

LECTURES

Tickets sold out for Maya Angelou lecture

Students criticize sales to Nashville community.

BY ALLY SMITH
HUSTLER REPORTER

Noted poet and activist Maya Angelou will speak before a full house at Memorial Gym Feb. 27. Tickets to the event, which were free to students and faculty, sold out Friday.

"I didn't think the tickets were going to sell so quickly. It's what, three weeks un-

til the show?" sophomore Faith Nasmyth asked. "She would have been really interesting to see, she has had such an impact on the literary world and U.S. history in general."

Tickets went on sale Jan. 21 at the Sarratt Box Office and Ticketmaster. Over 1500 students and 400 faculty members obtained tickets to the event. Members of the



Angelou

Nashville community bought the remainder of the tickets for \$10 each. Traditionally, all Speaker Committee events are free to students and open to the public.

should be able to get a ticket.

Anne Arlinghaus, chair of the Speakers Committee, which brings lecturers to campus, said the success of ticket sales is related to the popularity of Maya Angelou and a successful publicity campaign. The committee campaigned both on and off campus with posters, ads in the *Hustler* and e-mails to student organizations. The committee also coordinated efforts with other organizations at Vanderbilt and through-

out the Nashville community.

"One of Maya Angelou's messages is about community and diversity," Arlinghaus said. "I think that it is important that we recognize that Vanderbilt is a part of a larger community."

Four sections were reserved for students and faculty. After those sections sold out, students bought tickets in the balcony.

"I understand that (Vanderbilt) had to

Please see ANGELOU, page 2

INSIDE

Interhall candidates present platforms



Donovan

Ross

Presidential candidates Devin Donovan and Russell Ross share their platforms in preparation for next week's Interhall elections. Voting will take place on Tuesday. See Page 2

CRIME

Students find offensive graffiti

Racial, homophobic slurs written in Stevenson Center.

BY ROBERT PROUDFOOT
HUSTLER SENIOR FEATURES WRITER

Several students entering a Stevenson Center bathroom this week were shocked to find the words "I hate stupid liberal niggers and fags/queers" prominently displayed on the wall.

This racist and homophobic graffiti was found Wednesday at 11 p.m. by sophomore Demarcus Capehart when he attempted to use the restroom.

"I couldn't believe it. It's pretty obvious and pretty well known that racism exists here, but usually it is more concealed. For it to be that blatant, I was shocked," said Capehart.

The graffiti was written with a black felt tip marker and covered an area the size of a watermelon. The graffiti existed in the bath-

Please see GRAFFITI, page 3

Alternative fundraising



ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior and former soccer player Patrick Ryan supports Alternative Spring Break with a performance during Thursday night's benefit. All proceeds go to financial aid for this year's ASB site participants.

NATIONAL

Drug offenders to get financial aid

BY BRIDGET MAIELLARO
DAILY ILLINI

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Congress altered the Higher Education Act on Feb. 1, enabling some college students with drug convictions to obtain financial aid more easily. While the change allows some students with past offenses to receive aid, those convicted while attending college will have their aid repealed or suspended.

Thomas Angell, campaign director for the Students for Sensible Drug

Policy, a national non-profit organization, said the alteration is a step forward, but work still needs to be done.

"This is definitely a victory, but we remain concerned with the tens of thousands of students who are stripped from aid and can't attend school because they don't have enough money," Angell said.

More than 175,000 financial aid applications have been disqualified since the government began asking about drug convictions in 2000, ac-

cording to the U.S. Department of Education. This number, Angell said, does not take into account the students who did not apply for fear of rejection.

"Students may be eligible, but they might think they aren't," Angell said. "There is no way to tell how many this is really affecting."

Congress passed the Higher Education Act in 1965 under President Lyndon Johnson. Its goal was to "expand postsecondary education ...

Please see DRUGS, page 2

ACADEMICS



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Student athletes make the grade

Athletes graduate at higher rates.

BY ELLIE ATKINS
HUSTLER REPORTER

So much for the idea of the dumb jock.

Nationally, 62 percent of university student-athletes are graduating from college, compared to 60 percent of general students, according to the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association graduation report.

Vanderbilt boasts a student-athlete graduation rate that is 18 percent higher than this national average, with 80 percent of student-athletes graduating. However, this number is still 4 percent below the rate of Vanderbilt's general students.

"While our student-athlete graduation rate is under our regular student rate, we should still be conscious that our athlete rate is higher than the nation average for athletes as well as regular students," said Vice Chancellor for Student Life and University Affairs David Williams.

However, these numbers can be deceiving, according to Williams. This statistic does not take into account the student-athletes who choose to

Please see STUDENT-ATHLETES, page 3

DIVERSITY

100th year of black Greek life celebrated

Events, panel discussions held on campus this week.

BY NICOLE FLOYD
HUSTLER ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

To Vanderbilt senior and Phi Beta Sigma member, Morgan Seay, being a member of the black Greek community means more than simply being in a fraternity — it means being a part of a legacy and tradition that dates back to 1906.

Vanderbilt University paid tribute to this legacy of 100 years of African Ameri-

can Greek life through a series of campus wide events hosted this week by the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center. Featured in the celebration was a panel discussion on the current state of black Greek life entitled "Methods and Myths of Black Greeks," a viewing of the Spike Lee film "School Daze," a poetry slam and a chance for members of Black Greek organizations to share their personal thoughts and experiences.

The beginnings of Black Greek letter organizations in the United States can be

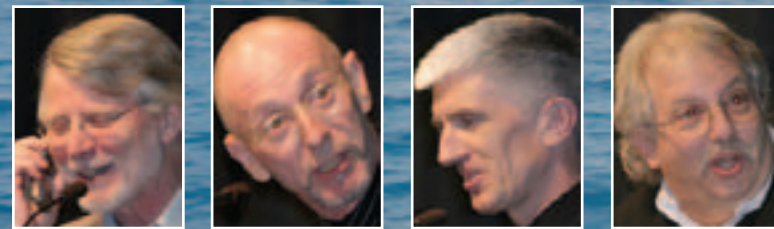
traced back to 1906, when Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. founded its first chapter on the campus of Cornell University.

While African American fraternities and sororities have been in existence since the early 1900s, they only began to appear on the Vanderbilt campus in 1971 when Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. established a local chapter. The first black sorority to found a chapter on Vanderbilt's campus was Alpha Kappa Alpha in November of 1972.

President of Alpha Kappa Alpha, La-

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Blair drowns the competition



Logan

Lovensheimer

Dowdy

Sandler

Wednesday's Raft Debate, sponsored by Mortar Board, placed professors from the four academic schools against one another in comic defense of their schools' educational worth. Professor Lovensheimer of Blair School of Music won the debate, arguing the necessity of music to the human spirit.



OUR VIEW

Read why the Hustler Editorial Board has unanimously decided to endorse Interhall presidential candidate Devin Donovan in next week's general election. See Page 4

BASKETBALL

The Commodores extended their losing streak to four games with a loss to Alabama last night, despite the valiant effort of sophomore guard Shan Foster. See Page 4

COLUMN

Read columnist Stuart Hill's views on how last fall's security concerns will influence how the VUcept program orients Vanderbilt freshmen when they arrive on campus next fall. See Page 4

QUOTABLE



"It may not be the largest, but it will be the most emotional and important of all our Mardi Gras."

— Louisiana labor attorney Eve Marie Stocker on the upcoming Mardi Gras in New Orleans

POLL

79%

Percentage of teachers in the United States that say high schools do a good job at preparing students for college.

