www.lnsideVandy.com —



Warren Norman's record-breaking year was one of the top stories of the fall. See page 6

A Gee-Zeppos faceoff



AS a follow-up to the "Work hard, Play hard" series, The Vanderbilt Hustler interviewed Vanderbilt's two most recent chancellors, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos and former Chancellor Gordon Gee, to discuss the changes some students have perceived over the years to the atmosphere and reputation of Vanderbilt and its student body.

by SAMANTHA SMITH

Asst News Editor

Gordon Gee served as Vanderbilt's chancellor from 2000 to 2007.

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: How would you describe Vanderbilt during the years you served as chancellor?

GORDON GEE: Vanderbilt prides itself on being one of the truly fine academic institutions in this country, but I would have to say that Vanderbilt is a great national university with Southern civility.

VH: What types of students did the university attract?

GG: The types of students at Vanderbilt were bright, very social and quite balanced.

VH: Do you think the "work hard, play hard" mentality existed during your time here? Does it live on today?

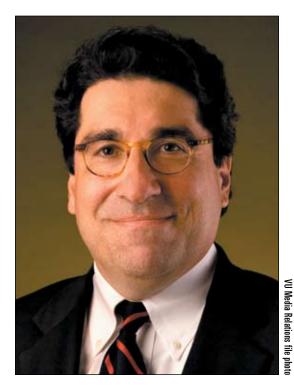
GG: As to whether or not the "work hard, play hard" mentality was prevalent during my time, it was clearly prevalent. I often thought of the Vanderbilt students as being among the most balanced students I know in a highly competitive atmosphere. My sense is that it continues to exist.

VH: What did you like most about serving as Vanderbilt's chancellor?

GG: As to what I enjoyed the most about serving as the chancellor of Vanderbilt, I can name 550 aspects. I clearly found great joy in my faculty colleagues, who are among the best in this country. What I particularly enjoyed about the Vanderbilt faculty was the fact that they themselves were very balanced in their commitment to both research and teaching. I also found great joy in my relationship with the students. Vanderbilt is a place in which a chancellor can get to know many students, and I took full advantage of that opportunity. Those are two of my 550 reasons that I enjoyed Vanderbilt University.

VH: How do you think other institutions saw Vanderbilt? What qualities made it stand out against other schools?

GG: As to how other institutions saw Vanderbilt in 2000, I do know that other institutions around the country view Vanderbilt as one of the most highly competitive nationally recognized institutions in America. It used to be that Vanderbilt was the "Harvard of the South." I now believe that Harvard is the "Vanderbilt of the North."



VANDERBILT HUSTLER: How would you describe Vanderbilt from a chancellor's perspective? What type of school is Vanderbilt?

NICK ZEPPOS: The community at Vanderbilt University is unique among colleges and universities. The extraordinary opportunities provided in our intellectually stimulating environment allow students to learn about the world around them while also learning about themselves. Unparalleled learning experiences are an integral part of our academic core. At Vanderbilt, students broaden their horizons and find their passions by working side by side with members of our world-class faculty; by conducting cutting-edge research with the guidance of a top scientist in one of the many labs that support our hospitals and clinics; and by collaborating with expert scholars in our trans-institutional

VH: What types of students does the university attract?

NZ: Vanderbilt attracts students who are curious and open-minded. The diversity represented throughout our student body contributes to Vanderbilt's vibrant culture, and those differences enrich and enhance our community. Our shared passion for discovery and scholarly advancement, however, brings us together in ways that are powerful in their ability to unite and strengthen our quest for learning and knowledge.

VH: Did you think the "work hard, play hard" mentality still exists at Vanderbilt?

NZ: Passion is an underlying theme in everything that we do here. It motivates our service work in our local communities and in cities and villages around the world. It is demonstrated in our classrooms, on our playing fields and in our commitment to the arts. We are a community of collaborators, and when we come together in work and play, our passion for life and learning is strengthened and made greater.

VH: What do you like most about serving as chancellor for Vanderbilt? NZ: Vanderbilt is such a diverse and complex institution that it is simply

impossible for me to single out one thing that I like best in this extraordinary opportunity I have in serving as chancellor of this great university. I love the fulfilment and challenge of it all — from seeing students learn and grow; to the creativity and commitment exemplified by our faculty; to our doctors' and nurses' dedication to health and healing; to our researchers' discovery of treatments and cures, to the diligent fiduciary oversight strategically planned to ensure our future — each aspect is very important and deeply meaningful. In particular, I am inspired by our ability to work as one Vanderbilt, connected by our shared values and commitment to advancing scholarship, teaching, and outreach in fundamental ways that serve humanity and better our

VH: How do you think other institutions see Vanderbilt? What qualities make it stand out against other schools?

NZ: Vanderbilt's academic excellence, built on our strong traditions and values of collaboration and community, has uniquely positioned us among our nation's top universities. Our devotion to our mission of educating leaders and making fundamental discoveries defines us among our peer institutions. Vanderbilt's emphasis on collegiality combined with our open-minded approach to discovery and a quest for new knowledge increasingly draw remarkable faculty, students and staff and have consequently made us a highly sought after partner by other institutions of higher education and research. Our ability to reach across departmental and divisional boundaries has set an inspiring example of collaborative work at its very best. ■

Mythbusters: Kissam Quad



ZACHARY HARDY/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Dyer Hall in Kissam Quadrangle was built to stay. Contrary to the popular rumor, the six buildings in Kissam were not built as temporary housing but as men's dormatories that were intended to last.

by PETER LETARTE Staff Reporter

Almost every Vanderbilt student has heard rumors regarding Kissam Quadrangle,

the residential area on the

corner of 21st and West End.

Whether it is that a homeless man has begun to live in Kissam or that they shampoo the carpets weekly in order to keep them clean, it is more than likely most Vanderbilt students view Kissam in a negative light.

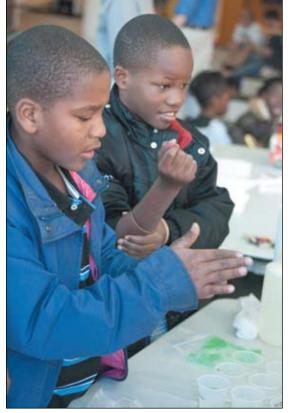
"I heard that they were built as military barracks," said junior Patrick Seamens.

However one of the most prevalent and accepted rumors

about Kissam Quadrangle that it was only meant to be temporary housing, built to accommodate the large influx of students that resulted from the passing of the G.I. Bill after World War II — is in fact

Instead, Kissam's beginning came in 1889 when William Kissam Vanderbilt gave a gift of \$100,000 to the school in order to build a new residence hall. As described in the April 7, 1889, edition of The Hustler, there was much excitement on campus as men awaited the "modern dormitory and modern conveniences" of the new residence area.

