curran said.

Vanderbilt goalkeeper Brooke Shinaberry also had a sensational afternoon, as she faced 30 shots from the Nittany Lions and came up with 15 saves.

"In the midfield, they are a very fast team and they won a lot of the draws," Shinaberry said. "They also got a lot of rebounds and second chances off their first shots."

Vanderbilt jumped ahead at the beginning of

the game on a pair of goals by Curran, along with another pair by attacker Kate Hickman to go up 4-2 halfway through the first period.

The Nittany Lions responded with two quick goals, including one by Kim Kontson off the draw at midfield.

The second half saw the Nittany Lions answer every Commodore goal with one of their own. The Commodores had several chances to retake the lead in the final minutes, but they could not capitalize. Jennifer Tapscott took a vicious blow from a Penn State defender near the Lions' net with two minutes left, but she couldn't place the ball past Lions goalkeeper Cammie Jurkowsky on the ensuing possession.

The Commodores next head to the west coast as they face Stanford and California. ■

Goodwin: Offense struggles

From GOODWIN, page 8

fifth inning. I made three or four bad pitches, and a team like Kansas will make you pay for those mistakes."

The Commodores cut the lead in half in the bottom of the fifth and scored again in the eighth on two Jayhawk throwing errors to make the score 4-3. But, in the ninth with the tying run on third base, Rucker Taylor struck out swinging to end the game.

The contest was the third consecutive one-run game for the Commodores, who defeated Pittsburgh 2-1 Friday and lost to Kent State 2-1 Saturday.

"I hate dropping close ball games and it's frustrating because we're struggling offensively," Corbin said. "There's just not a lot happening offensively, and we seem to not get much energy going into the

game because energy is mostly derived from the offense. But, I'd much rather have great pitching and no offense than the other way around."

Vanderbilt stranded 20 runners over the weekend and did not record a single hit with runners in scoring position. The lone victory came on a twelfth-inning balk.

However, the pitching was superb. The three starters, David Price, Cody Crowell and Buschmann, gave up a combined three earned runs in 20 and a third innings.

"The one thing that the hitters can hold on to is that it won't be like this forever," Corbin said. "This is a frustrating time and will test our kids' resiliency, but we just have to keep working and one way or another get through this." ■

MEN'S TENNIS

Vanderbilt loses two straight

BY WILL GIBBONS
HUSTLER SPORTS EDITOR

The Vanderbilt tennis team dropped a pair of matches this weekend to Rice and Minnesota.

At doubles on Sunday against Rice, the Commodores came within two games in all three courts, but were unable to claim victory, losing all three matches and giving up a point to the Owls. They made a forceful move in singles play.

At No. 3 and No. 5 singles, Vandy had a chance to tie the match, and both matches went into tiebreaker sets.

Ryan Preston tied the match, defeating Ben Harknett 6-3, 6-2, and Andy Mack handled a hard fought battle with Tony Haerle 6-2, 4-6, 6-2. Rice, however, responded, as Ralph Knupher defeated Evan Dufaux at No.2 and Filip Zivoinovic defeated Nathan Sachs.

The Owls clinched the match when Christopher Muller defeated Jordan Magarik

6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

This came after a 4-3 defeat to Minnesota on Saturday. After narrowly losing the doubles point, Ryan Preston evened things by defeating the hot-tempered DJ Geatz of Minnesota. Andy Mack and Nik Cromydas also claimed singles victories. Still, the Golden Gophers proved to be too much for Vandy, as the Commodores dropped three other singles matches to lose the overall match.

The match came down to two tiebreakers in No. 2 and No. 4 singles. The Commodores dropped both matches 6-1 in the final set. "We played badly in doubles. Singles was a lot better, but it's hard to dig yourself out of a hole to come back," coach Ian Duvenhage said. "We had some great plays, but we have an ability to play that way consistently. We are going to have to work on playing with more discipline."

