

**NEWS** Supreme Court denies to hear appeal to recognize Vanderbilt scientists **SEE PAGE 3** 



## **SPORTS**

The Sports Staff analyzes the Commodores' continuing struggles away from home **SEE PAGE 7** 



# THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011** 

are occupying front row seats and gaining

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**OLIVIA KUPFER** 

Life Editor

momentum in the industry.

The fashion industry — with capitals in New York, Paris and Milan — used to represent an inaccessible world for the masses. Less than ten years ago, the average 20-something couldn't attend an international fashion week and was unqualified to write about the industry.

Today, the once impenetrable fashion industry is accessible to hoards of "new school" fashion bloggers, who bring fresh faces to front rows and offer new perspectives on what's "avantgarde" in the industry.

The New York Times published an article at the close of 2009 titled "The Year in Style - Fashion Bloggers Horn In on Elle and Vogue" discussing the rapid entrance of bloggers to the industry and the ushering in of a new era of fashion reporting and

So, who are these new faces of fashion blogging? The much disputed, 14-year-old blogger Tavi Gevinson, who rose to fame with her blog, Style Rookie, is the pioneer of the movement. Amy Levin founded CollegeFashionista right after graduating from Indiana University; the site has even struck a deal with USA Today and is regularly featured as an exclusive fashion column. Yvan Rodic, an international fashion photographer and author, created Face Hunter, a blog dedicated to profiling street style across the globe. This week, Rodic is profiling hippy-chic bohemians at the Sundance Film Festival.

With online media rapidly replacing print, it's no shock that these fresh faces are taking fashion by storm. Aside from their identical medium of expression, what else

Students profiled for CollegeFashionista are photographed and interviewed by a "Style Guru" and then featured on the site. Since 2009, there has been a rapid increase in fashion blogs across the country, many of which focus on highlighting "street style."

does this group have in common? All are risk-takers. Compared to seasoned fashion vets and Vogue editors Hamish Bowles, Anna Wintour and Grace Coddington, these new faces of fashion have to be more cutting-edge, daring and experimental to have their input and opinion heard. Fortunately, creativity and imagination are prerequisites for survival in this industry.

With an eye for trends, Amy Levin founded CollegeFashionista, a site devoted to reporting street style and trends on college campuses. Before CollegeFashionista, the college demographic was unrepresented; today, on-campus style is not only profiled, but also an influencer of designer

Please see **COLLEGE FASHIONISTA**, page 5

)LLEGE FASHIONISTA/Photo Provided

■ NATIONAL NEWS

## **Obama's State** of the Union: 'Move forward together or not at all'

**KYLE BLAINE** 

**News Editor** 

Vanderbilt students watched on Tuesday night as President Barack Obama delivered his State of the Union address, pleading for unity in a newly divided government. He implored Democratic and Republican lawmakers to rally behind his vision of economic revival, declaring in his State of the Union address: "We will move forward together or not at all."

Setting a tone of commonality by invoking the name of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and the events in Arizona that resulted in the deaths of six people, the president unveiled an agenda of carefully balanced political goals: a burst of spending on education, research, technology and transportation to make the nation more competitive, alongside pledges, in the strongest terms of his presidency, to cut the deficit and smack down spending deemed wasteful to America.

Junior Matt Samples, who watched the speech in The Common's Center multipurpose room with around 25 other students, said he appreciated the conciliatory nature of the speech.

"I think the tone of the speech is what the country needs right now, and I hope he sticks to his conciliatory message," Samples

Obama's proposals Tuesday night included cutting the corporate tax, providing wireless services for almost the whole nation, consolidating government agencies and freezing most discretionary federal spending for the next five years. In the overarching theme of his speech, the president told lawmakers: "The future is ours to win."

Obama spoke of putting money into roads, research, education, efficient cars, high-speed rail and other initiatives in his speech. He pointed to the transportation and construction projects of the last two years and proposed "we redouble these efforts." He coupled this with a call to "freeze annual domestic spending for the next five years."

Yet, Republicanshave dismissed his "investment" proposals as merely new spending.

"The president should be ashamed for disguising his continued out-of-control spending as "investments," and ought not just call for a 'spending freeze, but rather, he ought to be a man and cut spending," said Vanderbilt College Republicans President Stephen Siao.

Obama offered many more examples of where he would spend than where he would cut, and some of the areas he identified for savings are not certain to yield much, if anything at all.

For example, he said he wants to eliminate "billions in taxpayer dollars we currently give to oil companies." Yet he made a similar proposal last year that went nowhere. He sought \$36.5 billion in tax increases on oil and gas companies over the next decade, but Congress largely ignored the request, even though Democrats were then in charge of

both houses of Congress. Despite disagreements over spending and cutting, the president called for a new era of cooperation.

"What comes of this moment will be determined not by whether we can sit together tonight but whether we can work together tomorrow," the president said.

Vanderbilt College Democrats President Naveed Nanjee said he thought the speech was wonderful and pertinent to students.

"He touched on points that Please see **STATE OF THE UNION**, page 3

■ CAMPUS NEWS

## 'Black and Gold' anthem makes Nick Wells a dorm room name

**ALISHA WASHINGTON** Staff Writer

Freshman Nick Wells released "Black and Gold," a song dedicated to Vanderbilt's

unique campus life, on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

From "dinner at Ro-Tiki, brunch at

Rand," to "long lines you can't avoid at the bookstore," the song has verses with which most Vanderbilt students can identify.

Through word of mouth as well as Facebook and Twitter, Wells' song became the talk of the campus, as students gathered on their floors and in their rooms talking

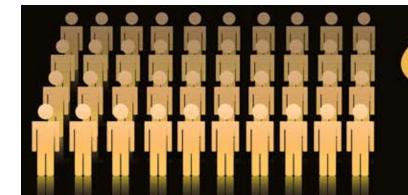
"I posted it to eight people's walls on Facebook," Wells said. "From there, everyone else started posting it and putting it on Twitter."

In one week, "Black and Gold" has Please see BLACK AND GOLD, page 3



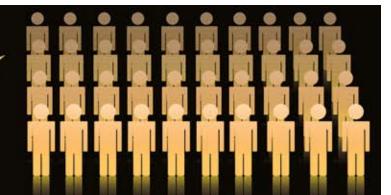
**CHRIS HONIBALL**/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshman Nick Wells performs with the Melodores on Dec. 1, 2010. Wells wrote "Black and Gold," an anthem for Vanderbilt students.



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## **FEATURE PHOTO**



**NICOLE MANDEL/** The Vanderbilt Hustler

John Fontaine carefully applies and smoothens cement to the side of the canoe. For their senior design project, a group of civil engineers teamed up to design and build a cement canoe. The canoe will be raced in March against other cement canoes built by teams from many different universities.

## NEED TO KNOW NASHVILL



## The top news stories from around Nashville that you need to know to be informed this week.

## Nonprofit aims to aid exploited immigrant workers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A new nonprofit is helping Nashville's immigrants get paid for their work.

The Workers' Dignity Project started last year with the goal of educating both legal and illegal immigrants about their workplace rights and empowering them to collect unpaid wages.

Although it is illegal to hire people who are not authorized to work in the U.S., those who are hired have many of the same rights as other workers, such as minimum wage and overtime compensation.

But several attorneys told The Tennessean that some employers think they can get away with not paying illegal immigrants by threatening to have them deported.

The Workers' Dignity Project says it helped 22 workers recover more than \$14,000 in 2010. Victims have donated more than \$800 back to the project.

"Part of the agreement is that if you get help, you'll also give back," founder Jack Willey said. ■

## Teachers' collective bargaining rights targeted

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee school districts would no longer have to engage in negotiations with teachers' unions under a bill introduced by House Republican Caucus Chairwoman Debra Maggart.

Tennessee Education Association lobbyist Jerry Winters on Monday called the proposal to do away with collective bargaining "an insult to every teacher in the state."

