

INTERHALL

Donovan beats Ross in election

Interhall announces its president-elect Wednesday.

BY ALLY SMITH
HUSTLER REPORTER

Interhall announced Devin Donovan as President-elect Wednesday night. Devin, who has been involved Interhall since freshmen year, won by a "convincing margin" according to current President Kyle Southern. The official cabinet turnover will take place March 28.



Donovan

"I think the margin of victory was indicative of her platform and her focus on tangible results," Southern, who endorsed Donovan's candidacy, said. "She also ran a very positive campaign that encouraged people to participate."



Ross

Donovan's opponent, Russel Ross, who has also served on Interhall since his freshmen year, said he would "really like to be involved with Interhall next year."

"When I heard that Devin won I thought (to Please see INTERHALL, page 3

ACADEMICS

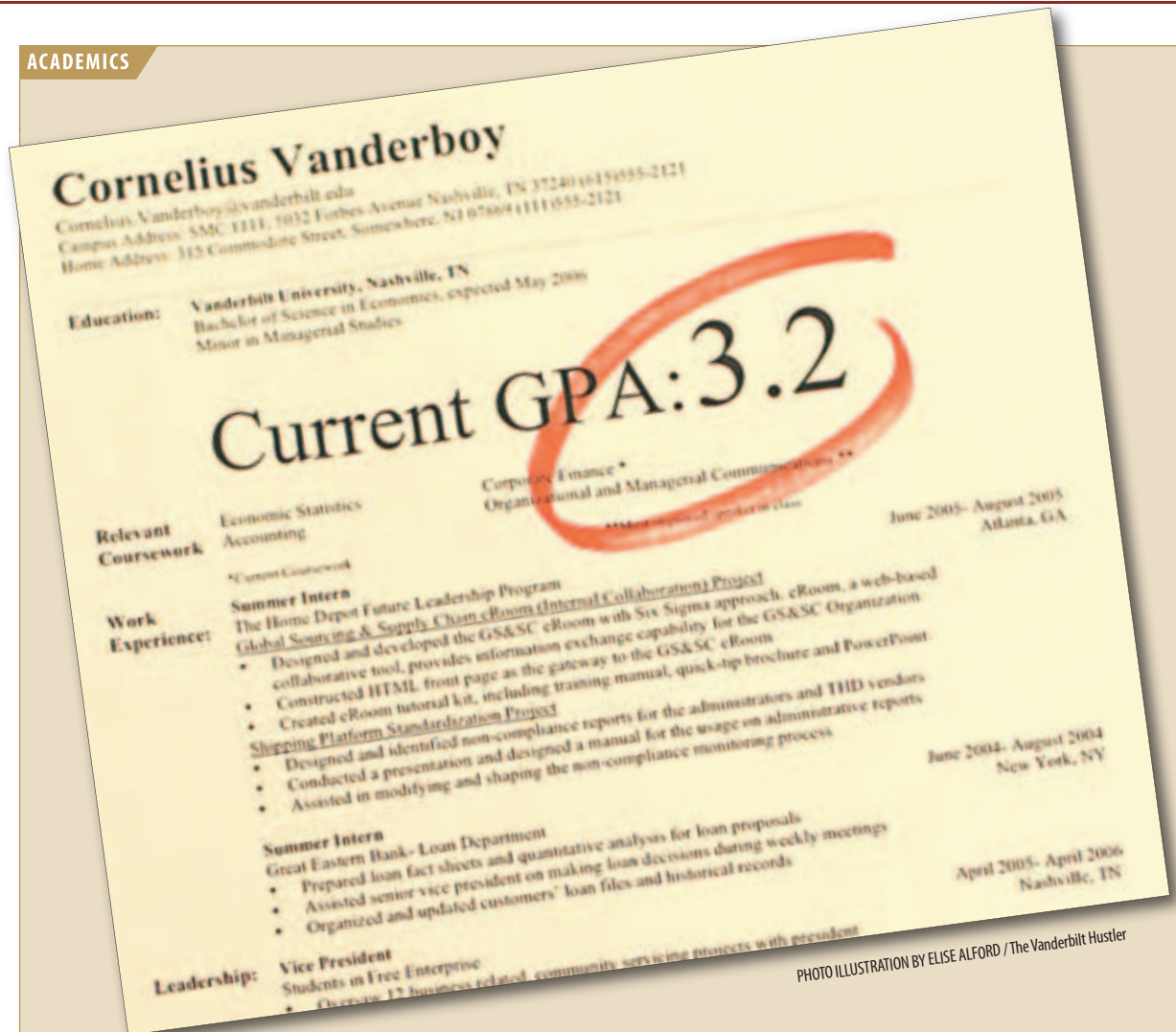


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Are Vandy GPAs making the grade?

Average is higher at comparable schools

BY BECKY TYRRELL
HUSTLER REPORTER

At 2005 commencement, Vanderbilt undergraduate seniors had a lower grade point average than students at many other top 20 universities, leading some to suspect that grade deflation is occurring.

Vanderbilt's average undergraduate GPA is 3.2. The University of Notre Dame, which tied with Vanderbilt for 18th in this year's *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, has average GPA of 3.4. Emory University, ranked 19th, has an average of 3.33.

Many large public universities also have higher average GPAs than Vanderbilt. The University of Florida, with an undergraduate enrollment of more than 33,000 has an average of 3.25.

Provost Nicholas Zeppos attributes the differences in GPA not to grade deflation at Vanderbilt, but rather, a lack of grade inflation.

"The sense of rigor, small classes and interactions with the professor creates a sense of accountability and expectations that has not led to the rampant grade inflation we've read about at other universities," Zeppos said. "I guess Harvard would be the one that's gotten in the paper

the most."

Harvard does not officially release GPA statistics, but according to internal documents cited by the *Harvard Crimson* student newspaper, the average GPA was 3.425. This is on par with other elite private schools such as Duke, Dartmouth and Columbia, according to GPA statistics released in previous years.

Many private universities, including Harvard and Yale, have policies in place that prevent the release of official GPA information to the public. These policies prevent comparing Vanderbilt's average GPA to that of all other schools.

Vanderbilt students have expressed concern about how graduating from a school with a lower average GPA may affect their future careers.

"It's a secret that everyone knows," said junior Brian McGee. "After I graduate, I'm going into the real world applying for grad school or a job. For someone coming from a same ranked university, their resume will definitely rise to the top of the stack because of grade inflation."

Zeppos acknowledged this concern, but said that Please see GPA, page 3

Average student GPA

School	GPA	Year
Brown	3.47	1999
Harvard	3.43	2004
Princeton	3.40	2001
Notre Dame	3.40	2004
Columbia	3.36	2000
Duke	3.36	2000
Emory	3.33	2004
Dartmouth	3.31	1999
Rice	3.30	2001
Chicago	3.26	1999
Florida	3.25	2004
Vanderbilt	3.20	2004
Virginia	3.18	2001
Washington	3.13	2001

Sources: www.gradeinflation.com by Professor Stuart Rojstaczer of Duke University, registrar offices and Harvard Crimson.

COMMONS

Students look at Commons security issues

BY WILL RIETER
HUSTLER REPORTER

The impending arrival of the Freshman Commons on the Peabody campus has sparked concerns over safety issues on the Peabody campus.

When the Commons opens in the fall of 2008, 1,550 freshmen will be housed on the Peabody campus. The Commons is the first phase in plans to create a residential college system at Vanderbilt.

There has been some debate between the students and administration involved in the project over what security measures should be taken.