» Associated Press

WEATHER

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HI LO

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Today is Friday, February 10, 2006

IT IS THE	THERE ARE		
23rd	53	16	91
day of classes	class days until exams	class days until Spring Break	calendar days to commencement

WORD OF THE DAY

LAC-U·NA

n. blank space; gap; missing part

Source: Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1763	France ceded Canada to England under the Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War.
1846	Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons, began an exodus to the west from Illinois.
1962	The Soviet Union exchanged American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolph Ivanovich Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.
1967	The 25th Amendment to the Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, went into effect.
1989	Ron Brown was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee, becoming the first black to head a major U.S. political party.

Compiled by the Associated Press

FORECAST

SATURDAY	Snow Showers	High: 36	Low: 26
SUNDAY	Partly Cloudy	High: 40	Low: 24
MONDAY	Partly Cloudy	High: 39	Low: 21

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Rachel Stevens

Undergraduate summer research fellowships

Applications are now available for undergraduate summer research fellowships. The fellowships provide a unique opportunity for rising juniors and seniors to engage in innovative, integrative biology approaches to cancer research through the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Integrative Cancer Biology Program (ICBP) and the Vanderbilt Integrative Cancer Biology Center (VICBC). Application deadlines are March 13 and April 3, 2006. For more information, students can visit <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/VICBC/>.

Last chance for yearbook portraits

Today is the last opportunity for students to have portraits taken for the yearbook. Seniors must make an appointment by visiting www.vanderbiltcommadore.com. Non-seniors may simply stop by Sarratt 112. More information about portraits and yearbook orders is available online at www.vanderbiltcommadore.com.

Dance Marathon

Dance Marathon is February 17-18 from 7 p.m. to 9 a.m. at the Student Recreation Center. Guest tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from dancers, at the Sarratt box office or at Dance Marathon. Dave Barnes, Who's Bad (Michael Jackson Cover Band) and several campus groups will perform! All proceeds benefit the Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. Event volunteers are still needed as well. Visit www.vanderbilt.edu/dance_marathon to sign up to volunteer.

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

Anniversary: Reflection took place

From ANNIVERSARY, page 1

Toya Franklin, recognized the continued importance of black letter organizations on Vanderbilt's campus today.

"Being a member of a black Greek letter organization is very empowering, especially on Vandy's campus where there are not a lot of venues for black students to progress as a cohesive unit," Franklin said. "NPHC members have a greater responsibility to Vanderbilt's black community, which is one that we take very seriously. Therefore, we continue to strive for excellence."

Perhaps more than anything, this week was an opportunity for members of the black Greek community to reflect both individually and collectively about their experiences, both past and present.

"Seeing that they could persevere in the face of adversity has helped me to get through times that I thought I wouldn't be able to. I am a part of a legacy," said Morgan Seay.

As for the current state of black Greek life, Seay believes that it is in a period of reevaluation.

"We are taking great strides toward coming together as a black Greek community as a whole." ■

CORRECTIONS

In Wednesday's article entitled "Olympics to begin Friday" it was said that the Olympics would be held in Vancouver in 2012. The winter Olympics will be held in 2010 in Vancouver. The summer Olympics will be held in Beijing in 2008 and London in 2012. The Vanderbilt Hustler regrets the error.

In a January 27 article entitled "New rape policy suggested" it was stated in an info box that Neala Swaminatha and Carrie Stillwell were members of the Student Conduct Board. This is incorrect. The Vanderbilt Hustler regrets the error.

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Rachel Stevens

Feb 7, 1:33 a.m. — An arrest was made at 18th Ave. S. and Wedgewood Ave. The suspect was arrested for DUI and a violation of the implied consent law.

Feb 7, 11:15 a.m. — A drug offense and equipment violation took place in Memorial Hall. No suspects have been identified and the case is now inactive.

For complete listings visit <http://police.vanderbilt.edu>.

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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LOCATION

The Hustler offices are in 130 Sarratt Student Center on the Vanderbilt University Campus. Address postal mail to VU Station B 351504, Nashville, Tenn. 37235-1504.

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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.

PRINTER

The Hustler is printed at Franklin Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn.

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

INTERHALL

Devin Donovan

Real Ideas Bring Real Results

I want to be your Interhall President in order to create a more unified and universal Vanderbilt experience. I will seek stronger partnerships with student organizations and facilitate and improve the connection between students and student leaders in order to truly represent your voice and opinion. More frequent formal and informal forums will allow you to discuss current issues with fellow students and your Interhall representatives. Additionally, my Vice Presidents Taylor Imboden and Ryan Wagner and I are involved in organizations across campus from club sports and honors societies to Resident Advisors and Greek life. Our commitments to various groups will enrich our perspectives on student life at Vanderbilt and help us create a residential environment that serves the needs of each individual student.

As the current Organizational Vice President of Interhall, I have developed good working relationships with many student organizations and have the respect and rapport that we need with the administration to accomplish positive change. During my three years of dedication to the organization, I have worked intensively with Resident Life, student athletics, Traffic and Parking, and The Commons and College Halls. I am also intricately involved in discussion and solutions for construction, security, safety and other residential concerns. Because of my extensive experience, my transition from Vice President to President would be smooth and consistent.

Not only will I listen to and represent your views when working with the administration on Commons and College Halls and other issues, I will actively push for a wireless campus and a much stronger recycling program. I believe Vanderbilt is way behind the curve in these respects, and I will work for immediate resolution. Additionally, I will update the safety and security measures in the dorms in order to achieve efficiency and allow more convenience, while still keeping the residence halls secure. Above all, I will campaign for your needs and ensure a satisfactory living experience in every dorm on campus.

Russell Ross

Save the Men's Soccer Team

3,254 individuals have voiced their opposition to the administration's decision. The primary mission of Interhall student government is to build residential community. However, as long as any part of our community is mistreated by the administration, all students and campus leaders need to rise together as they have and let Gee and Williams know that their decision is destroying our wonderful community.

Margarita Mix in the Munchie Mart

The administration tends to blame alcohol as the cause of many of our on campus problems. The removal of Margarita Mix from the Munchie Mart was a poorly conceived policy initiative on many levels. First, margaritas taste really good. Secondly, and most importantly, the removal of such mixers from the Varsity Markets means students are going to take their tequila shots straight which is unfortunate for multiple reasons. Think about it — kids are going to drink anyways; it's better if they are drinking something that is watered down.

Construction on Peabody

Housing has failed the sophomore class and residents of Peabody. There was no prior warning giving to those residents that construction would be interfering with their sleeping and study habits. Such activity is absolutely outrageous and the university must be condemned and remedies must be given.

Freshman Living in Towers

The traditional freshman experience was robbed from these unfortunate students. The Housing lottery has failed you. Everyone desires an equal housing experience as a freshman. Don't worry; a leader is not afraid to admit that y'all got the shaft.

Security Task Force

How many people reading this blurb have actually read the security task force recommendations? Exactly! Let me give you a brief overview. Planks, concerns and extended educational orientation are well thought-out. However, a lot of the document is extremely vague.

Rape/Harassment Culture

Interhall seriously dropped the ball on the naming of some of their events, for example "the Big Ass Tailgate." Such discourse creates hierarchies that demean women and legitimize the objectification of their bodies. Look I may be the vice president of the College Republicans, but I am at least open-minded enough to realize that this is outrageous. Interhall needs to lead the charge in deconstructing this culture rather than reinforcing it.

