



ADMINISTRATION: Financial aid program getting kudos from press, Senators. SEE PAGE 5

THE RANT: Vandy just can't win, and it's just too cold to wear a Palin costume. SEE PAGE 6

Happy Halloween



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

First-year student Tim Duckworth designs his entry for the Commons' pumpkin-carving contest on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

by **ETHEL MICKEY**
News Contributor

The Commons was the place to be the week before Halloween, with spooky-themed events held every day leading up to the holiday.

"All of the activities put together by the Commons have been a great way for the freshman to come together and celebrate Halloween," said first-year student Kristi Skala.

The festivities kicked off Monday, with each first-year house participating in a lobby-decorating competition. Lobbies were decorated with furry spiders, bloody handprints and tombstones representing each football team Vanderbilt beat this season. The winning house will receive points towards the Commons Cup, to be awarded at the end of the school year.

The Commons Center featured a Halloween item on their menu every night, and there was pumpkin carving

during dinner on Wednesday. Students voted for the top three designs on Thursday. Winners will receive gift certificates to the bookstore.

Each faculty head of house and Dean of the Commons Frank Wcislo handed out candy to "trick-or-treaters" Thursday night, as first-year students opened their doors and showed off their themed lobbies.

The festivities will conclude Friday night with the WRVU dance party titled "Monster's Ball." It will begin at 9 p.m. in The Commons Center, and prizes will be given for the best individual, group and duo costumes. There will be door prizes awarded all night to attendees, and the winners of the lobby and pumpkin carving competitions will be announced.

"I'm excited for the dance this Friday. It should be a great way to end a stressful week and to celebrate Halloween," said first-year student Kellie Douglas. ■

Greeks, athletes open doors to trick-or-treaters for faculty families

by **HUGH SCHLESINGER**
News Contributor

Friday, the Greek community and the Student Athletic Council will open their doors for the families of university faculty and staff as well as children from the local Boys and Girls Clubs for Halloween festivities.

The event, which will take place from 5 to 7 p.m., will include trick-or-treating along Greek Row and a myriad of Halloween and carnival games run both by members of the Greek community and by student athletes. Members from each of Vanderbilt's fraternities and sororities will be involved with the event, including members in costume, and many of the activities will take place in the Greek houses.

In the interest of safety for the children involved, both Kensington and 24th Avenues will be blocked around Greek Row during the event and traffic on Vanderbilt Place will only be allowed going east, toward Sarratt Student Center coming from Memorial Gym. ■

VSG resolutions update

by **LILY CHEN**
Leadership Specialist

At the Vanderbilt Student Government Senate meeting this week, various items on the table were discussed, including the implementation of online course syllabi for spring course registration as well as improved card access for students.

In addition, upcoming programming events were discussed, including Election Gameday at the Commons on Tuesday and the Blair Witch Project Charity Dance to be held on Nov. 1.

New resolutions passed this week include:

VSG Resolution S: 08-09-13 Voting Hours Reform Act

- I. The resolution states that in order to allow more opportunities for students to vote in future VSG elections, it is proposed that the voting time be changed from Tuesday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to Wednesday 8 a.m. through Thursday at noon. Election results will be announced at noon in Sarratt Student Center.
- II. Senator Lori Murphy raised the point that extending election time will allow VSG to further examine voting peak times.
- III. A&S Council President John Furlow reminded everyone that according to resolution 08-09-09, all future VSG elections will be better publicized by Director of Public Relation, so voter turnout should be enhanced.

VSG Resolution S: 08-09-14 Creation of the Strategic Action Plan Committee

- I. The resolution states that in order to better assess the state of VSG, a clear and concise outline of VSG core purpose, core value and big goal is essential. Therefore, this resolution proposes to form an ad-hoc committee named the VSG Strategic Action Plan Committee in accordance to the proposal submitted to VSG Executive board. This committee will be chaired by Senator Tim Pennell.
- II. Senator Murphy clarified that this committee will be composed of representatives from different VSG branches.
- III. Senator Pennell emphasizes that it's important to gather inputs and hear voices on a broader scale.

Both motions were carried. Resolutions are compiled by General Secretary Melissa Zhu.

ACADEMICS

Memorial hosted for professor Colas



STEVE GREEN / VU Media Relations

Hans Colas, father of the Pierre and Marie Colas, spoke at the memorial service in honor of the late brother and sister. The memorial, titled "A Celebration of Life," was held at Benton Chapel.

by **JUDY WANG**
Academics Specialist

Students, colleagues, friends and family filled Benton Chapel on Wednesday to honor and remember Pierre and Marie Colas.

Colas, an accomplished archaeologist and assistant professor at Vanderbilt, was killed at the age of 32 earlier this semester during an attempted robbery at his house in East Nashville. His sister, Marie, died a few days later at Vanderbilt Hospital after suffering injuries from the same attack.

Director of Religious Life Gay Welch opened the service.

"We are here today to celebrate the life and legacy, to comfort one another and seek the strength to move forward," said Welch. "We are thankful for their lives and memories and will not let the fire of their presence go out."

Those who knew Colas shared stories and made speeches, some remembering him for his scholarship, some for his guidance and everyone for his kindness, devotion to loved ones, humility and appreciation of life.

"He was our everyday's moment of happiness, and he would want us to remember him as such," said friend and colleague Sergio Romero. ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Lewis elevator problems tire upperclassmen

by **JENNIFER DENNARD**
News Contributor

Packed elevators and tiring trips up the stairs have become the norm in Lewis House this semester. Of the two elevators in the dorm, often only one elevator is working, resulting in long waits and many disgruntled students.