Nim Chinniah, deputy vice chancellor of administration and academic affairs, stresses the importance of acknowledging true needs rather than relying on prescriptive solutions.

"When you start defining needs as prescrip- Please see COMMONS, page 2



Special brownies, anyone?

The College Libertarians held a brownie bake sale on the wall this week to advocate the legalization of marijuana. A former drug enforcement officer and the former editor of *High Times* magazine will debate the legalization issue on Monday night at 8 p.m. in the Student Life Center.

MEAGHAN ROBERTSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

SERVICE

Dance Marathon takes place tonight

BY RACHEL FETRIDGE
HUSTLER REPORTER

Tonight hundreds of Vandy students will take a break from their typical weekend rituals of frat hopping and visiting downtown bars to support the fourth annual, student-sponsored Dance Marathon.

The event takes in the student recreation center, starting at 7 p.m. and concluding at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning. The only rules are that dancers are ex-

pected to remain standing, raise a minimum of \$200, and stay the full 14 hours. All proceeds raised go to the Children's Miracle Network and will directly benefit local member, the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

"I can't wait for Dance Marathon this weekend. It's for a truly amazing cause and we've had some outstanding support so far," said junior morale dance captain, Ashley Wood. "Our board and committee members have worked all

year to make Dance Marathon a reality. With 470 dancers, 85 committee members, numerous volunteers, and hundreds of guests, this year's Dance Marathon promises to be an unforgettable night that all of Vanderbilt's community can enjoy," said senior Lauren Poeling, Dance Marathon Co-Director.

Although the program originally began as a 14-hour consecutive dance-a-thon, it has grown to encompass a variety Please see DANCE, page 2



OUR VIEW

Read the editorial board's thoughts on GPA and why both administrators and students should be concerned that Vanderbilt's average GPA is significantly lower than other similarly ranked universities. See Page 4

BASKETBALL

Sophomore center Liz Sherwood can be seen on campus riding in style. As a result of a stress fracture in her left foot, Sherwood must rest her foot when she's not on the court. See Page 6



NOTABLE

Russian biathlon star Olga Pyleva was thrown out of the Olympics and stripped of her silver medal yesterday after testing positive for the stimulant carphedon.



OPINION

Read what Joshua Barton and Ilana Blumenfeld-Gantz, members of the Executive Board of Vanderbilt Does for Israel, have to say about Christian Richmond's column on the recent Hamas victory in Palestine. See Page 5

POLL

50%

Percentage of Americans who think hip-hop is a negative force in American society.

WEATHER



Extended forecast on page 2

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Today is Friday, February 17, 2006

IT IS THE	THERE ARE		
28th	48	11	84
day of classes	class days until exams	class days until Spring Break	calendar days to commencement

WORD OF THE DAY

SU-PINE

adj. lying on the back, or with the face upward; indolent; listless; mentally/morally lethargic

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

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1865 Columbia, S.C., burned as the Confederates evacuated and Union forces moved in. (It's not known which side set the blaze.)
- 1933 *Newsweek* was first published.
- 1964 The Supreme Court ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.
- 1992 Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer was sentenced in Milwaukee to life in prison (he was beaten to death in prison in November 1994).
- 1995 Colin Ferguson was convicted of six counts of murder in the December 1993 Long Island Rail Road shootings (he was later sentenced to a minimum of 200 years in prison).

Compiled by the Associated Press

FORECAST

- SATURDAY
Snow Showers
High: 37
Low: 26
- SUNDAY
Wintry Mix
High: 30
Low: 29
- MONDAY
Showers
High: 39
Low: 30

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Rachel Stevens

Dance Marathon

Dance marathon begins tonight at 7 p.m. and continues until 9 a.m. tomorrow morning 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, and several campus groups will perform. All proceeds will benefit the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Hamlet

The Vanderbilt Department of Theatre presents Hamlet, with performances taking place tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. and also next weekend. Admission is free for undergraduates, \$8 for the general public and \$5 for graduate and professional students. Students can reserve tickets by calling 322-2404.

Othello lecture

Regina Schwartz, professor of English and religion at Northwestern University, will lecture on "The Mass and the Theatre: Sacrifice and Murder in Othello" at 4:10 p.m. Feb. 20 in Buttrick Hall, Room 101. Schwartz was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1997 for her book *The Curse of Cain: The Violent Legacy of Monotheism*. The lecture is being sponsored by the Religion and Literatures Research Group of Vanderbilt's Center for the Study of Religion and Culture. For more information, students can visit www.vanderbilt.edu/csrc/upcoming-events.html.

Ingram Scholar Applications

The Ingram Scholarship program is now accepting applications from freshman and sophomores. The scholarship includes half tuition, summer project stipends, as well as a variety of seminars and workshops on community service work. The deadline to submit applications is March 20. For more information and to download an application, students can visit www.vanderbilt.edu/ingram.

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

CORRECTION

In a Wednesday article entitled "VUT brings its 'Hamlet' to Neely" senior Jason Dechert's quote was unintentionally cut short, changing the meaning. The full quote was "We're not members of the Royal Shakespeare Company. We're students taking economics classes and art history ... We wouldn't be doing it if we didn't think it was worth doing and if we didn't think it was fun." The *Vanderbilt Hustler* regrets the error.

Commons: Security kiosk proposed

From COMMONS, page 1

tive solutions, then you're taking the professionals out of that role, the professionals being the police officers," said Chinniah.

His sentiments are in response to a student proposal for a police kiosk or guard shack to be built with The Commons. The security kiosk was suggested by the Intergovernmental Committee on Residential Colleges last fall.

Warren Langevin, a Vanderbilt senior and member of the Intergovernmental Committee expressed his concerns over the lack of dedication to safety by both student leaders and the administration.

In response to the kiosk proposal, Langevin said that this solution was deemed "not cost feasible by the administration." Langevin also stressed the importance of more student led initiatives, such as the DOREwalks program which provides student led escorts to other students walking alone at night.

Langevin said that continuous student involvement is necessary to spur action from the administration, which can endorse solutions with the proper financial investments.

Chinniah asserts that the kiosk idea is an option still on the table.

"It was not killed...it is only one of many safety options being considered."

Unfortunately, a security kiosk is not an absolute guarantee of safety. Last Halloween, a food delivery man named Li Hong Peng was shot and killed on the Tennessee State University campus. The murder occurred a couple of hundred feet from a security kiosk. The non-student suspects shot Peng while in the process of making his delivery.

Dana Kennedy, associate director of public relations at TSU, supported the effectiveness of security kiosks despite the recent murder.

"I would say that guard shacks have a positive impact," she said. "They help more than hurt. Clearly, something could happen 200 yards behind the guard shack. TSU's students, staff and faculty need to be more aware of other safety options such as escort services."

Chinniah maintains that a security kiosk is not necessarily the clear-cut answer.

"Four patrol officers dedicated to walking the Greek row and

Branscomb areas has had a definite impact on safety rather than putting a guard tower at the entrance to 25th avenue," he said.

Chinniah also emphasized the other safety measures being considered.

"We'll consider safety in the design of the buildings, in lighting, and in placement of emergency phones. We will look at foot patrols, bike patrols, there will be multiple, multiple ways to deal with it."

The security kiosk is certainly not the only concern of the student leaders or administrators dedicated to solving this problem.

Langevin, along with other students and faculty, have expressed anxiety over a large body of freshmen living near and walking through some of the least safe areas of campus. The freshmen will be routinely walking from Peabody to the main campus at night, especially during first semester and the Greek rush period.

