

New year brings new structure for VUPD...
For more, see News, page 5



All-American Block Party alienates some...
For more, see 'Our View', page 6



Quarterback Chris Nickson unstoppable against Richmond...
For more, see Sports, page 8

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly Sunny, 93/69
Extended forecast, page 2

The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 44

THE WALL

compiled by REBECCA TYRRELL

TODAY Register for art and dance classes

Registration for art and dance classes offered at all levels in all genres takes place this week in Sarratt Student Center Main Lobby. Classes are open to all Vanderbilt and Nashville community members and begin Sept. 10.

TODAY Israeli folk dance Labor Day workshop

The Nashville Israeli Folk Dancers and Vanderbilt University Hillel present a one-night Israeli dance workshop with Dany Benshalom and Ruthy Slann today at the Schulman Center from 7 to 11 p.m.

TODAY WiSkills information sessions

Students interested in white-water paddling, rock climbing, caving and backpacking are invited to find out more about WiSkills and sign up for the fall 2007 semester course at an informational session today or tomorrow in Garland Hall 101 from 7 to 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4 Election Year Committee meeting

The Office of Active Citizenship and Service needs students to lead events and voter registration to inform and engage Vanderbilt this election year. Attend an informational meeting at the Community Partnership House lounge from 12 to 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4 VSVS informational meeting

An informational session will be held in Stevenson Center 5502 from 5 to 7 p.m. for students interested in Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, an organization that teams up to teach 5th- and 6th-graders science lessons at middle schools.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4 Vanderbilt Dance Studio open house

Visit the Vanderbilt Dance Program studios located in Memorial Gym from 6 to 8 p.m. to meet the program instructors, watch dance demonstrations, find out about dance classes and learn about upcoming performances.

See <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

VANDY GAMEDAY: VANDERBILT 41 RICHMOND 17



Junior wide receiver Earl Bennett torched Richmond in Vanderbilt's 41-17 victory Saturday at Dudley Field.

FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Btsy Spiders

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor



AS the final seconds ticked away on Vanderbilt's 41-17 victory over Richmond, wide receiver Earl Bennett turned his attention to the stands behind the Commodore bench where a throng of teenagers chanted his name.

With a big grin on his face, the junior All-American took off both arm bands and tossed them into the crowd. For the two fans lucky enough to come away with the souvenirs, it was an unforgettable end to a game featuring an unprecedented performance.

Bennett's display was even more impressive than the post-game fireworks Saturday night as he caught 13 passes for 223 yards, a school record, and three touchdowns. He was also a force on special teams, returning punts for 36 and 25 yards.

"He always puts on a show whenever you can give him the ball and he just did his thing tonight, as usual," said junior quarterback Chris Nickson, who completed 19 of 26 passes for 284 yards and four touchdowns.

While Nickson said he was not surprised Richmond opted not to double-team his favorite target, his face lit up when asked what it is like to see Bennett lined up one-on-one against a cornerback.

"I get real excited," he said. "My heart smiles."

Nickson had plenty of reasons to smile yesterday. With the Commodores holding a 7-3 lead midway through the second quarter, Nickson found Bennett open over the middle for a 40-yard completion. Six plays later, the two hooked up again, this time for a 15-yard touchdown.

Please see BENNETT, page 8

Community honors long-time Market manager

Reese known for inventive comment card responses.

by EVE ATTERMANN
Asst. News Editor

Dining employees and students alike mourn the loss of Varsity Market manager David Reese, who passed away Aug. 20. He was 47 years old.

Reese, who worked at Vanderbilt for 19 years, leaves behind him a legacy of motivation, humor and employee advocacy.

Assistant Director of Operations Spiros Vergatos and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Frank Gladu both said it was his commitment to students that made his role so special.

"Not only staff and faculty but students knew David," Vergatos said. "He loved seeing freshmen move in and then graduate. It was the summation of seeing the same students over four years. He loved students — that's why he was here."

Students best knew Reese as the man who answered their Varsity Market comment cards in a light-hearted yet genuine way.

"David used that medium to connect with students," Gladu said. "It was his idea to put his twist on it."

Junior Rachel Kaplan said the cards revealed Reese's obvious good sense of humor.

"He must have really cared to answer all of those questions," she said.

Reese was also popular among dining employees because of the way he advocated for them and motivated them to succeed.

Barbara Johnson, manager of the Branscomb Varsity

REESE MEMORIAL



DATE:
Wednesday, Sept. 5

TIME:
2:30 p.m.

LOCATION:
Benton Chapel

Market, said Reese pushed her to excel.

"He was the heart and soul of the markets, our motivation," Johnson said. "He was the type of man who always wanted you to reach higher, always wanted you to learn things."

Dining employees describe Reese's death as sudden and unexpected. Gladu and Johnson said they knew something had happened when Reese did not come into work one Monday and then did not call to say when he was coming in, as he usually did.

"I still can't believe it; it was so sudden," Gladu said. "When he didn't show up for work, and didn't return calls, I knew something was wrong."

Dining employees said they still feel his presence in the Varsity markets.

"It is awkward to come in here every day. You expect him to come in through the door every second or call every minute," Johnson said. "Even in his death he still motivates not only me, but the entire dining staff."

"To say that we're going to miss him is an understatement," Gladu said. ■

Bomb dog joins campus crime fighters

by LILY CHEN
Contributing Reporter

The newest addition to campus crime-fighting — Pepper the bomb dog — has a nose for law enforcement.

Officer Horace Lanier, Pepper's handler, said bomb dogs ensure a higher level of safety.

"With all the buildings we have and all the dignitaries that visit our university, we have to make sure they are safe," he said, "and Pepper helps us to do that."

Vanderbilt University Police Department has two bomb dogs, Pepper and Gauge, both black Labradors, and two handlers. The bomb dogs have various duties, often sweeping stadiums before games and other important events.

There have not been any bomb incidents since the dogs joined the force, Lanier said.

"We hope that in the future, we won't ever have to deal with a dangerous situation involving a bomb," he said. "However, if we ever did, our bomb dogs would be ready to handle the situation."

Lanier said the dogs follow a specific procedure when checking for bombs in areas such as vehicles.

"I would have Pepper check the vehicle by letting her use her nose, and if she found a bomb she would indicate it to me by sitting," Lanier said.

Please see BOMB DOG, page 4

—To see a video of Pepper in action go to:



Pepper, a 3-year-old bomb dog, trains with her handler Horace Lanier. The black Labrador recently became the newest addition to the force.

CHRIS THOMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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Odds & Ends

WEATHER
compiled by REBECCA TYRRELL

TUESDAY



Sunny, 97/68

WEDNESDAY



Partly Cloudy, 97/73

THURSDAY



Partly Cloudy, 95/69

VUPD CRIME LOG
compiled by REBECCA TYRRELL

There is no crime to report.

Check out <http://police.vanderbilt.edu/crimelog.htm> for complete listings.

SERVICE GUIDE

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the academic year except for during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break.

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each.

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CORRECTIONS

The Hustler strives for accuracy and fairness and will correct errors of substance. See our correction policy on the Opinion page for information about notifying us.

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW
The news you need — in brief

compiled by REBECCA TYRRELL

WORLD

Iraqi civilian deaths rise in August to the second-highest monthly level of the year

Civilian deaths rose in August to their second-highest monthly level this year, according to figures compiled Saturday by The Associated Press. That raises questions about whether U.S. strategy is working days before Congress receives landmark reports that will decide the course of the war.

At least 81 American service members also died in Iraq during August. American deaths surpassed the 80 mark during only two months of 2006.

U.S. military officials have insisted the security plan launched early this year led to a decrease in attacks on civilians and sectarian killings, especially in the Baghdad area, which was the focus of the new strategy.

However, figures compiled by the AP from police reports nationwide show that at least 1,809 civilians were killed across the country last month compared with 1,760 in July. That brings to 27,564 the number of Iraqi civilians killed since AP began collecting data on April 28, 2005.

SOURCE: AP

North Korea agrees to account for, disable all nuclear programs by end of year

North Korea agreed Sunday to account for and disable all its nuclear programs by the end of the year, the chief U.S. negotiator said — the first time the communist country has offered a timeline to end its secretive atomic program.

