



SCIENCE & MEDICINE: Nobel laureate lecture series tackles climate change. **SEE PAGE 3**

TODD: Lower drinking age initiative would curb binge drinking problems. **SEE PAGE 4**

Recycling efforts improve

Offices work to increase bin locations.

by **NORAH SCANLAN**
Campus Living Specialist

With the addition of the Commons, Vanderbilt has demonstrated its commitment to the green movement, and this year that same commitment is expanding to other parts of campus, particularly residential halls. Recycling Coordinator Jennifer Hackett said that all residence halls and houses with the exception of the four high-rise buildings (Carmichael Towers West and East, Morgan and Lewis) are now equipped with in-room recycling bins. Students are urged to use these bins, which are purchased by the Office of Housing and Residential Education as their budget allows.

Dumpsters, which collect paper, plastic and aluminum, are located near all residence halls, and some areas also allow for deposits of cardboard.

"We are working on increasing this old infrastructure to provide adequate recycling locations and increased frequency of pick-ups in all areas," said Hackett.

A program to place recycling bins in at least one lobby area of each of the residential houses and

halls in the Commons has also been launched, and the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management is looking to expand these bins to more areas throughout the year. "The success of this latest initiative will be very dependent upon residents using them as they are intended — for recycling generated while in that area — and not for room recycling, which is the responsibility of each resident to empty in the area provided to them outside," Hackett said. She added that residents of Carmichael Towers are an exception to this rule.

In addition, there are nearly 20 outdoor recycling stations lining the walkways on campus this year. The Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management is also currently in the process of replacing old recycling bins and increasing the number and location of bins inside of academic and administrative buildings.

In the past, Hackett said Greek students have worked on their own recycling programs, and they have recycling bins in three of the four Greek dumpster areas. Recently, a proposal was submitted to the Greek Life Office offering Greeks an opportunity to participate more fully in the campus recycling program.

Students interested in learning more should visit their website at www.vanderbilt.edu/SustainVU. ■



Sophomore Callie Jones recycles some waste outside of KISSAM Quad on Sunday, September 7, 2008. The new additions of recycling bins have helped encouraged more students to recycle.

NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Blair film series debuts

by **ABRAHAM HANSON**
News Contributor

The Blair School of Music hit off its fall program Sunday with a new series entitled "Music on Film."



WAIT

The novelty of the initiative, found expressly in its name, includes full-length concert DVDs broadcasted in surround-sound on a large projection screen. The Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall serves as the venue and guarantees an intimate setting with super-sized results.

"These performances are not widely available to the public at large," said Dean of the Blair School of Music Mark Wait. "Music on Film" is a natural extension of the Blair School's mission to present the finest music to our students and to the general public."

To pick the first performance of the series, Wait called on Professor of Conducting Robin Fountain. Selected for its "overwhelming impact" and international acclaim, Sunday's viewing showcased Gustav Mahler's "Symphony No. 3" under the baton of famed Italian conductor Claudio Abbado. Fountain, who conducts the Vanderbilt University Orchestra, presented a brief introduction to the film.

The performance was originally staged at the 2007 Lucerne Music Festival in Switzerland. Abbado handpicked the ensemble from among the world's leading instrumentalists. With past guests such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the festival also regularly hosts top ensembles from both America and Europe.

The new series' international bent fits seamlessly with the missions of Blair as a communal and educational institution.

Additionally, it serves the education of performers.

"As performers, all of us learn from watching and hearing the world's finest musicians," Wait said. "There is a level of communication, expression and perfection that one experiences very seldom."

Subject to review, audience members can expect another "Music on Film" showing next semester. A full listing of Blair concerts and events can be found on the school's calendar. Among the notable events is a special recital presented by internationally acclaimed soprano Renee Fleming on April 10, 2009. Inquiries can be directed to Cindy Steine, the director of external relations for Blair. ■

ACADEMICS

NEH chairman speaks on 'State of Humanities'

by **MARTYNA STOMSKI**
News Contributor

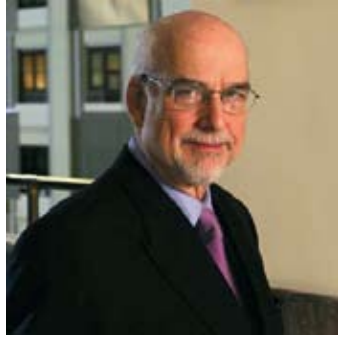
On Thursday, Sept. 4, Bruce Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, presented the current state of the humanities in contemporary academia. The theme of the presentation specifically centered on the humanities in the rise of the digital age. While digitization has greatly propelled the study of the sciences, Cole explains it has also created a "crisis in confidence" among the humanities studies at many institutions and universities.

"The humanities tend to treasure the individual while the sciences treasure collaborative scholarship," said Cole. "There is a need to

democratize the humanities. It will create wisdom and vision in citizens."

Additionally, Cole hopes increased access and data-driven scholarship will create new knowledge and new questions to advance the sciences. Through digitization, it will now become an integral bridge that will span continents to create partnerships and connect various humanities specialties under common interests.

