

The baseball team earns its highest rank in school history...

For more, see Sports, page 6



'The Verdict' votes down lazy chimpanzees...

For more, see 'The Verdict' Opinion, page 5



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Happy Valentine's Day...

The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 16



...from The Hustler

THE WALL

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

TODAY Last day to see the Vagina Monologues

All proceeds benefit the local movement to stop violence against women. Tickets can be purchased for \$12 at the Sarratt Box Office (Vandy card, cash or check accepted) or by calling 322-1333. The performance is in Sarratt Cinema.

TODAY In the Black Series lecture by Sam Latham

Publisher of Onyx Magazine Sam Latham will talk about black business and entrepreneurship with a focus on Nashville business owners along historic Jefferson Street at the Black Cultural Center from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

TODAY Demystifying Academic Argument lecture

When you write academic papers, you are expected to evaluate others' arguments as well as make your own. In this workshop in Alumni Hall, Room 117 from 3-4 p.m., students will look at examples of techniques professors use for this skill and talk about how to use them in writing.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15 On Writing with Susan Ford Wiltshire

Susan Wiltshire, professor of classics and publisher of non-fiction books, short stories and poetry, will discuss why she writes and how she goes about it in Alumni Hall, Room 117 from 4:10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15 Discovery Lecture Series: Antonis K. Hatzopoulos Thursday

Antonis K. Hatzopoulos, Ph.D., associate professor of Medicine and Cell & Developmental Biology at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, will present the Discovery Lecture, "Stem Cells and Cardiac Regeneration." The lecture will be in Light Hall, Room 208.

Compiled by staff from various sources. Check out <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

Senate campaigns kick into high gear



Vanderbilt Student Government Senate campaign posters dominate the area outside Sarratt as freshman Lou Hart walks the Wall. VSG Senate campaigning began Tuesday.

Greek officials decline to comment on alleged hazing

by ELLIE ATKINS
Staff Reporter

Students are talking about allegations that the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity has violated the university's hazing policy, although Greek officials have declined to confirm details.

Phi Psi President Andrew Malgieri said the issue is in the hands of the Public Conduct Board, and the fraternity is not willing to make any further comments.

University hazing policy expands the legal definition of hazing to include "any act that may produce, or is intended to produce, mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule," but does not outline the disciplinary response to hazing violations.

In the past, other fraternities have been removed from campus due to hazing problems. In the last five to seven years, fraternities such as Kappa Alpha, Sigma Nu and Phi Delta Theta were all

suspended for hazing violations.

Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey declined to comment in person but reiterated university hazing policy in an e-mail response to specific questions about the issue.

"The new member experience should reflect the ideals and values of the fraternity and sorority that they are joining," she said. "Hazing is contradictory to those ideals and values and we expect for the new member experience to be a positive one." ■

Groups promote end to abuse



The YWCA and other organizations set up tables outside the Sarratt Cinema during Tuesday's "Vagina Monologues" production. The YWCA promoted an end to domestic violence, and Vanderbilt's Psychological and Counseling Center, Stop Violence against Women and Planned Parenthood also presented materials.

Students respond to mayor's English-only bill veto

Professor calls veto a 'welcoming' action.

by SYDNEY WILMER
Senior Reporter

Sophomores Robert Funke and Justin Poythress sit diagonally from one another at a centrally situated table in the Qdoba Mexican Grill on 21st Avenue and West End Avenue.

It is Sunday, but their discussion does not mirror other post-church conversations surrounding them. As coverage of Nashville's English-first ordinance flashes across the overhead television, the discussion morphs into a debate.

The bill, vetoed by Mayor Bill Purcell Tuesday, would make bilingual education illegal in public schools and require non-emergency documents to eliminate multilingual components.

Governor and former Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen said Tuesday that Purcell's veto was the "right thing to do," but the metro council may yet override the mayor's decision.

"Laws like these serve no purpose but to further subjugate the disadvantaged," Funke said. "They come from the same mindset that inequality is acceptable in America. We don't need to take away the few aids immigrants have and make the disadvantaged weaker."

Poythress disagreed, however, worrying that programs such as bilingual education will create a crutch for students and discourage them from learning English.

"I think it is very valuable not to baby people," he said. "They may not see the need to learn English if there is always a way for them to get by without it."

At Vanderbilt, where Peabody students take classes discussing the advantages of bilingual education and how it will affect their careers, this debate underscores a larger issue.

This seemingly local issue affects students directly and is inherently "national," said sociology Professor Dan Cornfield explained.

"I'm a deaf-ed major," said senior Katie Jackson. "This kind of debate is central to what we are studying because this may rule out (the ways in which we teach)."

"I think it will hurt kids trying to learn English," said sophomore Kirk Dryer. "If you are trying to teach a kid how to swim, you don't just throw them in the deep end without any help."

"I don't really know much about it," said sophomore Christine Koester. "But it sounds like something my grandparents would support. It sounds like something a lot of people's grandparents would support."

Nevertheless, Cornfield said it is important to understand the context of the issue.

"The United States has gone in and out of periods of immigration," Cornfield said. "In most of these periods, especially a century ago, the anti-immigrant political movement nativism has emerged, claiming immigrants take 'our jobs, country and take away from our culture.'"

Please see ENGLISH-ONLY BILL, page 2



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WEATHER
compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

TODAY



Partly Cloudy, 32/21

THURSDAY



Partly Cloudy, 31/17

FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy, 38/28

FRIDAY



Snow, 43/29

VUPD CRIME LOG
compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

There is no crime to report.

