



**SCIENCE & MEDICINE:** College administrators weigh in on lower drinking age. [SEE PAGE 3](#)

**THE RANT:** Everyone should quit smoking, and why hate on Haiti? [SEE PAGE 4](#)

# And boom goes the dynamite

### Construction affects Highland Quad residents every morning.



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Construction at Highland Quad means daily blasting that interrupts students' lives. The planned garage will provide more parking space for employees.

by **JENNIFER DENNARD**  
News Contributor

Each day, at 9 a.m. in Highland Quadrangle, there are three short horn blasts, followed by the sound of explosions and several tremors. The cause of this disturbance is the construction of an underground parking garage for the Vanderbilt Medical Center.

To create the garage, the construction crew must blast away rock daily to create the 80-foot deep pit necessary for the eight floors that are to be underground. These blasts occur four times a day except on Sundays.

The garage is being built to amend the employee parking shortage the Medical Center faces, a problem that is expected to grow over the next few years.

Steven Ho, a sophomore and Mayfield resident, described how the blasts caused the glass covering

of his ceiling light to shatter. As an Army ROTC cadet, Ho has physical training in the early morning, and when he returns to nap before class, the blasts repeatedly wake him.

While other Mayfield residents do not feel that their daily routines are affected by the construction, several students explained their disappointment and frustration at the lack of communication between the administration and the residents of Highland Quad.

Sophomore Mayfield resident Elliot Hall said he "did not sign up for a Mayfield with the knowledge of living next to a construction zone."

In response to such complaints, Judson Newbern, the associate vice chancellor of Campus Planning and Construction, said the decision was not finalized until May of last year, after housing assignments were made. To notify the students about the project, CPC met with the newly elected Vanderbilt Student

Government President Joseph Williams and the Hustler.

Campus Planning and Construction have implemented extensive measures to lessen the effects of the construction. There is no loud work prior to 8 a.m. and no blasting before 9 a.m. Many of the Mayfield windows directly facing the construction were given an extra interior window to decrease the sound pollution. The loudest phase of the construction was purposely completed prior to student arrival in the fall. While the blasting is scheduled to continue until February, the effects of the construction should decrease as the semester continues and as the work gets further underground.

Director of Housing Jason Jakubowski said if students are being extremely inconvenienced by the construction, they can contact housing to discuss a possible room change. ■

## SCIENCE & MEDICINE

# Assistant professor to pioneer synthetic cell

by **SAM CHAFFIN**  
News Contributor

Assistant Professor Dr. Anthony Forster chuckles as he admits that from time to time the media has compared his work to that of the fictitious Dr. Victor Frankenstein.

His research at the Medical Center is based on building a synthetic cell, "To understand life, we have to be able to create it," said Forster.

Forster, currently working in conjunction with George Church, Ph.D. of Harvard Medical School, has proposed a list of 151 genes that constitute the bare essentials of a functioning cell.

"It's difficult to understand how cells work because they are so complex," Forster said. "We are trying to simplify the system using well-characterized parts to test our understanding of cell replication."

By building the most basic cell possible, Forster hopes to be able to observe functional capacities of these genes, and the working of life itself, at the most minute level.

His research is expected to conclude in about 10 years, in what could be an enormous step for medicine and for the Vanderbilt community.

When these synthetic cells have been perfected, the first applications will be to use



FORSTER

them as miniature factories to create other organic molecules. The challenge is to create a scalable, pure translation system in protein replication, which will allow researchers to control the types of proteins the cell produces, opening up opportunities for research never before possible.

Eventually, Forster hopes his cells will be able to synthesize large DNA molecules.

Forster is no stranger to the upper echelons of the international medical research community. He earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the

University of Adelaide in his native Australia, and received his M.D. from Harvard. According to Forster, Vanderbilt is a perfect place for innovative research because of the availability of cutting edge technology. ■

## Zeppos discusses managing style, Gee's departure

[SEE PAGE 8](#)



JOHN RUSSELL / VU Media Relations

## ACADEMICS

# Vanderbilt Law Professor speaks on Saddam trial

by **SARAH BILSKY**  
News Contributor

In a moment that shocked the world, Saddam Hussein, one of the most notorious figures of the 21st century, was captured by U.S. soldiers in December 2003.

Professor of the Practice of Law Mike Newton was with the Iraqi judges who would later run Saddam's tribunal when they learned of his capture.

His involvement in Saddam's trial continued as he helped create the special tribunal that tried Saddam. Additionally, Newton aided in the training of the judges who served on the tribunal.

Saddam's trial stands as one of the most controversial international trials to date. Some argue that a tribunal was not the proper format in which to try Saddam, while some contend

that his trial was affected too much by external input and international biases.

On Sept. 16, 2008, Newton and his co-author Michael Scharf of Case Western Reserve University will release "Enemy of the State," a book that chronicles Saddam's trial in its entirety. The book provides in-depth insight into the trial, examining it from both legal and historical perspectives.

In "Enemy of the State," Newton and Scharf address many of the criticisms surrounding the trial.

"The biggest misconception is the degree to which outsiders really controlled actions and decisions of the Iraqi judges," said Newton. "This was an Iraqi process start to finish, and outsiders merely had a support role."

Scharf echoes this sentiment. "The subtitle of the book could

easily have been 'everything you thought you knew about the Saddam trial is wrong,'" said Scharf.