Before announcing the timetable, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said improving relations between the two countries, long estranged, was dependent on a North Korea free of nuclear weapons.

Hours later, he said he and his North Korean counterpart had agreed that North Korea “will provide a full declaration of all of their nuclear programs and will disable their nuclear programs by the end of this year, 2007.”

SOURCE: AP

NATION

Attention in Utah mine collapse shifts from rescue efforts to closure, investigation

Signs of prayer and support for six trapped miners remained on display Saturday as residents of central Utah’s coal belt struggled with the realization that the men would not be found alive.

“It’s a hard thing. Some are coping with it better than others,” said Colin King, a spokesman and lawyer for families of the six miners trapped nearly four weeks ago in a collapse. “They’re still dealing with the fact they have to accept now that these miners are not going to be recovered any time soon — that they’ve died, in all likelihood.”

Rescue efforts at the Crandall Canyon Mine were suspended indefinitely Friday.

A thunderous mountain shudder early on Aug. 6 caused mine ribs to shatter, trapping the miners. It is not known whether they survived the initial collapse.

The announcement ended hope that the men would be found alive or that their bodies would be retrieved any time soon, if ever.

SOURCE: AP

Feds come up with ID plan to restrict volunteers at disasters

In an effort to provide better control and coordination, the federal government is launching an ambitious identification program for rescue workers to keep everyday people from swarming to a disaster scene.

A prototype of the new first responder identification card is already being issued to fire and police personnel in the Washington, D.C., area.

Proponents say the system will get professionals on scene quicker and keep untrained volunteers from making tough work more difficult.

“Everybody wants to come to the fight, so to speak, and no one wants to step back and say, ‘No, I can’t do this.’ The final coup de grace was the World Trade Center. Hundreds came that were never asked,” Dickinson said. “Good intentions, good hearts, and it was extremely difficult for the fire department and the other departments to deal with them.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency came up with the idea after the World Trade Center attack and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when countless Americans rushed to help unasked, undirected and sometimes unwanted.

SOURCE: AP

CAMPUS

Students invited to aid chancellor search

The Vanderbilt Board of Trust’s Chancellor Search Committee and the Chancellor Search Advisory Committee invited students to solicit their views on the state of the institution and on the qualities essential and desirable in the next chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

A questionnaire is posted online and should be completed and submitted by campus mail by Sept. 30.

“No single decision in the life of a university is as important as that of who will lead it as chancellor. Much in our common life as an institution depends upon the character, knowledge and skills that a person brings to the role of chancellor,” wrote Dennis C. Bortorff and James Hudnut-Beumler, chairs of the Search Committee and Advisory Committee, respectively.

“We do believe that, together, all the people who know Vanderbilt can help the search committee accurately describe the strategic future of Vanderbilt and articulate the essential knowledge, skills and qualities of character that our next chancellor should possess.”

Q&A  **ANDREW ATWOOD**

compiled by JOSLIN WOODS

Director of Crime Prevention Andrew Atwood takes a minute to dole out safety tips as students return from summer vacation and freshmen arrive on campus for the first time. For a comprehensive list of safety tips, visit the VUPD Web site.

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER: How does VUPD coordinate with other campus and local organizations to keep students safe?

ANDREW ATWOOD: What we try and do here at Vanderbilt is let our students know that these resources exist and we all work very closely together. We work very closely with the Women’s Center, with conduct and discipline, with (the Office of) Housing, with Metro and our counterparts over there.

VH: How should freshmen keep their belongings safe?

AA: Most people don’t necessarily lock their bedroom door, but the reality is, they are actually living in a little apartment, and the door that leads into their room is actually their front door. We always try to encourage our students to lock their doors whether they are going to class or even when they’re in their room sleeping at night. The doors and locks are there for a reason. . . . If something is missing, it is typically because the door is not locked.

VH: How important is it that students remain alert and vigilant on and off campus?

AA: We are an open campus. . . . We are not immune to crime, so we ask that our students help us do our job.

SNAPSHOT

COOKOFF CASH



LAUREN FONDRIST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

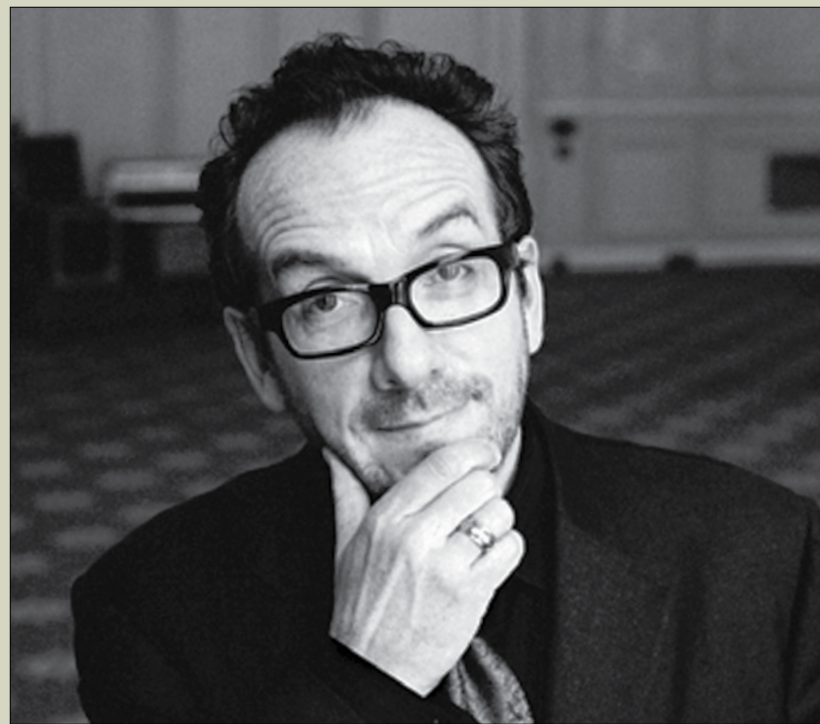
Members of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority enjoy the food at Kickoff Cookoff Friday afternoon. The event raised \$16,000 and attracted 1,050 students, \$7,000 more and 300 more students than last year. All proceeds benefited the Fannie Battle Day Home for Children.



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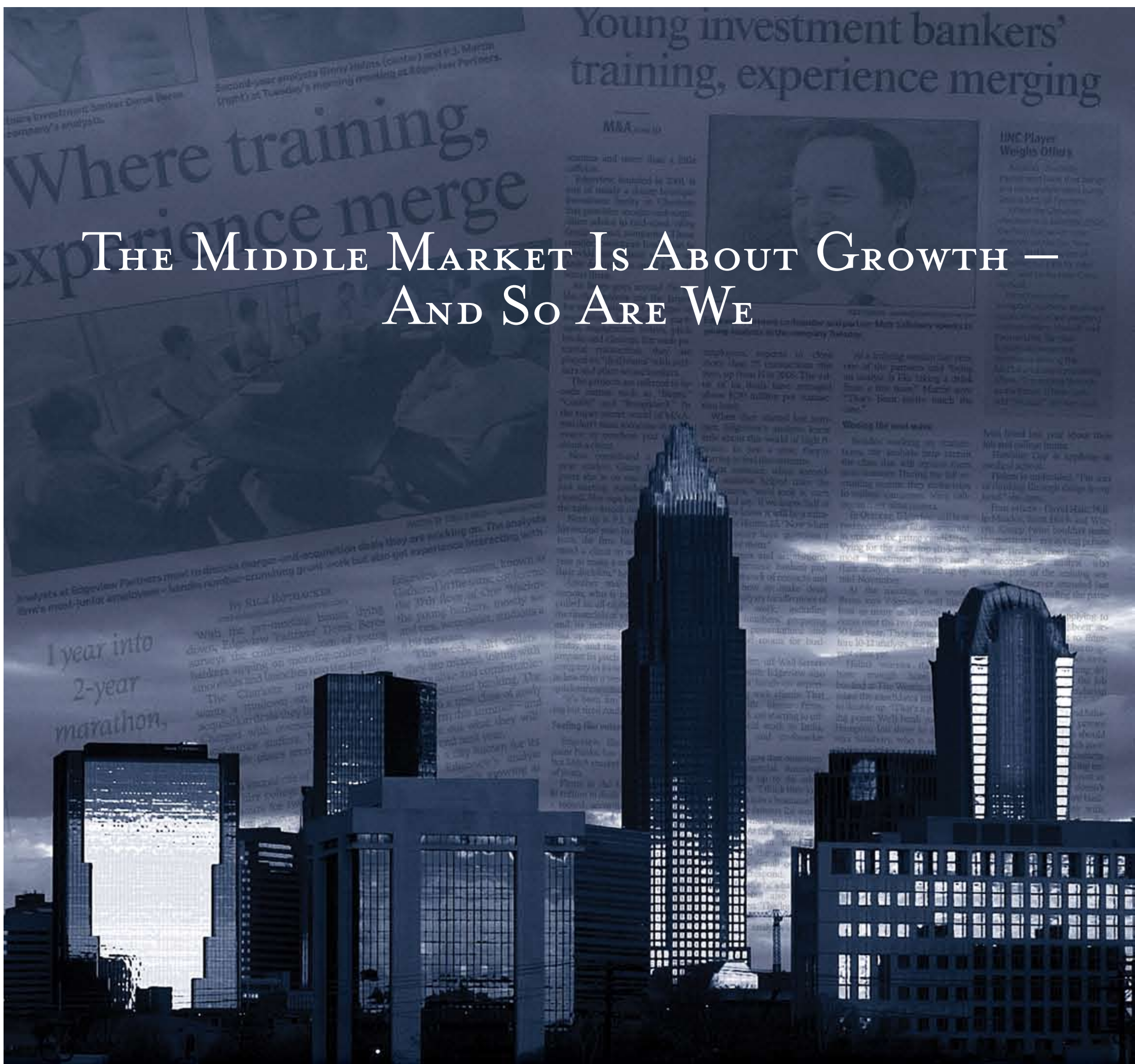


