

Will baseball capture the first national title?

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# The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2006 • 118<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 43

## INSIDE

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## CRIME



ALLEN BRANCH

## Morgan shooters sentenced

Branch to appeal decision.

By Nicole Floyd  
ASST NEWS EDITOR

On July 13, attorneys defending the men responsible for the shooting that occurred in Morgan House last September asked the Division II Criminal Court Judge Randall Wyatt to sentence their clients to probation, arguing that the men acted in self-defense. The judge rejected their argument, however, and sentenced both gunmen to the maximum sentence of six years in prison.

Last spring, the gunmen pled not guilty and turned down a plea bargain, but, in order to avoid a jury trial, they decided to plead guilty to the charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and carrying a weapon on school grounds.

The judge's decision to hand out the maximum possible sentence came at the end of a lengthy sentencing hearing. With the sentence, Wyatt made clear his disdain for violence on university campuses.

"There's no place for folks coming onto a university setting, where parents send their children to get an education, and shooting weapons off," he said. "The court has no tolerance for what they did."

If Carlos Branch's lawyer gets his way, however, the case may not be closed. According to Assistant District Attorney Jim Sledge, Carlos Branch is appealing his sentence. Sledge feels he is unlikely to succeed.

"I don't believe he'll be successful. They'd have to prove Judge Wyatt abused his power in order to get it overturned, which he didn't," he said.

In his closing comments of the sentencing hearing, Sledge referred to this case as the "But for the grace of God case," stating that "but for the grace of God, George Smith would be dead or someone else would be dead."

Sledge could not have been happier with the judgment, saying that he believed the judge made an excellent decision, and it couldn't have gone any better.

George Smith, a Vanderbilt football player who was shot in the arm during the Sept. 25 shooting, was pleased with the result of the hearing as well.

"I feel comfortable that the judge made the right decision," Smith said. "I am ready to move past this incident and concentrate on what is really important to me—school and football." ■

## Timeline

- Sept. 25, 2005**  
Shooting occurs at Morgan.
- Sept. 29, 2005**  
Suspect Carlos Branch turns himself into authorities.
- Sept. 30, 2005**  
The second suspect, Edward Allen Jr., is arrested by Metro Nashville Police.
- Jan. 4, 2006**  
Branch and Allen plead not guilty.
- March 8, 2006**  
Suspects decline plea bargain and cite self-defense as their motive.
- May 30, 2006**  
Defendants plead guilty to aggravated assault and carrying a weapon on school property in order to avoid jury trial.
- July 13, 2006**  
Carlos Branch and Edward Allen Jr. both given maximum sentence of six years in prison.

## CRIME

## VUPD apprehends suspects for crimes in Lupton

Suspects charged with theft, rape charge pending district attorney's approval.

By Nicole Floyd  
ASST NEWS EDITOR

The suspects sought in connection with a rape and theft that reportedly occurred in Lupton House during the early morning hours of Friday, Aug. 25 have been arrested by Vanderbilt Police Department officers.

William Arnell, 28, and Richard Simmons, 25, are charged with theft of merchandise, while the rape charge is pending.

"We had enough evidence to make the arrest for the theft," said Marlon Lynch,

assistant chief of police. "The rape charge is pending due to timing."

According to Lynch, the police department must consult with the district attorney's office concerning the rape charges. Sometime Monday or Tuesday, the district attorney's office will decide whether or not to proceed with the case.

The arrests came after police received a phone call identifying the first suspect, William Arnell, and informing them of his whereabouts. Through further investigation, they were able to determine the identity of the second suspect,

Richard Simmons.

A crime alert sent out to students Friday evening described the events surrounding the charges.

The victim, a freshman, met Arnell and Simmons at a downtown club, the name of which Lynch could not disclose. The two men accompanied the victim and her roommate back to their residence hall, where the rape allegedly occurred. Immediately following the incident, the victim left her room. Upon returning, she saw the suspects getting onto the elevator and noticed a laptop, a digital camera and cash missing from

her room.

Vicky Basra, the director of Project Safe, expressed her concern about the recent rapes on campus. This is the second report of rape this semester, the first of which occurred just three days before.

"It is horrible what happened, yet in some really sad way, it is the reality of the culture we live in," Basra said.

"One of the best things we (the Vanderbilt community) can do is let the victims know we are behind them, support them and not blame them," Basra said. ■

## FALL FEST



MELANIE ROSENTHAL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

## Fall Fest kicks off semester

Concert and Casino Night entertain students during first weekend of academic year.

Andrew Pollakoff and his band Virginia Coalition headlined the annual concert.



MELANIE ROSENTHAL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students gamble in the Student Life Center at Casino Night, a Fall Fest event.

## ORIENTATION

## VUcept launches Vanderbilt Visions program

Groups to discuss issues centering on Community Creed.

By Harish Krishnamoorthi  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Vanderbilt Visions, the new extended orientation program for all incoming freshmen, officially kicked off on Monday.

The program provides hour-long weekly group meetings to discuss topics ranging from Vanderbilt-specific issues to national and global problems, with most topics covering the Community Creed and its values. A VUceptor, an associate professor and the 20 students of the VUcept group make up the class.

Sydney Larson, president of Vanderbilt Visions and a member of the Common Ground Executive Board, said that Vanderbilt Visions aims to be a support system and a small forum for its students.

"Orientation seemed too short and kind of like throwing freshmen into the lion's den," Larson said.

"So this small forum will make the kids get to know each other and become comfortable and also discuss important subjects. But we're also

giving the VUceptors creative license about what they do. They can call their kids and randomly go bowling or all have dinner, and we really wanted to reinforce that tight-knit community feeling."

According to Larson, over the past couple of years there has been an increase in behavior that concerned student and administration leaders.

"People became less accountable and less concerned about the well-being of others. There was more alcohol and more sexual assault. Chancellor Gee put together a task force, and one recommendation was Vanderbilt Visions," she said.

"Honestly, I'm jealous. I wish I had such a support system when I was a freshman."

The unique part of this program is that a professor will be directly involved.

Michael Aurbach, an art professor, is one of the 80 professors who will be a part of Vanderbilt Visions, and he seems very enthusiastic about the interaction.

Please see VISIONS, page 2

## DIVERSITY

## Vanderbilt joins Fisk in diversity conference

Speeches examine financial disparities between races.

By Kristen Chmielewski  
SENIOR REPORTER

Vanderbilt University joined fellow Nashville institution Fisk University on Friday to host the Race and Wealth Disparities Conference to address the increasing financial disparities between different racial groups.

The conference, which began at 9 a.m. at Fisk and concluded at Vanderbilt, featured speeches from professors within the universities and culminated in keynote addresses from Fisk University's Provost Kofi Lomotey and Vanderbilt's Vice Chancellor for University Affairs David Williams.

