



CAMPUS LIVING: Past mold problems in Kissam have been treated for residents. **SEE PAGE 3**

SPORTS: Read the Friday Conversation with starting running back Jared Hawkins. **SEE PAGE 6**

CAMPUS LIVING

Cardio room not working out



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshmen Brittany Badesch and Jessica Chamish take advantage of the Commons Fitness Center's cardio room, located above the dining center. Yoga mats and stationary bikes have made the cardio room a popular place for females.

Male students say so-called 'Estro-gym' unfit for lifting weights.

by **ETHEL MICKEY**
News Contributor

Students have dubbed the Commons Fitness Center the "Estro-Gym" because of the large amount of women who frequent the facilities. When asked, most male students list the lack of free weights as the main reason they avoid the location. They prefer to go to the Student Recreation Center instead, despite the 20-minute walk from Peabody.

"There's a reason it's called the 'Estro-Gym,' and it's because the only types of equipment in there are elliptical machines, treadmills and mats," said first-year student Jay Russo. "Those are not something that a teenage guy wants to use."

In addition to the lack of appropriate equipment, the distance from Peabody to the Rec Center is another source of frustration for first-year students.

"The Rec Center is way too far away for it to be practical for a lot of people to go there. I have no time at all, coming from Blair, to go all the way over there to work out," said first-year student Anthony Albanese.

Kenny Moore, assistant director of the Commons Center, said the cardio room was designed to be a place for a quick workout for first-year students and faculty, and it "was never intended to replace the Student Recreation Center."

Although the option of adding weights was discussed during the project design, the idea was eliminated. The first reason, according to Moore, is safety.

"Cardio equipment can be unsupervised, but for liability reasons of users getting hurt, any time weights are involved, there should be supervision," said Moore.

Additionally, the Commons staff wants to implement a holistic approach with residents. "The Commons (staff) wants first-year students to engage in the whole campus and experience all VU has to offer," Moore said.

Students with any ideas or comments for the Commons Center should use the suggestion boxes at the information desk and in the cardio room. ■

ACADEMICS

Professors evaluate economy

by **JUDY WANG**
Academics Specialist

The recent forced bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, rushed rescue effort of American International Group by the federal government and the falling stocks on Wall Street have not been good for the financial sector, according to Vanderbilt economic professors.

Managerial Studies Adjunct Professor Timothy Logan summarized the situation, saying the contraction of bank assets is forcing investors to turn to treasuries, and the government may not sustain all of the financial losses.

"Tightened lending standards due to uncertain economic reasons leads to less money in the people's hands," said Logan. "Because it is a vicious cycle, the situation is teetering on catastrophic."

Economics Senior Lecturer Stephen Buckles weighs in on the actions the Federal Reserve can take to alleviate the problem.

"They are doing all that they can right now," said Buckles. "The regulatory role is going to have to change dramatically and that is going to be the biggest challenge — to do it (in) a way that encourages an active and healthy financial market."

Logan predicts the "free wielding lending over the past five to seven years is over, and future projects will have more conservative lending terms. Rules for mortgages will be changed as well, and it will be generally much tougher to receive one."

The future is looking uncertain for remaining giant Wall Street firms such as Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. Both firms have suffered significant losses in stock shares this week alone.

"I don't know if there are more to come," Buckles said. "I hope not, but it would not be surprising to find another one or two." ■

SCIENCE & MEDICINE

New environmental graduate program to be added

by **BRIAN LOVE**
News Contributor

Top environmental engineering scholar and professor of civil and environmental engineering, George Hornberger, will lead the new Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and Environment.

The interdisciplinary graduate program of VIEE will build upon the current joint doctoral program in the Earth and Environmental Science and the Civil and Environmental Engineering. The program will enhance current research programs in climate change, environmental risk management and environmental law.

New programs will be added, such as alternative energy technology and

environmental health.

"It is a natural collaboration the science of the earth, it is inherently interdisciplinary," said Professor of Geology Molly Miller. "This is the main thrust of Vanderbilt's environmental program, not only scientifically interdisciplinary, but it brings together so many social aspects."

The institute will provide today's students an interdisciplinary education that did not exist a generation ago.

"We have to get students beyond where we've been," said Hornberger.



HORNBERGER

The concept for the institute was developed jointly by faculty from various departments, including Law, Economics, Earth and Environmental Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering. These faculty members are currently working with Hornberger to finalize details and establish the organizational framework for the institute.

"(VIEE) has become a top priority of Chancellor (Nick) Zeppos and Provost (Richard) McCarty," said Professor David Kosson, chair of the School of Engineering's Civil and Environmental Engineering department.

University administrators plan to role out the new institute in either the late fall or early spring semester.

Hornberger is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, where he has served in many leadership roles. He is an internationally recognized scholar and leader in his field and will join Vanderbilt from the University of Virginia.

"He is a terrific addition bringing a long history of effective team building and bridging across disciplines," Kosson said.

With the addition of Hornberger, others are taking notice of Vanderbilt, as well.

"There's quite a buzz across the country amongst faculty working in these areas," Kosson said. ■

THE COMMONS

Google bus makes stop at Commons

by **TAYLOR DAVIS**
News Contributor

Vanderbilt became the fourth of 10 stops on the "App to School" tour when the Google bus parked outside of the Commons Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Google set up a tent with multiple computers displaying different Google application demonstrations for students to check out. It also offered free T-shirts and Frisbees, and a Wii

station was set up in the back of the bus.

According to Google Business Development Manager Jeff Keltner and Assistant Marketing Manager Miriam Schneider, Google included a mix of schools on its tour, ranging in location, size and time of deployment of Google services.

Google believed a college tour was necessary because it did not have a chance to speak to students about the services in the first two years of the apps

initiative.

"We thought it was time to talk to people literally where the rubber meets the road," said Keltner.

Google decided to make the tour as environmentally friendly as possible by running the bus on biodiesel fuel and using solar power to run the electronics inside. "It's hard to find a bus that is completely environmentally sustainable, but we did the best we could," Keltner said.

