



**GREEK SCENE:** Sorority rush begins; business fraternity seeks new members **SEE PAGE 5**

**POYTHRESS:** Popularity, seeking free food the keys to success for freshmen. **SEE PAGE 6**

# Up in flames

*Abandoned restaurant Mario's burns near campus*

by **SAMANTHA SMITH**  
*Special to the Hustler*

It took 23 pieces of equipment and plenty of firemen to put out a fire that started at the former site of Mario's restaurant at 20th Avenue and Broadway Tuesday afternoon.

By the time the fire was brought under control, the roof of the old restaurant had caved in and officials were trying to determine the cause. Ironically, the same building caught fire two years ago.

The call, reporting heavy smoke and flames, came in at 12:46 p.m., according to Maggie Lawrence, Nashville Fire Department public information officer.

She said firefighters first launched an interior attack on the flames, but as conditions worsened, they focused their attention on the exterior of the building. The two-alarm fire was under control at 1:40 p.m., according to Lawrence, and the fire affected no other buildings.

Witnesses described a smoky inferno that continued to build at an alarming rate. Two law students said the fire, though small when they arrived, grew increasingly out of control as firefighters attempted to battle the flames.

"The place caught fire roughly two years ago and now is vacant," said Herschel Pollard, an onlooker who worked at Mario's in the early 90s. "Mario's was a four-star restaurant, and Mario was a big figure in Nashville ... anyone having to do with money went to eat at Mario's. I waited on John Ford, Dolly Parton and Wayne Newton." ■



photo provided by DONALD SEITZ

Multiple fire engines attempted to put out the flames at Mario's on Broadway. The abandoned restaurant was adjacent to the popular Ken's Sushi near campus. Metro and Vanderbilt police forces were also on the scene Tuesday afternoon.

## LEADERSHIP

# VSG seeks to restructure, simplify AcFee process

by **LILY CHEN**  
*Leadership Specialist*

Vanderbilt Student Government will hold open forums to discuss the restructuring of the Student Finance Committee in charge of AcFee allocations. AcFee is short for activity fee, which all students pay at the beginning of the school year and the Finance Committee distributes the money to student organizations.

"The restructuring of AcFee is designed to increase communication between all student organizations and VSG," said VSG Organizational Relations Committee Co-Chair Jessica Cohen.

If the resolution passes, the five subcommittees under AcFee will be chaired by a senator and a representative of the umbrella organization from each of the five organization categories.

"By bringing student leaders

serving on umbrella councils like the Multicultural Leadership Council and Vanderbilt Programming Board onto the Student Finance Committee, organizations can have greater financial planning support," said VSG Vice President Wyatt Smith.

Open forums will be taking place Wednesday and Thursday from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Sarratt 189. Drinks and desserts will be served.

Specific goals include restructuring the application and making the committees more accessible. ■



## ACADEMICS

# Accused sociology professor appears in court for arraignment

by **JUDY WANG**  
*Academics Specialist*

Associate Professor of Sociology James Lang, arrested last Friday on charges of possession of child pornography, appeared in court for an arraignment on Monday, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Nashville. No more details were given on the actual appearance.

However, according to the Williamson County Sheriff's Department, Lang was released later that day to U.S. Marshals, as cases of child pornography are typically prosecuted as federal offenses.

"I was really shocked when I found out from the Hustler article," said sophomore Fayrisa Greenwald, a current student of Lang's Introduction to Sociology. "In class he taught us that 'No matter where you are, you are putting on a performance.' That's true in his case and it's

really ironic."

The class is currently being taught by graduate student Laurie Woods, and the test scheduled for yesterday has been postponed.

"I feel like Vanderbilt should have done a better job informing his students about what was going on," said sophomore Caroline Srygley, another current student. "I'm also really sad about the situation because I really like Professor Lang as a teacher, and he seemed like an interesting person. I never would have pegged him as a pedophile or sexual deviant of any nature."

According to the official university statement, Lang has been placed on administrative leave with pay, pending a university investigation of the matter. Meanwhile, Lang is prohibited from returning to campus, and his access to university equipment and resources has been suspended. ■

## ACADEMICS

# Dominican fiesta to help raise awareness

by **JANELLE STOKES**  
*Greek Specialist*

Junior Courtney Towner decided to start an organization that would raise awareness and aid for a hospital located in Bahoruco, a small town in the Dominican Republic, called RADR (Rescue and Aid for the Dominican Republic) after seeing its lack of health care services.

"I started RADR because two years ago, I visited the Dominican Republic on a service trip," said Towner, who, after shadowing a doctor as part of the program, decided to help provide the basic health services the clinic lacked.

"If you were suffering from a heart attack, you had to get on a bus and go to the hospital in the city which was 20 minutes away. The doctor said that most people died. Having that awareness motivated me to do something," Towner said.

With a long term goal of raising \$1 million, RADR, Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic Students and Vanderbilt Student Government are hosting a Dominican Republic fiesta on Saturday, Sept. 20 in the Student Life Center Board of Trust Room from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$5 in cash.

The proceeds from the event will go towards providing ambulatory care and other

services for the clinic in Bahoruco.

"I want to have the Dominican fiesta because part of RADR is awareness," Towner said. "The party is a way to interject (the Dominican Republic) into (students') consciousness."