Additionally, representatives from the Nashville Chamber of Commerce addressed the specific role of universities with regard to the distribution of wealth within Nashville.

During his speech, Williams stressed the fact that "race is a part of us." In his view, if one cannot have a conversation about race without concluding on good terms, then he or she shouldn't have one in the first place.

Williams continued to explain that the strength of America is also its weakness. While America boasts of its diverse melting pot of citizens, it may ignore problems suffered by certain races, he said.

Williams used Hurricane Katrina as an example of this phenomenon. In Williams's opinion, had the same tragedy

occurred off the coast of California, the devastation would have been minimized and eliminated much more efficiently.

On a level closer to home, Williams observed, "Nashville's population is 65 percent African American, but the average test scores of this demographic would not gain admittance to Vanderbilt."

According to Williams, such inconsistencies between race and wealth can therefore be traced back to the educational systems themselves. At the conclusion of his speech, Williams posed a troubling question: "How can a country so great stand by when there are more black males in prison than in college?"

Within the featured speeches of the conference, the issues of race and wealth were explored not only via statistics and propositions for change, but also at a deeper level, reflecting the variety of studies employed by the speakers.

Race and wealth were discussed from anthropological, economic, educational, historical, legal, literary, managerial, psychological and sociological standpoints.

Speeches centered on various cultural aspects related to race and wealth, the current "No Child Left Behind" program, the failure to breach the subject in most law schools and an examination of critical race theory. ■



# THE WALL

## QUOTABLE

**"We are an impressive collection of individuals. And every year, Vanderbilt changes its texture when thousands of individual minds new to us, points of view new to us, patterns of reasoning new to us, take up work and residence on this campus, even after those who have become familiar to us graduate and move on."**

— Chancellor Gordon Gee's address at Thursday's Fall Faculty Assembly



## DID YOU KNOW...

Five graves are located on campus: Vanderbilt's first chancellor, Landon Garland, two bishops who were very influential in founding the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Bishop McTyeire and his wife Amelia are all buried in the Bishop's Common.

## WEATHER FORECAST

**TODAY**  
Scattered Storms, 87/74

**TUESDAY**  
Scattered Storms, 83/73

**WEDNESDAY**  
Partly Cloudy, 84/68

### SERVICE GUIDE

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

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

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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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### BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## CORRECTIONS

The "Quotable" section on page 2 of Friday's issue featured an incorrect quote by Marv Levy, general manager of the Buffalo Bills. The quote was found on SportsIllustrated.com, but was originally published by Brushback.com, a satirical sports site whose disclaimer reads, "The Brushback is a satire site. None of the features or stories on this site are real. All names are made up, except in cases when public figures are being satirized. All quotes are fictional and any similarity to actual quotes is coincidental."

The women's soccer photo on page 6 of Friday's edition was incorrectly credited to Jonathan Dietz instead of Seth Harkins.

## TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Nicole Floyd

### Model U.N. General Body Meeting

Model U.N. welcomes all members of the Vanderbilt community to the first General Body meeting of the semester in Wilson 103 at 7 p.m. Free food and drinks will be served, and the organization will discuss the upcoming conferences in Philadelphia and D.C. as well as service opportunities. All interested students are encouraged to attend.

### Senior portraits for the 2007 Commodore yearbook

Senior portraits are being taken today in Sarratt 112 for the 2007 Commodore yearbook. Students can stop by between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information about portraits, please visit [vanderbiltcommadore.com](http://vanderbiltcommadore.com).

### Study Abroad Information Forum

An informational meeting regarding Vanderbilt study abroad programs is being held today in the Student Life Center Commodore Ballroom. The event will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

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

## VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Nicole Floyd

**Aug. 25, 1:57 a.m.**—Officers issued a student citation for underage consumption and public intoxication at Branscomb Quad.

**Aug. 25, 2:00 a.m.**—A DUI arrest was made at 21st Ave. South and Pierce Ave.

**Aug. 25, 2:40 a.m.**—Officers issued a drug equipment violation at the Vanderbilt University Hospital.

**Aug. 25, 4:15 a.m.**—A rape and theft reportedly occurred in a residence hall. The victim was a student who met the suspects at a downtown club.

## VISIONS: Art prof doubtful

From VISIONS, page 1

"It's a curious experiment, and I want to see how it works," Aurbach said. "Anything for student-professor interaction, I'm all for it. Things where there is tremendous money involved, such as the medical center or most science research, there is very little faculty involvement with the students. Anything to decrease that, I'll do."

However, Aurbach said that he was worried about how Vanderbilt is treating its students.

"I am wondering why Vanderbilt is acting sort of paternalistic, or even moralistic, toward the students," he said.

"In most cases, students are old enough to vote, smoke and join the army. Some in the faculty feel that we aren't treating them like adults. Some students just don't want to grow, and so they make bad choices, and I think that's the problem, but Vanderbilt Visions might not be that answer."

One of the duties of the professors in each group is to participate in the discussions.

"We included professors because they add such a different perspective and, well, they've been on this earth longer," said Larson.

"Here are professors at the top of their fields, and it would

be very good experience to get to know them well. Students seemed excited when they knew their professors and professors knew them. It's not mandatory for professors to participate, and so students feel good about having them."

