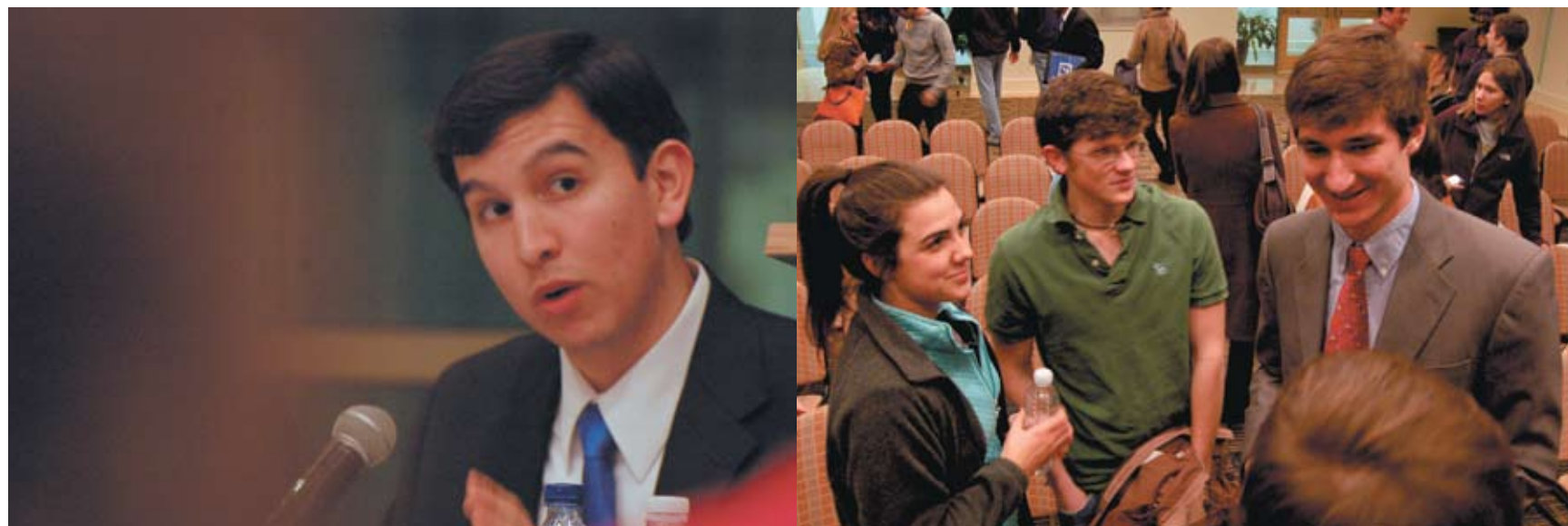




OPINION: Miller thinks America has to stop hating on new Secretary of State Hillary Clinton . SEE PAGE 4

SPORTS: Friday Conversation is with Vanderbilt freshman distance runner Jordan White. SEE PAGE 5

'Friendly' VSG race heats up



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

At the second annual VSG presidential debate Wednesday, candidates Fabiani Duarte and Wyatt Smith answered Opinion Editor Thomas Shattuck's questions in front of a full house in the Student Life Center Board of Trust Room.

by HANNAH TWILLMAN
News Editor

Juniors Fabiani Duarte and Wyatt Smith have been engaging in what Duarte describes as a "friendly rivalry" for years. Both natives of Alabama, the two first worked together the summer before their senior year at Boys' State, a mock government program for high schoolers.

The rivalry continued Wednesday night in the filled Board of Trust Room at the second annual Vanderbilt Student Government presidential debate, sponsored by The Vanderbilt Hustler. Duarte and Smith, now candidates for VSG president, and their running mates discussed their platforms for the current election, answering questions



To listen the debate podcast, go to www.INSIDEVANDY.COM.

posed by both moderator and Hustler Opinion Editor Thomas Shattuck and members of the audience.

Smith, who currently serves as VSG executive vice president, said he and his running mate, sophomore Lori Murphy, are running on a platform of "real action, proven results."

"We're doing things that you can count on us delivering what we say we're going to do," said Smith.

He emphasized the combined success of his

and Murphy's tenure on VSG, including such accomplishments as expanding the Taste of Nashville program, planning the Kissam Quadrangle renovations and helping to create the Global Summer Fellows program. He also stressed his commitment to empowering students and focusing on the feasibility of achieving results.

"We've built the relationships, we've had the accomplishments and we've developed the capital necessary to push through the projects we want to see implemented," Smith said. "... We've been very outcome-oriented for students in our time in student government, and we will continue doing that if elected."

Duarte, on the other hand, discussed a platform

centered on the idea of "One Vanderbilt."

"We need to have equity in quality of life on both sides of 21st Avenue," said Duarte. "... We need one VSG that is involved and invested in things our students are care about and are passionate about."

To do this, Duarte and his running mate, sophomore Deno Saclarides, stressed that they want to foster a sense of community and involvement on campus, a commitment to which both have dedicated themselves to while at Vanderbilt, according to him.

"VSG needs to be active in what organizations do," Duarte said. "... If we're really going to be part of our students' lives, ... if we're going to lead our university, we need to be actively participating with

our groups."

Duarte also said his platform focused on long-term goals as well as tangible short-term plans.

"We need to be action-oriented students," he said. "Yeah, we need to have things done in the short-term in one year, but we also need to plan for the future."

While the candidates agreed on several common issues that need to be addressed — especially improvements to OASIS, the need for 100 percent wireless coverage on campus and potential expansions to the Taste of Nashville program — they differed in their plans on how to implement the changes needed.

For complete coverage of the candidates' platforms and the debate, visit InsideVandy.com. ■

Vanderbilt admissions affected by recession

ECONOMIC STRUGGLES



Turn to the Hustler Fridays for more of this series on how economic conditions are affecting Vanderbilt students now and in the future.

by EVE ATTERMANN
Managing Editor

He isn't in Vegas, but Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen knows a thing or two about gambling in a recession.

"Welcome to my daily worry," said Christiansen, referring to his need to predict the yearly "yield" or exactly how many members of an admitted freshman class will actually choose to attend Vanderbilt. The prediction of the yield may affect the number of students the office ultimately chooses to admit.

