



Will the Patriots or the Giants win the Super Bowl? See Good Call, Bad Call, page 6



Will the Republican presidential candidate be John McCain or Mitt Romney? See Quick Shots, page 4

Tony Romo gets a 'thumbs down' for his duet with Jessica Simpson. See The Verdict, page 5



TODAY'S WEATHER
Sunny, 40/26
Extended forecast, page 2

The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008 • 120TH YEAR, NO. 10

THE WALL

compiled by SARA GAST

TODAY VSG candidate debate

The Vanderbilt Hustler is sponsoring a debate between the Vanderbilt Student Government presidential and vice presidential candidates at 6 p.m. in the Board of Trust Room in the Student Life Center. A VSG meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

TODAY 100 days 'til Commencement

The Senior Class Fund will have a table on the Wall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where seniors can pick up special treats and info on how the Class of 2008 plans to leave its mark on Vanderbilt.

TODAY World on Wednesdays: Turkey

The Turkish Student Association will introduce various tourist and historical landmarks of Turkey and provide free Turkish food from 12:10 to 1 p.m. in the Student Life Center Ballroom.

TODAY International education fair

Student organizations and international programs will have booths for students to get more information about studying abroad in the Student Life Center Ballroom from 1 to 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 31 Iraqi high tribunal panel

Iraqi judges who presided over the Anfal genocide proceedings will provide analysis of the case at 5:30 p.m. in Flynn Auditorium in the Vanderbilt Law School.

THURSDAY, JAN. 31 Focus the Nation film series

"The 11th Hour" is a 90-minute documentary, produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio. It explores how we impact the earth's ecosystems and what we can do to change our course. The screening is at 7 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema.

THURSDAY, JAN. 31 ASB benefit

Alternative Spring Break's benefit will be held in the Student Life Center Ballroom from 6 to 8 p.m. Food will be provided by Maggiano's and other local restaurants. Tickets are \$10 on the Wall and at the door or \$12 on the Card at the Sarratt Box Office.

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

Buckling down

Economics professor Stephen Buckles challenged students in his finance boot camp Tuesday night and gave them a crash course in achieving personal wealth.



Professors Malcolm Getz (center) and Stephen Buckles (right) talk with a student about the importance of saving money and attaining financial security.

by SYDNEY WILMER
Senior Reporter

Write a will. Buy a house. Get life insurance. But most importantly, save, save and save some more.

Professors Stephen Buckles and Malcolm Getz gave a crash course in the basics of personal finance to a nearly full lecture hall in Wilson Tuesday night in Buckles Bootcamp, sponsored by the Arts and Science Council.

After an hour of tips on investing and credit building, the main point was clear: The way to gain personal wealth is to live below your means.

"I am from a family that doesn't do a lot in terms of saving," said sophomore Tamesha Derico, an economics and religious studies major. "For me, it was a really good crash course."

Buckles stressed that at a liberal arts school like Vanderbilt, personal finance is not something that always gets a lot of attention.

"We don't spend a lot of time in courses talking about personal finances — I don't think we should, that's not really the point at school — but we all confront these issues after we leave college," he said.

Sophomore Allison Heiser, who helped organize the second annual event, said the program originally was an attempt to put together something outside of academics that could

benefit all students.

"The idea was to put something together that wasn't just about being pre-med," Heiser said. "I don't know how to get on my feet after college — this is free for students and is very practical."

And as the turnout seemed to affirm, "Professors Buckles and Getz are people that students who aren't econ majors know," Heiser said.

In addition to the basic tenets of personal finance, like always investing 10 percent, Buckles drove home a few other points of wisdom for students. Mainly, he discussed why it is important to save.

All these reasons for saving, he said, are right, but for the wrong reasons.

"Money gives you a kind of freedom. You can take vacations, you can walk away from a bad situation," he said.

"Many of you are in relationships, have girlfriends, boyfriends, husbands and wives that you shouldn't be with. With money, you can get out. You can go for it, and you can tell her goodbye."

"I am my own person. I can do what I want to do" with financial freedom, Buckles said.

He asked Vanderbilt students to put money away and not to touch it. Anything else, he said, "is just stupid." ■

—Sydney Wilmer can be reached at sydney.e.wilmer@vanderbilt.edu

—To listen to a podcast from this event, go to:



TENETS OF PERSONAL FINANCE

1. Make a will.
2. Pay off your credit debts.
3. Get term life insurance if you have a family to support.
4. Fund your 401(k) to the maximum.
5. Fund your IRA to the maximum.
6. Buy a house (if you want to live in a house and you can afford it).
7. Put six months' expenses in a money market fund.
8. Take whatever money is left over and invest 70 percent in a stock index fund, 30 percent in a bond fund through any discount broker and don't touch it until retirement.
9. If any of this confuses you or you have something special going on (retirement, college planning, tax issues) hire a fee-based financial planner, not one who charges a percentage of your portfolio.

Edwards rallies for Southern support

by MAGGIE SHANLEY
Contributing Reporter

With Super Tuesday only a week away, Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards came to Nashville on Monday to rally much needed Southern support.

Edwards, who holds 58 of the 2,025 Democratic delegates — as opposed to Barack Obama who has 167 and Hillary Clinton who has 249 — remains optimistic despite his recent loss in his home state South Carolina. He hopes to win the support of many of the Southern states holding primaries on Feb. 5, such as Tennessee, Oklahoma and Georgia.

"Edwards is in the race to win the convention and go on to the presidency," said junior Ashish Patel. "But beyond that he's in the race to bring awareness for the issues."

However, freshman Lauren Bates said she was not optimistic for Edwards's future success.

"With the way the primaries have been going so far, it seems likely that he will not remain a serious candidate unless something changes," Bates said.

Introduced as the one candidate who "truly understands the meaning of being

a worker and the vital role of unions in society," Edwards used his speech on Monday at the Steelworkers Hall to highlight his main campaign goals, including ending poverty in America, eliminating the role of political lobbyists in presidential campaigns, strengthening labor laws and creating a truly universal health care system for Americans.

"It was very clear that his campaign focus was on the working middle class, which has won him a strong voting base, but I think a clear flaw in his strategy is his failure to reach out to young voters," Bates said.

Indeed, aside from his "College for Everyone" plan, which, as the name suggests, guarantees financial aid for all qualified students, little attention was given to youth.

Nevertheless, his other platforms were clear.

"Edwards is trying to raise awareness on issues that the other candidates haven't been touching on," Patel said. "And he still remains the only candidate that hasn't taken any money from lobbyists."

Edwards ended his speech declaring, "enough is enough. It is time for us to speak out. It is time for us to stand up. We want our country back." He reminded voters, "next Tuesday (they) can help create a wave of change in America." ■

—Maggie Shanley can be reached at margaret.f.shanley@vanderbilt.edu



EDWARDS

Huckabee leaves Florida to court Thompson backers

Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee skipped out of campaigning in Florida a day before its primary in hopes of laying claim to Fred Thompson's backers in Nashville.

He also squeezed in some time in a Music Row recording studio, playing bass guitar with a group of country music stars and session musicians.

Huckabee said those who backed the former Tennessee senator's presidential run should now turn to him because he's consistently shown he's a conservative — supporting anti-abortion measures and tax cuts while governor of Arkansas. He told Thompson supporters looking for a new candidate to "come home to the only other Southerner in the race, the only other real consistent conservative in the race."

Huckabee attended a rally for his supporters in the morning in Florida, where polls currently show him fighting for third place with Rudy Giuliani, behind front-runners John McCain and Mitt Romney.

Huckabee, however, dismissed the idea



HUCKABEE

his campaign is in trouble if he loses the Florida primary and said he hopes to capture wins in several states on Super Tuesday, including Tennessee and his home state.

"Florida is important from a momentum standpoint, but as far as winning the nomination, that's going to happen a week from tomorrow," he said.

Huckabee is also hoping to gather support from Tennessee's significant evangelical Christian population. Nashville is the headquarters for the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination with over 16 million members.