Kissam Policy

Kissam Quad was temporary housing fifty years ago! I suffered y'all's fate when I was a freshman living in Mims. Some of the hall assignments do not even make sense. There are men's restrooms without urinals and women's restrooms with urinals.

Interhall Policy

How many people actually know what Interhall does? If you do, I commend you. If you are one of the 50 billion people who had to think about it — and still don't know the answer, I am the guy you need.

Angelou: Visit sparks campus excitement

From ANGELOU, page 1

sell tickets in order to make money, but it's unfortunate that a lot of students can't go because of that," Nasmyth said.

The tickets have been popular since they first went on sale according to Audrey McKee, who works at Sarratt Student Center. Some 30 students and faculty formed a line in Sarratt before the box office opened the day the tickets went on sale.

Now that the tickets have sold out, McKee said she still receives calls from members of the Nashville community and students attempting to purchase tickets.

"Already, there have been four phone calls today from people from the Nashville community asking for tickets, and it's only been one hour and 15 minutes," McKee said.

"The people who were really interested in getting tickets were able to get tickets before they sold out," Bonne Holmes, who also works at the Sarratt Student Center, said. "Just the fact that people waited an hour in line before the tickets went on sale shows how much some people wanted to see Maya Angelou."

There have been some concerns about the acoustics in Memorial Gym for Angelou's lecture. However, Arlinghaus said that although it was a concern, they have addressed the issue with specialized sound equipment and

technicians.

Dr. Frank E. Dobson, director of the Black Cultural Center, which is a co-sponsor of the event, said bringing Maya Angelou to campus was "right up their ally," because she is the "kind of person who can bring groups together."

"She is a Southerner, raised in Arkansas. Angelou not only represents the best of American culture, she also represents the best of Southern culture and we are a Southern school," Dobson said. "She bridges so many areas. Her coming to Nashville has become an event, not just for Vanderbilt, but the city."

The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center is also co-sponsoring the event.

"Maya Angelou is an amazing woman who can write," Linda Manning, director of the Women's Center, said. She has written from her personal perspective about the abuse of women and women empowerment so we are particularly honored to sponsor her."

"We felt like she is an important voice in a lot of different communities," Arlinghaus said. "She appeals to the African American community, the women community and English community. Also, her general message of multiculturalism and diversity are issues that have been talked about a lot at Vanderbilt, so I think her lecture will fit in really well at this campus." ■

Drugs: Law criticized for harsh treatment

From DRUGS, page 1

and to increase the affordability of postsecondary education for moderate-income families."

In 1998, Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.) suggested amending the Act to make it harder for students with drug convictions to get aid. He said repealing or suspending financial aid from applicants with drug convictions would discourage students from using or selling drugs and encourage abusers to get treatment. He also said the change would put taxpayers' money to better use.

Earlier this year, however, Souder requested the new changes for the law, saying that the Department of Education was misinterpreting the amendment in a "draconian" way.

In January, the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, a group created by Congress, said the drug conviction question on the financial aid application was irrelevant and

should be removed. However, no changes have been made.

"I think that it should be removed," said Tina Kerins, sophomore in Business. "Bad decisions should not be held accountable for future opportunities."

Conversely, Katelyn Johnson, sophomore in LAS, feels the question is essential in determining aid.

"I think for most students with a drug conviction, school doesn't necessarily come first," she said. "Financial aid can be spent on those that do put school first"

Students for Sensible Drug Policy believes that the drug provision hurts the U.S. economy and does nothing to discourage drug use.

"This law increases drug abuse by blocking access to education," Angell said. "Studies show that the more educated a person is, the less likely they are to engage in drug abuse. By cutting them off, the government is increasing their chances." ■

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Student-Athletes: Transfer students affect rate

From **STUDENT ATHLETES**, page 1

transfer. If a student transfers from one institution to another, he or she is counted as a non-graduate from both the school that the student leaves and the school to which he or she moves.

Because of the numerous transfer students, a new rate was calculated. This statistic is called the "graduation success rate" and includes student-athletes who transfer. Vanderbilt boasts an impressive 93 percent graduation success rate for its athletes.

Williams said that there are numerous reasons why Vanderbilt student-athletes are so successful.

"The biggest difference between us and the other 11 schools in the SEC is that our students truly represent the 'student-athlete,'" Williams said. "They appreciate the fact that they are able to come to Vanderbilt and get a good education."

Although the athletes are provided with some resources to help with their academic workload, such as tutors and counselors, most student-athletes agree that they are not given any preference over regular students in the classroom.

"The teachers do not differentiate between athletes and regular students. Here (at Vanderbilt) a 'student-athlete' is exactly what it sounds like — and our priorities are in that order. We are students first,"

said Josh Zeid, a freshman pitcher on the baseball team.

"It is sometimes difficult to adjust to the hours spent on practicing and trying to find time to accomplish all of your studies, but we learn to make time. There are never any excuses."

Yet regardless of the clear success of our athletes here at Vanderbilt, Williams said that there is always room for improvement.

"Where our student-athletes are academically we should be very proud of, but there are still improvements to be made. Until our athletes graduate at a rate higher than our regular students there is work to be done." ■

Graffiti: Writing on wall removed yesterday

From **GRAFFITI**, page 1

room long enough for there to be several responses written on the wall next to the message.

Renna Risby, a supervisor for Vanderbilt Plant Operations, said that a Plant Operations employee removed the graffiti yesterday morning.

Risby said that Plant Operations follows a procedure for addressing reports of graffiti. The assistant director looks at the graffiti and takes pictures, noting any reference to gang affiliations. Then someone is sent over to remove any writing with specialized equipment.

Reports of graffiti in Stevenson Center are common, Risby said.

Zakiya Smith, president of the Black

Student Association, said that she wasn't surprised by the comments on the wall.

"We know those views are out there," Smith said.

"Cowardly people will write those views on walls in bathrooms because no one will know who they are. They're not going to express those opinions openly."

When asked why student should care about racial and homophobic graffiti in the Stevenson bathroom, Capehart focused on the need to stop all oppression.

"Racism never makes any sense," he said. "We [America] have fought so long to stop this. We now have the power to standup against any sort of oppression, be it homophobic or racism. It is our obligation to fight this oppression." ■

VANDERBILT UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM - 2006



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Professor Craig Smith, Chair VUSRSP Coordinating Committee, c/o Sharone Hall, 101C or 105 Jesup Hall, Peabody Campus

Information Meetings:

Peabody: Meet with Megan Saylor; Tuesday, February 14, at 4:00 p.m. in Hobbs, Room 106
Arts and Science: Meet with Timothy Hanusa; Tuesday, February 14, at 4:10 p.m. in Stevenson Center, Room 5502
Blair: Meet with Greg Bazz; Wednesday, February 15, at 1:00 p.m. in Blair School of Music, Room 2133
Arts and Science: Meet with David Lowe; Wednesday, February 15, at 4:10 p.m. in Furman, Room 217
General: Meet with Craig Smith; Thursday February 16, at 4:00 p.m. in Hobbs, Room 106
Engineering: Meet with Gastam Biswas; Friday, February 17, at 11:00 a.m. in Featheringill Hall, Room 255

<http://vusrsp.vanderbilt.edu>



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OPINION

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RACHEL STEVENS, EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR

DAN ROSS, ADVERTISING MANAGER

OUR VIEW

The Hustler endorses Devin Donovan

The *Hustler* Editorial Board has voted unanimously to endorse Devin Donovan for Interhall President in this spring's two-candidate race. While we applaud both candidates for their previous contributions and commitment to the organization, we feel that Donovan will best serve student interests in the residential life government.

