



OPINION: Poythress acts as decorator and offers tips on how to liven up dorm rooms. [SEE PAGE 4](#)

SPORTS: Vanderbilt women's basketball beats Arkansas in overtime, tied for first in SEC. [SEE PAGE 7](#)

Record turnout for Smith VSG victory



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Wyatt Smith is congratulated by the large crowd that filled the promenade in Sarratt Student Center Thursday afternoon to hear the announcement of the winner of the "historic" election.

by **LILY CHEN**
Senior Reporter

by **SAMANTHA SMITH**
Senior Reporter

Wyatt Smith and running mate Lori Murphy were announced the winners of the Vanderbilt Student Government presidential election Thursday afternoon.

Roars of handclaps and cheering filled the packed Sarratt Promenade following Attorney General Jared Anderson's announcement of the results of what current VSG president Joseph Williams called a "historic election" in an e-mail to the student body earlier that day.

The voter turnout for the election certainly made it historic — 70 percent of the student body voted in the third VSG presidential election, compared to only 36 percent last year. A majority of each class voted, most

VSG ELECTION TURNOUT BY THE NUMBERS

4,496

Total number of votes

70%

Percentage of student body

86%

Percentage of seniors

71%

Percentage of juniors

58%

Percentage of sophomores

66%

Percentage of first-year students

notably the 86 percent of seniors who participated in the election.

Please see **VSG ELECTION**, page 3

Peanut recall pulls jars out of markets

by **ALLIE MORRIS**
Senior Reporter

The nationwide peanut recall has caused all peanut products to be removed from dining facilities and Varsity Markets.

The Food and Drug Administration announced the peanut recall Jan. 23 after confirmation that a number of peanut products produced from a plant in Georgia, run by the Peanut Corporation of America, had been contaminated with salmonella. Quickly after the recall, Dining Services began to remove recalled peanut items from Varsity Market shelves and peanut ingredients from dining recipes.

"What we do is we buy a majority of our food from three or four vendors," said

Camp Howard, director of Dining Services. "Initially, all vendors sent a list of items they were recalling, and we were able to rapidly pull the same items from our shelves."

Some of the contaminated products removed from Vanderbilt shelves include peanut butter crackers, peanut butter cookies and a few

Please see **PEANUT BUTTER**, page 3



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

McCarty clarifies 'endowment' situation

Provost says 'nightmare' overstated

by **NORAH SCANLAN**
News Editor

SYDNEY WILMER
Editor-in-Chief



CHRISTIANSEN



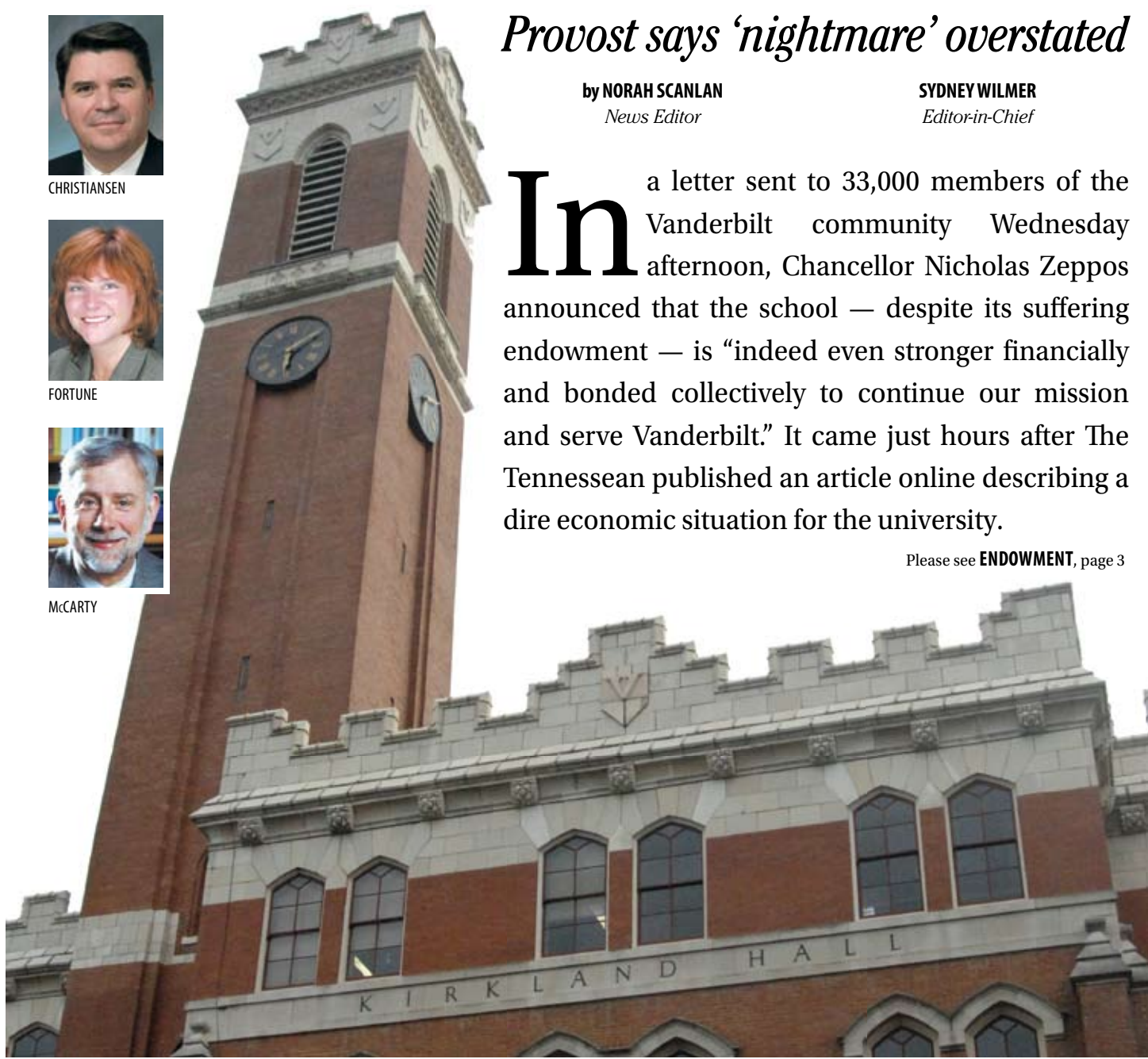
FORTUNE



MCCARTY

In a letter sent to 33,000 members of the Vanderbilt community Wednesday afternoon, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos announced that the school — despite its suffering endowment — is "indeed even stronger financially and bonded collectively to continue our mission and serve Vanderbilt." It came just hours after The Tennessean published an article online describing a dire economic situation for the university.

Please see **ENDOWMENT**, page 3



Barrett trial update

by **LAUREN KOENIG**
Senior Reporter

Testimony concluded on Thursday in the trial of Jerome Barrett, 61, for the alleged murder of 19-year-old Vanderbilt student Sarah Des Prez almost 34 years ago. Closing arguments are scheduled to begin today, according to WKRN.

Des Prez was found dead in her off-campus apartment in February 1975. The trial is scheduled to last through Saturday at Davidson County Criminal Court.

On Thursday morning, a DNA expert with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Chad Johnson testified that several items on Des Prez's bed, including Des Prez's blouse, matched Barrett's DNA, according to WKRN Nashville.

"I came up with a complete profile matching Jerome Barrett. What's the chance someone else on the planet has the same DNA? It exceeds the world population. I would not expect anyone else to have that same profile," said Johnson.

The TV station also reported that jurors heard a phone call Barrett had made from jail in November 2007, shortly after

he was charged with Des Prez's death, in which he claims he did not know Des Prez and he had been charged with the murder by mistake.

Barrett is charged separately with the murder of 9-year-old Girl Scout Marcia Trimble, who went missing from her Green Hills home the same month Des Prez was killed. He will face trial in July for this charge.