Huckabee, a former Southern Baptist minister, won the Iowa Republican caucuses earlier this month thanks in large part to evangelicals' support.

He pitched his musical talent with a session at Curb Records on Music Row, the famed stretch of studios, publishing houses and offices of Nashville's country music industry.

Huckabee, who plays bass guitar in his own band called Capitol Offense, ran through rock standards like "Mustang Sally," "Sweet Home Alabama," and "Takin' Care of Business."

Country artists Ricky Skaggs and Josh Turner complimented Huckabee's playing. One musician in the crowded room asked if he was free next week.

"If I am, I'm in big trouble," Huckabee replied. ■

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

Bush seeks congressional support on economy, Iraq in final State of the Union address

WASHINGTON — President Bush, focusing on gnawing recession fears as he went before Congress with his final State of the Union address, said Monday that Americans are troubled about their economic future and lawmakers should urgently approve a \$150-billion rescue plan, The Associated Press reported.

Please see UNION, page 3

Simon ticket out of VSG race

by GLENNA DeROY
Editor Emeritus

The Vanderbilt Student Government presidential campaign ended for one team Tuesday night as Reid Simon and Randall Norman lost the primary with 20 percent of the vote.

Simon said he believes his loss reflects "a lack

Please see VSG, page 3



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshman Morgan Galloway and senior Dawn Espy submit their votes for the VSG primary election. About 32 percent of the student body voted in the primary.

Dance Marathon 2008 registration closes

TOMORROW

sign up today at
www.VUDM.org

Odds & Ends

WEATHER

compiled by SARA GAST

THURSDAY



Showers, 49/35

FRIDAY



Cloudy, 39/28

SATURDAY



Mostly Sunny, 51/32

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by SARA GAST

Thursday, Jan. 24, 5:29 p.m.:
Subject saw someone attempting to cut through a bike lock at Barnard Hall. When she got his attention, he turned and went the other way.

Thursday, Jan. 24, 10:15 p.m.:
Subject was observed acting suspiciously in his vehicle at 19th Avenue and Division Street. There was a strong odor of marijuana. A pipe and marijuana were discovered in his possession.

Friday, Jan. 25, 2:55 a.m.:
Subject was observed throwing up at West End and 24th avenues. Subject had strong odor of alcohol and had to be held up by another student.

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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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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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

THE 123456789 STARTING 9

compiled by SARA GAST

1 House passes economic recovery package

WASHINGTON — The House, seizing a rare moment of bipartisanship to respond to the economy's slump, overwhelmingly passed a \$146 billion aid package Tuesday that would speed rebates of \$600 to \$1,200 to most taxpayers, according to The Associated Press.

The plan, approved 385-35 after little debate, would send at least some rebate to anyone with at least \$3,000 in income, with more going to families with children and less going to wealthier taxpayers.

2 McCain, Romney vie for momentum in Florida Republican presidential primary

MIAMI — John McCain and Mitt Romney clashed in a hard-fought Florida primary on Tuesday, The Associated Press reported, seeking campaign momentum before the race for the Republican presidential nomination turns into a nationwide delegate struggle on Feb. 5.

Rudy Giuliani and Mike Huckabee also had spots on the ballot, struggling for survival in a race that threatened to leave them behind — or out.

3 Gunmen in Venezuelan bank standoff flee in ambulance with 5 hostages, leaving others inside

ALTAGRACIA DE ORITUCO, Venezuela — Gunmen who held more than 30 hostages inside a Venezuelan bank for over 24 hours negotiated their getaway in an ambulance Tuesday and sped off with five captives, The Associated Press reported.

Under the deal with police, the four gunmen were permitted to leave with five hostages who agreed to accompany them, and they slipped into an ambulance backed up to the entrance.

4 Huckabee, Clinton lead in Tennessee polls

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Mike Huckabee and Hillary Clinton are leading the presidential field in Tennessee, according to a poll released Tuesday.

Huckabee, who was stumping for support in Nashville Monday, enjoys a narrow lead over John McCain, 30 percent to 26 percent, The Tennessean reported. According to a survey of likely primary voters conducted Monday by Public Policy Polling of North Carolina, Mitt Romney is polling third in Tennessee with 22 percent, Ron Paul with six percent and Rudy Giuliani with four percent.

5 Bredezen aims new funds at college students, disabled, elderly care

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gov. Phil Bredezen proposed a new state budget that included funds for needy college students and elderly and disabled persons outside of nursing homes in his annual "State of the State" address on Monday, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported.

The budget will create a \$200 million endowment to help students get to college but will provide almost no new funding to those schools they will attend.

6 Number of U.S. homes in some stage of foreclosure soared 79 percent in 2007, data shows

LOS ANGELES — The number of U.S. homes that slipped into some stage of foreclosure in 2007 was 79 percent higher than in the previous year, a real estate tracking company said Tuesday according to The Associated Press. Many homeowners started to fall behind on mortgage payments in the last three months, setting the stage for more foreclosures this year.

About 1.3 million homes received foreclosure-related warnings last year, up from 717,522 in 2006, Irvine-based RealtyTrac Inc. said.

7 Avalanche warnings as more snow heads for Northwest, temperatures plummet

BOISE, Idaho — Avalanche centers in the West issued warnings Tuesday as new storms lined up following a system that buried many areas in heavy snow, closing government offices, causing havoc on roads and even shutting down one ski resort, according to The Associated Press.

A search was under way Tuesday for three snowmobilers missing in the Colorado mountains. Blowing snow and avalanche danger caused new highway closings in Wyoming and Washington, where some schools were closed for a second consecutive day.

8 Deep-rooted problems at the heart of Kenya's ethnic violence will take years to resolve

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya, once a leader in the region, is following neighbors like Somalia down a path of disintegration, with no solution in sight as burning slums and thousands fleeing in fear alter the nation's ethnic map — perhaps forever.

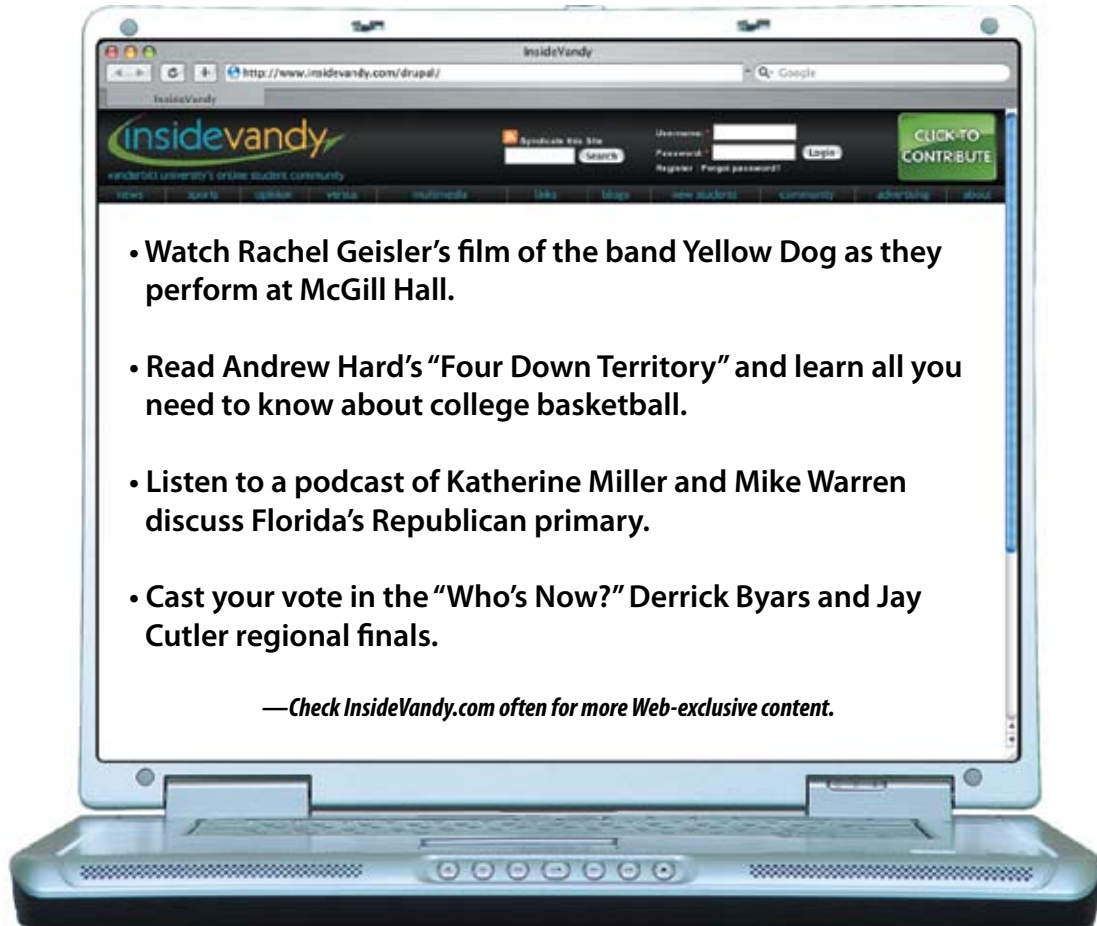
Police in helicopters on Tuesday fired to turn back mobs, The Associated Press reported. Gunmen killed opposition legislator Mugabe Were, and slums where a tense peace had held for days exploded with machete-wielding gangs setting fire to homes and businesses owned by President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu people.

