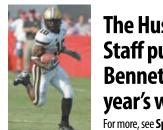




Don't fear holiday shopping . . . For more, see Life, page 8



The Hustler Sports Staff put Earl **Bennett on this** year's wish list ...

For more, see **Sports, page 6**



The Handerhilt Hustler

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 83

THE WALL

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

THIS WEEK Library extends hours for exam

week

Peabody Library and the Stevenson Science and Engineering Library will be open 24/7 through Friday, Dec. 21.

TODAY

Reading Day

There are no classes or examinations for undergraduates.

TODAY Creative **Expressions XIII** Exhibit

Jointly sponsored by the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the Nashville Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, this annual exhibit features work in a variety of media by artists with a wide range of disabilities. The exhibit will take place in the Kennedy Center Lobby from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 15 SibSaturdays

Join children who have brothers and sisters with disabilities for fun, games, activities and conversation at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center from 10 a.m. to

SATURDAY, DEC. 15 17th annual

Homeless Memorial The service, which is organized by the Nashville Homeless

Power Project, is meant to recognize those lost on the streets. It will be held in Riverfront Park at **Broadway and First** Avenue. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m., followed by the 9 a.m. memorial.

SUNDAY, DEC. 16 **Happy Holidays** Remembered

Revisit the winter wonderlands and sweet memories of Nashville holidays at Happy Holidays Remembered, an exhibit of historic photographs, newspaper clippings and memorabilia from the Special **Collections Division** of Nashville Public Library. The exhibit will be featured all day in the Main Library at 615 Church St. in the Courtyard Gallery.

See http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu

Zeppos 'almost certain' to become university's 8th chancellor

by DAVID BROWN

Staff Reporter

Interim Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos leads the pack in the race to become the eighth chancellor of the university.

"It is not a matter of if he will become the next chancellor, but when," said one executive search committee member.

Zeppos is widely considered the favorite of many Board of Trust members, according to three sources familiar with the situation.

And a high-ranking university

certain" Zeppos would be the recommendation of the executive search committee.

Despite

reports in The

Tennessean

earlier in the

Vanderbilt

would pursue

Secretary

that

week

Condoleezza Rice for the job, the high-ranking university official said the rumor was false.

The full board must approve the

appointment after the executive search committee recommends a candidate.

The full board will hold its first meeting of 2008 in February, although Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Mike Schoenfeld said they could hold a special gathering.

"Board committees, and for that matter the full board, could meet anytime for a specially called meeting for something important, like a vote on the new chancellor," he said, but added "nothing like that is or has been scheduled."

Chancellor Gordon Gee, who stepped down this summer to return to The Ohio State University where he served as president from 1990 to 1998. Zeppos has served as interim chancellor and continued his post as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs since late this summer.

This could be the first time in more than 60 years that a chancellor has come from within the administration.

Zeppos joined the Vanderbilt community in 1987 as an assistant

professor in the Law School and subsequently served as associate dean and associate provost before being named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs in 2002.

In a statement today, Schoenfeld declined to comment on the candidacy of any individual for chancellor and said the search process was still in progress.

Zeppos could not be reached for comment. If he secures board approval at the start of the year, he will likely take office before the 2008-09 academic year. ■



Democratic presidential hopefuls — former Sen. John Edwards, Sen. Barack Obama, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Joseph Biden and Sen. Christopher Dodd — prepare to discuss their positions at the Des Moines Register Democratic Presidential Debate in Johnston, Iowa, on Thursday,

by DAVID BROWN

Staff Reporter

EVE ATTERMANN

Asst News Editor

College-age voters are ready to reject the status quo this November, according to a new poll by the Institute of Politics at Harvard University.

Young people prefer Illinois Senator Barack Obama and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani as their top choices for president and are most concerned about the war in Iraq, the

About 65 percent of Vanderbilt students felt the war in Iraq was either strongly or somewhat not worth fighting, and an equal number of students feel terrorism still remains a very or fairly serious issue, according to a Vanderbilt Student Government/Vanderbilt Hustler poll conducted in October.

The poll also found almost 75 percent

of the undergraduate student body either strongly or somewhat disapproves of the job performance of President Bush.

"Obama clearly has tapped into something in the younger generation," said political science professor John Geer. "For one thing, he himself is younger than the other candidates, but more importantly, he has the dynamic

Political involvement this year has not been restricted to the student body, however. According to Federal Election Commission filings, political contributions from Vanderbilt employees have increased 25 percent from the last donation cycle even though the election is still 10 months away.

Leading contributors are Interim Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos and Colleen Conway-Welch, a dean in the School of Nursing, who have both given \$2,300 — the maximum legal amount — to Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, respectively.

Students, such as senior Rachael Geisler and junior Miriam Assadian, said they support presidential nominees

who desire change. "Obama just has something different about him," Geisler said. "He is charismatic and intelligent - two attributes that have been missing in this president."

"I'm supporting Hillary Clinton because she's a female Democrat," Assadian said. "Or Obama, because he's black. I'm a minority female myself, so I support minority politicians."

Senior Cassia Beltran said she hoped to make history this election by voting for a minority nominee but was disappointed she cannot, as she disagrees with both Clinton's and Obama's platforms.

"I'm voting for Romney because I think he's better than Hillary or Obama," Beltran said. "I think it's sad, too, because I really wanted a female or a black man to be president, but I feel that their policies would be unsuccessful." ■

The Procrastination Issue

Students have enough reading to do this time of the year. We did not want to burden you (or ourselves) with too much

For our final issue this semester, we thought students would want more crosswords than columns, more ways to procrastinate than to ponder. So when quantum mechanics or Latin conjugations start stressing you out, sit back, close that notebook and pick up your copy of The Vanderbilt Hustler. The pages are teeming with the possibility of wasted hours and crossword goodness.

And who knows? No. 44 across on the first crossword just might be the answer to a question on your first final. But really, any reason to put off studying for just a little bit longer is a good one.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF Clemens, Tejada, Sheffield named in Mitchell Report

Roger Clemens, Miguel Tejada and Andy Pettitte were named in the longawaited Mitchell Report on Thursday, an All-Star roster linked to steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs that put a question mark — if not an asterisk — next to some of baseball's biggest moments.

Barry Bonds, already under indictment on charges of lying to a federal grand jury about steroids, and Gary Sheffield also showed up in baseball's most infamous lineup since the Black Sox scandal.

The report culminated a 20-month investigation by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, hired by commissioner Bud Selig to examine the Steroids Era.

—For more news briefs from around the world, nation and campus, see page 2.

Exam services for students

Sarratt

-Office supplies and a print station at the information desk -Extra tables in the gallery, room 216 and room 220

-Free coffee and espresso bar on the promenade (Monday, Dec. 17 and Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 9 p.m. to midnight)

-Free coffee at Rand (Sunday, Dec. 16 to Wednesday, Dec. 19) -Unlimited entry brunch on the meal plan (Saturday, Dec. 15, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

The Commons

-Free spa days offering massages, reflexology, tea and snacks from Nectar (Monday, Dec. 17 to Friday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) -Breakfast buffet on the meal plan (Monday,

Dec. 17, 9 p.m. to midnight)

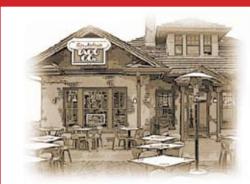
Student Life Center

-Couches and study tables in the Board of Trust room

-Lower level meeting rooms open

Hours:

-Student Life Center and Starbucks: 7 a.m. to midnight, closing Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. -The Commons and Common Grounds: 24 hours, closing Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. -Sarratt: 24 hours, closing Dec. 22 at 5 p.m.



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Odns & ENDS

WEATHER

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

SATURDAY



Rain, 46/30

SUNDAY



Partly Cloudy, 39/26

MONDAY



Mostly Sunny, 46/29

VUPD CRIME LOG compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

Monday, Dec. 10, 11:21 p.m.: A wallet was stolen from a vehicle parked in Lot 102.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2:05 a.m.: Subjects were arrested for vandalizing a parking gate at 2525 West End Ave. They were identified by a witness who saw them on a video.