Please see KISSAM, page 3



JUSTIN MENESTRINA / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Nashville students Issac Thomas (left) and Kwane Mathews create slime as part of Vanderbilt Student Volunteer for Science's slime table at Vanderbilt TV's "Snow Day" benefit.

NEWS: An extra crossword puzzle to



OPINION:

Theo Samets proposes solutions to the 'post-Commons letdown.' See page 4



OPINION: What is wrong with the

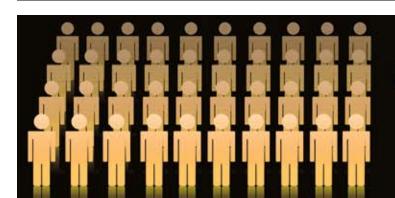
See page 5

world, mama?

SPORTS:

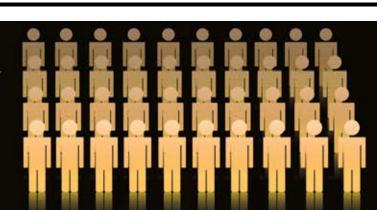
Commodores defeat Western Kentucky in overtime, 79-73.





(insideVANDY

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compiled by LAURA DOLBOW



HIGH **45**. LOW **36** A.M. Showers

TUESDAY



HIGH 50, LOW 49 Rain

WEDNESDAY



HIGH **52**, LOW **27 Partly Cloudy**

SERVICE GUIDE

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday 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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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

AROUND THE LOOP

Seniors, have you noticed any differences between former Chancellor Gordon Gee and Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos?

"I saw Gee a lot more around campus."

Kayla McIntosh, 2010

"With Gee, I used to see him walking around more. I'd see him on Fridays and Saturdays on frat row and shaking hands with people at the bookstore. But I know some students do see Zeppos a lot. He's a faculty VUceptor."

- Paul Guillod, 2010

"I think Gee was more of a celebrity than Zeppos."

— Sean Hill, 2010

"The Chancellor's Ball doesn't exist anymore. There used to be a ball every spring, and Gee would show up in his bow tie."

— Daniel Hwang, 2010

CRIME LOG

Friday, Dec. 4, 2:45 a.m. — At Odoba Mexican Grill, a person was intoxicated and admitted to drinking.

Friday, Dec. 4, 12:25 a.m. — A person was carrying a case of beer and presented a fake ID at Alpha Chi Omega sorority house.

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2:25 p.m. — A person was in possession of what appeared to be marijuana and alcohol in Mims Hall.

Thursday, Dec. 3, 1:19 p.m. — A person was yelling, cursing, urinating and throwing objects off of his balcony at Wesley Place Apartments.

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9:05 p.m. — A backpack and its contents were stolen from Student Rec Center.

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Lauren Hoffer

English department 6 years at Vanderbilt



LAURA DOLBOW / The Vanderbilt Hustler

1. What classes do you teach?

I teach two literary criticism classes. One studies different theoretical schools and applies them to the fairy tale tradition. The other is a fantasy prose fiction class that looks at works from "Alice in Wonderland" to "Lord of the Rings."

2. What's your favorite place in Nashville?

A restaurant in Brentwood called Peter's Sushi and Thai. It's literally the best sushi I've ever had.

3. What do you like to do in your free time?

Read things I'm not teaching, watch a great deal of embarrassing prime-time TV and watch a lot of movies

4. Where did you go to undergraduate and graduate

I went to graduate school at Vanderbilt and undergraduate at the University of Alabama.

5. What did you research for your Ph.D.?

I researched relationships among women and how sympathy functions in untraditional ways — for example, how sympathy can become a weapon and a form of manipulation.

6. If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three things would you bring with you?

My husband, my Jack Russell terrier and sunscreen

7. What was your first job?

I worked at Hallmark, where I learned how much fun it is to stock all those greeting cards.

8. If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be?

My whole family at one big dinner table. We're very spread out and don't get to see each other enough.

9. Why did you decide to become a professor?

I love to read, and even more than that I love to talk about what I read. There's magic that happens when everyone brings a different perspective to the conversation.

10. What advice would you give students to make the most of their four years at Vanderbilt?

Take advantage of individual class communities. It's very valuable to go to office hours to meet with professors and learn one-onone. Group work is also valuable to get to know other people and exchange ideas with people who you get thrown into class with. Also, time management inside and outside the classroom is essential. Figuring out how to get everything done in a quality way is a big part of the learning process. It's the No. 1 key to success. 11. What's something your students don't know about

I'm obsessed with board games. I have about 40 card games and

board games. I like video games, too. My latest game is Phase 10. 12. Who are your heroes in life?

The women who worked so hard to make it possible for me to be in the position I'm in today as a professor.

CALENDAR

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY, DEC. 7

• The Vanderbilt Melodores: "Live at the Rotunda!"

Come to the first Melodores winter concert for an evening of a cappella music. It will be held in the Wyatt Center from 8-9:15 p.m. Tickets are \$5 on the Card at the Sarratt Box Office or at the door.

TUESDAY, DEC. 8

"Jingle This!" Nashville in Harmony holiday concert

Nashville in Harmony, Music City's first and only chorus for gay and lesbian people and their friends, presents its fall concert full of holiday hi-jinks and choral music from 7:30-9 p.m. in Ingram Hall.

Hanging of the Green celebration at Peabody

The annual Hanging of the Green has been a tradition on Peabody Campus since 1921, when one class in the elementary education department sponsored a holiday program hanging green wreaths. From 2:30-5:30 p.m. in the Wyatt Center, there will be a gingerbread competition and wreath hanging ceremonies.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

Sankofa performance at Blair

Vanderbilt's African Drum and Dance Ensemble will perform in Ingram Hall at 8 p.m., directed by Kawme Ahima.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

Rand's annual holiday celebration

Take a study break and check out the special holiday menu from 5-8 p.m. in Rand Hall. Meal plan will be accepted.

It's that time of the year



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students combine studying and food in Chef James Bistro on Sunday night. Classes end on Thursday this

Bonus Crossword

20

By Gary J. Whitehead

4 Free from doubt

6 Maritime raptors

merry men, e.g.

8 Longhorn State

9 Oil, informally

10 Biblical traitor

12 Tickled-pink

13 Maple yield

21 Bay or cove

22 Actress Tyler

25 Of the Holy See

26 Showing shock

feeling

27 Plumbing

problems

28 Jimmy of the

Daily Planet

11 Rapper-turned-

7 Robin Hood's

5 California

senator

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ACROSS

1 Job detail, briefly

week, with finals starting on Saturday morning.

