



**ACADEMICS:** Slain professor remembered by those who knew him best. **SEE PAGE 3**

**TODD:** Palin pick shows McCain does not want another Hillary Clinton. **SEE PAGE 4**



compiled by KELLY SWOPE

### MUSIC: Lil Wayne: An Introspective Look at the Metamorphosis of a Hollygrove Hero

In today's troubled times, many have tossed the American dream into the same heap of hype as Santa Claus and Bob Dole, have become unsure if it ever existed at all. Take some solace in this: In June, rapper Lil Wayne sold over 2 million copies of "Tha Carter III," an album that conveys his threat to kill a grandmother and an infant child within its first 40 seconds. Oh, the dream survives.

In my semi-humble opinion, the sixth solo album from Lil Wayne, born Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., towers over the other summer studio releases and deserves every accolade it's received. With the exception of a few songs ("A Milli"), the disc presents listeners with more classics than a car show. "Mr. Carter" epitomizes the perfect use of a soul sample (and guest spot, for that matter), and "Shoot Me Down" easily became my night driving track of choice. Needless to say, I had a few songs to add to my exclusive "People that Have Probably Killed People" iTunes playlist.

### And here...we...go!

Prepare for a truth bomb.

I was disappointed with the Democratic National Convention. Weren't you? Sure, it's always fun to see Middle America wear funny hats and look legitimately crazy on national television, but it was all too stale. I mean, I've been predicting for over a month that they would nominate Barry Obama. Sure, Hillary made a lot of noise (primal and otherwise), but you can only run for so long before the pantsuit tears at the seams. And let's be honest, she's too pretty for the top job anyways. So, in turn, I look towards the RNC like a fat kid towards anything that doesn't involve exercise (and Hurricane Gustav better not take my cake away).

See [www.insidevandy.com](http://www.insidevandy.com) for more.

# GULF COAST EVACUATES

## Tulane students, officials take refuge in Nashville, Vanderbilt.

by LILY CHEN  
*Leadership Specialist*

Only three years after Hurricane Katrina hit, another powerful storm, Gustav, once again threatens New Orleans, forcing thousands of Tulane University students to evacuate, some of whom came to Vanderbilt.

Upon news of the storm, Tulane's campus closed at noon on Aug. 29, with a mandatory evacuation order for all students.

"We got a warning text message and we packed up and left Thursday night," said Tulane pre-med sophomore Arielle Gorstein. "I just packed up some clothes, essentials and irreplaceable items and left with my roommate to go to Vanderbilt, where my best friend offered us a place to stay."

According to Gorstein's roommate, pre-med sophomore Frances Nguyen, Tulane administration first told students the school would re-open on Wednesday, Sept. 3, and classes would resume the next day, but later on, administration officials said the school would not open until Sunday, Sept. 7 and classes would resume Monday, Sept. 8.

"They said that they would keep us in contact, that there was an emergency line and they wanted to know where we were going," said Nguyen.

According to Tulane's Web site, school officials, including president Scott Cowan, have located their emergency headquarters here in Nashville.

Chancellor Nick Zeppos called the evacuation "unbelievable and tragic."

"I am hoping that the storm is far less severe (than Katrina)," said Zeppos. "(We hope) Tulane gets back on its feet soon."

Student Government President Joseph Williams said there is a tentative schedule for efforts to help refugees.

"We're going to work with Residential Life



ROB CARR / AP Photo

Jeffrey Vannor carries his belongings while evacuating from the approaching Hurricane Gustav at the Greyhound Bus and Amtrak station in New Orleans, on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2008. A million people took to Gulf Coast highways Saturday, boarding up homes and businesses and fleeing dangerous Hurricane Gustav by bus and automobile as the season's most powerful Atlantic storm took aim at Louisiana.

and Dean of Students to try to get donations of food and clothing," said Williams. "We're also going to get student efforts to volunteer at various refugee centers around the city. We're going to try to get tickets for the Thursday football game for Tulane students."

Tulane also began busing students to Jackson University in Jackson, Miss.

"Compared to Katrina, Tulane's evacuation this time was much more organized and efficient," said Tulane senior and marketing and consumer behavior major Sam Skydell. "I think Tulane's erring on the side of caution this time."

For those Tulane students experiencing a hurricane for the first time, they were both nervous and concerned.

"Right now we're just trying to think of what to do. What will happen to our credits? Will we have to transfer to different schools? Everything I own is in New Orleans," Gorstein said.

Arts and Science sophomore Sarah Cuellar flew up from Tulane to stay with her friend in Stapleton dorm.

"It's a really scary thought, thinking about

the outcome of Gustav," said Cuellar. "I'm really attached to the city because there's so much culture and history and I'm just hoping for the best."

Vanderbilt sophomore Sara Lillis is in a different situation with Gustav's approach.

"My family evacuated out of New Orleans and is spread out all over. My brother and my sister's family drove up here," said Lillis. "We were just about to get back into my house within the next five months since Katrina and now Gustav's coming."

Lillis says her main concern is that the levees won't be able to hold up. Although she does believe that compared to Katrina, evacuation and preparation were carried out much more smoothly.

Tulane students here agree Vanderbilt students have been helpful and understanding during this situation.

"Students here are really nice," Skydell said. "Everyone's hospitable and they make sure I have a place to stay so I'm not worried about that. I know I'll always have a roof over my head." ■

# Gustav threatens Delta region

Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS**—With a historic evacuation of nearly 2 million people from the Louisiana coast complete, gun-toting police and National Guardsmen stood watch as rain started to fall on this city's empty streets Sunday night and even presidential politics took a back seat as the nation waited to see if Hurricane Gustav would be another Katrina.

The storm was set to crash ashore late Monday morning with frightful force, testing the three years of planning and rebuilding that followed Katrina's devastating blow to the Gulf Coast. The storm has already killed at least 94 people on its path through the Caribbean.

Painfully aware of the failings that led to more than 1,600 deaths during Katrina, this time officials moved beyond merely insisting tourists and residents leave south Louisiana. They threatened to put looters behind bars, loaded thousands onto buses and warned

that anyone who remained behind would not be rescued.

