



SCIENCE & MEDICINE: Student Health offers free flu shots, morning after pills. **SEE PAGE 3**

PIPPEN: 'GameDay' visit means Commodore fans need to turn into fanatics. **SEE PAGE 4**

Financial aid changes unveiled

by **EVE ATTERMANN**
Administration Specialist

Starting next semester with the class of 2009, Vanderbilt will be replacing all need-based student loans with grant and scholarship assistance. All other students will be able to benefit from the new financial aid package next year.

"No school has done all of this," said Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Richard McCarty. "Chancellor (Nick) Zeppos made this call, and we have risen to his challenge. He is the hero in all of this."

McCarty said the decision to offer the increased financial aid options to this year's class

of seniors in their last semester was born of a perceived need to avoid privileging one class over the other.

Vanderbilt has also decided not to impose specified income-level caps in deciding eligibility for the program because middle-income families have largely been neglected in the past, according to officials.

The expanded financial aid package will not affect federal aid (FAFSA), and families can still apply for federal loans in the same way they have in the past.

"We have decided to be consistent with every family," said Associate Provost for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen. "(Eliminating

income cut-offs moves away from directly affecting just the lower-income families but not the middle-income families."

The new initiative will be funded by strategic budget allocations, along with a \$100 million fundraising campaign under a new scholarship endowment. It is the culmination of a seven-year initiative to reduce students' education-related debt that has already reduced the average overall indebtedness of graduating seniors by 17 percent.

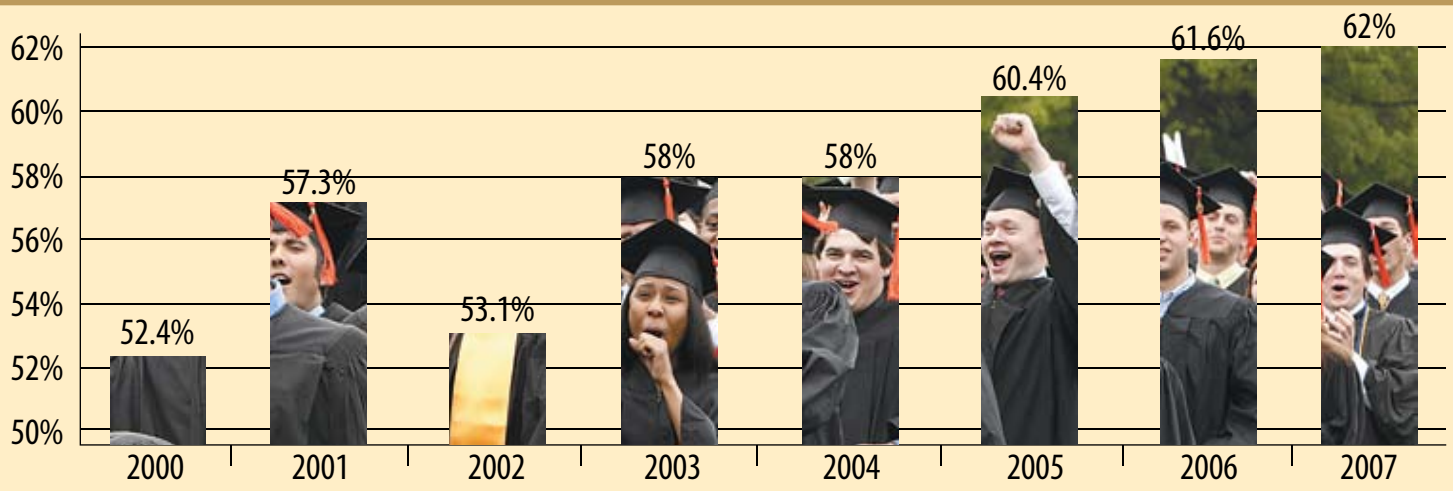
The fundraising campaign, called Shape the Future, has been extended three years in order to raise the \$100 million the school needs to fully replace need-based student loans.

According to McCarty, the campaign is a financial challenge that relies heavily on the generosity of alumni. If the money is not raised within the extended three-year time frame, then money will have to be further reallocated from the budget.

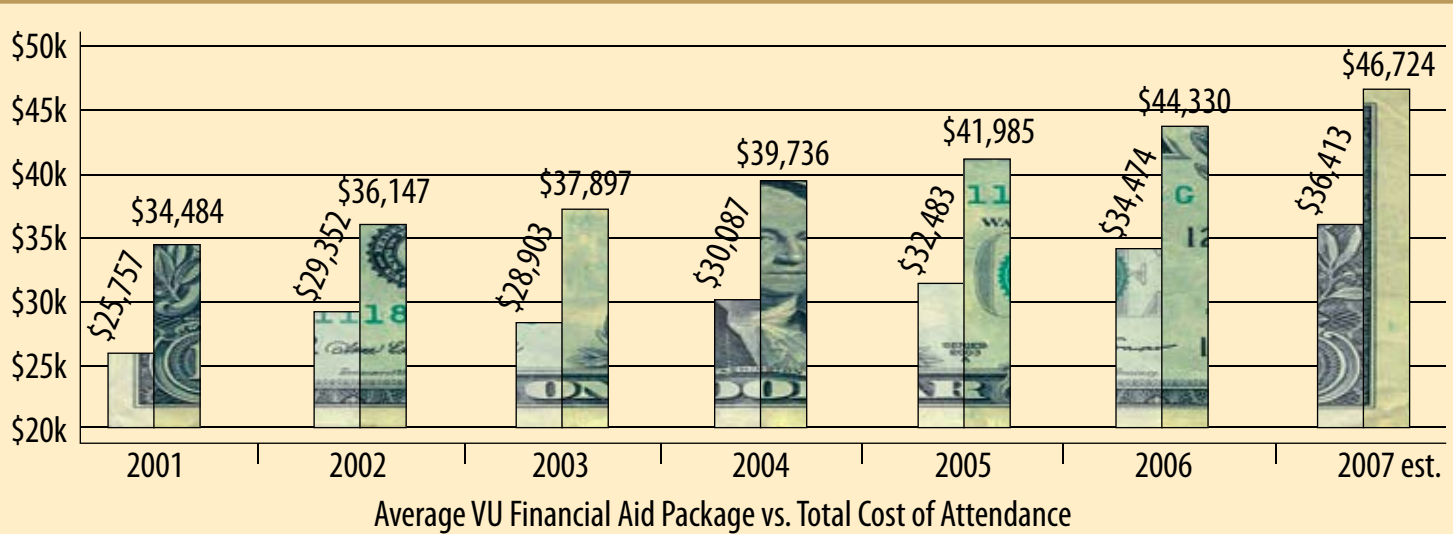
The administration hopes the new financial aid package will make Vanderbilt more attractive to competitive applicants, according to Christiansen and McCarty.