Newton realizes the trial of Saddam was not perfect, but said the Iraqi judges and people consistently maintained a commitment to the higher purpose of justice.

"The obligation to serve the harder right cannot waver in the face of adversity, unfavorable

media portrayals or sniping from casual observers," Newton said.

Newton believes that Lawrence of Arabia might have said it best when he said, "Better the Arabs do it tolerably than you do it perfectly. It is their war, and you are to help them, not to win it for them."

"Enemy of the State" will be available for purchase at all major book stores. ■

**SPORTS:** Cross country runner Rob Whiting discusses the team, the coach, and his career improvement. [SEE PAGE 5](#)



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# SNAPSHOTS

compiled by JANELLE STOKES

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### TODAY



HIGH **90**, LOW **72**  
Thunderstorms

### SATURDAY



HIGH **89**, LOW **72**  
Cloudy

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Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## CORRECTION

Monday's article "Recycling efforts improve" said all residence halls, excluding the high-rise buildings, are equipped with in-room recycling bins. While some of the residence halls, such as Kissam Quadrangle, are already equipped with these in-room bins, many dorms are still waiting to receive theirs. The bins have been ordered and are expected to arrive shortly.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### UT-Knoxville looks to reduce energy usage with conservation campaign

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—The University of Tennessee is looking to its faculty and staff at the Knoxville campus to help reduce campus energy consumption by 10 percent this school year.

If they are successful, the reduction in energy consumption could save UT more than \$1 million.

As part of the "Switch Your Thinking" campaign, faculty and staff are asked to turn off lights and computers when they plan to leave their offices for more than an hour.

They're also asked to, at the end of each day, turn off window air conditioning units and power strips.

The project kicked off Thursday night with a ceremony to switch off the lights at the campus' Stokely Management Center for the first time in 30 years.

That building was built in 1972 with a lighting system that could not be turned off.

### Solemn rituals mark seventh anniversary of 9/11 attacks

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Familiar rituals of grief marked the seventh anniversary of Sept. 11 on Thursday as thousands paid tribute at the attack sites, the presidential candidates laid flowers at ground zero and children mourned parents they can barely remember.

Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama called off their campaigns for the day, and in the late afternoon descended the long ramp into the pit of the World Trade Center site, bowing their heads and leaving the flowers in a reflecting pool.

At the Pentagon, 15,000 people turned out for the dedication of the first permanent memorial built at any of the three sites where hijacked planes crashed. It includes 184 benches that will glow at night, one for each victim there.

"Thanks to the brave men and women, and all those who work to keep us safe, there has not been another attack on our soil in 2,557 days," President Bush said at the outdoor dedication.

In New York, the crowd fell silent in a park just east of the trade center site at 8:46, 9:03, 9:59 and 10:29 a.m. — the times when two hijacked jets slammed into the buildings and the twin towers fell.

### Texas prepares for a gigantic Hurricane Ike to hit land

**HOUSTON (AP)**—Cars and trucks streamed inland and chemical companies buttoned up their plants Thursday as a gigantic Hurricane Ike took aim at the heart of the U.S. refining industry and threatened to send a wall of water crashing toward Houston.

Nearly 1 million people along the Texas coast were ordered to evacuate ahead of the storm, which was expected to strike late Friday or early Saturday. But in a calculated risk aimed at avoiding total gridlock, authorities told most people in the nation's fourth-largest city to just hunker down.

Ike was steering almost directly for Houston, where gleaming skyscrapers, the nation's biggest refinery and NASA's Johnson Space Center lie in areas vulnerable to wind and floodwaters. Forecasters said the storm was likely to come ashore as a Category 3, with winds up to 130 mph.

But the storm was so big, it could inflict a punishing blow even in those areas that do not get a direct hit. Forecasters warned that because of Ike's size and the state's shallow coastal waters, it could produce a surge, or wall of water, 20 feet high, and waves of perhaps 50 feet. It could also dump 10 inches or more of rain.

"It's a big storm," Texas Gov. Rick Perry said. "I cannot overemphasize the danger that is facing us. It's going to do some substantial damage. It's going to knock out power. It's going to cause massive flooding."

Hurricane warnings were in effect over a 400-mile stretch of coastline from south of Corpus Christi to Morgan City, La. Tropical storm warnings extended south almost to the Mexican border and east to the Mississippi-Alabama line, including New Orleans.

### Kanye West arrested in Los Angeles airport dustup with paparazzi



MATT SAYLES / AP photo

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Kanye West's notoriously fickle temper boiled over Thursday, resulting in his arrest for apparently helping smash a paparazzo's camera on the floor at Los Angeles International Airport.