Check out <http://police.vanderbilt.edu/crimelog.htm> for complete listings.

SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW

The news you need — in brief

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

CAMPUS

Psychologist, author and oft-quoted expert dies at age 76

Oakley Ray, who taught at Vanderbilt University for more than 30 years and wrote both an enduring textbook and self-help books for the general public, died Feb. 7. He was 76.

Ray, professor emeritus of psychology, died at Nashville's Centennial Medical Center of leukemia.

"He was a distinguished member of the psychology department, especially as a teacher," said Tim McNamara, associate provost for faculty and professor of psychology. "In recent years, he gave the department a great deal of visibility in his role as executive secretary of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology."

Over the years, Ray's psychology courses ranked among the most popular in the College of Arts and Science and the Vanderbilt School of Medicine. He was quoted or interviewed by reporters from the BBC, The New York Times, Boston Globe, The Tennessean, National Public Radio and many other media outlets. He provided commentary on everything from substance abuse — a subject on which he was a national expert — to lighter fare such as the mood of the city of Nashville after the Tennessee Titans lost Super Bowl XXXIV.

Source: VANDERBILT REGISTER

Tennessee schools, programs win grants to help close achievement gap

Four Tennessee schools and one community outreach program have each won a \$10,000 grant from the Vanderbilt Center for Child and Family Policy to help close the achievement gap between white and black and Latino students.

"We're delighted to award these grants to schools and groups dedicated to strengthening their own communities and doing their part to close the achievement gap," said Debbie Miller, director of Center for Child and Family Policy.

The grants are part of the center's "mini-grants" for 2006-2007 and were born out of Family Re-Union, an annual conference started by former Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore that focuses on bringing together families, and those who work with them, to discuss and design better ways to strengthen family life in America. The 2006 event, Family Re-Union 12, focused on the achievement gap between children of different races, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The winners of the grants are Chuckey Elementary School, in Chuckey, Tenn., to create an after-school homework help program; Cowan Elementary School in Franklin, Tenn., to improve its library and focus on reading skills; DeKalb County

Board Of Education in Smithville, Tenn., to institute an after-school academy for low-achieving middle and high school students; Maury City Elementary School in Maury City, Tenn., to increase parental involvement in the school; and Tennessee State University's Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement to increase student access to technology in the Watkins Park neighborhood in Nashville.

Source: VANDERBILT REGISTER

New York Times columnist Bob Herbert to speak at Vanderbilt; Journalist discusses racism, poverty and the war in Iraq

Calling George W. Bush the "president with the unsettling demeanor of a boy king," New York Times columnist Bob Herbert is as outspoken against "President Bush's tragically misguided" war in Iraq as he is against American political apathy toward race issues and the erosion of basic rights.

Herbert will speak Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the Student Life Center on the Vanderbilt University campus. He is the author of "Promises Betrayed: Waking Up from the American Dream," a collection of his columns from 1995 to 2004 that show his conviction that America is going in the wrong direction. In a conversation at the John F. Kennedy Library in May 2005, Herbert said, "It is difficult for big changes to occur without leadership that is smart and energetic and committed to American ideals."

The event will begin at 6 p.m., preceded by a complimentary reception at 5 p.m. in the Student Life Center. This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required, but seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-seated basis. Parking will be available in Central Garage at 25th Avenue South and Highland Avenue.

Source: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

New study provides insight into causes of impairments exhibited by 'crack babies'

Although the "crack baby" hysteria of the 1980's was fed by a number of exaggerated claims of brain damage, there is little doubt that even low levels of cocaine use during pregnancy can cause subtle but disabling cognitive impairments, including attention deficits, learning disabilities and emotional problems.

Exactly how cocaine exposure causes these long-term behavioral and neurological problems remains unclear. But now a study by investigators at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development points to an unexpected form of brain disruption.

In the January issue of the Journal of Neuroscience, Gregg Stanwood and Pat Levitt report that prenatal cocaine exposure in rabbits causes a long-lasting displacement of dopamine receptors in certain brain cells. The receptors themselves do not appear to be damaged, but the numbers that extend to the surface in neuron synapses is dramatically reduced, which interferes with the brain's ability to function normally.

Though this effect has not yet been assessed in cocaine-exposed children, the findings give researchers a place to start looking.

"The hysteria surrounding the 'crack baby' was sort of overblown," says Stanwood, research assistant professor of pharmacology and lead author on the study.

Incredibly high levels of cocaine — usually coupled with the abuse of other drugs — can lead to premature labor, preterm birth and low birth weight, Stanwood says.

Source: EXPLORATION SCIENCE MAGAZINE

ENGLISH-ONLY BILL: Governor supports veto

From ENGLISH-ONLY BILL, page 1

Currently, America is in what historians refer to as the post-1965 wave of immigration. In this wave, unlike previous influxes, immigrants are coming from Africa, East Asia, the Middle East, South and Central America and Mexico. Furthermore, immigrants are seeking homes in what is the now the new "robust" economic areas of the country, such as Nashville in the South.

In Nashville city schools alone, students are taught in 80 different languages.

"What we are seeing right now is what you get when you have a mixing of people from different social and cultural backgrounds who ordinarily don't mix and are thrown together by the forces of history," said Cornfield.

The Mayor's act to veto the English-first

Ordinance, is a "welcoming" reaction to this immigration, explained Cornfield.

