

**ACADEMICS:** Visiting professor asks what role gender plays in elections. SEE PAGE 3

**VERSUS:** Kardinal Offishall says what he'd like to do with Pam Anderson. COMPLETE SECTION INSIDE

# Sigma Chi arrested

## First-years, brothers released on hefty bail

by JANELLE STOKES  
Greek Specialist

At least 51 students were arrested at an Ocoee River campground early Sunday morning after a Sigma Chi international fraternity event got out of hand, according to reports from Polk County.

The students — both members and non-members of the Vanderbilt chapter — face charges including disorderly conduct and underage consumption, according to reports from Polk County.

According to television reports out of Chattanooga, which is near the campground, the students were at the High River Campground for a weekend outing, and the problem occurred when they began celebrating the Commodores' football victory over Ole Miss.

Reportedly, the disturbance included the lighting of firecrackers in the campground at 2:30 a.m.

Kristin Torrey, director of Greek Life, was informed of the incident on Sunday morning and is investigating the circumstances with the international fraternity.

Michael Dunn, area representative for the fraternity, does not know if

the camping event was an official rush event or not.

"It's certainly not an event that we would sanction," said Dunn. "It's a little bit early to comment because we've got to go through the whole investigation first to get all the facts."

The students were all released on \$1500 bond each. The investigation continues and any disciplinary action from Vanderbilt or the fraternity will be determined within the week.

Students have various reactions to the information that they have received over the past few days.

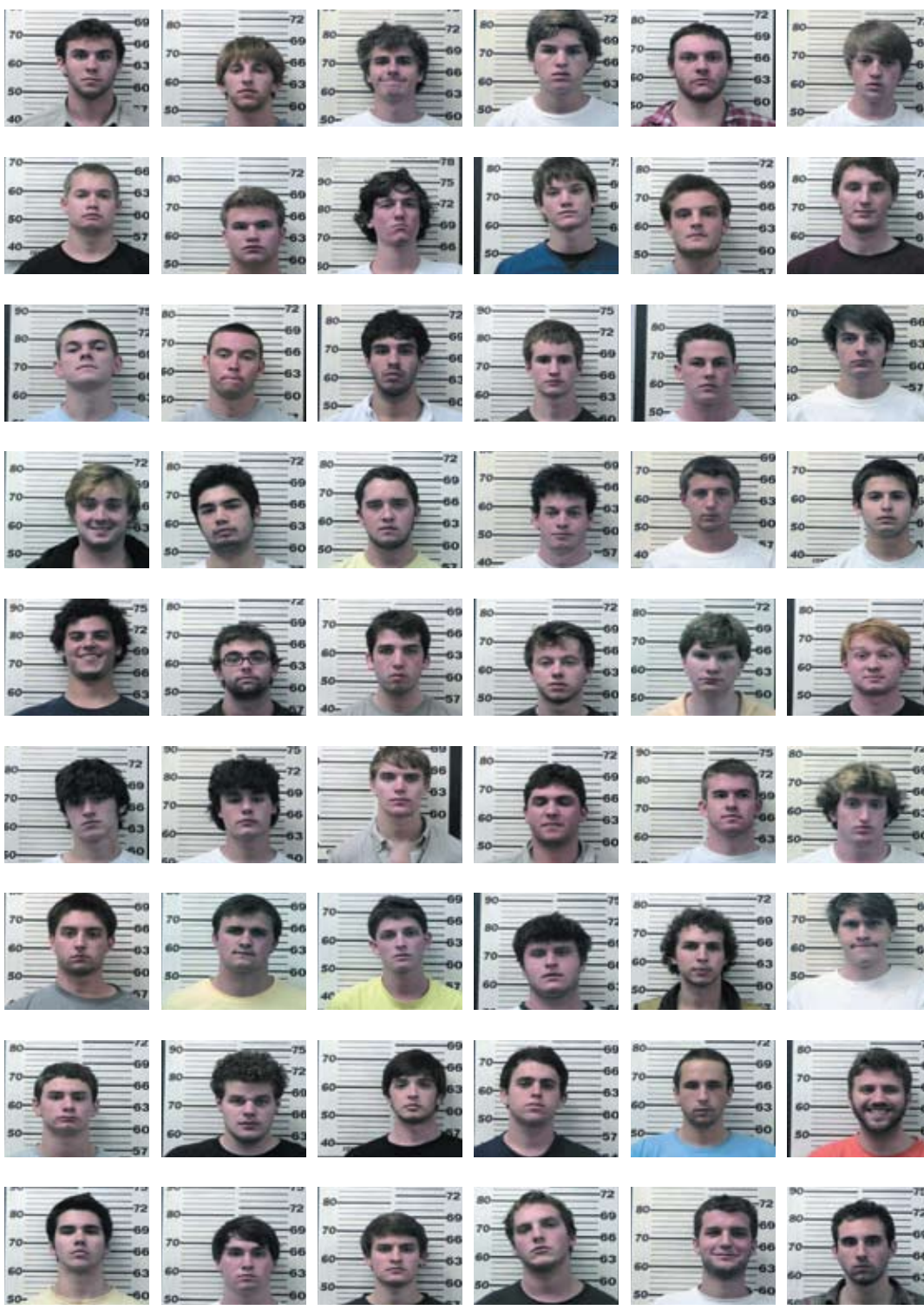
"I think (the situation) was blown a little out of proportion and all the facts should be brought out before anything is done," said freshman Jocelyn McConaughy.

Freshman Anthony Albanese thinks the students should not be "criminalized," and that non-Greeks shouldn't get in trouble because the event took place off campus.

"The freshmen should not be in trouble since they were off campus," said Albanese. "A strike or worse is ridiculous. Nobody should be kicked out of school."