Check out http://police.vanderbilt.edu/ crimelog.htm for complete listings

SERVICE GUIDE

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

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

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LOCATION

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Call (615) 343-3064 9 a.m. — 5 p.m., Monday — Friday. One semester's delivery via U.S. Postal Service is available for \$125 or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt

BACK ISSUES

Hustler.

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW

The news you need — in brief compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

WORLD

Argentine president Fernandez responds angrily to U.S. charges that Venezuelan cash meant for her campaign

Argentina's new president reacted angrily Thursday to U.S. charges that a suitcase full of Venezuelan cash seized by customs was intended to finance her campaign, calling it an example of "garbage in international politics."

President Cristina Fernandez also suggested that anyone who might think a female president is more easily influenced is

The disclosure came Wednesday in a Miami court hearing for a criminal complaint against four men arrested and charged with being illegal Venezuelan agents who attempted a cover-up.

U.S. prosecutors said a suitcase filled with nearly \$800,000 was a campaign contribution to Fernandez, who was inaugurated this week as Argentina's first popularly elected female president.

SOURCE: AP

Gore blames U.S. for blocking progress at U.N. climate conference in Bali

Nobel laureate Al Gore said Thursday the United States is "principally responsible" for blocking progress at the U.N. climate conference, and European nations threatened to boycott U.S.-led climate talks next month unless Washington compromises on

The former vice president urged delegates to take urgent action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming, and told them that the next U.S. president will likely be more supportive of international caps on polluting gases.

"My own country, the United States, is principally responsible for obstructing progress here in Bali," said Gore, who flew to Bali from Oslo, Norway, where he received the Nobel Peace Prize for helping alert the world to the danger of climate change.

Opposition leader Kasparov will not run for Russian presidency

Opposition leader Garry Kasparov said Thursday the Kremlin has stopped him from running for president by preventing his supporters from meeting to nominate him.

Members of the Other Russia coalition, which Kasparov heads, say they had been unable to rent a Moscow auditorium, which they needed for a legally required vote to endorse the former chess champion's presidential bid.

Judging by the response organizers were getting from venue owners, authorities had been instructed to stop his group from meeting, Kasparov said.

SOURCE: AP

NATION

Marine reservist convicted of killing Iragi soldier at guard post in Fallujah

A Marine reservist was found guilty Thursday of killing an Iraqi soldier while they stood watch together at a guard post in Fallujah.

Lance Cpl. Delano Holmes, 22, of Indianapolis, was convicted of negligent homicide but acquitted of the greater charge of unpremeditated homicide. He was also convicted of making a false official statement.

A panel of three officers and five enlisted Marines returned the verdict after two days of deliberating over whether the Dec. 31, 2006, killing of Pvt. Munther Muhammed Hassin was an act of murder or self-defense.

Holmes made no remarks in court immediately after the verdict, a Marine spokeswoman said.

SOURCE: AP

Led Zeppelin can wait: Robert Plant and Alison Krauss announce May tour of **European cities**

If Led Zeppelin tours in 2008, it won't be during May: Singer Robert Plant has reserved that month for a European jaunt with

Plant, fresh off a hugely successful reunion concert with Led Zeppelin, and bluegrass star Krauss announced the European leg of their tour Thursday. It had been known that a tour was in the works, but both had been mum on details.

Their new album, "Raising Sand," was released in October, just about the time Plant, 59, and former Led Zeppelin bandmates Jimmy Page and John Paul Jones confirmed they would play a one-time only show at a benefit concert for the late Atlantic Records co-founder Ahmet Ertegun.

SOURCE: AP

CAMPUS

Fine Arts Gallery to receive 150 Andy Warhol prints, photographs

The Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery will be the recipient of a gift from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. The foundation will donate approximately 150 original Warhol

prints and photographs to the gallery's permanent collection in honor of the foundation's 20th anniversary. The Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program is bequeathing

groups of Warhol's photographs and prints to 183 college and university museums around the country.

"Vanderbilt is honored to receive this remarkable gift," Joseph Mella, director of the Fine Arts Gallery, said on the Gallery's Web site. "These works will be an incredible resource for our students and certainly strengthen the Gallery's collection of 20th-century art."

SOURCE: VANDERBILT FINE ARTS GALLERY

THEY CALL THIS NEWS?

Legitimate news outlets report stories every day that make the average American ask: Why should I care? News stories like these fill dead air and provide little informational value. But they're good for a laugh.

compiled by SARA GAST

- At the Nuremberg, Germany, airport Tuesday a man "chugged" a liter of vodka at a security check and nearly died from alcohol poisoning, police said. He apparently was unwilling to comply with new rules prohibiting large quantities of liquid in carry-on items.
- Sister and principal Kathy Avery held students after a Mass and informed fifth-through eighth-graders that she has a zero-tolerance policy for cursing, proceeding to read aloud the words and phrases she was banning. "It got a little quiet in church," she said.
- An Australian lawmaker who in 1998 was handcuffed in his underpants to a pole during a drunken night in a Russian strip club said Wednesday that while "it was a terrific night," he learned a valuable lesson: "Always wear clean underwear."
- A mysterious decorator is decking the trees along Garden State Parkway. "Somebody has a lot of holiday spirit, which is great, but a lot of spare time at night, which is not so great," said a New Jersey Turnpike Authority spokesman, who also wondered if it could be a husband whose wife will not let him hang any more decorations.
- A 20-year-old man's arm was stuck up to his shoulder in a meat grinding machine for about 2 1/2 hours. He was alert and talking during the ordeal.

- An anti-lawsuit group named the winner of its annual Wacky Warning Label Contest: a tractor label that reads "Danger: Avoid Death." Honorable mention: "Caution: Safety goggles recommended."
- Hurt by the declining television market size, an Ohio TV news station contracted out the production of its coverage

to its cross-town rival.

- A convenience store in Watts, Okla., population 300, sold two Powerball lottery tickets within a month worth a total
- Standard & Poor's made a mistake in calculating the score for Montpelier High School and erroneously ranked it the nation's fifth-best public high school. It is among the top 500 of 18,000 high schools nationally but not the top five. Sophomore Sophia Manley, 15, said she wasn't shocked to learn it was a mistake. "I don't really see us as one of the most amazing schools ever," she said.
- A Manhattan doorman, who has worked at a four-building complex for 40 years, was told for the third time this year not to come to work because of bad breath. He said he has stopped eating garlic, uses mouthwash and takes breath mints on the job.

SNAPSHOT

SAVING SMILES



Children from the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital visited with Dance Marathon student teams at a holiday party Wednesday in the Student Life Center. Dance Marathon, a 14-hour fundraising event, will be Feb. 15 to 16.

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> vanderbilt student communications, inc www.vscmedia.ora

Celebrating Christmahanikwanzika



Members of the campus community join the Vanderbilt Lambda Association at their annual Christmahanikwanzika celebration Thursday night at the GLBT Resource Office. The students gathered to celebrate all December holidays.

Biodiesel initiative revs up campus sustainability efforts

by ALEX DALY Staff Reporter

Beginning in fall 2008, the School of Engineering will introduce a new testing facility to study the performance of biodiesel fuels and diesel engines to facilitate a campus-wide sustainable biodiesel initiative.

The \$100,000 facility will be funded by the Denso Corporation of North America and will include a four-cylinder engine that is used in passenger cars. Students will use diagnostic equipment to monitor particulate and gaseous emissions from the biodiesel engine.

Biodiesel is a processed fuel derived from biological sources that can be used in diesel engine vehicles. Compared to petroleum-based diesel fuel, biodiesel emits "60 percent less carbon dioxide

because it is derived from vegetable oil, which comes from plants such as corn," said professor Robert Pitz, chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The biodiesel initiative began with student groups, such as Wilskills, an outdoor education program. Volunteers from Wilskills collect used vegetable oil from the cafeterias and medical center to recycle it into biodiesel.

In the new testing facility, mechanical will investigate sustainability, efficiency and performance of biodiesel as fuel compared to conventional petroleum diesel.

"Students are exploring alternative methods of making biofuels from different sources," Pitz said.