In order to achieve these advancements, the NEH is taking many proactive steps, particularly by awarding study grants particularly in the research of supercomputers and increasing workshops for teachers to show them the tools and resources available. With



COLE

these efforts, Cole believes it will restore humanities education in a time when vocationalism is dominating the core curriculum at many universities.

"Here at Vanderbilt, we have a wonderful liberal arts education core but that's not the case all over. There's a rising tide of vocationalism.

I believe you come to college to get an education, not instruction," Cole said.

In addition, We the People, an NEH program aimed to strengthen the studies in American history and culture, has also worked with the Library of Congress in the preservation and digitization of about 70 million pages of historic newspaper documents available to the public.

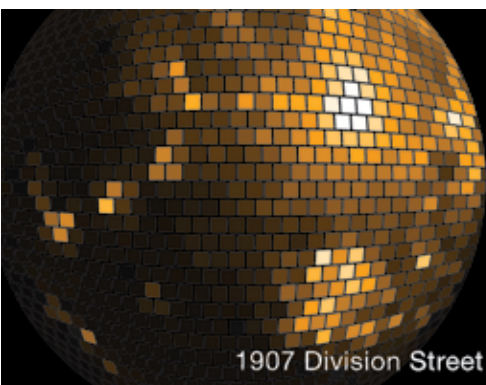
"With tools that allow you to search it, it turns this enormous obstacle of 70 million pages into one of the great resources for American history," Cole said. "What you look up will be available to the public, for free and hopefully continue this way forever."

One of the largest ongoing projects is Picturing America,

an initiative that awards schools with masterpieces of American art in order to promote a greater understanding of American art and history. In a three-month window for application, nearly one-fifth of all public schools and libraries in the U.S. applied for awards and 26,000 will receive Picturing America sets, including 504 recipients in Tennessee and 33 in Nashville.

"We want to encourage humanities scholars in making complex ideas understandable and being vicarious leaders," Cole said. "By making academic thought more accessible to the public, we ensure that the wisdom of the humanities spreads wider and sinks deeper into the fabric of the American people." ■

SPORTS: Cross country starts season strong in Belmont meet; baseball sees larger recruiting class. **SEE PAGE 6**



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by KELLY SWOPE

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TODAY



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Partly cloudy

TUESDAY



HIGH 81, LOW 64
Scattered t-storms

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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 2301 Vanderbilt Place, 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
Subscriptions are available for \$125 per semester or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler. A pdf subscription order form is available at <http://www.vscmedia.org/hustler.html>

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Back issues are available in Sarratt 123 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

A look at death toll from Atlantic tropical storms and hurricanes

Six of 10 named storms so far this Atlantic hurricane season have caused deaths, mostly due to floods and mudslides:

- Arthur: 5 in Belize; 2 in Honduras.
- Dolly: 1 in Mexico; 1 in Florida.
- Fay: 15 in Florida; 9 in Haiti; 3 in Dominican Republic.
- Gustav: 76 in Haiti; 26 in the U.S. (19 in Louisiana, 4 in Georgia, 3 in Mississippi); 12 in Jamaica; 8 in Dominican Republic.
- Hanna: 167 in Haiti; 2 in Puerto Rico; 1 in Dominican Republic.
- Ike: 48 in Haiti; 1 in Dominican Republic.

Note: Totals are based on official figures released by each government. Florida includes deaths indirectly caused by a storm.

US government takes over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration seized control Sunday of troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, aiming to stabilize the housing market turmoil that is threatening financial markets and the overall economy.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is betting that providing fresh capital to the two firms will eventually lead to lower mortgage rates, spur home-buying demand and slow the plunge in home prices that has ravaged many areas of the country.

The huge potential liabilities facing each company, as a result of soaring mortgage defaults, could cost taxpayers tens of billions of dollars, but Paulson stressed that the financial impacts if the two companies had been allowed to fail would be far more serious.

"A failure would affect the ability of Americans to get home loans, auto loans and other consumer credit and business finance," Paulson said.

But more importantly, "Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are so large and so interwoven in our financial system that a failure of either of them would cause great turmoil in our financial markets here at home and around the globe," he added in a televised announcement.

The companies, which together own or guarantee about \$5 trillion in home loans, about half the nation's total, have lost \$14 billion in the last year and are likely to pile up billions more in losses until the housing market begins to recover.

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama issued a statement agreeing that some form of intervention was necessary, and promised, "I will be reviewing the details of the Treasury plan and monitoring its impact to determine whether it achieves the key benchmarks I believe are necessary to address this crisis."

Iraqi parliament resumes with full plate after summer recess

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi lawmakers end their summer break this week facing urgent tasks of approving a new election law and signing off on a still-unfinished security pact with the U.S. — key steps in laying the foundation for a lasting peace.

The 275-member legislature failed last month to approve a law providing for provincial elections this fall after Kurds objected to a power-sharing arrangement for the oil-rich area around Kirkuk, which they want to incorporate into their self-ruled region in the north.

U.N. and Iraqi election officials warn the balloting cannot be held this year unless parliament approves the measure quickly after it reconvenes Tuesday.

The debate will be played out against the backdrop of a major change in the leadership of the U.S.-led force in Iraq. Gen. David Petraeus, credited with reversing the country's slide toward anarchy, will hand over command of Multinational Forces-Iraq this month to Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, who once served as the No. 2 U.S. commander in Iraq.