Google apps include Gmail,

Google Calendar, Google Docs and Google Sites. Google Docs can be used as a collaboration tool between students, as it enables them to work on the same document at the same time from different computers. It features word processing, spreadsheets and presentations and eliminates the need for e-mailing attachments when working on a two-person project. Google Sites is an app that assists in website creation. ■



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The environmentally-friendly Google bus stopped at Vanderbilt to show off their new online applications. The bus has six more stops to make on their "App to School" tour.

PIPPEN: Long walks to main campus, overbearing profs among Commons advantages. **SEE PAGE 4**



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by JANELLE STOKES

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TODAY



HIGH 84, LOW 59
Mostly Sunny

SATURDAY



HIGH 81, LOW 58
Sunny

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chinese parents seek answers on tainted baby milk formula

SHIJIAZHUANG, China (AP)—Hundreds of Chinese parents, some cradling infants, converged on the company at the heart of the tainted baby formula scandal Thursday, demanding refunds and asking what they can safely feed their children.

The scandal highlights the changing family dynamics and economic growth in China. A generation ago, women had little choice besides breast-feeding. Now, supermarkets are filled with dozens of brands of baby formula, marketed to women who continue working outside the home even after they give birth.

Baby milk powder laced with melamine, used in plastics and fertilizers, has been blamed in the deaths of four babies. More than 6,000 others have been sickened. Some 1,300 babies, mostly newborns, remain hospitalized, with 158 suffering from acute kidney failure.

The company reportedly received complaints about its formula as early as March and tests revealed the contamination by early August, just before the Olympics. Sanlu went public with a recall on Sept. 11 after its New Zealand stakeholder told the New Zealand government, which then informed the Chinese government.

Melamine has no nutritional value but is high in nitrogen, making products with it appear higher in protein. Suppliers trying to cut costs are believed to have added the toxic chemical to watered-down milk to cover up the resulting protein deficiency.

US weighing financial crisis plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is weighing a number of options to ease one of the worst financial crisis that has hit this country in decades, according to a person with knowledge of the talks.

U.S. stocks surged late Thursday after a report that the administration was considering creating a government entity patterned after the Resolution Trust Corp. created in the 1980s in the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis. But the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions, said the talks have not narrowed to a single option and that an RTC-type solution is not a certainty.

President Bush canceled an out-of-town trip Thursday to stay in Washington and meet with his top economic advisers.

Bush held a 40-minute meeting with Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Securities and Exchange Commission chief Christopher Cox along with White House and Treasury Department aides.

Israel foreign minister Tzipi Livni declares victory in Kadima party race

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's foreign minister Tzipi Livni won a narrow victory early Thursday to be head of the country's governing party, giving her the chance to be the nation's first female leader in 34 years and sending a message that peace talks with the Palestinians could likely continue.

Livni will replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as head of Kadima. Olmert, the target of a career-ending corruption probe, promised to step down as soon as a new Kadima leader was chosen.

After she is assigned the task, Livni will have 42 days to form a new ruling coalition. If she succeeds, she will become Israel's first female prime minister since Golda Meir. If she fails, the country will hold elections in early 2009, a year and a half ahead of schedule.

With opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline Likud Party polling well, neither Kadima nor its coalition partners appear eager for a new election.

McCain says he would fire SEC chairman

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)—Republican John McCain, buffeted by criticism about his response to Wall Street's financial problems, said Thursday he would fire the SEC chairman and create a special trust to help strengthen weak institutions.

In all but calling for the firing of Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Christopher Cox, McCain turned on a fellow Republican and former 17-year House member who served on committees overseeing investor protection and U.S. capital markets. President Bush appointed Cox in 2005.

McCain also tried to counter Democratic rival Barack Obama as the two White House contenders jockeyed to explain how, as president, they would prevent the sort of financial tremors that have shaken the financial industry and consumer confidence this week.

"The chairman of the SEC serves at the appointment of the president and, in my view, has betrayed the public's trust," McCain told a rally in this battleground state. "If I were president today, I would fire him."

In a statement, Cox chalked up McCain's comments to the heat of the campaign. Cox said the financial crisis was "presenting new challenges on an hourly basis" and that "steadiness and reduction of uncertainty" is what the U.S. and the world needed.

Campaigning in New Mexico, Obama mocked McCain's call to fire the SEC chairman, basically saying why stop at Cox.

US reviewing its Afghanistan war strategy

LONDON (AP)—In an echo of a time when things were going from bad to worse in Iraq, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday the Bush administration is reviewing its war strategy in Afghanistan amid spreading insurgent violence, rising U.S. and allied military deaths and doubts about winning.