While Donovan's platform makes no large promises to the student body, outside of a better recycling programs and wireless Internet, what it does do is open up avenues through which future action can take place.

Donovan has proposed creating more formal and informal campus forums in which students can share opinions. In addition, her platform demonstrates her ability in the past to work effectively with campus leaders and administration on key student issues.

In contrast to Donovan's realistic approach, her opponent Russell Ross's platform takes on issues that are clearly out of Interhall's control.

In particular, the first point of Ross's platform focuses on his opposition to the administration's decision to dissolve the men's soccer team. While his sentiments echo those of most Vanderbilt students, it seems naïve to think that being elected Interhall president will have any impact on this situation.

In the rest of his platform, Ross precedes to complain about many issues on campus, from the recent construction on the Peabody campus, to the condition of the Kissam residence halls. While Ross makes valid points, he fails to offer ideas for how he will or can change these situations.

While Donovan may also lack concrete solutions to problems, what she does propose is an organizational structure that will be conducive to real action, not empty complaining.

Donovan's campaign slogan seems to fit her platform perfectly. As she proclaims, "Real Ideas Bring Real Results." In this spirit, she provides the student body with realistic goals that will improve the quality of everyday residential life.

As Vanderbilt slowly transitions to a residential college system, Interhall holds an important role. Interhall needs committed leaders who will effectively communicate student housing needs and concerns to the administration. We believe Donovan is ready, and capable, to take on this task.

Interhall needs committed leaders who will effectively communicate student housing needs and concerns to the administration. We believe Donovan is ready, and capable, to take on this task.

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 Vanderbilt 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. Let-

ters 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 Vanderbilt Hustler* and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which *The Hustler* is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

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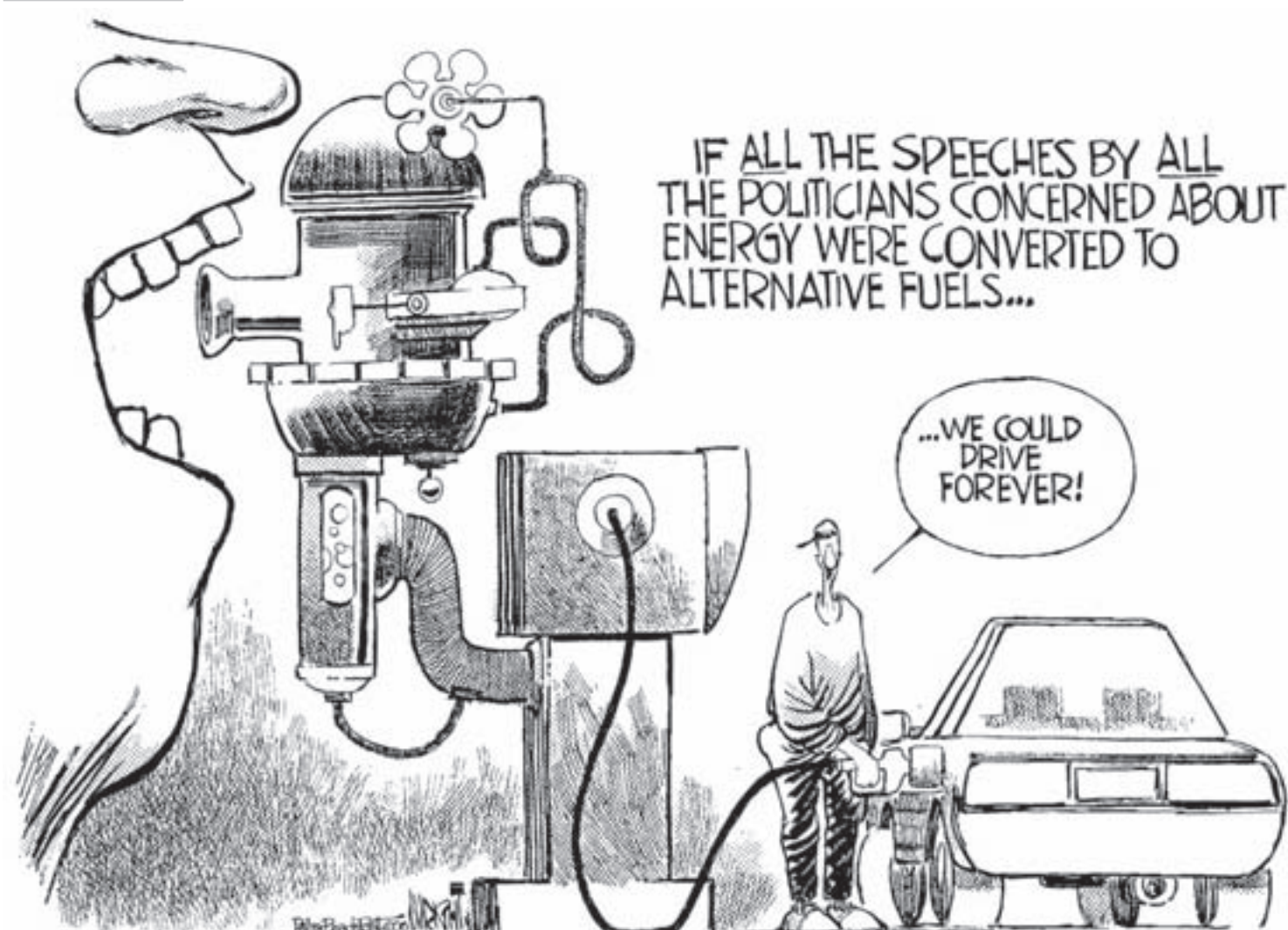
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"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

EDITORIAL CARTOON



DON WRIGHT—KRT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Encourage legal immigration

To the Editor:
The idea of building a wall on the United States-Mexico border is ridiculous, but McGeady has a few good ideas about how to fix our immigration policy.

The United States demands cheap labor, and Latin America provides it. Enforcing INS regulations would put many hotels, restaurants and farms out of business. By not enforcing laws that prevent corporations from hiring migrants, the government acknowledges our dependence on foreign labor. The only problem with illegal immigration is that it is illegal.

The government must create a way to register and confer legal status to migrant workers, without restricting the flow across the border. It's the only way to remedy the inconsistency in our immigration policy without hurting the economy and

the people who come here to work.

As a resident of Phoenix, Ariz., I can assure you immigrants would prefer crossing legally through a checkpoint than through the Sonoran desert. Obtaining a visa is not an option for most Mexicans – paying a smuggler is. Simply making it easier to work in the United States would solve a lot of problems, because they'll come either way.

The solution: enforce interior immigration laws, but open up new channels that make it easier for foreign workers to obtain legal status in the United States. Amnesty for current residents shouldn't be discounted, because so many things in America say, "It's OK that you came here illegally."

Jason Theobald
Freshman, A&S

\$9,000 loss unnecessary

To the Editor:
The SGAs recent loss of \$9,000 on the SGA-SEC conference is not only unexpected, but also inexcusable. Although some of the money would have been recovered by paying participants from other schools had the conference taken place, spending even \$6,000 on a conference would still have been an unnecessary expense, as the conference itself is of dubious benefit to any. Minutes of Vanderbilt SGA meetings are online, where members of other schools can read them. Many other schools make their minutes available as well. Combine this with e-mail

correspondence, which is far cheaper than hotel rooms, and you have the ability for different SGAs throughout the country, rather than merely the SEC, to exchange information and ideas. With the exception of this conference, almost all of the causes that the SGA helps finance throughout the year are important and worth their costs. It is only a shame that \$9,000 less will go to better causes this year, all because of an unnecessary meet and greet.