- 5 First appearance 10 Irish dances
- 14 Prefix with space 15 Really peeved
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- Sunset Blvd. 17 Investor's goal
- 18 Subsidiary
- building 19 Thoughtful
- 20 Sophisticated taste, foodwise
- 23 B&Bs 24 Jane Fonda, to
- Peter 25 Ping-Pong need
- 28 Airing, as an
- ESPN game
- 30 Schmooze
- 33 See eye to eye 34 "Night" author
- Wiesel 35 Nod off
- 36 Studio item with a thumb hole
- 39 Datebook entry: Abbr. 40 Improves in the
- wine cellar 41 Western 42 Guitarist __ Paul
- 43 1982 Disnev sci-fi movie
- 44 Pessimistic types 45 Sidekick
- 46 Sargasso et al. 47 Portable shipping platform
- 53 "The Haj" novelist 54 Racetrack borders
- 55 Giant screen format
- 57 Vitality 58 Els on the links
- 59 Free from doubt 60 Foreboding date for Caesar
- 61 Dublin-born poet 62 Romanov ruler
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3 Toledo's lake

- 29 Playful bites 30 Gangster
- 31 Ancient Mexican

32 Tavern round

34 Consequently

dubbed "The Teflon Don"

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T U B 3 a

- 35 Academic honor 37 Tea named for William IV's
- prime minister

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- 38 True-blue 43 Mai __: cocktail
- 44 Breaks off 45 Roaches, ants,

headache

47 Wilma's mate

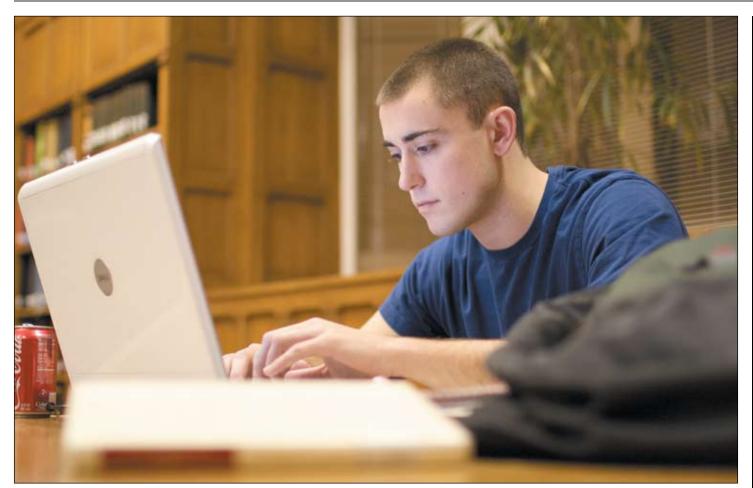
46 Bowler's

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48 Greet the day

O A B A

- Live" alum Fey 51 Outback runners
- 52 O'Hara home
- 53 Action film gun 56 Gen-__ boomer's kid.
- usually



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Steven Heitsch studies in Central Library on Sunday night. Many students say they would enjoy studying in Central more if it were more welcoming. "I would like to see more windows, open space and places to study other than the carrels," said freshman Michael Thomas.

Library renovations to create inviting study space

by SARA GAST
News Editor

Central Library may be some students' favorite place to study for finals, but many find Central less than appealing.

"I hate going there. I usually just grab books and leave," said junior Ellington Griffin. "It's not a pleasant place to stay."

That's starting to change.

In the spring, the library, with the support of Provost Richard McCarty and his staff, will begin eighth-floor renovations that will hopefully be completed by summer. Among the changes will be a large, carpeted room for studying. Better lighting and more comfortable, inviting furniture for the space are also part of the

Library staff, many of whom will be displaced as part of the project, have been preparing tens of thousands of books to go to storage, including an annex added this year, in order to create room for the study space. Additionally, faculty carrels that line the walls will be removed, and installed in their place will be a large conference room and offices with partial glass paneling to allow more natural light to stream in.

A comfortable study space with better lighting is something many students want, including a group of student leaders who met on Friday afternoon as part of a focus group for the library renovations.

"When you study you are supposed to be able to curl up," said junior Christen Parzych, who said she wanted to see changes to make the library study area more like Sarratt's Baseball Glove Lounge. "The entire time I'm in Central I'm thinking about how I want to get out of there because of the fluorescent lighting and wooden chairs. It's not somewhere where I want to spend the whole day."

The move to renovate Central and make it more student-friendly is part of an effort spearheaded by Dean Connie Vinita Dowell to get more students studying and enjoying their library.

"I would love to see within a couple years all of Central Library transform," Dowell said. "That's why I came here, to have this kind of impact."

Dowell, a 1979 Peabody alumna who most recently served as dean of the library and information access at San Diego State University before arriving at Vanderbilt in 2009, has worked with a team of architects who also did the second-floor remodel of the Divinity Library. They, along with other library staff, have tentative plans for further renovations, although they have not been presented to the Board of Trust and lack funding. She wants to see changes made to the fourth floor (the main level) as well, including taking out offices to allow light from the windows to stream into the lobby, merging all the help desks into one information center, adding conference rooms and inviting study space, as well as possibly adding an indoor/outdoor cafe and social study area.

Dowell hopes that in the future Central Library will serve not only as a source for academic materials but also as a facility where scholars can and want to interact and learn.

"In short, I want our libraries to be the intellectual heart of the campus and create a sense of community connecting scholars of all ages from across our campus," Dowell wrote in an e-mail Sunday evening. "Students are important to me and I want them to know that their libraries have a commitment to support them."

—Joslin Woods contributed reporting to this story.

KISSAM: Temp housing a myth

From KISSAM, page 1

The building was to be designed by Richard H. Hunt, who had just finished working on the Metropolitan Museum of New York and was also known for designing the Vanderbilt family's home, the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, N.C.

There were dorms constructed on campus after World War II to accommodate the soldiers returning from battle, but those were the Alumni Lawn halls of Tolman, McGill and Cole, not Kissam.

In 1957, the next phase of Kissam's life began. In response to a need for more male housing, Vanderbilt demolished the old Kissam Hall and began construction on a new group of men's dormitories. They were named Kissam Quadrangle in memory of the family who made Kissam possible in the first place. The six new men's dorms were to have special sections for law students, medical students, students graduate

undergraduates.

Edward Durell Stone, whose work included the Museum of Modern Art and Radio City Music Hall in New York, was hired to design the new Kissam Ouadrangle.

"The halls were built with the idea that they would be here for a long time," said Lyle Lankford, senior officer of university history and protocol. "I don't think (the Board of Trust) would have gone to that length to hire that architect to come to campus (if the buildings were only temporary)."

Although today many view the brick buildings of Kissam Quad as unimpressive, Kissam has played a long-standing role in Vanderbilt's history for more than 100 years.