U.S. officials have complained privately that Iraqi politicians have failed to take advantage of the sharp drop in violence — down 80 percent since last year, according to the American military — to forge lasting power-sharing agreements.

Bhutto widower elected to the Pakistani presidency Saturday

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Benazir Bhutto's widower swept Pakistan's presidential election on Saturday, offering hope for stability to a nuclear-armed country feeling intense U.S. pressure to crack down on Islamic militants.

In a grim reminder of the problems awaiting Asif Ali Zardari, rescuers in the northwest dug with their hands for survivors after at least 35 people were killed in a massive suicide bombing.

Already head of the main ruling party, Zardari becomes one of the most powerful civilian leaders in Pakistan's turbulent 61-year history. Last month, he marshaled a coalition that forced stalwart U.S. ally Pervez Musharraf to quit as head of state.

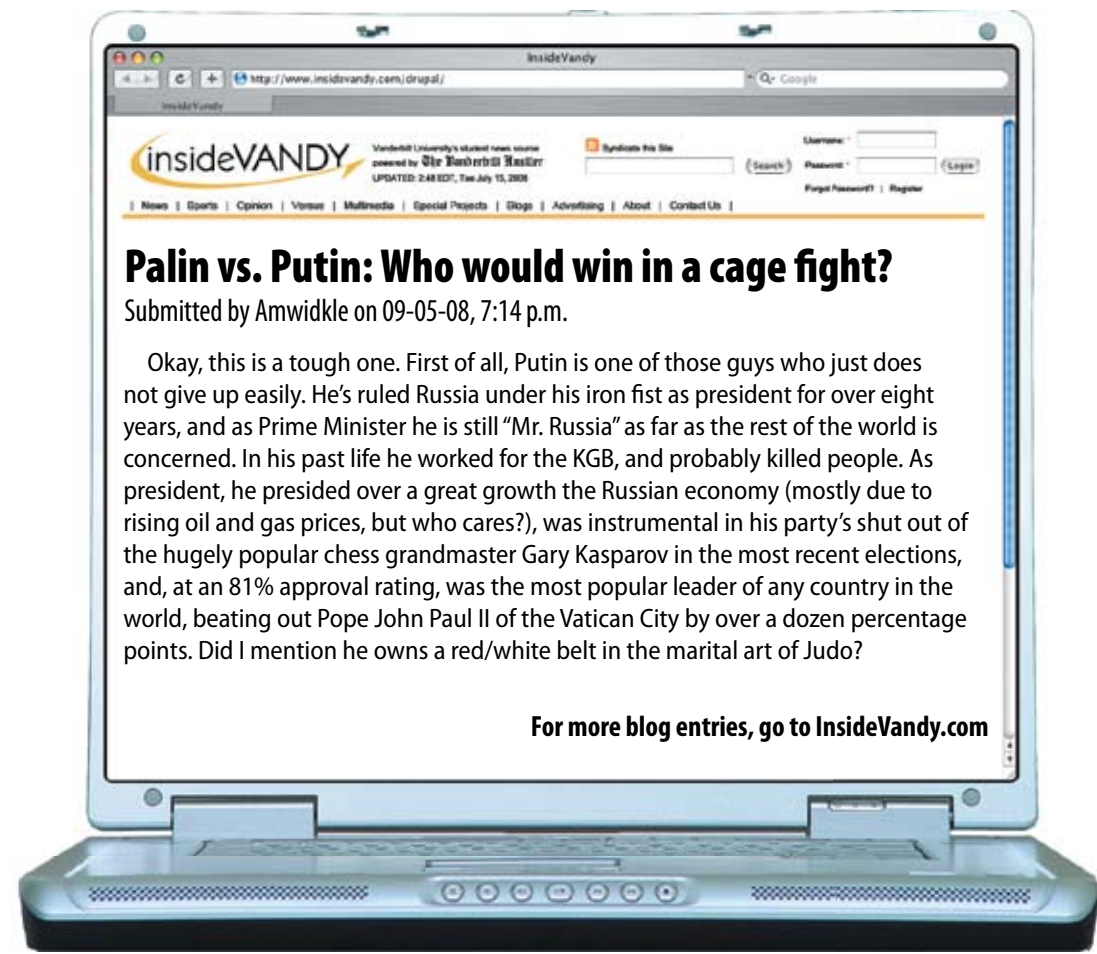
However, he begins with limited goodwill among a population who recall his nickname, Mr. Ten Percent, for alleged corruption during Bhutto's two terms in office as prime minister and doubt his political vision and leadership skills.

He is also untested on the international stage, where he must deal with mounting Western concern over how Taliban and al-Qaida militants have nested in the tribal belt along the Afghan border.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she was looking forward to working with Zardari.

"I've been impressed by some of the things he has said about the challenges that Pakistan faces, about the centrality of fighting terrorism, about the fact that the terrorism fight is Pakistan's fight and also his very strong words of friendship and alliance with the United States," Rice told reporters on a trip to North Africa.

FROM THE BLOG



Palin vs. Putin: Who would win in a cage fight?