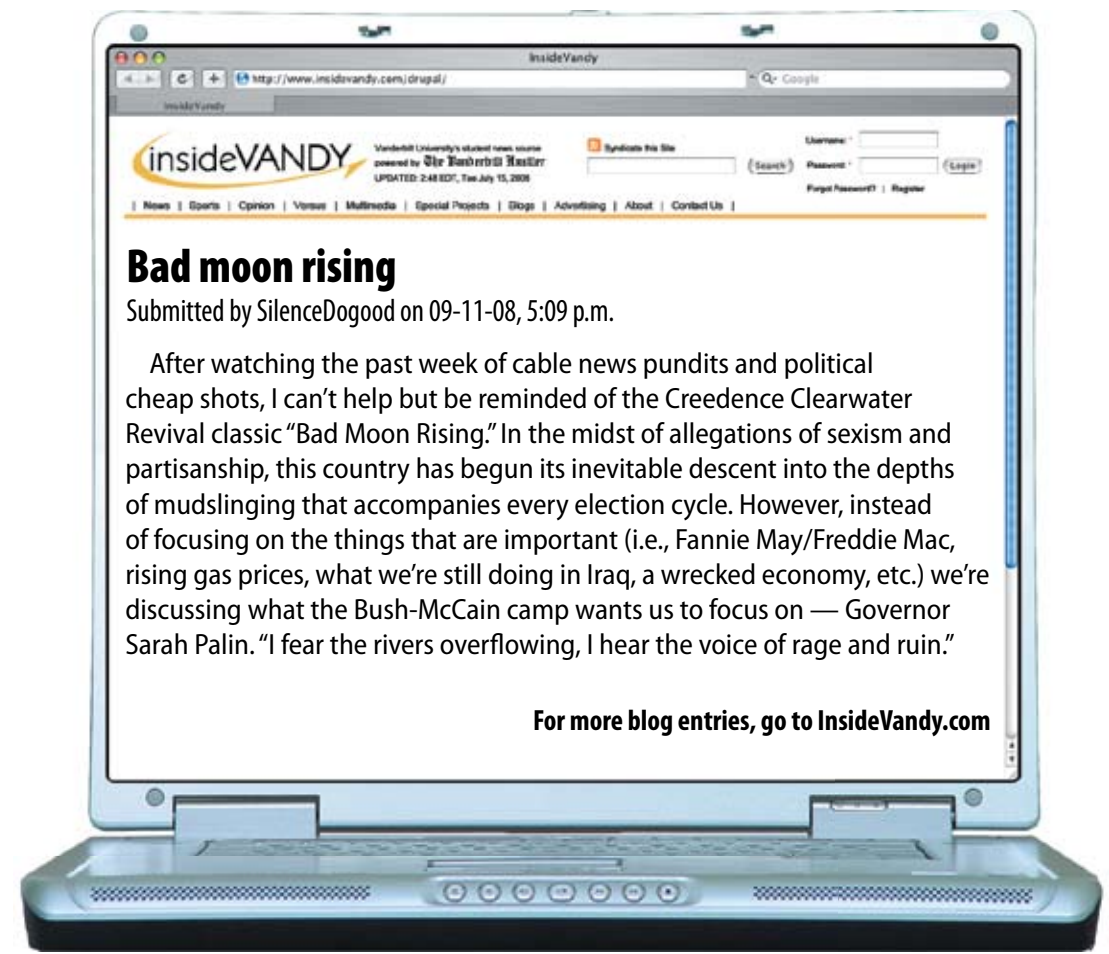
Police arrested the music superstar shortly before 8 a.m. He and his manager, Don Crowley, were booked for investigation of felony vandalism, although prosecutors will determine what charges they might face.

West was released from police custody by Thursday afternoon. Blair Berk, who was retained as his attorney, said she couldn't comment on the incident.

Clips of the video shot by the celebrity gossip site TMZ shows West and Crowley grabbing the camera from a photographer, who is yelling "Police! Police!" and "Help me!" After they throw it away, it appears that the manager smashes the camera to the ground, and the rapper follows by slamming down a flash.

The video starts mid-confrontation, and doesn't show how it began or what might have caused it to escalate.

## FROM THE BLOG



### Bad moon rising

Submitted by SilenceDogood on 09-11-08, 5:09 p.m.

After watching the past week of cable news pundits and political cheap shots, I can't help but be reminded of the Creedence Clearwater Revival classic "Bad Moon Rising." In the midst of allegations of sexism and partisanship, this country has begun its inevitable descent into the depths of mudslinging that accompanies every election cycle. However, instead of focusing on the things that are important (i.e., Fannie May/Freddie Mac, rising gas prices, what we're still doing in Iraq, a wrecked economy, etc.) we're discussing what the Bush-McCain camp wants us to focus on — Governor Sarah Palin. "I fear the rivers overflowing, I hear the voice of rage and ruin."

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

## SNAPSHOT

### TAKE ME OUT TO THE (WIFFLE) BALLGAME



BRETT KAMINSKY/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Andrew Reynolds of Sigma Chi pitches during the whiffle ball tournament at the KKG DKE Carnival on Alumni Lawn.

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## ADMINISTRATION

## Zeppos reflects on management style

by EVE ATTERMANN

Administration Specialist

Chancellor Nick Zeppos says he's a lifer.

"Everything I do grows out of the fact that I came here as a young professor," said Zeppos. "I'm keeping an eye on the long term."

Part of this long-term vision includes planning for the university's future in large blocks of time, an emphasis on gradual change that still considers Vanderbilt's history and traditions. Zeppos said initiatives like the Commons and the Kissam project, which promote development in a way that is still uniquely Vanderbilt, tangibly represent this vision.

Since taking over the chancellorship in March after

Chancellor Gee's resignation two summers ago, Zeppos has been trying to emphasize his distinctly personal commitment to the university, something he said was born of his nearly two decades of service to Vanderbilt.

"I was reared on this campus in some way," Zeppos said. "I am motivated by the core mission and values, educating young people to become leaders in the world. There's a strong sense of community here, excellent academics. Those are the things I care about — being a parent really offers you perspective, and I want for the students what I for my own children."

When asked how it felt to follow such a popular chancellor who had been at the university for seven years, Zeppos said he

had a mixture of emotions.