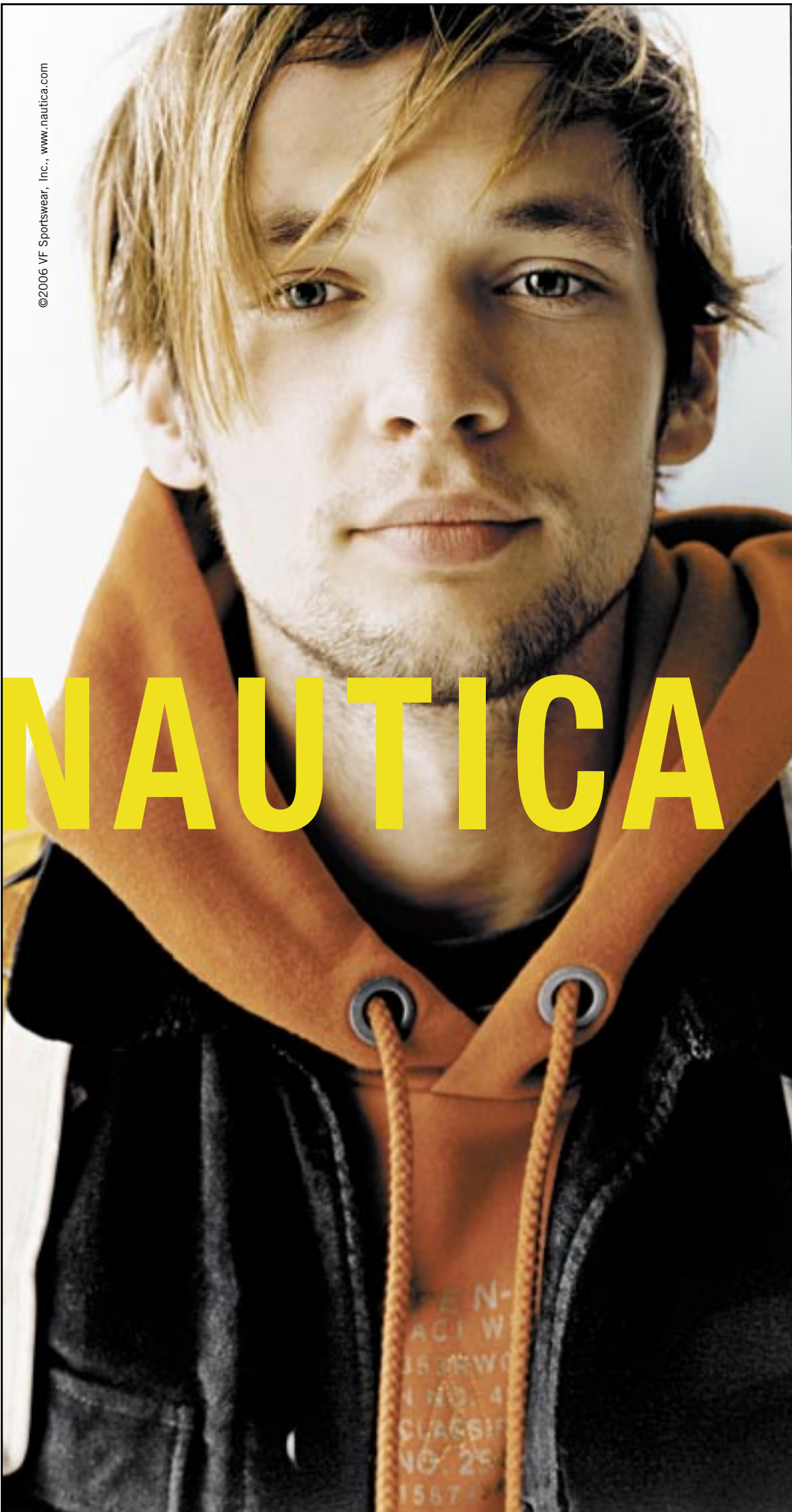
The first discussion will be about active leadership, and the second will cover sexual violence.

"I valued the discussions with roommates which went from nothing to crazy in-depth philosophy. That's the kind of medium we are promoting through Vanderbilt Visions," said Larson.

However, Aurbach feels that important topics are left out.

"I mean, yeah, sexual violence is bad, and we give them all the statistics, and it essentially says that predators do that and students should do this," Aurbach said. "And that's fine, but I'd pick different topics. For example, 'What is a university?' would be one of my choices. You'd be surprised how many people don't understand what a liberal arts education means."

"I'm not sure many are aware of the other side of the coin. Student-faculty interaction is great, but I still need to see what else is, or isn't, about Vanderbilt Visions," he said. ■



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ACADEMICS

## Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies adds new program

*Certificate in Latin American Studies can be attained in addition to grad degree.*

By Darcy Newell  
ASST NEWS EDITOR

The Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies has recently announced the addition of a new graduate program. Beginning this fall, students will be able to earn a certificate in Latin American studies.

In the past, CLAIS has offered an undergraduate program in Latin American studies, allowing students to earn either majors or minors in the field. The graduate certificate is a new addition to the program, and it can be earned in conjunction with an M.A. or Ph.D. in any graduate department.

"We have been considering this program for a few years, but we haven't explored it with students until now, as our program has been undergoing some major changes," said Associate Director for Graduate Studies of CLAIS Susan Berk-Seligson.

These changes include the center's designation as a National Resource Center in Latin America by the Department of Education. Sixteen other colleges and universities, including Harvard, Yale and Duke, were also named.

As a result, the Department of Education has just granted the center \$1.4 million to spend over the next three years in travel grants to Latin American nations.

"We would really like to expand our program, to give more students the opportunity to use these grants on summer

fellowships and projects," Berk-Seligson said.

Examples of travel grants that students have done in the past vary in both location and discipline.

"This past summer, one student traveled to Peru, where she studied why the Quechua indigenous people include certain grains, such as tarwi, and the impact that these grains have on the Quechua's nutrition," Berk-Seligson said.

Other examples include archaeological digs in Guatemala and a study of the slave trade in Colombia.

Berk-Seligson also stressed how helpful this certificate will be after graduation.

"Attaining this certificate will prove to be very helpful for students who have graduated and are looking for jobs focusing in Latin America," she said.

"This certificate means that you have expertise in the field, thus giving you a great advantage over other graduates applying for the very same jobs.

"Proficiency in the field of Latin America could be helpful for positions in the private sector, the government and the State Department," continued Berk-Seligson. "Basically, it would assist the process of application to any discipline that has a focus on area studies."

Graduates applying to such organizations such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank or the Council on Foreign Relations would greatly benefit from a degree stating expertise in Latin America.

To apply for this certificate,

## Falafel at midnight



Senior Jason Tammam and juniors Jed Goldberg and Scott Kalishman enjoy falafel and pita at an event sponsored by Dores for Israel, Hillel and Nashville Hadassah Saturday night.

ADAM SETREN / The Vanderbilt Hustler

graduate students should go to the CLAIS office in Buttrick Hall to complete an application and attach a transcript. A meeting with the directors of the program is also part of the application process.

To fulfill the certificate, students must take 15 credits, or five courses, pertaining to Latin America, spread out over at least two disciplines. They must also demonstrate proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese or an indigenous language in Latin America through course work or an oral or written exam.

There is no limit to how many students can participate in the program, and it is also open to students who have

already completed years of their graduate work and have taken courses that fulfill the requirements.

"Students in their second and third years are certainly welcome to partake," Berk-Seligson said. "We can definitely count courses that already appear on their transcripts."

"This certificate is a way of expanding your horizons and certainly gives you a professional head start on whatever your endeavor will be upon graduating," she said. "It is easily attainable, and leaving Vanderbilt with this alongside your degree will give Vanderbilt students a great advantage and edge." ■

## Sizzlin' Student Specials! 1 Block from Campus!

MON	9:30AM	12 noon	4:30PM	6:00PM
TUE	6:00AM		4:30PM	6:00PM
WED	9:30AM	12 noon	4:30PM	6:00PM
THUR	6:00AM		4:30PM	6:00PM
FRI	9:30AM	12 noon	4:30PM	
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The Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards approximately 1,200 grants annually and currently operates in over 140 countries worldwide. Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships are available in over 20 countries. For more information: [www.fulbrightonline.org](http://www.fulbrightonline.org).

