



OPINION: Miller explains how recent Facebook changes are not a big departure. [SEE PAGE 4](#)

SPORTS: Vanderbilt women's basketball takes first in the SEC with win over No. 3 Auburn. [SEE PAGE 7](#)

Students question worth of campus honor societies

by SARAH BILSKY
News Reporter

Students already dealing with the costs associated with attending college are beginning to re-examine the price of joining some of Vanderbilt's honor societies.

Vanderbilt has numerous honor societies that recognize students for exemplary academic records, leadership abilities and community and civic engagement. While many regard it as an honor to be invited to join such societies, most have required dues, which can be \$50 or more.

Students are often told upon invitation that by joining they will be able to participate in exclusive activities such as networking events and charitable outreach. Several students became frustrated, however, when after paying the society's dues, they heard nothing else from the organization. Such occurrences cause students to question the worth of such societies, especially in a time of economic cutbacks.

Junior Laura Nemer, a member of three honor societies on campus, said she has found both satisfaction and disappointment in her involvement in the groups.

Please see **HONOR SOCIETIES**, page 3



Alpha Epsilon Delta



Alpha Kappa Psi



Alpha Lambda Delta



Gamma Beta Phi



Kappa Delta Epsilon



Phi Alpha Delta



Phi Eta Sigma

No Cuts speaks for employees

by MADELEINE ENGLIS
News Reporter

The student-run No Cuts campaign spent every day on the Wall this week seeking support in its efforts to advocate for university workers.

The organization is trying to prevent worker layoffs, hourly cutbacks and loss of benefits for Vanderbilt's lowest-paid employees. While the university announced in an e-mail sent to the school on Jan. 28 that preserving jobs and salaries is a top priority, No Cuts campaign leader Eli Feghali, a senior, said the group remains worried. If conditions worsen, he said, the most vulnerable employees could still be cut.

Mostly though, the movement is about solidarity, he said.

"We want to stress to the administration that preserving workers' livelihoods is a priority for students, so that if the university reaches the point of needing to decide where to make additional budget cuts, they are encouraged to look at

areas other than cutting jobs, salaries or benefits," Feghali said.

"(The campaign) agrees wholeheartedly with Chancellor (Nicholas) Zeppos, who on numerous occasions has shared his desire to avoid worker layoffs and hour or benefit cutbacks," Feghali said, even though he said they continue to worry that non-faculty Vanderbilt employees are not a priority in the administration's efforts to avoid cutbacks.

The No Cuts campaign's worst fear is such additional cutbacks will include laying off non-faculty employees.

Despite the chancellor's best efforts to avoid layoffs, which include both hiring and — announced on Tuesday — salary freezes, the word "intention" has raised concern among some members of the student body. The chancellor has said he has the "intention to avoid major layoffs" — a careful choice of wording that gives the administration a loophole if they choose to

Please see **NO CUTS**, page 3

All in harmony



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Blair students of several concentrations performed in a concert at Ingram Hall Sunday night. The Vanderbilt University Orchestra performed Beethoven's "Ruins of Athens," and the Symphonic and Chamber Choirs performed Maurice Durufle's "Requiem Op. 9."

VSG primary results

compiled by Chelsey Feldman

After much preparation and a week of campaigning, primary elections for Vanderbilt Student Government senate and class council positions concluded at noon on Thursday.

The following students will advance to the general election to be held Feb. 25.

A&S SENATOR:

Maria Crist, first-year student
Lauren Jansen, first-year student
Tommy Obenchain, sophomore
Alexa Papaila, junior
Joshua Sirchio, junior
Sloane Speakman, first-year student

A&S COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:

Maggie Martinez, first-year student
Jeremy Strickland, sophomore

A&S COUNCIL ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Amaobi J. Enyinnia, first-year student
Ning Foncham, sophomore

ENGINEERING SENATOR:

Andrew Morse, sophomore
Amanda Palmer, first-year student

BLAIR SENATOR:

Thomas Crespo, sophomore
Susan Gleiser, sophomore

BLAIR COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Jordan Holland, junior
Erin Steigerwald, sophomore

PEABODY SENATOR:

Kate Goudge, first-year student
Timothy Howze, sophomore

Composting finds niche

by SIMON HIRSCH
News Reporter

Keeping in stride with the green mission of the first-year campus, the Composting at the Commons project has been recycling organic matter since October 2007.

The Commons composting effort, an initiative of Students Promoting Environmental Awareness, focuses on biodegradable organic matter, such as fruits, vegetables and coffee. All of the materials are taken from The Commons Dining Center or the Common Grounds Coffee Shop. Senior Luke Boehne heads the project with the help of sophomore Liwei Jiang and seven volunteers who all regularly gather food scraps in five-gallon buckets from The Commons, add the scraps to 3-by-3-by-3 compost bins and spend roughly 45 minutes a week turning the compost soil.

"Composting is one approach to the social justice movement," Boehne said, "because composting is fundamentally natural, creates fertile topsoil and solves the food waste issue, especially in restaurants. Composting is also easy enough to do at home but easily done on a municipal level."

Composting is environmentally attractive

because it prevents carbon and nitrogen-rich materials from ending up in a landfill where they will not decompose because oxygen cannot reach the material. Also, non-decomposed matter creates methane gas, which is 10 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Additionally, according to Vanderbilt's Recycling Coordinator Jennifer Hackett, composting is also economically attractive because it reduces the cost required to put items in a landfill, as well as decreases fertilizer costs.

For now, The Commons is the pilot site for the project, and Boehne wishes to see its expansion. Currently, members of SPEAR are putting together a preliminary proposal for a 15-by-15 rooftop garden on either Branscomb Quadrangle or Sarratt Student Center.

"We are hoping to use Rand kitchen scraps which would require a compost site in conjunction with Rand," Boehne said.

According to president of SPEAR and senior Brent Fitzgerald, this project is unique to campus because instead of solely advocating reform, the composting project essentially practices what it preaches.

"We proposed an idea and get to see it to completion. Instead of spending money to



NAME HERE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Sophomore Wern Ong (left) and senior Anna Simon (right) add food scraps to the compost site at The Commons.

bring in a guest speaker who comes for a day, we have created a perpetual educating tool and a perpetual tool to combat global warming," Fitzgerald said. ■

NEWS INSIDE: Economics professors proclaim dissatisfaction with stimulus plan in The New York Times. [SEE PAGE 3](#)

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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by CHELSEY FELDMAN

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HIGH 47, LOW 33
Sunny

SATURDAY



HIGH 47, LOW 23
Showers

SUNDAY



HIGH 39, LOW 22
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

Five teens arrested for burglary after leaving candy wrapper trail in Fla.

PALM BAY, Fla. (AP)—Five Florida teens face burglary-related charges after police followed a trail of candy wrappers from the crime scene back to the house of one of teens.

Officers responded to a break-in Tuesday in Palm Bay on Florida's central Atlantic coast. An officer then followed a trail of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups packages in the backyard. The officer noticed another wrapper on the front porch of a house near the victim's house.

Officers found several juveniles at the other house. Police say the teens confessed to the burglary and informed officers that the stolen property was in the attic.

Three of the teens face armed burglary charges and two others face charges of resisting arrest without violence and tampering with evidence.

Doughnut shop worker slashes man's tires after denying him cup of coffee

NATICK, Mass. (AP)—All the customer wanted was coffee. Instead, he needs four new tires.