According to Chattanooga's WTVC, all of the students charged are scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 22. ■

Lauren Koenig and Kobina Ankumah contributed to this article.



photos courtesy of Polk County Sheriff's Department

## ACADEMICS

# Finance students react to recent turmoil

by JUDY WANG  
Academics Specialist

With the recent turmoil on Wall Street completely restructuring the financial industry, Vanderbilt students interested in entering the sector are expressing some concerns.

Describing the crisis as "one of the worst financial calamities since the 1930s," economics major and finance minor Scott Brown predicts, "the finance industry will never be the same."

While the crisis has not completely changed Brown's career goals, "it's clarified (his) desire to go to graduate school first before entering the job market, both to give the markets some time to recover and to make (him) a more competitive job candidate whether they recover by summer 2010 or not," he said.

"I would not say the current crisis has turned me off to finance by any means," said Brown. "But it has made me more aware of the complex nature of the industry and the challenges it faces."

Senior Graham MacDonald, a member of the business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi, echoes Brown's analysis of the financial situation.

Having worked at both Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs, MacDonald said, "We are entering a new age in banking that will be marked by significant deleveraging and a reduction from the oversized profits enjoyed by Wall Street and others over the past years."

"This has not altered my career goals," said MacDonald. "However it is very possible that tighter regulations and lower profits may squeeze Wall Street bonuses, reducing their ability to draw top talent into the industry."

"We are seeing how vulnerable these highly-leveraged investment banks were all through the bull years of the market," said junior Wyatt Smith, an ENGAGE scholar of Owen Graduate School of Management.

"As someone interested in pursuing a career in management consulting, I am thankful to be somewhat insulated from the job fallout this turn of events is causing," Smith said. "I have many friends whose career plans turned upside down last week, however, with the collapse of these major banks. It is frightening how quickly things have changed." ■

## SCIENCE & MEDICINE

# Carell's namesake hospital receives fundraising boost

by SAMANTHA SMITH  
News Contributor

Construction on the expansion of the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital will begin in 2009 Information and Media Relations Officer Laurie Holloway said in a recent medical center news release.

When completed, the 400,000-square-foot facility will be connected to the Monroe Carell Jr. Hospital.

Holloway also said the addition will expand Vanderbilt's obstetrics program with 64 new beds, including 48 rooms for pregnant women and new mothers and another 16 labor and delivery rooms. There will also be three obstetric operating rooms.

The pediatric expansion will include 10 new operating rooms and 190 new beds. Ninety of those beds will be used for medical/surgical care, which

will help relieve the space crunch at the Children's Hospital according to Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Holloway said the facility will accommodate a critical demand for expansion in the obstetrics sector by nearly doubling the working accommodating for mothers and children at Vanderbilt.

The family of the late Monroe Carell Jr. — namesake of the current facility — pledged \$20 million toward the \$45 million fundraising goal of The Campaign for Children and Mothers on Sept. 11.

According to Dr. Harry Jacobson, vice chancellor for Health Affairs for Vanderbilt Medical Center, the family's generosity follows their long-standing partnership with the hospital.

Holloway said construction is scheduled for completion in 2012. ■



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital will expand with additional 400,000 square feet of facility space.

**GREEK SCENE:** Sororities and fraternities kick off week of philanthropy, competition and entertainment. SEE PAGE 3

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# SNAPSHOTS

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

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HIGH **83**, LOW **54**  
Sunny

### TUESDAY



HIGH **82**, LOW **58**  
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**BACK ISSUES**  
Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Clay is gay: Aiken comes out of the closet

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Clay Aiken is finally confirming what many people already knew: He's gay.

The cover of the latest People magazine shows Aiken holding his infant son, Parker Foster Aiken, with the headline: "Yes, I'm Gay." The cover also has the quote: "I cannot raise a child to lie or hide things."

The magazine has an interview with Aiken and confirmed that he was on the cover but refused to release the article to The Associated Press until Wednesday.

The baby's mother is Aiken's friend and record producer Jaymes Foster.

Aiken, who gained fame as the runner-up on "American Idol" in 2003, rarely addressed the frequent rumors about his sexuality. In an interview with The Associated Press two years ago, he said: "I don't really feel like I have anybody to answer to but myself and God and the people I love."

The multiplatinum singer recently released the CD "On My Way Here" and made his Broadway debut this spring in "Monty Python's Spamalot."

### Probe: Medicare paid billions in suspect claims

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The government paid more than \$1 billion in questionable Medicare claims for medical supplies that showed little relation to a patient's condition, including blood glucose strips for sexual impotence and special diabetic shoes for leg amputees, congressional investigators say.

Billions more in taxpayer dollars may have been wasted over the last decade because the government-run health program for the elderly and disabled paid out claims with blank or invalid diagnosis codes, such as a "?" or "zzzzz." Medicare officials say even smiley-face icons could have been accepted.

The report by Republicans on the Senate Homeland Security investigations subcommittee, obtained by The Associated Press, is the latest to detail lax oversight in the \$400 billion program that has been cited by government auditors as a high-risk for fraud and waste for nearly 20 years.

The panel's review of millions of claims submitted by sellers of wheelchairs, drugs and other medical supplies on behalf of Medicare patients from 2001 to 2006 found at least \$1 billion in which the listed diagnosis code appeared to have little, if any, connection to the reimbursed medical item.

For example, blood glucose test strips are almost exclusively used for diabetics. But Medicare paid millions of dollars to medical suppliers for the test strips without question based on non-diabetic diagnoses ranging from typhoid and bubonic plague to chronic airway obstruction and "psychosexual dysfunction."

