



ELECTION 2008: Check out the schedule for activities around the debate. SEE PAGE 3

LEADERSHIP: Souls for Soles walks the walk for aid in the Nashville area with shoe donations. SEE PAGE 4

VANDY GAMEDAY: 19 VANDERBILT 14 13 AUBURN 13

5-0? Oh, hell yeah



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt tight end Brandon Barden (87) is mobbed by teammates after hauling in a 1-yard touchdown catch from Mackenzi Adams in the third quarter of action between Vanderbilt and Auburn on Saturday. The touchdown and extra point gave the Commodores a 14-13 lead they wouldn't relinquish as they moved to 5-0 for the first time in 65 years.

Backup quarterback Adams rallies Vanderbilt from 13 points down to stay perfect.

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist

A 13-0 deficit against one of the best defenses in the nation and then an injured starting quarterback might be too much to overcome for some teams.

Just not this team. Just when it seemed Vanderbilt couldn't produce any more miracles, there the Commodores were again Saturday night, dancing and celebrating on the field in front of throngs of screaming fans after a 14-13 victory over Auburn Saturday night.

Even the usually stoic Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson admitted he was excited. "It was a tough battle and I was proud of the way our guys hung in there," said Johnson. "This is what coaches live for."

The Commodores overcame their biggest deficit of the season en route to their first 5-0 start since 1943. Also, Vanderbilt (5-0, 3-0

Southeastern Conference) rose to No. 13 in the Associated Press top 25 and started 3-0 in SEC play for the first time since 1950.

Despite the knack for coming from behind they've shown in 2008, the Commodores didn't look like they had a prayer after the first few minutes. In the first quarter, the Tigers outgained Vanderbilt 126-17 and led 13-0 only due to a missed extra point try after their second touchdown.

After redshirt senior quarterback Chris Nickson aggravated a shoulder injury, it was down to backup Mackenzi Adams to rise to the occasion, and he did just that.

The fiery redshirt junior ignited an offense that had been smothered, leading a short drive and throwing a 15-yard touchdown pass to redshirt junior Justin Wheeler to slice the deficit to 13-7 going into halftime.

In the third quarter, Adams gave Vanderbilt the lead for good with a risky but accurate floater to tight end redshirt freshman Brandon Barden in the back of the end zone for the decisive touchdown.

"It was a little dangerous," Adams said of the throw. "(Barden) made a great play on the ball."

Adams threw for 153 yards, the most by a

Commodore signal-caller all season.

"I just prepared myself to start," Adams said. "It's just a good feeling to be able come in and help this team."

The consummate competitor, Adams has shown that he's ready to play whenever called upon while at Vanderbilt.

"He didn't miss a beat," Johnson said. "I've always said he's a competitor and a gamer, and he likes to get in the game. When he gets a chance, he's going to try to make sure he does something."

Senior receiver George Smith, who caught two passes for 21 yards in his first game back from a stress fracture, had no doubt in Adams' abilities to come through.

"Mackenzi is clutch," Smith said. "He always knows he's got to be ready. He watches and he learns, and he's always ready."

The Commodores are ready for anything these days, and they'll need to maintain that focus going into Mississippi State. With a high ranking, Vanderbilt won't be sneaking up on anybody anymore this season.

"You can't rest," Johnson said. "I think that's the way in the SEC right now, nobody can rest." ■

ELECTION 2008

McCain, Obama about even in Tenn. fundraising

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—National Republican candidates usually have an overwhelming fundraising advantage in Tennessee. Not this year.

Campaign finance records show Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama has almost equaled Republican John McCain's fundraising prowess in Tennessee.

Both candidates have raised

about \$1.8 million from the Volunteer State, even though polls show McCain with a large lead.

Vanderbilt University political scientist John Geer said McCain's fundraising activity may be hampered because people who might otherwise contribute think he doesn't need the money to win Tennessee.

Geer said while Obama may be doing better than expected

with his fundraising, it's unlikely he will be able to prevail in Tennessee on Election Day. But Tuesday's presidential debate in Nashville means Tennessee won't be completely out of the national spotlight.

"Tennessee will have its day in the sun," Geer said. "But it's not going to be tied to a competitive election."

While the two candidates have pulled in similar amounts, Obama has tapped more than

twice as many individual contributions than McCain.

Obama donor Natasha Blackshear, a Nashville attorney, noted that the Democrat's campaign has been diligent in going after contributions.

Tennessee Republican Party spokesman Bill Hobbs said he expects McCain's fundraising to pick up along with help from the Republican National Committee. ■

Presidential debate: What to watch for

compiled by: KATHERINE MILLER



With no clear winner in the first debate and major financial issues in the oven, both Barack Obama and John McCain want to distinguish themselves in the Belmont debate. August's Saddleback Forum with Rick Warren may serve as a decent model for the debate. Obama will probably lean more toward intellectual, pragmatic responses that could be short on decisiveness, McCain more towards anecdotal, witty responses with forceful answers that can be a little too strong for some.

For live blogs of the debate, reactions and more from Vanderbilt students, check out the Election 2008 special coverage at <http://www.insidevandy.com/specialfeatures/election2008>.

EDGE	FORMAT	EDGE
	McCain spent half the summer trying to get Obama to participate in town hall forums around the country and operates a lot of his campaign events in the question and answer format; Obama tends to prefer speeches and is more suited to the traditional format.	
LOCATION		
	While Tennessee is in the heartland of the conservative South, Davidson County went blue in 2004, and the debate will feature questions from between 80 and 120 legitimately undecided voters chosen by the Gallup Group from Davidson and surrounding counties.	
HEALTHCARE		
	Next to McCain's vague \$5,000 healthcare credit, Obama's more nuanced plan for universal healthcare sounds more substantial, particularly to an undecided voter.	
ECONOMY		
	Even though McCain polls better on taxes and led efforts on the bailout, his policies are tied too closely to those of George W. Bush's and the past few months to make much headway with voters. Some of Obama's more populist rhetoric — like the distribution of Big Oil's windfall profits — will resonate with voters.	
FOREIGN POLICY		
	McCain's foreign policy knowledge and national security strengths cannot be underestimated or matched by Obama, but given the recent state of the American economy and the debate's town-hall format, foreign policy will likely see less play this week.	
GAS SHORTAGE		
	We still don't have enough gas, and we can't steal Brentwood's. Energy is Obama's weakest issue, with huge taxpayer investment in alternative energy. Look for McCain to reiterate his "All of the Above" policy.	
"ENGLISH FIRST"		
	The Nashville ballot initiative to limit government and many business operations to only English is a no win situation for McCain. He's called McAmnesty by the Right, but Obama polls better with Latino voters. Watch for both to reject "English First."	
THE BAILOUT		
	Half of Tennessee's representatives voted "no" on the original bailout — only one switched for the passed bailout. Both McCain and Obama voted for the bailout (McCain even led the charge for it), and promise more regulation.	
OVERALL		
	Who won the Ole Miss debate largely predicated on one's political bias; the town hall style plays to McCain's strengths, but with Obama leading on almost every major issue and with the continued decline of the economy, external factors may negate any victories McCain has Tuesday night.	

