



ACADEMICS: CNN's Soledad O'Brien talks about diversity on and off the television screen. SEE PAGE 3

BOYLE: Will John McCain live up to his pro-life promise on Supreme Court nominees? SEE PAGE 6

VSG holds screening of final presidential debate on Alumni Lawn



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt students watch the presidential debate at on Alumni Lawn at an event hosted by VSG and Election Alliance on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

by **KELLY JONES**
News Contributor

Students flocked to Alumni Lawn to take advantage of free pizza and to watch the 2008 presidential candidates debate for the last time on a 25-foot screen.

The event, sponsored by Vanderbilt Student Government and the Election Alliance, was

held to encourage students to vote.

"The public screening of the debate was a great idea. It is comforting to know that there are other Vanderbilt students who are interested in our political system, regardless of their views," said sophomore Michelle Colvin.

Results were split when students were deciding who won

the debate. Joseph Williams, a senior and president of VSG, said it was Sen. John McCain's strongest performance and that he brought strength and merit to his arguments.

Sophomore Doug Denniston disagreed and believes Sen. Barack Obama won.

"(Obama) was more focused on his issues, while McCain was more adamant on attacking him,"

said Denniston.

However, the majority of students said it was the best debate between the two candidates.

Supporters of both parties thought the outdoor cinema event was a success as it brought students together and gave undecided voters with a way to become more informed about the policies, viewpoints and

records of the two presidential nominees.

Prior to the airing of the debate, information was passed out about early voting in Tennessee.

Students can bypass the crowds on Election Day by voting through Oct. 30. Dates and voting locations in Davidson County can be obtained by visiting http://www.nashville.gov/VOTE/schedule_early.htm. ■

ADMINISTRATION

Balser named Dean of School of Medicine

by **SAMANTHA SMITH**
News Contributor

Vanderbilt's own Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Jeff Balser has been appointed the 11th Dean of the School of Medicine after a national search.

Balser acted as interim dean for Vanderbilt's School of Medicine after former Dean Steven G. Gabbe left in June to serve



BALSER

as the senior vice president for health sciences and the chief executive officer at Ohio State University Medical Center.

According to Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Harry R. Jacobson, Balser was selected from an extremely competitive pool of nationally prominent candidates.

"He was very well known, an internal candidate. I think the fact that he's an M.D./Ph.D., a graduate of Vanderbilt University and holds a broad understanding of academic medicine separated him," said Jacobson.

Dr. Robert Beauchamp, chair section of Surgical Sciences, lead the selection committee.

Similarly, both Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Richard McCarty were appointed internally after national searches and after holding interim positions.

Balser has performed extensive research on heart contractions and arrhythmia control. His accolades include membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the chair position in the National Institutes of Health Director's Pioneer Award Committee.

"People saw in Jeff a passion about doing great things in all areas. He will move us forward on all fronts. He has great respect as a scientist, researcher and healthcare provider," said Jacobson.

Balser graduated from Vanderbilt with two degrees in Pharmacology in 1990 and served his residency at John Hopkins University.

In 2001, he was named The James Tayloe Gwathmey Professor of Anesthesiology and Pharmacology. Balser became the associate vice chancellor for medical center research at Vanderbilt University in 2004. ■

Green tips for lighting



by **NORAH SCANLAN**
Campus Living Specialist

1. Use the natural light of your room instead of electricity when possible. Adjustable blinds can let in light while reducing the glare.
2. Turn off lights when not in use. Post signs by light switches and equipment encouraging yourself to turn off power when not in use.
3. Halogen floor lamps and standard incandescent light bulbs are energy hogs. Potential lighting alternatives include Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs that use 75 percent less electricity and save money.

ELECTION 2008

Early voting off to big start

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Early voting in Tennessee got off to a record start, the state's top election official said Thursday.

About 47 percent more people cast their ballots on the first day of early voting Wednesday than in the last presidential election year in 2004, according to data released by State Election Coordinator Brook Thompson.

In Memphis, 18,238 people voted early. Early voting totals didn't reach the same level until the fifth day of early voting there in 2004.

Opening day crowds in Nashville more than doubled Nashville's previous first-day voting record of about 8,000, set in 2004.

A heavy early turnout in the state's two largest cities was seen by political observers as favoring Democrat Barack Obama over Republican John McCain in the presidential election, though polls have shown McCain with a sizable lead.

A total of 108,573 people voted Wednesday, up from 73,889 on the first day of early voting in 2004. Voting activity usually peaks toward the end of the two-week early voting period.



TOM SHERLIN / AP Photo

Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., votes, Wednesday, Oct. 15 in Maryville, Tenn. on the first day of early voting at the Blount County Courthouse. Close to half of all Tennessee general election ballots could be cast during the two-week early voting period that began Wednesday.

In the last presidential election, 2.4 million Tennessee residents voted and 1.4 million of them voted early. Thompson said as many as half the ballots in the state could be cast before Election Day on Nov. 4.

Knox County elections administrator Greg Mackay told the Knoxville News-Sentinel the general election is likely to produce a record voter turnout. More than 21,500

new voters enrolled in Knox County, but Wednesday's turnout of 5,890 was 721 fewer than in 2004.

Hamilton County also saw a decrease of 589 voters compared with last presidential election.

The Tennessean quoted Davidson County Election Administrator Ray Barretts saying 49,000 new voters registered in time to cast ballots.

In Tennessee's northeast corner, 1,370 Washington County voters cast ballots Wednesday, 130 more than in 2004.

The Johnson City Press-Chronicle quoted county elections administrator Connie Sinks saying the initial numbers bolster her belief that the turnout for the entire election will set a new record. ■

SPORTS: Football looks to rebound against Georgia and women's soccer succeeds as young team. SEE PAGE 5



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by HUGH SCHLESINGER

WEATHER

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TODAY



HIGH 68, LOW 46
Partly cloudy

SATURDAY



HIGH 70, LOW 41
Sunny

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SERVICE GUIDE

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NEWS BRIEFS

EPA tightens health standard for airborne lead, cites health concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three decades after removing lead from gasoline, the Environmental Protection Agency is slashing the amount of the toxic metal that will be allowed in the nation's air by 90 percent.

EPA officials, who were under a federal court order to set a new health standard for lead by midnight Wednesday, said the new limit would better protect health, especially children's health. Children can inhale lead particles released into the air from smelters, mines and waste incinerators and ingest it after it settles on surfaces.

Exposure to even low levels of lead early in life can affect learning, IQ and memory in children. Lead can also cause cardiovascular, blood pressure and kidney problems in adults.

"Our nation's air is cleaner today than just a generation ago, and last night I built upon this progress by signing the strongest air quality standards for lead in our nation's history," Stephen Johnson, the EPA administrator, said Thursday. "Thanks to this stronger standard, EPA will protect my children from remaining sources of airborne lead."