Submitted by Amwickle on 09-05-08, 7:14 p.m.

Okay, this is a tough one. First of all, Putin is one of those guys who just does not give up easily. He's ruled Russia under his iron fist as president for over eight years, and as Prime Minister he is still "Mr. Russia" as far as the rest of the world is concerned. In his past life he worked for the KGB, and probably killed people. As president, he presided over a great growth the Russian economy (mostly due to rising oil and gas prices, but who cares?), was instrumental in his party's shut out of the hugely popular chess grandmaster Gary Kasparov in the most recent elections, and, at an 81% approval rating, was the most popular leader of any country in the world, beating out Pope John Paul II of the Vatican City by over a dozen percentage points. Did I mention he owns a red/white belt in the marital art of Judo?

For more blog entries, go to InsideVandy.com

SNAPSHOT

TRUE FANS OF AN SEC CONTENDER



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Tom Gill, Mike Banasiak, Colin McCurdy, Ryan Slice, Caitlin Humphreys, and Madeline George cheer after Vanderbilt intercepted a pass and gained significant yardage in the first quarter of Thursday's game against USC. (9/4/08).

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2009 Commodore Yearbook details at VanderbiltCommodore.com

Vanderbilt Nobel Laureates honored in lecture series

by BRIAN LOVE
News Contributor



SOMERVILLE

Dr. Richard Somerville, of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and one of several lead authors of the most recent assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), spoke Thursday evening about the modern day threat of global warming, inaugurating Vanderbilt's Nobel Memorial Lecture series.

The Nobel Memorial Lecture series honors Vanderbilt alumni and faculty who have received the Nobel Prize and addresses the topic "Science in the Service of Society." Dr. Somerville's lecture was in honor of Vanderbilt alum, Nobel Laureate and former Vice President Albert Gore, with whom the IPCC shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for their shared work in disseminating knowledge about the modern day global threat of climate change.

Gore studied first at the Divinity School from 1971 to 1972, and then in the Law School from 1974 to 1976. Gore chose not to earn a

degree in order to successfully run for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976.

Somerville's lecture, titled "Global Warming: What do we Know, What Should We Do?" reviewed the experimental evidence to date and its implications for the future.

He presented the most famous "Keeling Curve," which tracks the unabated rise in atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide since 1958.

Somerville knew Charles Keeling personally and remembers him as a pioneering scientist. At the time, "Climatology was a

backwater," said Somerville. "We were ill-equipped to do meteorology."

Keeling and others changed that and today, the science of climatology is cutting-edge.

"Science gets done by those not overly worshipful of authority," Somerville said, giving advice to Vanderbilt's students.

In addition to Al Gore, Vanderbilt alum Muhammad Yunus, who received his PhD in Economics in 1971, was awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in developing and using micro-credit to combat poverty in developing countries.

In total, the Vanderbilt faculty has been awarded the Nobel prize three times. Max Delbruck, professor of physics from 1940 to 1947, won the 1969 Nobel Prize in Medicine for research conducted at Vanderbilt concerning the replication mechanisms of viruses. Delbruck is considered a founding father of molecular biology. Additionally, Earl Sutherland, the namesake of Vanderbilt's Sutherland Prize in Research, and Stanley Cohen are both Nobel Laureates in Medicine. ■

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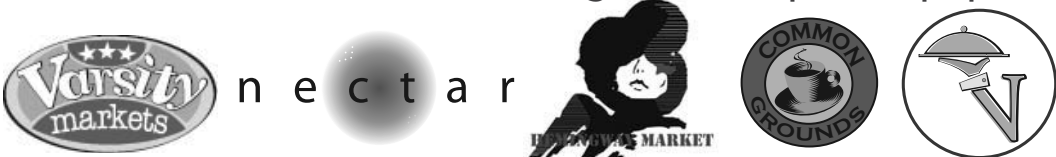
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OPINION

College presidents propose to lower drinking age

NELLY TODD
Columnist

Freshmen and sophomores, no need to hide that beer, it is now OK for you to drink. I may have gotten a bit ahead of myself here, but such will be the case if more than 120 college presidents have their way. The Amethyst Initiative, sponsored by college presidents across the country, proposes that Congress lower the legal drinking age from the current 21 to 18, as it was in 1984.

This is no new debate, and there is no question where the majority of 18- to 20-year-olds stand. On the other hand, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has long been a proponent of the higher drinking age, citing studies that show a drastic drop in lives lost to drunk-driving during the 24 years since the age was raised. They have now come out in full-force against the Amethyst Initiative, and they have a point. Lives are being saved, and that's a good thing. Lives would also be saved if gun-ownership was illegal, criminals suspected of murder were given the death penalty and police officers were stationed on every street corner. There is a lot our country could do to protect the lives of its citizens, but at what cost? At what point does the government overstep its bounds and infringe upon our freedom?

It's been said before, but it bears repeating. If an 18-year-old can be trusted to vote responsibly, he or she should be trusted to drink responsibly. If an 18-year-old can serve our country in the military, he or she should be able to serve himself or herself a beer. If an 18-year-old can make the life-altering choice to get married, he or she should know better than to make the life-altering choice to drink and drive. They are either old enough to make all of these choices for themselves or they are not. They are either mature enough or they're not. It's a package deal.