"This is all part of the game, putting our best foot forward, well-positioned to compete for the best," Christiansen said. "Now we have a compelling aid package as well as a compelling academic package." ■

PERCENT OF VANDERBILT UNDERGRADUATES RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



FINANCIAL AID INCREASES ALONG WITH RISING COSTS



ADMINISTRATION

Despite recession, Vanderbilt continues to soundly invest

by **JENNIFER DENNARD**
News Contributor

Although the economy is struggling, Vanderbilt's Office of Investments has a meticulous process in place for exactly that reason — to manage risk and generate revenue under any conditions.

Vanderbilt's \$3.5 billion is invested in a variety of areas to provide profit and to maintain security — an important characteristic in the current recession.

One of the most important

things the investments office looks at is "the economic underpinnings to the investment philosophy," said Vice Chancellor of Investments Matthew Wright. "We want to make sure they don't base their investments on whether there is a full moon or not," said Wright.

The Office of Investments employs 16 people dedicated to assessing risk, calculating performance and researching new opportunities. According to Wright, Vanderbilt invests using institutional funds. These funds are similar to mutual

funds but manage much larger amounts of money. Like mutual funds, institutional funds can be invested in a variety of things including stocks. Because of this, the Office of Investments is watching the recent market failings as closely as any investor.

To ensure variety and security, Vanderbilt invests in many different funds. However, due to the small size of the school's endowment in comparison to other schools, they cannot invest in quite the same way.

"Vanderbilt is smaller than Stanford or Yale, and thus

cannot have separately managed accounts," Wright said.

According to Wright, having separate accounts would allow Vanderbilt to designate certain stocks or areas it does not want to invest in. Schools like Yale have \$20 to \$30 billion endowments, and therefore have the ability to have accounts like these.

In addition to this, Wright said the office carefully considers how stocks are chosen — deciding whether to leave the decisions up to a single person or to use a repeatable system for choosing assets. ■



Check out this week's Versus for an interview with Death Cab for Cutie, fall's must-see movies and the top 10 drunken karaoke songs.

FULL SECTION INSIDE

CAMPUS LIVING

'GameDay' meets Family Weekend in flurry of activity

by **LAUREN KOENIG**
News Contributor

ESPN's decision to bring "College GameDay" to Vanderbilt on Saturday has caused plenty of excitement while also forcing a bit of a change in the already-scheduled Family Weekend activities.

The freshmen family reception, planned to take place on the Commons, is being moved to make room for Lee Corso and company.

The reception was originally supposed to take place on the lower quad lawn, but that is where ESPN will have their site set up.

"We're excited that ESPN is here and will do everything we can to accommodate them," said Suzanne Thigpen, director of Parents and Family Programs.

The new location hasn't been decided, but the presence of national TV's most popular college pregame show will appeal to those attending Family Weekend.

"Including students and parents, we have up to 3,491 registered for the weekend," Thigpen said.

Hotels closest to the campus are already booked for the weekend, and tickets are sold out for the Vanderbilt versus Auburn football game.

"We sold over 3,200 tickets for the parents and families section for the Auburn game during the August pre-sale. It's a big draw and very exciting," Thigpen said.

On Friday, a freshmen family reception will be hosted by Dean of the Commons



Frank Wcislo and his wife, Joan Wcislo. Dean of Students Mark Bandas will also host an upperclassmen family reception.

On Saturday, families are invited to participate in the Pre-Game Tailgate Picnic. "With the excitement around Auburn and Vanderbilt being 4-0 and 19th in the nation, there's a lot of energy," said Thigpen.

Other events of family weekend include four faculty lectures. In particular, Distinguished Professor of Political Science John Geer's lecture on the 2008 Presidential Campaign is expected to attract a large audience.

On Sunday, Miles and Music for Kids III, a motorcycle ride and concert, will benefit Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. The event is optional and tickets are purchased separately from Family Weekend.

