

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SGA candidates square off at debate



ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

SGA vice presidential candidate Cara Bilotta reiterates the issues of her platform while running mate Boone Lancaster looks on.

Tickets discuss what type of experience matters, failed parking plan.

BY SEAN SEELINGER
HUSTLER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Wednesday night's Student Government Association presidential debate produced more agreements between candidates than disagreements and in response to many questions, few real answers.

Junior A&S Senator Boone Lancaster and running mate sophomore Cara Bilotta are running against Junior A&S Senator Bill Weimar and running mate junior Brennan McMahon.

Candidates on both tickets

agreed with each other in response to several questions. On many such questions, however, neither ticket produced a definitive response on issues such as whether SGA should support additional efforts to remove "Confederate" engraving from Memorial Hall, whether Vanderbilt should have an affirmative consent policy for sexual interaction and whether SGA should support the efforts to get a "living wage" for all Vanderbilt employees.

Please see SGA, page 4



ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

In preparation for his closing statement of the debate, SGA presidential candidate Bill Weimar consults vice presidential candidate Brennan McMahon.

DIVERSITY

University honors first black female graduates

Event recognizes 19 often overlooked alumnae.

BY GLENNA DEROY
HUSTLER MANAGING EDITOR

Last night Vanderbilt welcomed some of its most important alumnae back to campus: the first black women to graduate from Vanderbilt's graduate and undergraduate programs.

The commemorative event, entitled "Unsung Heroines: Honoring Women of Courage", was held in the Student Life Center at 6 p.m. The event was co-sponsored by the Bishop Joseph Johnson Cultural Center, the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center and the Black Student Alliance.

Of the 19 pioneering graduates mentioned in the event's program, five were actually on campus for the night. Dr. Tommie Morton-Young, A. Dolores Nicholson, Dr. Blondell Strong, Dr. Dorothy Phillips and Barbara Mann all attended the program. Morton-Young became the first black person to graduate from Peabody College in 1955, and Phillips was one of two black women who were the first to graduate from Vanderbilt's undergraduate program in 1967.

The goal of tonight's program was to use the opportunity presented by Women's History Month to honor some influential graduates who are often overlooked.

"When we talk about influential black graduates of Vanderbilt we think of James Lawson or Perry Wallace, the first black to

Please see GRADUATES, page 2

It's an Arabian Night



ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Belly dancers enchant a room full of guests during Middle Eastern Night, an evening of Middle Eastern cuisine, entertainment and trivia. The event was sponsored by the Middle Eastern Students Association.

ATHLETICS

Moore denies ever using illegal drugs

Stallings, Williams unavailable to comment on player's story.

BY JARRED AMATO
HUSTLER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Vanderbilt point guard Mario Moore said he was mistreated after being suspended for the first three games of the season due to a failed drug test that revealed cocaine in his system.

"I can tell you I've never done drugs in my life," Moore said. "The people who know me know I don't do drugs."

Moore's frustration stems from two separate occasions when he left the team, the first being a suspension to start the season, and the second being his two-week medical leave of absence from the team which began February 7.

Despite maintaining his innocence about the drug test, Moore said that coach Kevin Stallings and the medical staff did not treat him fairly.

Please see MOORE, page 3



Moore

STUDENT LIFE

SGA to give money to Dores for Israel festival

BY RACHEL STEVENS
HUSTLER EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association unanimously passed a resolution last week that will give Dores for Israel \$200 to fund their Israeli Festival at the end of this month, sparking questions of whether or not SGA should be giving funds to campus political organizations.

David Day, publicity chair for Dores for Israel, said that the group approached SGA for money because the group does not receive enough outside funding to put on events throughout the year.

Laura Breslin, co-president of Dores for Palestine, said that she supports all cultural events on campus. She supports SGA funding Israeli Day, as long as the event is purely cultural with no political undertones.

"If it even touches on political issues, then I would have a problem," Breslin said.

Day emphasized that the event, which will include Is-

Please see FUNDS, page 2

HEALTH

Could you be texting toward an injury?

Study shows students at risk for stress injuries.

BY ELLIE ATKINS
HUSTLER ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Text messaging may be a good way to pass the time in class, but students may be unknowingly putting themselves at risk for injury.

Virgin Mobile reported in a recent study that there have been 3.8 million cases of hand strain injuries due to cell phones in Great Britain.

"Now there are much smaller

Please see CELLS, page 5



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

A student sends a text message to a friend on a cell phone. Could her thumbs be paying the price?



OUR VIEW

Read why *The Hustler* editorial board choose to endorse juniors Bill Weimar and Brennan McMahon in this year's SGA presidential election. See Page 6

COLUMN

Read columnist Chad Burchard's feelings on President Bush and why his incompetence is disappointing those who elected him. Burchard feels that Bush's policies are not in line with American citizens. See Page 7

NOTABLE



180

The number of Americans, in millions, who own cell phones in the U.S.

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BASEBALL

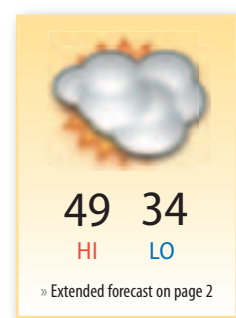
Excellent pitching and tight defense led the Commodores to success on Wednesday as the baseball team shut out Belmont, 7-0. The 'Dores play their next game today against Auburn at Hawkins Field. See Page 8

POLL

70%

Percentage of Americans who believe the United States is on the wrong track.

WEATHER



Extended forecast on page 2

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PAGE 2

Today is Friday, March 24, 2006

IT IS THE	THERE ARE		
47th	29	27	49
day of classes	class days until exams	class days until Rites of Spring	calendar days to commencement

WORD OF THE DAY

SLUG-A-BED

n. one who stays in bed until a late hour; sluggard

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

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1944 In occupied Rome, the Nazis executed more than 300 civilians in reprisal for an attack by Italian partisans the day before that killed 32 German soldiers.
- 1976 The president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.
- 1980 One of El Salvador's most respected Roman Catholic Church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by gunmen as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.
- 1989 The nation's worst oil spill occurred as the supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking 11 million gallons of crude.

Compiled by the Associated Press

FORECAST

- SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 48
Low: 31
- SUNDAY
Sunny
High: 54
Low: 36
- MONDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 61
Low: 46

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Rachel Stevens

Flag football event

The Zeta Beta Tau fraternity will sponsor an annual flag football event this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will honor the memory of ZBT member John Conway who was stricken with heart arrhythmia in 2004 and died suddenly. All proceeds will go to the American Heart Association. For more information, students can contact Walter Yehl at walter.a.yehl@vanderbilt.edu.

Four-square tournament

Alpha Tau Omega will host a campus-wide four-square tournament this weekend that will take place Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. at the campus recreation center. The cost of entry for a team of four is \$20 and training; food and DJ will be provided at the event. For more information students can visit <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AlphaTauOmega/philanthropy.htm>.

Dance Marathon Board application extended

The application deadline for the 2006-2007 Dance Marathon Executive Board has been extended to Friday, March 24 by 5 p.m. Please turn in applications in Sarratt 339 (the Office of Greek Life) and sign up for a time to interview. Applications are available on-line at www.vanderbilt.edu/dance_marathon. Dance Marathon helps raise funds for the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

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

Funds: SGA says it evaluates student funding proposals on case by case basis

From FUNDS, page 1

raeli food, dancing and music is cultural, not political, in its objectives.

Breslin said that Does for Palestine expects the same treatment from SGA next year if they request funding for their cultural activities.

SGA President Kate Morgan said that there is no official SGA policy on what organizations can receive funding from SGA. Instead, when a student group approaches SGA for funding, senators look at the quality of the group's proposed program and how organized it is before voting to allocate money.

"Because AcFee is so strict in what groups can and cannot receive funding, SGA provides an additional source of money for groups with positive student events," Morgan said.

According to the Student Organization Manual, student groups

classified by the Student Finance Committee as religious or political organizations are not eligible for Acfee funding.

Each year, students pay an activities fee as part of their tuition. The Student Finance Committee then determines how much of this money goes to different student organizations.

Morgan also noted that SGA has given money to controversial student organizations in the past, such as when it funded an event put on by Lambda, Vanderbilt's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organization.

"Any student organization can come to SGA with a proposal for money," said A&S senior senator Helene Di Iorio, who authored the Does for Israel resolution. "That's what we're here for."

The Israeli Festival will take place March 31 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Alumni Lawn. All students are welcome to attend. ■

SPOTLIGHT

Three senior women named this year's Wattles fellows

BY CHRISTINE BROWN
HUSTLER REPORTER

Seniors Lauren Escher, Kate Morgan and Brennan Shaffner were recently announced as the recipients of the 2006 Wattles Fellowship.