"There are still several members still on the board from when they decided to build Kissam Quad," Lankford said, "and I don't think any of them would be surprised that the halls are still standing and in use."

VSG brings holiday cheer



MARGARET FENTON / VSC Media Relations

Vanderbilt Student Government Deputy Chief of Staff Adam Meyer, dressed as Santa Claus, is surrounded by kindergarteners from Park Avenue Enhanced Option Elementary, who nearly trampled their teacher, Megan Cook, to squeeze in a hug with the jolly old elf. VSG sponsored the party for local school children, who opened their Angel Tree presents that were bought and wrapped by students during the event on Friday morning.



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LETTER

Fixing life after **The Commons**

To the Editor:

Over the past several years, much of the university's attention in regard to student life has focused on The Commons. I think The Commons is great; it promotes student-faculty interaction, has fantastic dining options and is a beautiful place to live.

We're running into a problem, though. Let's call it the "post-Commons letdown."

I'm a junior, so I never had a chance to live on Peabody, anyway (which was a letdown on its own), but for those who did, we're starting to see and hear what happens a year later.

It's got to be tough. You spend a year in a corner room in Hank Ingram, where you've got a view of a gorgeous quad and can probably fit an air hockey table in your room and still fit a putting green or a foldout couch. Then March comes around, and you get your rooming assignment for the following year.

Kissam.

So now you've gone from the Mercedes of rooms to a 1950s jalopy. The amenities are gone too — the common area on every floor and fully stocked kitchen are replaced with, well, Kissam. No roommate, no space and certainly no kitchen. Even Branscomb or Towers and we're still talking about a real step down from the first-year experience heralded by all.

This is the post-Commons letdown. Some easy fixes could diminish these

One thing would be to loosen the

meal plan requirements. Vanderbilt

Dining requires sophomores to purchase 14 meals a week. When I was a sophomore, I can't remember a single time I used all of my meals or even came close to it. For those students who want the 14-meal plan, that's fine, but if a sophomore would rather the \$1,270 they would save if they had the 8-meal plan to go off campus, the university should let them purchase the less expensive plan. The

university doesn't even expect us to use all the meals they force on us; how could they, considering the weekend hours of main campus dining that force students in search of a full meal

for it — go back to The Commons.

to — wait

The post-Commons letdown e x t e n d s beyond dining, and so work to alleviate it should also go beyond that point.

It's time university to stop sympathizing with

Kissam's residents and instead do something that significantly improves their lives. This means more than the Kissam Programming Board and filling

a common area with beanbags.

It's time for the administration to put the College Halls initiative, which would replace Kissam Quad with two beautiful new dorms, into full gear. The plans

THE VERDICT Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff! Compiled by Katie Des Prez

world exciting.

I hate December through February in Nashville.

Too bad he probably cheated on his wife, but it's pretty amazing he could turn golf into a soap opera. At least someone finally found a way to make the golf

The Florida governor directed parents of children without health insurance to

call a government hotline, which turned out to be a sex line. Maybe the Senate

should give Governor Crist a call. Clearly he knows how to deal with health care

In Houston, charities such as the Salvation Army will not give out free gifts to

children without proof of their parents' citizenship. Forget about Santa Claus.

The shoe-throwing Iraqi journalist, Muntazer al-Zaidi, from last year's news

conference with President George W. Bush, got a taste of his own medicine when

a pro-American Iraqi threw a shoe at al-Zaidi. Who throws a shoe? Honestly.

The Immigration Enforcement Agents are coming to town.

The Dark

Tiger Woods

Charlie Crist

Charity

Revenge

So now you've gone from the

Mercedes of rooms to a 1950s

kitchen are replaced with, well,

jalopy. The amenities are gone

too — the common area on

Kissam. No roommate, no

every floor and fully stocked

have been drawn; until this year we even had associate provost for college halls who was doing great work to space and certainly no kitchen. accelerate t h e process.

But if the university really heard that this was something students wanted now, we could make this happen sooner. In the meantime, Vanderbilt should renovate the dorms so that

students with allergies aren't scared off by mold and the horror stories of gnats on Mims 4 become legends instead of something The Hustler needs to send a reporter to right now.

Finally, the university should foster community among upperclassmen. I realize that this can sound quaint, but I mean it. Students would meet in Rand if it looked half as nice as The Commons and will once again study in Central after renovations that will make it less foreboding than the Office of Student Conduct. Community takes student buy-in in addition to administrative support, and both these things often feel absent on main campus.

Vanderbilt spent more than \$100 million to bring us The Commons. For a fraction of that, the university could revolutionize students' college experiences as a whole, not just their

Theodore Samets A&S, Class of 2011 **VSG Senior Adviser to the President**

this week in 110tes

"This was a board level decision."

Chris Preuss, a GM spokesman on Dec. 2, about the decision to ask Fritz Henderson, CEO of the company, to resign immediately in an effort to make GM look more responsive to the recent bankruptcy.

2. "And our forces lack the full support they NEED TO EFFECTIVELY TRAIN AND PARTNER WITH Afghan security forces and better secure the POPULATION. ... IN SHORT, THE STATUS QUO IS NOT SUSTAINABLE."

President Barack Obama, in a speech on Dec. 1 declaring he will send 30,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan to stabilize the region. This decision comes as a precursor to the withdrawal plan that could happen starting in early 2010.

3. "Personal sins should not require press RELEASES, AND PROBLEMS WITHIN A FAMILY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO MEAN PUBLIC CONFESSIONS."

Tiger Woods' statement on his Web site on Dec. 2 about the myriad of allegations surrounding his recent car accident.

4. "CHILDREN ARE ALTRUISTIC BY NATURE."

Dr. Michael Tomasello, co-director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, on a new study that suggests helping behavior is innate. In the study, infants demonstrated helping behavior before many parents start teaching any values.

Compiled by David Lee

COLUMN

Feel free to blame all your problems on the Redskins



KATHERINE **MILLER** Columnist

Nothing. The Redskins are like an

outrageously drunk friend you have to keep apologizing for as they try to skeaze on other girls' boyfriends, ruin other people's parties and say racist things; but then you have to follow them because, like, who else is going to take

Every week, this: Play to your opponent's skill level, then find a new and inventive way to lose. Points for creativity and vigor, and a Christmas bonus if you can worthlessly ruin another team's season.

them home? You just feel bad.

Jim Zorn looks on the verge of tears every week from the sidelines, every time we complete a pass for longer than 10 yards it looks like an accident, we get dominated by winless teams, we keep it close with undefeated teams, we're awful. We don't even have Clinton Portis acting like a clinically insane person in costumes anymore.