The registration fee is \$35 per person (children under 12 are free). The schedule is still tentative, so be sure to check the Family Weekend website for the most up-to-date schedule of events: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/familyweekend/index.html>. ■

SPORTS: Staff lays out Commodores' recipe for success against Auburn; plus, SEC Power Rankings. SEE PAGE 6

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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by JANELLE STOKES

WEATHER

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TODAY



HIGH **71**, LOW **46**
Mostly sunny

THURSDAY



HIGH **71**, LOW **46**
Sunny

STAFF

- Editor **Michael Warren**
michael.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu
- Day Managers
Hannah Twillman
hannah.t.twillman@vanderbilt.edu
- Eve Attermann**
eve.r.attermann@vanderbilt.edu
- Janelle Stokes**
janelle.k.stokes@vanderbilt.edu
- Opinion Editor **Thomas Shattuck**
thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu
- Senior Copy Editor **Hannah Twillman**
hannah.t.twillman@vanderbilt.edu
- Academics Specialist **Judy Wang**
zhu.wang@vanderbilt.edu
- Administration Specialist **Eve Attermann**
eve.r.attermann@vanderbilt.edu
- Campus Living Specialist **Norah Scanlan**
norah.o.scanlan@vanderbilt.edu
- Leadership Specialist **Lily Chen**
lily.z.chen@vanderbilt.edu
- Greek Scene Specialist **Janelle Stokes**
janelle.k.stokes@vanderbilt.edu
- Science and Medicine Specialist **Allie Morris**
allison.d.morris@vanderbilt.edu
- Sports Specialist **David Rutz**
david.c.rutz@vanderbilt.edu
- Election Project Director **Katherine Miller**
katherine.m.miller@vanderbilt.edu
- Commons Project Director **Kelly Swope**
kelly.m.swope@vanderbilt.edu
- Art Director **Matt Radford**
matt@vscmedia.org
- Photo Editor **Chris Phare**
chris.phare@vanderbilt.edu

SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES
Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

Vice presidential debate offers Palin, Biden high risks, big rewards

NEW YORK (AP)—For an audition to be second fiddle, Thursday's debate between often ill-informed newcomer Sarah Palin and often gaffe-prone veteran Joe Biden offers unusually large pitfalls — and promise.

For once, the whole world may be watching. Already, 3,100 media credentials have been issued, the most the Commission on Presidential Debates ever needed in seven vice presidential debates it's hosted.

The attention is driven by the public's fascination with Palin, the first-term Alaska governor that Republican presidential candidate John McCain plucked from relative political obscurity to be his running mate.

Initially, Palin was praised as a superb political communicator for the delivery of her acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention four weeks ago. She energized the party's conservative base, which had reservations about McCain, and quickly showed she could outdraw McCain on the stump — a likely factor in their decision to appear together more often than running mates usually do.

But a series of shaky Palin television interviews have left even some conservatives questioning whether she is ready to be vice president. She couldn't describe the Bush doctrine in foreign affairs, seemed to have little grasp of the proposed financial industry bailout and even appeared to endorse Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's position on chasing al-Qaida terrorists in Pakistan.

Palin's performance against Biden, the Delaware Democrat with 35 years in the Senate, could restore her initial luster or seriously weaken the GOP ticket.

Bailout revival sought by Congress, with better deposit safety

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a surprise move to resurrect President Bush's \$700 billion Wall Street rescue plan, Senate leaders slated a vote on the measure for Wednesday — but added a tax cut plan already rejected by the House.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and GOP Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky unveiled the plan Tuesday. The Senate plan would also raise federal deposit insurance limits to \$250,000 from \$100,000, as called for by the two presidential nominees only hours earlier.

The move to add a tax legislation — including a set of popular business tax breaks — risked a backlash from House Democrats insisting they be paid for with tax increases elsewhere.

But by also adding legislation to prevent more than 20 million middle-class taxpayers from feeling the bite of the alternative minimum tax, the step could build momentum for the Wall Street bailout from House Republicans. The presidential candidates Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., intend to fly to Washington for the votes, as does Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware, the Democratic vice presidential candidate.

The surprise move capped a day in which supporters of the imperiled multibillion-dollar economic rescue fought to bring it back to life, courting reluctant lawmakers with a variety of other sweeteners including the plan to reassure Americans their bank deposits are safe.

Wall Street, at least, regained hope. The Dow Jones industrials rose 485 points, one day after a record 778-point plunge following rejection in the U.S. House of the plan worked out by congressional leaders and the Bush administration.

Voting for president begins weeks early in pivotal swing state Ohio

CLEVELAND (AP)—In the state that may again determine the presidency, voters started casting ballots Tuesday as Barack Obama struggles to thwart a John McCain victory in Ohio four years after it tipped the election to President Bush.

Both candidates visit often while spending millions of dollars flooding TV and radio with advertisements, mailboxes with literature and even voicemail with automated phone calls to get supporters to the polls, particularly during the one-week window in which people can register and vote in one swoop.

Early participation appeared light; officials in the state's largest counties that are home to Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo and Dayton each reported several hundred ballots cast by afternoon. Many of those who voted cited convenience.

"I wanted to avoid the traffic and the people," said Charlene Glass, 49, of Cleveland Heights. A first-time voter, she backed Obama and expressed her enthusiasm for a black candidate. In Dayton, Terri Bell, 49, chose McCain because of his experience and his military service. "I have a lot on my plate. I wanted to do this early," she said.

At stake: 20 electoral votes — perhaps, the presidency itself. Most recent state polls show Obama slightly ahead if not more.

The disparity underscores the difficulty Obama is having in closing the deal in this pivotal state. He's a first-term senator from Chicago with a liberal voting record and would be the country's first black president.

In all, 270 electoral votes are needed for victory.

Huge TVA electric rate increase takes effect; largest hike in 30 years

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Tennessee Valley Authority's largest electric rate increase in more than three decades takes effect Wednesday.