"I think it is a good thing for the community when people from different backgrounds come together," he explained.

While the community may deal with issues in adjustment, said Cornfield, "eventually it strengthens it."

After ten minutes of the argument, Funke and Poythress stop arguing. They admit they do not completely understand each other's perspective, but a consensus is reached.

After shaking hands, Poythress said, "We decided that making a law about this is not really a necessity. It isn't really the government's business." Funke agreed saying, "There is really no point in legislating any of these prejudices." ■

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Students, staff present Vagina Monologues



Sophomore Kaitlyn Greer performs her monologue, "Redeaming Cunt," at the Tuesday performance of "Vagina Monologues." KELLY HOCUTT / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Deadly bomb attacks strike Algeria

Al-Qaida claims responsibility through Al-Jazeera.

by HASSANE MEFTAH
Associated Press

A group linked to al-Qaida staged seven near-simultaneous bomb attacks Tuesday targeting police in several towns east of Algiers and killing six people, officials said.

Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa — the new name for the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, known by its French acronym GSPC — claimed responsibility for the attacks in a telephone call to the Al-Jazeera television network. The group allied itself with al-Qaida last year, raising the stakes in the region's fight against terrorism.

The seven bombings, some of them car explosions, hit the Kabylie region east of Algiers between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. Tuesday, the state news agency said.

The apparently coordinated attacks surprised the North

African country, which has steadily emerged from an Islamic insurgency that killed more than 150,000 people in the 1990s. While scattered violence by the GSPC continues, such carefully planned strikes are rare in today's Algeria, an ally in the U.S.-led war against terrorism.

The bombings quashed Algerian authorities' claims that the GSPC lately had grown weaker, said Mohamed Darif, a terrorism expert at Morocco's Mohammedia University.

"This is to show that (the GSPC) is still capable of launching attacks in the heart of Algeria," Darif said.

The Interior Ministry said six people were killed, two of them police officers, according to the state news agency. The ministry also reported 13 injured, and said 10 of them were police.

"I was woken by a terrific crash that shattered the

windows of my house," said Yassine, who lives near a police station that was targeted in the town of Boumerdes. He asked that his last name not be published because he feared for his safety.

"I went outside and found the facade of the police station in ruins, with the carcass of a bombed car next to it."

The attack was not the first in Boumerdes. "The Islamists have always used this area as a hideout," Yassine said. "Lately we thought things had calmed down."

Although down to a few hundred members, the GSPC carries out regular bomb attacks in Algeria and raises funds in Europe for al-Qaida's operations in Iraq. In December, the group staged a bomb attack on buses carrying foreign workers of an affiliate of U.S. energy services giant Halliburton, killing an Algerian bus driver and wounding nine people. ■

Teenage gunman kills five in Utah mall

by PAUL FOY
Associated Press

A trench coat-clad teenager who opened fire on shoppers at a mall had one thing in mind: "to kill a large number of people," and he likely would have killed more than five had an off-duty officer not confronted him, the police chief said Tuesday.

"There is no question that his quick action saved the lives of numerous other people," Police Chief Chris Burbank said of the officer.

Burbank identified the gunman as Sulejmen Talovic, an 18-year-old who lives with his mother in Salt Lake City, and said he had a backpack full of ammunition, the shotgun he was using and a .38-caliber pistol.

The teen killed five people and wounded four at the Trolley Square mall, including two people shot in the parking lot as he arrived around 7 p.m. Monday, another at the

entrance and then five people inside a card store, the police chief said.

"It appears to be very random," Burbank said. "There was no sense to why he was doing what he was doing."

"The suspect in this particular circumstance had one thing on his mind, and that was to kill a large number of people," Burbank said.

Had the off-duty Ogden police officer, who had a gun but no extra equipment or additional ammunition, not gone after the gunman, the teenager likely would have continued shooting people on his way through the mall, Burbank said. He said police knew little about the young man.

As investigators began interviewing the 100 to 200 witnesses, people placed candles and flowers at two memorials outside the mall for the victims. Business owners surveyed the damage, and shoppers who had fled returned to pick up cars they had to leave parked overnight.

Marie Smith, 23, a Bath & Body Works manager, said she had seen the gunman through the store window. She watched as he raised his gun and fired at a young woman.

"His expression stayed totally calm. He didn't seem upset, or like he was on a rampage," said Smith, who crawled to an employee restroom to hide with others. He looked like "an average Joe," she said.

The victims were identified as Jeffrey Walker, 52, Vanessa Quinn, 29, Kirsten Hinkley, 15, Teresa Ellis, 29, and Brad Frantz, 24. Four people were hospitalized — a 44-year-old woman and a 53-year-old man in critical condition, and a 34-year-old man and a 16-year-old boy in serious condition.

For hours after the rampage, police searched stores for shoppers and employees who were hunkered down awaiting a safe escort.

Matt Lund was visiting his wife, Barbara, manager of the Secret Garden children's

clothing store, when he heard the first shots. The couple and three others hid in a storage room for about 40 minutes, isolated but still able to hear the violence.

"We heard them say 'Police! Drop your weapon!' Then we heard shotgun fire. Then there was a barrage of gunfire," said Lund, 44. "It was hard to believe."

Witnesses said officers treated everyone like suspects — ordering those hiding in storerooms, bathrooms or under stairwells, to lie on the floor with their hands on their heads until police were sure no one posed a threat.

