



Vanderbilt football retooled on Signing Day. Read about the top five recruits. See Sports, page 6



What's it like being white in NPHC? Erica Schlemmer explains. See News, page 3

Will rising sophomores live in Kissam, Towers or ... Starbucks? See the Top 10, page 4



TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly Sunny, 56/37
Extended forecast, page 2

The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2008 • 120TH YEAR, NO. 14

THE WALL

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

TODAY Yearbook portraits
Today is the last day the Commodore yearbook's portrait photographers will be in Sarratt 112. Undergraduates are invited to stop by from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is no cost to sit for portraits.

TODAY Industry career day: Health care

Companies in the healthcare industry will be recruiting for many jobs and internships. Students have an opportunity to meet with top industry employers who are coming together to recruit, screen and source qualified candidates from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Student Life Center Ballroom.

TODAY Blakemore Trio performance

The Blakemore Trio will perform as part of the Blair Signature Series at 8 p.m. in Ingram Hall.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 'Fiddler on the Roof'

Vanderbilt Off-Broadway, Vandy's own student musical theater troupe, will present the classic and beloved Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof" at 8 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday in Ingram Hall.

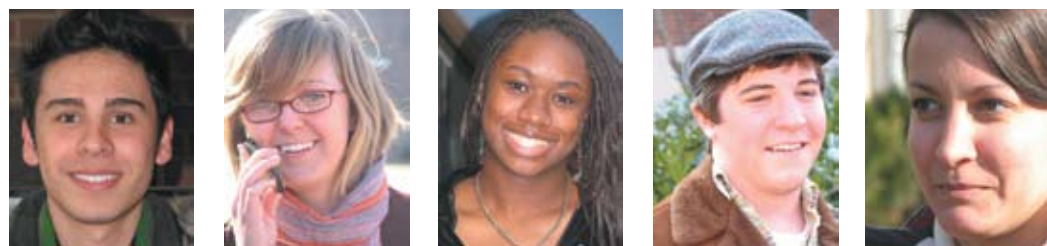
SATURDAY 'Portraits of Black Opera'

Shuttles will leave from Branscomb at 6:30 p.m. to go to the 15th Avenue Baptist Church. Operatic works by George Gershwin, Scott Joplin and Sharon J. Willis will be performed in the event co-sponsored by the Office of Leadership Development & Intercultural Affairs and the Blair School of Music.

SUNDAY Chinese Spring Festival

The Spring Festival is the most significant one for Chinese people. The party includes traditional Chinese performances, activities and surprising prizes and will be held in the Student Life Center Ballroom at 5 p.m.

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



Bridging the gap

Greek chapters from all three councils begin to tackle the issue of racial division.

by DANIEL CUNNINGHAM
Contributing Reporter

SYDNEY WILMER
Senior Reporter



ABOUT THE GREEK COMMUNITY

Vanderbilt Greek life consists mainly of the 11 Panhellenic Council sororities, the 17 fraternities of the Interfraternity Council, and the four fraternities and three sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

NPHC is predominantly African-American, as it has been since Omega Psi Phi became the first chiefly black fraternity on campus in 1971. The other two councils are mostly white.



The Greek system is responsible for racial segregation on campus. Well, maybe not.

The accusation comes up almost every year in a blog, an article, a sociology class: Vanderbilt is racially divided. And the Greek system is no exception.

But if this is true — that the school is racially split — where does the division come from? Are Greek life and the racial division even related, and how can it change?

"It's like the question of the chicken and the egg," said Whitney Hubbard, a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Through Hubbard's eyes, "they seem to reinforce each other," but opinions on the issue are more than a little diverse.

Some see it as a reflection while others see it as a force that shapes part of the campus culture.

"I feel like right now there are for sure areas of segregation. You see it when you walk into Rand at lunch," said Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity President Danny Neelon.

But the recently elected Interfraternity Council officer, who identifies himself as black, said he does not see the Greek system as the culprit when it comes to student division.

"I see that happening on campus, but we shouldn't be blaming a specific organization for the problem."

Others disagree, though.

"Greek life holds a lot of power in shaping the campus social atmosphere," said Dave Edwards, president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi. "And race definitely plays a role in Greek life."

"It's a result of having a small minority population," said Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. President Aubrey Hammond. "At a bigger university,

Please see **BRIDGING THE GAP**, page 3



THE PROJECT: WHAT IT IS ABOUT

The Driving Question:

Are the racial divisions many students notice on campus shaped by Greek life, or are they simply a reflection the larger Vanderbilt culture?

What this project is about:

We hope it reflects what the message of this title, Driving Questions, evokes — a desire to illuminate a subject by asking questions rather than making assertions and proving them. For this first project, we chose to take a closer look at the way race functions in the Greek system.

We aren't the first ones to notice it — that is our initial concession. The racial divisions on campus have been a favorite topic of almost every Vanderbilt publication. And in our research, we came across much of the work done by students who also see this topic as worthy of discussion.

Today in print you will see three articles that, we hope, take a fresh approach to the subject.

Online, you will see these articles and more. Over the course of the next week, we will post additional articles, podcasts, videos and interactive graphics to show, rather than tell, what we have found in our exploration. We encourage you to take a look, blog about it and send in letters. Let us know if we are missing something.

KIM MONGE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Driving Question:

Being Hispanic — and Greek

by LAKENDRA SCOTT
Asst News Editor

Choices are not always black and white, and when it comes to sororities — sometimes it's the minority that gets lost.

As the Hispanic presence on campus continues to grow and many Latinas choose sororities, they are presented with a racial dilemma. Vanderbilt's lack of a multicultural Greek council leads to three distinct rushing processes for Hispanic females: National Pan-Hellenic Council, Panhellenic Council or Lambda Theta Alpha, an associate member of Panhellenic Council that is a predominantly Hispanic sorority.

The sentiments surrounding Hispanic members of sororities on campus prove to be as diverse as the Hispanic population. Senior Bethany

Gonzales, former president of Lambda Theta Alpha, found it difficult to find a place where she really fit in.

"I felt out of place with the Panhellenic sororities," Gonzales said. "I feel like Hispanic women just don't fit that sorority image, but in Lambda Theta Alpha it was like family immediately."

L a m b d a T h e t a A l p h a, while technically considered part of the Panhellenic system, follows more casual rushing guidelines than other Panhellenic sororities, and this system leads to a different outlook. Maria Maldonado, a freshman, admits she never thought of rushing Lambda Theta Alpha, despite her Puerto Rico background.

—To view a slideshow from the Driving Questions project, go to:



Please see **HISPANIC**, page 3



Freshmen Maria Maldonado and Jackie Enriquez both disregarded their Hispanic race when they went through Panhellenic Council recruitment.

NATIONAL NEWS

Twisters kill at least 54 across South

LAFAYETTE, Tenn. — One man pulled a couch over his head. Bank employees rushed into the vault. A woman trembled in her bathroom, clinging to her dogs. College students huddled in dormitories.

At least 54 people were killed and hundreds injured Tuesday and Wednesday by dozens of tornadoes that plowed across Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama, The Associated Press reported. It was the nation's deadliest barrage of twisters in at least a decade.

The death count in Tennessee remained at 30 as of press time.

More than 1,000 tornado warnings had been broadcast for hours in the 11-state area the storm hit, and when the sirens finally announced that the twisters had arrived, many people across the South took shelter and saved their lives. But others simply had nowhere safe to go, or the storms proved too powerful, too numerous, too unpredictable.

Living the 'Jena 6' march — and a little bit of its reality



ERIKA BURNETT / photo provided

Thousands traveled to Jena, La., in September to rally and protest against the legal system on behalf of the six black teenagers who were charged with attempted murder when white students received much lighter punishments. Graduate student Erika Burnett spoke about the march Wednesday in the Student Life Center.

by TAMESHA DERICO
Senior Reporter

Tens of thousands of protesters load buses to protest civil rights abuses against blacks in Louisiana. Black activists and celebrities are present, but this isn't the '60s. It's 2007.

On Sept. 20, people from cities across the United States gathered to protest the unfair punishment of six black teens, the "Jena 6," who were accused of beating a white classmate at Jena High School in Jena, La. Racial tensions in the town had been building since nooses were hung from the "white tree" in the schoolyard after a black student sat there.