Police say a worker at a Massachusetts Dunkin' Donuts slashed the tires on a customer's Jeep after the two got into an argument Tuesday.

Thirty-nine-year-old Thomas Zazulak was charged with malicious destruction of property and disturbing the peace.

Police say the dispute broke out when the customer — whose name wasn't released — started to leave because he was tired of waiting for the cup of coffee he ordered.

Words were exchanged, then Zazulak allegedly followed him outside, pulled out a folding knife and slashed the tires.

Police said the clerk, the only worker on duty, then resumed serving customers. Zazulak did not return a telephone message left at his home in Framingham.

Plumber pleads guilty to stealing pipes from restaurants, selling for scraps

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania plumber faces jail time after using his skills to steal pipes from restaurant bathrooms and sell the purloined metal for scrap.

Daniel Rushton pleaded guilty Wednesday to taking chrome-plated and brass pipes from toilets and urinals at restaurants in suburban communities northwest of Philadelphia.

The 30-year-old Clifton Heights man said he sold the pipes as scrap metal to support a drug habit.

One investigator had said it took the plumber about four minutes to shut off the water and remove the pipes. Some of his exploits were caught on video surveillance cameras.

Prosecutor Tony Gil calls it one of the stranger crimes he's seen. Rushton faces similar charges in Delaware County and Philadelphia.

Chunk of metal from wood chipper crashes through NJ warehouse roof

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—A note to someone in northern New Jersey: Check what you're putting through your wood chipper.

Al Smith was forklifting a sofa in his moving company's warehouse in Jersey City on Wednesday morning when he heard a sound he thought was a bomb. A chunk of hot metal the size of a brick came crashing through the roof just steps from him. It splintered a wooden beam and crashed into a shelf.

The Federal Aviation Administration looked at the object and determined it was not from an airplane. Mayor Jerramiah Healy said the cast iron object came from a nearby wood chipper.

Smith was not hurt but said he was shaken up. He feels so lucky it missed him that his next step was to buy a lottery ticket.

Man runs out of gas, finds \$35,000 worth of marijuana in gas tank

SANDY, Utah (AP)—A stash of grass can take the place of a lot of gas, but it won't do anything for mileage.

A Utah man took his newly acquired used SUV to a mechanic to find out why the gas gauge always read half-full.

The mechanic in Sandy looked inside the gas tank and found about 35 pounds of marijuana in plastic-wrap packages that filled about half of the tank's volume.

Police estimate the pot is worth about \$35,000.

The Nissan Armada has had several different owners and was once a rental car.

Sandy police are trying to figure out who stashed the pot but say the current owner is not a suspect.

Investigators in the town south of Salt Lake City say the drug packs could have been in the tank for months.

Police credit department Facebook page in solving vandalism case

AUBURN, Maine (AP)—Three weeks after setting up a page on Facebook, a central Maine police department is crediting the social networking Web site with helping solve a vandalism case.

Auburn police say three teenagers broke into the spa last week at a Hilton Garden Inn. The teens ripped off wall tiles and threw them into the spa and hallway, causing about \$1,000 in damages.

Police posted images from the hotel's surveillance video on the department's Facebook page, which they had set up Jan. 29.

Detectives then received several anonymous tips from Facebook users who recognized the boys.

Police have charged three boys, ages 15 and 16, with burglary and criminal mischief.

1 of 2 men using thongs as masks during robbery sentenced to 12 years

DENVER (AP)—One of two Colorado men who used women's thong underwear to cover their faces while they robbed a convenience store has been sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Twenty-year-old Joaquin Rico was sentenced Tuesday. He and 25-year-old Joseph Richard Espinoza pleaded guilty to the May 15 robbery.

Prosecutors say the pair threw a large rock through the store's window at 5 a.m., soon after the clerk opened the store.

One man wore a green thong; the other wore blue.

Prosecutors say Rico grabbed the store's clerk by the neck and punched her in the face several times, breaking her jaw. He then collected about \$100 from the cash registers, while Espinoza stole 37 packs of cigarettes.

Espinoza's sentencing is scheduled for Monday.

CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, FEB. 20

• "Kissam After Hours"

Starbucks coffee will be served in Dyer Hall in Kissam Quadrangle for "Kissam After Hours: A Coffee House to Benefit Dismas House." The event will begin at 9 p.m. and will showcase student performers.

• Commons Masquerade Ball

The Commons will host a masquerade ball with live Mardi Gras music and New Orleans cuisine. The ball will be held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in The Commons Center.

SATURDAY, FEB. 21

• Asian New Year Festival

The annual Asian New Year Festival will be held in the Student Life Center to celebrate the Year of the Ox. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. in the SLC Board of Trust Room and the show begins at 7 p.m. in the SLC Ballrooms. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster, the Wall or at the door.

SUNDAY, FEB. 22

• "Salvador"

The film will be shown in Garland Hall 101 from 5 to 7 p.m. The film by Oliver Stone takes a look at the nation of El Salvador in the '80s and the role the United States played there. The event will be open to the public.

SNAPSHOT

HALFTIME WITH DANCELINE



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Vanderbilt Danceline put on their final performance of the Southeastern Conference basketball season during the halftime performance for the men's basketball game against Kentucky Tuesday. The Commodores defeated the Wildcats in an upset victory 77-64.

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.



Photo illustration of David Warren, co-founder of social-media site GadZeus.



CHRIS PHARE created this photo illustration by dropping in and blurring an image of the website.

Student photographers interested in joining the staff are invited to the next meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Sarratt 130.

Brought to you by the Commodore Yearbook. Order your yearbook at VanderbiltCommodore.com

NO CUTS: Freezes may not affect some staff

From **NO CUTS**, page 1
reverse their "no-layoff" policy currently in place.

The precarious state of the economy has led members of the No Cuts campaign to believe the university will need to find additional ways to cut back funds in the upcoming year.

Director of Plant Operations Mark Petty, who oversees many of Vanderbilt's non-faculty employees, said it is difficult to know whether or not the freezes will affect his employees.

"Our employee salaries will be renegotiated next November when their contracts are renewed," Petty said. "So it is difficult to say whether or not they will be frozen. That isn't something we can know right now."

In a time of such uncertainty, the only thing the administration can say for certain is so far no one has been laid off. In light

of this, the No Cuts campaign makes it clear they are not a reactionary campaign but more of a preventative measure that intends to promote student solidarity against any potential layoffs of low-wage workers, should the necessity for additional cutbacks arise in the coming year.

On the other hand, the current discrepancy between hours cut back from faculty and non-faculty employees have weakened the administration's mission to avoid layoffs and salary cutbacks.

Although the salary and hiring freeze policy was intended to apply to all staff members, non-faculty Vanderbilt employees have suffered hourly cutbacks regardless.

Despite this difference between how faculty and non-faculty Vanderbilt employees have been treated, the chancellor and administration have said community is Vanderbilt's greatest asset.

Zeppos has praised the uniquely Vanderbilt sense of community and shared sacrifice and how it has bonded collectively to continue the mission and serve Vanderbilt.

To ensure the chancellor's words are not just empty promises, the No Cut campaign intends to remind Vanderbilt students as well as the administration that this "sense of community must include everyone, particularly the lowest paid workers," Feghali said.

Feghali said the No Cuts campaign is in no way accusing the chancellor or administration of being dishonest.