Other questionable claims included wheelchairs or wheelchair accessories for patients listed as having a deformed nose or sprained wrist; special shoes for diabetics or shoe inserts for those with leg amputation or "precocious sexual development"; and walkers for people diagnosed with paraplegia.

### FBI investigating companies at heart of meltdown

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The FBI is investigating four major U.S. financial institutions whose collapse helped trigger a \$700 billion bailout plan by the Bush administration.

Two law enforcement officials said the FBI is looking at potential fraud by mortgage finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., and insurer American International Group Inc.

A senior law enforcement official says the inquiries, still in preliminary stages, will focus on the financial institutions and the individuals that ran them.

Officials say the new inquiries bring the number of corporate lenders under investigation over the last year to 26.

### Palin, in a bubble, meets her first world leaders

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Sarah Palin met her first world leaders Tuesday.

It was a tightly controlled crash course on foreign policy for the Republican vice presidential candidate, the mayor-turned-governor who has been outside North America just once.

Palin sat down with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. The conversations were private, the pictures public, meant to build her resume for voters concerned about her lack of experience in world affairs.

"I found her quite a capable woman," Karzai said later. "She asked the right questions on Afghanistan."

The self-described "hockey mom" also asked former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for insights on Georgia, Russia, China and Iran, and she'll see more leaders Wednesday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings.

It was shuttle diplomacy, New York-style. At several points, Palin's motorcade got stuck in traffic and New Yorkers, unimpressed with the flashing lights, sirens and police officers in her group, simply walked between the vehicles to get across the street. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, three hours behind Palin in seeing Karzai, found herself overshadowed for a day as she made her own rounds.

John McCain's presidential campaign has shielded the first-term Alaska governor for weeks from spontaneous questions from voters and reporters, and went to striking lengths Tuesday to maintain that distance as Palin made her diplomatic debut.

### Ga. cop killer gets last-minute execution reprieve

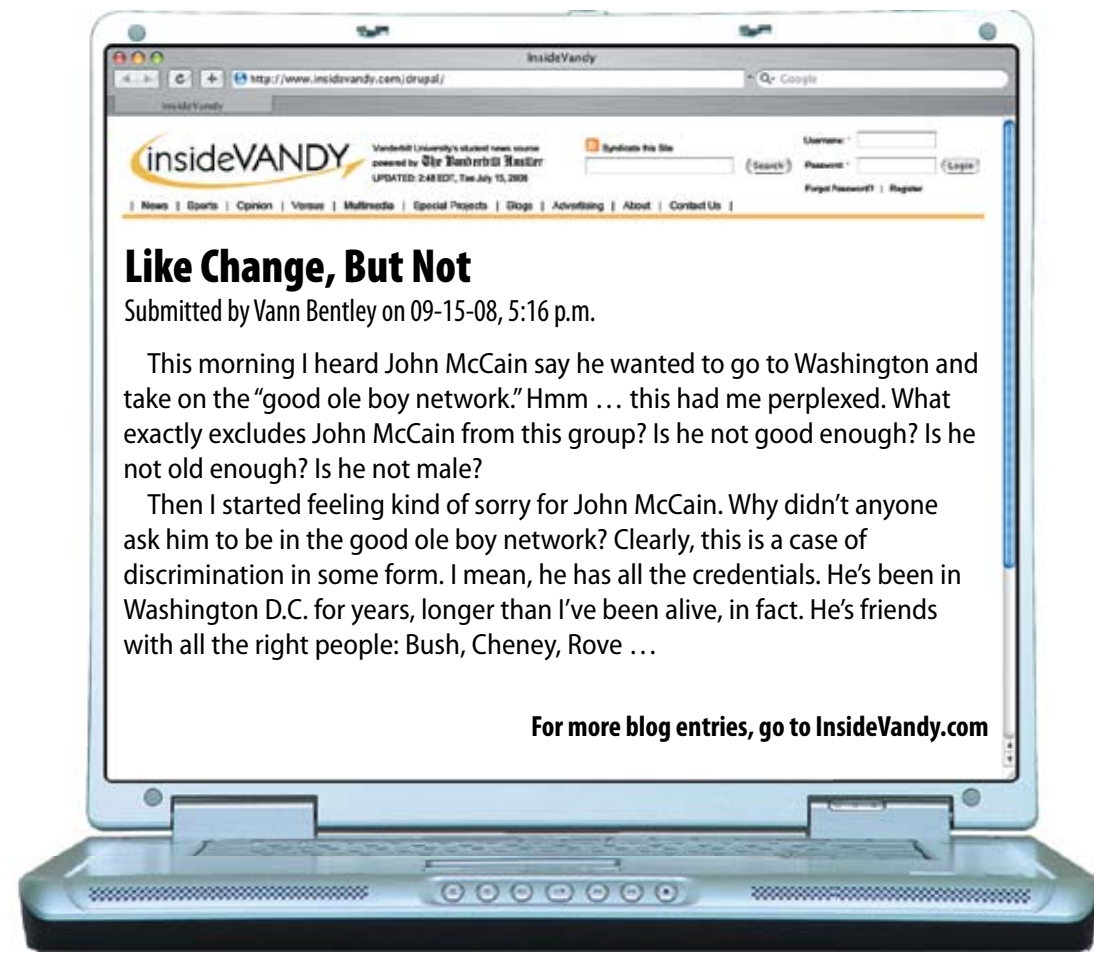
**JACKSON, Ga. (AP)**—The U.S. Supreme Court gave a reprieve to a Georgia inmate less than two hours before his scheduled execution Tuesday for the 1989 slaying of an off-duty police officer.

Family and advocates of 39-year-old Troy Davis have long urged he deserves a new trial as seven of the nine witnesses who helped put him on death row have recanted their testimony. His supporters erupted into cheers and tears when the stay was announced at about 5:20 p.m. EDT.