Interested students should contact Lyn Fulton-John in the Office of Honor Scholarships immediately ([lyn.fulton-john@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lyn.fulton-john@vanderbilt.edu)) to schedule an appointment.

### Planning to go to Grad School next year? Pursue your studies in the UK!

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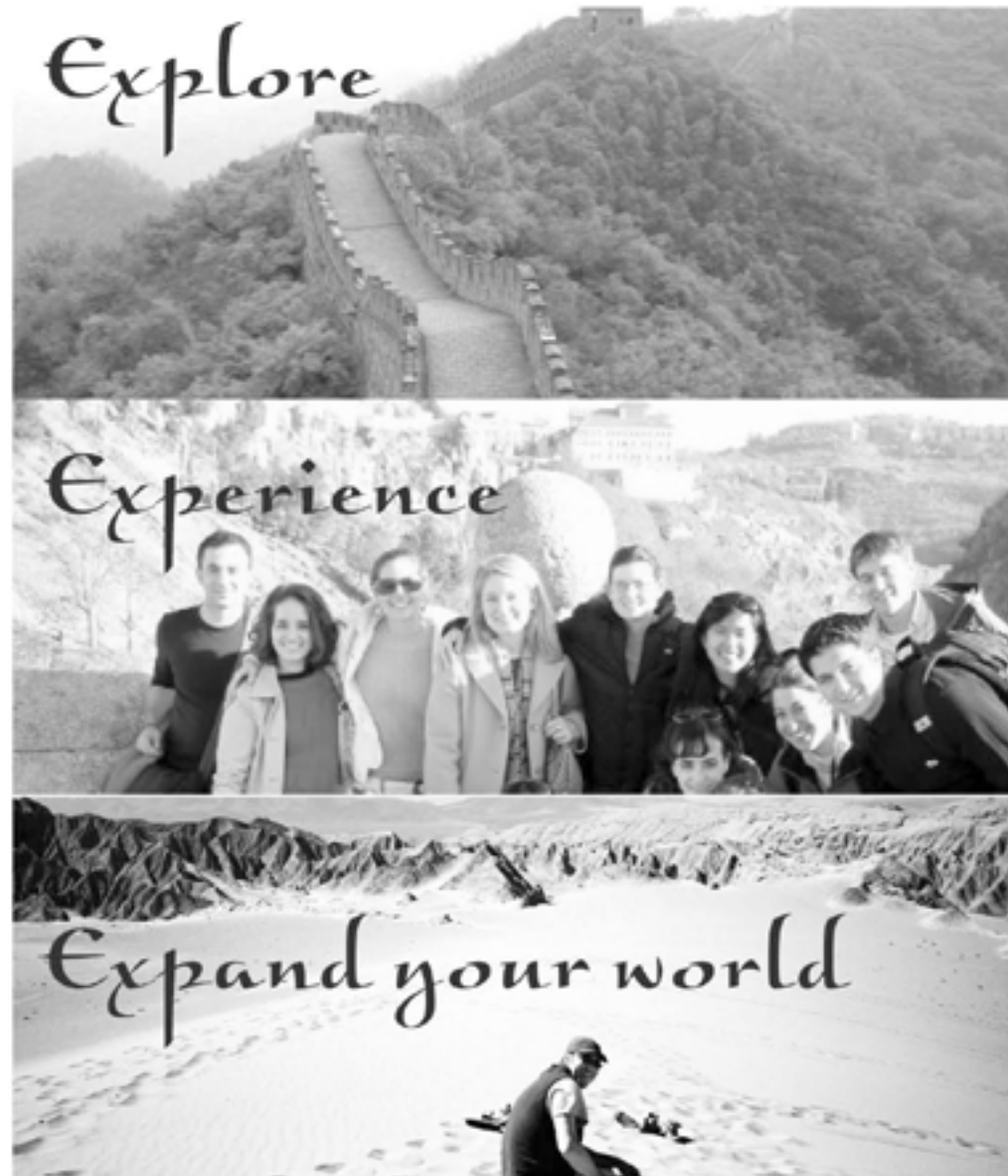
Marshall Scholarships finance students of high ability to study for a graduate degree in the United Kingdom. Candidates must display strong motivation and seriousness of purpose, including the presentation of a specific and realistic academic programme in addition to potential to make a significant contribution to their own society.

At least forty Marshall Scholarships will be awarded in 2007. They are tenable at any British university and cover two years of study in any discipline leading to the award of a British university degree.

In addition to the traditional Marshall programme, a new program for students interested in earning a PhD in environmental studies is offered in conjunction with the US Environmental Protection Agency. The Marshall Commission will pay for the first two years of the Scholarship for study in the UK, followed by up to three additional years of study funded by the EPA which may be complete in the UK or the US.

For more information, go to [www.marshallscholarship.org](http://www.marshallscholarship.org)  
Interested students should contact Lyn Fulton-John in the Office of Honor Scholarships immediately ([lyn.fulton-john@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lyn.fulton-john@vanderbilt.edu)) to schedule an appointment.

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## Study Abroad Info Forum

Monday, Aug. 28 5:30 p.m.

Student Life Center

Commodore Ballroom

[www.vanderbilt.edu/studyabroad](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/studyabroad)



# OPINION

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MONIKA BLACKWELL, LIFE EDITOR



## OUR VIEW

## Security alerts are reminders that extra caution is needed on and off campus

The school year has barely begun, but already the Vanderbilt community has received two security alerts from Director of Crime Prevention Andrew Atwood. Both of these alerts report rape on campus. This causes us to wonder, as one contributor to our new feature, The Rant, put it, "When did Vandy become a crime-ridden hellhole?"

While we would not describe Vanderbilt in such hyperbolic terms, there certainly does seem to be an increase in the number of significant crimes in the last couple of years. While we do not know what the cause of this crime wave could be, we feel there must surely be some way we, as students, can help curb it.

Students must remember that although we live in the Vandy "bubble," we are still located in the middle of a large city. Vanderbilt is not a gated community — anyone can walk or drive on campus at any time of the day or night. Our parents' (and VUPD's) advice to avoid walking alone at night, carry Mace and lock our doors should not be taken as lightly as we first thought.

Caution should especially be exercised off-campus. One striking similarity between the two police reports highlights an important issue of which Vanderbilt students should take note. The first victim "reports that she went to an off-campus party." The second victim "stated she and her roommate met two male subjects at a club downtown." While students should feel free to leave campus as much as they want, doing so requires an increase in attention paid to personal safety.

