



HOMEcoming: Check out more pictures from the weekend's activities. [SEE PAGE 3](#)

VERDICT: High School Musical 3: Senior Year compromises humankind. [SEE PAGE 6](#)

Williams named Outstanding Senior

by **NORAH SCANLAN**
Campus Living Specialist

"It's still all very surreal to me," said Vanderbilt Student Government President Joseph Williams after being awarded the Outstanding Senior title during halftime at the Homecoming football game Saturday.

The Outstanding Senior Award, the only award on campus that is both merit-based and student-selected, is given to a leader who has positively impacted the organizations he or she is involved in and the Vanderbilt community as a whole.

"Winning Outstanding Senior was just an unbelievable experience for me," said Williams. "I'm honored and humbled by receiving this award. I couldn't have ever imagined a Vanderbilt experience like the one I've had, but I'll be thankful everyday for the rest of my life for the people I've met, the experiences I've had and the love I've received."

Other seniors said they felt just as honored to be named one of this year's finalists.

"There are so many noteworthy students, especially in our senior class, and I feel privileged to represent such a great student body as a finalist," said finalist Amanda Scott.

"The class of 2009 has so much diverse talent, and I don't really think you can sum it up in just 10 people," said Marty Pendleton. "In the end, I just think that being a part of an outstanding graduating class is the biggest honor of all."

The candidate selection process included an application and essay. Forty candidates were selected by a panel of judges and called in for an interview. After the interview, the judges selected 20 candidates who were voted on by the student body.

This year, the top 10 candidates selected were Lauren Page Black, Emma Cofer, Jennifer Hirsch, Kellianne Kleeman, Brad Lawrence, Marty Pendleton, Amanda Scott, Sarah Scott, Sean Tierney and Williams. ■



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Outstanding Senior award winner Joseph Williams, was honored at the Duke versus Vanderbilt Homecoming Game on October 26 at halftime. Williams is the president of Vanderbilt Student Government and is a member of Beta Upsilon Chi.

No joy in Nashville



NICOLE MANDEL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Duke piles it on: Vanderbilt quarterback Mackenzi Adams (9) is swarmed by Duke defenders during Homecoming action Saturday. The Commodores lost 10-7 to the Blue Devils for their third straight defeat following a promising 5-0 start. Adams was sacked four times in the game as Vanderbilt had its lowest point total of the season. See page 8 for more coverage.

CAMPUS LIVING

Campus groups 'Trot' for a cause

by **ETHEL MICKEY**
News Contributor

To help build a house for a family in need, the Vanderbilt chapter of Habitat for Humanity will hold the third annual Commodore Trot on Wednesday, beginning at 6 p.m.

The 5K walk/run will start and end at the Student Rec Center, circling around main campus and then the athletic fields.

"It's a great way for the Vanderbilt community to come together for a short amount of time to help the greater Nashville community," said senior Kristen McNutt, a member of Habitat's executive board on campus.

The money raised will go to the Youth United Build, which will take place next fall. The Youth United Build is co-sponsored by many different college and high school chapters of Habitat for Humanity in the Nashville area. The house will most likely be built at the new Timberwoods Habitat Community.

So far, 300 individuals and 40 groups have registered. Army ROTC has been the largest group to sign up, with 31 individuals on their team. Other groups include Wesley/Canterbury Fellowship, VSG, VSVS, Pre-Nursing Society, Crawford House, Murray House, North House, West House, the women's bowling team and several Greek houses.

Last year, about 300 people participated in the Trot, raising about \$2500. The proceeds went to a specific build in Nashville, which Vanderbilt's Habitat chapter finished this fall along with other chapters from local universities and high schools. This year, the goal is to raise \$3500.

"For myself and my teammates, the Trot was not only a great bonding experience and good exercise, but a great way for us to show our support for the community without even leaving campus," said senior Tara Kane, a member of the women's bowling team. The bowling team was one of many groups that sponsored and participated in last year's Commodore Trot.

Registration before the day of the event costs \$10 for each student. Registering on the day of the event costs \$15. Individual participants can register up to the day of the event by picking up registration forms at the Rec Center or the Community Partnership House. Payments can be with cash, check or the Commodore Card at the Sarratt Box Office (before Tuesday night).

More information regarding the Commodore Trot and registration forms can be found at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/h4h>. ■

ELECTION POLL

With eight days to go until Nov. 4, a majority of Vanderbilt students support Barack Obama for president in the Hustler/InsideVandy.com's election poll. Some interesting results: 16.8 percent of 101 Republican respondents said they support Barack Obama, as well as 67.9 percent of 53 independent respondents.

Method: The Hustler/InsideVandy.com poll was conducted between Oct. 23 and Oct. 26. The survey was sent via e-mail to 590 randomly selected Vanderbilt undergraduates with 239 responding. For all questions on the survey, the answer options were randomly rotated. The margin of error is approximately +/- 6 percent.

Which candidate for president do you support?



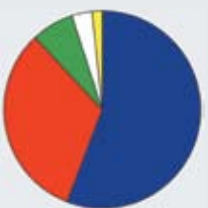
Barack Obama	55.5%
John McCain	38.2%
Undecided	4.6%
Other	1.7%

With what party do you normally identify yourself?



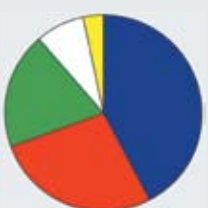
Republican	43.0%
Democrat	34.5%
Independent	22.6%

Will you vote in this election on Nov. 4?



Yes, by absentee ballot	55.9%
Yes, I am registered to vote in Nashville	32.4%
No, it is unlikely I will vote	6.7%
Maybe, by absentee ballot	3.4%
Maybe, I am registered to vote in Nashville	1.7%

Which issues will most determine how you vote on Nov. 4?



Energy	3.3%
Jobs & the economy	42.3%
National defense	7.9%
Character	19.2%
Other	27.2%

How do you view each of the following?