With 11 floors and almost 300 residents, students feel one elevator is not enough.

"Not only can we not effectively use the elevator in

a timely fashion, but it makes me late for class," said junior JD Jacobson, a 10th floor resident. "Something needs to be done because for those of us in the top floors, it can take as long as 10 minutes to get to the ground level once we've stepped into the elevator."

Junior Trip Conrad, another Lewis resident, voiced similar complaints.

"I've had to wait up to 10 minutes for the elevator and have been late to class because of it," said Conrad. "It seems like

it takes maintenance a week to fix one."

The time lag between the outage and the repair has frustrated other residents.

"I do not think the response has been adequate," Jacobson said.

Since Lewis stairwells close after 7 p.m., even lower floor residents have had to deal with the elevator delays. According to senior Lee Karlsson, a resident advisor for Lewis, the stairway hours are set to ensure resident safety. As in many

other buildings, an alarm rings if students exit through the stair door after 7 p.m.

The resident advisors of Lewis are aware of the problem, as they also have to deal with the delays and crowded elevators.

"We proposed the idea of extending stairwell hours at the RA meeting," Karlsson said. However, students are looking for a more concrete response.

"The elevators need to be totally revamped. We probably need new ones, if we can get them," Jacobson said. ■

SPORTS: No. 2 bowling looks to another great season, this time for the first senior recruiting class. SEE PAGE 8



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by HUGH SCHLESSINGER

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TODAY



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Sunny

SATURDAY



HIGH **73**, LOW **45**
Sunny

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SERVICE GUIDE

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NEWS BRIEFS

Economy jolts into decline; bad recession predicted for future

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scared and out of money, Americans stopped buying everything from cars to corn flakes in the July-September quarter, ratcheting back spending by the largest amount in 28 years and jolting the national economy into what could be the most painful recession in decades.

With retailers bracing for a grim holiday buying season, the economy isn't just slowing; it's actually shrinking, the government confirmed Thursday. It reported that the nation's gross domestic product declined at an annual rate of 0.3 percent in the year's third quarter and consumers' disposable income took its biggest drop on record.

In simpler words, "The train went off the tracks," said Brian Bethune, economist at IHS global Insight.

Wall Street took comfort in the fact that it wasn't even worse. The Dow Jones industrials rose 190 points.

But economists say tougher times are still ahead. Believing consumers are cutting back even more right now, they predict a much larger economic decline — anywhere from a 1 to 2 percent rate — during the current October-December period. That would meet a classic definition of a recession — two straight quarters of shrinking GDP.

New bone find encourages Fossett investigators in California range

MADERA, Calif. (AP)—Searchers have found what appear to be two large human bones near the crash site of Steve Fossett's plane in California's Sierra Nevada, along with the adventurer's tennis shoes and driver's license, authorities said Thursday.

Madera County Sheriff John Anderson said at a news conference that the bones were found Wednesday about a half-mile east of the crash site. Investigators have sent them to a Department of Justice testing lab and should know in about a week whether they are Fossett's.

Anderson said searchers also found Fossett's tennis shoes, his Illinois driver's license and credit cards. The shoes and driver's license had animal bite marks on them.

"This reinforces our theory that animals dragged him away," Anderson said.

Previous bone fragments discovered near the wreckage were either found to be not human or too small for DNA tests. Investigators have completed their work on the ground and do not plan to resume search efforts, Anderson said.

Iraq wants all US troops gone by end of 2011, Maliki aide suggests

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq wants to eliminate any chance U.S. forces will stay here after 2011 under a proposed security pact and to expand Iraqi legal jurisdiction over U.S. troops until then, a close ally of the prime minister said Thursday.

Those demands, which were presented to U.S. officials this week, could derail the deal — delivering a diplomatic blow to Washington in the final weeks of the Bush administration.

Failure to reach an agreement before year's end could force a suspension of American military operations, and U.S. commanders have been warning Iraqi officials that could endanger security improvements.

The current draft, hammered out in months of tortuous negotiations, would have U.S. soldiers leave Iraq by Dec. 31, 2011, unless the two governments agreed to an extension for training and supporting Iraqi security forces.

But Ali al-Adeeb, a member of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's inner circle, said the government wants that possibility excluded by language adding finality to the end of 2011 date.

"The Iraqi side wants to remove any mention of a possible extension of U.S. troops, fearing that the existing clause might be subject to misinterpretation or could bear different interpretation," he told The Associated Press.

Joe the Plumber hires Nashville publicity team; music deal false rumor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Like all good celebrities, Joe the Plumber has hired a publicity team.

The Press Office in Nashville, where clients include rockers Grand Funk Railroad and Eddie Money, will help him handle the flood of interview and appearance requests that have poured in since he was mentioned during a presidential debate and quickly became a household name.

"It's like any other celebrity who is in the public eye," said Jim Della Croce, who owns the agency. "There needs to be someone acting as a clearinghouse and interpreting the opportunities and coordinating the media requests, and he truly is being inundated."

Despite rumors to the contrary, he's not planning to release an album, though a book is in the works.