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- Jamie McNab, Sentinel Capital Partners (Edgeview Analyst Class of 2006)

Visit Edgeview at the Vanderbilt Investment Banking/Finance Industry Career Day, 3-6 p.m. Tuesday at the Student Life Center. Resumes due Sept. 18.

To learn more about Edgeview's analyst program, contact associates Gordie Vap (vap@edgeviewpartners.com) and Tripp Griffin (griffin@edgeviewpartners.com)

A CIT Company

BOMB DOG: Can recognize 15 scents

From **BOMB DOG**, page 1

Three-year-old Pepper must be able to recognize the scents of several different bombs and locate the scent's source.

"As of now, Pepper can recognize 15 different explosive scents," Lanier said, "but we're aiming for 17 to 20."

According to Lanier, bomb dogs are chosen from a kennel and tested for endurance and obedience. After they are chosen, both the dog and the handler go through a 350- to 400-hour training process.

"During the training, the handler and the dog have a chance to bond, and after training is completed, the dog stays with the handler to further establish a good relationship," Lanier said.

Although Pepper lives with Lanier, he keeps a strictly professional relationship with her.

"I can't treat Pepper as my pet. When she sees me, she knows its time to get down to business, not to play," he said. ■

International students adapt to whole new world

Specialized orientation teaches newcomers about American culture.

by LILY CHEN

Contributing Reporter

It's hard enough to adjust to college life, much less college life in America.

Last week, students from over 88 countries arrived on campus to participate in an orientation program for international students designed to help them to adapt to their new environment.

"While international orientation is generally the same as regular orientation, we do have meetings especially for international students," said senior Anis A Rahim. "The meetings are supposed to help international students adapt to American culture, answer any questions they have about visas or insurance, and raise their confidence in living in a new place."

Chrystel Marincich, a freshman from Chile, found the meetings helpful in answering her questions about adjusting to life in a new country.

"The meetings were very informative," Marincich said. "Everything you needed to know, whether it be visa information or questions about etiquette, was given to you."

Various speakers, including Dean of Students Mark Bandas and guest speakers from the Vanderbilt University Police Department and the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, spoke to the students about college life.

"The students first listened to International Student & Scholar Services Director Sherif Barsoum talk about adjusting to American college life and culture and about academic life," A Rahim said.

The groups then switched and listened to guest speakers from the Psychological and Counseling Center, Student Health and Koster Health Insurance. The program then

concluded with an immigration workshop, which covered questions about visas, getting a driver's license and legal issues.

For Marincich, the transition to Vanderbilt has been both a fun and tiring process. "Being international, I wasn't sure if I would be able to adapt to the new environment," Marincich said. "Orientation activities, such as the boat ride and line dancing at the saloon, kept me really busy, but they were also a lot of fun. I just wish I could have had a little bit more free time to myself to adjust."

Catherine Ruelens, a freshman from Belgium, also said she enjoyed the orientation activities and saw them as a learning experience.

"Orientation activities really opened my eyes to what the city had to offer," Ruelens said. "I love Nashville so much, and there is so much to do, such as exploring the music scene, trying different foods and getting acquainted with the culture here." ■

NOTES ON AMERICAN CULTURE

Hi. How are you?

"Many Americans say it and keep walking. They don't wait for an answer."

Personal space

"In America we stand an arm's length away. In other countries, people stand much closer."

Independence

"Americans are very independent. They make their own decisions. They don't necessarily have to check with their parents or other friends to make decisions."

Hollywood portrayals

"People — especially minorities — aren't as violent as they are portrayed, not everyone has a gun, and women here aren't easy. That's what you gather from Hollywood movies, but it's not the case."

— Sherif Barsoum, director of ISSS

First chair of Jewish studies appointed

by REBECCA TYRRELL

Asst News Editor

A newly endowed chair in Jewish studies will give the department room to grow academically, said David Wasserstein, the first professor to hold the chair.

"The chair helps me as a professor and as the director of the program to advance the purposes of the program, not just the courses," Wasserstein said. "The support of the chair will allow for more research, conferences, visitors and lectures and will make Jewish studies an integral part of a great university."

Wasserstein, who came to Vanderbilt in 2004 from Israel, specializes in both Jewish and Islamic topics and serves as director of the Jewish studies department.

He will give his first lecture as chair Tuesday on "The Date-Seller and the



WASSERSTEIN

since they are so intimately linked," he said. "By studying both fields, one is able to gain new perspectives."

The Eugene Greener Jr. Chair in Jewish Studies, a gift from Daniel Edelman and Cynthia Greener Edelman, supports a "purely academic program" that benefits all students, regardless of faith.

"It is not surprising to find more Jews in Jewish studies courses, but the Jewish studies department is aimed at students, not at Jews," Wasserstein said. "It's not an extension of Hebrew Sunday School."

And the Edelmans do not stand alone in their support for the program, he said.

"Vanderbilt has been a tremendous support and has proven committed to the program, everyone in it and its future," Wasserstein said. "The program would also be unable to flourish without the support of my colleagues." ■

Flight of the freshmen



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Class of 2011 runs onto Dudley Field before kickoff at the first football game Saturday night against the Richmond Spiders.

The first days of our last year.

Make them count.

Join the Senior Class Fund Committee and shape the legacy we leave behind.

The Senior Class Fund is a gift the Class of '08 will give to Vanderbilt—and it's our way of saying "thank you" for the education and memories we take with us.

Learn more or sign up for the Senior Class Fund Committee by joining us at one of these information sessions:

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 7:00 p.m.
Sarratt Student Center, Rm. 110

Monday, Sept. 10, 4:00 p.m.
Sarratt Student Center, Rm. 116

Want to lead the way?

Be a Senior Class Fund Committee officer. Pick up an application at one of the info sessions or download it at www.vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund. Application deadline is Monday, Sept. 17.

Questions?

Contact us at seniorclassfund@vanderbilt.edu.

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THE FUND

SENIOR CLASS FUND
2008

Looking for ways to get connected at Vanderbilt?

Student Alumni Board elections are coming up!

Now is your chance to run for the Freshman or Sophomore Board member positions.

Don't know what I'm talking about? Just come to an info session and find out!