"I had a sense (of Gee's decision) given his love for Ohio State," Zeppos said. "It was a personal decision. I was still somewhat surprised. I told everyone that everything was going to be fine, and let's all get back to what we love to do."

Zeppos said he has known five of the eight Vanderbilt chancellors, and they all had different strengths and have served during different times. He said his own management style is characterized by a love of empowering people.

"I'm not a micromanager, I delegate a lot of responsibility," Zeppos said. "I work for the people who think they work for me."

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard

McCarty, the former dean of Arts and Science who took over Zeppos' old position last March, underscored the chancellor's long-term vision.

"He's a very, very fast thinker, and he has a broader vision of Vanderbilt and higher education," said McCarty. "He's kept me on my toes since the day we started working. I want to do everything to help him."

Zeppos agreed that he is decisive, but said he always asks everyone around him for advice before he makes any decisions.

"I'm a terminal student," said Zeppos. "The sense of community and friendliness, and the traditions, that's what brought me here, and that's what remains." ■

## Administration searching for new vice chancellor

by CHRYSTEL MARINCICH

News Contributor

After about six years, the position of vice chancellor of alumni and development has returned to Vanderbilt's administration.

According to interim Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Beth Fortune, the vice chancellor for alumni and development heads Vanderbilt's fundraising program and alumni relations program. Chancellor Zeppos has restored the once-defunct position.

"Once (Zeppos) stepped in as Chancellor, he decided to separate the jobs so the provost would not serve as chief of fundraising and set aside a vice chancellor for the position," Fortune said. ■

Currently, there is a special committee headed by the interim Dean of the School of Medicine Jefferson Balsem in charge of the national search to find a right candidate to fulfill the vice chancellor role.

The committee is looking for a leader who has considerable experience and who can direct the fundraising program. The new vice chancellor for alumni and development has to have great financial, fundraising and corporate experience.

"The chancellor hopes to have the role fulfilled by the end of this year. It is a very important position for the university and he wants to be sure that the right person is chosen," Fortune said. ■

## SCIENCE &amp; MEDICINE

## Students' health takes priority in drinking age debate

by ALLIE MORRIS

Science &amp; Medicine Specialist

The times of a lower drinking age may be returning as the Amethyst Initiative gains momentum. The initiative is a collaboration of university chancellors and presidents across America who have signed a statement calling for a lowering of the drinking age from 21 to 18. The statement cites more reasons for change including creating a correlation between drinking age, voting age and deployment age. Currently the statement boasts 130 signatories including the presidents of Duke University

and the Ohio State University, where former Vanderbilt Chancellor Gordon Gee currently serves.

With new universities signing on at a rapid pace, the administration at Vanderbilt has been reluctant to make a pledge to the initiative. A statement from Chancellor Nick Zeppos reads, "The overall health, safety and wellness of our students are paramount ... this should be our ultimate goal no matter what the drinking age."


Louise Hanson, director of the Zerfoss Student Health Center, agrees.

"Students need to be healthy

and safe ... there are many health risks associated with underage drinking," said Hanson.

Hanson, who has worked at the Student Health Center for the past 10 years, reported that the freshman and sophomore classes commit most alcohol violations and throughout her time at the Health Center, the number of alcohol related visits has remained stable.

"I don't think anything would change if the drinking age was lowered," said senior Aaron Malone. "The drinking age laws don't stop anyone (underage) from drinking anyways." ■



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# OPINION

## Google Chrome surpasses expectations



**AIMEE SOBHANI**  
Columnist

I don't know much about computers, but I am sure about one thing: Google is the best thing that has happened to the Internet since Al Gore. Recently, Google has added to its greatness by releasing a new Web browser, Google Chrome.

The new browser, which became available last week, can definitely compete with more established browsers such as Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox. However, the browser is only a beta, meaning Google still has some kinks to work out. Currently, only Windows users can use Google Chrome, but Web developers are working on versions compatible with Mac and Linux.

The new browser offers several useful features not provided by other browsers. Google's Web site boasts that Google Chrome "combines a minimal design with sophisticated technology to make the Web faster, safer and easier." Who doesn't want that?

One useful aspect of the browser is a toolbar that doubles as a search engine and as a place to type Web addresses, which makes browsing more convenient and eliminates the need to have more than one toolbar. Users can also perform other common tasks, such as creating bookmarks, from this same toolbar. The result of the consolidation is a less cluttered, easily manageable Web browser.

Additionally, Google Chrome gives users the option to create application shortcuts. This allows people to access to their e-mail or any other Web program from their desktops without opening their Web browser, making the lives of lazy Internet users even easier.

The browser also lets people to surf the Web in "incognito mode." This feature gives users the ability to prevent the Web sites they've been visiting from appearing in browsing and downloading histories. Basically, it makes hiding any suspicious Web sites much less of a hassle, which is good news for porn aficionados and wannabe terrorists.

Hopefully you're getting an idea of how innovative and useful Google Chrome is. It has many other features too technical for me to understand or explain, but it is definitely a quality addition to the Google family.

Some people speculate Google had an ulterior motive in mind when it released Google Chrome. Heather Havenstein, in her article for Computerworld "Google Chrome set to take on Windows," considers the new Web browser as the "latest (move) by Google Inc. to rid the world of Microsoft Windows." Microsoft analyst Matt Rosoff believes the "he potential threat that Microsoft has been worried about since the 1990s."