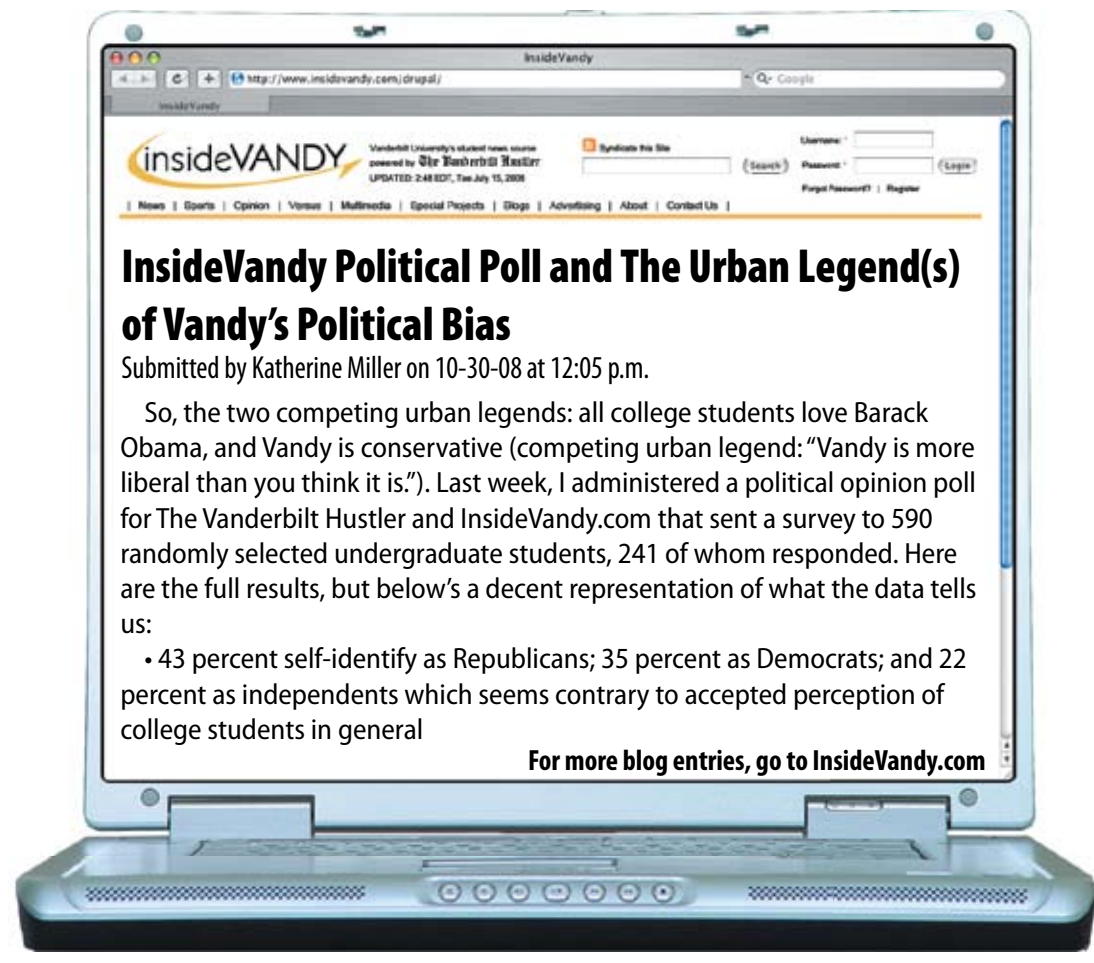
"He's not doing a country record," Della Croce said flatly Thursday. "I think that was an angle that was presumptuous."

Joe the Plumber, whose real name is Samuel J. "Joe" Wurzelbacher, 34, of Ohio, gained national attention when Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama told him during a campaign stop that he wanted to "spread the wealth around."

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday

On Sunday morning at 2 a.m., Daylight Savings Time will end. All students should make sure to set back one hour to account for this change.