The new limit — 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter — is the first update to the lead standard since 1978, when it helped phase out leaded gasoline. It is 10 times lower than the old standard, which was 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter.

Afghan policeman fires on US patrol, kills soldier in second similar attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan policeman hurled a grenade and opened fire on a U.S. military foot patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing an American soldier and raising fears that insurgents have infiltrated the police.

It was the second attack by a policeman on U.S. soldiers in eastern Afghanistan in less than a month.

The patrol was returning to a base in Bermel district of Paktika province when they were attacked by the policeman, who was standing on a tower, the military said. The soldiers returned fire, killing the officer.

Training of the police force and the Afghan national army are key elements in the U.S. strategy of dealing with a vicious Taliban-led insurgency that has spread in many parts of the country.

Militants in Afghanistan have in the past disguised themselves in police or army uniforms when attacking Afghan and foreign troops, but real policemen were responsible for the attacks Thursday and last month. Then, an officer opened fire at a Paktika police station, killing a soldier and wounding three before he was fatally shot.

The two provinces with similar names are both close to the lawless Pakistani border area and are the site of nearly daily clashes between insurgents and American troops.

World markets slump after grim US economic news, despite good opening

LONDON (AP)—Stock markets in Europe and Wall Street slumped Thursday after more grim economic news from the U.S. stoked fears that the world's largest economy is plunging into a deep and protracted recession.

The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares closed down 218.20 points, or 5.4 percent, at 3,861.39, while Germany's DAX was 238.82 points, or 4.9 percent, lower at 4,622.81. The CAC-40 in France was 200.07 points lower, or 5.9 percent, at 3,181.00.

Having rebounded some 150 points after the open, the Dow Jones index of leading U.S. shares was down 239.18 points, or 2.8 percent, at 8,338.73. Japan's Nikkei earlier had its worst day since 1987.

After a bright opening, selling resumed on Wall Street after the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia reported that manufacturing conditions in its region deteriorated significantly in October. Its current activity index of current manufacturing activity collapsed from 3.8 in September to an 18-year low of -37.5.

"Yet another day of follow my leader as Asian, European and London markets bit the dust on the back of a record fall in the Dow Wednesday," said Howard Wheeldon, senior strategist at BGC Partners.

"Market sentiment is now being completely driven by fear," he added.

Mexico extradites alleged Colombian drug dealer, says Attorney General

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican authorities say they have extradited a Colombian cartel operative wanted for smuggling thousands of pounds of cocaine into the United States.

The federal Attorney General's Office says Ever Villafane Martinez represented Colombia's Norte del Valle drug cartel in dealings with Mexico's Sinaloa cartel. He escaped from a Colombian prison in 2001.

Villafane is the 153rd suspect extradited from Mexico to the United States. The Attorney General's Office announced the extradition in a news release Thursday.

Since taking office in 2006, President Felipe Calderon has sent a record number of top drug lords to the United States, including the alleged Gulf cartel leader, Osiel Cardenas.

UT seeks to cut utility bills with brand new conservation campaign

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The University of Tennessee has launched a new campaign called "Switch Your Thinking" that aims to reduce campus energy consumption by 10 percent this year.

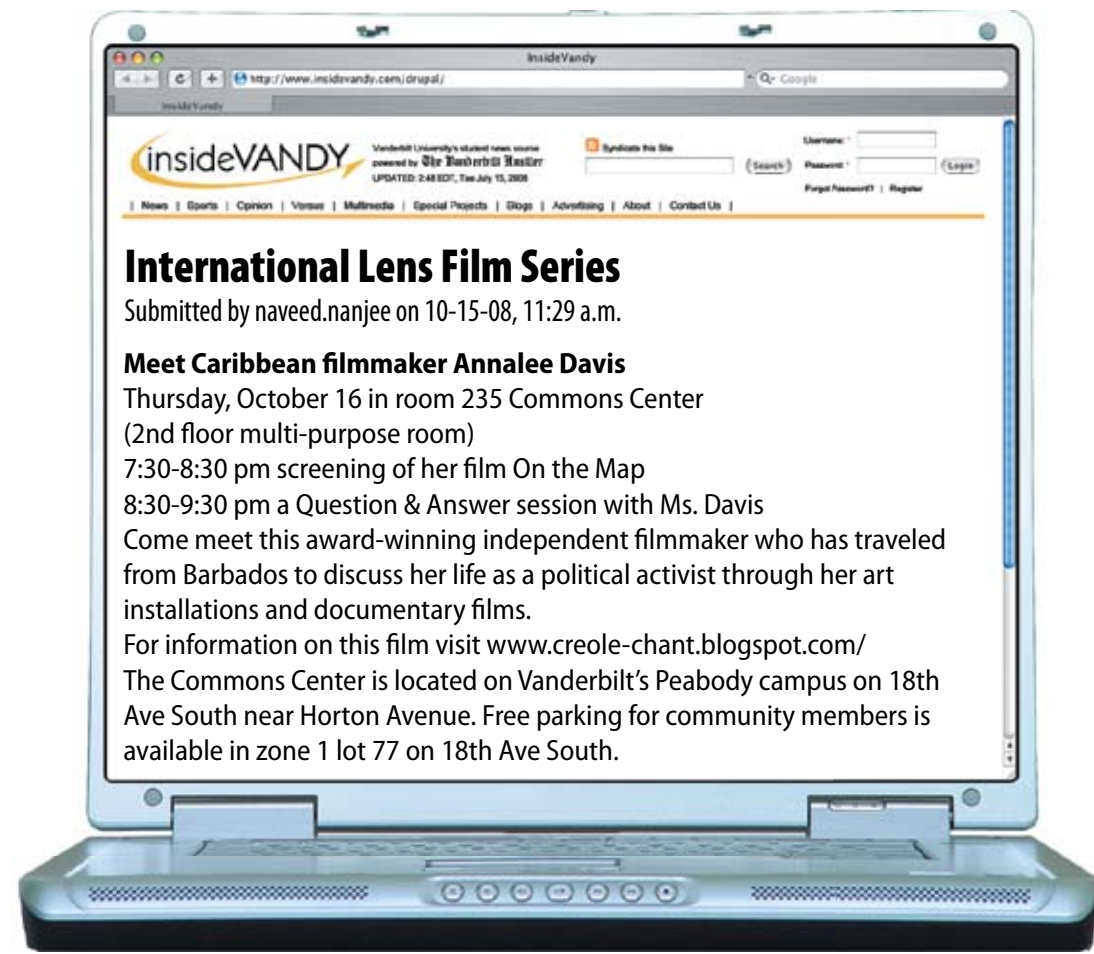
Students, faculty and staff are being encouraged to save energy and cut utility costs, which are expected to rise \$8 million campus-wide this year and \$6 million next year.