"We believe the administration is genuinely concerned with the plight of its workforce. Our intention with this campaign is to hold the administration accountable to its words and to the language of the Community Creed," Feghali said. ■

HONOR SOCIETIES: Students weigh costs versus benefits

From **HONOR SOCIETIES**, page 1

"I am in the Athenians, and we have done a couple of events and have meetings throughout the year. The other two, I have heard back that I got in, paid my dues and haven't heard back anything from them," Nemer said.

Still, sophomore Xinyue Liang, a member of four honor societies, said it was worth it for her to pay the dues, even if she has not heard back from the society.

"I think they are a good way to make connections with people across the country or to put on a resume so employers will understand that you have a certain academic standing," Liang said.

Shay Malone, assistant director at Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs, said honor societies in general follow through with their members.

"Honoraries are structured like any student organization. Each year and each honorary class is different and some may do more than others," Malone said.

Some feel that it is also up to the student to make the experience in the group worthwhile. According to Cindy Funk, director of the Vanderbilt Career Center, involvement in honor societies is worth it if the student feels that they were engaged and involved in the society.

"I think it depends on what

the student is interested in gaining from the experience, if it is an active society that the student will be able to do a lot with, then it is probably worth it," Funk said. "How the society is reflected is really important. If you didn't gain anything from membership and you can't talk about it, it's not worth it to put it on the resume."

Nemer said she agrees. "I put the societies I didn't do anything with on my resume for a while, but eventually took them off because I don't think I gained anything from them. I don't have anything to say about them except that I joined," she said.

According to Malone and Funk, honor societies can be a good investment for students as long as they are actively involved and the student feels he or she gained from it. It is up to the student, Funk says, to determine how much value to place on involvement.

While honor societies can be a good investment for those who are actively involved and who feel they benefited from the experience, others are still unsure about whether the investment is worth it due to such stories of inactivity.

Sophomore Eliza Horn said she thinks the cost of dues is too steep for the few benefits membership offers.

"In a time where money is so tight, I am not sure I want to lay down \$50 just to pad my resume," Horn said. ■

Professors protest \$787 billion stimulus

by **ALLISON McDONNOLD**
News Reporter



MORO

CRUCINI

Two Vanderbilt economics professors signed a petition that ran as an ad in The New York Times in opposition to President Barack Obama's latest stimulus package.

Associate Professor of Economics Mario Crucini, a member of Cato, the non-partisan public policy think tank that sponsored the ad, said he decided to sign the petition because the \$787 billion stimulus bill does not look promising.

Associate Professor of Economics Andrea Moro signed the petition along with Crucini.

The bill, signed into law Tuesday, passed with no Republican votes in the House and just three Republican votes in the Senate.

Crucini said he believes the money going to state governments could help curb layoffs of public employees, but he thinks more money should have been apportioned to states. He said he also disagrees with the argument that the federal government is better equipped to handle funding.

"State governments should be trusted with funding," Crucini said. "They're closer to their constituents."

Crucini said he is concerned the fiscal spending the bill proposes will not come into effect until the economy is coming up again.

"As much as 20 percent of the nation's GDP is being spent, and whether or not goals are being met is not being communicated," Crucini said.

In an effort to increase transparency the White House has launched <http://www.recovery.gov>, a new Web site that shows a spending timeline for the stimulus bill. Crucini said he takes issue with claims that this crisis is "unlike any since the Great Depression," believing dramatic overstatements such as these only make the situation worse.

"Typical recessions last a couple of years," Crucini said. "We have already had one year

of recession."

Crucini said he thinks some aspects of the plan are valuable public investments and will enhance the nation's output. He agrees with the spending on education, saying it should lead to more GDP in the future.

The plan will give the nation's school districts, childcare centers and universities \$150 billion in new federal spending over the next two years. The \$6 billion allocated to higher education will be in the form of increased spending on Pell Grants, a federal student aid program.

"You want policies to generate more output, not just redistribute wealth," Crucini said.

The bill includes plans for public works projects, education, health care, energy and technology as well as fast-acting tax cuts. Some projects on the books, like highway and bridge construction and school renovations, are slow-moving and will take years to move ahead.

Projects like infrastructure and mass transit, which have been allotted \$150 billion, take consideration and planning and therefore will take awhile

to affect employment.

But Crucini was not impressed by the initiatives set forth in the proposal.

"I think the intent of the bill is broader than employment," Crucini said. "It should have been broken into two bills."

The largest amount of money in the bill, \$288 billion, is designated for tax relief. Most tax relief is lump sum, Crucini said, which he and other economists argue will not necessarily increase employment. The rebate checks sent in the spring of 2008 lead to almost no effect in employment.

Robert Hall, a professor of economics at Stanford University, said unless they have incentive to spend the money, most people will just save it.

Hall, who spoke to an audience of over 150 students and faculty at Vanderbilt on Thursday, proposes states do away with sales tax for a finite period in order to encourage consumer spending. Hall is president-elect of the American Economic Association and has served on the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve Board and the Congressional Budget Office. ■

Rocky economy intensifies search for CFO

by **HAYLEY KARLAN**
News Reporter

Jeff Balsler, associate vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, is leading a national search for a new chief financial officer.

The search began after Lauren Brisky stepped down as vice chancellor for administration and CFO on Feb. 1, ending her eight-year career as CFO and 20 years of service at Vanderbilt. Betty Price, Brisky's deputy vice chancellor for finance and controller, has been acting as an interim CFO for the past several weeks and will continue to do so until the position is filled.

Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos said the search committee aims to have the position filled by this spring. The committee is looking for candidates with

excellent organizational skills to manage the university's finances.

The CFO's responsibilities include overseeing and managing the university's budgeting and capital structure. The CFO will receive the help of the other vice chancellors in strategizing the continuing financial success of Vanderbilt.

"What this new CFO will bring is a critical set of skills and expertise in overseeing and coordinating the financial and budgetary aspects of our strategy and stewarding our great university financially," Zeppos said.

The current state of the economy is an important factor in the decision-making process. The CFO's role in the university is particularly important in these uncertain economic times, according to Zeppos.

"The new CFO will take on those challenges but will also be expected

to search for opportunities to ensure Vanderbilt's financial strength and that the university continues to thrive in the areas of teaching, research and patient care," he said.

The nine-member search committee led by Balsler also consists of Dean of the Owen Graduate School of Management Jim Bradford; Vice Chancellor for Investments Matthew Wright; Board of Trust members Claiborne P. Deming, John Ingram and Sharon Munger; Professor of Management David Owens; Associate Dean and Chief of Staff and Associate Professor of Public Policy and Higher Education Michael McLendon; and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty. ■

Vanderbilt News Service contributed reporting to this article.

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12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	
4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
6:15	6:15	6:15	6:15			6:15
7:45	7:45	7:45				

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iEngineer

SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Engineering senior Heather Stone won the first iCreate Robot race on Wednesday in the first competition of E-Week. Students had to build their own robots and have them race through a maze.

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The first 100 days



AIMEE SOBHANI
Columnist

President Obama came into the Oval Office with a huge weight on his back: living up to the unrealistic expectations produced by the media ... and the crappy economy of course. A month later, Americans probably view Obama more realistically because, though he has experienced some notable successes, it hasn't all been smooth sailing.

Successes:

Closing Guantanamo Bay (sort of): On Jan. 21, Obama signed an executive order that called for the suspension of prosecutions and the review of the cases of the suspected terrorists currently being held in the detention center. The order also stated the intention of the administration to shut down Guantanamo within one year.