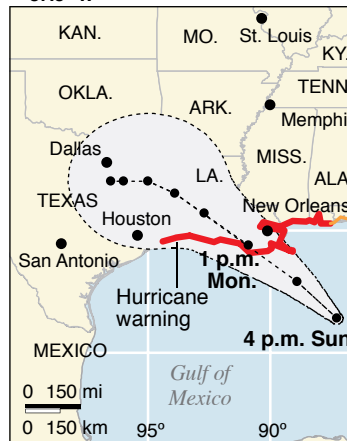
They were confident that they had done all they could.

"It's amazing. It makes me feel really good that so many people

## Closing in on coast

Hurricane Gustav reached 115 mph winds as it entered the center of the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday. It is expected to near the U.S. Gulf Coast by Monday afternoon.

**Hurricane Gustav**, all times CDT  
LOCATION MOVEMENT MAX WIND  
26.4° N NW 18 mph 115mph  
87.3° W



SOURCES: NOAA; ESRI AP

are saying, 'We as Americans, we as the world, have to get this right this time,'" New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said late Sunday. "We cannot afford to screw up again."

Col. Mike Edmondson, state police commander, said he believed that 90 percent of the population had fled the Louisiana coast. The exodus of 1.9 million people is the largest evacuation in state history, and thousands more had left from Mississippi, Alabama and flood-prone southeast Texas.

Late Sunday, Gov. Bobby Jindal issued one last plea to the roughly 100,000 people still left on the coast: "If you've not evacuated, please do so. There are still a few hours left."

Forecasters said Gustav could strengthen slightly as it marched toward the coast. At 11 p.m. EDT Sunday, the National Hurricane Center said Gustav was centered about 220 miles southeast of New Orleans and was moving northwest near 16 mph. It had top sustained winds of 115 mph, and was likely to stay a Category 3 storm when it made landfall

west of New Orleans. Category 3 storms have winds between 111 mph and 130 mph.

Rain started falling in New Orleans before sunset, and tropical storm-force winds had reached the southeastern tip of the state.

New Orleans will likely be on the "dirty" side of the storm—where rainfall is heaviest and tornadoes are possible, but the storm surge is lower. If forecasts hold, the city would experience a storm surge of only 4 to 6 feet, compared to a surge of 10 to 14 feet at the site of landfall, said Corey Walton, a hurricane support meteorologist with the National Hurricane Center. Katrina, by comparison, brought a storm surge of 25 feet.

Surge models suggest large areas of southeast Louisiana, including parts of the greater New Orleans area, could be flooded by several feet of water. But Gustav appears most likely to overwhelm the levees west of the city that have for decades been underfunded and neglected and are years from an update. ■

## CAMPUS LIVING

# T.G.I. Friday's, Tangredi's now on Card



TANGREDI'S ITALIAN KITCHEN



TGI FRIDAY'S

by NORAH SCANLAN

*Campus Living Specialist*

Taste of Nashville welcomes two new additions to its selection of restaurants. Tangredi's Italian Kitchen and T.G.I. Friday's have joined the card, enabling students to use their meal money at both locations. Tangredi's, which offers Italian cuisine, is located at 2323 Elliston Place behind Chili's. T.G.I. Friday's, which offers typical American entrees, is located on the corner of West End Avenue and 21st Avenue.

"We look at (Taste of Nashville) as a huge benefit of the meal plan," said Camp Howard, Director of Dining Services. Selection of restaurants is based on proximity to campus, what type of cuisine the restaurant offers and what is already offered by other Taste of Nashville restaurants. Howard stresses the importance of student input and urges students to make suggestions by utilizing the comment cards which can be found on the dining website. Dining will approach certain restaurants and offer them a place in Taste of Nashville if students suggest them.

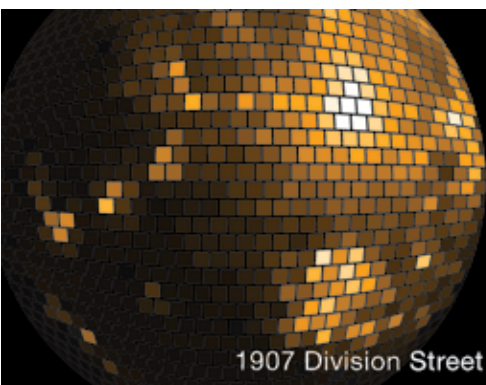
Students have already been using their meal money at both restaurants.

"Having an Italian restaurant on the card is a good idea, but Tangredi's didn't meet my expectations," said sophomore Holly Meehl, who went to the restaurant Friday night.

"The menu was extensive, but everything was standard," said sophomore Julianne McGee.

For a complete list of Taste of Nashville restaurants, go to <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/dining/tasteofnashville.php>. ■

## SPORTS: Commodore soccer serves up win in overtime against University of South Florida. SEE PAGE 6



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# SNAPSHOTS

compiled by KELLY SWOPE

## WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

### TODAY



HIGH **91**, LOW **72**  
Partly cloudy

### TUESDAY



HIGH **88**, LOW **70**  
Partly cloudy

### WEDNESDAY



HIGH **88**, LOW **69**  
Mostly cloudy

### THURSDAY



HIGH **88**, LOW **67**  
Partly cloudy

## SERVICE GUIDE

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### BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Russia promises military aid to South Ossetia

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Russia's president said Sunday his country will give military aid to the two separatist regions at the center of the war with Georgia—signaling Moscow has no intention of backing down in the face of Western pressure.

Dmitry Medvedev also warned that American domination of world affairs is unacceptable, though he insisted that Russia did not want hostile relations with the United States and other Western nations.

European Union leaders planned an emergency meeting Monday to discuss how to deal with an increasingly assertive Russia, but they are not expected to impose sanctions. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has angrily warned Europe not to do America's bidding and said Moscow does not fear Western sanctions.

Medvedev said Sunday the world would be more stable if the U.S. was less dominant.



AP photo

### McCain orders convention curtailed for Gustav

**ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)**—John McCain tore up the script for his Republican National Convention on Sunday, canceling most opening-day activities and positioning himself as above mere politics as Hurricane Gustav churned toward New Orleans.

"This is a time when we have to do away with our party politics and we have to act as Americans," he said as fellow Republicans converged on their convention city to nominate him for the White House.



AP photo

McCain said in an interview with NBC that it was possible he would make his acceptance speech not from the convention podium but via satellite from the Gulf Coast region.

