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The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 14

THE WALL

compiled by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI

TODAY
'From the Motherland to the Promised Land'
Sherre Miller Bishop will deliver a powerful chronology of the African-American worship experience told in an award-winning dramatization. The event is at 7 p.m. at the Scarritt-Bennitt Center's Fondren Hall. It is open to the public.

TODAY
Piano Solo Series by Craig Nies
Blair presents Craig Nies tonight at 8 p.m. in an eight-episode series of "The Complete Well-Tempered Clavier of J.S. Bach Masterworks of the 19th and 20th Centuries." The event will occur at Ingram Hall and is free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10
Chancellor's Costume Ball
The ball will be held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Student Life Center. Chancellor Gordon Gee will be in attendance, and attire is costume or semi-formal. A prize will be awarded for best costume.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10
Best Buddies Valentine's Day Dance
Best Buddies will host a Valentine's Day Dance in the Schulman Center for Jewish Life from 6 to 9 p.m. Best Buddies pairs adults with intellectual disabilities with college students in order to build one-on-one friendships.

SUNDAY, FEB. 11
Vanderbilt Community Chorus Valentine Concert
A chorus comprised of Vanderbilt faculty, staff, graduate students and friends under the direction of Pam Schneller will sing in "Valentine Intermezzo - Songs and Dances of Love." The event will be held at 4 p.m. at the Turner Recital Hall.

SUNDAY, FEB. 11
2007 'Vagina Monologues'
The first performance of a three-night series begins Sunday at 7 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema. The show will also play Tuesday, Feb. 13 and Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Check out <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

Manna silent auction benefits health clinic



Sophomores Julie Reabie, Lauren Smith and Elizabeth Levine (left to right) consider bidding on items at the Mannaft silent auction Thursday night at the Student Life Center. Free food from several local vendors was also provided to students who purchased tickets. Proceeds went to a new health clinic in Nicaragua.

'Think Tank' participants suggest Visions changes

VUcept, administration to improve program by next fall.

by NIKKI BOGOPOLSKAYA
Contributing Reporter

"Welcome to the Think Tank," said VUcept President Stuart Hill.

Hill and members of the VUcept Executive Board spoke with 30 freshmen selected by their VUceptors on Wednesday, Feb. 7 to address current problems with the program and offer suggestions for next year.

It comes as no surprise to Hill and the VUceptors that some students are unhappy with the way VUcept and Vanderbilt Visions are run. Complaints about the program started the first day of its execution.

Since then, students have voiced concerns and expressed frustration about the current Visions program; however, no constructive criticism has been offered, and no changes have been made.

The purpose of the "Think Tank" was to provide a place where suggestions could be made from the freshman class on how to better improve the program for future years.

"We are not here to whine about Vanderbilt Visions," Hill said to the freshmen. "Vanderbilt Visions is not stopping. Vanderbilt Visions is not going to be for credit next year. This is just not

Please see VUCEPT, page 3

Students find common ground



A student in attendance at the Finding Common Ground panel discussion Thursday evening raises her hand to question a group of informed administrators and students. The meeting addressed housing concerns related to the opening of The Commons in fall 2008.

Students publicly oppose LIVE tactics on Facebook.com

Living wage supporters form own group to retaliate.

by ALLISON MALONE
Editor Emeritus

Controversy over the Vanderbilt living wage movement continues to escalate as the late February renegotiation date between the union and the administration approaches.

A group called "End LIVE's Tactics and Agitation at Vanderbilt" was created Monday by sophomore Aziz Malik on Facebook.com.

Malik said he started the group, which urges members to "Send them a message: Stop imposing your extreme political agenda on the student body!"; after a conversation with sophomore and co-creator John David Furlow.

"We came to the conclusion that not only do we not support LIVE's tactics, but we don't support the underlying technicalities of their argument," Malik said.

An economics major, Malik said classes sparked his interest in the living wage and allow him to evaluate the issue from an objective standpoint.

"As I learn more in economics, I have a greater appreciation for the market in which we operate," he said. "Wages are determined not by Vanderbilt, but by SATCo, Qdoba, and analogous firms and businesses. A conglomeration of those firms determine the wage."

In response to the group, sophomore Robyn Hyden created another, entitled "I Support LIVE's Tactics and Agitation at Vanderbilt."

Hyden said she started the group because she was "annoyed" at the points the anti-LIVE group made.

"I felt it made a lot of superficial points about living wage, and I felt for a long time that a lot of students are generally in support of the living wage even if they are not a part of LIVE," Hyden said.

She said she started the group to encourage more debate, a claim that Malik's group makes as well.

"I was hoping to provoke people in the other group to backup their arguments like saying, 'LIVE disrespects the university' or 'Their tactics are irresponsible,' and I am still hoping to get a response on that," she said.

Malik said he agrees that everyone should earn a living wage not only at Vanderbilt but in America, but does not see "isolated negotiations on Vanderbilt's campus" as the best way to achieve that goal.

"I personally wish that every worker made at least \$10.15 an hour and we could all send our kids to a great college," he said. "But that dream does not conform to reality."

Junior Graham Thompson is a member of the anti-LIVE group but called the economic argument posted on the group's page "gobbledygook which someone spent a lot of time thinking up."

"I have heard the economic side that LIVE has, and it does not seem to hold up that well, but I am no economist; I am a history major," he said. "It's not as much about economics but tactics and respect."

Please see FACEBOOK GROUPS, page 2

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SENIORS: Appointments fill up quickly for senior portraits. Make yours now at vanderbiltcommodore.com (click "portrait")

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CORRECTION

The article in the Feb. 7 issue entitled, "Manna Project fundraiser to benefit new health clinic," contained several factual inaccuracies. For example, food from Fleming's and Calypso Cafe will not be served at the event, and baked goods will not be auctioned off. Also, the two Managua sites were not chosen "because (they are) nonviolent and hospitable to change," as stated in the article. The Hustler regrets these errors.

WEATHER

compiled by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI

TODAY



Partly Cloudy, 41/22

SATURDAY



Partly Cloudy, 38/21

SUNDAY



Mostly Cloudy, 39/23

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI

Feb. 5, 2007, 8:30 p.m.
 – Intimidation occurred at 1211 Medical Center Drive after a verbal argument took place between employees.

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

SERVICE GUIDE

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CORRECTIONS

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

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Call (615) 343-3064 9 a.m. — 5 p.m., Monday — Friday.
 One semester's delivery via U.S. Postal Service is available for \$125 or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW

The news you need — in brief

compiled by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI

WORLD

North Korea agrees to begin to dismantle nuclear program in principle

North Korea agreed in principle Thursday to take initial steps toward dismantling its nuclear programs at the start of international talks seeking progress on disarming Pyongyang.

Unlike at the last round of six-nation talks in December, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said the countries were able to make progress on discussing denuclearization.

"We hope we can achieve some kind of joint statement here," Hill said.

The talks are a follow-up on the September 2005 agreement in which North Korea pledged to disarm in exchange for aid and security guarantees.

Hill remains cautious on prospects for an agreement, but Pyongyang's envoy had said they were ready to discuss initial steps toward nuclear disarmament.

In a meeting last week, American experts said North Korea would propose a freeze of its main nuclear reactor and a resumption of international inspections in exchange for energy aid and a normalization of relations with Washington.

"We are going to make a judgment based on whether the United States will give up its hostile policy and come out toward peaceful coexistence," said North Korean nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan.

Although the U.S. and key North Korean allies China and Russia backed U.N. sanctions in the wake of the nuclear test, Washington has since engaged in a series of diplomatic overtures that have drawn praise from North Korea.

Source: AP

NATION

Bush's 2008 budget receives mixed reviews from research universities

On Monday President Bush released his proposed \$2.9 trillion budget for fiscal year 2008. For research universities, the outcome was mixed.

High points of the budget include significant increases in the Pell Grant program and for research budgets at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy's Office of Science — both of which sponsor much university-based research.

Low points of the budget include elimination of the federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program and Perkins Loan Program, and a 2 percent cut in the grant to the National Institute of Health.

On the one hand, House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., said, "Today's young people planning for careers, as well as researchers at our labs and universities, deserve a better budget, one that shows a strong federal commitment to the priorities that will ensure our nation's competitive position in the world of science and technology."

On the other hand, Senator Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., lauded the provisions that would strengthen the maintenance of national parks, provide more funding for scientific research at places like Oak Ridge National Laboratory, keep the Chickamauga Lock construction on track and increase the frequency of Pell Grants.

"All of this will help create new jobs in Tennessee," he said.

This proposed budget merely serves as a starting point for future negotiations and amendments over the next months as lobbyists begin to pull for their interests.

Vanderbilt University will be at the forefront of these advocacy efforts with numerous members of the faculty and administration already scheduled for visits with key policymakers in Washington.

Source: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

Anna Nicole Smith dies in Florida at 39

Anna Nicole Smith, the pneumatic blonde whose life played out as an extraordinary tabloid tale — Playboy centerfold, jeans model, bride of an octogenarian oil tycoon, reality-show subject, tragic mother — died Thursday after collapsing at a hotel. She was 39.

She was stricken while staying at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and was rushed to a hospital. Edwina Johnson, chief investigator for the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office, said the cause of death was under investigation and an autopsy would be performed on Friday.

Source: AP

CAMPUS

Professor Conkin releases new book, 'The State of the Earth'

Distinguished Professor of History, Emeritus Paul Conkin released his new book "The State of the Earth: Environmental Challenges on the Road to 2100," taking the view of how humanity came to this crossroads and how Americans can craft policies that may preserve a healthy earth.

The litany of woe has become familiar and seemingly overwhelming. The earth is running out of fossil fuel and facing chaotic weather due to global warming. Water will soon be scarce, and world population continues to explode, taxing diminishing resources. All true to some extent. But despite the temptation for doom and gloom, all is not lost, says Conkin.

Sorting through such environmental problems, Conkin presents reason for hope, specifically in the recent efforts by the leading industrialized countries to cut down emissions.

Alternative fuels, new technology and nuclear power all offer promising prospects for the cutback on emissions.

But if it is not checked, population growth and the subsequent need for continued economic expansion could ultimately overtake all the well-meaning efforts, Conkin said.

"My background is as a historian, and I draw on that, but I'm not trying to write an environmental history about how we arrived where we are today," Conkin said. "I have attempted to do what historians rarely do — look way ahead rather than backwards. I believe I understand the various sciences well enough to do a fair and honest job of presenting many very complex issues to a lay audience."

Source: THE VANDERBILT REGISTER

**FACEBOOK GROUPS:
 Both sides advocate
 frank discussion on site**

From **FACEBOOK GROUPS**, page 1

He said that recent demonstrations by the group have been "disrespectful and irresponsible."

"They take a defensive attitude against it like it is them against the world, and they are the pocket of reason," Thompson said.

Malik said LIVE's negotiations with Vanderbilt are unfair to the employees they represent.