Without a doubt, Google has developed several programs that surpass those of Windows in terms of quality. Take VU Gmail, for example. The new Gmail-based Webmail now available to Vandy students is a huge improvement over the old Webmail. It has more storage space, a calendar and even allows people to access their e-mail accounts on their cell phones — all features the old Webmail didn't include.

In particular, using the calendar can make disorganized or busy people's lives much easier. Students can add classes, club meetings and other events to their calendars and can receive reminders about them via cell phone. It even works for people with really obscure phone companies (in my case, U.S. Cellular).

In my opinion, Google just makes life easier. By using its products, people can do almost all of their Internet-based tasks. I wouldn't be surprised if Google ruled the world in a couple of years.

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

### EDITORIAL

## Attacks should always remain in our memories

The horror of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 is difficult to encapsulate in words. This difficulty reaches into the realms of impossibility when that task is up to a college newspaper, geographically and chronologically removed from what occurred in New York City, Washington, D.C. and rural Pennsylvania.

Seven years ago yesterday, Vanderbilt undergraduates were young, impressionable teenagers when 19 men took the lives of nearly 3,000 innocent Americans in the name of Allah. Like the generations before who witnessed Pearl Harbor, Kennedy's assassination or the fall of the Berlin Wall, ours will remember where we were and what we thought and felt when it all happened. We saw the gaping hole in the side of the Pentagon and we saw when the second airplane hit the South Tower in lower Manhattan. They are images ingrained in our brains as reminders of what evil this world can bring.

We also remember hearing about Todd Beamer and "let's roll" on United Airlines Flight 93, and we saw President Bush take the megaphone among the firefighters and paramedics of the World Trade Center rescue efforts. These moments remind us of the heroism America witnessed that day and thereafter.

Certainly, these words of remembrance do no justice to the righteous anger we had as we saw our country attacked. Again, the editor of a college newspaper is simply not up to the tasks of memorializing those lost or making sense of

the attacks seven years after. In reality, these are tasks not even the most experienced of journalists would probably feel justified in undertaking. Still, it is important to examine the implications of what happened.

It bears noting that the Muslim terrorists did not fly planes into the buildings of the New York Times or the Washington Post. They did not attack our universities or our baseball stadiums. Osama bin Laden and the extremists who hate America and the west wanted to hit us at our core. They attacked symbols of our economic prowess and of our military might. Without the strength of our military and the dominance of our capitalist system, there would be no freedoms of speech, of knowledge or of leisure.

Motivated by a hatred for all of these aspects of Western and American culture, bin Laden and his crew made the decision to try to tear down our faith in America by destroying what allows us to be free. They hardly succeeded in weakening our resolve, but we must remain ever vigilant in our memories of what terror was wrought that day. We must pledge to ourselves, "never again."

Memorializing the innocent people who died and the heroes who served is not reserved for arbitrarily important anniversaries alone. The Vanderbilt community should be grateful every day that we can participate in this academic experience because of the freedoms our country preserves, and we should be mindful of how fragile that freedom is.

## Tailgating not dead yet

### To the Editor:

In response to the articles and editorials that have appeared in recent issues of the Hustler, I want to point out that there is still the option of tailgating for both Greek and non-Greek student organizations in a student tailgate environment. Ten tents have been purchased for the entire football season in Vandyville solely for student use. Vandy Fanatics will host a tailgate in two of these tents for every home game (complete with free food and giveaways!) and our tents are open to anyone who is excited about Commodore football! Further, every registered student organization (including fraternities and sororities) has the

option of renting one of the other eight tents in that area to tailgate in for a specific game for only \$50 per game. You can sign your group up for a tent by going to: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/spirit/tailgate.html>.

We hope this system will foster a more responsible atmosphere while keeping the tradition of tailgating outside the stadium an option for students.

Go Dores!

**Kate Corvese**  
Senior, College of Arts and Science  
Vandy Fanatics President

### 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](mailto:opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com).

Compiled by Thomas Shattuck

"The smoking ban certainly did not go too far. Who the hell wrote that? If you want to get lung cancer and die, do it somewhere very far away from me, like on the North Pole. Every time I want to go to the Med Center's McDonald's, I shouldn't be subjected to second-hand smoke. The patient might not be dying if he hadn't smoked in the first place. Everybody — quit!"

"Blackout. That means black. That means your Pepto-Bismol colored shorts with little palm trees on them don't count."

"Hey Hustler, was it really necessary to say in The Verdict that Haiti, the hemisphere's poorest nation, was 'ravaged like a noncompliant prostitute' by Hurricane Ike? Three hundred-plus people have died there this hurricane season; I doubt you would print the same thing about post-Katrina New Orleans. If you don't have any taste, at least have a little respect."

"Why did Pi Phi decide to start dressing like the morning after?"

"Dear fourth roommate, a.k.a. Mary Magdalene, Please stop talking about your hookup this weekend. It's driving us nuts. Love, your other roommates."

"Good job programming board scheduling Lil' Wayne on a Thursday night. Did you get Zeppos to give us the Friday off to get over our hangovers?"

## Success of post-Sept. 11 security



**FRANNIE BOYLE**  
Columnist

Seven years have passed since that fateful day in September. It is sad to think about the tragedy of Sept. 11, and it would be inappropriate to do anything but somberly reflect on its events and the people who suffered. There is no way someone can materialize optimistic thoughts when thinking of Sept. 11, but, when looking at the time span in between then and now, it is a different story. Think about the last seven years, and compare them to the decade leading up to the Sept. 11 attacks. There are many differences between the two spans of time, but one in particular stands out more than all of the rest. Where have all of the terrorist attacks gone?