"This is not over yet," said Davis, who sounded upbeat and optimistic speaking to the crowd by phone. "This is the beginning of my blessing."

Also on Tuesday, Florida executed a man convicted of shooting and killing two young sisters after he raped and shot their mother.

## FROM THE BLOG



### Like Change, But Not

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

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

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

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

## SNAPSHOT

### ¡BAILA CON SABOR!



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Music City Salsa performers treated students and faculty to a performance at Sutherland House's Latin American-themed celebration.



# High Holidays 2008-5769



**Monday, September 29**  
5pm - Dinner  
6pm - Rosh Hashanah Services

**Tuesday, September 30**  
10am - 1pm - Morning Services  
Lunch following Morning Services  
2pm - Musaf Services (Conservative)  
4PM - Tashlich (throwing away your sins-Meet at Schulman Center)  
5pm - Dinner  
6pm - Afternoon Rosh Hashanah Services (Conservative)

**Wednesday, October 1**  
10am - 1pm - Services  
Lunch following Services  
2 PM Musaf Services

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**ACADEMICS**

# Gitmo's Muslim chaplain speaks on experience

by AIMEE SOBHANI  
News Contributor

"I was advocating for our national values," said former U.S. Army Muslim Chaplain James J. Yee. "My patriotism was under fire."

On Monday, Sept. 22, Yee spoke in the Student Life Center Ballroom about his experiences as a chaplain at Guantanamo Bay prison camp and his 76-day imprisonment in a naval brig after being falsely accused of espionage and of aiding alleged terrorists being held at Guantanamo. Refreshments and a book signing followed Yee's remarks.

Yee, a graduate of West Point and winner of two Army Commendation medals, first gained notoriety in 2001 when he began educating his fellow

soldiers about Islam. He also handled numerous national and global media requests about his religion.

"Many Americans had questions about Islam after 9/11 ... (they) came away with a better understanding of Islam (after my talks)," Yee said.

Because of his extensive knowledge of Islam, Yee was asked to serve as a chaplain at Guantanamo Bay. At the prison, he noticed questionable conditions, especially the use of religion "as a weapon to humiliate." He said the voicing of his concerns led to the false accusations brought against him.

Senior and co-chair for Vanderbilt University Speakers Committee (VUSC) Nina Wall said the organization chooses speakers based on

their "timeliness and political pertinence."

"Mr. Yee fit both of these qualifications," said Wall.

Junior Amearah Elsamadicy, vice-president of the Muslim Student Association, was happy about VUSC's choice of Yee. "This was needed because there wasn't a voice to Islam at Impact (last year)," said Elsamadicy.

Students attended Yee's presentation for reasons ranging from interest in international law to concern about human rights issues.

"I think it's important to know what's going on at Guantanamo," said sophomore Sarah Brand, president of Amnesty International.

For more information about Yee's experience, read his book "For God and Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire." ■

## Patriotism under fire



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Former U.S. Army Muslim Chaplain James Yee's presentation in the Student Life Center Monday night covered everything from international law to human rights issues. Yee wrote "For God and Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire" about the mistreatment he saw at Guantanamo Bay.

**GREEK SCENE**

# Greek Week aims to bring campus together

by NICK GALLO  
News Contributor

This year's Greek Week started Tuesday, Sept. 23, and will culminate Friday with a concert featuring 90s rock group Sister Hazel.

The week will feature a series of events including a banner competition, community service trip, a faculty appreciation breakfast and trivia

night Wednesday, a lip sync competition on Thursday and the concert on Alumni Lawn on Friday.

Greek Week has been a yearly event in the Vanderbilt community for so many years that even the Office of Greek Life staff isn't even sure how long ago it started. However, the purpose of Greek Week has remained the same over the years.

Tanner Marcantel, assistant

director of Greek Life, said Greek Week is a way for the Greek community to improve their standing on campus, since Greeks are often only noticed for negative or embarrassing issues.

"Greek Week is a time for the entire fraternity and sorority community to come together, form relationships, serve the campus and community, have fun and, of course, compete as

a team to be the Greek Week champs," said Marcantel.

Interfraternity Council executive board member Rhodes Amaker, a junior and member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, said Greek Week helps give the Greek community positive publicity.

"I think that Greek Week sheds light on some of the positive aspects of Greek Life that don't always get noticed by the rest of

the Vanderbilt community," said Amaker.

Panhellenic executive board and Alpha Delta Pi sorority member junior Caroline Dickens said Greek Week is a way to bring the whole campus together.

"The premise of this event is to foster a closer Vanderbilt community through the breaking down of barriers not only within the Greek system

itself but also between the Greek system and those university individuals who are non-Greek," said Dickens.

The leaders of the Greek community encourage non-Greek members as well as interested potential members to attend the events. Sororities and fraternities will use these events to meet those who are thinking about becoming Greek. ■

**ACADEMICS**

# Gender and politics: Hillary Clinton's campaign examined

by ABRAHAM HANSON  
News Contributor

The first installment of the four-part lecture series "Realities and Representations: The 2008 U.S. Presidential Campaign" debuted this past Monday focusing on gender in the U.S. Presidential Election.

The lecture, entitled "Gender and Hillary Clinton's Campaign: The Good, the Bad and the Misogynic," was presented by

Professor Susan J. Carroll of Rutgers University. Carroll's lecture sought to analyze Hillary Clinton's campaign and the challenges she faced from gender stereotypes and the media.

"Women face heightened scrutiny on their skills and talents. They are criticized if they are unable to perform the delicate balance of antiquated femininity as well as being a powerful woman," said junior

Kevin Duong, president of the Vanderbilt Democrats.