Mechanical engineering professor Amrutur Anilkumar will manage the testing facility.

Both students and faculty were instrumental in the creation of the facility, he said. Students raised awareness, took action and then worked together with faculty to develop the new testing

And the biodiesel initiative has not only attracted institute-wide appeal, but also society-wide appeal, he said.

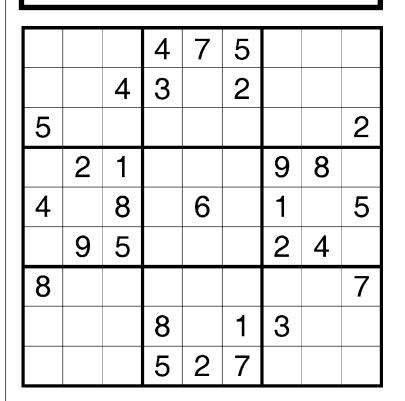
The facility is not only a database for training and experimentation but also a way to promote environmental consciousness. And students are expressing their support of the idea.

"I think that it is great we are moving in an environmentally friendly direction, especially with the way the world is heading right now. I think it will definitely get Vanderbilt's name on the map," said senior Daniel Levie, an engineer. ■

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SOLUTIONS

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

6 8 4 2 9 9 9 8 1 6 8 4 9 7 3 2 5 7 9 6 8 8 5 6 6 1 2 8 6 7 9 4 Þ 9 8 6 2 7 5 3 1 ħ 9 6

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Crossword

- **ACROSS**
- 1 Identical 5 Wound
- coverage
- 9 Garbo of films 14 Prayer ender
- 15 Entice 16 Pass along
- 17 Lake formed by
- Hoover Dam 18 Secondhand
- 19 Select few
- 20 Advantages 22 Wound seriously
- 23 Erte's style 24 Police state
- 27 Get hitched
- again
- 29 Negative vote
- 30 Flu type
- 34 Obtain 35 Conceited
- 36 007
- 37 Long, narrow cuts 39 Sicilian erupter
- 40 Biblical
- preposition
- 41 Feel unwell 42 Runs into
- 43 Equal score 44 Conciliate
- 47 Economizes severely
- 49 Educator
- 54 Duplicate 55 Funeral home 56 Sharp mountain
- ridge 58 Apple or quince
- 59 Small nail 60 Detection
- device 61 What to be right
- as?
- 62 Irish Gaelic 63 Reagan cabinet
- member
- 64 Formerly
- 65 Hair colorist
- **DOWN**
- 1 Dance in duple time
- 2 Muslim prince:
- var.
- 3 Intended 4 Came to a conclusion

- 43 62
- © 2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.
- 5 Millstream
- channel
- 7 God of war
- 8 Bottom of a river 9 Slick
- 10 Object from antiquity
- 11 Get rid of
- 12 Make lace 13 Affirmative at
- sea
- 21 Simple plant
- 22 Trading centers 24 Worry
- 25 New Orleans
- player 26 Asian starlings
- 28 Nimble
- 30 Borders on
- 31 Type of boom

- 32 Plead on
- another's behalf 33 Fuss
- 35 Victory sign 37 Bathetic
- 38 Cup brims 42 Pithy part

Solutions

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- 44 Current unit
- 45 AEC word 46 Tranquil

power

- 48 Very small

- amounts 50 To the third
- 51 Part of HST
 - 52 Delete 53 Actress Winona
 - 55 Ecstatic cry 56 Appendage 57 "Norma _
 - 58 In favor of

Crossword

- 15 Hobbled
- 16 Fencing sword

- 24 Stories in

- 31 Actor Mineo
- role
- 39 Objections
- 41 Beige shades
- 44 Dance parts

- 57 Rough
- 65 Italian capital

- 69 Male cats
- 1 Thaw
- 2 Above
- Dolly!"

- 6 Iowa State site

- 18 Lena or Ken
- 20 Pregnancy thirds
- 23 Select
- installments 26 Hollywood
- 33 Madonna title
- 43 Middling
- ticker stn.
- Vegas
- 53 Short races
- 59 Repetitions
- vixen
- 67 Juliet's beau
- Helmsley
- 4 Nervous vibration

- **ACROSS** Sheds skin
- 14 Chris of tennis
- 19 Rozelle or Rose
- 32 Scull propeller

- Nile 48 Former stock-
- 51 Sports breaks
- 58 Horse's pace
- 68 Terrible czar?
- 71 Water in the garden 72 Feed the hogs

73 Infamous hotelier

- 5 Tapering tower

- 10 Easy victory
- 17 Embankment
- 22 Pitfall
- hopefuls
- 35 Abominable snowmen
- 46 Nation on the
- protuberance
- 66 "Damn Yankees"
- 70 High and mighty
 - **DOWN**
- 3 Dolly of "Hello.

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6 Tons and tons

7 Drake or bull

65

- 8 Arab leaders 9 Feels 10 Snakes and lizards 11 Puccini work
- 13 Chick calls 21 Martin or Allen 25 Beam 26 Cries

27 Stretched tight

28 Comic Johnson

12 Silver or gold

29 Muscle twinges 30 Swagger 34 German

automaker

36 Vegetarian's

staple 37 Well, that special! 38 Boys of the

house

40 Separated

lineman

time

42 Dance in duple

B U R S T U O B M I T S A J

Solutions

BOMEO

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SIBIBIS

fence 50 Wading birds 52 Baltimore pro

47 Sitting on the

53 Kind of steak

54 Utah city

- 55 Kind of candle 56 Seat at a bar
 - 62 "Typee" sequel 63 Sign gas

 - 60 Ticklish doll 61 Hoarse sound

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TABVB

- 64 Couch

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Final issue 'most memorable' of tenure

I have led The Vanderbilt Hustler through 84 production nights in my year as editor in chief. Before that, I presided over another 21 as managing editor and produced the news section for another 42. I have spent at least 1,323 hours of my life in the windowless Hustler newsroom — probably more. If you think I have no life, you're pretty much right. But sad as that may seem, I have learned more about journalism, leadership and life from long nights spent in the newsroom than anything.

There have been ups and downs, as with anything in life. I still blow my 10 p.m. deadline almost every night, but I am proud of the progress the paper, Web site and staff have made in my time here. Student media at Vanderbilt — The Hustler in particular — has changed so much since I came to the university almost four years ago. We had just moved to three days a week when I started my freshman year,

and InsideVandy.com did not even exist. We now publish thwarted by an unruly piece of computer equipment after a high-quality product three times a week and sustain a 24/7 Web site. I am thankful to have had the chance to make my impact on the organization, and I am confident that I leave it in capable hands.

My 1,323 hours in the newsroom have generally been crazy, but I can honestly affirm that my last production night was my most memorable.

This issue came "this close" to not happening. The Hustler server, which has served (pun intended) me well for the past 147 production nights, decided to crash at 9 p.m. Thursday night, almost denying me the opportunity to see my last Hustler issue to completion. All the articles, photos, ads and design templates we depend on could not be accessed, and we were without a Plan B.

It would have been weird to see my final efforts

all this time. But with a little creative computing and a few extra hours, we were able to accomplish our goal.

I was supposed to be out of the office early tonight; I even added extra crossword puzzles to this issue to ensure I would be home at a decent hour. But this just demonstrates what I mean when I say life in student media has taught me a lot about life in the real world. Things usually don't go according to plan, but the importance of perseverance cannot be underestimated in any situation.

So — Thank you Jim Hayes, Matt Radford and the Apple gods wfor making my last issue possible. Thank you to the rest of my staff for hanging in there with me. And most of all, thank you to my friends for keeping me sane from my first production night to my 147th.

REEVE HAMILTON

Opinion Editor

Top 10 Rants of the Semester

The Rant, love it or hate it, has come to be an integral part of The Vanderbilt Hustler's opinion section. It taps into the university subconscious and highlights some of the more colorful thoughts had by students on campus. A few Rants spark particular interest on campus because they are so absurd, so over the top, or, even, so insightful and spot-on. Here are the top 10 Rants of the semester — you'll have to decide which category each falls into for yourself.