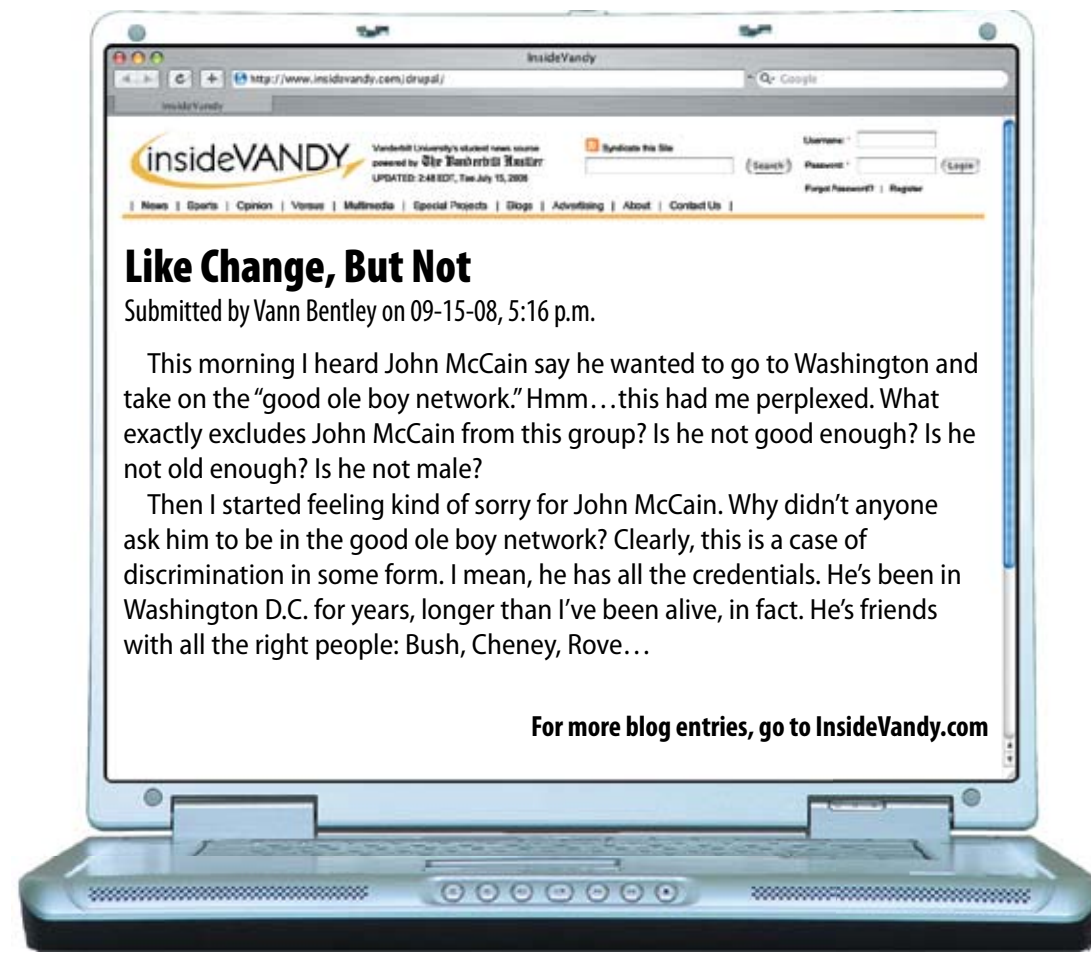
With only a few months left before President Bush leave office, the administration apparently is attempting to draw a clearer picture for the next commander-in-chief of what needs to be done to stabilize the country, to sustain and increase international support and to make the most of U.S. and allied military forces.

Any changes in strategy now being contemplated would not be as substantial as Bush's decision in January 2007 to take a fundamentally different approach in Iraq, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said. Bush added more than 21,000 combat troops in Iraq and endorsed an overhaul of military strategy.

"Nothing of that magnitude" is being considered for the war in Afghanistan, Morrell cautioned.

Gates visited Afghanistan on Wednesday and flew to London for NATO consultations beginning Thursday evening. Afghanistan is not intended to be a major topic for the meeting; the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force is the lead command element in Afghanistan, headed by a U.S. general.

FROM THE BLOG



Like Change, But Not

Submitted by Vann Bentley on 09-15-08, 5:16 p.m.

This morning I heard John McCain say he wanted to go to Washington and take on the "good ole boy network." Hmm... this had me perplexed. What exactly excludes John McCain from this group? Is he not good enough? Is he not old enough? Is he not male?

Then I started feeling kind of sorry for John McCain. Why didn't anyone ask him to be in the good ole boy network? Clearly, this is a case of discrimination in some form. I mean, he has all the credentials. He's been in Washington D.C. for years, longer than I've been alive, in fact. He's friends with all the right people: Bush, Cheney, Rove...

For more blog entries, go to InsideVandy.com

SNAPSHOT

DISCUSSING POLITICS AND CIVIC DUTY



GENEVIEVE GALE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Thelma Harper, Tennessee's first black female state senator, speaks about holding elected officials accountable in Sarratt Cinema.

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LEADERSHIP

New LGBTQI center opens for student use

by PALLAVI NARAIN
News Contributor

The Office of the Dean of Students is working to create more community on campus.

The K.C. Potter Center, named in honor of a retired dean, is the home to the recently expanded Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Life.

"(The mission of the office) is to raise awareness about gender and sexuality (issues) and support students in discovering themselves and others," said Nora Spencer, director of the office.

The office provides a number of resources for students, the most significant being a full-time staff to provide personal support for students of all orientations.

Sophomore Jody Kittle, secretary of Lambda, a GLBT organization, said it is nice to have the new office on

campus and to know it is available to anyone who needs someone to talk to. Kittle became involved with the office in hopes of preventing depression and suicide among students. He also hopes the new office will also solidify and unite the community.

It is important to make the people here feel safe and supported (so that) they are able to thrive.

—Nora Spencer, Director of LGBTQI Office

The office is also working to create a safe environment for these students. Spencer said homophobia is very

prevalent in society. With the new center, she hopes students will feel safer and more comfortable.

"It is important to make the people here feel safe and supported (so that) they are able to thrive," Spencer said.

Aside from the full-time support staff, the LGBTQI office provides many resources for students of varying orientations. The house has conference rooms for meetings, a library for studying and a kitchen for cooking. There is also a TV room, which some students plan on using to watch the upcoming presidential debates.

Kittle said the office also provides many personal resources, including pamphlets on STDs and safe sex. These are also available at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center located next door. Kittle added there are also many opportunities to get contacts outside of Vanderbilt and within the community.

Spencer has been considered a

valuable resource for students.

"As director, she will be able to implement more (of our ideas) and help us coordinate (events)," said Kittle.

Spencer was a top choice as the director of the LGBTQI office during the selection process. Previously, she was the assistant director of multicultural and diversity affairs and director of LGBT affairs at the University of Florida.

"(Spencer) was a shining star. Everyone liked what she had to say. (Her) vision was inspiring, and (it was) encouraging to see where she wanted to take the office," said senior Fabiani Duarte.

Duarte was one of the student members on the committee, led by Assistant Dean Pat Helland, that hired Spencer.

The office is still looking to hire more staff members. It is hoping to add a program coordinator to provide numerous educational opportunities

for students and an advisory board appointed by Chancellor Nick Zeppos.

Spencer said the community has been very supportive of the new office. Vanderbilt has even expanded its non-discrimination policies to include gender and identity expression.

According to Kittle, the office is also a host home to many organizations, including Lambda. Many events will be arranged with the help of Spencer and the office.