Answer Options	Very Unfavorably	Unfavorably	Neutral	Favorably	Very Favorably
Barack Obama	40	28	26	72	69
Joe Biden	14	38	76	78	29
John McCain	16	67	45	77	30
Sarah Palin	108	43	36	36	13

MILLER: John McCain and Sarah Palin, colored as racists, are painted unfairly by detractors. [SEE PAGE 6](#)

WELLNESS BASH



Be there, or be ■

Prizes, Food, & Fun

Wednesday October, 29th, 3 - 7 pm
Student Recreation Center

www.vanderbilt.edu/wellnesscenter

SNAPSHOTS

compiled by HANNAH TWILLMAN

WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

TODAY



HIGH **51**, LOW **34**
Mostly Sunny

TUESDAY



HIGH **51**, LOW **32**
Sunny

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SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES
Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

Iranian president has fallen ill

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has fallen ill due to exhaustion brought on by his heavy workload, the state-run news agency reported quoting a close associate.

The announcement comes as doubts have surfaced over whether Ahmadinejad, who faces strong criticism from opponents, will seek re-election next year.

Parliament member Mohammad Ismail Kowsari, an ally of the president, said late Saturday that Ahmadinejad was feeling under the weather because of the strain of his position, according to the news agency, IRNA.

“The president will eventually get well and continue his job,” said Kowsari, who accompanied Ahmadinejad last month to the U.N. General Assembly. “Every human being can face exhaustion under such a workload.”

Ahmadinejad, who rarely misses meetings and public appearances, canceled a speech Wednesday at a conference and did not appear at a Cabinet meeting the same day. But the president, who turns 53 on Monday, did attend a religious ceremony on Saturday in Tehran, though he looked tired as he greeted supporters.

On Sunday, state TV also showed him receiving credentials of three foreign ambassadors.

Ahmadinejad, who is known for working long hours, has had low blood pressure and has gone to the hospital occasionally to seek treatment, said Mohammad Hossein Saffar Harandi, the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

“Even if you are immortal, you will suffer from working so much. ... That is what has happened several times to Mr. President over the last years. However, he is up and about and fresher than us right now,” he told reporters Sunday.

Writer of Trump book won't have to reveal sources, says appellate panel

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—An author doesn't have to reveal his sources for a book in which he claimed Donald Trump's wealth was in the millions, not billions.

The ruling by a New Jersey appellate panel Friday reverses a 2006 decision to compel the disclosure.

Trump sued author Timothy O'Brien and Time Warner Book Group over the book “TrumpNation: The Art of Being the Donald.” It claimed Trump was worth between \$150 million and \$250 million.

Trump says the book damaged his reputation and argues that his fortune was closer to \$2.7 billion.

The judges wrote that details of Trump's life are matters of public interest and therefore are protected.

Numerous publishers of books, magazines and newspapers had joined the appeal, as well as broadcasters and other media organizations, including The Associated Press.

Court upholds Tenn. ban on direct wine sales, sends case back down

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A federal appeals court on Friday upheld Tennessee's ban on direct wine shipments, which prohibits consumers from buying wine online and having it shipped to their homes.

The opinion from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati said federal trade rules allow Tennessee to prohibit wineries from selling directly to consumers without going through wholesalers.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2005 struck down laws in New York and Michigan that allowed in-state wineries — but not out-of-state businesses — to ship directly to consumers. But Friday's opinion said Tennessee's law doesn't fall under that ruling because the state bans all direct shipment of wine regardless of where it's made.

The opinion came in an appeal of a lawsuit filed by Rick Jelovsek, a Johnson City man who argued that the law protects Tennessee wine producers from competition and prevents people like him from enjoying a wider selection of wine from out-of-state wineries at cheaper prices.

Even though the judges upheld the ban, they said special rules for in-state wineries are unfair to competitors outside Tennessee, and sent the case back to a lower court to make the regulations more equitable.

Tennessee's “Grape and Wine Law” is aimed at promoting the state's wine industry and includes an exception that allows people to buy wine at wineries that use at least 75 percent of ingredients produced within the state.

3 races key to who will control Tenn. Senate as Dems try to keep control

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—An alleged marital affair. An ethics complaint. An attack ad. The battle between Republicans and Democrats to control the state Senate has heated up in three races crucial to both parties — and it's showing in campaign tactics.

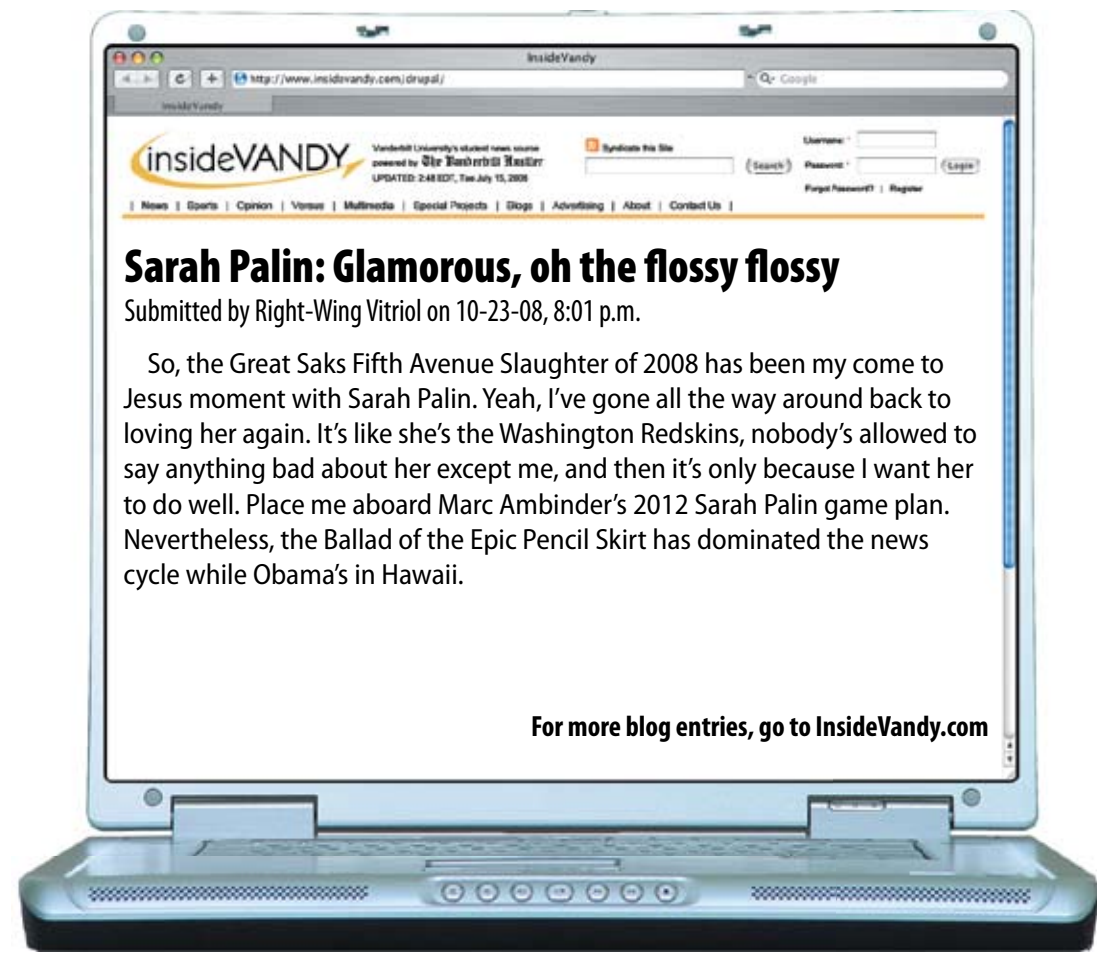
Republicans and Democrats each hold 16 seats in the Senate. The 33rd belongs to an independent. The parties are trying to hang onto the seats they already have and pick up at least one more Nov. 4.

