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compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

VSG brings changes to Vandy Vans

by PALLAVI NARAIN
News Contributor

The new school year has seen numerous changes across campus, including the Vandy Vans system. VSG President Joseph Williams has been working with VUPD since his campaign to modify the vans' services.

"My platform basically was to reform Vandy Vans, and [there were] several policy proposals of ways to do that," Williams said.

During his campaign, Williams suggested a new route connecting the Commons to main campus, shuttles seven days a week, and reverse routes.

The improved Vandy Vans system includes a new Commons route, and two Vandy Van stops at the Commons. One stop is at North House and the other is behind 18th Ave. near Hank Ingram House. There also have been more stops added to previous routes.

VUPD has purchased a new shuttle bus, which holds 25 passengers. Along with two of the older shuttles, this bus runs every day of the week. A smaller van runs Thursday through Saturday.

"We wanted reverse routes if the system was going to stay in place. Basically reverse routes have left-hand turns that would make trips slower. The costs outweighed the benefits," Williams said.

Although Williams did look into reverse routes for the Vandy Vans, he did not pursue it very far since all of VSG's

other proposals were met. Williams hopes that if there were ever a need, he would like to revisit the reverse routes issue as it has been done in the past.

VSG worked with many different people and organizations, including the Incoming and Outgoing Security Committee co-chairs, VUPD, and Dean of Students Mark Bandas to make these alterations.

"We had a big shift in how Vandy Vans are run," Williams said. "We worked together in order to come up with a plan that we all agreed was feasible monetarily and that we all agreed would be best for the university as a whole."

Some issues about Vandy Vans have regarded its hours. Currently, Vandy Vans run from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Williams said the hours would most likely remain the same. He said the hours are cost-benefit and supply and demand issues and that the vans were not getting enough ridership to make them worth operating.

The Vandy Vans project began as soon as Williams took office in spring 2008 and is an on going process to find the best ways to improve the system.

"Vandy Vans are something which we are constantly assessing and constantly figuring out how can we do this better [and] how can we make it better for students," Williams said.

With more stops, shuttles and days of operation, Vandy Vans hope to provide a convenient and more efficient way to travel around campus. ■



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt students hoping for reverse Vandy Van routes will have to settle for more stops and a new Commons route for now.

Vanderbilt LifeFlight to participate in safety training

Vanderbilt LifeFlight, the medical center's air ambulance service, will shorten its service on Thursday, Aug. 28 so flight crews can participate in safety training and perform safety audits of the rotor and fixed wing operations.

LifeFlight will only operate one helicopter for emergency flights during the 24-hour period. The service normally operates four helicopters and one airplane.

Source: Vanderbilt News Service

First Chancellor's Lecture Series to feature National Endowment for Humanities chairman

Bruce Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will speak about "The State of the Humanities" at Vanderbilt University on Friday, Sept. 5 at Ingram Hall in the Blair School of Music.

As chairman of the NEH, Cole launched two important programs: a digital humanities initiative and an initiative to encourage the teaching, study and understanding of American history called "We the People."

Source: Vanderbilt News Service

Napster on Campus program terminated, some discounts continue

Napster has eliminated its nationwide Napster on Campus program, ending a four-year partnership with Vanderbilt. The company will continue to offer discounted rates for current faculty and staff subscribers.

Napster will no longer offer single-use student promotion codes or discount codes for new faculty.

All Vanderbilt students and unsubscribed faculty and staff can receive a three-month, 33 percent discount on a Napster to Go subscription. The offer will expire at the end of December.

Source: Vanderbilt News Service

See www.insidevandy.com for more.

Medical center expands into Nashville's first mall

by ALLIE MORRIS

Science and Medicine Specialist



ILLUSTRATIONS PROVIDED BY VANDERBILT MEDICAL CENTER

Instead of walking through hallways lined with stores like Banana Republic and Old Navy, shoppers at 100 Oaks, Nashville's first indoor mall, can expect to find general pediatrics, the Breast Diagnostic Center and Integrative Health.

In an effort to free up space at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center for additions to the Ingram Cancer Center and general surgery facilities, the Med Center has decided to expand by moving 19 of their clinics to the shopping center.

"Clinic space (at 100 Oaks) will be opened up for those programs that need expansion space, but are closely aligned with out patient care," said Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs Dr. C. Wright Pinson. "We will save space on campus for programs that have to be done in close proximity to the campus."

Vanderbilt has already begun construction at 100 Oaks, where they have a lease for more than half of the facility's space.

"We are taking over the whole second floor, and have completely gutted that and rebuilt it out," Pinson said. "Patients can expect the clinic to look much like a

mall, with a main concourse and each of the clinics off to the side, much like a store would be."

Although the Med Center has taken over much of the center, retail stores, including TJ Maxx, Reebok and Michaels, will stay in business on the first floor.

The new clinic facility will have patients check in at a kiosk, similar to an airport check in system. With the swipe of a credit card patients can check in without answering questions about their addresses, health insurance or filling out any time consuming forms.

"You swipe your credit card, you don't have to talk to somebody and the machine already has all of your information," Pinson said.

After checking in at the kiosk, patients will be given a beeper and are then free to roam the 100 Oaks facility, shopping or visiting the food court, until their beeper goes off at the start of their appointment.

Pinson said that he hopes the new clinics will help boost business at 100 Oaks.

"The mall has been here since the mid '60s and has never caught its stride. In general, what we have found is that the city is very happy that we are willing to invest in this," said Pinson.

In an effort to establish a good relationship with the surrounding neighborhood, the Med Center has created a grant program for new community projects. The \$25,000 designated for the program has been distributed to seven different school and community groups. A few of the winners include Glencliff High School, the Neighborhoods Resource Center, and the Flatrock Heritage Community Garden.

The Med Center will also have 20 VUPD officers at the 100 Oaks property to ensure the safety of the patients, staff and shoppers.

"We are trying to be good citizens," Pinson said.

Pinson said construction has stayed on schedule and plans to open in April 2009 still stand. Only one of the 19 clinics, Pediatric Rehabilitation Services, is open now.

When open, the 100 Oaks clinics will have services in dermatology, general pediatrics, multiple sclerosis, obstetrics and gynecology and surgical weight loss, in addition to a pharmacy, full lab services, radiology and diagnostic imaging. The facility will also include a 70,000-square-foot wellness center for a physical therapy facility. ■

CAMPUS LIVING: No parking? No problem. Zipcars offer new transportation option for students. SEE PAGE 4



WEAR YOUR COLORS

Students, Faculty, Staff and Fans
This Friday, August 29, 2008 is College Colors Day!

