

# DEBATE '08

## The Vanderbilt Hustler

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**ELECTION 2008:** Check out bloggers' debate reactions and photos at [InsideVandy.com](http://InsideVandy.com). SEE PAGE 3

**VERSUS:** SoCal rapper Shwayze talks about his new album in exclusive interview FULL SECTION INSIDE

# Game unchanged

Obama, McCain spar over economy but drama lacking.

Associated Press

Barack Obama and John McCain clashed repeatedly over the causes and cures for the worst economic crisis in 80 years Tuesday night in a debate in which Republican McCain called for a sweeping \$300 billion program to shield homeowners from mortgage foreclosure.

"It's my proposal. It's not Sen. Obama's proposal, it's not President Bush's proposal," McCain said in the debate that he hoped could revive his fortunes in a presidential race trending toward his rival.

The debate otherwise broke very little new ground for either candidate. Both Obama and McCain stuck close to campaign talking points, despite what was expected in a more unscripted

town hall format.

In one pointed confrontation on foreign policy, Obama bluntly challenged McCain's steadiness. "This is a guy who sang bomb, bomb, bomb Iran, who called for the annihilation of North Korea — that I don't think is an example of speaking softly."

That came after McCain accused him of foolishly threatening to invade Pakistan and said, "I'm not going to telegraph my punches, which is what Sen. Obama did."

The debate was the second of three between the two major party rivals, and the only one to feature a format in which voters seated a few feet away posed questions to the candidates.

They debated on a stage at Belmont University four weeks before Election Day in a race that has lately favored Obama, both in national polls and in surveys in pivotal battleground states. ■

—The Hustler contributed to this article.



SCOTT OLSON / AP Photo  
Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., left, take part in the presidential debate at Belmont University in Nashville on Tuesday. The debate is the second presidential debate of three, the only one being held in the town hall style with questions coming from audience members.

# Debate brings students together

by SARAH BILSKY  
News Contributor

As a political science major, sophomore Sean Topping said he was fascinated by Tuesday's presidential debate. "The town hall format allowed the candidates to branch out beyond generic campaign statements and to instead use their body language and pointed rhetoric to create a lively informative debate."

Topping was one of many students who attended the debate watching party held at The Commons Center on Tuesday, a viewing sponsored by East House, Vanderbilt Election Alliance and Frank Wcislo, dean of the Commons.

The event included a screening of the debate followed by a discussion panel led by Vanderbilt faculty members Stephen Buckles, John English, Cynthia Paschal and Vanessa Beasley. The goal

of this panel was to analyze the debate and concentrate on important issues.

Senior Alex Beard, chair of the Election Alliance's Debate Watch committee, said the debate was an important part of the democratic process.

"Debates are important because they help show how candidates interact with others and their ability to communicate their ideas," said Beard.

"Debates help break through the media's version of candidate positions and helps you compare apples to apples: one candidate's policy proposal versus the others," said Lilly Massa-McKinley, assistant director of the Office of Active Citizenship and Service and a faculty adviser for the Election Alliance.

The Election Alliance plans to screen the next presidential debate, on domestic policy, Oct. 15 on Alumni Lawn. ■

# National experts speak on debate, campaigns

by JUDY WANG

Academics Specialist

"When I woke up this morning, I felt like I had to pinch myself," said Distinguished Professor of Political Science John Geer. "Vanderbilt is ranked 13 after beating Auburn, a presidential debate is being hosted in my hometown and now I'm joined by this wonderful panel of experts. It can only go downhill from here."

Geer was one of many noted speakers present on Tuesday

at a presidential election panel hosted by former Congressman Harold Ford Jr. and First Amendment Center founder John Seigenthaler. The panel included many of the leading experts in journalism and political science, including Mike Allen of Politico.com, Howard Fineman of Newsweek and NBC News, Anne Kornblut of The Washington Post, Joe Klein of Time, Mark Halperin of ABC News, John Harwood of NBC and Chris Matthews of MSNBC.

The topic of the forum,

hosted on the day of the much-anticipated Belmont presidential debate, addressed the current state of the election and what the candidates should do in the last weeks of their campaigns.

Analyzing Obama's recent lead in the national polls, Allen said, "The Obama campaign has been having to shift from an identity campaign to one that's focusing more on the issues."

"Obama's campaign represents a multiracial America," said Klein. "The white working class is a thing of the past."



JUDY WANG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

An all-star panel of media personalities and pundits discussed the debate and the election at the First Amendment Center on Tuesday.

