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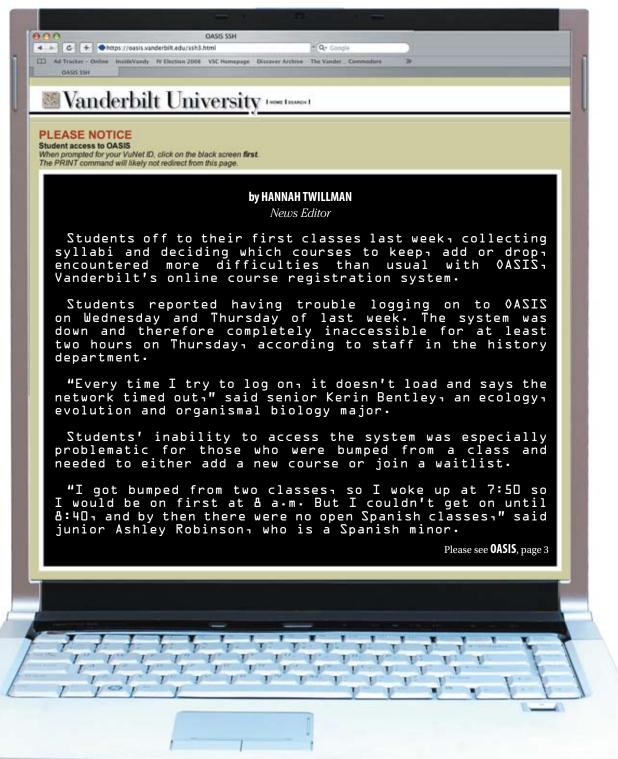
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009 121ST YEAR, NO. 3



NEWS INSIDE: The complete guide to a newly re-vamped Dining — with sushi on Fridays. SEE PAGE 4

OPINION: Popkin uses statistics to de-mystify the high Greek grade point average. **SEE PAGE 8**

OASIS overload



VSG election season off to an early start

by KRISTIN PARK Contributing Reporter

Student Vanderbilt Government kicked off its presidential election season Sunday evening at a meeting in Sarratt Student Center, when members distributed petition forms and explained election rules. For the most part, the process will proceed as usual. The meeting outlined the rules candidates must follow; among them, candidates must wait until the official start date to solicit votes and discuss their platforms, only accept campaign donations

candidates, there will be no primary election.

under \$20 and are not allowed

to post campaign materials on

other's doors.

"We only have two candidates, so there is no need for a primary," said Jared Anderson, VSG attorney general. In light of this, he

been expanded to two weeks.

Juniors Wyatt Smith and Fabiani Duarte, the two presumptive candidates, begin the race officially at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday. Their running mates are sophomores Lori Murphy and Deno Saclarides, respectively.

Anderson, who is in charge enforcing campaign rules and upholding VSG's constitution, shared what he hopes to see come out of the

"(I'd like to see candidates) uphold the standards of Vanderbilt community, campaigning with ideas of where they want to take our campus, putting their energy and passion into Due to the small number of this campaign and sharing every conversation with the campus," he said.

Both candidates were excited about the opportunity to start Thursday and for the extra campaign time.

"It will allow for more said, the campaign time has debates and talking to more









student groups," Smith said. "We can extend the discussion in ways in which students can be more empowered." Duarte echoed Smith's

sentiments.

"I want this campaign to be more than stickers, posters and something more than a debate that no one goes to," said Duarte. "Not only will Please see **ELECTION**, page 3

VANDERBILT STUDENT **GOVERNMENT ELECTION SCHEDULE**

JAN. 11 - Presidential mandatory meeting

JAN. 15 – Presidential election campaigning starts at 12:01 a.m.

JAN. 28 TO JAN. 29 - Presidential general election, results announced at noon in Sarratt on Thursday

FEB. 4 – Speaker elections

FEB. 5 – Senate mandatory meeting

FEB. 9 - Chief of Staff appointed

FEB. 11 - Chief of Staff confirmed

FEB. 12 – Senate campaigning starts at 12:01 a.m.

FEB. 17 – Release appointed applications

FEB. 18 TO FEB. 19 – Senate primary election, Results announced at noon in Sarratt on Thursday

FEB. 25 TO FEB. 26 - Senate General, Results announced at noon in Sarratt on Thursday

FEB. 26 – Appointed position applications due

MARCH 9 TO MARCH 13 -

Appointed positions interviewed and selected

Commodores beat Lady Volunteers

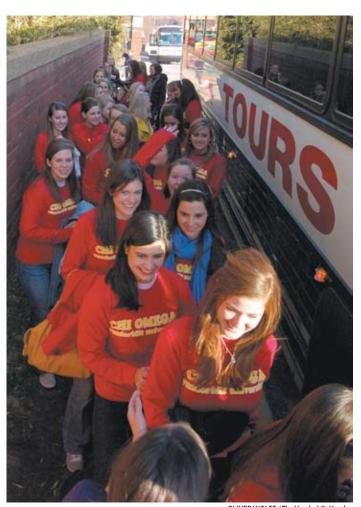


ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustle

No. 24 Vanderbilt women's basketball team defeats No. 7 Tennesse for the first time in almost seven years 74-58. All five starters scored in double figures.

SEE PAGE 6

Greek recruitment comes to a close



New members of Chi Omega sorority board a bus to meet other members of the chapter and take part in various activities to introduce the new members to the sorority on Bid Day.

by LAUREN KOENIG

Senior Reporter

The annual Bid Day event marked the end of an intensive process in which 433 freshmen were each formally invited to join one of Vanderbilt's 10 Panhellenic sororities. Greek Ambassadors sat with 33 groups of about 15 girls in the

Student Recreation Center as upperclassmen representing their sororities taught them their chapter's chants and

Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey said around 520 women were part of the Panhellenic open house

Please see BID DAY, page 3

SPORTS: All the details a 'Vandy Fanatic' could ever need for the second annual Memorial Madness. SEE PAGES



IS IT SEC BASKETBALL SEASON

MEMORIAL **MADNESS** 01.14.09





HIGH **48**, LOW **32** Mostly Cloudy

TUESDAY



HIGH **35**, LOW **19** Partly cloudy



HIGH **44**, LOW **16** Mostly Sunny

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SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours

NEWS BRIEFS

Israeli forces advance deep into Gaza urban areas and residential areas

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli ground forces made their deepest foray yet Sunday into Gaza's most populated area, with tanks rolling into residential neighborhoods and infantry fighting urban warfare in streets and buildings with Hamas militants who kept up their rocketing of southern Israel.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said residential neighborhoods in Gaza are riddled with homemade bombs and booby traps, including mannequins placed at apartment entrances to simulate militants and rigged to explode if soldiers approach.

The army "is advancing more into urban areas," said the spokeswoman, Maj. Avital Leibovich. "Since the majority of the Hamas militants are pretty much in hiding in those places, mainly urban places, then we operate in those areas."