Two of the fiercest battles are for open seats: Senate District 26 in West Tennessee, where former longtime Democratic Senate Speaker John Wilder of Mason is retiring, and District 12 on the Cumberland Plateau, where Sen. Tommy Kilby, D-Wartburg, didn't seek re-election. Fundraising has been vigorous and the candidates in both races went into the final stretch with plenty of money to spend.

Ed Cromer, editor of the Tennessee Journal, a weekly newsletter on state politics, said Democrats must win those races just to stay even.

“If the Republicans win even one of them, they have a majority,” he said.

FROM THE BLOG



For more blog entries, go to InsideVandy.com

SNAPSHOT

DELTA UNDERGROUND ROCKS SARRATT



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Delta Delta Delta perform at Delta Underground Sunday, Oct. 26. The event benefits the Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital.

VIEW offers competitive summer internships in Washington DC.

Join VIEW and you can breeze stress free through Spring with your summer plans set and ready to go!

Opportunities cover the spectrum from Government to Media to Nonprofit positions. Are you interested in working on Capitol Hill, with CNN, NPR, or with a DC Nonprofit Organization like the National Coalition for the Homeless?

More information and videos of the student internships can be found online at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs/view.html>.

Applications are available online now and are due by Friday, 10/31.

Contact Lilly Massa-McKinley at lilly.m.massa@vanderbilt.edu or at 322-7859 for more information.

Early voting in Nashville: Wed. Oct. 15th - Thurs. Oct. 30th
For full schedule: www.nashville.gov/VOTE/schedule_early.htm

Now that **you** have registered to **VOTE** in Tennessee, here's how **easy** it is to do!

Election Alliance & SAVE are providing FREE shuttles to vote Mon. 10/27 - Thurs. 10/30 from 3-6pm each day from Branscomb!

Homecoming brings students, alums together



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

An alumna of Vanderbilt Quinq Society cheers at the Homecoming football game Saturday, Oct. 25. The Quinq Society recognizes alumni who graduated more than fifty years ago.



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Sophomore Andrea Clabough spray paints at the float building event on Kensington Avenue on Friday, October 24. The event brought together students groups to prepare for the parade.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Chi Omega and Delta Kappa Epsilon members ride in the Homecoming Parade on Saturday, Oct. 26. The winners were Alpha Tau Omega and Alpha Delta Pi, and Sigma Lambda Gamma

DRINK UP With GAMMA



DUI:

Your Rights and Responsibilities

DATE: Monday, October 27th
TIME: 7:30 pm
LOCATION: Sarratt Cinema

Three twenty-one year olds will drink up with GAMMA. Come watch them **TRY** to pass the roadside test, such as standing on one foot, walking a straight line, and saying the alphabet backwards. Learn Your Rights and Responsibilities.

Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol

Liver Appreciation Week October 26 - 31, 2008

Monday - Friday, October 27 - 31

Table on the Wall, 11 - 11:30

Come by to say hello to Liver Man! Take a Liver Quiz and win a cool prize. Sign up as an Organ Donor. Enter the Coloring Contest (winners selected Friday, October 31)

Monday, October 27

"DUI: Your Rights and Responsibilities"

presentation sponsored by GAMMA. Sarratt Cinema, 7:30pm. Our own Vanderbilt Police officers will share information about the TN laws and consequences as well as conduct the field sobriety tests on 3 of-age, impaired students.

Tuesday, October 28

Halloween Cupcake Decorating at Murray

Residence Hall, 7pm Decorate and eat a few, deliver a few to the medical staff at the Emergency Room as a *thank you* for taking care of Vanderbilt students.

Wednesday, October 29

Liver Man celebrates the **Wellness Bash** at the Student Rec Center from 3-7pm.

You should too! Come for a free chair massage or eat some free pizza. It won't be too late to pick up the Liver Appreciation Coloring Contest sheet and crayons.

Thursday, October 30

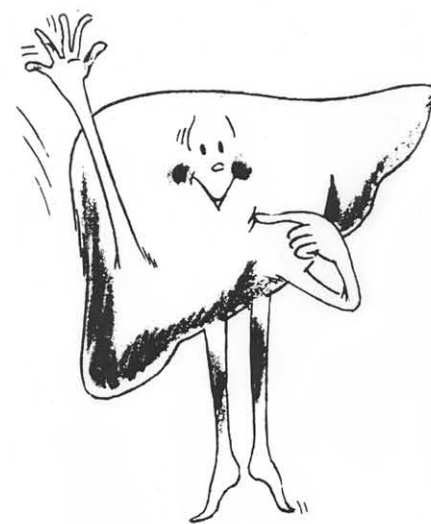
Check out the nutrition display, **"Re-Think Your Drink"** at Rand from 12-1:30pm and at the Commons, 5-6:30pm. Liver Man may make an appearance!