After being asked what the McCain campaign should be doing in the next four weeks,

Allen said, "Because the Republican brand has extra damage, he needs to return to

the fundamentals of Republican economic philosophy and stay away from Bill Ayers." ■

# Political protesters gather in Hillsboro Village



KOBI ANKUMAH / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Anti-war protesters line up on the corner of 21st and Wedgewood Avenues on Tuesday.

by KOBI ANKUMAH

News Contributor

Voices for change, Ralph Nader and peace were among the chorus heard in Hillsboro Village as John McCain and Barack Obama prepared to debate a few blocks away.

On the corner of 21st and Wedgewood Avenues, just down the hill from Belmont University and the site of Tuesday's debate, about 20 protesters used signs and flags to protest the lack of

candidates participating in the debate. Protestors were also railing against what they called "the unjust war" in Iraq.

A group of more than 100 Obama backers, their ages ranging from toddlers to senior citizens, were also on hand with supportive signs. The group was asking commuters to honk their horns in support.

Obama supporter Alex Eaton said she is voting for him because, "More of the same equals more of the same."

Protestors Rodger Clark and James Smith voiced their dissatisfaction that just two candidates were participating in the debate.

"The Presidential Debate is a circus, and is rigged. Other candidates are being shut out," said Clark.

"I think there are serious First Amendment issues with not allowing Bob Barr and Ralph Nader in the debate. Nashville will make a lot of money off the debate, but for First Amendment

rights, it is a failure," said Smith. Participants hoisted things like dove banners in protest of the wars.

"A lot of young people are against the war, and it should be known while the debate is going on," said protestor and MTSU student Mike Greer.

Other protesters were handing out an anti-war song set to the tune "God Bless America" to show their displeasure with the current administration's policies. ■

**MILLER:** McCain fails to distinguish himself from Obama on economy; the end of conservative days nears. SEE PAGE 5



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# SNAPSHOTS

**DEBATE EDITION**  
compiled by EVE ATTERMANN


**WEATHER**  
WEATHER.COM

**TODAY**



HIGH **71**, LOW **56**  
Rain, thunder

**THURSDAY**



HIGH **78**, LOW **56**  
Partly cloudy

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**BACK ISSUES**  
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**CORRECTION**

In the Monday issue of the Hustler, Oliver Wolfe was incorrectly credited for the football photo on page 8. Sam Kim took the photo. Also in that issue, Mason Hensley was incorrectly credited for the Commons photo on page 3. Jenny Mandeville took the photo. The Hustler regrets these mistakes.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

## Students sound off on the Belmont debate

"People are already generally into the election, but the debate is definitely causing a buzz."  
— Logan Bruggess, '09

"I think it's pretty exciting. I saw McCain going by last night. After last weekend, the debate is just going to put Nashville on the map."  
— Taylor Gerber, '09

"I'd be more excited if students had greater access to the debate."  
— Kevin Duong, '09

"It's annoying that the debate is in Nashville and we can't get to it."  
— Katie Bruegger, '12

"I think it's getting people more involved. Having the debate so close naturally sparks conversation."  
— Kaylen James, '12

"It's harder for people to avoid the issues, and it's further educating the student body. Everyone on campus is wearing campaign shirts. As a freshman, it's exciting to have the election so close, especially during my first year voting."  
— Lia Wertheimer, '12

"It's been highly anticipated. Having it in Nashville just adds to the hype. We're expected a big turnout for the viewing tonight at BSA."  
— Justin Gilstrap, '09

"It's historical. It will change some minds, set some minds."  
— Matthew Charles, '09

—Quotes compiled by Samantha Smith

## Third parties given rare public forum at debate

by **AIMEE SOBHANI**  
News Contributor

Often ignored by the public, third-party candidates were finally given a chance to talk about their parties and issues on Monday in a debate hosted by the Coalition for October Debate Alternatives.

Six third-party candidates convened in Stevenson Center and expressed their views on topics ranging from the Wall Street bailout to the environment. Bruce Barry, professor of sociology and management at Owen Graduate School of Management, moderated the debate, which was followed by a reception.

The debate featured Charles Jay of the Boston Tea Party, Brad Lytle of the U.S. Pacifist Party, Frank McEnulty of the New American Independent Party, Brian Moore of the Socialist Party, Darryl Castle of the Constitutional Party and Gloria La Riva of the Party of Socialism and Liberation.