FROM THE BLOG



SNAPSHOT SPOOKY GREETING ON THE COMMONS



Decorations hang in Sutherland House this Halloween week as houses compete for Commons Cup points. ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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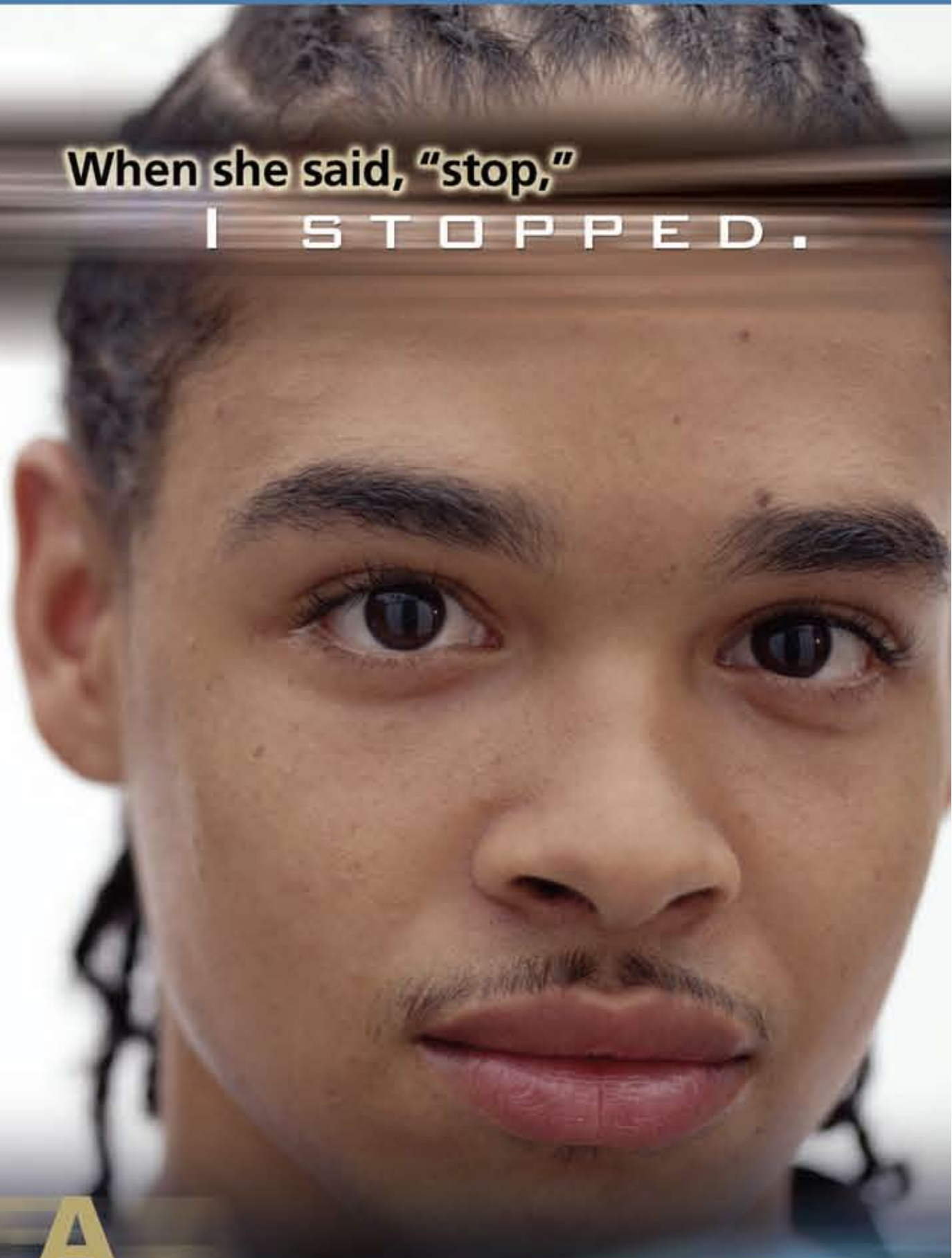
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ACADEMICS

Vanderbilt professor wins national writer's award

by JUDY WANG
Academics Specialist

Assistant Professor of English and writer Rick Hilles is one of three poets to receive the prestigious 2008 Whiting Writers' Award.

The award, presented on Wednesday at a ceremony in New York City, recognizes "10 young writers for their extraordinary talent and promise and is one of the most coveted prizes for up and coming writers," according to Liza Lucas of Goldberg McDuffie Communications.

Hilles, an assistant professor in the Master of Fine Arts Program at Vanderbilt University, has published numerous works of poetry as well as received notable awards, including the 2006 Poetry Book of the Year by ForeWord magazine and 2007 Poetry Society of America's Robert H. Winner Award.

"I was stunned in the best possible sense because I have tried hard over the years not to

allow myself to even hope for it," said Hilles on receiving the latest recognition.

"I guess I'll just have to take this immense gratitude I'm feeling and disperse it equally among everyone," he said when the foundation's director told him about the anonymity of the selection process.

Hilles joined the Vanderbilt faculty during the fall of 2005 and currently teaches two poetry workshops.

"I feel extremely fortunate to have worked with so many superbly talented and inspiring students since coming to Vanderbilt," Hilles said. "Our M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing is still very new, though I'm happy to say that, in the most recent issue of 'Poets & Writers,' it was listed as among the 20 'Top Fully Funded Programs.'" ■



HILLES

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The deadline for submissions is October 31st! Winners will be announced on Friday, November 7th.

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ACADEMICS

Peabody education program boasts No. 2 ranking, award-winning faculty members

by MARTYNA STOMSKI
News Contributor

U.S. News and World Report announced this month that Vanderbilt's Peabody College ranks has one of the best graduate education programs in the country, second only to Stanford University.

Since 2004, Peabody has consistently ranked within the top 10 in many of its specific programs, including educational administration, which is currently No. 1 in the nation.

"We knew that Peabody has been excellent for quite a while, but there's a lag time and the national rankings are beginning to catch up to reflect what exists here on campus," said Peabody's Associate Dean for External Relations

and Professional Education Timothy Caboni.

In addition, Peabody faculty members Donna Ward, Janet Eyler and Rich Lehrer were recently given awards for their pioneering and substantive contributions within their respective fields.

"If you were to go through each of our faculty's resumes, almost all these folks have been recognized at some point in their career for work that they've done. It's never common to receive that kind of recognition, but its not surprising given the level of work that exists on campus. We are very proud of them," Caboni said.

"Although I have been here for six years, in many ways, I feel as if I am just getting started," said Lehrer, a professor of science education. ■



DANIEL DUBOIS / VU Media Relations

The Wyatt Center projects over Peabody Lawn. Peabody College has top education programs, including the best education administration program in the country.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial aid: Positive press answer

by EVE ATTERMANN
Administration Specialist

Chancellor Nick Zeppos' announcement that the university would exchange all need-based loans with need-based grants has inspired response from various people not only around campus, but around the country as well.

"The press reaction has been very positive internally at Vanderbilt, locally in Nashville and Tennessee and nationally, where Vanderbilt has been recognized for taking this bold step. I think you will continue to see Vanderbilt mentioned in the media as stories focus on financial aid, college costs and the economy," said Interim Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Beth Fortune.