Maggart, of Hendersonville, said her bill would provide for more flexibility as the state works to improve education standards. She said that none of Tennessee's neighboring states require collective bargaining with teachers, and noted that the negotiating rights for teachers are unique among public employees. ■

## Gun advocate loses case over loss of carry permit

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — A Nashville judge has dismissed a lawsuit by a man who had been detained for walking down a street with a .44-caliber black powder revolver in his hand and had other encounters with authorities.

Chancellor Russell T. Perkins ruled against Leonard Embody of Brentwood, who sued state officials for taking away his gun carry permit last March.

He claimed the Department of Safety had no right to revoke his permit because he committed no crime and because the permit was suspended without a hearing.

Embody has a history of incidents with Nashville-area authorities. In December 2009 he was detained for carrying an AK47-style pistol across his chest as he walked around a state

Perkins said in his ruling last Friday that state law properly regulates the way firearms are carried.

## Southern Baptist leader leaves mosque coalition

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — A leader of the Southern Baptist Convention has withdrawn from a coalition that supports the rights of Muslims to build mosques in their communities.

Richard Land, the head of the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said he heard from many Southern Baptists who felt the work of the Interfaith Coalition on Mosques crossed the line from defending religious freedom to promoting Islam.

The Coalition was formed last year as an initiative of the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish group that fights discrimination. Its first action was to file a friend of the court brief opposing a lawsuit that sought to stop a planned mosque in Murfreesboro, about 30 miles southeast of Nashville.

Saud Anwar is the founder and co-chair of the American Muslim Peace Initiative and a member of the coalition. He said he was saddened and disappointed by Land's action, which he believes undermines Land's professions of support for religious liberty for all. ■

## STRANGE **BUT TRUE**

#### 'CROP CIRCLE' IN INDONESIAN RICE PADDY

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Thousands of curious onlookers are flocking to central Indonesia to look at a "crop circle" in a rice field following rumors it was formed by a UFO.

Though clearly sculptured by humans — it looks like an intricately designed flower — the 70-yard-wide (70-meter-wide) circle has drawn so much attention that police have blocked off the area with yellow tape.

Villagers have started charging entrance fees.

Guntur Purwanto, chief of Jogotirto village in Sleman district, said the circle appeared in the middle of the green rice paddies over the weekend.

Among those turning out Tuesday and offering opinions were officials from Indonesia's space agency, well-respected astronomers and nuclear agency officials. All agree it was not left by an UFO.

## TEENS ARRESTED FOR ROBBING MOTORISTS STUCK IN SNOW

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — Three teens accused of robbing motorists stuck in the snow have been caught after - you guessed it — they got stuck in the snow themselves.

Prosecutors announced robbery and armed criminal action charges Friday against 18-year-old Darion O. Page of Kansas City, a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old.

The Kansas City Star reported that police found the teens stuck in a snowdrift early Thursday morning.

The victims' credit cards were among the items found in their

Court documents say the 17-year-old denied participating in the robberies and told police that all he did was drive.

The documents say Page admitted being present, but he blamed the holdups on the 16-year-old. The Star says that teen declined to make a statement.

## NO APP FOR THIS: CROC GULPS PHONE, **STARTS RINGING**

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)** — Workers at a Ukrainian aquarium didn't believe it when a visitor said a crocodile swallowed her phone. Then the reptile started ringing.

The accident in the eastern city of Dnipropetrovsk sounds a bit like "Peter Pan," in which a crocodile happily went "ticktock" after gulping down an alarm clock.

But Gena, the 14-year-old croc who swallowed the phone, has hardly been living a fairy tale: He hasn't eaten or had a bowel movement in four weeks and appears depressed and in pain.

Gena noshed on the Nokia phone after Rimma Golovko dropped it in the water. She had stretched out her arm, trying to snap a photo of Gena opening his mouth, when the phone slipped.

"This should have been a very dramatic shot, but things didn't work out," she said.

Dnipropetrovsk chief veterinarian Oleksandr Shushlenko said the crocodile will be taken for an X-ray next week if he continues to refuse food. Surgically removing the phone would be a last resort, he said, since incisions and stitches usually take at least three weeks to heal in reptiles and the procedure is dangerous for the animal and the vets.

## PROFESSOR

Profiling an interesting professor

#### **ELENA OLAZAGASTI-SEGOVIA** by GABY ROMÁN



Thousands of volunteer hours have gone into serving the Latino population in Nashville, and it's all because of Dr. Elena Olazagasti-Segovia's service learning courses.

## **HOW HAVE YOUR STUDENTS REACTED TO YOUR COURSES?**

Service-learning is not for everyone, but students repeatedly say that it is worth it. They use phrases like "enlightening," "life changing," "rewarding" and "fulfilling."

## WHAT DO THEY FIND SO REWARDING?

The kids we work with have serious academic problems because of their limited knowledge of the English language. My students' tutoring efforts resulted in 100% of the kids achieving at least a year's progress, but most of them actually did much better: two, three and even four year's growth.

## **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LEADING VANDY STUDENTS LIKE THIS?**

In 10 years, more than 500 students have served the Latino community. The courses require them to complete at least 20 hours of service, so we are talking about thousands of hours.

Dr. Segovia's service-oriented courses are Spanish for Oral Communication, Latino/a Immigration Experience, and Telling Latina Lives in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

### SERVICE GUIDE

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

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

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# Vanderbilt loses Cialis Supreme Court bid

**LUCAS LOFFREDO** 

Staff Writer

On Monday, Jan. 24, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal by Vanderbilt University for the U.S. Court of Appeals case Vanderbilt University vs. ICOS Corporation. The case involved adding three Vanderbilt medical center scientists, Dr. Jackie Corbin, Dr. Sharron Francis and Dr. Sekhar Konjeti as inventors on the patent held by ICOS for the erectile dysfunction drug Cialis. The scientists had worked with the company Glaxo on development of the drug before the project was transferred to ICOS.

"My collaborators here felt that we should also be listed as inventors," Corbin said. "Our collaboration with [Glaxo] went on for a number of years. We provided them a lot of information, both face-to-face and in writing."

"The brand name is Cialis, the generic drug is tadalafil," said Leona Marx, the Associate Counsel at Vanderbilt's Office of General Counsel. "We believe that [Corbin, Francis and Konjeti] are inventors of tadalafil."

Vanderbilt lost the case at both the District Court and Appellate Court level before appealing it again to the Supreme Court. Corbin said, "This has gone on a long time, and although we had decisions in the lower courts that were against us, we were close in several respects so we had some hope."

The scientists from Vanderbilt claim to have played a crucial role in the early development of the drug.

discovered the phosphodiesterase-5 many years ago, and we told [Glaxo] that a pill that inhibited the enzyme could be used to treat erectile dysfunction," Corbin said. "We, actually, ourselves, in our laboratory here, synthesized a lot of compounds like that, and we even sent them some compounds

However, representatives for the corporation alleged in court that the contributions of the Vanderbilt scientists were not a part of the final design for Cialis. According to Corbin, "[Glaxo] said that even though we told them all these things they should do, told them what kind of compounds to use, that they didn't actually listen to that, but they had their own ideas."

Marx was realistic about the prospects of the Supreme Court considering an appeal on the case: "It's very difficult to get the U.S. Supreme Court to hear any particular case, it has to have national significance, so I guess we knew it was a

When asked how he felt about the Supreme Court denying the case, Corbin said, "My reaction was of disappointment, because we felt we were on the side of truth in this case, that we did contribute to the development and discovery of Cialis."

Those representing Vanderbilt have no further plans to try to get the names of the scientists on the patent. "This is the end," Marx said. "There is no further appeal. Once the Supreme Court denies the petition that's the end of the road." ■



# **BLACK AND GOLD:**

## Music video to premiere today

From **BLACK AND GOLD**, page 1

gained more than 8,700 views on YouTube, in part because of the video being shared on social networks.

Despite the excitement over Vanderbilt's latest anthem, creating "Black and Gold," a remix to Wiz Khalifa's original "Black and Yellow," was a long but exciting process for Wells. The idea for creating "Black and Gold" came to him from a friend of his who did a song about his own school at Northwestern University.