All candidates expressed the belief that the major parties do not represent the American people. "The two major political parties ignore the majority of Americans," said McEnulty, who is also the vice-presidential candidate for the Reform Party, another third party. ■

## Women's center forum addresses election issues, hopes for future



TAYLOR DAVIS / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Women's rights political activists speak out at the Nashville University Club on Monday, Oct. 6, before Tuesday's presidential debate.

by **TAYLOR DAVIS**  
News Contributor

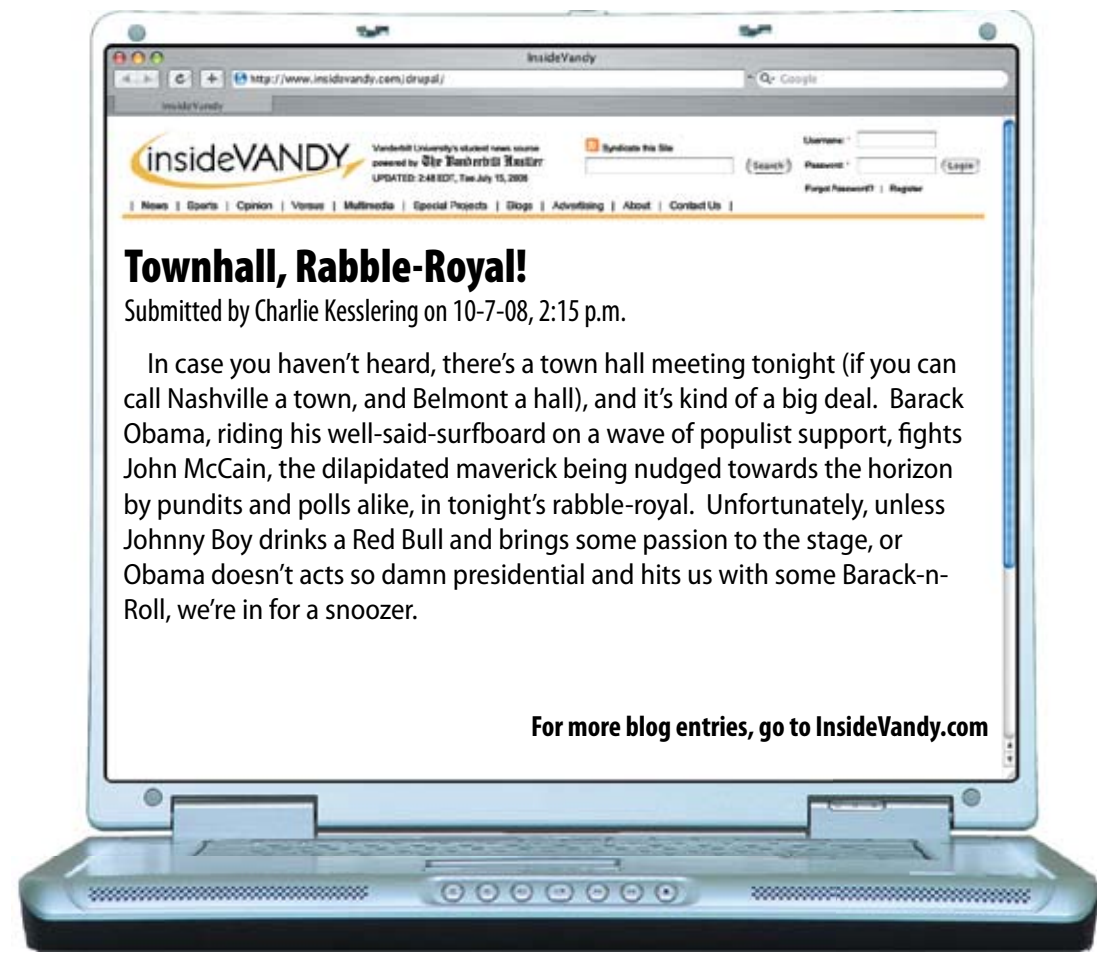
What do women want, and how does this factor into an election? The Center for New Words attempted to answer these questions with "This is What Women Want," a speak-out event on Monday that featured four speakers and an audience forum.

The featured speakers included political activist Betty Clark Nixon, Executive Director of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women Jennifer Rawls, non-violence activist and fourth grade teacher Judith Biondo-Meeker and Tennessee

House Representative Democrat Sherry Jones. Each woman had the opportunity to describe what she wants in the next president. Topics ranged from international law, economic self-sufficiency for women, healthcare, minimum wage and the need for non-violence.

Program Director Jaclyn Friedman said, "We decided to go on the tour at the end of the primary season when we felt that women were frustrated about being talked about so much in the media but not actually listened to. This could provide a platform for women to be heard." ■

**FROM THE BLOG**



### Townhall, Rabble-Royal!

Submitted by Charlie Kesslering on 10-7-08, 2:15 p.m.

