

The Hustler remembers Heath Ledger with a special Verdict.

See Opinion, page 5



Vandy Feminists remember Roe v. Wade with several events this week.

See News, page 3



Is Tennessee the best state for college basketball?

See 'Good Call, Bad Call,' page 6



TODAY'S WEATHER



Sunny, 40/21
Extended forecast, page 2

The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008 • 120TH YEAR, NO. 7

THE WALL

compiled by SARA GAST

THIS WEEK

Feminists on the Wall

The Vanderbilt Feminists and Gender Matters of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center are collaborating on a week of empowering students with information about gender and sex. Members of the Feminists will be on the wall every day to create awareness and empower the campus through factual information.

TODAY

'Standing on My Sister's Shoulders'

The Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center is sponsoring a viewing of the documentary film featuring civil rights attorney and activist Constance Slaughter-Harvey at 11:30 a.m. She will speak following the screening. Lunch will be served.

TODAY

'A Recipe for Equal Justice in Today's Society'

Constance Slaughter-Harvey will give a lecture entitled "A Recipe for Equal Justice in Today's Society" at 3:30 p.m. in Flynn Auditorium in the Vanderbilt Law School.

TODAY

Hear at Vandy

The organization for deaf and hard of hearing undergraduates and graduate students will have a meeting at 8 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Room 112.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24

Study abroad fair

Learn about various study abroad programs from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Student Life Center Ballroom.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24

Greening Vanderbilt

Five speakers will talk for 15 minutes each about the university's green efforts, followed by a discussion and a kiosk display where green groups and individuals on campus can share information with others. The event will be at 5:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Room 103.

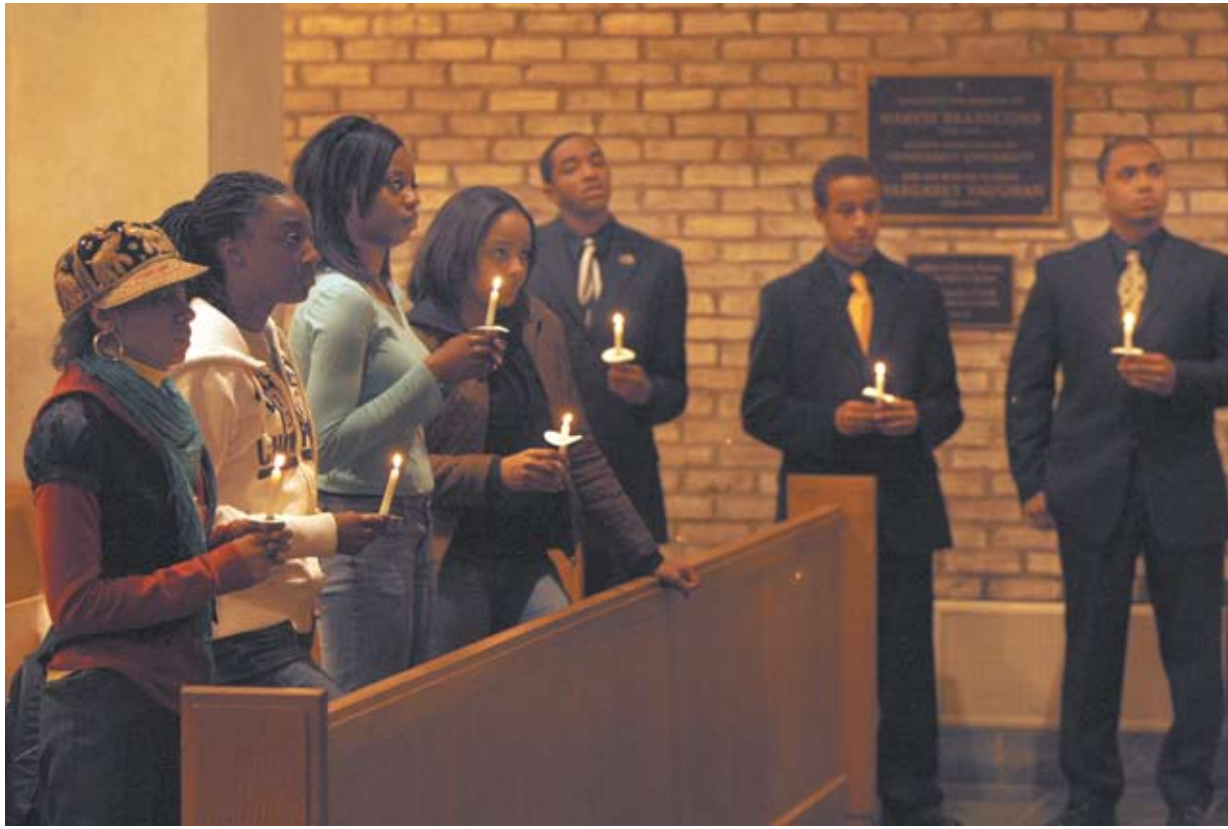
THURSDAY, JAN. 24

McTyeire information session

Learn about the McTyeire International House living community at 6:30 p.m. in the McTyeire Fireside Lounge. Applications are due Feb. 8.

See <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

MLK honored in past, present connection



STEVE GREEN / VU Media Relations

Students remembered Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday with a candlelight vigil at Benton Chapel. A talk by BET correspondent and cultural critic Toure and a performance by Voices of Praise preceded the vigil, a part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Series.

Toure looks to Obama for future.

by ADAM WEINSTEIN
Asst News Editor

Members of the campus community gathered in Benton Chapel Monday to remember Martin Luther King Jr. — but in the context of the present.

Grace Shelby, president of the Organization of Black Graduate and Professional Students, said she believes the events were necessary to raise awareness at a campus not known for its racial diversity.

"We engage in this candlelight vigil annually for the purpose of bringing awareness to the fact that this is a day that is meant for us to recognize and celebrate

a real national figure who has made such an impact on all walks of life," Shelby said.

The evening was punctuated by a video, a musical performance by Jeremiah Generation and a candlelight vigil, which completed the tribute to the civil rights leader.

"It was a very moving experience just to be here and watch this video come up and remind us of things past and where we would like to be," Shelby said. "For me, it meant a lot personally thinking about history and how does that connect to today and what I can do."

BET correspondent Toure

continued that idea, speaking on Sen. Barack Obama and the future.

While Toure made no explicit connection between Obama and King, the way he described both of them as proponents of compromise and appeasement brought the celebrated civil rights leader into a present-day context.

"Dr. King believed that the whole world would be watching

Please see **MLK**, page 3

—To see a video and hear a podcast of this event, go to:



VSG candidates discuss platforms

by GLENNA DeROY
Editor Emeritus

The Vanderbilt Student Government presidential candidates see eye-to-eye on at least one issue.

They all appear to agree on the need for strong advocacy for students' needs, even if it creates conflict with the administration.

This idea has been reflected in the campaign slogan Jared Anderson and Courtney Holliday favor — "Standing Up for Students," in the aim of Reid Simon and Randall Norman to bring the voice of student organizations into VSG and in the focus Joseph Williams and Wyatt Smith place on the upperclassman experience.

The three tickets gathered Tuesday to turn in their completed petitions

—To listen to the three candidates discuss why they decided to run for VSG president, go to:



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt Student Government presidential and vice presidential candidates listen to attorney general Andrew Gossett explain the rules for campaigning at their first meeting last week in Furman Hall.

and kick off the campaign season, which began officially at 7:30 p.m.

Anderson said student government must bring issues students want addressed to the administration and created a platform that emphasizes

connecting The Commons to the rest of campus, bringing technological advancement to academics and using internal VSG reforms to improve its ability to respond to students.

Please see **VSG PLATFORMS**, page 3

ELECTION UPDATE

Thompson withdrawal leaves question mark for some GOP conservatives

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Fred Thompson's decision to drop out of the presidential race fuels speculation about which of the remaining Republican presidential candidates will attract his supporters, Vanderbilt News Service reported.

The issue has the most significance for states expected to draw high numbers of conservative voters in the upcoming presidential primaries, such as Tennessee, according to political scientist professor John Geer.

"Some political observers had speculated that Thompson might stay in the race through the Feb. 5 primaries to help his longtime friend Sen. John McCain by siphoning evangelical votes from Mike Huckabee," Geer said. "If Thompson does not endorse any of his opponents, that could potentially open more doors for Huckabee, who apparently is having financial challenges as the campaign moves into its next phase."

Geer said Tennessee is back in play on the Republican side now that Thompson has withdrawn.

"We might see some of the candidates include stops in Tennessee on their campaign schedules, or, at the least, buy advertising time here."