Wear Your Black & Gold to Show Your Commodore Spirit Throughout the Day
Visit the Vanderbilt Bookstore and trade in a non-Vanderbilt tee-shirt for a 25% discount on one Vandy tee.

Support Your Commodores! It's Good To Be Gold!!
Offer ends August, 30th. Donated items will go to charity.



SNAPSHOTS

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

TODAY



HIGH **84**, LOW **87**
P.M. Showers

THURSDAY



HIGH **92**, LOW **69**
Sunny

FRIDAY



HIGH **92**, LOW **70**
Partly Cloudy

SATURDAY



HIGH **87**, LOW **68**
Isolated t-storms

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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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hurricane recovery confronts low literacy rate

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Marsha Williams had always hesitated when mail arrived from the government. After Hurricane Katrina, she began to fear the letters.

One warned that her apartment building could be shut down because of unrepaired storm damage. There were legal notices and forms. What did they all mean? At age 51, Williams was embarrassed she could not read much more than her own name and address.

Three years after Katrina, residents of New Orleans are still buried in a blizzard of government paperwork. But for thousands of storm victims seeking federal aid, the challenge is made more difficult by a little-known obstacle: More than 40 percent of the city's adults lack the literacy skills to comprehend basic government forms. And recovery programs have done little to ease the burden.

"I didn't get a lot of school when I was a child. I guess they didn't have enough to go around," said Williams, who is learning to read in a YMCA adult-education course.

Rachel B. Nicolosi, program director for the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans, estimates that as many as 100,000 people from New Orleans may have had assistance delayed, or they never applied for help at all, because they could not read the documents.

Source: AP

Colleges confront shootings with survival training

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Hundreds of colleges across the nation have purchased a training program that teaches professors and students not to take campus threats lying down but to fight back with any "improvised weapon," from a backpack to a laptop computer.

The program—which includes a video showing a gunman opening fire in a packed classroom—urges them to be ready to respond to a shooter by taking advantage of the inherent strength in numbers.

It reflects a new response at colleges and universities where grisly memories of the campus shootings at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University are still fresh.

"Look at your environment through the lens of survival," said Domenick Brouillette, who administered the course at Metropolitan Community College, which serves more than 20,000 students. "Survivors prepare themselves both mentally and emotionally to do what it takes. It might involve life-threatening risk. You may do something you never thought you were capable of doing."

Source: AP

NM escaped inmates may have had inside help

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP)—Five inmates who broke out of a New Mexico jail—including a killer and a man accused of murder—remained on the loose Tuesday, and a prosecutor said investigators were focusing on the possibility that someone inside aided in the weekend escape.

Eight inmates escaped Sunday from the Curry County jail, but one was quickly captured and two others were caught in nearby Texas. District Attorney Matt Chandler said investigators believe some of the remaining escapees could be in west Texas.

"We're still receiving tips that some of the other fugitives, at least one or two of the other fugitives, could be in" the Lubbock area, he said.

Chandler told The Associated Press in a phone interview that New Mexico State Police began looking closely Tuesday at whether anyone inside the jail helped the men escape.

They are "working that angle very hard, and that's going to be a very high-priority focus," he said. Chandler did not say what led investigators to suspect that the inmates might have had inside help.

Source: AP

Feds doubt Colo. men were credible Obama threat

Denver (AP)—Authorities investigating a possible plot to assassinate Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention have three men in custody—including one found with high-powered rifles, three fake IDs and two wigs in a truck—but they expressed doubts Tuesday that the suspects had posed a credible threat.

The men arrested Sunday face drug and gun counts but are not expected to be charged with making threatening statements, conspiracy or other national-security-related crimes, according to a federal law enforcement official in Denver who spoke on condition of anonymity because the charges have not yet been filed.

Obama will become the first black nominee for president by a major party at this week's convention. One of the men arrested, Nathan Johnson, told a Denver TV station that others involved in the case had made racist statements regarding Obama and had discussed killing him Thursday, the day of his acceptance speech at Invesco Field at Mile High.

"He don't belong in political office. Blacks don't belong in political office. He ought to be shot," Johnson told KCNC-TV Monday in a late-night interview from jail, where he was being held on drug charges.

Source: AP

Ohio man sentenced for writing racial hate letters

CLEVELAND (AP)—A man who wrote hundreds of threatening letters over 20 years to black and mixed-race men—including Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter—was sentenced Tuesday to three years and 10 months in prison.

David Tuason apologized in federal court, saying he never meant to hurt anybody. He said he sent the threatening letters because a black man "stole" the girlfriend he planned to marry.

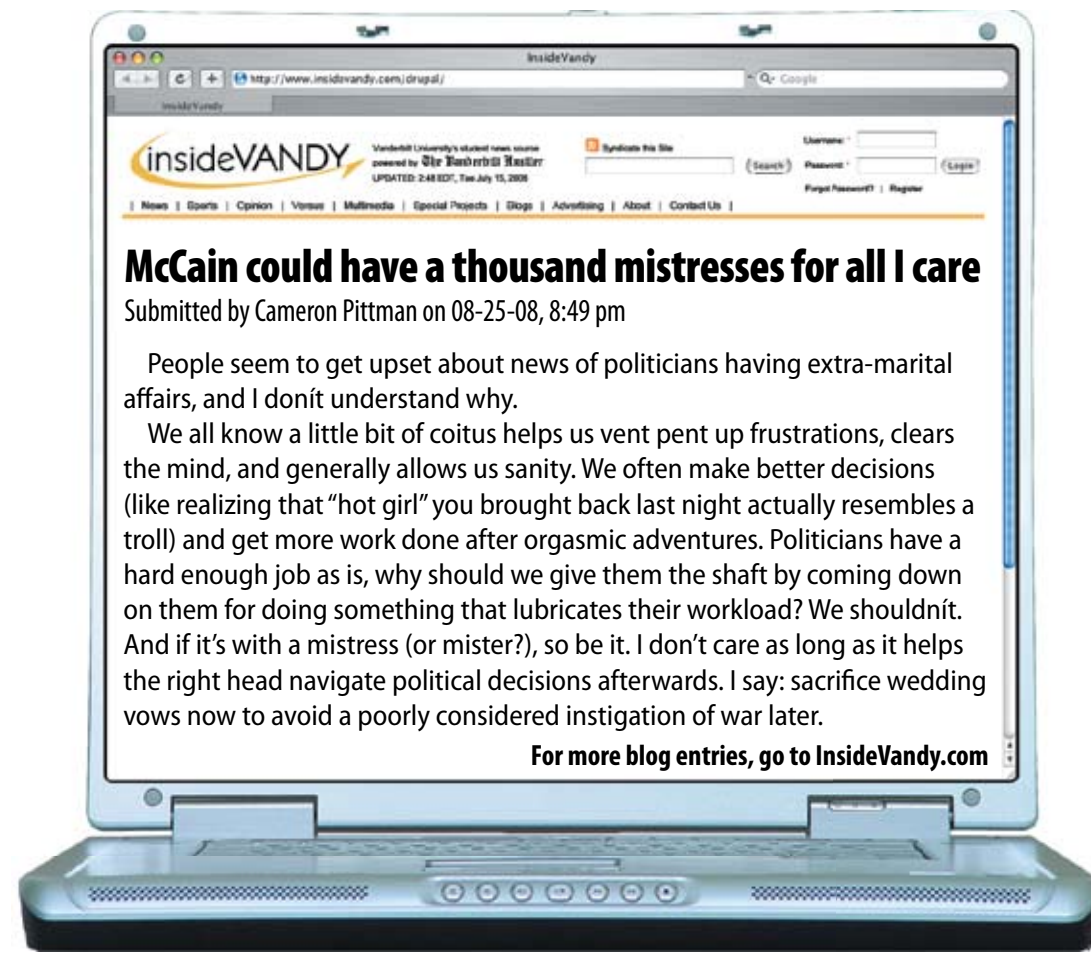
Tuason, 46, pleaded guilty in May to six counts of mailing threatening communications and two counts of threatening interstate communications.