Info session:
Tuesday, September 4th
6 pm in Furman 132

Mandatory Candidates Meeting
Tuesday, September 11th
6 pm Location TBA

Fall Elections
Monday, September 17th
Online and in Sarratt

If you can't make it to the info session contact christina.m.barnes@vanderbilt.edu

JUMP IN to VU!
And Get Connected through the Student Alumni Board!

Organization overkill



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Seniors Lauren Turner and Virginia Melo talk to freshmen Michelle Cohen, Taylor Davis and Jessica Islam about YoungLife at the Student Organization Fair in the Student Life Center on Friday afternoon.

New year brings more focused structure to VUPD

by LILY CHEN and JOSLIN WOODS
Contributing Reporters

Several events, such as the Virginia Tech massacre, have reinforced the need for campus safety improvements in the coming year, said Chief of Police Marlon Lynch.



LYNCH

For example, a text-messaging service to send students emergency alerts had been implemented prior to the Virginia Tech shootings, but only around 40 students had subscribed.

Since the massacre, the number of students using the service has dramatically increased, Lynch said.

"What we were able to do is just tweak (our policy) and fine-tune it," he said.

A new precinct structure, organized by Lynch, a 15-year law enforcement veteran, divides campus into three zones: central campus, the medical center and The Commons.

Vanderbilt University Police Department employs 115 people, 86 of them sworn police officers.

The precinct structure creates an efficient network that allows officers who are assigned to a specific precinct to focus only on that particular area, he said.

"It allows them to become very familiar with the geographic

layout and also with the students, faculty and staff that are within those areas," Lynch said.

Police officers will enforce rules and policies, such as the alcohol policy, within each precinct.

Some officers also have been assigned specifically to Greek Row. They are trained to recognize the odor of alcohol and are able to distinguish the behavior and symptoms of intoxicated students.

The department also works with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department on a daily basis and trains with them to better protect the student body, Lynch said.

"Our relationship with Metro allows us countywide jurisdiction upon request," Lynch said. "We can go anywhere in Davidson County."

If Metro encounters a Vanderbilt student, it informs VUPD, Lynch said.

"Generally for the off-campus parties that occur adjacent to campus, they will call us and ask us to respond with them or just call us to respond and handle it."

He also said Metro police are on hand if an emergency situation occurs on campus. "The need for additional police services is readily available," he said.

But according to Lynch, the two agencies have the same power of arrest.

"If we stop you, and you don't comply, you will get arrested," Lynch said. ■

—To see a behind-the-scenes video of VUPD, go to:



Steering committee gears up for 2008

by TAYLOR DAVIS
Contributing Reporter

With election year approaching, the Office of Active Citizenship and Service designed a committee to organize campus events surrounding the upcoming presidential election.

Mark Dalhouse, director of OACS, had the idea for the committee in the spring after talking and listening to students who were interested in current events and the election process.

Dalhouse, and Program Coordinator Lilly Massa, have worked to make this idea a reality since Massa joined OACS in June.

While Dalhouse and Massa will be advisers for the committee, they are searching for students to lead it and play important roles in the decision-making processes about events and activities.

"Students get to put in a lot of their own ideas for these events," Massa said.

Some possible events for the Election Year Steering Committee include a voter-registration wave across campus, citizenship seminars similar to last year's Freedom Ride, a Super Tuesday party in February and student participation in the November presidential debates.

The committee hopes to involve the Vanderbilt community in November by interviewing students about questions they have for the presidential candidates. These questions could possibly be asked to the candidates when they take part in the Nov. 28 YouTube debates.

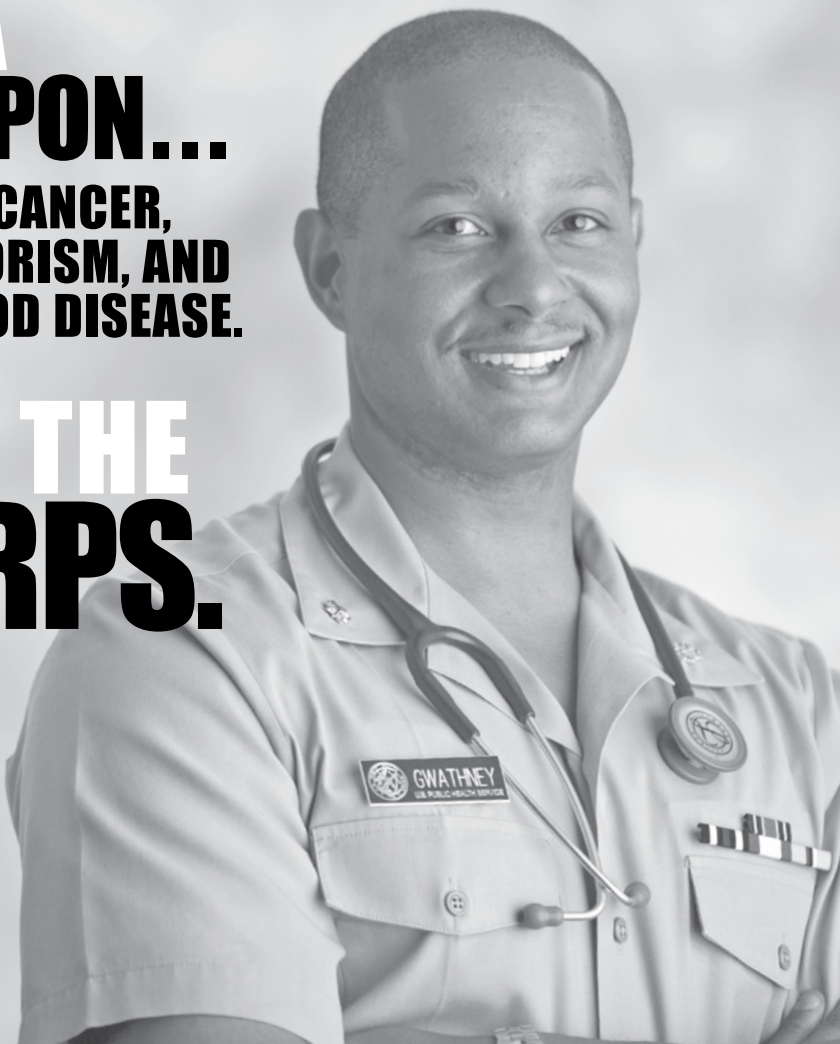
who wish at "The overall goal of the Election Year Steering Committee is to get the campus more informed and more engaged in the election as 2008 approaches," Massa said. ■

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Students who wish to be part of the committee can attend informational meetings at the Community Partnership House on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at noon and Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 5 p.m. RSVP to lily.m.massa@vanderbilt.edu

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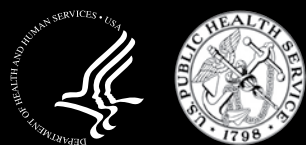


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To learn more about a career in the Commissioned Corps, visit www.usphs.gov or call 1-800-279-1605.



TRAVEL FAIR

WED, SEPT 5, 10AM – 2PM

STUDENT LIFE CENTER

\$\$

Save money when you travel!
Come learn about our VU travel website for business and personal use at our first

Travel Fair

Consisting of 33 booths featuring Information, Give-Aways, and Drawings

ENTERTAINMENT

- 10AM Joe Brunelle
BigBenDriverTours.com/joe&tree.htm
- 11AM Tim Bays
TimBays.com
- 12PM David Llewellyn
the 2007 Kerrville New Folk Festival Winner
DavidLlewellyn.com
- 1PM Dana Cooper
DanaCooperMusic.com

DRAWINGS

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OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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OUR VIEW

Counterproductive promotion detracts from event

Campus unity, though a noble goal, can seem far-off. But, as demonstrated by its long list of sponsors, the upcoming All-American Block Party appears to come closer to this aim than many campus events. For this accomplishment, and for the money it will raise for Soldiers' Angels, the event deserves commendation and appreciation. However, certain aspects of the tone surrounding the event should raise questions.

The event's tagline, "Are you patriotic?" presents the most glaring cause for concern. Without intending to do so, this choice of slogan implies that those who choose not to attend have answered in the negative, unfairly questioning

their patriotism. This counterproductive rhetoric, the likes of which have diminished post-Sept. 11 national unity, have no place at any campus event.

