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The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 76

THE WALL

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

TODAY Acfee Subcommittee applications due

AcFee Subcommittee Co-chairmanship applications are due by 5 p.m. Visit the Vanderbilt Student Government Web site for the application or contact r.patel@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

TODAY Election Alliance viewing

Election Alliance '08 will sponsor a viewing of the CNN YouTube Debates from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Community Partnership House. Come and hear the Republicans answer your questions. A Vanderbilt student's question could be posed to the candidates.

TODAY Valerie Plame Wilson

Outed former CIA operative Valerie Plame Wilson will speak in the Student Life Center at 7 p.m. The event is free for students, faculty and staff, but tickets are required.

TODAY Freshman showcase

VU Theatre's "Freshman Showcase" will present "Welcome to the Moon and Other Plays" by John Patrick Shanley at noon in Neely Auditorium. The performance is free, and guests can bring their own lunch.

THURSDAY, NOV. 29 AASA Heritage Month event

The Asian American Student Association will hold one more event for Heritage Month at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center Ballroom. Magdalen Hsu-Li will come to speak and perform for the group.

THURSDAY, NOV. 29 Open Forum: Immigration

Election Alliance '08 will host an open forum on immigration from 7 to 9 p.m. in Calhoun Hall, Room 337. Come discuss this issue with professors Katharine Donato, John Hiskey, Robert Barsky and Edward Wright-Rios. Food will be provided.

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

Seeking to serve

Students with Manna Project International traveled to Nicaragua over Thanksgiving break as the Office of Active Citizenship and Service continues to create global and local service opportunities.

by **KELLY SWOPE**
Staff Reporter

Some students decided to spend their Thanksgiving serving more than just turkey and pie.

In conjunction with Manna Project International, 10 students traveled to Nicaragua to participate in a week of service and learning in two small, impoverished communities around the capital city of Managua.

One of the communities, La Chureca, is located near a trash dump for the municipalities of Managua. There, the locals struggle with chronic respiratory illnesses and skin disorders. Even children suffer since they sift through heaps of waste from the time they are four years old.

The students faced some of the immediate problems of that community and worked in a nearby elementary school. They played with children, helped with programs at the school and educated over 25 mothers about safe sex.

"I was so pleased at how curious they were," said senior

Cara Bilotta, who helped lead the sex education class. "It was a feeling you really can't describe."

Junior Karen Baker said she had a similarly indescribable experience in Nicaragua.

"I've definitely re-evaluated certain aspects of my life," she said. "I feel more like a global citizen, (and) I've been exposed to a new culture."

Manna Project International, which began at Vanderbilt in 2004 and now has four university chapters, is one of many organizations under the Office of Active Citizenship and Service umbrella. At OACS, students and an advising staff work together to create global volunteer opportunities and approach service from new directions.

"Active citizenship is really a way of life. Service is a way of life," said OACS Director Mark Dalhouse. "It's about meeting our responsibilities to one another."

Manna Project's trip, the first over Thanksgiving break, is another step toward that goal.

Another example of a new approach to service is connecting service with education.

Please see **SERVICE**, page 3



JENSEN HART / photo provided



KELLEY McILHATTAN / photo provided



KELLEY McILHATTAN / photo provided



JENSEN HART / photo provided

WORLD NEWS BRIEF

Musharraf to quit Pakistan army, take oath as civilian president this week

Pervez Musharraf will retire as chief of Pakistan's army at midweek, his aides announced Monday as the embattled leader grappled with a political scene roiled by the return of an exiled former prime minister in time for crucial January elections.

Nawaz Sharif, who was ousted by the 1999 coup that put Musharraf in power, quickly registered Monday to run in the election, although he did not drop his call for a boycott that could undermine the ballot's legitimacy.

Sharif appealed for support from Pakistanis unhappy with Musharraf's U.S. alliance, portraying himself as a politician who kept himself at arms length from Washington in contrast to the U.S.-friendly stance of the president and the other key opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto.

SOURCE: AP

—For more news briefs from around the world, nation and campus, see page 2.

