

Find out more about the players in the first round of the 'Who's Now?' Dee Davis Regional. See Sports, page 7

The Vanderbilt Hustler presents:

# WHO'S NOW?

Andrew Solomon has all the information new sorority and fraternity members need. See Opinion, page 4



Ross Nelter gets some love in 'The Rant.' See Opinion, page 5



TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly Sunny, 43/27  
Extended forecast, page 2

# The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2008 • 120<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 5

## THE WALL

compiled by ELIZABETH MIDDLEBROOKS

**TODAY**  
**Dance class registration ends**  
Registration for a variety of beginning to advanced level dance classes is held in Sarratt Lobby from 12 to 6 p.m. Classes will take place in Memorial Gym.

**TODAY**  
**Opera performance**  
Jennifer Larmore, the American opera star who is also an international sensation, performs in a singularly intimate solo recital in Ingram Hall at 8 p.m. as a part of the "Blair Presents" series.

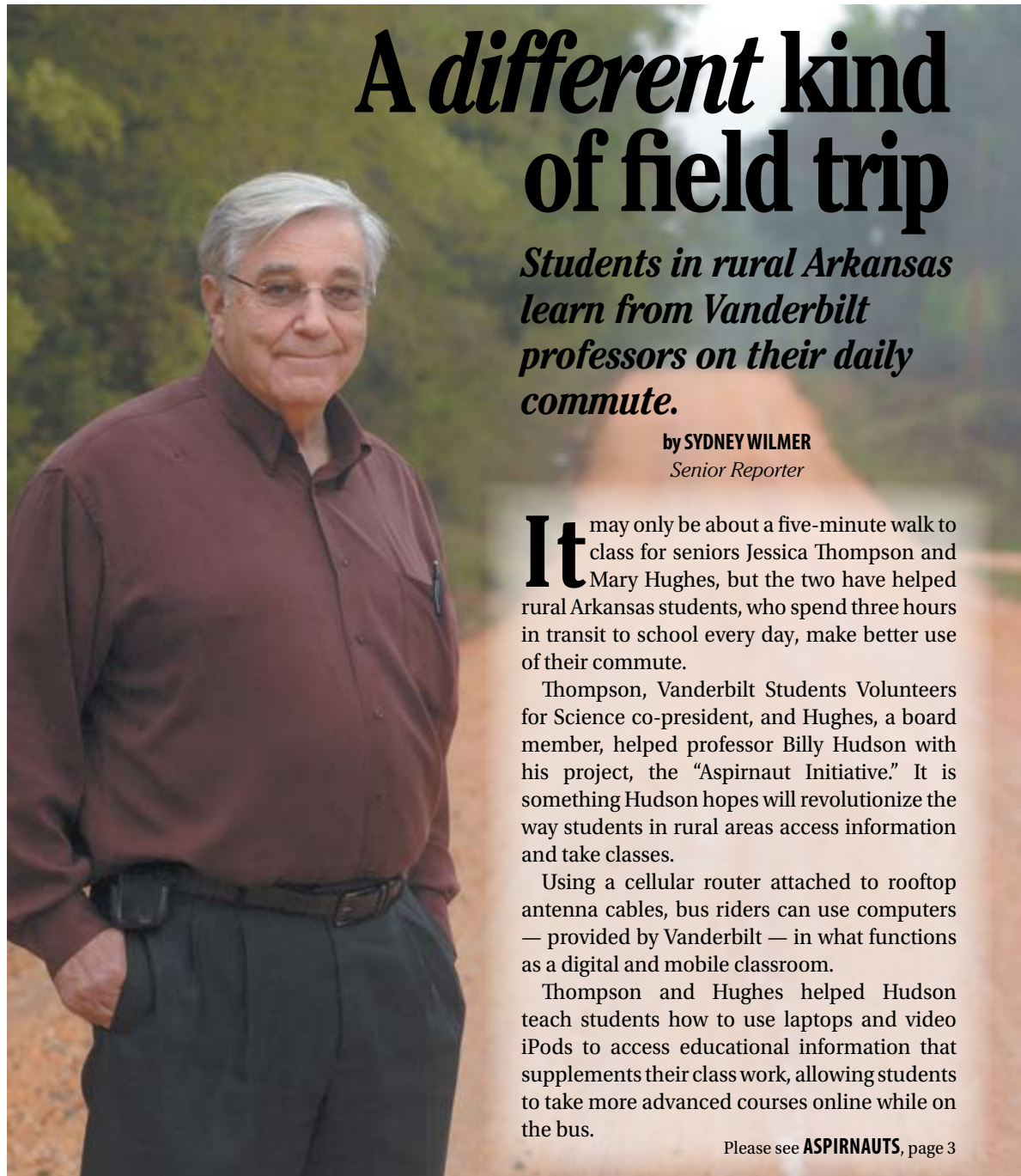
**TODAY**  
**Casino Night**  
Come play blackjack, Texas Hold'em, craps and slot machines, and everything is free for all students. The event will begin at 9 p.m. in the Student Life Center.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 19**  
**Men's basketball**  
The men's basketball team will play LSU at noon in the Memorial Gymnasium.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 19**  
**7th annual Blue and White Ball**  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. will hold their annual Blue and White Ball in the Student Life Center Ballrooms. The event starts at 9:20 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 19**  
**Free hot chocolate give away**  
Vanderbilt Student Government, Collegians Helping to Educate and Encourage Responsible Socializing, Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol and the Office of Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention will be sponsoring free hot chocolate to remind students about the increased dangers of hypothermia from drinking and the weather. The drinks will be located at the corner of Vanderbilt Place and 24th Avenue North.

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



## A different kind of field trip

*Students in rural Arkansas learn from Vanderbilt professors on their daily commute.*

by SYDNEY WILMER  
Senior Reporter

It may only be about a five-minute walk to class for seniors Jessica Thompson and Mary Hughes, but the two have helped rural Arkansas students, who spend three hours in transit to school every day, make better use of their commute.

Thompson, Vanderbilt Students Volunteers for Science co-president, and Hughes, a board member, helped professor Billy Hudson with his project, the "Aspironaut Initiative." It is something Hudson hopes will revolutionize the way students in rural areas access information and take classes.

Using a cellular router attached to rooftop antenna cables, bus riders can use computers — provided by Vanderbilt — in what functions as a digital and mobile classroom.

Thompson and Hughes helped Hudson teach students how to use laptops and video iPods to access educational information that supplements their class work, allowing students to take more advanced courses online while on the bus.

Please see **ASPIRANAUTS**, page 3

DANA JOHNSON / VU Media Relations

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

### Tax rebates of \$300-\$800 weighed as Congress, Fed, White House urge economic rescue

WASHINGTON — United for urgent action, the White House and Congress raced toward emergency steps Thursday to rescue the national economy from a possible recession, including tax rebates of at least \$300 a person — and maybe as much as \$800.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke endorsed the idea of putting money into the hands of those who would spend it quickly and boost the flagging economy.