THE VERDICT: O.J. Simpson and David Hasselhoff can't get a break; plus, life may or may not be bad. SEE PAGE 6



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by HANNAH TWILLMAN

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TODAY



HIGH 87, LOW 58
Mostly sunny

TUESDAY



HIGH 87, LOW 65
Partly cloudy

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SERVICE GUIDE

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NEWS BRIEFS

GOP to file fundraising complaint against Obama for shady donors

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Republican National Committee plans to file a fundraising complaint against Democrat Barack Obama's presidential campaign Monday, alleging it has accepted donations that exceed federal limits as well as illegal contributions from foreigners.

RNC officials acknowledged Sunday that they do not have a list of foreign donors to Obama's campaign. Instead, the complaint is based largely on media reports, including one from the conservative Web site Newsmax.

The complaint asks the Federal Elections Commission to audit Obama's campaign fund, RNC chief counsel Sean Cairncross said in a conference call with reporters.

Cairncross said little is known about many of Obama's donors because the campaign is not required to disclose detailed information about people who give less than \$200.

The Obama campaign, which is not accepting public funds, has raised more than \$468 million. About half has come from small donors, a point of pride for the Obama campaign.

The Obama campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Americans eye bailout, and continue cutting back on spending

Relief on Wall Street over the hard-won passage of a \$700 billion bailout package for the financial system apparently hasn't yet trickled down to the pubs, storefronts, car lots and malls of Main Street.

Many Americans spent an uneasy weekend wondering whether the rescue would help in time — or at all — and trying to figure out where next to cut back as the economic screws tighten.

Would financing come through for the new washing machine? Could the old car hold out another year? Would a nice dinner out bust the budget?

"People are afraid," said Linda Morrow, who owns a shoe and handbag store in a Dallas mall. "People basically don't know what the future will bring. They're afraid to spend. They want to see what the bailout will do. They're waiting till after the election."

In more than two dozen interviews with The Associated Press across the country over the weekend, Americans described those concerns, from tighter personal credit to worries about small businesses to doubts about simply making ends meet.

Europeans scramble to save failing banks amid global financial crisis

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Germany joined Ireland and Greece on Sunday in guaranteeing all private bank accounts, putting Europe's biggest economy at odds with calls for a unified European response to the global financial meltdown.

The decision came as governments across Europe scrambled to save failing banks, working largely on their own a day after leaders of the continent's four biggest economies called for tighter regulation and a coordinated response.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said that no citizen should fear for the safety of their investments, speaking to reporters as her government held crisis talks on the collapse of a ballyhooed €35 billion (US\$48.4 billion) bailout of Hypo Real Estate AG, the country's second-biggest property lender.

German Finance Ministry spokesman Torsten Albig said the unlimited guarantee covered some €568 billion (US\$785 billion) in savings and checking accounts as well as time deposits, or CDs.

In Iceland — particularly hard-hit by the credit crunch — government officials and banking chiefs were discussing a possible rescue plan for the country's overstretched commercial banks.

Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme said he aims to find a new owner for troubled bank Fortis NV to restore confidence in the company before the opening of markets on Monday.

White Sox beat Rays, close playoff deficit to 2-1 in American League

CHICAGO (AP)—Thanks to John Danks and the White Sox, Chicago still has one team standing.

For the second time in less than a week, Danks pitched a strong game to save the season as the White Sox beat Tampa Bay 5-3 Sunday and trimmed the Rays' lead in the opening-round AL playoff series to 2-1.

"If Danks loses in either game he pitches, we're not here right now," manager Ozzie Guillen said.

Game 4 in the best-of-five matchup is Monday in Chicago, with Gavin Floyd facing Tampa Bay's Andy Sonnanstine.

"We're going to put a lot of pressure on them," Guillen added.

Less than 24 hours after the Cubs were swept out of the playoffs by the Dodgers, dashing Chicago's hopes for a crosstown World Series, the White Sox avoided elimination before a black-shirted, white towel-waving crowd of 40,142 in their home park.

Simpson jury: We didn't need witnesses to convict

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Jurors who convicted O.J. Simpson of armed robbery and kidnapping in Las Vegas say they relied more on video and other documented evidence than on witness testimony.