Similarly, the "official video," accessible via the Facebook event profile, presents a series of graphic images set to Darryl Worley's lyrically questionable country song, "Have You Forgotten?" Besides this presupposing a need to watch people jump to their deaths to remember such events, the video ends with an image of President George W. Bush with the words "Our Leader President George W. Bush," below him, unnecessarily dragging political posturing into what should be and, by all appearances, will be a non-

partisan event.

The All-American Block Party will be huge, and it will demonstrate that Vanderbilt can band together when it matters. However, there may be students who are uncomfortable memorializing this somber day with a block party, and there are probably some who especially balk at the idea of raffling off American Airlines tickets on this specific anniversary. There certainly are many who question the president's leadership. It is important these emotions be respected and not antagonized. Some will attend and some won't, but neither action is more or less patriotic. We need to remember that patriotism is not party-specific.

COLUMN

Freshmen carry high risk for mortification

AIMEE SOBHANI

Guest Columnist

Embarrassment tends to be a double-edged sword. When we see others experience an awkward moment, we revel in the hilarity of the scene. Of course, the average person does not enjoy his own humiliation — unless he is a masochist.

By now, we should (hopefully) know how to go through life without experiencing painful blunders. However, though we arm ourselves with grace and charm, we are not completely immune to mortifying situations. First-year students are particularly susceptible to being victims of disturbing events they will relive in their nightmares.

An overbearing parent can definitely fill a freshman's life with so much distress that the student will want to take refuge in the dorms forever. For example, Mother Dearest might be concerned her student will fail Professor X's class; thus she decides to call the professor daily to check her child's progress. Obviously, this sort of behavior could annoy Professor X, causing him to take out his frustration on the innocent freshman.

Beside becoming involved in a new student's academic affairs, a "good" parent might also meddle in his or her child's personal life, which can only lead to more embarrassment. Anxious fathers will call their daughters 10 times a day to remind them not to socialize with strange boys.

In extreme cases, parents may pop up on campus unexpectedly. When it comes to overzealous parents unintentionally humiliating their offspring, the possibilities are endless.

Of course, first-year students will have plenty of opportunities to humble themselves without the aid of their parents.

First, freshmen are going to be introduced to the "college party scene." Though most first-year students are probably not exactly Puritans, I am going to take a wild guess that many of them might not be prepared for debauchery at the college level.

Just think about what sticky situations might transpire when stupidity, alcohol, sex and "the need to feel accepted" mix together. One inebriated mishap might leave you with a degrading nickname that could stick indefinitely; random people might never even bother learning your real name.

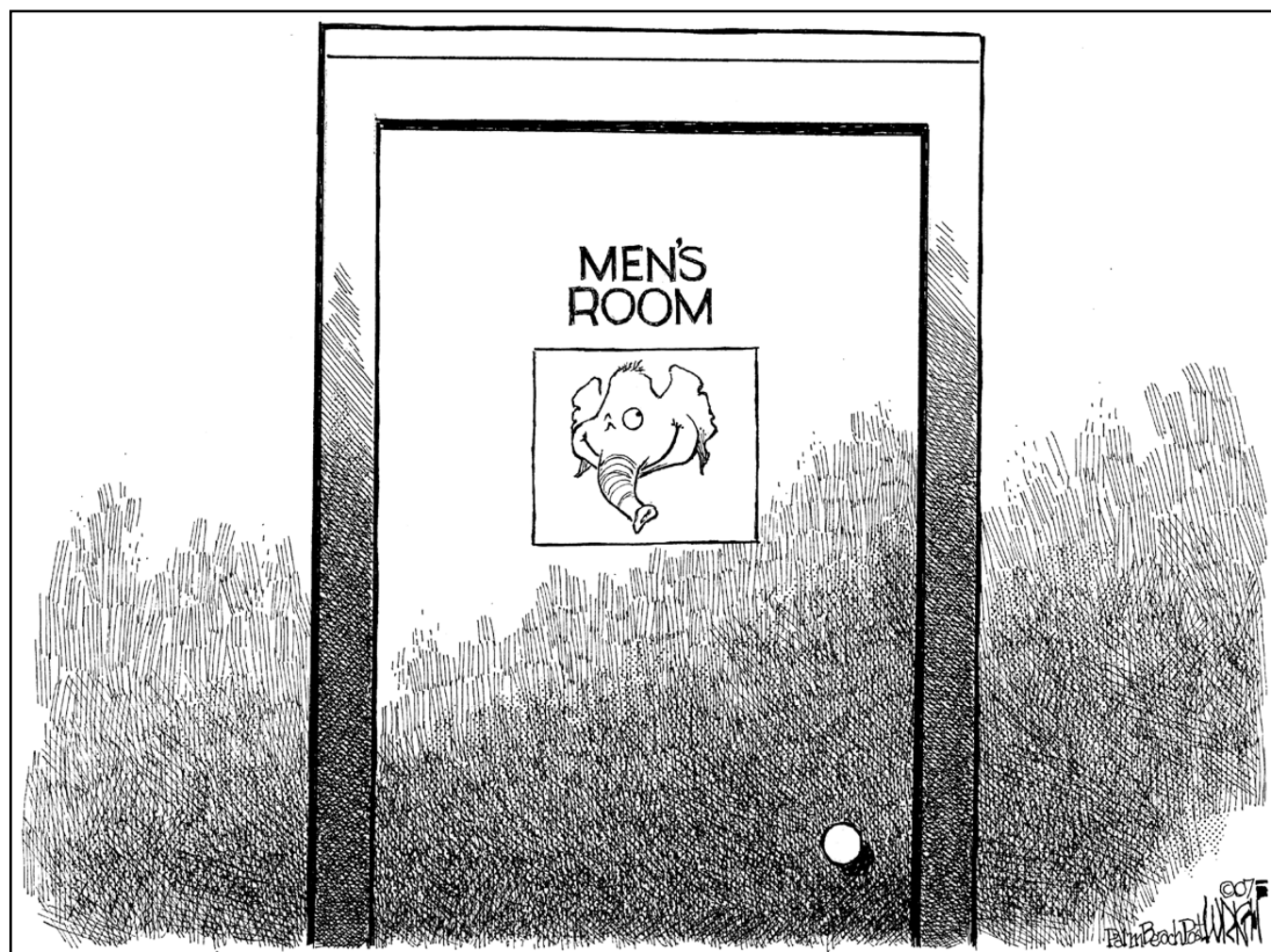
I am not suggesting only freshmen find themselves in party-related disasters. Upperclassmen end up in crazy messes as well, but the degree and frequency of chagrin is much less. Also, the fact upperclassmen have already made their impressions on the general public means their actions impact their reputations less. So my advice (which is somewhat useless since I am a freshman) to my fellow new students is to be a little vigilant when it comes to partying.

Of course, behaving idiotically at a party is not the only way freshmen can garner shame; everyday campus life can also leave first-years humbled. Walking into the wrong class, getting lost or leaving your towel in your room while showering are just a few blunders that could happen to anyone. These minor mistakes are a little unnerving, but other people will not really care, and if they do take pleasure in someone else's failure, then their own life is probably not that fulfilling.

Honestly, the embarrassment of any of these situations will not kill anyone. They will not leave painful scars, and most people are too focused on their own lives to brood on others' awkward moments.

Personally, I think the most embarrassing thing about being a new student would be to allow abashment — or fear of it — to control your life.

—Aimee Sobhani is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.



Don Wright—MCT

LETTER

All-American Block Party more than just a party

To the Editor:

Where were you Sept. 11, 2001, when you learned the World Trade Center was being attacked? I find it remarkable almost everyone can answer that question.

I was in class at my high school in Maryland when the principal came over the loud speaker. "Everyone please stop what you are doing and listen carefully. Our nation is under attack. Commercial airliners with passengers aboard have been flown into both World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. This is likely a coordinated attack by terrorists. We are awaiting official instructions from the Maryland Department of Education so as to determine how to proceed with the remainder of the school day. In the meantime, the school is under Code Red lockdown. No one is allowed to leave the building. If members of your family were working at the Pentagon today; please come to the main office immediately."

One student in my class of 30 jumped up and ran to the office; everyone else remained dead silent. I had never felt so uneasy, and I doubt I ever will feel that way again.