The climax came when the Jena 6 were charged with attempted murder and white students involved in related incidents received lesser punishments. The march was a protest against racial injustice in the legal system, and Vanderbilt graduate student Erika Burnett witnessed the historic event firsthand.

Burnett recounted her experiences on Wednesday in the Student Life Center in her presentation "The Jena 6: The case, the rally and the aftermath," which was part of the "World on Wednesdays" program. Burnett attended the march with a group of Nashville residents.

They departed from Tennessee State University in eight to nine buses, loaded with an ample supply of water, food and other necessities, because

Please see **JENA 6**, page 3

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Odds & Ends

WEATHER
compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

SATURDAY



Sunny, 55/32

SUNDAY



Sunny, 39/25

MONDAY



Partly Cloudy, 47/37

VUPD CRIME LOG
compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

There is no crime to report.

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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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 LAKENDRA SCOTT

1 McCain seals GOP nomination as Romney ends campaign

WASHINGTON — John McCain effectively sealed the Republican presidential nomination on Thursday as chief rival Mitt Romney suspended his faltering campaign, The Associated Press reported. "I must now stand aside, for our party and our country," Romney told conservatives. "If I fight on in my campaign, all the way to the convention, I would forestall the launch of a national campaign and make it more likely that Senator Clinton or Obama would win."

2 Obama raises \$7 million, Clinton pulls in \$4 million

NEW ORLEANS — Democrat Barack Obama raised \$7.2 million in less than 48 hours post-Super Tuesday, and rival Hillary Clinton collected \$4 million, giving him a financial edge that's caused consternation within a Clinton campaign clamoring for attention-getting debates. The remarkable outpouring of contributions recorded since Tuesday's contests in 22 states comes on the heels of an eye-popping \$32 million raised by Obama in January and the record-shattering \$100 million each Obama and Clinton raised in 2007, according to The Associated Press.

3 UK to extradite Islamic preacher to US

LONDON — Britain's Home Office on Thursday approved the extradition of an Islamic preacher who is accused of trying to establish a terrorist training camp in Oregon, a spokesman said. Abu Hamza al-Masri was arrested on a U.S. extradition warrant in May 2004, but the process was put on hold while he stood trial in Britain and then appealed his convictions, The Associated Press reported.

4 Iraqis start reconstruction of Samarra mosque 2 years after bombing of golden dome

BAGHDAD — Iraqi and U.N. officials toured a bomb-damaged Shiite shrine in northern Iraq on Wednesday as workers took the first steps in a long-delayed reconstruction — nearly two years after the attack on the famed golden dome became a rallying point for Shiite rage, according to The Associated Press. Crews in blue jumpsuits and orange helmets picked through mounds of rubble spilling from the mosque in Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, which became the spark for a vicious cycle of sectarian violence after the Feb. 22, 2006, blast blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq.

5 Lawmakers opposed to Georgia tapping Tennessee River

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee lawmakers say they sympathize with Georgia's water shortages but they will oppose an effort to redraw the states' border, The Associated Press reported. A proposal in the Georgia Legislature argues that a flawed survey in 1818 mistakenly marked Georgia's border one mile south of the Tennessee River. The legislation would create a "boundary line commission" to possibly resolve the dispute and give the state access to a stretch of the 652-mile long river and ease Atlanta's water shortages.

6 Union University damage could reach \$40 million

JACKSON, Tenn. — Union University President David Dockery has estimated damages from Tuesday night's tornado could reach \$40 million, The Associated Press reported. A severe storm that hit the school in 2002 caused \$2.6 million in damages. Dockery says he had expected damages from Tuesday's storm to be similar but was shocked by the new estimate. He says 40 percent of the dorms have been devastated, and three academic buildings have received major damage. Officials say 13 students were trapped in the rubble. Fifty-one students were taken to the hospital, and two remain in critical condition.

7 Shuttle Atlantis blasts off after lengthy delay with Columbus science lab

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After two months of delay, shuttle Atlantis blasted into orbit Thursday with Europe's gift to the International Space Station, a \$2 billion science lab named Columbus that spent years waiting to set sail. Atlantis and its seven-man crew safely roared away from their seaside launch pad at 2:45 p.m., overcoming fuel gauge problems that thwarted back-to-back launch attempts in December, The Associated Press reported.

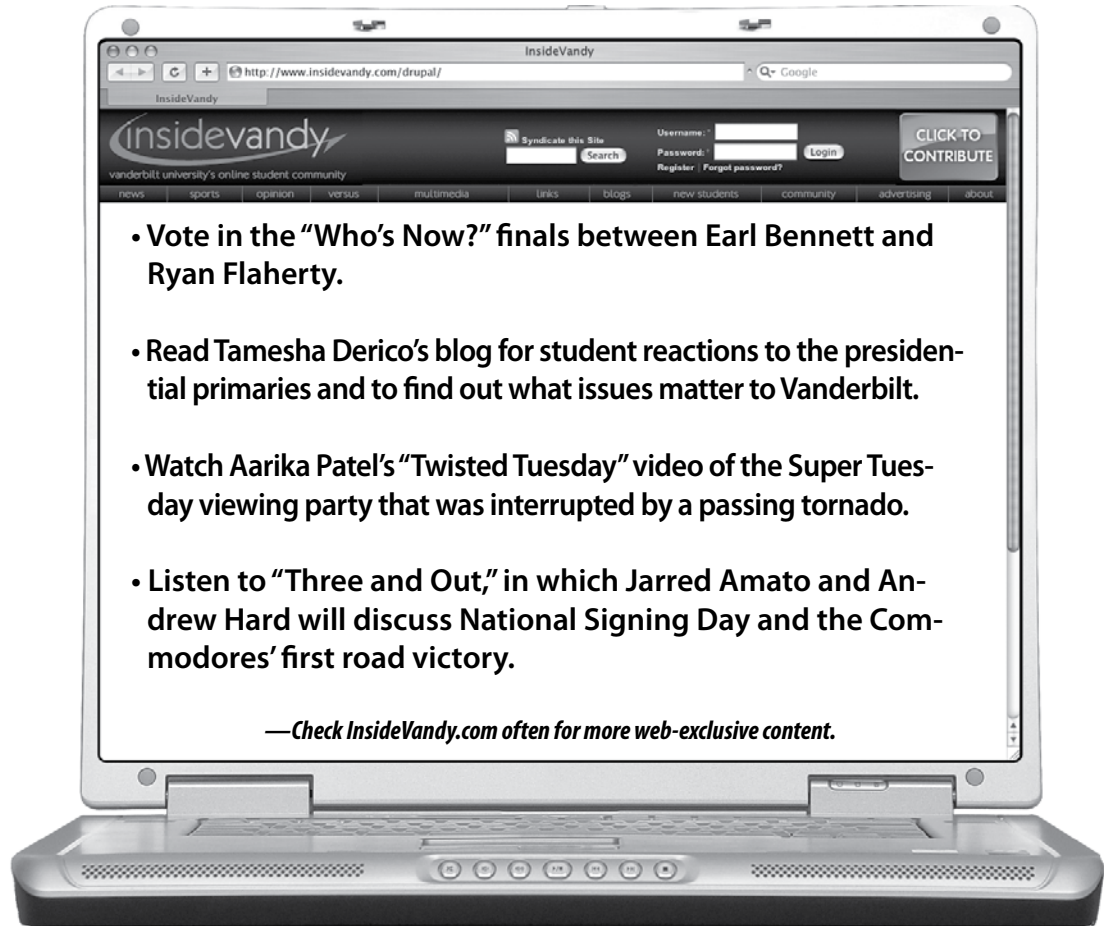
8 Vanderbilt awarded \$4.5 million drug discovery grant for fragile X syndrome

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Vanderbilt University Medical Center has received a \$4.5 million grant from Seaside Therapeutics to find potential treatments for fragile X syndrome, the most common inherited form of mental retardation and the most common genetic cause of autism. "It's a really innovative idea," said Dr. Jeffrey Conn, director of the Vanderbilt Program in Drug Discovery and principal investigator of the fragile X project. "If it works, it could be transformative, and it could totally change the way people view developmental disorders."

9 CIA director Hayden doubts legality of waterboarding

WASHINGTON — CIA Director Michael Hayden cast doubt on the legality of waterboarding on Thursday, a day after the White House said the harsh interrogation tactic has saved American lives and could be used in the future, The Associated Press reported. Hayden told the House Intelligence Committee that he officially prohibited CIA operatives from using waterboarding in 2006 in the wake of a Supreme Court decision and new laws on the treatment of U.S. detainees.