Closing Guantanamo indicated Obama's desire to separate himself from Bush and company and is a crucial step in rectifying wrongs committed by the American government. Until Guantanamo actually closes, however, we can only see this maneuver as a symbolic rather than concrete step.

The Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act: This bill, which became a law on Jan. 29, abolished the 180-day limit previously placed on anyone seeking compensation to make up for discriminatory pay. Now, the 180-day time period to bring charges of discrimination against an employer renews with each discriminatory paycheck.

In a country where women were only making 77 cents on the dollar in 2005, the new policy paves the way to guaranteeing equal pay for equal work for women facing discrimination in the workplace because it has now become more costly for employers not to pay men and women equally for equal work. While we are far from eradicating sex discrimination, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act puts the U.S. on the right track.

Failures:

The economic stimulus: Some people may feel "failure" is a misnomer for the economic stimulus plan, which Obama actually signed into law on Feb. 17. Calling it a failure stems from the way in which the package came about rather than its contents.

During the campaign, Obama indicated his intent to foster bipartisanship in Congress. Sure, every presidential candidate might promise this, but with all of the hype surrounding Obama, I think the American people really wanted to believe it. This tenet was not realized in the vote for the stimulus bill: Only three Republican senators voted for it, and every single House Republican voted against it. While we can't directly attribute this result to Obama, he probably could have done more to attract Republicans to the bill — or at least he should have tried to get Congressional Democrats to be more responsive to republicans' suggestions (though Republicans did seem rather determined to stop the bill from passing regardless).

Cabinet's inability to pay taxes: Three of Obama's original cabinet picks, Tim Geithner, Bill Richardson and Tom Daschle, have a tendency to not pay their taxes. The Senate confirmed Geithner as Treasury Secretary, but both Richardson and Daschle withdrew their nominations. Granted, tax evasion isn't exactly the same as murder, but it still does bring up issues of trustworthiness.

Again, it's not directly Obama's fault that the issue of tax evasion managed to slip through the cracks of the nomination process; he probably wasn't heavily involved in vetting the candidates. The oversight does add a slight hint of scandal to the administration's doings, though.

So was Obama's first month in office a success or a failure? I'll let people decide for themselves based on the evidence provided above, but personally, I feel like he did the best he could under the current circumstances. It seems probable his inability to magically fix every little problem demoralized the obamaniacs, but hopefully, people now have more realistic expectations for the most powerful man in the free world.

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

EDITORIAL

Employee salaries threatened

Richard McCarty, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, recently announced a plan to freeze all staff and faculty salaries, with the exceptions of promotion-related raises and mission-critical or market-sensitive positions. This is another cost-cutting measure implemented due to economic conditions and the decrease of the asset values in the endowment. Furthermore, the short-term assets (used to pay-day-to-day costs) were frozen earlier in the semester, causing issues with payroll that affected many of the faculty and staff.

As a well-endowed private university, it stands to reason Vanderbilt will not be receiving any surprise windfall from the bailout in the immediate future, especially since less than 50 percent of the funds will actually be spent in 2009. Therefore, such cost-cutting methods should not be surprising. While it is unfortunate — especially for those recuperating from the economic setbacks themselves — these measures are essential for preserving the university's

long-term solvency and financial expansion. It is important to note this is one of many cutbacks that will be made over the next few months, and possibly few years, and that they should be taken in stride — while some measure may seem drastic, they're necessary.

There is genuine concern for the workers affected by these initiatives. Some staff may decrease in wages or possibly lay-offs in an increasingly hostile environment. Eli Feghali, organizer for Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees, described his organization's mission as "an expressed purpose to prevent any layoffs or hourly/benefit cutbacks from Vanderbilt's most vulnerable employees." So while these cutbacks might be necessary, it is important that it does not disrupt the general staff, who provides the support the university needs from a day-to-day basis. The current situation is quite treacherous and needs to be navigated with aplomb.

Obama needs to back off



JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

Here begins the conclusion of my series on how Obama can come close to meeting expectations. Like all good trilogies, there must be a climactic finish that drags on much longer than you feel is really necessary. Before delving into the political complexities of why college football needs a playoff system, however, I want to address a pressing complaint.

A number of stand-up citizens have brought to my attention that my articles have ceased to be funny. This is hard for me to hear, especially since I don't know who these people are or why they're so invested in a college newspaper.

So first of all: Bite me, I don't care about what you think. Now I'm a second-semester senior, the only Vanderbilt person I interact with outside my suite is the guy from CT West who asks me what I want in my baked potato. Secondly, I'd like to apologize for making a legitimate effort to bring fresh perspective, and I guess now is the time to consider the possibility of beginning to write Neily Todd-style articles about how diversity is good and how Vanderbilt is a school.

To the point: Obama needs to do something about foreign policy. The United States government currently has stationed troops in 135 countries, or over 70 percent of the world. This means that most Vanderbilt students could not locate half of the countries we are in on a map. To be fair, a good number of them are strange, obscure and useless countries with names like Yemen, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and New Jersey. And yet, we puzzle over the fact that when we go abroad we have to can't wear our

Confederate flag t-shirt, have to pretend we're from Canada and are forced to leave our signed photos of Bush at home.

Thinking of Sept. 11, the tragic deaths that occurred lie entirely on the shoulders of the terrorists with low tolerance of our women's suffrage. I'm not saying it's fair to blame Sept. 11 on American women either, but let's be honest: You females are all hung up on trying to wear suits and play sports, and now nobody can cook. No wonder we're in a recession. Yet one has to wonder how many terrorist attacks and threats could be headed off by resisting the urge to force these people to wear baseball caps and engage in premarital sex?

Why is American culture internationally valued about as much as Nigerian currency? Because we insist that everyone conform to our standards. We see ourselves as the moral compass of the world. Take this politically disastrous season of "24" as an example. First, the country elects a woman president. Then, she feels the need to push out thousands of American troops to fight in another country's civil war. This may sound like advocating permission of genocide, but do you know why Hitler happened? America and Britain dictating everything that Germany did: managing the country.

We need to have a noninterventionist policy, which is different from isolationist. It means we only take action in other countries when our country is explicitly at risk. Other than that, how a country runs its own politics and determines its future is, oddly enough, up to that country and the people who live in it.

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

Facebook concerns



KATHERINE MILLER
Columnist

Mark Zuckerberg vows a return to normalcy on Facebook. Fear the normal.

Not to inflict any Bob Dylan terror on everyone, but Facebook has some serious licensing, privacy and free speech principles just sort of blowing around in the wind with all the smug self-satisfaction of a gaggle of dirty folk singers.

Two weeks ago, Facebook announced they would change their Terms of Service. They proceeded to change a section to the following:

"You hereby grant Facebook an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, transferable, fully-paid, worldwide license (with the right to sublicense) to (a) use, copy, publish, stream, store, retain, publicly perform or display, transmit, scan, reformat, modify, edit, frame, translate, excerpt, adapt, create derivative works and distribute (through multiple tiers), any User Content you (i) post on or in connection with the Facebook Service or the promotion thereof subject only to your privacy settings or (ii) enable a user to post, including by offering a Share Link on your Web site and (b) to use your name, likeness and image for any purpose, including commercial or advertising, each of (a) and (b) on or in connection with the Facebook Service or the promotion thereof."