The Commodores are now 5-3 on the year, and they open Southeastern Conference play next weekend at Alabama and at Auburn. ■

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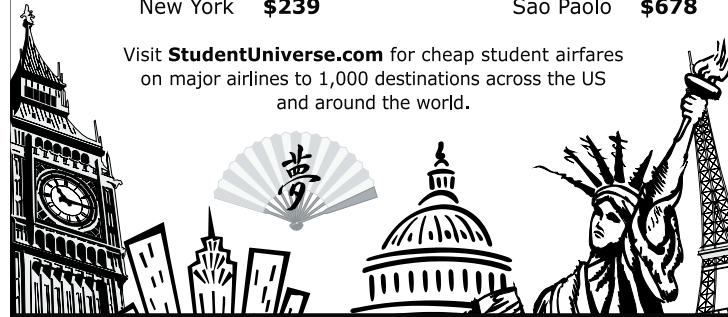
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Women: Team aggressive in crucial win

From WOMEN, page 8

the game, 19-9 on the offensive glass. Vanderbilt hit 31 of 36 attempts at the free throw line, while South Carolina made 12 of their 14 attempts. The increased aggressiveness in attacking the basket was something Balcomb had been preaching to the team all season.

"I hope getting to the free throw line more often is a sign that we're getting more aggressive, because that's something that has been around us all year," Balcomb said.

The win in their final regular season contest moved the Commodores to 19-9 on the season, 8-6 in the Southeastern Conference, and secured for them the sixth seed on the Conference Tournament that begins next week in Little Rock, Arkansas. The loss moved the Gamecocks to 17-10 and 7-7 in the Conference. ■

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QUIGMANS

By Buddy Hickerson — KRT



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 44 Small stone
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 47 Droop
 50 Confused
 51 Comic Woody
 53 Tiger's sponsor
 54 Swampy land
 57 Erie Canal mule
 58 Singer Stevens
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2/27/06

02-24 Solutions

P	E	A	K	S		S	O	T	S		T	I	E	S			
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M	E	T	E	R		R	E	T	A	L	I	A	T	E			
P	R	O	P	E	R	T	Y		S	E	T	T	E	E			
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U	S	U	R	E	R		H	I	S	T	O	R	I	C			
C	L	E	A	N		F	I	R	E	R	O	D	E				
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B	E	H	A	V	E		A	U	T	O	C	R	A	T			
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T	E	R	M			T	A	T	E		I	T	E	M	S		
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Safe Spring Break Week



At last!
You've earned it!
Have fun but be smart!

Pick up your FREE Safe Spring Break Pack

Drop by the Wall, 11am-1:30pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
& pick up your Safe Spring Break pack:

Sunscreen (thanks to V-SMAC),
Safety Tip booklet (ATOD Prevention),
First Aid Pack (thanks to Student Health),
antibacterial gel, condoms (Wellness Center),
condom keychain, and more!

Sponsored by Vanderbilt's:

Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention,
The Wellness Program, V-SMAC,
GAMMA & CHEERS

For more information, call 343-4740,
The Office of Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention



Think you're smart?

Test yourself with the final six questions in Friday's Scholar Bowl. The answer's will be published on the back-page of Wednesday's issue of *The Vanderbilt Hustler* and will also be available online at www.vanderbilthustler.com in the News section.

- This man's lecture "The Image of Africa" criticized racism in the works of Joseph Conrad; his own works include *Christmas in Biafra*, *A Man of the People*, and *Anthills of the Savannah*. For 10 points — name this Nigerian author of "No Longer at Ease" and "Things Fall Apart".
- In early 2003, a curtain was hung in front of a tapestry copy of this painting outside the UN Security Council room. Commissioned for the 1937 World's Fair, it depicts the bombing of a Basque city during the Spanish Civil War. For 10 points — name this anti-war work by Pablo Picasso.
- Qanats were crude one built in the Middle East; another, the three-tiered Pont du Gard, still stands outside Nimes, France. By AD 226 eleven of these structures had been built leading into Rome. For 10 points — name these slowly descending channels designed to carry water.
- In professional leagues they are six feet wide and three-and-a-half feet tall and have a two-foot by one-and-a-half-foot "targeting area" just above a metal ring 18 inches in diameter that supports a net. For 10 points — name these boards that are hit by neither "swishes" nor "airballs".
- A 2005 National Geographic article described the discovery in this country of Hobbit Man, a member of a new species of hominid found on the island of Flores. For 10 points — name this Asian nation where a March 2005 earthquake killed thousands on Sumatra.
- A UPN pilot for this show cast William Shatner as the Chairman; the original, which uses the score to the film *Backdraft* for its sound effects, was filmed in Japan. For 10 points — name this TV show that features "theme ingredients" in its battles among culinary masters.

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