Late Sunday, dense plumes of smoke from explosions rose over Gaza City and heavy gunfire was heard just south of the city. Early Monday, Israeli navy gunboats fired more than 25 shells at Gaza City, setting fires and shaking office buildings, including the local bureau of The Associated Press. The military said that in general, the targets are Hamas installations but had no immediate information about the shelling that began just after midnight.

Tapping of unspent billions in works, **Obama to get money from lawmakers**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democrats prepared Sunday to answer a request for the remaining \$350 billion in financial industry bailout funds as the Bush administration and President-elect Obama undertook a tag-team effort to obtain the money from reluctant lawmakers.

A vote in Congress is likely as early as this week, several senators predicted after receiving a rare Sunday briefing from top Obama economic adviser Larry Summers on the Wall Street bailout, as well as on Obama's separate \$800 billion-orso economic recovery plan.

President Bush would request the additional money for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, but the incoming administration would make the case for it by laying out a series of changes in how the program is run. More of the money would go directly to relieve homeowners threatened with foreclosure, said Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn. A fuller accounting of the money already spent is needed as well, Dodd said.

Majority Democrats boost wilderness protection of 2 million acres across US

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a rare Sunday session, the Senate advanced legislation that would set aside more than 2 million acres in nine states as wilderness. Majority Democrats assembled more than enough votes to overcome GOP stalling tactics in an early showdown for the new Congress.

Republicans complained that Democrats did not allow amendments on the massive bill, which calls for the largest expansion of wilderness protection in 25 years. But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and other Democrats said the bill — a holdover from last year — was carefully written and included measures sponsored by both Republicans and Democrats.

By a 66-12 vote, with only 59 needed to limit debate, lawmakers agreed to clear away procedural hurdles despite partisan wrangling that had threatened pledges by leaders to work cooperatively as the new Obama administration takes office. Senate approval is expected later this week. Supporters hope the House will follow suit.

Storm blankets snow, causes severe pileups across Midwest, New England

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A weekend winter storm blanketed parts of the Midwest and Northeast with up to a foot of snow, causing a 59-vehicle pileup and at least four traffic fatalities.

In New Hampshire, three buses and two tractor-trailer rigs were among 59 vehicles that crashed on snowy Interstate 93, sending a dozen people to hospitals Sunday morning and temporarily shutting down a stretch of the highway's northbound lanes.

None of the injuries were life threatening, but it took emergency crews about an hour to remove one man from a car wedged under the back of a tractor trailer, Derry Fire Battalion Chief Jack Webb said.

In Obama, many see an end to the baby boomer era, culture from the '60s

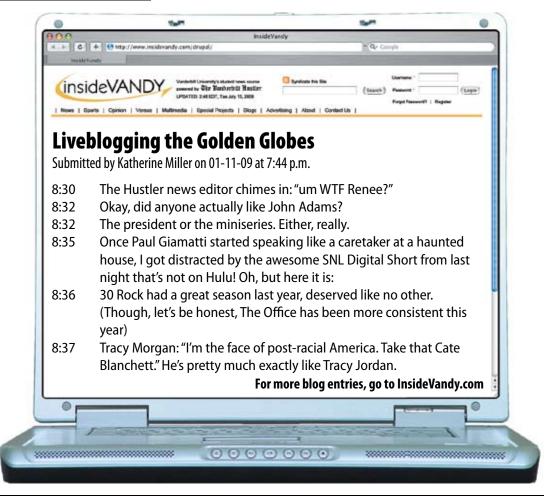
NEW YORK (AP)—When George W. Bush lifts off in his helicopter on Inauguration Day, leaving Washington to make way for Barack Obama, he may not be the only thing disappearing into the horizon.

To a number of social analysts, historians, bloggers and ordinary Americans, Jan. 20 will symbolize the passing of an entire generation: the baby boomer years.

Generational change. A passing of the torch. The terms have been thrown around with frequency as the moment nears for Obama to take the oath of office. And yet the reference is not to Obama's relatively young age — at 47, he's only tied for fifth place on the youngest presidents list with Grover Cleveland.

Rather, it's a sense that a cultural era is ending, one dominated by the boomers, many of whom came of age in the '60s and experienced the bitter divisions caused by the Vietnam War and the protests against it, the civil rights struggle, social change, sexual freedoms, and more.

FROM THE BLOG



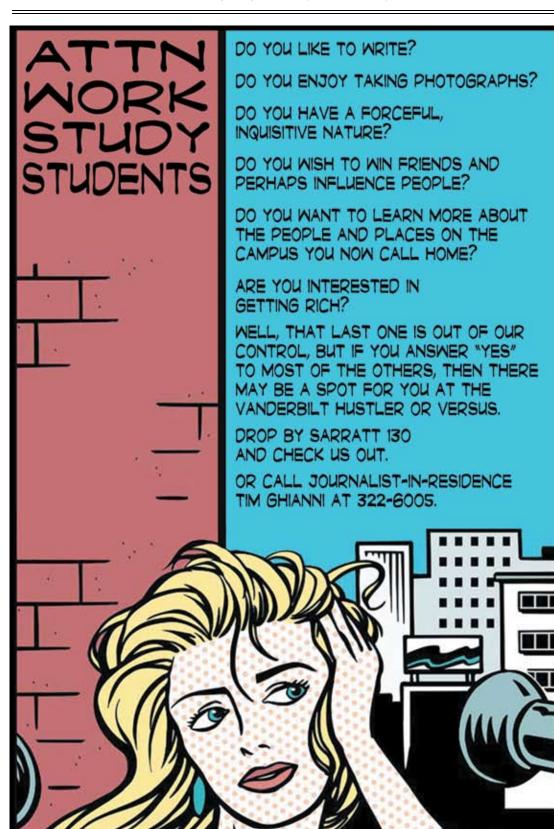
SNAPSHOT

SPORTS SIDESHOW



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderhilt Hustler

Halftime entertainment at the women's basketball game against the Lady Volunteers Sunday featured some unusual acts.



Student requests lead to Dining changes

by ETHEL MICKEY Senior Reporter

Students returning from winter break this year were welcomed by a host of changes, many of them studentinitiated, in the sometimes-unpopular Dining program.

"I know our program isn't perfect," said Director of Dining Camp Howard, who said he takes time at the end of each semester to evaluate what students like and do not like about Dining. "(Dining is) willing to listen to students, adaptable and can change (the) program very quickly."

New changes include the addition of Yogurt Oasis to the Taste of Nashville program, new themed nights at Rand and a greater variety of menus across campus. Howard worked with an advisory committee consisting of student representatives, Vanderbilt Student Government members and staff members to look over student suggestions and discuss potential changes.

This semester the hours of operation at Rand have changed, and while Rand will be open Monday through Friday for breakfast and lunch, it will only be open for dinner on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The themes for these nights will be Tortellini Tuesday and Thai Thursday, and both will include a full salad bar. During the rest of the week, Chef James Bistro will be open with new menu items like quesadillas made to order.