Towner hopes to transform RADR into more than just a student organization and into a non-profit organization by the end of her undergraduate career.

"Part of the reason that I wanted to become a non-profit is to (be able to) effectively fundraise because once (RADR) is a non-profit I can accept more donations," Towner said. "I want RADR to be something that people worldwide who are concerned about this issue can become apart of." ■



photo provided by COURTNEY TOWNER

Courtney Towner and Olivia Shumlin spend time with a child they met through their program.

**SPORTS:** How did the Commodores reach 3-0? Hawkins, Nickson, and special teams round out a solid team **SEE PAGE 8**



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compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

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### THURSDAY



HIGH **83**, LOW **58**  
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Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Bush returns to Gulf Coast, this time to grapple with the wrath of Ike



MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS / AP photo

**HOUSTON (AP)**—President Bush urged Americans on Tuesday to give money to help people recover from Hurricane Ike's battering of the Gulf Coast, warning against letting "disaster fatigue" slow donations when the need remains great.

The president also asked frustrated people who were displaced by the storm "to listen to state and local authorities before you come back." Many areas remain without power and are dangerous because of unstable buildings.

"It is their considered judgment which is important for you," Bush said.

Bush spoke to reporters from Houston, his first stop on a very fast trip through some parts of Texas hardest hit by Ike. He landed at Ellington Field to sunny skies, and was briefed on the storm and its aftermath inside a U.S. Coast Guard hangar.

The president called the destruction a "tough situation." "I have been president long enough to have seen tough situations and have seen the resilience of the people to be able to deal with the tough situations," he said. "I know with proper help from the federal government and the state government, there will be a better tomorrow."

### FDA defends plastic linked with health risks, cites margin of safety as reason

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Federal regulators on Tuesday defended their assessment that a chemical widely used in plastic baby bottles and in food packaging is safe, even as the first major study of health effects in people linked it with possible risks for heart disease and diabetes.

"A margin of safety exists that is adequate to protect consumers, including infants and children, at the current levels of exposure," Laura Tarantino, a senior Food and Drug Administration scientist, told an expert panel that has been asked for a second opinion on the agency's assessment of bisphenol A or BPA.

However, a study released Tuesday by the Journal of the American Medical Association suggested a new concern about BPA. Because of the possible public health implications, the results "deserve scientific follow-up," the study authors said. Using a health survey of nearly 1500 adults, they found that those exposed to higher amounts of BPA were more likely to report having heart disease and diabetes.

### Nearly every kid a video gamer

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Katherine Graden doesn't really like shoot-'em-up video games. She prefers games on her Wii system that test her fitness and agility — the ones her guy friends tease are her "sissy games."

It's a common scenario, according to a new national survey from the Pew Internet & American Life Project that illustrates just how ingrained games have become in youth culture.

The survey found that while young Americans don't necessarily play the same thing, nearly all of them — girls included — play video games of one kind or another.

And they don't just play by themselves. Nearly two-thirds play video games to socialize face-to-face with friends and family, while just over a quarter said they play with Internet friends.

Among other things, the survey found that: Ninety-seven percent of young respondents play video games. That's 99 percent of boys and 94 percent of girls, with little difference in the percentages among various racial and ethnic groups and incomes. In fact, 7 percent of those surveyed said they didn't have a computer at home, but did have a game console.

### Big fall in energy pushes consumer prices down; Fed could cut rates

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Consumer prices in August posted the first monthly decline in nearly two years as Americans finally get a break from surging energy prices.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that consumer prices edged down 0.1 percent last month, a significant improvement from a 1.1 percent price spike in June and a 0.8 percent rise in July. The cost of gasoline and other fuels have plunged, reflecting big drops in crude oil prices.

The decline, which was in line with expectations, may give the Federal Reserve the room it needs to cut interest rates if Fed officials feel a rate reduction could help stabilize turbulent financial markets.