WHAT'S NEW ON INSIDEVANDY.COM



- Vote in the "Who's Now?" finals between Earl Bennett and Ryan Flaherty.
- Read Tamesha Deric's blog for student reactions to the presidential primaries and to find out what issues matter to Vanderbilt.
- Watch Aarika Patel's "Twisted Tuesday" video of the Super Tuesday viewing party that was interrupted by a passing tornado.
- Listen to "Three and Out," in which Jarred Amato and Andrew Hard will discuss National Signing Day and the Commodores' first road victory.

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

SNAPSHOT

EXHIBITING 'RAGE AND REDEMPTION'



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

"Of Rage and Redemption," works by Oswaldo Guayasamin, one of the most highly regarded 20th century Latin-American artists, opened Thursday in the Fine Arts Gallery and Sarratt Gallery. Visit InsideVandy.com for a slideshow of the exhibit.

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BRIDGING THE GAP: 'Culture change' needed for impact

From **BRIDGING THE GAP**, page 1
or a more heavily black university, the division wouldn't be as apparent."

For Hammond, the division is a matter of comfort level.

"People gravitate toward those they have the most in common with," he said.

Edwards said he feels similarly.

"From freshman year on, you end up with people who share the same interests as you," he said. "You form relationships based on who you identify with."

Neelon agrees — and so does the Office of Greek Life.

The question now, he said, is "how can we use the Greek

system to promote diversity in the councils and awareness?"

Kristin Torrey, director of Greek Life, explained that a recent initiative, Tri-Council Circles, was created to bridge gaps between the councils and help sustain student relationships within the Greek community.

"Six years ago, there was not as much interaction across the councils," Torrey said. "In my opinion, you have to start on a smaller scale. What we are working on is building the personal relationship."

In Tri-Council Circles, all Greek chapters are divided into five circles with seven chapters in each circle. Each circle has at

least one sorority or fraternity from each of the three councils. The members in each circle participate in various activities with each other throughout the school year.

But some students feel like the tri-council support system is not helpful.

"It was fun team-building, but I'm not sure how much people get much out of it long-term," Sam Betten said, a sophomore in Phi Kappa Sigma. "There are still those barriers."

But Zeta Phi Beta president Kirstie Kwarteng is a little more optimistic.

She agrees that Greek life is racially divided, but she also

says, "Racial interaction is probably better in Greek life than on campus as a whole."

Kwarteng and other NPHC members emphasize the importance of such joint endeavors as the circles, StompFest, Greek Week and Greek retreat.

But they still feel the three Greek branches need more lasting interaction.

"Things like Stompfest and Greek Week are great," Edwards said, "but they're not long-term. You see each other at Stompfest, and then you don't talk again for two or three months."

"We need something that will allow us to know one

another — more than a working relationship, an actual long-term friendship," Hubbard said.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. president John Fonge said he thought the councils needed to reach out beyond their comfort levels to achieve this goal.

"NPHC has historically been a refuge of sorts," Fonge said, "but right now we need to open up. We want to stick to our roots, but we have to branch out, too."

Kwarteng agreed for the most part.

"I think it's fine the branches are separate," Kwarteng said, "I just wish we could work together more. We can't make people be friends, but we can

present a more united front to the community."

Torrey understands the concerns, though.

"It is getting better and better, and it depends on who you ask, but people get out of a program what they put into it," Torrey said.

Sophomore Morgan Turner agreed.

"It is going to require a bit of a culture change on campus to change things completely. And time." ■

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The Driving Question:

Blurring the racial boundaries

Erica Schlemmer dropped her Panhellenic sorority to join historically black Delta Sigma Theta — even though she's white

by **ALLIE MORRIS**
Staff Reporter

SYDNEY WILMER
Senior Reporter

Her sisters may have called her "Top Secret" because she was the only white girl, but Erica Schlemmer did not join Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. to make a statement or stand out.

"That was my name because I was the white girl," said Schlemmer, the first and only white student in the historically black sorority at Vanderbilt. "But I was there as a Delta because it was where I felt comfortable."

Nevertheless, when Schlemmer made the decision to drop out of her Panhellenic sorority and rush a National Pan-Hellenic Council sorority, she admits she "was making the hard choice."

"When I was there, I was just sort of sitting around, watching people," she said. "I realized this wasn't me. This wasn't what I signed up for."

"I finally said, 'I can't do this. I don't feel close to anyone.'"

Schlemmer did her research and approached the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta. She felt accepted, but she knew it wouldn't be easy.

Schlemmer had to know the same amount of information to join the chapter and had to take the same tests as the other sisters, but more than everyone else, she had to know exactly why she wanted to do it.

"More people asked me — because of my color — why I wanted to do it."

Schlemmer said her membership in Delta Sigma Theta was accepted by Vandy students, many whom even considered her decision fascinating.

Most opposition came from black students at surrounding schools.

"I had to prove myself," Schlemmer said. "Girls would look at me and think, 'You don't look like me, so why are you here?'"

Some of the questioning even came from her family, who remained in her small, homogenous, somewhat racist Illinois hometown and didn't understand why she was doing something so different.

"I have always had a different mindset than the people in the town," she said. "I had to have a good reason."

And even with a good reason, Schlemmer admits, "I almost quit. I wondered if I really wanted to do it — the sorority thing in general. It was more to go through than Panhellenic recruitment. I had to be ready to make that decision."

Schlemmer said she also had a more obvious concern.

"No one had done it before, so I didn't know how people would react or if I would be accepted."

People would ask, "Are you trying to change what NPHC is about?"

She said she wasn't out to change anything, though.

"This was a place I went because I felt comfortable. I believed in the sisterhood, scholarship and service that they promoted."

Schlemmer said a huge part of NPHC is the pride in race and history, and she had no intention of standing in the way of that.

"There is a huge pride in the history. The girls see themselves in these (older sisters)," she said. "In general there is a pride in everything (the sisters) do with race."

Members say they identify themselves as smart black women, Schlemmer said, and she doesn't disagree with them.

But she likes to think of the Delta Sigma Theta women in broader terms — simply college-educated women.

"Race was what it was built on," Schlemmer said.

But she said she sees herself in these women, too.

Now a graduate student at the nursing school and resident adviser in North Hall, she said her long hours at the hospital prevent her from being as involved with the Deltas.

"I am not the best at keeping in touch, but the girls in my pledge class always push and call me to keep me in the loop," she said. "Some people give up on me — my sisters won't. They try so hard and are more than just some girls in my sorority."

"They will never belittle anyone because of race. I think by allowing me in their sorority, they stand by that." ■

—Allie Morris can be reached at allison.d.morris@vanderbilt.edu and Sydney Wilmer can be reached at sydney.e.wilmer@vanderbilt.edu



KIM MONGE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Erica Schlemmer, a white graduate student, joined Delta Sigma Theta, a historically black sorority, where she said she found the "sisterhood" she was looking for.

JENA 6: Protest garners mixed reaction from Jena residents

From **JENA 6**, page 1

they did not intend to support the city of Jena economically once they arrived.

Burnett recalled the dirt roads, extreme heat and thousands upon thousands of protesters that met them in Jena.

"People came from as far away as Cleveland, Los Angeles and New York City," she said. "In my opinion, the media underestimated the numbers. I think that there were about 50,000 people."

She stressed that the movement was extremely peaceful.

"Members of the new Black Panther Movement were present, but there was no violence," she

remembered. "Some of us talked to the police officers, who were great. None of the ones I met were from Jena. They were called in from neighboring towns to work the event, and some didn't know what was going on."

The reaction from Jena residents was mixed. Some were happy to see the protesters, while some "sat in their front yards with guns," she said.

Burnett's own experiences later were arguably as shocking as what originally occurred in Jena.

Burnett and about 60 others were waiting for their bus to arrive in nearby Alexandria. It was dark, and the group was waiting together outside.

"Two young men in a pickup truck circled around us, and some of us noticed it," Burnett said. "They circled us a second time, and this time we could see a noose hanging from the pick-up truck."

The group was understandably frightened.

"They drove around us three times. We had no way of knowing what they were going to do or what they had inside the truck."