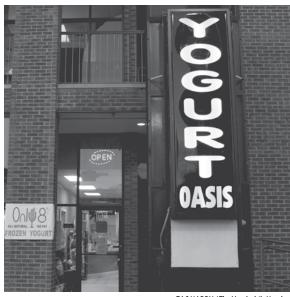
The Commons menu will also experience changes, including fresh sushi on Fridays, a new wok rotation and additional specialty items on the grill like fajitas.

The addition of Yogurt Oasis to the card was entirely initiated by students, according to Vanderbilt Student Government. Sophomore Lori Murphy, an Arts and Science senator on the Campus Services Committee, spearheaded the initiative.

"The benefit of having a place like Yogurt Oasis on the card is that it meets a student need without taking away from the Vanderbilt Dining program itself," said Murphy.

According to Murphy, Yogurt Oasis' addition will not adversely affect the popularity of on-campus options.

"Adding Yogurt Oasis certainly doesn't detract from the number of people eating at Rand or the Pub during dinner, for example, but rather



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler Yogurt Oasis is a new addition to the Taste of Nashville plan and is located across from Carmichael Towers dorms and next to Schlotzky's Deli.

simply makes those students happier has been largely positive, mainly by allowing them the option to wander across West End for a sweet treat on the card afterwards," Murphy said.

Howard said Dining approved of the Yogurt Oasis addition specifically for the reason that it "fit a niche" in the program without taking away from business on campus. Student reaction

because the store has been a popular off-campus student haunt since its opening last spring.

It seems Yogurt Oasis is about to experience a surge in business as more students will be encouraged to go there because of its card access.

"It is much more convenient. I never

RAND DINING CENTER **NEW HOURS OF OPERATION**

Monday-Friday:

7 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: Closed for dinner

Tuesday (Tortellini Tuesday and salad bar): 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday (Thai Thursday and salad bar): 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday brunch: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Source: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/dining/hoursofoperation

would go there because it was not on the card, but everyone talks about how

> first-year student Alex Swerz. Students can fill out online comment cards through the Dining Web site and send their suggestions, questions or comments via an e-mail listed on the

> good it is, so I am excited to try it," said

OASIS: Out-dated system makes registration difficult

From **OASIS**, page 1

While many students said they did not experience any problems with OASIS, those who did often had been bumped from courses they need to complete requirements for their major, minor or AXLE. This is especially problematic for seniors graduating in May.

"It took me forever to log on (to OASIS), so I couldn't see that I was bumped from a class that I'm minoring in," said senior Mariam Assidian, a neuroscience major and Spanish minor.

Bentley experienced a similar

"The class is now filled up with people like freshmen who

shouldn't even be there, and it's my last semester," she said.

Issues with OASIS have logistical ramifications, well. Since the Vanderbilt Class Information page, which provided students access to their class schedule and class rolls, has been discontinued starting this semester, several students did not know when or where their classes were being held.

Director of Enrollment Management Information Systems Lori Shipley said the main complaint students have reported to the Office of the University Registrar was that

be responsible for the more noticeable problems with the

is that many user sessions are "lingering" even after users have completed transactions, thus leaving the user logged in and preventing others from accessing the program.

"It's just a really archaic system," said first-year student Gheremy Edwards. "With technology the way it is, it really needs to be updated. I'm behind in my classes. I'm stuck with a class that's not for my major, that's not for AXLE, just for the sake of hours."

Updates are in the works, Shipley said.

Shipley said the OASIS replacement program should be

program during the past week completed in time for students to use it when registering for fall 2010 classes.

> "In the short term, our technology staff have been monitoring lingering user sessions and is continuing to look at technology solutions to address our current constraints," Shipley said. "We will also explore alternatives for students to view their schedule without utilizing OASIS."

> For now, however, students must make do with the current system.

> "I ask that students have patience," Shipley said. "We are aware of the frustrations experienced with OASIS and student's registration experience. We look for OASIS usage to decrease in the next week. We will continue to actively pursue ways to ease the problems for the remaining semesters where students will need to use OASIS. We are dedicated to replacing OASIS as soon as possible." ■

problem — she was bumped they were unable to access "We have both short-term from an advanced Spanish OASIS and therefore were and long-term plans to address course despite her seniority. unable to manage their classes. the issues with OASIS," she are committed to improving Because she has been unable said. "Our long-term plan is a the "OASIS is able to support a to log on to OASIS regularly, limited number of users," said full replacement of OASIS. We she had trouble placing herself Shipley, who went on to say have been actively planning a on the waitlist for the class new student system over the that OASIS usage is normally and then updating her status last several months. Replacing much greater during the first every 24 hours, as required OASIS is our top priority week of classes. by the Office of the University According to Shipley, one and work on the project has Registrar. possible glitch that could

Debate team takes first at tournament

by LILY CHEN

Senior Reporter

The Vanderbilt debate team scored a win at the James Madison University Debate Tournament, with Cameron Norris and sophomore Nick Brown taking first place in the varsity division of the competition held during winter break.

"I am really proud of them for their hard work," said Senior Lecturer of Communications and Director of Debate Mary Sandoz. "Having this win means that our debate team's standings in the national rankings will go up, and Nick and Cameron will have gained more recognition as well."

About 19 teams from various universities across the nation among competed. them Appalachian State, Liberty University, University of Mary Washington and James Madison University.

Norris and Brown, who worked as partners, spent hours over break going over the topic of subsidies in preparation for the tournament, according to

"We spend about 20 to 35

extra hours a week researching and looking at other teams' arguments. It's like taking an extra two or three classes," Norris said. "It was really rewarding to win since it's the first fairly big tournament Vanderbilt has won in a long time."

Norris said their goal is to make it to the prestigious National Debate Tournament this year, to which only the top 50 best teams are invited.

"Vanderbilt hasn't qualified since the '80s and this win is definitely a step for us towards reaching that goal," Norris said.

According to Sandoz, debate provides a unique experience for students.

"Students can compete with the best debaters from other universities and not only gain an educational experience, but also an opportunity for head-tohead competition," Sandoz said.

For Norris, the experience is enjoyable even though debate is demanding.

"The best thing is that you get to learn so much and get to know people from all over the country who are talented at debating," he said. "It's also a really intensive preparation for me for law school." ■

BID DAY: Recruitment ends, bids offered to many

From BID DAY, page 1

In comparison, 260 men received bids on Friday out of the about 425 men registered, according to Interfraternity Council Recruitment Chair Charlie Kirby.

After eagerly tearing open the envelopes containing their bids, new Panhellenic sorority members ran to meet the upperclassmen and receive shirts bearing the name of their sorority. They then boarded busses to off-campus locations to take part in activities such as bowling, laser tag and pizza

New Pi Beta Phi sorority member and first-year student Claudia Fisher had no idea where her bus was headed, but she was "very excited" about the outcome of the recruitment

"We both got what we wanted," said Fisher in regard to herself and a friend who also joined Pi Beta Phi sorority. "I can't wait to hang out with the other sisters," she said.

Not every potential member was as pleased with the results of Bid Day, however.