The formal business of the convention includes nominating McCain for president and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate on Wednesday. McCain's acceptance speech, set for prime time Thursday evening, is among the most critical events of the campaign for his chances of winning the White House.

### Tennessee expecting 6,000 evacuees from Gulf Coast

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)**—Tennessee could see as many as 6,000 evacuees from Louisiana as people flee the Gulf Coast ahead of Hurricane Gustav.

By Sunday afternoon, about 3,500 evacuees had arrived at Tennessee Air National Guard bases in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis, the Tennessee National Guard said.

Red Cross spokeswoman Jill Gorin said Tennessee the first evacuees arrived Saturday night in Memphis via AMTRAK train from New Orleans.

The Red Cross and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency opened five shelters in Nashville, Smyrna, Tullahoma and Lebanon. Gorin said about 2,000 evacuees were expected to arrive in Middle Tennessee.

### Mexican leader meets anti-crime march organizers

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—Moving quickly to address mounting anger over crime, President Felipe Calderon promised Sunday to adopt several proposals from civic groups who led more than 100,000 Mexicans in marches against daily kidnappings and killings.

Among the measures are the creation of a citizens' panel to monitor government progress in fighting crime, better police recruiting and oversight systems and equipping officers with more powerful weapons, Mexico's conservative president said.

Calderon acknowledged that Mexicans are desperate to see results two years after he took office and began an aggressive battle against drug traffickers and other criminal gangs.

The government "shares the demands and the indignation of the people," Calderon said after meeting with 14 civic leaders who staged Saturday night's candlelight protests in the capital and cities across the country. "We know the biggest problem in Mexico is public insecurity."

### US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,151

As of Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008, at least 4,151 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,371 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

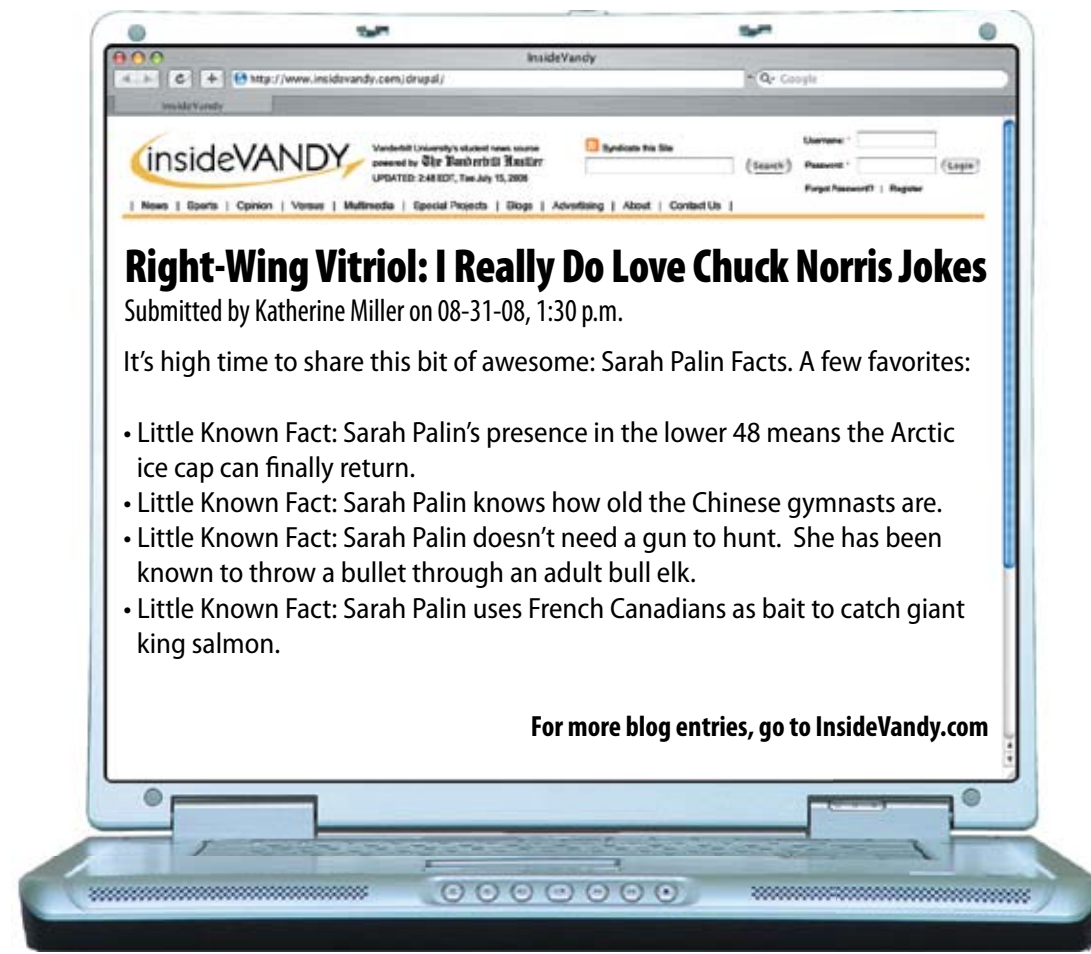
The AP count is two more than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.



AP photo

## FROM THE BLOG



### Right-Wing Vitriol: I Really Do Love Chuck Norris Jokes

Submitted by Katherine Miller on 08-31-08, 1:30 p.m.