The Walter C. Wattles fellowship is a year-long work/study program at Lloyd's of London, an insurance market company. Each year, three female senior Vanderbilt graduates are selected to participate in the cultural and working experience. Jennifer Kuklenski is the program's alternate.

The program was created by Walter C. Wattles in 1969 and allowed only two female college graduates to enter this program. In 1976 Wattles changed the program to selecting Vanderbilt graduates only and in 1978 he expanded this opportunity to three women. This program is currently in its 37th year. Recent Vanderbilt graduates Anne Gruner, Allison Harms and Sloan Looney have been working in this program for the past year.

"We had the opportunity to meet former fellows during the interview process and learn

more about each of their individual experiences during and after the fellowship. They are all amazing women who have gone on to lead lives unique in their own right," said recipient Brennan Shaffner.

For the 2006 selection, 34 senior women applied for the job. These women were interviewed in December and 13 of them were selected as finalists in late January. The finalists went through a two-day interview process where they were measured on academic performance, student leadership, internship experience, community service and personal qualifications.

In addition to the selection process, the three selected participants must take the Lloyd's Market Procedures and Practices examination, the same examination that experienced British workers have taken. So far, none of the senior women participants have scored below a 90 on this exam.

Wattles originated this program to give women the opportunity to work in a male-dominated environment such as Lloyd's of London.

While originally the job was mostly clerical work, it has become much more rigorous, with one of the two selected women trained in an underwriting position and the other two as aviation brokers. This work/study program is the only one of its kind to offer a one-year position in Lloyd's underwriting room. Participants are given experience in the international insurance business, which can provide a good foundation for job options in the future.

"This opportunity is so exciting and unique because Kate, Brennan and I will gain invaluable work experience in the insurance business while living abroad and immersing ourselves into the British culture," said recipient Lauren Escher. "I would like to go to law school in a year or two, so working at Lloyds is the perfect opportunity for me to spend this time pursuing my interests in business and British culture to see where it leads me."

"I can't wait to embrace the culture, the people and the work style that I know will ultimately influence my decisions and opportunities in the future," Shaffner said. ■

Graduates: Students express appreciation

From GRADUATES, page 1

play in the SEC, but we don't mention the black women. Tonight gives us a chance to honor those women that were the first," said Frank Dobson, Jr., director of the Black Cultural Center.

Mistress of Ceremony Adriana Bond also emphasized the importance of black female students, both past and present, in her closing remarks.

"We are not women who are meeting quotas but women who are educated, women who are going places," Bond said.

However, Dobson hoped that the event would do more than honor the lives of these women.

"The hope for tonight is not only to commemorate these women but to educate those in attendance and, by extension, the university community about these women who have made an important impact on Vanderbilt," Dobson said.

In fact, the event did seem to have a positive impact on those in attendance.

"These women's stories are very inspiring. Tonight they've relit that fire, especially in light of recent events including the incident with The Slant. It's humbling to know that someone has been here before me, to know that I'm not alone," said junior Althea Jack.



ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Jade Dodds honors A. Dolores Nicholson, class of 1957 at Thursday's Unsung Heroine: Honoring Women of Courage.

Thus far, Dobson said he was pleased with the community's positive response to this event.

"I'm gratified that the community has responded the way it has. In attendance will be the highest-ranking woman at Vanderbilt, Chief Financial Officer Lauren

Brisky, and the women's center cooperative effort, and I'm very happy the program has gotten this

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Rachel Stevens

March 19, 3:32 p.m. — A drug narcotic violation took place in Carmichael Towers East. No suspects have been identified and the case is inactive.

March 20, 2 p.m. — A simple assault occurred at 1601 23rd Ave. S. A suspect has been identified and the investigation remains active.

March 21, 11:06 a.m. — A theft occurred in the Stevenson Center Chemistry Building. A HP Pavilion DV4223CI gray laptop, green and brown large carry-on bag and a Physical Chemistry textbook were stolen. No suspects have been identified and the case remains active.

March 21, 5:35 p.m. — An arrest was made for driving on a suspended license was made at 18th Ave. S. and Broadway.

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

SERVICE GUIDE

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the academic year except for during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break.

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each.

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LOCATION

The Hustler offices are in 130 Sarratt Student Center on the Vanderbilt University Campus. Address postal mail to VU Station B 351504, Nashville, Tenn. 37235-1504.

AFFILIATIONS

The Hustler is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers, Southern University Newspapers and the Southeastern Journalism Conference and is an associate member of the Associated Press.

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PRINTER

The Hustler is printed at Franklin Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Moore: Player forced to take medical leave for tic

From MOORE, page 1

"There is no way to explain why it came up positive, but it was wrong," Moore said. "They should've researched everything and I don't think they did that."

Vanderbilt Media Relations said that Stallings was unwilling to comment.

Dr. Gilbert Woodall of Nashville's Fortier Substance Abuse Testing, Inc., said that if the proper testing procedure took place, it is "much more likely to be struck by lightning than have the test be wrong."

Although Woodall said the substance was in Moore's system, how it got there is a different story.

"The question becomes whether it was illicit or incidental," Woodall said.

While Vanderbilt Vice Chancellor for Student Life David Williams was unavailable for comment, he told the *Nashville City Paper* earlier in the week that all Commodore student-athletes are subject to random drug tests. The coach determines the punishment for a failed test and the student-athlete is required to meet with a substance-abuse counselor.

According to Moore, the suspension was unwarranted after Vanderbilt officials failed to meet his request for both a re-take of the drug test and a lie-detector test. Moore also said that he was tested twice a week for the rest of the sea-

son, including a few days after the initial failed test. He never tested positive again.

Later on in the season, Moore said he was forced to take a medical leave of absence from the team despite his request to continue playing.

"I didn't have any power in the situation," Moore said. "They said, 'It's in your best interest to sit out and when you get back, we'll play you.' When I got back, they didn't play me."

Moore told *The City Paper* that he was placed on leave because the Vanderbilt staff was worried about his well-being after observing rapid blinking, which can be considered a nervous tic. Moore said he objected, however, because he had blinked as a kid and felt that the condition was non-threatening.

The senior returned to the team for the final six games, where he averaged 4 points and 16.3 minutes per game.

"It was a point about finishing what I started and I worked hard and did that," Moore said.

Looking back at the Commodores' disappointing 17-13 season, Moore said that while he takes responsibility for not playing as well as he had in the past, there were other issues as well.

"The season went wrong in a lot of ways," Moore said. "A lot of the blame was put on me, but there were a lot more problems than just me."

Despite the blame and accusations, Moore holds no ill will toward the Vanderbilt community or his former coach.

"I don't have a problem with Kevin Stallings," Moore said. "And the Vanderbilt students are great. They're very loud, fun and intelligent and those are the type of people you need to be around."

Two of Moore's fondest memories were advancing to the Sweet 16 in 2004 and hitting a 30-foot shot at the buzzer to beat Oregon on Nov. 30, 2005, but the relationships he made over the course of four years were the most important to him.

"It was a bonding experience for four years and I'll cherish it forever," Moore said.

What bothers Moore, however, is the constant questioning of his character.

"Who I am is really not important to people who don't know me," Moore said. "They have a picture in their minds of what I should be and not who I really am."

Who is the real Mario Moore?

"I am someone who loves his family and friends and takes care of his business and is graduating from Vanderbilt," Moore said.

Moore has a parting message for the people who have stuck with him through it all.

"Thank you for four years of support," Moore said. "I love you and I'll miss you." ■