Albee: Commerce has hurt art

by **EVE ATTERMANN**
Asst News Editor

Famed playwright Edward Albee spoke about the commercialization of American theater and its effect on productions and audiences Tuesday night in a humorous Chancellor's Lecture Series speech in Ingram Auditorium.

"I'm afraid that the killing hand of commerce has got to the arts in the United States," Albee said. "It's harder for the younger, more serious artists to survive in the U.S. without compromising their values and themselves."

The biggest problem was not government censorship but self-censorship, a phenomenon in which people refuse to see things that might upset them, Albee said.

"Self-censorship is infinitely more dangerous and infinitely more insidious than censorship from above," Albee said. "We don't want our artists to tell us quite as much as they can. If they are teaching us, we don't want to pay attention."

Albee concluded that the arts distinguish humans from the rest of the animal kingdom and are important to preserve.

"We are the only animal that makes art, that has created the metaphor to understand ourselves," Albee said. "I think it is part of the evolutionary process. We all used to have tails, and somewhere along the line our tails fell off and we grew art." ■

—To listen to an interview with Albee, go to:



Current events spur interest in Islamic studies

by **EVE ATTERMANN**
Asst News Editor

Islamic and Arabic studies programs continue to flourish — and students around the country are taking an interest.

Introduced in 2004, Vanderbilt's Islamic studies minor incorporates the study of Arabic, Islam, culture and Middle Eastern politics. The Islamic studies department has expanded its course offerings due to consistent growth.

This year, there was a 10 to 15

percent increase in the number of students enrolled in Arabic courses, said Arabic professor Bushra Hamad.

"Arabic has always been a focus of interest, but nowadays, there is more contact between nations, and students are very diversity-oriented," Hamad said.

A summer course in Arabic was offered for the first time last summer and will be offered again, Hamad said. The Islamic studies department is also hoping to add two new courses in fall 2008, Advanced Arabic and Arabic Culture, Religion and Politics.

A Chronicle of Higher Education article reported a national trend toward internationalization on American college campuses. Arabic is now the fastest growing major language with enrollment as high as 24,000 students, compared to about 10,600 in 2002. The number of institutions offering Arabic has doubled to 466.

Please see **ISLAMIC STUDIES**, page 3

—To hear more about the expanding interest in Islamic and Arabic studies, go to:



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Dakhaz Mohammed, a lecturer in the religious studies department, helps freshman Nathaniel Horadam through an Arabic 112 lesson. This year has seen a 10-15 percent increase in Arabic course enrollment.

It's coming...



MEMORIAL MADNESS
JANUARY 2008



Odds & Ends

WEATHER

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

THURSDAY



Sunny, 48/33

FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy, 51/34

SATURDAY



Mostly Cloudy, 51/42

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 4:40 p.m.:
Subject was stopped as a follow-up on another case and admitted to having no Tennessee driver's license.

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 10:27 p.m.:
Subject seen writing graffiti on VU property at Wesley Place Garage. Other subjects were questioned and agreed to be searched. An investigation revealed marijuana and pipes.

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2:30 a.m.:
Subject was stopped for driving without headlights on 21st Avenue South. When asked, he gave the name and license of someone else. A check of his real license showed it was suspended. During vehicle inspection, a marijuana cigarette was found.

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 SYDNEY WILMER

WORLD

Rioting spreads in northern Paris suburbs as angry youths heighten worries by firing shotguns at police

Police reinforcements streamed into the tough suburbs north of Paris on Tuesday after a second night of rioting by bands of youths who have burned cars and buildings and — in an ominous turn — shot at officers.

A senior police union official warned that “urban guerrillas” had joined the unrest, saying the violence was worse than during three weeks of rioting that raged around French cities in 2005, when firearms were rarely used. More than 80 officers were reported injured overnight.

The violence presented new President Nicolas Sarkozy with a stern test. And it showed that anger still smolders in France’s poor neighborhoods, where many Arabs, blacks and other minorities live largely isolated from the rest of society.