This Sept. 11 will mark the sixth year since terrorists cowardly attacked the citizens of our great country in one of the most horrific acts of terrorism the world has ever seen. Our nation's military began actively assailing terrorist organizations overseas shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, and remains overseas to this day.

As members of the Vanderbilt community, it is easy to immerse ourselves in work and social life; it is easy to forget there are currently men and women our age putting their lives on the line every day in the Middle East to ensure our freedom, which we too often take for granted.

The brothers and sisters of the Vanderbilt Greek system refuse to let another year go by without providing help.

“As members of the Vanderbilt community, it is easy to immerse ourselves in work and social life; it is easy to forget there are currently men and women our age putting their lives on the line every day in the Middle East to ensure our freedom, which we too often take for granted.”

Some military personnel and their families have suffered greatly as a result of voluntarily defending our nation. It is time to stand up and let these military men, women and families know we have not forgotten about them.

It is for this cause that 24 campus organizations have decided to unite and host the All-American Block Party on Kensington Place on Friday, Sept. 7, 2007. One hundred

percent of the proceeds will go to Soldiers' Angels, a non-profit organization whose mission is to "Provide aid and comfort to the military and its families, provide immediate response in emergency situations, and make sure no soldier feels unloved."

Even if you cannot make it out Friday, please take a moment to reflect upon Sept. 11, 2001. It is not fair to the American citizens who lost their lives in the attacks to forget so quickly.

William Glen Bartley Jr.
Senior, School of Engineering

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section 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 our Web site.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editor-in-chief. 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 or the editor-in-chief at (615) 322-3757.

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) 736-5129

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 225-4311
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Rep. Jim Cooper
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Washington, DC 20515
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Nashville, TN 37243-0021
(615) 741-3291

Councilor Ginger Hausser
Metro District 18
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Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 783-0106

BLOG

Candy bars, politics and rational choice

CHRIS SKENE
InsideVandy Blogger

Imagine you're standing in front of a snack machine, faced with a choice of which candy bar to buy. Your gaze flicks from Snickers to 3 Musketeers to Milky Way, but you just can't decide which one you want to get. Eventually you shrug your shoulders, stick 50 cents into the machine and key the code for the Snickers bar. Walking away, though, you take a bite and think to yourself, "Darn, maybe I should have gotten the Milky Way."

Despite your careful consideration, you failed to make the best decision when purchasing that candy bar. The Snickers bar is fine, but after actually tasting it you think you would have been better off with something else. Why did you just make the decision that you made? Could you have made a better one?

If you had wanted to make a better choice, you certainly could have. You could have bought all three candy bars for a total price of \$1.50, tasted each one and then decided which one you wanted to eat. But this is obviously too costly; if the Milky Way had still been worth an additional 50 cents after you bought the Snickers, you would have gone back to the snack machine and bought one.

In this situation, the cost of making a perfectly rational, informed choice is much greater than the marginal benefit of getting the perfect outcome instead of a similar but less-than-optimal outcome. The rational decision is to not expend the time and effort to make a rational decision.

What if you wanted to decide whom to vote for in, say, a national presidential

election? The cost of making the perfect decision is quite phenomenal — you would have to take the time to become intimately familiar with the candidates and the issues at stake in the election. Even with the help of the media, that's a lot of effort.

Add to this the fact that your individual vote counts for almost nothing (one out of a 120 million or so, going by the last election), and it becomes barely worth your while to drive to the polls, let alone stay well-informed enough to make such a complex decision.

“The cost of making a perfectly rational, informed choice is much greater than the marginal benefit of getting the perfect outcome instead of a similar but less-than-optimal outcome. The rational decision is to not expend the time and effort to make a rational decision.”

But wait, isn't the difference between candidates so great that it's very easy to choose one over another? Maybe the choice is easy for a hedge fund manager who stands to save millions in taxes if a Republican is elected president, or a gay couple who can get married if a Democrat is elected. For the average American who isn't strongly invested in one easy-to-comprehend issue, it's probably not that

black and white.

American citizens with the right to vote who don't exercise it are often characterized as irresponsible. However, to them, politicians might be like candy bars, and the costs involved in correctly choosing between two candidates is greater than the expected marginal benefit of making the best choice.

These non-voters are, in fact, doing the right thing — they are leaving a complicated decision to individuals who have expended the time and effort to make the decision properly.

—Chris Skene is a junior in the College of Arts and Science.

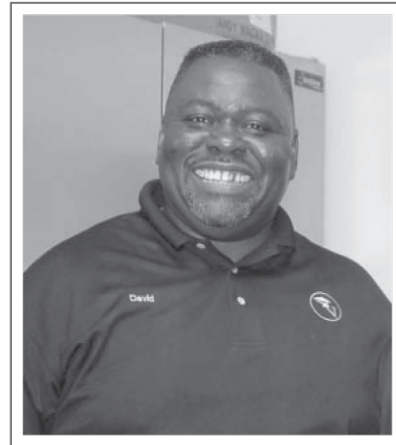
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The opinion staff has deemed these recent news items the most intriguing and worthy of your valuable time and brain power. Enjoy mulling them over, and tell us what you think!

- A recent article in Time Magazine reveals that Mother Teresa had a crisis of faith that lasted for decades, as illustrated by recently published letters to confidant Rev. Michale van der Peet. What is the significance of the realization of Mother Teresa's spiritual doubts?
- Vanderbilt Board of Trust's Chancellor Search Committee and the Chancellor Search Advisory Committee solicited input from students via an open-ended Web survey, which was e-mailed to the Vanderbilt community Friday. What are Vanderbilt students looking for in their next chancellor?
- Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) announced his resignation Saturday after it was revealed he pleaded guilty to charges of disorderly conduct stemming from a June incident in which Craig was arrested for allegedly soliciting sex from a plainclothes police officer in a men's bathroom at the Minneapolis St. Paul International airport. What are the effects of this recent scandal and Craig's subsequent resignation?
- Search and rescue efforts have ended in Utah and, according to a federal official, there is "no remaining hope" of finding the six coal miners that were trapped after a cave-in on Aug. 6. Could this tragedy have been prevented, and who, if anyone, deserves blame?
- Political science professor John Geer is featured in a video on Vanderbilt's Web site discussing the potential of former Tennessee senator and "Law & Order" star Fred Thompson, who is expected to announce his candidacy for president this week. Thompson also graces the latest cover of Newsweek. With all this attention, what are the chances a Tennessean will become our next commander in chief?

—E-mail responses to opinion@vanderbilthustler.com or post them on InsideVandy.com. Your comments may be chosen for inclusion in next week's "Food for Thought."

MEMORIAL SERVICE



David Reese
1959 - 2007

Vanderbilt Dining invites the Vanderbilt Community to a Memorial Service for our friend and coworker, David Reese.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

2:30 - 3:30pm

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Vanderbilt University

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ARE YOU PATRIOTIC?

All-American Block Party

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SPORTS

GAME
BREAK
DOWNGAME BALL:
Earl Bennett

This award goes without saying. No. 10 tormented the Spiders from start to finish, catching 13 passes for a school-record 223 yards and three touchdowns, while returning two punts for 61 yards. Something tells us Richmond should have tried double-teaming Bennett at least once. Just a thought.

PLAY OF THE
GAME

On the third play of the second half, quarterback Chris Nickson found Bennett for a 49-yard touchdown to give the Commodores a 28-10 lead and effectively put the game out of reach.

STAT OF THE
GAME: 2

That's the number of touchdowns Jeff Jennings scored in his first game back after missing the entire 2006 season with a knee injury. Jennings rushed for 67 yards on 11 carries and scored from 4 yards out on an option. He also caught a 3-yard touchdown pass.



JENNINGS

QUOTE OF
THE GAME

"Record don't really mean anything to me. As long we continue to win and help build this program and go to a BCS bowl game, I'm excited. I don't have to catch a ball. As long as we win, I'm cool."
-Bennett on continuing to climb in the Southeastern Conference record books

SEC EAST
STANDINGS

Vanderbilt	1-0
Florida	1-0
Georgia	1-0
Kentucky	1-0
South Carolina	1-0
Tennessee	0-1

WEEK 2
SCHEDULE

Vanderbilt vs. Alabama: Saturday (11:30 a.m.)