Prosecutors said Tuason, who is of Filipino descent, sent more than 200 hateful letters or e-mails, many to black or mixed-race men seen with white women.

Hundreds of other letters were found in March when federal agents searched Tuason's bedroom at his parents' home in suburban Pepper Pike, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Dean Valore.

Source: AP

FROM THE BLOG



McCain could have a thousand mistresses for all I care

Submitted by Cameron Pittman on 08-25-08, 8:49 pm

People seem to get upset about news of politicians having extra-marital affairs, and I don't understand why.

We all know a little bit of coitus helps us vent pent up frustrations, clears the mind, and generally allows us sanity. We often make better decisions (like realizing that "hot girl" you brought back last night actually resembles a troll) and get more work done after orgasmic adventures. Politicians have a hard enough job as is, why should we give them the shaft by coming down on them for doing something that lubricates their workload? We shouldn't. And if it's with a mistress (or mister?), so be it. I don't care as long as it helps the right head navigate political decisions afterwards. I say: sacrifice wedding vows now to avoid a poorly considered instigation of war later.

For more blog entries, go to InsideVandy.com

SNAPSHOT

SERVING UP A PLATE AT CHEF JAMES BISTRO



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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WELCOME TO NASHVILLE FAIR



AUGUST 28 FROM 3 TO 6 STUDENT LIFE CENTER BALLROOM

MEET YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS FOR TONS OF DOOR PRIZES AND VENDOR GIVEAWAYS

Vanderbilt Student Communications and the Student Life Center are hosting the inaugural "Welcome to Nashville Fair" on August 28.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

This is a great chance to meet your local merchants, many of whom are within walking distance of the campus. Each vendor will have a booth and we encourage you to visit as many as you can. They will go out of their way to make it worth your while with free food, product samples, coupons and much more. Restaurants, Wireless communication providers, Eyewear stores, Salons, Banks, Fitness, Fashion, Sports Venues, Tanning Salons, and much more will be represented at the event.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Many vendors are donating nice door prizes that represent their industry. That means that there will be a door prize given away to a student about every 5 minutes over a 3-hour period! Plus- many vendors will be giving away freebies, coupons, discounts and more! These vendors want your business and they will make it worth your while to show up. Free snacks and beverages provided by the Student Life Center.

HOW MANY VENDORS WILL BE THERE?

We are allowing up to 50 vendors to attend. We won't have a final count until the last minute but we expect a full house.

DO I NEED TO BRING ANYTHING?

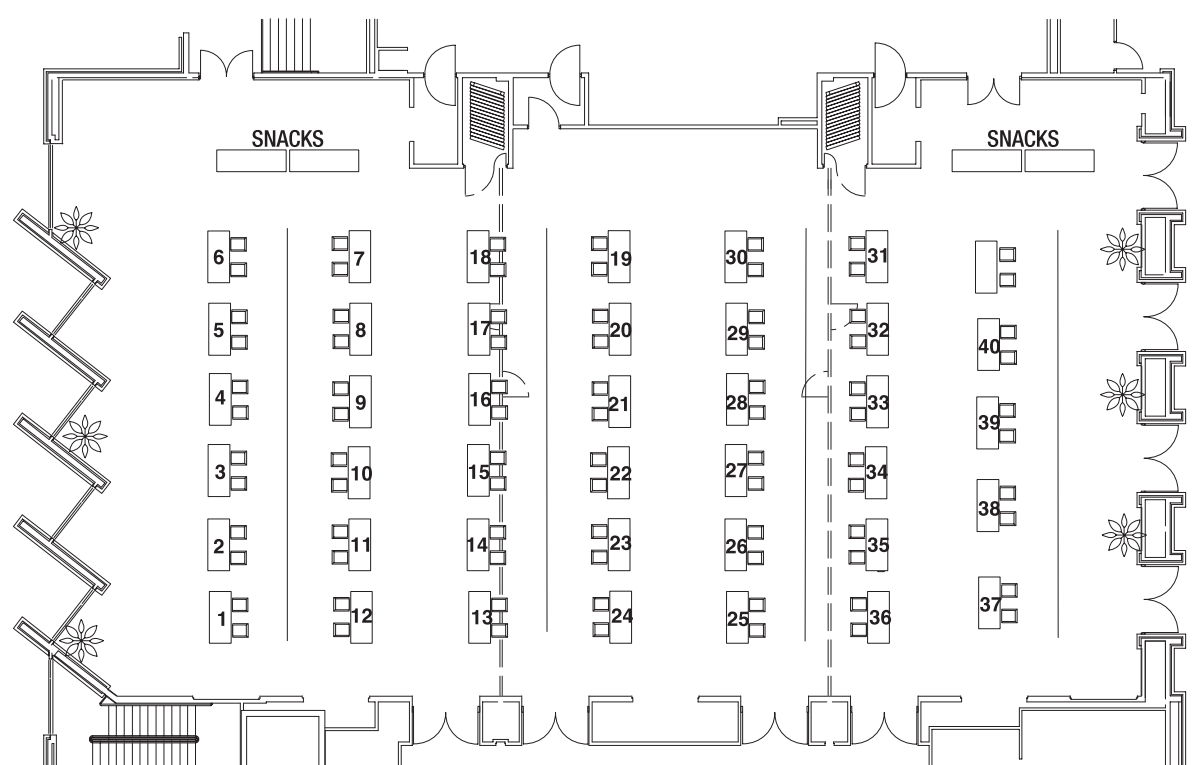
Free bags will be provided courtesy of Fed Ex-Kinkos so you can carry away all the great stuff you collect while you are there.