SOURCE: AP

Sudanese official says British teacher arrested for naming teddy bear ‘Muhammad’ could be freed soon

A British teacher arrested for allowing her students to name a teddy bear Muhammad will probably be cleared and released soon, a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy in London said Tuesday.

Gillian Gibbons was arrested Sunday and faced possible charges of insulting religion — a crime punishable by up to 40 lashes. She was questioned by Sudanese authorities on Tuesday.

Gibbons was arrested after one of her pupils’ parents complained, accusing her of naming the bear after Islam’s prophet and founder. Muhammad is a common name among Muslim men, but giving the prophet’s name to an animal would be seen as insulting by many Muslims.

SOURCE: AP

NATION

Somali immigrant gets sentenced to 10 years for plotting with al-Qaida terrorist to bomb Ohio shopping mall

A Somali immigrant was sentenced to 10 years in prison Tuesday for plotting to blow up an Ohio shopping mall with a man later convicted of being an al-Qaida terrorist.

Nuradin Abdi, a cell phone salesman before his arrest, pleaded guilty in July to conspiring to provide material support for terrorists. He will be deported to Somalia after serving the federal sentence.

In a 20-minute statement to the court, Abdi’s attorney Mahir Sherif said his client apologized to the people of the United States, the people of Ohio and the Muslim community. He said Abdi regretted that his conviction might lead to problems for other Muslims.

SOURCE: AP

Dr. Robert Cade, Florida researcher who invented Gatorade, dies at 80

Dr. Robert Cade, who invented the sports drink Gatorade and launched a multibillion-dollar industry that the beverage continues to dominate, died Tuesday of kidney failure. He was 80.

His death was announced by the University of Florida, where he and other researchers created Gatorade in 1965 to help the school’s football players replace carbohydrates and electrolytes lost through sweat while playing in swamp-like heat.

Now sold in 80 countries in dozens of flavors, Gatorade was born thanks to a question from former Gator Coach Dwayne Douglas, Cade said in a 2005 interview with The Associated Press.

SOURCE: AP

Indictment accuses Astor’s son of plundering \$198M estate as she suffered from Alzheimer’s

The son of philanthropist Brooke Astor was accused in an indictment unsealed Tuesday of plundering his mother’s \$198 million estate and conspiring to have the Alzheimer’s-stricken socialite sign a new will leaving her fortune to him.

The indictment charges Broadway producer Anthony Marshall, 83, with grand larceny, criminal possession of stolen property, scheme to defraud, falsifying business records, offering a false instrument for filing and conspiracy. Marshall’s former attorney, Francis X. Morrissey Jr., was indicted on charges of forgery, criminal possession of a forged instrument, scheme to defraud and conspiracy.

SOURCE: AP

CAMPUS

American Airlines treasure hunt

American Airlines is holding a Deal-Finder Treasure Hunt on campus Thursday. One golden envelope will contain a roundtrip ticket. Others will contain discount codes ranging from \$10 to \$50.

Envelopes will be hidden throughout campus, and clues about their location are available on Facebook group Vanderbilt Flies American Airlines.

Andrew Preston, the campus representative for American Airlines, also said students should keep their eyes open for gold coins scattered throughout campus Wednesday for additional clues.

“This is a great opportunity for students to win free or discounted travel,” Preston said.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Have a question? We’ll answer it (or do our best to try). Send an e-mail to news@vanderbilthustler.com.

compiled by LISA GUO

QUESTIONS:

What can I recycle?

Who picks up recycling from the residential halls?

ANSWER:

You can recycle mixed paper, aluminum, tin, plastic, printer cartridges and cardboard. However, anything contaminated with food, such as pizza boxes, cannot be recycled. And contaminating a bin means its contents cannot be recycled.

Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling guidelines state that you should sort all items into their proper bins, rinse items that contained food, and, if you are unsure whether an item is recyclable, throw it in a trash bin and ask them for guidance at recycle@vanderbilt.edu

Student volunteer groups — Wilskills, Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma, Interfraternity Council and SPEAR — pick up recycling from residential halls.