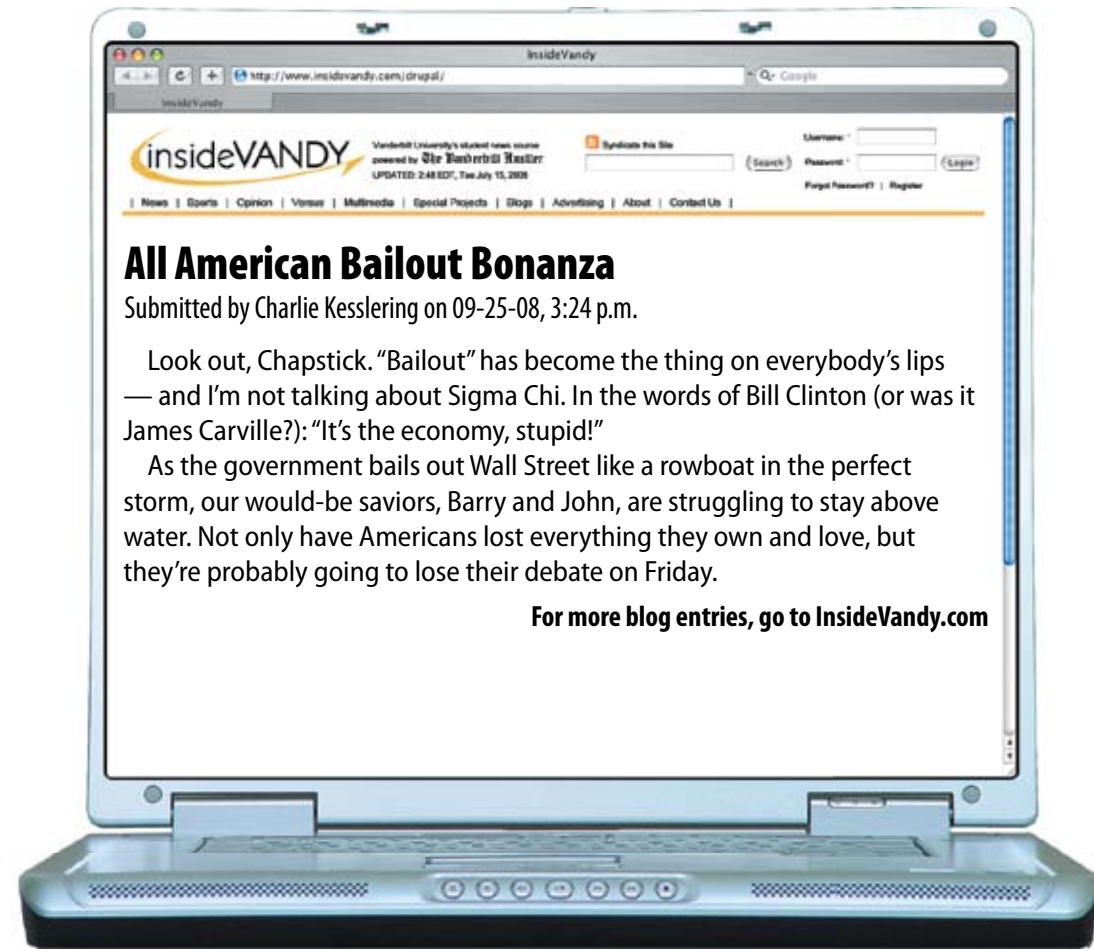
The 20 percent hike is expected to add about \$16 to \$20 a month to the average residential bill. It's TVA's biggest rate boost since 1974 and its second in 2008.

Virtually all of TVA's 159 distributors in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia were expected to pass the higher rates on to their customers.

TVA blames the increase on skyrocketing fuel costs for its power plants and a three-year drought that's hurt hydroelectric power production.

But it comes as Tennessee distributors say consumers already are struggling to pay their power bills on time and avoid service cutoffs.

FROM THE BLOG



SNAPSHOT

A SCUFFLE FOR THE BALL



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

On Sept. 26th, the Vanderbilt Women's Soccer team hosted Alabama at the Vanderbilt Soccer Complex. Alabama defeated Vandy 2-0.

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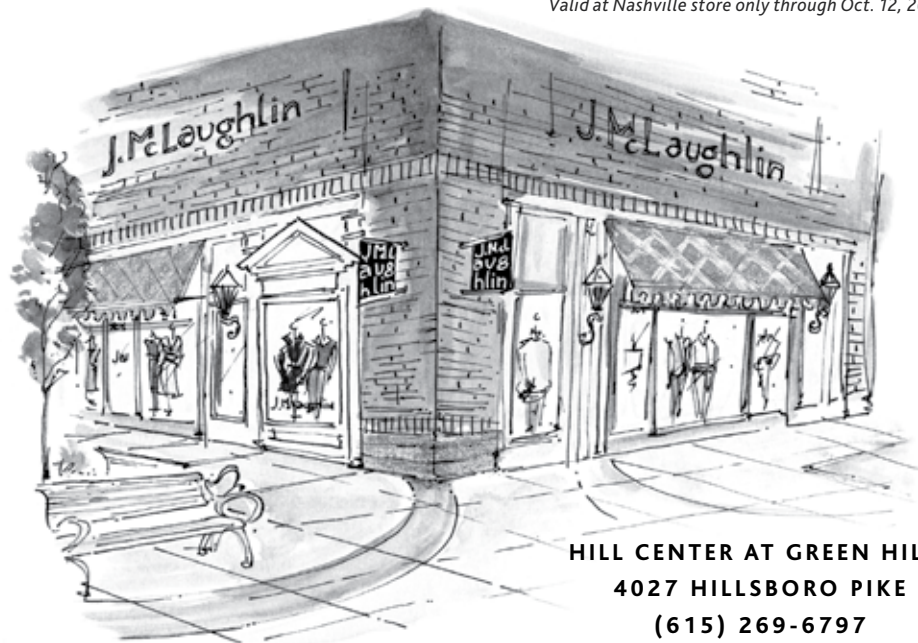
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SCIENCE & MEDICINE

Wellness Clinic to dispense free Plan B

by ALLIE MORRIS
Science & Medicine Specialist

Due to an increase in demand and funding at the clinic, the Student Health Center will give out free Plan B on Oct. 13 in addition to flu vaccinations available to all students throughout the month of October.