Florida vs. Troy: Saturday (5 p.m.)

Georgia vs. South Carolina: Saturday (4:45 p.m.)

Kentucky vs. Kent State: Saturday (5 p.m.)

Tennessee vs. Southern Miss: Saturday (6 p.m.)

What a difference a year makes

A more comfortable Nickson picks apart Spider defense.

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

A year ago, Chris Nickson ran the wrong way out of the Michigan Stadium tunnel in the moments leading up to his first career start.

The junior quarterback made no such mistake Saturday night as he completed 19 of 26 passes for 284 yards and a career-best four touchdowns in the Commodores' convincing 41-17 victory over Richmond.

"There is no substitute for experience," Nickson said. "I kind of didn't know what to expect against Michigan last year in game one. I was trying to go out and just perform well. But this year it is more than that. This year I want to go out and lead my team and try to do things that I know I am capable of doing."

Sure, the Richmond defense did not compare to what Nickson will see in the Southeastern Conference, beginning next Saturday at home against Alabama, but it was a promising start nonetheless.

"He managed a very good game and we ended up doing a good bit (offensively)," said coach Bobby Johnson.

Nickson looked sharp on a wide range of passes, particularly the deep ball, and with the exception



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Richmond defense had no answer for quarterback Chris Nickson in Vanderbilt's 41-17 victory Saturday night. The junior quarterback completed 19 of 26 passes for 284 yards and a career-best four touchdowns.

of one near-interception, he did not try to make plays that were not there. While Nickson did not put up big numbers on the ground — eight rushes for 15 yards — he remained effective, especially on the option.

After Richmond cut the lead to 14-10 late in the second quarter, the Commodores faced a third-and-four from their own 35-yard line. With all of his receivers covered, Nickson scrambled left, headed down field and, rather than going out of bounds, put his shoulder down and got the first down.

He found Sean Walker for 32 yards on the next play and later gained 13 yards on a designed quarterback draw, setting up a 1-yard touchdown pass to Earl Bennett that put Vanderbilt ahead 21-10 at halftime.

"The game has slowed down a lot," Nickson said.

As a result, Nickson is able to read defenses better and make smarter decisions. In addition, the quarterback said he has developed an even better relationship with Bennett after working out together

the entire summer. It was evident Saturday night.

"I've got a better feel for his routes and where's he going to be," Nickson said.

As confident as Nickson is in his go-to wide receiver, Bennett is equally confident in his quarterback.

"I knew Chris was going to be a great player from the time he stepped out on the field (for the first time), and his progression has escalated each game," Bennett said. "I'm excited to play for him." ■

Defense buckles down in second half

by WILL GIBBONS
Senior Sports Reporter

It only gave up 10 points, since one Richmond touchdown came on special teams. Still, don't expect the Vanderbilt defense to be completely satisfied with its effort in a 41-17 win Saturday.

"I think we could have done much better," said cornerback D.J. Moore.

On the game's first play from scrimmage, it looked as though the defense would set the tone for an easy victory. Linebacker Marcus Buggs laid a heavy hit on Richmond quarterback Eric Ward, allowing Gabe Hall to record his first career interception.

However, the defense lacked the same sting for much of the first half as Richmond gained 201 yards and scored all its offensive points. Ward was finding his go-to target Arman Shields with relative ease.

"I wouldn't say they did anything that we didn't expect," said senior linebacker Jonathan Goff. "It just took us a little longer to really get going."

But as the game progressed, the

Vanderbilt defense clamped down. In the second quarter, Goff stopped Richmond running back Tim Hightower for no gain on a fourth-down play.

It wasn't until the second half, however, that the Commodores hit their stride.

"It was just a matter of buckling down," Goff said. "We didn't do a whole lot differently. It was just up to the players to execute."

Vanderbilt delivered a more crisp performance in the final 30 minutes, allowing just 109 yards for Richmond and intercepting two passes.

With Alabama on the horizon, the Does know they have corrections to make. Everything moves a little faster in Southeastern Conference games. Alabama's speed can expose a defense's shortcomings more than the typical football championship subdivision opponent will.

"I think we have to play a lot better defensively," said Moore, who had a game-high 11 tackles and a nifty interception. "Some plays, you just have breakdowns. But we need to have (fewer) mental mistakes."

It does show something about



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

Vanderbilt linebacker Jonathan Goff chases down Richmond wide receiver Arman Shields in the Commodores' 41-17 victory over the Spiders on Saturday night at Dudley Field.

the progress of Vanderbilt football that the team can find negatives in winning a game. Still, the final outcome cannot be debated, and the Commodores were pleased with it. They are 1-0 for just the third time in the last decade,

"With the win, we're always

happy we're 1-0," said Goff, who recorded an acrobatic interception after dropping back in coverage. "We don't want to take away from that. We did win the ballgame. But we will come back tomorrow, look at the film and make the necessary corrections." ■

BENNETT: Just like 2005, receiver torches Richmond

From BENNETT, page 1

Then, with 15 seconds remaining in the half and the ball on the Richmond 1-yard line, Nickson executed a perfect play-action pass, hitting Bennett in the back of the end zone to give the Commodores a 21-10 lead.

The play-action pass worked well again on Vanderbilt's first series of the second half as

Nickson connected with a wide-open Bennett for a 49-yard touchdown.

"I couldn't really tell you how he does it," Nickson said. "I just believe he's gonna do it. I've watched him on the field do some things sometimes and I all can say is, 'Wow. How did he do that?'"

As dominant as Bennett is on the field, he's equally modest off it.

"Records really don't mean anything to me," Bennett said. "As long we continue to win and help build this program and go to a BCS bowl game, I'm excited. I don't have to catch a ball. As long as we win, I'm cool."

While Bennett has become a household name in college football, it was not too long ago that he was a little-known

freshman from Birmingham, Ala. In fact, his coming-out party came against these same Spiders in week four of the 2005 season when he caught 11 passes for 124 yards.

"He'll be great for a long time at Vanderbilt," then-quarterback Jay Cutler predicted at the time.

With each game Bennett plays, the wiser Cutler becomes. ■

Cross country gets off to fast start in opening meet

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

The men's and women's cross country programs kicked off their 2007 seasons in impressive fashion Friday night at the Belmont/Vanderbilt Opener at Warner Park.

Two freshmen — Rita Jorgensen and Adrienne DiRaddo — had great starts to their collegiate careers, finishing fourth and sixth, respectively, as the women came in second place out of 16 teams. Jorgensen recorded a time of 14:28.31, while DiRaddo finished the 4K race in 14:36.35.

Carmen Mims and Julie Eckerly also turned in solid performances, finishing 10th and 11th, respectively.

"Rita Jorgensen looked good. She handled the hills very well," said coach Steve Keith. "Adrienne DiRaddo was obviously very

motivated to do well in college and jumped right up there with Carmen Mims. I was happy to see Erin Guglielmo step up and help out as our fifth runner."

On the men's side, Austin Williamson continued to pace the Commodores, who came in third out of 13 teams. The junior ran the 5K race in 15:32.87 to earn a seventh-place finish. Thomas Davis and Rick Semones finished 25th and 27th, respectively.

"I thought I ran a solid first race," Williamson said. "I was able to compete with some very talented athletes from Belmont, and I hope to keep up with them again, even pick a few off in our upcoming home meet."

Semones also said he was pleased with the Commodores' first performance.

"We were all very anxious to get back on the race course after training all summer, so it was rewarding to see that the miles of

hard work have paid off," he said.

Given how the team performed in its opening meet, both Semones and Williamson said they are excited about Vanderbilt's chances this season.

"We're definitely looking to improve on our 10th place at the SEC Championships and 13th place finish at NCAA Regionals last fall," Semones said. "We've only lost one runner from our top seven, and last year was our best season in a long time, so this fall we should really make some noise in both the conference and the region."

Williamson said, "I think that if we can stay healthy we stand a great chance to surprise a couple more SEC teams who take finishing ahead of Vanderbilt for granted."