Christiansen, who is also the associate provost for enrollment management, said the recession will ultimately affect that number. This has indirectly changed the school's early decision admit rates and the use of the wait list, as well as the way the school is marketing itself to prospective students.

"The yield will be a little more volatile this year, and as we have a finite number of beds, we can't go over, and we can't go under without having a financial situation," Christiansen said.

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, admissions counselors in American universities speculate that this year's yield will prove at least as difficult to predict as last year's, described as "the most nerve-racking in memory." According to their research, this change in yield would be the result of students applying to more colleges than usual in order to more effectively compare financial aid packages, as well as increasing the popularity of state institutions.

Christiansen said last year his office "purposefully shot lower" in the amount of students they let in and they let more students in off their waitlists than usual, which directly affected last year's yield.

The Office of Admissions also admitted 100 more students during early decision this year, a form of admissions that is binding to admitted students and, unlike general decision, does not allow them to shop around for aid packages.

Please see **ADMISSIONS**, page 3



CHRISTIANSEN

Students make their voices heard in English-Only election

by KELLY JONES
Senior Reporter

Vanderbilt students registered to vote in Davidson County got the opportunity to exercise their right to vote in the rejected English-Only proposal Thursday.

Several student organizations arranged for free shuttles to take students to and from Eakin Elementary School to vote on the referendum. The shuttles ran from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and picked students up in front of Branscomb Quadrangle and The Commons Center.

The student groups involved included Leaders Engaged for an Active Democracy and Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence.

The proposal calls for English to be the official language of Davidson County's Metro government. Under the

amendment, all government publications, meetings and communications would be conducted in English with the exceptions of safety and health concerns. A similar attempt on the issue was presented in November but was unsuccessful because of a language conflict within the charter.

Among students who planned to take part in the election, all interviewed said they would vote against the proposal.

"I voted against the amendment because I don't believe that anybody deserves that kind of discrimination for their heritage," said sophomore Ashley Drinnon. "More than anything, the Hispanics of Nashville would know that the Nashville community had chosen to exclude them which would make them feel like outsiders."

"If passed, the English-Only proposal would be detrimental to the vibrant Nashville community," said sophomore Cristina Francois. "It just seems so close-minded that such a city would consider enacting this amendment."

Sophomore Josh Rogan said the legislation would negatively impact the Nashville community.

"I think English-Only legislation is a form of xenophobia. Nashville and Vanderbilt represent me. I don't want to be represented by a xenophobic city," said Rogan, who is a member of Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence, one of the campus groups that organized the shuttle system.

It was announced Thursday night that the initiative was rejected. ■

—Samantha Smith contributed reporting to this article.



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence member sophomore Callie Jones calls students to remind them to vote on the English-Only referendum Thursday afternoon.

NEWS INSIDE: Obama inauguration provokes range of emotions at Bishop Johnson BCC viewing party. SEE PAGE 3

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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by NORAH SCANLAN

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TODAY



HIGH **60**, LOW **35**
Rain showers

SATURDAY



HIGH **38**, LOW **27**
Partly cloudy

SUNDAY



HIGH **40**, LOW **30**
Partly cloudy

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SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

FRIDAY SPICE

Nebraska lottery draws same numbers 2 nights in a row, 1 in a million odds

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—The odds are against something this odd.

A Nebraska Lottery official says the winning numbers for the state's Pick 3 lottery on Tuesday were exactly the same as the winning combination from the night before.

Lottery spokesman Brian Rockey says one of two lottery computers that randomly generate combinations picked the numbers 1, 9 and 6 — in that order — for Monday night's drawing. He says the other computer picked the same three numbers Tuesday in the same sequence.

The odds of such an occurrence? One in a million.

Rockey says one person won the game's top prize of \$600 Monday but didn't win again the next night. Three other people won Tuesday's prize.

N.C. campus police arrest 1 during crazed snowball fight in melee

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Authorities at a North Carolina college say a huge snowball fight got out of control, forcing campus police to use pepper spray on some students to contain the rowdy crowd.

Police were called to a dormitory at East Carolina University three times Tuesday as hundreds of students pelted each other with snow, The Daily Reflector of Greenville reported. The college is in a part of the state which doesn't get snow often, but a rare storm dropped several inches on campus that day.

Police said some students were getting too aggressive and an officer used pepper spray on a group that rushed officers trying to make an arrest.

Junior Brandon Davis said "it all started in good nature, but then people were throwing them as hard as they could at each other." Junior Matt Lunchick said an officer chased and arrested a student after being hit in the back with a snowball.

Pa. man considered bank error 'a gift from God' despite felony charges

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man says he considered it divine providence when a bank error put more than \$175,000 in his and his wife's account.

Fifty-year-old Randy Pratt and 36-year-old Melissa Pratt face trial in Columbia County Court on felony theft and conspiracy charges. They waived a preliminary hearing Wednesday.

The trouble started when a \$1,772.50 deposit to the Pratts' FNB Bank account showed up as \$177,250 last summer. Police say that instead of telling the bank, they withdrew the money, quit their jobs and moved to Florida.

Randy Pratt tells the Bloomsburg Press Enterprise he did attempt to ask the bank what happened, but was ignored. He said he considered the money "a gift from God."

He says the couple gave away thousands of dollars, including \$25,000 to a Florida church shelter for the homeless.

Randy Pratt is in county prison. A judge denied a request to lower his \$100,000 bail. Melissa Pratt, who told the court she is estranged from her husband, is free on unsecured bail.

N.C. man turns \$5 into \$35,000 for the Bush library domain name this week

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Web developer George Huger says he turned \$5 into \$35,000 when he bought the expired Internet domain name for former President George W. Bush's presidential library and then sold it back.

The News & Observer of Raleigh reports Tuesday that Huger was searching through a list of expiring domain names two years ago when he noticed the Web address www.GeorgeWBushLibrary.com was about to expire.

He bought the rights for \$5, then sat on them for two years.