Bill Clinton charms, chuckles with Nashville

by DANIELLE GANTT
Staff Reporter

"Okay, you guys can sit down and relax," Bill Clinton told the standing-room-only crowd Monday night at Fisk University. "Y'all are making me nervous."

Clinton, who donned a hot-pink tie and a Fisk University button, stressed, "Young people have the biggest stake in this election."

"Hillary has the right vision, a vision that will give the future back to young people," Clinton said.

John Edwards supporter Ashish Patel, a junior, thought the event was important for Vanderbilt students to attend.

"Bill presented what's at stake for our generation," Patel said.

Junior and Hillary Clinton supporter Whitney Hubbard also felt the event was important but for a very different reason.

"I feel the location was important," Hubbard said. "A lot of Vanderbilt students are disconnected with the idea that there are two historically black universities located right here in Nashville. Fisk University is important to American history, especially on a day

Please see **CLINTON**, page 3



JUDY WANG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Former President Bill Clinton visits Fisk University on Monday to campaign for his wife, Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Clinton. He emphasize the importance of young voter participation.

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Odds & Ends

WEATHER

compiled by SARA GAST

THURSDAY



Partly Cloudy, 25/14

FRIDAY



Mostly Cloudy, 39/35

SATURDAY



Few Showers, 45/44

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by SARA GAST

Friday, Jan. 18, 10:13 p.m.:

A subject was jumping in front of passing cars at Broadway and Lyle Avenue. He was unsteady on his feet and smelled of alcohol.

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2:20 a.m.:

A subject was unsteady on his feet at 25th Avenue near Vanderbilt Place.

Monday, Jan. 21, 3:54 a.m.:

A man with a black ski mask came inside and showed an employee a hand gun at the Courtyard Café in the medical center.

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.

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CORRECTIONS

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.

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 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 Hustler.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

THE 123456789 STARTING 9

compiled by SARA GAST

1 Emergency Fed rate cut stabilizes stocks; Bush, Congress pledge urgent action to stem slide

WASHINGTON — Jolted by global recession fears, the Federal Reserve slashed interest rates Tuesday, The Associated Press reported, and President Bush and leaders of Congress joined in a rare show of cooperation in promising urgent action to pump up the economy with upwards of \$150 billion in tax cuts and government spending.

Market meltdowns overnight around the globe and growing anxiety at home stirred lawmakers and the administration toward swift action, possibly within a few weeks. Wall Street plummeted as the day began, following Asian stocks, then warily eased its sell-off after the Fed ordered the biggest cut on record in a key interest rate.

2 Heath Ledger found dead in NYC building; authorities say drugs may have been a factor

NEW YORK — Heath Ledger was found dead Tuesday at a downtown Manhattan apartment, The Associated Press reported, and police said drugs may have been a factor. The Australian-born actor was 28.

Ledger had an appointment for a massage at the residence in the tony SoHo neighborhood, NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said. A housekeeper who went to let him know the massage therapist had arrived found him dead at 3:26 p.m.

3 Clinton, Obama trade accusations after rancorous debate

WASHINGTON — Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton argued Tuesday that Barack Obama's frustration with losing prompted him to look for a fight in their latest debate, The Associated Press reported. Obama said his rival and her husband, former President Clinton, were distorting his record.

"I think it's very clear that Senator Clinton ... and the president have been spending the last month attacking me in ways that are not accurate," Obama told reporters.

Speaking to reporters in Washington, Hillary Clinton belittled Obama's line of debate criticism against her as "rehearsed points."

4 U.S. soldier in Iraq first to die in bomb attack on new, heavily armored MRAP vehicle

WASHINGTON — A soldier killed over the weekend south of Baghdad was the first American death in a roadside bomb attack on a newly introduced, heavily armored vehicle, military officials said Tuesday in a report by The Associated Press.

The death, however, has not changed the Pentagon's mind about its plans to spend more than \$22 billion to buy thousands of the mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles, known by the acronym MRAP, for the Army and Marine Corps to use in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell.

5 Onetime 'dirty bomb' suspect gets 17 years-plus in unrelated case; judge doubts terror ties

MIAMI — Jose Padilla, an American once accused of plotting with al-Qaida to detonate a radioactive "dirty bomb," was sentenced Tuesday to a relatively lenient 17-year prison term on unrelated terror support charges, according to The Associated Press.

Prosecutors, who long ago dropped the "dirty bomb" claim that made Padilla infamous, had sought life sentences for Padilla and two co-defendants, but a federal judge said authorities never even proved Padilla was a terrorist.

6 Clinton headquarters opens in Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Hillary Clinton campaign opened its new Nashville headquarters Tuesday evening, The Tennessean reported.

Located at 223 8th Ave. North, 2nd floor, the new headquarters shares a downtown address with the Tennessee Democratic Party.

The campaign is also planning a press conference for this morning to unveil its new Tennessee television advertising campaign.

7 Study: Obesity surgery to reduce stomach size can cure diabetes

CHICAGO — A new study gives the strongest evidence yet that obesity surgery can cure diabetes, according to The Associated Press.

Patients who had surgery to reduce the size of their stomachs were five times more likely to see their diabetes disappear over the next two years than were patients who had standard diabetes care, according to Australian researchers.

Most of the surgery patients were able to stop taking diabetes drugs and achieve normal blood tests.

8 Vanderbilt poll explains why Romney's flip-flop label sticks

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Bias against Mitt Romney's religion is one of the reasons that the tag "flip-flop" sticks with the former Massachusetts governor but not his Republican opponents, according to political scientist professor John Geer, the Vanderbilt News Service reported.

"There is no question that Romney has changed his positions on some issues, but so have some of the other candidates," Geer said. "Why does the label stick to Romney but not his opponents? At least some of the answer lies in Romney's Mormon beliefs."

9 Qdoba, Mediterranean Cuisine added to Commodore Card

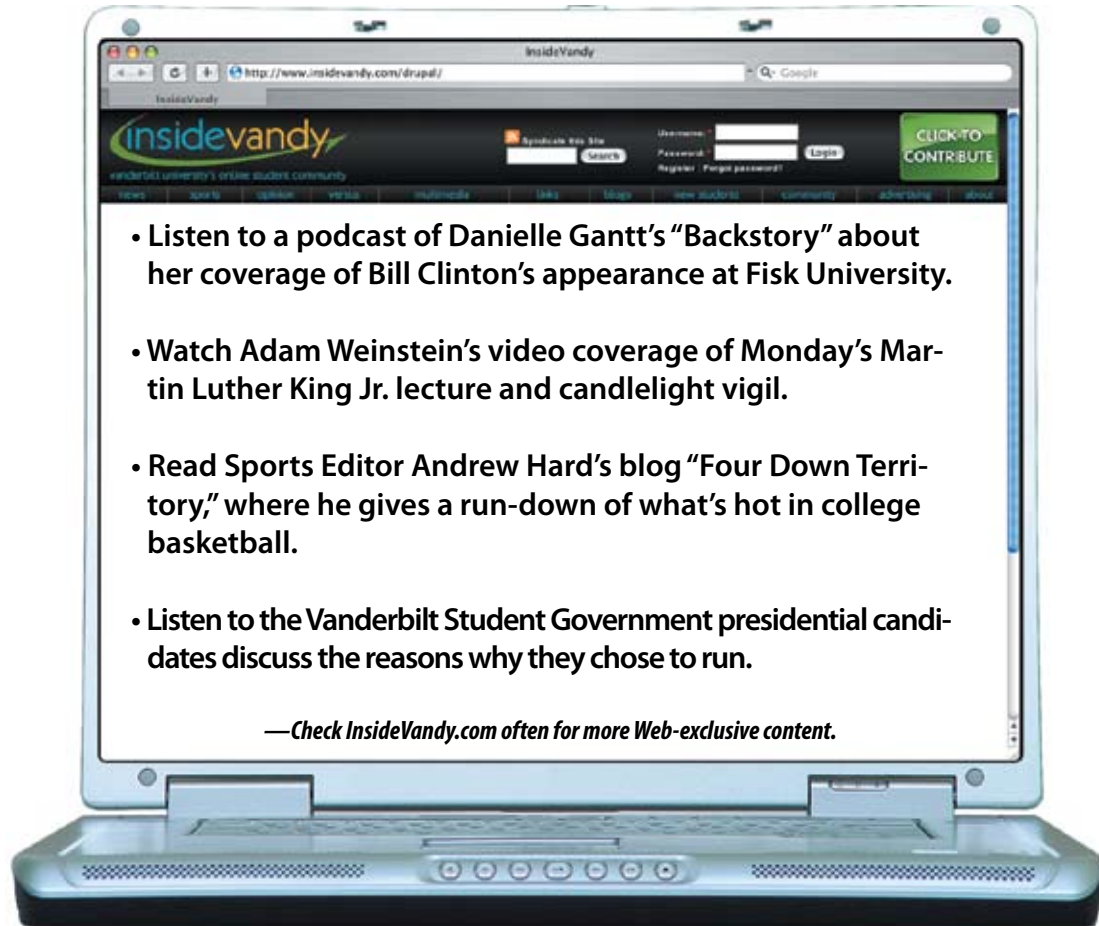
VANDERBILT — Students now have two more options on the card in Qdoba and Mediterranean Cuisine.