All the talk of rescue efforts failed to soothe Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrials plunged 306.95 points, The Associated Press reported, underscoring deepening concern about the country's economic health.

Please see **ECONOMY**, page 3

## Competitive Class of '12 to fit on Commons

by LILY CHEN  
Staff Reporter

With the significant increase — 30 percent — in applicants for the Class of 2012, there are only so many spots available on The Commons to house next year's freshmen.

And after the housing crunch that occurred with the Class of 2011, having enough room for the Class of 2012 was a concern for many students.

Jim Kramka, the senior director of housing facilities, operations and management, said he did not expect there to be housing problems, but they have a backup plan just in case.

"The incoming freshmen will be assigned to doubles, and if there are more students we might look at tripling the rooms," Kramka said. "As long as we don't overshoot the target, I don't foresee a housing problem."

There are huge statistical analyses and computer calculations that project the number of students that can be admitted. The Office of Admissions plans on admitting 1,450 students and building the last 100 students from the wait list in order to make sure housing is not a problem, Dean of Admissions Doug Christiansen said.

"We're up 30 percent with applications," Christiansen said. "Last year we had 12,911 applicants, and this year we have 16,800, of which we're shooting for 1,550 to be admitted."

Christiansen said he feels confident there will be no housing problems and all admitted students will fit in allotted freshman dorms, adding that doubling students on The Commons will help ensure housing space.

"We will continue to carefully review each application and consider each student holistically, especially since the quality of the pool has gone up," Christiansen said. "While I'm not worried about the 1,550 that will be admitted, I am constantly making sure that everything will work out."

Kramka agreed, saying in some ways the housing process will be easier since there will not be singles, even though that means students having issues with their living situation will not have the option of moving to their own room.

"Anything else that might occur, such as room-change requests, will be dealt with," he said. "We're looking to teach people to deal with roommates and hire committed (residential advisers)."

—Lily Chen can be reached at [lily.z.chen@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lily.z.chen@vanderbilt.edu)

## Simon's actions to prompt VSG response

by JARRED AMATO  
Editor in Chief

With her hands tied, Vanderbilt Student Government President Cara Bilotta must now wait for a member of the house or senate to step forward and call for a "vote of no confidence" in response to Speaker of the House Reid Simon's actions.

Simon's most recent act — sending out an unauthorized e-mail inviting students to an event that was not supposed to take place — represented the final straw for Bilotta.

"I have been disappointed by the actions of a member of my executive board," Bilotta said. "However, the ultimate decision to reprimand Reid Simon is in the hands of the senate and house.

"I think the actions warrant consideration and investigation, but ultimately senators and house presidents need to come to their own decision as to how the situation is handled."

If a senator or house president calls for a "vote of no confidence" and two-thirds of that legislature votes in the

affirmative, attorney general Andrew Gossett said he would begin a formal investigation.

The findings of the investigation would then be presented to the senate. If two-thirds voted in favor of impeachment, Simon would be "stripped of all powers and privileges," Gossett said.

Simon is one of three candidates running for VSG president, along with Speaker of the Senate Jared Anderson and Chief of Staff Joseph Williams, both juniors.

Please see **VSG**, page 4

## Disappointed Doers



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students gathered Thursday in the Student Life Center to watch the Vanderbilt/Tennessee men's basketball game. The Commodores (16-2, 1-2 SEC) lost 80-60. The event was sponsored by the Office of Greek Life and Vandy Fanatics.

# FIVE GUYS® IS COMING NEXT WEEK!

# Odds & Ends

## WEATHER

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

### SATURDAY



Partly Cloudy, 30/16

### SUNDAY



Sunny, 35/25

### MONDAY



Mostly Sunny, 47/34

## VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

**Friday, Jan. 11, 6:15 a.m.:** There was indecent exposure at Carmichael Towers West. Subject whispered to a woman to get her attention and pulled down his pants in front of her.

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 Female suicide bomber kills 9 Shiite worshippers in Iraq's Diyala province

**BAGHDAD** — A female suicide bomber struck black-clad worshippers preparing for Shiite Islam's holiest day, killing at least nine Wednesday in an attack that highlighted insurgents' widening array of tactics against a U.S.-led offensive in key areas on Baghdad's doorstep, The Associated Press reported.

A witness said people shouted slogans against al-Qaida in Iraq as they carried the dead and wounded from the blast scene near a marketplace in Diyala province.

### 2 FBI begins preliminary inquiry into Tejada's steroids testimony

**WASHINGTON** — The FBI has opened a preliminary investigation into whether baseball all-star Miguel Tejada lied to federal authorities when he denied taking steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs, The Associated Press has learned.

The inquiry, in response to a congressional request, amounts to an initial look at facts surrounding the case. It does not mean charges will be brought against the Houston Astros shortstop, who was the American League's Most Valuable Player in 2002.

### 3 Scientists in California produce embryo clones of 2 men, using skin cells in step toward stem cell goal

**NEW YORK** — Scientists in California say they have produced embryos that are clones of two men, a potential step toward developing scientifically valuable stem cells, The Associated Press reported.

The new report documents embryos made with ordinary skin cells. But it's not the first time human cloned embryos have been made. In 2005, for example, scientists in Britain reported using embryonic stem cells to produce a cloned embryo. It matured enough to produce stem cells, but none were extracted.

### 4 Tenn. marks 30th anniversary of country's 1st child seat law

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — State officials are celebrating the 30th anniversary of Tennessee's first-in-the-nation child seat laws.

Gov. Phil Bredesen on Thursday praised the vision lawmakers had in passing the law that went into effect in 1978, The Associated Press reported.

Bredesen said other states in the country had passed similar laws within six years.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates 8,700 children's lives have been saved by the proper use of child restraints.

### 5 Bush and Bernanke back package to stimulate weakening economy

**WASHINGTON** — Top House leaders discussed plans for tax rebates, breaks for business and additional food stamp and unemployment insurance benefits as President Bush and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke voiced support for steps to avert a recession, The Associated Press reported.

"Putting money into the hands of households and firms that would spend it in the near term" is a priority, Bernanke told a House committee.

### 6 Out of jail, O.J. Simpson returns home to Florida after Las Vegas judge doubles his bail

**LAS VEGAS** — O.J. Simpson returned home to Miami on Thursday, a day after an angry Las Vegas judge doubled his bail but allowed him to stay out of jail while he awaits trial on armed robbery, according to The Associated Press.

Tom Scotto, who coordinated with four other friends to raise Simpson's bail, greeted Simpson after his arrival at Miami International Airport and escorted him to a waiting sport utility vehicle.