"I was also told LIVE went into negotiations with Vanderbilt and turned down a \$10 an hour wage because it did not conform with the living wage," he said.

LIVE does not participate directly in union negotiations with Vanderbilt.

According to Hyden, an administrator of the anti-LIVE group blocked LIVE member Tyler Zimmer from the site after he posted several comments on the group's wall.

"I don't want to ban anyone from my group who wants to share their opinions," she said. "It annoyed me that rather than respect someone's arguments, they would kick them out of the group."

Malik said he would support LIVE if they changed their tactics to promoting education for the children of Vanderbilt employees, which would "make a true positive change."

"A more educated population, in the end, will be a more wealthy population," he said. "That strikes at the true heart of the problem of Vanderbilt's low-income employees as well as low-income earners across America."

Hyden said she is happy with the support her Facebook group has received and the discussion it has sparked.

"I am happy so many people seem to agree with me, and I would be happy for people who disagree with me to defend their position," she said. "That is really all I want; I don't want to put down other people who debate this. I want people who disagree to give a reasonable argument."

Co-creator Furlow posted on his group's wall: "At least, neither of our groups are part of the apathetic majority."

Other contributors to the online discussion have also used the group's wall to express their opinions on the issue.

Thompson posted a message on the group wall Thursday afternoon.

"I just say pay people the wage that they deserve for the service that they provide," he wrote. "The cleaning people and Rand workers don't exactly do their jobs very well. They haven't shown me that they deserve a pay raise. Plenty of people in this city will work for less than we currently pay our lowest wage earners. If they don't like working at Vanderbilt, with all of the benefits and perks, they can leave to work somewhere that pays more, like McDonald's or Wendy's."

Freshman Sam Abney posted a reply to his comment.

"Graham, I think the point is that no one should be working full time and still not make enough to provide adequate food and housing for their families," Abney's post said. "I don't know what makes you think particularly that you are so much more deserving than these workers, but I challenge you to put yourself in their shoes."

As of press time Thursday night, the anti-LIVE group had 65 members compared with the 103 members of the LIVE supporter group. ■

VAHS to showcase dance Saturday

by SYDNEY WILMER
Senior Reporter

Cafe Con Leche's Thursday night dress rehearsal buzzed with activity as newly hired co-MC freshman Fabiani Duarte narrated the "So you think you can dance?" spoof, Muevelo or Move it. "We have a lot of practicing to do, but the performance should be wonderful," said senior and performer Carissa Rodrigez, waiting for her chance to perform.

Other members of the Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic Students said they hoped that months of practice would be evident at the performance,

Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.

Junior Steven Manuel said he hoped students would come to the Martha Ingram Theatre in the Blair School of Music for the dance showcase.

"We will have a variety of types of performances in addition to our dances," said co-chair and senior Casey Haywood, who has participated in Cafe for the past two years. "Vandy Taal will perform a Spanish medley, Spoken Word will perform, and we will have vocalists singing in Spanish."

The \$5 ticket includes the performance and snacks, coffee and milk after the show.

"I think this will be our biggest

performance with the best audience we have ever had," said sophomore Gustavo De Pena, who explained attendance has steadily increased since 2001. "It will be the best Cafe Con Leche with the best dances."

Freshman Robby Vielma said the experience, though challenging, was very meaningful.

"It was kind of overwhelming for me because I don't really know how to dance, but it was a lot of fun," Vielma said.

"We spent a lot of time practicing (on) weekends early in the morning," Vielma said. "It was a lot of work, but I learned a lot through the process." ■

Group promotes non-violence in first meeting



LAUREN FONDRIST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt Students for Nonviolence met Thursday to discuss the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. and James Lawson, founder of VSN and sophomore Elias Feghali said the group will learn about nonviolent tactics and activism and study issues in local and global communities.

by CHRISTINA ENGLAND
Senior Reporter

Vanderbilt Students for Nonviolence held its inaugural meeting Thursday. The organization aims to educate students about the principles of nonviolence taught by Mahatma Gandhi, which were utilized during the civil rights movement.

Sophomore Elias Feghali, founder of VSN, said he anticipates the organization will serve an educational and activist role on campus.

"I envision VSN to be more than just an educational group but a communitarian group as well," Feghali said. "We will learn about nonviolent tactics and activism, and then study issues in our local and global communities and look to nonviolence as a way to produce social change."

The group plans to educate themselves and others about nonviolence through speakers, forums and group discussion.

"We're going to study nonviolent philosophy by Martin Luther King Jr.

and Gandhi and other intellectuals through group readings, films, lectures and panel discussions," Feghali said. "It's important to study nonviolence and educate others because so many people don't really understand what it is - that it's not a passive approach to social change, but an active, direct approach using nonviolent tactics."

Sophomore Leslyn Moore said Freedom Ride 2007 motivated her to attend the trip.

"I was excited after the Freedom Ride; it gave me more insight into how I can impact the campus and the Nashville community," Moore said. "The Freedom Riders were our age, and they were strong enough and dedicated enough to band together and even die for a cause. I am someone who will be very dedicated to an organization for nonviolence like this."

VSN plans to incorporate a system of group leadership to direct the organization, modeled after the student activists on the Central Committee during the civil rights movement.

"Group leadership, to me, is the ideal way to run an organization because one person doesn't shoulder all of the responsibility," Feghali said. "Anyone who is willing to step up and be a leader will have an opportunity in VSN."

Joshua Newsome, a first-year divinity student, is excited about the prospect of having a nonviolence organization on campus.

"I just think it's a great opportunity to learn more about the philosophy and lifestyle that is nonviolence," Newsome said. "I feel like nonviolence, the philosophy of nonviolence, has something we can all learn from, something to teach the whole world."

VSN plans to hold their next meeting Thursday, Feb. 15, after the Freedom Ride reunion. Feghali hopes to encourage participants to continue studying nonviolence and apply it in their daily life.

"I really hope people get involved and apply the lessons we learned on the Freedom Ride and continue to be activists in their daily life," Moore said. ■

Elrod shares message of acceptance, non-bias with students

by SYDNEY WILMER
Senior Reporter

When pastor, educator and former engineer Elise Elrod says she represents "only a fraction of a percentage of the population," one might assume it is because of her stature. At over six feet, she stands tall compared to most women.

But Elrod is not referring to her height or even her unusual level of expertise in science, ministry (spending 28 years as a pastor of a Southern Baptist church) and education. She is transsexual.

Elrod spoke to the Vanderbilt Lambda Association Wednesday evening in an effort to address what Lambda President Kristen VanDenBossche called the overlooked "T" of the GLBT agenda.

"A big issue revolves around transgender issues because they are so widely overlooked," she said. "We can't just focus on issues that pertain to gay men and women."

However, the address did not focus on advancing the cause of transsexuals in America.

"My message is about bias," she said. "We don't need to spend all of our time on the gay agenda or the transgender agenda."

Elrod, who said she feels a strong

connection to the civil rights movement, explained that she is more in favor of antidiscrimination in general.

"I am not in favor of being added to the protected classes," she said. "I want the classes to go away."

Elrod explained that, to her, Martin Luther King Jr.'s message applies to all of society.

"One of my favorite quotes is, 'When you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of nobodiness, then you will understand why we can't wait,'" she said. "He was one of the first people to make us think. He wasn't just a leader in the African-American community; he touched everyone."

Students such as sophomore Clint Peebles and Karen Bentley said they came for a variety of reasons, wanting to both understand Elrod's plight and satisfy personal curiosity.

"I'm here because I think this is a very important issue that isn't a freak occurrence," Peebles said. "It is important that we see everyone's identity and not force them to conform."

"I didn't realize how transgender people aren't necessarily gay," Bentley said. "That is definitely a common misconception."

"I love speaking to students because they are more open-minded and free-

thinking," said Elrod, who now makes a living speaking to audiences about equality and bias in our community.

Elrod said she hopes organizations such as Lambda will encourage students to step out of their comfort zones and challenge the way they view other people.

"I hope students look for opportunities to better understand how benign organizations like the GLBT are and how important they are to the community," she said.

Students in attendance said they appreciated Elrod's message and were pleased that she could take the time to come to Vanderbilt.

"It is really important for us to hear about how one can come to terms with who they are, and it is important for us to be accepting of other people no matter who they are," said senior Justin Leh. "We are so happy she could come back again. We get distracted by 'gay issues' so often. We don't want to overlook this part of our community."

"Elise is a beautiful woman with a beautiful message," said sophomore Natalie Neas. "I think her message is especially relevant because it is important for us to look beyond the nice little labels we place on each other without knowing it." ■

VUCEPT: Input encouraged in program revision

From VUCEPT, page 1
feasible at the time. And it's here for two semesters. We are here to talk about specific things. We need a plan."

Angie Cottrell, a VUcept faculty adviser and assistant director of new student programs, agreed.

"The one thing we've heard consistently (from students) is that 'we get the purpose of Vanderbilt Visions but kind of don't like how it's done,' which is why we're here," Cottrell said. "We know what is fun and what is challenging, and we need to find a harmonious balance between the two."

After Cottrell and Hill spoke, students divided into VUcept-facilitated groups to discuss changes they would like to make to the program.

Complaints ranged from that of boredom with the curriculum to direct criticism of the program's content.

"We're not in kindergarten," said freshman Erica Santiago. "We're at Vanderbilt. We wanted to learn something in Visions, not just be told stuff we already know. We spend an hour in Visions and come out knowing nothing new. 'Rape is bad.' Thank you!"

Other students share Santiago's opinion. "I think Visions was designed to get students acclimated into the Vanderbilt community, however, it didn't get involved in the community itself," said freshman Kathleen Fuchs. "In terms of teaching us to become active members at Vanderbilt, I think Visions failed."

Freshman Clark Ramey agrees. "I've made some great friends through Visions, but a lot of what we rally about is that we dislike going to our sessions," Ramey said. "There has to be a way to balance a community of 20 people and still enjoy yourselves."

According to Hill and Cottrell, Vanderbilt Visions is still in its developing stages and, with the help of groups like the Think Tank, VUceptors hope to achieve a curriculum that is more interactive, enjoyable and pertinent to students' lives.

When students were asked what they would prefer to talk about instead of "tired-out subjects," many suggested more of a current events approach to Visions. Rather than discussing subjects such as sexual abuse, stereotyping and relationships, students said they would prefer to focus on more contemporary issues.

"Stuff happens. Currently. As in, this week," said freshman Seth Farkins. "I want to talk about it."

As VUceptor Lauren Page Black suggests, next year's Vanderbilt Visions will hopefully be more focused on "blending the Vanderbilt bubble and the outside world."

Cottrell agrees. "Students really focused on the idea of community and learning more about their community," Cottrell said. "There are a lot of ways we can weave these ideas of community into a curriculum."

"This was, like, the premiere," Black said. "Our second album is going to be different." ■

Relay For Life kicks off spring activities today

Organizers invite participants from area colleges to April walkathon.

by JANELLE STOKES
Contributing Reporter

"Ask around, everyone has a story to tell about how cancer has affected them in one way or another," said sophomore Rory McGuire, chair of the Vanderbilt Relay For Life Committee.