In case you haven't heard, there's a town hall meeting tonight (if you can call Nashville a town, and Belmont a hall), and it's kind of a big deal. Barack Obama, riding his well-said-surfboard on a wave of populist support, fights John McCain, the dilapidated maverick being nudged towards the horizon by pundits and polls alike, in tonight's rabble-royal. Unfortunately, unless Johnny Boy drinks a Red Bull and brings some passion to the stage, or Obama doesn't acts so damn presidential and hits us with some Barack-n-Roll, we're in for a snoozer.

For more blog entries, go to [InsideVandy.com](http://InsideVandy.com)

**SNAPSHOT**

## WHODA THUNK IT?



LAUREN KOENIG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Fire fighters and self-declared "Rednecks" show their support for Obama before the debate at Belmont on Oct. 7.

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# Come one, come all to the political circus

by LAUREN KOENIG  
News Contributor

America's political circus came to town Tuesday and the midway was the Belmont University campus, where the sideshows included political impersonators and musical entertainment.

The university was flooded by a spirited mass of political enthusiasts decked out in variations of red, white and blue.

Balloons and giveaways attracted citizens of all ages who were eager to be interviewed by the swarm of media, take a tour of the CNN bus and advertise their stance on today's major issues.

A lengthy row of white tents displayed vivid collections of political buttons and banners while advocating a variety of causes. Tables for the ACLU and local Congressional representatives catered to political junkies.

A tent where children took pictures with presidential impersonators was sandwiched between one promoting pro-



Supporters of both McCain and Obama show their allegiances before the debate.

choice and another, pro-life.

Partisan T-shirts were highly sought after. "Ben from Super Electric Press" — no last name — peddled "Barack to the Future" slogans.

"We want to get people to smile and get people to vote," said Ben. "Everyone's been so nice. Even the McCain people are like, 'Hey, cool shirt.'"

Not to be outdone, Shirtopia offered McCain fans a rival "Omama" shirt featuring a cartoon drawing of Sarah Palin.

Some T-shirts illustrated issues on which everyone can

agree, like fighting heart disease, for instance.

Lavil Allen, a third-year student at Meharry Medical College's Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease tent, said he became involved because "no matter if you're Democrat or Republican, heart disease affects everyone. We wanted to bring awareness and make sure candidates speak to that." He also said it was "great to put a smile on people's faces."

Refreshment tables offered Southern-style food, and a Canadian band provided nonpartisan entertainment. ■



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# OPINION

## Don't let go of summer



**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

Well, two things are becoming harder and harder to deny — first, the Commodores are a force, and second, summer doesn't last forever. But I want to argue that you don't have to let go just yet, checking in that carefree summer spirit for a carefree winter diet of buttery pancakes and honey-soaked fudge brownies. By all means, cling to these waning summer hours like a socially inept freshman to their high school relationship. There's still two weeks before you come back from fall break

and have to own up to the fact that there's now no excuse for you to own a pair of crocs.

So how can you seize the most enjoyment from this last gasp of "freedom?"

Well, first

of all, stop going to class. When was the last time you enjoyed a really competitive game of beach volleyball in your chem lab? Also, for you girls and some of your more self-conscious, "Notebook"-loving guys, you can be those two or three people stretched out on Alumni Lawn, wearing an awkwardly small amount of clothing while hundreds of your classmates walk by. This may be interrupted by casual sports play, but this is merely an opportunity in disguise. If you're lucky enough, you might happen to catch one of the games of reclusive, widely unathletic students who take Ultimate Frisbee way too seriously. The good news here is that you're already wearing the appropriate amount of clothing for this sweaty, public contest.

Another suggestion is to go over to the pool and use it. Some may be shocked to hear we actually have a pool. It's in the Rec Center, and although there's a depressingly small number of Marco Polo games going on, you can always bring those little rings you have to dive down to get, or an inflated ball, or get down with some old-fashioned chicken fighting. While you're there, don't forget to actually work out. Although swimming or simply walking to and from the Rec can be positive, you'll feel healthier the rest of the day and lingering on through the week if you even walk into the workout room. Otherwise, you might feel like it's been a wasted trip when workout motivation may be hard to come by. If you do feel this way, just imagine the motivation level when it's 30 degrees colder and you can hide that upper arm fat under sweatshirts.

So, you've just gotten back from the Rec and work is not topping your list of priorities. So get some ice cream! After all, you've earned it, and your frozen sweet tooth is not going to be as active in a few months. Or if you want to take it a step healthier, check out the new Yogurt Oasis — yeah, you girls thought you were the only ones who knew about that. Another goal is to take advantage of relaxing outdoors. Go to Centennial Park, smoke on top of Furman, whatever you like. Last but not least: Wear your shorts and T-shirts. This might seem obvious, but I can already sense the slew of girls eagerly waiting to rock the consistently unappealing combination of athletic shorts or skirts with tights.