"I have received e-mails from senators applauding the



ZEPPOS



CHRISTIANSEN

greater access for students," said Associate Provost for Enrollment Management and Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen.

The initiative, which was originally planned to start in the fall semester of next year, was extended to graduating seniors for next semester.

"The way we have developed our budget would allow only starting next fall to help everybody, and then we thought (about) what we could do for our graduating seniors," Christiansen said. "(We) thought we should

include our seniors to be part of this initiative. Typically, the student's package is for the full year, but this is just a one kind special thing for our graduating seniors."

"Originally, the proposal was to cover the entering class of 2009, sophomore, juniors and seniors, but Chancellor Zeppos felt strongly that seniors graduating in the spring should be included, too, so he worked very hard to make that happen," Fortune said.

Students in lower grades do not complain about this, though.

"They (first-year students, sophomores and seniors) are all thrilled (for the seniors) because they know they are going to get it for more years, so they understand," Christiansen said.

"The student response, and

the overall response from parents, alumni and others interested in the university, has been very positive," Fortune said.

Christiansen also said that even if it is a challenge to make the change at the end of the year, the financial aid department has been doing a great job e-mailing the current seniors, and they hope to have taken care of the details by December.

In light of the economic crisis, the \$100 million goal, to be raised from alumni donations, to finance the initiative might be a high expectation. Christiansen maintains a positive attitude, however.

"Yes, the current economy is an issue, but we are going to work hard to meet those goals, no question about it," Christiansen said. ■

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OPINION

Welcome to nuclear America



THOMAS SHATTUCK
Opinion Editor

As DMX once said, "First we gonna rock, then we gonna roll, then we let it pop, don't let it go, X is gonna give it to ya." And I think we all know what he's talking about: the decline in social mores and the ensuing depression.

A significant chunk of Americans seem to believe their social institutions are under fire. Divorce rates are supposedly skyrocketing, though in actuality it was only 3.6 per 1000 people, the lowest since 1970. Violent crime rates have been declining for well over a decade, though adult drug-related offenses have been on the rise. More importantly, the percentage of crimes reported to the police is also climbing. That's good, right?

So where's the problem? If the U.S. Bureau of Statistics is to be believed, we're doing fine. More than fine really. In fact, we're just peachy. Except according to the Happiness Foundation, Denmark is happy, the U.S. is not (something like No. 16). So I suppose crime and happiness may not actually be directly correlated, but one would think they would be.

What's left? Well, I suppose it could be the economy — though it has been demonstrated time and time again that there is no positive correlation between wealth and happiness. There is the stress, so that could be a factor. Still, I doubt whether an alleviation of our financial woes would lead us back to the halcyon days we have strayed from. Maybe it really does boil down to the degradation of American social infrastructures. Maybe we should all aspire to be just like "Leave it to Beaver."

American society theoretically consists of what is referred to as the "nuclear family." This arrangement is generally defined as two parents (generally heterosexual in nature) and their children cohabitating in one housing structure (apartment, house, etc.). At one point, the nuclear family did represent an overwhelming majority of family structures in the U.S., but now it represents no such majority and has begun to lag behind single parent and no child homes. Maybe this is a disintegration of an important institution, but more likely, it's men and women trying to make life work. Maybe the nuclear family is obsolete; it no longer serves the social function it once did. Is it shame? I suppose so, but it really doesn't matter in the end. As Rabelais once wrote, "fais-ce que tu voudras."

There is an argument that gay marriage will devastate the sanctity of marriage and negatively affect children brought up in such households, though neither claim could be considered legitimate. First of all, marriage as a civil institution has no obligation to follow the rules of holy (i.e. ecumenical) matrimony and is a public service. And secondly, there has been no study effectively demonstrating any connection between juvenile delinquency, depression or education levels and the sexual orientation of the parents. There is simply no data supporting any such claim.

What can be said definitively? Very little, though it is safe to claim the American social sphere is changing. It might be for the better or perhaps the worse; it is unreasonable to make a claim either way. So why are Americans unhappy? If it's not gay marriage or crime, I don't know. Maybe they need to take more Prozac.

—Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at thomas.u.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

Representative Cooper deserves another term

The spirit of change has excited the American electorate, but voters in Tennessee's 5th Congressional District should vote to keep the incumbent, Rep. Jim Cooper, in office.

Jim Cooper has served the district since 2003, after having represented the 4th District from 1983 to 1995. As a leader of the moderate-to-conservative Blue Dog Democrat coalition in Congress, Cooper has a record of fighting for responsible government spending and expanding free trade.

Cooper is a Rhodes Scholar with a deep understanding of the economic consequences of the actions of government. He frequently notes the dangers of the national debt and the government's budget deficits, demanding action from Congress as a member of the House Budget Committee. Cooper rails against rampant spending under the Bush administration and the Republican Congress of the first half of the decade.

With the financial crisis in full swing, a sober knowledge of economics like Cooper's is exactly what Congress needs to help America weather the storm. He voted to regulate the sub-prime mortgage industry in 2007,

Not a strictly partisan Democrat, Cooper has not been afraid to take principled stands

on important issues that side him with his Republican colleagues. In the current Congress, he has voted "yes" on expanding the power of FISA security measures, funding the war in Iraq without requiring a timetable for withdrawal and creating a free trade zone with a number of Latin American nations. Cooper proves with these and many other votes that he does not mindlessly toe the party line.