SNAPSHOT

PONDERING SCIENTIFIC PUZZLES



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Research fellow Maria Popescu explains her poster to a judge at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day in the Student Life Center Tuesday. The day also included a panel that discussed “Reading and the Brain.”



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Lunch favorites-

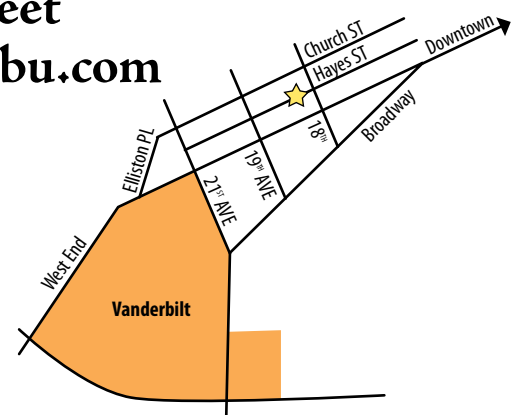
Wasabi crusted tuna salad
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Smoke Salmon pizza

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Black pepper crusted salmon
Moroccan lamb shank
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SERVICE: Student ideas welcomed

From **SERVICE**, page 1

Junior Jennifer Hirsch, a conflict resolution major, serves as president of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, a focus group that emphasizes awareness about genocide issues and human rights abuses.

"As a global citizen, it is important for me to be involved in service," Hirsch said. "There is a huge connection between active citizenship and service."

The idea of connecting one's personal values with education was encapsulated in the name change to OACS in 2004 from the Office of Volunteer Activities. The change, like nearly all of OACS' implementations, was student-initiated.

"We are looking for students to come to us with ideas," Dalhouse said.

Social responsibility is another priority — and challenge — of OACS.

Junior Zack Brickhouse's experience in Nicaragua gave him new insight into the philosophy.

"What it comes down to is that we have the opportunity to help," he said.

And global service doesn't necessarily mean an exotic locale: sometimes the chance lies right at home.

For example, the exponential growth of Nashville's refugee population has led to the establishment of refugee centers.

"Nashville is an increasingly global city," Dalhouse said. "You don't have to go to Africa to have a global service experience anymore."

However, there are service opportunities abroad, such as the OACS-run Kampala Project in Uganda.

Other groups, such as Alternative Spring Break, the largest student-run organization, provide a chance for students to do service in North and Central America, while the Vanderbilt Internship Experience in Washington offers essential instruction in public service.

"You can really get a front seat to the issues of our time," Dalhouse said. ■

ISLAMIC STUDIES: Courses, professor added to accomodate increased interest, expanding program

From **ISLAMIC STUDIES**, page 1

Lenn Goodman, a professor of philosophy and religious studies who specializes in Islamic and Jewish philosophical thought, said media-driven interest in certain subjects reappears over time, and the interest in Arabic now is similar to that in Russia during the Cold War.

"Part of the interest comes not just from the post 9/11 environment but also interest in the culture and civilization itself," Goodman said. "But this sort of thing happens recurrently over time. There will be some event which will spur interest in a subject, which eventually dies down."

Hamad said he thinks the upsurge in interest in Arabic has a lot to do with students feeling they need to understand Islam as a major religion.

"Islam is one of three major religions; it has always been. There is more contact between the East and West, and the study of Arabic is the key to understanding Islamic religion and culture," Hamad said.

Seniors Katy Caudle and Candice Mixon said they did not initially have an interest in Islamic studies but were drawn to the program after taking Introduction to Islam.

"It wasn't something I intended

on pursuing, but I ended up making a minor out of it," said Mixon, who is majoring in religious studies in addition to minoring in Islamic studies. "As I progressed, more and more classes opened up."

Both Caudle and Mixon say they have seen growth in the department as more students have become interested, and they think current events have been a major impetus.

"I see a lot more interest. They added two new sections of Arabic and a new professor," Caudle said. "Our generation had been in our formative years on Sept. 11, and we want to know what is going on. It's the war

that's shaping our generation, and people are more interested in it."