The two restaurants will begin accepting the card this week, to the delight of students.

"Students were thrilled to learn about the additions," said junior Tyler Armstrong, co-chair of Vanderbilt Student Government Campus Services committee with junior Jena Carpenter. "And they can expect even more restaurants to be on the Card in the near future."

Best Wok was added to the Card two weeks ago.

WHAT'S NEW ON INSIDEVANDY.COM



- Listen to a podcast of Danielle Gantt's "Backstory" about her coverage of Bill Clinton's appearance at Fisk University.
- Watch Adam Weinstein's video coverage of Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. lecture and candlelight vigil.
- Read Sports Editor Andrew Hard's blog "Four Down Territory," where he gives a run-down of what's hot in college basketball.
- Listen to the Vanderbilt Student Government presidential candidates discuss the reasons why they chose to run.

—Check InsideVandy.com often for more Web-exclusive content.

SNAPSHOT

TAKING A STAND



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Toure, an American novelist, cultural critic and BET correspondent, spoke Monday in Benton Chapel on "Connecting Generations: Take A Stand!" The talk, part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Series, was accompanied by a candlelight vigil.



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Roe v. Wade turns 35

by SAMANTHA OROVITZ
Contributing Reporter

Roe v. Wade, the controversial Supreme Court case that legalized most cases of abortion, celebrated its 35th anniversary Tuesday.

However, the Vandy Feminists felt that few students recognize the far-reaching effects of this landmark court case, so they have decided to put on a series of events this week.

"(The point is) to raise awareness about issues that we thought would be of interest to the student body and women in particular," said Amy Roebuck, internal communications chair for the Feminists and copy editor for The Vanderbilt Hustler. "The events are dealing especially with issues of sexual health and reproductive choice."

As Feminist co-president Erica Santiago said, "Roe v. Wade is not just an abortion issue; it's a rights-for-women issue."

Some of these basic rights involve socioeconomic freedom, pregnancy, contraception, marriage and sex, Santiago said.

And she explained that feminism has a more modern concept than most students realize.

"Right now we are in the third wave of feminism, and the definition of a 'feminist' is ongoing and changing," Santiago said. "Ultimately



Nashvillians braved the rain Tuesday to rally in support of the Roe vs. Wade decision to keep abortion legal.

LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

'feminist' is a term that is taken on by the self, and then defined by what issues people identify themselves with."

To engage students in relating Roe v. Wade and feminism to their lives, the Feminists will sponsor a weeklong series, "Let's Talk about Sex," and a panel forum and discussion on sex and pregnancy.

"If (the students) have questions and dare to ask them, then we are more than happy to try and answer them," Santiago said.

The panel will include a Divinity School student

with a 3-year-old child and a representative from Planned Parenthood. The Vandy Feminists are also organizing a benefit called Cocktails for a Cause to gather donations for Planned Parenthood. ■

— Samantha Orovitz can be reached at samantha.k.orovitz@vanderbilt.edu.

— To watch an audio slideshow with photos from Tuesday's events, go to:



VANDY FEMINISTS EVENTS THIS WEEK

"Let's Talk About Sex: Empowering Women to have Pleasurable Sex"

Today, 12-1 p.m. on the Wall

"Let's Talk About Sex: How to Have Safer Sex"

Thursday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Wall

"Let's Talk About Sex: Pregnancy Resource Panel Discussion"

Friday, 3-4:30 p.m. Sarratt 114

CLINTON: Students, community brave weather for former President

From CLINTON, page 1
celebrating Martin Luther King Jr."

Clinton said he was proud to speak in the exact place King had in 1963.

He emphasized that, if elected, Hillary Clinton would return America to its former high standing in the world, rebuild the middle class, provide universal and affordable healthcare, and make college education available and affordable to all Americans.

Clinton also spent time talking about energy efficiency and global warming.

"We gone burn up the planet," said Clinton, who promised that fixing global warming and Americans' dependency on gasoline would not only help the planet but create more jobs, helping boost the economy.

The line for the event began forming at 3 p.m., and by the time the doors opened at 6, it stretched around Henderson Gymnasium and across the street.

"I absolutely love Bill Clinton. I admire him and his presidency," Hubbard said. "I had seen him three times before, and I wanted to see him again."

Even non-Hillary supporters braved the freezing temperatures to see and hear what her husband had to say.

"I'm not a Hillary supporter," said sophomore Kenyon Glenn, "but I came to the event because I feel that this upcoming election is very important."

Although the issues were the most important feature of the event, no one could deny Clinton's charm.

"I'm a hardcore John Edwards supporter, but I liked Bill. I felt he was genuine, and I felt his realness," Patel said. "His optimism and reassurance made me feel good."

Clinton also enjoyed a few laughs with the crowd.

"It doesn't matter. I've been called just about everything," Clinton said when asked what he'd like to be called instead of first lady, should Hillary Clinton win. "I'm more interested in what I'll be called to do." ■

— Danielle Gantt can be reached at danielle.a.gantt@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt launches China program

by NIKKI BOGOPOLSKAYA
Staff Reporter

The growing interest in Chinese culture and language at Vanderbilt has spawned another program.

Experiencing China: Chinese Language, Culture and Economics is a three-credit program that runs from May 19 to June 16, 2008, and the first official Vanderbilt program in China. Students will travel to Shanghai, Beijing and Xi'an over the four weeks.

In recent years, interest in Chinese language and travel has increased significantly at Vanderbilt.

Over 100 students are enrolled in Chinese language classes, making it the second most studied language at Vanderbilt after Spanish, said Xianmin Liu, Chinese language program director and head of the Vanderbilt in China program.

"There has been an upper trajectory of interest for all study abroad programs," said Gary Johnston, director of the Global Education Office. "However, we have found that interest in China is increasing with particularly significant speed."

Last semester, only a few students chose to study abroad in China. This semester, the number has risen to 12.

The Experiencing China program is one of the few Maymesters not yet closed. Programs in London, Berlin and Australia have been filled — Shanghai, Egypt and Montreal remain open.

"People know London and are familiar with it. It is English-

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Thursday, Jan. 22
1-4 p.m. in the Student Life Center Ballroom

speaking," Johnston said.

But Liu was hopeful for increased interest in the China program.

"Going to China is a new idea. Interest (in visiting China) has grown, perhaps due in part to the upcoming Olympics," Liu said.

While participation in the program requires a prior study of Chinese, students will take intensive language practicum classes upon arriving in Shanghai.

Other than language, students will learn about China's economic development, take trips to local businesses, listen to speakers from other universities and study the emerging Chinese market.

They will also take part in cultural experiences such as martial arts classes, traditional Chinese cuisine, various shows, trips to Beijing before the Olympics begin and Xi'an, the site of the famous terracotta soldiers.

"The program will teach students how to understand China socially, economically and politically and try to interest them in the Chinese experience," Liu said. "I recommend it to all students, whether or not they have studied Chinese in the past." ■

— Nikki Bogopolskaya can be reached at veronika.bogopolskaya@vanderbilt.edu

MLK: Obama, Powell models for future

From MLK, page 1

and eventually (America) would be shamed into change," said Toure. "Barack is never so aggressively black as to make white people scared. He is a sort of post-black smooth as opposed to the pro-black pride, diction and manner of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton."

Toure disagreed with some analysts' criticisms that the Illinois Democrat does not have the experience to run in the first place, recounting the political career of Colin Powell, who had the opportunity to become America's first black president in 1996 but refused to run because "he didn't have the fire in his belly."

"Years ago it seemed that the White House was Powell's to lose, and now he's got no chance," Toure said. "Barack knew the moment could be fleeting and that four, eight years from now he could be nowhere."

He believed Obama and Powell are models for the present, similar to King in the '60s.

"Barack and Colin are blacks who make white people feel that progress has been made, that academia and the military are avenues to success for everyone, that racism is ending, and that equality (is coming)."

Toure made mention of racism's possible effect on the success of Obama, but not in a way commonly heard on the mainstream news.

"Let's be honest, it's helpful that he is very light-skinned," Toure said. "He's a high-yellow brother, and many of the most successful, black, elected politicians over the last 20 years are high-yellow."

While Toure said he believes the country will eventually elect a black president, he worries it may not be the symbolic moment for which black America has been waiting.