Huger says he recently sold them for \$35,000 to Florida-based Yuma Solutions, which the Bush Library Foundation says is in charge of Web site care. Company owner Mark Mills didn't return the newspaper's calls.

Rights to the new president's address, BarackObamaLibrary.com, are already taken.

Spokane police dog corners teenaged murder suspect on eve of retirement

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Var the police dog has added one more brave arrest to his record — his last one.

Spokane police officers say the dog was on his last night of patrol before retirement when he cornered a teenager sought for investigation of murder.

A tip led officers to surround a house Sunday night, and in the ensuing search Officer Dan Lesser and Var found the 19-year-old suspect hiding in the basement.

Three other teens were being sought in connection with the stabbing death of 22-year-old Shannon Cochran.

It was Var's last night on duty after 8 years in service. The dog retired Monday because of medical problems and his replacement, a German Shepherd from Germany named Cisco, was flown in the same day.

Gallery at Northwest Kan. Bank devoted to presidential losers grows

NORTON, Kan. (AP)—Barack Obama has the presidency. John McCain has a framed photograph next to one of John Kerry at a rural northwest Kansas bank.

First State Bank's "They Also Ran" gallery, a tribute to losing presidential candidates, added the Republican candidate's image Tuesday to a row of black-and-white drawings and photographs that starts with Thomas Jefferson, who lost to John Adams in 1796.

Curator Lee Ann Shearer — who is also the bookkeeper at the Norton bank — said about 30 people showed up, sipping punch and sampling cookies she helped bake. A few stuck around to watch Obama become the nation's 44th president on a TV set up in the gallery.

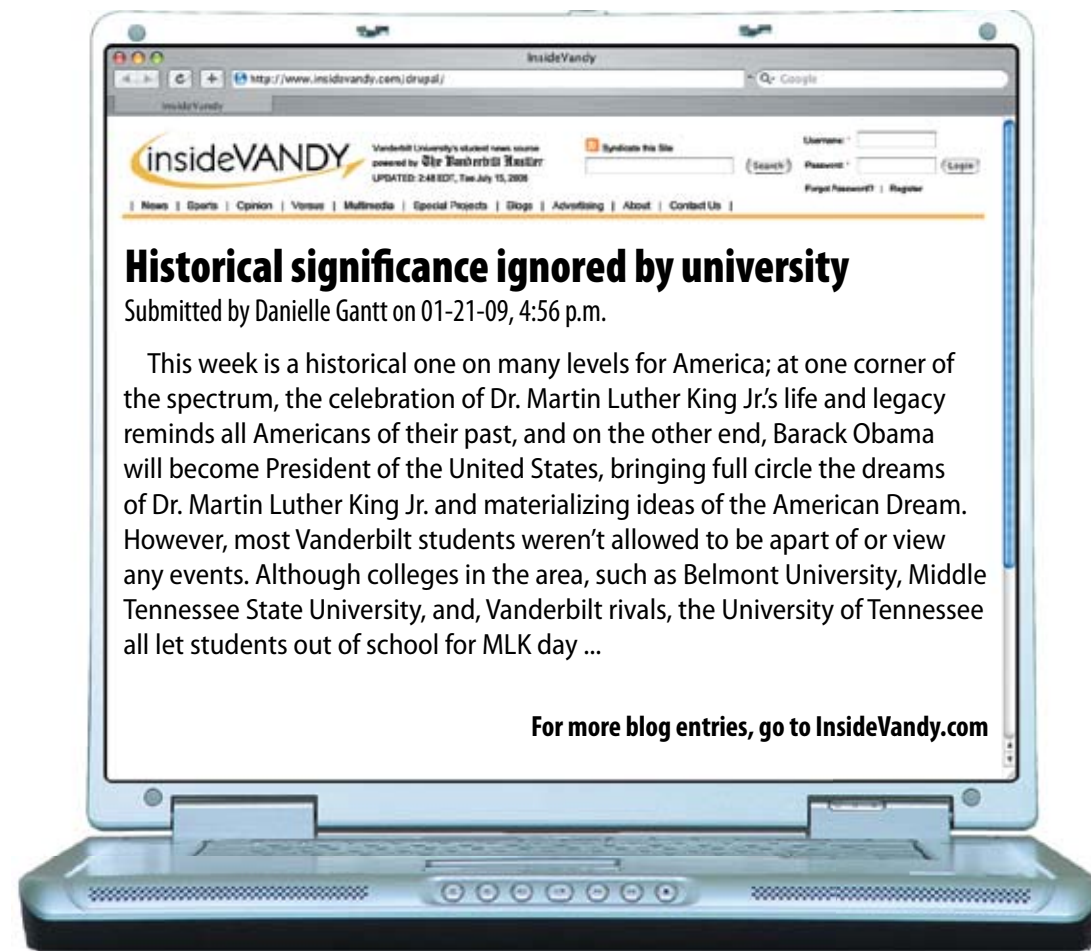
"I got goose bumps. I'm kind of sentimental about my country. It's history in the making," Shearer said.

The gallery now has 59 not-quite-presidential images, although 14 of the honorees did hold the office at some point.

A third-party candidate has not been enshrined since John Anderson in 1980 because of space constraints, which are now at their limit. With the addition of McCain, all the gallery's three walls are filled.

"We got four years to think about it, but the bank likes it here," Shearer said.

FROM THE BLOG



SNAPSHOT

DANCE IT OUT



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Vanderbilt Danceline competed on Jan. 17 in the UDA Varsity College National Cheerleading and Dance Team Championships at Walt Disney World's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Fla. The team competed against 29 other teams in the Division IA dance semifinals.

PHOTO of the WEEK

The photographers who cover campus for student media are working hard to capture images of life at Vanderbilt.

This image was selected as the Photo of the Week. Check here next Friday to see another standout student photo.



Harry Lopez, Jeremy Edwards, Cameron Greene and Nate Napier enjoy Casino Night in the Student Life Center.



ZAC HARDY used a fish-eye lens to capture this image at Casino Night. To illuminate the dark room with soft light, he bounced his flash off the ceiling above the people at the slot machine.

Student photographers interested in joining the staff are invited to the next meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 27, in Sarratt 130.