WHAT ABOUT GIVING OUT PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION?

We are asking vendors not to ask for personal information (e-mail, phone number, etc) but if there is a legitimate reason for giving out your personal contact information, (Example- some banks will need your personal contact info to process your application) ultimately it's up to you. We don't want to encourage spam e-mailings.

Following is a partial list of vendors who will be attending the Welcome to Nashville Fair and some of the give aways. Many vendors will be donating generous door prizes to encourage you to stop by. In addition to door prizes, some vendors will be handing out coupons and offering one day only discounts for goods and services. So come on out, make some new friends, and load up on freebies.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. WHOLE FOODS MARKET, 2 GIFT CERTS TO SALUD! COOKING SCHOOL + EXCEPTIONAL GIFT PACKAGE | 21. LIVESCRIBE INC. |
| 2. ABSOLUTE WIRELESS, BLUETOOTH HEADSET | 22. BRUEGGER'S BAGELS, 12 SANDWICH COUPONS |
| 3. ARMY ROTC | 23. VANDERBILT EYE INSTITUTE, ED HARDY SUNGLASSES |
| 4. WACHOVIA BANK | 24. SEMESTER AT SEA |
| 5. ATHLETES HOUSE, WATER BOTTLE AND SIX \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATES | 25. DRS. ELAM VAUGHAN & FLEMING DENTISTRY |
| 6. OFF THE GRILL, \$50 IN GIFT CERTIFICATES | 26. URBAN SUN TAN SPA, 1 MONTH ESCAPE PACKAGE WITH PRODUCTS (\$200 VALUE) |
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| 9. CUMBERLAND APARTMENTS, IPOD | 29. HOT YOGA, 30 CONSECUTIVE UNLIMITED DAYS |
| 10. BANK OF AMERICA, IPOD | 30. SPECS OPTICAL, VERA BRADLEY TOTE BAG & MICHAEL KORS SUNGLASSES |
| 11. SEE EYEWEAR, \$200 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR GLASSES | 31. DULCE DESSERTS, \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE |
| 12. US COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION | 32. TPAC, 2 TICKETS TO RAIN (TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES) |
| 13. BIG BANG, LARGE MULTI-PRIZE PACKAGE | 33. MIRO & WATERMARK RESTAURANTS, \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR EACH |
| 14. BREAD & CO. | 34. KAPLAN TEST PREP |
| 15. NASHVILLE PREDATORS, 10 TICKETS TO THE 10/23 GAME AGAINST CALGARY | 35. MAMBU RESTAURANT, \$150 GIFT CERTIFICATE |
| 16. HI'S BIRKENSTOCK, GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR A PAIR OF SHOES | 36. ALERT NOTIFICATION |
| 17. BANK OF NASHVILLE | 37. HOT SPOT TANNING, FREE TANNING FOR ONE SEMESTER |
| 18. CLOTHING XCHANGE, \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE | 38. HOLLYWOOD DISCO, \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE AND A T-SHIRT |
| 19. VANDERBILT DINING: TASTE OF NASHVILLE | |
| 20. QDOBA MEXICAN GRILL | |



ADMINISTRATION

Despite turnover, administration doesn't rush it

Important interim positions yet to be filled.

by EVE ATTERMANN
Administration Specialist

While reflecting on his time as interim chancellor in the wake of Chancellor Gee's surprising resignation last August, Chancellor Zeppos was characteristically positive.

"I enjoyed my role as 'Chancellor' and was deeply honored and thrilled to be elected chancellor almost six months ago," said Zeppos. "Being named interim chancellor was a tremendous responsibility, a temporary but significant commitment to lead the university until our Board of Trust could elect a permanent chancellor."

Zeppos was not the only administrator whose professional life at Vanderbilt was directly affected by Gee's departure. Richard McCarty, the dean of the College of Arts and Science, was almost immediately appointed to Zeppos' old positions as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Caroline Dever, a former faculty member in the English department who has also been both the associate dean of graduate education and the executive dean of Arts and Science, was appointed the interim dean of Arts and Science.

Additionally, in June Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Michael Schoenfeld left his position for a job at Duke University, causing Associate Vice Chancellor Beth Fortune to be appointed as interim vice chancellor.

Both the dean of Arts and Science and vice chancellor for public affairs positions are going to be filled this year, according to McCarty and Fortune. National search committees, selected by Zeppos, will nominate two to three candidates from which Zeppos will select a permanent appointment.

McCarty's position was filled after an in-house search, and not a national one, resulting in an in-house hire similar to Zeppos' appointment.

"It was an internal appointment because the chancellor did not want to wait a year and a half to fill the position," McCarty said. "So the search was limited to Vanderbilt."

According to Zeppos, the selection process

varies with each position.

"In order to make the best possible hiring decisions we explore all options and do not rush the process," Zeppos said. "On the other hand, when the best decision comes sooner than expected, we prefer to move quickly."

Zeppos and McCarty worked closely together during McCarty's seven-year tenure as dean, something McCarty says motivated him to accept the position.

"I've worked with Zeppos since I've arrived here, and I'd do anything to maintain that relationship," McCarty said.

While McCarty thanked Zeppos personally for the appointment in a Vanderbilt press release, he maintains Zeppos held the appropriate distance from the hiring process.

"He was very respectful of the search process, and given his experience as provost, he was not involved directly," McCarty said.

Zeppos' professional past with the university involved him working closely with Fortune, while McCarty has worked closely with Dever.

"(Dever) is doing a fantastic job," McCarty said. "I hope she'll be a candidate (for the permanent position). She would be a strong candidate."

For Dever and Fortune, the interim position represents different phases in their careers.

Dever sees the appointment as a sign of dedication to the institution in which she primarily sees herself as a member of the faculty.

"I was a very happy person in my old position. Being here is not about not being a faculty member — it's about being a good citizen of the college of Arts and Science," Dever said.

Fortune hopes the position will give her an opportunity to earn a possible candidacy for the permanent position, and in the meantime she says she is being very cautious in the types of changes she makes to prepare for the possibility she is not selected for the permanent position.

"I don't want to tie up the next person's hands," Fortune said.