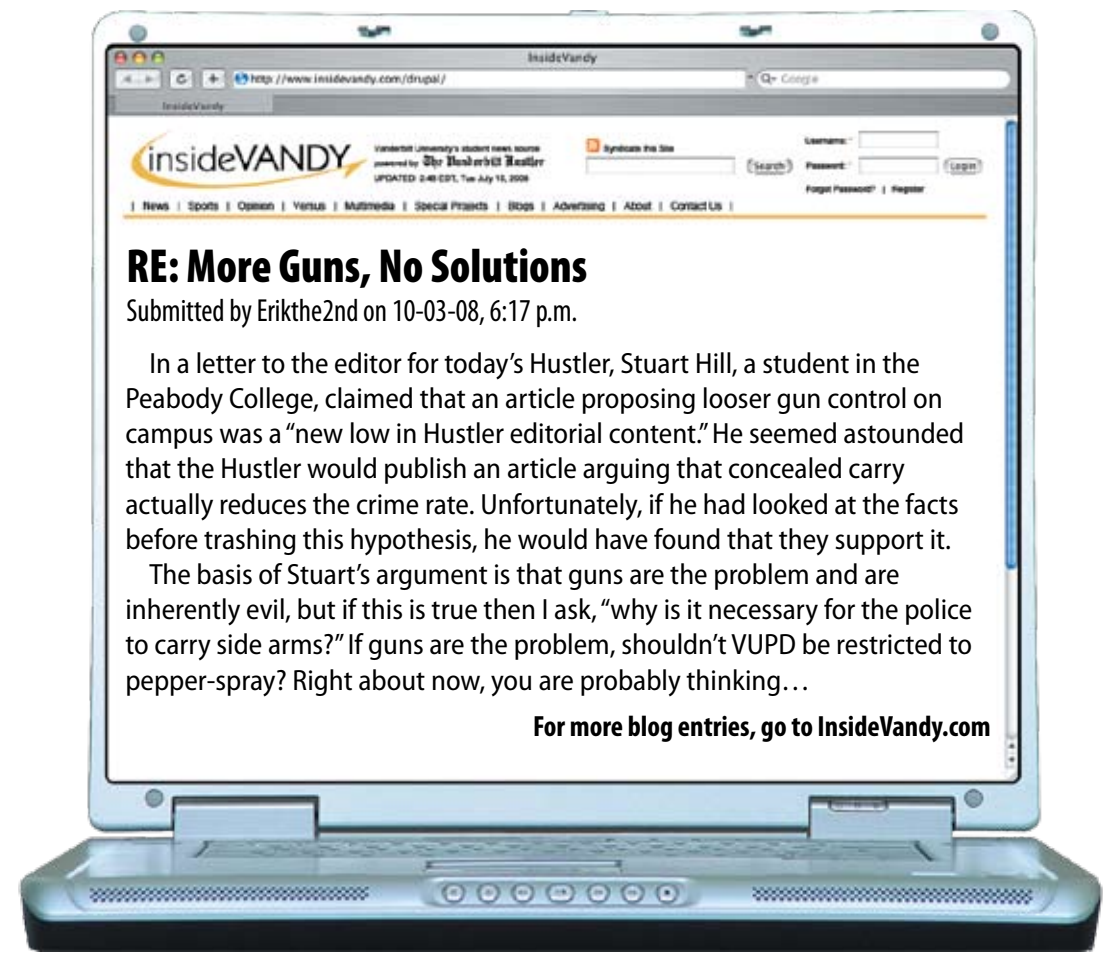
Juror Michelle Lyons said Sunday that the panelists felt they "could not rely on that witness testimony."

She says jurors instead used video, audio and documented evidence to evaluate whether Simpson was guilty of each of 12 counts. She was one of seven jurors to speak to reporters.

Jury foreman Paul Connelly says it might have been a waste for prosecutors to give plea deals to several Simpson co-defendants in exchange for their testimony.

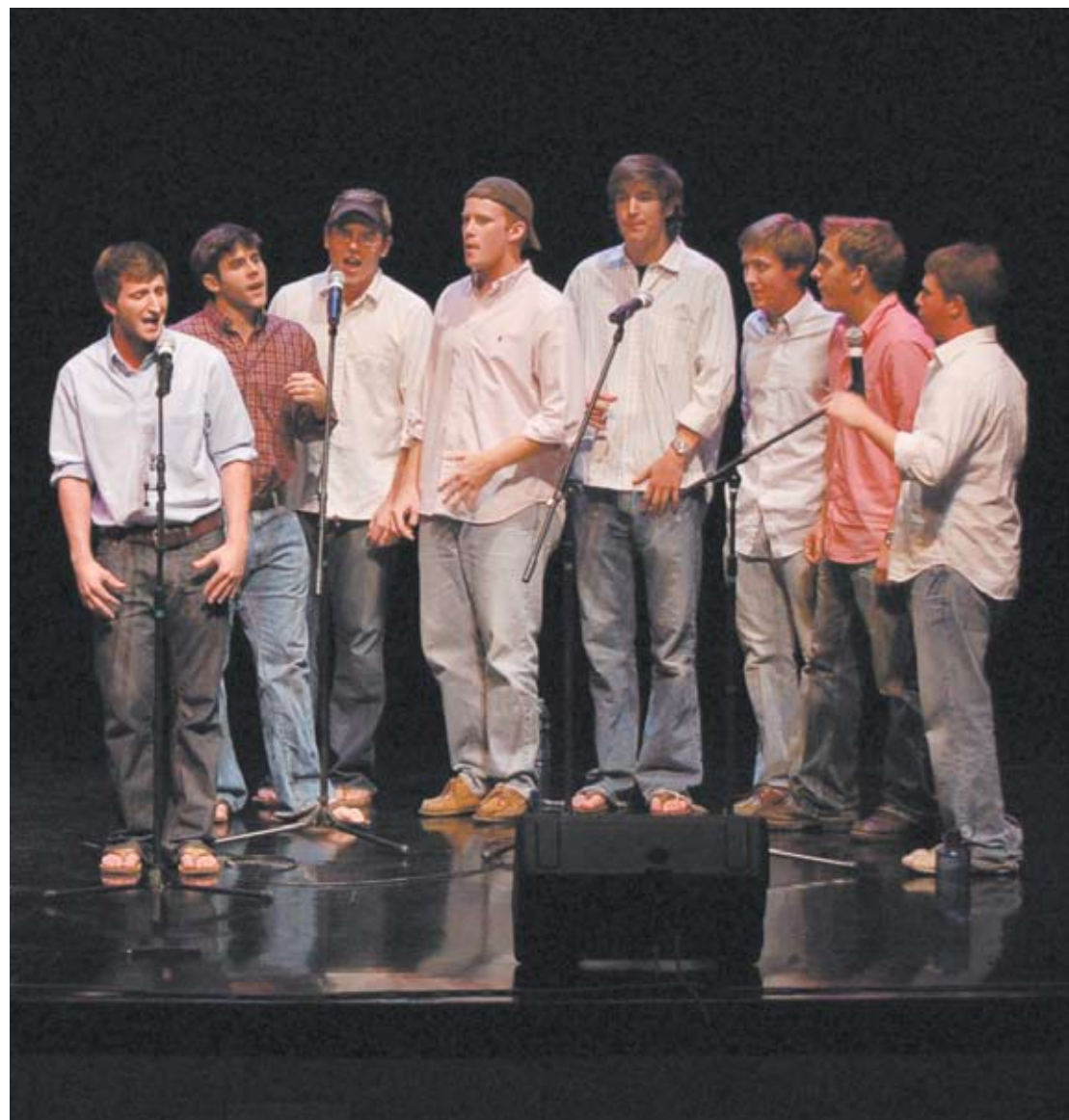
The 61-year-old Simpson was convicted Friday of charges stemming from a hotel room last year. Sentencing is set for December.

FROM THE BLOG



SNAPSHOT

ATHENIAN SING



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
The all-male a-cappella group, the Dodecaphonics sang Panic at the Disco's "Nine in the Afternoon" at Athenian Sing, the annual talent competition held by the Athenian Junior Honors Society. The Dodecs won the competition, and will give their prize to Mannafit.