Barrett was indicted on charges of premeditated murder and felony murder in the Des Prez case. The felony murder charge was dropped during a pretrial hearing on Friday because the prosecutors said they didn't have enough evidence to prove Des Prez was raped at the time of her murder.

Barrett went to prison in 1976 after being convicted for rape in 1975. He was also convicted on sexual assault in 1974. After serving a little over 25 years, Barrett was released in 2002.

Police arrested Barrett last year after they said his DNA matched evidence from the Des Prez and Trimble cases.

The DNA evidence is the oldest Nashville prosecutors have ever attempted to use, according to The Tennessean.



SANFORD MYERS / AP Photo

Jerome Barrett listens to testimony during his trial in the courtroom of Judge Steve Dozier at the A.A. Birch Building on Wednesday in Nashville, Tenn. Barrett is on trial for charges of premeditated murder for the death of 19-year-old Vanderbilt student Sarah Des Prez, who was found suffocated in her Nashville apartment in February 1975.

Barrett will be tried under 1975 statutes, the year in which the crimes were committed. According to these guidelines, Barrett is ineligible for the death penalty.

Unlike modern trials in which a jury reaches a verdict and the judge decides the sentence

(except in capital cases), the jury will decide innocence or guilt, as well as how much time Barrett should serve in prison if convicted. ■

The Tennessean, WKRN and WSMV Nashville contributed reporting to this article.

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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by HANNAH TWILLMAN

WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

TODAY



HIGH **37**, LOW **23**
Partly cloudy

SATURDAY



HIGH **49**, LOW **32**
Sunny

SUNDAY



HIGH **57**, LOW **35**
Mostly Cloudy

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SERVICE GUIDE

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the academic year except for during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break.

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each.

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LOCATION

The Hustler offices are in 130 Sarratt Student Center on the Vanderbilt University Campus. Address postal mail to 2301 Vanderbilt Place, VU Station B 351504, Nashville, Tenn. 37235-1504.

AFFILIATIONS

The Hustler is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers, Southern University Newspapers and the Southeastern Journalism Conference and is an associate member of the Associated Press.

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CORRECTIONS

The Hustler strives for accuracy and fairness and will correct errors of substance. See our correction policy on the Opinion page for information about notifying us.

PRINTER

The Hustler is printed at Franklin Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions are available for \$125 per semester or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler. A pdf subscription order form is available at <http://www.vscmedia.org/hustler.html>

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

FRIDAY SPICE

Pa. man delivered stolen newspapers for years, collected subscription checks

PHILLIPSBURG, N.J. (AP)—Police in New Jersey say a man stole stacks of newspapers and delivered them to unsuspecting customers for years.

Phillipsburg police say Michael Farrell was delivering copies of the Express-Times of Easton (Pa.) for the last three years. The problem was, police say he was stealing the papers from boxes.

Newspaper officials say the Lopatcong Township man worked in the past as a carrier for the paper. Customers assumed the 53-year-old still did. Some even wrote him a check every month. Subscriber Mike Markle of Phillipsburg, a town about 60 miles west of Newark, says he was satisfied with the service. He never had a problem getting his morning paper.

No more free salt, sand for people in Mass. town due to abuse of resources

BUCKLAND, Mass. (AP)—Residents of a small Massachusetts town used to be able to help themselves to a free bucket of sand and salt from the highway department to treat their steps and walkways after a snow storm.

But no more. Officials in the western Massachusetts town of Buckland have suspended the perk at least temporarily because it appears some people have been abusing the privilege.

Highway Superintendent Steve Daby told selectmen that people have been filling the backs of pickup trucks with the mixture, and that some people taking advantage appear to be from out of town, The Recorder of Greenfield reports.

Selectmen say they can no longer afford to give it away.

Postman saves mail from flaming delivery truck, unable to save vehicle

READING, Pa. (AP)—Neither snow nor rain nor ... burning mail truck? A postal worker rescued the mail after his delivery truck caught fire in eastern Pennsylvania.

Investigators say the electrical fire apparently started in the dashboard while the truck was making deliveries outside Reading in Berks County.

Cumru Township fire chief Scott Brady says the letter carrier saw smoke coming out of his truck, got out and called 911.

Then he got all the mail out before the truck was completely engulfed in flames.

The fire was out in several minutes and the driver, whose name was not released, wasn't hurt. There is no word on what caused the blaze.

Cold weather convinces hungry, escaped La. inmate to turn himself in

PLAQUEMINE, La. (AP)—Life on the run was apparently tougher than prison for an escaped convict from Louisiana.

A cold front and hunger were too much for Troy Hargrave, 32, who surrendered two days after he escaped a privately run state prison with two other men, authorities said Wednesday.

Hargrave was about 100 miles from the southwest Louisiana prison when he turned himself in to an off-duty sheriff's deputy working at a chemical plant, Iberville Parish sheriff's Maj. Johnny Blanchard said.

"The guy walks up to the deputy and says, 'You might want to get out of your car and put handcuffs on me,'" Blanchard said.

The convict had been hopping trains, Blanchard said. "He said, 'I'm cold, I'm hungry and I'm wet, and I'm willing to turn myself in,'" the officer said.

Tuesday's temperatures were in the 70s, but it was 30 degrees colder a day later.

One of the other two escaped convicts remained at large. A prison guard has been charged with helping the prisoners escape.

Authorities think the prisoners may have escaped by cutting razor wire inside a fence and climbing over.

Knave snags Shakespeare costumes, leaves modern technology behind

ASHLAND, Ore. (AP)—Police in southern Oregon are on the lookout for a crook dressed to lead 76 trombonists — or to troop across the moors.

Somebody broke into the costume shop at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival last weekend. They made off with hats and coats designed for "The Music Man" and "Macbeth" productions opening next month.

Among the missing items: two of Professor Harold Hill's jackets and a gray straw boater. The "Macbeth" cast is minus a black military overcoat, a uniform jacket and other overgarments.

Festival spokeswoman Amy Richard says only the clothing was taken — cell phones and a digital camera were left behind.

Goldilocks intruder discovered by cops following her footprints in fresh snow

NORTH WEBSTER, Ind. (AP)—There wasn't any porridge to be too hot or too cold, and the homeowners weren't three bears, but a burglar emulating Goldilocks enjoyed other food and found the chairs and beds to be just right.

The intruder even drank beer left in some of the vacation homes targeted around Webster Lake and tried on clothing.

"I've been on 19 years and I've never seen anybody actually moving in and living in somebody's residence like that," said Sgt. Chad Hill of the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department.

Alex Kupczynski was being held Wednesday on four preliminary charges of burglary. Bail was set at \$100,000.

Police said the 31-year-old Syracuse resident picked vacation homes where the lack of tracks in the snow showed that no one had visited recently.

Investigators said their break came when the owner of a vacation home on the lake about 30 miles northwest of Fort Wayne found Kupczynski's wallet inside the pocket of a set of the homeowner's overalls.

On Jan. 20, officers said, they followed fresh footprints in the snow leading to another lake home — and found Kupczynski inside a closet.

Investigators were still trying to recover stolen property, state police Sgt. Trent Smith said.

Investigators believe at least four houses were broken into, although more burglaries might be found when the weather warms and homeowners return.

"He was just kinda running the gamut around the edges of the lake," Hill said.

CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

• SPEAR Sustainability Fair

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling will be at Sarratt Promenade to inform students about ways to live a more environmentally friendly life at Vanderbilt.

• The Marcus Finnie Band at The Commons

Nashville jazz musician Marcus Finnie is performing at The Commons Center from 7 to 9 p.m. This free concert will feature guest appearances by Tim Calhoun, Anton Nesbitt and Daniel Weatherspoon.

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

• "Diamonds Are Forever": MLC semi-formal

The Multicultural Leadership Council will host its annual semi-formal at the One-Eleven Ballroom from 9 to 11 p.m. The event is open to all, and busses will run from Branscomb Quadrangle to the event starting at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 on the card or at the door.