—Justin Poythress is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu).

### EDITORIAL

## Debate serves community

The second presidential debate at nearby Belmont University Tuesday evening brought considerable attention to Nashville for the second time in less than a week. Not long after the national sports media jettisoned home after last weekend's fantastic football victory at Dudley Field did the national political media descend on the greater Nashville area to cover the debate.

The benefits of the national attention for Belmont are obvious. The small, regionally known school has been and will continue to use the debate as a platform for promoting itself. Once known as a private, religiously affiliated university, Belmont can market itself as an institution with high academic standards attuned to national current events.

The benefits for Vanderbilt University are less obvious, but they are certainly substantial. Few students may realize that Vanderbilt and the Nashville-Davidson County government issued a joint bid for the debate, eventually losing out to Belmont. The university, however, has still gained from the debate's proximity.

More important was the panel held at the First Amendment Center on Peabody campus. While classes were canceled across Wedgewood Avenue at Belmont, Vanderbilt students and other community members were given the chance to

hear an all-star panel of media figures discussing the debate and the election. With names like Chris Matthews, Howard Fineman, Mark Halperin and our own John Geer, the panel provided our community with an amazing opportunity to engage in discussion.

The city of Nashville benefited greatly from the influx of political and media types. These campaign workers, newspaper and television reporters, and activists pumped a great deal of money into the local economy. Bars, restaurants, shops and other businesses probably received a much-needed boost, and while that boost may be short-lived, the exposure our city received will not be.

Overall, the Belmont debate gave Vanderbilt students a tangible reason to discuss and research the issues of this important election. This may be the most lasting effect of what was otherwise a boring and unproductive debate. Students who may not have had much interest in the political process now have more awareness of the issues and the election.

Across campus, from the Commons to Sarratt Student Center, discussions among students have arisen. These discussions can provide a chance to gain more knowledge of the issues and improve the ability for students to make wise and careful decisions on voting day next month.

## Personal attacks won't work

### To the editor:

In a weekend when so many good things happened for me and anyone else from the South Side of Chicago, I was greatly disappointed to learn the news Sunday that our very own native son, Sen. Barack Obama, is about to be Swift Boated.

In truth, I wasn't surprised. It had to happen eventually, what with Bush's political team handling Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign. They knew that as long as the economy, or any other substantial issue, dominated the headlines, they were going to continue to slip in the polls.

Just like last time around, the idea is to play up minor connections or outright lies as if they were the Joe Sixpack truth. So important that Stephen Colbert invented a word for it: truthiness. Truthiness is, according to Colbert, "truth that comes from the gut, not books."

This time, it's the "judgment issue," or as Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., aptly called it, simple character assassination. They want to play up Obama's connections to three people: William Ayers, founder of the Weather Underground; Tony Rezko, a sleaze in the Chicago Machine and

Jeremiah Wright, Obama's controversial former pastor. The problem is, we've been over this, and the American people know what McCain is trying to do. Ayers and Rezko are non-starters, and as for Wright, Obama addressed this issue last spring: Attending a church does not mean one agrees with the politics being spouted from the pulpit.

Yet despite the real problems facing the country, this is what McCain wants to talk about during the last month of the campaign.

I get it: Like Hillary Clinton, McCain believed it was his turn. His national exposure gave him an edge over the other Republican candidates, and with Clinton out of the way, he figured the path was clear: Just solidify the base and make a splash by picking Palin, and the polls would follow the headlines. But then the economy and the faulty Republican philosophy that governed it for the last eight years intervened. Real consequences for everyday Americans came to the forefront. Priority No. 1 for McCain: change the subject.

**Christopher McGeady**  
Senior  
A&S

## ASB: Just do it already



**CAROLYN PIPPEN**  
Columnist

Last night I returned to my dorm from the Stevenson Library in the wee hours of the morning, immediately crashed into bed and slept, as many of us do, for about four hours on an absurdly thin, prison-style mattress, cushioned only by a 3-year-old Target brand egg crate pad and the weight of sheer exhaustion. Nevertheless, right before I drifted off I made sure to remind myself how incredibly comfortable I actually was.

This is because about a year and a half ago, I spent a similar night lying in a worn sleeping bag in the middle of a grass median in the streets of Washington, D.C., shivering violently against subzero winds, surrounded by snow, sirens and the growling stomachs of 10 practically strangers. I have never been so miserable in my entire life. It was the best spring break I've ever had.

No, I didn't spend that sacred week in March getting wasted on a beach in Cancun, and I've managed to make it through three years at Vandy without participating in a wet T-shirt contest. Don't get me wrong, I'm not opposed to either of those things; I'm just saving the experience for when I can afford the good tequila. But every once in a while, an experience comes a long that permanently changes your complete outlook on life, and for me that experience was Alternative Spring Break.