9 Margaret Truman Daniel, only child of President Truman, dies at 83

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Margaret Truman, the only child of former President Harry S. Truman who became a concert singer, actress, radio and TV personality and mystery writer, died Tuesday, The Associated Press reported. She was 83.

Truman died at a Chicago assisted living facility following a brief illness, according to Susan Medler, a spokeswoman for the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. She had been at the facility for the past several weeks and was on a respirator, the library said.

WHAT'S NEW ON INSIDEVANDY.COM



- Watch Rachel Geisler's film of the band Yellow Dog as they perform at McGill Hall.
- Read Andrew Hard's "Four Down Territory" and learn all you need to know about college basketball.
- Listen to a podcast of Katherine Miller and Mike Warren discuss Florida's Republican primary.
- Cast your vote in the "Who's Now?" Derrick Byars and Jay Cutler regional finals.

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

SNAPSHOT

ACCESSING CAREERS IN FINANCE



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Career Center hosted Total Access: Finance on Tuesday. Students listened to representatives from several companies, including Caterpillar and JPMorgan Chase, to learn about career opportunities.

Friday, Feb. 1st, 5:00 pm - Midnight



- * Live Music
- * Free Food
- * Games * Prizes
- * Giveaways

Activities: Madden Tournament, Guitar Hero, Nintendo Wii, Sports Tournaments, Indy Racing, Karaoke & DDR

Free Food: Pizza, Chick Fil-A, Fruit, & Bro's Cajun Cuisine

Giveaways / Prizes: PS3, Cheesecake Factory Gift Card & other restaurants, Spa Gift Card, T-Shirts & more.

Live Performances:
VIBE - 7:00 pm, Bobby Hamrick - 7:30 pm
Todd Suttles - 8:00 pm, Two Dogs Rose - 8:15 pm
Della Rosa - 8:45 pm, Laura Leigh - 9:15 pm

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www.vanderbilt.edu/CampusRecreation/



NY Times journalist Williams lectures on 'little things'

Students have power to improve race relations.

by LAKENDRA SCOTT
Asst News Editor

"It's not a black thing or a white thing — it's a human thing."

That phrase resounded through the auditorium as Lena Williams, a New York Times journalist, spoke about the "little things" that lead to misunderstanding as part of the North Star Leadership Series.

Racial misunderstanding stems not from the big things, according to Williams, but rather from the little everyday annoyances that people face.

Junior Jose Grenet said he faces racial misunderstanding regularly and decided to speak on the panel at the Williams lecture in order to bring to light cultural differences.

"I have been subject to small misunderstandings regularly," Grenet said. "I was once asked

if I was Mexican, and when I said I was Chilean, I was then asked what part of Mexico Chile was in."

Throughout a nationwide college tour Williams discovered that many students, like Grenet, have experienced racial misunderstanding despite how much diversity is present on their campus.

"I find that when I go to college campuses students are engaged. I see these faces, and they are nodding their heads," Williams said. "I have students come up and volunteer their own personal experiences. They tell me, 'That has happened to me.'"

Vanderbilt proves no exception to the trend of racial misunderstanding present on college campus as seen by the multiple questions posed by students about issues such as cafeteria socializing and student organizations. The idea that interracial mingling is commonly only surface deep was posed to the audience, and the response illuminated some of the racial division on

—To listen to a podcast from this event, go to:



campus.

While there might be a level of misunderstanding on campus, students are positive a change can be made. Panelist Sherryl Grant, sophomore, believes change is what you make it.

"You can't change the actions of others, but you can change your own actions, and your actions can affect others," Grant said.

Grant's sentiments were shared by Williams, who admitted to forming stereotypes of other ethnicities in the past.

"We have come a long way in America," Williams said. "However, stereotypes are still apparent, and until we flush them out in the open, they will still rear their ugly heads." ■

—Lakendra Scott can be reached at lakendra.j.scott@vanderbilt.edu

VSG: With field narrowed to 2, 'real campaign' to get under way

From VSG, page 1

of effort" on his part.

"After seeing how political people were really willing to get with the politics they play, it made me second guess whether I really wanted to be a part of VSG," he said.

Joseph Williams and Wyatt Smith won the primary with half the student vote, while Jared Anderson and Courtney Holliday gained 29 percent.

Polls were open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for students to vote online or at two locations on campus for their top two choices among the three. A third of the student body turned out to vote.

Simon said he would endorse Anderson and Holliday for president because "they are leaders, not characters."

Anderson said he was "excited for the real campaign to begin" this week between the two tickets.

"I think people are just now starting to pay attention," he said. "I feel like it's anybody's race at this point."

Williams agreed, saying, "The game starts over next week."

And Smith cautioned people not to read too much into their win.

"The fact is the numbers are skewed because you

VSG PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Watch the VSG presidential and vice presidential candidates discuss the issues at a debate tonight at 6 p.m. in the Board of Trust Room in the Student Life Center.

can vote for two tickets, and because of that, you can't look at any kind of disparity between the numbers and generalize anything out of that," he said.

Williams said the win only "inspires (him) to work harder," and Holliday echoed that sentiment, saying she and Anderson would continue with a vigorous campaign.

"We're really excited to be moving on to another week of campaigning, really excited about meeting more students, talking to more voters," she said. "We're excited to keep doing what we're doing, getting more ideas from students and listening to what they want us to do." ■

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

SENIOR CLASS FUND KICKS OFF 100 DAY COUNTDOWN

It's the beginning of the end for the Class of 2008.

The Senior Class Fund kicks off its fundraising program today, celebrating 100 days until Commencement.

"The Senior Class Fund is dedicated to raising money and awareness about the importance of giving back to Vanderbilt after students have graduated," said senior Rhyse Nance.

Nance said the program this year is different from the typical fundraising efforts of the past.

"This year, we have completely revolutionized the way the Senior Class Fund operates," Nance said. "Instead of focusing on donations, we are turning our attention to participation. We have implemented a graduated system for this year. This means that the more people who donate, the more an already designated Vanderbilt alumnus will donate toward the scholarship fund."

To learn more about the Senior Class Fund's plans, visit them on the Wall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. ■

Celebrating 30 years of success



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Coach Melanie Balcomb joined with the community to celebrate 30 years of women's basketball at Vanderbilt on Sunday afternoon in the Student Life Center.

UNION: Bush 'passes the buck' to Congress on Social Security, immigration

From UNION, page 1

"Bush now needs Congress more than it needs him, particularly in areas such as efforts to boost the economy and head off a recession," said Vanderbilt political rhetoric expert Vanessa Beasley.