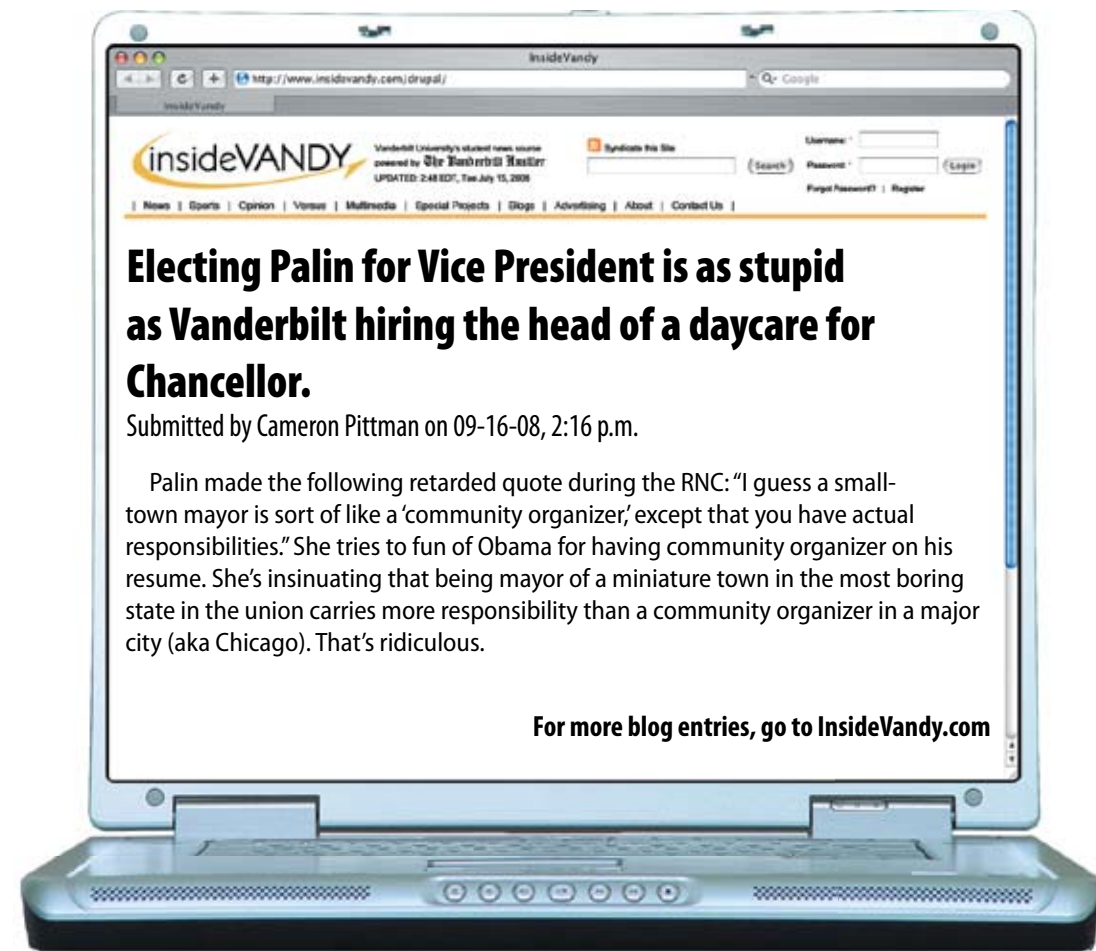
### Fingers crossed, Petraeus leaves Iraq

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Gen. David Petraeus, whose strategy for countering the Iraq insurgency is credited by many with rescuing the country from all-out civil war, stepped aside Tuesday as Gen. Ray Odierno took over as the top American commander of the conflict.

At a traditional change-of-command ceremony attended by top Iraqi and American military and civilian officials, Petraeus said that Odierno's skills and experience make him "the perfect man for the job."

Petraeus said the insurgents and militia extremists who have created such chaos in Iraq over the past five years are now weakened but not yet fully defeated. He noted that before he took the assignment in February 2007 he had described the situation as "hard but not hopeless."

## FROM THE BLOG



### Electing Palin for Vice President is as stupid as Vanderbilt hiring the head of a daycare for Chancellor.

Submitted by Cameron Pittman on 09-16-08, 2:16 p.m.

Palin made the following retarded quote during the RNC: "I guess a small-town mayor is sort of like a 'community organizer,' except that you have actual responsibilities." She tries to fun of Obama for having community organizer on his resume. She's insinuating that being mayor of a miniature town in the most boring state in the union carries more responsibility than a community organizer in a major city (aka Chicago). That's ridiculous.

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

## SNAPSHOT

### WHO LET THIS DOG OUT?



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Chip and Laura Bierbaum play with their dog on Wilson Lawn on Sept. 16.

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## ACADEMICS

# Speaker lectured on trauma

by ABRAHAM HANSON  
*News Contributor*

"The challenge before us is processing traumatic events with modern technology," said E. Ann Kaplan, distinguished professor and director of the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook University. Kaplan's lecture centered on the subject of her recent publication, "Trauma Culture: The Politics of Terror and Loss in Media and Literature," which focuses on media representation of trauma. Her lecture evoked powerful images, including those from the Vietnam War, Rwandan Genocide, Iraq War, Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina.

The thrust of Monday's lecture and her book deal with empathy and whether we are influenced by trauma or simply indifferent. She investigates this question with photographs from documentary and newspaper sources. Professor of Art History and director of the seminar, Vivien Fryd, recently completed a manuscript entitled "Representing Sexual Trauma in Contemporary American Art."

"A person who has experienced the extreme experience and terror of trauma may be so severely

affected that he or she experiences a number of symptoms: fear, flashbacks, depression, panic attacks, memory loss, etc," said Fryd. The Kaplan lecture is part of a yearlong faculty seminar themed "New Directions in Trauma Studies." Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center, the seminar investigates different topics every year and involves members of Vanderbilt faculty from varying academic departments from art history to sociology.

"The seminar stresses the interdisciplinary goals of the Center," said Director of the Robert Penn Warren Center and Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature Edward Friedman. "Currently celebrating its 20th anniversary, (it) promotes humanities initiatives and hopes to underscore the place of the humanities within the university."

The Robert Penn Warren Center regularly sponsors lectures, conferences, study groups and other activities for both faculty and students. Additionally, the center hosts seven graduate students each year. A full listing of events for the Robert Penn Warren Center can be found at [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw\\_center/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw_center/).

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**GREEK SCENE**

# Delta Sigma Theta shares their "ABC's" with Vanderbilt

by **LINDSAY ABRAMS**  
News Contributor

The Mu Rho chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Inc. will host Delta Days, three days of programming to formally introduce Vanderbilt to their chapter and "The ABCs of Delta."