### 7 Osama bin Laden's son says he wants to be peace ambassador between West, Muslims

**CAIRO, Egypt** — Omar Osama bin Laden bears a striking resemblance to his notorious father — except for the dreadlocks that dangle halfway down his back. Then there's the black leather biker jacket.

The 26-year-old does not renounce his father, al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, but in an interview with The Associated Press, he said there is a better way to defend Islam than militancy: Omar wants to be an "ambassador for peace" between Muslims and the West.

### 8 Iranian president accuses Bush of inciting confrontation in Mideast trip

**TEHRAN, Iran** — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Thursday that President Bush sent a "message of confrontation" during his recent Mideast trip, The Associated Press reported.

Bush spent much of his visit to the region, which he wrapped up on Wednesday, rallying support among Arab allies for a strong stance against Iran — calling the country the world's top sponsor of terrorism.

"President George Bush sent a message to the Iranian people and all the nations worldwide," said Ahmadinejad during an interview in Farsi with Al Jazeera television.

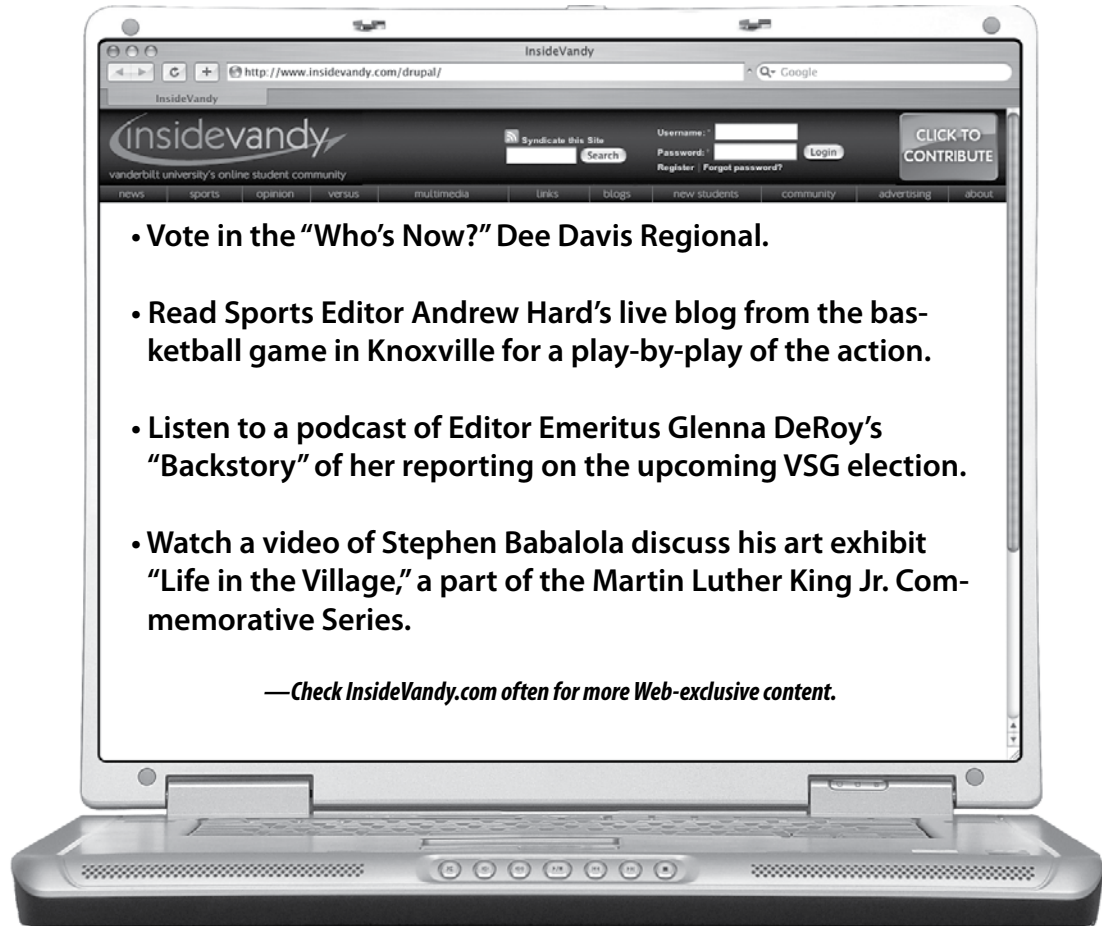
### 9 Uloop aims to be Vanderbilt's online marketplace, student resource

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Uloop.com launches at Vanderbilt this week, aiming to serve as a campus resource. The site hopes to spread across campus through word of mouth, online marketing and student representatives.

"We're excited to serve the Vanderbilt community," said Corey Cleek, Uloop's CEO and adjunct marketing professor at the Owen School of Management. "Uloop is a safe and local way to buy, sell and trade with Vanderbilt classmates."

In 2007, over 10,000 textbooks were listed by students on Uloop.com on campuses across the country. Uloop saved students on average 64 percent off the retail price, according to a press release.

## WHAT'S NEW ON INSIDEVANDY.COM



- Vote in the "Who's Now?" Dee Davis Regional.
- Read Sports Editor Andrew Hard's live blog from the basketball game in Knoxville for a play-by-play of the action.
- Listen to a podcast of Editor Emeritus Glenna DeRoy's "Backstory" of her reporting on the upcoming VSG election.
- Watch a video of Stephen Babalola discuss his art exhibit "Life in the Village," a part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Series.

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

## SNAPSHOT

### SEDATING STRESS



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Dr. Ben Rothstein spoke at the "How to Get Better Grades" presentation Thursday night in Sarratt Student Center. Students learned ways to maximize their brain function and reduce stress through the seminar, which was hosted by the Chabad Jewish Student Group.



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## ASPIRNAUTS: Program aims to provide students access to advanced classes

From **ASPIRNAUTS**, page 1

"The main incentive was to try to help rural youth so they can be competitive," said Hudson, who was raised in Grapevine, Ark., the program's launch site.

"I have experienced growing up in rural Arkansas. There is a pathway (to higher education), and I know that rural areas are underserved in math and science."

Thompson said working with Hudson, an Elliot V. Newman Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry, made sense because VSVS and the Aspironaut program have similar goals.

But more than anything, she said, "the experience inspired me to want to come up with new and better ways to aid my own community."

Ideally, Hudson said he wants to see this concept used throughout rural America. His wife, Dr. Julie Hudson, hopes

to submit a grant proposal that will further fund the project.

"This project allows advanced students to take classes they wouldn't get to take for several years. Sixth graders who are ready to take pre-algebra classes can," she said.

Hudson said he has also relied on the help of other Vanderbilt professors in the project, and students can view computer screens of their out-of-state teachers, as well as call and e-mail them.