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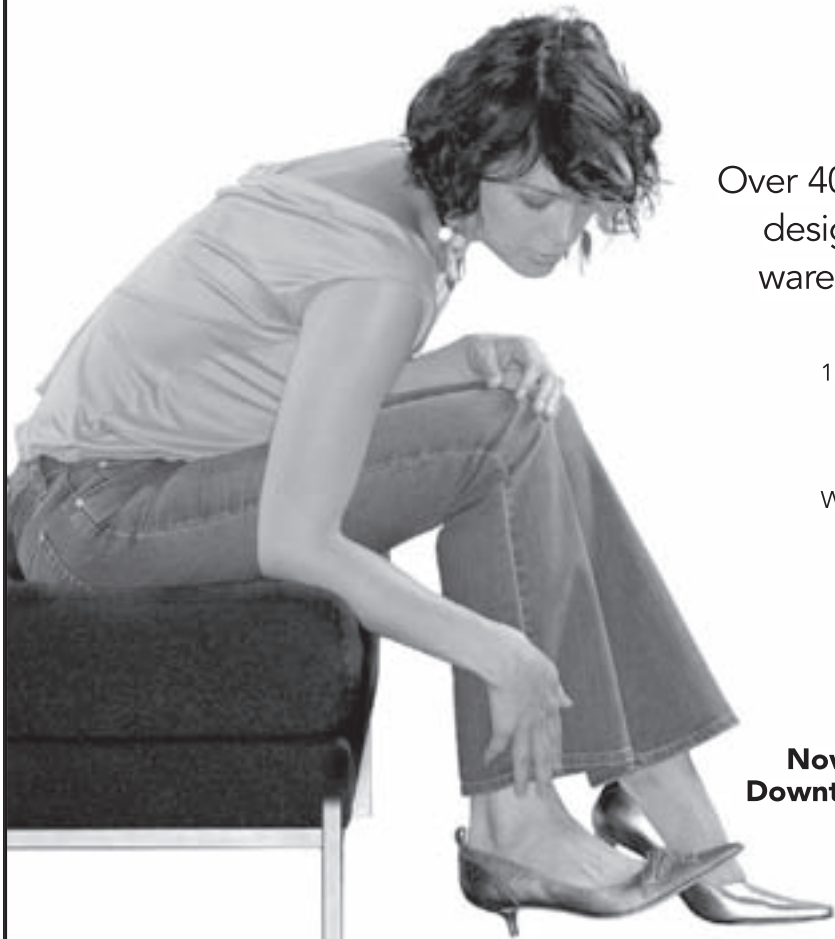
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Special thanks to all those who took the time to make this event the success it was:

- The College of Arts and Sciences, especially Dean Sweeney and Professor Eakin
- The College of Engineering, especially Professor Gokhale, John Veillette, Katy Brandt, Brenda Jordan and Lewis Saettel
- The Division of Student Life, especially Sandy Stahl, Greg Swanson, CLIPS and Student Activities
- The staff of Vanderbilt Dining Services, with special appreciation for the assistance and support of Frank Gladu, Camp Howard, and Jim Shadburne
- The Office of Housing and Residential Education, especially Associate Vice-Chancellor Mark Bandas and the Office of Greek Life
- The staff of Plant Operations, especially Associate Vice-Chancellor for Operations John Gullette and Lis Wyatt
- The staff and administrators of the Office of Schedules and Reservations, the Schulman Center, the Bishop Johnson Black Cultural Center, and Vanderbilt's Medical School
- The Office of Traffic and Parking and the Vanderbilt University Police Department, especially Jason Hall, Sgt Sam McClain
- The Learning Resource Center, especially Penny Peirce
- The students and others who work with SPEAR to make Vanderbilt greener through their diligent planning and execution of massive recycling efforts, especially Star Wallin
- The students of the Student Planning Committee, especially SPC Director Stacy Tolos without whose dedication over more than a year of time and attention to detail this event would not have been possible.

We share with all of you our most sincere gratitude and thanks for a collaborative effort and the resultant job well done!

SGA: Candidates offer examples of service

From SGA, page 1

One area of contention during the debate was the value of McMahon's Interhall experience. She has served on Interhall for three years, most recently as the Peabody Area Coordinator. She does not have SGA experience.

"Right now this is not an Interhall election," Bilotta, co-chair of the SGA Student Services and Technology Committee said. "While we both work side by side with issues, there are other more pressing issues that SGA be forced to address. Her experience in Interhall will not help much with those issues."

Weimar has previously said that McMahon's experience with Interhall will be an asset, especially as SGA is forced to deal with residential issues surrounding the Commons.

Weimar also said that "there are two types of experience involvement and elected," referring to Bilotta's lack of elected experience. "We were held accountable five times. Every time we've been on a bal-

lot we've been elected"

Both candidates did strengthen their stance when compared to previous statements regarding the publishing of SGA members' individual voting records online.

However, they maintained that the AcFee interviews and deliberations should remain closed to the public.

"It is important to have the confidentiality behind the scenes so that members of AcFee can candidly and openly discuss student organizations," Weimar said. He added that if students aren't happy with the outcome of the process, they can vote for other candidates during the following year's election.

Moderator sophomore Meredith Casey, a news editor for The Vanderbilt Hustler, asked Lancaster if he was eager to challenge administrative decisions. She cited that while Lancaster sponsored more resolutions for sponsorships for student groups, Weimar had been a leader in more resolutions and other efforts to fight un-

popular administrative decisions.

Lancaster assured the audience that he was willing to challenge the administration and said that the number of sponsorship resolutions he sponsored "highlights the connection I have with student groups."

Weimar also expressed his willingness to fight for students.

"One thing I think the admin has become good at doing is making unpopular decisions and weathering the storm," he said, referencing the dissolving of the men's soccer team and the changes to Homecoming as examples. "Too often Vanderbilt looks at other top 20 schools and says they aren't doing it - why should we?"

Lancaster, however, pointed out that the resolution that Weimar sponsored calling for the reinstatement of the traditional Homecoming king and queen contained errors and had to be revised several times.

Weimar said following the debate that the resolution did not contain errors and

instead the Senate voted to amend the resolution to "change (SGA's) stance to encourage SGA to support Homecoming this year and come out next year and work with VPB to try and revisit the Homecoming issue. Amending resolutions is something that happens at almost every Senate meeting so it's par for the course."

Lancaster advocated a more diplomatic style than Weimar's during the Homecoming debate.

"Leadership style is about building consensus not conflict," Lancaster said. "Cara and I have a history of building these relationships and working for the students. We doubled the amount of work that SGA was doing for you."

Bilotta also criticized Weimar for being leading campaigner of senior David Darwin's SGA presidential campaign last year.

"Last year (Weimar) worked with a ticket that promised 250 parking spots," Bilotta said. "To this day we don't have them." She went on to call the spots "250 broken promises" during her closing state-

ment.

Darwin lost to senior Kate Morgan by 140 votes in last year's race.

"I can't think of a more ridiculous assertion," Weimar said following the debate. "I ran for Senate last year and at no point on my platform was a parking plan. If students wanted a comprehensive parking plan last year then they would have voted for Darwin-Abercrombie. The fact that they are trying to blame me for another candidates' promises just shows they are reaching and are pretty nervous about election day."

In Lancaster's closing statement he once again stressed their ticket's commitment to "solid progress" and "a practical vision."

"We will make no promises that we can't come through on," Lancaster said.

The debate was filmed and televised by VTV, organized by The Hustler and SGA, and moderated by Casey as well as Robert Proudfoot, Hustler senior features reporter. ■

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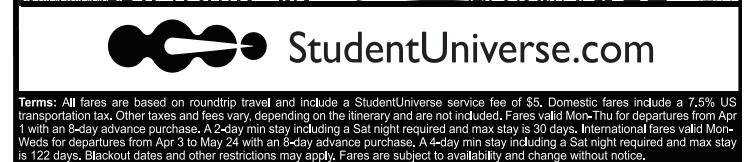
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*and optional blood donation Send questions to marrowthon@gmail.com

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GRADUATION PARTY WORKERS

Stick around after finals, and see what is in store for you on your graduation day!!! University Events needs 17 people to help set-up "The Party" from May 8th to May 11th. Your job will involve setting up, breaking down, and other duties as assigned. Pay rate: \$8.00 per hour.

Please contact Claudia Medlin at 22416 or email claudia.m.medlin@vanderbilt.edu

HEALTH

New study helps unlock the mystery of human happiness

BY DANIELLE NOVY
DAILY TOREADOR (TEXAS TECH)

LUBBOCK, Texas — The key to happiness may be debatable and illusive, yet a recent study edges closer to unlocking the secrets of what characteristics are making Americans smile.

The latest Pew Research Center survey polled more than 3,000 adults to uncover how happy they considered themselves to be; roughly one-third of respondents stated they were “very happy” while 50 percent deemed themselves to be “pretty happy.”

Paul Taylor, executive vice president of the Pew Research Center, said this survey’s outcome was consistent with previous years’ findings.

The adage that money does not buy happiness took a blow from the survey’s

results; according to the report, those with higher incomes are more likely to find happiness.

While 24 percent of those who earned less than \$30,000 per year stated they were “very happy,” nearly half of respondents making more than \$100,000 annually claimed to fall into this category.

Meanwhile, 45 percent of Republicans and 30 percent of Democrats claimed to be “very happy,” indicating a wider gap between the political parties than shown in previous studies, according to the report.

“This is notable,” Taylor said of the increasing difference. “This is among the biggest gaps we’ve seen between Republicans and Democrats in recent years.”

Still, he said he pointed to correlation rather than causation to help explain the

widening disparity.

“Being a Republican correlates with other traits that are correlated with happiness,” Taylor said. “Republicans are more likely to be married and more likely to have higher incomes. There are a cluster of traits that correlate with being happy and being a Republican.”

Additionally, when the study broached the topic of whether those who wear a gold band on their left hand are more or less satisfied with life than their unmarried counterparts, researchers found the ball and chain increases one’s likelihood of finding happiness.