Spook-athon! Ghost Stories on the Library Lawn! 11pm - 1am

Free hot chocolate and apple cider! Bring your blankets and pillows ... and some courage! Sponsored by CHEERS & Main Library

Friday, October 31

Coloring contest ends! Entries due by noon to Sarratt 206. Prize: Liver Man pillows!



Have a happy and safe Halloween!

Remember to appreciate your liver! No liver abuse please!

Office of Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention, GAMMA & CHEERS
 Co-sponsors: Jean & Alexander Heard Library, the Tennessee Donation Services

For more information about Liver Appreciation, call the Office of Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention at 343-4740 or email jeanine.a.atkinson@vanderbilt.edu
 Office of the Dean of Students

WORK FOR THE HUSTLER



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Sarratt 130

ACADEMICS

Professor discusses faith and politics

by SARAH BILSKY
News Contributor

Randall Balmer, a professor of religious history at Barnard College and a visiting professor at Yale Divinity School, examined the role of "God in the White House" this week.

As this year's Cole lecturer, Balmer addressed the role God and religion have played in politics in the United States through his lectures "So Help Me God: Faith and the Presidency from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush" and "Keep the Faith: Reclaiming Christianity from the Religious Right."

Balmer examined the progression of faith's role in politics, beginning with John

F. Kennedy's famed speech on religion and ending with George W. Bush's declaration that Jesus was his favorite political philosopher.

He cited Americans' desire for a virtuous leader when explaining why God and faith have taken such an expansive role in American politics. Balmer advises that while this method of examining an individual's character may seem simple, it is actually quite complex.

"We Americans tend to view religion as a proxy for morality ... The problem is we take those claims at face value instead of probing deeper," said Balmer. "We (as Americans) fail to ask ourselves in what ways will these religious sentiments inform the

way they govern."

"I think voters vote based on their values, which are informed by their religion," said Melanie Gelaney, a fourth year student at Vanderbilt's Divinity School. "Whether religion is important in our government functions, I'm not so sure, but it is absolutely as far as who people are voting for and why," she continued, echoing Balmer's doubts about whether religion is playing the appropriate role in American politics.

Balmer ended his lecture on a hopeful note, saying he is optimistic about the appropriate place of religion in American politics.

"This nation eventually rises to its best self." ■

ECONOMY

World market losses rattle investors

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—If ever a 300-point loss on Wall Street could be a good thing, it was Friday.

Wall Street started the day with a nervous eye on how far stocks would have to fall before triggering emergency trading halts. They ended the session relieved, even though the Dow Jones industrial average closed down 312, or 3.6 percent, its lowest finish since the financial crisis began six weeks ago.

Stock markets in Europe and Asia had plummeted, and oil prices plunged past their lows for the last year on growing fears of a global recession. Major indexes declined more than 14 percent in Russia, and were ordered closed until Tuesday.

Dow futures — a bet, before trading opens, on where stocks

would go — had plunged 550 points Friday morning, triggering a temporary trading halt.

"This is beyond volatile. It is chaotic," Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics wrote in a morning note to clients. "This is the kind of day when the central banks step into the market with an 'unexpected' interest rate move to calm things down."

Instead, it was just another day's loss, one in a series since mid-September that have erased nearly \$7 trillion in value from stocks.

Before U.S. markets opened, CNBC flashed a rundown on the level of losses that would trigger trading circuit-breakers, which close the market after steep losses. The first circuit-breaker, a 90-minute halt, would kick in if the Dow lost 1,100 points

before 2 p.m.

The Dow fell more than 500 points in the morning, but steadied itself, even though the only good news was the 5.5 percent increase in September existing home sales. That was tempered by median home prices, which dropped to \$191,600, down 9 percent from a year ago.

The Dow closed at 8,378, its lowest finish since 8,306 on April 25, 2003. In the last six weeks, the Dow has experienced triple-digit moves in 27 of 30 trading sessions.

The Federal Reserve Open Market Committee, which sets the Fed's target short-term interest rates, meets Tuesday and Wednesday. Most investors are expecting further rate cuts beyond the current 1.5 percent, which is already near historic lows. ■

Whats your view from Inside Vandy?

A VIDEO CONTEST

Everybody has a story to tell, what's yours?

Submit a video, no longer than 3 minutes, that shows your unique view of life Inside Vandy, and you could win!

1st

A 16GB iPod Nano Chromatic color of your choice (\$199 value)

OR A Flip Camera (\$149 value)

OR A \$100 VISA gift card

winner chooses the iPod, the Flip Camera or the VISA gift card.

2nd

\$50 VISA gift card

3rd

\$25 VISA gift card



Submit the YouTube or Blip.tv embed code for the video, along with your name, phone number, campus address, and email address to: Jim Hayes at jim.hayes@vanderbilt.edu

The deadline for submissions is October 31st! Winners will be announced on Friday, November 7th.

Submissions will be collected and then posted on a special projects page on InsideVandy.com for the world to view, so there are some guidelines. Submissions that contain anything pornographic or obscene will be immediately deleted. You may not use copyrighted material, such as clips from movies or popular songs. Be creative, only you can tell your Inside Vandy story. And, once again, no videos longer than 3 minutes. A great video will showcase your unique view of life InsideVandy, it can be your perspective from a Vandy football game, an interview with your favorite professor, or a story about how you landed InsideVandy.

Submit your story today and let the world know your view from Inside Vandy!

Submissions will be judged by a panel comprised of students and media professionals with prizes going to the top 3 videos. PLUS, everyone who submits a video will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 VISA gift card.

SCIENCE & MEDICINE

AIDS treatment should start sooner, new national study finds

WASHINGTON (AP)—People who have the AIDS virus should start drug treatments sooner than current guidelines recommend, suggests a large new study that could change the care of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

The study found that delaying treatment until a patient's immune system is badly damaged nearly doubles the risk of dying in the next few years compared to patients whose treatment started earlier.

Doctors have thought it would be better to spare patients the side effects of AIDS drugs as long as possible.

The data are rather compelling that the risk of death appears to be higher if you wait than if you treat."

—Dr. Anthony Fauci

"The data are rather compelling that the risk of death appears to be higher if you wait than if you treat," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director

of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which helped pay for the study.

If the results prompt doctors to change practice — as Fauci and other AIDS specialists predict — several hundred thousand Americans who are not taking AIDS drugs now would be advised to start.

The study was reported Sunday at an infectious diseases conference in Washington.