While Fortune said she found discussing the interim position "awkward" she also said that although it made sense for her to have the interim position because of her eight years of experience and her familiarity with Nashville and the community, she is trying not to obsess over her chances of ultimately being hired.

"I'm not campaigning for the job and am completely comfortable in this role," Fortune said. "The decision is up to Chancellor Zeppos."

When asked if she would accept a permanent position as Dean of Arts and Science, Dever remained vague.

"I feel tremendously dedicated to this university, but we have a few weeks and months before we have to cross that bridge," Dever said. ■



ZEPPOS



McCARTY

Getting back in tune



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Anthony Wang rehearses in preparation for the fall semester at Blair School of Music. Auditions and interviews are being held this week for ensembles and performances for this semester.

Car rental service arrives

New program to offer alternative transportation.

by JUDY WANG
Academics Specialist

With the price of fuel on the rise and available parking on campus scarce, Vanderbilt Student Government and the Office of Traffic and Parking are teaming up to offer Zipcars, a vehicle loan service.

Zipcars allows students and faculty to rent cars for an hourly fee once they have become members. That amount, in addition

to an annual fee, covers the expense of gas, insurance and use of the vehicle.

"A lot of students don't have cars on campus, and Zipcars are a real practical solution to provide those students with a form of transportation," said Speaker of the Senate Fabiani Duarte, a junior.

To become members, students and faculty can visit the company's Web site and submit to a quick background and driving record check. Once approved, they will be able to reserve a vehicle and then access it with their electronic membership card.

Currently there are five Zipcars located on campus, with a range of styles and rental rates. If there is a high demand for the vehicles,

Zipcars "may provide additional cars within two to three weeks," said Manager of Traffic and Parking Lance Hale.

The official launch of the program will be Wednesday, Aug. 28, when students will be able to meet with representatives to learn more details about rental fees, insurance policies and how to activate memberships. Informational events will be held at the Commons from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and at the Student Life Center from 3 to 6 p.m.

"We look forward to the students being very receptive to this initiative, and hope that this program will grow in the future," said Hale. ■

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GREEK SCENE

Freshmen consider frat scene

by DAKOTA KLAES
News Contributor

When asked why they chose Vanderbilt, the Class of 2012 invoked the school's great sense of balance. At the "If I had known then what I know now" student panel for the College of Arts and Science, freshmen made it clear their interests included balancing academic success and their social lives.

Fraternity nightlife remains an undeniable force in weekend socializing. As Greek Row's widely recognized reputation for excitement permeates the Commons, many new students are anxious to partake in the thriving Greek scene.

"I have not had a lot of experience with the frats yet," said first-year student Ross Catum. "But it has seemed fun. They have been pretty welcoming to freshmen."

"We love to see potential brothers coming in as first-years," said sophomore Naveed Nanjee and member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. "But fun can absolutely be had without drinking, especially on the new Commons."

Some freshmen have already experienced fraternity parties and have lists of several houses they have visited since their arrival. First-year student Alex Jamar hopes Greek Life here at

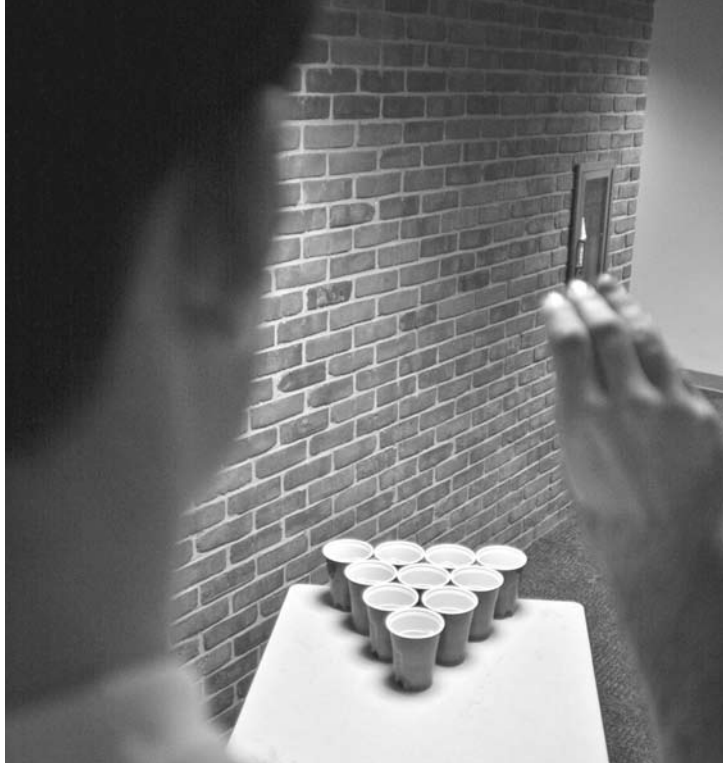


Photo illustration by OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Fraternities may have to dispell stereotypes about first-year students' expectations.

Vanderbilt will compare to the epic college scenes depicted in the film "Animal House."

"The Greeks have been going above and beyond," said first-year student Ben Scott. "The Greek scene has been crazy and intense."

Excessive or wild partying, however, can come at a cost to students, and can sometimes harm the likelihood of a bid during rush season.

According to the Office of

Greek Life, first-year students are allowed in the fraternity houses at all times but the longstanding university policy is that they should not mix with alcohol. This weekend marks the first with registered fraternity social events with alcohol that first-year students will be allowed to attend.

Disciplinary probations, often due to alcohol-related violations, make students ineligible for Greek membership. ■

Sudan says airliner hijacked in southern Darfur



ABDEL MAGID AL FERGANY / AP Photo

A Sudanese hijacked passenger plane landed in Libya Tuesday after leaving the town of Nyala in Darfur. A man holding a knife hijacked the plane carrying more than 100 people a security official said.

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan—A man waving a knife hijacked a jetliner carrying about 100 people Tuesday in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, forcing it to land at a World War II-era airfield in the heart of the Sahara Desert in neighboring Libya, officials said.

The Boeing 737 was commandeered soon after taking off from Nyala, capital of southern Darfur, en route to Khartoum, the national capital, said Yusuf Ibrahim, director of Khartoum's airport. He said it was not clear whether one or several hijackers were involved.

Libyan aviation officials confirmed the plane landed in Kufra, a desert oasis in that country's arid southeast close to the Sudanese and Egyptian borders.

Authorities were said to be traveling to Kufra, some 1,000 miles from Libya's capital of Tripoli. The airfield has little, if any, communications equipment, and Libyan officials said they had been unable to contact the hijackers since the plane landed.