Male members of the group summoned the police, who arrested the two men.

Burnett praised the Alexandria police department and mayor for being swift and effectively controlling the situation. She

said they repeatedly apologized to the group and wanted them to know the two men were not from Alexandria.

"The mayor came out in his pajama pants," she said. "He was very nice, very apologetic."

After returning to Nashville, Burnett submitted her video footage to CNN, and some of it was broadcast on their Web site. She also started "Voices for Justice: Letters to my Brother," a letter writing campaign intended to encourage the Jena 6 families.

Burnett chose to share her experiences because she feels "the Vandy community (sometimes) ignores the real issues." She said she believes sometimes it is too

easy to "focus on international issues but neglect domestic (problems) happening in our own backyard. ... The Jena 6 was about injustice that minorities all over the country are facing."

"We cannot isolate ourselves to Vanderbilt because we go to school here," she said. "The justice system is universal."

When asked if this issue has a positive side, Burnett responded, "It caused people to wake up. It shows that the community will mobilize if an issue is pertinent enough." ■

—Tamesha Derico can be reached at tamesha.s.derico@vanderbilt.edu

'Fiddler' makes a match



SARA GAST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt Off-Broadway will present "Fiddler on the Roof," a musical about traditional life in a Ukrainian village amid the changes of the Russian Revolution, Saturday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 10, at 2 p.m. in Ingram Hall at the Blair School of Music. The group will also be performing the show next weekend, Feb. 15 and 16, at 8 p.m.

VOB, now in its 10th year, is a student-run musical theater troupe. And since students do everything from casting and securing the rights to perform their annual musical to building the sets and performing the show, there is a sense of pride among the group.

"It makes the experience as a member of VOB even more rewarding to take part in every aspect of the show," said senior and choreographer Maggie Stephens.

VOB president Ashley Van Horn agreed.

"Everyone has put their heart and soul into sharing this wonderful story with others," she said. "We think you will enjoy it as much as we have (enjoyed ourselves) in creating it."

—To view a slideshow of photos from the musical, go to:



HISPANIC: Culture, community factor into recruitment process

From **HISPANIC**, page 1

Rican background, greatly due to the minimal information she received.

"The sorority was only mentioned to me once," Maldonado said. "I wanted to be part of a sorority that was more well-known."

While low levels of publicity affect interest levels, social interaction seems to play as important a role as accessibility. The rush process for Panhellenic sororities dominates the beginning of the spring semester and draws high levels of interest on campus. This popularity factors greatly in decision making with regards to Greek rush.

"I never thought of myself as a minority, so when I thought about rushing I rushed with my friends," Maldonado said. "I don't go looking for a certain type of friend — it doesn't matter what ethnicity they are."

However, a desire for a cultural connection commonly factors into sorority choices and, in Vanderbilt's case, led to the establishment of Lambda Theta Alpha. The journey for the Latin sorority has not been easy, and with only four members, the sorority is the smallest one on campus.

"Lambda Theta Alpha is still cultivating their chapter," said Kristin Torrey, director of Greek Life. "There was one point where Bethany Gonzales

was the only member. Their involvement with the Panhellenic sororities goes up and down based on the number of women involved at that moment."

The involvement in Lambda Theta Alpha reflects the sentiments of many Hispanic girls who don't necessarily identify with their ethnicity. The guiding factor in choosing NPHC, other Panhellenic sororities, Lambda Theta Alpha or no Greek life at all seems to be based on the people in a woman's social network.

"I didn't want to be involved in a sorority. I'm not the typical Hispanic person, and I didn't feel like I could fit in with any type of sorority," said sophomore Cathya Olivas.

Culture commonly takes second place to comfort, and sometimes students find similar ethnicity does not necessarily create an automatic bond.

"I joined a sorority because I wanted to meet new people and get involved, not in order to meet other Latinas," Maldonado said. "The friends I have are diverse — it's just the kind of person that falls into my lap." ■

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

'WORLD ON WEDNESDAYS' BLACK HISTORY MONTH SCHEDULE

Feb. 13:
"The Harlem Renaissance and its effects on the present day"

Feb. 20:
Black Student Alliance presentation

Feb. 27:
"Health Problems in Rural Minority Communities"

All are open to the public and held from 12:10 to 1 p.m. in the Student Life Center, Lower Level Rooms 1 and 2. Lunch is provided.

OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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Anonymous content entertains, offends

Over the past two weeks, anonymous communication about members of this campus has become something of an issue in two different forums: Juicy Campus and The Rant.

As firm believers in free speech, we face something of a contradiction when considering JuicyCampus.com. On the one hand, people are certainly entitled to say what they wish; however, in the anonymous, public forum, there is no opportunity for open discourse or a way to defend oneself without it coming off poorly.

Overall the site reflects rather poorly on the university and serves to renew the old, somewhat outdated Vandy stereotypes about Greek life and the student body in general. While

a message board seems innocuous enough, anonymous forums about the "biggest sluts on campus" really aren't something an admissions officer would direct the nearest prospective student to.

In this publication, of course, we have our own anonymous forum: The Rant. Beyond its value as an entertaining feature, The Rant does serve as a means of isolating specific honest criticisms of services like dining, housing and parking on campus by actual students.

Recently, however, there have been a few rants mentioning specific students in a less than ideal manner. The publication of these items was editorial oversight, and we sincerely apologize for any harm incurred as a result.

While often hilarious, reading through and editing Rant submissions involves wading through quite a bit of obscenity and sheer vindictiveness about various students — sometimes directed at members of the editorial board.

Thus, beginning today, we're re-instituting a policy regarding The Rant: No student names will appear, with the exception of those who have submitted themselves into the public forum and only in that context, such as writing in the Opinion section (for example, Andrew Solomon or Mike Warren).

Unfortunately, as we've seen, even though anonymously posted content can be entertaining as hell, all too often it reveals a dark side of people's character.

COLUMN

Valentine gifts should correspond to length of relationship, ultimate goals



ANDREW SOLOMON
Columnist

It's everyone's favorite time of year once again: Valentine's season. No other holiday can spark romance quite like Valentine's Day can. And no other holiday can end romance quite like Valentine's Day if you forget to buy your girlfriend a gift.

No one is really sure how Valentine's Day started, but most experts believe it began with collusion between corporate candy conglomerates and women everywhere. In a twisted scheme to turn a profit and create another opportunity for men to buy them crap, the two parties united to create what we know today as Valentine's Day.

I have to admit it ladies, you pulled a good one on us. But instead of sitting here all day bitching about it, I figured I'd help out and offer a small gift of my own: The Andrew Solomon Valentine's Day Gift Guide. It's a comprehensive list of the perfect gifts guaranteed to get you either laid or sent home because you were stupid enough to listen to me.

For those of you in relatively young relationships (less than a month) the waters can be tricky to navigate. You want to give something that says, "I care," but you don't want her to start picking out curtains. My suggestion: Stick with something fun. Perhaps a hula-hoop. Moon Shoes are a blast. Or you could just get down to brass tacks and buy a book on Kama Sutra. It's fun, inexpensive and everybody wins! Plus it's a great way to subtly imply he/she needs to step up his/her game in the sack.

But what if things are a little more mature? So you've been dating for less than six months; you're happy, but you're still not ready to go furniture shopping together. In these cases I believe a more personal touch is in order. Really think about something that you're both mutually interested in and use that to your advantage. Does she love to cook? Then have her cook you dinner. Does he like to work out? Then have him carry you around all day. Is she a furry? Bittner's is having a sale on Easter Bunny costumes! You see, it's all about putting that personal touch on the gift so you both can enjoy your special day together.

Once you get past six months, things get a little more intense. She's probably seriously considered the thought of being with you forever. He probably wakes up at night in a cold sweat thinking about the same thing. So what are you going to do? There's the jewelry option, but I've always felt diamonds should be saved for a more legitimate holiday, like Independence Day or Chinese New Year.

Instead, really impress her with something you both can cherish, like a red pickup with a heart-shaped hot tub in the bed. Think about it. No matter where you are, you can have a romantic evening under the stars, letting the warm waters heat up the night in the back of your F-250. For bonus points, install a champagne chiller in the back for those special occasions. "Hey honey, want to watch 'The Notebook' under the stars in the hot tub with a bottle of champagne while I give you a massage?" Money in the bank.