Educational programming on STDs will also be available.

Louise Hanson, director of Student Health, said in order to raise awareness that Plan B, commonly referred to as the "morning after pill," is available at the Student Health Center, the pill will be given out for free at this special Wellness Clinic event.

"People know (Plan B is) over the counter but don't necessarily think it's OK to come to us," said Hanson. "It's more comfortable coming here."

According to a statement from Dean of Students Mark Bandas, "In an even fewer number of cases, the people making the report (of being sexually assaulted) indicated that they made the report in order to obtain certain medical services from the ER, including the 'morning after' pill and treatment for STDs."

Plan B has a commercial value of roughly \$40-50 but is sold at the Student

Health Center for \$15.

Hanson countered the argument that dispensing Plan B will increase unsafe sex. "Having Plan B available doesn't mean people will change their behavior. If the unexpected happens, be prepared. When you get in your car, you put on a seatbelt, why not just have the pill sitting in your room if something does happen?"

In addition to Plan B, the health

center is also offering free HIV screening, information about STDs and free flu shots. Unlike previous years when flu vaccines have been limited, the Health Center already has 3,000 vaccines in stock. The free shots will begin on Oct. 13 at the Wellness Clinic held at the Student Health Center, and continue through the rest of October at the Commons on Oct. 14 and Sarratt on the Oct. 28 and 29. ■

LEADERSHIP

Budget approved by House

by LILY CHEN
Leadership Specialist

At the Vanderbilt Student Government House meeting Wednesday, the budget for the 2008-2009 school year was approved. The budget, allocating a total of approximately \$109,623, was distributed among 10 committees, four councils, six housing areas, other programming and other administrative costs. The income was received from student fees, Dean of Students, the Vanderbilt Bookstore and the VSG run shuttle services. ■

Total Revenue for 2008-2009 Estimate ⁽¹⁾	\$109,623
VSG Fiscal Year 2008-2009	
Committees	
Organizational Relations	840
Athletics	8,500
Special Events	5,000
Publicity	500
Student Services and Technology	10,500
Community Service	5,000
Environmental Affairs	2,000
Security	1,500
First Year Relations	5,000
Campus Services	1,000
Senate	
Engineering Council	600
Blair Council	1,500
Peabody Council	1,160
A&S Council	3,750
House	
Area 1 (Kissam)	2,000
Area 2 (Alumni)	1,500
Area 3 (CT)	1,600
Area 4 (BQ)	2,000
Area 5 (HQ)	2,000
Area 6 (Coms)	3,000
Central-Exec	
Co-sponsorships	23,000
Other programming ⁽²⁾	15,673
Other	
Administrative costs ⁽³⁾	12,000
Total Expenses	\$109,623
Total Revenue Remaining	\$0

(1) Estimated income from student fees, Dean of Students, bookstore and shuttle services.
(2) Includes VSG central events/programs (ex. shuttle service, holiday party) as well as logo items and other branding costs.
(3) Includes printing, advertising, phones, and office expenses.

ACADEMICS

Our Town: Timely depiction of classic American play

by SARAH BILSKY
News Contributor

On Oct. 3, Thornton Wilder's tale of the beauty of life and despair of living, "Our Town," will debut at the Neely Auditorium at Vanderbilt University.

Director Terryl Hallquist, an associate professor of theater, chose the play due to its use of commonplace themes. "It's a universal play; if there is one American play that is going to go on forever, this is going to be the one," said Hallquist.

"Our Town," a play in three acts, is perhaps one of the most frequently produced plays by an American playwright. Set in a small fictional town in New Hampshire in the beginning of the 20th century, "Our Town" chronicles the growth and development of members of the town of Grover's Corner.

The play documents the

relationship between Emily Webb and Peter Gibb, examining as they grow from childhood friends to partners in marriage and the ties that connect them in death. The play emphasizes how important it is for mankind to live every day to its fullest. It encourages the viewer to appreciate life and value the poignancy of everyday moments.

"If you are looking for anything about American theater, 'Our Town' is pretty much the pinnacle," said sophomore Jane Hirtle, publicity co-chair of Vanderbilt Theater.

("Our Town" is) about us, it's about our time," said Hallquist.

"Our Town" will be performed at 8 p.m. on Oct. 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11, and at 2 p.m. on Oct. 5.

Admission is \$10 for the general public, \$7 for graduate and professional students and free for undergraduates with Vanderbilt identification. ■



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What are you doing after graduation?

Michael B. Keegan Traveling Fellowship Informational Session

Time: Friday, Oct. 3rd 4:00-5:00 PM
Place: Office of the Dean of Students Conference Room, 311 Sarratt

This one-year program is open to any Vanderbilt University senior who will graduate in December 2008 or May 2009. The program is designed as an opportunity to explore an idea or an issue through world travel.

www.vanderbilt.edu/travelfellowship

Eyeblast.tv
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THE BACK PAGE

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Click the gold Hustler/Versus button at the bottom right of the home page



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09/29/08 SOLUTIONS

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VANDEBUDDIES PLAYDAY is almost here!!!