The only contact was earlier from the pilot, who radioed a mayday signal to Tripoli requesting permission to land and refuel, said a Libyan security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media. By midnight, the plane had not refueled and it was unclear whether the Libyans would allow it to do so.

The civil aviation chief in Egypt, Emad Salaam, said the airliner belongs to a private company, Sun Air, and was carrying 95 passengers ó a mix of civilians and local Darfur officials ó plus an unspecified number of crew members.

The politicians on board were members of the Darfur Transitional Authority, an interim government body responsible for implementing a peace agreement between rebel factions and Sudan's government, a security official at Nyala airport said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media.

Sudan has had previous hijackings, most recently in January 2007, when a man hijacked a plane taking off from Khartoum and forced the pilot at gunpoint to fly to neighboring Chad, then surrendered. None of the more than 100 passengers was hurt.

But such incidents are rare in Darfur, an impoverished region where up to 300,000 people have died and more than 2.5 million have been displaced since a rebellion began early in 2003.

Although officials said there was no indication of any connection, the hijacking came a day after one of the worst attacks in recent months on a Darfur refugee camp ó just 15 miles from Nyala airport, where the plane took off.

Sudanese soldiers attacked the Kalma camp at dawn Monday, killing dozens of civilians, witnesses said. A spokesman for U.N.-African Union peacekeepers, Nourredine Mezni, said at least 33 people were buried Tuesday. ■

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English only referendum misses the mark

NEILY TODD
Columnist

Obama or McCain? This decision is taking a backseat to many in Nashville this election season, as residents of Davidson County will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum aiming to make English Nashville's official language. The initiative is titled English-only, and was vetoed last year by then Mayor Bill Purcell. Since then, the proposal's author, Councilman Eric Crafton, has obtained the more than 10,000 signatures necessary to place the referendum on the November ballot.

English-only will prohibit all government services in the Metro Nashville area from being offered in any language other than English. Do not be confused, however, into thinking this is simply a measure to curtail the spread of foreign culture into American society.

As Mayor Karl Dean pointed out in a speech to Metro Council, "[This referendum] is not a vote on immigration reform and it is not a harmless message to office holders. The proposed charter amendment will have absolutely no effect upon efforts to curtail illegal immigration or to reform current national policy." Voters who see this proposal as a step towards reducing illegal immigration need to take a closer look at its broader implications.

The effects of making English Nashville's official language reach beyond immigrants to our area who have yet to learn English to touch any foreign person coming into contact with Nashville. Imagine a Japanese tourist who is downtown visiting the Country Music Hall of Fame and has his wallet stolen. When contacting the police department, in his disarray, the little English he knows is completely forgotten. Fortunately, there is an employee in the office who speaks some Japanese and is happy to translate for the man. Unfortunately, Nashville has passed the English-only proposal making it illegal for this employee to speak any language other than English. The tourist is now unable to report the crime and his wallet is lost forever.

Nashville's contact with people of foreign countries extends beyond tourists. The Consular Office of Japan opened here this year. Nashville has sister cities in Northern Ireland, France, Canada, Germany, and China. Many political refugees look to Nashville as a place to flee from the violence of their home countries.

As Nashville continues to grow, these ties to foreign cultures will only increase. Globalization continues to erase national borders. We cannot afford to hold ourselves back by refusing to acknowledge the need to be able to communicate with people of any culture, in any language, at any time. The pros and cons of non-English-speaking residents in our city can, and should, be debated from many different perspectives, but voters must realize so much more is at stake here. As Mayor Dean ended his speech on the matter, "Let us not forget, English is the official language of Tennessee. This is not in question. To put it plainly, we have too much potential to allow such an unnecessary change in our law to hurt us in so many ways." English-only will do nothing more than stunt the city's development. Nashville, vote no.

—Neily Todd is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at neily.p.todd@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

Alcohol scare tactics ignore personal choice

Looking back at the last week and a half, the Class of 2012 may have had the most boring introduction to college in the country.

After arriving at Vanderbilt, the first-year students have spent countless hours in programming in conjunction with the opening of the Commons. By expanding the VUcept program to encompass almost a whole week before older students descended on campus, the message from school officials involved with the Commons was clear: get these new freshmen acclimated before the party starts.

This mission works in tandem with another new student policy that has been in full effect so far this semester. Freshmen students are not allowed to enter fraternity houses or attend fraternity events when alcohol is present until this Friday, a policy Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey said has been the norm since before she arrived here. Torrey informed the Hustler the "no freshman" rule is the result of the work among many concerned offices on campus, including the Dean of Students and the Commons.

The policy means well. After all, it probably benefits freshmen to have a full week of class without interruption from the potential distraction of fraternity activity. Of course, it may also be beneficial to eliminate many of the other distractions from this first week of school, but officials aren't exactly barring freshmen from working out at the Rec. Clearly, the operative issue is alcohol.

The concern is freshmen will be sucked into a life of booze and debauchery before they've even started class. This is a legitimate concern, but what sort of message does this policy send to our new students about Greek Life, drinking and personal responsibility? Apparently, the message is fraternities are the prime places to get drunk and freshmen cannot make the decision about having a responsible social life until after that first week of classes.

Nevertheless, the policy stands, and it emboldens the university's stance on eliminating the problems with underage drinking. With the advent of the Commons, however, one member of the community found it his responsibility to address the problem head on.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Tony Brown, the faculty head of Hank Ingram House, took it upon himself to draft an alcohol abstinence pledge. He asked the nearly 300 first-year residents of his house to sign the pledge; not surprisingly, only about one-third of those students agreed to do so. The response from Brown was both unusual and revealing.

On the Hank Ingram House blog at the Common Place Web site, Brown posted a satiric letter last Friday written from the perspective of "John B. Firstyear" to his parents. The letter claims those who did not sign the pledge — nearly 200 first-year students — are "not yielding to pressure to be outstanding community citizens of Hank Ingram House." In addition, these students were accused of trying "to fit in with the popular students at all costs," not feeling comfortable "until (they've) had at least one beer or two or three or four," and feeling "awkward in social situations" without a n alcohol buzz. All this in response to a voluntary pledge.

Brown's passive-aggressive response is irresponsible. By disparaging nearly two-thirds of his freshmen students, he has essentially alienated himself from a batch of new Vanderbilt community members. The concept of the faculty head of house is these professors can be a resource for first-year students who, in all likelihood, have numerous questions and concerns about all aspects of college life. It will not be a surprise if many Hank Ingram residents feel wary of their faculty head.