—Andrew Solomon is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at andrew.j.solomon@vanderbilt.edu

Top 10 Housing Options for Rising Sophomores

REBECCA REICHARDT
Columnist

Historically sophomores have called the Bod home. However, with The Commons opening up for business next fall, the Class of 2011 may have to explore some more unique housing options.

- 10. Towers:** Whether a single, double or suite, it's hard to beat Towers' location and amenities. If it's a suite you desire, abandon your first-year friends now and start sucking up to upperclassmen, as it will be an arduous challenge convincing them to let you become the liability on their housing ballots.
- 9. Stevenson Science and Engineering Library:** With 24-hour access except on weekends, this library is the optimal choice for those willing to take the walk of shame twice each week.
- 8. Mayfield:** Ten friends, 10 singles, two bathrooms, a common room and a "living/learning experience" . . . sounds like a reality show to me.
- 7. McGill:** They may not be your typical Vandy students, but all the McGillites I have met have been very interesting, articulate people. From what I've heard, pretty much anything goes in McGill. You can be close to everything and diversify your friend portfolio.
- 6. Starbucks:** Why tie yourself to one location when you can have three? With locations on 21st, West End and the SLC, this option is perfect for any caffeine-addicted individual who needs headquarters on more than one section of campus. Added bonus: a plethora of free parking (at non-peak hours!)
- 5. & 4. Kissam and Branscomb:** While each has pros and cons, the facilities of each quad basically match each other, and with promises of amenity upgrades to Kissam, the two will soon match each other in services as well. Choosing between the two should come down to a preference for single or double living, location (class or parties) and general environment (quiet or noise).
- 3. The Commons Center:** Just because the administration says you can't live over on the Bod doesn't mean you should listen! With good eats, nice furniture, study space and its own fitness equipment, The Commons Center is pretty much the top of the line when it comes to facilities and amenities. Just be sure to find a place to shower.
- 2. Vandy-Barnard:** There is a reason a room in Vandy-Barnard was the model for the tour of campus before The Commons. An aesthetic upgrade from both Kissam and Branscomb, the residence halls that are sometimes referred to as "the hotel" of first-year housing may as well become the resort of sophomore living.
- 1. McTyeire:** McTyeire has its own dining hall, and it is in a great location for engineers and pre-meds. You can have your own room, get an A in your language class and not have to eat Rant for dinner ever again!

COLUMN

Beah brings awareness to problem of child soldiers



SOO YANG
Columnist

Call him Ishmael. Orphaned by a violent civil war in Sierra Leone, the 13-year-old boy was forcibly adopted into a new family of government military. In his new home, the army replaced his pencil with an AK-47, his toys with marijuana and his education with pro-war propaganda.

As a child soldier, Ishmael Beah learned to endure bloodshed, deny his self-worth and obey his officers without question. His growing addiction to drugs, violence and hate intensified his desperation to kill, and he was on his way to becoming an unstoppable killing machine.

However, in the midst of his military duty, Beah, at the age of 15, was suddenly

taken to a special rehabilitation center for child soldiers and ultimately brought to New York to meet United Nations leaders concerned about the exploitation of children in wartime. It was in that fateful place where he met Laura Simms, a professional artist who would eventually adopt him and train him to become a fighter for peace and love.

Now, as a college graduate and an acclaimed author, Beah has dedicated himself to promoting children's rights by making sure his horrific experience as a child soldier is not repeated.

Beah's story does indeed fill us with hope. However, the sad reality is when he left his country, he left behind more than 10,000 child soldiers with a very different fate. According to the Human Rights Watch, there are currently 200,000

to 300,000 soldiers under the age of 18 participating in armed conflicts around the world.

In Sudan, both the national military forces and the resistance groups regularly recruit children, and there are approximately 7,000 child soldiers fighting in Darfur. The insurgency in Iraq similarly employs children as young as 10 years old and forces them to fight in urban guerrilla warfare where most die from crossfire between the American and anti-coalition forces. In Palestine, Hamas has a recent history of pressuring their own children to execute suicide missions. An international human rights group reported between 2000 and 2004, at least nine suicide bombings in Palestine were carried out by minors and more were

Please see **YANG**, 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

McCain would beat Obama



KATHERINE MILLER
Opinion Editor

Following Mitt Romney's departure from the race, Sen. John McCain is now solidly the Republican nominee. Accepting this, we must turn to this question: Who does he have the better chance of beating? Conventional wisdom says that candidate is Sen. Hillary Clinton, launcher of 1,000 ships of hate; however, I think McCain has much stronger odds against Sen. Barack Obama.

Tuesday, Obama and McCain each won plenty of states across the country, including Georgia and Alabama for Obama and New York and California for McCain. McCain will not carry those states in the general election, and should Obama be the Democratic nominee, he will not win Kansas.

So, what does this mean? Independent voters and swing states — the ability to appeal to the voter who truly values bipartisanship — will matter even more. Against McCain, Obama's inexperience will be glaringly clear, as will his textbook liberalism. For a candidate who speaks so lovingly of bipartisan unity, Obama's relatively insignificant stint in the Senate has not followed that trend.

For each and every aspect the currently dissenting "core" of the GOP lambastes McCain on — immigration, campaign finance reform, judicial nominations — McCain has proven bipartisan efforts where Obama does not. The Republicans, from Romney to President Bush, and commentators like William Kristol are already

falling behind McCain — so will independents.

Months of intense general election campaigning will reveal that "hope" does not solve a war, nor does it solve immigration, nor does it solve health care. When Obama stands next to the genuine article of moderate, bipartisan politics, he can speak as eloquently as he can, but can Obama say he is a member of the Gang of 14? No. McCain can. Is Obama's name on McCain-Feingold? No. And, while he co-sponsored the first incarnation of McCain's immigration bill, the amnesty position was far less of a political risk that he backed away from this year.

Obama can say he opposed the war in 2002 as a state senator — requiring no legislative decision on his part, but nevertheless a popular rallying cry. He *cannot* say he significantly contributed to any resolution while in the U.S. Senate that significantly changed the course of the war. McCain can make clear that his legislative support for the troop surge has dramatically improved the conditions there; he stayed firm on his position and *acted* accordingly.

I suspect that, if Obama is indeed the nominee, we will see a campaign far different from the messages of hope and honor; it will be nasty. Obama's greatest fear has to be McCain turning to him on a broadcast watched by millions and saying, "Sen. Obama, what have you *done* to unite this country?"

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

YANG: Global use of children in war has gone unnoticed in US

From YANG, page 4
recruited to active duty.

Surprisingly, a brief glance at similar reports reveals that the stereotype of child soldiers as vindictive, hyper-masculine boys is untrue. In fact, there are thousands of young girls who are forced to become sex slaves for the resistance military in countries like Uganda and Sierra Leone. In other conflicts, groups of weaker and younger children are sent to minefields in order to clear the path for military units.

Clearly, this terrible reality of child abuse represents how

humans are capable of so much evil. However, as we approach Feb. 12, the official day of protesting the use of children in war, we must allow our better nature to do something about this ongoing crisis. Fortunately, the University has provided a unique opportunity to learn more about the military use of children by inviting the former child soldier, Ishmael Beah, to speak in Ingram Hall on Feb. 18th. Additionally, UNICEF, Human Rights Watch and other human rights organizations welcome any sort of contribution that will

help them in their uphill battle for the rights of these helpless, forgotten children.

In short, the global scope of this problem is truly overwhelming, but our collective indifference is also equally frightening. However, when we realize that generations of innocent children are being systematically destroyed for the sake of war, I believe our courage to take action will ultimately prevail.

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

THE RANT



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

"Yes, I know I have something on my forehead! No, it is not from the newspaper. No, I am not being hazed. And no, a volcano did not explode on my forehead! God, I wish I had gone to 9 p.m. Mass instead of 7 a.m."

"I am not sure whether the defeat of the VSG experience requirement referendum demonstrates the poor judgment or the poor reading skills of Vanderbilt students, but I am concerned either way."

"The tornado sirens should not go off at 1 a.m. on test week for any reason. Ever."

"Dear Vanderbilt University: I am writing to thank you for your highly effective emergency warning system. I received your text message, indicating a tornado was 15 minutes away from campus approximately 20 minutes after the warning had expired. I am pleased to be under the care of such a competent and able institution as this. It is comforting to know this university takes care of its students' safety needs so efficiently."