So far, the program has gone well, Hudson said.

"There are approximately 12 AP and pre-AP science students who are taking courses," he said. "Others are watching education videos on iPods."

Even more exciting, though, is the potential for expansion. The possibility is a very good one, he said.

As an admirer of Hudson's work, professor David



Vanderbilt researcher and professor Billy Hudson teaches "Aspironauts" in a small town in Arkansas on their long bus rides to school. The university has provided much of the funding for the students' laptop computers and video iPods, which keep them in contact with several professors at Vanderbilt.

DANA JOHNSON / VU Media Relations

Hercules submitted a state proposal Jan. 4 to the National Science Foundation that seeks to duplicate the Arkansas

program somewhere in Tennessee.

"It is an ingenious idea," Hercules said. "The advantage

is that it involves students on a continual, day-in-and-out basis, as opposed to many workshops." ■

—Sydney Wilmer can be reached at [sydney.e.wilmer@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sydney.e.wilmer@vanderbilt.edu)

## VSG senate votes to eliminate experience requirement



BRYAN CANDELARIO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Members of Vanderbilt Student Government senate held an open discussion Wednesday to vote on a resolution that would remove the experience requirement that affects those who run for student body president. The resolution passed the senate and awaits approval from the house next Wednesday.

by **GLENNA DeROY**  
Editor Emeritus

The average student took a step toward the Vanderbilt Student Government presidency Wednesday.

The senate unanimously approved a resolution that would eliminate the experience requirement and allow any undergraduate to lead the organization. The house will consider the resolution next Wednesday at its meeting.

The experience requirement states that the student body president must have served one year in VSG and must have served during the semester of his or her election for at least 30 days before declaring his or her candidacy.

Currey Hall President Ashley Williamson and Kyle Larson, Tower II president, plan to speak against the bill in the house but do not know if their opposition will be enough.

"This will probably pass the house, maybe unanimously, because it passed the senate unanimously, but 75 percent of us will leave and have no idea what we voted for," Williamson said.

Speaker of the House Reid Simon invited students in a campus-wide e-mail to attend a Thursday forum on the requirement, but no students came to the meeting.

If it passes the house, the student body will vote Feb. 19 to approve the change.

The resolution proposed by senators Fabiani Duarte and Wyatt Smith and co-sponsored by Campus Services co-chair Tyler Armstrong notes that the VSG constitution considers each undergraduate a member of the organization, Smith said.

Smith also pointed out that the requirement leaves just 45-75 undergraduates eligible for the presidency, a condition that Engineering senator Matt Snyder said "goes against the idea of democracy."

And the requirement makes it difficult, though not impossible, for even dedicated VSG members who go abroad in the fall semester to remain eligible.

"The candidate could join a committee at the conclusion of his or her study abroad semester and hold that position through winter break in order to satisfy the 30-day requirement," said attorney general Andrew Gossett. "This membership on said committee would have to be approved by the committee chairs, but in theory, it is possible."

The senate felt this difficulty was just one of several reasons to pass the resolution.

"Students at Vanderbilt are fully capable of choosing the best person to represent them," Smith said, pointing out

—To hear Glenna DeRoy tell the story behind the story, go to:



that the Student Government Association did not have an experience requirement when it existed.

Many senators concluded other students could make effective VSG presidents, though the job does require a lot of time and effort.

"Who's to say that the VUCept president or some other campus leader doesn't have just as much, if not more, experience interacting with administrators and managing an organization than someone who has been involved with VSG for less than one hour a week?" said Arts and Science senator Alan Dyer.

However, Larson said time within the organization would help the candidate understand how to accomplish his or her goals and work with administrators and other VSG members.

If you get rid of the requirement, "you essentially elect a lame duck and wait for it to grow into one that can be effective," he said. ■

—Glenna DeRoy can be reached at [glenna.h.deroy@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:glenna.h.deroy@vanderbilt.edu)

## VISAGE provides chance for complete study abroad experience

by **VASANTH SATHIYAKUMAR**  
Staff Reporter

Students who are looking to gain more from their study abroad programs may want to consider VISAGE, a program that integrates classroom learning with actual on-site experience.

"One criticism that we've heard from students in study abroad programs is that they feel they lacked the adequate academic preparation before studying abroad and lacked a forum to reflect on what they have learned and to apply their knowledge academically," said professor Brian Heuser, director of the Cape Town, South Africa, site. "With VISAGE, the (program) will better prepare students to interpret and understand realities of studying abroad but also will allow them afterward to pursue research opportunities and questions they have formulated while studying abroad."

The Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement is a yearlong commitment split into three modules.

The first module consists of

a three-credit, spring semester course that focuses on global citizenship and international civic engagement. After that class, students apply what they learned through global, fieldwork-orientated projects during the summer. The following fall semester, students reflect on their experiences in a seminar on global citizenship and service.

Students also have the opportunity to conduct guided, independent research as a way to continue their service.

Three sites have been chosen this year to focus on the three aspects of VISAGE: citizenship, social justice and sustainable development. Each site offers different learning opportunities: Cape Town, South Africa, offers students the opportunity to see the differences between first-world and third-world countries; Melbourne, Australia, directed by professor Gene LeBoeuf, is similar to the United States because of its access to resources; and Managua, Nicaragua, led by professor Marshall Eakin, gives students insight into a developing nation.

"We chose these sites out of

an evolution of sorts," said Marie Martin, organizer of VISAGE and the assistant director of the Global Education Office. "We wanted to give students a choice of geographically diverse areas but also areas that presented different academic opportunities."

The program plans to expand by adding one to two more sites in the future.

"Hopefully with VISAGE, we can give students the tools to adequately participate in communities and be able to identify their strengths and weaknesses," Heuser said. "We also want to give students a framework where they can reconcile the challenges they will face."

Students in the program share similar hopes.

"I hope I can better understand how to see the world," said sophomore Tanmoy Saha. "What we learn at Vanderbilt doesn't really mean much unless it is applied in a practical manner in the real world." ■

—Vasanth Sathiyakumar can be reached at [vasanth.sathiyakumar@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vasanth.sathiyakumar@vanderbilt.edu)

EVERYDAY INTERACTIONS THAT ANGER, ANNOY, AND DIVIDE THE RACES  
A Program on Ending Interracial Misunderstanding

**LENA WILLIAMS**  
IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

Reveals what blacks and whites say about each other, but not to each other.

Although legal segregation ended decades ago, the sense of separateness and division between blacks and whites seems more intractable than ever. We work together, go to school together, and live near each other, yet beneath it all there is a level of misunderstanding that breeds mistrust and a level of miscommunication that perpetuates mutual hostility. Stepping back from academic theorizing and political posturing, Lena Williams offers a candid, sensible, and humorously informative approach to improving racial relations. Based on her experiences as well as what she has learned from focus groups across the U.S., "It's the Little Things" catalogs the common and avoidable ways through which mutual antagonism is perpetuated — the gestures, expressions, tones, and body language that get under the skin of both blacks and whites.