While Brown's principled stance and desire to change the culture is admirable, his self-described sharp critique of what he perceives as a Vanderbilt culture hung up on binge drinking seems to undercut the voluntary spirit of the pledge. Should Brown use his position as a faculty head of house to speak out against underage drinking? Absolutely. But was it responsible to expect students to sign a voluntary pledge and then criticize and stereotype those who chose not to do so? Probably not.

If curbing underage drinking is a goal for Vanderbilt, perhaps the focus should be more on personal responsibility and less on coercion tactics that fail to recognize the reality of college life.

Olympics underrated



JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

I'm a little disappointed because it's that time again. I'm not talking about the drunken wanderings of the freshmen class, or briefly recounting your summer experience about two hundred times, or even the search for the perfect dorm poster that sends the message: "I'm really cool, but I also like to express myself." No, I am speaking of the closing of the Olympics, or as I like to refer to it, "the greatest spectacle of athletic achievement across the globe."

You're probably asking yourself what could possibly dampen my spirits after a thrilling 17 days of wonderment. Well, for starters, the Chinese Commies smoked us in gold medals. Clearly, for the next round we need to begin threatening the families of our Olympians if they don't get gold. For us college students, it should serve as a bit of reality check: Competitors our age and younger are exhibiting world class fitness and winning awards for their country while for most of us it's an achievement to go a full day without a nap.

Let's move past this thought to bask in the bigger picture. The Olympics are an incomparable two-year phenomenon, (though everybody knows that barring speed skating the

summer Olympics are much better) and what perturbs me is the lack of respect. I don't want to point the finger at everyone here, because there's certainly a fair share of

The Olympics symbolize a global unification as spectators to pay homage to the magnificently talented athletes who have trained all their lives to receive our 60 seconds of respect.

devotees, but we're talking about a tradition of honoring the spectacular abilities and performance of the human body passed down to us from the ancient Greeks.

This does mean, though, when I mention Bela Carolyi in conversation (almost daily) I shouldn't be met with ignorant open-mouth gaping. The Olympics symbolize a global unification as spectators to pay homage to the magnificently talented athletes who have trained all their lives to receive our 60 seconds of respect. To deny them of this because you're watching Scrubs re-runs or visiting a sick relative is like spitting on a piece of garbage you littered on a tombstone. I believe we need to go above and beyond casually chatting about Michael Phelps or Usain Bolt.

This is a monumental world event that calls for greater recognition. I actually went into a bar that only had the Olympics on two of their four TVs. Why would you be watching something else? If work is not completely canceled, the Olympics should at least be turned on throughout the American workplace. Because let's face it, amidst all the international critique, the Olympics is one of the few times when the rest of the world has to step back and own up: "Yeah, America's the best." On the other side, it creates a unique atmosphere across the country where for once we're all rooting for the same team. Outside of getting attacked by another country, this is really the most patriotic people will get, so we need to start warming up to embrace Vancouver 2010.

—Justin Poythress is a senior in Peabody College. He can be reached at j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu.

Convention system too complicated
Soo-Ryum Yang, Columnist

The convention system is not necessarily obsolete but hopelessly complicated and needlessly prolonged. The months-long primary-caucus process can be replaced with one electoral event taking place simultaneously around the country. This should eliminate any influence early voting states would have on following elections and prevent any future Michigan/Florida problems from occurring. Thus, this system is very much integral to our electoral process, but it needs reform to eliminate unnecessary traditions that make our democracy inefficient and ineffective.

Conventions don't serve same purpose
Frannie Boyle, Columnist

Unfortunately for the U.S. the convention system has become somewhat obsolete over the past few decades. In the past there was much excitement over each party's convention because the nominees' identities were usually unknown. The political parties would also use the convention to decide upon major changes in their platforms. In 1968 the Democrats used their convention to decide upon their position on the Vietnam War, and in their 1980 convention, the Republicans added the anti-abortion stance to their platform. Platform changes are decided upon in advance, and the most anticipated part, the nomination of the party's candidate for president, is now known months before the actual convention. They have in a sense become obsolete. They just do not hold the significance they did in the past.

Conventions are symbolic
Aimee Sobhani, Columnist

More recent conventions lack the mystery past conventions once had. Because of the current media, potential candidates gear up for the campaign months earlier since they need coverage to win the primaries that will lead to winning the party's nomination.

These days, the presumptive nominee becomes apparent months before the convention, and the public even discovers the identity of the vice presidential candidate before delegates meet. Since everyone knows who will be competing in November, conventions are now symbolic events. Now, they are merely huge parties for the delegates.

Conventions needed for party unity
Meryem Dede, Columnist

Conventions are obsolete when it comes to their original purpose: to select a candidate for president. With winning candidates usually securing their positions well before August, electors' votes during conventions rarely come as a surprise; Obama certainly was not crossing his fingers as the ballots were read. However, conventions also serve as a platform for parties to unite themselves after grueling primary races. In this respect, conventions are still very much needed. Obama needed the convention to heal any wounds he may have inflicted on his way to the top. As long as there are primaries, conventions will not be obsolete.

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QUICK SHOTS

One Issue, Four Responses

Is the party convention system obsolete?

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Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to 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.

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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.

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Vanderbilt Student Government
5009 Station B
joseph.williams@vanderbilt.edu
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(615) 322-8742

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
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(202) 224-3344
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U.S. House of Rep.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4311
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Rep. Brenda Gilmore
Tenn. District 54
P.O. Box 281934
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 876-3665

Sen. Douglas Henry Jr.
Tenn. District 21
11 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243-0021
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 - Continental cash
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 - Merge
 - Small singing group
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 - Valuable fiddle
 - Diviner

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SPORTS

Chris Nickson should be starting quarterback

GOOD CALL

BAD CALL



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Now fully healthy, redshirt senior Chris Nickson has the mobility, passing ability and experience to lead Vanderbilt to a bowl game this season.

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor

Chris Nickson should be the starter to open the season, as few, if any, quarterbacks in the country possess a comparable combination of such strong physical and mental tools.

Coming out of Pike County High School in Alabama, Nickson not only received the Mr. Football award as the state's best player but was also a star in basketball and baseball. He was also the valedictorian of his high school class. At a position where intelligence is of the utmost importance, Nickson is more than capable of dissecting opposing defenses with his knowledge of the offense and the game of football.

Nickson not only brings the most experience to the quarterback position, but he is also the more dangerous athlete as a runner. Playing behind a completely new offensive line, whoever takes the snaps may be forced to run more than the coaches would like as the unit gains experience. But with Nickson's speed and elusiveness, getting him out in space would be a weapon for the team, giving opposing defensive coordinators headaches all season.