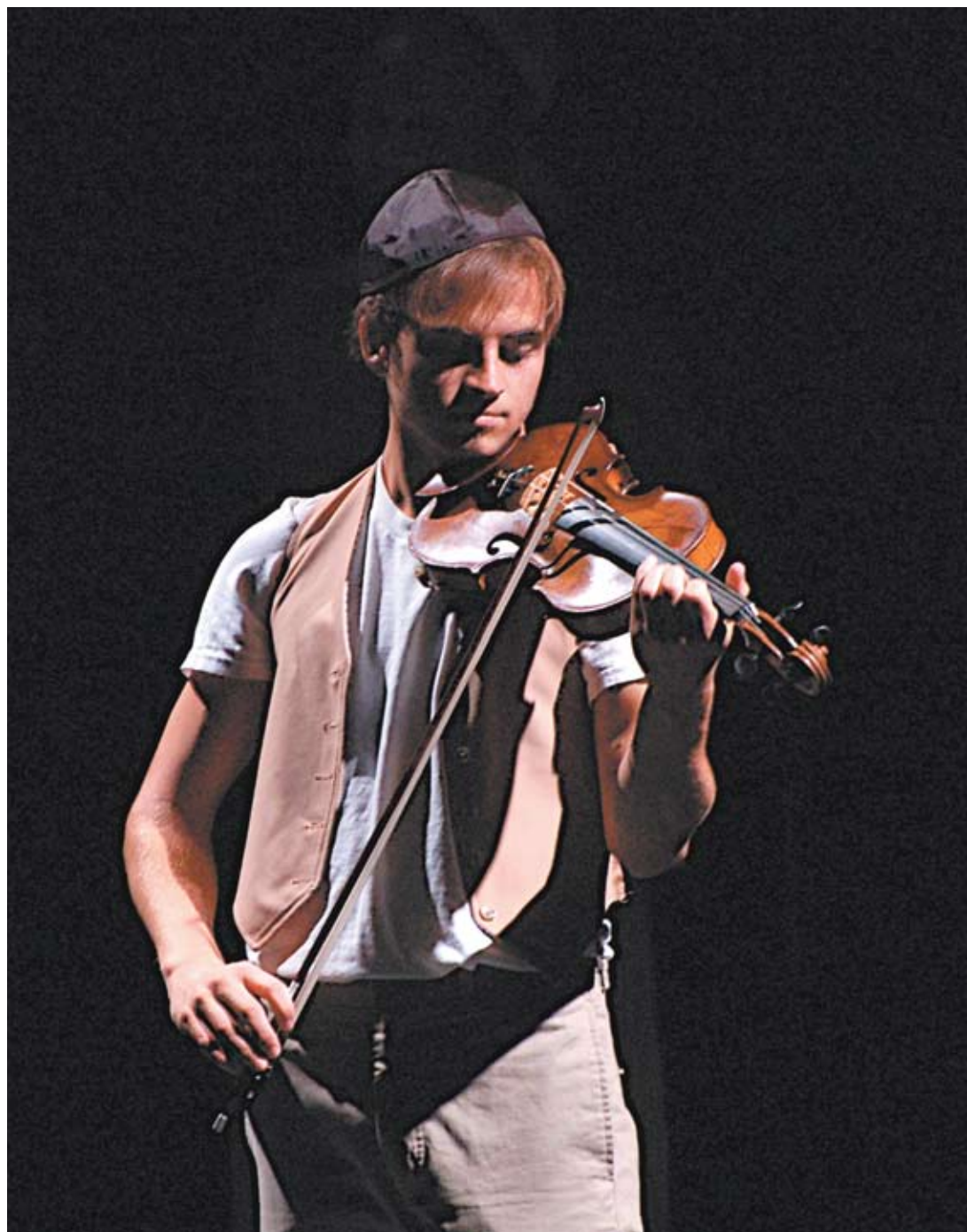
It's high time to share this bit of awesome: Sarah Palin Facts. A few favorites:

- Little Known Fact: Sarah Palin's presence in the lower 48 means the Arctic ice cap can finally return.
- Little Known Fact: Sarah Palin knows how old the Chinese gymnasts are.
- Little Known Fact: Sarah Palin doesn't need a gun to hunt. She has been known to throw a bullet through an adult bull elk.
- Little Known Fact: Sarah Palin uses French Canadians as bait to catch giant king salmon.

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

## SNAPSHOT

### IF HE WERE A RICH MAN



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Ben Detrick showcases his fiddle playing at Friday night's Spotlight performance.



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## ACADEMICS

# Students, colleagues pay tribute to Colas

by JUDY WANG  
Academics Specialist

A renowned scholar, talented archaeologist and one of five people in the world who was able to decipher Mayan hieroglyphics, Associate Professor Pierre Colas is remembered as a mentor and a friend.

"He was an inspiration to me and many other students," said PhD student Danielle Kurin, who met Colas when he came to Vanderbilt two years ago. "Here you had this young, unassuming guy who spoke six languages, finished his PhD in record time and won some of Europe's most prestigious grants, who was at the same time a kind and gentle human being — no ego for someone who had attained so much success so young."

The students of his class, however, saw him as more than a professor who constantly challenged and motivated them. They remember him as a friend who would bring M&Ms to class before tests, join students in his office — a shrine to ancient

Mayan archaeology — for cappuccino and invite them to his house for beer and quesadillas while watching the sunset from his porch.

Kurin recalls when they saw Mel Gibson's "Apocalypto."

"Pierre was one of the few people in the world who actually spoke the Mayan language in the film," Kurin said, "and I remember him getting so worked up about the horrible accents of the actors — almost shouting at the screen."

A colleague and fellow archaeologist, Assistant Professor Francisco Estrada-Belli met Colas in a remote Mayan site in Guatemala while collaborating on a documentary for German TV.

"We became instant friends on that 2005 expedition, and when we became colleagues at Vanderbilt, we kept that close friendship," said Estrada-Belli. "On his first night in Nashville we went 'honky-tonking' on Broadway. That was his favorite thing to do."

Michael Tidwell, Colas' roommate of six months, remembers his passion for reading,

intellectual discussions and chess.

"We played many times and he always beat me," said Tidwell. "Yet he never gloated over his wins, nor did he become bored by my inferior playing. After each game he would review it and try to figure out how I had lost ... He believed that everyone was rational, and that made him an excellent teacher and something of an optimist about this world."

Friends and colleagues all remember Colas for his humility, generosity, compassion and humor for life.

"He could find something laugh-worthy in any situation, and when he laughed, he guffawed. He had a distinct way of laughing that incorporated his entire body," said Tidwell. "He very rarely was upset about anything because he could almost always turn it into a joke."

"He enjoyed life and liked to share this joy," said friend and colleague Norbert Ross. "All of us who had the privilege to know him benefited quite a bit from his presence." ■

## Four murder suspects arrested

Four suspects are being held by Nashville police and will be charged with double criminal homicide for the death of both Associate Professor Pierre Colas and his sister, Marie Colas.