About 56,300 Americans are newly infected with HIV each year. The virus ravages T-cells — "helper cells" of the immune system that fight off germs. Once that happens,

people can fall prey to a host of diseases that prove fatal.

Powerful drug combinations available since the mid-1990s have transformed HIV infection into a manageable chronic condition rather than the death sentence it once was. But they can cause heart and cholesterol problems, diarrhea, nausea and other side effects. They also must be taken faithfully or resistance develops and the drugs stop working.

That is why guidelines by the government and the International AIDS Society recommend that patients who are not yet having AIDS symptoms delay starting on

the drugs until their T-cell counts fall below 350 per cubic millimeter of blood (healthy people have more than 800).

"There was this thinking, maybe the drugs were worse than the disease. If you could wait as long as you possibly could wait, you would have fewer side effects," said Dr. Robert Schooley, infectious diseases chief at the University of California, San Diego.

The new study is the largest to look at whether that advice is sound. Researchers led by Dr. Mari Kitahata of the University of Washington in Seattle pooled information on 8,374 people in the United States and Canada with T-cell

counts of 351 to 500 from 1996 to 2006.

About 30 percent started taking AIDS drugs right away; the rest waited until their T-cell counts fell below 350, as guidelines recommend.

"We found a 70 percent improvement in survival for patients who initiated therapy between 350 and 500" compared to those who waited, Kitahata said.

Two other recent studies found that people who start taking AIDS drugs while their T-cell count is above 350 have a better chance of getting their count back to normal than those who start later. ■

ELECTION 2008

Candidates spar with 8 days left

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican John McCain declared "I'm going to win it," dismissing polls showing him behind with little more than a week to go in the presidential race. A confident Democrat Barack Obama drew a jaw-dropping 100,000 people to a single rally and rolled out a new TV ad asserting his rival is "running out of time."

Heading into the final nine days of the 2008 contest, the White House

competitors campaigned in key battlegrounds that President Bush won four years ago as the state-by-state Electoral College map tilts strongly in Obama's favor. Democrats and Republicans alike say it will be extraordinarily difficult for McCain to change the trajectory of the campaign before the Nov. 4 election.

"Unfortunately, I think John McCain might be added to that long list of Arizonans who ran for president but were never elected," McCain's fellow senator from Arizona,

Republican Jon Kyl, told the Arizona Daily Star editorial board in an interview published Sunday.

The candidates sparred from a distance, each criticizing the other anew in hopes of swaying the roughly one-fourth of voters who are undecided or could still change their minds. The campaign trail images and rhetoric said perhaps more about the state of the race than any poll could.

In Colorado, Obama revealed in his largest U.S. crowd to date, with local police estimating

that "well over" 100,000 people packed Denver's Civic Center Park and stretched even to the distant steps of the state Capitol. The enthusiastic sea of people prompted a "goodness gracious" from Obama as he took the stage.

In Cedar Falls, Iowa, McCain campaigned before a much smaller audience, roughly 2,000 people, and chided his Democratic rival: "He's measuring the drapes. ... I prefer to let voters have their say." ■

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What are you doing after graduation?

Michael B. Keegan Traveling Fellowship Informational Sessions



Mon. Oct. 27th 4:30-5:30 PM
Room 116 Sarratt

In attendance will be former Keegan Traveling Fellowship recipients who will share their experiences

This one-year program is open to any Vanderbilt University senior who will graduate in December 2008 or May 2009. The program is designed as an opportunity to explore an idea or an issue through world travel.

www.vanderbilt.edu/travelfellowship

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VENEERS



SAME DAY TEETH
CLEANING APPTS

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OPINION

The value of your vote



NEILY TODD
Columnist

"I am Barack Obama and I approve this message."

"I am John McCain and I approve this message."

I've heard these lines so many times, I now hear them in my sleep. With just over one week until Election Day, the presidential candidates are pulling out all the stops to make certain their messages are heard from coast to coast. Over the past year, the two candidates have become the most publicized figures in America, but publicity does not come cheap. The two campaigns have raised a combined \$684 million, half of which has been spent on ads. This figure, however, does not include the \$70 million spent by outside interest groups, bringing the total to \$754 million being spent to ensure your vote.

In the interest of humility, it must be noted that not all of the \$754 million is spent to ensure any one vote. According to U.S. Census data, there are 305.5 million Americans. This would mean the candidates spent approximately \$2.47 on each American this election. As not all Americans can or are registered to vote, the candidates actually spent approximately \$5.31 on each of the 142.1 million registered U.S. voters. Cast in this light, it doesn't seem like a lot of money. My vote is worth \$5.31 to the two candidates combined? Why not let them spend it then? What could I really do with another \$5?

Seen on the microcosm level, it's not much. When viewed in the broader scheme of things though, \$754 million is no small figure. Millions of children are starving worldwide. With \$754 million, World Vision could feed 2.1 million hungry children across the world for a year. Teachers in the U.S. spend, on average, \$659 of their own salaries each year on supplies for their classrooms. With \$754 million, 1.1 million teachers could be relieved of this burden. The average U.S. Habitat for Humanity home costs \$60,000 to build. With \$754 million, over 12,500 American families could finally afford their own home. These are just a few specific examples of the impact \$754 million can make to those in need. Think of the number of college scholarships, medical treatments and meals this sum could provide.

Instead, \$754 million is being spent on television ads, T-shirts, bumper stickers, buttons and yard signs. No judgment can be cast on whether one way of spending is better than the other. A fundamental part of a capitalist society is the right to spend money the way the owner so chooses. Yet, seeing the \$754 million for what it would be worth to those who have so little certainly makes me value my \$5.31 vote all the more highly.

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

EDITORIAL

McCain offers stability, Obama offers radicalism

With America still suffering a crisis in the financial market and the threat of radical Islam still present here and abroad, the best choice for president is Sen. John McCain.

McCain's judgment on the surge in Iraq shows he is capable and knowledgeable on issues of the War on Terror; his measured and direct response to the Russian invasion of Georgia indicates a breadth of knowledge about foreign policy that considerably dwarfs that of his opponent.