Joseph Hills
Sophomore, A&S

COLUMN

VUcept revamps freshman orientation program

"VUcept" is just one of those loaded words, isn't it? One mention of the word and I am immediately reminded of the experience of Founder's Walk, of

GUEST COLUMNIST

STUART HILL

that guy who taught us to juggle, of the overwhelming feeling of being at the Wildhorse Saloon with my entire class. And I would imagine we all have a pretty strong reaction to the idea of VUcept – the term is just that loaded. Campus life is full of these buzz words, and perhaps one of the most pertinent ones of late has been "safety." Surely we all remember last fall: yet another "incident" report in the *Hustler*, yet another security alert e-mail, and – most forgettably – the news that shots had been fired in Morgan House. It was a fall like none of us here at Vanderbilt had experienced, and it was clear that there were issues that really needed addressing. Chancellor Gee called together a Task Force to consider our safety situation, and the intense recommendations they recently published reflect an important truth about the Vanderbilt community that all of us, I think, are beginning to realize: we are in need of a sweeping culture change.

This brings us back to VUcept. One of the major

points in the recommendations of the Task Force is that changing campus culture begins with changing how we welcome and educate our new students. Any of you who read the recommendations may have noted the vision of orientation becoming a year-long voyage, which would include a required weekly seminar for new students in which they would learn the values of this community – something we expect to come to life this fall. Already, an orientation working group (a product of the Task Force), the University Orientation Committee and the VUcept Executive Board are working together to bring this new vision of orientation to life.

It's clear that lots of things are changing, and in a community that has been rattled by lots of change in recent weeks (and years) and has been the victim of poor communication, VUcept wants to make sure you know what's going on and feel invited to be part of the movement. Our organization is changing significantly as well, and the details are still in the works, but there are some things we already know: VUcept's organizational structure is evolving, so those of you vigilantly awaiting VUceptor applications will have to wait just a little bit longer; but don't fret – we'll let you know as soon as possible. The artist formerly known as Fall Orientation will now be called DoreSTEPS (Students Transitioning in their Educational and Personal Success), and it

will be a much more fun, exciting, relaxed week, as the freshman seminar will cover many of the topics formerly crammed into the days of orientation. And one more change: the help of student leaders has always been important to our success, but this year it's especially key. VUcept wants you to help us make orientation a better experience and Vanderbilt a better place, and we will be working hard to recruit leaders for DoreSTEPS. You are the face of this campus and the welcome you extend the new students next fall will be more impactful than any welcome printed on a university letterhead. Please stay tuned about the changes ahead and about how you can be involved – we'll be in touch. ■

—Stuart Hill is a sophomore in the Blair School of Music.

COLUMN

New Year's resolution causes fast food nightmares

We've all had nightmares before. There's the one where you fall off a cliff, the one where you have to take a final exam for a class you never attended, and

ever, I've been having reoccurring nightmares about food.

It all started when I decided to make a New Year's resolution for 2006. I've never really been big on resolutions—in fact, I don't think I've ever made one before now—but for whatever reason, I made one this year. I promised myself to start eating healthier. Unfortunately for my over-the-top personality, this meant I completely turned my diet upside down all

at once. I cut out all sodas, cheeses, refined carbs, extra sugars and fried foods. Yes, French fries were now prohibited.

I know it doesn't seem like that big a deal, but when you're as used to fast food as I am, fries might as well occupy an entire tier of the food pyramid. But I decided that for the sake of my arteries, I was going to cut them out of my diet.

Please see SEWELL, page 5



CASUAL

TAYLOR SEWELL

the one where all your teeth fall out. Lately, how-

COLUMN

Television commercials target elderly

I am sick of horrible, overplayed television commercials. Remember when "Saved by the Bell" and "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" were only interrupted by commercials

ONE SMALL VOICE

DANIEL KASBOHM

telling us how delicious gushers and fruit rollups were? Or at least we had the catchy "quilted-quicker-picker-upper" from Bounty.

Now, between prescription drugs and Medicare coverage plans, there isn't any more room for an animated rabbit stealing Trix from innocent kids, or thousands of youngsters hopping on one foot with the new and improved Skip-It.

Consider that horrible commercial about old people who can't walk anymore. "Are you limited by your mobility?" it says. Then for about two and a half minutes, it shows happy, rich, white people floating around like Yoda at "Up to Three Miles Per Hour!" "Now I can play with my grandkids again," states one woman with a face like an over-large prune. But you know the five-year-old girl on the bike is thinking, "Why did mom make us bring her again?"

What about Conseco Direct Life, or Liberty Medical? How many times have I heard "Your premiums never go up, and your benefits never go down"? And I don't know how many companies there really are, but the commercials always seem to feature a Santa-looking man, complete with bleached mustache, sitting by a fire in his mountain home. "Now I get my diabetes medication delivered directly to my doah," he says. Do you? What exactly is "diabetes"?

To better serve the public, television networks should vary their commercials so that the viewers receive a wide variety of information on an array of products, from cleaning products to toothpastes. Of course they tweak individual hours based on viewer demographics, such as placing Oreo commercials in a block of Saturday morning cartoons or placing beer and pizza commercials at breaks in football games. But are the 24 hour news networks frequented only by people over the age of 65? Commercials seem to be increasingly selling products to an older and older population.

But old age is apparently not our only infirmity

anymore; has anyone noticed the ridiculous amount of prescription drug commercials on the tube these days? Am I really supposed to ask my doctor about Nexium, Vioxx, Lipitor, Lunesta and Levitra? I bet Jay Leno could get his Jay-Walking public to name more prescription drugs than U.S. state capitals. And every time I see a commercial where the writers have expertly written all of the drug information into a clever script between a doctor and a patient, or worse, the one with the doctor and his medical students, I feel like ramming my head through the TV screen. Worst of all, the commercial serves nicely to inform the public about a pill's side effects, but many people have no idea what the drug actually treats.

Perhaps I am overreacting. I am sure that many people have heartburn, E.D. or high cholesterol. But are there any healthy, young people left? Maybe the drug companies are an integral part of the new media-negativity-complex that tries to frighten the public over matters that are actually insignificant. We have all seen flashy teasers for Dateline or 20/20 about "Sexual Predators in Your Neighborhood" or "Medicine: What Your Doctor Isn't Telling You," so it is not inconceivable that powerful drug companies and journalistic ventures are working together.

All hope is not lost. Entertaining, informative and useful commercials still exist. Take Geico, for example. Who doesn't remember the catchy line, "A 15 minute call could save you 15 percent or more on car insurance" or that cute green gecko? By creating innovative new scripts and retaining the same, simple theme, Geico has managed to become not only a popular topic of conversation, but also a leading brand in the car insurance industry. It is my hope that other companies and industries will get the memo and follow this outstanding example. ■

—Daniel Kasbohm is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

To better serve the public, television networks should vary their commercials so that the viewers receive a wide variety of information on an array of products, from cleaning products to toothpastes.

AROUND THE LOOP

How do you think Mario Moore's departure will affect the basketball team?



CHRIS BANNON
Freshman

"It will be detrimental to the team."