"Women withdrew throughout the process, so this was pretty standard," Torrey said about the number of bids in comparison to the number of registered students. "There were more women this year who did not maximize their options at preference parties. women did not receive bids

Potential new members must rank every house they attended on preference night in order to guarantee a bid.

today."

Changes to recruitment may be made next year.

"We intend to do an assessment of the upperclass sorority women to see how they feel the experience can be improved," Torrey said. "Every year we look to improve, as in the addition of a recruitment lounge in the Student Life Center. People really appreciated having a place to

Torrey and Kirby both agree on the importance of receiving feedback from people living in The Commons.

Kirby said he wants next Subsequently, a few more year's recruitment chair to continue adapting the recruitment process to The Commons.

> "We were a little worried about first year students no longer living in Branscomb,

Vandy/Barnard and Kissam, and thought distance between them would affect the numbers," Kirby said. "Next year we want to introduce (potential members) to their Greek Ambassadors sooner. Previously students would tour the frats and each fraternity would do a 15-minute spiel, but a lot of students didn't find this as informational."

Overall, though, "it's been a great year," Kirby said. "If a student comes in and wants to go Greek, then they can find a house where they really belong and brothers that they truly fit

Torrey echoed sentiment.

"We're very happy to be welcoming so many new members to community," she said. ■

VSG ELECTION: With no primary, campaigns now two weeks long

From **VSG ELECTION**, page 1

students get to know us better, but they will be able to ask us questions about policy too."

Anderson said he hopes the voter turnout will increase due to the longer general campaign.

"It generally ranges between

40 and 50 percent, depending on the candidates," he said. The election will take place from 8 a.m. January 28 to noon January 29. ■

-Sydney Wilmer contributed reporting to this article.

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OPINION

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The Hunderhilt Hustler EDITORIAL BOARD

News Editorial Board

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What's in a fan?



CAROLYN PIPPEN

I recently got into an argument with someone over the nature of a true sports fan.

This friend (we'll call him Johnny Cynico) was frustrated with the Kentucky basketball faithful for arguing obviously accurate calls that went against the home team. Enthusiasm is all well and good, he reasoned, but shouldn't we just sit down and shut up when the boys get called out for their mistakes?

As a matter of fact ... no. It is never the job of a sports fan to sit down and shut up. Ever.

I am not going to reveal where Johnny Cynico attends school (it would be very un-Irish Catholic of me), but he would fit in pretty well here at Vanderbilt. If you have been listening at all to the talk around Nashville this week, you are aware of the bizarre phenomenon going on within the world of Vanderbilt fandom: The most successful football team to have graced Dudley Field in 53 years is being met with an incredibly critical campus response.

7-6 is nothing to piss your pants about. It was only Music City. The PUNTER? Seriously?

These people are not fans, they are analysts,

These people are not fans, they are analysts, and while that is certainly a respectable career path, it is not the kind of attitude we need in the stands on a weekly basis.

and while that is certainly a respectable career path, it is not the kind of attitude we need in the stands on a weekly basis. If for no other reason than this school is not that big, we all go to the same post office and, regardless of your opinion of Chris Nixon's

quarterback capabilities, he could easily kick the crap out of you.

Not to worry, because you are about to get a second chance. Football season is over, and it is time to start paying attention to a real sport.

Our basketball team is now 11-4 and running head first into a wicked Southeastern Conference schedule. There will never be a better time to jump on the Commodore bandwagon, and luckily for all of us, it is stopping by campus in a big way this Wednesday. Our second annual and best ever Memorial Madness will start at 5 p.m., and there are only a few good reasons all of them involving head wounds and hostage situations — not to attend.

Before what should be a nasty fight between our Dores and the Georgia Bulldogs, Vandy Fanatics and Vanderbilt Student Government are busting out a truly unique pep rally event open only to the inhabitants of Vandy Land. Obviously there will be humiliating contests, free cars and odd-looking jerseys, but more importantly it will be an educational experience. To our newest members of the sorority scene, I should tell you your next immediate objective will be to snag yourself a suitable frat star, and being able to weave the names Buster Olney and Will the Thrill into everyday conversation would go a long way.

Most of all, this event will serve as a perfect demonstration of athletic support the way it should be. On Wednesday night — and every such game for the rest of the season — be a fan. Argue every call, regardless of how stupid you sound. Harass the other team like they stole your sister's lunch money. Show nothing but unconditional support for the 17 guys pouring their hearts out onto our freakishly shaped court. Be blatantly illogical, be unapologetically idealistic and be louder than you've ever been in your life, because Memorial Gymnasium is the only place in the world right now where it is OK to be all of those things. Be the kind of fan who gives meaning to the word "Madness."

-Carolyn Pippen is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached carolyn.m.pippen@vanderbilt.

Students will have to wait for OASIS to be updated

Shipley and her staff should focus on

system that allows for more people to

simultaneously access the site, remov-

ing opacity of the waitlist system and

helping seniors and others meet their

meeting student's more immediate

Online Editor

Most students discovered earlier this week that the usually faulty OASIS was operating at an all-new low — not at all. This was further complicated by a series of enrollment issues after OASIS came back online. This is simply unacceptable. All students should have access to the registration system and have the ability to simply add and drop courses. Lori Shipley, director of enrollment management

information systems, said there are both short-term and longterm solutions, with the long-term answer obviously being the full replacement of the old system. Unfortunately, overhaul scheduled for use in the fall of 2010 - in other words, of little practical use anytime soon. This means, as

students, we will have

to deal with OASIS for the time being.

Since this is in fact the case, Shipley and her staff should focus on meeting student's more immediate needs. This means providing a stronger system that allows for more people to simultaneously access the site, removing the opacity of the waitlist system and helping seniors and others meet their course needs (both major- and AXLE-wise).

Speaking of upperclassmen, several have discovered they are unable to get into classes that satisfy their major and minor requirements, despite their hypothetical seniority. While all students should be given a chance to attend the classes they prefer, a student approaching graduation has more pressing registration needs. There is no reason someone in their last semester

should be unable to schedule the classes they need to complete their academic requirements. This, however, does not mean needs. This means providing a stronger first-year students should automatically be bumped from their classes. There should be a happy medium if at all possible.

> In the end, there is unfortunately little we as students can do. As

Shipley advises, students should just wait. Access issues from too many simultaneous attempts to log in will diminish as we get further in the semester. As for waitlist problems, there is little to be done but to join the list and hope to get in the class. OASIS is neither the simplest nor most efficient, but it's the best there is for right now.

illusive statistic

MATTHEW POPKIN

Guest Columnist

Ever hear something that's strange but true? Like how there's no Nobel Prize for mathematics? Or forest fires move faster uphill than down? Or the one about the hedge fund that can produce 10 percent gains, no matter the market conditions?