Get your organization involved by singing up for a booth!

Where: Library Lawn
Date: Friday, October 10th
Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

How Do I get my organization involved?
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- ACROSS**
1 Accumulate
6 Sign of healing
10 Ostrich cousins
14 "The Count of ___ Cristo"
15 Musical medley
16 Up in smoke
17 Swallowed
18 Crooner Perry
19 As soon as
20 Slammin' Sammy
21 News tidbit
22 Canasta play
23 Funny Jay
25 Arguments
27 "Be prepared" grp.
30 Little blows
32 Put on
33 Lockheed
36 Uses a sieve
40 Horn sound
41 Thickset
43 Actor Gross
44 Goes over the edge
46 Forecaster, of sorts
48 Stick up
50 Orlando or Randall
51 Ritzy rock
52 Munitions depot
56 Pain in the neck
58 Grooves
59 Military post
61 Spud
65 Historic periods
66 Concept
67 Writer Jong
68 "___ That Tune"
69 Zest
70 Nocturnal fliers
71 Austrian range
72 Places
73 Lower oneself
- DOWN**
1 Iowa city
2 Lamentation
3 Fed the kitty
4 Pifer
5 Mailers
6 Person with an aggressive disorder
7 Congeal
8 Pointed, as a gun
9 Flourished
10 Narcissus
11 "Water Lilies" painter
12 Sam, for one
13 Burpee order
24 Fuzzy textures
26 Derek and Diddley
27 Chester A. Riley's sitcom daughter
28 Spotted
29 Surface size
31 Scurry
34 Weighs heavily upon
35 Henry James novel, with "The"
37 Aquatic croaker
38 Use a keyboard
39 Appear
42 Particular hue
45 Word in sequels
47 Methods
49 Infants
52 Place for combat
53 Bucolic
54 Postal sticker
55 Long-handled spoon
57 Fortune cards
60 Bucket in a car?
62 Mambo king
63 Canyon reply
64 Hoarse sound

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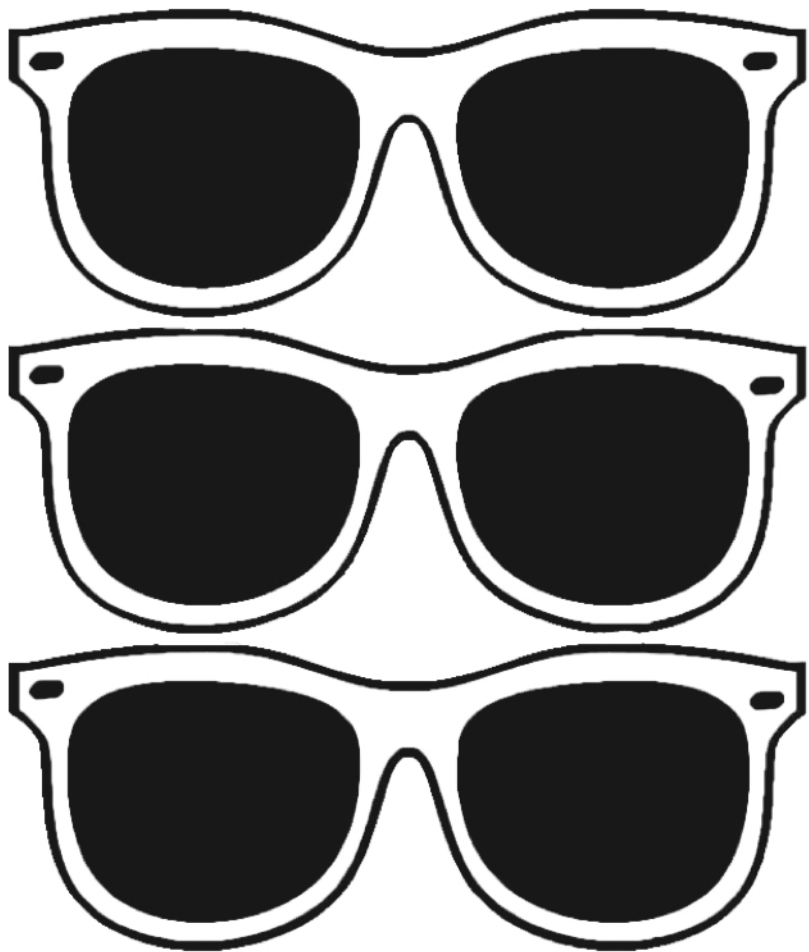
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10/1/08

9/29/08 SOLUTIONS

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KOALA Week, September 28-October 3 Respect the Decision Week

A Brother's Reason

Freshman year was just a blast: there were new people to meet, a new environment to explore, and, of course, alcohol to consume. As much as people gloss over it, alcohol is actually a large factor on campus. I had always felt that alcohol was there to facilitate a good time and really didn't have any ill effects if used in moderation. Although I've heard my share of stories about alcoholics, watched many an episode of Intervention, and read about teetotalers who think alcohol is the devil, I had always thought that those people were in the minority and that those were the only reasons for their extreme views on alcohol, both excessive use and temperate. Now I know differently.



I was a part of fraternity rush freshman year, and second semester, I was given a bid and gladly accepted. Our pledge class set a record for the number of people joining, and the task of getting to know everyone was daunting. Through the process of getting to know one another, I found out an interesting fact about a particular brother. He didn't drink. I paused when I learned this fact, but after a while, I just casually dismissed it as either a random decision or a stupid one. Everyone, of course, accepted him for who he was and respected his decision about alcohol, but I could not help but feel that lingering thought of impropriety.