To deal with this problem as

well as the long distance away from the campus, a second bridge has been proposed to connect Peabody to the main campus. The bridge will span across 21st Ave. connecting West Hall on Peabody with the Vanderbilt Medical Center.

Susan Barge, associate provost for College Halls, acknowledged the added security risks with freshmen living next to Music Row and walking through the Vanderbilt Medical Center.

"We are taking steps to take care of the distance," she said.

While there are plans in place for the bridge, it is currently not funded as part of the Freshmen Common \$150 million budget.

Administrators feel that these security issues are being addressed for the commons and the entire campus.

"Safety isn't something that we're going to look at just specially for the Commons," said Chinniah. "Student safety is something we live and breathe every day." ■

Dance: Event raised more than \$100,000 last year for children in the community

From DANCE, page 1

of activities. Entertainment includes singer/songwriter Dave Barnes, a Michael Jackson cover band (Who's Bad), hypnotist Chuck Miligan and Tennessee Titan cheerleaders. Numerous campus groups, such as the Dodecs and VIBE, Vandy's hip-hop dance group, will be performing throughout the night.

In addition to live entertainment, there will be poker tournaments, dodge-ball games, jail-and-bail, a mechanical bull, inflatables, an oxygen bar, as well as the famous morale dance and the special guests of Vanderbilt's Children's Hospital families.

Fundraising originates from dancers' donations, sponsors and the admissions price. Funds will profit

research, treatment, equipment, and education for local children within our Middle Tennessee community enduring serious diseases, terminal illnesses, birth defects, and severe trauma. Last year Dance Marathon raised more than \$100,000 and was nationally recognized by the Children's Miracle Network.

"This year we hope to surpass

that amount," said Jamie Gnall, junior committee member.

Students not already signed up to participate in Dance Marathon are invited to come as a guest to cheer on the dancers, enjoy the entertainment and support the cause. Admission tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or on the card in Sarratt box office. ■

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Rachel Stevens

Feb. 14, 1:05 p.m. — An incident of harassing communication took place at Kissam Quad. The victim reported receiving harassing phone calls. No suspects have been identified and the investigation remains active.

Feb. 14, 3:06 p.m. — An incident of trespassing occurred at Kissam Quad. The suspect was arrested via a misdemeanor citation.

Feb. 14, 3:39 p.m. — A theft of vehicle parts took place in Lot 2 at 2211 West End Ave. A truck bed cover was stolen. No suspects have been identified and the investigation remains active.

Feb. 14, 5:46 p.m. — A bike was stolen in Lot 8 at 22nd Ave. S. and Garland Avenue. No suspects have been identified and the investigation remains active.

Feb. 15, 4:35 a.m. — An incident of impersonation and a liquor law violation occurred at 2801 West End Ave. The suspect was arrested via a misdemeanor citation.

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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PRINTER

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

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GPA: No overarching grading policy here

From GPA, page 1
graduate schools are usually aware of this difference in GPAs across institutions.

Zeppos summarized the debate about grade inflation across higher academic institutions.

"As students get better, should grades go up?"

Richard Pitt, assistant professor of sociology, believes that a college's curriculum will not be adjusted solely on the basis of improved SAT scores or caliber of an incoming freshman class.

"If we did, would we change our teaching format or assessment tools to accommodate these 'better prepared' students? Of course not," he said.

Zeppos has a similar view about grading and student potential.

"If your kids are smarter, the work is more demanding," he said.

Zeppos said that while there is not an overarching grading policy

in place at Vanderbilt, consistency and fairness in grading is promoted.

"There is a core autonomy that a faculty member has to evaluate students," Zeppos said. "Any sort of policies that come from other faculty members, a dean, much less the provost or the chancellor have to take into account that the professor's going to feel a certain professional autonomy to give grades."

Paul Dokecki, professor of human and organizational development, explains how his department deals with grading.

"Professors in the HOD program are being asked to adhere to the following principle: Reserve A for excellence. Performance that is good, but not excellent, should be recognized with a B so that our truly excellent students are not cheated. Fewer than 50% of the grades in a given course should be A or A-." ■

Riding around Peabody



Elise Alford/The Vanderbilt Hustler

The two year old "Fuzzy Caterpillars" class at the Susan Gray School for Children goes for a stroll with Teacher Suzy Reese. The school, located on the Peabody campus, was the first early intervention program nationally recognized for combining children with normal development and disabilities.

Rites: Tickets to go on sale in March

From RITES, page 1
sale March 1.

Tickets for the community and are \$25 for a day pass and \$40 for a weekend pass in advance, and \$30 for a day pass and \$50 for a weekend pass on the day of the show.

VPB is also holding a Rites of Spring design contest. Students can submit designs promoting Rites of Spring 2006 to Sarratt 207 anytime before Wednesday Feb 22.

The winner will receive two backstage passes. ■

Interhall: Key focus will be the Commons

From INTERHALL, page 1

myself), 'Cheer up kid, Devin will do and excellent job,'" Russel said. "Obviously I was down."

Donovan said that she will increase student's voice in Interhall next year.

"I really want to give students the opportunity to voice their opinions more and actively listen to their views on freshmen commons, college halls and athletics through formal and informal forums that are publicized and more accessible to the average student," Donovan said. "This way we will be better prepared to represent their views in meetings with administration."

With the Freshmen Commons set to open fall of 2008, Southern said Donovan will most likely play a large role in the project.

"As we get closer to the opening date of The Commons, the President of Interhall will continue to be an important voice in its planning and implantation," said Southern, who has been involved with the Commons project for two years.

Donovan said she campaigned at the fraternities and sororities, due to "consistent concerns that members of the Greek life have with the Freshmen Commons."

"It was important to me to announce my candidacy to these organizations so that they would know that if I was elected, they would have someone to represent their voice," Donovan said.

Interhall, or the Residential Life Government, has a two-fold purpose according to Donovan.

"One is to ensure the quality of housing for all campus residents and to program around their needs and interests and to create a community within the resident halls," Donovan said. "The other side is representing student opinions and views to the administration in different organizations."

"Devin will also become a powerful voice for student concerns and interests," Southern said. "From the Commons to the security and safety issues that we continue to deal with and campus concerns that arise in any given year." ■

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OUR VIEW

All GPAs are not created equal

As Vanderbilt seniors graduate this year, they will no doubt be happy to receive a degree from one of the top universities in the country. The prestige associated with a Vanderbilt diploma will open numerous doors for graduates. However, in today's competitive economy, simply having a degree isn't enough.

Like it or not, grade point average is an important tool used by both employers and graduate school admissions to select candidates. GPA is really just one number on a resume or transcript, and it's a number that can never measure all the skills that students develop throughout their college career. However, when many graduate schools determine who they admit based almost exclusively on GPA and a standardized test score, the little number starts to mean a lot more.

With data showing that Vanderbilt's average GPA is significantly lower than many of its university counterparts, such as Emory and Notre Dame, both campus administrators and students should take notice.

Steps need to be taken to ensure that both graduate school admission officers and employers know that not all GPAs are equal.

An easy solution would be to simply start inflating the GPAs of Vanderbilt students. However, compromising academic integrity in this manner would be a true detriment to Vanderbilt's commitment to excellence. Instead, a communication initiative needs to be launched to inform both employers and graduate schools of this apparent disparity in average GPAs.

Moreover, since Vanderbilt depends on the generosity of its successful alumni base for donations, it would be in its best interest to ensure that the employment prospects of its students are not hindered by lower than average GPAs.

At the undergraduate level, colleges are aware of the differences in GPAs from different high schools. A similar mindset needs to be taken by grad schools and employers. They need to realize that GPAs from comparable colleges with similar student bodies may vary as well, meaning that other factors related to student performance should be evaluated.