- "I heartily applaud The Hustler's decision to run a front page story on the Vanderbilt Playboy model during Family Weekend. Way to help fully immerse parents and siblings in our excellent campus culture and give the proverbial finger to the administration at the same time (not that they deserve it, but it's fun to see it done). It's refreshing to see that the Hustler staff has a sense of humor. Keep it up and you might even put The Slant out of business (sorry, Sean)."
- "I think it's funny that the Vanderbilt Young Alumni Trustees find the format of the Homecoming award selection process a 'pressing issue' (among other topics such as the living wage and where we are going to live next year)."
- "Why do people complain about the lack of very minor amenities at Vanderbilt with the sorry punch line, 'WE pay enough to go here in the first place'?! I think everyone can live without a pom-pom at a football game or another side at Lunch Paper. I would rather my money pay for better professors or improved facilities, something Vanderbilt and I will be grateful for in the long run. I do agree we make a huge investment in attending Vanderbilt, so why not put that investment to the best use?"
- "Should I be concerned that a VSG candidate for my dorm described himself in Monday's Hustler as 'the introvert disdainful of the masses' who has no desire to talk to people he doesn't like? I'm not sure someone more concerned with being an individual than being a social creature is suited to represent a hall of 150 in our student government."
- "It's already annoying enough when guys disregard the rules by using the restrooms on an all-women floor. The situation only get worse when you find you have to fight guys on weekend mornings for the shower stalls. The worst case occurred the other night, though, when I was in the restroom. A piss-drunk guy walked in, even made eye contact with me, and then entered the first stall and started urinating, just like that. No shutting of the stall door or even lifting up of the toilet seat — nothing. As you can imagine, it was a VERY awkward minute and a half for me listening to him relieve himself while I brushed my teeth. So, a word of advice, please stay outside, men. Also, ladies, when you pre-game, please drink responsibly and control your
- "PDA is not appropriate in the following places: class, Valerie Plame Wilson lecture, common areas in my suite, church, the workplace and anywhere others can see you."

- "Rites of Spring needs to get rid of these lame bands like 'Wolfmother and 'Clap Your Hands Say Yeah.' Are you kidding me, Music Group?! Can we in the future please get some more legit bands like Bret Michaels? Who doesn't need a little more Rock of Love in their lives?!"
- "Hey, Tri-Delt, get a clue! Heckling and yelling at people on the Wall instead of informing them about your project makes no one want to buy your tickets, no matter the cause! So, why did I need to say that?

The Tri-Delt sisters have been screeching all week to 'Buy our tickets now!" You, buy a ticket! So, when they yelled at me to 'Buy our tickets,' I stopped and asked them, 'Why?' Their response: 'You can watch us dance in spandex to Britney Spears!' I asked them again, 'Why, What for?' Their response was, 'It's for kids! Buy our ticket!'

I asked them, 'Why? I don't get what it's for.'

Their response: 'You don't like kids? It's for kids; buy our ticket!' I told them, 'No, thanks,' and began walking away.

They yelled at me again. 'Oh my God, did you see that?! He doesn't like kids!' No, actually I love kids. I went to their Web site and found out it was for Monroe Carrell Jr. Children's Hospital and that they raised nearly \$1,000 last October for the hospital. That's great, and I support the cause. Who wouldn't? Oh, that's right — someone who's being heckled by a sister to give them money."

- 2. "Every day when I walk by the Wall, fliers I don't want get thrust into my hands, I get yelled at to buy tickets, sign a giant ball (if I don't, I'm told I don't care about children), etc. However, I've never seen someone complain about this in The Hustler . . . until it had to do with the Tri-Delts. I'd like to think the person who complained about them last Friday isn't a biased hypocrite, so I look forward to reading subsequent complaints about different organizations on the Wall from this same reader. However, if this person decides not to complain about anyone else, I applaud them for realizing how much time they wasted by writing an essay singling out a single group rather than sucking it up like the rest of us and realizing everyone is simply excited about their causes and wants you to take part in them as well. Furthermore, if Tri-Delt manages to raise around \$1,000 from this single philanthropy event every year, then obviously they are doing something right."
 - In response to the person who complained about signing the ball in front of Rand: If you did not sign it, you do hate children and America. All you had to do was write your name down, and I honestly doubt you had anything better to do with your time. That is all.

Opinion Editor Reeve Hamilton and Torch Associate Editor Mike Warren break down the Iraq war debate and evaluate the Republican and Democratic candidates' positions on this important but complex issue.

REEVE HAMILTON

Opinion Editor

At this point, there is little point in going through the positions of every Democratic presidential candidate. There is hardly any reason to even discuss John Edwards, who is polling a distant third. It has come down to Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama.

Obama opposed the war from the beginning. Of course, he didn't have to actually cast a vote in the Senate in 2002, since he was not yet a senator. However, there is no reason to assume that his vote would have been at all out of step with his vocal anti-war rhetoric. The significance of this should not be overlooked, as it indicates both foresight and clear-headed conviction.

Clinton, like most of the candidates, voted to grant the president the authority to send us to war in 2002 but is now opposed to the continuing conflict in Iraq. However, unlike Edwards, Clinton stands by her vote, even knowing what she knows today.

While Edwards has publicly admitted his vote was in error and based on poor intelligence, Clinton maintains that the

decision to invade, and all the subsequent blame rests squarely on the shoulders of the president. This inability to accept even the smallest responsibility for misguided actions or admit even the most understandable of mistakes seems just a bit reminiscent of our current administration and does not bode well for future issues the next president will face.

Dore,

What do you think about

the Iraq War? Discuss

with fellow students on

Dialogue

With regards to the future of the war, these two candidates do not differ a great deal, which may be why the Clinton camp has resorted to attacking Obama on kindergarten essays and teenage indiscretions.

Given these similarities, we InsideVandy.com must, in this case, look to the candidate's past. Clearly, on this issue, the win goes to Obama, simply because he got it right and Clinton isn't willing to admit she got it wrong even knowing everything she knows now (which is basically that she got it wrong).

-Reeve Hamilton is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

MIKE WARREN **Guest Columnist**

There is little doubt President George W. Bush's presidential legacy will be greatly defined by the Iraq War. However, it will also define the administration of whomever wins the election. For all of the missteps in

Iraq, the situation has improved. The next president will have the responsibility of ensuring Iraq is stable and secure.

Perhaps it is worth noting all of the Republican candidates supported the Iraq War except for Rep. Ron Paul. Paul opposes increasing troop levels and says he would withdraw American troops from Iraq as soon as he

enters office. He claims many of our nation's problems could be solved if we simply retreat from the geopolitical stage and return to a state of isolationism.

The other relevant candidates maintain Iraq is an integral front in the war against Islamism, the doctrine of radical jihad that threatens America with terrorism. Being the least experienced in foreign affairs, Mike

Huckabee's rhetoric about diplomacy with other Middle East nations seems slightly naive, althoughhis language about staying the course in Iraq rings true.

Mitt Romney, Rudy Giuliani, Fred Thompson and John McCain all openly support continuing the "surge" policy, which means staying in Iraq until victory is achieved and securing the region for the larger war. McCain, who undoubtedly has the most foreign policy expertise, has been a faithful supporter of Bush's war policy. Thompson also has actual foreign policy experience as a former senator, and he has not been afraid to express constructive criticism about the execution of the war thus far.

Romney and Giuliani, like Huckabee, have little to no foreign policy experience, yet their language about the importance of maintaining a strong military presence in the Middle East and making victory in Iraq a top priority is legitimate and meaningful. Any of the Republican candidates can give conservatives confidence that America will not leave Iraq in defeat.

-Mike Warren is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, quest 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

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editor-in-chief. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity. Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a quest 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 or the editor-in-chief at (615) 322-3757.

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.