On the way out, Lund said, he saw a woman's body face-down at the entrance to Pottery Barn Kids and a man's body on the floor in the mall's east-west corridor. "There were a lot of blown-out store windows and shotgun shell casings all over the floor," Lund said. "It was quite surreal." ■

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OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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OUR VIEW

Transparency can benefit Greek community

No matter what its proponents may claim, hazing has overwhelmingly negative effects. Vanderbilt defines hazing as “any act that may produce, or is intended to produce, mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule,” and if one has to resort to any of the above in order to win friends and influence people, said friends and influence probably were never meant to be in the first place.

Vanderbilt’s chapter of Phi Kappa Psi has been accused of violating the above policy. President Andrew Malgieri has refused to comment on the matter beyond saying that the issue is in the hands of a “Public Conduct Board.” Whether or not Phi Psi members are guilty, their reluctance to

speak is understandable if not commendable.

Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey’s reluctance, however, is less understandable. When pressed for details, Torrey merely reiterated the university’s hazing policy. This policy is publicly available, and it is an insult to everyone’s intelligence to have it regurgitated in such a fashion. While we understand that any investigation into the alleged hazing incidents is not complete and definite commentary may be out of the question until the process is finished, a simple “no comment” would have sufficed if, indeed, the Office of Greek Life wished not to comment.

However, the ultimate problem is a structural lack of transparency, both within individual Greek

houses and among the community as a whole. True brotherhood or sisterhood, within a chapter or within the entire Greek system, does not mean closing ranks around a member who has inflicted harm on himself or others, as that only preserves and magnifies the long-standing flaws that have plagued fraternities and sororities. Merely camouflaging the massive problems inherent in the current system does nothing to fix them, but rather encourages them to spread out of control. Just as this is true for any individual chapter, it is true for Greeks as a whole. A more transparent system would be fairer, more ethical and friendlier to the greater Vanderbilt community than the current arrangement could ever hope to be.

LETTER

Freedom Riders interacted superficially with historic events

To the Editor:

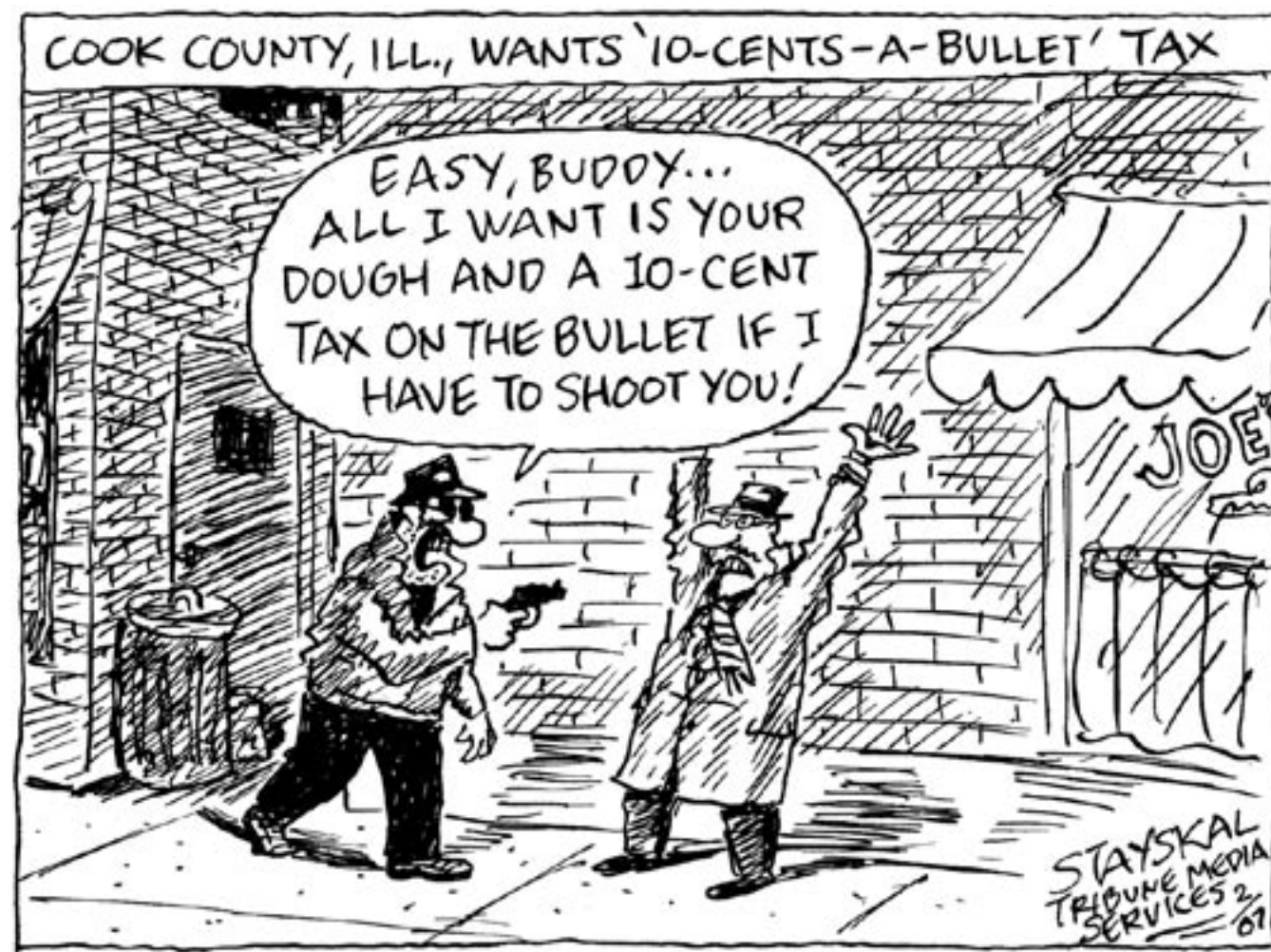
Tim Boyd makes a number of pointed observations in his recent column (“Freedom Ride 2007 mixed inspiration with frustration,” Feb. 11). He is certainly correct to note that the 2007 riders’ spirited return to campus, bringing with it an equally spirited passion to “do something” in the wake of the ride, is inspiring. He is also right to point out how well organized the rides were; rarely have I seen an undertaking of that size go off as seamlessly. He’s right that the trip was chock-a-block with interesting tidbits and even profound insights regarding the 1961 Freedom Rides. And finally, he is right that the entire experience has been phenomenally frustrating in retrospect. At the risk of far outdoing Boyd in churlishness, I’d go so far as to say that the trip was a case study in superficial interaction with the past and a maddening example of how to draw precisely the wrong lessons from history.