Eventually, our class was initiated, and we went on with our lives as brothers. Not soon after, however, everyone in the fraternity received an email from our president. The brother, who chose not to drink and was usually jokingly teased about his decision, was now on a plane home. His father was in the hospital for cirrhosis of the liver. The prognosis was very bad.

That's when it hit me. His decision not to drink wasn't based off of indoctrination about the evils of alcohol or the fear of being caught and his life ruined. He had personal reasons for his decision. It was because he simply did not wish to drink. I had always respected his decision not to drink before; after that day, however, I respected him even more for standing up for his decision not to drink, especially with all of the peer pressure that he must have faced.

Koala Week is sponsored by the Office of Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention, CHEERS, GAMMA and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee.

For more information contact the Office of Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention at 343-4740.

SPORTS

What's the key to victory over Auburn?

The Hustler Sports Staff discusses

Commodores must win turnover battle

by DAVID SHOCHAT
Sports Contributor

Physical defense needs to show up early

by PETER LETARTE
Sports Contributor

Home field advantage will be crucial

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist



Chris Nickson (3) has yet to throw an interception this season but has also yet to throw for more than 91 yards in a game.

The key to victory this weekend is for the Commodores to win the turnover battle and, more specifically, not to turn the ball over. For a team that leads the nation in turnover margin, creating turnovers while taking care of the ball on offense has been a big part of Vanderbilt's success so far this season. Redshirt senior Chris Nickson has yet to throw an interception this season; however, against Auburn's defensive line, one of the best in the nation having allowed only one rushing touchdown this season and only 92 rushing yards per game, he may be asked to throw the ball more than he has in the first four games. Auburn also leads the nation in third down conversion defense as teams are only converting 14.5 percent of their third downs against the Tigers.

As good as Auburn's defense is, their offense is equally pathetic, as evidenced by their poor performance against Tennessee. Auburn quarterback Chris Todd can barely throw, and their back-up quarterback Kodi Burns neither seems to have much pocket presence nor does he seem to know the playbook very well as he runs most of the time he is in the game. Furthermore, Auburn has only scored three offensive touchdowns in their last three games, and they are 90th in the nation in total offense as they try to implement offensive coordinator Tony Franklin's spread offense. The Tigers should have trouble scoring on Vanderbilt's defense, and with the return of senior receiver George Smith, Vanderbilt's passing attack should finally come alive and help the Commodores move the ball. ■



Reshard Langford (33), D.J. Moore (17) and Ryan Hamilton (2) lead a tough and talented secondary into the Auburn game Saturday.

The good shape and physical condition of Vanderbilt's defense has been praised as being the key to their second half dominance this year. In order for Bobby Johnson's defense to come out with the tenacity and persistence they will need to stop Auburn's offense this Saturday, they will need just that. It is the athleticism and stellar physical shape and endurance of the Commodore defense that needs to be present for Vanderbilt to prevail.

While the Tigers' offense has not put up particularly good numbers this season, it will be crucial for Vanderbilt to turn to what has been one of their biggest strengths this year and let their defense keep Auburn from scoring. A physically dominating and enduring day from the defense will allow Vanderbilt's offense and special teams to chip away at the tough Auburn defense.

That does not go to say that Auburn's offense should be taken lightly. The Commodores have seen how a no-huddle offense can cause their defense problems first hand in the Rice game. Rice scored with ease early on before Vanderbilt was able to stop them in the second half. The defense will need to apply what they learned in that game to stopping Auburn.

"It was good for us to play Rice before the Auburn game because now we've seen that kind of offense being run," said linebacker Deandre Jones.

Auburn will certainly try to run Vanderbilt thin this Saturday with a no-huddle offense. To ensure they don't, the Vanderbilt defense will need to play hard from start to finish. Look for the superb physical condition of the Commodores to shine through in a victory over the Tigers of Auburn this Saturday. ■



Vanderbilt crowd support has been a major intangible in the success of the Commodores in 2008. Saturday's crowd should be the best yet.

There's a major intangible that has been a difference for Vanderbilt this season, and that's been rowdy fan support. The Commodores are going to need it again when they face a tough Auburn team on Saturday. The psychological advantage a boisterous home crowd provides is immeasurable.

The second game of the year, Vanderbilt faced then-No. 24 South Carolina at home on ESPN in a game most thought the Gamecocks would win easily. My friends at other schools asked me if the blackout planned by the fans was going to happen, since they expected Vanderbilt's small stadium and supposedly weaker fan base was not going to provide any sort of home field advantage. After all, Vanderbilt had not beaten a ranked foe at home in 16 years, and all of the big wins for the football program over the past few years had been on the road.

The student body responded and provided the most electric atmosphere seen at Vanderbilt Stadium in years. The Vanderbilt players responded to the energy from the crowd in a big way, winning 24-17 and setting the tone for what has been a great season thus far. Many of them mentioned that the support of the fans was a huge factor in their strong play.

Now the Commodores face a greater challenge in Auburn and on an even bigger stage. Vanderbilt Stadium may be lacking in size, but it's not lacking in noise, not if Commodore Nation won't let it.

There's no doubt Vanderbilt fans will be the 12th man for the football team Saturday and do all they can to propel the Commodores to another victory by heeding the words of coach Bobby Johnson when he spoke at the Commons on Monday:

"Be loud, be rowdy and give Auburn hell!" ■

Coming of 'GameDay' excites campus

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor

When Lee Corso, Kirk Herbstreit, Chris Fowler, Desmond Howard and the College GameDay crew pull up to the Commons Center on Friday afternoon, it will be a first for Vanderbilt University in several respects.