Pierre Colas was shot in his East Nashville home on Tuesday night during what seems to be an attempted robbery. Marie Colas had been in critical condition until she died in the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Ongoing police investigation led to the discovery on Thursday of several high-ticket items being purchased from local businesses with Colas' identification. The four suspects were smiling and laughing, as seen on surveillance tapes from the stores. Police were able to make the arrest based on a description of the car used during the purchases.

Suspects George Eugene Cody, 29, and Gennyfer Dawn Hutcherson, 35, live on West Sharpe Avenue, two blocks away from Colas' home.

Suspects Thomas Andrew Reed, 20, and Michael Shane Holloway, 22, were here with a group that sells magazines and were staying at the La Quinta Inn. The four know each other through a relative.

Police are continuing their investigation, and another suspect could be arrested in the coming days. The police could not be reached for comment.

—Judy Wang ■



rememberingpierre.wordpress.com

## ELECTION 2008

# Vandy students react to Palin veep pick

by KATHERINE MILLER  
Election Project Director

Even in an election cycle straight out of a paperback thriller, John McCain's vice presidential choice stunned the nation on Friday.

Along with Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin had been considered a dark horse candidate for the vice presidential spot, though few regarded her as a serious contender.

"I thought it was a brilliant political move," said first-year student Ed Trto. "Palin is

younger and more conservative than McCain, and obviously the first potential Republican female VP. These are all demographics McCain needs help in. Not to mention the element of surprise overshadowing Obama's 'historical' speech."

Vanderbilt Republicans President Cameron Norris, a junior, agreed. "The Palin pick definitely was a surprise and met the goal of being a momentum-changing event," he said.

Sunday, a Rasmussen tracking poll showed Obama's post-speech spike in the polls was halted by the Palin announcement.

According to the poll, Obama currently leads McCain 49 to 47 percent. Since appearing with Palin in Dayton on Friday, McCain has raised over \$7 million.

But some doubt McCain's judgment.

"Sen. McCain's VP pick is remarkably irresponsible," said Vanderbilt College Democrats President Alexa Marcotte, a junior. "If something ever happened to McCain, she would



PALIN

not be qualified to lead the country ... (she's) only been a governor for a couple of years."

Sophomore David Pasch also derided Palin's limited record. "She has no foreign policy experience," he said, "so it's hard to criticize Obama for that same thing. She has no experience in general even, because she's only a first term governor."

Sworn in as governor in 2006, Palin has served a little over 20 months in office. Prior to becoming governor, she served as mayor of Wasilla, a small town of about 7,000.

Regarding Palin's inexperience,

Norris acknowledged, "As an individual, she's still relatively unknown and maybe somewhat of a risk. But, so far, Palin seems to be the perfect choice for uniting the conservative base and reaching out to independents."

Rather than appealing to supporters of Hillary Clinton, students appear to regard this conservative galvanization as a more realistic effect of Palin's selection.

"I believe that she will appeal to McCain's more conservative voters," Marcotte said, "but I doubt that she will be able to convince many former Hillary

supporters to cross the aisle."

Pasch also does not believe Palin will appeal to moderates.

"As a youthful, staunch, conservative politician, Palin will help draw in the votes of the many conservatives who feel that McCain is either too old or too liberal of a candidate," said first-year student Martha Hellman.

The next few weeks will likely see both parties attempting to define Palin and her story to voters, but first impressions may linger.

Enumerating her political qualities, Trto finished, "And she's smoking hot." ■

## GREEK SCENE

# Sigma Phi Lambda represents Greek alternative

by JANELLE STOKES  
Greek Life Specialist

Sophomore Maddie Spellman, president of Sigma Phi Lambda sorority, thought about bringing a Christian sorority to campus after deciding Panhellenic sororities weren't for her.

"I'm from Texas, and the original chapters of Phi Lamb were founded there, so I knew about it before," said Spellman. "I just thought that this was a really good way to bring girls together who wanted unity in Christ and to bless each other. My parents didn't really support the idea of me joining a regular sorority, and they were very supportive of us starting this."

Sigma Phi Lambda sorority, a sorority for Christian women seeking to foster stronger relationships with their faith, was founded at the University of Texas at Austin in 1988. Nicknamed "Phi Lamb," the sorority is composed of six officers and three charter members who have undergone a year's worth of interest meetings with the executive director in Houston and charter chapter meetings.

Like every other sorority on Vanderbilt's campus, Phi Lamb promotes sisterhood, plans events and has chapter meetings. Prayer groups and devotionals supplement their meetings.

"We start our meetings with praise and worship songs, and we do a devotional before we do business," said Rush Chair and Pledge Captain Liz Muffly, a junior. "(After rush) each upperclassman girl will lead a smaller prayer group, and they'll have a core group of people to get to know."

This semester Sigma Phi Lambda will participate in a four-day rush that focuses on girls choosing in and not the other way around. Events for the week of Sept. 8 will include a mock

chapter meeting, games, a meet-and-greet and an informational session with a Phi Lamb alum from Baylor University.

While planning their first open campus event, a sock hop that will take place in November, the members are making sure they uphold a Christian focus. Vice President Brittany Norman, a sophomore, said the guidelines outlined by their national offices are flexible in terms of what types of parties they can have as long as they maintain a Christian focus.

"Basically, we want to make sure that in everything we do that we are putting ourselves forth as Christians and that we're not compromising Christ in any way," said Norman. "There will be a point in between the music changes (at the sock hop) where we'll stop and share what we're about, but it's not going to be overbearing like, 'Everybody, come pray with us now.'"

Because Sigma Phi Lambda is not affiliated with Panhellenic or National Pan-Hellenic Council sororities, members have the opportunity to be a part of two different sorority environments.

Norman, a member of Delta Gamma sorority, feels no competition between the two organizations and considers her involvement in both to be a great resource to Sigma Phi Lambda.

"It's just a great resource to have to be in contact with Panhellenic, and not just with the different sororities," Norman said. "We're really encouraging girls to be in both if that's what they want to do or feel called to do."