Vanderbilt Student Government 1542 Station B cara.bilotta@vanderbilt.edu Sarratt 355 (615) 322-8742

President Cara Bilotta

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander **United States Senate** Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-4944 (615) 736-5129

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker **United States Senate** Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-4944 (615) 250-8160

Rep. Jim Cooper U.S. House of Rep. Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4311 (615) 736-5295

Rep. Brenda Gilmore Tenn. District 54 35 Legislative Plaza Nashville, TN 37243-0154 (615) 741-1997

Sen. Douglas Henry Jr. Tenn. District 21 11 Legislative Plaza Nashville, TN 37243-0021 (615) 741-3291

Councilor Ginger Hausser Metro District 18 521 Chesterfield Avenue Nashville, TN 37212 (615) 783-0106

Crossword

- **ACROSS**
- 1 Lingerie buy 4 Baldwin and
- Guinness 9 Wear away
- 14 Actor Cariou
- 15 Missionary Junipero
- 16 Lummox 17 Frozen water
- 18 H. Ross 19 City on the Ruhr
- 20 Cymling or
- crookneck 23 Cicero, e.g.
- 24 Until
- 25 Nest item 28 Fully grown
- 31 Sketcher's need
- 33 Can. province 35 Fence break
- 37 Beyond need
- 38 Nervous 41 ls appropriate
- for, once 43 "Wozzeck" or
- "Norma"
- 44 Isle near Corsica
- 46 6th sense 47 Singer Brewer
- 49 Netanyahu's nation
- 52 Want
- 53 Mattress cloth 55 Attribute
- 58 Asked for an armistice
- 61 African woodchuck 64 Blazing
- 65 Noisy disturbance
- 66 Augusta's state 67 Heated
- argument 68 Golfer Ernie
- 69 Picks out
- 70 Work the dough 71 Deli bread
 - **DOWN**
- 1 Ecstasy 2 Edited film again
- 3 Wind
- instruments 4 Facet
- 5 Lascivious gander
- spreaders 27 Comprehend 29 Yuck! 30 Schedule figure
- 32 Chopping tool 33 Allotment
- 34 Raised, as the ante
- 36 Recedes 39 Wrath
- 40 Pump bumps
- 42 Hearing organ 45 Yeah, right!

Solutions

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6 Goes wrong

7 Lawn game

slouching

11 Cries of delight

12 Unknown John

8 Stopped

9 Unsightly

sights 10 Skin eruption

13 Long time 21 POW possibly

22 Had a pizza

25 Big name in

26 Disease

cosmetics

18

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19

- 48 Be ill
- 50 Go to
- 51 Fumble 54 Singer Petula
- 56 With frosty
- words 57 Nervous
- 58 Is unable
- 59 Break bread 60 "Norma" melody

68

- 61 "__ Pinafore"
- 62 Shrill bark
- _ de Janeiro, Brazil

THE RANT

What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. Send in your rants with the subject "Rant" to: opinion@vanderbilthustler.com

- "There is overflow in the recycling? You are having a hard time keeping up? Maybe there should be more than one recycling can on campus. I pass 57 to 59 trashcans before I can recycle."
- "Could we please stop acting like Bobby Johnson staying here is a good thing? I've never seen a Division I SEC Football team be so excited about keeping a coach with a 20-50 losing record."
- "A blank wall is a fool's writing paper."
- "How can Rand possibly score so poorly on their health inspection? Disgusting."
- "What's with those flashing seizure lights in front of ZBT? It's Christmas, not a Japanese anime cartoon. Every time I drive by I almost crash my car. Take those stupid things down!"
- "Are any of us surprised Jared Anderson didn't take a side on the VSG experience requirement issue? He is just another classic VSG politician — all talk and no action."
- "I really wish my suitemate would stop running around the suite in his underwear screaming, 'NAH!!"
- "Vanderbilt Athletics: Please stop inviting the high school cheerleaders to come and shake their nothing tatas at us!"
- "With the recent success in men's basketball, it's easy to get distracted from something very important for Vandy football: FIRING OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR TED CAIN."

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

Compiled by Reeve Hamilton

SOLUTIONS

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Singers – Come prepared with your best 16 bars of a ballad and uptempo. Stylistically, must be able to sing Contemporary Broadway, Pop/Rock, and R&B. Sheet music required in the proper key. Also, come prepared to dance.

We offer:

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Get out there."



Nashville

Green Hills School of Dance 2001 Blair Blvd.

January 11th

Dancers:

Sign in 9:15 am - Audition 9:45 am Singers:

Sign in 1:15 pm - Audition 1:45 pm

For more information visit us online at: royalcaribbeanproductions.com

SPORTS

The Vanderbilt Hustler Presents....

Holiday Wish List

With the holiday season upon us, here are the top 10 things

the Vanderbilt Hustler sports staff is wishing for:

#10

A 15-0 Start

The men's basketball team rallied from an 18-point deficit to win at DePaul Wednesday night, becoming the first 10-0 team in the nation. The Commodores have a good chance to run the table in non-conference play, with Tennessee State, Tennessee-Martin, Iona, Rice and Massachusetts (scary) on the schedule.



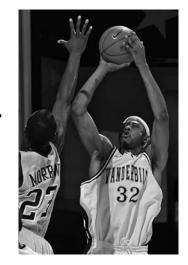
Another SEC Tournament Title

The women's squad may be young, but wouldn't it be sweet if they captured another **SEC Tournament championship?**



A new all-time leading scorer

When all is said and done, there is a good chance Shan Foster will become the top scorer in school history.

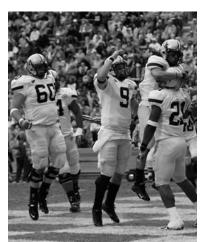




Another year of Earl Bennett

While junior wide receiver Earl Bennett has accomplished pretty much everything in just three seasons, hopefully he returns for one more to lead the Commodores to the postseason.





#9

A bowling dynasty

Vandy is off to a great start after capturing the school's first ever national title a year ago. The Commodores do not seem to mind playing with a target on their backs at all.



#8

A good draft for Goff and Williams

Let's hope linebacker Jonathan Goff and offensive tackle Chris Williams get the proper respect in the NFL Draft and land where they deserve. Guys like Curtis Gatewood and Marcus Buggs also deserve a shot.





#6

A Jermaine Beal Music Video

The sophomore point guard already has produced a mixtape so making a music video, particularly for the hot single "Tha Beal Bounce," should be his next priority.



A trip to Omaha

With potential No. 1 pick Pedro Alvarez, Ryan Flaherty and Dominic de la Osa all returning, the offense is going to score so many runs that the Commodores will more than be able to make up for the loss of David Price and Casey Weathers and advance to their first-ever College World Series.



An SEC Player and Freshman of the

Year

Foster and A.J. Ogilvy (who better not leave after this season) have a good chance to take home some SEC hardware, as both are the leading candidates for Player and Freshman of the Year, respectively.



Dores stage comeback to stay undefeated

Bell, Metcalfe combine for 30 points as Vandy overcomes 18-point deficit to beat DePaul, becomes first team to 10 victories.

by ERIC SILVER

Sports Reporter

Being down 18 points in the second half certainly would result in a loss, right?

Wrong.

The No. 20 men's basketball team managed to become the first team in the country to 10 wins thanks to important contributions from role players Alan Metcalfe and Keegan Bell. The duo scored a combined 30 points as the undefeated Commodores rallied for a thrilling 91-85 overtime victory over DePaul in Chicago.

"They don't ask you how, they just ask you how many," said coach Kevin Stallings. "We found a way by the end of the night to get more than they did."

The game seemed to be put away multiple times as the Blue Demons (2-4) had their way with the Vandy defense, slicing through the lane, hitting 3-pointers and even throwing alleyoops. The flustered Commodores did not help their cause, committing 18 turnovers, and found themselves down 58-40 in the second half.

"Their team played better than us for more of the game, and I told Jerry (Wainwright) that at the end of the game," Stallings

However, instead of packing it in, Vanderbilt dug deep. Metcalfe, who scored a career-high 18 points, had a tremendous stretch in which he scored 10 points in two minutes, including

"Alan really picked it up for us," Stallings said.

two 3-pointers, to inject the team with life.

suspects, Shan Foster and A.J. Ogilvy, stepped it up along with senior guard Alex Gordon, who hit four clutch free throws to help send the game to overtime, and fellow senior Ross Neltner, who grabbed two defensive rebounds in the waning moments of

Freshman Andre Walker also connected on his only field goal attempt of the game off a nifty between-the-legs pass from Bell, who scored a career-high 12 points (four-for-eight from 3-point range) to go along with eight assists and zero turnovers.