At UT's College of Social Work, staff and students have been turning off lights and computers when they're not in use, or relying on natural light from the 1930-era building's large windows while working.

The university launched a similar campaign a couple of years ago called "Make Orange Green."

Karen Sowers, dean of the College of Social Work, says in a lot of cases, students are leading the push for energy conservation with administrators following their lead.

FROM THE BLOG



SNAPSHOT

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN



Intramural Flag Football started this week. Student teams battle it out in the race to win their respective leagues and to have some fun. Senior Oliver Tan rushes the ball for his team, "The Office", in their first game of the season.

BRYAN CANDELARIO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

HPV FACTS: #4

HPV OFTEN HAS NO SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS

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SCIENCE & MEDICINE

Universe expanding into oblivion



www.sx.hu

by **LAUREN KOENIG**
News Contributor

Scientists' quest to unravel the mysteries of our past just received a new deadline. According to a recently published article, "The End of Cosmology?" co-authored by Vanderbilt Chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department and Professor of Particles, Fields and Cosmology Robert J. Scherrer, the expansion of the universe is accelerating and sweeping up any traces of the footprints it left behind.

According to the article, published in "Scientific American," the expansion of the universe will eventually cause galaxies to be pulled apart.

The authors write, "In short, it erases all the signs that a big bang ever occurred. To our distant descendants, the universe will look like a small puddle of stars in an endless, changeless void."

The article raises the

unanswered question, "What knowledge has the universe already erased?"

Scherrer has been interested in what he describes as "the far future of the universe" ever since he was an undergraduate.

"I haven't worked on it since then," said Scherrer. "But I was hosting (Lawrence Krauss) and he's also interested in this topic. So we got to talking and we first wrote a couple of technical papers on the subject."

The "Scientific American" article was "intended for a broader audience," Scherrer said. "People who aren't specialists can learn what's going on about cosmology and become interested in it."

Scherrer encourages interested Vanderbilt undergraduates to further their knowledge of this field. "If an undergraduate physics major is interested in doing a senior thesis (on the subject), I'm happy to take them on." ■

ACADEMICS

O'Brien shares her life, story with students

CNN personality addresses diversity in news media.

by **JUDY WANG**
Academics Specialist

"With a name like Maria de la Soledad Teresa O'Brien, I've had to explain my background and diversity all my life," said journalist O'Brien Tuesday night at Langford auditorium.

A part of the Northstar Leadership Series, the conversation dealt with issues of diversity on TV, behind the scenes, and in our lives.

O'Brien addressed many students' questions at a reception held before the event, speaking about the media, appropriate journalism and the possibility of a Bradley effect on this year's election.

"History will be made by the election," said O'Brien, on the diversity on both parties' tickets. "No matter what happens, people are going to have to start thinking differently about race and gender in politics and society."

O'Brien also drew both from her own personal experiences and different stories she's witnessed. Specifically, O'Brien told of her parents' illegal interracial marriage, her older sister's challenges as an ethnic and racial minority in science, and her



GENEVIEVE GALE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Soledad O'Brien, anchor and special correspondent for CNN delivering a talk, "Diversity: On TV, Behind the Scenes and in Our Lives," on Tuesday, Oct. 14, in Langford Auditorium at Vanderbilt University.

difficulties entering the field of journalism.

"The best advice I received from my mother was that 'most people are idiots,'" said O'Brien, on her mother's reaction to a society that was sometimes not approving of change. "If people put up obstacles, step around them."

O'Brien then addressed the numerous ways people are "seizing the opportunity to change the way they think."

From economist Fryer's experiment of rewarding good grades to UN Food Bank's

food handout policy for school attendance, people are "thinking differently to create massive societal implications." As was asked of the mayor of Newark, New Jersey, it's not "what you see now, today—it's what you imagine that could be here in the future," said O'Brien.

Students attending the lecture followed with many questions and comments regarding diversity and society.

"She was very articulate, and her speech definitely

pointed out the needs of the multicultural society we have in this country," said junior Andres Chong-Qui.

"I really liked her examples of turning status quo on its head," said junior Stephanie Freeman. "There are so many things that you wouldn't think of that would make a really big difference in the end."

"She wasn't lukewarm, and I feel like she has shared more of her personality and who she is," said Tamara Jordan, second year JD/MBA student. ■

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HPV FACTS: #4

AN ESTIMATED 8 OUT OF 10 WOMEN WILL GET INFECTED WITH IT IN THEIR LIFETIME

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GREEK SCENE

Greeks partner with NAACP to register voters

by JANELLE STOKES
Greek Specialist

Members of both Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and the Nashville chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have spent hours on campus and in downtown Nashville registering people to vote.

"This is important because (organizations) can go out anywhere and support a particular candidate, but it's pretty useless unless you're (first) addressing people who aren't registering to vote," said Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and NAACP member junior Justin Amaker.

Focusing their efforts on the Deadrick Street and 5th Avenue bus stop, members have noticed that African American women ages 25-30 and people who registered to vote in a different county are the ones who are being affected the most.

However, students have not limited their activities to just registering those of age to vote. NAACP member sophomore Jade Wallace, who has spoken with several students who aren't eligible to vote, said she thinks it's important that they're educated about the issues regardless.

"I remember we had a mock election in my elementary school," said Wallace. "It was a good experience, and it's really important to go to the high schools and talk to the students even though it's not their time. They need to know (the issues) and be informed as well."

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity



JEREMY GUNN / photo provided
NAACP member Jade Wallace helps register voters in the Nashville area. The NAACP is working with Vanderbilt National Pan-Hellenic Conference members to register voters.

Inc. and NAACP member senior Jeremy Gunn said registering people to vote is just as important as convincing voters to ally themselves with a specific party. The NAACP played a prominent role during the Civil Rights Movement in getting blacks registered to vote.

"The NAACP has taken a hard

stance in voter registration," said Gunn. "The main tenet of the organization is getting people to vote (especially since people died registering to vote). It's all about having your voice heard."

Members of the NAACP plan to inform people about early voting options as Election Day draws near. ■

LEADERSHIP

VSG proposal to aid students studying abroad in summer

New program expects to expand access.

by LILY CHEN
Leadership Specialist

Recently, Vanderbilt student interest in summer study abroad programs has increased and a new proposal from Vanderbilt Student Government promises to aid students financially with the high costs.

The Global Summer Fellows Program set aside about \$250,000 to distribute to students who are interested in summer study abroad.

"We saw a need for developing a way to help students who want this experience but couldn't finance it themselves due to personal constraints," said VSG Executive Vice President Wyatt Smith. "We created a model that took in need based aspects as well as merit based to provide students with financial opportunities."