During the 90s, Americans had to put up with quite a few major attacks, including the 1993 World Trade Center bombings, 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings and even the Oklahoma City bombing. I do not want to point fingers at any one administration, but I do want to ask what was done about terrorism. Nothing really. Negotiation and pacifism were all our leaders had, and that did not get the U.S. very far. No counter-terrorism plan was put into effect, and Sept. 11, 2001 had to pay for it.

Ever since that day, there have been no major attacks upon American citizens at home or abroad, which is extraordinary. After Sept. 11, our government took a different approach, and although many hate to admit it, the Bush administration has a lot to do with why we have been safe. Government advisors saw the failure of negotiations with terrorists and pacifist intentions in the past. They decided to adopt a more offensive strategy abroad and a more defensive strategy at home. Many Americans passionately preached against the Patriot Act or the war in Afghanistan, but they have noticeably gotten quieter. It is now hard to argue that President Bush's strategies have not kept us safe for the last seven years.

One argument that does not make sense is that going to war in Iraq has made us less safe. Sen. Barack Obama actually mentioned this in one of his speeches on foreign policy: "Perhaps the saddest irony of the administration's cynical use of 9/11 is that the Iraq War has left us less safe than we were before 9/11."

Seriously?

Now, I will not spend time arguing that the Iraq war has made us safer, but I do want to ask: How has the Iraq War made us less safe than we were before Sept. 11? What evidence does Obama have to back up such an "ironic" statement? And where in the heck has he been the past seven years?

Despite his unpopularity and his failure to communicate well, President Bush has led a monumental counter-terrorism campaign. Of course, American public opinion has a short attention span, but I do believe that 20 or 30 years down the road, Bush will be remembered as a great president for his ability to look far into the future and act upon what he has seen. His presidency has been far from perfect, but no one can deny the fact he has dealt some major blows to al Qaeda and has changed the world's opinion towards terrorism. I know that many do not want to admit it, but if they cannot come up with another reason why we have been safe the past seven years, then I think it is time for them to come to terms with the truth.

*-Frannie Boyle is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at mary.f.boyle@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

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

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

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

### CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

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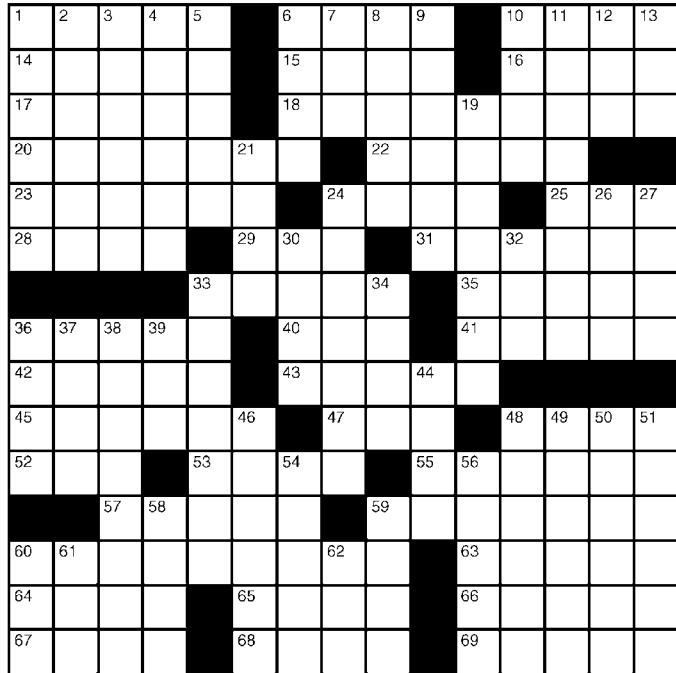
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## CROSSWORD



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9/12/08

- ACROSS**
- 1 Kick off
  - 6 Word with South and Seven
  - 10 Chew on
  - 14 O'Toole or Lorre
  - 15 Work for
  - 16 Add liquor to
  - 17 Battery terminal
  - 18 Valued very highly
  - 20 Ballerinas
  - 22 Saltpeter
  - 23 Box up
  - 24 Alto, CA
  - 25 Pulverized lava
  - 28 Put your foot down
  - 29 Blood class. syst.
  - 31 Pacify
  - 33 High point
  - 35 Smoking gun, e.g.
  - 36 Italian cheese city
  - 40 Hog housing
  - 41 Everglades bird
  - 42 Checkups
  - 43 Used the VCR
  - 45 Basic beliefs
  - 47 Acquire
  - 48 Way off-color
  - 52 Tack on
  - 53 -majesty
  - 55 Black Sea area
  - 57 For all to see
  - 59 Pass a secret
  - 60 Instantaneous
  - 63 Reek
  - 64 Stable youngster
  - 65 Rotten to the core
  - 66 Spooky
  - 67 Go up and down
  - 68 E-mailed
  - 69 Look of contempt
- DOWN**
- 1 Black suit
  - 2 Apartment dweller
  - 3 Posthaste
  - 4 Baggage porter
  - 5 Forest units
  - 6 Jazz sessions
  - 7 Cornucop
  - 8 Gladiatorial location
  - 9 Slowpokes
  - 10 Sticking stuff
  - 11 Storyteller
  - 12 Card in the hole
  - 13 Become united
  - 19 Bent over
  - 21 Back part
  - 24 Letter fee
  - 26 MacNelly strip
  - 27 Try out for weight
  - 30 Top of the line
  - 32 Nonprofit URL ending
  - 33 Made a chess maneuver
  - 34 Classification
  - 36 Anti-fur org.
  - 37 Fired
  - 38 Every which way
  - 39 Mrs. from Montmartre
  - 44 Carve in stone
  - 46 Episodic TV show
  - 48 Pay attention
  - 49 State Building
  - 50 Hot dog
  - 51 Closer to black
  - 54 Barrel strip
  - 56 Ascends
  - 58 Bill killer
  - 59 Mark left by a whip
  - 60 Emotionless
  - 61 Cattle call
  - 62 Man of Oz