OK, fine, scratch that last one. But check this out: Last year, the average Vanderbilt Greek GPA during spring semester was 3.391, .074 higher than the average all-undergraduate GPA of 3.317. Somehow during the height of pledging, which as we all know consists of nothing more than study hall and games of freeze tag on Alumni Lawn, the Greeks still beat the rest of us undergraduate students. This statistic has been used by the Office of Greek Life to assuage many of the worries parents have about fraternities, most notably the idea that they focus less on the brotherhood and more on the partying. Fear not, Bank of Dad! According to the 2006-2007 Greek Report, "We are very proud that the All-Greek GPA is consistently higher than the All-Undergraduate GPA. This is a testament to the caliber of students in the Greek community, as well as their commitment to maintain high academic standards."

I'm not Greek, and probably won't be until Phi Slamma Jamma becomes a recognized house on campus. Still, I cannot deny the Greek GPA is higher. But why is this? Simple. To join a fraternity or sorority, you must have at least a 2.3 GPA. Therefore, all of those with a GPA of 2.3 or below automatically become a part of the all-undergraduate demographic, likely causing the .074 difference seen above. This restriction skews the statistic in the same way that making all basketball players under 5-foot-6-inches play on the same team would influence the game's rebound margin.

The Office of Greek Life even has plans

to raise the GPA requirement 3.0, which will undoubtedly gap and with it, raise the selfesteem of about a thousand co-eds, forever killing my chances of snaring a southern belle. Numerous members of the Greek system,

both male and

The office of **Greek Life even** has plans to raise the GPA requirement to 3.0, which will undoubtedly increase the gap.

female, have cited to me the Greek's GPA superiority, not just as a way of defending the Greek system's dedication to academics, but also as a way of proving that those in the Greek system are smarter, more driven and generally more academically successful than those not in it.

Thus I throw down the gauntlet. Want to prove that those in the Greek system have more of a commitment to maintaining high academic standards than those of us who do not take part? Apply that same 2.3 cap to the all-undergraduate GPA data. Then the playing field will be even. Better yet, apply that 2.3 cap but also separate the Greek system from the rest of the student body and then compare. After all that, if the Greek GPA is still higher than what the rest of us non-Greek undergraduates achieve, then you've really proved something.

Until then, I will not concede that joining a fraternity makes you more academically committed or more driven, only that it makes you 100 percent more likely to take a history class about a musical genre.

Aren't statistics fun?

College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at matthew.d.popkin@vanderbilt.edu.

-Matthew Popkin is a sophomore in the

TIES VED DESCRIPTION Stand and be judged by

course needs. ""

THEV	ERDICI	Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff! Compiled by Thomas Shattuck
Sex		Now computer nerds can learn to flirt thanks to a new course being offered to IT engineers at Potsdam University. The students enrolled in the master's degree course will learn how to write flirtatious text messages, impress people at parties and cope with rejection.
Gran Turino		The 78-year-old Clint Eastwood not only made a good film (for a change), but a popular one as well. It's managed to gross over \$40 million to date, including about \$29 million its first weekend.
Theft		A Chilean man tried to steal \$80,000 from his 82-year-old grandmother by disguising his 21-year-old girlfriend as the elderly woman and having her withdraw money from the bank. The plot was foiled, however.
Theft		An Australian man broke into three adult shops, had sex with blow up dolls named "Jungle Jane" and then dumped his plastic conquests in a nearby alley.
Biking		Police in Nigeria have arrested scores of motorcycle taxi riders with dried fruit shells, paint pots or pieces of rubber tire tied to their heads with string to avoid a new law requiring them to wear helmets.
Violence		An Australian outback policeman was pelted with rocks and beer bottles and his stolen patrol car was used to try and run him down. I normally abhor violence, but that's just awesome.
Biotechnology		GTC Biotherapeutics Inc.'s experimental anti-clotting therapy, called Atryn, is made using a human protein gathered from female goats bred to produce it in their milk. While effective, it's still creepy.
America		The number of obese American adults outweighs the number of those who are merely overweight, according to the latest statistics from the federal government.
Toyota		Toyota recently announced it intended to launch a commercial model of the FT-EV, an allelectric car, by 2012. The company is trying to expedite its production of greener cars in an attempt to fight slumping sales figures.
Titans		After losing 13-10 to the Baltimore Ravens, the Titans are now out of the running, to the dismay of their fans.
Science		U.S. scientists have found a way to levitate very small objects using the strange forces of quantum mechanics, and said on Wednesday they might use it to help make tiny nanotechnology machines.
Weather		Cyprus runs the risk of desertification by the end of this century as it feels the brunt of climate change and drought. In the coming years, this might not be so uncommon. Of course, global warming might be a myth

Annoyed? **Need to rant?** Have an issue you'd like to voice your opinion on?

E-mail the Opinion Page at opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page 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 InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com. Letters via e-mail must come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. 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

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

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.

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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U.S. Sen. Bob Corker **United States Senate** Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3344 (615) 279-9488

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

Rep. Brenda Gilmore Tenn. District 54 P.O. Box 281934 Nashville, TN 37228

(615) 876-3665

Sen. Douglas Henry Jr. Tenn. District 21 11 Legislative Plaza Nashville, TN 37243-0021 (615) 741-2380

Councilmember Keith Durbin Metro District 18 1704 Sweetbriar Avenue Nashville, TN 37212

(615) 673-4210

Huntington's lessons increasingly relevant

To the editor:

America lost an intellectual titan this Christmas Eve when political scientist and foreign policy expert Samuel Huntington passed away at the age of 81. A professor at Harvard University, Huntington was probably best known for his 1996 book, "The Clash of Civilizations," in which he argued that future conflicts would be defined not by ideology, but by cultural

and religious differences between the world's various "civilizations."

The book was often contrasted with another work of the time, Francis Fukuyama's "The End of History." Whereas Huntington described the West as only one of many competing civilizations, Fukuyama (who has since changed his mind) argued Western ideals had triumphed

"The Clash of Civilizations" was widely criticized at the time

as a vast oversimplification of world affairs, but with radical Islamic terrorism, the rapid rise of China and a resurgent Russia, Huntington's ideas have gained considerably more cache, and many have come to regard his work as remarkably prescient.

The same, I believe, will one day be said of his less well-known but equally important book, "Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity," which warned that mass immigration

threatened to eventually turn the United States into a bifurcated, bilingual society unless efforts were made to bring immigration under control and to assimilate the immigrants already here.

Huntington was predictably attacked for expressing such fears, but recently, they have come from another quarter: the U.S. government. In December of last year, The Task Force on New Americans, appointed by President Bush in 2006, issued

a report warning that unless greater efforts are made to assimilate immigrants, America runs the risk of developing "marginalized or fragmented enclaves" that "can create social tension in the short term and may ultimately threaten to undermine the very fabric of values and principles that unite all Americans."

Of course, this is exactly what Huntington (and many others) had been arguing for years, and I'm glad to see the U.S.

government has finally begun catching up.

I never met Samuel Huntington, but I wish I had. He was clearly a man of great courage, willing to speak the truth as he saw it regardless of what others thought, and it is equally clear that he loved his country. Patriots everywhere ought to mourn his passing.