Beyond this, Cooper has been moderate in many aspects of Tennessee values, including a respect for the Second Amendment, which garners moderately positive ratings from the National Rifle Association. He has also been moderate to conservative on the right to life, with a 30 percent rating from NARAL. His views are moderately consistent with his constituents in Middle Tennessee.

No matter who wins the presidential election Tuesday, there is a need for government that works to meet the needs of American citizens. There are good, honest disagreements about how to best address the concerns of government, and Jim Cooper is a moderate voice for intellectualism and reason in the House of Representatives.

—Michael Warren

Top 5 reasons why you still shouldn't vote for Obama



FRANNIE BOYLE
Columnist

This election may appear to be over, but I still believe John McCain has a microscopic bit of hope before the results become solid next Tuesday. For all of you who are still undecided, or even for those who have already voted but need a little reassurance that they did the right thing in voting for McCain, I have compiled a short list of reasons of why voting for Barack Obama would be the wrong decision to make:

1) The War on Terror

Obama has displayed his weaknesses in fighting terrorism on many different levels. He has made ill-founded criticisms of McCain's strategies in Iraq, he has played down the importance of the danger imposed by Iran and he has shown his support for allowing terrorists picked up in the battlefields the same judicial rights as U.S. citizens. The worst part of an Obama presidency, though, would be his support of large budget cuts in military and defense spending. Also, not financially supporting a strong finish in Iraq could create more problems for us there in the future.

2) We are not a sad and war-torn European country

McCain has been saying from the beginning that raising taxes during a recession would not help and would actually probably worsen the situation. Also, Obama's record on government spending in awful: In 2008, he let 53 earmarks slip by that came to a total of \$97.4 million. This frivolous irresponsibility in combination with his economic plan overall is rather scary.

3) Activist courts

The dynamic of the Supreme Court will not change much under an Obama presidency, because the next three justices most likely to retire — Stevens, Ginsburg and Souter — are all more liberal justices. The leftist legacy would just last longer because Obama would be able to nominate younger justices. He has claimed he would pick justices based on their ideological standards rather than just their qualifications. These standards are dangerous for the preservation of our Constitution, and with a Democratic majority in the Senate, Obama would not meet much resistance with any radical, activist judge he decides to nominate.

4) Obama + Reid + Pelosi = Trouble

It has been projected that the Democrats will make even more gains in the House and the Senate than they did in 2006. With an Obama victory, the system of checks and balances would be heavily skewed. He would be able to make military budget cuts, nominate any radical judges he wants, and even manipulate our economy in any way he wants. He might not necessarily abuse this power, but there is a frightening potential.

5) McCain would be perfect for these times

With an economic crisis, war, and the experience of great social changes, our country needs a president who will be able to cross party lines and have enough experience to make big decisions. Obama is young, fresh and has a small voting record that does not give much information. With McCain, you know what you are going to get, and you know he will not bring the polarization. McCain would bring the stability and leadership the United States needs at this time to bring about a better future.

—Frannie Boyle is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at [mary.f.boyle@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:maryl.f.boyle@vanderbilt.edu).

Obama's "socialist" tax plan

ALEX KOREN
Guest Columnist

Over the past several weeks, Republicans have tried to distort Barack Obama's tax plan by using scary words. In his editorial on Monday, Michael Warren described this tactic as radical. Several surrogates for the McCain campaign, as well as some Republican congressmen, have described it as socialist. With all of this talk about radicalism and socialism, one would think that Obama was a disciple of Premier Stalin or Chairman Mao and that his tax plan is to come to your door and confiscate very dollar you make over bare subsistence.

So what exactly is this radical Obama tax plan? Is he going to double your taxes? Is he going to triple them? Actually, the radical socialist Obama plan is to increase the top marginal tax rate between 6.6 percent and 8.6 percent. Here's how it's calculated.

The first 4.6 percent comes from income taxes. Currently, the top marginal income tax rate is 35 percent. Obama plans to let the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans expire, meaning the top marginal income tax rate will go up to 39.6 percent, which was the rate during the Clinton years. This, however, does not mean people making over \$250,000 a year will pay 39.6 percent on all of their income. They will only pay 39.6 percent on all of their income that is over \$250,000. Their first \$250,000 will not be taxed any higher under an Obama administration than it is now.

The other tax Obama wants to increase for those making over \$250,000, but again not on the first \$250,000 that they make, is the payroll tax. Obama has said he wants to increase this by 2 percent to 4 percent. For argument's sake, I will give the other side the benefit of the doubt and say it is going to go up 4 percent. Half of payroll taxes are paid by employers, so for those who don't own a business, it would only be a 2 percent increase. For those who do own a business, Obama plans to offset that burden by completely eliminating capital gains taxes for small businesses and providing a refundable tax credit for half of every dollar spent by a small business on employees' health care.

Now I can understand the Republicans hate the idea of an increase in payroll taxes since those taxes are used to fund the radical socialist redistributive programs called Social Security and Medicare. And I can understand they believe any income tax rate over zero is punishing success.

But what I can't understand is this notion that Obama's tax plan is radical or socialist. I really want to know why a 35 percent top marginal tax rate is not socialist but a 41.6 percent or a 43.6 percent rate is socialist. Where do they draw that red line? Is it 36 percent? Thirty-eight percent? Forty percent? Or is it simply that anything above what the Republicans say it should be is socialist?