This code granted Facebook the — they use a lot of adjectives, so let's settle for something all-encompassing — Temple of Doom right to edit, license and even sublicense any user's content however Facebook pleased.

This language actually is the same as the old Terms of Service. Read that again. All Facebook did was excise the following:

"You may remove your User Content from the Site at any time. If you choose to remove your User Content, the license granted above will automatically expire, however you acknowledge that the Company may retain archived copies of your User Content."

Without these lines, the Terms of Service granted Facebook control forever, hinging on the moment a user posted their content rather than his active status. But, lest we forget, that license exists right now, regardless of the proposed changes. Facebook owns everything posted on Facebook, excepting certain areas protected vaguely by privacy controls.

The logical progression of Facebook's proposed changes to their Terms of Service suggest Facebook retains all user information and content regardless.

Try deactivating: Facebook forces users to delete all friends, wall posts, information and groups individually — friend by friend, post by post — like some online Soviet guilt trip procedure at the gulag. And at the end of that exercise, Facebook informs the deactivating user his information will remain there waiting for him.


Zuckerberg and Facebook have reneged on the official side, of course.

Maybe Facebook ought to bust out the starch and iron some of these details out a bit before they announce decisions that affect a system used by 175 million people.

Because, look, this is like the expository 15 minutes of some "Neuromancer," "Bladerunner," "Watchmen" moment in our sci-fi movie lives where all the sudden 20 years fade to black, and we're all up in a police state where Gannett regulates news, Facebook owns a catalogue of damning personal information and some Socialist Christian party's taken over.

Consider where Facebook may be in 20 years — who will own 175 million people's information then? Harrison Ford not save us.

— Katherine Miller is a junior in the College of Arts & Sciences. She can be reached at katherine.m.miller@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

Why are all the wraps at Chef James covered in cream cheese?

I wish the schedule of courses for next semester would be released ... I need to plan my life!!

What the hell is with Kentucky fans in our student section?

Why aren't more people wanting to participate in Vanderbilt's Relay For Life on March 27-28?!

Dear Vanderbilt Women: Leggings do NOT equal pants. No matter how long you think your t-shirt is, we can all still see your polka-dotted underwear and cellulite thighs.

Leggings without pants are old news, even for the Rant. So why are people still doing it??

Learn to f***ing park!

Where did the warm, sunny weather go?

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.

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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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Decline and fall of Western civilization



THOMAS SHATTUCK
Opinion Editor

The Siege of Leningrad occurred over an 872-day period beginning in the fall of 1941. It is estimated that approximately 1.1 to 1.5 million soldiers and civilians perished as a direct result of the operation and 1.4 million people (mostly women and children) were evacuated, though a substantial number died in the process. Unsurprisingly, the siege stands as one of the most lethal urban military operations along with the Battle of Stalingrad. The Soviet Union as a whole lost over 23 million men, women and children through warfare,

famine, sickness and racial elimination, which is approximately 13 percent of the 1939 population. Most people would find it difficult, if not impossible to comprehend such a large number — over one out of ten people did not survive less than a decade of war.

What purpose did it serve? Did they die in vain or just out of vanity? The war itself did shift the socioeconomic power of the Western Hemisphere, but after 50 years they have already changed again. In such an impermanent world, it seems foolish to expend so much for an ephemeral shift of political power and regional boundaries. In an existentialist sense, World War II represented the malicious apathy of an indifferent

world. With such alarmingly high attrition rates, it is hard to have faith in Albert Camus's assertion that self-responsibility is the primary framework of human existence.

In fact, the emptiness of war (and the individual's entrapment within it) promotes a more nihilistic belief that humans essentially consist of a confluence of exterior forces — free will becomes meaningless. Traditionally, there has remained a debate between free will and fate, implying that at least one, if not both, exists. A post-modern approach to existence seems to posit the claim that neither does — that in a truly nihilistic world, fate and free will are human constructs to obfuscate

the apparent void. This nihilistic void, consistently misconstrued as denial of the evident, is merely a defiance of the classical epistemological structure.

Rene Descartes famously said, "I think, therefore I am," mostly due to the fact he could not make any other claim honestly. Jean-Paul Sartre, in his novel "Nausea," countered with "I do not think, therefore I am a moustache," which seems equally valid in a less than serious manner. In a world view that limits a priori truths, however, perceptions dominate and that is what makes all instances of life a muted tragedy. Without being given a reason to live, one has to find something (man, God, law, etc.) It is important to

note, however, that Camus had similar thoughts on religion and self-inflicted death, considering both an act of deference toward the absurd.

In other words, around 60 million people died (sometimes brutally) in World War II in the name of ideologies and nationalism that relied heavily on personal perception. The beliefs of a few led to deaths of many — most of who were not connected to the ideologies themselves. It becomes difficult as time passes to attribute any real (true) meaning to these casualties.

—Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at thomas.u.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu.

Economy hits home

To the Editor:

We are Vanderbilt! Just one year ago, Vanderbilt's student body read with horror the libelous, sexist and racist writings posted on the gossip Web site Juicy Campus. Rather than ignoring the anonymous authors' sentiments, the community responded with mass signings of a powerful creed that bound each member of Vanderbilt together in a responsible, moral collective. The creed stated: "We are dedicated to supporting one another within our community. We make a lifelong commitment to channeling service, knowledge and experience toward the betterment of humanity." In the wake of decency's victory over Juicy Campus, it seems important for the Vanderbilt community to reflect on these words and reaffirm its commitment to the Community Creed.

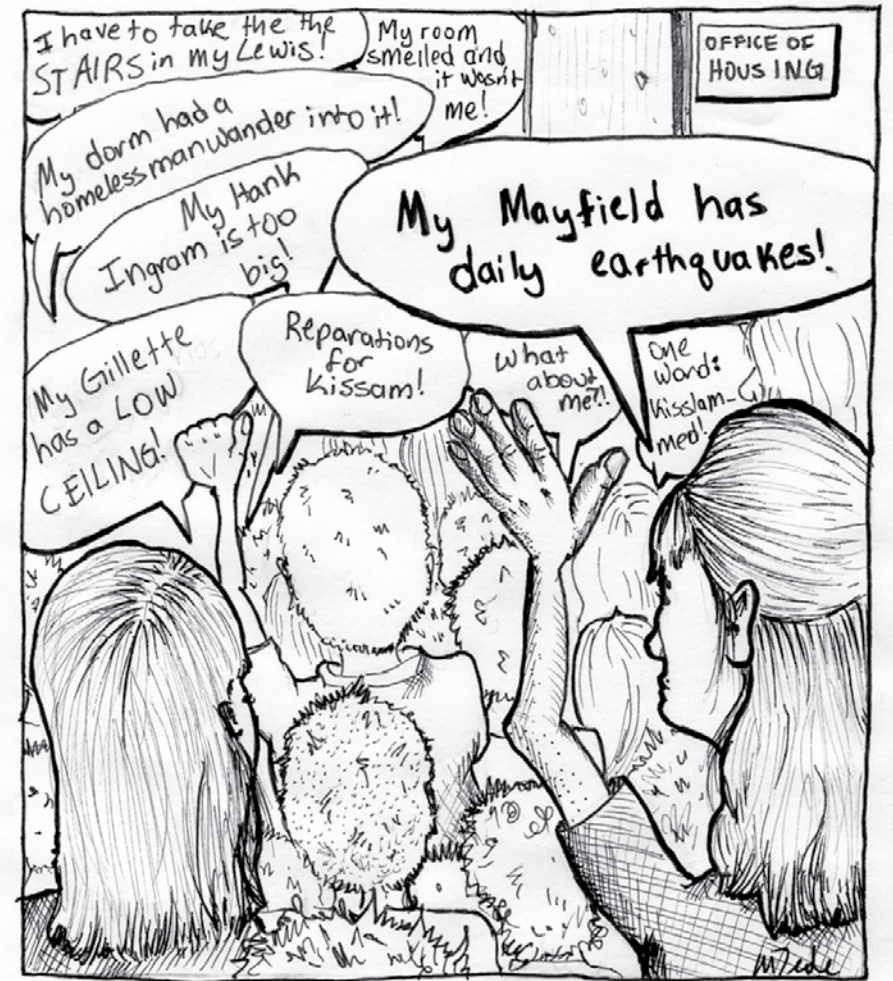
I don't need to remind anyone that America is going through tough financial times. The cloudy storms of depression have moved from a distant thought on the horizon to a full-blown tempest overhead. The White House reports over 600,000 Americans lost their jobs in the past month, and these numbers don't necessarily reflect the total suffering felt by temporary and immigrant employees. More locally, Vanderbilt's endowment dropped over \$600 million in the past six months, from \$3.5 billion to \$2.9 billion. These losses are significant and rumors of job cuts among Vanderbilt's lowest-paid employees have proliferated in accordance. In his e-mail to the student body, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos claimed it was his "intention to avoid major layoffs," but made no guarantees regarding the status of Vanderbilt's staff. While these words were positive political steps for the