A few weeks ago, when the Skins beat the Broncos, ESPN.com had to spit on that parade and ask in a SportsNation poll which upset of the day was most surprising — 87 percent of the country picked the Redskins. Virginia, Maryland and the district all had numbers in the 90s. That's right: The only people more surprised than you that the Redskins won were actual Redskins fans. Fight, fight, fight for old D.C.

The lowest points came after the week six loss to Kansas City. It began with a sad, monotone rendition of "Hail to the Redskins" with another editor in the Hustler office, and

We almost killed the ended with me snapping, "You know what? New Orleans Saints' bid for Good! Faaaantastic. I hope we lose every perfection. And for what? single game. Braves on the warpath — go to hell, D.C." This is the hallmark of any true fan, of course. Blanketed by overwhelming, pure and distilled hopelessness, true Redskins fans never wish this pain upon others. We're actually sorry for the stupid Saints.

> Every week, without fail, I see at least one person exiting a frat house in a Redskins jersey and the Jim Zorn Face. Every week! Doing laps in the bell jar of our own victimhood, we can't help ourselves. The Orioles, the Nats, the Wizards, they're all bad. Hopelessly, stultifyingly bad. If the Redskins were good, this wouldn't matter. Maryland and Georgetown basketball cough up some winning seasons, but they're nothing next to the Redskins. Alex Ovechkin may be a Russian god, but he's nothing next to the Redskins. We love the Redskins.

> And so should we. We have the second most valuable franchise. We dominated the 1980s and early 1990s. We have a history like no other. And, sadly, we're hopeless like no

> We play the Raiders next weekend, fitting because as Deadspin's Drew Magary wrote a few weeks ago, "At least Al Davis is f--ing old. Yeah yeah, he's a vampire and can't be killed blah blah blah. The reality is, that old man is gonna croak way before Dan Snyder does."

For us, the Vanderbilt-attending Redskins fans, there is only one saving grace: We know how to deal with a hopeless football team. To drinking games and despair!

-Katherine Miller is a senior in the College of Arts & Science. She can be reached at katherine.m.miller@vanderbilt.edu.

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@insidevandy.com. Letters via e-mail must come from

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well

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

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

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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. news@insidevandy.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

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

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COLUMN

Disillusionment and disappointment abound



RYAN **SULLIVAN Opinion Editor**

This past week has left me disillusioned with ... the world. I know there are atrocities committed at any given moment all over the globe, but recently it seems like everything is going to

First and foremost, there is Tiger Woods. If you have ever paid much attention to golf

(which you probably haven't) you would know Tiger isn't exactly the golden boy a lot of people make him out to be. His temper is notorious and his course etiquette is reportedly sub-par. Still, he was living the dream and was every man's idol. The Swedish (former nanny) wife, millions of dollars and quite possibly the world's most dominant athlete. He has it all. Unfortunately, his conduct off the course is worse than on the course and we've lost another role model. First Ron Artest, now this?

On a more serious note, Amanda Knox was found guilty this week of murdering her British roommate. Knox was a study abroad student from the University of Washington, studying in Perugia, Italy. Knox's roommate, Meredith Kercher, was killed in 2007 and the case has been riddled with controversy from the start. Claims of a forced confession, unreliable DNA evidence, a corrupt investigation and a slanderous media portrayal of Amanda have fueled the debate. A number of legal experts in the U.S. have asserted that the case against Knox would have never held up in U.S. court. She still has the opportunity to file two appeals, but not for three months. Knox has already been in jail since 2007, and the outlook isn't promising. There is a video of Knox on YouTube, drunk and hanging out with her friends. Just a regular college girl, now looking at spending the next 26 years of her life in an Italian prison. Awesome.

Back home in the U.S., the tally from the New York City mayoral race shows Charles Montgomery Burns received the majority of write-in votes. That's right, Mr. Burns of "The Simpsons" got more votes than any other write-in candidate. The mayor of New York City isn't a Vanderbilt Student Government election for Hank Ingram House president. I feel like I'm taking crazy pills or something.

I also forgot to mention the whole Obama in Afghanistan thing. More war? Huzzah! Maybe it is necessary, but it still sucks. Yep. Stuff is messed up right now. But, hey, the U.S. did get a good draw in the World Cup. Oh wait. No one cares about soccer in this country. Well, at least there is a lot to look forward to this week. Finals, anyone?

-Ryan Sullivan is a junior in Peabody College. He can be reached at ryan.c.sullivan@vanderbilt.

COLUMN

Party problems 2009



HUDSON TODD

end, and despite the country's new president, little has been done in the ways of change. Instead of seeing real progress made on the important issues of our day, like climate change and health care, we have seen ridiculous attacks volleyed against the president.

Many conservatives argue Barack Obama is not a natural-born citizen of the United States. Sarah Palin joined these conservatives a few days ago, claiming that whether or not he was born in the U.S. is a fair question, and that the public wants and deserves answers. Would she be questioning his nationality if he were white? Furthermore, instead of trying to help further the discussion on health care reform, Palin claimed Obama's health care plan would create "death panels" in which the government would choose who is worthy of keeping alive, and simply kill those it deems "unworthy."

Glenn Beck claimed Obama had a "deep-seated hatred for white people." This statement makes very little sense, considering Obama is half white, and was raised by his white mother and grandparents. The comment also lost Beck 57 advertisers. When

The year 2009 is coming to an Obama chose to expand AmeriCorps, Beck suggested it was Obama's "civilian national security force," and that it was "similar to Hitler's SS, or something Saddam Hussein would do."

On Sept. 8, Obama addressed America's schoolchildren, advising them to work hard and stay in school. Florida Republican Jim Greer claimed beforehand that Obama's address would "indoctrinate" children and spread "socialist ideology." Because of the negative reaction about Obama's address to children, many schools sent parental permission slips home with students in order for them watch his speech.

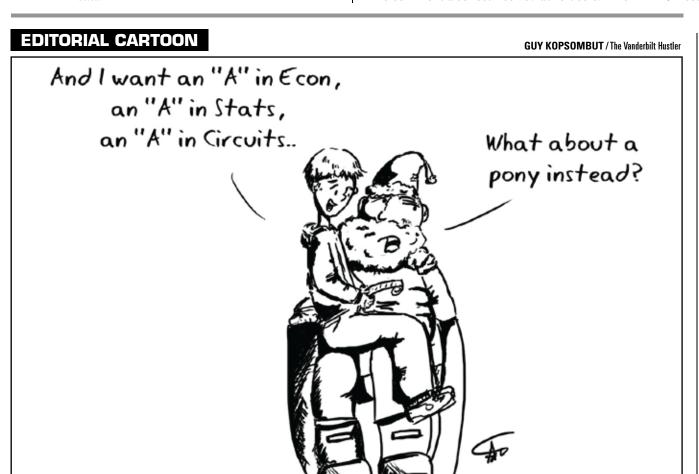
Rush Limbaugh had a party on his show when Obama failed to get Chicago to host the 2016 Olympics. Limbaugh added that Obama "has failed and that his attempt to bring the Olympics to America was an example of his Mars-sized ego." The Americans for Prosperity applauded widely when given the news that the 2016 Olympics weren't going to be in America. The Drudge Report loudly proclaimed "THE WORLD REJECTS OBAMA." Limbaugh and other conservatives claim they "want Obama to fail," not because they want this country to fail, but because they "want socialism to fail."