While a student will probably never remember the difference between an A and a B in a class, they probably will remember being rejected from their top choice law school. Hopefully, concerned administrators and career advisors will stand behind Vanderbilt students and ensure that GPA does not prevent them from entering an equal playing field after graduation.

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.

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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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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4944
(615) 736-5129

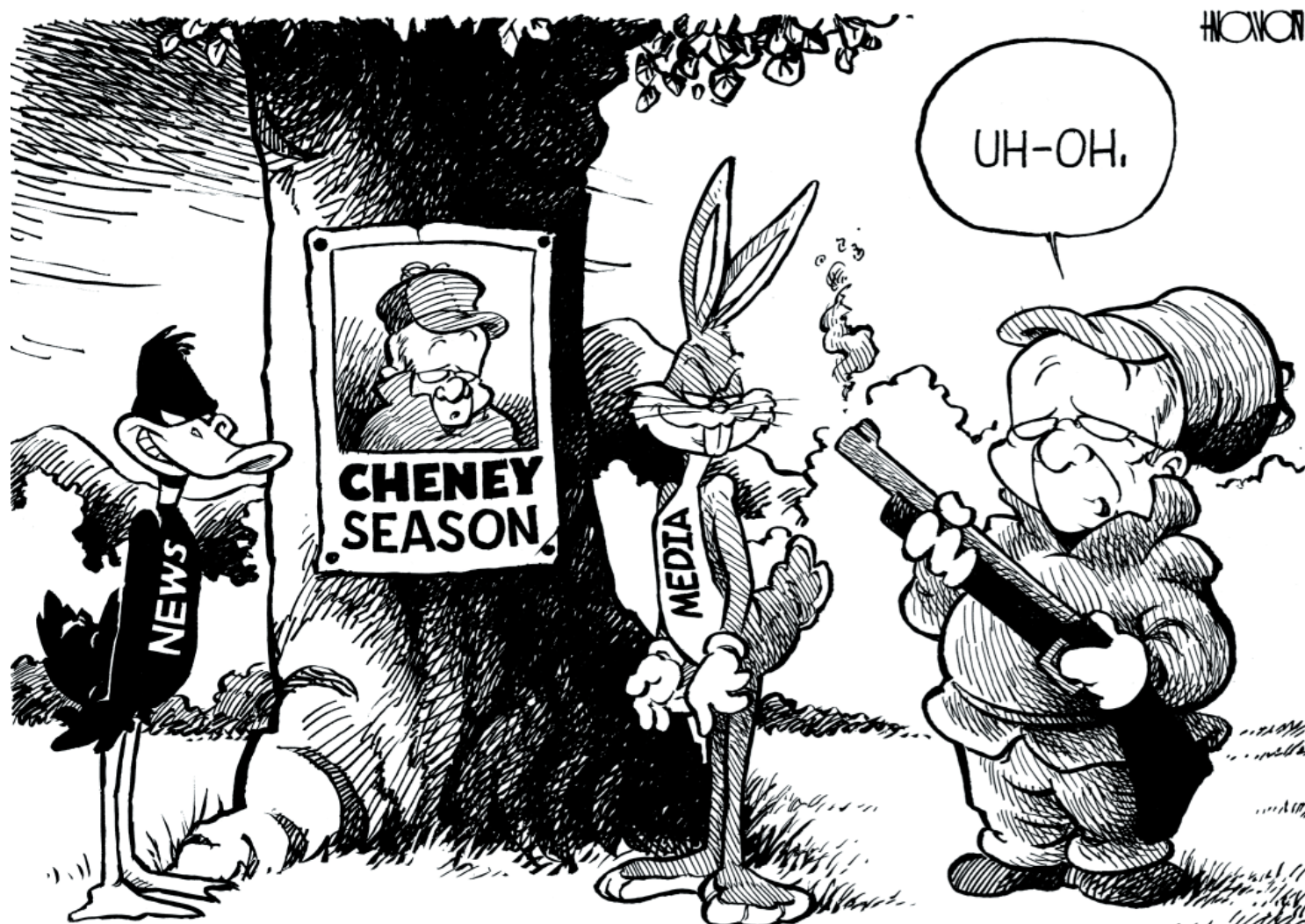
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Rep. Edith Langster
Tenn. District 54
35 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243-0154
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Tenn. District 21
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Nashville, TN 37243-0021
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Councilor Ginger Hausser
Metro District 18
521 Chesterfield Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 783-0106

EDITORIAL CARTOON



TERRENCE NOWICKI — KRT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Despite \$9,000 loss, SGA budget remains strong

To the Editor:

In light of the coverage regarding SGA's budget, I want to inform the students about the reality of a recent situation. Nearly two years ago, a previous student administration selected Vanderbilt to host an annual conference known as the SEC-SGA Exchange. This exchange is an annual gathering of all the student governments of the twelve schools in the SEC. In order to host this conference, SGA signed a contract with the Marriott to reserve a bulk number of hotel rooms at a discounted rate for the out-of-town visitors attending the conference. The conference was scheduled to take place here at Vanderbilt in September, 2005. Needless to say, Mother Nature was less than kind, as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina made it impossible for anyone to attend the conference. As a result, we rescheduled the conference for January, 2006, but a majority of the SEC schools were still recovering expenses relegated to Hurricane Relief. As a result, no one could attend the conference in January, yet SGA remained in contractual obligation with the Marriott Hotel. We had to pay a significant sum of money to avoid being in violation of this contract. Rather than risk the reputation of the University and of student organizations by standing in violation of a contract, SGA did the responsible thing and paid the sum of approximately \$9,000 to fulfill its obligation to the hotel.

This unfortunate and regrettable situation is one that reminds us all that the effects of natural disasters are long-lasting and far-reaching; no one would have thought a situation like this would result from Hurricane Katrina. I wanted to put the student body at ease regarding the current budget of the SGA. This campus needs the proper edification on how the budget works because certain campus publications have not taken the time to properly inform themselves on how it is actually constructed. The

money for our budget does not come from AcFee funds; it comes from Student Life, so our budget does not detract from money that could go to other student organizations. Secondly, our budget is distributed among our various committees at the beginning of each year, with excess placed in what is known as our "unallotted fund." These funds are used when an organization comes to us requesting money for an event co-sponsorship. Our unallotted fund combined with our committee budgets still provide us with a substantial amount of money in SGA funds for the rest of the semester. This leaves our budget in approximately the same place as we were this time last year. Though our expenses differ in nature from year to year, our budget is healthy and strong.

The informed news coverage and intelligent conversation surrounding this incident is appropriate and necessary in holding your student leaders accountable, but uninformed, immature responses only misrepresent the situation. No one denies that this large sum of money is the result of an unfortunate series of events, but SGA acted responsibly by fulfilling a contractual obligation to a local business with which our university has a long-standing relationship. SGA has a relationship with many outside businesses in order to provide helpful and useful services to our students, but when one engages in these kinds of mature business relationships, one must be accountable to legal contracts to ensure that there is a future to these business relationships. Know that the legal services and the advisory staff of the SGA were involved in every step of this process, and your government is vigilant and dedicated in its work for the student body.