SUNDAY, FEB. 1

• Harmony Korine photography exhibition

The Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery is displaying the internationally esteemed artist's "Pigxote" exhibit. Korine is famous for his unique approach to realism and his collaboration with artists such as Gus Van Sant. The series of 49 photographs is open at the Fine Arts Gallery (the Old Gym) from noon to 4 p.m. and will be on display through Feb. 26.

SNAPSHOT

MANNAFIT



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Hundreds of students attended MannaFit, the annual benefit for Manna Project, Tuesday night in the Student Life Center Ballroom.

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.



John Cardosat attends a jazz performance at the Commons Center.



ZAC HARDY was shooting at the Commons Center and used off-camera strobes to capture a semi-silhouetted image of an audience member.

Student photographers interested in joining the staff are invited to the next meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 3, in Sarratt 130.

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ENDOWMENT: Debt-free initiative continues

From **ENDOWMENT**, page 1

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Richard McCarty, though, said there was no need for the “sensationalized report.”

The employee benefits, the debt-free initiative and several current construction projects will persist, he explained. What will be affected, though, are construction projects not yet underway. Projects like the College Halls initiative and the expansion of the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital will be put on hold indefinitely.

DEBT-FREE REMAINS UNDERWAY

Both McCarty and Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs Beth Fortune said it is not clear if the loss of endowment funds will affect merit-based scholarships, but they both stressed that the debt-free initiative — the program implemented to subsidize tuition for students financially unable to attend Vanderbilt announced this fall — will remain a priority. According to McCarty, Vanderbilt is about halfway to its fundraising goal.

“The chancellor believes now more than ever it’s important to go forward with that initiative because it is important that the best and brightest students in the country have access to a Vanderbilt education regardless of their financial situation, and almost half the money has been raised for that,” Fortune said.

“We don’t want our students to graduate and be so loaded down with debt that they can’t make career decisions that they’re really interested in and that may make this a better society to live in,” McCarty said.

Doug Christiansen, associate provost for enrollment and dean of admissions, said the initiative was started in 2000, after the university watched the need-based debt of students continue to increase each year.

“The average debt of our seniors graduating last year was slightly over \$21,000,” Christiansen said.

It was the intent of the initiative to reduce that debt, and the administration had planned on announcing the program in October even before the severe financial situation, Christiansen said.

“I think it was just a great resolve by our chancellor and by our provost and the board that the commitment to access was there so if we have to rework and do some belt-tightening in our areas it’s much more important that access for people to get an education,” Christiansen said.

“The guiding principle of everything we’re doing right now is to preserve financial aid,” McCarty said. A number of merit-based scholarships, including the Ingram Scholars program, will also continue.

REPORTING IN THE TENNESSEAN

McCarty said he had certain

issues with the online Tennessean article that was published Wednesday afternoon. In the article, McCarty was quoted as describing Vanderbilt’s financial situation as “catastrophic” and a “nightmare.” McCarty said he was misquoted by a reporter who sat in on a meeting with the faculty of the College of Arts and Science without identifying herself.

“Our endowment may be down for accounting for the year 2008 by as much as 30 percent ... We anticipate that it will be considerably less than 30 percent, but we have to be prudent in planning for next year and the following years,” McCarty said in response to the amount printed in The Tennessean.

The article has since been updated to account for these errors.

TROUBLES MAKING PAYROLL

A major issue addressed in the Tennessean article was Vanderbilt’s difficulty making payroll in October. On Sept. 29, 2008, the day before payday, the university was notified that its investments in the Wachovia Bank’s Common Fund were frozen. The Common Fund is an investment pool consisting of funds from hundreds of colleges and universities. According to McCarty, Vanderbilt invested approximately \$470 million in the Common Fund, which is equal to five months of payroll. Unable to access that money,

Vanderbilt struggled to find the \$100 million required to make the monthly payroll for its 22,000 employees. McCarty said while other schools in the same predicament were forced to dip into their endowment fund, Vanderbilt was able to make payroll without doing so.

“That was a situation that came on us very, very suddenly, and it was a one-time event. And as Chancellor Zeppos mentioned, many other universities found themselves in the same situation so we reacted quickly and managed through it. It is no longer an issue,” Fortune said when asked about why students were not informed of Vanderbilt’s earlier struggle to make payroll.

Exactly by how much the endowment has declined is undetermined. According to McCarty, some of the assets have not been valued yet.

“We expect that the endowment’s performance will be in line with or better than our peer institutions,” Fortune said.

“We’re making adjustments day-by-day to preserve the quality of the academic and scholarly programs of Vanderbilt and the patient care,” McCarty said. “It comes down to safety and security of students. That’s a priority.” ■

Hannah Twillman contributed reporting to this article.

VSG ELECTION: Smith, Murphy sway majority

From **VSG ELECTION**, page 1

“I am incredibly overjoyed with this win. I have the most wonderful team working on the campaign and so much support that made this entire process worth it,” said Smith after the announcement.

Smith and Murphy received 62.6 percent of the 4,496 votes, while opponents Fabiani Duarte and Deno Saclarides received 35.6 percent.

Smith said he tried to keep his team and himself balanced during the campaign process, making sure their emotions were never too high or too low, and to not lose perspective throughout the race.

“I also think Fabiani (Duarte) did a great job and has great ideas, which I will draw heavily from,” Smith said. “He is one of the most committed people I know and I greatly respect him for that.”

The process has also been meaningful for Duarte.

“(I’m) blessed to be part of the process. It’s been an incredible fight and we’ve shown why VSG matters. Innovation, ideas and experience can galvanize students,” said Duarte.

Saclarides echoed Duarte’s sentiment.

“It’s been a privilege running regardless (of the outcome). ...



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler Duarte (left) and Saclarides (right) congratulate each other after their VSG bid.

I’m flattered,” said Saclarides.

With the election now over, the new VSG administration must turn their sights to the future.

“We will start working right away,” Smith said. “We’re going to continue pushing for improvements such as replacing OASIS and getting course evaluations online. We have a lot of momentum so we’re going to deliver.”

In addition, the recent attention to Vanderbilt’s endowment losses will have an effect on VSG’s goals.

“We’re facing challenging times and have to be very thoughtful in deciding what our priorities are. Vanderbilt students are relatively insulated from understanding the implications of the loss, but we understand there have to be sacrifices,” Smith said. “However, we will continue pushing for progress on core things.” ■

Housing creates unique residence

by **ETHEL MICKY**
Senior Reporter

Students seeking an alternative on-campus living arrangement will have three new options beginning fall 2009, as well as an adaptation of a current program.

Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors will have the chance to be the first participants in two new living-learning communities or to be part of a co-ed Mayfield for the first time.

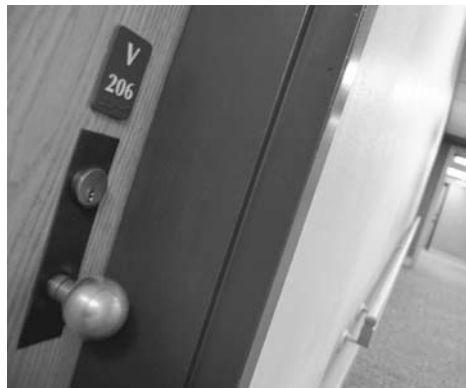
Currently, the Office of Housing and Residential Education sponsors three living-learning communities — the McGill Project, McTeiye International House and Mayfield Learning Lodges. The purpose of these communities is to provide students with similar interests the opportunity to live and learn together in an environment that fosters learning about a chosen focus.

Traci Ray, Associate Director of Residential Education, encourages students to consider applying for any of the programs offered.

“Residents in our LLCs report higher levels of satisfaction with their residential experience,” said Ray. “They participate in a self-directed learning experience, enriching their educational experience.”

The newest living-learning communities, which will be housed in Vanderbilt/Barnard Halls, are the Creative Campus Community and the Vanderbilt Interest Projects. The Leadership Hall, a program already in progress, will also join the new halls in Vanderbilt/Barnard.