## 9/10/08 SOLUTIONS

ROAD PEEPS BASS  
UGLY SCRIPT ETCH  
FLEA ICIER DEAR  
FEELS ENRAPTURE  
ETON STRIPED  
STUDENTS SEM  
CAR MERIT PEARLS  
ARID STINEW SNOW  
BASIN CURED TAI  
SEE SMEARING  
REOPENS IPSO  
ACCORDION HOLED  
COTS ULNAS KILLO  
KLEE ROUTE IIRIS  
SETS ESSEX EASE

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

## 9/10/08 SOLUTIONS

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

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

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## SPORTS

## Defense faces test in high-scoring Rice

by NICK GALLO  
Sports Contributor

The Vanderbilt Commodores have had plenty of time to come back to earth after their thrilling victory over South Carolina last Thursday. They need to be fully focused, because their next opponent, Rice, may be more challenging than most would think. Rice is a mercurial team — in 2005 they only won one game, in 2006 they won seven and last year they only won three. By starting off winning their first two games this year, they are already on pace to have a better season than most of their recent campaigns.

The Rice Owls are averaging 49 points a game over their first two contests, a blowout win over Southern Methodist and a 42-35 shootout at Memphis. Those two teams are not nearly up to the level of competition Vanderbilt has faced, but Rice will be entering Nashville with tons of confidence. However, despite defeating Vanderbilt's counterpart to the west, Rice has had no success lately

against Bowl Championship Series conference schools, losing its last 13 such games.

Vanderbilt, meanwhile, put together an excellent defensive performance in last week's win over South Carolina, led by linebacker Patrick Benoist, whose 15-tackle performance earned him Defensive Player of the Week honors from the Football Writers Association of America and the Southeastern Conference.

Although Vanderbilt returns all four starters in the secondary — junior cornerbacks D.J. Moore and Myron Lewis and safeties redshirt senior Reshard Langford and redshirt junior Ryan Hamilton — they have suffered a significant injury that could affect their success on Saturday. Nickel cornerback Darlron Spead, a redshirt junior, sustained a leg injury after an interception against South Carolina that will sideline him for several weeks.

Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson praised his defensive backs, while acknowledging their key loss.

"Our secondary has played well and we expected them to play well," Johnson said. "They had a good group last year, they give good coverage on every play. Losing Darlron will be tough for that group, he's a nickel specialist, has a knack to rush the passer and read the ball — the other night was a beautiful interception, he read it the whole way. We'll figure out a plan we're going to use to replace him, it'll probably be several different scenarios."

As of right now, redshirt senior Jared Fagan has been slotted as the starter at the nickel cornerback position, but Spead's injury will be a factor against Rice's pass-happy offense. The Owls generally play multiple receivers at the same time, meaning the nickel cornerback will have to be ready for plenty of action. Rice's standout quarterback Chase Clement has thrown for 576 yards and seven touchdowns in his first two games. The Commodores must find a way to slow down Clement and his receivers in order to win.

"I think the match-up is good for our secondary," Langford said. "It'll be a good challenge for us."

"Rice has a stable of wide receivers that are used to being in the system where they catch a lot of balls and see a lot of coverages," Johnson said. "They have a tremendous amount of confidence now in what they do and they feel like they can score points in bunches. In the fourth quarter you saw that confidence and they got it done."

Vanderbilt's defense will need to be up to the task of shutting down Rice's wide receivers James Casey and Jarett Dillard, who have 261 yards and a touchdown, and 155 yards and four touchdowns respectively on the year. No Vanderbilt receiver has more than 53 yards or more than one touchdown on the season. So not only will Vanderbilt's defense need to keep the Commodores in the game, but redshirt senior quarterback Chris Nickson and the offense must put enough points on the board to give them a chance. ■



GENEVIEVE GAYLE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Linebacker Patrick Benoist and the rest of the Vanderbilt defense will have their work cut out for them Saturday when Rice visits. The Owls have averaged 49 points a game in their 2-0 start.

## friday conversation with ROB WHITING

Interview by MEGHAN ROSE  
Sports Contributor

After running his first meet of the year last Friday, senior cross country runner Rob Whiting sat down with the Vanderbilt Hustler to discuss several topics, including what practices entail, his activities outside running and his impressions of coach Steve Keith.

**VANDERBILT HUSTLER:** How did your first meet go?

**ROB WHITING:** The first meet for me personally went OK, my time was decent, but I was more excited about the team. Coach (Keith) told us it was our second-best performance in seven years, and we had a couple freshmen, Jenner (Kizer) and Kyle (Rewick), stepping up early on, and it's going to be interesting to see what they can do in the 8K. Overall, everyone has improved, and I think as a group we've gotten closer running-wise. Our top guy and our seventh guy are a lot closer together.