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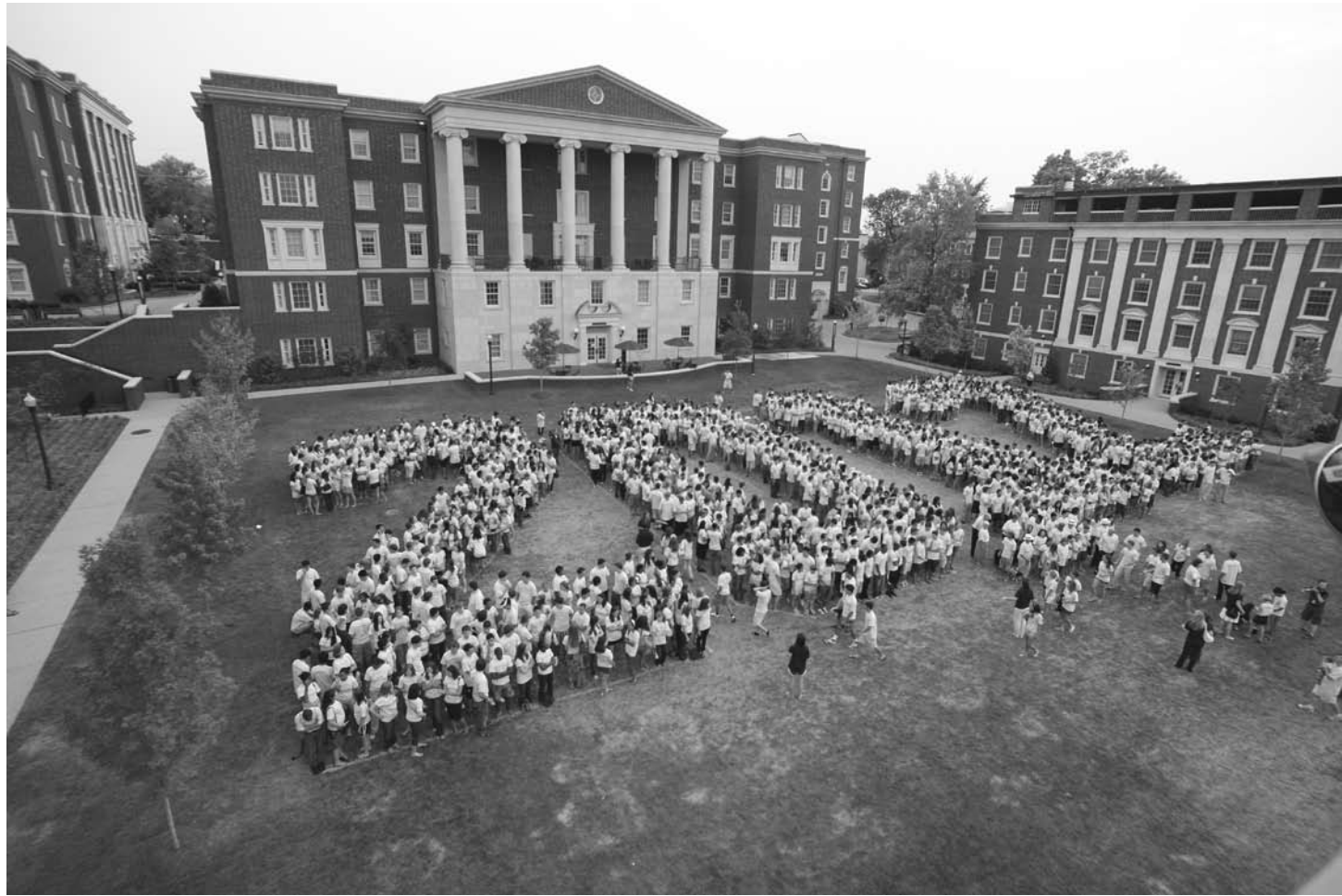
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CAMPUS LIVING

First-years install a time capsule at Commons



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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by **ETHEL MICKEY**
News Contributor

As part of the Family Weekend activities, the incoming class installed a time capsule on Friday to be opened in the year 2058.

Each of the 10 Commons houses added an item to the capsule during a ceremony at The Commons Center. Memorable items included an MP3 player from Gillette House, loaded with a song selected by each of the residents. Sutherland House added a toy fire truck, symbolizing the countless number of times the fire alarms have gone off in the house.

Vanderbilt Student Government President Joseph Williams contributed to the capsule on behalf of the entire undergraduate student body, adding three recent editions of the Hustler, a VSG T-shirt and a Go Greek T-shirt. His items represented the partnership on Vanderbilt's campus between the many student organizations, as well as the strong bonds formed among students through Greek life.

Dean of the Commons Frank Wcislo added a letter, signed by all of the Faculty Heads of Houses, written to the future Vanderbilt community. Chancellor Nick

Zeppos added an acorn, the symbol of Vanderbilt and also representative of the growth Vanderbilt will experience over the course of 50 years.

"The chancellor and dean both spoke well about the future of Vanderbilt, what the time capsule means to us, and I got really excited about it," said Gillette House President first-year student David Curran.

The time capsule will be placed in an airtight container and installed by the side door entrance inside The Commons Center, where it will remain for the next 50 years. ■

ELECTION 2008

Debate Schedule

Compiled by HANNAH TWILLMAN

With the 2008 presidential election candidates coming to town for the second presidential debate on Tuesday, national attention is turned to Nashville. And even though the town-hall-style debate will be held at Belmont University, there are still several ways for Vanderbilt students to get involved.

MONDAY, OCT. 6

• **"This Is What Women Want"**

As part of its "This Is What Women Want" series focusing on the issues that matter most to real women, the Center for New Words will hold a pre-debate speak-out at the University Club. The speak-out will start at 5 p.m.

• **Third party candidates debate**

Professor Bruce Barry will moderate a debate of several third party presidential candidates, including Brad Lyttle, Charles Jay, Gloria LaRiva, Frank McEnulty, Darrell Castle and Brian Moore. The debate, hosted by the Coalition for October Debate Alternatives, will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in Room 4309 in Stevenson Center.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7

• **"The 2008 Presidential Election: Where We Stand and Where We Are Headed"**

The First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt will host a forum of national experts, including Mike Allen, John Geer, Howard Fineman, John Harwood, Joe Klein and Richard Stengel, who will discuss their thoughts on the 2008 presidential election. John Seigenthaler and Harold Ford Jr. will lead the discussion. The panel, open only to Vanderbilt students, will last from 10 a.m. to noon.