The central theme of the CCC is to



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler The new living-learning communities will move onto the hallways of Vanderbilt/Barnard Halls in fall 2009. The new communities will foster learning with fellow residents.

celebrate the arts on campus through planning arts events, creating service projects and exploring public leadership in the arts. Ray said this community presents a new focus among the previously established living-learning communities.

The idea of the VIP program came from student recommendations through the Upperclass Experience Committee, according to Ray. Five to 10 students can live together and study a topic of their choice outside the classroom while working with a faculty or staff adviser. Applicants are expected to participate in their project during the entire school year and educate the rest of the student body about their topic. Goals of the VIP program include peer-to-peer learning, individual and group reflections, and the integration of their experiences into future research.

These two new communities will

join the Leadership Hall in Vanderbilt/Barnard. This hall encourages students to identify, develop and practice personal leadership skills while living and working with other students. The rooms will be mostly singles, although some double rooms have been assigned to the program.

The three other living-learning communities, Mayfield, McTeiye and McGill, all have separate residential buildings to house program participants.

“Living in a Mayfield has been a wonderful part of my experience here at Vanderbilt,” said sophomore and Mayfield Council president Deanna Joe. “I’ve been able to bond significantly with my housemates through our experiences living together in the same house and working together on our project.”

Ray said there would be one major change made to the Mayfield Lodges for next year’s program — the lodges will become co-ed.

“We wanted to focus on the quality of the projects and realized that it is easier on groups to find people who are interested in a common topic if they don’t have to worry about gender,” Ray said.

Mayfield will be the first and only residential area to have co-ed apartments.

All six living-learning communities require an application from potential residents. The first deadline for several of the communities is Feb. 6. More information and applications for each community can be found at the Office of Housing and Residential Education’s Web site. ■

PEANUT BUTTER: Dining removes peanuts from menus

From **PEANUT BUTTER**, page 1

varieties of Luna and Clif Bars made with peanut products.

Although peanut butter is not one of the recalled peanut items, Howard said Dining Services decided to remove all items containing peanuts.

“We would rather be safe than sorry. If we wait another week ... and peanut butter is in fact safe, we will put it on the shelf, but while it is still unknown we will wait,”

Howard said.

Due to the removal of peanut butter, some entrees offered at Vanderbilt restaurants have been taken off the menu.

“We (Rotiki) only have one product that contains peanut butter — the Elvis Monkey panini — so we have taken that off the menu,” said senior and Rotiki staff member Nathaniel Buchheit. “It’s one of the less popular items so it hasn’t affected us too much.”

Vanderbilt Medical Center has not seen any cases of salmonella related to the peanut recall, but there have been at least seven cases reported in Tennessee, according to Jerry Jones, assistant director of Medical Center News.

The contaminated peanuts cause salmonella. People infected with the bacteria usually contract fever, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. ■

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4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
6:15	6:15	6:15	6:15			6:15
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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DEANS OF STUDENTS

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Spice up your room



JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

So the new semester is underway. Chances are you've ditched the New Year's resolutions as well as one or two classes per day. But now freshmen know exactly how popular they can expect to be and we have a president who you're not allowed to make fun of, life may begin to become stale. You may even consider heading to a party at Belmont or, in truly desperate times, attending a women's basketball game.

Well, there is no need to resort to such measures. It's scientifically proven that two-thirds of the time boredom is derived from scant or cliched room decorations. The solution might even be as simple as changing your sheets more than once a semester. There are other ways you can break out of the rut. If you're not a guy who's not a fan of originality, you can paste your room in posters of "Animal House" and "Wedding Crashers." If you're a girl, you should blanket these walls with huge Greek letters and pictures of your sorority sisters, or, failing to get into one of the popular sororities, pictures of your friends from home.

Some of you may be too lazy to even put in that amount of effort, yet still want to decorate in a stereotypical and inoffensive manner. You can still use the tired and pathetic freshman take on appearing cool by saving all of your empty bottles of alcohol and arranging these along your bookshelves or bureau. You may want to take a more nonconformist approach, however, by selecting posters from the movies

You may want to take a more nonconformist approach, however, by selecting posters from the movies that contain the politically correct, minority Disney princesses people only pretend to like, such as 'Pocahontas' and 'Mulan.'

that contain the politically correct, minority Disney princesses people only pretend to like, such as "Pocahontas" and "Mulan." Or you could try putting up pictures of strangers you find on Facebook. A popular approach is to search for some type of living attraction, namely plants or animals. Plants can be good, but it's hard to find the proper balance of light and watering, which usually results in dead and withering plants, which is counterproductive. The animal selection is also somewhat limited. Most animals tend to require a lot of food and go to the bathroom a lot, neither of which is conducive to college dorm life. This means a fish tank or bowl can be a nice touch, as long as you're OK with the fish dying within the first three hours.

Let's talk classy. Seeing as we're at Vanderbilt, chances are many of you want to go the aristocratic route and add a refined touch to your room. The first order of business is to purchase a painting. Nothing will communicate that subtle but distinct message of superiority like an original Rembrandt. The sole danger is that people might not recognize it, in which case you need to attach a Post-it recording the name and current price. The next step is to obtain a grandfather clock. These beauties come in many varieties and you can personalize them by attaching Commodore or Greek stickers. Make sure to leave some wall space to hang ancient, jewel-encrusted weapons. Finish up your classy ensemble by mounting the stuffed head of a real animal. The more endangered, the better.

— Justin Poythress is a senior in Peabody College. He can be reached at j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

Economic crisis hits hard

Recently, in another bout of rather alarming journalism, The Tennessean published an article titled "Vanderbilt University endowment loses a billion," using undisclosed sources. While this information is both significant and important — there's no denying that — it's hard not to believe that the reporter, Jennifer Brooks, is more concerned with sensationalism than merely reporting a rather complex set of affairs.

In her defense, the subject matter is frightening and therefore prone to sensationalism, but it is necessary to approach such a depressing topic with rigorous placidity. It appears to be true, as far as the article concerned, that Vanderbilt did have trouble finding the requisite \$100 million for payroll. It is important to note, however, that the school did manage to gather the money without "raiding" the endowment fund.

The payroll issue began after Wachovia Bank froze most of the assets in The Common Fund for Short Term Investments, a fund used by many colleges and universities to cover day-to-day expenses. This fund might remain frozen for the next few months, theoretically putting the administration in a bit of a bind. Fortunately, Vanderbilt has retained some of its liquid and semi-liquid assets, which will prevent those in charge from taking

desperate actions in the imminent future. This, of course, is not a long-term solution, but hopefully some more appealing options might arise soon.

Unsurprisingly, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty mentioned new cost-cutting initiatives, echoing Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos' e-mail to the student body. This will include putting some construction projects on hiatus and reducing use of university resources (monetary and other). According to the same article in The Tennessean, the student debt-free initiative will continue, and the school will still hire new faculty and allocate money to junior faculty for research purposes.

So what does this mean for students? It's hard to say specifically; both the provost and chancellor's statements are rather nebulous. Financial aid will not be affected, though it seems reasonable to claim funding for student organizations will decrease over the next couple semesters. Furthermore, there is the possibility some services we take for granted might be eliminated or they might charge a fee. At this point, it seems too early to comment — that would lead only to rampant speculation. At the moment, patience will pay off well. There is little to do but wait for the future to come to us.

The GOP has lost its way

DEVIN SAUCIER
Guest Columnist

As members of the GOP bemoan the inauguration of President Obama, far-sighted right-wingers are looking to the future. For the latter, the overwhelming victory of National Journal's most liberal senator of 2007 is a definitive repudiation of the pseudo-conservative principles championed by Bush and McCain. Indeed, the results of this past election and President George W. Bush's 22 percent approval rating give testament to their ability to reach across party lines: by receiving bipartisan disdain.