Incidents of rape and crime should not be ignored by Vanderbilt administration, students or the police department. VUPD and the division of student life should investigate the causes of the upswing in crime rates in recent years, and students should take advice from administration seriously. It is unfortunate that we must be so guarded on our own campus, but proper precautions can make the whole community safer. Take the time to program VUPD's number into your cell phone and practice caution when leaving the Vanderbilt bubble. One incidence of crime on campus is one too many.

## 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 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 editor@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either

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

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

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

## CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

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Don Wright — KRT

## COLUMN

## Raising minimum wage does more harm than good

The current federal minimum wage law states that workers of all skill levels must be paid

Drawing the Line

MATA BURKE

at least \$5.15 an hour for their labor. This amount is certainly not enough to cover living expenses for an individual trying to stay above the poverty line. In addition, students at Vanderbilt who are working to help pay for their education could always use some extra cash. So, why has a bill not passed Congress? Is it because money-hungry Republicans only care about raising their own salaries? In a recent poll conducted by the Pew Research Center, 83 percent of the American public supported an increase in the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour. Many Vanderbilt students have also expressed their anger over the inadequacy of the minimum wage rate, especially with gas prices being as high as they are. The answer to eliminating poverty seems so obvious: give

hard-working laborers a higher salary. This solution appears to be simple enough, but many economists disagree. In reality, having more money does not necessarily mean having more wealth.

In a free market society, the economy runs off of the natural balance between supply and demand. The persuasive rhetoric of politicians can be extremely convincing, but when the government steps in and disrupts the economy with artificial inflation, the outcome is rarely advantageous. While the idea of receiving more money for labor seems attractive, few people actually profit from it.

Raising the minimum wage would force company owners to pay larger sums of money to employees who have not necessarily increased their productivity. In order to maintain an acceptable profit margin and avoid bankruptcy, businesses would have to either cut back on employees or raise their prices (perhaps even both). Increasing prices would drive up inflation, and as a result, workers with higher salaries would still not

be able to afford the goods and services they need. Even though they would have more money, the value of their money would have decreased. In addition, many small businesses would not be able to afford the extra expense of paying higher wages, and they would eventually be driven out of business. As a member of a family that owns and operates a small restaurant, I know firsthand the adverse effects that government policies can have on business.

Imagine, for a moment, what life would be like if the minimum wage law did not exist. Would all businesses immediately start exploiting their workers by paying them minimal amounts of money? This does not seem likely for two significant reasons. First and foremost, no one would want to work for a company with unfair and abusive policies. The company would lose employees, and since a business cannot function without employees, it would be forced to shut down or change its policies. The second reason can easily be observed in American businesses today. Most companies already pay skilled

and reliable workers wages way above what the law requires. By doing this, companies provide an incentive for their employees to work hard and be dependable. This demonstrates the fact that a free market is capable of setting its own wages and prices based on competition, supply and demand.

The theoretical purpose of the minimum wage may be righteous, but the negative consequences of the law far outweigh the positive. The minimum wage law can even be considered a form of socialism (distribution of wealth without regard to ability). Regrettably, the law ends up hurting the people it claims to be protecting. When companies need to lay off employees, the least-skilled and least-educated are usually the first to go. It is important to realize that a free market is able to provide the proper incentives for progress and competition without the interference of politicians.

Mata Burke is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

## COLUMN

## Loss of Pluto as an official planet is cause for sadness

Astronomy students beware: you may be forced into a new edition of your textbooks as over 70 years of science education

Columnist

BLYTHE RIDGE

have collectively been flushed down the toilet. The world recently learned that our beloved Pluto is no longer an official planet.

Pluto has been officially demoted from a planet to the classification of dwarf planet because it failed to meet the International Astronomical Union's criterion. Although I assume it had to be done in the name of science, in some way I feel that I have been duped.

We have all spent countless hours memorizing the infamous mnemonic (My Very Elegant Mother Just Served Us Nice Pickles, or something to that effect) and building solar system models for science projects with nine whole planets. Generations of people have grown up watching Mickey Mouse and his sidekick Pluto, named after the coolest planet ever.

Only now, our beloved dog is named after a mass classified as scarcely more than an asteroid.

Personally, I have a bit of an attachment to Pluto. It always had a certain charm, because it was the smallest and most mysterious of all the planets — the planet at the very end of our galaxy. Now they tell us it's not so interesting after all, not even worthy of the others. It should not surprise us that poor little Pluto was destined for such a fate. It always was the underdog.

In fact, Pluto was not even classified as a planet until 1930 when it was discovered by an amateur astronomer. Its status as a planet has been challenged for many years now, but children were still being taught that there are nine planets in our solar system. It is a shame that it will have to be a lesson unlearned for us all.

Pluto, your time to shine may have been brief, but it was great while it lasted. You have earned a new place in our hearts as the King of the Dwarf Planets.

Blythe Ridge is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

## COLUMN

## Justice served on NSA wiretapping program

After a summer of working as a camp counselor, coach and referee, it's nice to just sit back and read the paper for a change.

Columnist

CHRISTOPHER MCGEADY

Something adult, mentally stimulating and most importantly — yay! — peaceful and quiet. It's not always pleasant, but at least it's interesting. Little did I know that on Thursday of last week I would wake up and read a piece of good news for a change.

Thursday, Aug. 17th was an important day. U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor struck down the Bush administration's "secret" National Security Agency eavesdropping program on the grounds that it violated "the separation of powers doctrine, the Administrative Procedures Act, the First and Fourth amendments to the United States Constitution, the Federal Intelligence

Please see MCGEADY, page 5

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

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# McGeady: Judge's ruling highlights incompetence of federal leaders

From MCGEADY, page 4

Surveillance Act and Title III." Unfortunately, breaking the law does not seem to be enough to rouse this Congress into performing its constitutional duty. Heck, Dick Cheney shot somebody and it wasn't that big of a deal.

I only bring this up because I'm perturbed when I see poll numbers indicating that a majority of people are in favor of this program and others like it. It's not that I don't think a good argument can be made in favor of any one of these programs, but we are getting into slippery territory when we start simply ignoring or forgiving the little things. First, they can eavesdrop without a warrant. Then, they collect phone records of everyday people, and then, they'll begin to track bank transactions and – wait, they already do all of that! Silly me.

I'll forgive throwing out a bottle of pop at the airport if it means I'm not going to be the collateral damage of some terrorist's martyrdom party. That does not mean I'm going to say it's acceptable for our government – and remember, we're supposed to be on the moral high ground here – to

spy on its citizens' phone calls without so much as a judge giving the OK. If the time limit set out in FISA is not enough, get Congress to extend it, but there is no reason why we should throw out a central tenet of our justice system simply because we think there's no other way to go about it.