"I understand Mannafit may be for a good cause — but think of the trees! Or at least pity the janitors who have to clean up the shitload of fliers from every crack and crevice of the campus."

"OMG!!!!!!!!!! My little is soooooo cute and sweet and fun and nice and awesome and cool and fantastic and neat and adorable!!! I just want to hug her and squeeze her and buy her all sorts of ridiculous monochromatic crap that she will just give away again next year, and I'm never going to shut up about any of it ever again! HAHHAHAHAHAHA! *vomiting sounds*"

"When you're studying in a public place, can't you turn your music down a little bit or use headphones? I'd like to do my reading without hearing Flo Rida in the background."

"I'm so over-committed!"

"Damn tornadoes carried Mitt Romney right out of the election. Will an earthquake please shake Hillary Clinton out of the race too?"

"Juicy Campus isn't worth the time everyone is spending on it."

"Why did they stop carrying the good kind of yogurt at The Commons? Bring back the fruit-on-the-bottom!"

Compiled by Katherine Miller

After VU

Where My Vanderbilt Degree Has Taken Me!

Tuesday, February 12
5:00pm
The Commons Center
2nd floor

Learn about the paths of five successful alumni!

Cinda Boomershine *Cinda B bags, interior design*

Fred Buc *Station Manager, Lightning 100*

Carlos Carela *Wall Street, owner of wine/art bar in New York*

Kevin McDonald *Latin American acquisitions and mergers*

Anne Pope *Top Government Executive*

Brendan Synnott *CEO and co-founder, Bear Naked Granola*

Ask questions, listen to stories and hear real-world advice from those who have been there!

Sponsored by Alumni Relations

For questions, contact kate.stuart@vanderbilt.edu.

SPORTS

National Signing Day

TOP FIVE 2008 VANDY COMMITMENTS

by DAVID SHOCHAT
Sports ReporterTHE
RUN DOWN

W2W4

SATURDAY
Men's Basketball at
South Carolina
4 p.m.

TV: FSN

The Commodores head to Columbia going for a season sweep of the rival Gamecocks

(11-10, 3-4 Southeastern Conference). Vanderbilt comes off its first SEC road win of the season after defeating Georgia on Wednesday.

South Carolina beat then-No. 24 Mississippi on Feb. 2 in Oxford for its first-ever road win over the Rebels. Sophomore guard Devan Downey, who leads the SEC in scoring with 19.8 points per game, had 25 to pace the Gamecocks. Vanderbilt (19-4, 4-4 SEC) has beaten South Carolina in their last four meetings and hasn't lost in Columbia since 2005. Vanderbilt won 80-73 on Jan. 9 at Memorial Gym in their most recent meeting.

SATURDAY
No. 6 Georgetown at
Louisville
8 p.m.

TV: ESPN

Two Big East teams on hot streaks meet at Louisville's Freedom Hall on Saturday night. Georgetown (19-2, 9-1 Big East) sits atop the conference riding a six-game winning streak, while Louisville just swept then-No. 17 Marquette with an emphatic 71-57 win on Feb. 4.

The Cardinals (17-6, 7-3 Big East) have moved into a tie for third place in the conference. A win would get them within one game of the Hoyas.

SUNDAY
Women's Basketball
at Alabama
2 p.m.

Radio: 560 AM

A meeting of two teams heading in opposite directions happens in Tuscaloosa on Sunday. Vanderbilt (17-6, 6-2 SEC) looks to continue its recent strong play when it visits the Crimson Tide. After a period of sluggish play, the Commodores have soared to third place in the SEC with four straight wins.

Meanwhile, Alabama (8-15, 1-7 SEC) is mired in the SEC cellar, losers of seven in a row and three straight in Tuscaloosa.

THEY SAID IT...

"We have been getting a lot of grief for not being able to win on the road."

It was nice to get the monkey off our back."

BOBBY JOHNSON
Men's Basketball Coach

DAILY

3

The number of games Georgia guard Billy Humphrey, arrested after Wednesday's game, will be suspended for underage drinking.

1.

Name	DeAndre Jones
Size	6'0 220 lbs
40-yard dash	4.6
School	Memphis University School (Memphis, TN)
Position	Linebacker

Why you should be excited he's a Dore: With offers from Kentucky, Ole Miss, Stanford, Indiana, Michigan State and Duke, Jones was one of the most sought-after prospects of all the Vandy commitments. One of the top 10 players in Tennessee according to Rivals.com, he is a defensive playmaker who plays aggressively and quickly on every snap. He comes from the same high school as John Stokes, Vandy's top prospect last year, according to Rivals.com. Look for him to join up with his former teammate and compete for playing time as a freshman with the losses of Jonathan Goff and Marcus Buggs.

2.

Name	John Cole
Size	5'11, 170 lbs
40-yard dash	4.4
School	Somerset High School (Somerset, KY)
Position	Wide- Receiver

Why you should be excited he's a Dore: Cole has tremendous speed, route running ability and hands. He had an offer from Stanford, and Florida became interested near signing day. Cole was one of the top 10 prospects in Kentucky according to Rivals.com. He was named the 2007 Kentucky Gatorade Player of the Year, and he played on the Orlando Sentinel's All-Southern team. He set two state records this past season with 1,826 receiving yards on 86 catches and 28 touchdowns.

3.

Name	Taylor Loftley
Size	6'2, 250 lbs
40-yard dash	4.8
School	Chamblee High School (Chamblee, GA)
Position	Defensive Tackle

Why you should be excited he's a Dore: Loftley is extremely explosive off the snap for a guy his size, wreaking havoc in the opponents' backfield. Between his junior and senior seasons, Loftley combined to record 142 tackles, 23 for loss, 11 sacks, and five fumble recoveries. Loftley had offers from South Carolina, Stanford, Duke and UCF. He could play as a freshman with the losses of Gabe Hall, Curtis Gatewood and Theo Horrocks.

4.

Name	Casey Hayward
Size	6'0, 178 lbs
40-yard dash	4.5
School	Perry High School (Elko, GA)
Position	Cornerback

Why you should be excited he's a Dore: Heyward is an all-around athlete who played QB and CB for his high school as well as returned kicks. He had offers from Troy and Southern Miss and was recruited by UNC. In his junior and senior seasons, Heyward threw for 27 touchdowns and rushed for 29. He also racked up 2,584 yards of total offense his senior year and recorded 30 tackles as a senior with four interceptions to earn Class 3A All-State honors.

5.

Name	Tristan Strong
Size	6'1, 220 lbs
40-yard dash	4.6
School	Grayson High School (Loganville, GA)
Position	Linebacker

Why you should be excited he's a Dore: Strong had offers from South Carolina, Kentucky, Auburn and Connecticut. A 2007 Class 5A All-State selection, Strong combined for 97 tackles, 10 sacks and 14 tackles for loss over the past two years. He has great instincts and is a good run-stopper.



Dores seek hidden gems

by ANDREW BARGE
Sports Reporter

It's no secret Vanderbilt stands as a recruiting underdog in the nation's best college football conference. Stringent academic requirements, a lack of national exposure and that pesky bowl-less streak all contribute to the Dores being overlooked both on and off the field. Not surprisingly, Rivals.com rated Vanderbilt's class as the weakest in the SEC.

Fortunately for Vandy fans and players like Chris Williams, Curtis Gatewood and Theo Horrocks, recruiting experts don't always get it right. These players all have legitimate chances at long-lasting NFL careers after starring with the black and gold. Coming out of high school, they were all rated as "two-star" prospects on Rivals.com, the lowest ranking a Division I football player can receive.

What about future NFL draftee Earl Bennett? Rivals ranked the record-breaking wide receiver as the 18th best prospect ... in the state of Alabama. He didn't even crack the top 70 in the 2005 receiver rankings.

Don't get me wrong — Rivals, Scout and other online providers offer important analysis that helps fans get a better grasp of their school's recruiting, and the sites are often accurate in their predictions. Still, coach Bobby Johnson is excited about his sixth recruiting class and knows it is better than advertised.

"I don't compare them to other people's classes. I don't care who they sign; we only care who we sign for Vanderbilt," Johnson said. "We only start comparing them when we're about to take them on in football."

Johnson also cited the talented graduating class as a selling-point for recruiting.