On Iraq, always a main topic of his annual addresses to Congress, Bush said last year's U.S. troop buildup is succeeding after five years of a long and costly war that has claimed the lives of 3,940 members of the U.S. military.

"Al-Qaida is on the run in Iraq, and this enemy will be defeated," Bush said. With his approval rating near its all-time low and less than a year remaining in his presidency, Bush lacked the political clout to push bold ideas before a hostile, Democratic-led Congress. Offering modest

plans, Bush proposed a \$300 million "grants for kids" program to help poor children in struggling public schools pay for the cost of attending a private school or a better public school outside their district.

The White House urged lawmakers, particularly in the Senate, to resist any temptation to enlarge the economic-stimulus plan he and House leaders agreed on last week. "At kitchen tables across our country, there is concern about our economic future," the president said. "In the long run, Americans can be confident about our economic growth."

On two issues that were centerpieces of State of the Union addresses past — Social Security and immigration — Bush passed

the buck back to Congress, which had ignored the president's earlier proposals. Contending that entitlement spending is "growing faster than we can afford," he said, "I ask members of Congress to offer your proposals and come up with a bipartisan solution to save these vital programs for our children and grandchildren."

A major challenge for Bush in his address to Congress was simply being heard when many Americans already are looking beyond him to the next president.

His speech came hours before Florida's presidential primary election and just eight days before Super Tuesday when voters in more than 20 states go to the polls on the biggest day of the primary campaign. ■

Hey Seniors!

We have a very important opportunity for you!

It's time to nominate your fellow classmates for the Young Alumni Trustee election, and YOU are a KEY part of this process.

Why?

It's because we are asking YOU to recommend classmates, who YOU think should be considered for the position of the Young Alumni Trustee.

We are asking YOU to choose the next graduating senior who will then serve on the Vanderbilt Board of Trust.

Find out more through our facebook event: "Young Alumni Trustee Nominations."

Nominate **HERE!**

<https://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/form/fDBtcY>

Nominate **NOW!**

Voting ends Tuesday, February 5th at noon.

Contact Christina Barnes for more information:

christina.m.barnes@vanderbilt.edu

322.2044

(seriously, call me, email, send a fax, a letter — I even know morse code.)

OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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OUR VIEW

VSG primary turnout trumps Florida

While the Florida primary's fireworks for the national race to the Republican nominee were all in the news Tuesday, Vanderbilt Student Government's first primary election was the center of campus action.

Although many often remark on student apathy, particularly concerning the actions of VSG, the voter participation in Tuesday's presidential primary demonstrates the success of VSG in actively engaging student support, even before the general election. About 32 percent of students voted in the VSG primary, and, when the difficulties of organizing a dozen people are considered, the 1,552 students that voted Tuesday becomes fairly impressive.

To put the statistics into further perspective, early estimates place Florida's primary voter turnout at approximately 30 percent, up from 20 percent in 2000 and 2004. This, of course, means our student participation in the primaries trumped the turnout in a pivotal battleground state for the most contested presidential nomination in recent memory.

At the same time, Tuesday's VSG primary turnout matched the amount of students who voted in last year's general election, which bodes extremely well for next week's voter participation.

The turnout, as well as the extremely close results, speaks to the increased presence and activity of VSG on campus

thus far this semester.

Critically, the strength and visibility of the presidential tickets cannot be overlooked. All three campaigns featured well-known, well-liked members of the student body, whose involvement on campus transcends student government. No matter the victor, both tickets present candidates who should be able to effectively lead, and yet be held accountable by their peers. Hopefully, Jared Anderson, Courtney Holliday, Joseph Williams and Wyatt Smith's ability to articulate thoughtful, practical platforms will resonate with students, particularly tonight during the VSG presidential and vice presidential debate.

LETTER

Warren gets it right on McCain

To the Editor:

Three cheers for Mike Warren, whose recent column, "McCain's policies hurt true conservatives," bravely tells the harsh truth about the Arizona senator. Warren correctly notes Sen. John McCain has sided with liberals on numerous critical issues.

In a letter to the editor, Evan Schlank makes a lame attempt to defend McCain, arguing McCain does not support amnesty and Warren makes several "misstatements" about his immigration record. To begin with, Schlank informs us according to the bill McCain cosponsored with Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy last year, illegal aliens would be allowed to remain in this country if they pay a fine. They would also have to go "to the back of the line" to get citizenship. This, he says, is not amnesty.

Illegal aliens broke our laws to get into this country, and now instead of enforcing those laws, we're going to forgive this so long as they pay a fine? Bottom line, McCain-Kennedy would have allowed illegal aliens to remain in this country indefinitely and eventually obtain citizenship. Sure sounds like amnesty to me.

However, this is not all the bill would have done. Its "guest" worker plan and other provisions would have vastly increased overall immigration levels by upwards of 100 million over the next two decades, by some estimates. How doing this would make any sense at all is beyond me, but it must have made sense to McCain and Kennedy.

President Reagan's support for the 1986 amnesty is another matter entirely. The number of illegal aliens at the time was much smaller, estimated at 2.5 million as opposed to today's 20 million. Instead of setting up a massive guest worker system, however, the 1986 law implemented new restrictions, significantly increasing employer fines for hiring illegal aliens in order to make the cost of hiring illegal aliens a deterrent. The 1986 law contained virtually the same conditions as McCain-Kennedy. Reagan, unlike McCain, was honest enough to admit what he was doing.

Reagan had to deal with a Democratic Congress, and he believed (rightly or wrongly) the only way to get his enforcement measures through was to combine them with amnesty. Amnesty obviously didn't work; the effect of the enforcement measure remains unknown because most of them were gutted by McCain's current partner in crime, Kennedy. Though ill advised, granting amnesty to a fairly small group in order to prevent future illegal immigration is a very different thing than McCain's plan.

Perhaps McCain-Kennedy would be tolerable, were it an isolated incident in an otherwise solid record, but it's not. If his voting record is any indication, McCain does support social security for illegal aliens. In 2006 he voted to table the Ensign amendment, which would have prevented payment of Social Security to anyone who has no valid Social Security number.

McCain has also worked to undermine the cause of immigration reform in his own state. In 2004, some 56 percent of Arizonans voted to pass Proposition 200, which required proof of citizenship to receive state public benefits. Apparently, this was anathema to McCain, because he fought tooth and nail to prevent it from passing.

Once again, kudos to Mike Warren for seeing through McCain's supposed "straight talk." It's good to see a conservative voice in the Hustler opinion page.

Chad Burchard
Vanderbilt Law School

Looks are everything

Justin Poythress, Columnist
In any election, whether primary or general, the most reliable method of determining the winner is to compare the candidates' physical appearance and personality type. Let's analyze the situation through this perspective: John McCain is the older candidate, which corresponds to a greater level of wisdom. He is also losing his already white hair, which means he has handled important and stressful hair loss situations. In case you haven't listened to 30 seconds of a McCain speech, he is a POW. Romney, on the other hand, is younger than George Bush, so he would be a step down. Romney also generates the vibe of an oily, greased up con man who sells stolen watches. You can tell he's shaky on women's rights and susceptible to foolish ideas, such as that terrorism is good for the economy. Neither of these candidates comes out looking presidential, so in the end the nomination should go to Ron Paul.

McCain's maverick streak is a worthy trait in a candidate

Aimee Sobhani, Columnist
The Republicans should nominate John McCain as their candidate for the 2008 presidential election. He knows how the federal government works — or at least he should know how it works since he's been involved in national politics for the last 25 years. McCain probably knows every trick in the book and might have a better chance of pushing meaningful legislation through Congress than Romney does.

McCain is not your everyday Republican. He was the sixth most liberal Republican senator in 2001-02, which shows he's not afraid to break away from party lines. Also, he understands the power of compromise and realizes he needs to appeal to mainstream Americans, not just hardcore conservatives.