Besides these events, Kittle also wants to make the office a hangout spot. He wants to plan movie nights or simple get-togethers for the students. One of the main reasons Kittle started coming to the office was to meet more gay people, and these events and the Office of LGBTQI Life will help students meet others who share their orientation.

"(It's about) seeing we're all college students. We're just like anyone else here," Kittle said. ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Kissam renovation reduces threat of mold

by NORAH SCANLAN

Campus Living Specialist

Last spring, International Commissioning Engineers (ICE) entered Kissam Quadrangle to try and solve the mold problem it faced last year. Tests were taken and their results were used to decide what measures should be performed.

ICE offered several recommendations to decrease the possibility of mold growth and reduce humidity. The installation of additional exhaust fans and grills, new filters and foil insulation, and the treatment of exterior room walls with a mold inhibitor and mold resistant paint all were added over the summer.

"We are always on alert to mold and mildew in campus buildings because Vanderbilt is located in a very humid part of the country. If moisture in the environment condenses on indoor surfaces, it can support the growth of mold on those surfaces," said Lisbeth Wyatt, director of Plant Operations.

Sophomore Chelsea Mayo, who lived in Kissam last year, thinks that the curtains caused problems for a lot of students.

"They stuck to the window, so when it was cold outside and there was condensation, mold started to grow on the window panes," said Mayo. These curtains were later replaced with blinds in an effort to alleviate the problem.

This year, mold growth does

not seem to be an issue due to summer maintenance.

"This is my second year to live in Kissam, and I've only dealt with mold once," said sophomore Stephanie Bruse. "My filters were changed immediately. It was not a big deal at all. This year, especially since Vandy added renovations to the quad, no one that I know of is encountering any problems whatsoever."


"So far this year, we have received one report of mold in Kissam Quad. Housing and Plant Operations responded immediately to thoroughly clean the room and assist the resident," Wyatt said.

Although mold complaints are low, several students have reported the presence of a

musty smell in their room.

"We've gone into those rooms. It's nothing compared to last year," said Ann Nielson, director of Facilities. Dehumidifiers are being placed in these rooms, and they are then monitored on a daily basis.

Wyatt said students can help prevent mold and mildew by keeping moisture out of their rooms. In humid weather, students should keep windows closed and avoid bringing wet or damp items into their rooms. If they see something they suspect is mold or mildew, they should report their concern immediately so Housing and Plant Operations can respond. ■



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GREEK SCENE

Greeks host boat party on Music City Queen

by JANELLE STOKES

Greek Specialist

On Saturday, Sept. 20, the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Inc. and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, Inc. will do something different and host a boat party aboard the Music City Queen showboat from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.

"This is our first time doing (an event) like this, so we're testing it out to see how it goes," said junior Chris Griffin and member of Kappa Alpha Psi. "It was just an idea that we came up with. It's a semi-



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formal event where everyone will be dressed up, which they don't really get a chance to do."

Tickets are \$25 on the card

at the Sarratt Box Office or at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. Shuttles to Opryland are available for \$3 and will leave from Branscomb. ■



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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

OPINION

Commons proves a bountiful investment



CAROLYN PIPPEN
Columnist

In the last few years, the creation of the Commons has brought considerable criticism from upperclassmen. Resentment is understandable, as the additions have undoubtedly caused loud construction, lack of off-campus housing, global warming, John Edward's infidelity and the state of the war in Iraq. After almost a month of intense scientific observation, however, I have noted several positive outcomes of our new students' unique living situation. Here are just a few of my findings...

- **Physical fitness:** The walk from the Commons to main campus acts as a strong deterrent to the freshman 50 — updated from the freshman 15 after a meal plan overhaul forces new students to purchase 29 meals a day. (Sorry, Peabody kids. Maybe your first-year teacher's salaries will cover emergency gastric bypass, but I doubt it.)
 - **Team spirit:** There has been evidence, perhaps due to the sheer distance between freshmen's closets and the mind-boggling pastel-fest of frat row tailgating, that some students may accidentally stumble into actual Vanderbilt apparel on their way to football games. Go Dores!
 - **Challenging campus organizations:** These days, if you are trying to get a freshman to pick up a flyer, sign a petition or participate in your activity, you really have to want it. (As it turns out, they really don't.)
 - **Natural selection:** If you can't make it across 21st Avenue at 3 a.m. in your roommate's stilettoes after a long night of fratting, you don't deserve to graduate.
 - **Dissipation of the dining crowd:** Remember that time it took you 45 minutes to get through Corner Market after you got stuck behind the kid having an asthma attack because he forgot to select his cheese ahead of time, and had no idea what the word focaccia even meant, and with all these people behind him?! No more.
 - **Student/faculty relationships:** After years of being misunderstood by the world of grown-ups, Assistant Professor Tony Brown is finally able to live amongst people of his own maturity level.
 - **Proximity to medical services:** Apparently deciding to play the odds, Housing has strategically placed the group of students most likely to need the hospital right next to the hospital. In fact, the new Vandy Van Express route takes students directly from the steps of North to the Emergency Room doors.
 - **Religious appreciation:** The trek from the Commons to Grins at noon on an August day cannot help but call to mind the journey made by the Hebrews across the Egyptian desert in search of the Promised Land.
 - **Facility cleanliness:** Studies show that first-year students are 87 percent less likely to pee in an elevator if there is not already pee in the elevator. Branscomb residents, no such luck.
 - **Personal humility:** After illustrious high school careers in which nearly all of our new students enjoyed life as the top dogs in their respective towns, Vanderbilt makes sure to remind us all that on this campus, you are, in fact, just Common.
- So I guess we have a few things to thank Gee for after all — aside from taking his horrible athletic karma away from Vandy (3-0) and returning it to its rightful place at Ohio State (ahem ... Go Trojans?) — and freshmen, enjoy it while you can, because housing selection is only a few months away, and chances are you're about to get Kisslammed.