Now while liberals would bash anyone who doesn't call all their plays from the writings of the Frankfurt School, the fact that a good portion of Republicans decries their president raises an eyebrow. But this isn't surprising considering Bush and Sen. John McCain have promoted some of the worst policies in Republican history. Under the conservative banner, these two promoted an imperialist foreign policy that provided terrorists with their greatest recruiting tool, robbed us of our civil liberties and were complicit in the greatest financial disaster of all time. "At least we haven't had another terrorist attack!" some devout Republican might call out. Well that's a miracle considering the duo's refusal to enforce our immigration laws. On top of all this, Bush and McCain and Co.'s support of hundreds of billions of dollars in wealth redistribution has given us a foretaste of the socialism to come.

Let us be honest on this point: Nearly every aspect of Bush-McCain politics is left wing. In truth, liberals had a win-win situation this election. And with neoconservatives like Bill Kristol now advocating the abandonment of the basic tenet of small government and promoting "national greatness," we might as well call our political process what it is: a one-party system.

And as the Bush administration takes its final turn around the toilet bowl, to whom can we look for hope of true reform? To make an appropriate

reference, we wouldn't look to the CEO of Lehman Brothers to revive the failed company.

Well, then who is out there fighting the good fight? A good indicator is whether a person has been labeled an "extremist" or "out of the mainstream," which basically means he or she doesn't deliberate between which left-wing policies are preferable. Examples include Pat Buchanan and Ron Paul — both of whom were against the war in Iraq from the start, predicted the economic crisis well in advance, support secure borders and identify and speak out against cultural Marxism. For many, Ron Paul was the only interesting thing to come out of the alleged right this past election season. His grassroots-style campaign rallied two important demographics: students and the elderly, who have seen how backwards the GOP has become. As Richard Spencer of Takimag.com says, "The Ron Paul movement has a lot of potential and amazing dynamic. It represents something viable rather than a boring movement that accomplishes nothing."

Whether the Paulites or the Buchanan Brigade are the keys to the future of the right, or are simply things of the past, is conjecture. What is certain, however, is that real change needs to take place. And to that end, Obama's inauguration certainly provides hope. The centrist Republican establishment consistently tries to blur the differences between left and right. But the Obama inauguration promises to be a gruesome spectacle, one that will again clarify the vast differences between them and us. But before you look to the establishment for leadership, remember that it was the Bushes and the McCains who made the Obama administration possible. Let's recognize the GOP for what it really is: all-too-grand and all-too-old. Let's hope the toilet doesn't clog and spoil its exit.

—Devin Saucier is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at devin.r.saucier@vanderbilt.edu.

Take a trip outside the Vanderbubble



AIMEE SOBHANI
Columnist

Few people would argue Vandy is a place where unhappy students sequester themselves in their rooms all the time doing homework. Our school has a strong sense of community and an active campus life, which unfortunately might translate to weakened ties with the Nashville community as a whole.

Don't get me wrong — I really enjoy being a part of a united, cohesive student body. It's nice to know that no matter how different you might perceive yourself to be from everyone else here, you and the rest of the students will always have one thing in common — you all go to Vandy.

Many aspects of this school contribute to the communal feelings — compulsory on-campus housing and an almost universal appreciation of tortellini immediately come to my mind. One major reason the Vanderbubble exists, though, is because the campus is pretty accommodating; many students do not have a need to venture outside the immediate area for reasons unrelated to going downtown for Thursday night excursions or to taking full advantage of Taste of Nashville.

Of course, sometimes students can't explore Nashville as much as they'd like because of lack of transportation or because they just don't know what Nashville has to offer. I think many people, however, just forget there is a world outside of the campus's confines. I'm not trying to suggest these people are ignorant or anything; sometimes it's just easy to forget about the outside world when you are weighed down with tests, papers and campus life.

For someone who actually has access to personal transportation, even I occasionally forget I live in a vibrant, diverse city full of interesting places and interesting people. For example, Nashville is home to one of the largest Kurdish populations in the U.S., and there's also a pretty sizable Sudanese community, which is pretty impressive considering the fact that Nashville is only a medium-sized city.

As far as attractions go, Nashville has a lot to offer. The Parthenon is right across the street, and country music aficionados will definitely appreciate places like the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame. In addition to clubs and bars, downtown Nashville is the location of the Tennessee State Capitol and the Frist Center for the Arts.

Essentially, what I'm suggesting is to take some time to become a tourist — no fanny packs required. It's important to pop the Vanderbubble every so often simply because it's useful to know about the city you will live in for four years. Hopefully, learning about Nashville will foster a connection to the community outside of Vandy, and you can begin to develop a relationship with Nashville similar to the one you have with your hometown.

Of course, there are other ways students can build their ties to the Nashville community, such as watching local news or registering to vote. Following local news is a great way to learn about the city, and registering to vote here gives you a stake in local elections (i.e. last week's vote on whether or not to ratify the English-Only amendment).

Like I mentioned earlier, it's fantastic our school has a strong sense of community, but there is a lot to learn outside of the area between 21st and 25th Avenues. Nashville has a decent bus system that's free for students, and there's really no good reason not to take advantage of it.

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

Instead of a day to celebrate a fanatical socialist plagiarizer, MLK Day used to celebrate the birthdays of actual honorable men Lee and Jackson. Stop complaining about not having another excuse to be lazy.

Isn't it a tad inappropriate that the individual who sends the e-mail reminding students to vote in the VSG endorsed one of the candidates?

I wish Vanderbilt would spend a little more money to provide students with healthy food that doesn't completely suck.

Why has the Pub been so slow lately?

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 hustler.newseditor@gmail.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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Tenn. District 21
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Nashville, TN 37243-0021
(615) 741-2380

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Abortion tough choice, not murder

To the Editor:

Carolyn Phippen's article, "A disregarded truth," characterizes misconceptions regarding abortion.

She is correct that human life begins at conception. Technically. It depends on what makes life human.

Life requires an active ability for consciousness to be human. A fertilized egg or an early embryo obviously has no ability for consciousness and bears closer resemblance to a jellyfish or a random mass of tissues. It is alive, but it is not living.

It is difficult to respect life that is not living. We disregard this kind of life all the time. Take that cold you had last week. It was caused by a bacterial culture. Are you going to feel bad for killing it just because it is technically alive? What about that cockroach you crunched in your room? It was more alive than the bacteria and certainly more alive than an early fetus. It had a fully functioning brain and nervous system. But, because it was not conscious, you feel no remorse.

To be fair, comparing human life to a cockroach is degrading.

However, it illustrates the point that not all life is living.

An abortion prevents the possibility for a future life, which is entirely different than ending a present life. We change the future with every decision we make. Some decisions, like where we decide to work, dramatically affect our future offspring. While the future life from a current pregnancy is clearer and more salient than the future life determined by, say, job locale, both are in the future. No future life is more important than a present life.

Furthermore, as early fetuses are (much) more a part of the woman's body than a unique entity, the woman deserves full rights over the fetus' fate. Her body, her choice. It does not affect anyone else. If someone thinks abortions are wrong, that is fine. They should not tell everyone else what to do.

Contemplating an abortion must be a terrible situation. It is not as though I am pro-abortion. I am pro-choice. I hope my girlfriend and I never have the abortion conversation, especially because birth control is cheap and plentiful. However,

should accidental pregnancy occur, we should have a choice. The fetus is little more than a mass of unviable, partially differentiated tissues. It is not a baby. It is not homicide.

Every fully formed life should be protected and respected. Moreover, no form of life on the planet is more important than human life. We have only one life and no do-overs. Deciding what should live and what should not is the most important decision we can make. However, we must keep everything in context. Possibly ruining a woman's life

by forcing her into premature motherhood is worse than terminating an unviable mass of tissues, which only happens to have unique DNA. And, since there is such an outcry from those who would choose to ban choice, I wonder how they are helping resolve the very real problems facing children floundering unwanted in our foster care system. Those living children deserve to be saved from a life of uncertainty.