Anyone who has spent a Friday night on a college campus since 1984 knows 18- to 20-year-olds haven't stopped drinking. Instead, underage college students now feel a need to hide from authorities. Students are afraid to take friends to the hospital when they've had too much to drink. They move parties off campus, far away from the university's watchful eye, allowing students to drink as much as they like without getting caught. Campus police and RAs are bad guys. With a lowered drinking age, focus can shift from punishing students to protecting them.

Telling students "no" only makes them want to drink more. It leads them to believe they are missing out on something. Alcohol must be something very special. It's the classic case of a toddler sneaking a cookie before dinner. A higher drinking age doesn't teach students how to drink responsibly, it teaches them how to drink clandestinely. Allow parents to introduce alcohol to their teenagers. Let it be an issue in the home, where parents can supervise and teach before entrusting their children to a world of frat parties and pre-games. There is no age that miraculously ensures a person is mature enough to drink. Maturity grows with time and experience. Let experience being "under-the-influence" begin while students are still under the influence of their parents, and suddenly drinking in college doesn't seem like such a rebellion anymore.

—Nelly Todd is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at nelly.p.todd@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

School rankings obsolete

When U.S. News and World Report announced last month Vanderbilt ranked 18th among national universities, there was little discussion about the merits (or lack thereof) of this ranking. After all, Vanderbilt has found itself consistently within the "top 20" for a generation, so a tie with peer universities Emory and Notre Dame would probably arouse neither excitement nor disappointment.

Last week, Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education released its 2008 Academic Ranking of World Universities list, which ranked Vanderbilt 42nd academically and 34th for the top 100 North American and Latin American universities. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty was reportedly "extremely pleased" by Vanderbilt's placement, saying that the ranking "reflects the hard work and dedication of our faculty, students and staff members as well as the distinction of our alumni."

McCarty's comments indicate that university administrators are paying attention to these rankings and that this particular placement is a positive development in Vanderbilt's mission to remain a world-class university. With the implementation of the Commons and the assurance that every new freshman class is the "best" freshmen class in Vanderbilt history, it would come as no surprise No. 42 is the result of a trend of increasingly better rankings on this list of the top 500 universities in the world.

In fact, Vanderbilt's academic ranking in 2008 is the worst in the last five years. In 2003, our university was ranked ten places higher at 32, which dropped to 38 for 2004 and 2005, and down again in 2006 and 2007 to 41. The trend has practically been in reverse to what casual observers would expect and Vanderbilt officials interested in university rankings would hope.

What accounts for this change? The two researchers from Shanghai Jiao Tong who compile the list supposedly use a mathematical formula based on a number of factors, including the number of Nobel Prize and Fields Medal winners among alumni and faculty, the frequency faculty are published in various journals, and the "per capita academic performance" of institutions. A Romanian researcher published in a 2007 edition of *Scientometrics* that the rankings made by the Shanghai Jiao Tong researchers were "irreproducible," echoing sentiments among many others about the nature of this and other university ranking systems.

But what if the rankings are solid, and Vanderbilt's slow decline over the past few years indicates that with all the advances, our university is falling behind the rest of the world? If this is the case, McCarty's words ring hollow. A relatively "good" ranking is still that, but are Vanderbilt students, alumni faculty, and administrators resting on their top 50 laurels while the rest of the world's leading universities are advancing at a better rate?

In all likelihood, the Academic Ranking of World Universities list is generated by a flawed system that fails to take into account so many unquantifiable aspects of a university's success. Vanderbilt's recent fall may mean that our administrators are setting different goals than the researchers at one Chinese university have in mind, and it may turn out that these goals are to our own benefit.

It would be refreshing, then, to hear Provost McCarty and other concerned university officials dismiss the rankings as an indicator of not much of anything. In terms of Vanderbilt's goals, its aspirations and its identity, it would be better for us to give a respectful nod to the Shanghai Jiao Tong researchers before ignoring the implications of a meaningless ranking.

Republicans pumped up for Palin



FRANNIE BOYLE
Columnist

A week after giving his record-breaking speech, it was probably frustrating for Sen. Barack Obama to see the GOP host the most watched televised convention in history. Sen. John McCain's speech unexpectedly attracted about the same number of viewers as Obama's speech, but this was not the big shocker. Gov. Sarah Palin's speech attracted an unbelievable audience and gave a lot of momentum to the Republican National Convention as a whole.

McCain's speech Thursday night was not his best, but it did the job, and he was still able to satisfy an enthusiastic crowd. Palin, on the other hand, was sensational. She was hardcore, but poised. I couldn't help but think she sounded like a mother with a tone that was approachable, yet firm. She also managed to make the speech serious and light-hearted at the same time, and even when the teleprompter broke, she kept it all together.

Even before she began, Palin's audience was very enthusiastic, and unlike McCain, she was able to feed into that enthusiasm throughout the entire speech. She spent time speaking about McCain, and his label as the "comeback candidate." She then introduced her family and included a little background information about them, and covered her political experience.