—Carolyn Phippen is a senior in the college of Arts and Science. She can be reached at carolyn.m.pippen@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

Students know which issues are important

This week, the Hustler has editorialized on civic duty and youth voting. On Monday, the editorial praised Vanderbilt for recognizing Constitution Day and the importance of civic and history education. On Wednesday, the editorial criticized "get out the vote" operations like Vanderbilt's chapter of SAVE and Rock the Vote for conflating the priorities of voter registration and voter education for the purpose of increasing voter turnout. The Hustler received several responses to this editorial, one of which is printed below while the others are available at InsideVandy.com.

Informed voting is foundational to our political system. Citizens must have a working knowledge of the issues that concern them in order to make an informed, educated and worthwhile decision. The wealth of information about candidates, positions and issues can be overwhelming, to be sure. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of individuals to educate themselves as much as possible.

This is not an easy task. Vanderbilt students especially know how time-consuming school, work and social lives can be. Those groups, like College Democrats and Republicans, Election Alliance and SAVE, should be commended for trying to inject politics into the full and vibrant discussion at the university. Still, voters of every age and walk of life cannot possibly know everything there is to know about the issues and candidates. It is up to

you, the voter, to determine what is important to you.

There is a critical caveat to sifting through all of the electoral information. Beware of groups or individuals who are eager to have you register. Students should never allow others to tell them what issues are important to them.

Too often, advocacy groups that stealthily claim to be nonpartisan target potential voters with registration forms and promise to educate those voters on "the issues that affect them." SAVE, for instance, claims to be nonpartisan, with Democrats and Republicans serving on its national board. Still, the organization is teamed up with environmentalist groups like the Earth Day Network and the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.

Perhaps many of the people involved with SAVE believe the environment and other specific issues are important for young voters, but only the individual voter can determine what issues are important for him or her.

Students at Vanderbilt, like those around the country, should always be vigilant in the quest for knowledge. A more informed voting population must accompany higher voter turnout, and Vanderbilt does well to encourage its students to learn more about the foundations upon which our civil society is built.

The illegitimacy of Sarah Palin



AIMEE SOBHANI
Columnist

Democrats and Republicans alike raised their eyebrows when John McCain chose Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate, who was virtually unknown outside of her state. As the press reveals more information about the hockey mom turned vice presidential candidate, it's no wonder people have reservations about her.

It is an understatement to say Palin has some skeletons in her closet. After all, she has a pregnant 17-year-old daughter, and she refuses to cooperate in a bipartisan investigation conducted by her state's legislature.

The investigation questions the legitimacy of Palin's firing of Alaska's Public Safety Commissioner, Walter Monegan, in July. Monegan claims Palin pressured him to fire her ex-brother-in-law, a state trooper going through a messy divorce with Palin's sister. Monegan refused to go along with the plan, which he believes Palin took into account when she fired him.

Alaska's Senate Judiciary Committee decided to investigate the matter, but Palin's staff will not comply with subpoenas and the McCain campaign said Palin is "unlikely to cooperate" with the investigation. The campaign believes Democrats are politicizing the issue and using it to tarnish Palin's name. In retaliation, McCain's people are attacking the Judiciary Committee chairman, Democrat Hollis French, who said the investigation could result in criminal charges.

What's interesting about the McCain campaign's comments on this issue is its belief that politics is clouding the investigation. First of all, the Senate Judiciary Committee made the decision to investigate Monegan's firing before Palin became the Republicans' vice presidential candidate, meaning sabotage of the Republican campaign was not the committee's primary goal.

In addition, Alaska's Senate Judiciary Committee includes three Republicans and two Democrats, and one Republican actually sided with the Democrats in the vote to move ahead with the investigation. The bipartisan nature of the vote suggests the committee just wanted to resolve the issue. Not surprisingly, the McCain campaign did not criticize the efforts of a Republican on the committee who tried to postpone the investigation until after the election, but I guess a decision is only "politically motivated" if it involves Democrats.

The real issue here is Palin's refusal to cooperate with the investigation. If she has nothing to hide, she shouldn't be worried. Maybe she does have something to hide, though. It's like "pleading the Fifth;" someone can protect himself from self-incrimination, but the decision not to answer questions arouses suspicion.

The situation would look more favorable if Palin resolved any lingering questions by cooperating with the committee. It will probably be difficult to prove Palin fired Monegan for personal reasons, and Palin would have come out of the investigation looking like a respectable, upstanding individual ready to hold a vital role in the national government.

However, by not participating in the investigation, Palin loses some of her credibility. If she's not willing to face the Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee, what will she do if she ever has to defend her decisions to the U.S. Senate?

Hiding from her mistakes won't win Palin support with the American people. Palin is merely exacerbating a minor situation by refusing to comply with her fellow Alaskans and will likely suffer from it in the long run.

—Aimee Sobhani is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at aimee.f.sobhani@vanderbilt.edu.

Let them vote

To the Editor:

I'd like to express my disgust with Wednesday's editorial, "Youth voter registration encourages reckless voting." Not only were the conclusions without support and the argument illogical, but the claims made were offensive, counterproductive and willfully ignorant. The low turnout of young voters is most definitely a huge concern. To begin with, there are many more reasons why young people don't vote than not caring or having no opinion, which your article suggests. They may be busy or lazy and need motivation or something like a voter registration group to make the process easier and more accessible to them. Perhaps they feel as if their votes don't actually count and feel ideologically disenfranchised by public sentiments such as your editorial. Many young people express their civic duty by volunteering and doing other community services, and even those who truly care may take it for granted that people our age have the right to vote or feel they can't affect change with just a vote. In addition, young voters sometimes just aren't sure who to vote for.

You're correct that we shouldn't value voting for the sake of voting, but we need to value voting from any educational background. You say "an educated vote is worth much more than an uneducated one," but in fact we live in America, and every vote has the same weight. For this reason, voter registration groups should sometimes be involved


with voter education and attempt to teach youth about the candidates and let them decide what's in their best interests, which I promise everybody cares about. However, there are many non-partisan voter registration groups without liberal agendas, which your article denies.

You falsely claim young people don't care as much about issues of terrorism and health care when in fact these are two of the issues we care most about. We are the people who have to outlive our parents in this country and carry the burdens of antagonistic foreign policy and lack of health care.