Chad Burchard Vanderbilt School of Law

Vanderbilt football might have a lesson for Obama



program.

NEILY TODD

Columnist

I am amazed how much national politicians can learn from Vanderbilt sports. Last semester, after the football team's win against Ole Miss, I wrote a column pointing out how the candidates for president, John McCain and Barack Obama, could learn a lesson from the restructuring of the athletic program at Vanderbilt in 2003. The lesson was in bad times, leaders who will make bold decisions are needed. For Vanderbilt, it was the bold decision to disband the athletic department and incorporate athletics into student life. For our country, in the hard economic times we face now, we need a leader who will make bold decisions as well. Obama promised change. Changing breaking away from the norm — is a bold decision, so perhaps Obama has already learned one lesson from Vanderbilt's sports

Now, in light of Vanderbilt's recent Music City Bowl victory against Boston College, there is another, equally important lesson Obama can learn from Vanderbilt sports — change takes time. I'd be willing to bet coach Bobby Johnson would agree. As was clear from a statement before the game, Johnson believed the opportunity to play in a bowl game was a reward long in the making.

"I'm excited, our staff is excited and our players are excited about getting a chance to experience a bowl game. Getting to play in the Gaylord Music City Bowl is a fantastic reward for this football team and Vanderbilt University," Johnson said.

The win that followed sweetened that reward significantly. Vanderbilt made significant changes to its athletics, but a bowl victory didn't instantaneously occur for the football team that same year, rather it came five years

later. Vanderbilt endured five long years of ridicule for its athletic overhaul. Vanderbilt football has waited since 1982 to have a winning season and since 1955 to win a bowl game. Once decisions are made, we must be patient for their outcome.

So how does this idea that change takes time relate to Obama? Obama won because the voters wanted change. There is no debating that point. Now we are rapidly approaching Obama's inauguration, and in less than two weeks he will be our president. I do not envy his position in the least. He is taking charge of a country in dire straits. He has ordered that a new economic stimulus plan be on his desk the morning after he takes office. He will move quickly, and he will make bold decisions.

Many people will disagree with his choices; some people always will. That is not the point because now he is our president, and it is in everyone's best interest that he succeed in his new role. He will make decisions hoping to instill the country with a hope that better times are ahead - more jobs, higher salaries, lower taxes — but first we must wait, just as Vanderbilt players, coaches and fans waited year in and year out to see the fruits of their labor. No big change from Obama's early decisions as president will happen overnight. It is my hope that, as president, he will have the courage and strength of purpose to stay the course and not falter when the results of his actions are not yet clear. In the months, and perhaps years to come, many people will still lose their jobs and homes. The end of the financial woes facing this nation is not in sight. A brighter day for America will come, but it takes time.

—Neily Todd is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached neily.p.todd@ vanderbilt.edu.

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A Counter-Narrative: ISLAM AND THE MAKING OF THE FIRST EUROPE

DAVID LEVERING LEWIS

Julius Silver University Professor of History, New York University



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009

Reception 5 p.m. • Lecture 6 p.m. • Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music

omparative historian David Levering Lewis is Julius Silver University Professor and Professor of History at New York University. He has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for both volumes of his biography of W.E.B. Du Bois. He is a specialist in twentieth-century social history, especially on the creation of modern Africa through forces of colonialism and resistance. His monograph God's Crucible: Islam and the Making of Europe, 570 to 1215, was published this spring by Norton.



This lecture begins at 6 p.m. and is preceded by a complimentary reception at 5 p.m. in Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music. Parking is available in South Garage (24th Ave S at Children's Way).

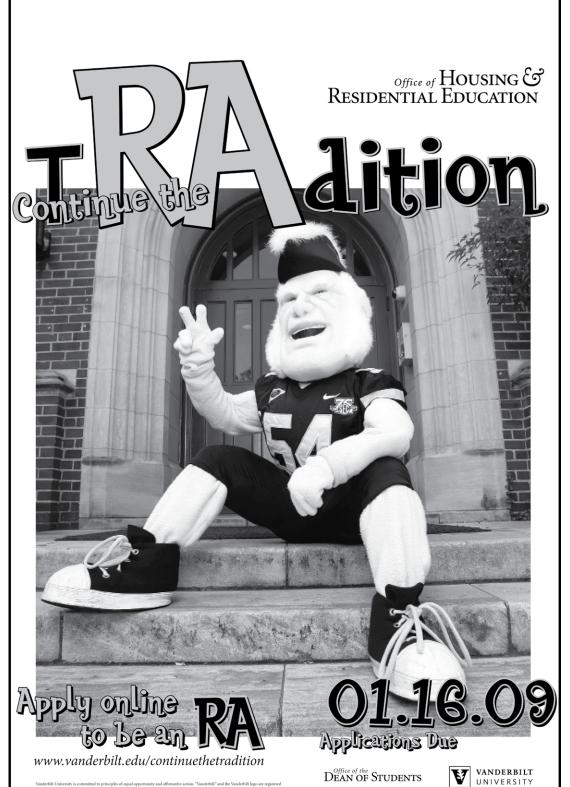
This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-seated basis.

For more information, please refer to www.vanderbilt.edu/ chancellor/cls, e-mail cls@vanderbilt.edu, or call 343-2574.



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SPORTS

'Attack' mentality pushes Vanderbilt past the Vols

by DAVID RUTZ

Sports Editor

Attack, attack, attack. That was No. 24 Vanderbilt's mentality facing No. 7 Tennessee, and the Commodores earned a convincing 74-58 victory as a

Before a rowdy crowd of 9,650, Vanderbilt (13-4, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) clicked on all cylinders with its approach of seizing the game.

"Our coaches have a mentality of 'attack," said junior guard Meredith Marsh, who finished with 11 points and four assists. "We attacked for 40 minutes this game and that's what was so key."

Although Vanderbilt's perimeter shots weren't falling early, the Commodores outscored the Volunteers 40-30 in the paint on a combination of winning the rebounding battle and getting excellent dribble penetration.

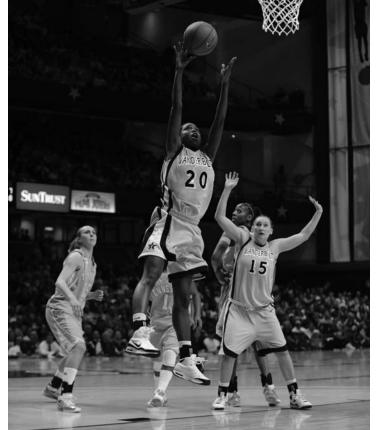
Senior guard Jen Risper, who

scored 12 points and had a team-high three steals, pointed out the team's approach against the more physical Tennessee team was to assume a shot would miss at all times, even with Vanderbilt's roster of sharpshooters.

"We knew that in order to win this game you have to outrebound your opponent," Risper said. "We're a pretty confident shooting team, but we need to have a mentality that it's going to miss, and with that mentality you're going to go after it and you're going to hustle. I think we had that mentality that it doesn't matter who's shooting the ball, we're going to go get that offensive rebound."