**VH:** What do your practices include?

**RW:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday tend to be our easy runs, so we'll run anywhere from seven to nine miles on those days. Also, on Monday and Wednesday we have morning runs which are anywhere from four to five miles. Tuesday and Thursday are our work-out days — those are our quality days. On Saturdays, people will run anywhere from 12 to 15 miles on those days at Percy Warner.

**VH:** How would you describe the team camaraderie?

**RW:** It's good. We lost four seniors last year who were really close to us three juniors. As far as the team now, it's great. We're all really close. Being around each other for three to four hours a day, you get to know each other very well.

**VH:** How have you improved as a runner over the course of your four years at Vanderbilt?

**RW:** When I came to Vandy, I had run a 16:52 in a time trial to make the team in the 5K, and this past spring I ran a 15:25. My freshman year I didn't make top seven to be able to travel to regionals. Since then, I've been in the top four in most races. It's been good to have consistent coaching.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

**VH:** What kind of coach is Steve Keith?

**RW:** He's a fun guy, he knows about the right amount to push his athletes. He's fun to be around, and he's just a good guy. He doesn't put pressure on you to perform beyond your abilities.

**VH:** What are your goals for the season?

**RW:** We're the only non-scholarship team in the (Southeastern Conference) as far as cross country, and it's difficult in big meets, but I definitely think that we can get Ole Miss at the SEC Championships. I'd really like to see us in the top 10 at regionals. Personally, I want to go under 26 minutes for the 8K and 33 minutes for the 10K.

**VH:** What activities are you involved with outside of running?

**RW:** I founded Vanderbilt Students for Students in 2006 with a couple of my friends, and now it has grown to over 20 members. We've given out scholarships to high school students, and I spend a lot of my time with that organization.

**VH:** You're an Ingram Scholar, what does that entail for you?

**RW:** The scholarship is awesome; meeting with 50 like-minded individuals is really cool. Service is important to me, and I actually got the scholarship after I started Vanderbilt Students for Students. One of the requirements is that you do 20 hours of service a month. I usually do that in a week.

**VH:** What's your favorite place to go in Nashville?

**RW:** I have two places. I like Taste of Toyko in Hillsboro Village. It's Japanese, but all the people that work there are Chinese. Since I speak Chinese I can talk with them, and the food is really good. I love Broadway Brewhouse as well. ■

## Reinert defies the odds, motivates his teammates

by ANDREW BARGE  
Sports Contributor

It was the fourth quarter of a tight game against a ranked opponent on national television. All eyes were on Vanderbilt redshirt junior walk-on receiver Chris Reinert.

Moments earlier, Reinert and redshirt junior running back Jared Hawkins had bumped into each other, causing Reinert to fall to the turf in agonizing pain. From the eyes of everyone watching, his season appeared to be over.

But Reinert wasn't done at all. As he sat on the medical cart with a broken fibula and tibia in his left leg, the receiver had one last contribution to give to his team before he left.

"When I got on the cart, I gave the crowd and my teammates a thumbs up and they got real loud, so I started waving my arms up and down and they got even louder," Reinert said.

With millions watching, Reinert had seized the moment. The result was a fanatic reaction rarely experienced in Vanderbilt Stadium.

"It was my way of saying, 'Guys, forget about me — think about winning this game. We'll worry about me afterwards,'" Reinert said. "I just wanted to get everyone and the team back to being excited about the game."

It worked. Before Reinert even made it into the ambulance, he heard the sound of the touchdown horn and the eruption of the Vanderbilt crowd. Hawkins had scored on a 13-yard run, which would turn out to be the game's most decisive play.

Reinert's display of enthusiasm showed the nation what his coaches and teammates already knew.

"Chris is a really tough guy," said Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson. "He always has enthusiasm and I definitely think it motivates our players — on the next run when Jared broke three tackles and got into the end zone for the score."

Captain Bradley Vierling agrees.

"Chris is always positive, a great guy to have in the locker room," Vierling, a redshirt junior, said. "The way he got up and pumped up our crowd — that was an exciting thing to be a part of."



MIKE RAPP / vandyports.com

Despite a broken left leg, Vanderbilt's Chris Reinert pumps up the crowd as he is carted off in last Thursday's win over South Carolina.

While enthusiasm defines Reinert for his coaches and teammates, it's a passion for the camaraderie of football that personally fuels him. Whether he's at practice, playing in a game or on a medical cart, his teammates are his sole motivation.

"For me, the unity is the most important thing. There's a sense of gratification you can share when you've completed something with a group of people," Reinert said. "Having that feeling, working so hard together, it motivates me and drives me every day."

It's why, despite an impressive 1410 on his SAT, Reinert chose to attend prep school after graduation to further pursue his dream of big-time college football. It's why he wasn't listening when everyone said a 5-foot-9-inch receiver without blazing speed doesn't exist in the Southeastern Conference. It's why his hard work got him to Vanderbilt and earned him a yearlong football scholarship as a sophomore.

And it's why he won't hesitate when you ask him if he'll ever play football again.

"Absolutely, I'll be back. What happened to me was unfortunate, but it's something that'll motivate me to work even harder and get back out there stronger and better than before," Reinert said. "I can't wait to be back."

After last Thursday, you can bet Vanderbilt fans feel the same way. ■

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