"They serve different purposes, and Brittany's in them for different reasons," said Spellman. "She gets the best of both worlds, and it's definitely a positive thing." ■



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# OPINION

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## Obama's speech: A surprising flop



**FRANNIE BOYLE**  
Columnist

On the 45th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech" on a stage set up like a Greek amphitheatre, I expected something special out of Sen. Barack Obama's acceptance speech. As one of the nearly 40 million to watch his speech given at the Democratic National Convention, my main goal was to not get drawn into his appealing idealistic talk. This never ended up being a problem.

Obama's campaign moves have been under scrutiny and more recently a subject of fun for the McCain campaign. Of course, Obama had to defend himself from recent attacks, but in doing so he jumped into the same partisan politics he speaks so lowly about. Associating McCain with President Bush was a smart tactic, but Obama took it a little too far. He claimed McCain voted with Bush 90 percent of the time and said the American people should not take "a 10 percent chance on change." With this comment Obama played on the "failures" of the Bush administration, and soon enough, he had the whole football stadium chanting, "Eight it enough! Eight is enough!"

Obama dealt McCain some of the blame for our country's oil addiction for the past 30 years and for the country's foreign policy in Iraq. He even accused McCain for not following bin Laden to the "cave where he lives" and for "his stubborn refusal to end a misguided war." In fact, McCain was one of the few in favor of the surge long before it was implemented, which is one of the main reasons why we will be able to bring this war to a close. Oh, and I am sure if Obama could point out the cave bin Laden is lurking in, McCain would be there.

After personally attacking McCain for a while, Obama moved on to the more cliché, populist arguments any Democrat makes in a speech of this nature, although you could say he introduced a more socialist blend. He isolated conservatives by attacking the "on your own" mentality that has made this country tick for years. And of course, he speaks to his "nation of whiners" who are drowning in a lonely world where they cannot get any support from the harsh government who cares only for wealth and corporations.

Before seeping into the idealistic jargon, Obama made a few ridiculous promises, like eliminating dependence upon oil from the Middle East in 10 years. Then, he ended the small talk and introduced his voice of "change," where the heavens open up and the sun starts to shine. "The times are too serious, the stakes are too high for this same partisan playbook," which is a little hypocritical for him to say since he uses that same playbook. Obama spoke of uniting in a "common effort" in which the people of America act with the "intellectual and moral strength," J.F.K. spoke of.

In my opinion, the speech was hypocritical and frightening, but I do admire the Democratic nominee for his seriousness and his ability to stick to his politics from the primaries, instead of shifting to the center like most candidates. Obama's speaking skills never cease to amaze me, although after watching this, I do not feel like there is much underneath it all.

—Frannie Boyle is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at [maryl.e.boyle@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:maryl.e.boyle@vanderbilt.edu).

### EDITORIAL

# GOP makes correct call for convention

With their convention set to begin today after an unexpected vice presidential candidate announcement bounce, the GOP looked to be heading into a week of celebrating their ticket and platform in St. Paul. Instead, the Republican National Committee will be toning down the party for the party as Hurricane Gustav makes its way through the Gulf of Mexico toward the coast.

According to Politico.com, President Bush has canceled his plans to attend the convention as he works with officials at the federal, state and local levels on an active response to Gustav's probable landing on the Gulf Coast states of Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Sen. John McCain, who said on Fox News Sunday yesterday that the convention could be rescheduled, may address the delegates via satellite connection from the area of devastation on Thursday. While many of the speakers are still expected to attend the convention, Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal, who was scheduled to speak after presumptive vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin on Wednesday, will not be in St. Paul this week. Also, the GOP has canceled political programming for Monday.

The memory of Hurricane Katrina and the devastation it wrought upon the Gulf Coast is on

the minds of observers this week, and the decision to retool the convention in preparation for the worst was both a good political move and the right thing to do. No matter the party, the traditional celebrations associated with political conventions would appear callous while parts of the country are being ravaged by a national disaster. Particularly after their lackadaisical efforts post-Katrina, Republican officials, including the president, don't need a public relations nightmare to slow down the political momentum of the past few weeks.

Much more importantly, the GOP should put aside politics during a time when people's homes and lives could be destroyed. Even if the storm dissipates and the low-key convention was all for naught, the exercise in restraint could provide Republicans and Democrats alike some reflection on the often ridiculous nature of national conventions.

Instead of a wild week of shameless self-promotion for television, Republicans look like they have opted for a convention that will allow the party to complete its business of nominating a candidate for president. Americans can expect the necessary party boilerplate, but we should all hope there would be plenty of TV time devoted to a part of the country threatened by natural disaster.

## Obama's popularity with voters an asset, not a liability

To the Editor:

On Thursday, Aug. 28, the entire world stopped and watched as Barack Obama stood before more than 76,000 supporters at Invesco Field in Denver to accept the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. I don't need to patronize our campus with the reasons why, since it has been impossible to miss out on the action for the past two years of rigorous campaigning, but it was a historic moment for all, regardless of one's particular political persuasion.

Ever since this change to a larger venue was originally announced by the Obama campaign, conservative pundits have flooded the press and airwaves with attacks on his motives and character. McCain even ran an ad implicitly comparing Obama's celebrity to that of Paris Hilton and Britney Spears. And sure enough, in the wake of Thursday night, the likes of Rush Limbaugh, Charles Krauthammer and a somehow still-unabashed Karl Rove are going back to town. They say Obama "believes his own hype" and "thinks he's some kind of messiah," and generally condemn the basic strength of an unapologetically popular politician.

This is nothing new, of course. The same people launched the same attacks for Obama's trip abroad, where he drew a mass of over 200,000 to hear him speak in Germany. He gave a highly

successful speech on a highly successful trip abroad, and essentially received an endorsement from French President Nicolas Sarkozy, but the same old pundits decided to spin popularity and credibility with our allies as a negative.

I guess, though, by the same logic our current president would be doing well. On his farewell tour of Europe this summer, there were no protests, no angry Parisians and no burning effigies. Just apathy, which is probably worse. Likewise, President Bush's poll numbers are similarly abysmal, hovering below 30 percent. If those are any measures of success, then I certainly hope the Republican Party is proud.

That Obama's motives, integrity and patriotism should be besmirched for the popularity of his campaign and the core optimism that draws his crowds is a testament to the fundamental dysfunction of the system he seeks to change. As President Clinton put it so succinctly on Wednesday night, it is not the example of power that commands the respect of the world, but the power of our example. And if Obama's command of American citizens and our foreign allies is somehow not a powerful enough example, then we should brace ourselves for four more years of the same failed leadership at home and abroad.