"Convincing millions of white people, especially red-state, white Americans, will require that he, or perhaps she, can convince voters that they're not going to give special attention to black people,"



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Voices of Praise, part of Jeremiah Generation, perform during the events commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Monday night.

Toure said. "If white Americans suspect they're voting for a black president, instead of a president, the candidate won't stand a chance."

And Toure said he fears if Obama makes this sort of "social contract" with white America, it will leave black Americans feeling conflicted — they may be proud of his achievements but not the politics he employed to reach them.

But King, in comparison to many modern black political figures, "was embracing the undeniable humanity of white people," Toure said, which was something that allowed him to break racial boundaries and connect to all people. ■

— Adam Weinstein can be reached at adam.u.weinstein@vanderbilt.edu

VSG PLATFORMS: Candidate teams present ideas, focus on goals with students

From VSG PLATFORMS, page 1

"I think the best predictor for which ticket would be the best to handle these issues and take a strong stance with the administration is our past record," Anderson said.

VSG could be more effective in its communication with students, Simon said, as student groups do not feel they can accomplish their goals through VSG.

"The one thing we do the worst is tell people what we do and kind of brag about ourselves," Simon said.

Norman said the variety of experiences each have had within VSG make them a more effective ticket.

"(Simon) spent multiple years doing back end stuff, and I spent two years as a house president really having contact with students," she said. "We really have the experience at both ends, and when we pull that together, we feel we

can pool a variety of skills to present a unified front."

Simon also added that he and Norman represent "the only true Greek ticket."

"I'm in an IFC fraternity and she's in a Panhel sorority," he said.

Williams and Smith also cited their involvement with several campus organizations as an asset to their campaign, and Williams added that he will not "get wrapped up in the world of student government."

"We understand what the Vanderbilt voice is. We understand what all Vanderbilt students want, not just the typical VSG platform, not just the list of things that people put down because they think that's what people want to hear," he said. "That's not what we're about."

Williams said they will focus on the improvement of the upperclassman experience, "the one thing Vanderbilt has

ELECTION TIMELINE

Candidates' platforms published in The Vanderbilt Hustler	Jan. 28
Primary election	Jan. 29 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Debate sponsored by The Hustler	Jan. 30 6 p.m. Board of Trust
General election	Feb. 5 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

forgotten about," as well as making capital improvements to campus residences and connecting Peabody to main campus.

"The Commons is great for recruitment and getting our application rates up, but at the end of the day, once we get them here, we want them to feel like they've had a four-year experience, not just a first-year experience."

Williams said he and Smith have more experience working with administrators

than anyone else in student government and said no one has pushed them yet to improve life for upperclassmen.

"Neither of us are the type that just sit there in meetings or don't talk very much with our hands folded," Williams said. "We're the ones talking all the time, making sure the administration knows the student voice on these issues."

Smith agreed, adding, "One of the toughest balances to strike in student government is being a strong advocate for students and building trust with administrators. It's critical, though, in student government that you never lose focus that the reason you're there is to be an advocate for the students' side." ■

— Glenna DeRoy can be reached at glenna.h.deroy@vanderbilt.edu

OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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OUR VIEW

Thompson serves larger purpose

From the belated entry into the presidential race, to the sense of apathy that permeated on his candidacy, Fred Thompson never capitalized on the conservative fervor surrounding him before his candidacy.

He has, perhaps, inexorably changed the Republican landscape with his third place finish in South Carolina, though. Essentially, he denied Mike Huckabee the win in South Carolina and, in doing so, effectively halted the lingering remnants of Huckabee's momentum from winning the Iowa caucuses.

This calls into question whether Thompson's push through South Carolina was a genuine effort to salvage his candidacy, or an assist to an old Senate

friend and a nod to the GOP establishment. Regardless of intent, however, he has rendered Huckabee's campaign near death, barring a surprise win in Florida — the critical battleground state where John McCain is polling strongly. Huckabee has pulled his advertising in Florida and seemingly begun to position himself as a running mate for McCain.

Thus, in a broader sense, Thompson may have done something rather unique: quietly guide the oscillating, chaotic state of the Republican nomination back to the party establishment and more traditional Republican politics.

The past year's fluctuating national polls and the astounding number of viable candidates cast significant ambiguity on

the idea of the "inevitable candidate" — an anomaly among typically experience-driven Republican presidential politics.

Despite many labeling McCain's candidacy dead this past summer, he has regained frontrunner status; Mitt Romney, too, with his incredible wealth and sterling campaign organization has won two primaries in the past five days. Though Super Tuesday looms large, and the nomination is still incredibly undecided, McCain and Romney appear to be pulling away from the field.

Though Thompson's potential as a candidate was never fully realized in practice, his candidacy may be the one that decided the fate of the Republican nomination.

LETTER

Grade deflation not so mythical

To the Editor:

When I read the headline of Jane Zhao's article, "Grade deflation a myth," I thought The Hustler had decided to print a bit of satire; I was sadly mistaken. I can forgive Zhao's naivete — she has only resided on this campus for five months — but Dean Richard McCarty and Associate Dean Russell McIntire ought to know better.

In McCarty's opinion, the College of Arts and Science is "... encountering a slight problem with grade inflation." I, personally, seem to be immune to this sweeping epidemic. If a student infected with this tragic grade-boosting disease would like to transfer the affliction to yours truly, feel free to cough in my face as we pass in Sarratt.

If grades are, as most members of the administration would likely claim, a reflection of a student's performance on the tasks of learning, retaining and reproducing academic material, then it logically follows that more academically talented and better-motivated students would garner higher GPAs. According to the Vanderbilt Institutional Research Group, over the last four years this university's undergraduate admission rate has decreased from 40 to 33 percent, and the mean SAT has increased by 50 points. Each subsequent entering class has been more academically talented and competitive than its predecessors, yet the university continually tries to keep the average GPA of its undergraduate schools constant. I fail to understand how increasing student talent and its associated increase in grade-performance is a "problem."

Furthermore, McIntire claims Ivy League schools do a disservice to their students by distributing copious good grades, "A lot of schools tell students that if they go to their school, they will get As throughout their years there, but later, when they go find jobs, (the employers) won't know if the grades are actually credible." And yet, the School of Medicine lists GPA, MCAT scores, leadership qualities and extracurricular experience, but nowhere can "source of undergraduate degree" be found. If Vanderbilt's own medical school fails to recognize a difference between colleges and lists GPA as a crucially important selection factor, why should McIntire expect graduate schools at other universities or employers to prefer a Vanderbilt student over a student with a higher GPA from a higher-ranking university?

I reacted with equal levels of amusement and disgust when I read McIntire's assertion, "We try to give students what they earn." I do not feel that over the last four years I have "earned" the opportunity to be a less competitive graduate school applicant due to my choice to attend this university.

Even more egregiously incorrect was McCarty's claim concerning the administration's involvement in GPA maintenance, "We don't try to give students bad grades." According to several unnamed members of the faculty, the Vanderbilt administration sent e-mails to Peabody's professors during the 2006-07 school year mandating the average grade be decreased from a 3.7 to a 3.4. Those e-mails clearly constitute a concerted effort to give students lower grades. Unless they recently started putting lead in the water on Peabody, those students are just as intelligent and motivated as they were before that artificial grade point drop. What exactly did they do to "earn" that kind of treatment?

It is offensive enough Vanderbilt undergraduates are put at a disadvantage compared to both Ivy League and state school students when it comes time to apply for jobs or graduate school due to our arbitrarily lower grades, but being lied to about it is absolutely disgusting. Deans McCarty and McIntire, stop trying to "help" me by deflating my grades; I screw up enough on my own as it is.

Daniel Israel Senior, A&S

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Background checks need reform
Justin Poythress, Columnist


A background check of some variety should always be required before someone purchases or really even handles a gun. Before going any further, I want to make one thing clear: I think guns are great. Everybody should hold a gun at some point — just watch Superbad. They're great to shoot, they're fun to play with and, let's face it, you just look a whole lot cooler if you're carrying one, even if it's just an airsoft gun where you've spray painted the orange safety valve. Guns should be available to everyone, but criminal background checks for gun safety are essential. It's like checking a mall Santa Claus for a history of child molestation. Of course I've heard the stories of that ex-Navy Seal who has been denied firearm purchase 40 years after a juvenile jaywalking violation, but this is why background checks should be modified. Such laws need to only focus on those with a history of criminal activity or violence, but such laws are still needed.



Practical gun laws necessary
Thomas Shattuck, Columnist

The second amendment brings up many questions with U.S. government policy. I mean, it implies that every American has a right to bear arms (normally interpreted as firearms), but in itself there are no restrictions placed for any situations. With this mentioned, I do not see a problem with restrictions on the purchase of weapons. Does that 12-year-old really need an assault rifle? The answer to most people would be a resounding "no."