"We have the Vandy Van song, but I wanted to do a song that is a bit more universal," said Wells. "I just wanted to try something different. Everything I wrote in the song was not necessarily something I experienced but what I heard about. I did not have any preconceived notions about what Vanderbilt was like."

Carrying around a journal with him all day, Wells began his process for creating "Black and Gold" on Sunday Jan. 16. With a pen and journal in hand, he wrote down everything that came to his mind. After writing the lyrics, he went to the practice room in his dorm and recorded from Monday until Tuesday, edited on Tuesday night and released "Black and Gold" to the public on Wednesday.

As a result of the latest excitement behind the new

Vandy anthem, Wells will also be featured on VTV at 8 a.m., where he will also be premiering the music video for "Black and Gold".

Wells' interest in music is no sudden occurrence. His passion for music began when a friend of his showed him Chris Brown's "Run It" music video. His father also got him interested in Michael Jackson at an early age.

"I like to entertain people, and I like the feeling I get when I listen to good music," said Wells. "I want to transmit that to other people when they listen to music. I guess it's like an escape."

Wells continues to submerge himself in his craft, whether he is performing with the all-male a capella group, the Melodores, or creating songs for an upcoming mixtape. Over winter break, Wells created a mixtape, "Bigger Than Big 10," with a friend from Northwestern. His next released song will be "Don't Wait Up," a bonus track from the mixtape. Wells also plans on releasing another mixtape during the week after Vanderbilt's spring

"Now that I have the attention of a lot of people, I'm going to start releasing more songs," said Wells. "If people like my music, then I'm going to try and go ahead and get songs played at the club." ■

**■ CAMPUS NEWS** 

## Dores for Pakistan event to raise awareness and funds for over 20 million Pakistani flood victims

**ALEXA SIMON** 

Staff Writer

Dores for Pakistan is sponsoring an event in the Student Life Center ballroom to benefit Pakistani flood victims on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for Vanderbilt students and \$20 for non-Vanderbilt students.

Creator of the event, Marwah Shahid, is a Vanderbilt sophomore majoring in Global Heath, Medicine and Languages. A Pakistan native, she said she feels strongly about the cause, specifically in increasing the media attention it

"Having experienced the Nashville flood this past May made the Dores for Pakistan campaign close to home for many students as we were able to experience flooding, water shortages and general devastation first hand," Shahid said.

According to Shahid, little media coverage has been given to the floods in Pakistan.

About 100 of the Pakistani community members in Nashville will be present at the event. All funds raised from ticket sales will go to the United Nations High Council for Refugees (UNHCR). Starting at Stanford University, numerous universities around the nation have already joined together to raise money for the UNHCR for Pakistani flood relief.

Meant to be a celebration of solidarity with the people of Pakistan, the event will not only highlight Pakistani culture but also explore how the world has responded to the



Dores for Pakistan creator

The event will include a Pakistani buffet by Shalimar, dance and song performances, screening of the Dores for Pakistan video and briefings by a representative of the UNHCR and a

Pakistani student who first organized the campaign at Stanford.

Tickets for the event are on sale now and can be bought in advance. The Global Poverty Initiative, a studentrun club, is sponsoring the event.

The Pakistan floods began in late July 2010 following heavy monsoon rains in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan regions of Pakistan, affecting the Indus River basin. At one point, approximately one-fifth of Pakistan's total land area was underwater. According to Pakistani government data, the floods directly affected about 20 million people. This number is greater than the combined number of people affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, and the 2010 Haiti earthquake combined. ■

## **GETTING** THE TICKET

- The event is today at 6 p.m. in the Student Life Center ballroom.
- Tickets are \$10 for Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff and \$20 for everyone else.
- They can be bought with a Vanderbilt ID at the Sarratt Student Center Box Office or paid for in cash at the door.

CAMPUS NEWS

## Vanderbilt ranks 13 in Sporcle college rankings

**CHARLOTTE CLEARY** 

Staff Writer

Vanderbiltwasrecentlyranked 13 in the top 25 schools on Sporcle.com's College Rankings Leaderboard for the week of Jan. 9 through Jan. 15. Sporcle is a social gaming company that has a web and mobile application

The Sporcle college rankings page, available at www.sporcle. com/rankings, was launched last fall, and is updated every Tuesday morning with the exception of student breaks. Sprocle consists of quizzes that tests users on various topics such as television, history and entertainment. Users can also create their own quizzes.

Sporcle Public Relations Associate Ian Henry said that the Seattle, Washington, based company decided to start tracing college student usage after they noticed that a lot of users were coming from colleges and universities in the States as well as in Canada and England.

"We noticed that there are lots of colleges that are using Sporcle for more than just mentally stimulating diversions - we think that they are using it for things such as studying for tests," Henry said.

This week marks the seventh week that the college rankings have been traced and posted.

Josh Kazz, a sophomore at the University of Michigan, which currently tops the Sporcle college ranking list this week, says that he has been a Sporcle user since high school, and uses it occasionally to stimulate his mind while learning really random facts or to escape a boring lecture.

A quick search of "Vanderbilt" in the search bar brings up a number of Vanderbilt-related user generated quizzes, such as "Freshman dorms at Vanderbilt University", "Chancellors of

Vanderbilt", and "Vanderbilt Commodores in the NFL." The college rankings are derived through an algorithm

that takes into account a number

of different factors such as site visits, games played, page views and average time spent on the

"We've been seeing a change in the way that the site is being used which is exciting to see," said Henry.

Vice President of Products David Pharr said that Sporcle has become a crossroads between social gaming and online learning.

"There has recently been a trend of a lot more online learning, and after talking to students and teachers we're seeing Sporcle being used not only as a distraction, but also as a study guide," Pharr said.

According Pharr, Vanderbilt's ranking fluctuated throughout the seven weeks that the ranking system has been in place, but for the most recent ranking for the week of Jan. 16, Vanderbilt did not make the list, which is currently topped by the University of Michigan, Ohio State and Notre

## **STATE OF THE UNION:** Obama urges efforts to create jobs

From **STATE OF THE UNION**, page 1

were very relevant to students, particularly health care," Nanjee said. "Students can take advantage now of their parents health care until they are 26, which is a great benefit for students."

The president reiterated the idea that his health care law will save the government money. However, a fact check conducted by The Associated Press showed that this idea is based on arguable assumptions, such as assumed cuts in Medicare

Obama conceded that everything he asked for would prompt more partisan disputes. "It will take time," he said. "And it will be harder because we will argue about everything. The cost. The details. The letter of every law."

Obama used the stories of some of the guests sitting with his wife, Michelle, to illustrate his points, including a small business owner who, in the tradition of American ingenuity, designed a drilling technology that helped rescue the Chilean

The president cast the challenges facing the United States as bigger than either party. He said the nation was facing a new "Sputnik" moment,

and he urged efforts to create a wave of innovation to create jobs and a vibrant economic future, just as the nation vigorously responded to the Soviets beating the U.S. into space a half century ago. There was less of the see-saw applause typical of State of the Union speeches in years past, where Democrats

stood to applaud certain lines and Republicans

embraced others. Members of the two parties found

plenty of lines worthy of bipartisan applause. In a speech with little focus on national security, Obama appeared to close the door on keeping any significant U.S. military presence in Iraq beyond the end of the year.

"This year, our civilians will forge a lasting partnership with the Iraqi people while we finish the job of bringing our troops out of Iraq," the

The president reiterated his call for a comprehensive immigration bill, although there appears little appetite for it Congress. Another big Obama priority that stalled and died in the last Congress, a broad effort to address global climate change, did not get a mention in the State of the Union. Nor did gun control or the struggling effort to secure peace in the Middle East.

Sophomore Samer Abraham, also watching at The Commons Center, said he thought the president did a good job a conveying his message.

"He did a good job at addressing his accomplishments but also looking forward to what he has planned for the future," Abraham said.

Benjamin Ries, sophomore, said the speech was in the spirit of the times.

"I thought the speech was very unifying and also very bi-partisan," Ries said.