She addressed the claims that her past experience makes her less qualified for the vice presidency, and she made sure to bring Obama's lack of experience to the table as well: "I guess a small-town mayor is sort of like a community organizer, except that you have actual responsibilities." She also compared Obama's experience to McCain's: "... listening to him speak, it's easy to forget that this is a man who has authored two memoirs but not a single major ... This is a man who can give an entire speech about the wars America is fighting and never use the word 'Victory' — except when he's talking about his own campaign."

Palin made sure to distance herself from the Washington elite. She stressed the importance of the power of the veto, especially when it came to spending, and she also covered her value for tax reform and the importance of energy independence. She then associated Obama with the Washington elite, and slammed his tendency of speaking differently to people with different backgrounds. She also shed light on his lack of a solid plan: "But when the cloud of rhetoric has passed ... when the roar of the crowd fades away ... when the stadium lights go out, and those Styrofoam Greek columns are hauled back to some studio — what exactly is our opponent's plan?"

Palin threw many rhetorical punches at Obama. Usually, I would not think very highly of a speech that pointed so much fun at an opposing candidate, but when looking at Obama's campaign, there really is a lot to laugh about. McCain can rise above this and stick to the issues, but now he can use Palin's style to remind the people of America how ridiculous the foundation of Obama's campaign really is. During her speech, Palin addressed Harry Reid's statement, "I can't stand John McCain." Palin replied to this with, "Ladies and gentlemen, perhaps no accolade we hear this week is better proof that we've chosen the right man." This statement, and so many others made throughout her speech, has been successful at mobilizing the Republican Party again, and restoring their enthusiasm for this election.

—Frannie Boyle is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at mary.f.boyle@vanderbilt.edu.

THE VERDICT <small>Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff! Compiled by Thomas Shattuck</small>		
Britney Spears		Britney is making a tremendous comeback by opening the upcoming VMAs. However, when your comeback involves the Jonas Brothers, you know you're not going to go very far.
Nicolas Cage		He's made a lot of terrible, terrible films. Seriously, "National Treasure" has secured his place in hell. Unfortunately, it looks like "Bangkok Dangerous" is next in his long line of trash.
Derek Willan		"Greek Rural Postmen and Their Cancellation Numbers" won the title on Friday of the oddest book title of the past 30 years. It barely came ahead of "How to Avoid Huge Ships".
Ike		After ravaging Haiti like a noncompliant prostitute, Ike promises to rock the U.S. literally like a hurricane. After Haiti, Ike plans to take on Cuba and then move onto Florida.

Study abroad expands horizons

MICHAEL YOUNG
Guest Columnist

I spent my spring semester studying abroad at Sophia University in Tokyo. Every morning I woke up, sipped a bowl of miso soup, and made my way to the subway where I stood for over an hour, packed into the car much like a sardine in a tin can. I would make a series of three transfers before finally arriving at the university, located in the middle of Yotsuya, a district near the Imperial Palace.

Having been raised in Cleveland, Tenn., I found myself completely unprepared for one of the most cramped cities in the world. But as I adjusted to the seas of businessmen and kanji characters, I found I felt more in touch with humanity than ever. The sheer amount of energy surrounding me during rush-hour traffic remained a profound experience every day.

When asked what they think about "study abroad," most people immediately begin

to describe the stereotypical image of a "Eurotrip" — unwashed college kids hopping on subways, sleeping in train stations and having late-night conversations in dingy hostels. Study abroad is more than that. Study abroad is about adopting a new lifestyle, engaging in the day-to-day activities of a culture different from your own.

Of course there are classes, credits and many of the same college conventions, but the truly important lessons come from seeing and understanding your own life in a different context. A liberal arts education is about being able to see the world from what can oftentimes be confronting perspectives, and there's no better way to learn how to do that than geographically separating yourself from life-long biases and assumptions.

I truly believe studying abroad is a journey every student should make. There's a lot of planning involved, and yes, you'll be away from the good old Vanderbilt Bubble for a whole semester, but the personal insights you'll

gain will be well worth the effort. Most of us will graduate, join the workforce and go on a few great vacations. But rarely will we ever again have the opportunity to put our lives on hold and try a new one.

I was surprised to find I was the only Vanderbilt student in Japan last spring. I'm not saying Japan is the destination for everyone, but Tokyo is undoubtedly one of the biggest, most exciting and, honestly, strangest cities in the world, and I'm sure I'm not the only person who could benefit from living there.

That being said, Vanderbilt has a huge variety of programs in countries all the way from England to Beijing; there really is a destination for everyone. All you have to do is be brave, take a chance. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I guarantee you'll never regret it.

—Michael Young is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at michael.w.young@vanderbilt.edu.

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page 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, arguments in bad faith or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in the Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com. Letters via e-mail must come from

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. 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 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.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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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United States Senate
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(615) 736-5129

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker
United States Senate
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(202) 224-3344
(615) 279-9488

Rep. Jim Cooper
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(615) 736-5295

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(615) 741-2380

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(615) 673-4210

THE BACK PAGE



FROM MICROBES TO THE GALAXY 2008



VUSR/SyBBURE PRESENTATIONS

ALL are invited to view poster presentations of this year's participants in both the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program (VUSR), and the Systems Biology/Bioengineering Undergraduate Research Experience (SyBBURE). These poster marvels span the range of undergraduate academic majors. Come join the adventure in the **COMMODORE BALLROOM, STUDENT LIFE CENTER** **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008, 4-5:30p.m.**
Serving Light Refreshments

SUDOKU: To solve, fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

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09/5/08 SOLUTIONS

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HOT YOGA NASHVILLE

COOLEST THING IN FITNESS!