"It's important for recruits to know that if they come here, they'll be surrounded by guys that can take them to the next level," Johnson said. "Chris Williams is a great example of that — he went from basically a nobody in recruiting to possibly a first-round draft pick, and part of that comes from what our weight room can do, as well as our line coach Robbie Caldwell. We have people here who can help, and guys like Chris and Jay Cutler are proof of that."

Regardless of a team's national prestige, signing day is an exciting time to gauge the future of college football. It's easy to get frustrated about the lack of blue-chip recruits, but it's also important to remember the satisfaction of watching an unheralded prospect develop into an NFL player. If recent history serves as any indication, some of the 21 athletes that signed on Wednesday will leave other SEC coaches praying for a time machine. How do you think Steve Spurrier feels about passing on D.J. Moore?

This week marks the welcoming of the football class of 2008. For all we know, the Commodores landed the next Earl Bennett while the rest of college football was looking elsewhere.

If signing day reminds Commodore fans of anything, it's that being the underdog has its bright spots. Appreciating these moments is what being a Vandy fan is all about. ■

—Andrew Barge can be reached at andrew.barge@vanderbilt.edu.

Women win fourth straight

HUSTLER STAFF REPORT

Another home game, another lopsided victory for Vanderbilt.

The Commodore women got off to a staggering 27-8 start and never looked back Thursday night, taking down the South Carolina Gamecocks 78-48 at Memorial Gym for their fourth straight win. Vanderbilt has won its last two home games by a combined 63 points and now stands at 6-2 in league play, good for third in the Southeastern Conference.

Led by guard Merideth Marsh's 12 points, five Commodores scored in double figures. Jennifer Risper scored 11 points to go along with five rebounds and four assists on the evening. Vanderbilt shot an even 50% from the field, including 8-for-14 from beyond the arc, and outrebounded South Carolina 34-25. Leading 37-14 at the half, Vanderbilt never led by fewer than 23 in the second half and held a 33-point lead twice in the final minutes.

Ilna Burgova scored 11 points to lead two Gamecocks in double figures. ■

Dores aim for another road victory

Vandy travels to South Carolina after outlasting Georgia.

by ANDREW BARGE
Sports Reporter

It wasn't pretty, but Vanderbilt (19-4, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) finally picked up its first SEC road win, defeating Georgia 67-69 Wednesday in Athens to snap a four-game road losing streak.

"It's like getting that monkey off of your back," said senior guard Alex Gordon. "We had a tough road schedule early on, so it felt great to get that win."

The Georgia game welcomed Ross Neltner back into the starting lineup after two games coming off the bench. When the forward made the most of his opportunity, his teammates were happy to have a senior on the floor.

"It felt great to have Ross back. He's been playing with us for a while, so we all have confidence in him," Gordon said. "I told him after the game we need him to play like that for the rest of the season for us to be successful. He made big plays to get us in the Sweet 16, and he made plays for us the other night."

Coach Kevin Stallings was also impressed with the senior's performance, stressing the importance of experience in SEC competition.

"I thought Ross had earned his way back into the lineup, and his play was a big key for us," Stallings said.

"Senior experience is supposed to give you productivity in tough games, especially on the road, so we need him to keep playing that way."

When the Commodores take on South Carolina (11-10, 3-4) this Saturday, they'll face a rejuvenated Gamecocks squad. Since losing in Memorial Gym, South Carolina has gone to a new lineup that has gotten Stallings' attention.

"They're going with a smaller lineup now, hitting a lot of threes," Stallings said. "I think they're playing their best basketball of the season right now."

Last Saturday, the Gamecocks upset Ole Miss on the road, with sophomore Devan Downey scoring 25 points. The guard torched Vandy for 22 points earlier in the season, so containing Downey will be a priority.

Still, Stallings will rely on his regular lineup adjusting to South Carolina's new, quicker look.

"We'll play the way we play. If that proves unsatisfactory, then we can make adjustments when the game is going on, but we're going to rely on our style to win," Stallings said.

Gordon agrees that the Commodores won't see the same South Carolina from a month ago, but the preparation never changes.

"They'll be pumped up, they just had a big win against Ole Miss," Gordon said. "They're playing a lot better, but you always have to prepare hard to get the next win." ■

—Andrew Barge can be reached at andrew.barge@vanderbilt.edu.

CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Ross Neltner returned to the starting lineup and scored 13 points in the Commodores' 67-59 victory over Georgia Wednesday night in Athens.

Vanderbilt 67, Georgia 59

Recap: Vanderbilt held off the Bulldogs for its first conference road win of the season.

Player of the Game: Ross Neltner. Starting once again, the senior had 13 points, none more important than the four he scored on a jumper and lay-up down the stretch to clinch the win for Vanderbilt.

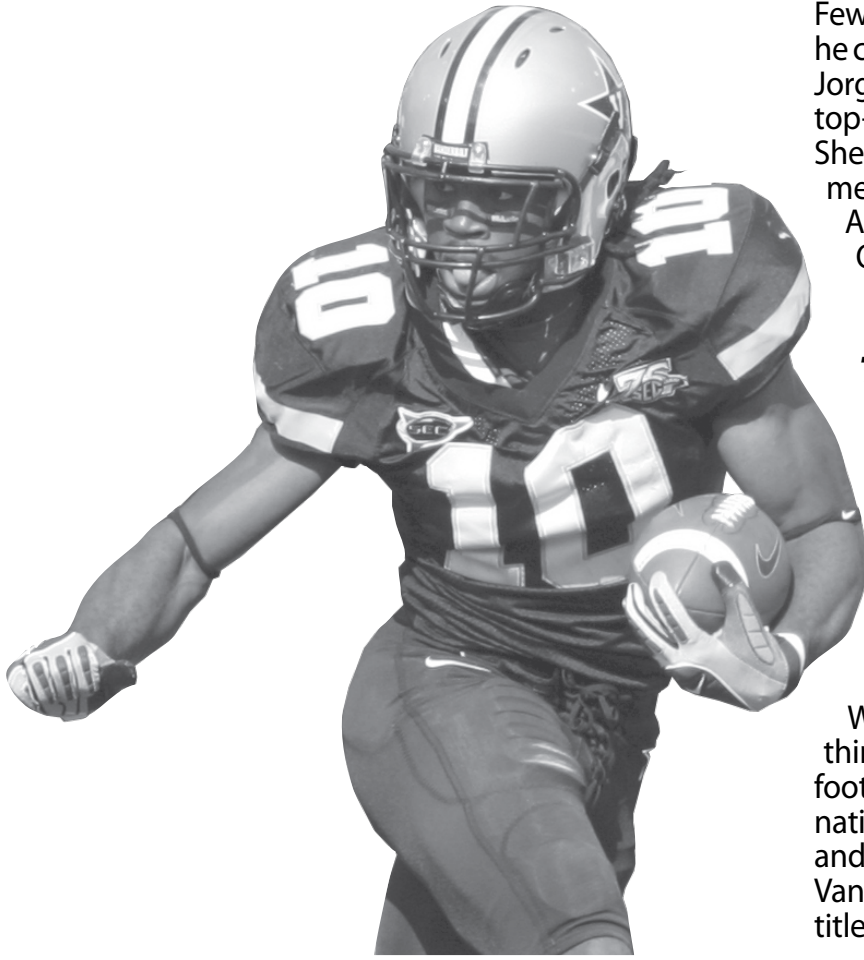
It was over when ... with the shot clock expiring, Neltner scored on a reverse lay-up with 56 seconds remaining to stretch the lead to six points and effectively end the game.

Stat of the Game: 6. The turnover differential in Vanderbilt's favor.

EARL BENNETT

JAY CUTLER REGIONAL CHAMP

SPORT	Football
POSITION	Wide Receiver
YEAR	Junior
HOMETOWN	Birmingham, Ala.
PRO POTENTIAL	Future NFL Draft Pick
STATS	SEC's all-time leader in receptions
	First-team All-SEC
	236 catches for 2,852 yards, 20 TDs



WHO'S NOW?

Go to WWW.INSIDEVANDY.COM to cast your vote. Voting ends Sunday at 5 p.m.