Now, I certainly do not wish to suggest any of this was intentional. In fact, I think the university — and especially the Office of Active Citizenship and Service — should be thoroughly and highly commended for conceiving and executing an event like Freedom Ride 2007 (If anyone in the administration is reading this: more please!). But a question still remains and in the interest of brevity, I will be blunt: Who is to blame for the ride’s lack of depth? Is it we, the participants, because of our unwillingness to ask tough questions? Is it the 1961 Freedom Riders, because they were unable to break free from their unofficially assigned role as walking talking museum pieces? Is it the administration, because, well, that’s what bureaucrats do — they magically and effortlessly transform the epic and the profound into the very essence of the tedious and the mundane? Boyd very kindly lets everyone off the hook, but I wonder if it is not perhaps necessary to consider more than just what went wrong. We should also consider who might be responsible and how we can avoid similar shortcomings in the future.

These are not easy questions to answer because I think that everyone involved in the Freedom Ride 2007 participated in good faith. I assure you, however, that these are even more difficult questions to ask than to answer — loaded as they seemingly are with a general air of negativity, an astonishing amount of ingratitude and — perhaps worst of all — an unwholesome dollop of curmudgeonly cynicism. Still, it is imperative for us to look these very kinds of queries squarely in the eye, in spite of their ugliness (or maybe even because of it). How else are we to draw meaningful, practical, and valuable lessons from the past?

Any good therapist will say unhesitatingly that personal progress cannot be made without self-awareness. Self-awareness comes only when we ask — and attempt to answer — difficult questions of ourselves, honestly and without delusion. So, members of the Vanderbilt community, why are we so terribly unskilled when it comes to a healthy, critical engagement with history, especially when it comes to the civil rights movement?

Patrick Jackson
Graduate student,
Department of History



Wayne Stayskal—MCT

COLUMN

Public knowledge of Native American culture disappoints

THE FORUM
Group Columnist

The links between Native Americans and casinos are ingrained and stereotypical, but can you name one prominent Native American in mainstream society? Near the turn of the twentieth century, the Native American population in the United States reached its lowest point of around 250,000. Today, there are approximately 3 million Native Americans registered in federally recognized tribes.

While these statistics alone say nothing of the incredible circumstances and events surrounding the histories of individuals, they do tell of the remarkable capacity of these communities to adapt. Despite this astonishing narrative, mainstream American society knows little about Native Americans, and what most do know is disturbingly skewed. What we learn about Native Americans in our early education is their history of interaction with white settlers, and even this information is portrayed through a lens of whiteness. The rich cultural histories of Native American tribes are often lost amid this biased education system.

This lack of education often results in the well-known stereotypes of Native Americans. For example, if you were to go up to the average person on the street and ask him about his impressions of Native Americans, many would probably say something about American Indian gaming. American Indian casinos and other gaming establishments often stand as the most prominent aspects of native communities visible to non-Indian society. Indeed, 360 American Indian gaming establishments in the United States generate a revenue of over \$14.5 billion. The tremendous revenue of these establishments is hard

to ignore yet most Americans remain ignorant about to other aspects of Native American society.

Perhaps this can be attributed to the lack of Native American influences in mainstream culture. While some other minorities have nationally recognized organizations that work to establish popular claims about their own racial and ethnic identities, no groups have successfully popularized Native American versions of their own identities in mainstream American society. Meanwhile, there are few, if any, prominent figures in our society who claim to belong to Native American society. Some may, but mainstream society may not be cognizant of that fact.

Sure, most Americans know about the Native American interaction with Lewis and Clark or the Native Americans sitting around a table at Thanksgiving. But how many Americans know about the history of the Pequot tribe in Connecticut? How many know more than their history of oppression and their uprooting from their homeland by early settlers? How many recognize their true culture and their history prior to the arrival of the Europeans? Every February we have Black History Month, during which we celebrate African-American culture and history. Where is the time of year or period of education when we as Americans celebrate the people who were here first?

The solution to this problem lies in education. Education is the key to understanding, and America will never understand the Native American experience unless we educate ourselves as well as future generations on the rich history and culture of these great people.

—“The Forum” is the collective voice of Mayfield 10, a living/learning lodge.

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section 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 our website.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to The Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editor-in-chief. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

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

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

CORRECTION POLICY

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

Bring corrections to The Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at 615-322-2424 or the editor-in-chief at 615-322-3757.