I'm moving into uncharted waters of corniness here, so get ready to judge. Every August I develop a mantra of sorts to get me through the school year and accomplish what I think needs to get done. Freshman year was "Stay positive," sophomore year was "Try not to throw up," junior year was "Learn something" and senior year has quickly become the year of "No regrets."

There are two things no one on the campus ever truly understands until the cap and gown are only a couple of short semesters away: First, all reading is optional, and second, four years is NOTHING. Four years to take advantage of every opportunity this university is willing to offer you is not anywhere close to enough, so you better get started now.

Every time you encounter a program or an event in which you will never have another chance to participate for the rest of your life, do it. Every time someone proposes an idea that scares the living daylights out of you, do it. And if you think there's even the slightest possibility you might some day feel an inkling of regret that you turned such an opportunity down, do it.

ASB participant applications are due in the Community Partnership House at 5 p.m. on Oct. 17. Do it.

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## McCain misses



**KATHERINE MILLER**  
Columnist

There is a certain circle of hell, designated for Beltway insiders, where the Belmont debate will be played on a continuous loop for the rest of time. Despite breathless anticipation for a riveting, running rebel, garage band type of town hall forum, we got a debate that did its damndest to bore the financial crisis to an end.

Tom Brokaw, of course, was borderline schoolmarmish, jumping in with the time limits like the candidates were on the brink of apocalypse if they broke a rule. Other than the opportunity to walk around, nothing distinguished Belmont from Oxford. While it's a tad tempting to pin the blame on Brokaw and the unsatisfying mutation of a town hall we witnessed, something far more significant underlies the standoff.

If the dark state of the economy will decide the election, then from a policy standpoint, John McCain and Barack Obama are the same candidate. Government intervention, regulation and a nebulous sense of "fairness" will rule the day no matter what. And Obama will always win against a like-minded opponent.

Last spring, a nation watched Hillary Clinton's terrible, terrible Manchurian Candidate candidacy crumble before an opponent who thought all of her thoughts before she did. Once she abandoned hawkish centrism and did a wind sprint to shore up the liberal base Obama courted, she was finished. We endured 21 painful rounds of Obama and Hillary slapping each other around over minute details of a socialist healthcare system. Late to the populist game, Hillary could never triumph over the shining, charismatic Obama.

We're now back in the same bell jar. McCain and Obama essentially argued over who wrote a better letter to warn us about Fannie and Freddie.

Twice, McCain ludicrously suggested the Treasury buy all the bad loans in this country — a sure-fire way to render property values meaningless in this country and expedite our eminent inflation plague. Meanwhile, Obama, responding to \$700,000 tax cuts for corporations, announced, "That is just not fair." How many Americans work for or are directly affected by corporations? His vow to lessen the tax burden on 95 percent of Americans neglects the millions of Americans who will be affected directly or indirectly by increases in capital gains taxes and the 300,000 small businesses affected by his tax plan.

The way Obama spits "deregulation," the women in the Sunday circles may as well stitch it in scarlet on somebody's lapel. Sarah Palin, too, trumpets regulation as though the federal government's stern countenance will not only restore the economy but cause it to flourish. In part, the origins of the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac disasters bow at the feet of federal regulation; for 15 years, both the Clinton and Bush administrations pushed home ownership at any cost, and in 2008, the U.S. was backed into a corner so far, \$700 billion had to be allocated to stave off utter financial implosion.

As McCain said, "The last president to raise taxes during tough economic times was Herbert Hoover, and he practiced protectionism as well." But McCain has a proven record of regulation on campaign finance, tobacco and, most recently, Wall Street. Now, regulation is not always a bad thing, but this is like playing with matches when the problem began with a fire.

McCain and Obama will never be the same candidate — a hearty chasm separates them on foreign and tax policy, especially — but on the economy, McCain has failed to distinguish himself from both Obama and President Bush. He must do so in these last four weeks, especially if the economy continues to be a scene out of "The Day After Tomorrow." Because, like Hillary before him, McCain will never win a popularity contest against Barack Obama.

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### OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments, arguments in bad faith or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in the Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to [opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com](mailto:opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com). Letters via e-mail must come from

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

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

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

### CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

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# SPORTS

## What's the impact of the Auburn win?

The Hustler Sports Staff discusses



With the presence of ESPN's College GameDay and the eyes of the college football world upon them, the Commodores delivered a thrilling 14-13 win over Auburn on Saturday. But this was beyond a single victory. Our writers discuss the far-reaching impact of the win that did more than just keep No. 13 Vanderbilt in first place in the SEC East.