Candid and enlightening—what blacks and whites say about each other, but not to each other

Photograph © Jacques Lowe

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# VSG: Bilotta uninformed of acts

From VSG, page 1

There are multiple reasons why Bilotta wants an investigation to take place.

Last Thursday, Simon presented The Hustler with a letter, which stated that he had created an "ad hoc special committee of house members to supervise a student discussion" of the VSG experience requirement to take place Jan. 17. Simon added that junior Randall Norman, his presidential running mate, would chair the committee.

The problem, however, was that Simon had never informed

Bilotta of his plans. For an ad hoc committee to be formed, it must either be appointed or approved by the president.

On Sunday, Bilotta informed Simon that no such event would take place on Jan. 17 since members of the senate had already written a resolution regarding the experience requirement, and the VSG executive board voted 4-1 — with Simon as the lone dissenter — in favor of that decision.

Simon took matters into his own hands on Monday. He gained access to the entire

student body listserv from Dean of Students Mark Bandas, who was under the false impression Simon had Bilotta's approval to do so, to announce he had created "a special focus group to serve as moderators of a student forum" on the experience requirement to be held Jan. 17.

Now it is up to the house and senate to decide whether Simon's actions are worth investigating. ■

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

# ECONOMY: Bush to present temporary tax cut plan today

From ECONOMY, page 1

The sudden scramble to take action came as fears mounted that a severe housing slump and a painful credit crisis could cause people to clamp down on their spending and businesses to put a lid on hiring, throwing the country into its first recession since 2001.

President Bush told congressional leaders privately he favors income tax rebates for people and tax breaks for businesses, officials said. Bush spoke with congressional leaders as House aides worked behind the scenes on an emergency package that could also include more money for food stamp recipients and the unemployed.

Lawmakers and aides involved in the talks said participants were discussing options, including tax rebates of at least \$300 for individuals and likely more — with rebates of \$800 for individuals and

\$1,600 for married couples a possibility.

The president did not push for a permanent extension of his 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, many of which are due to expire in 2010, one official said. That would eliminate a potential stumbling block to swift action by Congress, since most Democrats oppose making the tax cuts permanent.

Bush planned to lay out his position Friday, but he wasn't expected to go into specifics. Press secretary Dana Perino said he would demand that any package be effective, simple and temporary.

Bernanke voiced his support for a stimulus package in an appearance before the House Budget Committee. He stressed that it must be temporary and must be implemented quickly — so that its economic effects could be felt as much as possible within the next 12 months. "Putting money into the hands of households and firms that would spend it in

the near term" is a priority, he said.

Especially important is making sure a plan can put cash into the hands of poor people and the middle class, who are most likely to spend it right away, he said, though he added that research shows affluent people also spend some of their rebates.

He declined to endorse any particular approach, but he did say he preferred one that would not have a long-term adverse impact on the government's budget deficit.

Bush and congressional leaders from both parties consulted via conference call Thursday for about 30 minutes. Both sides basically were in agreement that they needed to cooperate to do something quickly, Perino said.

"There is reason to be hopeful when the president recognizes there is a problem in the country," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said afterward. ■

# Telling her story from 'captivity to conversion'



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Yvonne Ridley, a British-born, award-winning journalist, spoke Thursday night in Sarratt Cinema. She discussed her capture by the Taliban while working in Afghanistan disguised as an Afghan woman and her decision to convert to Islam. The Muslim Student Association sponsored the event, titled "Taliban Talks: From Captivity to Conversion."

A BAD ROBOT PRODUCTION

# CLOVERFIELD

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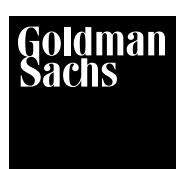
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COLUMN

# Obama's rhetoric masks typical liberal platform



**MIKE WARREN**  
Columnist

The presidential candidacy of Sen. Barack Obama has been marked by a meteoric rise of the first-term, junior senator from Illinois to challenge Hillary Clinton, the Democrats' presumptive nominee. Obama has made an effort to capitalize on his fantastic oratory skills, unmatched by any other candidate.

His gift has been coupled with a message of hope and unity that has led some observers to deem him the most gifted politician of our era and one who has the unique chance to bring our country together after decades of bitter partisanship over the direction of our country. Women cry at his stump speeches and smitten NBC reporters comment on how difficult it is to report objectively on him. Voters tired of the bickering between Republicans and Democrats hear Obama proclaim, "There is not a liberal America and a conservative America — there is a United States of America" and see him as the messianic deliverer from politics as usual. A campaign that touts "Hope Action Change" and aims to ask Americans to come together as one people is destined to join the ranks of those of John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan (whose message of hope Obama has likened to his own). With all of the buzz about hope, change, unity and inspiration, I am left asking one question.

What does any of that actually mean? It's a valid question, especially with the aforementioned likening of this election to that of 1980, when Reagan's brand of unabashed conservatism and his ability to reach out to people on a personal level garnered the Great Communicator an electoral landslide unlike any other in recent history. Obama wants to have the same effect, and he does, to a superficial extent. Contrast his inspiring message of hope with the vicious anger of John Edwards or the hokey populism of Mike Huckabee, and it is clear that Obama offers an exciting language that may have the ability to move people. Nevertheless, the comparison with Reagan must end here, because underneath the rhetoric there is nothing but classic big government liberalism.

It seems that Obama is engaged in an updated

and far more effective version of Bill Clinton's triangulation politicizing. While President Clinton positioned himself on certain issues as a moderate Democrat to appeal to those on the left and the right, Obama simply rises above all of the issues in exchange for inspirational speeches full of platitudes about hope. If Bill "I feel your pain" Clinton was the first product of the Oprah era in American politics, Barack Obama has refined and perhaps perfected the art of substituting feelings for sound policy ideas. Supporters talk about how he makes them feel, but what does Obama actually believe are good ideas to make this country better?

A quick check of his official campaign Web site shows that he wants to increase entitlements, pull out of Iraq, give all Americans health insurance, further regulate oil companies and roll back the Bush tax cuts. These stances show an adherence to the ideas of the nanny state and the "Blame America First" mindset (not unlike the majority of his Democrat congressional colleagues), but it is apparent that Obama may not even understand where he stands on these issues himself. I suspect this is why Obama must transcend the important issues in speeches and in the debates; talking about the need for hope and change over concrete policy stances indicates that he does not have conviction or understanding about the issues he claims to support.