Not only will it mark the first time College GameDay has come to the Southeastern Conference's smallest and only private school, but it will also mark the first time in over 60 years Vanderbilt has been involved in a top-25 showdown at home.

The No. 19 Commodores (4-0, 2-0 SEC) will be looking to move one step closer to bowl eligibility with a victory over the No. 13 Auburn Tigers (4-1, 2-1), which would leave them poised to earn their first bowl bid since 1982.

Redshirt senior wide receiver Sean Walker is excited about what this weekend has to offer.

"We'd like to see the fan support behind the crew and fans cheering for their team and everything, all throughout the day. It's really big to bring some extra excitement for this already big game," Walker said.

Also, Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson, along with senior captains Reshard Langford and George Smith spoke at the Commons Center Monday

night, encouraging fans to maintain the fervor they've shown thus far for the Auburn game.

As ESPN's most popular college football show, College GameDay is known for the droves of fans stationed behind the set who show their support through cheers, jeers and the wacky signs that have become a weekly staple.

Vanderbilt is one of the few schools in the country where Ivy League-caliber brains meet world-class athletes, and where the two are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Starting quarterback Chris Nickson, for one, was his high school's class valedictorian.

Thus, it follows for Vanderbilt students to be at the forefront in coming up with clever sign ideas for the College GameDay crew.

Senior Eamon Cullen is elated to have Vanderbilt outplaying the Tennessee Volunteers at this point in the season. His sign reads, "Hey Tennessee, How's the VU from the bottom?"

Junior Vernon Pearson refers to Tony the Tiger and Frosted Flakes Cereal with his entry, "It's GRRRRREAT to beat the Tigers."

Fellow junior Wade Wheatley, the head drum major for Vanderbilt's Spirit of Gold Marching Band, said, "Our football players actually work for their grades," no doubt referring to the



MARK DRAZDZINSKI / College GameDay

The College GameDay crew of Desmond Howard, Chris Fowler, Lee Corso and Kirk Herbstreit will be airing from the Commons Center patio starting Friday afternoon at 3:30, and then on Saturday morning starting at 8 a.m.

scandal at Auburn of athletes receiving free grades in sociology classes in which they did no work.

Senior Justin Gonzales offers some consolation to nervous fans in Nashville as his sign says "Don't worry, we won't 'Black Out' like UGA," poking fun at Georgia's blowout loss to Alabama on Saturday night after staging a "Black Out" for the game.

Vandy Fanatics President Kate Corvase, a senior, believes the best is yet to come, as evidenced by her sign: "Welcome to Nashville, ESPN ... Get

Comfortable." Vanderbilt has not been on the forefront of college football for decades. But with the support of the Commodore Nation, now is the program's opportunity to rise to national prominence. When College GameDay comes to town, Vanderbilt fans will get their biggest opportunity yet to show the rest of the country why "It's Good to be Gold."

Be sure to check out Hustler senior reporter Andrew Barge tonight at 9:45 on ESPNU where he will be discussing the Vanderbilt-Auburn game. ■

SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by Eric Silver

	1. Alabama 5-0 (2-0 SEC) Looks like the Tide is rolling again. Who would have thought at the beginning of the season they would drop 31 points on Georgia — in the first half?
	2. LSU 4-0 (2-0) As the rest of the SEC beat up on each other last weekend, the Tigers took care of business, dispatching Mississippi State behind Jarrett Lee's 261 passing yards.
	3. Florida 3-1 (1-1) Maybe Tim Tebow is human after all. On second thought, 319 passing yards isn't too shabby, despite the ugly loss to Ole Miss.
	4. Georgia 4-1 (1-1) Sure, they were silenced by Alabama and Knowshon Moreno is injured, but a bye week followed by a home game with Tennessee should do the trick.
	5. Vanderbilt 4-0 (2-0) In possibly the best bye week in bye week history, our Commodores moved up two spots in the national rankings and found out that College GameDay is coming to town. Nice.
	6. Auburn 4-1 (2-1) Despite their anemic offense, Auburn managed to squeak out an ugly 2-point victory over the suddenly horrendous Tennessee Vols.
	7. Ole Miss 3-2 (1-1) What happened? After committing six turnovers in their game against Vanderbilt, the Jekyll and Hyde imposing Rebels waltzed into the Swamp and dispatched the Gators on a blocked extra point!
	8. Kentucky 4-0 (0-0) Sure, the Wildcats are 4-0. It's doubtful their next opponent, Alabama, particularly cares.
	9. South Carolina 3-2 (0-2) Highly touted freshman Stephen Garcia was solid in his first game at the help of the Gamecocks' offense, passing for 131 yards on 20 attempts in a win over UAB.
	10. Tennessee 1-3 (0-2) Rocky Top has hit rock bottom. The Vols couldn't even muster 200 yards of total offense against Auburn and they have a brewing quarterback controversy. And their next opponent, Northern Illinois, is no pushover.
	11. Mississippi State 1-4 (0-2) The Bulldogs did their best against LSU last week but came up short. As usual. Last year's bowl season seems like a long time ago.
	12. Arkansas 2-2 (0-1) Things seemed rosy in Fayetteville as the Razorbacks got off to a 2-0 start. Then they played Alabama and Texas, losing by a combined score of 101-24. Maybe Bobby Petrino isn't such a coaching genius after all.

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