Ogilvy finished with 19 points on nine-of-15 shooting and nine rebounds, while Foster added 19, going five-for-nine from downtown.

"We just have a fight in us," Foster said. "We went into the locker room saying we were going to fight regardless of what the score was, and we were just fortunate enough to get back in the

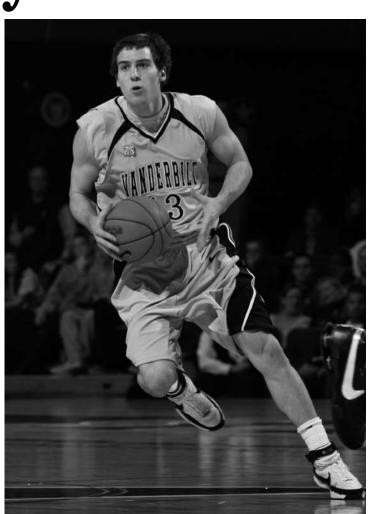
Luck certainly was a factor for the Commodores as a visibly frustrated DePaul wilted toward the end of the second half, taking ill-advised shots and missing most of their free throws.

Overtime was business as usual for the Commodores as Foster and Ogilvy combined for eight of the team's 12 points in the final frame, while Neltner and guard Jermaine Beal each had two

While it could have been prettier, Stallings and the rest of the team were happy to escape the hostile environment with a win and remain undefeated. The Commodores have just five nonconference games remaining.

"I'm proud of their belief in what we do," Stallings said. "They

Down the stretch, Vanderbilt showed its depth as the usual believed they could do it, and they did it." ■



JOHN RUSSELL / VU Media Relations Freshman Keegan Bell turned in the finest performance of his young career, recording 12 points and eight assists in the Commodores' 91-85 victory at DePaul Wednesday night.

After capturing the Most Improved award at the cross country banquet earlier this week, senior Amanda Grosse took some time to talk to The Vanderbilt Hustler about a number of topics, including her goals for the spring and the most popular song on her iPod.

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: How honored were you to win the team's Most *Improved award?*

AMANDA GROSSE: I was definitely pleasantly surprised to get the Most Improved Athlete award. It was a great cap to my best season in four years, and I'm grateful to my coaches for the recognition.

VH: What allowed you to have success this fall?

AG: I think my success was due in large part to consistent training as well as a lot of running over the summer. Also, as a senior, I realized it was my last chance to run a great season, and I wanted to give every race my all.



VH: What was it like to earn your first varsity letter?

AG: There's nothing better than earning varsity your senior year. Even better, the last race of my last season. Talk about the nick of time.

VH: What has been your favorite moment of the past four years?

AG: There have been so many good moments, but one of my favorites was sophomore year cross country when six of my friends came to watch a home meet and wore shirts that spelled out "AMANDA." Zane, Kelly, Graham, Ahmed, Eddie and Lindsay, thanks guys! It was a great feeling.

VH: What will you miss most about the team and about Vandy?

AG: I will miss my teammates more than anything when I graduate. These girls were my first friends at Vandy, and it's going to be very hard to say goodbye.

VH: Who's the funniest player on the team and why?

AG: I think Sarah Feagles is not only the funniest person on the team, but one of the biggest comedians at Vanderbilt. I've never met a quicker wit. She's definitely a good time.

VH: Do you have any pre-race superstitions or any meals you always eat?

AG: I always start chewing half a piece of gum before each race. That tradition goes back to my junior year in high school.

VH: What's the most miles you've ever run in a row?

AG: I've run a few half-marathons, so I'd have to say 13.1 miles. But I plan on running the Nashville marathon this spring after track season.

VH: Favorite meal at McGugin? AG: I love the salmon at McGugin. Magic is second to none as a chef so pretty much anything you eat there is going to be delicious.

VH: Talk about Coach Keith and the impact he's had on the program.

AG: Personally, I think that the coaching staff this season is the best I've ever had, and I look forward to seeing the program continue to grow in the next few years.

VH: Who are you favorite sports teams?

AG: The Vanderbilt Commodores! And of course the Phoenix Suns since I'm from Arizona.

VH: Favorite movie?

AG: My favorite movie ... I really like the Lion King.

VH: Song you're playing most on your iPod?

AG: 'Motorcycle Drive By' by Third Eye Blind. It's my favorite song. ■

Crossword

- 1 Flubs it
- 5 Vigilant 10 Heavy imbibers
- 14 Show sorrow
- 15 Dugout 16 Slangy denial
- 17 Lure 19 Baseball team
- 20 Household pest, shortly
- 21 Abbreviated ruler
- 22 Wide
- 23 Table extension
- 25 Loudmouth
- 27 Hawaiian dish 29 Observe
- 31 Staff suspensions
- 35 Period
- 36 Predatory insect
- 38 Run smoothly
- 39 Tends tots
- 41 Wading bird
- 42 Poet Teasdale
- 43 "Fargo" producer
- 44 Muse of comedy 46 Dine
- 47 Cabal member 49 " the land of
- the free...'
- Pinafore" 51 Pink color
- 53 Jazz phrase
- 55 Gets some rays 58 Luau garland 60 Diamond of
- "Night Court" 63 Comic Johnson
- 64 Defamatory
- 66 In the vicinity 67 Garlic-basil
- 68 Double agent 69 Otologist's

sauce

- focus 70 Like a
- temporary committee 71 Notion
 - **DOWN**
- 1 Water pitcher 2 Nevada city
- 3 Returns evil for
- 4 Flavor enhancer 45 Face the day

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- 5 Top pilot
- 6 Hobble
- 7 Foe
- 8 "Welcome Back Kotter" co-star
- 9 Hanoi holiday
- 10 Features of
- some cars 11 Cleveland's
- state 12 Sushi choice
- 13 Lean-to
- 18 Deep crack 22 Young man
- 24 Gourmand 26 More hurried

27 Joe of

- "GoodFellas" 28 Hunter of stars
- 30 Held spellbound 32 Sudden deluge
- 33 Open
- discussion
- 34 Exchanges 37 Spanish aunt
- 40 Laughing candy bar?

Solutions

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- connection
- 54 Physicist Enrico 55 Cause of ruin
- 56 Length times width
- 62 On the waves 64 Mineral

57 Matinee idol

59 Absorbed by

61 Slip-on slipper

spring 65 Sawbones

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INDEX

The Week Ahead

Sometimes the best preparation for a test is a nice, comfortable break. Whenever you've got a free moment during this finals week, Nashville has plenty of opportunities for rejuvenation.

FRIDAY 12/14



Will Smith's latest blockbuster"I Am Legend" opens in theaters today, and what better way to blow off some pre-final stress than to see it on a six-story IMAX screen? Showtimes are 2:10, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45 p.m. and 12:45 a.m. Showing all day at Opry Mills, tickets are \$12.

SATURDAY 12/15



Get ready for the holidays with a classic rendition of "The Nutcracker" by the Nashville Ballet. For students, tickets are only \$10, and the show begins at the Tennessee Performing Art Center's Andrew Jackson Hall at

SUNDAY 12/16

7 p.m.

Escape the bubble for a few hours and travel back to the years of your youth with a relaxing showing of Peter Pan. The Renaissance Center of the Jackson Foundation will be putting on the play at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12.

MONDAY 12/17

Jimmy Gnecco, frontman for the band Ours, will perform at Exit/In tonight. The band has just finished recording its third album, and the show is sure to be a huge hit. Tickets are \$12 and the show begins at 9 p.m.

TUESDAY 12/18

Head down to The Arts Company on 5th Avenue for a soothing viewing of "Staged Narrative Paintings," a unique series of work by artist Jim Hubbman.

WEDNESDAY 12/19



Take a breather from all those exams and make the trip to the Opryland Hotel to see all the Christmas lights. The hotel turns on the outdoor lights at 4 p.m. every day, but the interior of the hotel is also decorated to spread a little Christmas cheer!