Of course, this is just addressing the radical

conservatives while ignoring the reasonable conservatives, correct? That is hardly the case. The Rush Limbaugh radio show has a minimum weekly audience of about 13.5 million listeners (making it the largest talk radio audience in the U.S.), while Beck's television show garners approximately 3 million viewers. Palin, as many are unfortunately aware, was the vice-presidential candidate of the Republican Party in 2008. These individuals represent the base of the Republican Party. This is what the party is.

Amazingly, this approach seems to have worked to some degree for the Republicans. Obama's approval rating recently dropped just below 50 percent for the first time. However, in Europe, their view of America's president has skyrocketed. Germans went from a 12 percent approval for Bush to 92 percent for Obama. In France, it soared from 11 percent to 88 percent. In Britain, it went from 17 percent to 82 percent. It is a shame this conservative manipulation has clouded what is so clear to the rest of the world. Hopefully 2010 will bring us something new. Don't hold your breath.

-Hudson Todd is a freshman in the College of Arts & Science. He can be reached at hudson.o.todd@vanderbilt.edu.



Was that you with your friends supporting Dance Marathon? ... Take a peek at p. 219

Were you wearing black and gold at ESPN's Game Day?

Did you hang out in front of the Rites of Spring stage? ... Flip to p. 249

HOLIDAY

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Top 9 stories of fall 2009

As the fall semester comes to a close, we looked back at the stories most significant in Commodore sports these past few months. Most of it was positive, but the No. 1 story had to be the disastrous football season that saw Vanderbilt lose its final eight games and finish winless in conference play for the first time since 2002. However, star performances from athletes like golfer Marina Alex and tennis player Ryan Lipman, and breakout years from the women's soccer and cross country teams, were great achievements that merited mention.

by DAVID RUTZ

Sports Editor

1. What was that?

Yeah, it happened - 2-10, 0-8 in conference. After beating a weak Rice at tailback to go along with his dynamic

The Commodores were largely starved for big plays this year, but when No. 27 got the ball, all bets were off.

CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Warren Norman (27) breaks free for a 48-yard rush against Ole Miss on Oct. 3. Norman set the SEC freshman record for all-purpose yardage in 2009 with 1,941 yards.

team on Sept. 26, the Commodores lost eight games in a row, including one to Army. We diagnosed why it happened on Friday (youth, penalties and poor coaching, along with injuries, a tough schedule and a stagnant offense). No need to beat a dead horse, but that bowl win seems like a very long time ago.

Given the way things are going for Vanderbilt football, that "College GameDay" visit last season (the Commodores are 4-16 since then) was basically like Hale-Bopp. Next year's schedule is even more brutal (the SEC East, LSU, Arkansas, Ole Miss and out-ofconference foes Wake Forest, Connecticut and Northwestern). Will changes be made? Was 2008 a total aberration? Or, hopefully, was 2009 one instead? We know Vanderbilt can be better than 2-10.

2. Norman makes history

In an utterly forgettable year for Vanderbilt football, one freshman player in black and gold set himself apart by running into the Southeastern Conference record books.

Warren Norman broke Georgia running back Herschel Walker's All-Purpose freshman yardage record in the last game of the season with 1,941 total yards to shatter Walker's previous mark of 1,805, capping a terrific season that included three kickoff touchdown returns, only the second SEC player in history to do so. He averaged 65 yards rushing per contest

3. Marina Alex excels

As if playing in the U.S. Open wasn't enough, the stand-out sophomore continued to make a case to be not just



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler Marina Alex celebrates after sinking a birdie putt at the Mason Rudolph Invitational on Sept. 27. She finished in second place.

Vanderbilt's best golfer, but one of the best in the country.

Under the tutelage of head coach Greg Allen, the amazingly consistent Alex turned in a runner-up performance at

the Mason Rudolph Invitational that Vanderbilt hosted in September and a the beginning of the season, led Vanderbilt third-place finish in a stacked field at the Stanford Intercollegiate in October.

Driver, fairway irons, putting — Alex can do it all. And according to Allen, who coached the great Lorena Ochoa back at Arizona, Alex looks just as good as the world's top player did in college.

4. Women's soccer rebounds

Vanderbilt came into the year with lofty expectations, but stuck at 1-6 in conference play midway through the season, the postseason looked like a pipe

Rita Jorgensen, sidelined by illness at with a 25th-place finish and set a personal record in the 6K race with a 21:12.74. Jordan White and Louise Hannallah finished in 28th and 29th and also set personal bests with a 21:20.85 and 21:22.12.

Kristabel Doebel-Hickok led the team during Jorgensen's absence, turning in top times for the team as the Commodores notched victories in the Belmont-VU Opener and Commodore Classic.

6. Bowling gets back on top

The Vanderbilt women's bowling team



forward Josh Henderson (No. 21 center)

and 6-foot-8-inch Rod Odom (14th-best

center and Rivals.com's 77th-best prospect

in the country) had inked letters of intent

CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler Kevin Stallings signed three solid recruits for the Class of 2014 for the Commodores.

what was agreed on by experts as a top-20 recruiting class: two guards in Christina Foggie and Jasmine Lister, and two towers in frontcourt players Kayci Ferriss (a tower

at 6 feet 8 inches) and Tari Jarosz (6 feet 3

8. Lipman steps right in

Ryan Lipman sure hasn't played like a freshman for the Vanderbilt men's tennis team. The No. 3 recruit in the country for the Class of 2009, Lipman has asserted himself as the de facto No. 1 singles player for the Commodores after an outstanding

His 10-3 record included a victory over Duke's Reid Carleton in September, then ranked the 28th-best player in the nation, and he also advanced to the finals of the ITA Regional Championships in October, not dropping a set until falling in the championship match.

9. Commodores play in Maui

Vanderbilt men's basketball got a major early-season test at the annual Maui Invitational in November, competing in a field that included Gonzaga, Arizona, Maryland and Cincinnati.

The Commodores had their worst performance of the season to date in their opening-round game against the Bearcats, losing 67-58, but rebounded to rout Chaminade and rally past the Wildcats to take fifth place for the tournament.