Kate Morgan
SGA President

Stoytchev employs dangerous, simplistic arguments

To the Editor:

In his Feb. 15 letter to the editor, Ventsislav Stoytchev calls columnist Chad Burchard's views "simplistic," but chooses, at least in my opinion, to counter simplicity with an even more dangerous simplicity. To be specific, I refer to the following: "According to the Department of Defense, currently 60,000 immigrants serve in the U.S. armed forces. . . . Those people are much more American than Chad Burchard will ever be." A similar thought process runs through the heads of those supporting military coups at the expense of democracy; those capitalists who pressured Smedley Butler to overthrow Franklin Roosevelt's elected government in 1934 undoubtedly thought that by virtue of his military service, Butler would be perceived as "much more

American" than that socialist Roosevelt would ever be. Stoytchev continues his argument with "Everyone can sit safely at home and write about how great American ideals are and how proud they are to represent them. Not everyone can preserve them." Perhaps Stoytchev would care to explain how exactly writers and the press do not preserve American ideals of freedom and democracy, even if individual statements such as Burchard's are a little bit off-base. After all, nation after nation has fallen to its own army throughout history. I doubt, however, no matter how terrible the future becomes, that an army of columnists is ever going to march down Pennsylvania Avenue in order to impose tyranny.

Ceaf Lewis
Junior, A&S

Richmond column skews view of Middle East conflict

To the Editor:

Christian Richmond's op-ed, "The burden is on Israel for democracy in the Middle East," contains several factual inaccuracies and entirely misrepresents the situation in the Middle East. Richmond claims that in the Six-Day War of 1967, the Israelis "sought to increase the size of [their] nation." In fact, Israel was merely defending its right to exist, which it is so often forced to do. At the time of Israel's attack, Egypt and Jordan had already signed a treaty placing their militaries under a joint command, and their forces were stationed minutes away from the Israeli coast.

This misrepresentation does not compare to the Slant-worthy portrayal of Hamas, which Richmond describes as an organization that "rebuilds Palestinian communities time and time again through humanitarian relief." While Hamas conducts several welfare and education programs, according to the Anti-Defamation League, the organization is directly responsible for the deaths of more than 300 innocent Israelis. Hamas' covenant reads: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam

will obliterate it." Either Richmond shares the same twisted worldview as Hamas, that killing innocent Israelis is equivalent to humanitarian relief, or he has not monitored events in the Middle East since the Second Intifada.

Richmond also maligns the so-called "Apartheid Wall" that Israel has built to prevent suicide bombers from entering into Israeli cities. While not necessarily a long-term solution, the fence has had an undeniably positive effect in reducing terrorist attacks. According to the Wall Street Journal, terrorist attacks decreased 90 percent from 2002 to 2005. While Richmond accuses the Israelis of "marching" through Palestinian land to establish the Jewish state, it is Palestinians who march through the streets to celebrate innocent Israelis who are blown to pieces. The burden may be on Israel for democracy in the Middle East, but the burden for electing leaders committed to a two-state solution is on the Palestinian people.

Noah Schwartz
Freshman, A&S

COLUMN

Richmond misinterprets the position of Hamas

No matter how many virtues Christian Richmond can find to describe Hamas, he cannot change Hamas' true nature: Hamas is a terrorist organization. They

GUEST COLUMNISTS

JOSHUA BARTON and ILANA BLUMENFELD-GANTZ

fund, plan, and carry out suicide bombings and other forms of terrorism against innocent Israeli civilians. Why would the Israeli government agree to sit down and negotiate with such an organization? Israel has no problem with the fact that Hamas won the election for the government of the Palestinian Authority. They have a problem with the fact that Hamas refuses to denounce acts of terrorism and to recognize Israel's right to exist. What conversation is there to be had about peace when one party is committed to the other's destruction?

Israel does not deny the right of the Palestinian people to have a state of their own. Clearly, the burden for making peace does not fall on Israel alone, and the Hamas-led Palestinian government cannot even agree to fundamental grounds for dialogue. Israel has a clear desire for the Palestinian people to have their own state. Not only do the Israeli people and government sympathize with the Palestinian position, as Richmond points out by quoting Moshe Dayan, but, in our opinion, it is also in Israel's interest to have a viable, stable Palestinian state.

In his article in The Hustler on Wednesday, Richmond misrepresents the facts surrounding the creation of Israel and the war in 1967. At the time of the founding of the state of Israel, the Palestinian people and the Arab authorities were offered a proposal for two states, Jewish and Arab, and that offer was summarily rejected by the Arab states. The Arab states

surrounding pre-state Israel were wholeheartedly against Israel's existence, and rejected the best offer for peace before the state of Israel was even born. In 1967, Israel faced its greatest threat since the War of Independence. What Richmond did not say about that conflict is that Israel gained the territory in the Sinai and present-day Palestine as a result of a defensive war. Why does he criticize Israel for "seizing land," when the Israeli army was reacting to the aggression of the surrounding Arab countries?

Christian Richmond presents many distorted facts about the situation in Israel, but he cannot deny this: The state of Israel recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to have a state in Palestine, and has condemned the intentional killing of innocent civilians. Hamas refuses to say either of these things about Israel. It would seem that the burden is on them.

—Joshua Barton is a senior in the College of Arts and Science; Ilana Blumenfeld-Gantz is a freshman in Peabody College. Barton and Blumenfeld-Gantz are both on the Executive Board of Vanderbilt 'Dores for Israel.

”
Christian Richmond presents many distorted facts about the situation in Israel, but he cannot deny this: The State of Israel recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to have a state in Palestine, and has condemned the intentional killing of innocent civilians.

AROUND THE LOOP

Do you think Vanderbilt practices grade deflation?



ANNA HUS
Freshman

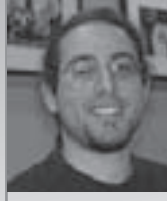
"I think it is very difficult to get an A at Vanderbilt, but I don't know how our grading scale compares to Ivy League schools."



MATT CLEVY
Junior

"Yeah, there is to a certain extent because it is hard to push up from a B- to an A+. It is so hard to get an A in most classes."

Compiled by Allison Malone



GEORGE KITTOS
Junior

"Compared to other schools, it is definitely harder to do well."



MINETTE BOESEL
Junior

"In some courses, yeah, but not in others."



JONATHAN HUDDLESTON
Sophomore

"Absolutely. I feel like if you get a B, you should get a B. If you get an A, you should get an A. It's a lot different than grading in high school."

COLUMN

Americans are not obligated to respect President Bush

I can't take it anymore. Someone told me the other night that it is my duty as an American to respect the president. I thought for



THE DISSENTING VU

CHRISTOPHER MCGEADY

a moment about the people I respect, what they stand for and how they lived their lives, and what respect really means to me. My natural reaction, upon reflecting this, was that by no means do I have to respect the president and in fact, in our current circumstances, I don't. The only thing I might respect George W. Bush for is the fact that he has one of the most difficult jobs in the world; this I will not deny. But he asked for it, and yet, he is still horribly, ragingly terrible at it! If you own a business and hire a manager who has no idea what he's doing, you fire him; you don't rehire him for another four years!

Bush has no excuse not to do a good job, and yet he persists in running the country straight into the ground on just about every issue, domestic and foreign. The only thing I might give him credit for is how he handled 9/11, but even that is not entirely true: his administration has failed to act on most of the recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission and we still haven't caught Osama bin Laden. The Israeli Mossad caught Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires 14 years after the Nuremberg trials, but within five years we can't catch the most wanted man on the face of the planet with technology light-years ahead of where it was in 1960? Something tells me we aren't applying ourselves to the extent that we could.

On the subject of not applying ourselves, if I didn't know any better I would think that the only thing this administration is good for is making people scared.