THURSDAY 12/20

Killer Beaz, routinely voted one of Zanies Comedy Club's most popular performers, will entertain tonight at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

All I want for Christmas: Holiday shopping guide 2007

Life Staff Writer

The holiday season is now upon us, so you know what that means: time to go gift shopping! Surely, no one looks forward to buying holiday presents for family and significant others — there's the looming prospect

that the gift you put so much thought and effort into will be retired to a closet, or even worse, re-gifted. Don't fear. I've done all the work for you this year by compiling a list of unique gifts for everyone on your list. If you don't want a lump of coal, I suggest you heed my advice and follow these suggestions.

For the person you don't spend enough time with:

An obvious disadvantage of college life is we have a lot less time to spend with family and friends. Show a relative or close friend you really care by organizing a day where you do an activity they're interested in. Buy tickets to his or her favorite sporting event or museum, or maybe

even organize a daredevil skydiving adventure. Whatever you do, the bonding will surely bring you two closer together. And isn't this what the holidays are all about anyway? (A good example for the daredevil on your list, an aerobatic thrill flight. A private flight with a professional starts at \$180.)

For a special someone:

Does your significant other have a favorite photo of you or the two of you together? Well, allow them to enjoy it even more when you customize it in Warhol-esque style.

At allpopart.com, you can submit a personal photo

to be turned into a personalized piece of modern pop art. Nothing says love like your face four times in neon colors. (A 10-by-13 silhouette starts at \$50, www.allpopart.

> For a (girl) friend who wants to save the environment: Do you have friend about the cares environment above all else? Give Honeybee her Garden's French manicure kit

containing only organic, allnaturally created nail polishes. This way you can show her she deserves to be pampered without feeling guilty. (\$13.99 for the set, www.honeybeegardens.com.)

For the athlete:

Every athlete needs that pair of really distinctive sneakers. So, what's a more personal and unique gift than a pair of custom designed sneakers? For instance, customers can personalize sneakers at nike.com with the click of the button and create non-standard color combinations. Think about it. You can pick their favorite colors, style, and

even get the shoes monogrammed. Now those are what I call stunna shoes. (Prices of men's sneakers will run you \$110 and up, www.nike.com).

For the outdoors enthusiast:

Do you have a

likes the outdoors or winter sports? Well, if you are on a budget but need to get them something useful for their hobby, why not get them Perpetual Kid's Packin' Heat hand warmers? The reusable hand

friend or family member who

warmers in the shape of a pair of pants (Hot Pants) or a revolver (Hot Shot). (\$ 5.99 for two reusable hand warmers,

perpetualkid.com).

For the life of the party:

Do you have a friend or sibling who loves music and the club scene? If you do, you can always schedule a private disc jockey instruction lesson for them so they can hone their skills. You'll not only help them learn to DJ, but you'll contribute to the appeal of their next party. (Private lessons are easiest to find in cities like New York City, Miami and Los Angeles, but check in your area for instructors. Lessons generally cost \$100 and up.) ■

MOVIE REVIEW

'The Golden Compass' points to box-office success this season

bv Lauren Weigand Life Staff Writer

Reading this review might turn you into an atheist. Anyone whose faith might be shaken by otherworldly special effects or stellar acting is in serious danger.

Most of the pre-release media coverage for "The Golden Compass" that does not focus on stars Daniel Craig and Nicole Kidman dwells on the film's alleged religious subversion. It's true in the broadest sense this is a movie about free will and the struggle against spirituointellectual repression, but that makes it sound boring.

"The Golden Compass" is set in another world, and every frame is a dazzling



visual feast. In this world, a person's soul exists outside his body in the form of an animal called a daemon. Not the least of the filmmakers' accomplishments is the creation of realisticlooking talking animals that can actually be taken seriously. The rest of the largely CGI world oozes stunning detail so captivating that while the movie is playing it's almost impossible think about the Herculean feats of technowizardry behind

In addition to the amazing visuals, "The Golden Compass" has a gripping and original story (which is only slightly hobbled by metaphysical exposition) and a fantastic cast. Craig is commanding as the free-thinking Lord

Asriel, and his regrettably brief amount of screen time makes the most of his forceful presence. Derek Jacobi and Christopher Lee are delicious in small roles (could any council including them be anything but evil?), and Ian McKellan and Ian McShane turn in outstanding voice work as rival armored polar bears.

Kidman mesmerizes in her portrayal of Mrs. Coulter, an ambitious instrument of the ruling religious body. Mrs. Coulter commits heinous atrocities with perfect poise, but Kidman's manipulation of her icy facade and its cracks are disturbing in the best possible way. An unexpected standout is young newcomer Dakota Blue Richards, whose Lyra is the headstrong center of the film and the owner of the golden compass.

In the hands of a first-rate director, "The Golden Compass" could have been magnificent. Under Chris Weitz, the story unfolds only capably. Luckily for him, the actors and effects teams hit the ball out of the park, and their efforts almost make up for the lapses in pacing and pedestrian editing. Still, the majority of the movie's faults lie at his door, particularly the clunkily scripted ending that inexplicably cuts off just before the jaw-dropping finale of the source novel.

Despite its flaws, "The Golden Compass" is a solid piece of entertainment that is certainly worth seeing on the big screen. With a sequel sure to be in the works, this series has time for the shape of its soul to settle so it can live up to its fantastical promise.

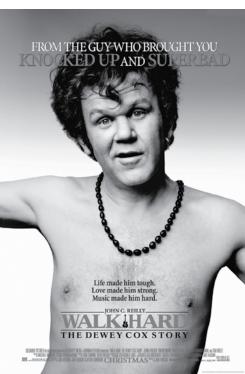
MOVIE REVIEW

'Walk Hard' for the exit after this disappointment

Life Staff Writer

Imagine watching your favorite stand-up comedian performing with brand new material. Now imagine this new material is not only incredibly random, but when it's all said and done, it's just not that funny.

That's exactly what you can expect from "Walk Hard" this Christmas: Something that



seemed so promising from sources you had complete faith in ends up being ultimately disappointing. The worst part is it doesn't seem to be anyone's fault; there's no one to clearly blame!

Judd Apatow has proven time and again he's a hilarious writer, Jake Kasdan directs the movie with confidence (if a little naively), and John C. Reilly's spot-on comedic acting is the best thing about this perfect storm. In fact, Kasdan said he intentionally chose Reilly to enhance the parody by having an incredibly talented Oscar-nominated actor play such a ridiculous role in an over-thetop movie. But this supercell disappointment somehow combines to produce a lackluster effort that is definitely not walking

Reilly ("Chicago," "Talladega Nights") leads this foray as the

infamous Dewey Cox — the thinly veiled parody of Johnny Cash's life. To quickly recap, Dewey leaves home early in life to try to make it in the music business. He finally hits it big when his toe-tapper "Walk Hard" hits the streets, and his career explodes while his life crashes down around him. While on the road, Dewey meets Darlene (Jenna Fischer of "The Office"), who steals his heart even though he's married to his high school sweetheart. They embark on various adventures, and the movie follows Dewey's career through the decades as he and his music evolve through the '50s, '60s and beyond. Think "Walk the Line" and "Ray" thrown into a blender with "Talladega Nights" and topped off with some garbage and male full frontal nudity. (Yeah, it happens.) Although the movie may be looked back on fondly and quoted incessantly (joining the fine company of "Napoleon Dynamite" and "Anchorman") it's ultimately an uninspired and second-rate exercise of being just plain stupid.

That said, this film definitely gets an A for effort. The production is excellent, and the music is incredible. Reilly's efforts to write, practice and perform definitely shine through in the film. The music boasts a wide variety of original tracks that perfectly capture the movie and parallel Johnny Cash's own writing style by focusing on the events of Dewey's own life. The film also has an impressive set of A-list celebrities making hilarious cameos — everyone from Jack White of The White Stripes doing one of the best Elvis impressions ever to Paul Rudd and Jack Black memorably portraying John Lennon and Paul McCartney, respectively.