The group will hold a kickoff event today at 4 p.m. in Sarratt 116 to involve students and faculty members in the upcoming event, to be held April 28-29 at the Student Recreation Center.

Relay For Life is a 12-hour walkathon fundraiser for the American Cancer Society that has raised \$2 billion since 1985.

"This is actually going to be the first intercollegiate Relay For Life," said sophomore Kelly Eichman, team development chair of the Vanderbilt Relay For Life Committee.

"Normally (the Relay For Life is) held at one campus, and they try to involve the community. This is the first time they have tried to get a bunch of colleges together to relay."

Teams of 10 to 15 people raise money through donations and additional fundraising for the relay, and all teams compete against each other for prizes during the 12-hour period.

Members of the Nashville community and students from local universities such as Belmont, Fisk, Lipscomb, Tennessee State and Trevecca Nazarene are expected to participate. The Relay For Life of Collegiate Nashville has set their fundraising goal at \$25,000 with the participation of all the schools.

"I would love to see every Vanderbilt student out that night because it means so much to cancer patients and families," Eichman said.

"For each team there are different incentive levels depending on how much money you raise," McGuire said.

"Home theater systems, stereos and grills are prizes if you reach certain levels. It's a great way for Greeks to win something for the house or an organization to win something for everyone. Team awards as well as individual awards are an incentive to raise the most money."

McGuire said the universal effect of cancer propels group members to come together to celebrate those who have survived and assist those who are suffering.

"We are trying to get it to a level where we don't have to do this kind of thing anymore, but right now the threat of cancer is too large," he said. ■

OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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OUR VIEW

Criticism, discussion bolster true freedom of speech

Freedom of speech is the cornerstone of any successful democracy. Any modern society that does not allow its citizens to express concerns or grievances in at least some manner is one that is doomed to long-term failure.

That said, the concept of free speech is one that is frequently misunderstood, even by those who depend upon such a right for their livelihood. "My freedom of speech" has become conflated with "freedom from criticism of my speech," and every time this fallacious equivalence rears its head it minimizes the struggles of those who face true challenges to their freedoms.

Every media figure faces the prospect of criticism. Every media

figure with an audience surpassing his immediate family experiences criticism, and the more successfully he does his job the more criticism he receives. Yet, people refusing to place an imprimatur of approval on a journalist's speech after the fact does not abridge his freedom; his words are still free to influence whomever they will. Likewise, when a publication makes a poor decision and readers express a modicum of disapproval, that publication is not the victim of speech suppression; on the contrary, citizens with the same right to express their various and sundry opinions are exercising the most important freedom of all.

One's speech is suppressed when government censors must approve a work prior to its publication or when

speech codes choke words, even unpleasant and unfortunate ones, from the vocabulary. One's speech is suppressed when he is beaten with sticks for complaining about the local royalty. However, one's speech is not suppressed when he says something others find objectionable and the offended express their distaste. In fact, such arguments are the only means by which discourse can hope to improve.

This is not to say that all criticism of speech is necessarily well thought out or valid — far from it. However, when one assumes a public stance on a controversial issue, one should not only expect but welcome public disagreement, as the process of argument ultimately benefits everyone.



Luis Coppel — MCT

COLUMN

On-campus housing denies student opportunities

DANIEL FISCHER
Guest Columnist

As a senior who is graduating this spring, I cannot help reviewing my past four years at Vanderbilt. One cannot deny the sense that there is an archetype of "The Vandy Way." Friends back home do not understand why many of our students feel the need to dress up for football games, and in light of recent discussion, they also do not understand why our university is prohibiting its students from electing to live off campus. After living off campus for two years, I sincerely feel that such a policy denies Vanderbilt students important educational experiences that can prepare them for their life outside of Vanderbilt. "The Vandy Way" has now encroached on the mere possibility that students, even seniors, simply cannot live in any place that is not "Vandy."

With the birth of The Commons, Vanderbilt says it will now have room to house all undergraduate students, and therefore, it would make sense to force all students to live on campus. As a junior I must have been the only upperclassman who did not beg to live in a Towers single, which comfortably resembles

the size of a jail cell, instead of living in a spacious apartment with a total rent cheaper than Vanderbilt's yearly room and board fee. Clearly, the student body was just clamoring for a solution that could save them from the travesty that is being unable to live in Vanderbilt housing.

“Either way, assuming Vanderbilt’s enrollment and prices stay constant, increasing the on-campus undergraduate population to 100 percent would guarantee Vanderbilt an extra \$11.8 million per annum.”

Apparently, the university's proponents of eliminating off-campus living are shocked to hear that Vanderbilt undergrads are not aching to live on campus, and administrators are voicing their good intentions to the disgruntled student body. In response to the growing criticism about the end of off-campus living, Assistant Provost of Special Projects Howard Sandler was quoted in Feb. 7 issue of The Hustler: "I think it will be good to have more seniors on campus because as a university we need

more senior leadership." This article that compelled me to comment because I was immediately overwhelmed with skepticism. I was skeptical when the idea of The Commons was first proposed because I do not understand how one could hope to introduce

freshmen to the undergraduate university by isolating them from the main campus for the first 25 percent of their undergraduate careers, let alone hope to provide leadership for them when they need it most. I am also skeptical because I cannot escape the concept of a financial motive from the university. Vanderbilt University owns Vanderbilt Properties Inc., which is responsible for some of the most popular and most expensive off-campus housing near Vanderbilt. The Village at Vanderbilt and the

Wesley Place Apartments, both located on 21st Avenue, generate a great deal of financial income for Vanderbilt Properties, and in turn, for Vanderbilt University. Their rates are quite expensive because of their proximity to Vanderbilt, and these apartments are home to many Vanderbilt undergraduate and graduate students.

So why would the University implement a policy that prohibits undergrads from renting such apartments? Could the reason be related to the fact that nearly all of Vanderbilt's graduate schools, specifically law, medicine, nursing, Owen Graduate School of Management, Peabody and divinity, are conveniently located along 21st Avenue and therefore a mere stone's throw away from Wesley Place or the Village at Vanderbilt? One could easily see that the university, in building The Commons and prohibiting off-campus residency, found a way to sustain the income they receive from their off-campus properties by making them more available to graduate students.

In addition, the university would guarantee an increase of income by making all students live on

Please see **FISCHER**, page 5

COLUMN

Scheduling promises improved Vandy Van service

SCOTT GREER

Columnist

After several months at Vanderbilt, I have only used a Vandy Van about 10 times. Though the system can be a convenient way for students to get from one end of campus to the other, it could definitely be more efficient.

An e-mail the Student Government Association sent on Monday had a link to a survey about improving the Vandy Van system. One of the questions asked, "How long do you typically wait for Vandy Vans?" I marked "0-4:59 minutes." The next question: "What do you feel is a reasonable amount of time to expect to wait for a Vandy Van?" Once again, "0-4:59 minutes." I don't understand why people would wait longer than however long they feel is reasonable. After five minutes have passed, I bite the bullet and walk to my destination. I was shocked to see another option of "20+ minutes." Do people actually wait this long to get somewhere on campus? Honestly, I could call a cab and circle the entire city of Nashville in that amount of time.

After attending Trinity University, a small liberal arts school in San Antonio, Texas, I expected the Vanderbilt campus to be significantly larger. However, the only class that requires more than eight minutes of walking (I've timed them all) is my course at Blair. While I realize that Vandy Van routes only run in the evening and early morning, my point is that most places on campus are within

Please see **GREER**, page 5

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.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Your voice doesn't stop here. The Vanderbilt Hustler encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative and issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

President Boone Lancaster
Student Government Assoc.
1542 Station B
sga@vanderbilt.edu
Sarratt 359
(615) 322-8742

President Devin Donovan
Interhall
7010 Station B
interhall@vanderbilt.edu
Sarratt 357
(615) 421-7515

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4944
(615) 736-5129

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 225-4311
(615) 250-8160

Rep. Jim Cooper
U.S. House of Rep.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4311
(615) 736-5295

Rep. Brenda Gilmore
Tenn. District 54
35 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243-0154
(615) 741-1997

Sen. Douglas Henry, Jr.
Tenn. District 21
11 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243-0021
(615) 741-3291

Councilor Ginger Hausser
Metro District 18
521 Chesterfield Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 783-0106

FISCHER: Monetary incentives influence housing decisions

From FISCHER, page 4

campus and pay the additional tuition fees of living in a dormitory. U.S. News & World Report's latest figures quote Vanderbilt as having roughly 6,400 undergraduates, a room and board rate of \$10,890. 83 percent of undergraduate students live in college owned, operated, or affiliated housing, although this last statistic concerning what properties are owned or affiliated with the university may or may not include the apartments of Vanderbilt Properties. Either way, assuming Vanderbilt's enrollment and prices stay constant, increasing the on-

campus undergraduate population to 100 percent would guarantee Vanderbilt an extra \$11.8 million per annum.

Perhaps this financial gain is merely a convenient accident that resulted from the university's good intentions toward improving student life, but we must ask ourselves why the university firmly intends on prohibiting the option of off-campus living when we never asked for it to be taken away.

—Daniel Fischer is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

GREER: Efficient planning should complement an already good idea

From GREER, page 4

reasonable walking distance. I also realize that the vans primarily transport students for security reasons, but I do not consider this a real concern until the wee hours of the morning. If you find yourself looking for a Vandy Van at 3 a.m., you're probably wasted with a group of friends. On your journey to the Rec at 9 p.m., however, there is almost a better chance of the driver wrecking the van than of you being mugged. Even so, I will admit that the vans can be extremely useful for laziness, tardiness and, occasionally, safety.

When students begin waiting for a van, they have no idea whether it will arrive in two minutes or 20. After each minute, we keep telling ourselves that it has to be here soon enough. Some give up after a few minutes, while others apparently wait for 20 or more. I believe there is an obvious solution to this problem: a schedule.

For confused students, here is the definition of a schedule: "a plan for carrying out a process or procedure, giving lists of intended events and times." This does not have to be anything complicated; in fact, it can be quite simple. The Vandy Vans Web site claims that the vans make

10 stops over the course of approximately 30 minutes. Therefore, it takes about three minutes to reach each destination. Why don't we make it five minutes? In other words, the vans can simply wait at each location for an extra minute or two. This can give students a little more time to catch a ride, but more importantly this would allow the vans to establish a precise schedule, in which each location has designated arrival times for the entire year. For example, if the vans begin running the "main route" at 5 p.m. from the VUPD Headquarters, certain times for Kissam Quad (the fourth location on this route) would be 5:15, 6:00, 6:45, and so on. Instead of "approximate" times, let's make them exact. With just one or two more vans, I guarantee this system would work efficiently.

As a school with only 6000 undergraduates, Vanderbilt is fortunate to have a transportation system in the first place. With a few improvements, however, it has the potential to become one of the finest privileges on campus.