Yet Vanderbilt political scientist Josh Clinton said the real test comes after the speeches. "We will have to wait to see whether actions

match rhetoric," Clinton said. ■

—The Associated Press contributed to this article.

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**■** EDITORIAL

## Rock the (VSG) vote

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

election season.

The Hustler figures that you probably did. Either you've seen the signs covering the trunk of nearly every tree on campus, you've hosted the candidates at your organization's meeting or you saw the tickets' fan pages on Facebook.

All that you've heard or seen has been what the candidates have put forth. As students, we haven't yet had the opportunity to challenge the candidates' contentions or to share our concerns with them.

Starting today, Vanderbilt Student Media is endeavoring to change that.

This evening, we're hosting a debate in the Commons Center at 8 p.m. We'll be asking a lot of the questions, but you'll have your chance to weigh in as well.

If you're concerned about the hours at the Munchie Mart or if you are skeptical about the candidates' platform, the debate is a chance for your voice to be heard. We encourage you to join us.

end there. On Saturday, The Hustler's Editorial

But what starts this evening doesn't

Board is sitting down with each of the

In case you didn't know, it's VSG candidates to discuss their plans for VSG and why they want to be student body president or vice president.

We encourage readers to submit questions for tomorrow's debate and this weekend's conversations, videos of which will be made available on InsideVandy.com. To submit a question for either of these fora, email opinion@ insidevandy.com.

After you've had the chance to listen to your peers, it's your turn to weig h in. On Monday, The Hustler will publish its endorsement of one of the two tickets, and next Wednesday, which is the first day of the election, we'll dedicate this page to your voice. Who do you want to be the next VSG president and why? Let us know after you make up your mind, and we'll share a representative sample of your thoughts on this page.

We realize that we wouldn't be representing our readers fully if we didn't include the opinions of the many of you who won't vote or who will write in "Jeff Taylor and John Jenkins".

So, whatever your thoughts on the upcoming VSG election, join us for the debate and make your voice heard.

**■** COLUMN

## **Problems with** good grades?

**JACOB SZABO** 

Columnist

private universities.

point, according to a recent study highlighted in the New York Times. This nationwide trend, headed by private schools largely, is evoking concern within the educational community as to why it is occurring and, more importantly, why more so at

Since 1930, grade-point

averages among students

have risen nearly a full

It is a common trend of professors nationally to bring up the grade inflation "issue" (typically around midterm and final time). The issue refers to the exponentially inflating average GPAs of college students in the U.S. Public universities' nationwide average is around a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), while private schools average about 3.3, according to a 2010 study by Stuart Rojstaczer and Christopher Healy. Quite a significant statistic as just a halfcentury ago, those numbers were both around 2.4 (an increase of around 0.1 to 0.2 per decade).

Schools credit the inflation to better teaching and teaching methods, more prepared students, and a more competitive academic environment.

Others see the inflation, especially in private schools, as attempts to give alumni (and consequently the schools) better names for themselves in the public eye. This is why many feel that private school students are at an unfair advantage coming out of college and moving into the working world or graduate school.

The fact is that our society has progressed to a point that efficiency and absolute productivity are imposed at every level and every generation. We are all working to attain the next big thing, be it high school, college, graduate school or job placement. There is very little room for mediocrity in our fast paced, professional world.

Since 2002, the average GPA of Vanderbilt students has increased over 0.1 points.

But what do students think? Vanderbilt students confirmed that students today expect good grades. Parental expectations, competition and high school trends all contribute to a drive in today's students that factor into grade inflation.

Benjamin Lynn, 19, is a sophomore at Vanderbilt and a graduate of Smithtown East High School. When asked about the stringency of the academics at Vanderbilt, Lynn responded, "I have teachers that only give out one or two A's a semester. And no matter what, the professors aren't going to hand you a good grade. You still have to work for it."

Most students feel that the grade inflation issue is of minimal importance, and that the academics are rigorous enough as it is.

So should schools install more stringent grading policies?

James Young, 19, a sophomore at Elon University in Elon, N.C. said, "Anyone who says it's easier to get good grades at private schools is sorely mistaken. It's not hard to get by, but if you want to get good grades you're sure as hell gonna work for it."

Private schools attract the most motivated and promising students in the country. Not to take anything away from public universities, for which I have the utmost respect (both for the institutions and the students who attend them). But of the top 20 schools none are public, according to the U.S. News & World Report. Private institutions are more selective and appeal to dedicated students. One may think that more motivated students would produce higher GPA's.

As for the growing GPA gap, only time will tell if more serious precautions should be taken. For now we should see the nationwide increase in GPA, at both public and private schools, as progress in society. We shouldn't be too cynical to give credit when credit is due.

- Jacob Szabo is a sophomore in Peabody College. She can be reached at jacob.a.szabo@vanderbilt.edu.



What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. To submit to The Rant, e-mail opinion@ insidevandy.com or go to the opinion page on InsideVandy.com.

Compiled by The Hustler Staff

The only thing worse than Nick Wells is Charlie Kesslering.

Why are the platforms for both VSG president candidates basically the same? Want to reform VSG? Have an original idea. Also, don't be Greek.

Endorsements? What is this, a 3rd grade popularity contest? Oh right, it is VSG...

If James Franklin is half as good at his job as Red Panda is at hers, we're gonna be alright.

Nathaniel Horadam: We may read different history books, but I don't remember white southerners being that honorable and chivalrous to black southerners.

Hudson, if you think the south is so terrible, why are you in TN? Go and move up to the Northeast already. They love rude people there.

Quit taking away the crime log! It's better than any VSG nonsense article.

■ COLUMN

## Real tragedy and Chilean miners



**CLAIRE** CONSTANTINO Columnist

the Chilean miners, y'all. Maybe when you watched all 70 of them being pulled above ground on CNN a few months ago, you thought you understood. much like MTV's "True Life," though

you think you know, you actually have no idea. I, however, truly do feel their pain ... I've been trapped in an elevator in Towers. You're probably thinking, "Being trapped in an elevator for 45 minutes isn't at all like being trapped in a mine!" Well, it's sure a lot more like being trapped in a mine than simply watching the miners on TV, isn't it? So, maybe hold your judgment until you've been trapped and dependent upon someone else for rescue?

Tragedy struck this past Saturday night when some of my sorority sisters and I were on our way to a Towersbased social engagement. We made it all the way to the ninth floor, the door opened a little, then slammed shut again, and then that creepy recording of a woman warning about a weight capacity told us we were over the limit. Always levelheaded, my fellow captives and I spent a long time freaking out and pressing all the buttons on the elevator panel. It may interest people who frequent elevators to know that some of the allegedly reassuring emergency call buttons are jammed in, thus rendering them totally ineffective and, frankly, a bit of a tease. Thankfully, we still had some friends on The Outside, and we

I know the pain of were able to call them for help. (On a related note, call Kate Ruddy if you're ever between a rock and a hard spot. She got all hands on-deck outside our elevator in no time flat.)

While I am grateful to the kind Plant Ops man who liberated us from our crowded, poorly ventilated cell hovering far above the earth's surface, he could work on his bedside manner. He asked how many of us there were trapped inside, and when we assured him that we were well under the weight limit despite being one person over the max capacity, he gruffly responded with, "Are you sure?" Really, sir? You're going to take your sweet time freeing 11 girls stuck in an elevator and then call them fat? Harsh.

Yet, like the miners who inspired our resilience in the face of tragedy, we stayed upbeat during our captivity. We got some jams blasting from our phones and danced for a while. We bonded over embarrassing stories. Mine involved trouble from the Roman police and a fake name, but you'll have to be trapped in an elevator with me to get details. Anyway, by the time we were free, we were all a lot closer and had found a way to enjoy ourselves. It's a good thing too because we missed the party we were headed to. So learn from my mistake: Take the stairs or have a friend ready to rescue you. And use the bathroom before you take the elevator, because you never know how long the trip will take you.