Those are all the reasons I am so sad I can't give this movie a good rating — they just tried so hard! You will laugh for a good bit of the movie, but much of it will be either shock humor or nervous laughter that will definitely not withstand multiple screenings. Make it a matinee to feel like you got your money's worth, though. Sadly, Reilly, despite his best efforts, can't save this film from falling into a ring of fire. ■

—To hear a podcast of Chris Gearing's interview with John C. Reilly, go to:



Off-campus study spots offer refuge from Vandy pandemonium during finals week



While the cinderblock confines of your dorm room may be okay for regular studying, final-cramming requires a change of scenery and perhaps some readily available caffeine. Thus, Life Editor Darcy Newell has compiled a few lesser-known study spots off campus in an effort to provide a change of pace from perhaps, the doldrums of the Baseball Glove Lounge or Featheringill. These warm and eclectic places will hopefully keep you well fed, in good spirits, and above all, sufficiently energized to get your work done.

Frothy Monkey

2509 12th Ave. South

Hours: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday through Sunday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Frothy Monkey features hardwood floors, a second-story loft and a patio perfect for enjoying nice weather. Yet, unless the Indian winter weather returns, you might be better off inside, enjoying the huge windows and exposed brick walls. On Sundays the coffeehouse boasts live bluegrass music, which may or may not help your "do all the reading from this semester" cause. Enjoy the gourmet menu and the relaxed, homey setting.

Star Bagel Co.

4502 Murphy Rd

Hours: Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

What use is good coffee without a good bagel for dipping? Some would argue no good at all! If you are of the bagel persuasion, head to Star Bagel Co. and refuel with some great coffee and a snack. Other highlights include some better-than-Bread & Co. fruit tea, fresh produce and delicious salads. Another one of Star Bagel's strong points? It's almost unknown to the Vanderbilt community, so if you need to be incognito to get things done, this place might just do the trick.

Fido

1812 21st Ave. South

Hours: Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday 7 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Sunday 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Lug your laptop to Fido in Hillsboro Village, as its rustic atmosphere and eclectic mix of Nashvillians and Vandy students are sure to provide just enough distraction from your Ancient Philosophy paper. While Fido is never completely quiet, the low hum of conversation and indie music selection is always conducive to getting things done. Go for brunch and enjoy Fido's signature coffee (recipient of the Nashville Scene's Best Coffehouse award nine years in a row) and one of the delicious breakfast plates — I love the Veggie Scramble myself.

J-J's Market

1912 Broadway

Hours: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to midnight

Saturday 8 a.m. to midnight

Sunday 9 a.m. to midnight

If your study beverage of choice is not of the coffee variety but rather of the alcoholic variety, try J-J's Market, which is a cafe-type restaurant and market stocked with candy, magazines and snacks. One of the most interesting perks is the large selection of beer — including the "make your own six-pack" feature. What would help you focus more? Not to worry, J-J's also has great coffee and other drinks, and students can choose from comfy couches or wooden tables to spread out their books.

Portland Brew

2605 12th Ave. South

Hours: Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. to midnight

Portland Brew distinguishes itself from other coffeehouses as it seems to have been built with you, frazzled students burdened with finals, in mind. An entire side of the coffeehouse is lined with private cubicles and cubbies with power outlets, and the whole place is equipped with free wireless. While Belmont students may claim the spot as their own (it's located close to the school) the quiet atmosphere makes it definitely worth the trip. Oh, and the coffee is pretty great too. With other locations on Murphy Road and in East Nashville, your options for a study spot are wide open.

Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

GOSSIP!

Celeb weddings OMG!

Life Staff Writer

For many Americans, celebrities provide an endless source of entertainment and speculation, and their day-to-day activities never cease to amaze us. Though celebrities' pregnancies, mishaps and scandals are always entertaining topics, celebrity weddings really take the cake, if you will. These



DOROUGH AND BONIELLO

events perpetually fascinate the nation as these exquisite nuptials offer what most of us can only dream about. This past week, several celebrities have made the typical life's dream a reality.

Backstreet Boy Howie Dorough and his longtime girlfriend Leigh Boniello tied the knot Dec. 8, sources revealed exclusively to PerezHilton.com. The pair married at St. James Catholic in Orlando, and Dorough was joined by his fellow Backstreet Boys at the wedding. He "wanted it that way," I'm certain.

Dorough's sister played "Ave Maria" during the reception, and "Howie and his bride left the church in a horse drawn carriage," a source revealed. Guests were then loaded into two tour buses and taken to the "larger than life" reception.

Meanwhile, the same day on the other side of the country, actor Scott Baio is no longer "45 ... and single," but "46 ... and married." The legendary bachelor finally wed longtime girlfriend Renee Sloan in a rooftop ceremony at a luxury high-rise in Los Angeles. The small religious ceremony was filmed for an episode for the second season of Vh1's reality show "Scott Baio is 45 ... and Single," which premieres

Among the attendees were Sloan's 18-yearold daughter from a previous relationship, and,

family: the couple's newborn daughter, whose name has not yet been released.

"My parents were married 53 years, good and bad," the actor told People magazine recently. "Can I do that? Probably not. But I really hope I can. I don't know, 53 years with the same human being? I can't be around myself for more than three or four hours before I want to kill everybody."

Baio and Sloan, a model and actress he dated in the late 1990s after meeting at the Playboy Mansion, stayed friends and reconnected romantically a couple of years ago. I guess, in this case, Chachi doesn't love Joanie but instead prefers Miss Sloan.

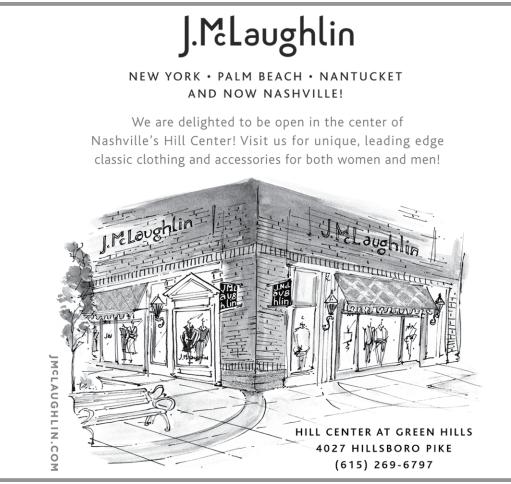
On the topic of weddings, the biggest wedding of the weekend actually did not happen at all. Fox News reported singer Nick Lachey and former MTV VJ Vanessa Minnillo would have been wed this past Saturday at one of the Carlyle Hotels in the Bahamas. Despite that report from FOX News, Nick Lachey's spokesperson quickly announced, "Not true. FOX



KELLEY AND HEIGL

Finally, actress Katherine Heigl and her fiance, musician Josh Kelley, plan to be married Dec. 23 in Utah. The couple, which got engaged this past June, met in 2007 when Heigl appeared in the music video for Kelley's song "Only You." Kelley said in an interview with People Magazine that they "ate, drank and just started hanging out after that." Recently, Kelley told People Magazine, "I'm ready to settle down, start a family and build my Kelley empire." ■





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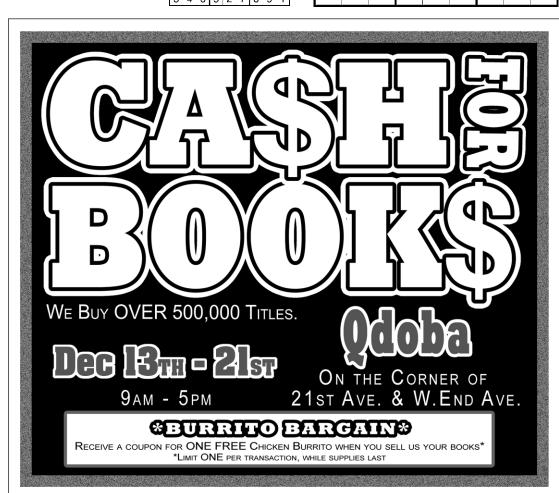
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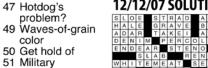
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- 13 Folding green 21 Pub order
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- 25 Cop's route 27 Huh?
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- 38 Place for memories?
- 40 Full force 41 Window section
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