Background checks, as I see it, are just an extension of a practical approach to safety. Just like a little kid doesn't need a shotgun, neither does someone with a record of violent criminal actions. While these background checks do restrict a person's ability to purchase weapons in some cases, and slow down the consumerist process in all cases, I personally think the benefits outweigh the cost. Everyone in theory has a right to buy a gun, but in the real world it shouldn't always work that way.



Background checks should be mandatory
Amy Sobhani, Columnist

Buying firearms is a tricky business. The process needs to be made as difficult as possible to prevent dangerous weapons from getting into the wrong hands. In other words, background checks should become an integral part of the firearms industry.


Honestly, there's no reason why a law-abiding citizen with nothing to hide should object to a background check. The intent of background checks is not to invade privacy or inconvenience common citizens in any way. It's a precaution that can prevent a variety of unsavory characters from gaining access to deadly weapons.

True, the smarter criminals and terrorists will probably still manage to gain access to firearms even if background checks become mandatory. However, these people are not really the ones we need to fear. Who we should really be afraid of is our scary next-door neighbor with violent tendencies, and background checks can prevent common criminals with questionable pasts from purchasing firearms.

QUICK SHOTS

One Issue, Four Responses

Should background checks be required for the purchase of firearms?



Second Amendment damages society
Sean Tierney, Columnist

The Second Amendment has probably done more harm to Americans than any other amendment, save perhaps the 18th (Prohibition). As long as we still have it, though, there really isn't much of a point having criminal background checks for gun purchasers. There's a firearms black market for a reason. Those with criminal records can still get guns relatively easily by going through illegal means. And, if a criminal plans on using a gun for devious purposes, it would be pretty stupid of them to buy it through the legal, traceable route.

Meanwhile, the biggest problem with the Second Amendment — well-meaning citizens who have accidents or go crazy — isn't fixed by background checks. Accidental gunshots can't be foreseen by looking at past records of any kind.

Background checks do very little, if anything to solve the Second Amendment's problems and only manages to divert resources away from more promising programs.

—Interested in writing a Quick Shot? To suggest an issue or question, e-mail opinion@vanderbilthustler.com

LETTER

Vols beat Commodores but fans commit flagrant foul

To the Editor:

The Tennessee Volunteers beat the Vanderbilt Commodores on Thursday night, but their hostile fans committed a flagrant foul: ethnocentrism. Welcome to the prejudiced American South, the Vols fans said to Australian Commodore A.J. Ogilvy. While the Tennessee defense held the freshman phenom to 12 points (his second-lowest total of the season), the Knoxville fans went on the "offensive," taunting him with chants such as the nationalistic "USA, USA" and the mocking

"Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, Oy, Oy, Oy." The packed Thompson-Boling Arena was surging with xenophobia. I understand that passionate Southeastern Conference fans, no matter the school, will say or do anything for their teams. To them, neither moral codes nor governmental rules oversee their language and actions. But to me, a line should be drawn between chanting "air ball" and mocking another nation's expressions (while also "patriotically" boasting of their own nation's

supremacy). Do we chant "African" when a black player steps on the court? No. Do NBA fans stigmatize Chinese basketball stars Yi Jianlian and Yao Ming as "Chinamen"? No. Ogilvy is a foreign student who should be treated just the same as any of his peers, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture and religion. According to the American Council on Education, there are over half a million international students currently pursuing postsecondary degrees in the United States. In 2004, there

were 2.5 million international students worldwide. We live in a global society. The American South of today is not the American South of the 20th century. A large portion of the country still thinks of the South as regressive, its citizens racist and ignorant. In some ways, unfortunately, this stereotype might still be true. The behavior by Vols fans last Thursday certain wasn't exactly welcoming of "ethnic others."

I've lived in the South for over half of my life, and in this time I've watched the

Please see **HEARN**, page 5

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments, 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 our Web site. 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 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 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.

President Cara Bilotta
Vanderbilt Student Government
1542 Station B
carabilotta@vanderbilt.edu
Sarratt 3155
(615) 322-8742

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

COLUMN

King's vision of equality would not exclude gays



SOO YANG
Columnist

As we commemorate the life and the work of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., it is imperative to reflect upon the remarkable progress of tolerance in America and also the lingering injustice that must be confronted unconditionally.

In doing so, we all agree that King's fearless, visionary spirit continues to inspire us to fight for equality, justice, and freedom. However, our momentary sense of unity dissolves quickly under the heated disagreements regarding the connection (or the lack thereof) between the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the gay rights movement of today. Essentially, the controversy boils down to the question of whether King, a Baptist reverend, would have supported the rights of sexual minorities if he were still alive.

His survivors, from his daughter to the late Coretta Scott King, have expressed widely divergent opinions about whether King would have

supported the same-sex unions.

However, the truth is no one truly knows whether King would have supported equality for homosexuals because he has never clearly articulated his views as he so eloquently did for other social issues. In some ways, his actions do somewhat vocalize his acceptance of homosexuals as fellow human beings. For example, King worked with Bayard Rustin, an openly gay man who taught King the notion of nonviolence and who helped him organize the landmark 1963 March on Washington, the revolutionary Montgomery Bus Boycott and even the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Despite Rustin's status as a potential political liability, King continued to collaborate with him not because he was gay or black, but because he shared the vision of a more equal America.

This hypothetical question becomes even more controversial as religion is invoked. Seemingly, his deep Christian faith suggests King would have seen homosexuality

as sinful in nature. Conversely, however, King's own blatant skepticism towards the inerrancy of the Bible may imply he would have fought for gay rights.

However, these extreme views ignore the fact that both his religious faith and his secular humanism inspired him to fight injustice. His emphasis on compassion and nonviolence from the Bible was too progressive for many of his religious contemporaries, who attacked him not only for his views on racial equality but also on his liberal interpretation of the Bible. King used the Bible to defend the methods of peace, forgiveness and nonviolence that he employed in confronting racism, while his opponents used the same text to defend institutional racism. This ironic reality shows the Bible can be easily exploited or embraced to defend varying conceptions of justice.

In essence, the Bible is a powerful text that can be used to for oppression and liberation, war and peace,

corruption and integrity, and hate and love. In light of this, I feel King would have used his religion as his moral foundation to fight against homophobia, which, like racism, is a product social conditioning, scientific misunderstanding and irrational fear.

King derived his fundamental philosophy of equality from the Bible's indisputable morals of love, salvation and justice. He once declared, "Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere," promising to work tirelessly for full tolerance until all Americans would be judged beyond the external labels and according to the content of their true internal character. Although King's work was specific to explicitly ending racism and segregation, in today's climate, he would not have excluded the gay community from his vision of a more equal and tolerant America.

— Soo Yang is a junior in the College of the Arts and Science. He can be contacted at soo.r.yang@vanderbilt.edu.

THE VERDICT

Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff!
Compiled by Katherine Miller

Fred Thompson's campaign		You mean ... it's tough to win the Republican nomination if you <i>don't want to be president</i> ?
Olsen twins' real estate		Mary-Kate's apartment extremely relieved Heath Ledger did not die in its bedroom.
Taste of Nashville		Adding dining options left and right, Vanderbilt Dining has stepped their game up.
Turkmenistan		Country ends national ban on circus and opera after seven years. Millions of children weep in fear.
Associated Press		The AP got a jump on the inevitable tolling of Britney's bell. No, that was not a dirty reference. They've already written her obit.
Larry Brown		Says Madison Square Garden had "spies" watching his every move. Spies have since been fired; no need to spy on Isiah Thomas to know how bad he is.
Oscar nominations		For once, they get most things right. Well, except for two Cate Blanchett nods.
'10 Things I Hate About You'		Heath Ledger's untimely death completely ruins movie forever.
Vietnam Airlines		More than a ton of snakes were seized by authorities aboard flight from Bangkok. For the second time this year. Ew.

HEARN: Volunteer fans' ethnocentrism should not be tolerated

From **HEARN**, page 4
region grow more progressive, tolerant and diverse. For example, I live in Memphis, and one night my friends and I were dining in one of the city's most famous restaurants, Gus' Fried Chicken, and in walks a large group of Chinese basketball coaches dressed in blue jump suits. Odd, right? Not in the American South of the 21st century. The coaches were visiting America as part of the Chinese Basketball Association's

partnership with the University of Memphis. As I saw Tigers coach John Calipari and his cross-cultural peers drink sweet tea and eat fried chicken, they presumably discussed basketball wisdom — offenses, plays and theory. Secrets of the game are being passed across the seas every minute.