He earned the trust of his coaches and teammates with his previous starting experience. After redshirting in 2004 and serving as the understudy to Jay Cutler in 2005, he stepped into the starting lineup as only a redshirt sophomore in 2006 and had

one of the best seasons ever by a Commodore quarterback.

Nickson passed for over 2,000 yards and 15 touchdowns while also leading the team in rushing with nearly 700 yards and nine scores. Several of his performances that season were among the best ever by a Commodore signal-caller, including a game against Duke where he threw for 250 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 150 yards and three more scores. His 2,779 yards of total offense that season was also good for fourth-best in Vanderbilt's history.

Expectations throughout the Southeastern Conference were sky-high for him going into last season, and he was named to the preseason Third-Team All-SEC team by the league coaches. Georgia's Matthew Stafford and Florida's Tim Tebow (who ultimately won the Heisman Trophy) were nowhere to be found on this list despite their lofty billings.

After getting off to an excellent start that included a four-touchdown passing performance to open the season, Nickson was injured, which caused him to struggle with inconsistency before ultimately being replaced by Mackenzi Adams midway through the season. He continued to play in spot duty for the rest of the year, but it was evident he was not himself physically.

Now fully healthy, Nickson has the confidence, athleticism and savvy to finally lead this team to the Promised Land with his arm, his feet and his head. ■



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

An intense competitor and precise pocket passer, Mackenzi Adams took the reins at quarterback last year and proved up to the challenge.

by NICK GALLO
Sports Contributor

While quarterback Chris Nickson will most likely start this season, redshirt junior Mackenzi Adams should not only be considered for the job but should see major playing time. Nickson's extra year of experience may lead the coaching staff to give him the nod as the starter for the Miami (OH) game, but the same staff also showed they were ready to move towards Adams at the end of 2007. In Vanderbilt's last six games of the year, Nickson threw only one pass, an incompleting. Adams only posted a 2-4 record in Nickson's stead, but it will be hard for the coaching staff to completely shift gears back to Nickson simply for his running ability.

To compare the numbers from last year, Adams never had a game where his completion percentage was less than 44 percent, while Nickson had three games under that abysmal mark, all losses. Nickson had a six to five touchdown to interception ratio while Adams had a better nine to six ratio.

Nickson did lead the Commodores to three wins last year compared to Adams' two, but the competition was considerably lower. Nickson's victories came against Richmond, Ole Miss and Eastern Michigan, while Adams' were at then-No. 6 South Carolina and against this week's opponent, Miami (Ohio). Adams also gained important experience playing against the likes of Florida, Tennessee and Wake Forest — games in which Nickson didn't see any action.

While Adams doesn't quite have Nickson's

mobility, Adams is the better pocket passer, and with less weapons on offense now that Earl Bennett is gone, a more accurate passer is needed. The Southeastern Conference's all-time leader in receptions now plays for the Chicago Bears and won't be in Nashville to rein in errant passes. Adams, with one more year of experience under his belt, will most likely throw less of those errant passes than Nickson will this season.

"He's played well," said coach Bobby Johnson of Adams' playing abilities last year to the Nashville City Paper. "He's played within what we've asked him to do. He's doing exactly what we hope our quarterbacks will do, which is direct the offense, make the reads and make the correct throws."

With that assessment, it seems Adams has impressed the coaching staff. The most important aspect that makes Adams the pick to start is he is the future of the Commodores. Nickson will graduate this year, and Adams needs to be a polished product in 2009. The only way for him to be the best quarterback he can be is to get more experience as the starter this season. It is important for Adams to start, get into a rhythm and then bring in Nickson in certain situations to fool defenses.

While Nickson is the probable starter on Thursday, he will definitely be on a short leash. The Commodores are already a four-point underdog, and if Nickson falters earlier, the coaches will look for Adams to jumpstart the offense. If that happens, the coaching staff should see Adams should be the starter this year, and bringing Nickson off the bench would be a better tactical move. ■

Vanderbilt kicks off fresh attempt at a winning season

by ADAM WEINSTEIN
Sports Contributor

It always seems football season takes forever to get started, especially during the sprawling, hot month of August.

It's been especially long for the Vanderbilt Commodores, who are more than ready to rid themselves of the sour taste left by the four-game losing streak that capped last year's otherwise solid campaign. The late season slump kept them once again from making a bowl appearance, a feat the team has not accomplished since 1982.

Vanderbilt travels north to Oxford, Ohio to kick off their season with a nationally-televised contest on ESPN tomorrow at 6:30 p.m., where they will take on the Miami University (Ohio)

RedHawks, who finished 6-7 last season and failed to reach a bowl after losing in the Middle American Conference Championship game.

"Well, we have had a very good preseason and we sure are excited about finally getting to play a game on Thursday," said coach Bobby Johnson on the team's website. "We know that it's going to be a big challenge to go up to Miami University and play those guys. They have a lot of guys coming back and proven players but our guys are extremely anxious to get going and I am too."

The two teams met last season in Nashville, with Vanderbilt coming back from a third-quarter deficit to win 24-13. Wide receiver Earl Bennett, now playing professionally for the Chicago Bears, made the 209th catch

of his career in the first quarter, making him the all-time receptions leader in Southeastern Conference history.

The RedHawks' strength this year is their defense, which will be returning nine starters, highlighted by their linebacking corps, which returns in full. The RedHawks, led by 2007 MAC Defensive Player of the Year, Clayton Mullins, should provide a formidable challenge for the Vanderbilt offensive line, which returns no starters from last year.

"They've got a defense that is proven and they have a lot of guys back," Johnson said. "They have three linebackers on the Butkus Watch List who all played well against us last year."

Vanderbilt looks to have the advantage when the RedHawks have possession, however, as Miami had a

difficult time moving the ball last year both on the ground and through the air. Daniel Raudabaugh, who threw for 212 yards and a touchdown against Vandy in the losing effort last year, will lead the offense which managed a paltry 19.2 points per game in 2007.

While strong defense is likely to be the theme of this matchup, there should be no shortage of energy in this game in which both teams will be trying to turn the page from their rough ends to 2007.

"I tell our players that anybody on our schedule can beat us and we can beat any team on our schedule," Johnson said. "So we have to plan to play well and that's what we have been preaching to our guys." ■

VU Commodores contributed to this article.



VANDERBILT AT MIAMI (OH)
6:30 P.M. ON ESPN

Tune in early tomorrow at 6 p.m. on ESPN to watch Hustler sports writer Andrew Barge as a sideline reporter.

Also, Vandy Fanatics is holding a viewing party for the football game at Sarratt Cinema tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. Come out to cheer on the Commodores and enjoy free food.



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