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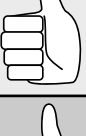
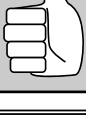
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THE VERDICT

Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff!

Chimps		Chimps may have crafted primitive tools in order to crack nuts. Now that we know they can do it, they need to stop slacking off and invent deodorant for themselves.
Intel		The chip manufacturer has unveiled an 80-core processor. That doesn't sound like that much. If they'd put out a million-core processor we'd be really impressed.
NASCAR		Cheating has rocked the stock car racing world. If this keeps up, the lukewarm beer and beef jerky industries might pull their sponsorships.
Maize		Edible gold, that's what it is.
North Korea		The DPRK has agreed to shut down its nuclear reactor in exchange for millions of dollars in oil. Next up: Kim Jong Il agrees to stop punching people for their lunch money.
Naps		Regular naps may decrease your risk of heart disease. Finally, the lazy man catches a break.
The Maltese Falcon		A copy of the 1941 movie's most famous prop has been stolen, which is so incredibly and perfectly ironic that the situation loses all humor.
Bank of America		The noted financial institution has been caught offering credit cards to illegal immigrants. Finally, real people can join Santos L. Halper on the road to riches.
YouTube		The videos-of-drunk-idiots giant has signed a deal allowing them to stream classic 1960s television, such as "Gumby." This garbage was terrible four decades ago, and it hasn't improved with age.
Dolphins		The Navy is training aquatic mammals to patrol the waters of the Pacific Northwest. It's about time those stupid sea creatures began pulling their weight.
O.J. Simpson		The Goldman family is seeking to determine Simpson's royalty payments from showings of the "Naked Gun" series. They should really enjoy that \$12.
Omar Sharif		The noted actor punched a parking attendant and received probation for his trouble. Still, we thought he was dead, so he's doing well enough.
Valentine's Day		Whether you're thrilled to be with your significant other or alone in your room angrily playing "Counter-Strike," the important thing is that you remember to commemorate one of the great beheadings of antiquity.



WRITINGS STUDIOS

OnWriting

with

Susan Ford Wiltshire

Professor of Classics and author of short stories, several books of non-fiction, and a collection of poetry

Thursday, February 15

4:10 – 5:30 p.m.

117 Alumni Hall

Reception to follow

OnWriting is a series of conversations with faculty and other advanced writers exploring the techniques, joys, and difficulties of writing in all fields and disciplines. Conversation topics range from work styles and motivations to revision processes, the constraints imposed by work in different genres, and the like. We examine routines and idiosyncrasies and discuss how a writer generates ideas, copes with various anxieties, and cultivates a style.

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SPORTS

WHAT 2
WATCH 4

Upcoming Events

Men's Basketball
South Carolina at
Vanderbilt
Tonight
7 p.m. CT
Memorial Gym

After losing two of its last three, Vandy (16-8, 6-4 SEC) will be happy to return to Memorial Gym tonight. This is as close to a must-win as you can get for the Commodores with No. 1 Florida coming in on Saturday. Expect coach Kevin Stallings' squad to rebound from the loss at Tennessee with another solid performance against South Carolina (12-11, 2-8 SEC) at home.
Prediction: Vandy 74, South Carolina 65

Men's Basketball
Duke at No. 21 Boston
College
Tonight
8 p.m. CT
ESPN

Duke (18-7, 5-6 ACC) looks to get back to its winning ways after falling out of both polls for the first time in 184 weeks. Boston College (18-6, 9-2 ACC) will be seeking to win its fifth game in as many contests and push the Blue Devils even closer to the NCAA tournament bubble.
Prediction: Boston College 72, Duke 65

Men's Basketball
No. 23 Southern
California at No. 24
Arizona
Thursday
9:30 p.m. CT

With the depth of the Pac-10 this season, virtually every game has meaning in the conference standings. This matchup is no different with USC (18-7, 8-4) looking to remain in contention for the conference title by stealing a win from Arizona (17-7, 8-5) in the desert.
Prediction: USC 77, Arizona 75

Men's Basketball
Providence at Notre
Dame
Thursday
6 p.m. CT
ESPN

The Friars (15-8, 5-5) are hanging around in the muddled Big East, while the Irish (18-6, 6-5) look to get back on track after losing two road games. Providence has a favorable schedule down the stretch, making a win here even sweeter.
Prediction: Providence 69, Notre Dame 66

Women's Basketball
No. 12 Vanderbilt at
Mississippi State
Thursday
7 p.m. CT

The Commodores (21-4, 7-3 SEC) have been playing great basketball and would love to pick up a road win against the Bulldogs (16-9, 6-4 SEC). It won't be easy, but Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb has her team peaking at the right time.
Prediction: Vandy 80, Mississippi State 72

RECORD: 46-29

NCAA Tourney needs to expand

Is the Big Dance fine at 65 teams, or should it make room for more?

GOOD
CALLby JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

Okay, I get it. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

That's the most common argument I hear from those who oppose the possibility of expanding the NCAA men's basketball tournament field. Why mess around with the one sporting event everyone seems to love?

Since the field went from 48 to 64 teams in 1985, there are 50 more teams competing at the Division I level, which means only 19.5 percent of the 334 teams currently make it to the tournament.

In addition, the number of quality teams in contention for bids has grown tremendously. Why, then, shouldn't the Big Dance mirror these changes?