—Scott Greer is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

THE RANT



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anonymously sound off on

any issue you want. Send in

your rants to with the subject

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com

"If Bilotta and VSG are unable to extend next year's winter break to at least two and a half or three weeks, then she should resign and VSG should be dissolved."

"Can't the sports editors find original quotes? Or at least split the quotes up so that the three articles on the basketball team don't have the same quotes regurgitated (see 'Cage comes through in clutch' and the concluding quote of 'Dores bite back' right next to it. Verbatim.)?"

"Don't complain to me if your car gets towed because you parked in one of the spots outside of Phi Psi. Those are clearly marked as private spots, and the people who park there had to pay a lot of money for that right. Deal with it."

"Nothing is frattier than 'Nothing is Frattier than America.' By the way, your quote is from 'Billy Madison' not 'Happy Gilmore'; I know this because I love America."

"VUwebmail signed me out three times before I could send this rant."

"I find it peculiar that LIVE has co-opted Martin Luther King's legacy for their limited agenda. Perhaps other factions would be proud to know that MLK is concerned about climate changes, advocates free trade and absolutely detests high taxes."

"I pay money hand over fist for the mandatory on-campus housing here, and I'm stuck in a suffocatingly hot dorm room with no ability to change the temperature, along with the added bonus of an alarm on the back door that's active 'from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.' but frequently goes off around 3 or 4 in the afternoon."

"Dear Vandy smokers: you smell. Someone should compile a list of all the smokers on campus so those of us who are odor-free and enjoy breathing will know not to walk behind you on our way to class. Yay for not smelling like death all day."


"If you're in Stapleton, quit going out the back door after 7 p.m. It's second semester; I'd think you would have figured that out by now."

Compiled by Ceaf Lewis

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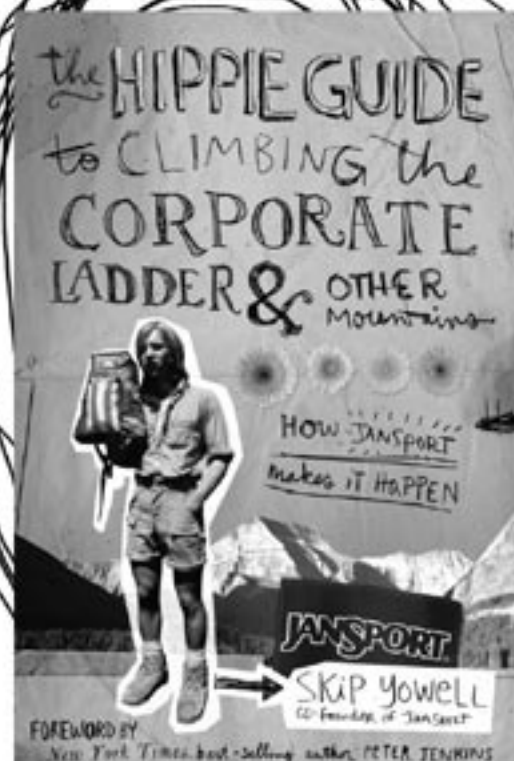
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SPORTS

WHAT 2
WATCH 4

Upcoming Events

Men's Basketball
No. 12 Marquette at
No. 22 Georgetown
Saturday
11 a.m. CT
ESPN

After quietly moving toward the top of the Big East standings, the Hoyas will have a chance to prove they belong when they host the Eagles. Marquette (21-4) is playing great basketball and trying to grab a possible No. 2 seed come March. Georgetown defends well enough to upset the Eagles in this one.
Prediction: Georgetown 74, Marquette 69

Men's Basketball
No. 1 Florida at No. 18
Kentucky
Saturday
8 p.m. CT
ESPN

This is a game between the Southeastern Conference's best. Florida is striving to stay undefeated in league play, while the Wildcats look to show that they can hang with the Gators. Playing the game in Lexington helps Kentucky, but not that much.
Prediction: Florida 80, Kentucky 72

Men's Basketball
No. 23 Vanderbilt at
Tennessee
Saturday
Noon CT

Ever since the Commodores (16-7) beat the Vols (16-8) here on a buzzer beater, they've been a different team. Before that game, nobody would have predicted that Vandy would be ahead of Tennessee in the standings. The Vols have Chris Lofton back in the lineup and are playing at home, but I still like the Doers to pull it out.
Prediction: Vanderbilt 78, Tennessee 76

Women's Basketball
Auburn at No. 14
Vanderbilt
Sunday
2 p.m. CT
Memorial Gymnasium

The Commodores (20-4, 6-3 SEC) have won three straight games, including a 91-51 thumping of Alabama where they broke a NCAA record by shooting 76 percent from the floor. Meanwhile the Tigers (17-8, 4-5 SEC) lost to Tennessee by just 10 points.
Prediction: Vanderbilt 75, Auburn 69

Men's Baseball
Vanderbilt vs. Rice,
Arizona State, Baylor
Friday-Sunday

It's officially baseball season as the Commodores kick off their season in the Houston Astros College Classic this weekend. They play Rice today, Arizona State Saturday and Baylor Sunday. The starting rotation will be David Price, Nick Christiani and Brett Jacobson. Should be a great three games.
Prediction: Vandy wins two of three

RECORD: 38-27

Leaders ready to emerge for Vandy

by MAX FRANKLIN
Sports Reporter

Last season, a very young Vanderbilt baseball team exceeded expectations to win 38 games and advance to an NCAA regional tournament.

The 12 freshman and 13 sophomores are now all one season older and more experienced, and the team's preseason top-10 ranking is an indication of the talent returning.

Despite the growth of the team, the Commodores must still deal with the loss of two of their top performers from last season, starting pitcher Matt Buschmann and catcher Brian Hernandez.

"They were charismatic and inspirational in their habits and how they approached the other kids," said coach Tim Corbin. "I really felt that they cared about their other teammates and they garnered that type of respect from their teammates. Anytime you lose two kids like that you hope that the kids underneath them saw what they did and picked up on those traits. When you have good leaders sometimes that inspires other kids to be good leaders and hopefully that's what they did."

Buschmann, a 15th-round pick by the San Diego Padres in last summer's draft, started games in each of his four seasons and was the Commodores' most



Sophomore Ryan Flaherty is one of many players Vanderbilt coach Tim Corbin is counting on to provide leadership this season. NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

consistent starter down the stretch last season. He finished last season with a record of 6-4 and a 3.95 earned-run-average, including a complete game victory over Michigan in the NCAA regional.

"Buschmann was our No. 1 or No. 2 starter, one of our top pitchers last year," said sophomore pitcher Nick Christiani, who will step into the No. 2 spot in the rotation this weekend. "It's a big loss, because he was a great leader as well, probably the best

leader on our team. But you know, guys graduate, guys move on, you've just got to step in and fill their shoes."

Hernandez started in 64 of the Commodores' 65 games last season, hitting .302 while leading the team with 21 doubles from the cleanup spot. He served as the team's primary catcher and had two years of experience with the pitching staff before being drafted in the 19th round, also by the Padres.

"Having a guy that's been

there for so long, been through all the situations, you trust guys like that to come through," Christiani said. "They're not going to get caught up in the moment, they're going to calm themselves down and you always think they're going to come through. It's tough to lose a guy like that, but we've got a bunch of great hitters, guys that are going to come through."

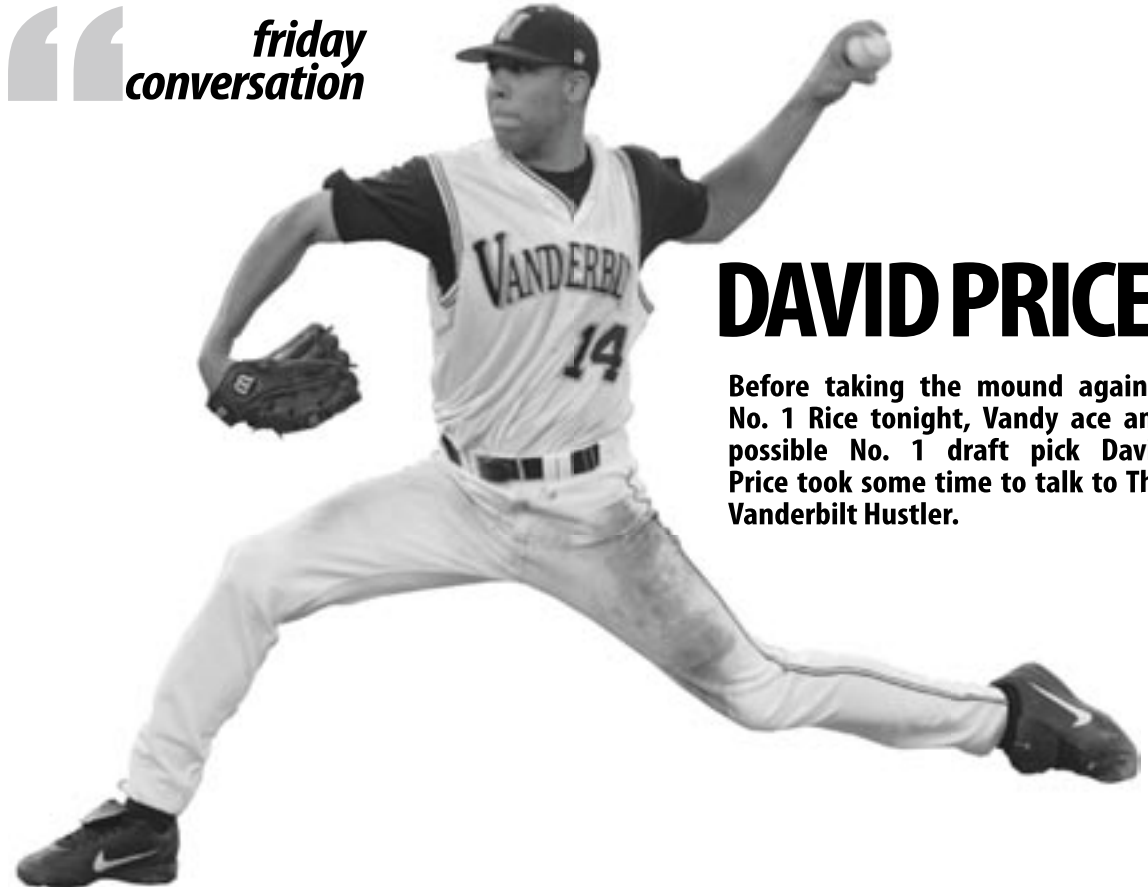
While both players were an integral part on the 2006 team, that squad lost only

three seniors, including infielder Rucker Taylor, in part because five juniors left for professional baseball the year before.

Although the current roster lists only four seniors, the 13 juniors have been in the system for two or three seasons and last year's No. 1 recruiting class is now a year older and more experienced. Corbin expects several players to fill the void left by the seniors.