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Obama inauguration reactions were anxious, joyful at BCC viewing

by SYDNEY WILMER
Editor-in-Chief

Anxiety tempered with joy marked the mood Tuesday morning at the Vanderbilt Black Cultural Center's Inauguration Ceremony viewing party. As students and faculty of different backgrounds applauded the 44th president, standing for his oath and for the national anthem, an acute sense of patriotism and pride was palpable.

And in the discussion that followed, one complicated sentiment made its way repeatedly into the dialogue — it's over, we did it, but the struggle has only begun.

"I just wanted to get through today," said junior Ashley Oliver. "I woke up this morning thinking he could still be taken away from us. Now that it's over, I'm relieved, but he has a lot to prove."

Throughout the discussion, moderated by Black Student Association officers Courtney Williams and Stephanie Harris, similar concerns emerged. From racial equality to economic freedom, the stakes are high, students said.

"I'm excited but slightly nervous today," said senior Breone Airall. "Now that the election is over, there will be incredible pressure on President Barack Obama to fix so many problems. As the first black president, people will be incredibly critical."

Senior Angelica Jberzim agreed. "Today was just a moment — we have to remember that Obama isn't going to have an 80 percent approval rating forever."

But other students were more hopeful than nervous.

"I'm excited and I know great changes will come," Williams said.

For other students, though, the

significance of the day's events was more about the past than the future.

"On a personal level, because I am an African-American and someone coming from Chicago, there is a lot of pride," said first-year student Ekua Davis. "It is historic, unbelievable. It also says to me that for African-Americans, there are no more excuses."

"Two years ago, I would not have believed this was possible," she said.

At least three participants commented on the unusual level of pride they felt in their country. Many noted they had not felt a sense of patriotism for years.

"Today was the first time I've felt like I could believe in the Pledge of Allegiance," said senior Hamida Labi. "It's a day of solemnity but also a day to celebrate. There is just a lot of pride in my heart today."

"There is a poem by Langston

Hughes, a poet that has come up a great deal in this election, that says a little black child couldn't be president," said Dr. Frank E. Dobson, Jr., director of the BCC. "No little black child will ever be able to say that poem again. This is a historic day."

Making the mood even more poignant was the knowledge that Vanderbilt had come a long way since it's past of discrimination and segregation, too. This spring, Vanderbilt will celebrate 52 years of desegregation.

"I feel a connection to Obama, as do a lot of students here, I think, because just like Obama, we have beaten the odds in way," Williams said. "We are at Vanderbilt when in the past society would have told us we couldn't have made it."

"We must absolutely track his presidency; we want to be an outlet for our members and for the campus," Williams said. ■



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students gathered at a reception at the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center on Tuesday to watch the Obama inauguration as a community.

ADMISSIONS: Early decision, wait list admit more students

From ADMISSIONS, page 1

While Christiansen said letting in more students during early decision allows the school to more accurately predict how much aid they will be giving, he said the recession was not the dominant factor.

According to the Office of Admissions, the average SAT median range of the early decision class has gone up from 1365 last year to 1400 this year. Additionally, while 78 percent

of last year's class was in the top 10 percent of their high school, this year that number has risen to 85.6 percent.

Early decision rounds, which impact a school's overall yield, will select around 40 percent of next year's class, a slightly higher than average rate.

Perhaps the biggest change in this year's admissions process at Vanderbilt has been the launch of an enhanced financial aid program, which promises

debt-free need-based aid for students throughout their four years. Christiansen said although the yield is unknown to his office until the end of the admissions process, the school was prepared to meet its pledge for debt-free aid.

"We are talking with economists, looking at profiles of our students so if students require more aid, we're looking at our how our budgets will support it," he said. ■

Flu season begins with delayed bang

by ALLIE MORRIS
Senior Reporter

Despite the late start to this year's flu season, the flu has hit Vanderbilt with force. Louise Hanson, director of Student Health, reported that over the past week the Student Health Center has had more than 20 confirmed cases of influenza in addition to 10 to 20 other suspected cases.

"We (saw) another 10 to 15 cases on Tuesday. Each day we're seeing more and more cases. Monday was the busiest day we've had in our clinic for several years," said Hanson. "Influenza is just starting to hit the Vanderbilt community and will probably get worse before it gets better."

Hanson said the health center continues to encourage students to get vaccinated and reported that the health center gave 100 flu shots on Monday alone.

"We're about out of our

original 3,000 flu shot supply and are ordering more," she said.

One problem, Hansen said, is that "there is more resistance to the flu medications that are used."

The majority of the flu patients who were treated by the Student Health Center had not been vaccinated.

Sophomore Avery Spofford was one of the minority of immunized students who contracted the flu, despite the fact that she received the vaccination in November.

"I started to have symptoms on Sunday and Monday morning. I went to the health center, where I was diagnosed with the flu," said Spofford. "I have not been able to go to classes so far this week... I can't really do anything that involves physical activity, (and) I have spent the last two days lying in bed."

Common flu symptoms include intense muscle aches,

sore throat, fever and a painful dry cough.

"This is the type of illness that typically puts students in the bed and unable to attend class for several days," Hanson said. The Student Health Center gives verification cards to infected students in order excuse their class absences.

"The Dean's office sent out a notice to all of my professors on Sunday letting them know about my illness, and they all seem to be very flexible and sympathetic," Spofford said.

"I couldn't go to class, but all of my teachers were very helpful and understanding," said sophomore Kathryn Sargent, who was diagnosed with the flu early this week.

The original cases of influenza began the week of sorority recruitment.

"These types of infections typically spread when groups of people gather together, as they do in recruitment," Hanson said. ■



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Seniors, the countdown has begun

January 28 marks the beginning of the 100-day countdown to graduation. Before you know it, your diploma will be in hand and you'll be on your way.

Before you leave, please consider the impact that Vanderbilt has had on your life by supporting the Senior Class Fund. It's your opportunity to show just how much the Class of 2009 appreciates the education, the friends and the memories Vanderbilt gave you.

To find out more or to give online, visit www.vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund. And be on the lookout for information on upcoming special events. After all, senior year is definitely a time to celebrate.