"I've definitely seen people become more interested and taking more electives in Islamic studies," Mixon said. "It's something you hear about in the news, and there's a genuine interest to understand the news and that part of the world."

Mixon said she expects the program will grow even more over the next few years, and student interest will continue to increase.

"It's a growing program, and I expect new and great things from the Islamic studies department in the future," Mixon said. ■

Israelis, Palestinians agree on new negotiation plan for Palestinian state

Associated Press

Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed Tuesday to immediately resume long-stalled talks toward a deal by the end of next year that would create an independent Palestinian state, using a U.S.-hosted Mideast peace conference to launch their first negotiations in seven years.

In a joint statement read by President George W. Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pledged to start discussions on the core issues of the conflict next month and accepted the United States as arbiter of interim steps.

"We agree to engage in vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations and shall make every effort to conclude an agreement

before the end of 2008," said the document, which was reached after weeks of intense diplomacy and was uncertain until just before Bush announced it.

The conference at the U.S. Naval Academy has been greeted by heavy skepticism, with many questioning its timing and prospects for success, especially given the weaknesses of Olmert and Abbas, whose leadership is challenged by the militant Hamas movement.

And the task is complicated by Arab pressure to resolve other long simmering disputes Israel has with Syria and Lebanon.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, in his remarks to the conference, called for the earliest possible resumption of talks with Lebanon and Syria,

which wants the return of the Golan Heights, land seized by Israel during the 1967 war.

Under the workplan, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will begin talks on the most contentious issues in the conflict on Dec. 12, and Abbas and Olmert will hold private biweekly talks throughout the process, which will be monitored by the United States.

Yet none of those difficult issues were mentioned in the joint document, which was to be endorsed by the conference participants, including key Arab nations like Saudi Arabia and Syria, later in the day.

And, despite their agreement and impassioned rhetoric, neither Olmert nor Abbas showed any sign of yielding on the fundamental differences that have led to

the collapse of all previous peace efforts: the borders of a Palestinian state, the status of disputed Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees.

Olmert pledged to conference participants, "The negotiations will address all the issues which thus far have been evaded. We will not avoid any subject. While this will be an extremely difficult process for many of us, it is nevertheless inevitable."

For his part, Abbas made an impassioned appeal to Israelis to support the peace process, saying war and terrorism "belong to the past. Neither we nor you must beg for peace from the other. It is a joint interest for us and you," he said. "Peace and freedom is a right for us, just as peace and security is a right for you and us." ■