LAURA STONE
Sophomore

"I think they'll be sad, and they will miss him."

Compiled by Allison Malone



LATOYA FRANKLYN
Junior

"The loss of his animated personality on and off the court will affect team spirit and community support for the team."



KORTNE EDOGUN
Junior

"This comes as a shock to me! I didn't know!"



LEE INCANDELA
Junior

"They'll lose energy and fluidity for a few weeks, and then they'll be alright."

Sewell: 2006 promises hard to keep

From SEWELL, page 5

All was going well the first few days. Granted I missed my pizza, my cheeseburgers, my Mountain Dew, and of course my French fries, but I don't like to quit, so I stuck with my goal. About a week into my little program, however, things started going downhill; I began having nightmares about French fries.

Well, I guess they weren't really nightmares in the conventional sense of the word; they were more just dreams where I stuffed my face full of French fries. I would sit down in front of a tub of fries and just shove my face in. Yes, I was having withdrawal symptoms from French fries—a nightmare in its own right.

I didn't know you could miss food so much that you could start to dream about fried potato gluttony. I didn't know this New Year's resolution thing would be so taxing. But I guess if you have to go through the

trouble of referring to a life change with a special phrase, it's not supposed to be easy to keep.

I wish though that we, as a society, didn't feel like we had to set aside a special time of the year to make specific life changes we know we want to make. And I wish our culture weren't so focused on short-term pleasures that it is indeed this difficult to keep promises we make to ourselves. But until something changes, I guess all we can do is make resolutions and hope we have the determination to see them through. As far as my resolution goes, I'm happy to say I haven't touched a French fry in nearly a month and a half. We'll see what happens. ■

—Taylor Sewell is a junior in the College of Arts and Science.

And I wish our culture weren't so focused on short-term pleasures that it is indeed this difficult to keep promises we make to ourselves.

COLUMN

Sports improve society, but they are not necessary for its function

Now that the men's soccer debacle has begun to fade into the sunset, I feel it's time to look at the entire ordeal a bit more generally and philo-

A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR

JOSEPH WILLIAMS

sophically. Now that seemingly every columnist, student, and squirrel on campus has given their two cents worth on the situation, I feel the incident raises a very important issue about our society that should be addressed.

Let me preface my main point with a few comments. First, I believe that the time that has passed since the administration canned the men's soccer team should not be a reason for people to become idle about the issue. Perhaps the students have done everything they can to put the pressure on the administration and be heard. But what the administration hopes will happen is exactly what is happening: students lashed out against the idea initially and have now faded into the sunset as the academic workload begins to pile on. That's my only commentary on that situation. That's my two cents worth.

Sports are an important part of my life. While some of my friends were still watching Power Rangers and Pokemon, I watched Sportscenter. I can remember being a bracketologist (the coined ESPN term for one who is obsessed with March Madness, which is the term for the NCAA Basketball Playoffs) starting in first grade. Whether it is high school prep sports, college sports, or professional sports, I eat it up for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. One of the two websites I have visited almost every day I've logged on the internet for nearly a decade now is ESPN.com. I watch ESPNNEWS like it's my job. I like all the sports too: football, baseball, basketball, and golf. Hockey is fun if you're at the game in person and the highlights are good. I've never been a huge fan of soccer, but you must be a fan of the World Cup if you like sports at all. I never respected tennis until I began to play it recreationally myself and became old enough to fully appreciate tennis skirts and the women who wear them well. From the in-game drama to the off-the-field insanity, sports are a vital part of our society and culture.

But, we must step back and look at the picture as a whole. Sports are essentially the outgrowth of humanity's need to compete, to physically

and mentally strive for victory. Whether you're in the theaters watching a motivational sports film, on the couch rooting for the home team, in the stands yelling at the top of your lungs, or on the field of battle putting everything you have on the line, the human will to compete is evident. But the recent soccer debacle here at Vanderbilt reminded me of a time four and a half years ago when, as good ole Dubya always reminds us, our country's perspective on all things did (or at least should have) changed forever.

On September 11, 2001, all sporting events were canceled. Tragedy struck and all of a sudden, all things entertainment fell to the wayside. And essentially that's what sports are: entertainment. The top sports columnist back home wrote a column not long after 9/11/2001 dealing with this same issue. In the very end, in the grand scheme of things, sport means very, very little. It is not necessary. But at the time of reading that column, I didn't understand what I do understand now. Need and necessity are not always the same thing.

Our society needs sports. Sports make society better. Maybe this is not true from everyone's perspective. But for many people, whether viewing or participating, sports are a release. Sports

are organized competition, a competition many people need in their lives. Sports teams bring the most polarized groups together to find a common rooting interest that wouldn't be found anywhere else. Games allow for a time of relaxation and intense excitement about something that matters so much to them, and yet ultimately means very little.

September 11, 2001 was a day when people were forced to realize what was most important in their lives. And sports were not a necessity. But in the weeks following that tragic day, people realized the most important thing about sports. Sports are one of the main things that brought everyone together and allowed them to peacefully forget about the chaos for a few hours. As we go through our lives with so much chaos on a daily basis, sports are something that gives many of us a break.

Sports aren't necessary. But thank God for competition and thank God for sports. ■

—Joseph Williams is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

Whether you're in the theaters watching a motivational sports film, on the couch rooting for the home team, in the stands yelling at the top of your lungs, or on the field of battle putting everything you have on the line, the human will to compete is evident.

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SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL



T.G. PASCHAL / The Crimson White

Sophomore guard Shan Foster had one of his best games as a Commodore. Foster scored 30 points in a losing effort Wednesday night at Alabama. The defeat extends the Commodores' losing streak to four games.

Commodores fall to Crimson Tide in overtime as . . .

The Losing Streak Continues

BY JAMBU PALANIAPPAN
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

Shan Foster and the Vanderbilt men's basketball team are still looking for a Valentine after suffering yet another heartbreak Wednesday night in Tuscaloosa.

The Commodores fell to the Alabama Crimson Tide in a tragic 77-74 overtime loss that saw Foster take control of the game and explode for a career high 30 points.

A ferocious final minute of the second half, which included three lead changes and Foster's heroics, precluded an overtime in which Alabama scrambled away from the Commodores.

"Our team was very ready to play," Vanderbilt head

coach Kevin Stallings said. "I'm proud of them. I hate to continue saying 'We're proud' in the wake of losses but there was absolutely nothing more that they could have done."

With the Commodores down one with just over eight seconds to play in regulation, Foster came up big by hitting a 3-pointer to put Vanderbilt up by two. The Vanderbilt swingman had the best game of his career, going 11-20 from the field and 6-12 from beyond the arc.

The lead didn't last long as the Crimson Tide's Jean Felix threw a pass the length of the court that Alonzo Gee slammed home to send the game into overtime.

Once the teams entered the extra period, Alabama's

stalwart defense and strong interior play propelled the Tide to the victory. After Vanderbilt's Alex Gordon cut Alabama's lead to one with under a minute left, Alabama's All-SEC guard Ronald Steele drew a foul, and the SEC's best free-throw shooter nailed both shots to ice the victory.

Dan Cage had an open look to send the game into a second overtime, but his 3-point attempt clanked off the rim as time ran out on the Commodores.

"Tonight we just couldn't get it done. I don't know what it is," said Foster. "We played hard, we competed, we made big shots, but obviously they made bigger ones."