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OPINION

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Respect America's coldest secretary



KATHERINE MILLER
Columnist

America's special, special lady is Madame Secretary of State, and nobody cares.

Unless Hillary Clinton, our national velveteen rabbit, turns out to be Caroline Kennedy's nanny, her bitter triumph will go unnoticed. In fact, everyone keeps foolishly hating on her.

Jill Biden turned Hillary into the safety school prom date on Oprah, informing all that Vice President Biden could either be vice president or secretary of state. Jimmy Carter blew right past her the other day without so much as a frat nod, though this hardly qualifies as a loss.

Right now, of course, Hillary sips scotch, calmly playing solitaire and listening to "I Hate This Part," contemplating some Machiavellian means to utterly destroy both Bidens, Carter and Oprah, and wondering why nobody cares she's actually important.

Seriously, why doesn't anyone care that Hillary finally made it?

Hillary is a national treasure. Over the past year she proved her value through a complex series of maneuvers including but not limited to: besting America's scourge (Bill O'Reilly), refusing to succumb to electoral math, doing shots, fake crying in a diner, never apologizing for her Iraq vote and demonstrating top-notch good humor about those Facebook photos with Obama's speechwriter.

No one ever denied Hillary her intellect or strategic genius, but her flaws, her scrappiness — they humanized Hillary Clinton. She wove herself into the American canon this year, and still, watching President Obama deliver his inaugural address, Hillary lost for a reason. For all her guns and steel, she lacks Obama's grace and natural authority.

Long ago, I fondly posited that Hillary would be wise to alter her campaign slogan to "You know where you stand with this bitch." And you do. Her foreign policy, likely mired in the shadows behind Obama's, will offer hawkish centrism toward the Middle East with harsh economic sanctions on Iran, probably some tragic cosmetic changes to NAFTA and a restoration of the vaguely pointless Clinton-era United Nations investment.

This is why America needs Hillary, but will never appreciate her: We know what to expect from her.

Think of the joys we will encounter as Americans with Hillary representing our interests abroad: traditional dress and cultural dancing, ludicrous scarves and hats during visits to the Middle East, awkward dinners with totalitarian dictators who fear her.

And besides, if anything, she's got one last grudge to settle. The king of the broken toy soldiers, John McCain, offered her the last hurrah, expediting the voting process to a whirlwind 94-2 vote. One wonders what tragedies will befall Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) and Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), the two dissenters.

Will it be like "Heathers"? The end of "The Godfather Part II"? Will Hillary kiss Vitter and then have him shot out on a boat?

Blair Waldorf sauntered down the halls of Constance Billard the other night, lightly announcing, "I need to wait for my moment, and then I'm going off the radar, no accountability. This war, I'm going to win." That's our Hillary Clinton, right there.

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

President endorses VP

To the Editor:

I feel honored and privileged to call both men running for president dear friends. Working with them inside and outside of Vanderbilt Student Government has allowed me to see there are few people on this campus more genuinely passionate about Vanderbilt and its students than these two candidates. Each candidate's work since they stepped on campus as freshmen should be commended. But because I believe one candidate's leadership experience in meeting difficult challenges to achieve real results makes him the best candidate to move VSG forward and make the Vanderbilt undergraduate experience the most enriching, I am endorsing Wyatt Smith for VSG president.

Since the first day I met Wyatt as a freshman in the Campus Crusade for Christ Bible study I led, I knew I was in the presence of a man who had the potential to impact Vanderbilt like very few others could. Wyatt daily shows his commitment to all of Vanderbilt; he is as likely to be found at a baseball game as a Blair concert, as often at a Chancellor's lecture series event as at a service site. Wyatt does all of these things because he understands the value of both a diverse education and supporting the good work of all his fellow students.

This fervor and work ethic united us as we

became VSG president and vice president. Wyatt took the lead on many initiatives, from securing \$250,000 for summer study abroad financial aid to elimination of room reservation fees for student organizations and worked right alongside me in getting Gmail for students, improving card access policies and so much more. But more than a litany of tangible results, Wyatt has the skill set needed to be a president who makes VSG the most effective, empowered and efficient organization possible, ensuring student interests will always be on the minds of all stakeholders in the Vanderbilt community.

Your vote in this election should be for what is best to ensure the student voice is heard loud and clear. Wyatt Smith has spent his entire time at Vanderbilt, whether it has been as a service leader, senator or vice president, to make Vanderbilt better. I have sat with him on more meetings than anyone else, and I have seen the fire within that drives him to give back to his community, bring everyone to the table to be heard, get the results that students want and make sure all students are proud to call Vanderbilt their home. A vote for Wyatt Smith is a vote to ensure the Vanderbilt student experience gets better every day.

Joseph Williams
Senior,
VSG President

Returning to patriotism



MIKE WARREN
Columnist

How sad it was for me, a conservative Republican, to see President Bush leave Washington, D.C., for Texas on Tuesday. I firmly believe, for all his faults, he was a good president and steward of our country's safety and freedoms.

I was happy to see President Obama take the oath of office Tuesday. This follows our 208-year-old tradition of the regular peaceful transfer of power that has set the United States government apart from others around the world and in history. That he is the first black person to do so only confirms that our nation stands for freedom and opportunity for all.

What was quite notable on the day of the inauguration was the throng of people in Washington trying to witness Obama's first moments of his presidency. To be sure, most of these were most likely loyal devotees to the president's liberal cause and perhaps not a perfect cross-section of America. Also, I could have done without the shallow rendition of Steam's "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" some in the crowd gave the departing Bush.

Still, there is something encouraging in seeing such a large number of Obama disciples, in Washington and elsewhere, celebrating the president's inauguration; while they may not have realized it at first, these folks were celebrating the United States of America, too. Patriotism is suddenly cool again.

It is more than slightly frustrating that only by way of the election of their candidate these newfound "proud to be" Americans were able to find reason to express their love of country. Where were the most extreme of these over the past eight years? Bitter, most likely, over Bush's victory in 2000, these people howled every step of the way.