Did I mention he's actually served in the military? This could be pretty useful, considering the fact the United States is currently bogged down in the Iraq War.

McCain's victory solidifies frontrunner status

The Hustler Editorial Board
Tuesday evening, following Sen. John McCain's victory in Florida by a fairly significant 5 percent of the electorate, he has become the solid frontrunner to the nomination. While former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney carried significant parts of the state, including the greater Jacksonville and Orlando areas, his loss in the key battleground state has delivered a tremendous blow to his bid for the nomination, in terms of McCain's momentum heading into Super Tuesday.

Wednesday, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani will endorse McCain, which should serve McCain's new aura of inevitability well, considering Giuliani's national popularity. Look for other prominent GOP figures to fall in line McCain over the next week as Super Tuesday approaches.

—For more analysis on the primary, check out "Right Wing Vitriol," the new weekly podcast by Opinion Editor Katherine Miller and columnist Mike Warren on InsideVandy.com

QUICK SHOTS

One Issue, Four Responses

McCain or Romney?

Experience matters

Katherine Miller, Opinion Editor
Removing the usual little John McCain Maverick top hat I wear around when I tap dance in the early evenings, I'd like to make the case for Mitt Romney. You may have heard this, but the economy has caught mono, and if there's one thing

Romney knows how to fix, it's financial problems. From the Olympics to the Massachusetts budget, the man spits at financial conflict and wrestles it to the ground all while maintaining his perfect Reagan hair. Facing eminent health care and Social Security crises, I'm more inclined to trust someone with the private and public experience equipped to make a budget weep itself to sleep.

Some may rail against his inability to commit to an actual position on, say, 12 different social issues. Whatever, I like a politician who knows his audience. Besides, I doubt gay marriage will be on the table too often if we're all living in cardboard boxes.

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

COLUMN

Entrapment endangers public

AMY SOBHANI

Columnist
Every so often, you may hear the local news report that police have arrested person X for selling drugs to undercover cops. Perhaps you are a fan of the popular Dateline NBC show "To Catch a Predator," in which a decoy poses as a minor and chats online with potential sexual predators. The police and the show both catch "criminals" through a tactic known as entrapment, but how ethical is the use of those controversial techniques?

An electronic law library defines "entrapment" as the act in which a person is "induced or persuaded by law enforcement officers or their agents to commit a crime that he had no previous intent to commit." Basically, entrapment uses trickery and deceit to make a

person do something he or she might not do under normal circumstances.

For example, in "To Catch a Predator," a person affiliated with NBC poses as a young adolescent and talks to suspected sexual abusers in a suggestive manner. Eventually, the minor and the adult arrange a potential sexual liaison. When the adult reaches the meeting place, Dateline correspondent Chris Hansen and a camera crew greet him, and Hansen and the purported sex offender discuss the offender's creepy infatuation with children. Usually, the conversation ends with the cops arresting the offender, and suddenly, there is one less pervert terrorizing the world.

I wholeheartedly believe this show's motives (and the motives of undercover cops posing as drug addicts) are relatively pure. The idea of entrapment seems appealing; after all, a potentially

dangerous individual can be caught in a criminal act and apprehended before the suspect actually causes any harm. Theoretically, the community is a little safer.

However, entrapment seems morally wrong. No one will ever actually know if the targeted individual would ever commit the crime in "real life."

The undercover cop is probably a little more adamant than the typical drug buyer. The police officer's behavior makes the crime much more appealing to the potential criminal since the situation just falls into place.

I am not suggesting that the use of undercover cops or fake minors should completely stop. Without a doubt, some legitimately dangerous people end up getting arrested. Some legal rules ensure that true criminals cannot win with an

Please see SOBHANI, 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.

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COLUMN

Florida re-establishes traditional politics



KATHERINE MILLER
Opinion Editor

Sen. John McCain's victory in Florida is not shocking, nor is it in any way attributable to all those lame phoenix puns every media outlet on this planet seems to be giggling at. No, McCain's victory has a greater significance that's been simmering since South Carolina: the firm return of the inevitable establishment candidate and traditional election cycles back to this absurd Republican primary season.

McCain, declared dead in August, is now solidly the front-runner. How the hell did that happen? The argument can be made the traditional trifecta of effective endorsements, primary momentum and perceived electability has brought McCain back.

This week, Sen. Edward Kennedy has again dragged us all through the tiresome world of vague endorsement politics, in which he invoked the grand name of his brother to mostly reaffirm the support for Sen. Barack Obama among young, idealistic liberals. Meanwhile, in Florida, two practical endorsements from Florida and GOP power players may have done something fairly significant.

The endorsements of Gov. Charlie Crist and Sen. Mel Martinez, announced just as Obama was doing The Hope of Vagueness Shuffle on stage in South Carolina Saturday night, have to be considered a huge boon to the McCain win.

Martinez, the former RNC Chairman, represents three critical Floridian constituencies: those that value establishment experience, those of Cuban origins and those of the 14th century-like social platform.

Crist, meanwhile, falls on exactly the opposite spectrum; the incredibly popular governor has taken a largely libertarian-minded approach to governing. As former Gov. Jeb Bush's anointed successor, however, the Crist endorsement was the closest either Romney or McCain would come to being graced by the divine touch of a Bush family nod. Especially for McCain, considering the verbal fisticuffs of the 2000 election and his complete inability to not hold a grudge against anyone who dare crosses him — Congressmen, the aide who gets his coffee wrong, tiny school girls on the Mall, really anyone.

The sudden shift back to oddly traditional campaign cycle can certainly be best represented in the fallen figure of Rudy Giuliani. Not only did his strategy fail abysmally, his ill-advised decision to pull out of New Hampshire several weeks ago may be, along with Fred Thompson's blow dart to Gov. Mike Huckabee's neck in South Carolina, the defining development of the election cycle.

Giuliani's strange refusal to continue campaigning in the Granite State helped unlock the door for McCain so he could bust right back into this thing, roll on through the Palmetto State and steal all of Giuliani's constituencies in the Sunshine State. McCain carried Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Naples — all more liberally-minded regions that Giuliani closely identifies with — while also taking Tallahassee, Pensacola and Tampa — all places with strong military contingencies. All that's missing is a little granite palm tree with a bright orange card that reads "To John: Good luck beating Hillary or Barack. Kisses, Rudy." Giuliani, naturally, will endorse McCain on Wednesday.

At the same time, had Romney prevailed in Florida, his dominating grasp on delegates would have given him a tremendous advantage in the game of Republican Delegate Roulette, and perhaps delivered a crushing blow to McCain's candidacy. Romney did well — with Evangelicals in the more conservative regions of Florida. Heading into Super Tuesday, for all his sterling campaign, Romney simply lacks the electability and moderate appeal that McCain brings to the table, and with Huckabee still siphoning off religiously-minded voters, McCain has the advantage.

It all speaks to the importance of traditional primary schedule momentum. Without the New Hampshire momentum in the media, Fred Thompson's turn as silent, ambivalent assassin to the Huckaboom and some old-fashioned political horse bets from Martinez and Crist, who knows where McCain would be right now. Certainly not where he is: the establishment candidate front-runner charging into Super Tuesday with rock star momentum.

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

SOBHANI: 'To Catch a Predator' may cause harm among innocent people

From **SOBHANI**, page 4
entrapment defense. According to the Online Lawyer Source, "Defendants requiring little or no inducement to commit crimes find entrapment difficult to prove, as they appear predisposed to criminal behavior."

Despite the fact that certain rules exist concerning entrapment, there's still the possibility that a relatively harmless person could spend time in jail or could unfairly be labeled as a "child molester." After all, abstract ideas like intent and predisposition are pretty difficult to prove in court. No one will ever

know for sure what was really going through the perpetrator's mind when he or she committed the crime.

In theory, entrapment is a great way to prevent future crimes; in fact, it strongly resembles the idea of preemption. However, I still worry about all of the innocent people rotting in jail just because they were unfairly manipulated into an illegal situation.