**Matt McGrath**  
Arts and Science, senior

THE VERDICT		
Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff! Compiled by Thomas Shattuck		
Hurricane Gustav		After knocking Cuba around like a down-and-out alcoholic, Gustav is making plans to decimate the Southeastern coastline. New Orleans is already evacuating and the delegates at the GOP convention have begun to brace themselves.
Facebook		According to the Los Angeles Times, there will be a Facebook movie based on the book "Bring Down the House," by author Ben Mezrich. The movie will supposedly cover the complicated drama that started it all, and God help Mark Zuckerberg if it's actually accurate.
Banks		Integrity Bank of Alpharetta, Ga. has become the 10th bank this year to close its doors. Regions bank of Birmingham, Ala. will assume the bank's \$974 million in both insured and uninsured assets split between 23,000 accounts.
Mosquitoes		The number of people testing positive for West Nile Virus has increased this year. While most people who test positive do not show any symptoms, approximately 20 percent appear to suffer from a severe case of influenza, and in rare situations, the disease can be fatal.
Italy		Due to restoration efforts, the Leaning Tower of Pisa no longer the most tilted tower in Europe. According to retired geomechanician Jacob van Dijk, that honor goes to the church tower Walfridus in the Dutch town of Bedum.
TV		The CW network is airing its new show "90210," a modern-era spin-off to the original "Beverly Hills, 90210." The show will feature a similarly styled plot but with an interracial cast and "hipper" parents. All things considered, the show ought to be terrible.

## Governor who? Palin? From Alaska? A woman?

**NELLY TODD**  
Columnist

This seems to have been the thought process across the board as the McCain campaign confirmed last Friday morning that the 2008 Republican ticket would be Arizona Sen. John McCain and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. The initial shock shared by all was eventually split into one of two categories. If you were a Republican, you were excited, perhaps for the first time during this election season, about your candidate. If you were a Democrat, you were insulted. Does McCain really believe he can sway Clinton supporters that easily, just by choosing a woman — any woman?

Immediately following McCain's announcement, CNN ran a clip asking female Clinton supporters if McCain's choice rectified Clinton's loss. No, no, no, they each clamored after the other. One yes. And then, no and no. Clearly, Palin will not draw most Democratic women across the aisle simply because they could go shoe shopping together, but was that really McCain's goal? He certainly hopes many disgruntled Clinton supporters will look his way. That's not insulting. That's strategy.

I do not like Hillary Clinton. I do like Sarah Palin. If McCain had been trying to win over every woman who liked Hillary Clinton, he would have picked someone like her. That's not what he did. Instead, he chose a mother of five with a strong marriage and an equally strong moral conviction. She has executive experience — the only one on either ticket with any. She has rooted out corruption and waste in her state's government, which is precisely what each candidate desires for Washington. She doesn't simply claim to be able to do it. She has done it.

McCain doesn't want Palin to be Clinton. He has, however, learned an important lesson from Clinton. America is ready for women in power. Palin shows us that a woman need not be divisive to be effective. She is feminine, she is funny, she is charming. She is successful and smart. The Obama campaign argues that she does not have enough experience to be president should something happen to McCain. I question whether the experience card is the wisest card for them to play. Does she have the legislative experience Obama does? No, but McCain does. She has the executive experience. Sounds like a well-rounded ticket to me.

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what a ship is built for," said Palin, quoting the well-known phrase. I also thought I saw her choke up slightly when saying Americans deserve leaders who will serve. Palin has been fully vetted. Now she will be tested. The announcement has carried with it a whirlwind of hype, but we all know hype means nothing. Her challenge now is to show the rest of the nation what Alaskans have seen in her for years. I know she can, and I believe she will. She is the change I can believe in.

—Nelly Todd is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at [neily.p.todd@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:neily.p.todd@vanderbilt.edu).

### 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

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

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  - 18 Shoe form
  - 19 Corridors
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  - 24 Classifying
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- 44 Most robust
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- 46 Inexplicable situation

- 48 Wanderer
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- 55 Small salmon
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- 57 Tyler of "The Lord of the Rings"
- 58 Dodge fuel

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## SPORTS

## WEEKLY REPORT CARD

Compiled by Hustler SportsStaff

The Hustler Sports Staff grades Vanderbilt on all aspects of its 34-13 season-opening victory over Miami (Ohio) last Thursday.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Chris Nickson earned high marks with a fine performance in his first start in 10 months.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

D.J. Moore, shown during practice, looks to build off a stellar all-around game against Miami.

**A-** QUARTERBACKS

Redshirt senior Chris Nickson rewarded coach Bobby Johnson's confidence in him with a stellar outing, rushing for 166 yards and two touchdowns, and passing for 91 yards and a score. Nickson did not have to make many throws, but when he did, they were mostly on target.

**C+** RUNNING BACKS

Redshirt senior Jeff Jennings' start at tailback was disastrous as he was held to -15 yards rushing and also lost a fumble. Redshirt junior Jared Hawkins looked great on a fourth quarter drive with a pair of 14-yard runs that set up his own touchdown run. In his first game back after red-shirting last season, redshirt sophomore Gaston Miller rushed for 41 yards on 10 carries and showed he's difficult to tackle.

**B-** WIDE RECEIVERS

Redshirt senior Sean Walker (two catches, 54 yards) caught a beauty on play-action from Nickson for 49 yards and caught a touchdown pass later in the first quarter. No other receiver had more than one catch, but with a big lead, there was little need to throw the ball.

**B-** OFFENSIVE LINE

For a line with zero career starts against a highly regarded defense, this was a solid first outing. Nickson was sacked twice and had to do a lot of scrambling due to mostly poor pass-blocking, but his only touchdown pass was a direct result of being given plenty of time to throw.

**B** DEFENSIVE LINE

Miami's running game was held in check for the most part, and redshirt junior defensive end Broderick Stewart registered a sack.

**B-** LINEBACKERS

Redshirt freshman Chris Marve registered a big sack and six tackles, but Miami's receivers on crossing routes exposed the linebacking corps' lack of speed.