The funding will provide scholarships of up to \$8,500 to about 25 to 30 students for up to eight weeks of study. The scholarship will apply to Vanderbilt-approved, credit bearing summer study and Maymester programs.

"This program will benefit



SMITH



WILLIAMS

those students who are on financial aid or who aren't able to study abroad during the year because of things like holding leadership positions in clubs," said VSG President Joseph Williams.

According to Director of the Global Education Office Ara Pachmayer, GEO will oversee the program and a committee of representatives from GEO, the Office of Student Financial Aid, faculty and students will determine how the scholarships will be awarded.

"Our goal is to work with all students interested in studying abroad to provide them with the most enriching opportunities," said Pachmayer. "This program will be a strong draw for some students and I anticipate it to be very competitive."

According to Smith, author of the program, his research showed that in the past few years, while applications for study abroad steadily rose, the number of students who actually participated was stagnant.

"While it is not a direct correlation, it is

representative of a lot of people who applied and, when looking at the bottom line cost, found it wasn't feasible for them," Smith said.

The program was proposed in the spring, developed over six months and supported by many administrators and students.

"I think this program completely supplements the recent debt reduction plan (that Chancellor Nick Zeppos implemented)," said Smith. "This money goes towards creating a system that enables every undergraduate with the opportunity to have that study abroad component which is a critical aspect of the undergraduate experience."

The program will be a part of Vanderbilt's endowment and will continue on in future years with the possibility of expansion.

The application process for these scholarships will include an essay on how the summer experience will improve the student's education and why they would participate in summer study abroad rather than study abroad during the school semester. Students applying will also be required to submit a detailed budget of their expected spending and list additional sources of income and financial aid. ■

HPV FACTS: #4

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Stocks shoot higher as volatility continues

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street turned in another stunning finish Thursday and extended its unprecedented streak of volatility — this time, to the upside — as investors spent a fractious session again struggling with fears about a recession but giving in to a last-hour wave of buying. The Dow Jones industrials ended up 400 points, after falling 380 early in the session.

It is clear that investors are reacting in the extreme to any negative economic news, including disappointing numbers Thursday on industrial production that sent stocks skidding. But traders are also responding to the market's own dynamics, and when there was no late-session plunge, as there was on Wednesday, buyers piled in before the close.

Analysts expect this extraordinary volatility to continue, and warned that just as Monday's huge 936-point surge in the Dow was overdone, there was little reason to trust that Thursday's gains would hold.

A rise in shares of Yahoo Inc. over renewed speculation it could cement a deal with one-time suitor Microsoft Corp. helped push the technology-laden Nasdaq composite index up more than 5 percent. Meanwhile, another sharp drop in oil prices helped make consumer discretionary stocks more attractive.

Stocks spent much of the session seeking a direction after Wednesday's steep dive, which took the Dow down 733

points in response to a stream of bad economic news that underscored the likelihood that the country is either in a recession or will be in one — and that a downturn could be severe. There was little news Thursday to counter those fears, but there were plenty of gyrations in stock prices and the major indexes.

"We're going to continue to see volatility. You're not going to see 50-point ranges, you're going to see two-three-four hundred point ranges," said Woody Dorsey, president of Market Semiotics, a financial forecasting firm in Castleton, Vt.

Indeed, the Dow changed directions 75 times in Thursday's session.

Investors initially appeared cheered by a better-than-expected reading from the Labor Department on consumer prices. The flat reading on September's Consumer Price Index compares with August's 0.1 percent decline, which was the first in nearly two years. The core index, which eliminates often volatile food and energy prices, rose 0.1 percent. Economists had been expecting CPI would rise to 0.1 percent and that core CPI would increase 0.2 percent.

Meanwhile, a weekly snapshot of the job market showed that first-time claims for unemployment benefits declined last week. The Labor Department said new claims fell 16,000 to a seasonally adjusted level of 461,000 — below the 475,000 that had been anticipated. Still, total unemployment remains above the level that economists often associate with recession.

And the Philadelphia Federal Reserve said regional manufacturing conditions weakened in October. The bank's regional index came in at a negative 37.5 compared with a positive 3.8 for September. That news followed word from the Federal Reserve that production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities plunged 2.8 percent last month, on top of a 1 percent drop in August. While the Fed estimated that disruptions related to hurricanes accounted for about 2.25 percentage points of the drop in industrial production, the news was still discouraging for market that is hypersensitive to anything negative about the economy.

Subodh Kumar, global investment strategist at Toronto-based Subodh Kumar & Associates, said markets are jittery because many investors' expectations about the economy were too rosy heading into the summer and the monthlong freeze in the credit markets has dealt the economy another blow, making it harder and more expensive for many businesses and consumers to get loans.

Because of investors' great anxiety about the economy, Wall Street is expected to remain volatile, as it has been since last month when the credit markets tightened and stocks plunged. The gyrations this week have been particularly intense, with the Dow industrials soaring 936 points Monday and falling 733 Wednesday following a weak report on retail sales and a disheartening assessment of the economy from the Federal Reserve. ■

SCIENCE & MEDICINE

Club to help curb child obesity

by ALLIE MORRIS
Science & Medicine Specialist

When speaking about children's health at the Childhood Obesity Forum on Wednesday, Tennessee Commissioner of Health Susan Cooper announced that "nothing is more important than (the problem) we are facing today."

The National Forum, held in Langford Auditorium, brought together members of the Nashville community, the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and the Federal Communications Commission Task Force on Media and Childhood Obesity to discuss the effects of television programming on children's health habits.

Vanderbilt has recently joined in the effort to improve

Nashville children's health with the creation of Healthy Head Start, the only club on campus that deals with nutrition. Juniors Brian Mayroshn and Christy Hamilton founded the club at the beginning of this year. The club's advisor is School of Nursing Lecturer Jamie Pope.

Mayroshn got the idea to start a nutritional community outreach club this summer and began spreading the word when he arrived back at school this year. The first meeting, held in the second week of school, drew 17 members, and since then the numbers have grown.

"The point of the club is not to stop obesity, it is to get kids to eat healthier and live healthier ... The way to stop (obesity) is to not allow it to happen," said Mayroshn.

Although HHS has run into

obstacles, including a lack of funding and a communication issue with local schools, the group has created a series of lesson plans they hope to teach a target age group of third to fifth graders.

Tennessee ranks in the top four states for highest child BMI, according to Director of Vanderbilt Children's Health Improvement and Prevention Mary Kate Mouser.

Reactions to the obesity problem in Tennessee have included outreach health programs like Get Fit Tennessee, a statewide program developed by Gov. Phil Bredesen.

"By the year 2018, we will be the first state in the nation in which all students will graduate at a healthy weight ... you have to dream big," said Cooper, explaining the program's goal. ■

***63%**

OF VU UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS reported having 0-4 drinks during a typical week.