Junior Brittany Simmons, chair of the political awareness and involvement committee, wants students to become more involved and aware of issues

affecting the community during this week's events.

"The ABCs is a structural acronym for learning and teaching something," said Simmons.

"Throughout Delta Days, you'll be learning something from us."

The week will focus on the themes "Attain Knowledge, Be Fit, Healthy and Active, and Connect with the Community," and started with Tuesday night's presidential debate.

The Delta Fitness Challenge

Kickoff will be on Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 8 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center. Sign-ups will be from 11a.m.-1 p.m. on the Wall. On Thursday, Sept. 18 at 3:15 p.m. the sorority members invite the community to perform service with the Nashville Rescue Mission. E-mail Tiffany Fisher at tiffany.p.fisher@vanderbilt.edu to R.S.V.P. ■

Lauren Koenig contributed information to this article.



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Sisters of Delta Sigma Theta recruit new members at the NPHC fair.

# Alpha Kappa Psi introduces undergraduates to business world

by **HILARY ROCKS**  
News Contributor

With almost 100 members, Alpha Kappa Psi is recruiting new members who hope to gain exposure to the business world. The business fraternity will hold a dinner for interested students Wednesday night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Cabana.

"Vanderbilt doesn't have an undergraduate business program, so Alpha Kappa Psi mitigates that," said pledge master and senior Chase Machemehl. "Interacting with people is, in itself, a form of business, and that kind of professional development is very difficult to come by. That's where Alpha Kappa Psi comes in."

The fraternity not only hosts speakers throughout the school year, but also has several professional partnerships with companies like Goldman Sachs, presenting opportunities to

members that might have otherwise missed.

"You get to develop your business skills before entering the workforce," said junior Marni Pogachefsky, who is in charge of the human capital division of Alpha Kappa Psi. "The fraternity creates a symbiotic relationship between students and business people, and joining is a great way to meet other equally motivated students."

Being a member of Alpha Kappa Psi offers

networking opportunities that reach beyond Nashville.

"One of the best things about being a member of Alpha Kappa Psi is that it is a fraternity — we are a very close-knit group, as a brotherhood, that stems from being a Greek organization," Pogachefsky said.

Interested students should dress in business professional attire and bring a resume. ■

# Sorority house doors open for fall rush



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Sophomores and other upperclassmen women look to join sororities this fall at an informational meeting.

## Upperclassmen women give Greek life a second look.

by **HOLLY MEEHL**  
News Contributor

This week, National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) sororities at Vanderbilt are holding Continuous Open Recruitment (COR).

In this process, female upperclassmen who did not partake in or dropped out of rush last spring have the opportunity to join a sorority

this semester.

Fall rush is a chance for girls to either try the sorority process again or for a first time. Some of the students who go through this process are sophomores who weren't sure if they wanted to rush as freshmen.

Sophomore Carrie Fry decided not to rush during the spring of her freshman year.

"I just needed some time to decide if this is what I wanted to do," said Fry.

"It seems like a great way to get involved. A lot of successful people seem to be a part of the Greek system," said Laura Regan, a transfer

student who wants to further integrate herself into the Vanderbilt community.

In a less formal manner than spring rush, sororities on Vanderbilt's campus hold an open house for girls interested in their chapter.

After the open house, some of the sororities invite girls back for small events and then potentially invite them to join their house.

Women going through COR visited sorority houses on Tuesday, and next week sororities will offer bids to upperclassmen who will then have 24 hours to accept or decline the invitation for membership. ■

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# OPINION

## How freshmen can make the most of the experience



**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

I wanted to use this article to close out my little mini-series of articles focused around demeaning the freshmen, primarily because it's just too easy. In this conclusion, I want to focus on how freshmen can squeeze the most out of their Vanderbilt pie. If this doesn't apply, don't just check out, you may be a sophomore who can glean some valuable nostalgia, or perhaps you're a senior who is looking to step out of his Towers single for the first time without going to class.

My first suggestion, for which many freshmen have already got a head start, is to sign up for as many groups, clubs, activities, events and causes as possible. It's much better to overcommit yourself right away and then just bail out than to gradually find out which things actually interest you and increase your involvement and leadership. This also serves the dual purpose of quickly expanding your social circle of meaningless acquaintances that you can acknowledge, possibly even using their first name, while walking around campus, thus looking very popular and feeling a small tinge of validation. This will also lay the foundation for a crucial Vandy social skill you will need to hone over the years: elevating some of these friendships to having brief conversations about how drunk you got over the weekend or complaining about how much work you need to do. A great place to embark on your marginally deep but very widespread group participation is at activity fairs.

This leads me to my second suggestion: Even after you're getting close to 30 group e-mails a week, you should always be on the lookout for these activity fairs or general meetings where you see a large number of tables set up. More often than not, these congregations will be accompanied by free food, occasionally free meals. Just be careful to avoid actually promising to take care of injured animals, read to impoverished children or something like that.

As most of you are probably aware, as a result of their office on the third floor of Sarratt, Vanderbilt has a Greek life. So do it. Not just because there's nothing else happening on campus during the weekends, but also because they serve alcohol. For girls, it's a little bit trickier. You have to feel out which types of girls on campus represent who you want to be for the next four years. Because they're so subtle, a lot of times it can be very difficult or confusing to spot which upperclassmen are in which sorority. A safe bet here would be to just hang out in the Commons and wait for swarms of girls wearing matching clothes to invite you to their next charitable BBQ.