Less than a quarter of single respondents stated they were “very happy” compared to the 43 percent of married participants who classified themselves as “very happy.”

Taylor said the two genders offered parallel responses when it came to the connection between their marital status and their happiness.

“There is an identically strong finding between men and women,” he said. “There is a correlation between men and women in this case.”

Angie Stephens, a physician’s assistant in Lubbock, said she believes the key things adults need to be happy are an enjoyable job and plenty of family time.

“Getting to spend time with the people you love is important,” she said. “So is being encouraged by other people.”

Stephens said she believes religion also can bring people happiness, a concept mirrored by the results of the most recent Pew study.

More than 40 percent of those who attend religious services at least one time a week reported being “very happy,” compared with the 26 percent of respondents who either seldom or never attend services who considered themselves to be “very happy.”

Jose De La Colina, a freshman from Brownsville, said he believes solid relationships help build happiness.

“Basically just relationships with friends and family are the most important,” he said.

Francisco Torres, a freshman biology major from Dallas, said both financial stability and good grades are staples of happiness for the average college student.

“I know I always feel good when I am financially stable,” he said. ■

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Cells: Amount of texting increasing

From CELLS, page 1

devices,” said Dr. John Scipione of the State College Family Chiropractic Center. “You’re having to use your thumb and hand much more than in the past.”

Almost any kind of portable electronic device can cause hand injuries when used extensively.

“As with any repetitive task, like keyboarding or mousing, if you’re using the same fingers over and over again, you can get repetitive overuse injury,” said Linda Eck, manager of the physical therapy department at University Health Services. “Any muscle can get fatigued if you use it for too long.”

The amount of text messaging is steadily increasing. As reported in the Virgin Mobile survey, there are nearly 700 million text messages sent every year in the United States.

“We’re doing a lot more computer work now than we used to,” Scipione said. “It’s not just in the office place now but home as well.”

However, cell phone and computer use is also abundant in schools. Students text message throughout the day, in and out of classes, and then at night switch to using computers.

“I text message my girlfriend all day and then have to write a 10-page paper at night,” said freshman Bryan Hamontree. “It really puts a lot of strain on my fingers—especially my thumbs.”

The T-Mobile Sidekick, which looks like a small computer, is equipped with a full keyboard and instant Internet access.

“I thought getting a Sidekick would make text messaging and instant messaging easier and more convenient,” said freshman Kim Oringer. “But I’ve actually experienced some cramping from the extra keys.”

Students nationwide report experiencing pain from overusing their portable electronic devices.

The only way to relieve the pain is to take a break from the activity, Scipione said. ■

**STUDENT
MEDIA** ★
Elections

BE A STUDENT MEDIA LEADER!

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2006-07 leadership positions within the student media groups of Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc.

(including editor of *The Vanderbilt Hustler*)

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• All applications must be turned in by **Noon, Thursday, March 30** to Sarratt 135 or via campus mail at Station B, Box 1669.

• Interviews and elections for these positions will be held at **4:00 p.m., Monday, April 3** at the regular VSC, Inc. Board of Directors meeting to be held in **Sarratt 363**.

VSC, Inc. and its divisions actively seek to be diverse student organizations and welcome applications from all members of the student community.

**V
H**

OPINION

SEAN SEELINGER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GLENNa DERoy, MANAGING EDITOR

JORDAN MAMORSKY, MANAGING EDITOR

RACHEL STEVENS, EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR

DAN ROSS, ADVERTISING MANAGER

OUR VIEW

The Hustler endorses Weimar, McMahon

We have decided to endorse Bill Weimar and Brennan McMahon in this year's SGA presidential election.

While both tickets have displayed their commitment to the concerns of the student body, we feel that Weimar's relentless and somewhat infamous passion for fighting for what students want over the last three years will be an asset at a time when university administrators seem to be making rash decisions in their pursuit of unclear, and perhaps undesirable, goals.

We are disappointed that in campaigning thus far, and particularly in Wednesday's debate, both tickets showed remarkable similarity in their feelings on many issues. Both tickets also failed to definitively answer question after question.

Perhaps both tickets need to remember that politics is not always about trying to be as politically correct as possible and that sometimes standing up for what you believe is worth alienating certain voters.

But while Weimar seems to be erring on the side of caution during the campaign, we feel that once elected he will reassert himself as the leader we've seen him to be.

Weimar's passion for restoring Homecoming Court to its traditional nature is just an example of his willingness to advocate students' desires. This is also evidenced by Weimar's platform, which centers on improving and expanding student services.

While we praise this year's SGA leadership for their continued efforts to improve SGA communication, at times we wish that those leaders would have gone the extra step in challenging the administration and not backing down. We have confidence that if elected Weimar would do just that.

Also, despite opponent Cara Bilotta's claim that "this is not an Interhall election," we feel that Weimar made a wise decision in selecting McMahon as his running mate. The transition to a residential college system at Vanderbilt is rapidly approaching, beginning with the opening of the Freshman Commons in the fall of 2008. McMahon's experience will be a valuable resource in dealing with these impending issues. What McMahon lacks in SGA experience, she makes up for with her insight into campus residential issues.

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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Your voice doesn't stop here. *The Vanderbilt Hustler* encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hustler Tiananmen Square filler advertisement unnecessary, insensitive

To the Editor:

The ad to which I am referring is on Page 5 of the Friday, March 17 edition of *The Hustler*. The text said, "It shouldn't be this hard to get a copy of *the Hustler*," and shows a link for www.vanderbilthustler.com. The filler also shows a picture of the Tiananmen Square incident of 1989 where a lone student protester stood against a line of tanks. This seems to be an ad for *the Hustler* Web site, but what is the message? It shouldn't take standing in front of a line of tanks to read *The Hustler*? Hyperbole can be effective in media advertising, but using a picture from one of the most widely televised political protests that ended with multiple brutal killings and arrests as merely a piece of advertisement is a decision made in extremely poor taste.

The incident that took place in Tiananmen Square in the summer of 1989 is a sensitive topic for many Chinese, Chinese Americans and Asian Americans. The picture of the lone student is an evocative image that resonates deeply within the Asian American community and using this picture as an ad trivializes the incident. Many protesters were brutally beaten to death, and even more were arrested for their views against the Chinese government during this massacre. Would *The Hustler* then use images of the Holocaust, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or even September 11th as advertisements for its website? What about using pictures of the suffering that occurs in Darfur, Rwanda or the Middle East as methods of getting students' attention to read *The Hustler*? The picture of the lone protester not only represents the struggle of the students for free speech and freedom of press in China, but it also represents

the uphill battle of fighting for what one truly believes in, regardless of the odds. By using this photograph so frivolously *The Hustler* is disrespecting an important symbol of the human rights struggle iconic enough to have transcended national and ethnic concerns.

The Asian American Student Association would like for *The Hustler* to admit to cultural insensitivity and mandate that staff members undergo diversity training, in which AASA would be willing to participate. In addition, AASA suggests *The Hustler* use this occasion to educate the Vanderbilt community about the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989. In that respect, using the picture of the lone protester for that article would be appropriate.

AASA understands that *The Hustler* means no malice in choosing that photograph specifically, but the inappropriateness of the advertisement is certainly felt. We do look forward to seeing positive actions taken by *The Hustler* to rectify this situation and we would be glad to work with Vanderbilt Student Communications to ensure that further insensitivities be avoided.

Dave Zhou, AASA President and the AASA Executive Board

Editor's Note: Other letters related to this subject are published online. The *Vanderbilt Hustler* did not mean to offend members of the community with this ad. We realize that it was insensitive and offer our apologies as well as assurances that steps will be taken to help prevent a similar incident in the future.

New SGA resolutions to make course selection easier for students

To the Editor:

At the last Student Government Association Senate meeting of the year, two resolutions were quietly passed that will have a great impact on student life at Vanderbilt. My fellow senator, Charreau Bell, and I pushed for the resolutions. Through the hard work of SGA President Kate Morgan and Vice President of Academic Affairs Charleson Bell, the resolutions became a reality.

These two resolutions called for course syllabi and evaluations to be made available on OAK for student viewing during course registration. If these plans are implemented, every student will be able to more fully evaluate his or her academic options well before the chaotic drop/add period. Students will have a better idea of the class in which they are enrolling and academic life at Vanderbilt will be greatly enhanced. We plan to continue to work with the administration to implement this system as soon as possible.

This is the kind of activism that should define SGA. The organization should be a proactive leader when it comes to improving the lives of students, and it should carefully examine both SGA and administration processes to ensure the maximum benefit to the average student experience. We hope to continue to move SGA in that direction.