• **Debate viewing parties**

The Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center will host a debate viewing party that will include refreshments, mingling before the debate and discussion afterward. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m.

THE COMMONS CENTER

Immediately following a viewing party, faculty members Stephen Buckles, John English, Cynthia Paschal and Vanessa Beasley will participate in a panel discussion of the debate. The viewing and discussion will be held in the Multipurpose Room in the Commons Center and will begin at 8 p.m.



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9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00		
4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
6:15	6:15	6:15	6:15			6:15
7:45	7:45	7:45				

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No one can recall a more electric atmosphere inside Vanderbilt Stadium. You set the pace by arriving early, cheering loudly and perhaps as significant as anything else, winning with class. And wasn't it fun!

We now fully realize what is possible when we work together to showcase our great University. Let's continue to strive for excellence in everything we do and let's get ready for the next game. It's Good to be Gold!

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LEADERSHIP

Organization sends aid through shoes

by LILY CHEN
Leadership Specialist

They're out of style, too big, too small, pinch your feet. Whatever the reason, those unused shoes that get buried in the back of closets can easily be taken for granted. Soles for Souls, a Nashville-based organization, has donated thousands of such shoes, several hundred pairs coming from the Vanderbilt community, to those in need in communities in both the United States and worldwide.

"The idea of collecting shoes for those in need is actually really simple, but through our volunteers, press and events, we were able to turn something simple into a phenomenon," said Soles for Souls Communications Director Chris Carmichael.

According to Carmichael, the organization is open to any ideas and invites everyone to work with them.

"We're happy to take any volunteer, if they want to do something creative in their community with Soles for Souls, we'll support them," Carmichael said.

At Vanderbilt, Karen Shannon, administrative assistant in the Office of Campus Recreation, took on their offer and decided to initiate her own volunteer efforts at Vanderbilt during the summer.

"I heard about Soles for Souls and decided to research it online," said Shannon. "The organization mailed me boxes and banners and signs to set up. During the summer, there was a summer camp program, and I would set up donation boxes during camp time."

The donation effort started the third week of June and ended Aug. 8. During that time, Shannon collected between 300 and 400 pairs of

shoes, ranging from dress shoes to boots to flip-flops.

"The shoes kept spilling over the boxes. When the donation time was over, my church continued to donate so my pastor allowed me to set up donation there until Oct. 12," Shannon said. "So far we have over 100 pairs."

With the recent events of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, Soles for Souls sent over 85,000 pairs of shoes to those in need and also to victims in Haiti. During Katrina, Soles for Souls collected and sent 25,000 pairs to the impacted region. Soles for Souls also sends donations to 62 other countries and works with the American Red Cross and various church groups.

"We work with the footwear industry, and various companies donate new brand name shoes," Carmichael said. "We also sponsor golf tournaments, fashion shows and we have our signature retail shoe drive where retailers let customers donate shoes and get discounts on new shoes."

Soles for Souls was started in response to the damages of the tsunami that hit southern Asia in 2004. About 60 percent of the shoes donated by companies are new. For more information, visit <http://www.soles4souls.org>.



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ACADEMICS

Study abroad for the graduate students

by BRIAN LOVE
News Contributor

Study abroad opportunities continue to grow for Vanderbilt graduate students, providing career-building and networking opportunities.

"(Graduate students studying abroad) is becoming more widespread," said Dawn Turton, executive director of the Vanderbilt International Office.

Study abroad programs are more involved for graduate students.

"It's about building long-term relationships (with future colleagues)," said Joel Harrington, assistant provost for International Affairs.

Graduate students and faculty are heavily focused on research, and in order to internationalize Vanderbilt's research collaborations, Vanderbilt is working to build

relationships between similar peer institutions in foreign countries using a "core-partner" strategy.

The Physics and Astronomy Department has established a core-partner relationship with the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

"Our strategy is to choose a very small number of institutions that match us and set up a limited number of partnerships," Turton said.

"We really are the only school who's taken this approach, and it's been very successful."

Other programs collaborate directly with the international community. The Institute of Global Health (IGH), founded in 2005 in conjunction with Emphasis, Medical Scholars and AIDS International Research Program, supports field training for medical students in rural, resource-limited environments, such as

sub-Saharan Africa.

IGH supports ongoing public health initiatives in Zambia, Mozambique, a rural region with a high prevalence of HIV, where Vanderbilt uses several rural clinics as primary care access points.

Students have initiated several international graduate student experiences, including the Lwala Community Clinic, which opened in 2007 in Rongo, Kenya, and Project Pyramid,

which seeks to alleviate poverty in developing countries through the implementation of the "bottom-up" economic ideas of Vanderbilt alumni and Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

"Not every program requires an international experience," Turton said. "You can come out of Owen with a wonderful MBA degree focused on the U.S. economic system. It depends on what you're here to do." ■

ACADEMICS

'I'm a Barbie Girl, in the Barbie World'

by LOUIS DALRYMPLE
News Contributor

On Friday, Oct. 3, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies Claire Sisco King presented Susan Stern's independent film, "Barbie Nation: An Unauthorized Tour." The film examined the evolution of Barbie and her influence society.

"Barbie Nation" observes the role of Barbie in the lives of various people, ranging from erotic Barbie "players" to Barbie artists. Throughout the film, Barbie dolls are used to depict the Virgin Mary, drug addicts with syringes, sweatshop labors and even sexual roles.

One adult Barbie "player," a term used to describe those who "play Barbie," built a fantasy Barbie town that he referred to as "Heavenly Valley," where each Barbie doll has its

own story, personality and interests. He explained that some Barbies are married, others are homosexual and others have not yet been in a relationship. He concluded by saying that all is good in "Heavenly Valley," as "there have been no divorces yet."

Entertainment aside, "Barbie Nation" provides a balanced view of both the negative and positive implications of Barbie. The film notes that, on one hand, Barbie's nearly unattainably perfect looks and proportions may have negatively influenced how young girls think about their bodies. One woman in the film, for example, attributed her bout with bulimia to playing with Barbies as a child. In addition, a young Barbie enthusiast in the film said, "If you're not at least a little pretty, no one will like you and you won't have any friends." On the other

hand, the film suggests Barbie's ambitious character is a model for feminism. In fact, various news publications throughout the 20th century viewed Barbie as a threat to men.

Ruth Handler, the creator of Barbie and founder of Mattel, claimed she never wanted to make Barbie "too unattainable." Ruth, a cancer survivor and woman who dominated the male business world, built a Barbie dynasty in which two dolls are sold every second. In addition, these dolls have been tools of creativity toward different ends.