Maybe that's what's lacking in Washington: some good ol' problem-solving skills. It's been said a million times, but we are all riding the great Ship of State without a competent crew. We don't even have a decent captain. We need not immediately engender the rallying cry, "Throw the bums out," but we might try to look for candidates who seem to know how to run the government effectively while keeping a realistic outlook on what can be done and what needs to be done.

Throughout history, the greatest individual feats were always bold movements, quick strikes and clever maneuvering. We the people, however, are currently being led by men and women who make stupid moves, strike too early or too late and who couldn't maneuver a Radio Flyer if their lives depended on it. And what's worse, they



**Maybe that's what's lacking in Washington: some good ol' problem-solving skills.**

think the best way to protect the citizens of this country is to violate the very things for which this country stands. This is not good policy.

The NSA wiretapping program is gone, for now. The government appealed the ruling, so we may get to see how Bush's Supreme Court rules on the Bush administration's illegal wiretapping program. At least they may make a good show at justice, and hey – the dissent will be great. For now, I'm comfortable just sitting back and hoping for some more good news.

*Christopher McGeady is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.*

## THE RANT



What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. Send in your rants to with the subject "Rant" to: [opinion@vanderbilthustler.com](mailto:opinion@vanderbilthustler.com)

Compiled by Reeve Hamilton

"I hate the new sunflowers by the Student Life Center. It looks like a forest of weeds."

"I am impressed that they got Ludacris, but I don't see why they keep getting rap acts for the Quake. There are other types of music!"

"You only get two toppings on your baked potatoes at CT West now. It is a travesty, but at least VU Dining is saving 30 cents per person now."

"I know far more about the boys in the Towers suite next-door than I want to, thanks to the stupid bathroom vents."

"My roommate keeps calling girls fat to their faces, and it is ruining my social life."

"Of all the trends Vandy boys could pick, who thought camouflage hats and those stupid sunglasses things were good ideas?"

"I think it is hilarious how people are claiming the Theta picture reflects poorly on the entire Greek community. I'm pretty sure it just reflects poorly on Thetas."

"When did Vandy become a crime-ridden hellhole?"

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

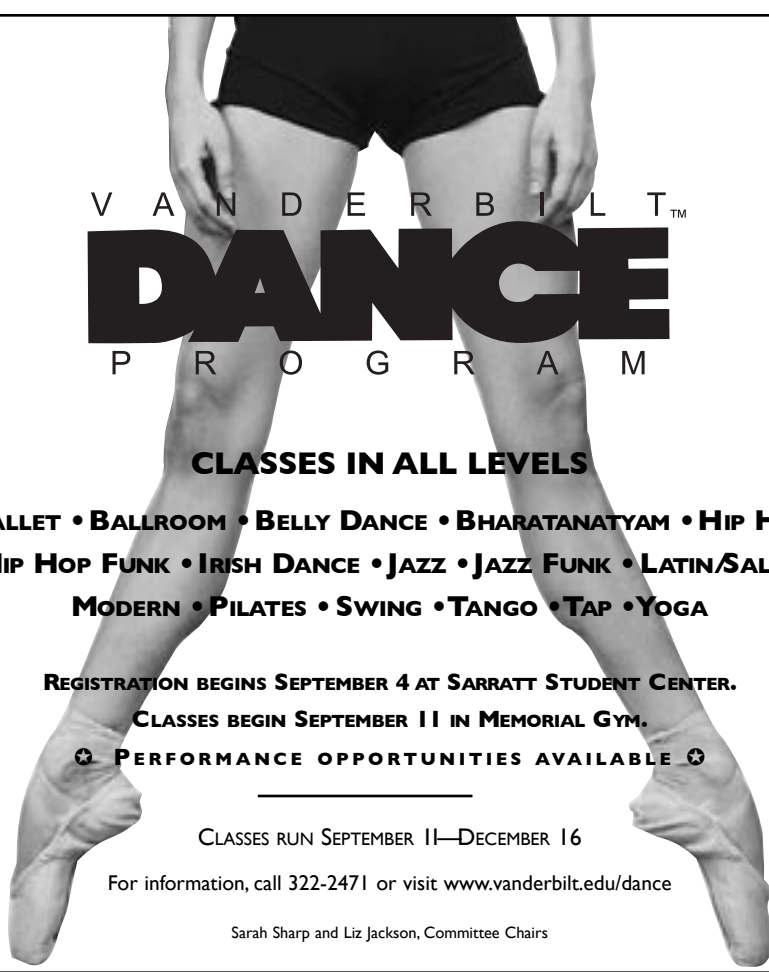
**In Dutch, Swedish, Portuguese, French, German and English, "taxi" is spelled the same.**

**In the United States, \$203 million is spent annually on barbed wire.**

**The proper time unit for 1/100 of a second is called a "jiffy."**

**Chewing celery uses more calories than it provides.**

Compiled by Levy Nguyen



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## SPORTS

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Behind Griffin, Commodores draw pair

*Senior goalkeeper leads team's strong defensive showing in opening weekend.*

By Jambu Palaniappan  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Tyler Griffin proved once again why she is considered one of the premier soccer players in the Southeastern Conference.

The senior goalkeeper came up big for the No. 19 Commodores in both matches of the Vanderbilt Classic this weekend at the VU Soccer Complex.

Vanderbilt played to a 1-1 draw with the University of Denver yesterday afternoon. Senior forward Lea Lafeld opened the scoring for the Dores in the 14th minute from just inside the six-yard box.

"I thought that was a great three-man combination," said Vanderbilt coach Ronnie Coveleskie. "Susan McAleavey played into Meredith Kohn and clipped in a fantastic ball to Lea Lafeld, and Lea had some great individual strength on her attack because she was being holed down and still did a great job finishing the ball."

Denver evened the score in the 68th minute when Caittlyn Rolling's scored off a rebound.

"We had a fantastic first half and controlled the tempo of the game, but we had no killer instinct to put the ball in the back of the net in the second half," Coveleskie said. "I think as a group our new challenge is going to be how to foster that killer instinct."

On Friday night, Griffin stopped eight shots on goal and preserved a 0-0 draw in the opening match of the Vanderbilt Classic against the University of Colorado.

"Tyler was fantastic. I think

that we were fortunate we came out of this with a tie," Coveleskie said. "Colorado had some great looks on goal, they played very well and put us under a lot of pressure and gave us a learning experience early in the season."

Colorado opened the match with swift attacking and dominated possession, out-shooting the Commodores 8-4 in the first half, including four shots on goal. While the rest of the Dores seemed bogged down by the heat and puzzled by the Buffaloes attack, Griffin rose to the occasion with the help of several well-timed substitutions on the part of the Vanderbilt coaching staff.