They use this fear as a curtain to blind people as they destroy our system of checks and balances, violate civil liberties and exploit the American people. "Hear us, America: We're at war. If you don't do exactly as we say, every single one of you could die in the fiery holocaust to come that only we know how to stop. So trust us: everything is under control."

And yet, the nagging question: Why? Why should I place my trust in a presidency that has systematically worked to destroy everything I love about this country? What have they done to earn my trust or my respect? They lied about Iraq and only God knows what else, they smear dissenting opinions and hush criticism, they've violated the Constitution, and they've broken the law. I wish I had enough space to detail every one of their problems, but I'm afraid that might take volumes.

In terms of Iraq, I think we've come to the point where there is no longer speculation about this point: our case for war was so thin that a light breeze could have torn it apart. Iraq posed no immediate danger to America, and yet we went to war over nothing. Nothing! In the process we liberated the country from an oppressive tyrant, but that was not our motivation: we went there for no legitimate reason whatsoever – though I'm sure there were plenty of shady illegitimate ones – and now we've dug ourselves into a hole

that may take ten years to get out of completely. If we're lucky. Sorry G-Dub, but no matter how cavalier you want to be, spreading democracy is not why our government exists: it exists to protect the rights and freedoms of the American people.

Then after people starting figuring out the Iraq situation, anyone who spoke up was silenced, criticized, slimed, dishonored and disgraced. This is what a "uniter" does to his opposition? Maybe I got the definition wrong, but a uniter doesn't ignore opposing views when filling two Supreme Court vacancies; a uniter doesn't polarize the American people by trying to instill his morals on everybody; a uniter doesn't blur reality by painting pacifists and critics as defeatists and un-American.

And then, there's the NSA wiretapping program and the detainment of "enemy combatants" without any measure of due process. Not once have they succeeded in convincing me that these things are in any way expressed in the Constitution or any law as inherent powers of the president. Additionally, who decided that these are "enemy combatants" and not POWs with internationally recognized rights? One thinks of J. Edgar Hoover keeping tabs on everything that moved in America's political landscape, or of FDR and the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. It's not right, and it's not legal. They say that they are working to protect America, except they are hypocritically destroying the fundamental ideals that America stands for. I think Benjamin Franklin said it best: "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

—Christopher McGeady is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

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SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Late surge not enough to upset Gators

Brewer's hot hand proves too much for Commodores to overcome.

BY JAMBU PALANIAPPAN
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

The Vanderbilt men's basketball team left everything they had and then some on the court Wednesday night at Memorial Gym. It was just not in the cards for the Commodores to overcome a talented No. 7 Florida squad and the hot hand of Gators swingman Corey Brewer as they fell 73-68.

"We gave an A effort today," Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings said. "We played extremely hard tonight. Florida is just a great team with great talent. We just didn't expect Brewer to shoot so well."

Brewer finished with a career-high 26 points and was 5-6 from behind the 3-point line. The athletic, 6-foot-8-inch Brewer is known more for his driving interior play and ability to penetrate than his shooting ability.

"I just can't explain it," Vanderbilt head coach Kevin Stallings said. "You don't expect a guy who is 4-22 from three in SEC play to blow up and hit five in a row against you. We got caught in a jam. He had a great game, and there was nothing we could do about it."

The Commodores started off hot as Julian Terrell and Shan Foster went basket for basket with the nation's best shooting team. Terrell ended the game with 18 points and 9 rebounds on 6-8 from the field. Foster added 19 including four 3-pointers.

Vanderbilt led 23-18 with just over 6 minutes remaining in the first half, but Florida answered with a 10-0 run to take a lead that they would not relinquish.

"We started off well," Foster said. "We just have to keep that intensity flowing for the whole game. We've been a day late and a dollar short too many times. We need to play 40 minutes of basketball. Not 30 or 35."

The Gators took a 31-27 lead into the locker room as Brewer's 14 points led all scorers at the break.

Midway through the second half, the Gators consistent offensive play and strong rebounding allowed Florida to increase the margin to as many as eleven. Second chance points helped the Gators all night, as Joakim Noah and Brewer excelled in the paint. Noah, the object of the Vanderbilt student section's scorn, finished with 12 points, eight rebounds and four assists.

"We did a good job against their big men for most of the night," Terrell said. "They just got to loose balls and had some big rebounds and put-backs that carried their team."

Vanderbilt made it interesting toward the end by cutting the Florida lead to as little as three with under two minutes remaining, but the Commodores' efforts came just a little too late. Brewer and Noah both hit a pair of free throws that assured the Gators a victory.

Derrick Byars, normally a focal point of the Vanderbilt offense, was held scoreless in the first half. His first basket came with just over five minutes left in the game. He found his groove late, hitting two big 3-pointers, but was

Florida 73, Vanderbilt 68								
Florida	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS	
J. Noah	30	4-5	0-0	4-6	3-5-8	4	12	
A. Horford	28	4-7	0-1	0-0	2-3-5	1	8	
T. Green	29	1-9	0-6	5-6	1-2-3	4	7	
W. Hodge	22	2-6	1-2	0-0	1-0-1	1	5	
C. Brewer	32	8-13	5-6	5-5	3-5-8	1	26	
L. Humphrey	26	3-8	1-5	0-0	0-2-2	1	7	
C. Richard	12	2-4	0-0	0-0	1-2-3	0	4	
D. Huertas	11	1-1	0-0	0-0	2-0-2	0	2	
A. Moss	10	1-2	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	0	2	
TEAM					0-1-1			
Totals	200	26-55	7-20	14-17	14-21-35	12	73	
Turnovers: 16 (Green, Noah 4; Horford 3; Brewer 2; Hodge, Huertas, TEAM 1)								
Steals: 6 (Brewer 3; Noah 2; Hodge 1)								
Blocks: 3 (Horford 2; Noah 1)								
Vanderbilt	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS	
D. Carroll	34	5-13	0-1	1-4	3-3-6	3	11	
S. Foster	37	7-14	4-9	1-1	0-1-1	0	19	
J. Terrell	29	6-8	0-0	6-11	4-5-9	1	18	
A. Gordon	34	3-10	1-6	5-6	0-1-1	3	12	
D. Byars	29	2-7	2-5	0-0	0-4-4	2	6	
D. Cage	21	0-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	2	0	
D. Nwankwo	15	1-1	0-0	0-0	3-0-3	0	2	
T. Skuchas	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	
TEAM					3-2-5			
Totals	200	24-55	7-22	13-22	13-16-29	11	68	
Turnovers: 12 (Byars, Gordon 3; Terrell 2; Cage, Carroll, Nwankwo, TEAM 1)								
Steals: 6 (Carroll 3; Byars 2; Foster 1)								
Blocks: 4 (Byars, Carroll, Nwankwo, Terrell 1)								
			1st	2nd	Total			
Florida Gators			31	42	73			
Vanderbilt Commodores			27	41	68			
Feb. 15, 2006								
Technicals: none								
Ejections: none								
Attendance: 14,316								
Officials: T. Greene, T. Lopes, J. Nichols								

held to a meager six points.

"For the first 30 minutes, Derrick was on the outside looking in," Stallings said. "When he got hot in the second half, he started playing like I know he can play. We can't have one of our top players off and expect to beat a ranked team like Florida."

Stallings was proud of the Commodores' effort, especially Terrell's play in the paint, and attributed Florida's success to chemistry and athleticism.

"Their big men were a challenge," Stallings said. "They're big, athletic and deep. Julian gave us all he had tonight; the effort from our team is unquestioned. They're not number seven in the nation for no reason."