After the film, King said the movie effectively explored the "plasticity of human imagination by observing a rigid figure." ■



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OPINION

Hope is not lost

NELLY TODD
Columnist

"The American dream is dead." This bold statement was enough to turn my attention from schoolwork to the cable news channel running in the background, and I quickly switched focus to determine what exactly the newscaster meant. Could the American dream really be dead? As I watched, the panel discussed the current state of the economy — the stock market, bank failures, the unemployment rate and the housing market — concluding that the hope for success, on which America was founded, is a dream of days past. America is struggling to keep the bottom from falling out while Americans struggle to make ends meet.

The outlook certainly appears grim, but any economist will tell you the economy ebbs and flows, with the length of the upswings and downturns varying. The economy is cyclical — much like the seasons — and America is bracing itself for a long winter. There is a chill in the air. It is October, and as we start pulling out scarves and sweaters, we wonder what the looming winter will bring. Will it be mild, or are seemingly endless months of long, cold days ahead? It's difficult to predict the strength or duration of the seasons. Winter is on the horizon — and we watch with anxiety and prepare for the worse.

Fear is the message from Washington. Politicians of both parties warn against possible doomsday scenarios. Newscasters critique every move. Blame is rampant. The funny thing about America, though, is it sometimes takes the worst of times for us to show our best sides. Think: Sept. 11, Pearl Harbor, the Great Depression. During times like these, Americans come together and support each other. Just a few days ago, Vanderbilt announced that any student who is admitted into the university will be able to attend no matter his or her financial situation, thus eliminating the practice of student loans and instead offering all eligible students financial grants. If you have the talents, Vanderbilt will provide the resources. Hard work alone can earn any student in the country a scholarship spot at a top 20 university. Sounds like the American dream to me.

The American dream is not dead, but it is, perhaps, in hibernation. We are bracing for the cold winter, but winter never lasts forever. Without fail, it is followed by a warmer and brighter spring. The spring of the economy will come and bring with it a better and stronger America. Until that time, we, as a nation, must stand together as we wait it out.

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

EDITORIAL

Dores make a statement

All members of the Commodore Nation will remember Saturday fondly for the next few decades. The weather was great, the excitement was palpable and the country had its attention on Nashville and little old Vanderbilt University. From 9 a.m. and the start of ESPN's "College GameDay" coverage to the waning hours of the night as Vanderbilt students celebrated amid the legions of Auburn fans driving off in disappointment and disbelief, the way in which our campus and our community came together for a little gridiron action reflects an uncommon spirit and belief.

The turnout at the "GameDay" set both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning would be an indicator of what was to come from the Vanderbilt fans. Lee Corso said the Friday crowd was the "best ever," according to an interview with Jarred Amato on the blog Conquer and Prevail.

Saturday's set saw a number of fans waiting early and eagerly for a chance to show their support for the Commodores on national television. The signs were hilarious — "The nerds shall inherit the turf" among the standouts — and all of the "GameDay" anchors seemed caught up in the excitement. Corso's boneheaded Auburn pick notwithstanding (it fired up both fans and players), the energy and enthusiasm were on Vanderbilt's side.

Of course, the football team itself, led by the gritty and determined Bobby Johnson, deserves the credit for a fantastic weekend. Their performance thus far had warranted the national attention, and when the clock ran out in fourth quarter with the score 14-13, the Commodores had delivered on their implied promise to be the most surprising and exciting team in the Southeastern Conference.

The victory was dirty, but for a team for which a losing season is perennially predetermined by the sports media, it was sweet and satisfying.

The Commodores, however, are not in the game to prove themselves to any monolithic college athletics establishment. Coach Johnson and his boys keep their eyes on the prize of success, and proving themselves as a legitimate SEC force has been a nice little side effect. Sure, every college football coach may say they are entirely focused on winning the game, but Johnson says it with sincerity and with the knowledge that, after all the hard work of his players and coaches and the patience and support of a loyal fan base, victory is the only option.

Perhaps the most uplifting aspect of the recent football success is the acknowledgement of how much that success is connected to the university as a whole. The analysts and pundits have hammered home the message Vanderbilt has done the impressive and impossible as a top 20 university with a top 25 football team. News items leading up to the Auburn game included stories about players spending the off week in the library. The talking heads may look at our academic and athletic success with a detached fascination, but for the Vanderbilt community, it is now business as usual. Senior receiver George Smith summed up the attitude to ESPN's Chris Low.

"We do both here," Smith said. "We can go to class, and we can also win football games on Saturday."

By recognizing success is both important on the playing field and in the classroom, Vanderbilt is on to something no other school in the NCAA has approached. Success in competition is now joined with success in academics, and our university is the better for it.

Response: More guns, no solutions

To the Editor:

The previous writer's logic is flawed. The basis of his argument is guns are the problem and are inherently evil, but if this is true then I ask, "Why is it necessary for the police to carry side arms?" If guns are the problem, shouldn't VUPD be restricted to pepper spray? Right about now, you are probably thinking, "But they need guns to protect us from criminals." By acknowledging this, you admit guns are only the problem in the hands of those who intend to do harm. The motivation of the individual wielding a weapon is the only thing that determines how it will be used. That is why, in the history of a trap shooting program I have personally been a part of for the past nine years, the worst injury I have ever seen is a sore shoulder.

Now let's enter the mind of a criminal planning an armed robbery. Would you rather hold up a liquor store and risk getting shot by a customer

with a concealed carry permit, or head over to a nearby college campus where your target is guaranteed to be gun-free? It is no coincidence our most crime-ridden cities are the ones with the strictest gun control, and that nearly every major shooting, tragedies that include Columbine and Virginia Tech, has occurred in a gun-free zone. Internationally, countries with the greatest crime problems are those with the strictest gun control. In Darfur, it is nearly impossible for a black citizen to obtain a firearm legally.

Firearms will always be available illegally, so what are we really accomplishing by keeping them out of the hands of law-abiding citizens, especially those already authorized to carry outside of the "gun-free" zones?

Erik Soderstrom
Freshman
College of Arts and Science

For us, the living



THOMAS SHATTUCK
Opinion Editor

Haruki Murakami recently published a memoir about running. The man apparently runs six miles a day, six days a week. Sadly enough, he runs more in week than I've probably run in my entire life. I don't mention him because I think anyone will honestly care, but more that he demonstrates having a concrete goal.