When Obama speaks about ending the vitriolic partisanship in American politics, I find myself partially liking what I hear. I would like to see civil debate return to the political discourse because when that debate is honest, conservatism wins. The problem is that Obama's bipartisanship, like that of all liberals afraid to talk about the issues, actually means "let's stop arguing, unify and get back to that liberalism we all know and love." There is nothing inherently wrong with partisanship; it's what keeps our democracy alive and well. Barack Obama would do better to climb down from his Mountain of Destiny and shamelessly represent himself as the liberal that he is. That may just be too much to ask.

—Mike Warren is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at michael.r.warren@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

"There are two kinds of people in the world: those who understand that not every player's contributions to a team come in the form of high scoring and impressive stats . . . and those who should learn how to keep their mouths shut. Rock on, Ross Neltner."

"Shouldn't y'all have someone who is enthusiastic about sports writing in the sports page? Or at least someone who knows the difference between the Miami University Red Hawks and the University of Miami Hurricanes?"

"Dear N.S., please log on to Facebook and honor me by granting my humble request to be included in your very long list of valued friends."

"I miss Interhall."

"I would love to know Barack Obama's credentials besides the fact he's a very good-looking black guy."

"Really, it isn't all that difficult to return phone calls and e-mails. When someone tries to get in touch with you literally every single day for an entire month, maybe they have something important to say. Just maybe."

"If it's going to be this cold outside, it needs to snow. A lot."

"Whoever spoke badly about the Versus overhaul needs to be quiet. You're just jealous you didn't get to write for it."

"Tom Cruise thinks I'm a bad person."

"LEGGINGS! That is my rant!!!"

"I can't believe Hasbro is trying to make Facebook get rid of Scrabulous. If they would just make a free, quality version of Scrabble online, then they wouldn't have anything to worry about. Why would they try to take down Scrabulous? Don't they know I have work to put off??"

"The really irritating chirping noise from the hot water heater in Sarratt is bothering the hell out of me. I hate hot water. Except when I don't have. Then it's okay."

"People need to just chill out."

Compiled by Katherine Miller

## ★ alpha chi omega ★

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ★ Sima Baalbaki     | ★ Maya Grafstein   |
| ★ Ashton Ballard    | ★ Kalee Grassia    |
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| ★ Ashley Bekerman   | ★ Lauren Krensky   |
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## SPORTS

## Commodores' road struggles continue

by WILL GIBBONS  
Senior Reporter

Though they won at Toledo and DePaul, the road in the Southeastern Conference has proven to be a big step up for No. 16 Vanderbilt, as indicated by its 80-60 loss at No. 6 Tennessee Thursday.

"I think it's fun," said freshman A.J. Ogilvy, "but (the crowds) do have an impact, as much as I don't like to admit it."

Vanderbilt (16-2, 1-2 SEC) turned the ball over 21 times at Tennessee (15-1, 3-0 SEC). Its free throw shooting was an uncharacteristic 60 percent, and it shot an abysmal 14.3 percent from 3-point range. Energized by a crowd of 20,799 orange-clad Volunteer fans, Tennessee got 12 steals and several more deflections.

"It looked like the game from last year," said coach Kevin Stallings.

The Commodores were able to close the gap to 61-53 on a Shan Foster 3-pointer, and almost cut

it to five on a three that rimmed out. But Tennessee responded by ending the game on a 19-6 run.

"We didn't give ourselves a chance," Stallings said. "We had some opportunities to make it interesting, but we'd miss a shot."

There are telling signs that a team is falling behind in a road game. A big man makes a 3-pointer, the home team gets a breakaway jam, or an alley-oop is worked to perfection. All three of these occurred at various points Thursday night.

Whether it was Wayne Chism or Ryan Childress spotting up from 22 feet away, or Tyler Smith slamming home a lob or J.P. Prince dunking off of a rebound, it was clear Tennessee was feeding off its crowd. And it may have had the Commodores rattled.

"Especially on the road, we've got to play harder and make sure we don't dig ourselves too much of a hole," Ogilvy said. "At home you've got people cheering you on, but on the road everyone is against you."

Part of Vanderbilt's problem

has been failing to establish its offensive rhythm. Getting Ogilvy involved early can free up Foster and the rest of Vanderbilt's shooters from outside.

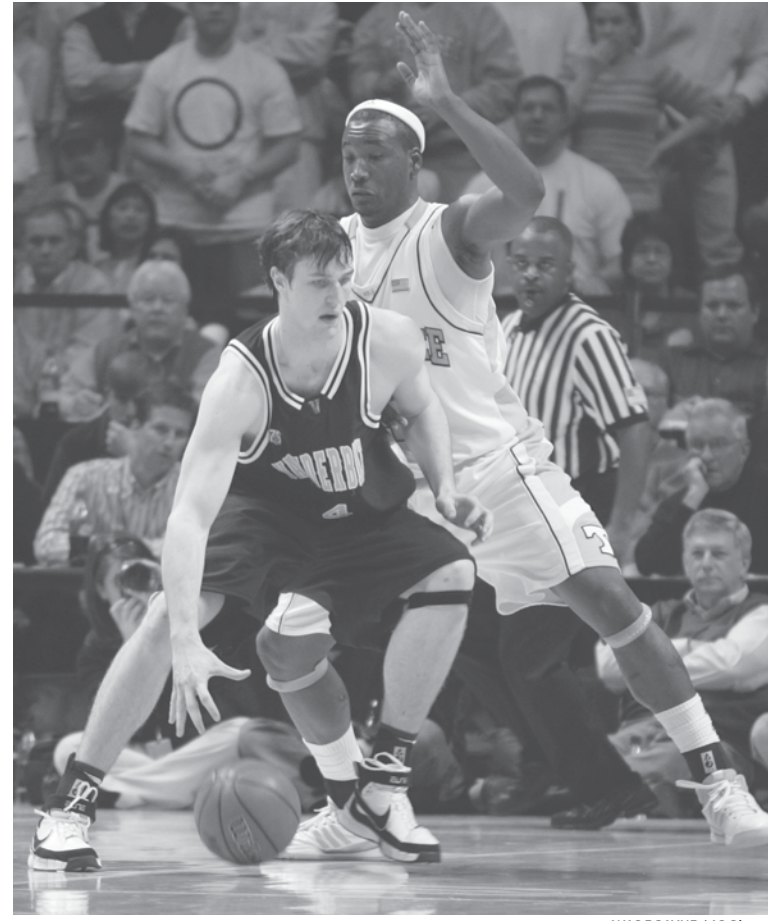
"We didn't get a great night out of our team in the post offense, and that made it tougher on the perimeter," Stallings said.

To start the second half run, the Commodores repeatedly worked the post with Ogilvy, drawing three fouls on Wayne Chism in 2:30 minutes of play.

"A.J.'s not been very productive in the first half of the last three or four games," Stallings said. "He's done some good things in the second half, but you can't in an environment like this only do it for a half."