Vanderbilt grabbed offensive rebounds, a mark Marsh called "insane."

Coach Melanie Balcomb said her team is different from years past: There's not a reliance on the outside shot to always fall. The ability to work the ball inside with the pass and off the dribble



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Guard Jessica Mooney (20) drives to the basket for 2 of her game-high 15 points while forward Hannah Tuomi (15) looks on in No. 24 Vanderbilt's 74-58 victory over No. 7 Tennessee Sunday.

took pressure off the perimeter game; Vanderbilt only hit four 3-pointers but had countless

"We didn't have to make shots. We had to attack and we had to finish when we attacked." Balcomb said. "Our attacking was what we'd never been able to do to them, and that was because of our athleticism and our strength that we hadn't had before."

The Volunteers powerless to hold off the Commodore attack after the break. Vanderbilt pulled away in the second half, twice going up by as much as 21 points and frustrating Tennessee coach Pat Summitt.

"Their ability to take us off the dribble, we didn't have an answer," Summitt said. "They did a super job."

"Our first priority was to stop their drives, and obviously we didn't," said Tennessee forward Pat Fuller. "Vanderbilt just kept coming at us no matter what."

Just as intense was Vanderbilt's defense. The Commodores harassed the Volunteers into 23 turnovers and held Tennessee to 39 percent shooting from the

"We rushed at times," Summitt said. "You've got to give Vanderbilt credit. They forced us into a little bit of a panic mode at times and we just didn't have composure."

With the win, in addition to beating Tennessee for the first time in its last 17 tries, Vanderbilt moved to 2-0 in SEC play for the first time in four years. After a sluggish run through non-conference play, the Commodores played their best basketball of the season but haven't hit their limit.

"To get a win this big this early in our conference games, we're going to just keep building on it," Marsh said. "We're not peaking. We're going to take this, we're going to build on it, and we're going to keep playing harder every single game." ■

Different approach snaps 16game losing streak in series

by DAVID RUTZ Sports Editor

Coach Melanie Balcomb had approached games against archrival Tennessee the same way during her entire tenure with Vanderbilt and kept netting the same result: a loss.

So she changed her game up heading into this one. The practice squad her team works with wore Tennessee uniforms to fire her players up. She played Rocky Top in Vanderbilt's own gym. And she told them when they led at the halftime break what they were doing wrong rather than what they had being doing right.

And this time, the result was

Vanderbilt came away with a convincing 74-58 victory to snap a 16-game losing streak against the two-time defending national champion Volunteers. It was the team's first victory against legendary coach Pat Summitt and her squad since

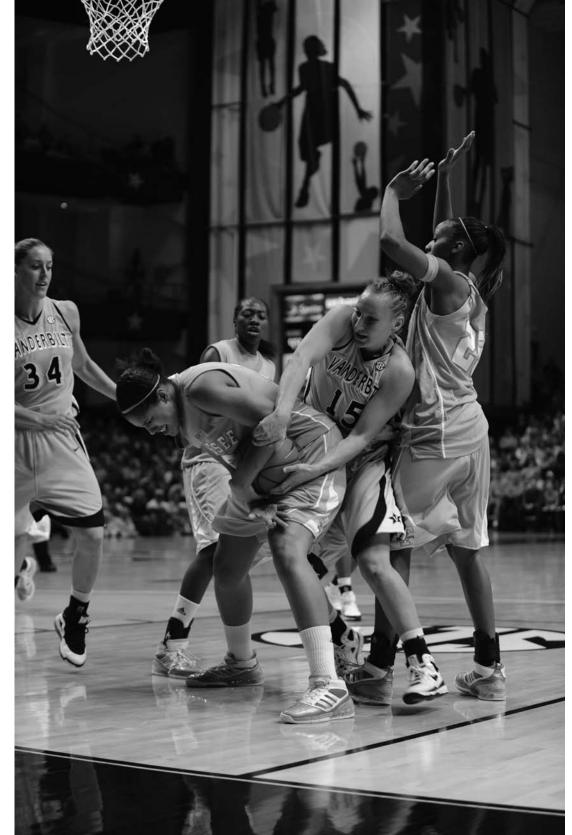
Feb. 2, 2002. "One of my favorite quotes to tell my players all the time is, 'If you keep doing what you do, you're going to keep getting what you get," Balcomb said. "And what I kept doing to beat Tennessee every year was act like it wasn't a big game. Not put more pressure on them, not make it a big deal. Act like it's just another game. And I talked to some people in the offseason that said, 'It is a big game."

She took the words to heart, and the unusual practices got the response she wanted from her players. The Commodores didn't come out firing on all cylinders shooting-wise but kept Tennessee off-balance all game. Once Vanderbilt took a 31-23 lead with a 12-0 run to close the first half, the players made sure to maintain their intensity.

The Vols closed to within 5 with 10 minutes to play, but Vanderbilt went on a punishing 16-4 run punctuated by a 7-point flurry by junior guard Meredith Marsh to take a 63-46 lead and send the black and gold crowd at Memorial Gym into a frenzy.

"At halftime, we said the game is not over," Marsh said. "It's like a whole other game. We out-hustled them, we played with heart, we played with passion. They did not have that second effort or third effort that we did."

Ending the losing streak was satisfying for the Commodores, but there's still more for the team favored to win the Southeastern



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustle Hannah Tuomi (15) battles a Tennessee player for the ball as Christina Wirth (34) looks on during Vanderbilt's victory Sunday. The Commodores out-rebounded the bigger Tennessee team and forced them into 23 turnovers as they knocked off the Volunteers for the first time in 17 tries.

Conference Championship to accomplish than knocking off the rivals.

"We know what we're capable of," said senior forward Christina Wirth, who scored all 10 of her points in the second half. "This isn't the best we can play. We're going to keep trying to raise the bar."

Vanderbilt's effort made an impression on Summitt, who remained five wins shy of reaching 1,000 for her legendary career after the loss.

"This was probably the most aggressive basketball team we've played here at Vandy, and I give Melanie a lot of credit," Summitt

said. "They were tougher than

us in every aspect of the game. I thought Vanderbilt was the better team from the tip-off to

That was high praise indeed from the all-time leader in victories in NCAA history who has Tennessee's home basketball court named after her. On the other hand, Summitt's assessment her own team's effort was considerably less kind.

"They got whipped by a better team," she said of her Volunteers. "As far as our game today it was a matter of guard play. We didn't defend from the guard position and we didn't score well. I'm just disappointed that we didn't compete harder. But take nothing away from Vanderbilt."

As for Balcomb, while winning for the first time in 15 tries over Tennessee while with the Commodores was a relief (she beat them once while coacing at Xavier), she didn't view the win as personally vindicating, choosing instead to focus on the impact of the victory on the whole program.