Jared Anderson
Freshman SGA A&S Senator

COLUMN

All American students deserve a quality education

Growing up in rural East Tennessee, I was the victim of an under-funded public school system and teachers who disregarded the importance of education in their students'



THE WAY I SEE IT
ALLISON MALONE

lives. My goal of attending a top-20 college was humorous and the idea that I could actually achieve the goal was deemed impossible. Thanks to my parents and a few interested teachers, I am at Vanderbilt today; but how many students out there, rural or urban, have this dream but no encouragement to achieve it? I was pleased to see the diversity of students visiting Vanderbilt a week ago for the Mosaic recruitment weekend. I am proud to attend a school that reaches out to minority populations in order to provide all students with a kaleidoscope of perspectives and backgrounds

from which to learn. I wonder, however, who is reaching out to the students in Appalachia? Who is reaching out to the inner-city students? I remember the few options presented to my classmates and myself at school presentations and college fairs were local four-year and junior colleges. There was never any information in the guidance center about Vanderbilt or any other school more than a hop, skip and jump away from my small hometown. Vanderbilt does its part to recruit the brightest students in the country, but I believe that we would gain greatly from reaching out to the poor and underserved areas to seek out equally driven youth who may not know what such a university has to offer.

At the root of the problem is the state of public schools in many areas. Schools are under-funded and neglected. Complacent teachers and frustrated students fill the halls of worn-out buildings and inadequate facilities. Students are sitting in the same desks their grandparents filled when they attended

the high school. They are attending class in trailers parked outside the school building because of overflowing enrollment. Middle school students don't have enough basketballs for everyone to play in physical education class. Over one million students drop out of school every year. Over 68 percent of eighth graders cannot read at a level sufficient for their grade. It is unacceptable for the world's most powerful country to allow such poor education of their youth.

The federal government has tried to reform the public school system

Over 68 percent of eighth graders cannot read at a level sufficient for their grade. It is unacceptable for the world's most powerful country to allow such poor education of their youth.

Please see MALONE, page 7

Malone: Federal education laws inevitably inefficient without proper funding

From MALONE, page 6
to reallocate funds and create more accountability for individual schools with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Under NCLB, schools face severe sanctions if they fail to raise test scores, but it takes time for reform efforts to show better results. Schools will inevitably fall short of the NCLB mandates. The inadequacy of federal and state financial resources further ensures that the progress envisioned under NCLB will lag behind federal deadlines. Schools need more funding both at the state and national level; they will not receive it unless the American public presses the issue.

The importance of education is something all students can understand and value. You can read more

about the state of American public education and how to make a difference at oured.org, a Web site devoted to the cause. You can sign the petition to provide high quality education to every child, from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Every American deserves the right to a high quality education, regardless of their race or sex. This should also apply to their location and economic situation. Students should rally behind this right and ensure that all students have the chance to be as fortunate as we have been. We all reserve the right to gain an education that will serve us for the rest of our lifetime. ■

—Allison Malone is a junior in the College of Arts and Science.

AROUND THE LOOP

Who are you voting for in the SGA Presidential Election?



"Lancaster & Bilotta."

CATHERINE ELLIOT
Freshman



"If Chuck Norris is on the ballot I'll vote for him."

REID MANNING
Sophomore



"Bill & Brennan."

JENNY BAI
Senior



"Lancaster & Bilotta...Yea! Fantabulousness!"

ANNMARIE PAYNE
Sophomore



"I don't know, they're all the same."

JEANIE MANSOUR
Sophomore

Compiled by Sean Hymowitz

COLUMN

Bush begins to lose touch with the very people that put him in power

An alien from another world, visiting the United States at the end of 2004, would have learned that the leader of that country had just emerged triumphant from a recent election and that the party he represented controlled all branches of government. Doubtless, the alien would have bet that the victorious leader and his victorious party would soon crush their opposition once and for all. He would have lost, however, because nowhere else in the universe would he have encountered a political leader as inept, incompetent and worthless as George W. Bush. For the last few months, Mr. Bush has stumbled and faltered like a drunken



THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

CHAD BURCHARD

sailor and may well succeed in snatching defeat from the jaws of victory as this year's congressional elections approach.

There have been many competing theories as to how and why the president now finds himself in this dangerous situation, but I think the basic reason is that he seems determined to insult, endanger and attack the very people responsible for keeping him in power. After having told these people for years that the bloodthirsty terrorists were plotting how to destroy them, he then decides to sell off their eastern seaboard to a country from the very region where the nefarious foreigners lurk. Meanwhile, as he hurls hundreds of thousands of soldiers to fight a country thousands of miles away, he does absolutely nothing whatsoever to halt an actual invasion from Mexico.

The president bears a huge share of blame for this predicament. He is, essentially, little more than a grown-up, spoiled, rich kid who wants everything his way and thinks the Republican Party should be little more than the party of whatever George W. Bush wants. Yet, there is more to it than that. It reflects a problem that pervades the entire conservative movement, which is that the people running it have absolutely no clue what the people who put it into power thought it was supposed to be. The professional munchkins, oddballs, court viziers and jesters who staff the opinion journals, congressional offices and lobbyists of the modern "Right" are so far removed from the actual human beings who vote Republican that this collision was entirely predictable. All you have to do is look at the opinion columns that are often in *The Wall*

Street Journal, *The Weekly Standard*, *The National Review*, or for that matter, *The Torch*. They almost always drone on and on about the wonders of free trade, free market capitalism, outsourcing, open-borders immigration and rampant unfettered capitalism in general.

Yet, who votes Republican? Overwhelmingly, they are middle-income whites who are terrified of the very things that these publications champion. They are driven by fear, perfectly justified in my opinion, that they are losing their country. If you actually talk to them, as I do, you will find that they view themselves as a harassed and dispossessed group who are excluded from meaningful political participation. They are angry at their government's tolerance of crime and social deviance and its apparent indifference to their economic survival as

it turns a blind eye to outsourcing and mass immigration. They go to the supermarket, they see half of the signs in Spanish and they get scared. They see convicted felons in their children's classroom and they get scared. And they wonder who the hell is allowing this to happen? For a long time, they thought liberals were behind this, so they voted accordingly. But now, they are finding that "conservatives" seem to be all for it too. As they stare blankly at this fact, and their eyes twitch involuntarily, they are beginning to grasp the terrifying truth that there really isn't anyone in American politics who cares about them. ■

—Chad Burchard is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

There have been many competing theories as to how and why the president now finds himself in this dangerous situation, but I think the basic reason is that he seems determined to insult, endanger and attack the very people responsible for keeping him in power.

COLUMN

College education is the social norm, but is it the best option?

I was wondering why I'm here — I don't mean metaphysically, I mean literally: why am I at Vanderbilt? Why am I even at college in the first place? What is this experience going to do for me? I had to think about this for a while — I honestly could not come up with a good



THE DISSENTING VU

CHRISTOPHER MCGEADY

answer.

The first thing I could say is that I'm here to discover and cultivate the man I am to be for the rest of my life. That sounds all well and good, but who says I have to do that at college? If that's all I'm here for, I probably could have done better traveling the world or holing myself up in a secluded cabin for four years. I'd certainly "find myself" better that way than working long, hard hours, accumulating massive amounts of debt and squandering four or more precious years free of physical infirmity and mental declension all for the sake of a meaningless number that I have to keep as close to 4 as possible. Not to be grim or anything.

Another thing I could say is that it will provide me with more opportunities for a better future; however, in stone-cold reality, the only thing a college education means is that I will most likely be able to get a better job and make more money. Money doesn't mean much more to me than the means to an end, and if I don't land a job in one of a few select areas, I'm not sure it will matter what the job is. Either way, it's

probably not going to be something I enjoy. And, knowing my luck, I probably won't get paid enough either.

Or I could just say I'm here simply to be educated — the phrasing makes it sound like what they did in 1984 when they took Winston Smith to the Ministry of Love, but it's a good summation: I'm here to receive certain types and amounts of information in such a way as to allow me to be a productive member of society. But if that's the only reason I'm here, a certain scene from "Good Will Hunting" will remind me that my education, in a literal sense, represents little more than the \$160,000 required to have the name of Vanderbilt University on a bachelor's degree. I'm sure there are plenty of people who are smarter, more successful and/or happier than I who have gone to worse schools or none at all, just as I am sure there are plenty of people in worse shape than I who have gone to better schools. There is a lot of luck and circumstance that factors into how a person's life turns out; it is not like I'm any different.

But, I think I finally figured it out; I'm not here for self-discovery, the prospect of success or for an education. I'm here for all of those things and one overarching reason that, while somewhat cynical, is nonetheless true: I'm supposed to be here. I don't mean it abstractly; it's actually a really important aspect of what constitutes the necessary pursuits of an American life, at least as I see it. Coming from a family with a strong emphasis on higher education, I never questioned the fact that I would be going to college one day; my only questions were where and for how long. At this point, as a nineteen-year-old freshman, I don't even know what to consider as a potential major.