Calipari is not unusually progressive among American coaches. He is one of many who believe basketball is one of the world's fastest growing sports. In

many ways the game's growing global popularity — from China to Australia to America — is a larger metaphor of how countries can, to put it bluntly, get along. In fact, Calipari hopes the partnership will help recruit more Chinese basketball players to the University of Memphis. When Chinese student-athletes start attending Memphis and other American universities in larger numbers, will fans chant "USA" and ridicule the

language or expressions of foreign cultures? I certainly hope not.



Last Thursday night, Tennessee fans revealed their "U.S."-against-the-world mentality, in which they believe that "we" (zealously patriotic, and therefore militaristic, U.S. citizens) are "better" and more "moral" than all foreigners ("others"). President Bush smirks over Volunteer nation, I'm sure. In my opinion, we do not live in an age in which blind ethnocentrism and

stubborn nationalism is something nobler than mere ignorance and disillusionment. Stop living in the intolerant past, Vols fans, because the basketball is being dribbled all over the world.

Bryan Hearn
Junior, Rhodes College

— Bryan Hearn is a former Vanderbilt University summer student.



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SPORTS

State of Tennessee
best in college basketball

Freshman phenom Derrick Rose is one of the big reasons why Memphis finds itself ranked No. 1 in the land.

GOOD CALL

by ALEKSEY DUBROVENSKY
Sports Reporter

All hail the best state for college basketball! Who holds that princely title this season, might you ask? Is it one of the usual suspects, like North Carolina or Kentucky? Nope, but that's a good guess. Surprisingly enough, Tennessee is tops this year.

To start off, Memphis is one of only two remaining undefeated teams in college basketball with a 17-0 record and a shiny new No. 1 ranking.

The Tigers have played a tough non-conference schedule, with wins over Oklahoma, Connecticut, Cincinnati, Arizona and Georgetown. They have a legitimate shot to go into the NCAA tournament with a perfect record, a la the New England Patriots. Oddly enough, the only one of the Tigers' remaining opponents with a reasonable shot of beating them also resides in the Volunteer State.

On Feb. 23 in Memphis, the Tigers will tussle with the Tennessee Volunteers in a game that could feature more future NBA stars than any other contest this season. The Volunteers, as painful as it might be to admit it, have established themselves as a premier program in college basketball. The Vols are ranked third in the AP poll, fifth in the Coaches poll and first in the RPI ranking, used by the NCAA Selection Committee to determine seeding in the Tournament. With wins over West Virginia, Xavier, Gonzaga, Ole Miss and dear old Vanderbilt, the Vols have clearly proven themselves.

But how do those two squads, as good as they are, make Tennessee the best state for college basketball? North Carolina and Duke are both ranked in the top five and give the Tar Heel State a legitimate claim to the same title. The answer, in a word, is depth.

No. 14 Vanderbilt is 17-2 and is the only thing standing between the aforementioned Volunteers and a walk-through to the Southeastern Conference East crown. The Commodores give the state the highest number of ranked teams in the country. But it doesn't stop there.

Austin Peay, located in Clarksville, Tenn., is leading the Ohio Valley Conference by a growing margin. UT-Chattanooga is on top of the North division in the Southern Conference. Nashville's own Belmont University has already defeated Cincinnati and Alabama this season and sits second in the Atlantic Sun standings.

Add it all up, and the Volunteer State takes the title of Best State for College Basketball. ■

—Aleksy Dubrovensky can be reached at aleksy.dubrovensky@vanderbilt.edu

—To listen to Aleksy Dubrovensky and David Rutz debate this week's "Good Call, Bad Call," go to:



Sophomore sensation Ty Lawson is one of the big reasons why most expect North Carolina to be playing deep into March.

BAD CALL

by DAVID RUTZ
Asst Sports Editor

An undefeated Memphis team stands at the top of the rankings and could very well make a New England Patriots-style run to perfection. No. 3 Tennessee hasn't lost in two months and is a clear favorite to win the Southeastern Conference championship. No. 14 Vanderbilt won its first 16 games. The land of Tennessee has to be the best college basketball state in the country, right?

Before we get too hasty in crowning the Volunteer State as king of college hoops, let's not forget about two other states that also house multiple juggernaut programs: California and North Carolina.

California houses not only perennial power No. 7 UCLA, but also No. 20 Stanford, Southern California and California. All of them play in the tough Pac-10 conference, arguably the country's best college basketball conference. The Golden State also has some of the best players at every position. UCLA's Darren Collison, despite coming off an injury, remains a top-notch point guard, and USC freshman O.J. Mayo is a definite NBA prospect. Bruin center Kevin Love is having a monster freshman campaign, and California's DeVon Hardin and Ryan Anderson, as well as Stanford's Brook Lopez, are all outstanding big men. For sheer depth, the state of California is a college hoops powerhouse.

And you can't forget Tobacco Road. No. 4 Duke and No. 5 North Carolina are constantly contenders for a national championship, and this year looks to be no different. North Carolina's reign at the top of the rankings ended recently with their first loss of the season to Maryland but make no mistake, the Tar Heels are for real. With Player of the Year candidate Tyler Hansbrough at the helm, North Carolina is a near-lock for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

Duke, meanwhile, is doing what it normally does: winning. The Blue Devils are the only team undefeated so far in Atlantic Coast Conference play, and they are a guarantee to make the NCAA tournament for an amazing 25th time in the last 26 years.

Historically, Tennessee doesn't come close to measuring up to the standards of California and North Carolina. For the moment, Tennessee undoubtedly has some of the finest teams in America. But it will take deep tournament runs by Memphis, Tennessee and Vanderbilt if it wants to jump over California and North Carolina for the title of best college hoops state. ■

—David Rutz can be reached at david.c.rutz@vanderbilt.edu

Former Vandy
kicker finds
success as
sports agent

Bazant represents NBA, NFL and PGA Tour stars.

by ERIC SILVER
Asst Sports Editor

With the 2008 NFL draft quickly approaching, some Vanderbilt football players such as Jonathan Goff and Chris Williams will hear their name called, possibly in the first round. Millions of dollars in contracts and endorsements await them, not to mention a shot at eternal glory.

However, this is the case for only a tiny portion of athletes on the Commodore football team. The rest will take their degrees to the real world and put their football history behind them.

Jordan Bazant, a former place-kicker on the Vanderbilt football team who graduated in 1993, didn't quite have the talent to make it to the NFL. In fact, he never even played a snap in his entire career.

However, Bazant utilized his Vanderbilt education to the fullest and is now a major player in the sporting world as a marketer and agent, representing big-time athletes and coaches such as Stephon Marbury, Jeremy Shockey and Troy Aikman.

Bazant arrived in Nashville from New Jersey without a football scholarship, but walked onto the team as a kicker. Though he never saw playing time, Bazant thoroughly enjoyed his time with the squad.

"The atmosphere was unbelievable," said Bazant. "The administration did a great job when I was there."

Bazant cites the "big time" coaches as a major testament to the football program's strength at the time.

"There was a lot of excitement," Bazant said. "We were there, about to take that turn. Coach [Gerry] DiNardo really had them on the brink of some great stuff."

After graduating in 1993, Bazant enrolled in law school at the University of Miami, where he began to lay the foundation for his future career.

In the summer of 1994, he interned at ISI, then a major player in the sports marketing business. ISI was impressed with Bazant's work, and enticed him to stay with the company instead of returning to school. He credits his entire time at Vanderbilt with teaching him the skills needed to succeed in his ultra-competitive field.

"I loved the whole Vanderbilt experience," Bazant said. "Vanderbilt, besides being academic, prepares you socially. It stresses socialization, which is the most important trait anyone can have in the world of business."

And Bazant would know about succeeding in the world of business. After just six years of working at ISI (which was bought out twice in his tenure), Bazant and a partner left the company, in his words, "overnight" to head their own agency. What resulted was Goal Marketing, LLC, which primarily represented golfers.

Goal Marketing started out small. In the beginning, Bazant's company represented a grand total of two clients.

However, Bazant was representing top-notch personalities in golfer Jim Furyk and Hall of Fame

See BAZANT, page 7

THE
RUN DOWN

W2W4

**Tonight
Men's Basketball
Florida @ South
Carolina
7 p.m.**

**Raycom Sports
(Channel 16)**

Vanderbilt basketball fans will get an early preview of the Commodores' next opponent as the surprising Gators travel to Columbia to take on the struggling Gamecocks. South Carolina is playing their first game since the announcement of head coach Dave Odom's retirement following the end of the season. Last season, South Carolina was blown out twice by Florida, but the 2007 version of the Gators had a completely different makeup.