McCain and his running mate, Gov. Sarah Palin, have demonstrated an understanding that restoring market confidence includes returning money to taxpaying consumers and freezing wasteful government spending. On other important issues, including the right to life and strict constructionist judges, McCain and Palin have proven themselves in their rhetoric and their records. McCain certainly has his faults, including comprehensive immigration reform, but ultimately, these issues are superseded by the more pressing problems our country faces.

By contrast, Sen. Barack Obama fails to inspire confidence in this time of volatility and insecurity. Obama wows massive audiences with soaring rhetoric and appeals greatly to young, college-age voters, but what is known about this rather unknown quantity should disturb anyone who wants to succeed in America.

Obama claims his judgment has been tested with his initial opposition to the war in Iraq, but as an Illinois state senator from a comfortable seat, he was never tested on this with a vote on the war. When the chance to use his judgment did come in the form of a vote on the surge, Obama voted against what has turned out to be a successful strategy that is allowing us to win the war.

On the economy, Obama misrepresents his own tax plan. While saying he supports tax cuts for the middle class, Obama defines the middle class as those making less than \$250,000 income annually. This places a large number of individuals and families in the \$100,000-200,000 range — all the Joe the Plumbers of America — in a position that will punish them with a higher tax bracket if their income pushes above this range. Making upward mobility a disincentive is simply the wrong way to encourage growth, and it shows a lack of understanding about how wealth is defined by assets and not income.

Most disturbing about Obama is his radical record of issues of life. His opposition to a state senate bill that would require hospitals to provide medical care to infants born alive from failed abortions seems like a minor issue these days, but the vote is telling about Obama's position on life. The federal version of the bill was supported by even the most pro-choice of senators. This places Obama so far out of the mainstream that it calls into question his judgment.

The Obama allure is largely symbolic, seen as a break from the Bush tradition that, despite the prevention of domestic terrorist attacks since Sept. 11, is perceived largely as a failure. Young Americans yearn for change, but radicalism in the face of insecurity will only make the United States less stable for the future. McCain's hard-nosed realism about the challenges we face at home and abroad will offer sobering solutions, while the untested Obama has radically left-wing politics that will only move America toward higher taxes, more government control over our lives and more defense insecurity on the world stage. — Michael Warren

A question of racism



KATHERINE MILLER
Columnist

John McCain has been called a racist in a box, with a fox, in a house, with a mouse and so on. As Fred Barnes has said, no matter whom he juxtaposes Barack Obama with — Bill Ayers, Paris Hilton, Harold Raines — he's a racist. McCain, however, has put forth a little inadvertent racism in this campaign, not directed at Obama but a much larger group — Arab Americans.

Two weeks ago, Gayle Quinnell asked McCain a question at a town hall. She, of course, sounded like a pack a day smoker and looked like somebody who owns a lot of knick-knacks and wears very kitschy Christmas sweaters, with like, Santa Claus bombing the Taliban — the type of person who either unleashes a diamond of a one-liner (like Joe the Plumber) or tosses a bucket of verbal coal at you.

She opted for the latter: "I can't trust Obama. I have read about him, and he's not he's not he's a — uh — he's an Arab." McCain shook his head, as he should have, and said repeatedly "no, ma'am." After he snatched away the microphone, however, he inadvertently injected a little racism into his response: "He's a decent family man (and) citizen that I just happen to have some disagreements with on fundamental issues."

Would being Arab preclude him from being decent? Campbell Brown isolated that very question, while Colin Powell remarked, "What if he is (a Muslim)? Is there something wrong with being a Muslim in this country?" Neither candidate has really broached the subject from that perspective, which remains more a commentary on the political climate that settled

in the wake of Sept. 11 than anything else. We tripped and fell right into one of those WWI propaganda posters with the black, ominous hand of the Germans reaching out to take our women and destroy our culture.

We tripped and fell right into one of those WWI propaganda posters with the black, ominous hand of the Germans reaching out to... destroy our culture."

There's no indication from the McCain campaign this was anything but inadvertent. In fact, last week in Virginia, a Muslim McCain campaigner confronted a man peddling bumper stickers proclaiming Obama a Muslim.

And contrary to the mainstream media image of Sarah Palin posing coquettishly atop an ivory tower of nativism and religious intolerance, she quickly and decisively shot down the notion.

"Do you think the Republican Party should embrace the party's Muslims?" a reporter from American News Project asked Gov. Palin over the weekend.

She firmly replied, "We're not going to discriminate against a person's religion at all. No, that is not appropriate and not acceptable in my book to discriminate."

Nevertheless, she has been painted a racist. When she underwent a fire siege for the infamous "palling around with terrorists," her remarks did not concern Muslims, they concerned Bill Ayers, an American communist who conspired to destroy institutions like the Pentagon, with no regard to innocent lives. He blew stuff up and stomped around on American flags. He was a terrorist. But here today, America immediately equates "terrorist" with "Arab," projecting racism onto situations and remarks devoid of racism.

America always trumps religion. And God bless, Sarah Palin seems to understand this better than most.

—Katherine Miller is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at kat.m.miller@vanderbilt.edu.

In defense of the LGBTQI Center

To the Editor:

Is anyone else getting tired of the Hustler's illogical, reactionary, word-jumble editorials?

By no means will the K.C. Potter Center be "sequestering" the LGBTQI community. Misunderstandings and homophobia do much more to segregate the LGBTQI community from the community at large than weekly meetings on West Side Row. Members of the LGBTQI community will not stop being a part of the Vanderbilt community just because they have somewhere to meet. It is just as silly as saying we should get rid of the Women's Center because it will keep women from interacting with men on campus. (Or that the Hustler could somehow get back in touch with the student body by abandoning its office.)

The center will provide useful resources and much-needed support for LGBTQI students, faculty and staff. We can choose to recognize that society is not one-size-fits-all and provide people with the services they need or we can continue to shun the individual for being or requiring anything not "normal."

Michael Warren is correct in asking for students from all walks of life to come together and learn from each other. Indeed, it is through experience that we overcome our prejudices. However, these

experiences are more likely to happen when everyone feels comfortable enough to express himself or herself. The K.C. Potter Center is a big step in empowering the LGBTQI community and is a strong statement of support from the administration.

Nor is the center just for the LGBTQI community. As a straight student, not only do I feel welcome there, but I intend to visit often with questions of my own.