— Claire Constantino is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at claire.v.constantino@ 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

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

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## **COLLEGEFASHIONISTA:** Amy Levin profiles campus style

From **COLLEGEFASHIONISTA**, page 1

#### CollegeFashionista

At 24, Amy Levin already employs over 220 Gurus" who contribute to CollegeFashionista and report on trends seen on his or her

college campus. Amy founded the site a year after graduating from Indiana University in August 2009. While the blog began profiling style at only five universities and initially had 12 "Style Gurus," on-campus correspondents who represent the site, the reception was so overwhelming that the blog rapidly expanded to include additional campuses across the country. Today, CollegeFashionista trendy, on-campus style at over 104 universities nationally. In addition, the site recently launched an international edition, which profiles student style at universities in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

"The college-aged demographic is such a powerful audience and determiner of trends in the fashion industry," said Levin.

Levin, who studied Business and Apparel Marketing in college, and credits her inspiration for the site with a semester spent in London, where she was responsible for reporting on "street style," considers herself a "queen of internships" and says her wardrobe is influenced by flea market finds.

Perhaps, her experience working interning in public relations, wardrobe, costume design, marketing, reporting and journalism provided her with sufficient insight into how to run a fashion successful regardless of her age. She even

created the original site with the help of a business partner; this past summer, a team of web programmers was brought in to revamp the site.

#### Vanderbilt & CollegeFashionista

"While I was studying abroad in Barcelona during spring 2010, I really caught the fashion bug," said Levin. "I loved how Europe was on top of the trends, dictating what would be "in" months before the same trend went stateside. There, fashion is truly about self-expression."

Sasha Levine, a senior at Vanderbilt and current "Fashion Guru" for CollegeFashionista, contacted Amy Levin last summer when she learned out of 70+ campuses represented, Vanderbilt wasn't one of them.

According to Levine, her desire to write for CollegeFashionista was born out of passion and an eye for trend spotting, as opposed to experience working or writing about fashion.

"A friend who works as a 'Style Guru' for New York University's CollegeFashionista page invited me to 'like' CF on Facebook," said Levine, "I began exploring the website and was shocked that Vanderbilt wasn't featured. Despite the fact that I had no prior experience, with the exception of my complete and utter obsession with clothes, I decided to contact Amy about starting up a Vanderbilt page. After e-mailing back and forth, I began recruiting other writers on-campus, and voila."

Although Levine finishes her editorial internship with the site in May of this year when she graduates from Vanderbilt, the experience fashion blogging has served as her entree to the industry and her fashion education.

## **NEW** SCHOOL

The rundown of favorite items, designers and tips & tricks of the trade.



**Amy Levin** 

Founder of

Fashionista

College



Sasha Levine

Fashionista, Vanderbilt Style Guru

College

### **FAVORITE ITEM**

"Vintage anything. My wardrobe is heavily influenced by flea market finds, rare pieces I have and rare pieces I've acquired through traveling."

-Amy Levin

"I would have to say my favorite items in my closet are my combat boots, which I purchased at one of my favorite European stores, Bershka . . . I love their androgynous appeal — they have a badass edge to them, yet the tiny, delicate star embellishments on each side give them a feminine appeal."

-Sasha Levine

### **FASHION DESIGNERS**

"I would have to say my favorite designers are probably Chanel and Marc Jacobs. Marc Jacobs really speaks to our generation and has a penchant for creating innovative pieces that are distinctly his own design."

-Sasha Levine

"Alexander Wang for shoes, Opening Ceremony for eclectic pieces, Celine is a label I worship."

-Amy Levin

MUSIC



Did Chancellor Zeppos listen to Fleetwood Mac? Each week, the "5-15-25" will tell you what your favorite

> musicians, professors and peers were listening to at each decade of their life.

#### **KYLE MEACHAM** Asst. Life Editor

VSG President Lori Murphy and Executive Vice President Lee Pedinoff are two of the most recognizable students on campus. The dynamic duo compares and contrasts their favorite albums starting at age

### **VSG President Lori Murphy**

### 5 - Donna Lewis, "Now in a Minute" (exclusively for the song 'I Love You Always

Forever') "I went through a phase where I would listen to this song over and over I think because my older sister Melissa had once said she liked it. I loved it so much she made me a tape where the song was recorded back to back and I could just play it on repeat."

#### 10 - Britney Spears, "Baby One More Time"

"Like every other ten-yearold, I went through a Britney phase. I blame my mother for it though because when she said she would buy me my first CD for my birthday and I asked for The Offspring I got Britney instead. She said Britney wholesome more look how that turned out."

### 15 - Jack Johnson, "In **Between Dreams**"

"I love every song on this album with favorites being "Better Together" and "Banana

Pancakes." There is just something about the way Johnson's Jack

voice sounds that can't be Ι can to him time and time again without it getting old."

#### 20-TaylorSwift, "Fearless"

"Who can honestly say they don't love album. When I ran for Vice President, Wyatt and our campaign team used to listen to "Love Story" literally every day to put us in a good mood and someone even

played it in Sarratt

song comes on people just can't help but dramatically

#### **Executive Vice President Lee Pedinoff**

## 5 - Ace of Base, "The Sign"

A classic by every measure; probably the first CD I ever

10 - Blink 182, "Enema of the State" After hearing "What's My Age Again" for the first time,

when we won. Whenever that I asked my mom if anyone liked her when she was 23.

MASON HENSLEY/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

#### 15 - U2, "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb"

I think this album represents the best of U2's mainstream rock efforts, despite taking them 20 or so years to accomplish this feat.

#### - Dave Matthews Band, "Big Whiskey and the **GrooGrux King**"

I've always been a Dave fan, and I think this album ranks up there with the best of them. ■

# Movies, music, and booze: A Sundance saga



**SUNDANCE FESTIVAL/Photo Provided** 

Cindy Meehl debuted her documentary "Buck" at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Sundance Selects bought the film, which details the life of horse trainer Buck Brannaman, and will distribute it in theaters nationwide. From left: Andrea Metich, Julie Goldman, Buck Brannaman and Cindy Meehl.

**HOLLY MEEHL** Staff Writer

Last Friday I awoke at five in the morning to embark on a trip I had been eagerly anticipating. With an a overweight bag stuffed with the cutest "resort chic" outfits I could muster, I flew off to Salt Lake City, Utah to attend the prestigious Sundance Film

Festival in Park City. After a series of serendipitous events, I was able to nab a pass to see the premiere of "My Idiot Brother," starring some of my favorites actors: Paul Rudd, Zoey Deschanel, Elizabeth Banks, Hugh Dancy, Emily Mortimer and Rashida Jones. The acting was the best part of this simple, charming film about an honest nitwit, Ned (Paul Rudd), who puts a little too much faith in others. The movie starts out with Ned selling weed to a sullen policeman in uniform, who convinces Ned that a little bud is the only way to improve his miserable week. After some hesitation, Ned caves, hands the cop some rhubarb with a side of pot and minutes later gets hauled off from his farmer's market stand in handcuffs. The

rest of the film captures Ned as

he's released from prison and must find a job and a place to live. His sisters pass him around, none of them wanting to take responsibility for their idiot brother.

The film left me with a smile, which was a nice contrast to the often-depressing Sundance flicks. My smile turned into a star-induced gape as the actors took the stage and answered questions from the audience. The Q&A had a unsteady start as the first question asked Paul to be a part of some animal rights event, and the second consisted of a man rambling for three minutes, after which Emily Mortimer asked him to repeat the question. The audience groaned but finally a good question was asked when a girl wanted to know how the cast chose their scripts. I laughed when Elizabeth Banks answered that she picked this script because she came from a family with three sisters and an idiotic brother and this movie was the story of her life.

I kick myself for not having seen dozens of films yet, but I realize it's because there are so many other distractions. I

gathered at the intimate Music Cafe to watch one of my favorite rappers, K'Naan, perform a small set, playing all my favorite songs. I'm sadly unable to ski but went snowshoeing for the first — and possibly last — time.

Yet, the biggest thing pulling me away from the theatres was the nightlife. Half of the people that travel to Sundance don't come to watch movies but to party. I've made a fortunate acquaintance with mother's producer's nephew who works for Sundance and is also responsible for handing out neon wristbands at the most elite bars in town. I got to jump right past the long line at Tao - a parking garage-cum-night club, complete with scantily clad dancers and giant buckets of free Stella — which is one of the popular hot spots during the festival. When I went to get a stronger drink from the bar, my friend waved me off, telling me no need to pay—he had several thousand dollars worth of credit.