"(Senior catcher) Carter Hawkins is a natural at being a leader, but he kind of did that last year as a younger guy," Corbin said. "That's my one challenge to the younger kids all the time is to try to get to that point. A guy like (junior infielder Alex) Feinberg is continually stepping up, and (junior first baseman Brad) French is continually stepping up. (Sophomore infielders Pedro) Alvarez and (Ryan) Flaherty step up on the field, now it's just a matter of doing it emotionally and in the locker room. Leadership comes through actions, integrity... from actions and words coming together."

The No. 8 Commodores will not have long to find out who their leaders are, as they face No. 1 Rice, No. 16 Arizona State, and No. 20 Baylor this weekend at the Houston Astros College Classic at Minute Maid Park. ■

friday
conversation

DAVID PRICE

Before taking the mound against No. 1 Rice tonight, Vandy ace and possible No. 1 draft pick David Price took some time to talk to The Vanderbilt Hustler.

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER: How excited are you to take the mound on opening day against the No. 1 team in the country?

DAVID PRICE: It's going to be exciting, but it doesn't matter who we're playing. Every game here is just as exciting as every other game. It's definitely going to be fun, and we're going to play our hearts out.

VH: How have you improved since last season?

DP: I would definitely say the mental part of pitching. I worked with (pitching) coach Johnson a lot with that, as did our whole staff.

VH: Talk about the pitches that you throw and how confident you feel in all of them.

DP: I feel confident in my fastball, my slider, my slurve and my changeup. My changeup and slurve (are) really what I developed this fall. I would have outings this spring where I would only throw those two pitches, so I have a lot of confidence in those two pitches.

VH: Being a junior and eligible for the draft, does that any pressure to you this season?

DP: If you play well, you're going to get drafted just fine. I'm going to go out here and I'm going to perform, and I hope that I just give Vanderbilt on Friday night a chance to win.

VH: What question have you been asked the most coming into this season?

DP: "Are any expectations any higher?" or anything like that.

VH: And your answer to that?

DP: Our expectations year in and year out are the same. We expect to get to Omaha; we expect to win the whole thing.

VH: Current ringtone?

DP: "Leather So Soft" by Lil Wayne. It hasn't changed in a while.

VH: One word to describe coach Corbin?

DP: "Old." No, I'm just kidding. "Energetic."

VH: Pre-game meal?

DP: I'll eat anything. It doesn't matter.

VH: Toughest hitter you've faced?

DP: Pedro Alvarez.

VH: Funniest player on the team?

DP: Either Casey Weathers or David Macias.

VH: Best part about your trip to Cuba with Team USA?

DP: Spending time with Pedro and Casey and Coach.

Corbin cannot
stand losingby JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

Listening to Vanderbilt baseball coach Tim Corbin talk about his team following its 6-2 victory over the Alumni team last weekend, you would have thought the Commodores were the worst team in the Southeastern Conference.

Coach, were you pleased with the performance today? "No, not really," he said. "We were poor offensively I thought. We faced some good pitching, but we only hit one ball hard all day."

Coach, what are the strengths of this team? "Tough to say," he said. "I don't know if we've got many strengths right now. It's such a long way away from knowing what type we are. I would like to think that we've got some experience defensively, but I don't know if we're going to be able to hit, and pitching wise, we'll see what happens."

Coach, are you kidding me? This is the No. 8 team in the country you're talking about - the team everyone expects to be playing in Omaha this summer.

"I don't think we're really worried about any hype right now because we're not very good," he said,

I just gave up at that point. There was no way I was getting Corbin to say anything positive about his team.

Want to know why the Vanderbilt baseball team is so successful? It's because Corbin hates to lose.

He demands the best from his players and isn't satisfied unless he gets it. He doesn't tell players that they are better than they are. He doesn't care about bruising egos or hurting feelings. Corbin just wants to win.

And that's the best quality a coach can have. — Vanderbilt will open its 2007 campaign in what is most likely the toughest collegiate tournament in the country at the Houston Astros College Classic this weekend in Houston. The Commodores take on No. 1 Rice today at noon and No. 6 Arizona State on Saturday before closing things out against No. 20 Baylor on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Rice returns seven starters off of last year's team that went 57-13 and advanced to the semifinals of the College World Series. The Commodores will face junior college transfer Chris Kelley on Friday. The righthander went 16-4 with a 2.37 ERA in two years at San Jacinto College.

Arizona State is 3-0 after sweeping Southern Utah over the weekend. ASU outscored its opponent 61-8 and blasted 20 doubles and six homers in the three games.

Baylor returns five starters from last year's 37-26 team that reached the NCAA Houston Regional finals before falling to Rice.

— Southeastern Conference coaches predicted Vanderbilt to finish second in the Eastern Division in a vote done prior to the season.

Two of the 12 league coaches voted the Commodores as their pick to win the regular season championship. South Carolina received seven of the 12 championship votes in the poll and Arkansas received three votes. ■

Freshmen learning on run

Beal, Brown 'have bright futures here,' Stallings says.

by PETE MADDEN
Sports Reporter

While the Commodores are on the verge of recording one of the most memorable seasons in the team's recent history, freshmen Jermaine Beal and JeJuan Brown are gaining valuable experience that ensures continued Commodore success for years to come.

Beal, a point guard from DeSoto, Texas, is a physical player with an acute court awareness that allows him to easily distribute the basketball. He also provides the Commodores with helpful defensive minutes down the stretch.

Brown, a forward from Biloxi, Miss., provides much-needed depth in the frontcourt as well as energy off the bench. Averaging 3.5 points and 2.8 rebounds per game, it is his defensive presence in the paint that is most valuable.

"(Beal and Brown) have had the opportunity to play and contribute," said coach Kevin Stallings, "and I think that's huge, not only for them, but for us. They will both be significant impact players on our team for the remainder of this season, next season and the years later. I think they have very bright futures here."

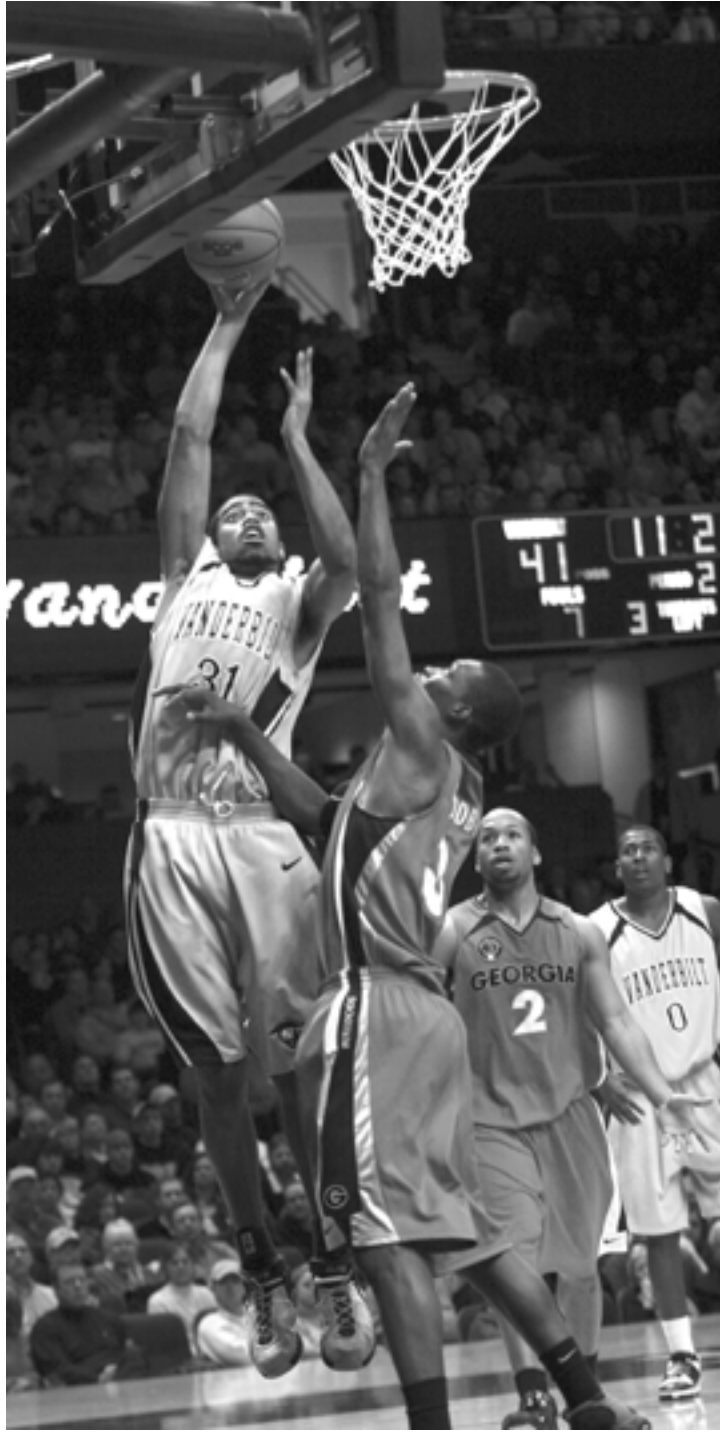
The adjustment to collegiate athletics has not been an easy one, however. Although Beal and Brown have already worked tirelessly to improve their skills, both players recognize that much of the work still lies ahead of them.

"Last year I was more of a scorer, but as a point guard, I have to change the way I play and pass more," said Beal, who averages 4.0 points per game to compliment the 41 assists he has recorded thus far this season.

"The adjustment to the physical side of the game has been hardest for me," said the 6-foot-7, 225-pound Brown. "I'm a real skinny guy, and I'm fighting down low, but a lot of these guys are bigger than me. I've been holding my own, but next year, I'm going to put on the weight that I need."

In addition to serving as a testament of how hard they need to work over the next three years in order to be successful, the Commodores' recent run of success may stir some confidence in these wide-eyed freshmen and compel them to set the proverbial bar high for the remainder of their collegiate careers.

"I came here because I wanted to win, and winning is great, but it's hard for me to be satisfied," Beal said. "I want to go dancing this year." ■



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Freshman JeJuan Brown attacks the basket in Vandy's victory over Georgia last Saturday. Brown, along with classmate Jermaine Beal, is the Commodores' present and future.

Football welcomes talented recruits

by ANDREW BARGE
Sports Reporter

Vanderbilt announced what is being regarded as the best recruiting class in coach Bobby Johnson's tenure on national signing day Wednesday.

All incoming freshmen received all-state recognition, and nine players won state championships. While all 14 commits will be counted on to continue their winning pedigrees, four commits stand out.

Larry Smith out of Alabama never lost a regular season game in high school. As a three-year starter for the Class 6A Prattville Lions, Smith threw 54 touchdown passes with only five interceptions. He led the Lions to a title over the heavily favored Hoover Buccaneers, much to the disgust of MTV and its "Two-A-Days" cameras.