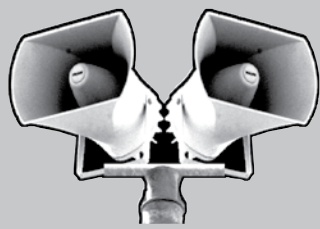
If Warren is truly worried the K.C. Potter Center will "sequester" students, then perhaps he should be proactive and come get to know the LGBTQI community. For the question, "How will the K.C. Potter Center make the student body more tolerant?" is only one small part of the question, "How can we make ourselves more tolerant?" I'll be the first to admit I've not always been the most courageous ally, and I think we can agree Vanderbilt does not have the best track record, either. But Vanderbilt is changing and I, like many of you, hope to change with it. The K.C. Potter Center is an asset to all of us.

Sean Tierney
Senior
College of Arts and Science

THE VERDICT		
Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff! Compiled by Thomas Shattuck		
England		Anaked man was arrested in Manchester on suspicion of burglary Wednesday after getting stuck in the chimney of the supermarket from which he was allegedly trying to steal.
Bangladesh		Bangladesh's anti-graft committee has flushed out extensive corruption in government departments, including one case where 122 workers were paid to fix a single toilet. Somebody should tell Joe the Plumber.
Alcohol		An Australian undertaker got drunk and followed a woman in his hearse, honking the horn and shouting threats in December of 2004. For some reason, sentencing will commence this upcoming Tuesday.
Humankind		"High School Musical 3: Senior Year" rocked theaters around the world during its initial weekend. The movie sold \$42 million worth of tickets across North America for the three days beginning on Friday, and grossed \$40 million internationally. And that's just pathetic.
Being Poor		The U.S. has the greatest inequality in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development after Mexico and Turkey. The richest 10 percent of Americans earn an average of \$93,000 — whereas the poorest 10 percent of Americans earn an average of \$5,800.

**Annoyed?
Need to rant?
Have an issue
you'd like to voice
your opinion on?**

Email the Opinion Page at
opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com



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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(615) 279-9488

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THE BACK PAGE

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Click the gold Hustler/Versus button at the bottom right of the home page

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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10/24/08 SOLUTIONS

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SEARCHING FOR THE LOST CITIES OF THE ANCIENT MAYA:

THE VANDERBILT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITIONS, ADVENTURES AND DISCOVERIES



Please join us for an illustrated lecture by Arthur Demarest
Ingram Professor of Anthropology and
Director of the Vanderbilt Institute of Mesoamerican Archaeology

October 28, 2008
6:30 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Lecture

David K. Wilson Hall, Room 103

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 - Mach+ jet
 - Reprimand
 - Ham it up
 - Old card game
 - Stan's pal
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 - Printer's spaces
 - Ingenuous
 - Take in air
 - Read quickly
 - Give a hand
 - ___ your heart out!
 - Longshoremen
 - Trapping
 - College cheer
 - Washer cycle
 - Underwater scanner
 - On-the-double letters
 - Uppity folks
 - Arizona city on the Colorado
 - Superman's folks
 - Hanoi holidays
 - Roulette bet
 - Landed properties
 - Ground squirrels
 - Snitch
 - Spicy stew
 - "Roberta" star
 - Victoria of "All of Me"
 - Dull sound
 - Dyeing tub
 - Sneeze sound
 - "The Count of ___ Cristo"
 - Afore
 - Thorax
 - Fencing foils
 - D.C. honcho
 - Abodes

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10/27/08

10/24/08 SOLUTIONS

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 - Flings
 - Instrumental compositions
 - Hatfields or McCoys, e.g.
 - Lena or Ken
 - Part of "SNL"
 - Property record
 - Stringed instruments
 - Is able to
 - Male duck
 - Desert springs
 - Gregorian, for one
 - Siegfried & ___
 - Accustom
 - Designator
 - Alums
 - Alternative to ready?
 - Sch. group
 - Fathered
 - Ripped off
 - Swings and misses?
 - Popeye's power source

- Corn order
- Martin and Buscemi
- Head cheese
- Top
- Feed the hogs
- Use a diapason
- Put money in the kitty
- Attention getter
- Plane front
- Youngsters
- "Chances ___" (Mathis hit)

VANDERBILT

student life center

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10.28.08

songwriting

poetry

speech

open forum

spoken word

3:00 PM

STARBUCKS

@ the Student Life Center

DON'T FORGET

THE LYRICS

Kareoke

OCTOBER 29

7:30 PM

@ THE PUB

SARRATT

STUDENT CENTER

SPORTS

Commodores refocus after wrenching loss to Duke



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Redshirt freshman linebacker Chris Marve (13) tackles Duke running back Clifford Harris (4) during action between the Commodores and the Blue Devils Saturday. Marve, who had a career-high 16 tackles and also forced a fumble in the game, said after Vanderbilt's 10-7 loss that the Commodores know they have obstacles to overcome in their quest for a successful season.

by MEGHAN ROSE
Sports Contributor

Despite Saturday's devastating loss to Duke, the Commodores aren't giving up on their season.

Although some are becoming skeptical of the team's consistency and execution heading into the latter part of the season, with three consecutive losses in the past three weeks, coach Bobby Johnson is not concerned with the heart or effort his players have shown him and his staff.

"The last thing I expect our guys to do is quit — I don't think there's a quit in any of them," Johnson said. "Our guys do a fantastic job of planning, and we just have to make sure we're able to react."

In the 10-7 loss, Vanderbilt (5-3, 3-2 Southeastern Conference) found itself unable to click on all cylinders. Through the first three quarters where they scored no points, the Commodores seemingly lacked the energized football play Vanderbilt fans have grown accustomed to this season.

While the defense impressively held a Duke offense, which has had no problem putting

up points against opponents this season, to only a field goal and a touchdown all game, the Vanderbilt offense was unable to convert until the early minutes of the fourth quarter.

Even the kicking game was off; senior Bryant Hahnfeldt missed two critical field goals.

Despite some disappointment with the outcomes of the Mississippi State, Georgia and Duke games, the Commodores have not lost confidence in their play or their effort.

"It's very frustrating for us, but we know that as a team, we just have to pick it up more," said receiver redshirt senior Sean Walker, who caught a 79-yard pass from redshirt junior Mackenzi Adams for Vanderbilt's sole score. "Coach always reminds us that every game is going to be a tough game, and as a team, we're still looking to win every game."