I'm barely halfway through my stay at Sundance, but with the fun I've been having, I already feel that it's going by too quickly. ■

**■** FASHION

# Esteemed stylist Zoe to release line

**MCCALLEN MOSER** The Vanderbilt Hustler

Rachel Zoe, a famous fashion stylist for celebrities, is launching a new line. Her first included faux fur vests on QVC, but Zoe has now officially stepped it up to the big-time, as

she very well should. Rumors of her new line have been circulating for some time, but with the baby drama — and the drama of her every day life, which was profiled on her show, "The Rachel Zoe Project" — it seemed as though this day would never come. Thanks to a little help from a partnership with Li & Fung, a Hong Kong based company that is responsible for sourcing, distribution and

retailing, Zoe has finally blessed

the world with a collection many fans have been waiting to "die" over.

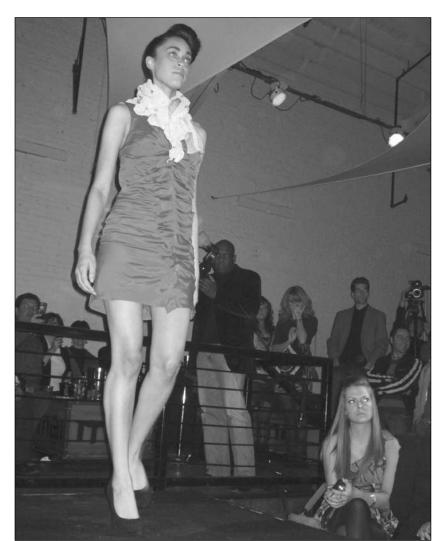
Fans and admirers of her styling would expect a number of over-the-top, excessively accessorized looks, but based on the pictures recently leaked, the looks created by Zoe surprise again. Don't be fooled; Zoe's line is definitely inspired by her typical 70's, bohemian vibe, but she has approached this aesthetic in a much more tailored and classic fashion.

Many of the pieces are suiting options. Both blazers and longleg trousers have a noticeable presence in the collection. There are also some flirty dresses that scream fashionista, and of course, don't forget the

outerwear - Zoe's personal favorite. It looks as though capes with exquisite detail will be the hot new outerwear that every Zoe wannabe will have to add to their closet. It is reported that the line will compete with contemporary lines such as Diane Von Furstenberg and Alexander Wang, so expect a hefty price tag to come along with these fabulous pieces. Items are expected to range from \$250 for a day dress to \$700 for more extravagant pieces.

And for those of you who haven't been waiting around in anticipation of the sex of her baby: It's a boy. I guess that means Zoe will have to bestow her massive jewelry collection on some other lucky soul. ■

## A touch of 'Blush'



NIKKY OKORO/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

#### **NIKKY OKORO NABEELA AHMAD** Staff Writers

Sunday, the Life staff had the chance to attend Blush Boutique's spring showcase at Club Mai (12th and Porter). The "Touch of Blush" show featured unique spring looks from Blush Boutique, which has two locations in Brentwood and Belle Meade. A dozen models, including one of Vanderbilt's own seniors, modeled the show's fashionably flirty looks.

### THE SPOT

Of all the spots in Nashville, Club Mai proved to be, surprisingly, the perfect location and ambience for Friday's fashion show. The venue, which has recently become one of the more popular clubs in town, brought a fun and hip atmosphere for the show's attendees gathered to see what Blush had to offer. Utilizing the dance floor as the runway and the area's big screens for visual flair, models walked out to the musical stylings of the house DJ and an irresistibly catchy pumpedup version of Katy Perry's "Firework."

#### THE STUDENT

The show featured Vanderbilt senior Calla Rae Ketchens. An aspiring model, Ketchens is from Clarksville, Tenn., and is graduating in May with a degree in French and Communications. We caught up with her after the show to get some insight on what it's like to walk the runway.

"Walking the runway was so fun," Ketchens said. "The energy of the crowd, plus the music and the fierce hair and make-up definitely contributed to my overall attitude while walking." After graduating, Ketchens plans to move to New York City with the hopes of being signed to an agency. In the meantime, she has done several shows in Nashville and is focusing on refining her modeling technique to prepare herself for the big city. As much as Ketchens loves the finale of a show, she said in true top model fashion, "I personally wish I could have continued walking because I enjoy it that much."

#### THE STYLE

With two locations in Nashville, Blush Boutique has become an affordable fashion staple. Offering an expansive variety of clothing and price points that are appealing to any student on a budget, Blush consistently tops the list of Nashville-area women's boutiques. Backstage, we spoke with the assistant manager of Blush's Belle Meade location, Kristin Leim, who was also the creative force of the show. She stressed the boutique's seasonal and ageless appeal. We definitely saw many spring looks on the runway with an emphasis on flirty and feminine. Overall, the looks were aesthetically pleasing with only a few misfits that would have perhaps suited the rodeo better than the runway. Some standout pieces were a slightly saucy coral wrap dress that would transition easily from day to night and a dusty pink and polkadotted, tailored, silk dress that could be paired with a blazer for the office. "A Touch of Blush" fashion show was, as another assistant manager put it, "very Nashville to New York" and was "not just about the clothes but the atmosphere." We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and will definitely be paying a visit to Blush Boutique in the near future. ■

**■** CULTURE

## What to read: **Blogs**

**OLIVIA KUPFER** Life Editor

The study abroad blog is a requirement of a semester spent in Geneva, Hong Kong or London. How else are students supposed to reconcile culture shock, fill the free time that accompanies a lighter course load or make friends at home envious?

Vanderbilt juniors Laura Dolbow and Allena Berry are spending the spring semester abroad — Laura is working towards her Spanish minor in Madrid and Allena is completing a Human & Organizational Development internship in Washington, D.C.

The opportunity to share their diverse experiences this spring — and contrast the quality of life in our nation's capital to vibrant, modern Madrid — was reason enough to start writing their "A Tale of Two Cities" blog.

"My goal for the blog is to provide interesting, entertaining information that will communicate my experience living in Spain to students on-campus. I hope that writing this blog will lead me to reflect more and take away more from my experience as well," said Laura, who is living in a homestay in Madrid.

Added her partner in blogging, Lena,

"My goal for this blog really isn't that different from anyone else who starts a blog — I feel like I have something to say, and I think people will want to listen (or, "read," to be more accurate) ... Plus, I like being able to say I'm a blogger, it gets me street cred."

The pair has developed a list of topics to discuss throughout the semester style spotting, travel, meeting the locals - which is sure to pique interest and provide a witty, informative commentary on what's to be expected during a semester away from campus.

Below is an excerpt from the pair's first blog post:

"We'll be giving you a deeply insightful, always delightful commentary on everything from how to get around to how to go out — or, probably more accurate in my case, how to go out to eat. Every Wednesday, we'll share our unique perspective on a topic of our choosing think food, music, culture, and events. And the topic changes every week, so by the time the semester ends, you'll know everything from A to Z about D.C. (and 'Aaah' to 'Zay' about Espana). We will be your dynamic duo for all things 'Vandyoutside-of-Vandy' this semester."

Read "A Tale of Two Cities Blog" each week on InsideVandy.com ■



LAURA DOLBOW/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior Laura Dolbow is spending her time abroad this semester in Madrid (above) while her friend Allena Berry is in Washington, D.C. They are collaborating on a blog named "A Tale of Two Cities."

■ FASHION

# **Fashionistas of** a feather flock together

LEX ARDELJAN-BRADEN

Though the feather trend may have first flown down runways in 2007, there's no denying that plume mania has returned. With the release of the psychological thriller "Black Swan," feathers and birds — specifically sparrows have been sprouting up as accessories and on celebrity outfits. The ballet thriller hasn't merely inspired dancers and perfectionists but designers as well.