In college, we're meant to have concrete goals. We have to choose a major, start thinking of graduate school and probably plan out a career path. There's nothing wrong with this. I mean it's kind of hard to get anything done if you have no direction. However, spending so much time pondering on the future

prevents you from seeing what's already there. Life begins to stop moving. That is to say, since you know what will happen, when it does in fact occur, it's like nothing ever changed. It's a self-enforced stasis.

Life begins to stop moving. That is to say, since you know what will happen, when it does in fact occur, it's like nothing ever changed. It's a self-enforced stasis.

We've gone too far. It has now become like walking in a dream. We know where we're going. We know point A somehow leads to point B, even if at the time it doesn't seem possible. It's like a romance film. We know how it ends, but you can't help feeling tense until the movie actually ends. It's a disconcerting feeling.

Admittedly, I'm no epicurean. I really have no strong feelings on *carpe diem*. I don't even like the movie "Dead Poets Society." I just feel it's tangibly tragic we move as if in a dream. Life is no longer about living, though I can't honestly say it is about dying either. Life has suddenly become passive. Unfortunately, there's not a simple solution to such a complex question. You can't just get up one day and say, "No more." It is neither simple to pick up and leave nor to change what is in fact already there. There will always be complications. As they say, things are never easy and this is certainly no exception.

I guess the only reasonable answer come from the movie "Network." Even though it came out over 30 years ago, it's still applicable. At some point you just have to say, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." Things will change.

It has been said the meek will inherit the earth. This is not exactly an accurate statement in concordance with the world as it actually is. It is mere fancy — a hope, you might say. The world belongs to those who seize it. It is only possible through an assertion of force, in some form, to attain any dominance. I am not talking about war or politics or even romance. To control your own life, it's essential to recognize that it is in fact yours. The ability to change is a potential found in every person through the survival of opposition. However, to enact change, the potential must be made manifest.

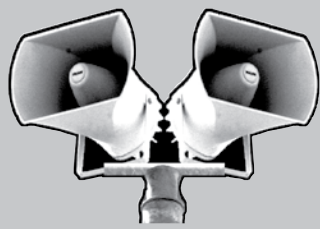
It is not our choice whether to exert such traits; it is a necessity. It is a debt to those before that must be repaid in full. As Abraham Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address, "It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

—Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu.

THE VERDICT		
Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff. Compiled by Thomas Shattuck		
Commodores		As if I really need to explain this.
"An American Carol"		I think the Miami Herald put it best: "Nothing against its politics — 'Carol' just isn't funny." And let's be honest, who actually thought the movie was worth watching? Seriously, it looked terrible.
Cubs fans		Ok, so the Cubs tanked in October again, getting swept by the Dodgers and having as many errors (six) as they had runs. But there's nothing Cubs fans love more than being miserable. Here's to another winter-long pity party in the Windy City.
O. J. Simpson		Not only did he "allegedly" break into a man's house to steal back some of his memorabilia he actually sold to the guy, but he now claims the jury is racist. For some reason, I doubt the appeal will go well.
Strippers		According to Ars Technica, psychology researchers from the University of New Mexico found exotic dancers make up to 60 percent more when they are at peak fertility. Did I mention that they won the 2008 Ig Nobel prize in economics?
Life		So maybe we won't have to deal with Bush anymore, but does it really matter? Let's be honest, it doesn't really. Maybe Forrest Gump was right, life is like a box of chocolates, if you're lactose intolerant.
David Hasselhoff		The man just seems to get worse. His ex-wife recently went on the record to say, "David is a falling-down drunk, and I covered up for him for years. Alcoholism destroys you whether you are a regular Joe or the biggest star on the planet."

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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.

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SPORTS

Defense rises to the occasion yet again



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Reshard Langford (33), Patrick Benoist and Chris Marve (13) chase down Auburn quarterback Kodi Burns during action between Vanderbilt and Auburn on Saturday night. The Commodores shut out an opposing offense for the third straight game in the 14-13 victory.

Opponent shut out in second half for third straight game.

by MEGHAN ROSE
Sports Contributor

For the first time in school history, Vanderbilt found itself at the epicenter of the Saturday college football realm in one of the arguably most hyped games in years.

And the defense came to play. In front of a national audience on ESPN, No. 13 Vanderbilt proved to the nation once again why the program deserves to stay in the upper ranks, pitching a second-half shutout for the third straight game.

Initially, Auburn proved to be a tough test for the Commodores and their highly reputable defense, as the Tigers boasted a strong running game with backs Ben Tate and Brad Lester.

The Commodores asserted themselves on the opening drive, getting a goal line stop from linebacker junior Patrick Benoist and safety redshirt junior Ryan Hamilton.

However, the offense couldn't get anything going in the first

quarter and Chris Todd tossed two touchdown passes to put Auburn up 13-0.

Vanderbilt was not discouraged. Auburn was forced to punt on their next two possessions leading up to halftime and Vanderbilt cut the deficit to 13-7.

"It felt good to put a stop to their offense, to kind of slow them down a little," said linebacker redshirt freshman Chris Marve, who recorded 10 tackles. "They kind of got us in the first quarter, and then we settled down. We just made a few adjustments, and luckily they worked out for us."

The second half of the game proved a different strategy for the defense, as Vanderbilt forced Auburn away from its usual rushing style. Facing unfamiliar rushed passes, the Tigers punted seven consecutive times in the second half before Todd threw his last pass of the game — which was intercepted by Vanderbilt's junior Myron Lewis.

I think our staff has done a fantastic job of looking at what we've been running in the first half and getting rid of stuff that hasn't been working too well," said Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson. "We don't get in a shell

because someone is moving the ball. We keep going at them, and I think it paid off."

"We try to make the whole game ours," Marve said. "But the past five games, of course, we've been able to shut people out the second half; it's been good for us and it's worked out for us. Hopefully we'll bring that mentality to all four quarters of the game."

After a Vanderbilt touchdown minutes into the second half, the Commodores held a slim 1-point lead over the Tigers for the remainder of the game. Despite the close score, the defense remained in total control, not allowing the Tigers to even come within field goal range.

Chalking up three more quarters of shutout football against Auburn, the Vanderbilt defense only gave up 82 total yards after the first quarter. This season, Vanderbilt has held opponents to only 10 second-half points.

"We were able to bounce back, the offense made plays when they needed to, the defense made plays when they needed to, and the special teams made plays when they needed to," Benoist said. "It was a total team effort." ■

WEEKLY REPORT CARD

Compiled by Hustler SportsStaff

The Hustler Sports Staff grades Vanderbilt on all aspects of its 14-13 victory over Auburn.