"Tyler came up huge for us in the second half," Coveleskie said. "We made some substitutions and brought some players off the bench that made an immediate impact. Meghan Higgins, Brette Healy and Nicole Lukens sparked us. They were players that came in at the end of the first half and got us organized and got us to fight and believe that we can win this game."

Griffin's play was especially critical in the closing minutes of the first half, when the Dores' back line often looked flustered and allowed the Buffaloes several open chances on goal. The shutout was Griffin's 24th of her illustrious Vanderbilt career.

The teams played two extra time periods on a muggy Friday night, and by the end of regulation, fatigue showed.



SETH HARKINS / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior captain Kari Boersma follows a play in Vanderbilt's season opener against Colorado Friday night. The Commodores drew 0-0 with the Buffaloes before finding a similar result yesterday afternoon against Denver. Vanderbilt will play a pair of games next weekend in the Auburn Classic.

Both teams had just one shot on goal in the overtime, and neither could break the deadlock.

Junior striker Sarah Dennis led the Commodore attack with seven shots, including two on goal. Freshman midfielder

Meagan Forester provided a much-needed spark in the Dores' game, creating numerous opportunities for her teammates in attack.

Forester also had two shots on goal. Alex Cousins led the Buffaloes with four shots on goal, including one that Griffin miraculously

saved at the last second, diving to her left.

The Commodores look for their first win Saturday when they face William and Mary in the Auburn Classic. They will also go up against Dartmouth on Sunday afternoon. ■

## FEATURE

# Ex-player gains new perspective from Iraq

*Basketball standout Booker conducts weeklong camp for youth.*

By Jarred Amato  
SPORTS EDITOR

When an old friend called and asked Barry Booker if he wanted to go to Iraq, the former Vanderbilt basketball player reacted as most probably would.

"I almost didn't call him back," admitted Booker, who played hoops for the Commodores from 1986 to 1989. "It just sounded crazy."

But Booker ultimately changed his mind and, after running a weeklong camp at a

Northern Iraqi school this July along with 18 other Americans, couldn't be happier that he did.

"While what we did was certainly not as important as what our military guys are doing over there," Booker said, "they still really appreciated having us over there, knowing we all just volunteered to be there and weren't compelled by anyone."

The camp, which included 100 students from third to ninth grade, went from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, with the last two hours concentrating on

basketball.

"That was the part that drew me in to it," said Booker, who led the Commodores to back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances in 1988 and 1989.

While the campers knew about the NBA (one even wore a Kobe Bryant jersey), Booker said basketball is a "new thing" in Iraq.

"They love soccer over there," he said. "So we were starting from ground zero and introducing them to the game."

Regardless of their talent

level, Booker found the camp to be extremely rewarding.

"The gratifying part was getting to work with the kids and having an influence on them, seeing them light up over the basketball and over all the stuff we were doing with music and drama and arts," he said. "They just loved everything we had going on over there."

They particularly enjoyed the game that Booker's staff played against the Peshmerga team, which consisted of athletic men in their early twenties. The ex-Commodore said he was worried they would lose.

"Down at the half and stamina not our strength, I thought we were finished," Booker said. "But we got a lot of free throws and lay-ups in the second half and cruised to an 8-point win."

The Southeastern Conference leader in career 3-point shooting percentage thought he had played well, that is, until he looked at the film.

"I looked like a mummy on defense and like I was in slow motion on offense," Booker admitted.

While the kids grew to idolize Booker and his fellow staff members, he was initially skeptical. Booker, an African-American, said that pale skin is seen as very attractive in Iraq, and thus he feared he would not be received well.

"There was no one there who looked very much like me, and I was concerned that people seemed a little cool toward me

when we first arrived," he said. "A few days later, people were wanting to take pictures with us. A couple of days after that, the locals were treating me like a celebrity."

Watching how kindly Booker and the other Americans acted, the Kurds were able to realize that not everything that's reported in the media is accurate.

"With exposure to American people, they're learning that television doesn't always provide an accurate depiction of America," Booker said. "Our nation's help is greatly appreciated."

In addition to helping with racial reconciliation and teaching people how to forgive, Booker's group focused on improving communication lines between Kurdish family members.

"A father might have a conflict with his daughter, and the daughter would never go to the father and say anything about it and raise the issue, and the father might completely forget about it," Booker said.

In the United States, Booker said it's quite different.

"I think people in this society are typically very frank, and they'll tell you when they've got a problem, and over there it's not like that all," Booker said.

Regarding safety, Booker said there is a false impression among Americans that all of

Please see BOOKER, page 7

## More from Booker

After spending a week in the Kurdish area in Northern Iraq, former Vanderbilt basketball player Barry Booker learned a lot about its culture. Note that what he observed does not characterize all Iraqis but rather provides insight into a specific Kurdish community. Below are a few of the highlights.

### On Iraqi dress code

"For guys, it doesn't matter so much — just don't wear shorts, and don't dress too 'American.' Women customarily dress in such a way that they are covered with sleeves down to their elbows and clothing that comes down to at least mid-calf — nothing tight-fitting. It was also explained that pale skin is seen as very attractive in this country."

### On economic activity

"They're building everything everywhere in Northern Iraq. Roads, buildings, homes, businesses — everything, all at once. There is a lot of economic activity going on over there."

### On transportation

"Drivers apparently have three rules. One, don't run over anybody or anything. Two, honk often. Three, regardless of anything, keep moving forward."

### On politics

"My sense is that the Kurds would love to have their own nation, but they realize that they would likely be a target for all of their neighbors, so they're better off as part of a larger Iraq. They are hopeful that the unified government will be successful, but most aren't optimistic. It's not that they expect failure, it's just that they don't have much experience with political and economic success. It's more a 'wait and see' approach."



COURTESY OF BARRY BOOKER

Barry Booker, who led the Vanderbilt basketball team to back-to-back NCAA Tournament berths, poses with camp attendees at a school in Northern Iraq. Booker and 18 other Americans led a weeklong camp emphasizing racial reconciliation, communication and sportsmanship. While Booker admitted that he was initially skeptical of making the trip, he found the experience gratifying and is already planning a return.



## Booker: Northern Iraq safer than most would assume

From BOOKER, page 6

Iraq is unsafe.

"Everybody was really concerned going over there," he said. "It is a serious misconception because I think most of the country is much like what we experienced there in Northern Iraq."

And what exactly did they experience?

"There were checkpoints every 20 miles or so on our five-hour drive across Northern Iraq, more armed security personnel than I have ever seen, lots of private citizens walking around with a weapon on their hips," Booker said. "I never saw a gun drawn or heard gunfire and never felt threatened."

By the time the week was up, Booker was sad to leave. He developed great relationships with not only the kids, but with their parents and community as well.

Booker had such a good time that he is already thinking about going back.