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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7:45	7:45	7:45				

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Mongrel dog
 - Arthur of tennis
 - Beam forming a roof's framework
 - Small bill
 - Put away, as cargo
 - Desert gully
 - Resistance unit
 - Seasoning herb
 - Intensify
 - Slip-on shoes
 - Wind indicator
 - First-born sibling
 - Ceramics
 - Colorists
 - Kitty
 - With regrets
 - Party's choice
 - Light gas
 - Waikiki garland
 - Dilapidated dwelling
 - Ripen
 - Famous cookie man
 - London stage
 - Ab exercise
 - Travelers' stopover
 - New York Bay island
 - Theatrical look
 - Most despicable
 - Equipment
 - Die
 - Designers' IDs
 - Sprint race
 - Engage in litigation
 - Mistreats
 - Religious ritual
 - Moray or conger
 - Military lookout
 - Cold War power
 - '60s radical org.

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9/8/08

9/5/08 SOLUTIONS

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- DOWN**
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 - Big motorcycles

- Lamb's mom
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- Mona or Morgan
- Surpass
- Watch closely
- Silver or Howard
- Plant with fronds
- Old hand
- Satisfied
- Concept
- Drain obstruction
- "Auld Lang ___"
- More concise and meaningful
- Thick pad
- Have a meal
- Aberdeen girl
- Discharge
- Small amount
- Sermonizer
- Propose

- Otherwise
- Kitchen gadget
- Tenants' contracts
- Published
- Toughens up
- Impertinent
- Defeats
- Lecture platform
- Spanish article
- Actor Vigoda
- Bread roll
- "Red River" co-star Joanne

Seniorfest

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4:30-6:30pm
on Alumni Lawn

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Class of 2009 Student Alumni Board

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- Seniorfest t-shirts
- Photo Booth
- Info on the Senior Class Fund & Student Alumni Association

Questions? Contact: christina.m.barnes@vanderbilt.edu

Here's one committee that makes a real difference.

The Senior Class Fund is the gift the Class of '09 will present to the university in May. As a member of the Senior Class Fund Committee, you'll play a big role in shaping the legacy our class leaves behind.

Plus you'll help in planning the special events and gatherings that will make our senior year even more memorable. It's a real opportunity to show your Commodore pride!

Learn more or sign up for the Senior Class Fund Committee by joining us at one of these information sessions:

- Wednesday, September 10, 5 p.m.**
Sarratt Student Center, Room 110
- Tuesday, September 23, 5 p.m.**
Sarratt Student Center, Room 325
- Wednesday, September 24, 7 p.m.**
Sarratt Student Center, Room 363

You can also sign up on our Web site: www.vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund. Sign-up deadline is September 30.

To find out more, contact us at seniorclassfund@vanderbilt.edu.

VANDERBILT

Senior Class Fund 2009

SPORTS

Cross country starts off on right track



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Vanderbilt women's cross country team begins its 4K race on Friday afternoon at Percy Warner Park. The Commodores took first place in the race, with sophomore Rita Jorgensen coming in first place overall with a time of 14:32.

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist

Vanderbilt cross country coach Steve Keith said before the Belmont-VU opener Friday that the race would give his runners an assessment of where they were competitively. After strong performances from the men's and women's teams, it looks as though they're on the right track to be major contenders in the Southeastern Conference.

Despite rainy, sloppy conditions, the Vanderbilt cross country teams took giant steps in their first races of the year at the Belmont-VU opener at Percy Warner Park on Friday.

Led by sophomore Rita Jorgensen's first-place finish with a time of 14:32, the women's team took first overall in the 4K race. In the same event last year, Jorgensen finished fourth and the team came in second overall. The Commodores' average time of 14:55 in Friday's race was 20 seconds better than second-place Tennessee, although which team wins the race is not determined by time but by what place the runners come in. Although the University of Alabama-Birmingham had a stronger average time amongst their runners (15:12) than the Volunteers (15:15), Tennessee's runners' better overall place in the race put them over the Blazers.



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt's Matt Long runs during a rainy afternoon in the Belmont-VU opener Friday afternoon. The men's team took third place in the race behind Belmont and Middle Tennessee State.

Junior Thomas Davis paced the men's team, coming in ninth place overall and leading the Commodores to a third-place team finish behind fellow Tennessee schools Belmont and Middle Tennessee State in the men's 5K race. His time of 15:55 was an impressive 20 seconds faster than his time at the Belmont-VU opener in 2007, and the Commodores improved their overall performance

greatly from a year ago. "This year may be our best team yet, despite losing four seniors (from last season)," Davis said. "I'm hoping to pull along my teammates so we can have a strong showing and surprise some SEC competition." The heavy rain during the race nearly damaged Vanderbilt media equipment at the event when a tent collapsed, and many onlookers were in ponchos.