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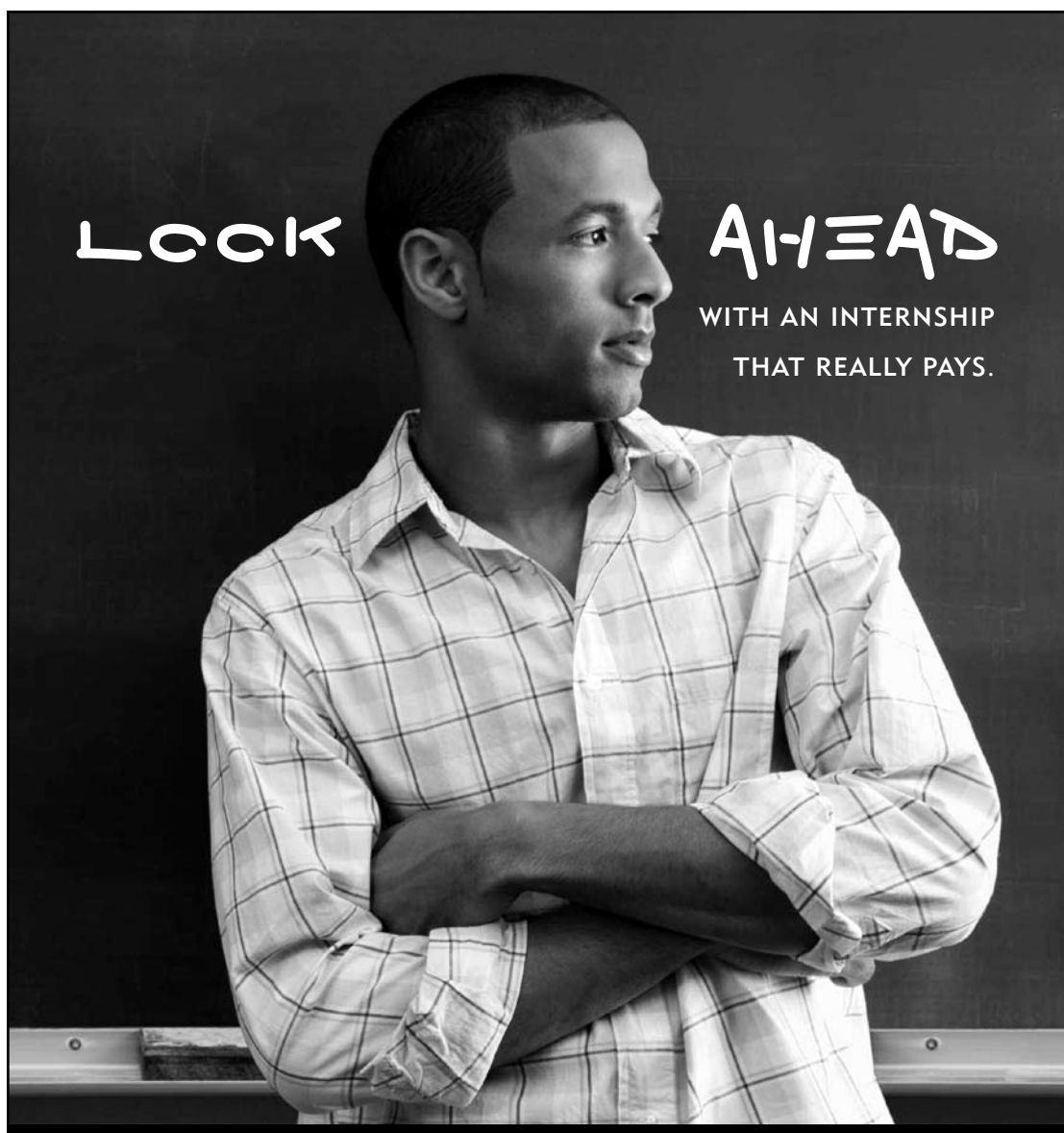
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Library collection continues growth despite digital age

Ready access to resources will still be available.

by LILY CHEN
Staff Reporter

Vanderbilt's library is expanding to accommodate its growing collection of books.

The university recently purchased a building at 600 21st Ave. North for \$1.6 million to use as an off-campus annex.

"Vanderbilt buys about 50,000 books a year, and we're running out of space," said Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Mike Schoenfeld. "We purchased the warehouse to convert it to a library annex so manuscripts and books can be stored there."

However, according to Schoenfeld, this process should not affect students' access to resources.

"The new annex will have a staff just like the current annex. Any books requested will be available and delivered possibly within a couple of hours," he said.

Before the warehouse can be used as an annex, several steps must be taken. The warehouse must be refit to store books, there must be temperature and humidity control, and books must be shelved and catalogued.

The selection of books for the new annex will be determined based on how frequently the book is used or referenced, said Robert Wright, the evening building supervisor at the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

"Bibliographers would check to see if the book was checked out recently and then pull

books based on its value to the collection," he said. "Resources at the annex are not frequently looked at but might still be important in research. We have resources used once every 10 years that we still have to keep."

The addition will also provide more space for those rarely used items.

"The new annex will help keep those resources (books) available to students," said junior Holly Pitts.

Despite the digital age, Schoenfeld said libraries are still expanding.

"The Internet presents tremendous additional channels for information, but libraries will be here for a long time," he said.

Many students agreed that although there is a rise of information available on the Internet, books are still necessary.

"The library is really useful when I do my research papers," said freshman Chelsea Lemon. "Internet information can't replace books and is less reliable."