We need not be content with a low youth turnout on Election Day, which doesn't reflect the amount of people who care, but the much lower number of people who think their vote will count. It all depends on whether these young adults are motivated and believe in the democratic political process, which includes the fact that they all have the right and responsibility to vote as active citizens. Absence of civic education should be blamed for lack of knowledge about elections, and not nonchalant youth.

I'm shocked this article was an editorial, as we now know the bias inherent in The Hustler and understand the "reckless vote" which you discussed is really just a vote with which you don't agree.

Chelsea Davis
Senior, College of Arts and Science



THE RANT

What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. Send in your rants with the subject "Rant" to: opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com.

Compiled by Thomas Shattuck

"Why does this university care more about the activities of fraternities than the backgrounds of sociology professors?"

"Fire drills don't work. Students don't even leave the building when the alarm goes off. And do you know why? Too many fire drills."

"Why did they add bleachers to the baseball field? I used to park there."

"Why the hell does no one get any reception in Sarratt?"

"Why don't the freshmen go ahead and whine some more. You know, because they have it that bad off and all."

"If people love the rant so much, why don't they ever e-mail any in?"

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. Letters via e-mail must come from

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity. Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion. All submissions become the property of the Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which the Hustler is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2. Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Your voice doesn't stop here. The Vanderbilt Hustler encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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THE BACK PAGE

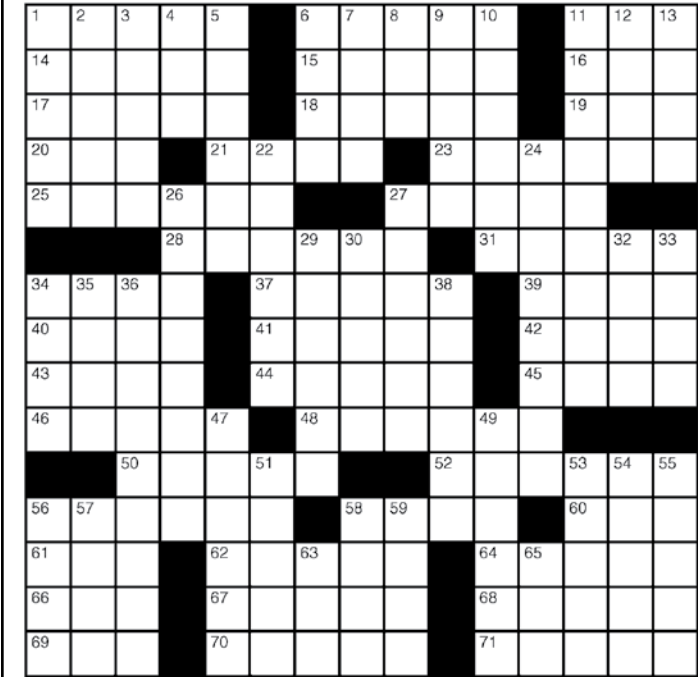


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| 41 Come afterward | | | | |
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9/17/08 SOLUTIONS

CROSS BOOS STAR
 AORTA LARK LODGE
 BLAIR ETNA ORES
 SELECTS ATTEMPT
 SAYS TEASETS
 DAS SKI ERR
 VEHEMENT STALLS
 DOUP GAS NEAL
 SNEADS DISTANCE
 OHM DOA SEW
 MAESTRO EARS
 YELTSIN SKITTLE
 TRUE FRAT FRAIL
 HIDE TORE FAKES
 SEER SHEEP SWEDE

SUDOKU: To solve, fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

9/17/08 SOLUTIONS

4	2	8	6	5	1	7	9	3
7	5	1	3	8	9	2	6	4
9	6	3	2	7	4	8	1	5
5	7	6	8	2	3	9	4	1
8	4	9	7	1	5	6	3	2
3	1	2	4	9	6	5	8	7
6	9	7	1	3	2	4	5	8
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SPORTS

Commodores look to defeat Rebels, crack top 25

by NICK GALLO
Sports Contributor

Vanderbilt football has an opportunity Saturday to do what it hasn't done since 1984—be ranked in the Associated Press top 25. This weekend the Commodores (3-0, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) will travel down to Oxford to face Mississippi (2-1, 0-0), where they hope to vault their record to 4-0, as they did 24 years ago to become No. 19 in the nation. After last week's win against Rice, the Commodores garnered enough votes to essentially be No. 26 in the nation, meaning a solid win at Ole Miss would almost certainly lead to a national ranking.

Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson addressed his team's ranking, dismissing any ideas of overconfidence.

"I don't think our guys have a big head. I think our record speaks for itself and we don't need

anybody else to tell us how good we are," Johnson said. "We know that we have a lot of improvement to make from week-to-week and hopefully we can do that. We're focused on getting better each week and hopefully everything will take care of itself."

Will all the rankings talk, Vanderbilt cannot forget about their opponent, an energized Ole Miss team that comes in with a 2-1 record. The Rebels, led by former Arkansas coach Houston Nutt, have defeated Memphis and Samford at home and fell to Wake Forest on the road. Although the two wins should not be regarded as resume builders for the Rebels, their performance against a ranked Wake Forest team was impressive. The Demon Deacons will likely finish in the top three in the Atlantic Coast Conference this season, and the Rebels nearly came away victorious in Winston-Salem if not for a defensive

breakdown that led to a game winning, last-second field goal.

Vanderbilt and Ole Miss have split their last four meetings, with the Commodores winning last year's meeting in Nashville, 31-17. This Rebels team only won three games last season, but with the former coach of standouts like Darren McFadden and Felix Jones at the helm this year, Ole Miss looks to do more damage in the SEC.

"I think Coach Nutt brings an attitude of toughness and efficiency in offense to Mississippi. I think he has made them so much better," Johnson said. "You can see so far this year that they have taken care of the ball and play hard in all phases of the game. They try to hit you with big plays and his trademark is in place. It will be a test this week because they will line up with two running backs in the backfield and we will have to prove that we can stop it."