Cameron Pittman
Senior
College of Arts and Science

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Menu choices show the heart

NIKI ARINZE
Guset Columnist

Jan. 20, our nation celebrated the inauguration of our 44th president with speeches, luncheons and balls. And not to be outdone on that momentous occasion, Vanderbilt's very own Chef James Bistro decided to honor the day with an all-American menu. Now, I must admit when I first learned of the slated all-American menu, my first reaction was shock since I for one assumed Chef James had been serving me American food everyday. But I guess I was wrong. I should have been a little more suspicious of that lemon couscous, taking jobs away from good old Idaho mashed potatoes.

After getting over this initial shock of the culinary betrayal, I decided to see what foods were chosen, and again my heart sank. Fried catfish, black-eyed peas,

shrimp and grits, jambalaya, steak and apple cobbler were the foods chosen to celebrate the inauguration of America's first black president. As I went around telling people what the menu was, some rolled their eyes, others laughed, still others just shook their heads. What were the feelings behind these responses? I think we all know why everyone was so alarmed. Political correctness in this gleaming America forces many to hold their tongues; I will speak for the masses and once and for all say what all are thinking. All the head shakes, looks of horror and eye rolls point to the obvious prejudice coded in the Chef James menu selection. The menu that included black-eyed peas and shrimp and grits stems from the belief that only Southern and Creole cooking are worthy of the title all-American.

While shrimp and grits must have its day in the hot plate,

too, would it not have been more appropriate to have Spam and eggs, Chicago pizza and pineapple in commemoration a senator from Illinois who split his childhood in Indonesia and Hawaii? Or the all-American hot dog? Or food items all regions of America enjoy like water and salt? But alas, these items are less than American, for they are not Southern or Creole. In a time when people are speaking of change and a new America, Chef James Bistro has taken a giant step back in the march of equality. I hope one day my children will see a dining hall in which a pot of rice, a leg of lamb or a bowl of beans can be considered just as American as a plate of fried catfish.

— Niki Arinze is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached n.arinze@vanderbilt.edu.

The Sisters of

AOTT

congratulate our new members 2009!

- Diane BeCraft
- Kate Brolley
- Allison Buterbaugh
- Ryan Carr
- Melissa Caspary
- Brittany Cowfer
- Meryem Dede
- Charlie Deese
- Christine Douthwaite
- Liz Furman
- Maria Gaitan
- Maddy George
- Allyson Golden
- Jillian Goldstein
- Giulia Goletti
- Jill Heaviside
- Martha Hellman
- Kristin Horton
- Kim Ingraham
- Kate Kerbel
- Danielle Kern
- Carrie Kocot
- MaryClare Langan
- Judy Lee
- Jordan Levy
- Cat Majors

- Merissa Mayo
- Anna Muenchrath
- Jessica Owens
- Melissa Peck
- Audrey Pyle
- Elizabeth Riker
- Rachel Robison
- Meghan Rose
- Kate Ruddy
- Catherine Ruelens
- Katharine Sagan
- Katherine Sloan
- Samantha Smith
- Melanie Spector
- Martyna Stomski
- Veronica Venezia
- Sarah Walker
- Maggie Ward
- Rebecca Weiss
- Sarah Williams
- Carli Wittgrove



Howdy! And welcome to the

THETA HOUSE!



- ASHA ANAND
- EMMA APPLEBOMME
- LIZ ASCHE
- KABS BOOKOUT
- SUSANNA BRAMLETT
- CATHERINE BREWBAKER
- ANNABELLE BUNN
- KATE CAVENDER
- ELIZA COKER
- MARGOT DANIS
- LIZ EMMANUEL
- ELIZABETH FEIDLER
- ELEANOR GALLOWAY
- MARIA GARPESTAD
- LOUISE HANNALAH
- HANNAH HEIGHTEN
- NATALIE HENNINGER
- ANNALISA JENNER
- COZETTE KALE
- MAGGIE MARTINEZ
- KATE MCCONN
- KYLE MCGRATH
- ANNA MILLS

- ALLIE MORRISON
- ASHLEY PAKENHAM
- BETH PANKE
- BETHEA PATTERSON
- GRACE POWELL
- JESSICA PRUITT
- AMANDA RATNER
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- ALICIA SHAPIRO
- KAT SHEARER
- ZOE SHEWER
- TARYN SHIPLEY
- GINNY SHOGRY
- ADI SLIFER
- MADELEINE SWAYZE
- CLARE SWEENEY
- CAROLINE TRICOLI
- ALISON VAN BROCKLIN
- KELSEY VANDERLIP
- EMILY WALLS
- AMANDA WEISIGER
- ALANNE WHEELER
- SOPHIE YURKOWSKI



Congratulations to our
New Members!!!

SPORTS

Who will win the Super Bowl?

Pittsburgh Steelers



TONY TRIBBLE / AP Photo

Pittsburgh linebackers James Harrison and James Farrior (51) helped anchor the NFL's No. 1 defense en route to an AFC Championship.

by **MIKE KRANZLER**
Sports Reporter

It is more than a cliché used when building a team. In the last 12 seasons, the Super Bowl champions have boasted a top-10 defense nine times. On the flip side, only four winners in the past 12 years have had a top-10 offense.

The Arizona Cardinals may boast a high-flying offense, but more often than not, it is the elite defense that gets the upper hand in these sorts of games.

While the Pittsburgh Steelers may no longer have their fearsome Steel Curtain defense of the 1970s, this defensive unit

is still quite formidable. They led the league in total defense by a wide margin, were in the top-10 in total takeaways and were second overall with 51 sacks.

They also boast the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in outside linebacker James Harrison, who had 16 sacks to go along with seven forced fumbles.

A common adage in football to describe this sort of match-up is that of an unstoppable force meeting an immovable object; something has to give, and in this case, that will be the Cardinals' offense.

During the regular season, the Cardinals faced six of the

NFL's top-10 defenses. They lost five of those match-ups by an average score of 38-17. Their only victory came in overtime over the Dallas Cowboys after quarterback Tony Romo broke his pinkie and the Cards' special teamers blocked two crucial kicks.

The Arizona Cardinals have not seen anything like what Steelers' defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau will throw at them on Sunday. With one of the most complex defensive schemes and an attacking mentality, Pittsburgh will turn the Super Bowl into a display of defensive muscle that will leave Arizona wondering what hit them. ■

Arizona Cardinals



ROSS D. FRANKLIN / AP Photo

Quarterback Kurt Warner (13) had an MVP-caliber season in 2008 to lead the surprise Arizona Cardinals to their first-ever Super Bowl.

by **ADAM WEINSTEIN**
Sports Reporter

I'm not entirely sure I can express how odd it feels to put that sentence together — well, outside of the world of Madden anyway. I've been exploiting the "any-breathing-quarterback to Larry Fitzgerald" strategy for a while now.

The fact of the matter is, though, the Cardinals have made their first-ever Super Bowl. Sure it hasn't been pretty, what with their 9-7 regular season record and all, but they're good at what they do, and that's moving the ball.

Veteran quarterback Kurt Warner has been nothing short

of unbelievable this season. Warner was a definite candidate for league MVP this year; this is all pretty incredible for someone who hasn't really been much more than a fill-in-the-blank kind of quarterback since 2001. However, Warner will definitely serve as a steadying force in this game and the days leading up to it.

Warner definitely owes a great deal of his resurgence to his stellar receiver corps, headlined by Fitzgerald, who has already set a postseason record with 419 receiving yards.

Perhaps the reason why the Cardinals have won their three playoff games is their revitalized ground game. Worst in the league in rushing yards per game during

the regular season, last in the league, the Cardinals have seen a disgruntled Edgerrin James make an impact, alongside Tim Hightower, averaging 111 rush yards per game during their playoff run.

The Cardinals will once again be the underdogs in the Super Bowl as they face a huge challenge going up against the No. 1 defense in the NFL. If they take home the hardware, it'll be because of the continued dominance of their more balanced offense, their defense continues to rack up an incredible number of takeaways (12 so far this postseason), and because the apocalypse is upon us and the end is neigh! Repent! Repent! ■

Swim team hosts final meet Saturday

by **MEGHAN ROSE**
Sports Reporter

The Vanderbilt swim team is looking to make a splash in its last home meet of the season against Marshall University at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Although it is hard to believe, only two short years ago the women's swim team was re-established at Vanderbilt after a 16-year hiatus dating back to 1990.