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, among others, has suggested the tournament add three to seven teams, which would create up to four opening-round games, instead of the one that is currently played between the 64th and 65th teams in the field.

Think about the teams that would benefit from the change. While some claim it would open up more spots for mediocre teams from the top conferences, I think the mid-majors would be the biggest winners.

As George Mason proved last season, college basketball is full of parity. Yet, they were almost left out. Teams from mid-to-low major conferences can compete with the nation's best and are more deserving of that chance.

"I'm approaching this from a very simplistic point of view," Boeheim said. "George Mason was almost left out, and they went to the Final Four. You can easily make the case that there are 10 to 12 more teams out there that could be very competitive in the NCAA tournament."

Under the current setup, teams from small conferences simply have to win their conference tournament. If they are upset, they can kiss the Big Dance goodbye, which just isn't fair.

"If you don't win your conference tournament, it's almost like your season wasn't as good or wasn't as special because you didn't make the NCAA tournament," said Wisconsin-Milwaukee coach Rob Jeter. "That part of it shouldn't be that way."

Furthermore, adding more teams will remove the controversy surrounding Selection Sunday. Why is it so difficult for the committee to fill the final few spots of the bracket? It's because the teams they are considering are nearly identical. Expanding the field will ensure that no "bubble team" is justified in claiming that it was snubbed.

There are a few other reasons worth considering, such as, why not? What's wrong with skipping class to watch three more exciting basketball games?

It would also give more teams exposure and money, and take some of the pressure off coaches. No one is asking the tournament to turn into college football — where seemingly every team earns a bowl bid — but helping out a few more programs each year wouldn't hurt.

After all, that program could be Vanderbilt. ■

BAD
CALLby ANDREW BARGE
Sports Reporter

I love George Mason just as much as the next guy. But do we really want to see an extra week of

March Madness just to give more little guys a chance at the Final Four?

With 64 teams in the NCAA Tournament, every team has to earn its way. In bigger leagues like the SEC or ACC, a school usually needs a winning record in conference play to earn a bid. If the committee expanded the number of bids, big conference teams wouldn't have to try nearly as hard in the regular season to get in.

Smaller conferences like the Ivy Leagues or Atlantic Sun only put one team into the Big Dance. Unfair? Perhaps, but that's the reality. It's great that the tournament is so selective, and sticking with 64 teams keeps the regular season competitive and still gives smaller programs a chance to win.

Fans love the NCAA tourney for two reasons: they get to fill out brackets and watch the best teams in the country play their hearts out for a few weeks. Adding more teams would bring down the overall level of play and make bracket predictions less enjoyable.

Also, no matter how teams are selected, there are always going to be deserving teams left out. That's just the way it is, and unless you bring all 334 teams, there's going to be controversy.

And you know that the rationale behind the expansion is not even to help the George Masons or Hofstras, but to let in the bubble teams from the big conferences like Florida State, Michigan and Cincinnati last season.

And forget the comparison to college football, which has the worst postseason setup in all of sports. The fact that more than half the Division I teams advance to bowl games decreases the significance of the postseason.

College basketball also has the NIT, which was just bought by the NCAA, to give 40 more teams a chance to play additional games.

Getting back to George Mason, let it be known that Cinderella teams rarely make the kind of historical run many have used to support tournament expansion. In fact, the NCAA tournament has only seen four "underdogs" make it to the Final Four in the past 20 years. The other 76 appearances have come from No. 1 through No. 6 seeds.

Watching George Mason was great for any college basketball fan, but it didn't reveal any problems with the number of teams in the tournament.

Let's not ruin one of sports' most popular events just to improve our odds of seeing an unknown team do it again. ■

Gamecocks up next for Dores

by CHIP ROBIE
Sports Reporter

It is a bit trite to dub any league game as a must-win, but maybe not this time.

While still in possession of third place in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division, Vanderbilt is just a game up on the sizzling Tennessee Volunteers and merely a half-game up on the Georgia Bulldogs.

"We think every game is a must-win," said junior forward Ross Neltner. "That's how we approach every game."

No longer ranked, Vanderbilt (16-8, 6-4 SEC) hosts South Carolina (12-11, 2-8 SEC) tonight at 7 p.m. CT.

"South Carolina, like any team in the SEC, can't be overlooked," Neltner said. "Their record is a little misleading; they've been in some really close games."

Remember that the Gamecocks upset the Commodores 66-64 in overtime in Nashville last season. At the time, Vandy was 11-3 and 2-1 in league play and had just won at Rupp. After the loss, the Commodores dropped four of their next five games.

"South Carolina and Georgia have both been a thorn in Vanderbilt's side the past few years, kind of disrupting our momentum as a team," Neltner said.

The Gamecocks feature one of the league's best guards, Tre Kelley, who leads the team with 17.8 points per game to go along with 5.1 assists, including a recent 36-point explosion at Kentucky.

"Tre Kelley is as good a guard as there is in the SEC right now," said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings.

Neltner will have his hands full with the Gamecocks' Brandon Wallace who averages nearly a double-double (10.6 points per game, 9.6 rebounds per game). Wallace is also known for his shot-blocking ability as he leads the Gamecocks with 2.8 per game.

Even though Wallace and Kelly are the only Gamecocks to reach double figures in scoring, the Dominique Archie, Dwayne Day and Bryce Sheldon trio produce nearly 24 points per game collectively.