This past December, models strutted down the runways of Paris in Chanel couture that was undoubtedly inspired by the Rodarte sisters' costume designs for the film. Draped in mute pinks, greys, blacks and whites, there was something indisputably swan-like about Lagerfeld's collection — the feathers. The bird and pear tattoo necklaces that Chanel's models also sported brought the bird trend to the forefront of fashion. Lagerfeld wasn't the only acclaimed designer captivated by Natalie Portman's "Black Swan" wardrobe; Marchesa, Sue Wong and even Manolo Blahnik have fallen into formation with the flock.

Whether you are a black swan or a white swan, and regardless of how you felt about the movie, spring fashion is sure to have fashionistas with birds on



**NICOLE MANDEL/** The Vanderbilt Hustler

the brain. This season, designers of all levels have swapped out heavy studs and jewels for the more airy feather. To some, the trend may seem a little too extreme to don. However, with a little imagination and confidence, the seemingly extravagant statement can be made more than wearable. Hey, sequins happened, didn't they?

But, to properly embody the trend, you don't have to step out in designer Mason Martin Margiela's \$2,765 peacock feather cape, though it's exquisite. Just like many of life's other frivolities, feathers should be worn in moderation. For those looking to dip their feet into the fantastic world of feathers, a piece worth consideration is a clutch or a pair of earrings with feather accents. Find feather earrings at Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters, and a feathered bag to die for is

Kate Spade's "Swan Lake"

clutch. Once you begin to

feel more comfortable in your transition from duckling to swan, go for a feathered headband or even a hairpiece. The pinnacle of the trend stands as the feathered dress or skirt. BCBG, Sue Wong and Marchesa have debuted corset and one-shouldered dresses with skirts made entirely of feathers. The effect is purely ethereal and surprisingly wearable. Unlike other fleeting trends, the growing feather fascination suits a classic, edgy or even modern wardrobe.

If feathers simply aren't in your fashion forecast, you can try to incorporate the seasonally and news appropriate — think Arkansas bird fiasco — sparrow into spring wardrobe. Whether it's jewelry, a top or even a purse, the feather and bird trend is taking flight. Who knows, perhaps you will find yourself so smitten that you purchase one of Margiela's

"Line 13" feather pens. ■

# "Yo La Tengo Mixes It Up"

**CHARLES ARUTT** 

Staff Writer

Yo La Tengo remains a favorite band of critics and has garnered a cult following since the band's inception in 1984. Yo La Tengo is known for its variety of music styles based in rock, but influenced by everything from bossa nova to shoegaze to noise pop. The band will perform at the legendary Exit/In Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The band was founded by husband and wife duo Ira Kaplan and Georgia Hubley in 1984. They went through a series of bassists until they found James McNew in 1992. Since McNew's addition to the band, they have recorded consistently good albums, which have been highly rated by most critics.

After countless tours, Yo La Tengo has decided to try out a new concept for their upcoming tour. Instead of playing a standard set of hits and songs from the new album, they will opt to split their set into two parts. The first part will be dictated by spinning a wheel that has options such as having the band act out a classic sitcom with their crew to playing a set with songs that all have names in them — of which there are a lot. The second part of the set will then feature the band playing more songs. Normally, the uncertainty of what

will happen at the performance would cause apprehension for fans who want to hear a band play their listener requests and do their best songs, not act out a sitcom. Yo La Tengo is known for their humor, and therefore, their unique concert at Exit/In is no surprise. In fact, once a year, the band performs a live radio show where they play



JESPER EKLOW/ Photo Provided

to improvise, often producing a humorous show.

Nashville-based William Tyler will open for Yo La Tengo. Tyler plays a style of experimental folk comprised of gorgeous compositions featuring Tyler playing his acoustic guitar.

Doors open at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1. For more info on the show, visit yolatengo. com and click "schedule." ■

# **SPORTS**

BASKETBALL

# Road games test Commodore mettle

**GEORGE BARCLAY** 

Sports Writer

"If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one." This mantra from country legend Dolly Parton is easily applied to the Vanderbilt men's basketball team when it comes to games away from Memorial Gymnasium this season, whether the players know it or not.

While the Commodores are a solid 14-4 on the season, they are a mere 1-3 in true road games. Blown leads, lackluster defense, turnovers and missed free throws have been the story in Vanderbilt's road struggles this season.

On the bright side, Vanderbilt has never been out of a game, with an average deficit of 4.25 points in its losses, one of which came on a neutral court in Puerto Rico to West Virginia in November. When asked about the Commodores' struggles on the road, junior center Festus Ezeli noted that the team needs to "play tougher," "stick to the (game) plan more" and "play better in the second half."

Following a heart-breaking loss at Tennessee, the Commodores are 2-0 with quality wins against Ole Miss and St. Mary's, the latter an exhilarating 19-point victory. With big men Ezeli and junior Steve Tchiengang playing hurt and redshirt junior forward Andre Walker out with a sprained ankle, these wins have been far

"We've been coming together more as a team," said freshman point guard Kyle Fuller, commenting on the team's recent stretch of play which has included strong second halves.

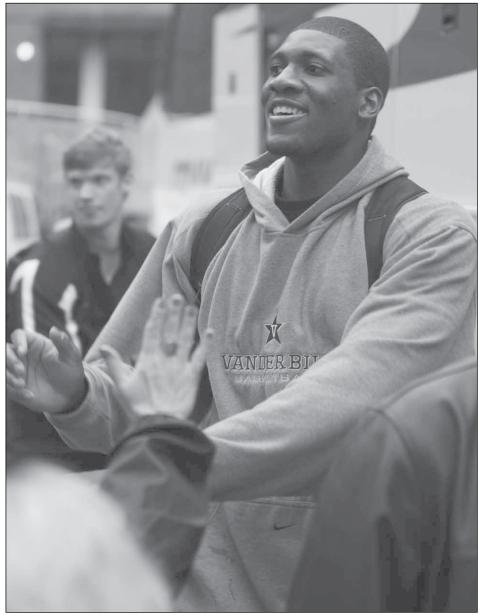
Vanderbilt looks to continue this winning trend on the road as it takes on Mississippi State Thursday night. Kevin Stallings hopes to capture his first victory in Starkville as Vanderbilt head coach.

In the competitive SEC East, every road win is crucial. However, numerous challenges such as unfamiliar rims, rowdy student sections and College Gameday hype can stand in the way. To combat these challenges, Ezeli just focuses on his play, calling the difficulties "a mental

According to Fuller, the pregame atmosphere on the buses and airplanes is "about business." Although the pregame routine is serious, postgame trips have been rewarding experiences for the Commodores with memorable bonding experiences including watching movies, cracking jokes and even a little rapping. Wherever Vanderbilt goes, the

team spirit remains constant. One of Vanderbilt's greatest strengths as a team is its camaraderie. Here, the basketball team is an extended family.

With a road schedule that includes the likes of Florida, Georgia and Kentucky, Vanderbilt will need this unity in order to come out victorious. Road trips can be good for families, and a few wins on the road are just what the Commodores need. ■



ZAC HARDY/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior center Festus Ezeli and the Commodores have not found much success on the road this season, without the support of their home fans.





Thursday, Jan. 27

6 p.m. CT

**Humphrey Coliseum** 

Starkville, Miss. TV: ESPN2 Radio: 97.1 FM

## **Commodore players' tweets**

**TENNESSEE, 1/15/11** 

@johnnyj2312 "Thanks to all my life long brothers that go to UT and supported me today — means alot. We will be better."

**SOUTH CAROLINA, 1/8/10** 

@FebrezeBrother "Tough loss for us, wish I could be out there 2 help. We'll bounce back though, got another big 1 against GA on Wednesday. Nashville bound."

MISSOURI, 12/8/10

@steveleandre "Have been trying to figure out what is going on with me these past couple games. I have got to wake up. Worked too hard to play this way."