Disagreements about Bush's policy became threats of impeachment, calls for war crime trials and cinematic and literary fantasies of a presidential assassination. Somewhere along the way, "Bush" became synonymous with "America," and quite a few people on the far left were seemingly rooting for America to lose a war in order to discredit a president.

Nevertheless, I am willing to forgive and forget. After all, Johnnys-come-lately though they may be, the sizable portion of the American chattering class who routinely rooted for America's failure under Bush will become her loudest cheerleaders. What have been characterized as unspeakable acts of imperialism, bravado or crusade (that is, the War on Terror) will certainly become the necessary actions of an America defending herself.

There are already reports of Americans abroad suddenly feeling comfortable with identifying as United States citizens. It is tragic some Americans feel compelled to hide their nationality until a more world-approved president sits in the Oval Office, but those who are proud no matter who is president will be glad to welcome them to the fold.

Some of Obama's detractors may fall into the same trap of their Bush counterparts, but I should certainly hope not. Perhaps the greatest benefit of a President Obama will be a nation together that stands behind its flag and its freedoms. Liberals will claim Obama will have miraculously brought the country together after Bush was so instrumental in further dividing it. Let them take the credit. The result will be more Americans defending our great country instead of tearing it down.

That's certainly change I can believe in.

—Michael Warren is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at michael.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu.

Start of the Obama generation

CLAIRE COSTANTINO

Guest Columnist

Call it egotistical or even weird, but sometimes I catch myself imagining how I'll retell stories to my future kids. They are probably going to want to know what my first concert was (The Strokes), how I filled my weekends (studying in the library and volunteering at a soup kitchen, or so they'll be told) and I bet they will even ask if I remember the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Yes, my kids will be very sophisticated and have a strong sense of history so they will most certainly want to know how I celebrated the dawn of a new era in American politics, race relations and the long-awaited arrival of Hawaii's national prominence.

But the story of how I witnessed history at the inauguration is not the sort of inspiring tale of civic engagement and patriotic fervor I would like it to be. I'll have to tell it to my children like this:

I was so excited for the inauguration! Jan. 20 was more to me than just a day to celebrate Obama's inauguration; it was also a day to celebrate the success of my first real foray into political activism.

Obama's revolutionary campaign and heartwarming message had inspired me to take my own political passions out of the theoretical realm and into action. I began to take my volunteering work more seriously, started following local politics more closely and even made my first campaign donation to Obama. His message of empowerment resonated with me and profoundly affected my actions. When he was elected on Nov. 4, it felt like both Obama and I had realized a dream.

On that momentous Tuesday, I attended all of my classes. I assumed everyone else would be so energized for the inauguration that surely my professor would take a 15-minute pause in his lecture so we could watch Obama take the oath of office and give his speech. History was being made during one of my history classes — if that doesn't warrant notice, I don't know what does. But then, at the start of class, my professor smugly proclaimed, "Vanderbilt stops for no man!" I was left to assume he is either a bitter Hillary supporter or simply an inconsiderate citizen. So as Obama took the oath of office, I examined the repetitive ramblings of Friedrich Engels in "The Condition of the Working Class in England." I watched the whole ceremony on my laptop later that afternoon. It was almost like being there to hear the address through my grainy speakers and watch Obama and the crowd on my pixelated screen. Almost exactly like the real thing, minus the excitement and the sense of common purpose and unity.

But, like all good stories, my tale will have a moral: Always do your part to accomplish what you want. I wanted Obama to get elected so I did my part to make it happen. I want to end domestic poverty, so I am doing my part to defeat it. And I wanted to watch the election, but I didn't do my part. I gave too much power to my self-important windbag of a professor. So, dear children, promise me you'll learn from my mistake and never, ever hesitate to skip class.

— Claire Costantino is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at claire.v.costantino@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.vanderbilt@gmail.com.

Compiled by Thomas Shattuck

Vanderbilt must be kidding with the outrageous package lines, I just waited 30 minutes!!! First they did away with the package slips, fine ... but the increases in the line are just ridiculous.

Belmont used to be a plantation, and they still had MLK day off, unlike Vandy.

Dear Finicky Pooper: How about flushing the toilet paper you leave on the seat instead of leaving it?

When it's 5 degrees outside and people have to wear their coats out to the bar, DON'T TAKE THAT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO COAT SHOPPING!!

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 as clarity.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of the Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which the Hustler is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

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Vanderbilt looks to bounce back

Poor offensive effort doomed Commodores

by BRIAN LINHARES
Sports Reporter

On a frigid Nashville night, the men's basketball team could not muster much heat in the friendly confines of Memorial Gymnasium. A swarming Tennessee effort held the Commodores to only 20 first half points, en route to a 76-63 victory and Vanderbilt's third loss in four games.

Coming off a defensive struggle over Georgia, in which the Bulldogs were held to 40 points, the Commodores looked to combine tough defensive play with prolific shooting on the offensive end. Tennessee had other ideas.

"We beat Vanderbilt the way Vanderbilt expected to beat us," said Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl.

Pearl's squad jumped to a 4-1 lead early in the first half. Four minutes into the contest, forward Wayne Chism entered the game, hitting two 3-pointers to put the Volunteers ahead 10-1. They never looked back.

"Wayne felt like he had something to prove," said Tennessee's Tyler Smith, who scored 18 points. "He was left off the first (Southeastern

Conference) team."

After Tuesday nights' performance, few, if any, of the 14,057 in attendance would still keep him off.

Chism finished with a game-high 20 points on 8-11 shooting. In 26 minutes of play, he added seven rebounds. Defensively, the Commodores did not have an answer for Chism and Smith.

"Coming off the bench allows you to see what's going on," said Chism. "You're able to see what's working and what's not working and use that to your advantage."

The same idea applies to Vanderbilt junior guard George Drake. The Alabama product came off the bench, shooting 8-15 for a career-high 16 points.

"He's experienced," said coach Kevin Stallings. "And this game doesn't bother him."

The rest of the Commodores, however, were bothered. In the first half, Vanderbilt shot only 5-27 from the field, with five turnovers. Stallings' squad heavily relied on shots behind the arc, yet only managed to hit two of 10 from long range.