Smith was named the game's MVP, won Alabama High School Player of the Year in all classifications and received all-American recognition by PrepNation, MaxPreps and EA Sports.

"Larry is a complete quarterback, just the kind of guy you want in this program. Prattville runs a sophisticated offense, and he handled it with ease," said Johnson, who took over the program in 2001. "We weren't shopping for a quarterback, but when you have the opportunity to recruit someone as outstanding as Larry, you have to go through the process. We couldn't afford not to recruit him."

The Commodores signed the most highly touted player of the Johnson era in Memphis' John Stokes. The linebacker was given a four-star rating on Rivals.com and held offers from Michigan, Alabama, Virginia, Auburn, Ole Miss and Virginia.

Stokes, Tennessee's Division II-AAA Mr. Football, stands at 6-foot-5, 225 pounds while boasting 4.7 speed, which means that he could possibly move to weakside defensive end if depth is a problem. His combination of size and speed, not to mention a motor that never stops, will definitely be an asset for Commodore football in the future.

"John has the size that allows us to try him out at defensive end, but he did some great things at linebacker (in high school), so we'll start him out there," Johnson said. "(Stokes) is also an outstanding longsnapper and will be an excellent cover man after he snaps it. It's not easy to find those kind of guys."

Johnson definitely hit the jackpot in local athlete Jamie Graham, a two-sport standout from Whites Creek High School. Graham played four positions for the Cobras in 2006, with 570 yards and five touchdowns passing, 640 yards and 12 touchdowns rushing, and 285 yards and four touchdowns receiving. He also ran four kicks back for touchdowns and had four interceptions.

Graham has a chance to make an immediate impact for the Commodores at either cornerback or as a return man on special teams. He might even give Vandy basketball a shot as well — Graham currently averages 19.5 points a game for Whites Creek.

"Jamie will have a chance to step up and return kicks this year. We recruited him as a defensive back, but he's very versatile so we want to get him the ball in some way," Johnson said. "He's tearing it up on the basketball court right now. (Playing two sports in college) is tough to do, but we certainly don't want to limit him to just football. I'm anxious to talk to Kevin (Stallings) about it and see what his thoughts are."

Out of the Sunshine State is tailback Ryan van Rensburg, who racked up 1049 rushes and 15 scores on just 75 carries this year en route to winning a 2006 state championship and earning All-State honors.

"Ryan brings a lot to the table. He has the ability to outrun people, but he isn't afraid to lower his shoulder and run people over," Johnson said. "Ryan's also very coordinated; he can catch the ball in the backfield and do the kind of things you would look for in the passing game."

Needless to say, Johnson is a happy guy. Two weekends ago 13 of the commits visited Vandy together on official visits. Never had he seen such camaraderie build in a single recruiting weekend, so he is excited about seeing their bonds translate on the practice field this summer.

"They were almost inseparable that weekend," he said. "By the time they left, they'd pretty well decided who was going to room with whom, who was bringing what, how many games they were going to win, how hard they were going to work. There are some real leaders in that group, too."

With tons of talent and team chemistry already developing, the future looks brighter than ever for Vandy football. ■

Dores look for season sweep of Vols

by CHIP ROBIE
Sports Reporter

What a difference a few weeks can make.

When Tennessee visited Vanderbilt last month, they were ranked No. 16, riding a nine-game winning streak with notable wins over Memphis and Texas, and Chris Lofton was contending for Southeastern Conference Player of the Year honors.

That all changed quickly when Shan Foster scored on a game winning tip-in to give the Commodores a 82-81 victory. Since then, the Volunteers (16-8, 4-5 SEC) have gone 3-5.

Meanwhile, No. 23 Vanderbilt (16-7, 6-3 SEC) has won five of seven since stunning the Vols, and on Saturday, it looks to sweep the season series. With a week off since beating Georgia last weekend, expect the Commodores to be ready.

"I am excited about the large crowd we should have for Saturday's game against



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Players swarm Shan Foster after his tip-in gave the Commodores' 82-81 victory over Tennessee last month. Round 2 takes place Saturday afternoon in Knoxville.

Vanderbilt at 1 p.m. (ET)," Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said. "Vanderbilt is a good team, and they have been off all week, and they will come in here prepared."

Replacing Lofton, who

inspiring basketball, scoring 20 or more points in five of Vandy's last eight games and leading the SEC in scoring at 19.1 points per game in league play.

It is no secret that Pearl's squad faced an uphill battle in Lofton's absence as it went 1-3. Lofton returned on Tuesday and scored eight points in 21 minutes of action. How he plays Saturday may dictate the outcome.

"I will not be 100 percent Saturday, but I will be ready to go," Lofton said.

Offensively, Vanderbilt's Shan Foster will look to regain his shooting touch after failing to reach double figures in his last two games. He is likely to have a size advantage, as neither Lofton nor Smith is taller than 6 feet 2 inches.

Vanderbilt's play will not be a surprise this time around. No one thinks they are underrated anymore. And without any Memorial Magic this game could become dangerous. ■

Byars has played some

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LIFE

INDEX

The Week Ahead

This week, get down with some funky bands, check out Ray Charles at the Country Music Hall of Fame, celebrate Valentine's Day with Eve Ensler and finish the week with Yonder Mountain.

FRIDAY 2/9



James Brown-inspired funk band Cadillac Jones rolls into Nashville this Friday. The show is at Mercy Lounge and starts at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

SATURDAY 2/10

Get funky with Soulive. The vintage suit-wearing trio brought jazz to the dance floor and dubbed this genre (as well as their group) Soulive. See them at Exit/In tonight. They're going on at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$15 for the 18+ show.

SUNDAY 2/11

Lyle Lovett takes the stage at the Nashville Symphony tonight. Bring your cowboy boots to the symphony's first ever "writers in the round" night at the Laura Turner Concert Hall. The show begins at 8 p.m. and tickets start at \$36 from ticketmaster.com.

MONDAY 2/12

Irish trio Guggenheim Grotto plays tonight at Mercy Lounge. With a sound likened to that of fellow Irishman Damien Rice, the group's vocals are a distinctive blend of pop and folk. For more, see our review of their album "... Waltzing Alone." The show is FREE for 21+ and starts at 9 p.m. sharp.

TUESDAY 2/13

Since you're in Nashville, a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame is a must. "Ray Charles and Country Music" chronicles Ray's career and contributions to country music. You can see this exhibit with regular admission to the hall. Tickets are \$17.95, and hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

WEDNESDAY 2/14

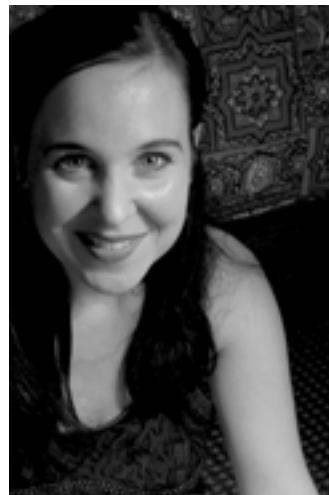
For Valentine's Day, get intimate with Eve Ensler and go see her award-winning play "The Vagina Monologues." It shows at 7 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema. Tickets are available at the box office for \$12.

THURSDAY 2/15



The always-progressive Yonder Mountain String Band plays at City Hall. Hear songs from their new album, which closes the gap between bluegrass and rock. No show has the same set list, so look forward to a unique experience. Tickets are \$20 from Ticketmaster for the 18+ show, and doors open at 8:30 p.m.

Q & A WITH KRISTIN HERSCH



Life Editor Darcy Newell sits down with musical chameleon Kristin Hersch to talk about everything from her hometown of Newport, R.I., to her big break and how she views popular music today.

VH: I read that you were raised in Rhode Island. What do you think about New England in general?

KH: I love New England — I miss it. It's got this funny light ... especially in the wintertime. For some reason I miss that. I think when you live in it it's ugly, but now that I'm not living there, it sounds beautiful.

VH: How do you think your hometown reflects your music?

KH: I feel like *MY SONGS COME OUT OF PROVIDENCE*. When I hear them they remind me of Providence, although I wouldn't say they're about Providence — it would be weird to write all of your songs about a city! John Doe from Beck says where you came of age is the center of your universe forever. I guess I believe him, because that's how it manifests in my work.

VH: Who do you think were your greatest musical influences growing up?

KH: As soon as we started I began to understand other bands. I think that the more you love music the more music there is to hate — you hear how many people use it to lie, how many use it to their own advantage — so *THE VOCABULARIES THAT MADE SENSE TO ME WERE THE VIOLENT FEMMES, X...* they were bands that played in their own voice — they didn't lie, they didn't want anything other than to play.

VH: When was your big break?

KH: We played for five years without getting signed. We were playing in clubs long before we were legally allowed to be in them, and we got a lot of attention, and I have no idea why. When we were 16 years old we were filling clubs with 800 people, and it didn't make sense. Our big break was getting signed by 4AD records, a British label. The head of the company kept calling us and saying, "I love your demo, but I don't sign American bands." And we were like, "All right, well stop calling us then!" And then he called and said, "All right, I have to sign you." 4AD just wanted one record — yet, we're still with them. I signed for one record every year for 20 years!

VH: Do you consider yourself successful?

KH: The band I started out of L.A., *50 FOOT WAVE*, works constantly because we are a DIY project (and) we don't need money from record companies. We actually gave away our last CD. It's called "Free Music," and it was downloaded over a million times. So we're a successful band, just not financially.

VH: What inspired you to make it free?

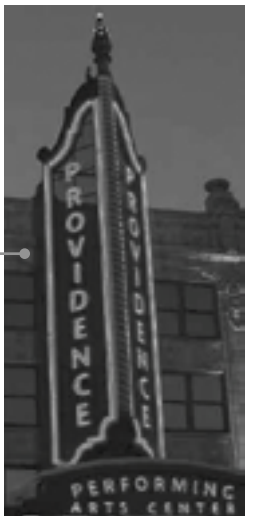
KH: Because music is a spontaneous impulse and not a business. It's important that musicians can eat so they can make another record, but *THEY SHOULD NEVER BE RICH*. And we were a new band, (so) it didn't feel right to charge people to hear us. And hopefully the people that download the record will come to the show.

VH: What do you find yourself writing about the most?

KH: A CD is an artificial collection as far as music is concerned, but the songs should work as sentences in a paragraph. And these — as much as they pick and choose among my life experiences and tell their own stories — they all seem to involve themselves with the idea of (being) numb versus feeling (something). Some of them discuss this interplay in both violent and calm ways.

VH: What do you think about popular music today?

KH: Top 40 and what most of the major labels put out, I don't really consider music; it's more like "fashion-sound." And it sells because most people who haven't educated themselves musically from beyond what they have heard on the radio aren't going to look for music to move them; (they're going to look for it) just to be background noise. But *I LIKE IT WHEN TOP 40 SUCKS AND EVERYBODY KNOWS IT* because then the underground is great. Because no musician — no real musician — ever thinks they are going to make money and be famous.