Carroll said Clinton's attempt at the Democratic nomination suffered several fundamental tensions. Negotiating gender-ascribed stereotypes, Clinton had to prove herself as an experienced, tough and prepared candidate while demonstrating her potential for change and humanity.

"Female candidates often have to overcome appearing

weak or inexperienced. Yet, they could not appear masculine or overly ambitious because they'll be accused of 'trying to act like a man,'" said sophomore Elizabeth Horn of Vanderbilt Feminists. "Also, their role as a mother and wife is scrutinized to a greater extent than male politicians' family roles."

Carroll also found media reinforced gender stereotypes. Carroll said sexism was not often considered newsworthy and

was even condoned and used by political pundits on cable news networks and national newspapers.

Carroll enumerated several examples of sexism used in the media during the Clinton campaign. She listed the scrutiny Clinton received for her laugh and pantsuits. She cited political commentator Mike Barnicle's statement describing Clinton as "everyone's first wife standing outside a probate court."

"The media treated Clinton differently from the other candidates by attempting to divorce her political and social capacities from her gendered context," Duong said.

The series is a joint effort of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities and the Communications Studies Department. Dates for the remaining three lectures can be found on the Warren Center calendar of events. ■



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4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
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# OPINION

## TV Fall Preview



**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

Well, we've been back for a month now. Most of you now probably believe that there's very little left to look forward to except fall break and our first football loss a week from this Saturday. By now you're aware that every weekend is pretty much the same routine, followed by the exact same routine when classes start on Monday.

The good news is that there is something better. There is something bigger than life here at Vanderbilt that is coming to redeem you and break the monotony. Naturally, I'm talking about television season premieres. And if you're one of those pretentious haters who wallow in their own self-righteous disapproval of others watching anything on TV, honestly, I hope you break both of your legs and come down with malaria. Then we'll see how often you can go rock climbing and do community service instead of watching "30 Rock."

Remarkably, there are still those other groups of people who either remain miserably unaware of their missed magical moments, or who actively engage in the perverted lifestyle of

self-deprivation. The latter half more often than not classify themselves as "very busy people" who just do not have the time to fritter away in self-indulgent recreation. As shocking as this may be to you dedicated viewers, that's how many of them view our TV watching: as lazily and aimlessly trying to fill up our static lives. Quite the

**“Or do they, like a modern Rumpelstiltskin, somehow magically get everything accomplished more quickly and easily than you?”**

contrary. Do you really believe those people watching seven or eight shows per week are any less busy than you? Or do they, like a modern Rumpelstiltskin, somehow magically get everything accomplished more quickly and easily than you?

Consistent television watching, like anything else, requires commitment. I am therefore taking it upon myself to alert you how to get the most from television because frankly, nobody cares about Versus. So to you time-crunch people, step back and take a look at where your time is going. Are you working out regularly? Don't be so vain and hop into "Dexter" or "Weeds," two Showtime diamonds. President of an organization? Schedule meetings for once a month and jump on the Heroes bandwagon. Do you feel like you're always doing a lot for your Greek organization? You know the solution to that: during chapter meetings alone, you're missing CBS's unbeatable comedy lineup of "The Big Bang Theory," "How I Met Your Mother" and "Two and a Half Men." Never-ending homework? Drop a class or stop being so motivated and discover why "The Office" is the funniest show on the air. This isn't even beginning to scratch the surface of football season, the return of Entourage, when everyone suddenly pretends they watch baseball in October and the January giants of "24" and "Lost." Now, I know it can be very tempting to slip into those easy time-killers, like MTV reality shows, the last third of that random HBO movie or "Survivor," but I want to challenge you to strive for something more. Do some research and find what fits for you. Ideally, find a friend or two, cut out that special time every week, and open the door for long, intellectually-charged debates over which characters you think would make good couples.

—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

## Meal plan woes deserve attention from Dining

On Monday, the Hustler reported some students found Varsity Market hours less than convenient and that the meal plan changes have decreased the variety of meal combinations. The response from Dining on the hours issue was expectedly levelheaded.

"Hours of operation are determined by location based on years of statistical information," General Manager of Varsity Markets Spiros Vergatos told the Hustler. There is little reason to call Vergatos's claim into question. Perhaps Dining should alter the hours of operation decisions it has made, given the complaints by its customers. But the office should be given the benefit of the doubt that such decisions were not made flippantly or without regard to students' needs.

When it comes to the specifics of the meal plan, however, Dining has made plenty of confusing decisions. The Pub's new dinner system is annoyingly inconvenient and less appetizing, and the removal of Stonehenge is lamentable if only because of its popularity. The restrictions placed on meal combinations at Varsity Markets and Rand Hall's Chef James Bistro are, however, the most puzzlingly backward policies. These restrictions of portion size and side definitions expand into some larger dining issues.

Students are right in their anger over a perceived restriction in food portions and options. To co-opt the popular phrase, a meal just ain't what it used to be, and students are not seeing the product they expect or want when the meal plan is purchased.

The regular 14 Plan offered for sophomores, juniors and seniors costs \$1885 per semester. With 16 weeks per semester and 14 meals per week, the

cost per meal per student under this plan is about \$8.42, with \$14 in meal money per week. For juniors and seniors on the 8 Plan, the per meal cost is about \$10.04 and \$17 in meal money per week. It may anger upperclassmen to learn the First-Year Plan for freshmen students, which allows for 28 meals per week (one per meal period), with each meal costing about \$4.69 and \$12.50 of meal money per week with no rollover. But as this school year has taught upperclassmen, the freshmen students live in a completely different environment from the rest of campus.

Beyond the Vanderbubble, issues like these are resolved in the market, where consumers dissatisfied with a product can choose to purchase substitution products elsewhere. This competition forces producers to meet the consumption preferences of the general population.