With their last dual meet of the season coming tomorrow afternoon in Nashville, the Commodores have the opportunity to record a sweep of their home meets this season with a win over Marshall.

Last fall, the Commodores defeated Rhodes College (176-43) and Centre College (127-106) in double-dual action at Nashville's Centennial Sportsplex, recording Vanderbilt's first meet victory since the program was re-established in 2006.

This Saturday's meet represents the second piece of the Commodore's home meet schedule and the only roadblock standing in the way of a significant accomplishment for the swimmers.

"One of the goals that we set as a team at the beginning of the year was to win both of our home meets," said senior Rebecca Rogers, one of the two seniors on the squad, who specializes in backstroke

events for the Commodores. "I think we have a great shot at accomplishing the second half of this goal against Marshall."

For the Commodores, Saturday's meet against the Marshall Thundering Herd also marks the last chance for the team to lower times and make final improvements leading into the Southeastern Conference Championships, which take place at Auburn University in two and a half weeks.

With a relatively young and new team, the Commodores feel that fast, controlled swims are the key ingredients for a necessary confidence boost, vital to finishing the latter portion of the season successfully.

With only two seniors on the squad, coach Jeremy Organ and the entire women's team have been concentrating on improving technique and cutting times since the season began in September. Looking to the future, the young Commodores find themselves in a building stage, as the swimmers consistently aim to set personal bests and records at each of the meets.

In addition, with a smaller and close-knit squad this year made up of only 20 members, the swimmers have found a strong sense of team camaraderie and understand the importance of supporting



MOLCHAN

one another through ups and downs.

"This year I believe our team has come together more and that everyone is supportive of each other in the water," said freshman butterfly swimmer Kelly Obranowicz. "It really helps you to do your best at practice when you have someone encouraging you."

With the end of the season rapidly approaching, the Commodores are eager to finish the season off on a high note and continue to improve while in the pool.

"We've all been training really hard, and we have had a lot of great swims — we have shown a lot of improvement from last year, both as a team and individually," said sophomore Jennifer Molchan, who swims freestyle for the Commodores. "Because we are a new team, we're still in the building phase, and I think we will get significantly better each season." ■

COMMENTARY

Resilient Commodores look to end losing streak

by **NICK GALLO**
Sports Reporter

The Commodores (12-8, 1-5 Southeastern Conference) take to the road again Saturday in hopes of snapping their four-game losing streak, facing the Auburn Tigers (13-7, 2-3) in a match up of middle-of-the-road SEC teams. Vanderbilt is looking to rebound from its skid and took some positives away from its most recent game, an 86-76 loss at South Carolina on Wednesday.

Coach Kevin Stallings said he believes that despite the losses, this growing team showed something special in Columbia.

"I thought (Wednesday) we showed a much greater degree of togetherness. Guys playing for each other and covering for each other, which I think has to be a necessary part of the growth process for this team," Stallings said. "We had asked them for that, and they gave it to us."

Mired in a losing streak, the Commodores are at a crossroads. Teams with a similar, youthful nature tend to fold when the losses begin to pile up. This Vanderbilt team must break that trend if they hope to see the postseason and end with a respectable final record.

"We've got to stick together when we face adversity," said freshman forward Jeff Taylor, who led Vanderbilt Wednesday with 23 points. "We just have to come together and play as a team and take care of the ball."

The Commodores face an Auburn team that has won three of its last four games. The Tigers took the same Florida team that embarrassed

Vanderbilt down to the wire down at Auburn and have had impressive performances against Kentucky and Xavier. Auburn is led by guard DeWayne Reed, who is averaging 14 points a game, forward Korvotney Barber, who is almost averaging a double-double at 12.4 points and 9.1 rebounds a game, and guard Tay Waller, who is averaging 12.1 points a game.

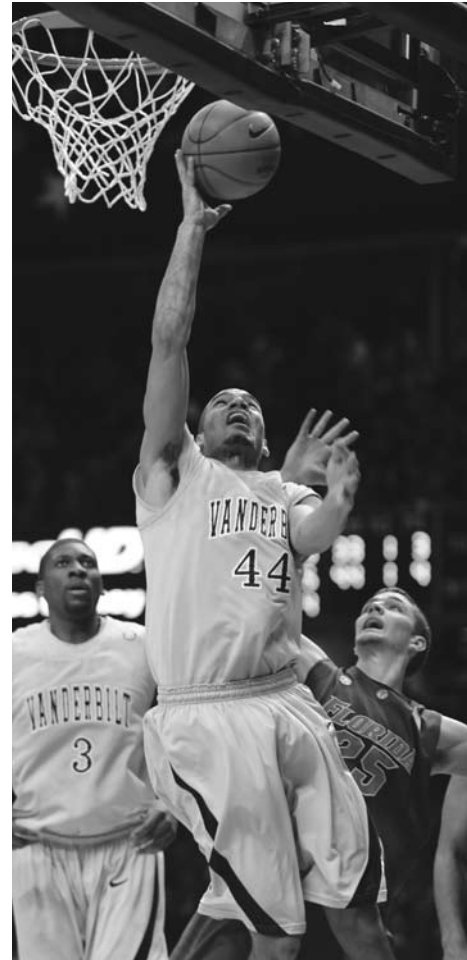
Stallings was quick to praise the Auburn club the Commodores are about to face.

"They're fast and quick and got all of their available pieces and Barber's made a nice difference for them inside with his being healthy. They've added another shooter," he said.

"They're probably as fast as any team in the league. They're 'fast' fast."

So how does Vanderbilt find the strength to pick themselves up again? Stallings agreed that there might be a "freshman wall" but that his young guys cannot hit that wall and must find a way around it. Junior George Drake, a veteran leader on the team, understands what it was like to be a younger player and tries to set an example going forward for this team.

"I just tell the younger guys



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshman Jeff Taylor (44) and the Commodores seek to snap a four-game losing streak against Auburn Saturday.

after losses like this that you have to come back, just stay focused and come out there and get back ... you can't dwell on the losses or anything. Coach says the thing for our team is to be a resilient team," Drake said. "It's important that we are resilient and we come back and just keep striving to get better every day in practice."

Getting better as a team is the main goal, but if the Commodores are going to re-route themselves this season — and give themselves a chance at the postseason — a win on Saturday is a necessity. ■

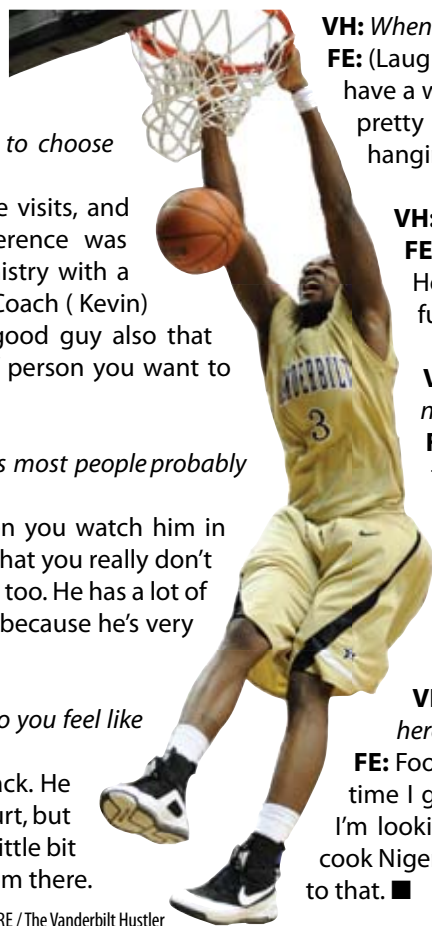
Vanderbilt intramurals

Be sure to check out <http://www.cbsintramurals.com/powerade/vanderbilt> to view photos and videos of Vanderbilt intramurals, sponsored by POWERade.



friday conversation with FESTUS EZELI

Interview by DAVID SHOCHAT
Sports Reporter



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt Hustler: When you were being recruited, what led you to choose Vanderbilt?