Vanderbilt did manage to spread the ball around, as four players, including Foster and Terrell, ended in double figures. Alex Gordon finished with 12 points and DeMarre Carroll added 11. This was no consolation, however, for a dejected Commodore team that has been on the losing end of many close games this season.

"The situation we're in is extremely frustrating," Terrell said. "We're playing well, but our record doesn't show it. We need to finish games."

The loss drops Vanderbilt's record to 13-9 (4-7 SEC). With just five games remaining and a tough test at Georgia this Saturday, the post-season outlook is looking



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

Sophomore guard Shan Foster finishes a fast break with a dunk during the first half of Wednesday's home loss to the Florida Gators. Foster finished the game with 19 points, including four 3-pointers.

bleaker by the day. Vanderbilt will need a near-perfect finish and a stroke of luck in order to even be considered for an NCAA Tournament bid.

"We've been behind the eight ball since we gave away the game against South Carolina," Stallings said. "We had a chance to climb back into a rhythm at Alabama, but we

couldn't come out with a victory. We're still going to work, prepare and push ourselves."

The next home game for Vanderbilt is against LSU next Wednesday. The Commodores have not lost to the Tigers at home since 1996. ■

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sherwood rides her way into the spotlight

BY ANDY LUTZKY
HUSTLER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When we mere humans walk around campus, we know when we pass an athlete. They either stand a foot taller than us, could fit six of us in their shirt or, to further prove the point, they wear those black jackets that say "Vanderbilt Athletics" on them. But there's one athlete who is even easier to pick out; after all, not many people could miss a giant red scooter speeding across Vanderbilt's campus.

The conductor of that shiny bullet train is none other than Liz Sherwood, center for the women's basketball team. She has a "stress reaction," which means that a stress fracture shows up on medical tests, but, mysteriously, cannot be found otherwise. A stress fracture—or a stress reaction, for that matter—is not a sit-and-wait type injury; you play through discomfort, and after the season, you take care of it. Since September, she has worn a protective boot on her left foot.

So, until the end of the season, Sherwood owns the walkways. And don't question her authority.

"When you're on the scooter, you feel like you have the right of way," Sherwood said. "Then I get up and walk around, and people think I'm faking it. I'm not."

Even despite the baffling injury,

"Scooter Sherwood" has been just as authoritative on the court. Her 67.9 field goal percentage leads the nation, and her 12.8 points per game are second on the team. She's led the team in scoring in five games and has provided an instant inside presence for the Commodores after sitting out a season.

Yes, that's right; Sherwood did not play basketball during the 2004-2005 season. By NCAA rules, she had to sit out one season of eligibility after transferring schools.

Sherwood played her 2003-2004 season with the Huskies at the University of Connecticut. That year Connecticut defeated Tennessee in the national championship game. Sherwood was even selected to the Big East All-Freshman team. And then Sherwood decided to leave for Vanderbilt.

Luckily, she was able to "red-shirt" that season and retain an extra year of eligibility. A "red-shirt" essentially means that a player can practice with the team, but in exchange for not playing in any games or traveling with the team, the player gets an extra year of playing eligibility. A player can usually red-shirt once during his or her college career, which Sherwood did last year—during a season she would have been forced to sit out anyway.

Officially, she has enough credits

to be a junior, but she is a redshirt sophomore, meaning that she can play two more years.

As expected, it took a little while to get back in the groove of playing important games again.

"I had to be more focused," Sherwood said. "The first few games, I was like, 'Gee, I'm a little rusty at this.'"

Sure, basketball is all fun and games, especially when you measure around 6-foot-5. The hot question to ask, though, is the question Sherwood hates the most: "Why did you leave?"

Sherwood, who says that she is humorous, rolled her eyes and simply said that it was a better fit. End of discussion. There is no digging down or diving deeper. That's the answer.

"Usually, a better fit means that it fits one person better, and that's what it means," Sherwood said.

Hilarious.

Regardless, both the shoe and the boot seem to fit just fine this time around. Vanderbilt is 17-8, and ranked No. 22 in the AP poll, even after the close 70-67 loss last Sunday at Tennessee. Yes, the same Tennessee that Sherwood played twice during her freshman year. They seem to follow her wherever she goes.

"Both schools hate Tennessee,"

Sherwood said. "It's funny how that worked out."

Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb has not been nearly as outspoken as Sherwood's former coach, Connecticut's Geno Auriemma, about his feelings about Tennessee and their revered Pat Summitt. Other than that, the two coaches seem to have several similarities.

"They have different coaching philosophies, but they're both really intense, and they both expect a lot out of you," Sherwood said. "In a way, it's easier to find similarities than differences. The biggest difference is that one is male and one is female."

While stand-up comedy might not be in her future, Sherwood realizes that her cart is a juicy topic of discussion.

"It has six speeds," Sherwood said. "Usually, people walk between a 3 and 4. I like to keep it on 6, and to creep up behind people. Yeah, I've gotten kind of rude on my scooter."

With that, Sherwood has some parting advice for the rest of Vanderbilt.

"If you get in front of me, kindly move to your left. I will pass you. And, for whoever honks the little pink horn in between classes, I want to find you."

You just might want to listen to her. She's pretty important; after



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

Sophomore center Liz Sherwood leads the nation in field goal percentage. She is shooting a remarkable 67.9 percent while averaging 12.8 ppg in her first Vanderbilt season.

all, she's not just a human. She's a Vanderbilt basketball player on a giant red cart. ■

COLUMN

Foster owns the court, on and off the court

Shan Foster's emphatic dunk late in Wednesday's game against Florida looked like something out of a video game.

COLUMN

JARRED AMATO

The next day, it actually was.

Playing a simulated version of tomorrow's contest at Georgia, Foster threw down another vicious dunk en route to a game-high 25 points as the Commodores defeated the Bulldogs 72-51.

"I did dunk on you," Foster said to me at the end of our game of EA Sports NCAA March Madness '06.

The 3-point specialist certainly proved that he could attack the rim as well.

"I like to shoot threes in video games, of course," said Foster. "But being able to get in there and dunk on someone every now and then is real exciting."

For the most part, Foster did not force the offense and often concentrated on setting up his teammates.

"Sometimes I take shots that I wouldn't take in a game, but I try to distribute the ball and get everybody involved," Foster said.

The Commodores played a solid all-around game and, in shortened halves, had three players in double figures and two more with eight points.

DeMarre Carroll scored 12 points on 6-6 shooting, although Foster pointed out that the statisticians must have forgotten to count the three times his shot was blocked.

Being able to control the interior was also critical. Julian Terrell, who Foster considers the best gamer on the team, added eight points and eight rebounds.

"If you stop them once, you can't give them second chances," Foster said. "That's what hurt us against Florida."

Defensively, Foster said that Commodores "defended well and forced Georgia to take a lot of tough shots."

I couldn't agree more. Foster would encourage me to take ill-advised 3-pointers and, taking his word, I would

come up short time and time again.

Sundiata Gaines led the Bulldogs with 20 points and Channing Toney added 10, but they appeared out of sync most of the game and never got into a flow offensively.

The quickest player on the screen was Vanderbilt point guard Alex "Red" Gordon, who Foster seemed to be complimenting after every play.

"Red ran the floor and ran the offense," Foster said. "I think he had at least six or seven assists. He played great."

Foster was right on target, as Gordon finished with six points and six assists.

The game was not entirely realistic, however. Foster admitted that his five foul shots were too many. Foster's only free throw against Florida came when he was fouled on the dunk late in the second half.

In addition, Foster had problems with Derrick Byars' 59 rating.