That two running back lineup was what made Nutt's Arkansas team successful last season, but Johnson said that simply watching tape of last year's Razorbacks is not the correct response in scouting the Rebels.

"Mississippi has two solid running backs but last year's Arkansas team had two exceptional running backs in Darren McFadden and Felix Jones. The quarterback combination is entirely different. We're preparing for Mississippi based on what we have seen from their tape this year," Johnson said.

With Nutt on the opposing sideline, the Commodores know what to expect, but must realize that the personnel is completely different. With that in mind Vanderbilt can focus on the task at hand: win a hard-fought game on the road and make history—and make Vanderbilt football a legitimate contender in the SEC. ■



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Coach Bobby Johnson and the Commodores have caught the attention of the country (and Erin Andrews) after their 3-0 start. A win over Ole Miss would likely vault Vanderbilt into the top 25 for the first time since 1984.

friday conversation with JARED HAWKINS

Interview by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist

After two years as a back-up, Vanderbilt redshirt junior running back Jared Hawkins has assumed starting duties and been more than up to the task, scoring three touchdowns and setting career highs in rushing yards in two straight games against South Carolina and Rice. Hawkins spoke with the Hustler after practice Wednesday, discussing the responsibilities of being the featured back, how he prepares mentally for each game and what role his faith plays in his life.

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: You're the back-up the first two seasons, now you're the featured back of the team. What's it like having that kind of responsibility?

JARED HAWKINS: It's fun. When you're a player, you want to be the guy out on the field, be able to start us off. It's just been a lot of fun.

VH: How did you personally prepare for this season in terms of conditioning?

JH: Every off-season, I try to work as hard as I can to gain weight just to get faster and stronger. I just did a lot of extra work in the weight room, either here or at the Rec center. I've just been doing a lot of extra lifting and a lot of running.

VH: The offensive line comes in this season with not too much experience. How crucial have they been to this team's success?

JH: They've been underrated. We knew that the guys were good on our team. A lot of people looking in on the outside saw a lot of guys who hadn't played a lot before. But they had a great spring, they did a good job coming into the season and they've done a great job thus far. They're doing a really good job.

VH: What's your usual pre-game routine?

JH: Usually just try to stay relaxed. Especially since we've been playing a lot of night games, sitting around the hotels, it's a lot of waiting around. You don't want to get too amped up before the game comes, you want to make sure you've got energy for the game. So I'll try to just relax and stay calm. I'll listen to my iPod or watch TV. Really, when it gets about an hour or two before game time, I'll start getting focused, thinking about my assignments, what I have to do, certain plays, a lot of mental stuff.

VH: You gave the invocation at the Hall of Fame induction dinner last Friday. Are you a religious person?

JH: Definitely. God's the biggest part of my life, he's number one in everything I do, especially football. In anything I do, I try to give Him all the glory. I was really honored to be able to go do that at the Hall of Fame banquet, it was a great opportunity.

VH: How do you balance your commitment to football with your commitment to studies?

JH: It's hard. You've got to learn a lot about time management and being here for almost four years, I've definitely learned that. It was hard when I first got here. I was able to get on the Dean's List the last two semesters so I'm trying to keep that going. It's definitely hard, but you've got to make sure you've set out a plan and just execute that plan academically.

VH: Outside Nashville of course, what's your favorite Southeastern Conference venue to play in?

JH: Probably the coolest is Florida. The atmosphere is really good, the stadium's cool. It's fun going into there and playing.

VH: You have a new running backs coach this year, Deshaun Kitchens. What's it been like working with him?

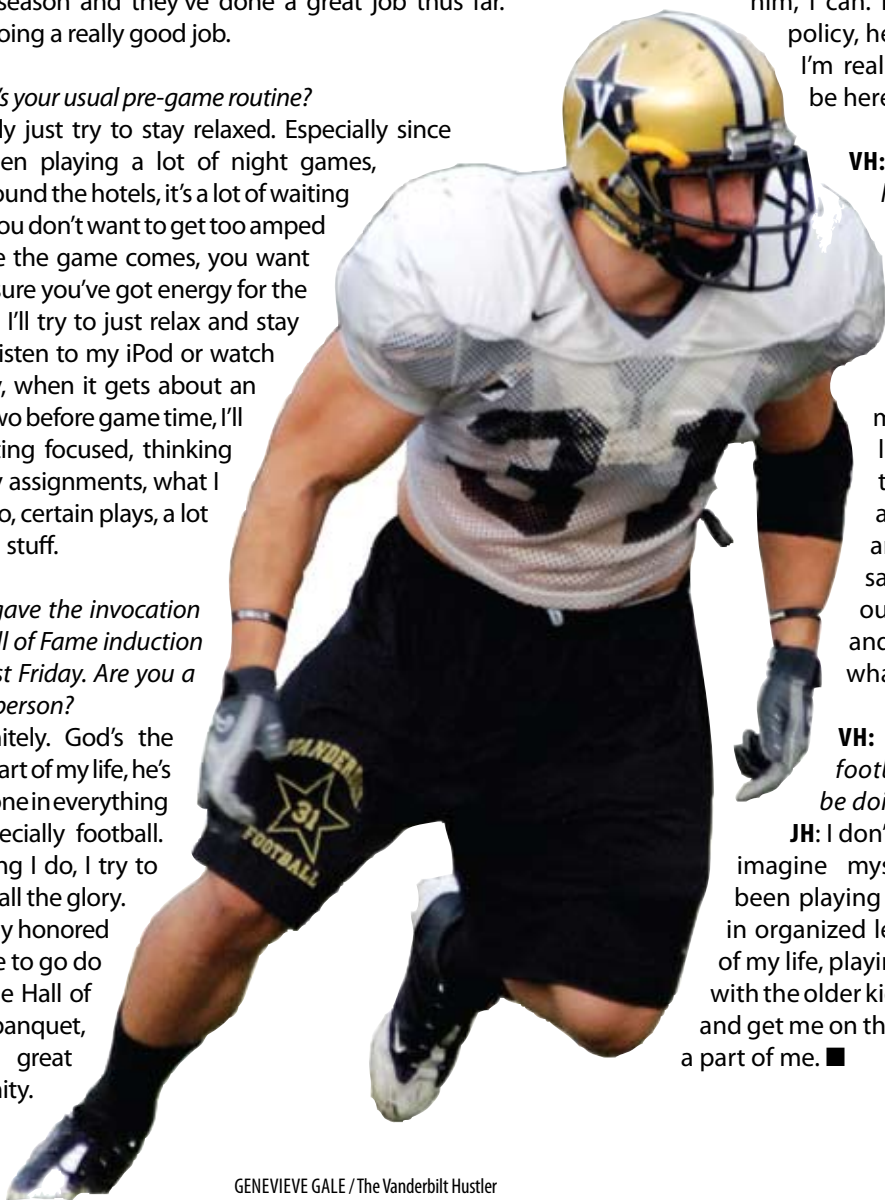
JH: He's an awesome guy. I really like him. I feel like I've got a pretty good relationship with him. I feel any time I have something going on, whether I need to know something about the offense or just want to go talk to him, I can. He's got an open-door policy, he's a really good guy, so I'm really excited to have him be here.