—Aimee Sobhani is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at aimee.f.sobhani@vanderbilt.edu

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THE VERDICT

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

Gwen Stefani		Platinum blond singer is pregnant with her second child. Remains to be seen whether coolness of the name "Kingston" can be duplicated.
Wesley Snipes		Willie Mays Hayes hasn't paid income taxes since 2000, because the IRS "terrorizes and deceives citizens." ... Ron Paul, is that you?
New York Mets		Omar Minaya and crew win the Johan Santana Sweepstakes. They won't have any money in three years, but whatever.
Cough medicine		New study says cough medicine sends 7,000 kids to hospital annually. Countless more suffer from bad "operate heavy machinery" jokes.
Sean Young		Popular '80s actress voluntarily enters rehab after hilarious catcalling during the Director's Guild Awards.
Tony Romo		Sang "Don't Stop Believin'" last night in L.A. He sang karaoke. With Jessica Simpson. That's really all we need to say. T.O. was not available for comment as he was still crying.
Asteroids		NASA says asteroid will not attack earth, and we're safe for another century. Except for when the satellite kills everybody next month. They should call Clint Eastwood to go blow it up.
Helmets		Forty percent of rodeo riders now wear helmets instead of cowboy hats. Damn cowboys, always ruining things with safety.

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Jan. 28th at 8:00 p.m.
Wilson 103

Jan. 31st at 7:00 p.m.
Buttrick 101

Feb. 6th at 6:00 p.m.
Buttrick 101

Feb. 12th at 8:30 p.m.
The Commons

Applications available February 1st

Applications due February 20th

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SPORTS

THE RUN DOWN

W2W4

Today
Men's basketball at Ole Miss, 7 p.m.
The Zone 104.5 FM

The storyline for both the Commodores and the Rebels reads pretty much the same. Both teams ran the table in non-conference play against so-so opponents. Now, each squad is 2-3 in the Southeastern Conference and desperately needs this game not only to get back in the hunt for the league title but also for a much-needed boost in morale. This should be an incredible game, and the winner will be the team who wants it more.

Thursday
Women's basketball at Florida, 6 p.m.
WNSR 560 AM

Maybe the women's basketball team can do what the men certainly couldn't: beat the Florida Gators at home. It certainly looks like a possibility, as both teams sport identical records: 14-6 overall, 3-2 in conference. Tina Wirth and Liz Sherwood lead the Commodores, while Marshae Dotson and Depree Bowden pace the Gators in scoring.

Vandy tennis players shine

While the past week hasn't been particularly kind towards Commodore basketball, quite the opposite has been the case for the men's and women's tennis teams. Junior Courtney Utery was named SEC women's player of the week, while freshman Alex Zotov earned SEC men's freshman of the week recognition. Utery extended her 18-match streak in singles and doubles by helping her team defeat #23 Michigan and #9 Notre Dame. Zotov, a Belarus native, clinched a 4-3 win over Michigan State by winning his singles match against Tyler Sauerbrey. Utery is ranked thirteenth nationally in singles. "She's worked really hard and improved both her singles game and her doubles game," said women's tennis coach Geoff Macdonald.

THEY SAID IT...

"We certainly drew the short end of the stick on the schedule early in the season, but you have to play them where they show up on the schedule. It doesn't get any easier because they (Ole Miss) have been an outstanding team at home and on the road."

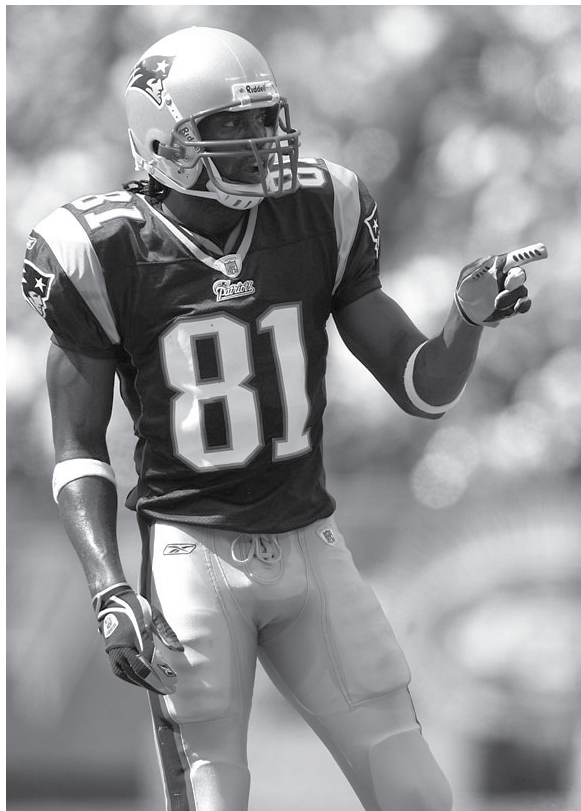
KEVIN STALLINGS
—Vanderbilt men's basketball coach on the upcoming game against Ole Miss

DAILY # 28-0

Combined non-conference records for Vandy and Ole Miss

COMPILED BY ERIC SILVER

Patriots will win Super Bowl



Randy Moss is one of the biggest reasons why the Patriots have a chance to become first team ever to finish 19-0. AP Photo

GOOD CALL

by DAVID NAMM
Asst Sports Editor

10. Mental toughness — With a collection of battle-tested veterans, coach Bill Belichick has established a mentality that fosters the belief that the only game of importance is the game at hand.

9. Experience — Simply put, the Patriots have been here before. New England understands how to block out the menial distractions that accompany playing on the world's biggest stage.

8. Adalius Thomas — At 6-foot-2 and 270 pounds, it is hard to imagine the versatile linebacker flying under the radar. However, in a season where he was overshadowed by other key acquisitions, Thomas' efforts have gone highly undocumented.

7. Wes Welker — The definition of a slot receiver, Welker may well be the greatest beneficiary of the attention Randy Moss demands from opposing defenses. Welker hauled in a league-leading 112 catches during the regular season.

6. Offensive line — Perhaps the biggest key to the Patriots' greatness this year has been the play of the offensive line. In order for the win streak to reach 19, the line must gear up to face the league's top pass rush, led by defensive ends Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora.

5. Running game — The Patriots will be the first to admit they are a pass-first team. They will be the last to say they can't run the ball. Riding running back Laurence Maroney's 122-yard effort in their victory over the Chargers, the Pats proved their offense can deliver on the ground.

4. The Randy Ratio — Before he arrived in New England, Moss seemingly believed a play only mattered when the ball was in his hands. Since his arrival, however, he has changed his tune and consequently had one of the greatest offensive seasons ever.

3. Josh McDaniels — McDaniels, the Patriots' offensive coordinator, is the new wunderkind among NFL offensive minds, having piloted the best statistical offense in league history.

2. Revenge — The Patriots' defense was embarrassed in their regular-season finale against the Giants. Safety Rodney Harrison called it their worst defense performance of the year, and vowed that "the only way (they) can go is up." This spells trouble for the Giants, with Richard Seymour, Asante Samuel and Co. hungry to regain their pride.

1. Brady and Belichick — Has there ever been a more reliably clutch player-coach tandem in the history of sport? Brady is continuing a season in which he set a record for touchdown passes (50), while Belichick is famous for assuring his opponent never sees the same defensive set twice (if only the same could be said about those hoodies). So far, they have won 100 games together. Sunday will be win 101. ■



Plaxico Burress predicts that the Giants will win 23-17 on Sunday to spoil New England's perfect season. AP Photo

BAD CALL

by ADAM WEINSTEIN
Sports Reporter

10. They're confident — There are those who feel Plaxico Burress hurt the Giants by making his prediction they'd win 23-17 this weekend because it could add fuel to the Pats' fire. Still, if you're going to beat an 18-0 team, you'd better be self-assured coming into the game.

9. They're not playing at Giants Stadium — The Giants have won 10 in a row away from the Meadowlands, where they were just 3-5. Then again, who could blame them? New Jersey isn't exactly the cheeriest place to play (or the nicest smelling, for that matter).