Ok, maybe I've narrowed it down a bit more than that, but I think

my point still stands: I'm here because, in my mind it seemed the best, most logical and in many ways the only path to follow. There are pros and cons to this view, and in a certain sense I sometimes wonder if I wouldn't have been better off doing something totally out of the ordinary, something wild and crazy that I can tell stories about to the neighbors' kids when I'm 80 and starting to get senile.

"I remember back when I was young, I stowed away on a Caribbean cruise and hitched a ride back to the States in a shoddy single-engine Cessna with a South American smuggler named Diego..." Seriously, who doesn't want at least one story like that to tell their kids when they think you were born in some other realm where no one was cool?

I guess for now I should just finish what I've always thought I was supposed to do, but it's not like I don't have plans: I'm going to take trips, see the world and all that jazz. However, there's nothing wrong with getting the essentials done first.

After all, I have to pay for airfare somehow. ■

—Christopher McGeady is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

A certain scene from 'Good Will Hunting' will remind me that my education, in a literal sense, represents little more than the \$160,000 required to have the name of Vanderbilt University on a bachelor's degree.

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SPORTS

BASEBALL

Stellar pitching and defense help Commodores shutout Bruins, 7-0

Five pitchers yield a combined three hits en route to second consecutive shutout.

BY JARRED AMATO
HUSTLER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

As the old adage goes, pitching and defense wins games and Vanderbilt's 7-0 victory over Belmont at Hawkins Field Wednesday did nothing to prove the baseball mantra otherwise.

Five pitchers combined on a three-hit shutout. Freshman Pedro Alvarez made three superb plays at third base and the bottom of the line-up provided more than enough run support for the Commodores, who improved to 14-7 on the season. Meanwhile, the Bruins dropped to 10-11 with the loss.

After Cody Crowell's two-hit shutout in Vanderbilt's 5-0 win at Ole Miss Saturday, head coach Tim Corbin said that he "set the bar high" for Wednesday's pitching staff.

"The most important thing about (Crowell's) performance was his ability to throw a lot of strikes and that's all I wanted this group to do," Corbin said. "They think the game is a whole lot easier when you get ahead in the count and is."

Corbin got exactly what he wanted as the five hurlers combined for nine strikeouts and zero walks. Starter Ty Davis pitched three scoreless innings for the win and was followed by Cameron Betourne, Tyler Rhoden, Josh Zeid and Brett Jacobson.

The pitchers' ability to throw strikes and work quickly certainly paid dividends for the defense.

"Whenever the defense plays behind a pitcher that's not throwing strikes, they get relaxed and back on their heels," said sophomore catcher Shea Robin. "Throwing strikes keeps the defense on their toes and keeps them ready to play."

Alvarez had to be on his toes in the top of third when he fielded a Brady Manifold bunt barehanded and with all his momentum going

towards home plate, fired a strike to first basemen Ryan Flaherty to get Manifold by a step.

Alvarez, the reigning Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Week, made another great play on a ball hit to his right in the fourth inning to nail the runner at first and he started an inning-ending double play in the seventh.

"Pedro had some really nice plays and Flaherty did a nice job over at first," Corbin said. "I like the way those two guys are starting to come together in the corners."

Belmont starter Ben Meader held the Commodores hitless through the first two innings, but when he was replaced by Brandon Paetznick in the bottom of the third, the home team took advantage.

Alex Feinberg, the eighth hitter in the order, recorded a one-out single and Robin followed with another single. David Macias drove Feinberg in with a base hit up the middle and advanced to second when Belmont centerfielder Kane Simmons overthrew the cutoff man.

With runners on second and third, Alvarez recorded an RBI single and Brian Hernandez followed with an RBI on an error by shortstop Matt Reynolds. Flaherty capped the four-run inning with a sacrifice fly.

The Commodores scored another in the fourth on an RBI single by Robin, who finished 2-3 with one RBI and run scored.

"(Robin's) good and he's only getting better," Corbin said. "He's done a great job."

Corbin also said he was pleased with his team's ability to play small ball as 10 of its 11 hits were singles. The lone extra-base hit came on a two-run double from Dominic de la Osa in the fifth.

Numbers six through nine in the line-up – de la Osa, Ryan Davis, Feinberg and Robin – combined to



After being named SEC Player of the Week on Monday, freshman Pedro Alvarez went 1-4 with an RBI against Belmont. Alvarez also made several key defensive plays.

go 6-13 with three RBIs and three runs scored in the contest.

"That's what we're supposed to do," Robin said. "We find any way to get on base, get hit by a pitch or anything so we can get our big hitters up

to the plate so they can drive us in."

Their performance did not go unnoticed by Corbin.

"You know what happens in SEC games," Corbin said. "A lot of times you get beat by (hitters) five, six,

seven, eight and nine. They're just as important as one, two, three and four because (the top of the order) gets pitched to more carefully, in my opinion, than they do."

The Commodores will need

the same kind of offensive balance against Auburn this weekend in their SEC home opener. Game one of the three-game series is today at Hawkins Field. ■

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Big Red offensive onslaught ends win streak

Players cite lack of intensity as possible reason for not being able to keep pace with Cornell attack.

BY FRANKLIN PETR
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

The cold weather cooled off the lacrosse team on Tuesday as they saw their three game win streak come to a halt against visiting Cornell University. The No. 16 Big Red were undaunted by the frigid rain, defeating the Commodores 14-8 at the VU Lacrosse Complex.

The loss brought Vanderbilt's record against Cornell to 3-5. Cornell won last year's match 13-10 in Ithaca, N.Y.

Statistically, the two teams played balanced lacrosse. The Big Red out-shot the Commodores 26-24, and turnovers were basically the same.

"We just didn't match their intensity," said senior Kate Hickman. "I give credit to the Cornell team because they are an extremely talented group of lacrosse players, but their talent is not what beat us on Tuesday. What beat us was their intensity and our lack thereof."

Cornell started the scoring by netting the first two points, as the Big Red's Courtney Farrell sent two shots past Commodore goalkeeper Brooke Shinaberry in the first seven minutes of play. Vanderbilt's Nicole Pugno countered with a goal of her own when she scored off a pass from Leslie Koch.

Cornell dominated the next ten minutes of the game. Farrell added an assist to her stats and Katherine Simmons scored two of her game-high five goals, as the Big Red was able to extend their lead, 6-1.

The Commodores could only trade goals with their opponents for the remainder of the half. Simmons scored two more for Cornell, while Margie Curran, Ashley Paschall, and Kendall Thrift each netted one to send the score to 9-4 at the half.

The second half began like the first with Cornell striking in the first two minutes. Simmons netted her fifth and final goal of the game to extend the Big Red's lead to six

goals.

Vanderbilt responded with two goals of its own. Hickman added to her team-leading 35 points with a goal off a free position shot with about 26 minutes remaining. She also added an assist, dishing a pass to Kendall Thrift for her second goal of the day, cutting the lead to 10-6. The four-goal deficit was the closest the Commodores would come in the half.

Cornell had an offensive explosion in the final 20 minutes, as they scored four times while keeping the Commodores out of the net during that span. Noelle Dowd scored two for the Big Red, while Margaux Viola and Alison McKeown added one goal each.

The Commodores ended the match on a positive note, netting two goals in the final minute. Hickman added her second of the day and freshman Cara Giordano scored her first goal of the match.

On the defensive side of the ball junior Molly Frew led all players with four ground balls recovered. Four more Commodores had multiple pickups including Curran and Giordano, both with three.

Shinaberry had four saves on 15 shots and allowed 11 goals in 40 minutes of play. Freshman Rachel Woolford guarded the net for the final 20 minutes of play, stopping two out of five attempts. The backup goalkeeper had only logged 19 minutes this season.

"It was an ugly game," Hickman said. "But we have a streak of top ten teams over the next three weeks and dwelling on this game won't get us anywhere."

Vanderbilt (4-4, 0-1 ALC) will play next against Duke on Sunday. Their trip to Durham, N.C. begins a three-game road stand. The Commodores will return for their final two home games of the season against Ohio and Ohio State on the weekend of April 14. ■



Freshman Cara Giordano scored her fifth goal of the season in Tuesday's 14-8 defeat to Cornell. The loss drops the Commodores to 4-4. Vanderbilt travels to Duke on Sunday for an important non-conference battle.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nwankwo speaks about life after 'death'

Freshman plans to remain part of the Commodore family.

BY DREW GOODWIN
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

Usually when a basketball player hits the floor in a game or a practice he is helped off the floor by a few teammates. When Davis Nwankwo, a redshirt freshman, crashed to the floor during a routine practice nearly two weeks ago, however, he was helped off the floor by a defibrillator.