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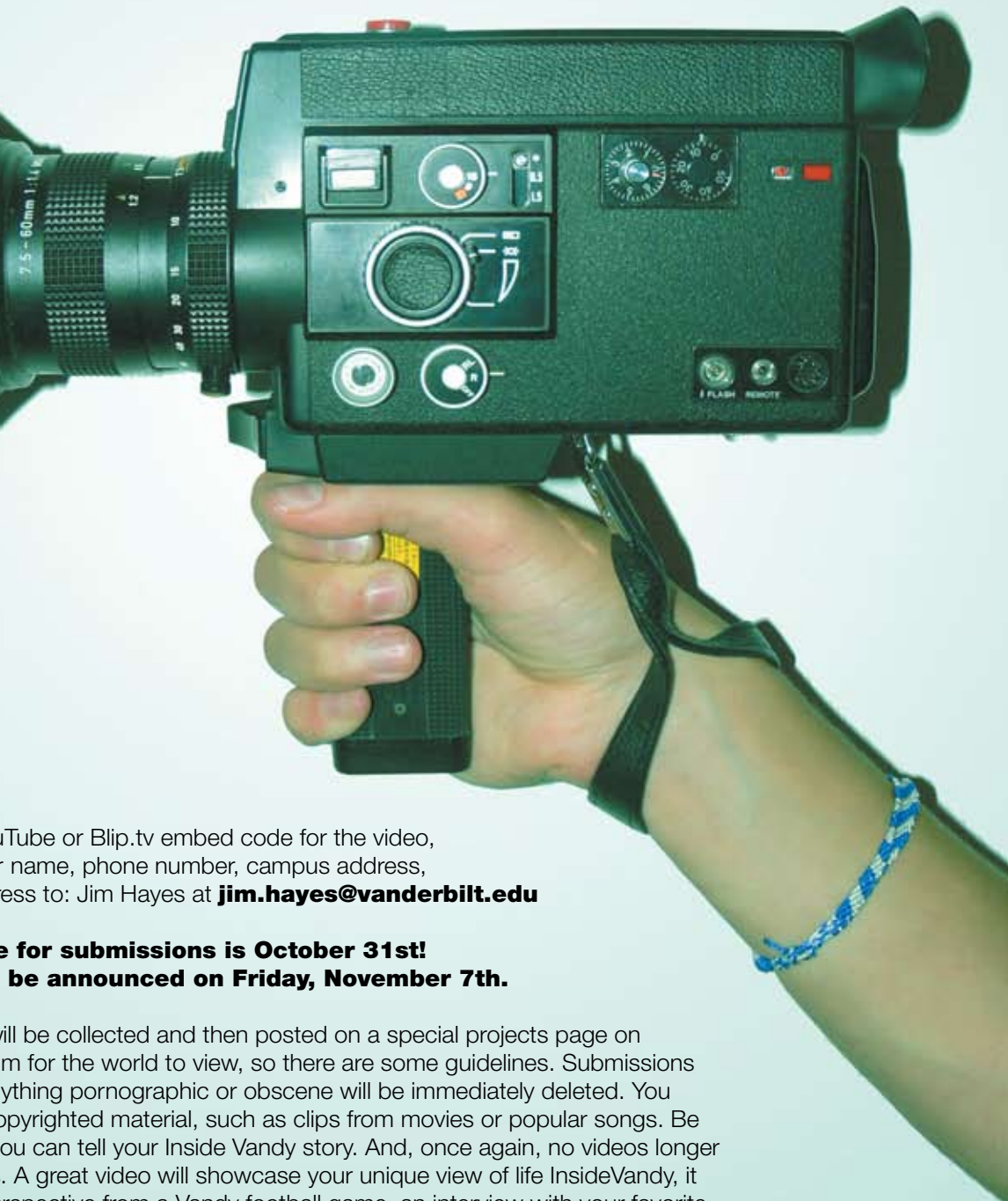
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OPINION

Will McCain follow through?



FRANNIE BOYLE
Columnist

One of the pivotal questions during the final presidential debate Wednesday night asked for each candidate's position on nominating a justice who disagreed with them on Roe versus Wade. Both Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama lacked serious clarity in their answers, but Obama was right on when he stated that it could be "one of the most consequential decisions of the next president. It is very likely that one of us will be making at least one, and probably more than one, appointments ..." His following eight words are questionable though: "... and Roe versus Wade probably hangs in the balance." It is pretty clear where Obama stands on judicial nominations in relation to his views on Roe versus Wade, but McCain's stance is more difficult to read.

During the debate, Obama said he would nominate a justice based on their intellect and knowledge of what is going on with the people of the United States. In regards to Roe versus Wade, he believes justice should stand up for women's rights and women are in the best position to make personal decisions for themselves. Obama believes a right to privacy is a part of the Constitution, and it should "not be subject to state referendum." Obama denied having a "litmus test" for nominating justices, but his basic message was that a justice must match his ideological standards.

McCain blatantly said he would nominate justices based on their qualifications, rather than an ideological "litmus test" like Obama. He spoke of his support for Justices Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsberg as they went through the nominating process, even though he did not see eye-to-eye with their political views. He stated that qualified justices would believe in a strict interpretation of the Constitution, and that more decision-making power should be put in the hands of the people rather than in the hands of the members of the Supreme Court. Connecting his answer to his views on Roe versus Wade, McCain claimed he would probably see any justice who had different views with him on this issue would probably not be qualified because they do not respect the original intent of the Constitution.

While his answer should be calming for pro-life voters, it is hard to tell whether McCain will stick to his word on this issue. He claims to not want the Supreme Court to be ruled by the hands of judicial activism, yet his past is not very consistent with this view. McCain voted in support of Ginsberg's nomination to the Supreme Court, and while she is one of the most qualified according to many people, she does not seem to be qualified according to McCain's definition Wednesday night. She is probably the most liberal justice serving on the Supreme Court right now. McCain was also a part of the Senate's "gang of 14" in 2006. This bi-partisan group was formed to reach a compromise on President Bush's nominees, and they actually blocked his most conservative picks. These examples raise questions about his dependability when it comes to nominating justices. Will his willingness to compromise trump his respect for strict interpretation if he is elected president?

Pro-life voters could potentially have tough luck if McCain were to be elected president, although he is still the safer pick by far. Earlier in the campaign, McCain promised to nominate strict constructionist justices to the federal bench, and in this campaign he had made it clear that he is fully in support of the pro-life cause. He did vote in support of Justices Samuel Alito and John Roberts, two strong protectors of strict interpretation on the Supreme Court. Hopefully he can be depended upon if elected president, because the future of the Supreme Court, and ultimately the United States of America, depends upon it.