CHRIS PHARE/The Vanderbilt Hustler

### Commodores have earned national respect

by PETER LETARTE  
Sports Contributor



FRANCIS SIMPSON/The Vanderbilt Hustler

The decision of College GameDay to come to Vanderbilt's campus and the Commodore win over Auburn has brought the program national respect.

"R-E-S-P-E-C-T, find out what it means to me," soul singer Aretha Franklin once sang. Well Commodore fans, we most certainly are about to find out exactly what it means.

The biggest impact Saturday's victory over Auburn will have on Vanderbilt will be the respect it gains from the realm of college football. On the national level, Vanderbilt is no longer just a top 20 academic institution who gets to play in the nation's most competitive conference. No, we are now a school with a legitimate top 15 football program.

When Lee Corso disrespectfully tossed aside the Commodore's hat in front of a national audience on ESPN's "College GameDay" on Saturday, he reflected the nation's perspective of Vanderbilt football. For many years, Vanderbilt has been cast aside as the perennial doormat of the Southeastern Conference. National sports writers, and especially AP voters, barely gave them a second thought. This had changed slightly this season, but up until the Commodores shocked the world on Saturday, Vanderbilt was just a nice surprise that made for a feel-good story.

Well now the nation has seen what the Commodores can do, and they certainly can't ignore it. Gone are the days when national sports writers can tell us to just wait for Vanderbilt's conference schedule to start and then see how good they are. We did wait, and we did find out how good they are. And they're pretty damn good. Now, however, everyone knows it from ESPN to Mississippi State, and they will be giving us the respect that comes with having a top program.

That respect means Vanderbilt will no longer be able to sneak up on teams to beat them. Everyone knows the Commodores are good and will be looking to beat them when Vanderbilt comes to town. These are the downfalls to having a nationally respected program, but so far the Commodores have handled everything that has come their way. My bet is they can do it again. ■

### Win helps recruiting immeasurably

by MIKE KRANZLER  
Sports Contributor



Scenes like this at Vanderbilt Stadium have attracted many recruits to Commodore football who would have passed on Vanderbilt in years past.

A big win over Auburn on national television does more than increase Vanderbilt's exposure to voters in the top 25; more and more recruits will start to get interested in the Commodores after seeing them on ESPN and "College GameDay" on Saturday. A major selling point for many recruits is the prestige of a program, which is why schools like Notre Dame, Penn State and Florida State continue to haul in top-rated recruiting classes, even when the team on the field is sub-par.

Vanderbilt has narrowly lost out on several big-name recruits over the last few years to more prestigious programs, such as Notre Dame's Golden Tate and Alabama's Don'ta Hightower. In recent years, the Commodores have even struggled to lock up the best players in Nashville, while some of the top teams often do a great deal of their best recruiting in their own backyards. But with the success the Commodores have been enjoying this season, that is bound to change.

Countless recruits take their official and unofficial visits to Vanderbilt during home games, and VandySports.com reports that close to 60 recruits were in attendance for Saturday's sold-out slugfest. As many as two-thirds of these recruits were underclassmen, which bodes well for the future of this program. Factor in the fact that the crowd on Saturday was possibly the loudest Dudley Field has ever seen (or heard), and recruits are justifiably excited about the future of this program.

Coach Bobby Johnson is building something big in Nashville, and more and more recruits will want to be a part of it as Vanderbilt continues to impress the country. ■

### One great season can turn a program around

by DAVID SHOCHAT  
Sports Contributor



Junior defensive end Steve Stone (96) and freshman linebacker Chris Marve (13) are among many players who should be back to play next year.

How big was Vanderbilt's victory this past weekend against Auburn? It was arguably the biggest football win in school history. After 25 losing seasons, Vanderbilt is 5-0, and fans should not underestimate the impact of this one victory. Sure, Vanderbilt still needs that sixth win to become bowl-eligible; however, if Vanderbilt continues its winning ways, the Auburn game will be looked back upon, years from now, as the game that turned this program around after an unprecedented streak of futility.

Look back at Vanderbilt's 2006-2007 basketball season. The basketball team was an unknown entity that year; no one really expected much of them, but they had a breakout year beating No. 1 Florida and going to the Sweet 16. Last year, they built on that momentum, which helped coach Kevin Stallings sign a top 20 recruiting class, and now Vanderbilt basketball is on the map.

The same thing is about to happen with Vanderbilt football. This season was supposed to be a rebuilding year for the program after losing all five starting offensive linemen and Earl Bennett. However, the team has stepped up and exceeded everyone's expectations. With so many young players, this year will not be just a fluke. The Commodores should be just as good next year and for years to come.