The final suggestion I have is mostly common sense: Nobody is going to know how much money you have unless you tell him or her. This is a vital part of anyone's identity, and the responsibility to make it known is all on you. Therefore, if your dad owns a business, you should definitely mention it at every opportunity, ideally to strangers and Rand employees.

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

### EDITORIAL

## Youth voter registration encourages reckless voting

As the nation inches closer to Nov. 4, the election barnstorm will continue barreling forward at full speed. With the presidential candidates debating at Belmont University next month, Nashville will be, for a time, front and center during the election. The youth vote campaigns that reached Nashville last weekend were not surprising, but there were some disturbing implications that accompanied it.

As reported in the Hustler, Vanderbilt has a chapter of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment, which seeks to educate young voters and increase voter registration among the 18- to 24-year-old age demographic. According to the director of SAVE, junior Cameron Pastrick, the fact that only 13 percent of students eligible to vote do so is both "frightening" and "avoidable,"

especially since two-thirds of people over the age of 65 vote.

The fact that so few young people choose not to vote is not a sign for concern. Most young, college-aged people probably do not vote for a variety of reasons. Some do not find it worthwhile to make it to the polls on Election Day, and others do not know or care enough about the issues to see a reason to vote.

This fact alone should not bother us. As members of a free society, we should not value voting for the sake of voting. An educated vote is worth much more than an uneducated one. Since most younger voters are arguably less interested and less educated about issues like terrorism, health care and taxes, it does little to better our society by getting more young adults to the polls.

"Get out the vote" operations like SAVE and Rock the Vote claim to make voter education a top priority. There is a problem, however, with having a group work on both voter registration and voter education. No matter how often these groups reinforce that they are "non-partisan," inevitably the biases will reveal themselves somewhere during the education process. These operations will inevitably have some sort of agenda that distorts the education young voters who care enough about the issues should be getting for themselves.

We should be content with the number of young voters, no matter how high or how low, because that number will undoubtedly reflect which young voters are engaged in the political process enough to use the privilege responsibly.

## In memory of Warith Mohammed

**STEVEN TOWNSEND**  
Guest Columnist

This isn't Black History Month, it's September. In an election year, he wasn't a celebrity politician like McCain or Obama. He wasn't named Parks, King or Carver, so most Americans don't know who this black leader was.

Al-Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, the son of Elijah Muhammad, was one of the most powerful American Muslim leaders. He died on Sept. 9, 2008. I believe that because of the largely anti-Islamic climate in this country, his death went unreported and unnoticed.

Those familiar with Mohammed know that after his father's death, he was accepted as the leader of the Nation of Islam (NOI). During Elijah Muhammad's reign, the NOI was a black separatist group overrun with corruption. Mohammed, however, introduced reform, which included rejection of his father's radical theology, heightened community service, fellowship with white Americans and open organization

membership, which encouraged Muslims of non-black nationalities. He also brought down the misogynistic environment the NOI was notorious for. An expert on both the Qu'ran and the life of Muhammad, the leader embraced Sunni Islam and brought peace to the organization until Minister Louis Farrakhan broke ranks and revived the more radical NOI.

Mohammed was more religious than radical, and more pious and principled than political. He did not aspire to be rich or famous, like many of today's politicians. He was a servant of the community. In today's political climate, it would have been nice for the media to acknowledge a man who cared for his fellow man more than himself. But Mohammed was not Parks, King or Carver, so most Americans don't even know who this black American leader was.

—Steven Townsend is a Ph. D. candidate in the Department of Chemistry. He can be reached at [steven.d.townsend@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:steven.d.townsend@vanderbilt.edu).

## VSG election does count

To the editor:

I admit, I was a skeptic about student government when I first entered Vanderbilt. As a freshman, I ran to be president of Upper Lupton because I wanted paper towels in the residence hall bathrooms. I was elected, but paper towels were never added to the bathrooms for environmental reasons. My position, however, taught me a great deal about the power of student government at Vanderbilt. Along with planning popular student-driven programs with hundreds of attendees, I've given feedback and recommendations to high-level administrators on issues that really matter to students, including assigning housing lottery points and construction on Peabody campus.

In the past year, Vanderbilt Student Government has produced tangible benefits to students by pushing Vanderbilt's Gmail service through its final stages, improving Vandy Van routes and lobbying for the purchase of more shuttles, renovating the lobbies of Kissam dormitories (including the addition of the Hemingway Market), initiating the Collegiate Readership Program to provide students with free copies of the New York Times and USA Today, expanding the Taste of Nashville Program to include TGI Friday's and Tangredi's, redesigning Rand to better serve students, eliminating room reservation fees for student organizations in Arts and Science classrooms and expanding the Commodore Shuttle service to take students to more locations. Now, we're working on obtaining financial aid to help more students study abroad in the summer, expanding wireless coverage on campus, having course syllabi accessible online

and expanding recycling services to more residence halls.