VH: You've set personal highs in rushing two weeks in a row. What's it looking like for a third straight week?

JH: I'm just going to go out there every week and try and do my best. The offensive line's done a great job the past two weeks, and I expect them to do another great job. Like I said, I'm just going to go out there and do my best, and if that happens, that's what happens.

VH: If you weren't playing football, what would you be doing?

JH: I don't really know. I couldn't imagine myself not playing. I've been playing since I was 6 years old in organized leagues. It's been a part of my life, playing flag football, playing with the older kids. My dad would coach and get me on the team. It's always been a part of me. ■



GENEVIEVE GALE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt greets making names for themselves in the pros

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor

The Vanderbilt Commodores have been enjoying unprecedented success on the playing field in recent years, as evidenced by a large increase in the number of former Commodores turning pro after their college careers come to a close. Several of these young stars are just beginning to scratch the surface of their potential, which should have Commodore fans excited for the future of former Vanderbilt athletes in professional sports.

Former Vanderbilt quarterback Jay Cutler, now of the Denver Broncos, was involved in a thrilling Week 2 victory over the San Diego Chargers, throwing for 350 yards, four touchdowns, one interception and the game-winning 2-point conversion to take advantage of a controversial call by the referee that gave the Broncos a second chance to win the game.

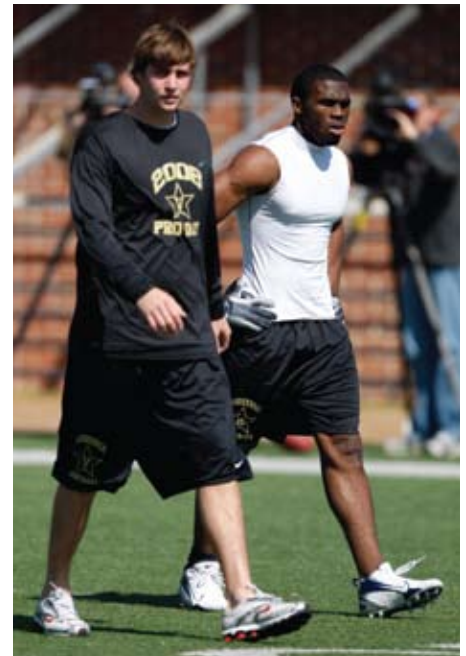
Linebacker Jonathan Goff has yet to play for the New York Giants after missing some time with a fractured vertebra. Originally expected to miss the entire season, Goff has already returned to practice and the team claims he feels fine.

Chicago Bears teammates Earl Bennett and Chris Williams have struggled to see the field so far as rookies, albeit for different reasons. Bennett has several solid players in front of him on the depth chart, while Williams will miss at least the first half of the season after having surgery to repair a herniated disc in his back. But while Williams will have to slowly earn playing time once healthy, Bennett may see the field as early as this weekend due to an injury to teammate Devin Hester.

Other former Commodores in starting lineups around the NFL include Corey Chavous (of the St. Louis Rams) and Hunter Hillenmeyer (Chicago Bears), while Jovan Haye (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), Jamie Winborn (Denver Broncos), Justin Geisinger (Washington Redskins) and Todd Yoder (Redskins) all have seen playing time as key reserves.

Golfer Brandt Snedeker has earned more than \$1.5 million this year on the PGA Tour, with five top-10 finishes this season. He placed third at the Masters and ninth at the U.S. Open.

In baseball, Cleveland Indians teammates Jeremy Sowers and Jensen Lewis have struggled as pitchers this year, posting records of 3-8 and 0-4



JOHN RUSSELL / VU Media Relations
Former Vanderbilt teammates Jay Cutler and Earl Bennett have gone on to the NFL after spectacular college football careers. Many former Commodores have recently enjoyed success at the professional level in several different sports.

respectively, although Lewis has converted eight save opportunities this season.

Drafted No. 2 overall in the 2008 MLB Amateur Draft by the Pittsburgh Pirates, third baseman Pedro Alvarez is mired in a contract dispute with his future team. His agent, Scott Boras, is contending that the contract is not valid because it was agreed upon after MLB's deadline, and is therefore trying to renegotiate. Alvarez is quickly becoming a hated figure in Pittsburgh despite the fact Boras is pulling all the strings. In the meantime, former Commodore Matt Kata is currently batting .222 at third base for the Pirates.

On the plus side, 2007 No. 1 overall pick David Price recently made his Major League debut for the division-leading Tampa Bay Rays against the New York Yankees, giving up two runs in 5 1/3 innings of solid relief pitching.

Since disbanding its athletic department, Vanderbilt has paradoxically started to bring in higher-quality recruits, and their success has opened the doors for even more great athletes to choose to come to Nashville for an education and a chance to be a part of something great as an athlete.

Because of this, the best may be yet to come as the Commodores are achieving more than ever on the playing field, which should lend itself to more publicity and professional opportunities down the road for these hard-working athletes. ■

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