"I'd love for my wife to get to go, and I have two little boys, two and three years old," he said. "In eight to 10 years, if the camp is still going, I'd love to just take the whole family over there."

And to think that at one time Booker wasn't even sure he wanted to go. ■

### From the CHEAP SEATS

# Which Vanderbilt team will be the first to win a national title?

#### Will Gibbons: Baseball SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

With David Price, Pedro Alvarez and the other talented recruits that coach Tim Corbin attracts to Vanderbilt, the first national title in school history could take place on the baseball diamond. It can be argued that Corbin is the best coach at Vanderbilt, and when he decided to turn down offers from LSU, fans breathed a sigh of relief. With Corbin in it for the long haul, a national title in baseball is entirely conceivable.



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

#### Jarred Amato: Women's Bowling SPORTS EDITOR

Without question, women's bowling will be the first team to win a national title. The Dores finished fifth in the National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship a year ago. Since its top seven blowers are five sophomores and two freshmen, the team is only going to get better. Not only that, but coach John Williamson continues to recruit the nation's best. And did I mention that Michelle Peloquin is already an All-American?



NEIL BRAKE/VU Media Relations

#### Jambu Palaniappan: Women's Soccer ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The women's soccer team has extra motivation to succeed in the near future. The uproar over the departure of the men's team has drawn all the attention away from the No. 19-ranked Commodores. They have the skill to succeed, and the desire to prove everyone who acted as if soccer has completely left this campus wrong as they win Vanderbilt's first national title.

#### Franklin Petr: Women's Tennis SPORTS REPORTER

By far the most consistently performing athletes on campus are those on the women's tennis team. Coach Geoff MacDonald manages to attract some of the best prep netters every year, giving the team a perfect mixture of experience, freshness and talent needed to remain a perennial power and capture Vanderbilt's first national title.

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- Boulder
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- Warren or Weaver
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C	A	C	T	I		S	O	U	L		S	O	S	O			
E	N	E	R	G	Y		P	R	I	S	O	N	E	R			
			O	H	A	R	A		S	U	C	K	L	E			
P	T	A		S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I						
A	R	G	O		O	B	E	Y		V	A	L	S	E			
C	O	R	N		C	O	B		P	R	E	T	E	N	D		
E	D	I	T	H		L	O	S	E		E	G	A	D			
						H	O	M	E	R	U	N	S		S	P	Y
A	R	T	E	R	Y		A	M	E	N	D						
W	E	A	R		D	O	W	N		W	A	I	T	E	D		
A	L	S	O		P	A	G	E		I	V	O	R	Y			
R	A	T	A		I	C	E	D		L	A	R	G	E			
E	Y	E	D			C	O	S	T		S	N	O	O	D		


- Waikiki garland
- Pipe bends
- Kid of early TV
- Extend across
- Remove from consideration
- Before long
- Cozy
- Jekyll's other half
- I knew it!
- Circle part
- Come into view
- Darwin's ship
- Shrink back
- Sponge
- Indian or Arctic
- Angora goat coat
- Olive brown
- Group of seven
- Devastation
- Someone held in custody
- Declare invalid
- Homeless wanderer
- Tots' cots
- Clipped-off piece
- Golfer's gadget
- \_\_\_ your heart out!
- Significant period
- Cunning

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## VANDERBILT STUDENT MEDIA

NOW OFFERS FOUR DIFFERENT ON CAMPUS MEDIA TO HELP YOUR DEPARTMENT OR STUDENT ORGANIZATION EFFECTIVELY REACH THE VANDERBILT COMMUNITY.

IN ADDITION TO OUR AWARD WINNING VANDERBILT HUSTLER NEWSPAPER

WE NOW OFFER ADVERTISING IN:


- ★ VERSUS STUDENT MAGAZINE
- ★ VTV CHANNEL 6 (DISPLAY AND FULL MOTION VIDEO)
- ★ INSIDEVANDY.COM ON LINE ADVERTISING

For all Hustler advertising, continue to contact our Student Media advertising department at 322-4237.

For all Versus, VTV and on line advertising, contact George Fischer, Student Media Advertising Director, at 322-1884 or e-mail inquiries to [george.h.fischer@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:george.h.fischer@vanderbilt.edu)

Give us a call today if you want to increase your advertising response by taking advantage of our multi media packages.

**TO THE RIGHT IS AN OVERVIEW OF OUR ADVERTISING OPTIONS.**



**FOLLOWING IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE ADVERTISING OPTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH VANDERBILT STUDENT MEDIA:**

The Vanderbilt Hustler Student Newspaper, published since 1888, has long been considered to be the "Voice of Vanderbilt." The Hustler is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday while school is in session (late August through late April). Very popular with students and advertisers wanting to reach our affluent student body, faculty and staff. Circulation of 6,000.

**WE RECENTLY ADDED NEW EDITIONS AND SPECIAL SECTIONS TO THE HUSTLER:**

**"Year in Review"**- A nostalgic look back at the events that impacted the Vanderbilt community during the current academic year. Published as a supplement to our final paper in April. Circulation of 10,000.

**"Welcome to Nashville"**- A summer publication with valuable information to help acclimate the new students to Vanderbilt and the Nashville community. A popular resource guide that is available during the six Freshmen/ parent orientation sessions in June. Copies will be also on the racks for the remainder of the summer until school starts back. Circulation of 10,000.

We are offering Spring Break advertising in our *Spring Break* sections from 10/18 - 11/8/06

We are offering Holiday advertising in our *Gift Guide* special sections from 11/10 - 12/6/06

**IN 2006 WE ARE EXPANDING OUR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES TO INCLUDE MAGAZINE, TV AND ON LINE ADVERTISING:**

**Versus Magazine**- a glossy high quality color monthly magazine published 10 times per year. Covers relevant local topics of interest to Vanderbilt's student body as well as a variety of leisure articles at the local, regional and national level. Written by students for students. Very popular since 1969. Circulation of 2,500.

**VTV**- Vanderbilt subscribes to a closed circuit cable TV system consisting of many of the same channels found on Nashville's Comcast cable. VTV, the Vanderbilt student channel, can be found on our channel 6 and airs 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. VTV is a mixture of locally produced and nationally syndicated entertainment. You can now run your Hustler or Versus display ad 168 times per week on VTV for about \$3/ spot. Spot Ads can run as a 30 second 1/4 screen vertical display ad while the show is in progress or as a 3/4 screen ad between shows. We can also run your pre-produced full motion video ad for about \$6/ spot. Your ad is broadcast to over 15,000 regular on campus viewers.

**InsideVandy.com**- On line advertising- On line advertising has exploded in popularity in recent years. More and more savvy advertisers are finding that on line advertising is a very cost-effective medium. InsideVandy.com will be the home page for our expanded multi media offering.