I'll be the first to admit, VSG does have its problems. But VSG is constantly trying to improve itself in order to better serve the Vanderbilt community. Even though voter turnout in this election was only 30 percent, it is a big improvement from past elections; only three years ago residence halls elected their officers by paper ballots! In this election, we've filled almost all of the 72 positions that Vanderbilt students voted on — I, at least, consider that a success (especially when compared to recent history). We're making internal changes, as well, by opening up our committees to the whole student body. This year, changes passed by VSG (and voted on in referendum by the student body) will also go into effect to make the House of Representatives more efficient.

VSG is always open to new ideas and feedback, but students do have to participate to make our organization work. The way to make Vanderbilt life better is not to encourage apathy, but rather to promote involvement and constructive criticism. On that note, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact any member of VSG or e-mail me personally at [lauren.a.ross@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:lauren.a.ross@vanderbilt.edu) if you have any ideas about how VSG can improve campus life or promote elections better to increase voter turnout.

VSG elections do matter. They will count for even more if all of Vanderbilt supports them.

Sincerely,  
**Lauren Ross**  
Speaker of the House  
Vanderbilt Student Government

## In response to 'We don't need no education'

**ANNA ELLIOT**  
Guest Columnist

I was overjoyed to find an article in Monday's Hustler which dealt with one of the most glaring injustices this country faces: the racist, classist public education system that our government refuses to take action towards mending. As a sociology major, I spend many class hours discussing the various inequalities in modern society, and the education gap proves to be one of the most debilitating and overlooked. Monday's article, "We don't need no education," did a good job outlining the problems with the public education system, and brought the issues to a personal level I'm sure many students had not previously considered. However, I cannot fully express the frustration and disappointment I felt with the closing sentences, which essentially stated that all that should be expected of us now is awareness, and that action need only be taken later, once we are more influential and successful. The idea that we can wait, and should feel totally OK about doing so, is unacceptable. Consider how many children will go through our horrendously flawed education system in the next 50 years: How many drop-outs will choose a life of crime over a college degree, and how many more girls will sign pregnancy pacts instead of pledging to get their diploma? The problem of educational inequality is not one to be solved in 50 years, but must be addressed immediately.

Although the spirit of community activism is not necessarily pervasive in all areas of Vanderbilt, anyone looking to become involved in the fight for equal education needs only look around to see the numerous opportunities to become involved. Pencil Projects, Synergy, Amigos and many different ASB sites all focus on this national crisis, and allow students direct access into some of the most difficult areas. Summer internships need not be on Wall Street, but could instead be in a struggling school in Nashville, of which there are plenty.

Teach For America and METCO programs are currently searching desperately to hire well-educated graduates who refuse to accept the status quo in our public education system. My point is it is absurd to assume this problem cannot be solved until you're 50 years old, rich and living in a house with a backyard and a white picket fence. Civil rights activists didn't say, "This sucks, but let's wait a few more years before actually doing anything," and neither can we. Awareness is obviously the first step anyone can take towards creating a truly equal public education system, but it simply cannot be our last.

—Anna Elliot is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at [anna.m.elliott@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:anna.m.elliott@vanderbilt.edu).

Anyone looking to become involved in the fight for equal education needs only look around to see the numerous opportunities to become involved.

### 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.

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

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**09/15/08 SOLUTIONS**

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

- ACROSS**
- Intersect
  - Relatives of raspberries
  - Lead player
  - Major artery
  - Frolic
  - Valuable find
  - "The \_\_\_ Witch Project"
  - Sicilian volcano
  - Raw minerals
  - Picks
  - Try
  - Comments
  - Silver services
  - German article
  - Schuss
  - Make a blunder
  - Impassioned
  - Stable units
  - Fasten, as buttons
  - Freon or neon
  - Schon of
  - Journey
  - J.C. and Sammy of golf
  - Space between
  - Unit of resistance
  - Morgue letters
  - Stitch
  - Conductor's title
  - Jug handles
  - Russia's first president
  - Ninepins' pin
  - 50/50 test choice
  - College clique, briefly
  - Physically fragile
  - Sweep under the rug
  - Shredded
  - Forgeries
  - Crystal gazer
  - Ooze
  - Edberg or Borg, e.g.

- DOWN**
- Taxis
  - Actor's part
  - Type of exam
  - Porkers' quarters
  - Bitter irony
  - Good wishes

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9/17/08

**9/15/08 SOLUTIONS**

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CADSD   OLIVIA   SSI
ROUT   RECITE   AKA
URGE   DEEPER   MIX
STARTERS MARBLE
TANNERS RITUALS
USS   DOZEN
STEMS   SOLES   BET
OATS   MIRE    BIRD
DIS   BORIS   LUTES
TUNES   BEY
TSHIRTS BRISTLE
ELIXIR  BREATHED
RON   AEGEAN  IRAN
MSG   LATEST  MESA
SHE   SLOTHS  EWES
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- Stallion's tidbit
- Overly decorated
- Boitano and Button
- Gin fruit
- Crooner Mel
- Expert
- Musical pauses
- Kiddie
- Lemony
- Alternatives to VCRs
- Very long time
- "Leaving Las Vegas" actress
- Clean air grp.
- Wee bit
- Gasteyer of "SNL"
- Camera's eye
- Boot binding
- Murdered
- Evade
- Periods
- Confessions to a priest
- Water too well
- Customs duties
- Fifth U.S. president
- Widely held fictions
- Condor's digs
- Duck past
- Control the wheel
- Kind of poll or hat
- Make off with
- Made stuff up
- Different
- Exist

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Sarratt Student Center, Room 363

You can also sign up on our Web site:  
[www.vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund).  
Sign-up deadline is September 30.