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

EDITORIAL

Associate professor a university embarrassment

According to reports from the Tennessean and InsideVandy.com, a Vanderbilt faculty member has been charged with harassing a Metro Nashville councilman. Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature David Lowe admitted to making harassing telephone calls to Councilman Eric Crafton.

Crafton, a Vanderbilt graduate and a decorated veteran of the Persian Gulf War, has been leading the charge on Nashville's English-Only initiative. The controversial proposal, which will be put to a referendum in January, would make English the official language of Nashville and would require all government business to be conducted in English.

The controversy around Crafton's proposal is understandable, but the alleged actions of Lowe are despicable. According to police reports, Lowe made six threatening telephone calls to Crafton's home this past weekend regarding the councilman's support for English-Only. While the details of those calls have yet to be released, these allegations are disheartening.

The ability for citizens to disagree civilly on the issues is a hallmark of American society. As the election season has taught us, people can hold varying opinions on a number of issues. It is important that these disagreements do not devolve into irrational reactions or disrespect for those who hold different views than those of our own.

Is Lowe justified in his disagreement with the English-Only initiative? Perhaps, and he could prove that by writing a newspaper column, writing a letter to his elected officials or engaging in a civil discussion with Crafton himself. If the allegations are correct, it seems instead that Lowe has decided to harass someone with an opposite viewpoint.

This is an embarrassing moment for Lowe, his department and Vanderbilt University as a whole. Lowe's actions send a mixed message; we are told as Vanderbilt community members to engage in civility and that discussion is healthy for an education, yet a supposed steward of that discussion has seemingly abandoned the concept of civil discussion for harassment. Particularly bothersome is the fact that Crafton must endure this harassment from a representative of his own alma mater.

The debate over English-Only will continue until January, and people on all sides of the issue can and will have their voices heard in a public, civil forum. It is unfortunate that Vanderbilt's most publicized contribution to that discussion seems to be in the form of irrational reactions instead of sustained dialogue. This community should be ashamed of how our university is represented, and we should have a renewed sense of duty to restore our reputation.

The praise of folly



THOMAS SHATTUCK
Opinion Editor

Movie critics would have you believe that the reason "American Carol" performed poorly in the box office was due to the lack of interest in political satires. I feel it's more likely because of the film's apparent lack of substance. Unfortunately, the same could be said of the debates. Of course, watching the news would (or at least could) have you believe otherwise.

To this point, neither candidate has given anyone any reason other than party affiliation to vote for them. They'll both cut taxes and then refinance a crashing market, which is something somewhat between alchemy and the verbal equivalent of syphilis. Though it is true Obama does seem to have a better smile — McCain always appears somewhat threatening. In the end, there is no convincing reason to vote for either of them.

Like every election year, however, there are thousands telling you to register to vote. Remembering back into the not-so-distant past, one might recall the "Vote or Die" initiative, which was pretty much a shameless plug of the Democratic Party. Let's be honest, if Paris Hilton is the reason you voted, you're an idiot and probably a Democrat. Not to say liberals are idiots — the Nobel Prizes seem to imply the opposite — but the youth vote the initiative targeted happened to be overwhelmingly liberal.

Then there's been the recent ACORN tribulations involving the fabrication of voters in multiple states. It's beyond me how registering the Dallas Cowboys, without their knowledge or consent and in a state none of them reside in, is benefiting democracy. Not to mention other similar and equally ridiculous reports of voter registration fraud that have been popping up like cocoa plants in Colombia. All these attempts to involve everyone make this election rather comic in nature.

More importantly, this election, more than any other, is one defined by the overwhelming control of the media. During the second debate, one channel had what looked like instant messenger bubbles float through the screen while another had a line graph telling you what to think. Furthermore, the pundits told you what to look out for before the debate and then what important things were said afterward. This was supposedly to help undecided voters navigate through the muck and the mire of politics, but it appeared as if the viewers could not

be trusted to think. As if their responsibility was merely to listen.

And then there's Joe the Plumber, whose actual name is Samuel J. Wurzelbacher. This asinine man was apparently the quintessential American and perhaps in one sense he actually is: He hates paying taxes and, according to The New York Times, actually owes a bit to the IRS. Not to mention he isn't even a licensed plumber or contractor and is planning to buy a business that should theoretically provide over \$250,000 in annual income. He provided little gems such as "Redistributing the wealth, as far as my hard work, that upsets me ... That's not right. That's not American."

In other words, according to Joe, being American really boils down to being anti-socialist and strongly defensive. That is, of course, if you can even call a progressive tax system and minimal welfare services socialist. Some just call it embarrassing or pathetic. I guess if I learned anything from Joe, it's that the middle class is not so hot on thinking — this is, of course, assuming Joe really does represent them and at income as large as his, that's quite a stretch.

While I understand the vast majority of America is in the middle class, it seems ridiculous to claim some plumber's feelings should matter to anyone else, even if he is somewhat representative. The fact of the matter is the middle class envelops an income range from about \$50,000 to well above \$200,000. Unsurprisingly, this means even the middle class and not just the voter base is fractured. Furthermore, there is an even larger amount of wealth disparity implying more than the usual three-class representation that is so predominant. In other words, none of this really means anything.

The moral of the story is that we, the people, are being bombarded with authentic looking information in what is essentially a glorified heist. We're told if we don't vote, we don't matter. Unfortunately, with the way things go, even if we vote, we will still not matter. Voting is about making decisions, and to do so, one does not only have to be informed but also capable of making said decisions. Tragically, if the media is to be believed, no one can decide anything. As Alfred, Lord Tennyson once said, "their's not to make reply, their's not to reason why, their's but to do and die."

—Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu.

Has John McCain ever met a woman?

ELIZA HORN
Guest Columnist

Now, most of you are probably thinking, "Of course John McCain has met a woman." He's married to one and his running mate is one. And here is where I would argue with you, because frankly, I think the jury is still out on that. As far as Sarah Palin goes, I for one think it's time that she turns in her ovaries. She lost them when she decided to charge women in Alaska for their rape kits.

McCain has a tendency to view women simply as factories that produce our future citizens while Barack Obama sees women as people who are still not treated equally in today's society. This is evident from their Web sites. Obama has an entire page dedicated to women and issues women continuously face (equal pay, women's health, reducing domestic violence).

Now, of course the question is always raised: Why would we care about women; aren't they just another unhappy interest group? Perhaps women should matter because they compose half the population. Perhaps women matter because they still have not obtained equal rights in this country. Or perhaps, most important in this very moment, women as a block could decide the election and if anyone paid attention to the undecided voter graph during the debate Wednesday night, women are favoring Obama and it's understandable why. On McCain's Web site, in place of Obama's section for women, McCain has a "Human Dignity and Life" section. The struggles and inequalities half the population experiences are not important enough for McCain to include on his Web site.