**Thursday
Men's Basketball
No. 4 Duke @
Virginia Tech
6 p.m. ESPN**

This should be an interesting match-up between these ACC foes. Thanks to Duke's bitter rival, North Carolina, losing, Duke moved into the top five in ESPN's rankings. Led by senior captain DeMarcus Nelson (14.3 points per game) and freshman standout Kyle Singler (13.1 points per game), Duke sports a gaudy 15-1 record. But they cannot underestimate the Hokies, who are better than their 11-7 record and boast wins against St. John's and in-state foe Virginia.

**Tonight
NBA**

**L.A. Lakers @ San
Antonio Spurs
8 p.m., ESPN**

Kobe Bryant and the Lakers have one of the biggest surprises thus far, while the defending champs have struggled some in the first half. Still, with Andrew Bynum sidelined for at least eight weeks with a knee injury, it won't be easy for the Lakers to take down Tim Duncan and company in San Antonio.

THEY SAID IT...

"This was a critical game for us, without question. By and large, I thought our players played like it."

KEVIN STALLINGS

Vandy Basketball Coach on the team's 92-76 victory over LSU Saturday

DAILY

3

Ranking of the Vanderbilt baseball team in Baseball America's preseason top 25 released on Tuesday.

5

Number of teams in the state of Tennessee that have a chance to play in the NCAA tournament in March. Aside from Vanderbilt, Memphis and Tennessee, the OVC and Atlantic Sun titles could easily go to Austin Peay and Belmont.

COMPILED BY ERIC SILVER

McClellan willing to do whatever it takes

by ANDREW HARD
Sports Editor

Call him the next Corey Smith. Call him A.J. Ogilvy's sidekick. Call him energetic, versatile, aggressive and unselfish.

Whatever you call Darshawn McClellan these days, make sure you keep your eye on him whenever he's on the floor. And even if you don't notice him, that won't change the effort he brings to the Commodores (17-2, 2-2 Southeastern Conference) each and every night.

"I just come out and try to play hard every possession, go out and do the stuff that I see as not being done," McClellan said. "I give 110 percent and a lot of energy. I'm the energy guy."

While many of Vanderbilt's players have had up and down starts to open SEC play, one of its unheralded freshmen has appeared rather unfazed, perhaps even more relaxed. In four league games, McClellan has scored 27 points to go with 19 rebounds and nine assists.

"He's rebounded more effectively, he's shot the ball more effectively; he's just played better," said coach Kevin Stallings. "When conference play starts, you generally expect guys to go down a little bit, but he's gone up."

Stallings has responded accordingly, as McClellan has been on the floor for 20-plus minutes in each of the last three games. His energy off the bench being so consistent, McClellan may be

proving more valuable finishing games than starting them.

"My job is to put the best five players on the floor," Stallings said. "He's been one of the best five overall in a bunch of games, and my job is to get him out there when that's the case."

McClellan has seen the bulk of his time at power forward spotting Ross Neltner down low.

His rebounding ability, especially on the offensive glass, makes him ideal for the position, but he also has the ability to extend floor, knocking down 3-pointers at critical times in each of the last two games.

"I possess range to the 3-point line," McClellan said. "I just don't really take it that often."

Whether he will be a prolific scorer like Smith, who graduated in 2005, or more the all-around energy guy he is today remains to be seen.

"I don't want to put any expectations on him," Stallings said. "The thing I like about him is ... he's not caught up in shots taken or anything like that. He wants to do what he's supposed to do to help the team win."

With McClellan, Ogilvy and other freshmen such as Keegan Bell and Andre Walker, the future of Vanderbilt basketball looks promising, and so does the present. ■

—Andrew Hard can be reached at andrew.h.hard@vanderbilt.edu



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Darshawn McClellan may be a high flyer, but it's his energy and rebounding ability that make him most valuable to the Commodores.



JAY CUTLER REGIONAL SECOND ROUND



WHAT IS THIS?

We're running a 32-athlete, single-elimination tournament to find Vanderbilt's biggest star. You can check out the voting criteria, bracket and voting schedule below.

HOW DO I VOTE?

Go to WWW.INSIDEVANDY.COM to cast your vote. Voting for the second round of the Jay Cutler Regional ends **THURSDAY AT 5 P.M.** Results will be posted in the following issue.

VOTING CRITERIA

- Individual accolades**
How big is your trophy room? Have you broken any school records, earned All-SEC honors or taken home any big-time awards?
- Team success**
You may be talented, but remember the name on the front of the jersey is more important than the one on the back. Have you led your team to the Big Dance or won an SEC title?
- National exposure**
You may be a hero in Nashville, but do people around the country even know you exist? Have you earned All-American status or appeared on Mel Kiper's Draft Board?
- Fan appeal**
You may be big-time, but when you walk around campus, can fans even recognize you? Do they wear your jersey, cheer for you at games and friend (maybe even poke) you on Facebook?
- "It" factor**
It's hard to quantify, but do you have the intangibles every star needs?

SCHEDULE

- FIRST ROUND**
1/17: Derrick Byars Regional
1/14: Jay Cutler Regional
1/16: David Price Regional
1/18: Dee Davis Regional
- SECOND ROUND**
1/21: Byars Regional
1/23: Cutler Regional
1/25: Price Regional
1/28: Davis Regional
- QUARTERFINALS**
1/30: Byars and Cutler Regionals
2/7: Price and Davis Regionals
- SEMIFINALS**
2/4: Byars Winner vs. Davis Winner
2/6: Cutler Winner vs. Price Winner
- FINALS**
2/8: Byars/Davis Winner vs. Cutler/Price Winner
- REVEAL CHAMPION**
2/11

THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:

The multi-talented Dennis excelled on the pitch and in the art studio, but she'll be a major underdog against Bennett, the most prolific wide receiver in Southeastern Conference history who's on his way to the NFL.

THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:

There's a good chance we'll be watching Concolino, one of the nation's top golfers, on the PGA Tour sometime soon, but it'll be tough for her to upset the Awesome Aussie, who will most certainly move onto the NBA (although hopefully not too soon).

1



EARL BENNETT, JUNIOR
Football, Wide Receiver

- Southeastern Conference's all-time leader in receptions (236)
- Biletnikoff Award semi-finalist, first team All-SEC
- Recently declared for NFL Draft
- No. 10 football jersey most popular among students

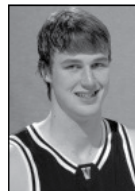
5



SARAH DENNIS, SENIOR
Soccer, Forward

- Scored four goals and added two assists in '07
- Four-year starter on a successful team
- Also an accomplished artist: paints murals around Nashville

2



A.J. OGILVY, FRESHMAN
Basketball, Center

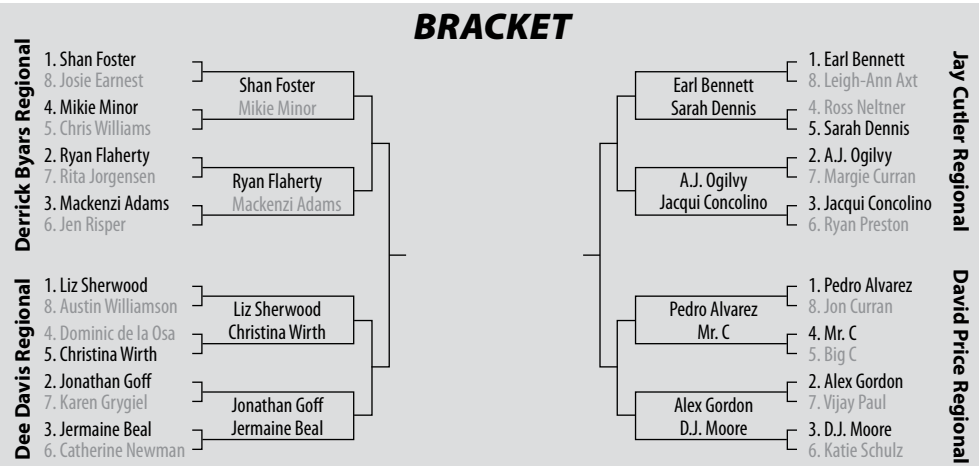
- Australian sensation averaging 19.4 points and 7.1 rebounds per game
- Potential SEC Freshman of the Year and future NBA draft pick
- Australian flag seen in student section for every game
- One of Vandy's most recognizable athletes