"I don't ever look at it in terms of me," Balcomb said. "I look at it in terms of Vanderbilt and coaching here. I felt like it was a good win for the program and for the kids, and the kids that I've coached that didn't beat them. We finally did it." ■

Commodores unable to tame Wildcats in conference opener

by GEOFF HUTCHINSON

Sports Reporter

The start to the Southeastern Conference season was not kind to the Commodores. as they lost their opener to the Kentucky Wildcats 70-60 Saturday afternoon at Rupp

Kentucky used a strong run in the second half to take a huge lead and held off a Commodore comeback to improve to 20-2 in its last 22 conference openers.

Vanderbilt (11-4, 0-1 SEC), who coming into the game had the distinction of being the best defensive team in the SEC, found itself unable to contain the Wildcat attack in the second half. The game took a turn for the worse for the Commodores, as the Wildcats began to stifle the Commodore offense. The Wildcats started the second half on a 21-4 run, during which the game began to get out of hand for the visitors.

Unfortunately for Vanderbilt, it had to do this without the presence of all-SEC performer sophomore center A.J. Ogilvy, who bruised his heel during a team practice on Friday.

"We hoped it would get better in time for the game," said coach Kevin Stallings of Ogilvy's injury. "As a result, we

didn't score very many points inside."

During the second half, it became more apparent the Commodores missed the inside presence of Ogilvy, as the offense became tentative and all the ball movement the team had during the first half became non-existent. The lead ballooned all the way to 20 points for the Wildcats in the second half, at which point the Commodores were able to start their valiant

Kentucky took a 62-43 lead before Vanderbilt stormed back within six with 90 seconds to play on a 15-2 run brought about by junior guard Jermaine Beal and freshman forward Jeff Taylor. The Wildcats buckled down from there, sinking all their free throws to stifle any hopes of a comeback.

"I guess time just runs out on us," Beal said. "We had some bright spots to look at so I guess we can just look at the positive things and go from there."

"I was proud of the fight we had in us and I thought we played as hard as I could have hoped for," Stallings said. "It is a tough task to come into Rupp Arena against a very, very good Kentucky basketball team."

The loss of Ogilvy did not Please see **HUTCHINSON**, page 7



Vanderbilt guard Jermaine Beal (0) goes up for a shot as Kentucky's Patrick Patterson (54) defends during Kentucky's 70-60 win Saturday. Beal led the Commodores with 18 points.

HUTCHINSON: Furious comeback falls just short

From **HUTCHINSON**, page 6

seem to hurt the Commodores in the beginning, as the team started the game with a 16-8 lead, while connecting on their first four shots from long range in the game. Kentucky played most of the first half without All-SEC big man Patrick Patterson, who found himself

Kentucky used a 12-2 run, however, to take a 3127 halftime lead it wouldn't

Jodie Meeks, the SEC leading scorer, led the Wildcats with 21 points and seven rebounds, and forward Ramon Harris contributed 12 points and seven rebounds in the winning effort for the Wildcats.

Beal led the Commodores in foul trouble very early in the in scoring with 18 points and Taylor added 15 points and 11 rebounds in the loss for the Commodores, who fell to 5-12

in their last 17 road conference

"We never gave up," Taylor said. "We kept on fighting to the end. They just executed better overall."

Commodores had come into the game with six straight victories before the loss to Kentucky, and will try to start a new streak beginning on Wednesday with their conference home opener against the Georgia Bulldogs. ■

Are you ready for some **Memorial Madness?**

by GEOFF HUTCHINSON

Sports Reporter

You've never experienced madness until you've experienced Memorial Madness.

This Wednesday marks the Southeastern Conference home opener for the Vanderbilt men's basketball team. It also marks the second annual Memorial Madness pep rally sponsored by Vandy Fanatics and the Vanderbilt Student Government. The event will begin at 5 p.m. Wednesday afternoon before the start of the game in Memorial Gym between the Commodores and the 2008 SEC tournament champion Georgia Bulldogs. Commodore basketball great Will Perdue and ESPN columnist and Vanderbilt graduate Buster Olney will host this year's event.

Many schools have events similar to this to start their Commodores have put a unique twist on the concept. Instead, Vandy Fanatics and

EVENT DETAILS

- —The Madness will begin at 5 p.m. Wednesday evening. —There will be 500 retro A.J. Ogilvy jerseys given out. —A student will have a chance to shoot from half-court during
- Jeep Wrangler. —The student dressed in the craziest costume will win free

halftime to win a brand-new

textbooks. —There will be T-shirts, gift certificates and other great gifts given out during the event.

VSG have teamed up to create this extravaganza to help kick off the SEC season before the

basketball seasons, but the first conference home game for the Commodores. During the inaugural event last season, students and fans came out in great numbers to support the Commodores, as the student section was filled to capacity two hours before the start of the game. Vanderbilt knocked off South Carolina 80-73 in that one to extend its perfect start to 16

> "We chose to have the event to celebrate the opening of SEC season and use it to really highlight the basketball team by placing it directly before a game," said Vandy Fanatics president and senior Kate Corvese.

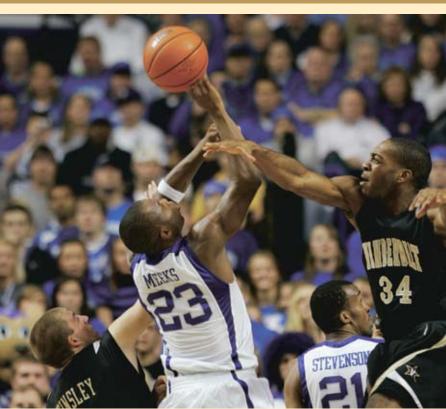
Vanderbilt has enjoyed a great deal of success at home the last two years in SEC play. The Commodores have gone an astounding 15-1 in that time, including victories over then-No. 1 squads Florida in 2007 and Tennessee in 2008. ■



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler The student section cheers during Vanderbilt's SEC home opener last season following the school's first Memorial Madness event. The inaugural pep rally preceded an 80-73 victory over South Carolina, as the Commodores went on to an unbeaten mark in home SEC play in 2008.

VANDERBILT BASKETBALL





VANDERBILT VS. GEORGIA

Where: Memorial Gym When: Wednesday, 7 p.m.

The Commodores (11-4, 0-1 Southeastern Conference) open SEC home play against Georgia, whom they swept last year. In their last meeting, Vanderbilt used strong shooting in the second half to defeat the Bulldogs (9-7, 0-1 SEC) 86-74. Georgia lost its conference opener Saturday to Tennessee, 86-77.

Photographers



Please join the student media Photo Staff for an informational meeting this Thursday to learn how you can:

- Improve your photo skills
- Get access to special events
- Learn with fellow photographers
- Rediscover Vanderbilt

Photo Staff Informational Meeting 4:30 p.m. this Tuesday, Jan. 13 Sarratt 130

Open to all interested students Questions? Please email the Photo Director at chris.phare@vanderbilt.edu

MEMORIAL MADNESS



Memorial Gymnasium Doors Open 4:15pm

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Tuesday, February 13th at 7 PM Calhoun 103

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