As both Housing and Dining often show us, living at Vanderbilt does not necessarily follow these basic precepts of economics. For students living on campus, the ability to opt out of the meal plan is becoming less available and perhaps nonexistent in a few years. This flaw of the residential life system should be disconcerting to more than just economics students.

As a private education institution, Vanderbilt is not a market and does not have a legal obligation to act in such a way. Students angry about the state of dining should voice their opinions to director Camp Howard ([camp.howard@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:camp.howard@vanderbilt.edu) or 615-322-2999) to encourage Dining to consider these objections. In return, Howard and Dining should continue to operate an open and transparent office that takes these issues of choice to heart.

## Rebuttal to "Success of post-Sept. 11 security"

**BRIAN WENTWORTH**

Guest Columnist

How can you argue against Sen. Barack Obama's statement "the Iraq War has left us less safe than we were before 9/11?" Please, put your partisan politics aside and look at the facts.

The Bush administration's premise for invading Iraq and deposing Hussein was on the grounds of alleged weapons of mass destruction and destroying Al Qaeda operations inside the nation. However, the 2002 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441 was unanimously passed, calling for Hussein to reopen Iraq to weapons inspectors; Hussein complied and let the inspectors in. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had found no weapons of mass destruction by February 2003, but the Bush administration was still adamant in its claims and sought to authorize military action.

Then-Secretary of State Colin Powell presented the case to the U.N., and received minimal support; in fact major nations like Canada, Germany, France and Russia did not wish to authorize an invasion. Thus a proposed measure calling for a U.N.-sanctioned invasion was withdrawn. Yet in March 2003, the U.S. led six other nations to war with Iraq.

No weapons of mass destruction were found. In fact, Al Qaeda did not exist in Iraq when the invasion began. Regardless of whether one thinks the war was justified or not, the U.S.'s willingness to lead the invasion without U.N. approval has clearly had negative ramifications. Our ties to Europe have been strained for the last five years, as nations are tired of U.S. unilateralism. More importantly, though, Al Qaeda still remains a top threat.

The invasion of Afghanistan was clearly justified since the Taliban were harboring Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda. Our forces had Al Qaeda on the run, hiding in caves in the mountains, but somehow we were never able to catch bin Laden. Once our military focus turned to Iraq, however, Al Qaeda was essentially given time to regroup. Now, they are growing in the Afghan-Pakistani border region, and bin Laden and his top aide Ayman al-Zawahiri remain alive. Furthermore, the Iraq War had the

disastrous consequence of creating a new terrorist cell, Al Qaeda in Iraq. AQI has been involved in suicide bombings and is continuing to fuel sectarian violence.

This embarrassing situation has frustrated the Bush administration, which is clearly at fault and justifies Obama's remark. We do not know where mastermind bin Laden is; we let him slip through our hands when we turned our attention to Iraq instead of Afghanistan. For this, we constantly have to be on high alert against terrorism — is this really your concept of being safer? Yes, we have been very fortunate to not have had another Sept. 11 in the mean time, but we are still vulnerable.

Now, Al Qaeda is focusing on getting operatives inside the U.S. to inflict even greater casualties than Sept. 11. Coupled with an increasing presence in Pakistan, against which President Bush authorized secret strikes, I ask again, how is our world safer? The War on Terror is tough, and we constantly have to refocus our efforts in order to protect ourselves — we are not safer, but rather just trying to manage some semblance of safety.

On a final note, I'll delve back into the political arena. You praise Bush for his vision that can only be judged down the road, but I find your criticism of Obama "ironic." In response to your question, "where has he been the past seven years?" my answer is: accurately assessing the situation at hand. He firmly believes it is necessary to destroy Al Qaeda's new stronghold in remote areas of Pakistan along the Afghani border, something Sen. John McCain is hesitant to endorse because he claims these attacks would be seen as attacks on Pakistan itself. Yet McCain is one of the most vocal supporters of the Iraq War — a war the U.S. provoked despite no direct threat to national security. Obama is for attacking known terrorists, yet McCain refuses to uphold his vow to "follow Osama bin Laden to the gates of hell." I suppose the gates of hell end in Iraq. Luckily for bin Laden, he's probably in Pakistan.

—Brian Wentworth is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [brian.j.wentworth@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brian.j.wentworth@vanderbilt.edu).

## The real facts about youth voting

To the Editor:

For someone who writes about the importance of making educated decisions, the author of the recent editorial "Voter registration encourages reckless voting" was not the least bit educated about SAVE. He accuses SAVE on numerous levels but fails to provide evidence for any of his ignorant claims.

Had the author of this editorial taken the time to adequately research the Vanderbilt chapter of SAVE, he would have been thoroughly surprised to find that his assumptions about this organization are unfounded and untrue. Although he attempts to label SAVE as a politically biased organization, I find that our attempts to remain non-partisan have been successful. This is because of our four officers, two are Democrats and two are Republicans. Even if this author abides by the belief that it is impossible to speak on political matters without imposing a bias, SAVE ensures that no one bias is prominent as our officers are evenly split in our political orientations.

Aside from his inaccurate claims about the organization, I found his larger claims about young voters appalling. For instance, his assertion that young voters are, "less interested and less educated about issues like terrorism, health care and taxes" is easily rebutted by the fact that 52 percent of the youth voters said the economy was their primary reason for voting, and another 24 percent said tax reform drove them to the polls. In fact, 22 percent of American youth reported that they unintentionally missed the registration deadline.