McCain's Web site is not the only reason that I question him. He also stated Wednesday night how Sarah Palin is a role model for women. Just because someone is a woman doesn't mean she's a role model for women, nor does it mean she'd be a positive example of handling women's issues. The only reason she's on McCain's ticket was because he wanted attention, wanted to excite the base and wanted to show that his ticket was "different" as well. She is the token woman.

For someone who claims to always put his country first, this was one decision where McCain put himself first. It is sad someone who won't say global warming is manmade or evolution is real is a person who could help get him elected. She is not a role model for women, but a political ploy. I mean, I've never dreamt of being a hockey mom. I've never admired someone who's tried to ban books. Nor have I respected anyone who claims rape victims should not be given the option of terminating a pregnancy. In fact, has Sarah Palin ever met a woman? Maybe they both need to go out and talk to a few. They might learn something.

I'm not claiming I speak for every woman or even a majority of women. I don't think anyone can speak for half the population. Obama recognizes this and knows a variety of issues affect the quality of women's lives. During this campaign, McCain has seen women just in relation to abortion. A woman is more than a uterus. A role model of women has to do more than be a token for the right wing. These are things Obama seems to understand, and he might be rewarded for this, come November.

—Eliza Horn is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at elizabeth.l.horn@vanderbilt.edu

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments, arguments in bad faith or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in the Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com. Letters via e-mail must come from

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

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

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

CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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

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(615) 279-9488

Rep. Jim Cooper
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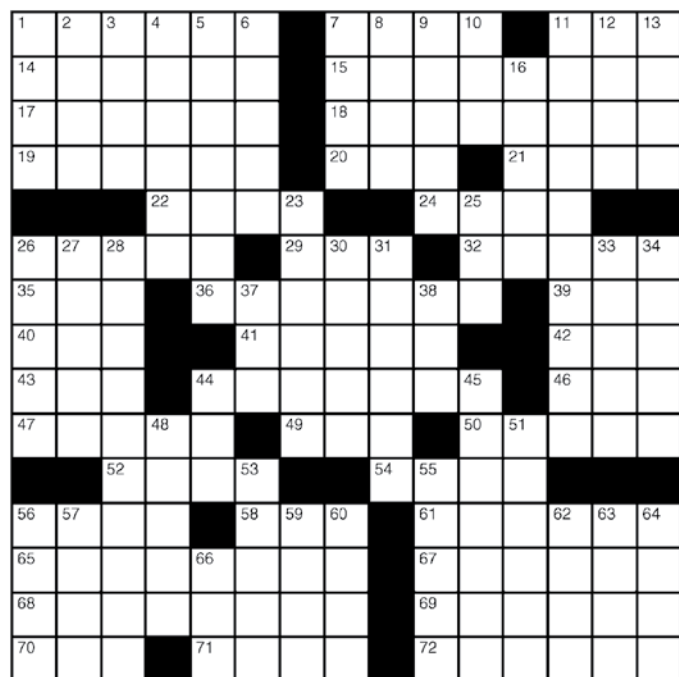
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10/15/08 SOLUTIONS

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SPORTS

Commodores want to bounce back in a big way

by NICK GALLO
Sports Contributor

Hoping that losing to Mississippi State last week will be enough motivation to win this Saturday against Georgia certainly is not enough for the No. 22 Vanderbilt Commodores to bank on when they face the No. 10 Bulldogs. That loss, however, did provide Vanderbilt with a wake-up call to spark its anemic offense before going into their toughest challenge of the season.

That spark is personified by the replacement of redshirt senior Chris Nickson with redshirt junior Mackenzi Adams as the starting quarterback after Nickson went 3-10 for 15 yards with an interception against Mississippi State.

Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson was asked whether his team would have an edge going into Athens because of the loss to Mississippi State.

"Well, I certainly hope so," Johnson said. "We want to play a whole lot better than we played against Mississippi State. Believe me, it'll take that to have a chance to win."

Although the Commodores (5-1, 3-1 Southeastern Conference) went "between the hedges" in 2006 and came away victorious against Georgia, their task will again be extremely difficult

this Saturday against the Bulldogs. Georgia (5-1, 2-1 SEC) is coming off of a lackluster victory over a struggling Tennessee team and an embarrassing defeat at home against Alabama the week before. Needless to say, the Bulldogs will be hungry to regroup against a ranked SEC opponent. Vanderbilt is also looking to re-group and is putting the ball into the hands of Adams, who led the team to victory against Auburn three weeks ago.

"We're definitely confident," Adams said. "We didn't play well last week, but we put it behind us and I think we'll be fine. I'm glad I get a chance to help the team win and hopefully provide a spark. We just have to move the ball and score points."

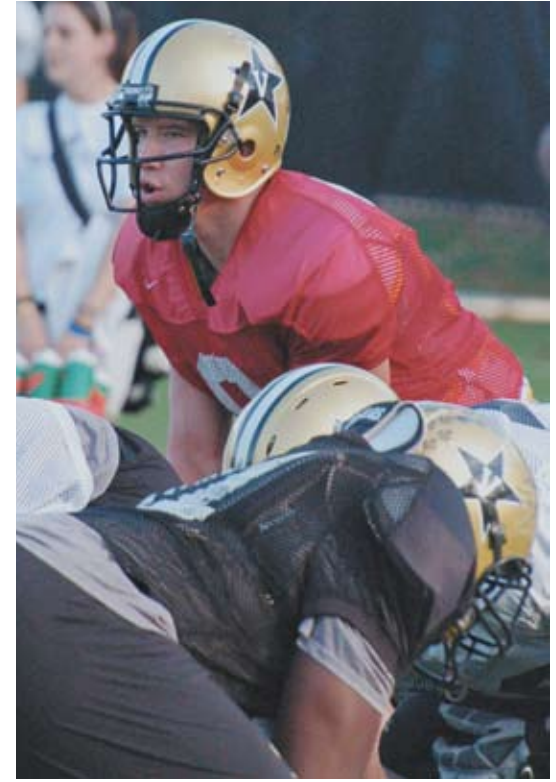
Though the Commodores and Bulldogs stand at 5-1 going into the game, the two are vastly different teams. Georgia's offense is more explosive with the help of redshirt sophomore phenom Knowshon Moreno, whose play at running back and average of just less than 100 rushing yards per game has carried the team. The Georgia offense also leads the SEC in total offensive yards and total passing yards.

"They've got it all — a running game, a passing game," Johnson said. "They're averaging some pretty gaudy numbers now. They've got all the ingredients."

The Vanderbilt defense has proven to be up to many challenges in 2008, but this is the most high-powered attack they have faced all year. The Vanderbilt offense will still need to show up in a big way to keep it close.