8. The running game has new legs — While injuries plagued the Giants throughout the year, they served as a blessing when injuries to Brandon Jacobs and Reuben Droughns opened the door for rookie Ahmad Bradshaw to motor. The Patriots have yet to see the quick Bradshaw, and it will be tough for them to keep him in check when he's paired with Jacobs.

7. Tom Coughlin didn't die of frostbite in Green Bay — Sure, Coughlin hasn't always been the most popular coach in the league, but give him credit for his work this year. He's managed to become more human to the players while still showing that he might kill you for blowing a game on penalties.

6. They will hit Tom Brady — The Giants put so much pressure on opposing QBs this season, and when the Pats put up 38 points against them in their week 17 matchup, Osi Umenyiora was not at full strength.

5. Randy Moss isn't all there — It's not for me to speculate what he did or what's going through his head right now, but he's made just two catches in two playoff games. The deep ball is a big part of the Pats offense, but without Moss, that may not pose a threat to the Giants this weekend.

4. The flu — Sure, it's not the most pleasant thing we as humans can go through, but let's face it: If you're back at the hotel room losing your lunch, you're probably not going to cause trouble out on the town.

3. Burress is a monster — Have you seen this guy lately? He was hindered by injuries throughout the year, but the powerful 6-foot-4 wideout absolutely dominated Al Harris last week, one of the best corners in the league.

2. Eli Manning isn't making mistakes — He's yet to throw an interception in the playoffs, and he's not forcing throws like he was in the second half of the regular season.

1. No one believes they can win — People are expecting Manning to fail, and in a way this Giants team has been thriving on that. As long as no one expects anything more than for the Patriots to slaughter Big Blue, they can't really screw up. Meanwhile, New England has everything to lose. 18-0 won't really matter, because the only game anyone will remember was the one that slipped into the loss column. ■

COLUMN

Is it time to panic yet?

After 16-0 start, 'overrated' Commodores look to get back on track tonight at Ole Miss.



JARRED AMATO
Editor in Chief

When coach Kevin Stallings called his Commodores the "most overrated team in the country," most of us laughed. Looks like the joke was on us.

At the time Stallings made those comments, Vanderbilt was undefeated and destined for the Final Four, Shan Foster was a first-team All-American and A.J. Ogilvy was the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year.

A month later, the Commodores are a pedestrian 2-3 in league play and destined for the NIT if they're not careful. Foster can't seem to get open and Ogilvy looks, well, like a freshman.

So, is it time to panic?

I'm going to wait one more game. How the Commodores play tonight in Oxford against Ole Miss, in a contest that's as close to a must-win as you can get this early in the season, will say a lot about their character and mental toughness.

As bad as Vanderbilt has looked in losses at Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida, winning on the road is no easy task for anybody. SEC teams are a combined 21-34, including 9-21 in league play, away from home. Still, it's not just that the Commodores have lost, but how they've lost.

Despite having a week to prepare for the Gators and knowing full well the importance of Sunday's game, they came out flat and never recovered. They missed wide-open lay-ups, clanked free throws, turned the ball over, failed to get back on defense and were slow to every loose ball.

The post-game comments were particularly telling.

"We were not as emotionally ready to play as they were," Stallings said. "They were faster to the ball and were the quicker and more aggressive team."

"We didn't fight back," Foster said. "I was like 'Wow.' I couldn't believe it. I really couldn't believe it."

Neither could I.

Don't be fooled by the 16-0 start. The Commodores are simply not talented enough to coast in this league and win. They don't defend or rebound particularly well, they are not very deep, Ogilvy has been exposed against older, more athletic big men and teams have been able to make Foster a non-factor.

After five SEC games, Vanderbilt ranks 11th in scoring defense (78.8 points per game) and rebounding margin (-6.8) and ninth in efficiency margin, ahead of only Auburn, South Carolina and LSU.

That's not to say Vanderbilt isn't a tournament-caliber team that has a chance to make a run deep into March. On paper, it is just as talented, if not more talented, than last season's Sweet 16 squad.

But that team had something special about it, which was a credit to Derrick Byars, Dan Cage and Ted Skuchas.

These Commodores need to start playing with the sense of urgency that those seniors played with night in and night out. The three of them treated every game like it was their last and took nothing for granted.

Stallings said repeatedly last season that the reason for the team's success was that his seniors were playing the best basketball of their careers. And he was exactly right.

The same cannot be said for Foster, Gordon, Alan Metcalfe and Ross Neltner — at least not yet. But, that's what's great about sports — just when you begin to lose faith, players and teams find ways to restore it.

Besides, isn't it funny how Vanderbilt teams always seem to play better when they're underrated anyways? ■

— Jarred Amato can be reached at jarred.samato@vanderbilt.edu

SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by Eric Silver

	1. Tennessee (18-2, 5-1) The Volunteers rebounded after a horrendous loss to Kentucky by trouncing Georgia behind 27 points from a rejuvenated Chris Lofton.		5. Vanderbilt (17-3, 2-3) The Commodores' next game at Ole Miss is huge. After the worst performance of the season by leading scorers Shan Foster and A.J. Ogilvy, Vandy needs to get back on track if they want to win the SEC East.		9. Alabama (12-9, 1-5) State of Alabama bragging rights are just about all the Tide can boast about right now because they are headed nowhere this season.
	2. Mississippi State (14-5, 5-0) Where did that come from? In December, the Bulldogs were 5-5 and coming off a loss to South Alabama. Now they've won nine games in a row, including a 20-point beat-down of in-state foe Ole Miss.		6. Kentucky (9-9, 3-2) Three weeks ago, this team was left for dead and Wildcat faithful were calling for coach Billy Gillespie's head. Things have certainly changed in Lexington, but they'll have to change even more if Kentucky wants to be playing in March.		10. Auburn (12-6, 2-3) A loss to bitter rival Alabama? Not exactly what the Tigers wanted. A game today against LSU? Exactly what the doctor ordered.
	3. Florida (18-3, 5-1) How does a team go from unranked to 20th in the AP poll? Simple. Just beat Vandy by 22 and have all of your starters score in double figures.		7. Arkansas (14-5, 3-2) Sophomore Patrick Beverly had his best game in weeks as the Razorbacks steamrolled LSU by 16. But then again, who doesn't play well against LSU?		11. South Carolina (9-10, 1-4) This season has been one to forget for the Gamecocks, but sophomore Devan Downey has been the lone bright spot. He leads the SEC in scoring and the nation in steals.
	4. Ole Miss (15-3, 2-3) Ole Miss is perhaps the fastest-sliding team in the SEC. After a perfect non-conference campaign, they're below .500 in league play.		8. Georgia (11-6, 2-2) The Bulldogs have to put their loss at UT behind them and focus on their upcoming game against South Carolina.		12. LSU (7-12, 0-5) They say in the SEC you can never take a night off, as every team is competitive and can win any given game. LSU is trying mighty hard to dispel that myth as they take the conference doormat award yet again.



DERRICK BYARS REGIONAL FINAL

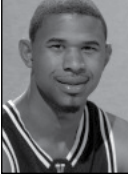


WHAT IS THIS?


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 Derrick Byars and Jay Cutler Quarterfinals ends **THURSDAY AT 5 P.M.** Results will be posted in the following issue.

1  **SHAN FOSTER, SENIOR**
Basketball, guard

- Leading candidate for SEC Player of the Year
- School's all-time leader in 3-point shooting
- Also an accomplished pianist and stylish dresser
- "The Truth" helped lead team to Sweet 16 in '07

2  **RYAN FLAHERTY, JUNIOR**
Baseball, Shortstop


- Preseason second-team All-American
- "Flash" enters this season with 35-game hitting streak
- Played for Team USA and in Cape Cod League past two summers
- Crowd-favorite for his at-bat music from "The Departed"

THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:


Flaherty will be an integral part of one of the most dominant lineups in college baseball history this spring and should have a shot at the major leagues. Foster has had arguably the best four-year basketball career in Vandy history with his sweet stroke and ridiculously savvy fashion sense. In a close one, The Truth gets the nod here.