**WEST VIRGINIA, 11/19/10** 

@steveleandre "That one hurts me more than my

# STRUGGLES ON THE ROAD

## NOV. 19, 2010 VS. WVU @ PUERTO RICO, 74-71 L

#### What went wrong?

Starters Festus Ezeli and Jeffery Taylor were limited to just 34 total minutes and each fouled out as the Commodores couldn't climb back from a 14-point first-half deficit. West Virginia guard Casey Mitchell, who had 31 points in the game, hit a three-point shot with 3.8 seconds left to win the game for the Mountaineers.

## **DEC. 8, 2010** @ MIZZOU, 85-82 OT L

### What went wrong?

Missouri guard Marcus Denmon stole a Brad Tinsley pass and finished a three-point play with 5.8 seconds left in overtime to continue to Tigers' 51-game home win streak. The Commodores couldn't capitalize on 23 points from John Jenkins as Tinsley missed a potential game-winning three at the end of regulation and another that could have tied the game at the overtime buzzer.

## JAN. 8, 2011 @ SOUTH CAROLINA, 83-75 OT L

### What went wrong?

With less than nine minutes remaining in regulation, the Commodores led by 11. However, South Carolina went on a 20-9 run to end the game, fueled by 22 points from Bruce Ellington, who scored 12 of the last 15 for the Gamecocks. South Carolina — who never led in regulation — dominated overtime, and Sam Muldrow recorded the second triple double in Gamecock history.

## JAN. 15, 2011 @ TENNESSEE, 67-64 L

## What went wrong?

Again the Commodores let a big lead slip away, this time letting Tennessee erase a 17-point deficit. With Vanderbilt trailing 65-64 with 2.7 seconds on the clock, Brad Tinsley's inbounds pass was stolen by Brian Williams, letting time expire.



## SEC MEN'S BASKETBALL POWER RANKINGS by Amit Chakraborty



## 1. No. 14 Kentucky (15-4 overall, 3-2 Southeastern Conference)

This past weekend, the 'Cats picked up their first road SEC win against a decent South Carolina team. This coming weekend, UK gets another shot at Georgia at home having lost the first matchup. The Wildcats currently have the third longest active winning streak at home in the country.



## 7. Alabama (12-7, 4-1 SEC)

A strong start to conference play has been highlighted by a critical upset of Kentucky and an expected win over Auburn this past week, but Alabama's nonconference woes dilute their conference dominance. To make their lives easier, the Crimson Tide reach back into the bottom of the SEC barrel to play LSU this week-



## 2. No. 19 Vanderbilt (14-4, 2-2 SEC)

Vanderbilt came through this weekend with a runaway victory over No. 21 St. Mary's in Nashville. John Jenkins still leads the SEC in scoring with an average of 18.7 points per game. The Commodores are going on the road this Thursday to try adding another conference win against a struggling Mississippi State team.



## 8. Mississippi State (10-8, 2-2 SEC)

The good news for the Bulldogs is that they have two home games on the schedule this week. The bad news is that they are against a Vanderbilt team fresh off an impressive win and a Florida team trying to assert its dominance in the SEC East.



## 3. No. 24 Florida (15-4, 4-1 SEC)

The Gators barely managed to beat an Auburn team that might go down as the worst basketball team in SEC history, but they did blow out Arkansas this past weekend. They could legitimize themselves as contenders with a road win against Mississippi State this weekend.



## 9. Arkansas (12-6, 2-3 SEC)

Florida absolutely wrecked the Razorbacks and left them in shambles. After a mid-week matchup with Auburn, their run of the gauntlet of SEC East contenders continues this weekend as they head to Nashville to play Vanderbilt.



## 4. Georgia (14-4, 3-2 SEC)

Georgia bounced back from an unlucky home loss to Tennessee with a big win over Mississippi State in Athens on Saturday. They head to Lexington to face a Kentucky team this weekend that has yet to lose a home game under Coach John Calipari.



## 10. Ole Miss (13-7, 1-4 SEC)

Ole Miss picked up its first SEC win against LSU this weekend. Then again, it is only LSU. With two much tougher Eastern Division games looming, the Rebels need to brace themselves.



## 5. Tennessee (12-7, 2-2 SEC)

Tennessee hung tough with Kemba Walker and the No. 8 UConn Huskies but ended up losing by 11. At least they get to finish out head coach Bruce Pearl's suspension against some bottom-of-the-barrel SEC West teams, including LSU and Ole Miss.



## 11. LSU (10-9, 2-2 SEC)

After being embarrassed by Kentucky, they really tried to recover by playing an Ole Miss team that didn't have a win in the SEC going into the game. Let's just say it wasn't the most successful attempt.



## 6. South Carolina (12-6, 3-2 SEC)

South Carolina is probably wishing it had Devan Downey again. The Gamecocks lost a close matchup against Kentucky this past weekend. Losing a home game against Kentucky is bearable, but losing one to Auburn would be downright embarrassing.



## 12. Auburn (7-12, 0-5 SEC)

They have won seven games, but this team may be the worst SEC team to ever play a game of basketball. After losses to Florida and Arkansas last week, the Tigers go to South Carolina this weekend to try to erase that zero in the conference wins column.

# BACK PAGE

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THE SAMURAL OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

### 1/24 Calastian

1/24 Solutions									
7	5	9	4	6	2	8	1	3	
4	6	3	5	1	8	2	9	7	
1	2	8	9	7	3	6	4	5	
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5	8	4	2	3	6	9	7	1	
2	3	1	7	9	5	4	8	6	
3	4	5	8	2	1	7	6	9	
9	1	2	6	4	7	3	5	8	
8	7	6	3	5	9	1	2	4	

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## **CROSSWORD**

## **ACROSS**

- 1 Place to chill out 4"In all likelihood ..." 11 Hollywood hrs. 14 Many, many moons 15 Land purveyor
- 16 Mr. !: old whodunit game 17 Diana Prince's alter
- 19 Have some grub 20 Wore 21 Thus
- 24 Peter Parker's alter 27 Arctic explorer John 28 Ouetzalcóatl
- worshiper 30 Aromatherapist's
- 31 Britt Reid's alter 35 Bite for Mister Ed
- 36 Bray beginning 37 Steve Rogers's alter
- 45 "Kubla Khan" river 46 Meted (out) 47 XV years before the
- Battle of Hastings 48 Linda Lee Danvers's alter ego 51 Trade punches
- 52 Sound acquisition? 53 More artful 55 Flight board abbr. 56 Reed Richards's alter ego 61 Bis plus one, to a

pharmacist

- 62 Lizards with dewlaps
- Hunters": History Channel show with the tagline "Hoax or History?" 64 Many SAT takers 65 Abundant flow 66 Pink Floyd guitarist

## **DOWN**

Barrett

- 1 Use a Singer 23 Cutting the mustard 2 High-muck-a-muck 3 "General Hospital"
  - actress 4 Cookie that might flavor a McFlurry 5 "Jurassic Park" actress 6 Margery of kids'
  - rhvme 7 Road warning 8 Source of 20s, for
  - 9 Author Dahl 10 "Sesame Street" regular
  - 11 Early arrival 12 Natural seasoning 13 Jackson Hole backdrop
  - 18 HST's successor 22 Danish coins 23 Museum fare 24 Canonized mlle. 25 Write 26 Cologne pronoun

28"How now? \_\_\_?":

Hamlet, before

mistakenly slaying

34 Swamp growth 37 Disorder 38 Shows up 39 Infamous Amin 40 Postal motto word 41 Every last one 42 Driving force 43 Elucidate

44 Make public

45 Balance sheet

heading

29 Letter after epsilon

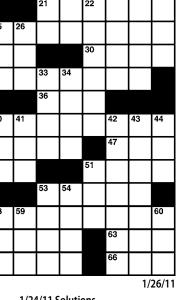
32 Burrowing rodent

33 "Alas"

49 Send in the check 50 1961 British movie monster 51 Sasha, to Malia

53 Lee who co-created 24-Across 54 In the cellar, so to speak 57 Jet set garb 58 Rhine feeder

59 Tuscaloosa-to-Huntsville dir. 60 New England catch



1/24/11 Solutions



1/26/11

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AM	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	8:00	
	<b>9</b> :30						
DΜ	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	7:45			

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