With three of the next five games on the road, the Commodores will have to resolve their issues quickly. It heads to Florida, then Ole Miss, after hosting LSU this Saturday. ■

— Will Gibbons can be reached at [william.l.gibbons@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:william.l.gibbons@vanderbilt.edu)



WADE PAYNE / AP Photo

Vanderbilt's A.J. Ogilvy admitted the crowd was a factor during Tennessee's 80-60 victory over the Commodores Thursday night in Knoxville. Wayne Chism and the Vols are now 3-0 in SEC play.

## THE RUN DOWN

## W2W4

## SATURDAY MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. LSU (Noon, LFS)

Struggling Louisiana State (7-10, 0-3 Southeastern Conference) comes to Nashville for Vanderbilt's first home game in 10 days. LSU has lost six straight games and is one of two teams in the SEC without a conference win.

Last year, Vanderbilt (16-2, 1-2 SEC) had an outstanding defensive performance on the road against LSU, holding the then-No. 21 ranked Tigers to 32.3 percent shooting en route to a 64-53 victory.

## SUNDAY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL @ TENNESSEE (2 p.m.)

The Commodores (13-5, 2-1 SEC) complete a difficult three-game stretch in SEC play when they visit the No. 2 Tennessee Lady Volunteers on Sunday. Tennessee, the reigning national champion, has beaten Vanderbilt 13 straight times. The last time they met in Knoxville, the Volunteers (15-1, 3-0 SEC) cruised to a 73-53 win over the Commodores.

Star junior Candace Parker, the 2007 SEC player of the year, continues to lead Tennessee. The multi-talented Parker tops the Vols with 20.9 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.7 blocks per game.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

The No. 16 Vanderbilt women's tennis team hits the road for the first time in 2008, traveling to Albuquerque, N.M., for matches against New Mexico today at 6 p.m. and Colorado on Sunday at 11 a.m. Vanderbilt enters the weekend with a 1-0 record after sweeping UT-Martin 7-0 in the season opener on Wednesday. The Commodores used strong play in both singles and doubles, only losing eight games in the entire match.

## THEY SAID IT...

"We have to continue to fight and continue to get better. At some point, this thing's going to turn around."

SHAN FOSTER  
Senior Swingman

## DAILY #

14.3

Vanderbilt's 3-point shooting percentage in its 80-60 loss to Tennessee.

23

Number of Georgia's turnovers in the Vanderbilt women's 67-59 victory.

## Dawg abuse



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Jessica Mooney and the rest of the Commodores had their way with the Bulldogs, defeating No. 11 Georgia 67-59 Thursday night at Memorial Gym.

## Vandy needs to reclaim identity

by ANDREW HARD  
Sports Editor

For the first 16 games of this season, the Commodores ranked second in the Southeastern Conference with an astonishing 86.0 points per game. A season-high 97 points against Massachusetts on Jan. 5 brought Vanderbilt into conference play with the best 3-point shooting team in the country and one of the best scoring tandems in Shan Foster and A.J. Ogilvy.

In two hostile environments, that firepower has evaporated as the Commodores have struggled mightily to keep up that pace. While the defense has improved, the team's identity undoubtedly lies with that run-the-floor, inside-outside explosiveness. If these Does want to make this SEC season even remotely as successful as their non-conference slate, they need to reclaim that identity as soon as possible.

After an 80-60 loss to the Vols, that turnaround comes in less than 36 hours when LSU arrives Saturday afternoon.

"We have to continue to fight and continue to get better," said Shan Foster, held to 14 points in Thursday's loss. "At some point, this thing's going to turn around. We hope it'll be (Friday) so we'll be ready to play on Saturday."

Vanderbilt once again set a season-low for points scored and turned the ball over more than 20 times. They also shot just 36.8 percent from the field, another low. It's a maddening thing to watch for a coach that thought he had all the answers for most of this season.

"Turnovers can be in the careless or selfish category, and neither of those are good," said Kevin Stallings. "We have to become more fundamentally sound."

Ross Neltner has combined for 13 turnovers in the last two outings, and A.J. Ogilvy has struggled mightily during first halves recently. The key to the Commodores' early success was their blend of outside shooting and low-post scoring, and that has definitely disappeared for the time being.

"It looked like some games we had last year where we didn't have an inside

presence," Stallings said.

While Vanderbilt did attack the low post early and often in the second half, it couldn't slow the game down enough against Tennessee's pressure defense.

"I thought they'd be exceptional in the full-court defense, which is what they're known for," Ogilvy said. "We didn't talk much about their half-court defense, and I guess we should pay that a lot more respect next time."

Vanderbilt was also in danger of going 0-for-beyond the arc for the first time in school history. The three treys that did fall came at key moments, but for most of the game the Commodores simply couldn't get enough open looks to get hot.

It's helpful that Saturday's game comes in front of a home crowd that can almost will them to victory. Also helpful is the matchup against 7-10 LSU. It could be the perfect cure for what has ailed the Commodore offense in these last two games. ■

—Andrew Hard can be reached at [andrew.hard@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:andrew.hard@vanderbilt.edu)

## friday conversation LEIGH-ANN AXT

Freshman swimmer Leigh-Ann Axt has made quite a splash in her first year, winning 12 individual races, including the 100-yard butterfly at last Friday's home meet against the Miami Hurricanes. Before traveling to Arkansas for Saturday's meet against the Razorbacks, she stepped out of the pool to talk to The Vanderbilt Hustler.

**VANDERBILT HUSTLER:** You recently competed and succeeded in Vanderbilt's first home meet in 15 years. How exciting was that?

**LEIGH-ANN AXT:** It was really exciting to swim for a home crowd. I think having our friends and family at the pool to support us really helped get the team excited.

**VH:** What are some of the main factors that have contributed to your success this season?

**LAA:** As a team, I think the success we have had so far this season comes from the fact that we are here for each other day after day, encouraging one another to work hard. On a personal level, I think the fact that I know we are going to be competing in the fastest swimming conference in the nation for our championship meet has led to me having some good swims already this season. I want to put myself in a position to be competitive at (the SEC Tournament).

**VH:** Do you have a favorite swimming event?

**LAA:** I definitely favor the butterfly events because that is what I am strongest in.

**VH:** Is it tough to only have one home meet this season?

**LAA:** It is tough, especially since we have a new program that is trying to establish itself. It is hard for people on campus to know what we are about and support us when almost all of our meets are away.

**VH:** As a freshman, was it hard to transition into college swimming or did it go smoothly?

**LAA:** For me, the transition from high school to college swimming was really smooth. I come from great programs back home; I am used to waking up for early morning workouts and swimming multiple times a day. The biggest thing for me was that I had never lifted weights before, so that was something new.