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[seniorclassfund@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:seniorclassfund@vanderbilt.edu).



VANDERBILT

Senior Class Fund 2009

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# Margaretta!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
THE MOST THOUGHTFUL  
GIRL WE KNOW.

YOU ROCK OUR  
WORLD!

MUCHO LOVE,  
TY & JOSE



# SPORTS

# What's been the X Factor in Vanderbilt's 3-0 start?

The Hustler Sports Staff discusses

## Emergence of Hawkins, solid play of O-Line have been crucial

by DAVID SHOCHAT  
Sports Contributor



HAWKINS, (31)

While special teams play and creating turnovers have contributed to Vanderbilt's 3-0 start, nothing has been more significant than the play of junior Jared Hawkins and the Vanderbilt offensive line. In a season in which the passing game has struggled in part due to injuries to many key wide receivers, Hawkins has given the offense a spark, rushing for 250 yards and three touchdowns on 50 carries so far. While many see Hawkins' breakout as a novelty, those who have watched Vanderbilt football over the last few years know that Hawkins has had all the skills needed to be a solid SEC running back.

What makes Hawkins great is his combination of quickness, determination and strength for a guy his size. In the SEC, where the defenses are so fast, it is imperative to have a running back that can make people miss and hit the holes quickly, which Hawkins does better than anyone else on the team. Hawkins has also been a key in finishing out close games for the Commodores as his hard running in the second half of games this year have stopped the opponent's chance of a comeback.

While Hawkins deserves a lot of credit, a lot of his success can be attributed to the play of the offensive line. This group was arguably the biggest question mark for the Commodores going into this season after losing all five starters last year. However, the line continues to improve every game and has done a great job opening up holes for Hawkins and senior Chris Nickson, especially late in games. Furthermore, the group has only given up five sacks on the season. Behind Nickson and Hawkins, the Commodores are ranked as the second best rushing offense in the league only behind LSU. ■

## Special teams have delivered for Vanderbilt time and time again

by MIKE KRANZLER  
Sports Contributor

Although it is the least-appreciated phase of the game, the X Factor in Vanderbilt's great start has been impressive special teams play.

At Miami (Ohio), the Redhawks kept the game close for most of the first quarter until junior D.J. Moore returned a punt 91 yards to the 1-yard line. Three plays later, redshirt senior Chris Nickson snuck the ball into the end zone for a 14-point lead and the rout was on.

At home against South Carolina, two huge plays on special teams turned the tide in favor of the Commodores. After being forced to punt while trailing by seven, the Commodore punt team recovered the ball after the Gamecocks misplayed it. One play later, Vanderbilt found the end zone for the game-tying touchdown.

South Carolina proceeded to respond with an impressive drive to get into field goal range, only to have it blocked by the Commodores. A quick touchdown drive shifted the momentum fully into Vanderbilt's favor, and gave them the confidence to put away the game down the stretch.



MOORE, (17)

Against Rice, a 19-yard punt by the Owls set up the go-ahead touchdown for the Dorees, giving them a lead they would not relinquish. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, Moore put the game out of reach with a second long punt return to the 1-yard line that led to another Vanderbilt touchdown on the next play.

One must also point to the resurgence of senior kicker Bryant Hahnfeldt, who struggled the past two seasons since tearing his ACL in 2005. However, he has yet to miss a kick this year and became the Commodores' all-time scoring leader on Saturday.

The Commodores have been making big play after big play on special teams this year, and these game-changers have helped Vanderbilt win those close games they lost in years past. ■

## Elusive Nickson's mobility has opened up the offense

by PETER LETARTE  
Sports Contributor

To find the key to the Commodores' electric 3-0 start, one should look no further than the fleet feet of dual threat quarterback Chris Nickson. The big redshirt senior's ability to scramble out of the pocket and run for big gains has proven to be valuable in several aspects of the Commodores' offensive attack. First and foremost, a running Nickson gives coach Bobby Johnson a valuable offensive weapon. Nickson leads the team with 268 rushing yards and five touchdowns, on an impressive 5.5 yards per carry. Nickson's production cannot be doubted.



NICKSON, (3)

However, it might be the versatility Nickson's mobility provides that is the true X Factor in Vanderbilt's offensive execution. While the Commodores' young and fairly inexperienced offensive line has looked stout and resilient in these first three games, they have broken down in their pass protection from time to time. But when opposing defenses have come swarming in, Nickson has not panicked. Rather, he has done what he does best and scrambled out of the jam only to break off for what often has been a big gain. More and more opposing defenses have been forced to keep a weary eye on No. 3 to contain him in the pocket. When they do, it opens up the flood gates for several of Vanderbilt's other dynamic offensive weapons. Included in that category has been redshirt junior running back Jared Hawkins who has set career highs in rushing yards for two weeks in a row, and the reverse play Johnson has shown a propensity to run with redshirt senior wide receiver Sean Walker in crucial situations. With a focus on Nickson, Vanderbilt foes have had difficulties stopping the other aspects of its offense, allowing the Commodores to pave the way to only their second 3-0 start in 24 years. ■

### SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by David Rutz

	<b>1. Florida</b> <b>2-0 (0-0 SEC)</b> After giving up at least 20 points in 11 of 13 games last season, the Gators have allowed their first two opponents a combined 13.
	<b>2. Georgia</b> <b>3-0 (1-0)</b> The Bulldogs didn't let South Carolina ruin their national championship hopes this year, but their 14-7 victory wasn't exactly convincing.
	<b>3. LSU</b> <b>2-0 (0-0)</b> Tailback Charles Scott has put up ridiculous numbers against two weak opponents so far, but Auburn's staunch run defense will be a far greater test.
	<b>4. Alabama</b> <b>3-0 (0-0)</b> Nick Saban is a good motivator. After telling his players that any and all slackers would be benched against Western Kentucky, the Tide crushed the Hilltoppers, 41-7.
	<b>5. Auburn</b> <b>3-0 (1-0)</b> The Tiger's defense is rock-solid. But 12 penalties, losing three fumbles and subsequently barely beating Mississippi State reflect serious offensive problems.
	<b>6. Vanderbilt</b> <b>3-0 (1-0)</b> The Commodores are clicking on all cylinders right now and will need to continue doing so with four straight conference games looming, three on the road.
	<b>7. Ole Miss</b> <b>2-1 (0-0)</b> Last year's worst SEC defense has improved immensely in the last year, but the Rebels welcome a hot Vanderbilt team in their conference opener Saturday.
	<b>8. Kentucky</b> <b>3-0 (0-0)</b> A win's a win, even if it was a 20-14 victory over Middle Tennessee State that was saved by a goal-line tackle as time expired.
	<b>9. Tennessee</b> <b>1-1 (0-0)</b> Some perspective: The same UCLA team that beat the Volunteers in week one lost 59-0 to BYU. Good luck against Florida, boys, you'll need it.
	<b>10. South Carolina</b> <b>1-2 (0-2)</b> After watching his Gamecocks fumble away a chance at beating Georgia for their sixth straight conference loss, Steve Spurrier might be wondering how many different ways his team can lose games.
	<b>11. Mississippi State</b> <b>1-2 (0-1)</b> The Bulldogs were a mind-boggling 0-14 on third-down conversions in a dispiriting 3-2 loss to Auburn. Yikes.
	<b>12. Arkansas</b> <b>2-0 (0-0)</b> The Razorbacks received a temporary stay of execution courtesy of Hurricane Ike when their game against No. 8 Texas was postponed.

# Sky's the limit for young tennis team

by CHIP ROBIE  
Sports Contributor

For four years, Vanderbilt's men's tennis team had one sure thing: Ryan Preston. Preston was the typical No. 1 player: a powerful serve and forehand, and accolades that included three first team All-Southeastern Conference selections and several big wins over a slew of top 50 players.

Preston has since graduated, which might lead the casual fan to expect a down year for the Commodores. However, anyone who has followed coach Ian Duvenhage's work the last few years would realize the team is on an upward trend. Duvenhage inherited a mess in 2006, but he has made steadfast improvements to a former

superpower that reached the finals of the NCAA tournament in 2004.

Duvenhage said he saw Preston's departure in an optimistic light.

"Ryan left big shoes to fill, not only as a player, but also as a leader and someone who gave it 110 percent every day and who always exhibited toughness," Duvenhage said. "There is a void, but growth only occurs when there is a demand for it and I am confident our team will grow into the space he vacated."

It's hard to believe that in 2006 the team hardly had enough players to field a team.



DUVENHAGE

Vanderbilt was riddled with injuries and defections from the season before. Unsurprisingly, the team finished 7-14 in a highly competitive SEC. After a year of seasoning under Duvenhage, the team improved to 11-13 in 2007 before going 14-10 in 2008.

This year's squad looks to build on the 2008 season. They've bought into Duvenhage's no-nonsense system, which once had them running sprints on the home courts after a poor performance against Georgia.

"Our main goal is to get a little bit better each day," said senior Nick Cromydas. "We believe the results will take care of themselves if we follow that practice rigorously."

Cromydas, the lone senior on this year's squad, will likely vie

for the No. 1 position with junior Vijay Paul and sophomore Bryant Salcedo. Cromydas, a fixture in the top 100 rankings, is a scrappy player who always seems outmatched by a harder-hitting opponent, but he always seemingly finds a way to come up big. Paul is almost the Rafael Nadal of the tennis team. His impeccable footwork and heavy topspin shots have scored numerous victories over elite competition. Salcedo is somewhat of an outsider to the top group, but his game is loaded with potential and confidence.

The parity of the team does not stick to this trio.

"I'd have to say it is wide open," Duvenhage said. "At this point every spot in the line-up is up for grabs, and that's not just

a line — it is the way I see it."

One has to figure that sophomores Adam Baker and Alex Zotov will see some major playing time, as will junior James Moye. Freshman Charlie Jones brings an impressive tennis pedigree to the program. There's even been word that sophomore Andy Pulido has looked pretty sharp in fall workouts. Nonetheless, Duvenhage will likely play musical chairs with the ladder for the beginning of the season. One thing is certain — this team sees no limits to where it can go.

"As a senior, I would love to go out with a ring, so yeah, an SEC championship and NCAA win would be nice," Cromydas said. "So yeah, why not us?"

Why not? ■

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