The Commodores were without senior guard Mario Moore, who is taking a temporary leave of absence from the team. Derrick Byars, who finished with 13 points, and Gordon, who ended with seven points and five assists, were effective replacements at the point guard position. It was Foster, though, who stole the spotlight and drew praise from everyone, including the opposing head coach.

"You have to give Vanderbilt a lot of credit," Alabama head coach Mark Gottfried said. "Foster was great for them tonight. Our goal in the overtime was to not let him get open looks. The game just came down to a few big time plays. We were lucky to make one more play than they did tonight."

Steele often made those big plays as he exploited the holes in Vanderbilt's porous 2-3 zone defense all night, scoring 22 points. The Tide offense ran through forward Jermareo Davidson, who was a menace in the paint, finishing with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Gee added 17 as just three players accounted for 60 of Alabama's 77 points.

Fouls plagued the Commodores for the third game in a row, as both DeMarre Carroll and Julian Terrell fouled out. Carroll finished with nine points and nine rebounds, while Terrell added six points. Dan Cage, whose younger

Alabama 77, Vanderbilt 74

Vanderbilt	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS
D. Carroll	34	4-11	1-1	0-0	4-5-9	3	9
S. Foster	42	11-20	6-13	2-3	1-1-2	4	30
J. Terrell	34	3-7	0-0	0-2	0-6-6	2	6
A. Gordon	33	2-7	1-4	2-2	0-2-2	5	7
D. Byars	35	5-10	2-5	1-2	1-3-4	3	13
D. Cage	28	3-8	3-6	0-0	1-1-2	4	9
D. Nwankwo	18	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	0	0
T. Skuchas	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0
TEAM					2-2-4		
Totals	225	28-64	13-29	5-9	9-22-31	21	74
Turnovers: 9 (Carroll 3; Terrell 2; Cage, Foster, Gordon, Skuchas 1)							
Steals: 5 (Terrell 2; Byars, Carroll, Gordon 1)							
Blocks: 1 (Carroll)							

Alabama	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS
E. Brock	18	3-4	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	6
R. Hendrix	35	3-6	0-0	2-2	3-9-12	1	8
J. Davidson	45	7-10	0-0	7-7	5-5-10	2	21
B. Hollinger	12	0-2	0-2	0-0	1-2-3	0	0
R. Steele	45	7-11	2-3	6-6	0-4-4	4	22
A. Gee	34	6-14	2-7	3-4	2-4-6	2	17
J. Felix	36	1-14	1-11	0-0	0-5-5	1	3
TEAM					1-1-2		
Totals	225	27-61	5-23	18-19	12-30-42	10	77
Turnovers: 11 (Davidson 5; Hollinger 3; Steele 2; Felix 1)							
Steals: 5 (Steele 2; Davidson, Felix, Gee 1)							
Blocks: 4 (Steele 2; Davidson, Hendrix 1)							

	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Vanderbilt Commodores	31	37	6	74
Alabama Crimson Tide	36	32	9	77

Feb. 8, 2006
Technical: Tennessee-none; Attendance: 10,108
Vanderbilt-none. Ejections: none Officials: M. Stuart, J.B. Caldwell, J. Luckie

brother is a Crimson Tide reserve, put in nine. "The way I look at it, it wasn't meant for us to win tonight," said Foster. "I seemed like we did everything we could have done to win, but it just wasn't for us tonight."

The Commodores, who lived by the long ball throughout the game, were an impressive 13-29 from 3-point range. However, they only made one 3-pointer in the overtime session.

The Commodores have suffered four consecutive losses, dropping their record to 12-8 overall and 3-6 in the Southeastern Conference. The team will face a tough stretch in the next week, with home games against Kentucky and No. 6 Florida. ■

COLUMN

Price "injured" in extra-inning thriller

Vanderbilt pitcher David Price thought he would be in a video game, just not so soon.

"I didn't really think about it at the college level," Price said. "I hope I make it to the pros someday and get to see

COLUMN
JARRED AMATO

myself in a video game."

EA Sports recently came out with the first-ever college baseball game, MVP '06 NCAA Baseball, and I'd advise all gamers to read the manual before playing - it's not easy.

While virtual college basketball and football players have been visible for years, this marks the first time I'll be able to start a dynasty with the Vanderbilt baseball program (which gives me another reason not to study).

"It's definitely not something I expected," Price said. "Especially seeing people I know and play against."

The great thing about video games is that athletes do

things that would be impossible in real life, and Wednesday's game against Price was no exception.

Price, the 6-foot-6 southpaw, was the starting pitcher in the simulated game against a solid San Diego squad, which Vanderbilt plays in its actual season-opener next Friday.

"I look the same on the game and throw the same - it's crazy," Price said.

Whether it was my poor hitting or Price's impressive pitching (probably a combination of both), Vanderbilt held a 3-2 lead for much of the game. The lefty kept me off balance and mixed up his four pitches well.

"Last year I only threw two pitches for strikes," Price said. "This year I want to throw four pitches for strikes, and I think that would help me a lot."

While Vanderbilt assistant coach Derek Williams, the 2004 National Pitching Coach of the Year, normally calls the pitches, Price had the chance to determine his own fate.

"It's always fun [calling my own pitches], but Coach Johnson is unreal," Price said. "He knows exactly what to throw to every hitter."

It didn't take much to get me out, however, as I found it difficult to put much power behind my swings. That's not to take anything away from Price, rated an 81 in the game, who threw hard and hit his spots.

"I throw a little harder than 91 miles per hour, which is what the game clocked me at," Price said. "I'm probably between 92 and 95. And once the warm weather comes out, I will hopefully throw even harder than that."

Price only wishes that his location were as good on the mound as it is with the joystick.

"If I could throw how I throw in the game, I probably wouldn't have anyone score on me," Price said. "It's a pitcher's dream to put the ball where you want."

Anyway, holding a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the ninth, Price showed why he is a pitcher and Tim Corbin is the coach.

With his stamina down to 10 percent, Price opted to keep himself in the game rather than go to the bullpen as most managers would do.

Down to my final out, I came up clutch and lined a base hit to right field. Rather than keeping the ball in front of

him, former player Matt Zeller attempted to make a diving catch but missed, and the ball rolled all the way to the wall as Price screamed at the screen in disbelief. The rare inside-the-park home run sent the game to extra innings.

"The coaches would never let me do that, especially on opening night [when pitchers are held to strict pitch counts]," Price said. "I was trying to go for a complete game, and I learned my lesson."

To make matters worse, Price was automatically removed from the game after the pitch because of an enflamed left elbow. He gave up three runs (two earned) and struck out 10 batters but did not earn the victory.

Vanderbilt responded by scoring two runs in the top of the eleventh and then retiring San Diego in order in the home half to secure a 6-4 victory.

After losing to freshman quarterback Mackenzie Adams in NCAA Football '06 in the last minute last week, it was demoralizing to lose another heartbreaker. But, it doesn't mean I'm giving up, as I hope to play basketball player Shan Foster next week (I'm hearing that he's pretty good). ■

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Neil Brake / VU Media Relations

Junior Caroline Williams came to Vanderbilt on a limited scholarship. In less than three seasons she has cemented herself as one of the team's top contributors.

Williams found a home with the Black and Gold

BY JARRED AMATO
HUSTLER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

One play was all it took for Caroline Williams to lose her scholarship to the University of Georgia.

But three years and more than 120 three-pointers later, Vanderbilt couldn't be happier for the way things turned out.

"I had verbally committed to Georgia but tore my ACL in the summer going into my senior year," Williams said. "They backed out and wanted me to walk on, so I started to look at other schools."