university to take, they were but words. It is time for the administration to act on the creed, to reaffirm the staff's place in the Vanderbilt community and to ask the collective community to sacrifice its excesses so no worker needs to see their job lost or their hours cut.

In light of the financial crisis, it would be remiss to say the University's expenditures do not need to be cut; the endowment is a critical source of funding for the school's everyday activities. However, it would be equally as ignorant to ignore the financial bubble Vanderbilt creates around its students. The economic depression of the outside community is almost invisible between West End and 21st Avenue Rather than reinforcing the barriers that separate the at-risk worker from the university scholar, Vanderbilt's students stand ready to protect these worker's rights. This past week, over 500 hundred students signed a petition stating: "As a community, we cannot place the burden of this financial hardship on our low-wage workers, who are most economically vulnerable." Simultaneously, members of the campus group Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees met with Dean of Students Mark Bandas to express their concerns about potential job losses. Certainly these students' fears are well in line with the Community Creed the university encouraged them to sign just one year ago. The students spoke then, and they will speak now. Just as Juicy Campus fell to collective morality, job cuts should and will lose out to communal sacrifice.

Josh Rogan
Sophomore, Peabody College
Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Vying for extra points in the housing lottery

MERYEM DEDE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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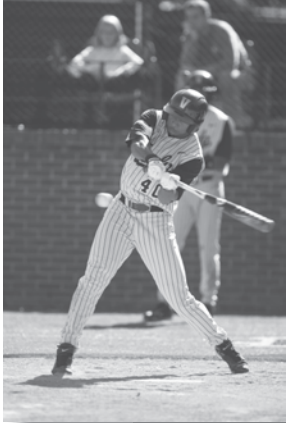


SPORTS

Batter up for the Commodores

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Reporter

The Commodores open the season Friday at Stanford, and we break down the Opening Day starters for the Black and Gold. A full depth chart and discussion of key reserves can be found by going to InsideVandy.com. Photos are by The Vanderbilt Hustler's Eric Glasser and VU Media Relations's Daniel Dubois.



DANIEL DUBOIS / VU Media Relations

JONATHAN WHITE, left field

Manning left field will be the Commodores' most experienced position player in senior Jonathan White. The 6-foot-2-inch, 195-pound lefthander from Shelbyville, Tenn., is one of the quicker players on the team, and batted .286 with 12 RBI and 21 runs scored last season. As a sophomore, he was drafted in the 24th round by the Milwaukee Brewers, but elected to instead return to Nashville to continue his career as a Commodore.



ERIC GLASSER / The Vanderbilt Hustler

BRIAN HARRIS, shortstop

Harris will step into the big shoes at shortstop of Ryan Flaherty, who was a supplemental first-round pick in June's amateur draft. Last season, he hit .268 in relief of several injured starters throughout the season. He also drove in 23 runs and scored 17 of his own. A local product out of Montgomery Bell Academy, he will be joined on the roster by his younger brother Andrew.

JASON ESPOSITO, third base

Third base, commonly known as "the hot corner," will be manned by freshman Jason Esposito (22). He has the unenviable task of replacing All-American Pedro Alvarez, who was the second overall pick in the draft. But at 6-feet-3-inches and 190 pounds, Esposito comes in highly touted in his own right. Named the Connecticut State Player of the Year and an All-American by multiple scouting services, he was a seventh-round pick by the Kansas City Royals over the summer before deciding to enroll at Vanderbilt instead.



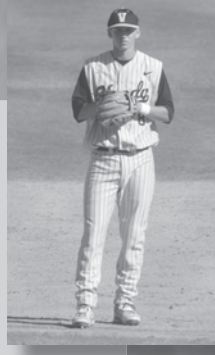
ERIC GLASSER / The Vanderbilt Hustler

ALEX HILLIARD, center field

Hilliard will start the season in center field for the Commodores. While he has seen limited playing time in his career at Vanderbilt, he excelled in the New England Collegiate Baseball League over the summer, flashing the potential to be a solid player in the Black and Gold. A high school All-American coming out of Lafayette High School in Louisiana, he is a very good fielder and a legitimate threat to steal any time he gets on base.

RILEY REYNOLDS, second base

A 6-foot-1-inch, 185-pound freshman will be the Opening Day starter at second base. He will replace departed starter Alex Feinberg, who was drafted over the summer by the Colorado Rockies. Reynolds was a three-sports star at Blue Springs South High School in Missouri, where he lettered four times each in soccer, basketball and baseball.



ERIC GLASSER / The Vanderbilt Hustler

MIKE MINOR, starting pitcher

Minor, a lefty, will be Vanderbilt's front-line pitcher to open the season after posting a 7-3 record with a 4.26 earned run average as a starter last season. He was also the star pitcher for a USA National Team squad over the summer that went 24-0 against international competition. In his first season, he was named a Freshman All-American and the SEC Freshman of the Year after going 9-1 with a 3.01 ERA in 19 appearances. In his career, he has thrown 189 strikeouts against only 47 walks.



STEVE GREEN / VU Media Relations

STEVEN LIDDLE, right field

Sophomore Steven Liddle will be the Opening Day starter at right field after hitting .310 with 28 RBI and 28 runs scored during a freshman campaign in which he registered 39 starts. A 6-foot-1-inch, 200-pound lefthander, the Franklin native recorded a base hit in every game of the 2008 SEC tournament. A very solid fielder, he did not commit a single error in 166 chances while playing summer ball after his first season with the Commodores and could also potentially play some first base.

CURT CASALI, first base

Primarily a catcher, Casali will begin the season as the starter at first base. At 6-feet-3-inches and 220 pounds, the right-hander batted .317 with 13 RBI in limited duty as a freshman. A native of New Canaan, Conn., Casali was an All-American in baseball and an All-State quarterback on the gridiron in high school. He will possibly spell Giobbi at catcher at times throughout the season.