JAY CUTLER REGIONAL FINAL

1  **EARL BENNETT, JUNIOR**
Football, Wide Receiver

- SEC'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

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

THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:

Both are destined to shine in the pros someday. After a sizzling start, Ogilvy is going through a few first-year growing pains, though he will certainly be a legend at Vandy when his time is up. Bennett clearly has the edge here, having cemented his place in Commodore lore as the leading receiver in SEC history.

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

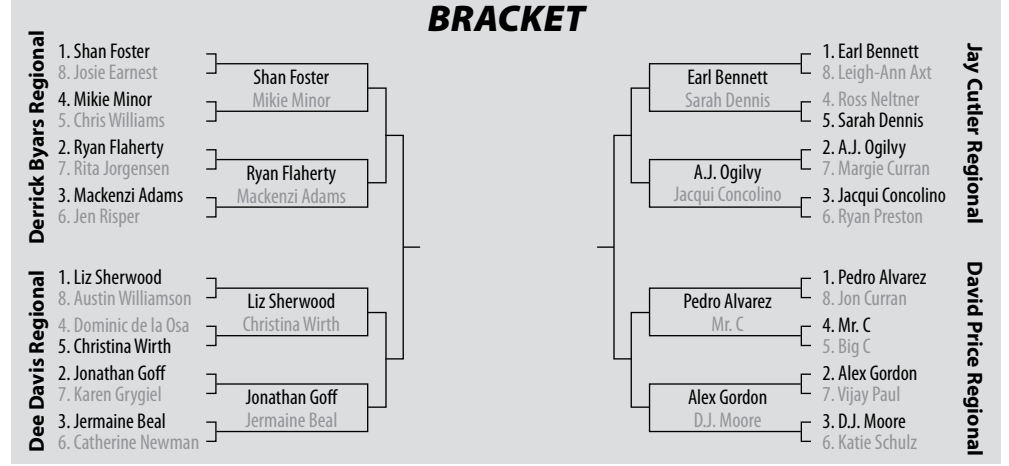
SEMIFINALS
2/4: Byars Winner vs. Davis Winner
2/6: Cutler Winner vs. Price Winner

FINALS
2/8: Byars/Davis Winner vs. Cutler/Price Winner

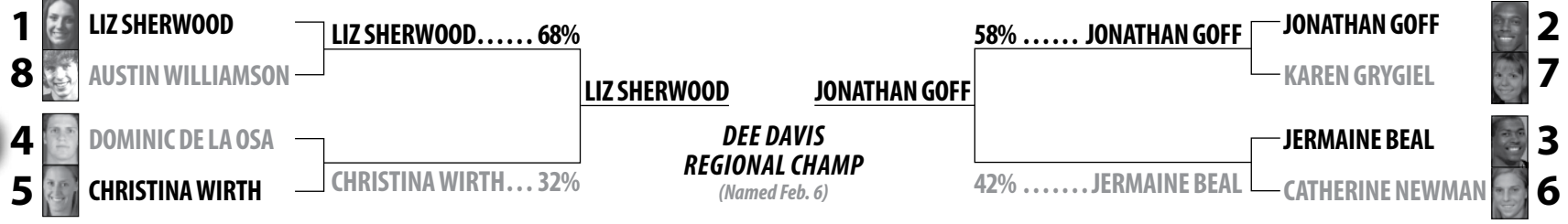
REVEAL CHAMPION
2/11

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?



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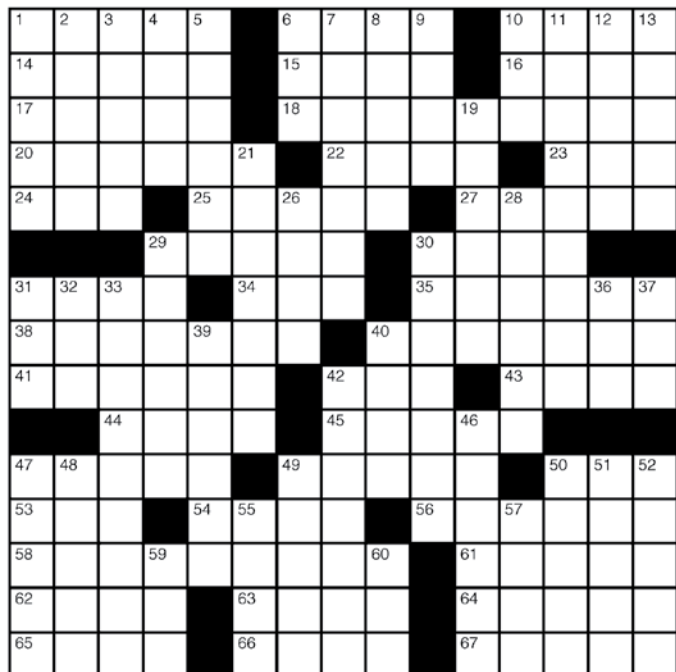
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CROSSWORD



1/30/08

- ACROSS**
- 1 Great balls of hydrogen
 - 6 Snit
 - 10 Untidy condition
 - 14 British soldier's jacket
 - 15 Southern vegetable
 - 16 Off-ramp
 - 17 "Fear of Flying" author Jong
 - 18 Protection promise
 - 20 Assimilate
 - 22 Sugar unit
 - 23 Holiday forerunner
 - 24 Cohort of Curly
 - 25 Like Batman or Robin
 - 27 Control board
 - 29 Danger
 - 30 Tennis units
 - 31 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
 - 34 Spelling competition
 - 35 Sadistic attitude
 - 38 Tanned hide
 - 40 Desert train
 - 41 Stormy seabird
 - 42 Still and
 - 43 Ship
 - 44 Road fee
 - 45 Oven light
 - 47 Net fabric
 - 49 Berth choice
 - 50 Nile cobra
 - 53 Indivisible
 - 54 Off limits
 - 56 Conundrum
 - 58 Shakespeare history play
 - 61 Stares off
 - 62 Smarting
 - 63 Em, to Dorothy
 - 64 All thumbs
 - 65 Cameo stone
 - 66 Riga resident
 - 67 Aeries
- DOWN**
- 1 Seethe with anger
 - 2 Supercharger
 - 3 Licoriceflavoring
 - 4 Puerto
 - 5 Unplentiful
 - 6 Greedy one
 - 7 Luau instrument
 - 8 Identity theft, e.g.
 - 9 Cultivate
 - 10 Stag party attendees
 - 11 Wide-ranging
 - 12 Strainer
 - 13 Girder
 - 14 Substance
 - 19 Materialize
 - 21 Gym weight
 - 26 Docking platform
 - 28 Ultimately
 - 29 Pound a beat
 - 30 Not so grand
 - 31 Swiss peak
 - 32 "Spider-Man" man Stan
 - 33 Leon Urin book
 - 36 Give the ax to
 - 37 Finish line
 - 39 Capital of Montana
 - 40 Shear
 - 42 Deputize
 - 46 Germination
 - 47 Bulk of the body
 - 48 Alliance
 - 49 Excessive
 - 50 Wood trimmers
 - 51 Took a nap
 - 52 Nuisances
 - 55 Spoken
 - 57 Hamlet, e.g.
 - 59 Spell
 - 60 "Addams Family" member

1/28/08 SOLUTIONS

HACKS ADOBE EMU
 ECLAT XEROX NAP
 ARENA ICEUP TIM
 LEFTBANK DOMINO
 LUG SOURCES
 SHRIEK WHINIEST
 HAHAS HOARD
 ETON BOOKS VILE
 CANOED JONQUILS
 FROZE KOREA
 LEGALITY KUWAIT
 ORIGINS DIM
 ASK SILAS UNDU
 LEG BSIDE ADORN
 SRO YTYPE S TOLET

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

1/28/08 SOLUTIONS

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

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

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AM		6		6			
	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
PM	12		12		12		
	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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