**VH:** Going into the second half of the season, what are the team's goals?

**LAA:** I think the team's goals for the second half of the season are for each individual to reach their potential at (the SEC Tournament) and that we put forth a strong showing as a team.

**VH:** Who is the funniest swimmer on your team?

**LAA:** The team is really a great group of girls; basically, every single one of them is hilarious in her own way. Whenever we all get together we are always cracking jokes and poking fun.

**VH:** The smartest?

**LAA:** I can't pick out who the smartest girl on the team is. I think the fact that last year we had the highest GPA of any sports team at Vanderbilt and the third highest GPA of all the women's swim teams in the nation shows every girl is very talented and hard-working academically.

**VH:** Who is the best swimmer you've swum against this season?

**LAA:** I don't recall any one person in particular, but I think the meet that we swam against LSU and Alabama was probably the most competitive, which is to be expected since they are both SEC teams.

**VH:** Do you have a favorite class at Vandy?

**LAA:** I have really enjoyed all of my classes so far at Vandy, but if I had to pick one, I probably look forward to my HOD lab the most because I really enjoy the material, my classmates and my professor.





# DEE DAVIS REGIONAL



## The Vanderbilt Hustler presents WHO'S NOW

<b>1</b>	<b>LIZ SHERWOOD, SENIOR</b> <b>BASKETBALL, CENTER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Two-time SEC "Sixth Woman" of the Year</li> <li>•Led SEC in field-goal percentage in '07</li> <li>•Currently averaging 13.5 points and 4.6 rebounds per game</li> <li>•Helped Dores capture SEC Tournament title in '07</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>AUSTIN WILLIAMSON, JUNIOR</b> <b>CROSS COUNTRY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Team's Most Valuable Player</li> <li>•Led Vandy in three of five races; team leader</li> <li>•Finished seventh in Belmont/Vanderbilt Opener and Commodore Classic</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>DOMINIC DE LA OSA, SENIOR</b> <b>Baseball, Right fielder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Unanimous All-American in '07</li> <li>•One of just three players nationally with at least 20 HRs and 20 SBs</li> <li>•Drafted by Detroit Tigers, but opted to return for senior season</li> <li>•Fan favorite for moon shots onto Memorial Gym</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>CHRISTINA WIRTH, JUNIOR</b> <b>Basketball, Forward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Preseason first team All-SEC</li> <li>•Averaging 12.8 points and 4.8 rebounds per game</li> <li>•Versatile forward who leads Dores on and off court</li> <li>•Has posters of herself up around Nashville</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>JONATHAN GOFF, SENIOR</b> <b>FOOTBALL LINEBACKER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•All-SEC performer after recording 113 tackles</li> <li>•Started 40 straight games; finished career with 304 tackles</li> <li>•Future NFL pick in April's Draft</li> <li>•One of the best linebackers in school history</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>KAREN GRYGIEL, JUNIOR</b> <b>BOWLING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Won Mississippi Valley Classic; had three top-5 finishes in '07</li> <li>•Honorable mention All-American</li> <li>•Helped Dores win school's first-ever national title</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>JERMAINE BEAL, SOPHOMORE</b> <b>POINT GAURD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Averaging 8.1 points and 4.6 assists per game</li> <li>•Recently produced mixtape with hits such as "Tha Beal Bounce" and "D.O.L.L.A."</li> <li>•Best nickname ("Dolla") and Number (0)</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>CATHERINE NEWMAN, SOPHOMORE</b> <b>TENNIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Finished 20-7 to earn first-team All-SEC honors</li> <li>•Ranked No. 6 in the southeast after going 13-2 in fall</li> <li>•In doubles, went 9-2 with Taka Bertrand in SEC play</li> <li>•Has potential to be one of best players in school history</li> </ul>

**THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:**  
Williamson is the leader of the Commodore squad, but he's not nearly as recognizable as Sherwood, the senior captain who helped Vandy win the SEC Tournament.

**THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:**  
While both athletes prefer to go about their business quietly, they have plenty to brag about. Wirth is Vandy's go-to player, and de la Osa is one of the team's most feared hitters.

**THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:**  
Grygiel was an integral part of the Commodores' championship run, but she'll be an underdog against Goff, the intense, hard-hitting linebacker who's on his way to the NFL.

**THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:**  
Newman is going to do big things here on West End, but so is "Dolla," the point guard with a game that's quickly catching up to his nickname.

### WHAT IS THIS?

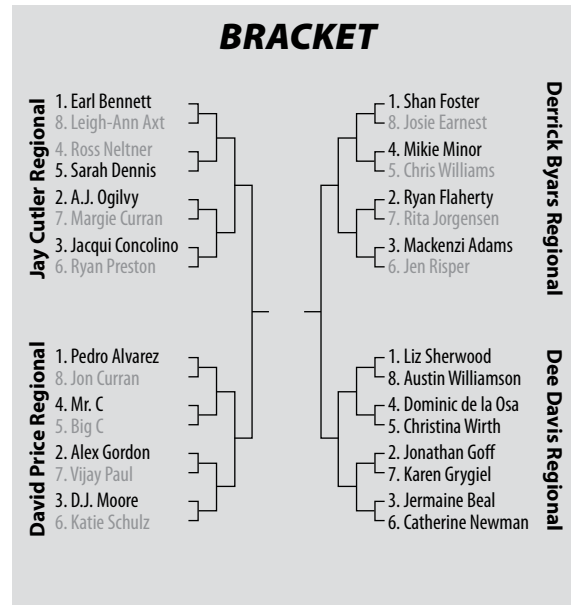
We're running a 32-athlete, single-elimination tournament to find Vanderbilt's biggest star. You can check out the voting criteria, bracket and voting schedule below.

### HOW DO I VOTE?

Go to [WWW.INSIDEVANDY.COM](http://WWW.INSIDEVANDY.COM) to cast your vote. Voting for the first round of the Dee Davis Regional ends **SUNDAY AT 5 P.M.** Results will be posted in the following issue.

### VOTING CRITERIA

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



### SCHEDULE

- FIRST ROUND**
- 1/11: 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
  - 2/1: 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

## DAVID PRICE REGIONAL FIRST ROUND RESULTS



<b>1</b>	<b>PEDRO ALVAREZ</b> ..... 70%	<b>PEDRO ALVAREZ</b>	<b>DAVID PRICE REGIONAL CHAMP</b> (Named Feb. 4)	<b>ALEX GORDON</b> ..... 70%	<b>ALEX GORDON</b> ..... 70%	<b>2</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>JON CURRAN</b> ..... 30%					<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>MR. C</b> ..... 57%	<b>MR. C</b>	<b>D.J. MOORE</b> ..... 77%	<b>D.J. MOORE</b> ..... 77%	<b>D.J. MOORE</b> ..... 77%	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>BIG C</b> ..... 43%					<b>6</b>

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