"The biggest surprise to me is Derrick," Foster said. "On the video game, he can't shoot at all, which is definitely not the case."

Foster can't complain too much about the sweet shooting though, as he and his teammates had their way with the Bulldogs. The Commodores will need the same performance Saturday.

"Hopefully it will be the same outcome this weekend," Foster said. "Obviously I shot the ball well this game and I hope to do it again. We ran a good offense, everybody contributed and we controlled the boards."

As good as Foster is with the joystick, he has shown that he's capable of even more on the hardwood, which is not a good sign for Georgia.

Don't expect him to talk trash either. Even while hitting threes in my face and getting to the rim at will, I didn't hear much from Foster.

"Maybe after the game a little," Foster said. "But that's it."

No matter who the opponent, it's obvious that Foster is going to let his actions do the talking and lately, there has been quite a lot to say. ■

LACROSSE

Season opens with strong road victory at Mount St. Mary's

 BY MAX FRANKLIN
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

The women's lacrosse team began the season with a bang, beating Mount St. Mary's 14-5 on Tuesday. Sophomore attacker Margie Curran scored four goals and recorded an assist and the entire defense clamped down to open the season with a win for the Commodores.

"We were really excited to get our feet wet and play a game after all that practice," coach Cathy Swezey said. "It was a standout performance by our goalkeeper and defense."

Sophomore goalkeeper Brooke Shinaberry recorded eight saves in the complete game victory, and the defense forced the Mountaineers into 26 turnovers, lead by junior Molly Frew, who caused three of those turnovers.

"We were running a new defensive system, and the players adjusted great," Swezey said. "We caused 18 turnovers. You don't really see that many caused turnovers in a game."

After letting Mount St. Mary's score a goal two minutes into the game, Vanderbilt responded with seven straight goals, including two by Curran and freshman midfielder Cara Girodano's first collegiate goal.

"Curran was great with her four goals, but what was even more impressive is what she did off the ball," Swezey said.

Junior midfielder Jennifer Tapscott scored three goals of her own and senior attacker Kate Hickman scored three goals and had two assists. Sophomore Ashley Paschall scored and junior attacker Kendall Thrift scored two first-half goals.

"Our strength the majority of the year had been our offense, but it didn't really show up the way we expected," Swezey said. "I feel confident we'll turn it around."

Despite all the offense, the defense held firm, and Vanderbilt owned a 37-16 shot advantage. Vanderbilt lead 8-2 at the half and scored the first four goals of the second half before Mount St. Mary's Breana Waraksa scored two straight, but by then the game was out of reach for the Mountaineers.

"The speed of the team and the aggressiveness of the team as a whole really stood out," Swezey said.

Vanderbilt will host their first home game of the year at the Vanderbilt Lacrosse Complex when Virginia comes to Nashville on Sunday at 1 p.m. ■

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Bertrand continues her success as Commodores slam Blue Raiders

 BY FRANKLIN PETR
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

The Lady Commodores' tennis team hosted Middle Tennessee State University on Valentine's Day. The team came into Tuesday's match after ten days of rest. They showed no sluggishness, however, defeating the Blue Raiders 6-1.

"It felt really good to get back out after ten days off," sophomore Caroline Ferrell said. "We had a pretty good atmosphere for a Tuesday match and it felt nice to get out with a win."

Vanderbilt No. 1 seed Amanda Taylor and Maggie Yahner defeated Middle Tennessee State's Hilary Adams and Claudia Szabo 8-2. No. 2 seed Taka Bertrand and Amanda Fish finished with the same score against Marlene Chemin and Elvira Yusupova, and Vanderbilt's No. 3 seed of Liberty Sveke and Courtney Ulery won 8-4 against Middle Tennessee's pairing of Pooja Kommireddi and Ann-Kristen Siljstrom.

The No. 14 Commodores (6-1) started the match off right, winning the doubles point by taking all three pro-sets. The Blue Raiders played all new pairings, trying to muster a spark from a squad with mediocre doubles success.

In singles play Vanderbilt's Ferrell was the first to finish, defeating Middle Tennessee State's Adams in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1. Ferrell's performance improved her overall singles record to 4-2, and to 3-2 while playing No. 5 seed.

Coming off a Southeastern Conference Player of the Week performance in the ITA Tournament, Taka Bertrand finished second defeating Szabo 6-0, 6-0. This win marked the sophomore's sixth win this season in straight sets. She remains undefeated through the season at 6-0.

Freshman Courtney Ulery also extended her unbeaten streak in Tuesday's match. The Floridian defeated Ann-Kristen Siljstrom 6-3, 6-3, giving her a Vanderbilt-best, a 7-0 singles record.

Vanderbilt coach Geoff Macdonald had nothing but praises for his No. 4 seed. "Courtney is really getting better by the match," he noted. "She's really coming along, and she's adjusted to college tennis beautifully."

No. 1 Amanda Fish handily defeated Marlene Chemin. Fish only lost one game the entire match, winning 6-0, 6-1.

At the No. 3 slot, Vanderbilt sophomore Amanda Taylor defeated Elvira Yusupova 6-1, 6-0.

Vanderbilt's only point loss in the match came when Liberty Sveke withdrew mid-match. The freshman suffered a minor injury but is not expected to miss the Commodores' next match.

On Sunday, Vanderbilt takes on No. 11 Baylor in the first match of a double header. They will play at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by the men's team at 1:00 p.m. Both matches will be held in the Currey Tennis Center. ■

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The Vanderbilt Hustler

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Squabbles
- 6 Thick wire
- 11 So there!
- 14 Philosophical principle
- 15 Once more
- 16 High or low blackjack card
- 17 Deed holder
- 18 World-weary
- 19 ___ Beta Kappa
- 20 Old Olds
- 21 Intense
- 23 Stub taker
- 25 Wedge-shaped stone
- 27 "___ la Douce"
- 28 Refined petroleum
- 29 Allergic reactions
- 32 Questionable
- 35 Overturn
- 38 Slinky material
- 39 Pubs
- 40 Manufacturer
- 41 Cereal for kids
- 42 Brainstorm
- 43 Wedding VIP
- 44 In an offhand manner
- 45 Giant redwood tree
- 47 Functional quill
- 49 Pac-10 team
- 50 Follow too closely
- 55 Boss of Tammany Hall
- 57 "___ and Prejudice"
- 58 Shift dirt
- 59 Took first
- 60 Seraglio
- 62 One of the strings
- 64 Curved trajectory
- 65 Overhead
- 66 Did wrong
- 67 Firmament
- 68 Not so hot
- 69 Wants for
- DOWN
- 1 Baby bringer?
- 2 Flycatcher
- 3 Tick off
- 4 Place-kicking prop
- 5 Low, foglike clouds
- 6 Louisiana
- 7 French
- 7 Playing marble
- 8 Commanded
- 9 Invent facts
- 10 Get through
- 11 Slapdash
- 12 Pain
- 13 Will beneficiary
- 22 Part of D.C.
- 24 Refining metal
- 26 Oriental condiment
- 27 Undaunted
- 29 Progeny
- 30 Ludwig or Jannings
- 31 Physically provocative
- 32 Sacred bird
- 33 Disappear
- 34 Part of FM
- 36 Medic or normal lead-in
- 37 Travel the slopes
- 46 Passe
- 48 Football team
- 50 Rome's fountain of coins
- 51 Set sights
- 52 Idolize
- 53 Like some roofs
- 54 Old-time oath
- 55 "___ the night before..."
- 56 Heavy exertion
- 57 Stage object
- 61 Penny face?
- 63 Rage

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