3

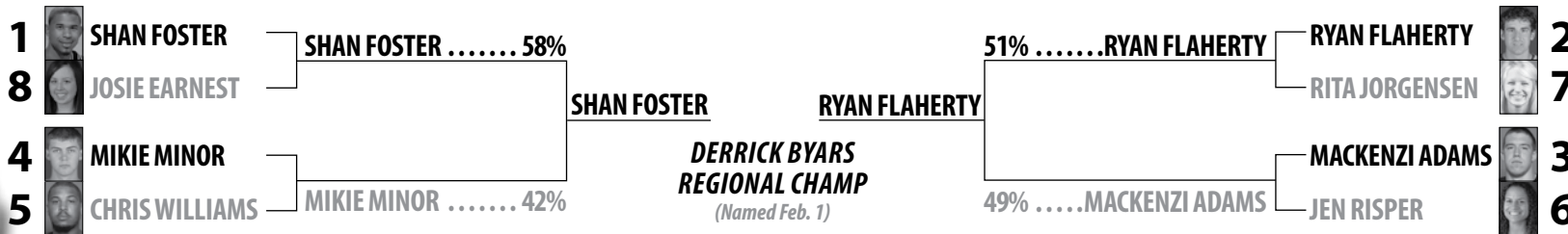


JACQUI CONCOLINO, JUNIOR
Golf

- All-American recorded 10 top-10 finishes in 12 events in '07
- Won the NCAA Central Regional
- Named Team USA's MVP in U.S.A. vs. Japan Collegiate Golf Championship
- Good chance we'll see her on the LPGA Tour sometime soon



DERRICK BYARS REGIONAL SECOND ROUND RESULTS



SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by Eric Silver

T	1. Tennessee 16-2 (4-1) After stomping Vandy and avenging last season's NCAA Tournament loss to Ohio State, the Vols were upset at Kentucky, which proves maybe they're not invincible after all.
V	2. Vanderbilt 17-2 (2-2) You'd think the Dores would have dropped down in the polls after their stinker against UT. But after Ole Miss' horrible loss to Auburn and Vandy's destruction of LSU, coach Kevin Stallings' squad now finds itself even higher in the rankings.
M	3. Mississippi State 13-5 (4-0) Though they're not ranked nationally, that soon may change. The Bulldogs have won eight games in a row and are one of two undefeated teams in Southeastern Conference play.
O	4. Ole Miss 15-2 (2-2) That loss to Auburn isn't going to help the team's psyche heading into its showdown with rival Mississippi State.
F	5. Florida 16-3 (3-1) The Gators are young, inexperienced and underrated. Freshman Nick Calathes leads a potent offense that is averaging 81.3 points per game.
K	6. Kentucky 8-9 (2-2) Don't count the Wildcats out just yet. With home wins over Vandy and now Tennessee, it's clear that no team is looking forward to playing Patrick Patterson and company, especially at Rupp.
G	7. Georgia 11-5 (2-1) The Bulldogs got back on track this week, beating Alabama and Arkansas by a combined 20 points. Let's see if they can do that at Tennessee on Saturday.
A	8. Arkansas 13-5 (2-2) Perhaps the best name in the SEC, Sonny Weems leads the Hogs in scoring, but he's going to have to do more of that if he wants his team to be playing in March.
A	9. Auburn 11-5 (2-2) The Tigers' short bench isn't hurting them right now, but it's going to kill them once SEC play heats up.
S	10. South Carolina 9-8 (1-2) We'll see if the announcement of coach Dave Odom's retirement at the end of the season will affect the Gamecocks. But at least there is nowhere to go but up for South Carolina.
A	11. Alabama 11-8 (0-4) Oh, how things have changed. Entering SEC play, the Tide were 11-4 and a dark horse candidate to win the conference. Now, they're in a freefall as they've lost their first four conference games.
L	12. LSU 7-11 (0-4) Their best player is out for the season, they average more turnovers than assists, they've lost seven games in a row and their coach is on the hot seat. But other than that, the Tigers are doing just fine.

BAZANT: From kicker to agent

From **BAZANT**, page 6
basketball player Isiah Thomas. These two cornerstones were critical to helping the company grow and branch out.

With Bazant at the helm, Goal Marketing began to expand exponentially, networking within the industry and broadening its base of clients.

The rapid success resulted in Goal Marketing becoming The Agency Sports Marketing a year later, the current name of the company.

Today, The Agency represents about 40 A-list athletes and coaches in a multitude of sports. Though he doesn't deal with athlete contracts, Bazant does everything else, such as endorsements, appearances, coaching contracts and broadcasting contracts.

He has negotiated thousands of deals, many of them worth millions of dollars, for his clients with companies from Samsung to Miller Light. Ever heard of Stephon Marbury's "Starbury" Collection? Bazant had a hand in that too.

Bazant has found success through shrewd business strategy and developing a strong network within the sports industry.

"You just start to know the network. Your clients start referring people back from you," Bazant said. "People find out about your success, relationships that you build."

Today Bazant, once a college student merely hoping for a snap as a Vanderbilt kicker, is all over the sports pages. Recently, he found himself in the middle of the Stephon Marbury scandal, as he represents both Marbury and his boss, Thomas, now the general manager of the New York Knicks. Bazant was the topic of discussion from households in New York to ESPN radio.

And who knows? Currently, Bazant doesn't represent any former Vanderbilt athletes, but that could always change.

When April rolls around and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell announces the selection of Goff or Williams, enormous sums of money will become available to them in endorsements and appearances.

And when they need somebody to represent them, they may just choose the former backup kicker who went further in the athletic world than anybody would have ever thought. ■

—Eric Silver can be reached at eric.b.silver@vanderbilt.edu

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TUE 1/29 @ Rocketown

Fiery Furnaces
WED 2/6 @ Exit/In

G. Love & Special Sauce w/ Tristan Prettyman
THU 2/28 @ City Hall

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MON 3/3 @ City Hall

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2L

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

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

1/21/08 SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fight to breathe
 - 5 Crime group
 - 10 "Lohengrin" lady
 - 14 Thickening agent
 - 15 Large antelope
 - 16 Placed
 - 17 Outdoor gala
 - 18 Roadside furrow
 - 19 Texas city's epithet
 - 20 Sun spots?
 - 22 Time periods
 - 24 Impetuous ardor
 - 25 Work gang
 - 26 Mine-laying soldier
 - 29 Sets sail
 - 33 Packing case
 - 34 Sty denizens
 - 35 Bat wood
 - 36 Sorry 'bout that!
 - 37 Yet to be paid
 - 38 French cheese
 - 39 Ms. Thurman
 - 40 Architect Jones
 - 41 Time between 12 and 20
 - 42 Impetuosity
 - 44 Deepen a harbor
 - 45 Exploits
 - 46 Unit of bread
 - 47 Head cheese
 - 50 Romantically naive
 - 54 In a frenzy
 - 55 Popeye's honey
 - 57 Bird of peace
 - 58 Donate
 - 59 Orange variety
 - 60 4-string guitars
 - 61 Matinee idol
 - 62 Fencers' foils
 - 63 Fringe benefit

- DOWN**
- 1 Hook with a handle
 - 2 Maturing agent
 - 3 Fill past full
 - 4 Tenets
 - 5 Bitter fruit
 - 6 Green-card holder
 - 7 Singer Domino

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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61						62					63			

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1/23/08

1/21/08 SOLUTIONS

E	L	L	A	V	A	T	S	A	T	B	A	T		
R	O	O	F	O	G	R	E	B	R	I	N	E		
A	G	O	G	R	E	E	L	A	U	N	T	S		
T	O	P	H	A	T	V	E	S	T	I	G	E	S	
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				N	I	X	O	N	A	R	M	A	D	A
E	T	H	I	C	M	O	B	S	T	A	P			
R	A	I	S	E	R	S	R	H	I	Z	O	M	E	
I	N	C	O	K	A	Y	N	A	M	E	D			
E	S	K	I	M	O	I	N	S	U	M				
				R	E	T	A	R	O	R	B	I	T	S
C	O	L	O	S	S	A	L	W	E	I	G	H	T	
A	M	E	N	S	R	I	M	E	A	L	O	E		
D	O	N	E	E	G	N	A	T	N	O	R	M		
S	O	A	R	S	H	E	R	O	S	O	N	S		

- 41 Busboy's carrier
- 43 Computer invader
- 44 Wooden pegs
- 46 Riverside ridge
- 47 Crones
- 48 Leave off
- 49 PBS series
- 50 Gainer or swan, e.g.
- 51 Oxen holder
- 52 In any way
- 53 Office piece
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	12		12		12		
PM	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
	6:15	6:15	6:15	6:15			6:15
	7:45	7:45	7:45				

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GO DORES



Seniors!

Yearbook portrait appointments are filling up fast.

Make an appointment today for your Senior Portrait at:

www.VanderbiltCommodore.com

Portrait photographers will be here for their final visit for the 2008 Commodore yearbook the week of Feb. 4 in Sarratt 112.

Appointments are required for seniors only.

Non-seniors, please stop by Sarratt 112 between 9am-1pm or 2-6pm, Feb. 4-8 to have your portrait taken.

Details at www.VanderbiltCommodore.com