Festus Ezeli: I went on all of these visits, and they were all cool, but the difference was just the team. It's a different chemistry with a Vanderbilt team than most teams. Coach (Kevin) Stallings is a great coach. He's a good guy also that cares about you. That's the kind of person you want to be around, right?

VH: What's something about Stallings most people probably don't know about?

FE: Most people don't know? When you watch him in the games, you see him yell a lot. What you really don't know is that he does a lot of talking, too. He has a lot of concern for his players. He's yelling because he's very concerned.

VH: With A.J. Ogilvy being injured, do you feel like you have an increased role?

FE: Yeah, a little bit. A.J.'s coming back. He had a little thing with him getting hurt, but I think I need to step my game up a little bit more, and we're going to just go from there.

Redshirt freshman basketball player Festus Ezeli took time before practice to talk about what led him to choose Vanderbilt, what he misses about home and something people don't know about coach Kevin Stallings.

VH: When you're off the court, what are you doing?

FE: (Laughs) Studying. I'm a bio major so I don't really have a whole lot of time for anything else. It's going pretty good so that's pretty much what I do, and hanging out with the guys right here.

VH: Who's the funniest guy on the team?

FE: Funniest guy? Probably George (Drake). He makes the southern accent a whole lot funnier.

VH: How long have you been living in the states now?

FE: I got here in the summer of '04, so about four and a half years.

VH: Are you pretty much acclimated at this point?

FE: It doesn't really take a whole lot for me too used to stuff. I got used to it real quick.

VH: What's the biggest difference between living here and back in Nigeria?

FE: Food! I miss my food so much. That's why every time I go to a relative's house, that's the first thing I'm looking forward to is the food over there. They cook Nigerian food over there so I always look forward to that. ■

Q&A with Vanderbilt Coach Kevin Stallings

Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings addressed members of the local media before practice Thursday, discussing, among other things, the team's togetherness and the current status of injured center A.J. Ogilvy.

Q: What do you see from this team that you can build on?

Kevin Stallings: As a coach, I continue to be extremely impressed with how hard they work in practice, how good their attitudes are, how they all continue to be good teammates to each other. As long as we keep getting those things, at some point, we'll get them to where we're an effective basketball team and a team that can have success in this league.

Q: Is resilience becoming an attribute of this team?

KS: They're not going to give in. As long as they're willing to come out here and work to get better in practice, you know they're not going to give in in games. You see absolutely

no signs of anybody backing up, anybody's attitude lessening, anybody's desire going down.

Q: Is George Drake's offense becoming expected in games?

KS: If George is a guy that doesn't turn the ball over much, shoots a good percentage from the field, makes his free throws. He's played hard defensively for us all season long. He's going to be a tremendous asset as we go down the stretch of this season.

Q: Was A.J. Ogilvy's performance encouraging (only 3 points, but still grabbing 11 boards)?

KS: I was really encouraged by A.J. getting 11 rebounds. I think he was extremely disappointed in the 3 points, but I told him that I'll take 11 rebounds every night I can get it. I was really proud of him, given how he's felt, to be able to come out and be productive like that. I think the heel's fine. I think it's close to 100 percent. I don't think the heel's a problem. ■

Vanderbilt beats Arkansas in overtime



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior Meredith Marsh (23) makes a 3-pointer, one of her five in the game, in the first half against Arkansas Thursday night. Marsh led the Commodores with 21 points.

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

No. 20 Vanderbilt was collapsing. A 14-point advantage had evaporated in the final eight minutes of regulation, and Arkansas had just taken its first lead of the game 90 seconds into overtime.

Then the Commodores woke up. Vanderbilt (15-5, 5-1 Southeastern Conference) scored the final 13 points of overtime, 11 on free throws, to defeat Arkansas 72-61 for its second straight win and its best-ever start to conference play under coach Melanie Balcomb.

Junior Jessica Mooney tied the game with a pair of free throws and Ashley McCray traveled on Arkansas' ensuing possession. Mooney was fouled again and sunk both to put the Commodores up 63-61. Ceira Ricketts was then called for an offensive foul and senior Jen Risper took it in for the lay-up, was fouled by McCray and sunk the free throw for the 3-point play to give the Commodores a 66-61 lead.

Memorial Gym exploded and Risper's teammates mobbed her under the basket as the shot went through.

The Razorbacks committed a shot clock violation on their next possession, and when junior Meredith Marsh, who led the Commodores with 21 points, sunk two more free throws to put Vanderbilt up 7, it was over.

"Tonight, people did step up and knock down free throws when they knew it was on the line, and that was key," Marsh said.

"I think we showed poise especially as far as free throws," Balcomb said. "We weren't making free throws all night and then down the stretch we made 11 in a row."

But Balcomb wasn't thrilled with her team's performance.

"It was really tough to watch us play really well and then relax and let (Arkansas) right back in the game," she said.

Marsh, who knocked down five 3-pointers, admitted the team got complacent with a big lead.

"If you add it up, we played about 15 minutes. Five here, five there, five there," Marsh said. "That's what we've tended to do. We get comfortable with our lead and then not know how to change it."

Vanderbilt held a 1-point lead at halftime but built the lead to 8 thanks in part to a 4-point play by Marsh.

Vanderbilt expanded its lead and consecutive 3-pointers by senior forward Christina Wirth and Marsh gave the Commodores their largest lead of the game to that point at 53-40. Sophomore Hannah Tuomi hit a lay-up with 7:27 to play to give Vanderbilt a 14-point lead and seemingly finish off Arkansas.

But the Razorbacks were far from finished. They slowly chipped away at the lead over the next few minutes, and a banked-in 3-pointer from the top of the key by Lyndsay Harris with a little over two minutes to play tied it at 57, capping a 14-0 run.

Marsh was fouled on a drive to the rim and made both free throws to put Vanderbilt back on top, 59-57. McCray put in a lay-up to tie it again on Arkansas' next possession. It wasn't until Arkansas finally got in front in overtime that Vanderbilt snapped out of its funk.

"I'm proud of us just because we stuck together and fought this one out. Obviously it wasn't our best game and we need to make a lot of adjustments," Wirth said. "We need to get back to doing what we do. These games, every game matters, but it's even more important that we're preparing ourselves for down the road." ■

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 - 19 Conductor Seiji
 - 20 Fancifully depicted
 - 21 Future MD's course
 - 22 Crux
 - 23 Yule wood
 - 24 "You ___ There"
 - 25 Assembled
 - 29 Foundation
 - 31 Penetrating
 - 32 Florida panhandle city
 - 36 Queens stadium
 - 37 Identical
 - 38 ___ Khayyam
 - 39 Watery branch of geology
 - 41 Put in office
 - 42 Wear away
 - 43 Australian city
 - 44 In the past
 - 47 Public vehicle
 - 48 Steady as ___ goes!
 - 49 Frank
 - 51 Traveler's tote
 - 56 Disturb
 - 57 Ingredients in dressings
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 - 2 Irish county
 - 3 Fencer's stiletto
 - 4 Sprightly song
 - 5 New worker
 - 6 Ford Clinic, e.g.
 - 7 Adam's son
 - 8 "Nova" network
 - 9 Peach State
 - 10 Demolish
 - 11 Lizard of the Old World
 - 12 More up-to-date
 - 13 Exchange
 - 18 Desert Storm missile
 - 21 Deputized body
 - 23 Tall and lean
 - 25 Col. Potter's command
 - 26 "___ Breaky Heart"
 - 27 Hauled into court
 - 28 Extend a look
 - 29 Light tan
 - 30 Yell at
 - 32 Walks laboriously
 - 33 Harbinger
 - 34 Fancy cloth
 - 35 Aesthetic to a fault
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 - 59 E-mail period
 - 60 Minor fight
 - 61 On the move
 - 62 Actress Ruby
 - 63 Mm-mm good!

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