With a break next weekend in the heart of their Southeastern Conference play, the Commodores might have just what they are looking for: a chance to regroup and refocus.

"It's back to the drawing board," Johnson said. "We've got some work to do — we have a week off, and we'll start working on that and try to get better."

With four games remaining on the schedule against Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Wake Forest, Vanderbilt's season is at a crossroads. Currently one victory shy of bowl eligibility, the Commodores are taking the rest of the season one game at a time.

"We have four more games to play — four more important games," Johnson said. "We've got to stop talking about doing things and start doing things."

For the Commodores, the past few losses are not a roadblock in their quest for a satisfying and successful season.

"It's like anything else in life. When you have a setback you have to climb over the obstacle," said redshirt freshman linebacker Chris Marve. "You have to progress, and that's what we're going to try to do."

Vanderbilt is ready to put Saturday's loss behind them as they fight for standing and respect in the tightening SEC.

"You are always as good as your last game, and our last game wasn't very good," Johnson said. "We have an off week this week, and it's not going to be an off week — it's going to be an on week. We're going to be practicing, and we're going to be practicing hard." ■

Vanderbilt has issues at quarterback once again

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor

Without even playing a single snap in Saturday's 10-7 loss to Duke, redshirt senior Chris Nickson may be reintroduced to the Commodore's quarterback controversy that has plagued the team for the past two seasons.

Nickson has opened each of the last two seasons as the starter but has been replaced by redshirt junior Mackenzi Adams both times due to nagging shoulder injuries.

But with former Commodore and current Denver Broncos signal caller Jay Cutler patrolling the sideline for Homecoming, Adams looked nothing like the quarterback who had sparked the team to three big victories over the past two seasons.

Against a Duke defense that consistently brought pressure, a frustrated Adams went 14-for-31 for 210 yards and threw two critical interceptions as the Commodore offense struggled to move the ball for most of the game. Entering the fourth quarter, he had completed only three passes for 29 yards before taking to the air as the Commodores tried to mount a comeback.

"I try to play with a lot of passion, and it's just frustrating when things don't go your way, but we've just got to stick in there and try to get things going," Adams said. "All we needed was one play, and we got rolling a little bit. We've just got to finish."

The Vanderbilt offensive line played seven different players during the game in



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Quarterback Mackenzi Adams leaves the field after Vanderbilt's 10-7 loss. He threw two interceptions in the game.

an attempt to jump-start the offense, but the Blue Devils repeatedly found their way into the backfield. Duke generated four sacks due to a combination of poor pass-protection by

the Commodores and indecision on the part of Adams, who consistently held on to the ball too long when dropping back to pass.

"I don't know if it was their scheme, or if they were just beating us, but it seemed like almost every pass play, someone was getting into the backfield," said redshirt junior offensive tackle Thomas Welch.

Adams also struggled to hit open receivers, throwing behind his man on multiple occasions on what should have been easy completions.

Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson summed up Adams' performance as "spotty."

"Some things we did pretty good, but we were never consistent," he said. "It's hard to move the ball and drive it when you're not very consistent."

When fully healthy, Nickson has been the better option at quarterback. But he has been forced to the bench by injuries over the past two years, which has diminished his accuracy and power on throws.

On Saturday, however, Nickson spent almost half of the game warming up on the sidelines, looking as if he expected to go in on the next series as the offense continued to sputter. What's more, he looked to have regained the zip on his throws that was previously diminished due to his injury.

The Commodores are one win away from bowl eligibility, but that sixth victory will continue to elude them until they can muster some production on offense.

But as Johnson asserted, "we're far from finished." ■

DUKE REPORT CARD

Compiled by Hustler Sports Staff

QUARTERBACKS, D+

Mackenzi Adams completed just 14-31 passes for 210 yards and two picks. Other than a 79-yard touchdown pass, Adams looked harassed all game long and frequently held on to the ball too long. On Vanderbilt's promising final drive, he underthrew a badly advised deep pass that was intercepted to clinch the win for Duke.

RUNNING BACKS, C+

Jared Hawkins only carried the ball 11 times, but rushed for a decent 46 yards. Vanderbilt never established the run anyway so there was little for this group to do.

WIDE RECEIVERS, D+

Other than Sean Walker's 79-yard touchdown in a career day for the senior, this group didn't do anything to help out Adams. Tight end Brandon Barden grabbed five passes for 53 yards, but Justin Wheeler, Jamie Graham and George Smith combined for zero catches.

OFFENSIVE LINE, D

Duke registered four sacks as Vanderbilt did a very poor job of pass blocking. On several occasions, Adams had to tuck and run on pass plays that were bused by Duke pressure.

DEFENSIVE LINE, B+

Broderick Stewart had two crushing sacks and forced two fumbles, and Steve Stone added a critical sack that forced the Blue Devils to attempt a longer field goal that they missed. After Georgia ran wild on the group last week, Duke only averaged 0.8 yards per carry.

LINEBACKERS, B-

Chris Marve had quite a game, forcing a fumble that was recovered by Vanderbilt to go along with 16 tackles. The rest of the group did a poor job of tackling, though, that allowed the Blue Devils to make small passing plays into big ones.

SECONDARY, C

Duke quarterback Thaddeus Lewis threw for 222 yards and one touchdown, and for only the second time this season, Vanderbilt didn't pick off a pass.

SPECIAL TEAMS, F

Bryant Hahnfeldt missed both field goals he attempted; one would have given Vanderbilt an early lead and another would have tied the game. Brett Upson's 23-yard punt set up Duke's only touchdown, and Jamie Graham's fumble on a punt return set up Duke's field goal.

COACHING, D-

The offensive had absolutely no flow in this game, and no adjustments were made at halftime to correct the Commodores' many deficiencies. While Bruce Fowler's defense was solid, there were no signs of life from Ted Cain's play calling until the fourth quarter, and by then it was too little, too late.

Gold team wins baseball scrimmage



ERIC GLASSER / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshman shortstop Jason Esposito (22) of the Gold Team slides home safely for one of his two runs during the third game of the Vanderbilt baseball team's Black and Gold series on Sunday. The Gold Team rallied to win 10-6 and take two out of three games in the series. The annual intrasquad scrimmage marks the end of the fall practice schedule for the Commodores, who open their official season starting in February against Stanford.



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