South Carolina's Achilles heal has been its ability to



Shan Foster and the rest of the Commodores look to bounce back against South Carolina tonight.

rebound, which is why the Commodores will look to use their considerable size advantage to attack the offensive glass, gain more possessions and take better shots. Offensively, Vanderbilt will also look to rediscover its shooting touch.

With No. 1 Florida coming to town Saturday, Vanderbilt simply cannot afford to look past South Carolina. South Carolina coach Dave Odom doesn't think it will.

"They're coming off a tough loss at Tennessee and that's not good news for us," Odom said. "They're not gonna want to lose two games in a row." ■

Vandy
earns
No. 3
rankingby JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

The Vanderbilt baseball team was rewarded for its weekend accomplishments as Collegiate Baseball ranked the Commodores No. 3 in its weekly poll.

After beating three top 25 opponents, including then-No. 1 Rice, in the Houston College Classic, Tim Corbin's squad earned its highest ranking in school history. Vanderbilt is also ranked No. 3 by Rivals.com and No. 4 by Baseball America.

Corbin said he was pleased that his team was able to take the victories in stride.

"We shouldn't *not* expect this," he said. "This should be an expectation in our program. When you beat Rice or one of these other teams, it shouldn't be a lot of surprise, and it wasn't."

Still, Corbin wanted nothing to do with the No. 1 overall ranking.

"I'd rather have my hand shut in a car door than have something like that happen right now," he said. "We're not ready for that."

The Commodores, who play 19 of their next 20 games at home, begin a weekend series with Ohio on Friday afternoon at Hawkins Field.

"When we got in (Sunday) night, we met in the locker room, and that's all we really talked about — the upcoming games," Corbin said.

Before moving ahead, however, it's worth noting a few of the individual accomplishments from last weekend.

- Sophomore third baseman Pedro Alvarez and junior centerfielder David Macias were named to the All-Tournament team, and Alvarez was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Week.

Alvarez went 7-for-14 with two doubles, a triple, a home run and five RBIs, while Macias went 4-for-11 with six runs scored and sported a .533 on-base percentage.

- As a team, the Commodores batted .295 with eight doubles, three homers, three triples and 18 RBIs.

- The Commodore pitching staff had a 3.21 ERA with 23 strikeouts and nine walks in 28 innings.

- Senior closer Casey Weathers pitched in the first two games in relief and picked up the win against Arizona State on Saturday. He did not allow a hit in three innings and struck out three.

"He was throwing 97 to 98 on the gun for most of the time," Corbin said. "That's just Big League stuff right there."

- Sophomore Brett Jacobson had the best outing of the three Vanderbilt starters, going 6.2 innings and giving up one earned run with six strikeouts and no walks in the winning effort against Baylor. ■

Mooney makes an impact

by **ROB WYNKOOP**
Sports Reporter

It takes only a quick glance at the women's basketball box scores to realize the Commodores spread the ball around and utilize the entire depth of their roster. This is something 5'8" freshman guard Jessica Mooney is capitalizing on in her first season, and the local girl is making quite an impact for the No. 12 Commodores.

Mooney was recruited out of nearby Hillsboro, where she led the team to their first state tournament appearance last year, and she says she hopes to break the stigma that local college athletes often struggle with when playing close to home.

"There are a lot of good players from Middle Tennessee. I hope more local players do get recruited because it helps broaden our fan base because more people will come out and watch our games," said the former Tennessee Miss Basketball finalist.

Mooney has been steadily earning playing time for the Dores, and showed her open court prowess Sunday against the Auburn Tigers. On back-to-back possessions, she drove the length of the court, through the defenders, scoring twice.

"I think Jess showed her ability to get to the basket, and that's something we definitely can use," said coach Melanie Balcomb. "It's really made a big difference. She can create in the open court very, very well."

Mooney finished with six points and two assists in the game, but her impact on the game was more than the stat sheet could provide.

"Jess has gotten better, better and better. ... (Mooney) has been actually working some at point (guard), and in the open court against the defense you can't trap her or press her. That's another good option for us to go to," Balcomb said. "The other thing is her defense. She stepped up her defense, and we've been looking for another defender and a ball-hawk. Her and (Jennifer) Risper splitting time and doing that has made us a much better defensive team, and that's why you see us holding people down."

Because Mooney is a Nashville native, she always has a cheering section at Memorial Gym. Her high school teammates often come to watch her play, as well as her family.

"My family ... (is) very supportive, but



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Freshman Jessica Mooney creates well in the open court and is also one of the Commodores' best defenders.

they keep me level headed. They cheer for me, but at the same time, I can go to my dad and brother and ask what I am doing wrong."

Mooney comes from a basketball family including Vanderbilt legend Charles Davis, who is a member of her father's side of the family.

"She's just, like, naturally gifted. That girl is just an athlete. Her jumping ability is just amazing. She can create whenever she feels like it, basically," said senior Carla Thomas. "It's amazing to see how much she's developed and grown as a freshman."

One of the best parts of Mooney's college experience so far is being around her teammates. They have very good chemistry and can often be found studying, catching movies together or just hanging out. Additionally, Mooney said senior leadership from players like Thomas and Dee Davis is extremely helpful.

"Carla's a cool player to play with. She talks to us a lot about stuff on the court and off," Mooney said.

It's a fair bet for Commodore fans to see more of Mooney as the team continues its quest for a championship, but as Balcomb said, she's not looking at the coming year's team just yet.

"I'm just trying to get those young players as much playing time for the next game. It's just getting them out there and getting their feet wet," she said. ■

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