Furthermore, recruiting should really improve, which should also help maintain the program's success. With Vanderbilt winning football games, no other university in the nation will be able to combine outstanding football with an outstanding education as well as Vanderbilt can. Yes, Duke, Stanford, Northwestern, Notre Dame and Georgia Tech are all having good years as well, but they're not facing a Southeastern Conference schedule.

The Commodores have been close for the last few years, and this year they have done all the little things right. If they continue to stay focused, the team will be a part of something very special: They will be remembered as the team that turned Vanderbilt football around. ■

CHRIS PHARE/The Vanderbilt Hustler

### SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by David Rutz

	<b>1. Alabama</b> 6-0 (3-0 SEC) Once again, the Crimson Tide looked ordinary following a big win, as they eked out victory over Kentucky despite 10 penalties and three turnovers.
	<b>2. LSU</b> 4-0 (2-0) Coming off a bye, the stifling defense of the Tigers will face its first true test when it takes on Tim Tebow and the Gators in the Swamp.
	<b>3. Florida</b> 4-1 (2-1) Tebow, along with a promise to fix the economy and cure the common cold, swore after the Ole Miss loss he wouldn't let something like that happen again to the Gators. LSU will have something to say about it.
	<b>4. Georgia</b> 4-1 (1-1) The Bulldogs will be hungry this weekend to not only put the beating by Alabama behind them but also to avenge blowout losses to Tennessee the last two seasons.
	<b>5. Vanderbilt</b> 5-0 (3-0) With each passing game, the Commodores shatter years of futility and bad memories. Now for a real milestone: A win this weekend would make them bowl-eligible for the first time since 1982.
	<b>6. Kentucky</b> 4-1 (0-1) Make no mistake; the Wildcats are a legitimate team with an excellent and opportunistic defense. They gave the Tide more than a scare in Tuscaloosa.
	<b>7. South Carolina</b> 4-2 (1-2) A road win over Ole Miss, a strong defense and solid play by embattled quarterback Chris Smelley have the Gamecocks feeling good after a lackluster start to the season.
	<b>8. Auburn</b> 4-2 (2-2) Tony Franklin may have a rebellion on his hands if the Tigers don't start scoring. As running back Ben Tate said, "As an offense, to be truthful, we're awful."
	<b>9. Ole Miss</b> 3-3 (1-2) The schizophrenic Rebels, who upset Florida last week but blew an early lead to South Carolina, keep shooting themselves in the foot. They have turned the ball over 12 times in their three losses.
	<b>10. Tennessee</b> 2-3 (0-2) All Phil Fulmer could muster about his new quarterback Nick Stephens was that "he didn't disappoint him" in a 13-9 squeaker over Northern Illinois.
	<b>11. Mississippi State</b> 1-4 (0-2) Little walk-on quarterback Tyson Lee impressed enough people to likely earn the starting job for the Bulldogs, who put up a good fight against LSU before a weekend bye.
	<b>12. Arkansas</b> 2-3 (0-2) The Razorbacks allowed over 46 points a game during a brutal three-game stretch that they simply weren't equipped to handle.

## Commodores recruit for baseball, basketball

by MIKE KRANZLER  
Sports Contributor

Nathan Dorris, a 6-foot-4-inch, 185-pound left-handed pitcher from Marion, Ill., has committed to coach Tim Corbin and the Vanderbilt baseball team, according to VandySports.com. Dorris had a record of 9-3 as a junior with a 0.70 earned run average (ERA) and 141 strikeouts in 80 innings pitched. He was

named his conference's player of the year in leading his team to a regional title.

VandySports.com also reported Dorris will be joined next fall by Keenan Kolinsky, a 6-foot-1-inch, 210-pound southpaw who pitches and plays first base and the outfield. Currently a senior at Christian Academy in Knoxville, Tenn., Kolinsky also plays running back during the football season. He had an

offer from the Air Force Academy to pick football over baseball, but chose instead to sign with the Commodores. Dorris and Kolinsky are the seventh and eighth publicly announced commitments to Corbin's recruiting class, joining Jack DeAno, Regan Flaherty, Anthony Gomez, Nate Gonzalez, Connor Harrell and Curt Powell.

Women's basketball will welcome the additions of Elan Brown and Tiffany

Clarke, teammates from a club team in Georgia. The 6-foot Brown is the 23rd-ranked guard in the country according to ESPN, and the 6-foot-1-inch Clarke is the 37th-best forward by that same service. With three seniors on the roster and four publicly announced commitments, coach Melanie Balcomb's recruiting class for this year is most likely complete with these two additions. ■

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