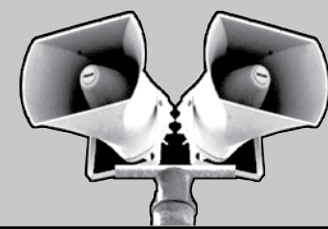
The editorial claims we "should be content with the number of young voters, no matter how high or how low, because that number will undoubtedly reflect which young voters are engaged in the political process enough to use the privilege responsibly." If this is true, than should we be "content" with the failing economy and skyrocketing gas prices? Should we accept that the recession we are in is merely a "reflection" of America's capabilities? In the unlikely story that is America, when have we ever settled for being merely content?

Voting is not a "privilege," it is a right. Every U.S. citizen who is 18 has the right to cast their vote come Nov. 4; it's part of living in a democracy. To the author of the original editorial, you were right in your claim that voters should be educated. But seeing as our country was founded upon the principles of democracy, every citizen not only deserves a vote, but also should be using that right. Holding both of these facts to be true, I cannot see how you would disagree with the SAVE's ultimate goal of informing and motivating young voters. Food for thought: If your peers, students of Vanderbilt University, are not "qualified" to vote, who is?

**Cameron Pasterick**  
President of the Student Associate for  
Voter Empowerment (SAVE)  
Junior, Peabody College

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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.

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

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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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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United States Senate  
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**Sen. Douglas Henry Jr.**  
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Senior Class Fund 2009

# SPORTS

## Commodore defense dominates

Vanderbilt's 10 interceptions are tied for most in the nation

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Specialist

No. 21 Vanderbilt has not had it this good in football since before every undergraduate student on campus was born.

It's good to be gold right now, and the Commodore faithful can thank an opportunistic defense most of all for that.

"We've had some pretty spectacular plays," Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson said of his defense.

You can say that again, Coach. Thus far, Vanderbilt's ferocious defensive unit is ranked not just atop the Southeastern Conference but the entire country in forcing turnovers.

After intercepting four passes and recovering two fumbles in a wild 23-17 victory over Ole Miss on Saturday, Vanderbilt was tied with Texas Tech for most interceptions in the country with 10 and was second in the country with 14 total takeaways.

In Vanderbilt's last three games, the team's opponent has out-gained them by at least 63 yards each time but always lost the turnover battle. Vanderbilt's plus-nine turnover ratio is good for fifth in the nation.

And the big plays by the defense have come when Vanderbilt's need has been most dire.

After Vanderbilt fell behind 10-0 early against Ole Miss and was staring at an even larger deficit after losing a fumble, junior safety Ryan Hamilton stepped up in a huge



DANNY KLIMENTZ / The Daily Mississippian  
Ryan Hamilton (2) and Patrick Benoist (30), pictured here against Ole Miss, have both been recognized as Bronco Nagurski Defensive Players of the Week this season by the Football Writers Association of America.



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Brent Trice (11) registers one of Vanderbilt's conference-leading 11 sacks against Rice. Trice forced a fumble on the play and recovered the football.

way, intercepting Ole Miss quarterback Jevan Snead's errant pass and taking it back for a touchdown, swinging momentum back towards Vanderbilt.

"We came out and knew that we were going to have to do something to get this game turned around," Hamilton said. "I just read off the quarterback and I guess I made the right play at the right time."

Even after falling behind 17-7, the Commodores buckled down defensively in every fashion. The Rebels were within yards of a touchdown twice before Vanderbilt made a huge stop. Hamilton, to go along with his eventual three interceptions, made a touchdown-saving tackle on fourth down to stop the Rebels in the third quarter. Redshirt freshman linebacker Chris Marve made the play of the game late in the fourth quarter with Vanderbilt holding a tenuous three-point lead,

stripping Ole Miss' Dexter McCluskey of the football at the Vanderbilt 2-yard line and allowing junior D.J. Moore to recover the fumble.

"I got a chance to make a tackle, make a strip. I went for it and I got it," Marve said. "We needed to make a play."

"I don't know how to explain it," Hamilton said of Marve's heroics. "It was an amazing play."

The Rebels never scored after the first quarter, the second straight time Vanderbilt's defense pitched a second-half shutout.

"I can't say enough about them," said redshirt junior running back Jared Hawkins. "All the guys on defense played an awesome game."

Hamilton's remarkable performance earned him the Bronco Nagurski Defensive Player of the Week Award from the Football Writers Association of America. Amazingly, he is the second Commodore in three weeks to

earn the prestigious honor after the FWAA recognized junior linebacker Patrick Benoist for his 15-tackle performance against South Carolina on Sept. 4.

Time after time this season, the defense has stepped up when it appeared the game was going the other way.

Against South Carolina, two first-half interceptions by redshirt senior safety Reshard Langford and redshirt junior nickelback Darlron Spead kept the Gamecocks from running away with the game while Vanderbilt struggled to 50 first-half offensive yards. In the second half, a recovery of a muffed punt allowed the Commodores to score their first touchdown on the next play and the team never looked back.

After a difficult first half against Rice, the Vanderbilt secondary shut down the Owl passing attack in the second half en route to a 38-21 win.

The ability to get

consistent pressure on the quarterback has been crucial to Vanderbilt's success in forcing turnovers. In addition to forcing bad throws, the Commodore defense has 11 sacks, tops in the SEC.

"Most quarterbacks aren't nearly as good when they have to move their feet and throw the ball in a hurry," Johnson said.

Thanks in large part to the strong play of the defense in clutch situations, Vanderbilt has a perfect record and a national ranking. But don't think that with the recognition coach Johnson and the Vanderbilt defense will start to slack.

"We're not against it, believe me, but it won't help us win the next game," Johnson said. "But it's good to be recognized."

"We're having fun working hard," Marve said. "We're used to working hard. It's ingrained in our minds to do that." ■

## Women's tennis looks for continued success

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Specialist

Though the Vanderbilt women's tennis team comes off its 11th consecutive Sweet 16 appearance, the Commodores have higher hopes for this year.