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

A- QUARTERBACKS

Redshirt senior Chris Nickson struggled mightily, throwing for only 4 yards on three completions and also throwing a bad interception. However, backup redshirt junior Mackenzi Adams' performance after Nickson left with an injury was remarkable. Adams threw for 153 yards and threw two touchdowns, including the game-winner. Against a stout Auburn defense, Adams' passing was the key to victory. Also, Nickson and Adams ran for a combined 40 and 54 yards respectively.

D RUNNING BACKS

Not surprisingly, the Auburn defense swallowed up the Vanderbilt running backs. Coming into the game, stopping the run was one of the Tigers' strong suits, so Vanderbilt went away from the traditional run game, opting instead for designed quarterback runs. Redshirt junior Jared Hawkins ran for only 8 yards on six carries. The only saving grace was that the running backs didn't fumble the ball.

B WIDE RECEIVERS

The Vanderbilt wide receivers showed up to play, as Adams was able to spread the ball around to multiple receivers. Redshirt senior Sean Walker racked up 66 yards on four catches, redshirt junior Justin Wheeler starred with the first touchdown catch and also led the receivers with five receptions. Finally, tight end redshirt freshman Brandon Barden found a way to get open in the end zone to catch the game-winning touchdown pass.

B OFFENSIVE LINE

The offensive line got pushed around in the running game, and in the fourth quarter they weren't really able to get the push needed for the running backs to seal the game earlier in the quarter. However, they only allowed one sack, and gave Adams enough time to throw two touchdown passes.

B DEFENSIVE LINE

Auburn running back Benny Tate was able to run for over 100 yards, meaning the Tigers' offensive line was able to push forward on the Commodores defensive line. However, five sacks made up for their lack of performance in the running game, and they held Auburn to only 1 yard of total offense in the fourth quarter.

B LINEBACKERS

The linebackers could have played better against the run considering they allowed 110 yards on the ground. However, they helped stop the Tigers after the first quarter. The Vanderbilt defense only allowed 28 yards in the second, third and fourth quarters combined.

A- SECONDARY

After allowing two early touchdown passes in the first quarter, the Vanderbilt secondary changed its tune throughout the rest of the game. They only let up 98 passing yards throughout the game, and junior Myron Lewis' game-ending interception slammed the door. The secondary was one of the strongest parts of the Commodore defense and made sure Auburn didn't complete any big plays down the field.

B SPECIAL TEAMS

Despite a missed field goal and a blocked field goal, the Vanderbilt special teams redeemed itself with two other big plays. A 55-yard punt by junior Brett Upton that was downed deep in Auburn territory at the end of the game, along with a 25-yard punt return by junior D.J. Moore to set up Vanderbilt's first touchdown were huge plays.

A+ COACHING

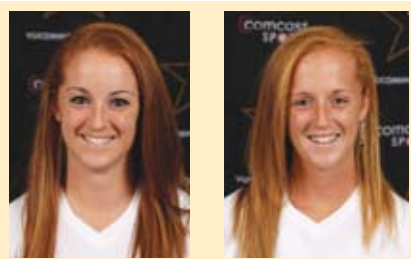
The Commodores were in a major hole early after allowing two touchdowns in the first quarter. Coach Bobby Johnson rallied his team and empowered them to hold down the Tigers for the rest of the game. At a time when Vanderbilt could have rolled over and been intimidated by the No. 13 team in the country, prime-time ESPN coverage and all of the ESPN "GameDay" buzz, Johnson kept his team in check, motivated them appropriately and made the right decisions in tough situations to help the Commodores win the game.

Women's soccer earns first conference win

Commodores snap three-game losing streak with 2-1 victory.

by BRIAN LINHARES
Sports Contributor

Coming off a heartbreaking overtime loss to Florida on Friday night at the Vanderbilt University Soccer Complex, the Commodores earned their first victory of the Southeastern Conference slate against the University of South Carolina. In a hard fought contest, the Commodores beat the Gamecocks 2-1. "For our team to come out and fight that way they did, coming off a heart-breaker of a loss on Friday in overtime,"



MEGAN KINSELLA MOLLY KINSELLA

Sophomores Megan and Molly Kinsella were quite the dynamic duo on Sunday as the twins scored one goal a piece and assisted the other on both goals in Vanderbilt's 2-1 victory over South Carolina, its first win in Southeastern Conference play. Molly Kinsella now leads the team with five goals on the season after scoring twice on Friday against Florida.

said Vanderbilt coach Ronnie Coveleskie, "I'm extremely proud of everything our girls did today. I thought we fought as a team for our seniors."

Sophomore Megan Kinsella put the Commodores on the board nearly 25 minutes in with a 16-yard strike from the corner.

"That was a pretty crappy cross," Kinsella said. "I wasn't trying to shoot, because that was such a bad angle for shooting so... I got lucky with that one."

Kinsella was assisted on the play by her sister sophomore Molly Kinsella.

Not to be outdone, Molly Kinsella added another goal for the Commodores, on an assist from sister Megan. At the 55-minute mark, Kinsella connected from six yards out and a ricochet from a South Carolina defender.

"The other girl re-directed it from the other team," Kinsella said. "The goalie got caught up."

After her two-goal performance against Florida, Molly Kinsella stands

alone with five goals on the year, leading the Commodores.

The South Carolina cut the Vanderbilt lead to 2-1, with 15 minutes remaining in regulation. A Vanderbilt defender kicked in a pass by Gamecock forward Kayla Grimsey. The late score notwithstanding, goalkeeper Rachel Bachtel turned in a solid effort, with eight saves.

"We got a goal early. We went up in the first half, which was good for us and made (it) easy to back that up," Bachtel said. "The rest of the game was defensive. Our defenders did a great job."

The Senior Day victory was extremely significant for the Commodores, as it comes on the heels of a four game road trip. Moreover, six of the last even contests to close the season are away

from Nashville.

Senior forward Amy Wilcox stated, "Our team is starting to come together and play really well. Getting a win today was huge for us, because we have a lot of really hard games."

Wilcox felt the victory was crucial heading into a tough road trip.

"Going into this game we were 0-3, and winning on the road is much harder against teams such as Georgia and Tennessee," Wilcox said. "Going in with one win is putting us in better position to reach the tournament."

With the senior leadership of Wilcox, standout tandem of the Kinsella sisters and goal play of Bachtel, the Commodores look primed to finish the season strong and carry the momentum into the SEC tournament. ■

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