"They played a packed-in defense, which made it hard to get inside," said freshman guard



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler
George Drake (34) was one of the few bright spots for Vanderbilt against Tennessee, scoring a career-high 16 points.

Brad Tinsley, the only starter in double digits with 10. "When it comes down to it, it's just about guys making shots. A lot of our guys didn't hit shots tonight."

In the second half, the offense picked up behind the exploits of Drake. A layup cut the Volunteer advantage to 7 just past the 15-minute mark. Yet Tennessee answered with a 7-0 run, never to relinquish the comfortable margin.

"It was frustrating, we didn't hit shots we usually hit ... at the end it wasn't enough," Tinsley said. ■

Gators visit in must-win for Vandy

by NICK GALLO
Sports Reporter

Vanderbilt is in desperate need for answers as they look to their next contest this Sunday against the No. 24 Florida Gators. Back-to-back national champions in 2006 and 2007, the Gators are currently rebuilding and not seen as a title contender, but they have a young nucleus that has vaulted them to a 16-3 record this season.

The Commodores need to be prepared in order to handle this Florida team, who will certainly be ready to play after giving up a last second, game-winning layup in a loss at South Carolina on Wednesday.

Florida is led by Nick Calathes, who is averaging an impressive 17.7 points, 5.1 rebounds and 6.7 assists a game through Tuesday.

"He just, as much as anybody in the league, makes everybody around him better," said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings.

The key challenge for Vanderbilt will be to find someone who can guard Calathes — and also to find some offensive production of

their own.

The Commodores (12-6, 1-3 Southeastern Conference) are averaging a low 68.6 points per game and have struggled of late to find a go-to performer. As this team matures, there will be many candidates. Sophomore center A.J. Ogilvy is averaging 15.8 points and 6.8 rebounds a game, while freshman Jeff Taylor, junior Jermaine Beal and freshman Brad Tinsley also have double-digit scoring averages.

With no seniors on the roster, Vanderbilt has turned to its underclassmen, along with Beal and redshirt junior George Drake, for leadership. Drake understands his role as a leader on this team.

"With being one of the oldest guys on the team, I feel like I have to let the younger guys know that it's our next game so it's our next big game and it's just like any big game we play," said Drake. "So we have to come out with our maximum effort and intensity."

Although Drake is only averaging 4.7 points per game this season, he exploded for a career-high 16 in the Commodores'

most recent loss to Tennessee. Despite acknowledging his effort, Drake was not happy with the outcome.

"I really just came in with the same mindset I have all year, bringing energy on the defensive end. It was a career night for me, but it doesn't sit well because we lost as a team," he said.

Standing at 12-6 right now, the Commodores need to take a serious look at themselves if they want to have a chance at making the NCAA tournament.

"We've dropped a couple of games and haven't started out the way we want to in conference, and everyone knows that every game in conference is important," Ogilvy said.

Vanderbilt is in need of a signature win — a jumpstart to ignite this team. Stallings described the Commodores situation best.

"We are getting to where our backs are against the wall, and if you are going to do anything over the course of a season, you have to be very effective at home," he said. "This is a very important game as far as that is concerned." ■

Bennett's back

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Reporter

The big man is back on campus.

Earl Bennett, the Southeastern Conference's career receptions leader and current member of the Chicago Bears, has come back to Vanderbilt to work towards his undergraduate degree in the off-season.

"Getting my degree has always been a No. 1 priority so it's a must on my agenda," said Bennett, who is pursuing degrees in both sociology and educational studies.

After enduring a rookie season in which he was a solid contributor on special teams but did not register any official statistics, he made the decision to come back to Nashville rather than staying in the Windy City and working out with his Bears teammates.

"I'm staying in shape by working out with coach (John) Sisk," Bennett said of Vanderbilt's strength and conditioning coach. "He does a great job, and Jay Cutler and Marcus Buggs work out with me so we get after it a bit."

Coming out of high school in Alabama, Bennett originally committed to the University of

Kentucky before backing out late in the process in order to sign with the Commodores.

"Signing out of high school, a Vandy education was a big part of me coming to school (here)," Bennett said. "Having the chance to come to a great academic school was a plus, and it means a lot to me being in the pros because everyone knows football doesn't last forever."

As one of coach Bobby Johnson's recent success stories coming out of the Commodore football program, Bennett was proud to be on the sidelines for their historic victory over Boston College in the Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl.

"Coach Johnson and his staff do a great job at recruiting players and putting them in great situations so I was very proud," Bennett said.

For Johnson, the feeling is mutual.

"It's always great to have Earl back," said Johnson. "The important thing is that he's here to work on his degree."

Johnson is also proud of the example Bennett has set for the younger players.

"I think our guys can see an example of what hard work can do for you, and it's not out of the question for some of them



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Earl Bennett, the SEC's all-time leader in receptions, has returned to Vanderbilt to finish his undergraduate career.

to reach the same platform that Earl's on," Johnson said.

But even while in Chicago, Bennett never really stopped learning.

"We didn't make the playoffs, but I learned a lot and towards the end got some game experience on offense," he said. "Hopefully, I can have an even better sophomore season."

Time will tell if Bennett will have as much of an impact in the NFL as he had in college. But if history is any indication, the city of Chicago had better be prepared.

Opposing teams would be wise to take notice; Earl Bennett is a quick study, both on and off the field. ■

friday conversation

Interview by MEGHAN ROSE
Sports Reporter

JORDAN WHITE

Distance runner Jordan White, in action this weekend with the track team at the Indiana Invite, sat down for this week's Friday Conversation. Read the rest at InsideVandy.

Vanderbilt Hustler: In the first race of your collegiate career, you placed ninth at the Kentucky Invitational, turning in the second-best freshman time. How big of an accomplishment was that for you?

Jordan White: For me, it was really important as my first collegiate race running for Vanderbilt, and my first race coming back from an injury. It was great to be able to get back and run.

VH: With one race under your belt, how would you say the atmosphere of Southeastern Conference racing compares to your four years as a runner in high school?

JW: The competition is a lot more serious, everyone is prepared to run their events and put up the best time possible. It's awesome to be able to run against people with so much dedication and skill.