Since losing to Cincinnati, Vanderbilt (6-1) has notched four straight victories, including a 67-54 victory over DePaul on Saturday at Memorial Gym. ■

dream. Coach Ronnie Woodard's squad received the nation's No. 1 ranking on decided to stop looking ahead and take Dec. 3 after winning two tournaments things one day at a time.

Vanderbilt celebrates after beating Kentucky on Oct. 30 to make the SEC Tournament.

The result was four straight conference wins that vaulted them into the SEC Tournament for the first time in three years, where the Commodores fell in the first round to LSU and barely missed out on the NCAA Tournament. They finished the season 5-6 in SEC play and 11-8-1 record overall, a big improvement over a 9-8-2 mark where they went just 3-7-1 finish at the national championships in against conference foes.

shutouts on the season, and Molly Kinsella prize. and Nicole Lukens led Vanderbilt's scoring attack with seven goals apiece.

5. Women's cross country has best

the NCAA South Regionals on Nov. 14, tying for the best finish ever in the history of the program. Even more satisfying for Vanderbilt was that the team finished ahead of four SEC squads (Auburn, Ole Miss, Mississippi State and Alabama).

and getting a third-place finish at another, leapfrogging from the No. 2 spot the Commodores originally had. Led by two-time national Player of

CHRIS HONIBALL/The Vanderbilt Hustler

the Year Josie Earnest, the 2007 national champion Commodores are a remarkable paragon of consistent excellence at Vanderbilt.

Although disappointed by a fifth-place 2009, Vanderbilt appears well on its way to Keeper Rachel Bachtel turned in 10 contending once again for the sport's top

7. Basketball hauls in solid recruiting

Kevin Stallings and Melanie Balcomb The Commodores finished in fifth at announced their signings for the class of 2010 and both brought in top-notch players to supplement their already-strong

> Stallings announced 6-foot-1-inch point guard Kyle Fuller (ESPN's 51st best point guard in the country), 6-foot-11-inch

Vanderbilt holds off WKU in overtime



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt's Merideth Marsh drives to the basket as Dominique Duck (23) defends during action at Memorial Gym Sunday. Marsh scored 17 points, including 6 in overtime, in a 79-73 Commodore victory.

> by DAVID RUTZ Sports Editor

Vanderbilt had seen another lead on

after hitting a game-tying shot with 5.5 seconds left. But Vanderbilt senior Merideth Marsh knew the just one lay-up.

Marsh sliced through the Hilltopper defense for a score, just seconds into the overtime period, Vanderbilt scored on its next three possessions to key a 79-73 victory over the visiting Hilltoppers Sunday afternoon.

"We always outwork somebody and always outlast someone," "In overtime I could tell we were going to win from that basket." get

basket, I thought that was huge," said Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb.

After scoring just 24 points in the second half to blow a 12-point

lead, the Commodores (8-1) had 17 in the 5-minute overtime and left no doubt as they continually got easy baskets on a worn-out WKU defense. Junior guard Jence Rhoads hit 5-6 free throws down the stretch to erase any

"They laid down on the defensive end," Marsh said. "We had the heart that we were not going to back down and we were not going to lose that

Marsh and Rhoads led five Commodores in double figures with 17 points apiece, and freshman forward Tiffany Clarke came off the bench to score 12 points and grab six rebounds. Rhoads added nine assists as the team shook off a tough loss to Bowling Green on Friday that put a halt to their perfect start.

Vanderbilt and Western Kentucky traded the lead seven times in the first half before the Commodores went on a 15-6 lead to go into halftime with a

The team's best shooter from long distance, Marsh only hit one 3-pointer during the game but got around the defense for several lay-ups.

Vanderbilt stretched the lead to as many as 12 in the second half before the Hilltoppers clawed back, led by senior forward Dominique Duck. The Commodores took bad shots and struggled to defend in the post as Western Kentucky took a 60-57 lead with 2:32 remaining after a jumper by Kenzie Rich.

"We had held a lead and held a have really struggled." ■

lead and started playing not to lose," Balcomb said. "You worry that they have the tempo and they have the emotion."

Senior guard Jessica Mooney responded with a 3-point play, and Marsh hit two free throws to make it 62-60. But the Commodores wouldn't score again before their flurry of layups in overtime.

"We toughed it out," Balcomb said. "We made better defensive decisions. I think we played smarter in the overtime than we had finishing the

Vanderbilt might have finished it earlier if not for its struggles at the line. They went just 17-29 for the game, including a 3-10 showing by junior forward Hannah Tuomi.

However, she was 4-5 shooting from the field, and she pulled down eight rebounds to go along with her 11 points. With the loss of forward Jordan Coleman for the season after she tore her ACL in a victory over Wright State last Wednesday to make an undersized Vanderbilt team even smaller, Tuomi was counted on to pull down boards.

"That was the energy we needed," Balcomb said. "Without that we would

the weekend evaporate and Western Kentucky had all the momentum

Commodores were going to win after

hopes of another comeback.

Strong second half lifts Commodores

by BRIAN LINHARES Sports Reporter

In the first half against DePaul, as the Commodores staggered to a 28-27 deficit, center A.J. Ogilvy could

only muster 3 points. "Maturity plays a big part in being able to come back from a first-half deficit," Ogilvy said.

"Last year, that was something we lacked. We didn't have the ability or experience to come back and get a win. Now, we're older and we can get everything in order and move at our pace to win."

In the second half, Ogilvy certainly moved at his pace.

The Australian-native notched 16 of his game-high 19 points following intermission, as Vanderbilt (6-1) outscored the Blue Demons (5-2) by a margin of 40-26, en route to a 67-54 victory.

Commodore head coach Kevin Stallings assessed his squad's effort

as being one of improvement as the game wore on.

"It was a lot better than in the first half," Stallings said. "Our offense was also a lot better in the second half.

"We got the ball to A.J. and he did something with it. A.J. and Jeff (Taylor) gave us life on offense."

Ogilvy continued his hot shooting at the free throw line, connecting on 13-15 attempts after going 11-12 against Missouri.

Not to be outdone by Ogilvy, Taylor, a sophomore, added 18 points for Vanderbilt. In 30 minutes of action, he connected on 8-14 shots from the field.

Taylor divulged his offensive

"Attacking the basket and getting to the free throw line helped us settle in the game," he said. "We have great shooters on the team and we didn't really get them in today. We had to utilize our free throw shooting to get

On the defensive end, the

Commodores buckled down in the final period, as DePaul could not keep pace with the offensive fireworks.

"We had to play hard defense to win today," Taylor said. "We just tried to stay close to everyone and get hands in their faces."