"I remember that day we had done three drills," Nwankwo said. "When the fourth drill started I participated in two plays and that's all that I remember. They told me later that I was walking gingerly off the court and suddenly fell head-first onto the floor. The next thing I knew I woke up with an oxygen mask on my face, and then they rushed me to the hospital."

Immediately after Nwankwo fell to the ground, trainer Mike Meyer sprang into action. He rushed over to his player, who initially had a pulse and was breathing. Then Nwankwo stopped breathing and the trainer administered a shock with an external defibrillator to restore his heartbeat. Meyer also gave Nwankwo a few breaths before campus police and paramedics arrived on the scene.

Luckily for the Nwankwo family and the entire Vanderbilt community, Meyer's instincts quickly surfaced and took control of the situation.

"When I turned around and saw Davis lying on the floor I knew that it was something much more serious than a twisted ankle or an orthopedic injury," Meyer said. "A lot of good things happened for us that day. I went

through school and trained for this and every other situation that could arise, but it's always the worst-case scenario to have to use the AED (Automated External Defibrillator). We were called upon that day to use the AED, and Davis being with us today is truly a blessing."

Team physician Dr. Andrew Gregory released a statement on March 10, declaring Nwankwo's basketball career to be over. The incident revealed that Nwankwo suffers from a genetic condition known as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, meaning that he has an enlarged heart and an irregular heartbeat.

"I couldn't believe that it happened to such a healthy guy," Nwankwo said. "When they told me that my basketball career was over it was extremely hard at first. But, I need to not look at it that way. I have to start concentrating on other things like school, family, and God. I was one second away from not being here, so I'm just grateful to be here."

While a basketball career may have ended on March 6, something extremely positive has started from this near-death experience: an extremely close friendship between the fortunate student and his heroic trainer.

"If it wasn't for Mike I wouldn't be here right now," Nwankwo said. "He is truly a hero, and I am so grateful for everything he did for me on that day. Mike has always been a great trainer, and someone that I could always talk to if I needed to, but now I really feel like he's a part of my family. He stayed with me and my parents in the hospital and really helped us get through this."

The relationship is equally as important

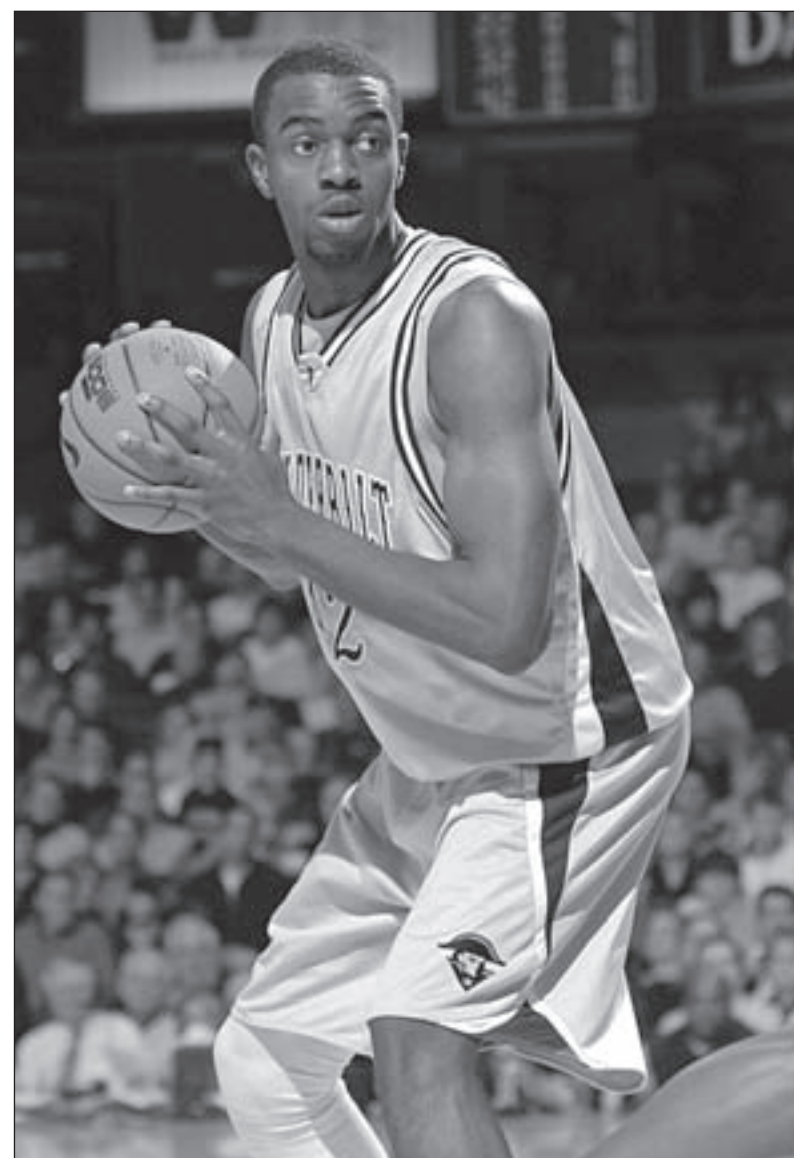
to Meyer.

"I'm just so happy that he's still here with us," Meyer said. "I love seeing that smile on his face every day. I call him every day, and sometimes twice a day, to talk about how his family is doing and how my family is doing. What goes through my mind every day is that this young man is still with us, and it's such a blessing."

Mike Meyer amazingly saved the life of Davis Nwankwo, but it will take a miracle for Meyer to help Nwankwo ever return to a basketball court. Doctors, family members and friends all describe Nwankwo as lucky to be alive, but Nwankwo describes himself as on a slow comeback trail. Head coach Kevin Stallings has reportedly offered Nwankwo a coaching position with the team, but he is unsatisfied.

"Coach and I have thrown around the idea of me helping the staff," Nwankwo said. "But, I don't believe that my playing career is over. Technology could change in the future and allow a person like me to come back to the game. Although I know it's unlikely, I want to do everything I can to play again."

When most athletes would be content to be alive, Nwankwo is amazingly focused on returning to the hardwood. It appears that out of death's cold grasp has emerged new life. A new friendship, a new outlook on life, and a new inspirational determination have all arisen from the depths of tragedy. In a pleasant turn of events, a positive twist has finally altered the nearly tragic story of Davis Nwankwo. ■



Davis Nwankwo collapsed during practice on March 6. He suffered cardiac arrest and has since been diagnosed with having an enlarged heart.

COLUMN

Basketball season did not live up to hype

After putting "April 06" on the back of its practice jerseys, the fact that the women's basketball team played its last game in

COLUMN

JARRED
AMATO

March means that the season had to be a disappointment.

For most teams, advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament is a success. But, for Vanderbilt this was an underachievement.

The Commodores failed to live up to the Final Four hype that they themselves created.

"We are all disappointed that we didn't go farther," said head coach Melanie Balcomb. "I think that we feel that we are a better team. I think we made it look like it shouldn't have been a second round game."

As good as the Commodores (21-11, 8-6 Southeastern Conference) thought they were, their actions on the court in big games suggested otherwise.

The sign of a great team is beating op-

ponents that are as good, if not better, than you. In Vanderbilt's eight conference victories, only one came against a team that finished higher in the SEC standings (an overachieving Kentucky squad).

In non-conference play, the Commodores lost to Arizona State and North Carolina State (both were seeded fifth in the NCAA Tournament), along with North Carolina, the No. 1 overall seed. They beat Northern Arizona, a No. 14 seed and Old Dominion, a No. 10 seed.

All in all, Vanderbilt played 12 games against teams that advanced to the NCAA Tournament and won only three of them. While Balcomb said that she felt her team deserved better than an eight seed, it seems as though that's exactly what it deserved.

"If we had played the way we did today, we would have had a higher seed," said junior point guard Dee Davis after the team's season-ending loss to North Carolina. "We just have a lot of work to do and a lot of preparation in the off-season."

Davis also admitted that they "wasted so much throughout the year," suggesting that there were times when the Commodores did not work as hard as they should have.

You can forgive teams that put it all on the line and just are not talented enough, but when teams admit that their failure was due to a lack of effort, there is no excuse.

Like the women, the men's team showed why "potential" is such a dangerous word.

After racing out to a 5-0 start, it seemed as if the Commodores (17-13, 7-9 SEC) had the potential to be cutting down the nets in Indianapolis.

Not so fast.

While their win at Georgetown became more and more impressive over the course of the season, the rest of the Commodores' non-conference schedule did not.

Vanderbilt squeezed past Oregon 76-75 thanks to an improbable 30-footer from senior Mario Moore at the buzzer. Oregon's final record: 15-17.