VH: As a middle distance runner for Vanderbilt, which

events do you specialize in?

JW: I run anything from 600 to 1500 meters. The 800 is probably my favorite event; now that I have raced it more, I really like it.

VH: What type of atmosphere does coach Steve Keith and the rest of the coaching staff encourage during workouts, practices and meets?

JW: I would definitely say that we are very team-oriented. We're always cheering each other on during practices and races. It's a really great atmosphere for running.

VH: Coming back from an injury, how have you been training to increase your speed and endurance these past couple of months?

JW: I started doing workouts again after Thanksgiving, which was the first time I really got to run with the rest of the team. I wasn't able to run cross country in the fall because of my injury.

VH: How do you think running both cross country and track

next year will improve your running?

JW: I think cross country serves as a great base for the indoor and outdoor season because it creates a good base and allows you to pick up speed for the track seasons. Next year, I'm definitely looking forward to getting that base and improving upon it.

VH: If you had to pinpoint your greatest asset as a runner, what would you say it is?

JW: I'm a pretty mental person, and there comes a time in every race where it's no longer about how fast you are, it's mental and you need to push yourself through it.

VH: How did you get interested in running at such a young age?

JW: When I was little, I ran a lot of short races and miler events. I focused on soccer for a little while, but I realized I was more passionate about running in the end. ■

Women lose first SEC game

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

The No. 17 Vanderbilt women's basketball team had its three-game winning streak snapped Thursday night, falling 66-55 in Athens to the Georgia Bulldogs. The Commodores fell out of first place in the conference.

Vanderbilt (14-5, 3-1 Southeastern Conference) got off to a poor start and never recovered as the Bulldogs surged ahead to a 40-23 halftime lead and led by as much as 21

points in the second half.

The Commodores slowly cut into the lead and got within 8 with 2:56 to play on consecutive 3-pointers by junior guard Lauren Lueders to cap a 7-0 lead. That was as close as they would get however, as Georgia pulled away down the stretch. The Bulldogs (12-7, 2-2) never trailed.

In addition to snapping Vanderbilt's perfect start in SEC play, Georgia also defeated Vanderbilt for the first time in over two years.

The Commodores dropped

to 4-4 on the road this season.

Senior forward Christina Wirth, the team's leading scorer this season, managed just 3 points for Vanderbilt. Sophomore forward Hannah Tuomi led the Commodores with 14 points, while sophomore guard Jence Rhoads added 12 points and five assists in the losing effort.

Vanderbilt travels to Columbia Sunday to play South Carolina at 2 p.m. The Commodores have won in each of their last three meetings with the Gamecocks. ■

THE BACK PAGE

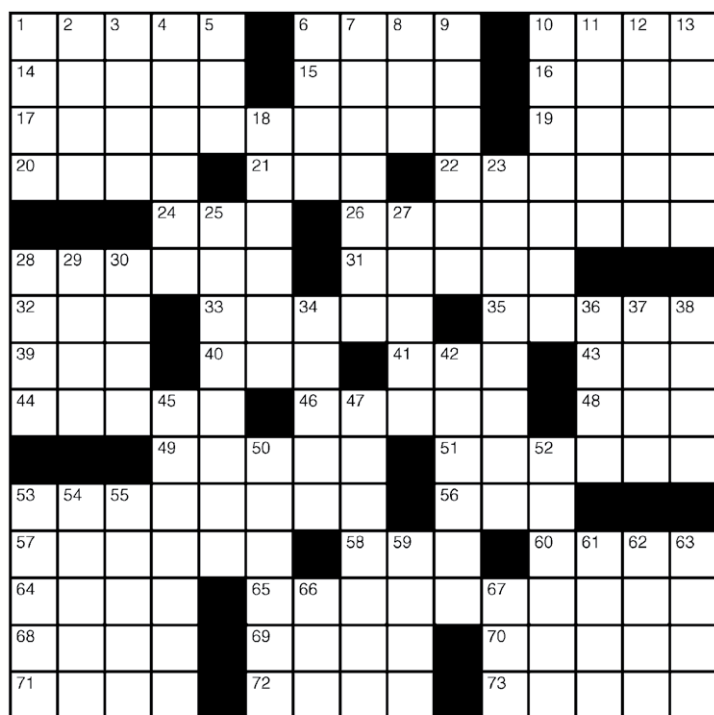
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Click the gold Hustler/Versus button at the bottom right of the home page



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1/23/09

ACROSS

- 1 "Rocket Man" rocker John
- 6 Scat!
- 10 Dice dots
- 14 Tropical vine
- 15 Icy frost
- 16 Work group
- 17 Some pens
- 19 Old Norse inscription
- 20 Precinct
- 21 Greek letter
- 22 At the scene
- 24 Pester
- 26 Abandon
- 28 Actress Dee
- 31 Follow afterward
- 32 Title role for Will Smith
- 33 Tree knot
- 35 Churchill's gesture
- 39 Tailor's fastener
- 40 Sucker
- 41 Eisenhower
- 43 Beluga product
- 44 Type of iron
- 46 Pentium maker
- 48 "A-Team" performer
- 49 Italian port
- 51 At any time
- 53 One of Jason's adventurers
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- 65 Soaking in wine
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1/21/09 SOLUTIONS

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- 69 Pension \$\$
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- 1 Isle near Corsica
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 - 4 Off the boat
 - 5 Short sleep
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 - 7 One showing respect
 - 8 Feed-bag bite
 - 9 Bean and Welles
 - 10 Goes after
 - 11 North Slope dweller
 - 12 Painted pony
 - 13 "Village Wedding" painter
 - 18 Liver, heart, etc.
 - 23 French cuisine
 - 25 Verbal warfare
 - 27 Not illuminated
 - 28 Tree juices
 - 29 Touched down
 - 30 Half a golf course
 - 34 Vowels
 - 36 "The Joy of Cooking" writer Rombauer
 - 37 Like slasher movies
 - 38 Court dividers
 - 42 Comic Buster
 - 45 Intense sufferings
 - 47 Instinctive
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 - 55 Measuring instrument
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1/21/09 SOLUTIONS

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