ASK ME ANYTHING

Who were the first African-Americans to graduate from Vanderbilt?

by **NICOLE FLOYD**
Life Staff Writer

DARCY NEWELL
Life Editor

As our campus celebrates Black History Month, I began to wonder who were the first black students to graduate from Vanderbilt. I went on a quest to discover the identity and story surrounding these students and to see what they have done since their first days here at Vandy.

It turns out I had to look no further than the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, which is named in honor of Bishop Joseph Johnson, who was in fact the first black student to graduate from Vanderbilt University.

Johnson, who once worked at Vanderbilt as a member of the grounds crew, was a man of many firsts. He served as the first black student to be admitted to the university, the first black student to earn a doctorate here and the first black individual to join the Vanderbilt Board of Trust.

His path to that point, however, was less than smooth. Bryan Bennington Bliss, who graduated from the Divinity School with a Master of Theological Studies in 2004, chronicled the life of Johnson in a piece titled "The Bishop Who 'Turned Out' A Legacy."

According to Bliss, Johnson first submitted an application to the Graduate School in December 1951. Despite his impressive resume, he was not accepted until May 1953. A letter addressed to Dean

John Keith Benton from Johnson reveals that upon his first request Johnson was denied admittance.

In 1953 Johnson was finally admitted under a policy that allowed blacks to only be accepted to Vanderbilt programs that were unique to the Nashville area, such as the Divinity School and the Vanderbilt University Law School.

However, gaining admittance was not the only obstacle Johnson had to overcome. Johnson attended Vanderbilt at a time when the full effect of the civil rights movement had not yet been realized. His acceptance was dependant on the condition that he not be allowed access to dorms, dining facilities and other amenities to which white students had access.

"There were restrictions to his being admitted, mostly social in nature," said Johnson's son, Joseph Johnson III, in Bliss' book. "But he found all the conditions agreeable — no dorm, no dining — but he had a family, so (the conditions) did not really matter to him."

After only a year of enrollment in the Divinity School, Johnson received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1954. He went on to receive a doctorate in New Testament theology in 1958.

After leaving Vanderbilt, Johnson had a notable career in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and in the arena of teaching.

Johnson passed away due to a sudden illness in 1979, but his legacy will never be forgotten. He opened the doors for the many black students that would come after him.

Yet, Johnson was not the only African-American

to blaze new trails at Vanderbilt. Dr. Tommie Morton-Young was the first black student to graduate from Peabody College, which, at the time, was not yet a part of Vanderbilt. Morton-Young completed her studies in 1955, the year after the Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education.

"That was really before the integration movement," Morton-Young said. "There were so few African-Americans entering this school, they were perceived as tokens. At that time, I was the only African-American student at Peabody." Morton-Young went on to say that while she did not live on campus, she had a very productive year and eventually graduated with a master's degree.

She explained that while the college was completely desegregated, she did not experience many confrontations from the other students.

"There were some professors who challenged me, but I am of the personality that meets intellectual confrontation with pleasure," Morton-Young said. "I was never de-stabilized."

Morton-Young also explained that the true confrontations began about nine years later, but she had already left Vanderbilt to pursue a doctorate at Duke University.

Until recently, Morton-Young taught at the University of North Carolina. When she retired, she returned to Nashville and now devotes her time to research and writing. This Saturday, she will celebrate her 10th published book's release at the Bordeaux Library. ■

'Nashvegas' lives up to its nickname with 'The Rat Pack: Live at the Sands'

Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin come to life at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

by **CAPPI WILLIAMSON**
Asst Life Editor

This Tuesday, the show that recreates the Rat Pack's Las Vegas glory days opened at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. "The Rat Pack: Live at the Sands" originated at the Beck Theatre in Hayes, England, and has played over 1,000 shows in London. The Nashville performances mark the fifth month of the company's American tour.

As the show began, a screen projected photographs of the original Rat Pack, and the set looked like a club scene from a 1950s movie. When the screen came up, I could have sworn Frank was standing on the stage before me. Now, I never saw Sinatra perform while he was still alive, but Stephen Triffitt's short gestures, immaculate dress and cool image mirrored my idea of what Ol' Blue Eyes must have been like.

When David Hayes hit the stage as Sammy Davis Jr. to perform "For Once in a Lifetime" and "Mr. Bojangles," I was utterly convinced the man with a jerry curl and powder blue suit was the original. Hayes plays Davis Jr. with all the jubilation, emotion and minstrel-like wide-eyed wonder of his real-life counterpart. He tap-dances, does the jig and emotionally wrenches the audience all within his first three-song set.

While Nigel Casey may not have been as convincing a physical match to Dean Martin as the other two performers, he must have been every bit as fastidious in studying the crooner's movements. Casey gives us a Martin that sings "That's Amore" while smoking, drinking whiskey and hitting on his female dancers. Martin's back-up singers, the Burelli sisters (played by

Emily Hawgood, Andrea Wingelaar and Giselle Wright), bring a little old-school Vegas glamour to the stage.

The boys steal a little glamour for themselves when all three sing "Style," claiming "A hat's not a hat 'til it's tipped."



THE RAT PACK

The thought occurs to me that the Rat Pack were the very first metrosexuals — men who care about fashion and taste but are still inherently masculine and effortlessly cool.

In the midst of all this singing and dancing, "The Rat Pack" doesn't skimp on the jokes. Martin cracks jokes about his alleged

drinking habit, Sinatra delivers a few stiff-lipped attempts at humor, and Davis' facial expressions speak for themselves. While most of the jokes were a bit cheesy, they seem true to the times — I felt as if I should be sitting at a table with a martini and laughing along with them. The writers were truly dedicated to recreating the original show, because they even kept jokes that could be construed as tasteless today. When Martin tells Davis, "I want to dance with you," Davis replies, "You want to dance with a Jew?" and when Davis dresses up in an African outfit, Sinatra dubs him "The African Queen."

The best part of the whole shebang, however, was the performers' jokes with the audience. When the curtain first came up, a radio DJ introduces Sinatra by saying, "I have not been coerced to be here. Mr. Sinatra in no way has ties to the mafia." Another historical joke is played when Sinatra orders Davis to "go upstairs and put your tuxedo on," just like a mother to a child because rumor had it that Sinatra always told the other two what to do. "The Rat Pack: Live at the Sands" is able to look at the legacy of these great performers and incorporate retrospective jokes in a way that really speaks to the audience. These jabs were the only ones that really got me laughing.

If you can get past the intrinsic silliness of going to see a glorified tribute band, then you can really begin to enjoy the historical accuracy of this show. Sinatra, Davis Jr. and Martin deliver all the classics, from "Luck Be a Lady" all the way to "New York, New York." If you close your eyes and escape the modern concert hall around you, you can almost believe that you will be blowing on dice or meeting a beautiful "broad" right after the concert. ■

'Romeo and Juliet': Not quite love at first sight

Nashville Opera's rendition of star-crossed love story proves mediocre.

by **LEIGH REMY**
Life Staff Writer

Last weekend concluded the Nashville Opera's production of Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet." The production, generally speaking, was a grand display of mediocrity.

From the voices to the sets, nothing was particularly stellar. The leads were by far the most talented vocally, but even they were unimpressive. Juliet's voice was a bit strident — even sharp at times — and Romeo boasted a metallic tenor, whose placement was inconsistent, especially in his top. In their defense, Gounod's opera does demand three hours of near constant singing, an ardent task for even singers of the highest caliber. Unfortunately, these singers were not of the highest caliber, making the opera more of a task than a joy to attend.

The singers who portrayed Romeo and Juliet are married, yet at no time throughout the opera did they display any real chemistry. They resembled

"kissing cousins" more than passionate star-crossed lovers, making their love for one another seem rather unconvincing. The rest of the cast was passable, save Capulet, whose vibrato was offensively shaky and wide.

Gounod, or possibly his librettist, altered the ending so Romeo does not die before Juliet awakens, and the lovers sing a farewell duet. This alteration not only lessens the tragedy that is so integral to the story of Romeo and Juliet, but also creates a rather tedious, awkward death scene, made worse only by Nashville Opera's poor staging. Juliet stabs herself so far away from Romeo that they must spend the final five minutes of the opera crawling toward an embrace that never materializes. By this point, the scene has left the realm of sincere tragedy and entered that of morbid comedy.

Musically, the opera is quite easy to follow, even for the novice ear. The recitatives are brief, and the arias and duets follow the same general form: cantabile, tempo di

mezzo and cabaletta, also known as the double aria form. The melodies are consistently pretty, but have an underlying harmonic palate that is rather basic and predictable. The opera does have beautiful moments, which occur mostly in the duets between Romeo and Juliet. That said, the music is not particularly substantive. Gounod clearly understands the workings of a catchy, lilting melody; however, his music simply lacks the emotional drive and harmonic interest of his 19th century operatic counterparts, such as Verdi or Wagner.

While this production was highly disappointing, it is not necessarily indicative of the caliber of all Nashville Opera productions. Their production of Donizetti's "Lucia Di Lammermoor," an opera with a notoriously difficult title role, was quite excellent. To purchase tickets for their upcoming production of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly," visit nashvilleopera.org or call (615) 832-5242. ■

Guggenheim Grotto makes splash with first full-length album

Dublin-based trio puts a modern spin on 'intelligent, intriguing' love songs.

by **ELISE MICHAEL**
Life Staff Writer

Guggenheim Grotto, a trio from Dublin, Ireland, recently released their first full-length album in the United States. The album, titled "...Waltzing Alone," is a 12-song record composed primarily of love songs, but not in the traditional sense. The lyrics cover all aspects of love and relationships and are as intelligent and intriguing as the instrumentation itself.

The band, composed of Kevin May, Mick Lynch and Shane Power, is a folksy/pop trio that combines beautiful vocal harmonies with classic and contemporary instruments. May and Lynch have been a duo since 2003 when they played the same circuit as Damien Rice, with whom they share a similar, relaxed sound.

The Guggenheim Grotto's sound is a mixture of mellow rock, folk, pop and instrumentation. May, Lynch and Power are all skilled at playing multiple instruments.

The Internet-radio Web site Pandora, launched by the Music Genome Project, compares the Guggenheim Grotto's sound with the music of Lorenzo Goetz, Shed Seven and Jeff Lang. The trio lists as their ultimate inspiration the music and lyrics of Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen.

On the first track, "Philosophia," I heard an intro that reminded me of Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven." May, the primary songwriter of the group, is also influenced by classic literature when writing lyrics and music.

"...Waltzing Alone" was recorded over a six-month period and is packaged in a unique red leather binding and accompanied by a 28-page booklet that includes song lyrics. Within weeks of its release in Ireland, the album's third track, "Told You So," climbed to No. 12 on the Irish national airplay charts. In 2006, as an increasing number of college radio



GUGGENHEIM GROTTTO

stations picked up the album, the group began their first official U.S. tour. The album even landed on iTunes' Hot List.