After losing to Cincinnati, the Commodores won four straight, including a 63-60 victory at Dayton. Dayton's final record: 14-17.

In its last game before SEC play, Vanderbilt lost by nine to Georgia Tech. Georgia Tech's final record: 11-17.

You get the point.

After beating Kentucky at Rupp Arena

and 7.2 rebounds per game. In a nationally televised game to improve to 2-0 in the conference, the Vanderbilt bandwagon was full. In a supposedly "down year" for the SEC, the Commodores were ready to climb to the top.

How foolish we all we feel now.

The Commodores proceeded to lose six of their next seven games, including home losses to South Carolina and Georgia, and never won more than two consecutive games the rest of the way.

What about Memorial Magic? Doesn't Vanderbilt have the biggest home court advantage in the conference?

Think again. Vanderbilt had six home losses on the season, tied with South Carolina and Ole Miss for the most in the SEC.

Like the women, the men failed to beat the best. In 11 games against teams that made the NCAA Tournament, the Commodores were 3-8, with the only wins coming against Georgetown and Kentucky.

To the players' credit, they never quit. DeMarre Carroll was relentless all season, averaging nearly 11 points and 6.5 rebounds per game and senior Julian Terrell performed admirably at the center position, posting career highs with 10.5 points

and 7.2 rebounds per game.

But, as Dallas Cowboys head coach Bill Parcells once said, "you are what you are."

Forget about what would have, could have or should have been. Vanderbilt was a NIT team that finished ninth in the SEC in scoring offense, ninth in field goal percentage defense, ninth in rebounding and last in steals.

Looking ahead to next year, it's easy to be excited. The women return Davis, along with Liz Sherwood, Carla Thomas, Caroline Williams and company. The men welcome back Carroll, along with Derrick Byars, Shan Foster and Alex Gordon, to name a few.

But, giving into the hype too early is like taking back that girlfriend after she cheated on you. Even though you know she'll do it again, you're tempted to forgive her immediately.

So, rather than risk the chance of having your heart broken again, we all need to take some time off and make the Commodores prove, on the court, that they are committed.

Until then, put the practice jerseys with "April 07" on the back on hold. ■

2005-06 basketball season breakdown

Category	Men's final stats (SEC rank)	Women's final stats (SEC rank)
Scoring offense	68.2 (7/12)	66.2 (5/12)
Scoring defense	66.9 (3)	63.5 (3)
FT percentage	.727 (3)	.732 (3)
3-FG percentage	.403 (1)	.390 (2)
Rebounding margin	-3.1 (11)	-1.1 (7)
Assists	15.3 (2)	16.36 (2)
Assist/turnover ratio	1.16 (3)	0.96 (4)
Steals	5.31 (12)	7.93 (7)
Blocked shots	2.44 (10)	1.71 (11)

Quotes from the season

■ "The ball went in because his attitude has been fantastic. If his attitude wasn't good, I believe with all my heart that the shot wouldn't have gone in."

– Kevin Stallings on November 30 after Mario Moore's game-winning shot against Oregon.

■ "The key is that we have young players without a lot of experience. They're playing not to lose instead of playing to win, which will lead to losing games." – Melanie Balcomb on January 26 prior to playing Ole Miss on Fan Appreciation Day.

■ "Well, you know, do you love to play or do you not love to play? We've got a very classic example right within our own little basketball family of how much of a privilege playing is and how fast it can be

taken away." – Kevin Stallings on March 10 about Davis Nwankwo, after LSU knocks Vanderbilt out of the SEC Tournament.

■ "I love the fans and everyone who come out and support us. I'm glad that I spent the last four years of my life (at Vanderbilt), and now it's time for me to move on. My life starts new now, and I will just go on. Tomorrow I will wake up and start a new day." – Julian Terrell on March 15 after Notre Dame defeated Vanderbilt in the NIT.

■ "These are the games we live for. This is why we play basketball. I just wish we could have gone a little further." – Nicole Jules on March 20 after Vanderbilt lost to North Carolina in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

FUN & GAMES

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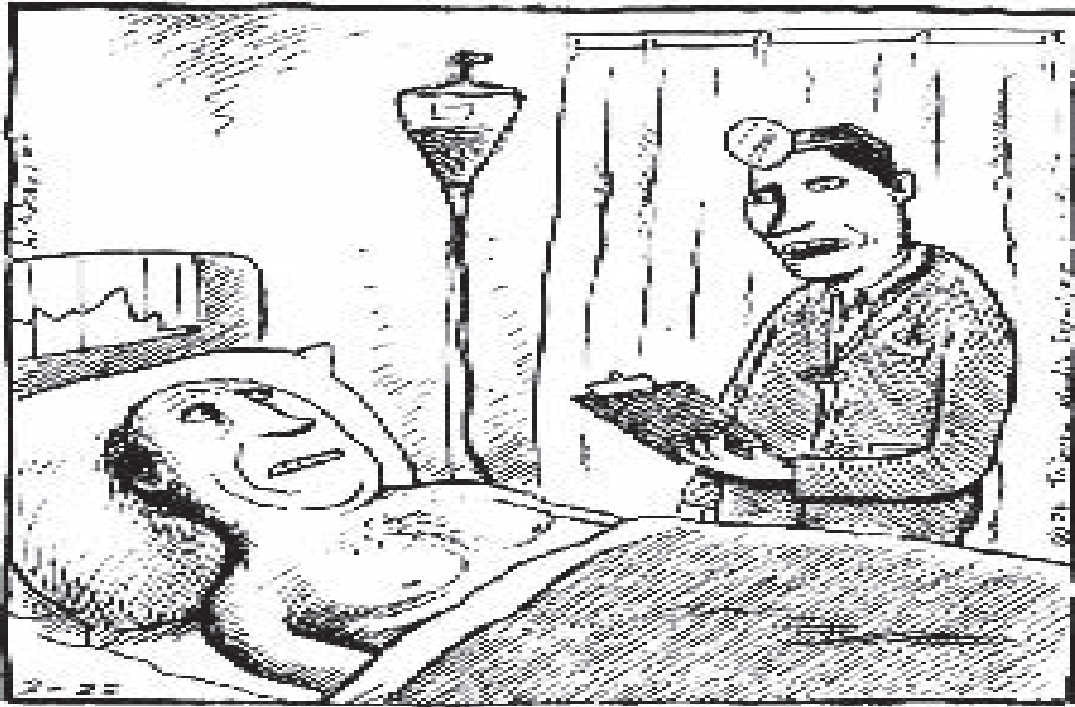
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QUIGMANS

By Buddy Hickerson — KRT



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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Longhand style
 - 8 Proximal
 - 15 Mid-ocean
 - 16 Director Teshigahara
 - 17 Ways up
 - 18 Stretchy
 - 19 Ermine in a light coat
 - 20 Immune system member
 - 22 Press coverage
 - 23 Lecture
 - 24 Returned from dreamland
 - 25 Wicked
 - 26 Self-regard
 - 27 Frightening
 - 28 Solfeggio
 - 29 Tape over
 - 31 Gene and Grace
 - 32 Harrison or Henry
 - 33 Magnani or Pavlova
 - 34 King Arthur's paradise
 - 37 Planting occasion
 - 41 Brief summation
 - 42 Pierces with horns
 - 43 Bit
 - 44 Casual talk
 - 45 Trojan War epic
 - 46 Turner of films
 - 47 Concealed
 - 48 Young salmon
 - 49 Top Olympic medals
 - 50 Polar features
 - 52 Basque or Spaniard
 - 54 Author Leonard and others
 - 55 Tell the story
 - 56 In an unkempt manner
 - 57 More seaisick or jealous?
- DOWN**
- 1 Roller
 - 2 Steal limelight
 - 3 Change hues
 - 5 Money everything!
 - 6 VFW member
 - 7 Toward the rising sun
 - 8 Impudent
 - 9 French textile center
 - 10 By mouth
 - 11 Mayday letters
 - 12 Summery
 - 13 In a glossy manner
 - 14 Makes laugh
 - 21 Firewood unit
 - 24 Potential oak
 - 25 Dazzling success
 - 27 Reporter's exclusive
 - 28 Transmits
 - 30 Key of "Eroica"
 - 31 Delivered a low blow?
 - 33 Supplying blood with oxygen
 - 34 Moore and Bunker
 - 36 Educational environment
 - 37 Dirt
 - 38 Venetian, e.g.
 - 39 Authorization to act
 - 40 "Lou Grant" star
 - 45 Urge to action
 - 46 "Casablanca" co-star
 - 48 Indian gown
 - 49 "Pretty Woman" man
 - 51 \$-due mail
 - 53 Musical time

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By Tom Pruce Chicago, IL 3/25/06

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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