ANDREW GIOBBI, catcher

Giobbi will be calling the signals behind the plate as the Vanderbilt's starting catcher on Opening Day. At 6-feet-3-inches and 205 pounds, he batted .332 with 42 runs batted in as a sophomore while also leading the team in doubles with 22. He may also see playing time at first base at some point during the season.

Goulbourne, tough defense key big win

by BRIAN LINHARES
Sports Reporter

Prior to Tuesday night's home contest versus Kentucky, freshman Lance Goulbourne had hit six 3-point attempts in 24 games.

"Coach told us to be free and be aggressive," he said. Goulbourne took note.

The 6-foot-8-inch freshman shot three for five from beyond the arc, for a career-high 17 off the bench. He and junior guard Jermaine Beal tied for the lead in the scoring column, pacing the Commodores en route to a 77-64 defeat of the visiting Wildcats.

Goulbourne has been hampered all season by an injured groin, but it didn't show on the court.

"Pretty much (playing through the pain)," he said at practice Thursday. "Adrenaline's going."

Vanderbilt fell behind early, trailing by six with eight minutes to play in the first half on the heels of guard Jodie Meeks. The

nation's third-leading scorer, at 25.8 points per game, Meeks notched 10 in the opening minutes, including a pair of 3-point shots.

Yet, the Commodores closed the half on a 12-6 run, to enter intermission deadlocked at 30.

"Even at halftime, when it was tied, I thought we were playing with great intensity and emotion," said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings.

The Commodores continued their inspired play, mirroring Meek's start by racing to a 45-36 lead within five minutes of second-half play.

"I thought the key stretch in the game, when we established control, was when the second half started," Stallings said.

Not to be outdone by Goulbourne, freshmen Jeffery Taylor and Brad Tinsley spearheaded the Commodore run combining for 10 points over the span. Taylor and Tinsley finished with 14 and 9 points, respectively.

Defensively, Taylor combined with junior George Drake to harass Meeks throughout the night.

"I thought Jeff Taylor, being a freshman, did a terrific job," Stallings said. "Athletically, he's probably the closet guy we have to Jodie (Meeks)."

The Wildcat guard matched his average with 26 points, yet shot only 6-21 from the field and 4-11 from beyond the arc.

"They did a good job of denying me, taking away things," Meeks said. "And I wasn't knocking down my shots."

Sophomore forward A.J. Stewart provided a much-needed lift for the Wildcats, as all-American Patrick Patterson sat out injured, scoring 6 unanswered points to close the Commodore advantage to only 5.

Kentucky forward Perry Stevenson, a non-factor on the inside, praised Stewart.

"He was hitting shots, rebounding, made tip-ins. He was everywhere," Stevenson said.

Stewart was everywhere; his comrades in the post weren't.

The Commodores took advantage of the disparities inside to clean the glass. They out-rebounded Billy Gillespie's squad 37-26, 24-15 on the defending end.

"We had 15 defensive rebounds on the road," Gillespie said. "That's not going to get it done."

The Vanderbilt frontcourt held the upper hand offensively, as well. Center A.J. Ogilvy complemented the backcourt

play to total 15 points and eight boards in 30 minutes of action.

"We always want to pound the ball inside," Stallings said. "When Stevenson got into foul trouble, we tried to get it into A.J. and Festus (Ezeli) the best we could." ■



Steve Tchiengang (33) high-fives fans after Vanderbilt defeated Kentucky for the fourth straight time at Memorial Gymnasium on Tuesday night.

FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Hot Commodores head to Gainesville



by NICK GALLO
Sports Reporter

Having won four out of their last five contests and coming off a decisive win over Kentucky, the Vanderbilt Commodores (16-9, 5-6 Southeastern Conference) are moving in the right direction at the best time of the year. Teams that start to peak in February are usually successful ones, and despite a bad loss at Tennessee, this Vanderbilt team looks like it might be on course for some late season heroics.

The preparation for this Saturday's game at Florida will be key, as it has been during the stretch of wins. According to Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings, their one recent slipup was a result of a lack of focus.

"I did not think we prepared well the week before Tennessee, and I would think that we'll prepare better (this week)," Stallings said.

Despite a poor start to the year, the Commodores are showing signs of

brilliance and could potentially put together a run of wins that places them into the postseason. The first task, however, will be facing a Florida team who averages 10 more points a game than Vanderbilt and also thumped the Commodores at Memorial Gym a month ago.

"I think we've got to move on now and can't really dwell on the win too much. Now our full concentration is on Florida and hopefully we can get up there and get another win," said freshman guard Brad Tinsley.

Florida (20-6, 7-4) shot 57 percent overall and went 15 of 25 from 3-point land, a hot streak that Vanderbilt had no answer for. With that type of shooting, teams are almost impossible to beat. The Commodores will have to come out with much better defensive effort and better 3-point shooting of their own if they hope to come away from Gainesville with a win.

"It will take an entirely different kind of effort for us to have a chance on Saturday," Stallings said.

"We definitely have to be better in transition, they killed us in transition last game, they got a lot of open shots off of just running. I think in practice these next few days we'll work hard on getting back and picking up better than we did the first time," said freshman forward Jeff Taylor.

Unfortunately for the Commodores, the O'Connell Center is a very difficult place to win — Florida has not lost there yet this season. However, the Gators have struggled of late, dropping three of four games before their most recent victory over Alabama. Victory in Gainesville, something that has eluded Stallings and his team since 2001, is a distinct possibility for team that has shown rapid improvement in the past few weeks.

"I think we're really coming together really well, especially in the second half of the season. Hopefully we can keep this going," Tinsley said. ■



FRANCIS SIMPSON/The Vanderbilt Hustler
Jeff Taylor and Steve Tchiengang react after Taylor was fouled and made a lay-up against Kentucky Tuesday night. After beating the Wildcats for its fourth win in five games, Vanderbilt can even its conference mark by winning at Florida.

Tigers fall, Vanderbilt back in first



FRANCIS SIMPSON/The Vanderbilt Hustler
Christina Wirth (34) scored 14 points in her final home game at Vanderbilt. She was one of three players in double figures as the Commodores defeated Auburn, 73-70.

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

No Southeastern Conference team, could stop Vanderbilt at Memorial Gym this season. No. 3 Auburn was the final, and best, victim of the unflappable Commodores on Thursday night.

Thanks to two clutch free throws by junior guard Merideth Marsh, No. 18 Vanderbilt knocked off the powerful Tigers with a 73-70 victory, capping a perfect conference run at Memorial Gymnasium. The Commodores (21-6, 10-2) took over first place in the SEC and control their own destiny from here on out; should they win their next two games, they will be SEC regular season champions.

Sophomore guard Jence Rhoads scored 16 points, 12 in the first half, to pace Vanderbilt, while seniors Christina Wirth and Jen Risper, playing in their final home game, scored 14 apiece. The Tigers had a furious rally at the finish but came up short in losing just their second game of the season.

"We didn't stop fighting and we didn't just give up or roll over," Risper said. "I'm proud of us."

The seniors' final win at Memorial Gym didn't come easily after Vanderbilt led by as many as 16 points and led by

nine with only three minutes to play.

The Tigers (25-2, 10-2) pulled within three after five straight points by Ali Smalley sandwiched around a free throw by Risper. After Wirth missed a jumper, Trevesha Jackson scored on a breakaway to pull within one point, as close as the game had been since Vanderbilt led 4-3 in the opening minutes.