—Alex Koren is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at alexander.l.koren@vanderbilt.edu.

THE RANT

What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. Send in your rants with the subject "Rant" to: opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com.

"Lil Wayne was such a let down."

"Why did the Phillies have to win?"

"I would just like to thank the Vanderbilt Football team for ruining my senior year. After starting 5 and 0, we are going to finish 0 and 7. It really would have been nice to go to a bowl game ... but we are destined to choke ... every year."

"I think it's going to be too cold for my Sarah Palin costume."

"Ron Clark Academy kids are amazing. I wish I could dance like that."

"Why is it so damn cold? I thought it was supposed to be 70."

"Why is the Pub so slow to bring out my food? It takes forever."

Compiled by Thomas Shattuck

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.

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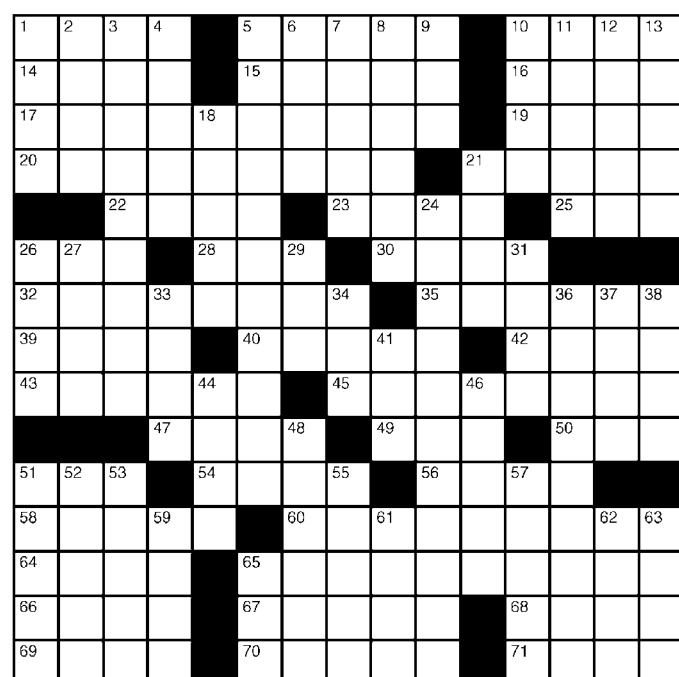
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10/31/08

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10/29/08 SOLUTIONS

ZELIG JABS XRAY
ALIVE ABOUT EURO
NASAL NECK
EMANATE ENDORSE
THE AEON
INQUIRY USN KEG
MOURNERS STILE
AVID WEARS ONES
GETUP DECADEENT
ELSA SANDRAS
SLOE TRA
SETTERS LEGROOM
OAHU SAFE RUMBA
BRAN EMUS ADIOS
SLIT YENS METES

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

10/29/08 SOLUTIONS

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

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SPORTS

National powerhouse bowling team opens season

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor

The Vanderbilt women's bowling team opens its season Friday at the Fairleigh Dickinson Invitational in New Jersey, as the preseason No. 2 squad looks to cap off a wonderful career for coach John Williamson's first recruited senior class.

"It's hard to believe that our first recruits are already seniors," said Williamson. "They have worked hard to make Vanderbilt bowling the top program in the country."

Vanderbiltfoundeditsbowling program in September of 2004 in order to conform to new NCAA Division I-A membership requirements. After having some moderate success in that first year with a team of walk-ons, the program signed its first recruiting class, including current seniors Karen Grygiel, Tara Kane, Kaitlin Reynolds and Michelle Peloquin.

These seniors have earned All-American honors a combined six times in bringing this fledgling program to prominence from scratch when they came to Nashville.

"It has been amazing just to see how far we have come as a

team from when we first started," said Grygiel.

This class created the framework for the success that was to follow, including a National Championship for the 2006-07 season, just the third year of competition for the Commodores.

One of the leaders of this team is junior Josie Earnest, who was named National Player of the Year last season in leading the Commodores to the National Semifinals in 2008.

"The National Player of the Year award meant a lot to me," said Earnest. "I want to build off of it, but it doesn't have a lot of bearing on what will go on this year. I'm ready for another fantastic season."

Junior Ashley Belden and sophomores Amanda Halter, Brittany Garcia, Ellen Morrison and Katie Lammers round out the returnees on the roster, and the team welcomed highly touted freshman Brittini Hamilton this fall.

Williamson believes the underclassmen were influenced by the early success of the current seniors.

"They were the first group to take a chance on our new team and since then the best players



TYLER HAGEN / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior Josie Earnest, pictured holding Vanderbilt's 2006-2007 National Championship trophy, looks to build off a strong sophomore campaign that earned her National Player of the Year honors.

in the country have come here to be part of what these seniors started," he said.

The Commodores enter this season with their sights set on another great season, as defending national champion

University of Maryland Eastern Shore narrowly edged them out for the preseason No. 1 ranking.

Grygiel does not mind starting off the season in second.

"It means that we are pumped to regain that number one spot,"

she said.

But preseason rankings do not mean anything once the season gets started, which is why the Commodores are looking to build on their early success in order to bring a second national

title back to campus.

"If we take care of the things we can control, we have enough talent and depth to be very successful at the end of the season," Williamson said. "We have high expectations." ■

friday conversation with JON CURRAN

Interview by MEGHAN ROSE
Sports Contributor

With an impressive performance over the weekend at the 2008 Bank of Tennessee Intercollegiate, senior golfer Jon Curran notched the 16th top 10 finish of his career at Vanderbilt. He spoke with The Vanderbilt Hustler about what's to come for the golf team, the goals for the spring and his most memorable accomplishment to date.