With the course slippery from all the precipitation, race times were adversely affected. "The rain made the course more sloppy," Davis said. "In turn, runners lose their momentum more frequently. Still, cross country isn't so much a sport about time as it is about place. Everyone is racing in the same conditions." With both teams running well in the opener, the Commodores

are going to be dangerous to run against throughout the fall as they prepare for the Southeastern Conference and NCAA Championships starting in November. The teams race again on Sept. 20 at the Commodore Classic in Nashville. ■ Adam Weinstein contributed to this article.

Around the SEC

LSU game put on hold

by NICK GALLO
Sports Contributor

Hurricane Gustav left many on the Gulf Coast in need, and it also threw off many events throughout the area. One such event was the Louisiana State University football game against Troy University, which was supposed to be held in Baton Rouge on Saturday. LSU's Tiger Stadium was damaged and Baton Rouge was battered, causing problems that would have made playing extremely difficult. Both LSU and Troy had an open date on Nov. 15, so the decision to postpone the game until then was an easy one. After the Tigers' week off, they will face North Texas on Sept. 13.

MORENO RUNS WILD

Georgia running back Knowshon Moreno ran for a career-high-tying three touchdowns against Central Michigan on Saturday, as the No. 2 Bulldogs cruised to a 56-17 victory. The Heisman Trophy candidate also caught three passes for 30 yards and ran for 168 yards, led by one touchdown rush of 52 yards. Further cementing himself as one of the elite running backs in the country, Moreno now has six touchdowns in two games. The red-shirt sophomore had over 1,300 yards rushing during his freshman season, and is leading the No. 2-ranked Bulldogs, one of the favorites to win the national championship this season.

OLE MISS SNATCHES DEFEAT FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY

Traveling to 20th-ranked Wake Forest, Mississippi was hoping to compete, and with one minute remaining they had the game all but won. After a wild, scrambling touchdown pass by the Rebels' Jevan Snead put the Demon Deacons behind 28-27, all Mississippi had to do was keep Wake Forest from getting the ball into field goal position. After a few short passes the Demon Deacons were close to striking territory, but still too far away for a potentially game-winning field goal. A deep pass from Wake Forest quarterback Riley Skinner fell incomplete, but flags flew as Ole Miss' Marshay Green was called for pass interference. This gave the Demon Deacons the yards they needed to get close enough for the victory-clinching field goal by Sam Swank.

DID YOU KNOW?

Florida beat in-state rival Miami for the first time since 1985, 26-3 ... Vanderbilt is 2-0 for the second time since 1989 ... Nick Saban earned his 100th career victory over the weekend against Tulane ... Arkansas has beaten Western Illinois and Louisiana-Monroe by a combined total of five points this season ... The SEC is 17-3 against non-conference opponents this season. ■

Baseball's recruiting class continues to grow

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor

Coach Tim Corbin and Vanderbilt's baseball team currently has five public commitments to the program, with more likely on the horizon in the near future.

The group is headlined by Connor Harrell, a 6-foot-3-inch, 190-pound outfielder from Houston. With very good speed and power, Harrell has a batting average of .428 for his career with 23 doubles, 12 triples and four home runs.

Anthony Gomez of Nutley, N.J. is a 6-foot, 180-pound shortstop/third baseman who can make contact to all fields. Perfect Game USA, baseball's largest scouting service, rates him as

an elite prospect with definite professional potential. He is also a solid pitcher with a fastball in the upper 80s.

Vanderbilt fans may recognize Regan Flaherty of Portland, Maine due to his family ties. Older brother Ryan Flaherty was a star shortstop for the Commodores from 2006-08, and was drafted in the second round (41st overall) by the Chicago Cubs in the 2008 MLB Amateur Draft. At 6-foot-1-inch and 165-pounds, Flaherty is noticeably smaller than his brother, but he has the bloodlines to continue the family tradition in the Black and Gold.

Nathan "Nate" Gonzalez is a 5-foot-



CORBIN

9-inch, 195-pound catcher out of Clermont, Fla. Very solid defensively, Gonzales is also a capable hitter with above-average speed for his position.

The newest commitment to the Commodores is Jack DeAno of Wheaton, Ill. A 5-foot-11-inch, 180-pound right-handed pitcher, he throws the ball in the upper 80s and is also a capable outfielder if called upon. He has excellent speed and is a strong batter as well. DeAno is a standout on the gridiron in the same conference as Commodore football commitment Charlie Goro.

Major League Baseball has a different draft system than any other professional sport, giving high school- and college-aged athletes the opportunity to declare for the draft without losing their college

eligibility. If an athlete enters the draft and is selected, he has the option of either signing with that team or honoring his college commitment.

Vanderbilt recruits have historically been very successful in improving their draft stocks by coming to Vanderbilt, as evidenced by 2007 top overall pick David Price (originally drafted in the 19 round in 2004) and 2008 second overall pick Pedro Alvarez (14 round in 2005).

NCAA bylaws prohibit coaches, athletes and staff members from commenting on a recruit until he signs a National Letter of Intent. The Hustler will get Coach Corbin's thoughts on his recruiting class once the athletes have officially signed with Vanderbilt. ■



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