Nic Harcourt, the music director for the influential Los Angeles radio station KCRW, called "...Waltzing Alone" one of the most beautiful records of the year, and "beautiful" is a perfect word to describe the album. The instrumentation and harmonies are mellow enough that the record is perfect background music for doing homework or just milling around the room, yet it is intriguing enough to make you actually listen to the lyrics and attempt to understand your own life and relationships. If that's not enough of a reason to like them, Guggenheim Grotto have also been featured on popular ABC shows like "Brothers and Sisters" and "Six Degrees."

Guggenheim Grotto's songs are based on love, yet and they explore all aspects of the subject. In the liner notes of the album, May had this to say about love's dominant role in the album:

"The reason love is the greatest theme is that when you're in a relationship, your senses are so heightened; you're lifted out of the banal; you notice more and you see more details. I think that it's within that idea of a relationship that you learn a lot more about yourself because it's far more dramatic (than normal life) — that's why I write love songs."

The album's influences are varied and intriguing: track eight, "A Lifetime is Heat," is a tribute to idol Leonard Cohen, while track 10, "Vertigo," is inspired by Marvin Gaye. My favorite track is the folksy, country "I Think I Love You," which talks about new, budding love: "And for the most part I agree / only fools wear heart on sleeve / oh but girl, the way you make me feel / I wanna say it, hell I wanna scream."

To hear their innovative sound for yourself, catch their show on Monday, Feb. 12 at 9 p.m. at Mercy Lounge. ■

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HUSTLER PICKS

Each week the Hustler staff will weigh in on a certain subject pertaining to arts and entertainment. This week, staffers and students choose their favorite James Bond movie.



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Next week, staffers will choose their favorite boy-band jam. Readers are also invited to weigh in by e-mailing the Life editor at vibe@vanderbilthustler.com

Belcourt provides a remedy for 'Indie Fever'

A tongue-in-cheek public service announcement highlights the Fylmz Festival.

by MICHAEL YOUNG
Life Staff Writer

Are you someone who scoffs when the latest trailer for next summer's Hollywood blockbuster airs at the movie theater? Do you grind your teeth and roll your eyes at the sights and sounds of computer-generated explosions? Is dialogue and wit more important to you than A-list actors or a nine-figure budget? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you might have a case of "Indie Fever."

"Indie Fever," showing today at the Belcourt, is an independent film in itself, a nine-minute tongue-in-cheek public service announcement on the rising trend of individually created movies and the apparent "addiction" these filmmakers have for their hobby.

In today's world of pocket-sized digital cameras and worldwide networks like YouTube, anyone can take a stab at creating their own vision of life, and if other people like it, the opportunities for talented directors are limitless.

With this notion, or maybe only the short period of Internet fame ("Shoes," anyone?), in mind, thousands of aspiring creators are joining the independent film fray weekly, and interest in the hobby has never been stronger.

"Indie Fever" is simply a short film about this passion, and its poster even features a man sitting on the side of the road holding a piece of cardboard with the words "will direct for food" scrawled in black marker.

But "Indie Fever" is only a small part of a larger film festival taking place this weekend at the Belcourt. All day today and tomorrow, the Belcourt will host the Fylmz Festival, Fylmz.com's inaugural independent film competition. With a large selection of short films and a fair number of feature-length presentations, festival attendees are sure to find an antidote for their "Indie Fever," even if it only lasts until the projector stops.

"Indie Fever" will be showing tonight at the Belcourt at 6 p.m. A full listing for all film times can be found under the events section of www.belcourt.org. ■

Mitchell's 'Brightness' proves gloomy but alluring

Singer-songwriter's third studio album showcases storytelling and vocal range.

by ANGELINA CAVALLI
Life Staff Writer

Anais Mitchell, the daughter of parents who reveled in the '60s folk era, lets her flower child ideals and folksy roots show on her upcoming release, "The Brightness." This 25-year-old Vermont native has a distinctive voice that she uses to weave whimsical musical tales that have the ability to both whisk the audience away in a warm recollection and pierce them with potent lyrics that would depress even the most spirited listener.

Upon listening, I could only compare Mitchell's voice to those of the sheep she grew up with on her childhood farm: long, wavering and, at times, a bit shrill. Yet her voice grew on me, and no one can deny the refreshing qualities of her bare-bones style. Additionally, she uses only a few instruments to back up her voice, letting her stories take center stage.

In fact, "storyteller" is the perfect word to describe her. While most of the tracks do tell a sad story, not all of them make you want to pour yourself a drink and brood over the sad state of your life. Well, maybe a few do, especially "Changer," which speaks of an unrequited love.

Yet, Mitchell's hopeful tone makes her seem okay with the situation, and a subtle viola brings the track out of the depths of self-pity. Mitchell even allows a little



MITCHELL

sunshine in on the track "Old-Fashioned Hat," where animated banjo highlights a sweet story of young love. In the song, Mitchell croons to her imaginary lover: "I made my home in the marrow of your

bone / now I know your figure like my own, even from behind."

My favorite tracks are "Fonder Heart," the only track with percussion, and "Hobo's Lullaby," which has an incredibly catchy hook despite talking about a tired, old homeless man. Staying true to her liberal upbringing, Mitchell cleverly slips in a commentary about the fighting in the Middle East on the track "Song of the Magi." She refers to the present sad state of Bethlehem with "Your home is a checkpoint now / Your home is a border town / Welcome to the brawl."

Her lowest moments come with the tracks "Hades and Persephone" and "Out of Pawn": the former's darkness is a little scary and the latter is a little boring. Mitchell finds the most befitting rhythm and style for her voice on "Shenandoah," which takes you to a front porch in rural Virginia, where people pluck banjos each night as they watch the sun disappear into the trees.

Mitchell is sticking to only a few northeastern venues for her tour, so if you want to hear her for yourself you will have to purchase it on your own. The official release date for "The Brightness" is Feb. 13. ■

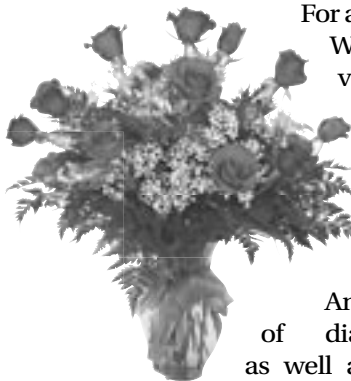
Roses are red, violets are blue ... I have no idea what to get you

With everyone's favorite Hallmark holiday less than a week away, figuring out Valentine's Day gifts is always a difficult task. Hopefully these suggestions will help you find the perfect present to give to your special someone.

by ANNE WEISS
Life Staff Writer

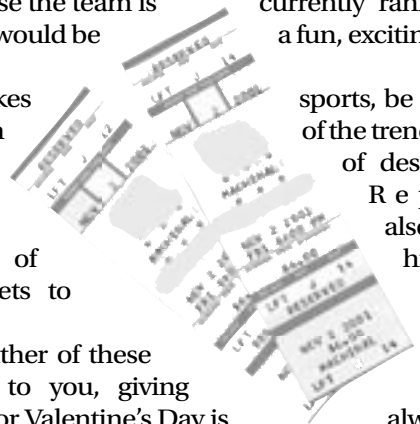
Gifts for women:

- Even though flowers are traditional, you can never go wrong giving them as a gift. For a trendier florist try A Village of Flowers located in Hillsboro Village. With simpler, more sophisticated arrangements, the store sells a wide variety of fresh flowers including daisies and tulips. Emma's Flowers on West End Avenue is also a good option. They also offer more traditional bouquets of fresh red or pink roses.
 - If jewelry is what you have in mind, don't miss Anatra Jewelry, located at Spaces off Highway 100. Although it is certainly one of the priciest options, Anatra offers a great selection of diamond pendant necklaces as well as trendy designer earrings.
- Named one of the best spas in town, Essential Therapy Spa offers massage gift certificates. This is the perfect way to treat your valentine to a break and a little relaxation. The spa also offers other options such as manicures, pedicures and facials.



Gifts for men:

- Almost every guy loves going to sporting events, so tickets to a Predator's hockey game make a perfect Valentine's Day present. Because the team is currently ranked first in the NHL, taking your guy to a Predator's game would be a fun, exciting date to go on.
- If your guy likes clothes more than he likes sports, be sure to find him something at denHIM, the men's branch of the trendy women's boutique, Boutique Bella. Beyond the brands of designer jeans like True Religion and Rock & Republic, denHIM also offers a variety of hip t-shirts and jackets to choose from.
- If neither of these options appeals to you, giving some type of food for Valentine's Day is always a safe option. Whether you bake him a heart-shaped cake and decorate it perfectly, send him a box of personalized M&Ms from mymms.com or give him a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant like Sam's Sports Bar or McDougal's, your boyfriend will certainly appreciate the gesture. ■



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ATTENTION: Photographers and Bloggers!

InsideVandy.com is accepting submissions for two exciting contests

Photographers:

Submit photos of your favorite or most creative interpretation of a well-known Vanderbilt landmark. Winners will be judged on photo quality, creativity and originality. Submissions will be accepted until Feb. 28, 2007. Prizes are as follows:

1st Place: Canon Digital Powershot Elph 6mp Camera

2nd Place: iPod Shuffle

3rd Place: \$50 Amazon.com gift certificate

Email your submissions to insidevandymultimedia@gmail.com. Submissions must be NO larger than 10MB.

Bloggers:

Every week readers will vote on their favorite blog of the week. The prize will change weekly so check InsideVandy often for the weekly prize announcement. Post your most interesting thoughts and opinions today!



FUN & GAMES

SUDOKU

TO SOLVE:
Fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

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2/7/07 SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Wall and Basin
 - Sonic boomer, briefly
 - Ovine comment
 - Seven Dwarfs' chant
 - Sky Harbor or Dulles
 - Brought to light
 - Quakers
 - Writer Angelou
 - Old radio Fibber
 - Confident step
 - Jackie's second hubby
 - Hawaiian coffee
 - Wooden peg
 - Light refractor
 - Gave a makeup exam
 - Lounged about
 - Impressionist Manet
 - Lights out
 - In a cordial manner
 - Sane
 - The present
 - Exemplar of slowness
 - Optimistic
 - Christmas drink
 - Egg exteriors
 - Beelike
 - Small isthmus
 - ABC, for one
 - Pasta dish
 - Portuguese nobleman
 - Venetian or Florentine
 - Balance organ
 - Work undercover
 - Having a population
- DOWN**
- That lady
 - Singer Ritter
 - Actor Torn
 - Sense of self
 - Expressions of confusion
 - School paper?
 - Whiskey mixer
 - African trek
 - Title of respect
 - Prune

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2/8/07

2/7/07 SOLUTIONS

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- 52 Rollerblade
- 54 Silent assents
- 56 Shear
- 58 Sales agt.
- 60 ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 61 Swiss peak
- 62 Hodges of the Dodgers
- 63 Dundee denial
- 64 "Pride ___ Prejudice"

LOWER

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