**A-** DEFENSIVE BACKS

Junior D.J. Moore had a game's worth of statistics in just the first quarter, registering a sack, forced fumble and an interception. Junior Myron Lewis and redshirt senior Josh Allen also had picks to make it a tough night for Raudabaugh. Sloppy tackling in the secondary allowed Miami to score its only touchdown, but all in all it was a very good effort. Why did one of the best secondaries in the country have to line up so far back against the RedHawk receivers?

**A-** SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Bryant Hahnfeldt was perfect, kicking two field goals and all four PATs attempted. Junior Brett Upson showed no signs of his illness earlier this month, booting four punts for a 40.3-yard average. Moore had an electrifying 91-yard punt return that set up a Vanderbilt touchdown. Kick return coverage wasn't great, but there were no big returns on Miami's end.

**B** COACHING

The play-calling was conservative, but perhaps Bobby Johnson didn't want to show his hand with South Carolina around the corner. The end result was a win, and that's all that matters.

Around the SEC  
Controversy in Columbiaby DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Specialist

Despite winning its first game 34-0 over North Carolina State, South Carolina is feeling anything but confident in its offense as it prepares for Vanderbilt this Thursday.

Gamecock coach Steve Spurrier had continually expressed public confidence in junior quarterback Tommy Beecher to be the year-long starter for his club. Rather than rewarding that confidence however, Beecher laid an egg against the Wolfpack. Beecher threw four interceptions, took five sacks and looked generally bewildered while on the field. He was replaced by sophomore Chris Smelley in the third quarter, who completed all five of his passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns. Smelley's fine performance and Beecher's ineptitude leave Spurrier with a genuine quarterback controversy and a big decision to make for this week, since whichever quarterback goes out there on Thursday will be facing one of the best secondaries in the country in Vanderbilt.

**CLEMSON CRUSHED:**

Nick Saban's Alabama squad is undoubtedly a good team, but no one expected them to embarrass Clemson, favored by many to win the Atlantic Coast Conference championship, the way they did.

Meeting at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Alabama held Clemson's highly-touted running duo of junior C.J. Spiller and senior James Davis to a meager 20 yards combined rushing yards en route to a 34-10 victory. For the night, Clemson had zero total yards on the ground, and its only touchdown was off a kickoff return at the beginning of the second half.

**SEC BIG DOGS:**

Four teams from the Southeastern Conference were ranked in the top 10 for the preseason, including No. 1 Georgia, and none of them had trouble dispatching their opponents in week one. Georgia and No. 5 Florida both had crushing victories, as well as No. 7 Louisiana State against upset-minded Appalachian State, the same team that stunned Michigan at the Big House a year ago. No. 10 Auburn shut out Louisiana-Monroe, 34-0. Vanderbilt will play Auburn, Georgia and Florida over a six-week period starting Oct. 4 against the Tigers.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Steve Spurrier has won 16 consecutive season openers as a coach ... The Gators scored all 56 of their points in a 27-minute period against Hawaii ... Mississippi State was the only SEC team to lose this weekend, falling to Louisiana Tech 22-14. ... Alabama quarterback John Parker Wilson broke the school record for completions with his 489th against Clemson ... Vanderbilt's 34-13 win over Miami (Ohio) was its most lopsided victory on the road since 1991, when the Commodores beat Army 41-10. ■

## Another overtime win helps Commodores remain undefeated

by MEGHAN ROSE  
Sports Contributor

Thrilling overtime victories are nothing new to coach Ronnie Coveleskie and the women's soccer team this season. Earning a 1-0 win against University of South Florida on Sunday afternoon, the squad now boasts a 3-0 record to date.

Sophomore Lindsay Ratterman scored on a penalty kick in the second overtime, giving the Commodores the victory.

In recent home victories over Belmont and USF, the Commodores have played in back-to-back contests in Nashville extending past regulation and into double overtime.

The team also notched a regulation 2-1 win at Middle Tennessee on Friday night.

Entering into Sunday's game against University of South Florida, the team was confident not only in their skill apparent on the field, but also in their physical and mental endurance.

"I am confident in our team as a whole," Coveleskie said. "I like what we're doing, I like our mentality, I like our technical ability and I like the way that we're playing like a team."

There was no doubt the win over USF was a total team effort, as Vanderbilt dominated in ball control throughout the contest, outshooting USF 20-7.

In fact, the squad has held each of their last three opponents to under 10 shots a game, as their dynamic offense and defense continues to hold strong.

At the end of regulation, the

Commodores found themselves in a 0-0 deadlock with the Bulls, which extended through the first overtime period as well.

After 101 minutes of play — less than two minutes into the second overtime period — the team was able to take advantage of a USF foul, setting up Ratterman's heroics.

"Ratterman stepped up from the backfield as soon as the whistle was blown," Coveleskie said. "She stepped up there, took the ball and put it away like a champion. She wanted the ball and wanted the game winner, and I really respect her for that."

Ratterman emphasized that the win was important for the team, as everyone contributed on the field.

"It really helps our team spirit to keep winning these games that are close calls," said the sophomore from Centennial, Colo. "We work so hard day in and day out, and I feel like it has really showed these past couple of games where we would push through it, and no matter what, we'd get the win."

The Commodores were able to keep the Bulls' defense on their toes the entire game, with strong offensive presences from junior midfielder Megan Forester, forwards sophomore Molly Kinsella and freshman Candace West.

The defense recorded its second shutout of the regular season, as sophomore goalie Rachel Bachtel recorded two saves, one in each period of regulation. Senior Amy Wilcox, alongside sophomores Hannah Gonzales, Nicole



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt forward Nicole Lukens (7) battles USF's Gina Pacheco (10) for control of ball during action at the Vanderbilt Soccer Complex Sunday afternoon. The Commodores went on to defeat the Bulls 1-0 in double overtime.

Lukens and Kristine Chaklos, helped to anchor the backfield.

Proving their endurance late in the game, the Commodores have recognized the importance of an increased confidence this season.

"To our team, overtime is a mentality — it's all about who wants to put the ball in the net first," Coveleskie said.

"When we come down to overtime, I look my players in the eyes, and I see confidence."

Having notched three consecutive wins — their best start in over ten years — the women's soccer team looks to maintain their intensity and confidence in games at East Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech this weekend. ■

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