Rockmart High School's all-time leading scorer, for both men and women, found herself in a difficult situation.

"I remember thinking, 'What am I going to do?'" Williams said. "Your whole life changes when something happens that you can't control."

In Williams' case, it changed for the better.

"We didn't recruit her. She recruited us," Vanderbilt head coach Melanie Balcomb said. "She called us and her coach sent us a tape and we gave her a scholarship for one year."

Knowing that Balcomb could opt to sign another recruit to take her scholarship for the following season didn't bother Williams.

"It didn't really sink in that I was only getting one year," Williams said. "I was just so excited to have the opportunity."

Arriving solely as a 3-point specialist, the junior has done it all for this year's squad.

"She's improved to become a more com-

plete player," Balcomb said. "She was a 3-point shooter when we got her. Now she's a much better defender, a much better passer, and now she's a leader."

Williams' statistics only support Balcomb's comments: 35 minutes per game, second best in the Southeastern Conference, and a team-high 14 points per game, eighth best in the SEC.

No. 33 has also converted on 46 percent of her 3-point attempts, good for third in the SEC, although she has made more than twice as many as the top two.

As a freshman who connected on just four 3-pointers in limited action, Williams said she enjoyed practicing and getting better each day and accepted that it wasn't her time. It was different the following year.

"Sophomore year was about finding my role and understanding what the coaches expected from me," Williams said. "Once it clicked, it clicked."

Her coach noticed the same thing.

"I know last year she wanted to start, and by the middle of the year, she was," Balcomb said. "She has very high goals and expectations and is extremely self-motivated."

Both coach and player agree that confidence has been the biggest difference this season.

"She carries herself with a lot of confidence, which is exactly what she did to make the team originally," Balcomb said. "She just wants to win, and she has the right attitude and effort, so she keeps getting better and

better."

Williams said she relishes her role as a leader and one of the players that the team looks to in the huddle.

"Knowing your teammates are counting on you every night is pressure, but it's a good kind of pressure," Williams said.

The 5-foot-10 guard has also put a lot of pressure on opposing defenses.

"She's always a threat, and she's a threat from deep," Balcomb said. "You have to guard her all the time and have to put your best defender on her. Also, she's been getting to the basket this year, and that makes her a lot tougher to guard."

Asked if she ever thought she would be the focal point of opponents' scouting reports, Williams had trouble answering.

"I always knew I loved basketball, and that's how I got here," Williams said. "But I didn't imagine it'd be this good."

It'd be hard to find many people who thought it would be. But the way Williams recovered from her injury showed she was capable of anything.

"I came back in four months, which was kind of quick," she said. "It was hard to get back, but I had to be ready for senior year to show coaches what I could do."

If not for that one play, Williams never would have had to do so.

"If I didn't get hurt, I'd be at Georgia right now," Williams said. "But I couldn't be happier how things have turned out. That's why everything happens for a reason." ■

COLUMN



MEMO FROM MAMO
JORDAN MAMORSKY

Don't count Commodores out just yet

2.3 seconds. 2.3 seconds that tarnished perhaps Shan Foster's best game. 2.3 seconds that ruined a gritty performance by a team rallying around its departed point guard. 2.3 seconds that might have sealed the Commodores' fate as bystanders to the NCAA tournament.

The Commodores have now lost six of their last seven games and are scrambling to find the reasons why. On Wednesday, it surely was not for lack of effort. Whether it was Foster's shooting threes as if they were mere lay-ups, Alex Gordon's leading the team valiantly in the absence of Mario Moore, or Julian Terrell's diving for loose balls and rebounds, this team left its heart in Tuscaloosa — without a win.

In November, this scenario would have been unimaginable. Suffering losses to mere bottom-feeders in the SEC and with the hardest part of their schedule yet to come, Vanderbilt 12-8 (3-6) is now clawing for their post-season lives.

What exactly is wrong with our Commodores? In recent weeks the team has foiled fourth-quarter leads, suffered major defensive lapses in the final seconds and made teams like Georgia look like SEC East contenders.

Are you kidding me? Now tied for last place in the SEC East, the Commodores are in serious jeopardy of not only losing an NCCA tournament bid, but an NIT bid as well. Surely this was not what Coach Stallings envisioned for his team with March Madness rapidly approaching.

Yet, let's not hammer the nail into

the Commodores' coffin just yet. With seven games left, the season is certainly not over, and there is no doubt that the team has the potential to beat any team remaining on its schedule.

A Saturday matinee against the hated Kentucky Wildcats is next for the Commodores. There is no denying it — it is now time to put up or shut up. Indeed, a loss will shatter all hope for a season that began with so much promise.

With their backs against the wall, it is time for the team to salvage its season and help vanquish the hopes of a bitter rival.

Let us not forget that the Commodores will walk into Memorial Gymnasium on Saturday armed with some of the best offensive weapons in the SEC. In Foster, Derrick Byars and DeMarre Carroll, Vanderbilt has players whom opposing defenses fear — players who cannot be stopped.

Foster showed how valuable an asset he can be Wednesday night. The Terror in Tuscaloosa, he mounted 30 points against a stingy Crimson Tide defense that threw all but the kitchen sink at the sophomore.

Foster, along with Byars and low-post banger Carroll, has the capacity to catapult the Commodores from the SEC basement to back where they belong among the top teams in the SEC.

It is time for our Commodores to play how everyone expected they would. It is time for us to put the heart-breaking losses behind us.

The dunk heard all around Tuscaloosa must not end our season. It is now or never. Let's beat Kentucky this weekend. ■

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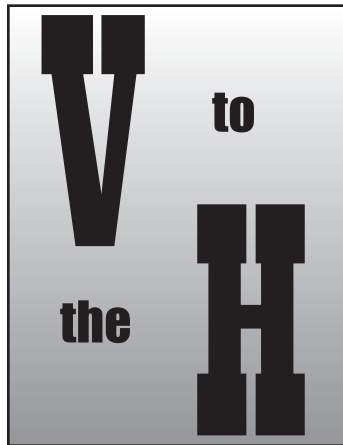
FUN & GAMES

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02-08 Solutions

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- Educates
- Showy flower
- Cereal grain
- English noble
- Neill or Nunn
- Thrash out
- Catholic honoree
- Kind of service or gloss
- Bravery
- AAA service
- Put in office
- Go in
- "Much ___ About Nothing"
- Henhouse
- Boozer
- Smallest bills
- Got hold of
- Exploited
- Move from here to there
- Workshop implements
- Rips off
- Org. of Player and Woods
- Celeb magazine
- At rest
- Batter ingredient
- Injury showing discoloration
- Outer banana
- Kind of whiskey
- Word after buddy or solar

DOWN

- Wise person
- Period in office
- Part of U.A.R.
- Colliers
- Bamboo-eating animal
- Foxy
- Geographical region
- False
- Immediately if not sooner
- Two-handed jar
- Three-flavored ice cream
- Court case
- E-mails
- Alliance
- Pursuer
- Matador's adversary
- Cay or key
- Horizontal barrier
- Without flaws
- Rotates
- Tragedians
- Lunch al fresco?
- Protuberance
- "Terrible" years
- Catches on to
- Guidance
- Granular seasoning
- Hateful
- Take off
- Undermine
- Small pooch
- ___ so often
- Latest popular thing
- Barbecue stick
- Besides
- Appear to be
- "Masterpiece Theatre" network

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02-08 Solutions

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