Vanderbilt did its best to contain guard Will Walker, who led DePaul with 17 points. However, the visitors could not generate much firepower, as Michael Bizoukas was the only other Blue Demon to reach double

"I think we were able to play strong defense and give us opportunities to score on the other end," Taylor said.

The Commodores will have to continue their strong defensive efforts, as they have a date at Illinois on Tuesday night.

The following Friday, Vanderbilt faces Western Kentucky at the Sommet Center in the Sun Belt Classic. ■



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt's Jeff Taylor (44) prepares to dunk as DePaul's Will Walker (30) looks on during a 67-54 Commodore victory at Memorial Gym on Saturday. Taylor finished with 18 points.

Power-lifting club formed by Vandy students



SUBMITTED BY ANTHONY STEIL

Sophomore Anthony Steil, president of the Vanderbilt Power-Lifting Club, deadlifts 600 pounds at the Iron Man Classic. by KELLY JONES

Staff Reporter

The Vanderbilt Power-Lifting Club was formed last year by sophomores Anthony president, and Evan McClure, vice president.

"When I found out that there wasn't (a power-lifting club) at Vanderbilt, we decided to start it," Steil said. "Dean (Steve) Caldwell helped us by advising who to talk to and made the whole process very

Although the co-ed club currently consists of 10 students, including two graduate students, anyone is

welcome to join. Club members work out four times a week, three hours each time and stay connected via mass text messages or through their Facebook group, Vanderbilt Powerlifting.

"I have always been interested in strength training, working out and achieving personal goals," said senior Brian Chia. "Power-lifting is something that you do for yourself, but being part of a team, they help you accomplish your goals."

"It is all about breaking personal records. It is way to take yourself to the next level, learn new ideas, and be the best you can be," said junior Nick Morrow.

Since its formation last year,

the club has competed in two competitions. The first was the Iron Man Classic in March 2009 and the second one, the Cell Block Classic, was held Dec. 5.

Four of the members competed in the Cell Block Classic, including graduate student Kristen Eckstrand, Chia, Morrow, and Steil.

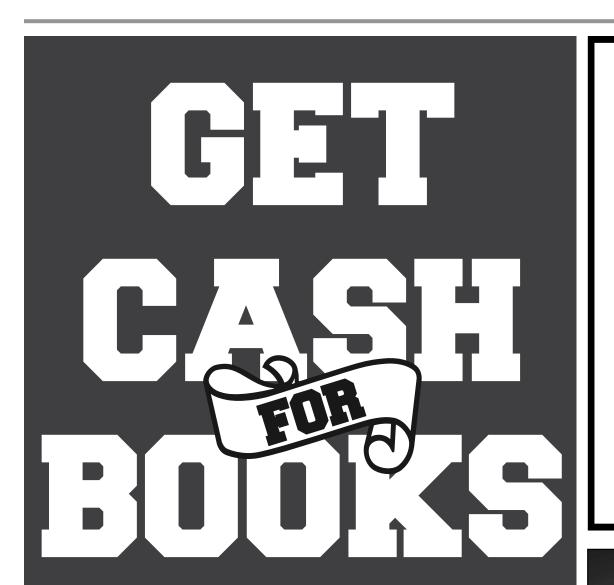
The members scored high within their weight classes with Eckstrand placing first, Chia placing second and Steil placing third.

"The competition was very exciting and a great experience," Chia said. "It was something I have never done before and everyone there was very encouraging and helped push each other to do their

next competition Vanderbilt Power-Lifting plans to attend happens next semester at the U.S.A. Power-Lifting competition.

"A lot of people are intimidated to power-lift because they don't think they are strong enough. But they need to realize that it is a journey and the road getting there is the greatest thing," Steil said.

For any information or questions regarding the Vanderbilt Power-Lifting club, contact Anthony anthony.m.steil@ vanderbilt.edu, or join the club's group on Facebook "Vanderbilt Powerlifting." ■





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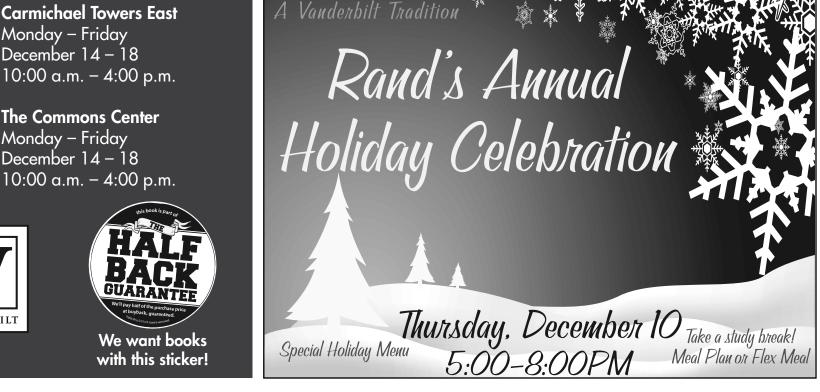


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58 Brit's elevator

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59 Cube or sphere 1 Ringing phone on stage, e.g. 60 Similar (to) 5 Place to unwind 61 Load to bear 10 Complacent 62 Reclassified 14 Medal recipient planet 63 Golfer Ballesteros 15 Panama divider 16 Ice cream parlor 64 Like the stepsisters in "Cinderorder 17 Some lemony ella' 65 Red Sea republic quaffs 66 Ready to drive, as 18 Spring up 19 Took the subway a golf ball 20 Prospecting swindle **DOWN** 23 USN rank 1 Parts of a cycle 24 Utmost degree 2 Stinging crawler 25 Shadow 3 Ultimatum words 27 Suffix with farm 4 Big name in breakfast cereal or home

29 Fly in the oint-5 Barely adequate 6 Stereotypical pirate's cry

satellite

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32 North Pole toy 7 Part of ICU maker 33 Thinner, as smoke 8 Poet Ogden 36 Temptation on a 9 Toward the sheltered side

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37 Multilevel investment swindle 40 Stratagem 41 Accomplished with a single try 42 Slip signed by a

debtor 43 Quiche base 44 Inuit craft 48 Essence of roses 50 Sigma follower

52 King beater 53 Sleight-of-hand

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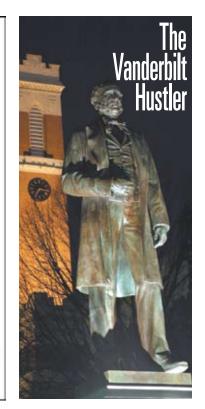
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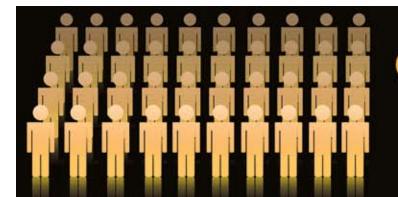
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