The Commodores begin play this weekend in Greenville, SC at the Furman Fall Classic, where recent graduate Taka Bertrand and current senior Courtney Ulery captured singles championships last season. The doubles team of Bertrand and junior Catherine Newman won a doubles title at the event.

For this season, Newman was ranked No. 40 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association preseason rankings at singles, while Ulery was rewarded with a No. 56 ranking. Though the two have not played a doubles match together, the pair has been pre-ranked No. 35 in the doubles division by the ITA, but Newman dismisses the rankings as unimportant.

"I don't think (rankings) are completely accurate," Newman said. "Sometimes they are relatively, but I think they're a little messed up."



McDONALD

Coach Geoff MacDonald, the longest-tenured coach at Vanderbilt, enters his 15th season. The women's tennis program has had historically huge success under him, including appearances in the national championship in 2001 and the Final Four in 2004. The team has garnered five top-10 rankings at the end of the season, and every one of his Vanderbilt teams has finished the season ranked in the top 16.

"He knows what he's doing," Newman said. "He genuinely cares a lot about all of us, and he wants us all to get better as players and as people."

This year, the Commodores

will be without Bertrand, who won 124 singles matches at Vanderbilt, the highest mark in school history. Also, they will be missing Amanda Taylor, a two-time All-American who rose to as high as No. 9 in the ITA doubles rankings. This year's team returns four players and has four freshmen.

"We're pretty young, so we want to gain experience as we go and get better as a team," Newman said. "Obviously, our goal is always to win the SEC championship and get to the top 16 of the NCAA Tournament."

Ulery, the team's lone senior, has never been on a team that advanced past the second round of the NCAA's; last year Vanderbilt fell 4-1 in the Sweet 16 to No. 4 Florida.

"I would love to advance past the Sweet 16 because that's as far I've been the last two years, and that's as far as Courtney's been the last three years," Newman said.

Vanderbilt will go around to several tournaments before returning to Nashville for the June Stewart Invitational on Oct. 17. ■

## Vanderbilt recruiting update

by MIKE KRANZLER  
Sports Contributor

Vanderbilt baseball has a sixth verbal commitment according to VandySports.com. Curt Powell, a right-handed middle infielder from Farragut High School in Knoxville, was the Knoxville News' player of the year last season in leading his team to a state title. Measuring 6 feet tall and 165 pounds, Powell hit .493 last year with eight home runs and 56 RBIs.

Vanderbilt head coach Melanie Balcomb's women's basketball team has two verbal commitments thus far according to ESPN and the Scout Network. Stephanie

Holzer is a 6-foot-4-inch post player from Springfield, Pa. who is rated as a top 100 recruit by ESPN's recruiting service. Gabby Smith, a 5-foot-11-inch guard, averaged 12 points per game for Mt. Notre Dame High School in Cincinnati last year.

With few scholarships available due to having only three seniors on the roster, Balcomb may only look to sign one or two more players to this recruiting class.

The Vanderbilt Hustler will continue to provide updates as more athletes choose to make Vanderbilt their new home as members of the Black and Gold. ■

### SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by David Shochat

	<b>1. Florida</b> 3-0 (1-0 SEC) Georgia may be ranked ahead of the Gators nationally, but the Gators are the team to beat in the SEC after embarrassing UT.
	<b>2. Georgia</b> 4-0 (1-0) The Bulldogs will wear their "lucky" black uniforms for only the third time in school history against Alabama. They may need them, considering they are the most penalized team in the SEC.
	<b>3. LSU</b> 3-0 (1-0) Jarrett Lee looks to be the Tigers' new quarterback as he led the team to victory over Auburn. The success of Alabama and LSU this year has added even more fuel to the rivalry Nick Saban has created.
	<b>4. Alabama</b> 4-0 (1-0) Is Alabama the team to beat in the West? A win over Georgia could tell us a lot about Saban's team. Both teams are ranked in the top 10 nationally in rushing defense.
	<b>5. Auburn</b> 3-1 (1-1) The Tigers suffered a tough loss to LSU last weekend at home, but luckily for them they get to play an abysmal Tennessee team this weekend before coming to Nashville.
	<b>6. Vanderbilt</b> 4-0 (2-0) The Commodores are the third-least penalized team in the nation and lead the SEC in red-zone efficiency. They have two weeks to recover from a multitude of injuries and prepare for possibly the biggest game in the Bobby Johnson era to date against Auburn.
	<b>7. Kentucky</b> 3-0 (0-0) Kentucky has a solid defense, but its offense is suspect at best. It would be interesting to see how they do against an SEC team, but we have to wait until October to see.
	<b>8. Ole Miss</b> 2-0 (0-1) After a heart-breaking loss to Vanderbilt, the Rebels need to pick their heads up because Florida isn't going to feel sorry for them this weekend when they head to the Swamp.
	<b>9. South Carolina</b> 2-2 (0-2) The Gamecocks had trouble beating lowly Wofford. Who would have thought that their game against UT might determine the doormat of the East?
	<b>10. Tennessee</b> 1-2 (0-1) There is nothing more beautiful than to watch the Vols suffer. It's OK Vols fans, get down off that ledge and come on over to Dudley to watch the best football team in Tennessee.
	<b>11. Mississippi State</b> 1-3 (0-1) They can't run the ball, and they can't stop the run. The Bulldogs turned the ball over four times last weekend in their loss to Georgia Tech.
	<b>12. Arkansas</b> 2-1 (0-1) With seven turnovers and only one interception, the Razorbacks' -6 turnover margin is ranked 115th out of 119 teams.

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