Both cross country squads return to action on Sept. 15 at Percy Warner Park in the annual Commodore Classic. ■

STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

Now let's
bring on
the Tide

CRAIG TAPPER
Columnist

Could you blame the Commodores if they had looked past Richmond?

With the Alabama Crimson Tide, arguably the nation's most renowned collegiate football program, arriving in Nashville for the Southeastern Conference opener in five days, Vanderbilt had plenty of reasons to overlook the Richmond Spiders.

It has been five years since the Alabama red infested Dudley Field and upended the Commodores 30-8. Vanderbilt has not defeated Alabama (excluding a 1993 forfeit) since 1984, and Vandy is 19-58-4 all-time against Bama. Last season, the Commodores fell just shy of stunning the Tide in Tuscaloosa in a homecoming of sorts for a bevy of Alabama natives.

This weekend's game will also mark head coach Nick Saban's first marquee college appearance since he deserted Louisiana State for the Miami Dolphins following the 2004 season.

College football gurus have obsessed over Saban's return to the Southeastern Conference since he signed on with Alabama in early January. Expect a raucous atmosphere and national coverage even though neither team is ranked.

Yet, even with the Alabama tilt looming, these Commodores did not overlook the lowly Spiders.

This past Saturday was not reminiscent of that fateful 17-15 defeat to Middle Tennessee State two falls ago. On that October evening, home tilts against LSU and Georgia loomed in the following two weeks.

The Commodores emerged from the locker room flat and hopes of a Jay Cutler-led bowl bid began to evaporate even before Bryant Hahnfeldt's game-winning field goal was blocked at the line of scrimmage.

But these Commodores would not make the same mistake as their predecessors. On a day when even Michigan was humbled by a championship subdivision opponent at the Big House, the Commodores evaded the upset sting.

Vanderbilt did exactly what it was supposed to do, thrashing Richmond 41-17. They piled up the yards (446) and points (41) and provided the opportunity for wide receiver Earl Bennett to stretch his Biletnikoff legs.

It takes six wins to become bowl-eligible, and it does not matter if one of them happens to come against a former 1-AA squad. Vanderbilt took full advantage of a weaker opponent and tallied its first victory of the season.

Now, these Commodores can begin to focus on Alabama. Roll Does. ■

National pride

Alvarez, Flaherty and Minor shine for Team USA.

by ROBERT WYNKOOP
Sports Reporter

While some Vanderbilt students attended classes and others worked part time, many spent the summer months soaking up the sun in exotic locales. Three members of the Commodore baseball team — juniors Pedro Alvarez and Ryan Flaherty and sophomore Mike Minor — were no exception as they traveled the globe as members of the prestigious 2007 USA National Baseball Team.

"It was a disappointment (not making it into the College World Series)," Flaherty said. "But overall being part of Team USA and representing my country this summer was a great experience. USA was kind of low key, but it was great."

During the 37-game schedule, the Americans (25-12) visited 16 cities, three continents and played against 10 different countries. They finished third in the World Port Tournament and received a silver medal in the Pan American Games.

Flaherty said that because there

was so much traveling and the team played so many different countries, there was not much of a chance to scout individual pitchers' tendencies. However, each country did seem to have its own style.

"Some of the guys didn't throw quite as hard (as they do in America), but it was still hard hitting off of those guys — especially the Japanese pitchers," Flaherty said.

Flaherty said one of the highlights of the summer was the trip to Brazil for the Pan Am Games.

"This is my first time out of the country," Flaherty wrote in VU Commodores.com. "You don't realize how much you actually have until you see places like Rio. As we took a bus through the city, you could see the run-down houses and little kids with bare feet playing soccer. As the United States bus drove through the city, the little kids cheered and it made you want to get out of the bus and help them."

Overall, the trio performed extremely well. Alvarez, an All-American third baseman, hit .315 with a team-leading seven home runs and 30 RBI. Although a

shortstop at Vanderbilt, Flaherty played second base and outfield for Team USA, hitting .270 with two homers and 14 RBI. On the mound, Minor was 5-2 with a 1.64 ERA. The lefthander struck out 37 and walked just four in 33 innings.

"(USA Baseball) is not something that everybody gets to do ... It was a great experience being able to play for my own country," Flaherty said. "Baseball-wise it was good for me too."

It wasn't all hard work for the team, however.

"We played baseball video games every night in the hotel," Flaherty bragged, "and I beat him very time."

It may not be long before this trio finds itself starring in a video game or two as former Team USA players include Nomar Garciaparra, Ryan Howard, Huston Street and Jeff Francoeur.

Alvarez, Flaherty and Minor will also be featured on their own baseball cards, which will be released in the coming year.

"It's pretty cool," Flaherty said. "I never thought I'd have my own baseball card." ■



COURTESY OF VU MEDIA RELATIONS
Vanderbilt junior Ryan Flaherty visited 16 cities, three continents and played against 10 different countries as a member of Team USA this summer.

Soccer starts season strong

HUSTLER STAFF REPORT

Senior forward Sarah Dennis' first-half goal propelled Vanderbilt (1-0-1) to a 1-0 victory over Texas Tech on Sunday.

Dennis took a feed from freshman Molly Kinsella to score the Commodores' first goal of the season. It was also the second straight shutout for freshman goalkeeper Rachel Bachtel, who had nine saves Sunday and four in Vanderbilt's 0-0 tie Friday against Wisconsin.

Kinsella continued to lead the attack with four shots, including one on goal. Dennis scored her 11th career goal and finished with three shots, two on goal.

Vanderbilt will close out its three-game road trip Friday at UAB. The contest is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. start. The Commodores will then host Tennessee Tech in their home opener on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the VU Soccer Complex.

—Check out a in-depth women's soccer preview in Wednesday's edition of The Vanderbilt Hustler.

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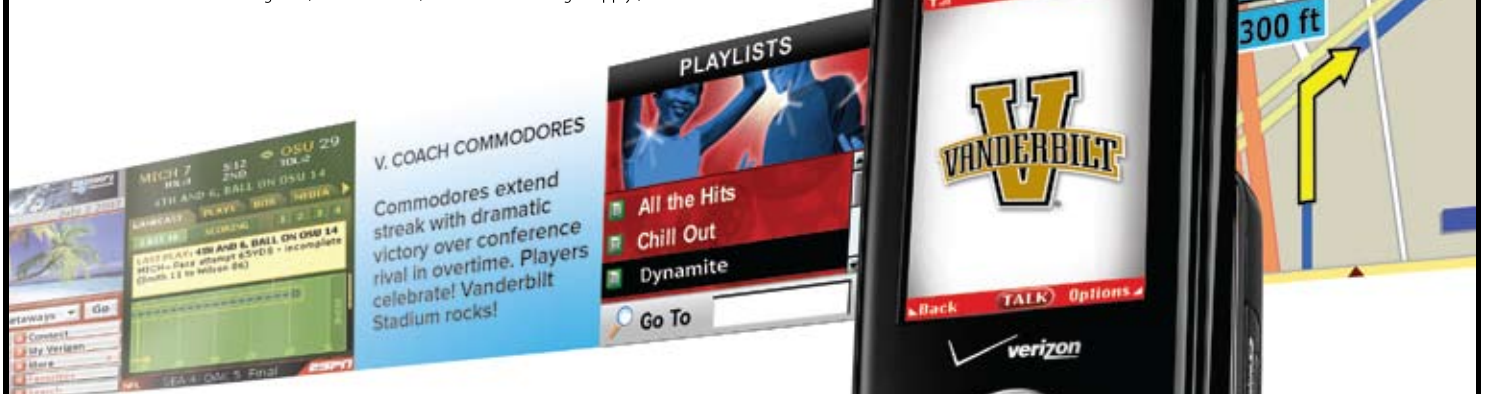


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8/31/07 SOLUTIONS

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 51 "Platoon" setting, briefly
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 53 Coke or Pepsi
 54 Diplomatic office
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 62 Toward the center of
 64 Intense beam
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 73 Ermine in summer

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9/3/07

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 9 Can opener
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 11 Very long time
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 13 Rogers or Astaire
 21 Durable fabric
 23 ___ and crafts
 24 Substantial pieces
 25 Away
 26 Rock-tour employee
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 32 Passes into law
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