Auburn then fouled Marsh, the team's best free throw shooter, with 11 seconds left. She calmly sunk both, and the Tigers missed a desperate 3-pointer at the buzzer to seal Vanderbilt's fourth straight victory.

After Auburn's Dewanna Bonner opened the game's scoring with a 3-pointer, the Commodores dominated the rest of the first half. They scored the next eight points and extended their lead on their way to a 40-24 halftime advantage thanks to shooting a scorching 60.7 percent from the field.

Vanderbilt now has two consecutive road games it needs to win as it tries to keep its hold on first place.

"This is always when we play our best basketball, at the end of the season," Wirth said. "We're growing up as a team, and we're just going to go on the road and take care of business." ■

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THE BACK PAGE

Hustler and Versus can be read online at InsideVandy.com

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



WHO SEES THIS AD?
11,500 STUDENTS
and many faculty/staff,
parents and alumni

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

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

2/18/09 SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
1 ___-tac-toe
4 Finally!
10 Flounder cousin
14 Big fuss
15 Slight quake
16 Legal bargain
17 X
18 Weight room denizen
20 Off target
22 Block of time
23 Turncoat
24 Plant fungus
30 Say grace
32 University of Maine setting
33 Rabbit relative
34 RPM word
35 Formal letter
37 Edge of a crater
38 Adam's partner
39 Cigarette additive
40 Indy circuit
41 Bog
42 Destroyers
43 Lennon's widow
44 Expanse
46 Substandard urban housing
47 Mardi ___
48 Linens
50 Rascal
51 POW possibly
52 Sophisticated
55 Put concisely
61 Crackers
62 Nabokov novel
63 Texas oranges
- DOWN**
64 Denouement
65 Askew
66 Latest
67 Express vocally
1 Bye-bye!
2 March middle
3 Denied the truth of
4 On deck followup
5 Ex-QB Aikman
6 Trailblazed
7 Writer Tan
8 Express sorrow
9 1991 John Cusack film
10 Result of a cannonball
11 Advanced in age
12 Marvin or Remick
13 Corn serving
19 Tick off
21 Sunbeam
24 Patchy colored boat
25 Missed the
26 National songs
27 After-dinner pastimes
28 Journalist Fallaci
29 Paces
30 Module classroom
31 Midnight rider of old
32 Hunting period

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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65					66							67	

- 36 Ernie of the PGA
45 An equal amount
47 Flap lips
49 With it
50 Force from
52 Shoshones
53 Granny
54 Form into a vortex
55 Air purifier letters?
56 Compass dir.
57 Geom. shape
58 Put into practice
59 Regulation
60 Become mellow

2/18/09 SOLUTIONS

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SCOOTER GIVEAWAY

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM Feb. 20
brought to you by

East Side Scooters
NASHVILLE, TN



CONTEST: East Side Scooters will be giving away one Buddy 50 scooter (valued at \$2,000) to one current Vanderbilt undergraduate or graduate student. To enter, find "Scamper the Scooter Squirrel," who will be hidden in every Vanderbilt Hustler and Vanderbilt Versus from now until Feb. 25, complete that issue's entry form and turn it in. There are two places where you can turn in entry forms: on The Wall (11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 25) or at East Side Scooters (718 Gallatin Ave., from now until Feb. 25). Entry forms received on The Wall count once, and entry forms received at East Side Scooters count five times. Students can only turn in entry forms for themselves and in person at East Side Scooters. One entry form per issue date per student allowed. The scooter will be given away on Wednesday Feb. 25, 2009.

Name _____
Vanderbilt e-mail address _____
Contact number _____
Page number Scamper the Scooter Squirrel was found on _____

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- Fill out the entry form on the back page of this issue.
- Turn in the entry form either by dropping it off on The Wall (last chance is this Wed., Feb. 25, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or anytime during business hours at East Side Scooters (718 Gallatin Ave., from now until Feb. 25). Entry forms received on The Wall count once, and entry forms received at East Side Scooters count five times.

The contest is only open to Vanderbilt undergraduate and graduate students, and the scooter will be given away on

Wednesday, February 25

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NASHVILLE, TN

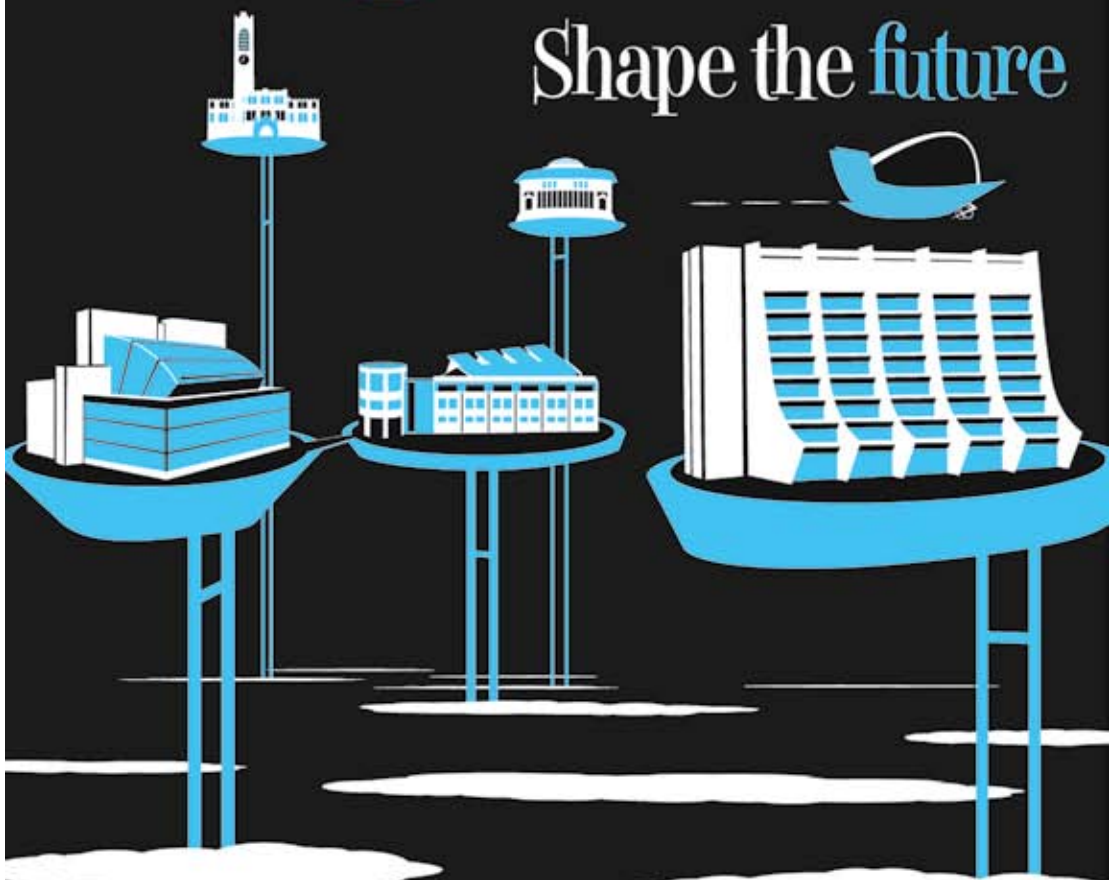
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