HOW THEY GOT HERE:

Few expected to see Flaherty in the finals, but he certainly deserved it. "Flash" beat runner Rita Jorgensen, quarterback Mackenzi Adams, top-seeded Shan Foster and center Liz Sherwood to get to the title game. Bennett, meanwhile, bested swimmer Leigh-Ann Axt, soccer player Sarah Dennis, center A.J. Ogilvy and third baseman Pedro Alvarez.

THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:

Having already taken down Flaherty's teammate, Pedro Alvarez, it's tough to see Bennett losing this one. However, if the Giants taught us anything, it's that nobody is perfect. Flaherty is a future MLB star on a championship-caliber squad, a favorite among the fans and visible on campus. Still, Bennett is a special player that doesn't come around West End too often. He's destined for great things in the NFL and certainly gave the football program more credibility across the nation during his three years with the black and gold. Both players represent the best in Vanderbilt athletics, but only one deserves the title of "Who's Now," and that's Earl Bennett.

RYAN FLAHERTY

DERRICK BYARS REGIONAL CHAMP

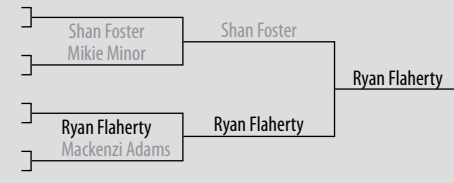
SPORT	Baseball
POSITION	Shortstop
YEAR	Junior
HOMETOWN	Portland, Maine
PRO POTENTIAL	Future MLB Draft Pick
STATS	35-game hitting streak
	Second-team All-American
	.360 avg. with 6 HRs and 106 RBIs



DERRICK BYARS REGIONAL



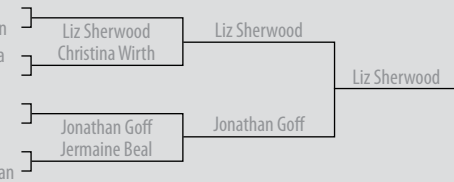
1. Shan Foster
8. Josie Earnest
4. Mikie Minor
5. Chris Williams
2. Ryan Flaherty
7. Rita Jorgensen
3. Mackenzi Adams
6. Jen Risper



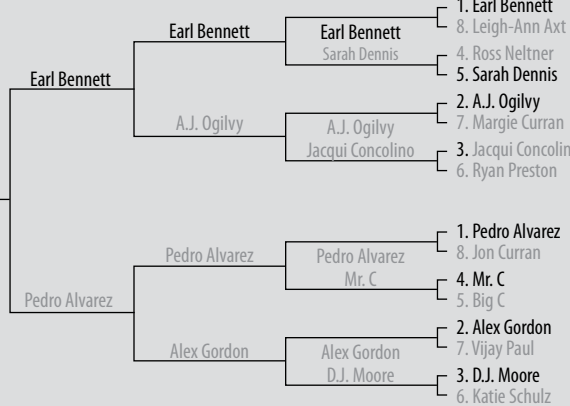
DEE DAVIS REGIONAL



1. Liz Sherwood
8. Austin Williamson
4. Dominic de la Osa
5. Christina Wirth
2. Jonathan Goff
7. Karen Grygiel
3. Jermaine Beal
6. Catherine Newman



BRACKET BREAKDOWN

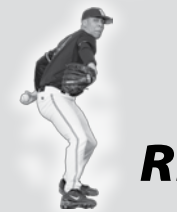


JAY CUTLER REGIONAL



1. Earl Bennett
8. Leigh-Ann Axt
4. Ross Neltner
5. Sarah Dennis
2. A.J. Ogilvy
7. Margie Curran
3. Jacqui Concolino
6. Ryan Preston

DAVID PRICE REGIONAL



1. Pedro Alvarez
8. Jon Curran
4. Mr. C
5. Big C
2. Alex Gordon
7. Vijay Paul
3. D.J. Moore
6. Katie Schulz

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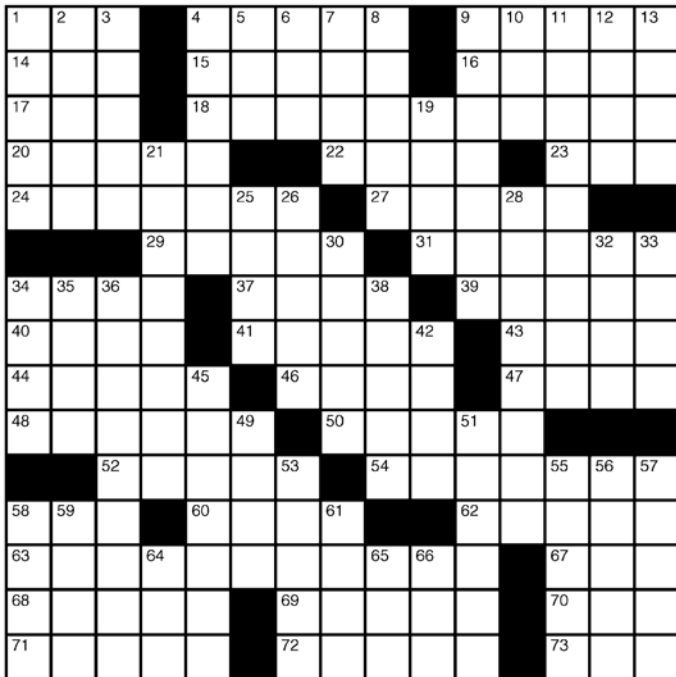
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SUDOKU: To solve, fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

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

2/6/08 SOLUTIONS

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Long, feathery scarf
 - 4 All thumbs
 - 9 Fancy tie
 - 14 Inclined
 - 15 Small ravine
 - 16 Back tooth
 - 17 Crude
 - 18 Not lucky
 - 20 Theater offering
 - 22 Playthings
 - 23 Thar... blows!
 - 24 Orchestra section
 - 27 Hippety-hops
 - 29 New Orleans player
 - 31 Set up
 - 34 Weaponry
 - 37 Rave about
 - 39 Gander's mate
 - 40 Bound
 - 41 Leg bone
 - 43 Castle defense
 - 44 Flowing tresses
- DOWN**
- 1 Honored poets
 - 2 Geometric paintings genre
 - 3 Doing battle
 - 4 Large tropical lizard
 - 5 Holy woman
 - 6 Little helper
 - 7 Secret plan
 - 8 Apprentices
 - 9 Funny
 - 10 Male offspring
 - 11 Teacher's purview
 - 12 Pledge of Allegiance
 - 13 Family chart
 - 19 Little nipper
 - 21 Be eliminated from the bee?
 - 25 Coated with gold
 - 26 Escargot
 - 28 Food poisoning
 - 30 Hollow cylinders
 - 32 Now!
 - 33 Cats and dogs, e.g.
 - 34 Charity
 - 35 500 sheets
 - 36 Declaration of intentions
 - 38 Leave in the lurch
 - 42 Far East
 - 45 Ocean fog
 - 49 Breadth
 - 51 Pouring aid
 - 53 Pursue stealthily
 - 55 Scouting group
 - 56 Steer clear of
 - 57 Impede
 - 58 Tacks on
 - 59 Like some '60s poets
 - 61 Knock for a loop
 - 64 Green drink
 - 65 Rink flooring
 - 66 Mineral in the raw

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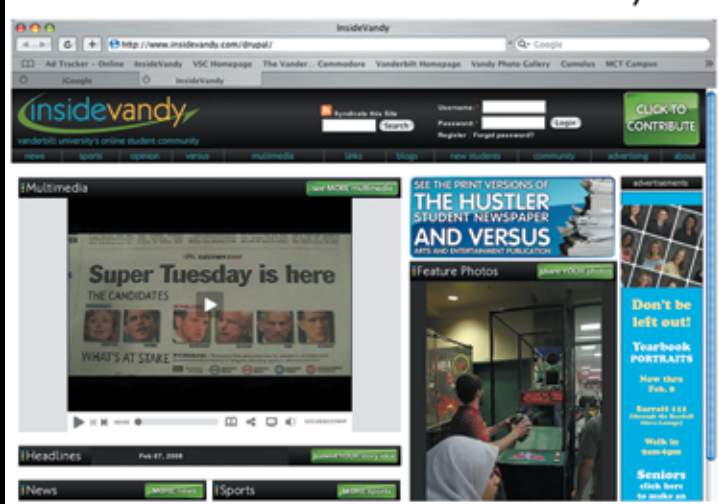
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