Johnson believes Adams is the man for the job. "I think he will bring a fresh start to the team," Johnson said. "He can find the open receivers and do a good job hitting the receivers. Mackenzi is a good athlete and he has shown he can make some very fine runs this year."

Going with Adams after only one loss was a move that gained some interest around the sports talk world, but Johnson and the team are confident going into the game. If the Commodores can execute the way they did earlier in the season, use their poor performance against Mississippi State last week as a learning experience and maintain poise in a difficult Athens environment, they should be able to keep it close against the Bulldogs. This Vanderbilt team has played in tough atmospheres before, is motivated after their first loss of the year and is still looking for that elusive sixth win. If they do it against Georgia this weekend, it will be an amazing accomplishment for one of the most surprising teams in college football. ■



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Named starting quarterback against Georgia, Mackenzi Adams looks to provide a spark to the SEC's lowest ranked passing offense.

friday conversation with JACKIE WU

Interview by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor

Off to a personal 6-0 start, freshman women's tennis player Jackie Wu took some time to talk with the Vanderbilt Hustler about the success of the team's freshman class, what the strongest part of her game is and the biggest difference between tennis at the high school and collegiate levels. The Commodores head back to action this weekend as they host the June Stewart Invitational in Nashville.

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: How have you adapted to college life since coming to Nashville?

JACKIE WU: I had to manage my time better, just plan out the day so that I knew what I was doing and didn't get behind on schoolwork.

VH: What got you to start playing tennis?

JW: It was just recreational at first, and then I decided to pursue it further when I was about nine.

VH: You are 6-0 in singles so far on the season. What does it mean to you to have had so much success so early in your college career?

JW: I wasn't sure what to expect coming into college, so I'm really pleased with my results so far. I've been playing well, and it gives me further confidence to keep it going because I know I'm doing the right things.

VH: You were part of what was rated as a top five recruiting class, and so far all the freshmen have performed very well (18-2 combined record in singles). What is it that has made this class so special?

JW: I think we've played a lot of tournaments, so we had a lot of experience coming in. We came here really wanting to get better, so we've practiced really hard. I'm not saying that the other classes haven't, but I think we're very dedicated.

VH: What made you choose to come to Vanderbilt?

JW: First and foremost, it was the team. I really liked the atmosphere that was set here. I also really liked the coaches.

VH: How is playing tennis in college different from playing at a high level in high school?

JW: Coming in as a freshman, I didn't know what to expect, so it was weird for me to see what level of competition I would be getting. But playing as many tournaments as I



VU MEDIA RELATIONS
Freshman Jackie Wu leads a first-year group with an 18-2 record thus far in singles play. This top five recruiting class has certainly exceeded expectations.

did as a junior really helped me as far as match play and match experience. I do know that there's still a lot to learn from college tennis.

VH: What is this team's goal for the season?

JW: We are trying to be the fittest team out here out of all of our competitors and we also want to never back down. If somebody is going to win, they've got to beat us.

VH: What is the strongest aspect of your game?

JW: I have a lot of variety in my game, so if plan A doesn't work, I have a plan B.

VH: What aspect needs the most improvement?

JW: I think that would be the mental aspect, knowing what to think and trying not to get down, just staying positive and having a good attitude.

VH: What do you like to do in your free time?

JW: (Laughing) I just like to hang out.

VH: What is your routine before every match?

JW: I actually don't really have a routine. I don't know what some people do, but I don't really have a routine. Most of the time I'll try to listen to some music, just so that I don't think about the match too much. I just need to stay relaxed before I go out there. ■

'Youthful enthusiasm' buoys Vanderbilt women's soccer

by PETER LETARTE
Sports Contributor

Of this year's 23 Vanderbilt women's soccer players, only four have more than one letter of collegiate experience. The team boasts an astounding 19 underclassmen. With so much youth on the team, words such as "tremendous leaders," "unity," "even mentality" and "professional" are not words that one would expect a head coach to use when describing her squad, but fourteen games into the season this is exactly how coach Ronnie Coveleskie feels about the girls on this year's team.

Since even before the season began, the girls have been bonding together and the team has been taking steps to ensure success not only for this season, but for the seasons the girls have left together as well. The team has been able to create chemistry through their youthful attitude as well as the new experiences that so many of them share together for the first time.

"I think that they share the youthful enthusiasm and I think that that's something that you can't teach and as you age you lose it," Coveleskie said. "So I think that there's (an attitude) of fun that is instilled in that (enthusiasm) because of the fact that everything is still exciting to them."

That excitement has led the team to five straight victories to open the season and win two of its last three conference games for an 8-5-1 record.

Steps were taken early to embrace this youthful enthusiasm and help the girls bond together and become stronger through it.

"We went to dinner a bunch of times, more than half of us went on a boat together on weekends...and during preseason we all roomed in Branscomb together during the soccer camp and it was really fun," said freshman Lyndsey Wilcox.

Such experiences paired with a smaller veteran presence have allowed the younger players to come together in unique and very mature ways. This elevated sense of responsibility and maturity has caused this young team to respond to the highs and lows throughout the season in ways that are usually reserved for extremely experienced and veteran teams.

"They keep building upon what they did the day before and we try to keep an even mentality throughout the course of the season," Coveleskie said. "We love coming out to train and we love being together and we still believe we're going to win some games."

Without doubt some of the senior leadership has contributed to the success of the younger players this

year. For Lyndsey Wilcox, she has had the unique experience of having senior Amy Wilcox be not only a veteran leader, but also her sister.

"She's a great leader on and off the field," the freshman said. "Not even just me, (but I think) everyone on the team thinks of her as a sister."

While this year's seniors and their leadership abilities will definitely be missed when they are gone, the future certainly looks bright for the women's soccer program.

"They're growing as athletes and they're growing as soccer players everyday," Coveleskie said. "The future with them leading us is so bright."

"I think that everyone's improving. When (the sophomores) are seniors and we're juniors, we're going to be awesome," Lyndsey Wilcox said. "We're going to be unbeatable."

Vanderbilt soccer will close out a four-match road trip this weekend at Louisiana State and Arkansas. The Commodores will face the Tigers on Friday at 7 p.m. and the Razorbacks on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Vanderbilt holds a 7-2-2 all-time series lead over the Tigers and are 3-1-2 since 2000. The Tigers won 2-0 last season when the teams met in Nashville, and they deadlocked 0-0 the last time the teams met in Baton Rouge in 2006. ■



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Sophomore Molly Kinsella (20) and freshman Candace West (19) are among 19 underclassmen on the Vanderbilt women's soccer team. Despite their youth, the players have demonstrated an ability to play beyond their years en route to an 8-5-1 start. Coach Ronnie Coveleskie said of the group that the "future with them leading us is so bright."

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