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: With one tournament left this fall, how would you sum up the season so far?

JON CURRAN: We got off to a pretty decent start in the fall, and we have four total tournaments this season. As a team, we had a lot of high expectations and goals for ourselves. For me in particular, I set a lot of high goals for myself. We haven't quite met them yet. My goal for the fall season was to win every tournament, and we've had three so far. You set high goals for yourself and see what happens after that.

VH: How would you describe the Southeastern Conference competition that you face?

JC: The difference between the two seasons isn't that much, but in the fall, we have a lighter schedule in terms of competition. With the SEC in the spring, it's one of the strongest fields you can possibly get in college golf.

VH: With 16 top 10 finishes in your career at Vandy, what would you say is the best part of your game?

JC: Once you get to the collegiate level, everyone kind of hits the ball the same and putts it the same. It's more your mental approach, and the way you go about it that set you apart. You have to have that mental edge — you have to know how to win, and you have to put yourself in a position to win.

VH: Being one of three seniors on the team, have you seen your role change at all?

JC: There are three seniors this year — Tyler Matthews, John Ebert and myself. We've kind of taken leadership role; there aren't any set captains, though.

VH: What are your goals for your last spring season as a Commodore?

JC: In the spring, we want to get to regionals. To do so, you need to have a .500 record. We've always been on that .500 mark, and we want to work to get there again. My sophomore year, we made it to nationals and we definitely want to get back. We really have to play well right out of the gates and then continue on.



VU MEDIA RELATIONS

Vanderbilt senior Jon Curran credits his focused mental approach to his game that sets him apart from other collegiate golfers.

VH: After graduation, where do you hope to take your golf career?

JC: After graduating in the spring, my goal and dream is to turn pro. I'm going to play some mini-tour events and go to Q-school, which qualifies you for the PGA Tour.

VH: Looking back on your successful collegiate career to date, does any accomplishment stand out in your mind?

JC: My sophomore year, we played at regionals in Arizona and we had to make it in the top 10 to go to nationals. We shot 21-under-par the last day and came in fourth. Seeing the guys afterward was awesome, with that sense of satisfaction and pride.

VH: Have you been a golfer all of your life?

JC: I've been playing golf since I was about 4 years old. My dad brought me into the sport, and he played golf at that time. I slowly got into it that way.

VH: What keeps you coming back to the sport?

JC: It's a combination of a lot of things, but you really have to love the competition that you get and the camaraderie that's there between the guys. Over the summer on the amateur circuit, you see a lot of the same guys and you travel week to week to the tournaments. There's a lot of bonding and you make a lot of friends that way. ■

Women's soccer faces must-win situation

by PETER LETARTE
Sports Contributor

Like so many sports teams before them, Vanderbilt women's soccer faces a game tonight where the situation is simple: win or go home.

To date, the Commodores have compiled a record of 9-7-2. A record respectable by any means, but if they can get their 10th victory on Friday, it will give them a chance to extend their season in the Southeastern Conference Playoffs.

With this in mind, the team will travel to Lexington, Ky., Friday to face the Wildcats at 6 p.m., looking for results far from frightful. The Commodores are coming off of one of their strongest performances against an SEC opponent after they defeated Mississippi State 4-0 last Sunday to put their conference record at 3-6-1. A repeat performance is necessary against the Wildcats of Kentucky if they want to put themselves in a position to be eligible for the eighth and final seed in the SEC tournament.

"We all know that a lot is riding on this game," said redshirt freshman Cat Wearn, who scored the game-winning goal in Vanderbilt's first match of the season. "We are in a must win situation."

It is situations like these that get the juices flowing in any athlete, and often the nerves as well. The concern of nerves would be even greater in most teams with as much youth as this one, but the Commodores have shown that their experience and the guiding hand of their coaches has been enough to steer them through many tough situations.

Not surprisingly, the girls are showing their normal levelheaded demeanor as they approach the big game tonight.

"We've had a good week of practice," Wearn said. "Everyone was sharp and focused. We are definitely ready to compete."

Looking solely at their records and history this season, the scale would seemingly tilt in favor of the Commodores. The lady Wildcats (2-7-1 SEC) have fallen to Tennessee and South Carolina, both of whom Vanderbilt was able to beat. In addition, the same Mississippi State team Vanderbilt disposed of handily took Kentucky into overtime on Oct. 23.

Unfortunately, a win will not lock them in to the final spot in the tournament. They are going to need some help from some of their SEC counterparts. As Wearn and the rest of her teammates see it, though, their destiny is in their own hands.

"A win will not guarantee us a berth into the SEC tournament," Wearn said. "However, it is all we can control."

While the Wildcats themselves have been officially eliminated from the tournament, the seniors especially will be aiming to impress on their senior night and end their careers with a victory. To do this, Vanderbilt will need to come out firing.

Luckily, if their attitude is any indication of how their play will be, the outcome should be a positive one.

"We are prepared for a hard-fought game and hope to extend our season with a big win," Wearn said. ■



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior midfielder Megan Forester and the Vanderbilt women's soccer team need to win tonight at Kentucky to have a chance of extending their season. The Commodores head into Lexington after a 4-0 win at Mississippi State on Sunday to move their conference record to 3-6-1.

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