Pitts agreed, saying books are easier to use.

"I think the library is easier to use in some ways because the information is tangible," she said.

Senior Reed Williams said with the Internet, portions of the library can be replaced, but certain historical documents and reference books cannot be found online.

"You can get a lot of recent information on the Internet, but old collections and resources will still only be available through libraries. The library will always have a place — but maybe just not the same place," he said. ■



MICHAEL FUNK / photo provided
Junior Katherine Gray, who studies both biomedical engineering and Spanish, works with students at John B Whitsitt Elementary School. Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, of which Gray is a member, initiated Spanish science classes in three area schools this semester.

Students speak Spanish in science sessions

by DAVID BROWN
Staff Reporter

Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science are exploring science in a different language.

The VSVS Spanish initiative, which began earlier this month after junior Katherine Gray conceived the idea, focuses on Nashville youth who mainly know English as a second language.

"Many of these students are suffering academically because

they do not receive proper instruction at school," said VSVS board member senior Swati Bansal. "Bilingual attention is needed to help remedy this problem."

This semester the program will start with John B Whitsitt Elementary School, John Overton High School and Woodbine Community Center, where the lessons will be presented to both children and their parents.

The initiative also aims to

include Vanderbilt students not already involved with VSVS, soliciting help from Spanish majors and minors.

In the program, the volunteers go into the schools and teach age-appropriate science lessons. For example, elementary and community center students focus on easier physical science lessons while high school students complete more advanced biology lessons.

The volunteers teach all lessons in English to make sure

the students learn all terms in English, but members provide explanations in Spanish to speed up the learning process.

"Ultimately the students will gain a better understanding of science and hopefully learn English through a unique way," Bansal said. "Although we have had some logistical complications, the program has been extremely successful, and we hope to expand further next semester." ■

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OPINION

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OUR VIEW

Immigration should be safe and legal

As Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said in the first GOP presidential debate, “One thing we would all agree on, the status quo is not acceptable.” Speaking about immigration, McCain made an assertion that would be equally valid at any Democratic gathering. Though every candidate acknowledges that immigration poses serious challenges to our country, nothing has been accomplished in this area in the last several years.

The precise reasons the current immigration situation has become so problematic may be unclear. But Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., offered a fairly complete explanation in a Larry King interview, saying, “I think all Americans think that we should be able to regulate who comes in and out of this country in an orderly way, not only for the sake of our sovereignty but also to avoid the hundreds of people who have been dying across the desert and the enormous costs that are placed on border states and border towns.”

Illegal immigration should be, first and foremost, a public

safety concern, as Obama suggests. The issue of sovereignty remains important, but this practice is simply unsafe for individuals on either side of the border. The government must strive to punish those who provide incentives for such unsafe behavior — those who knowingly employ illegal immigrants.

But this alone does not address how to deal with the millions of illegal immigrants in this country. We must first document these individuals, with driver’s licenses or ID cards, because without this measure, any mandate the next president might issue will be virtually impossible to implement — be it taxation, public health and safety monitoring, or worker programs.

These complex policies require more explanation than can be provided here. But we should remember, in the words of GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, “The objective is not to be punitive. The objective is to make things right. Right for us. Right for them.”

BLOG

Public schooling should include financial education

CHRIS SKENE
InsideVandy Blogger

Albert Einstein once said, “The most powerful force in the universe is compound interest.” He may have exaggerated a bit, but he was on to something. Compound interest has made busboys into billionaires and brought others to the brink of destitution, but it is one of many (simple) financial concepts not covered adequately in public schools.

Think back to your high school years. Were you ever taught in class how to balance a checkbook, fill out a tax return or save a portion of your income for retirement? Did anyone caution you against the utter inanity of using credit cards or payday loans to borrow money? For some reason, society has decided to treat the most important, relevant things a person will ever learn as given, mainstream knowledge. Perhaps this is why our country has a negative savings rate and why so many people are forced to declare bankruptcy because of out of control credit card debt.

Most of the financial education children currently receive comes from their parents. This system of privatized financial education works great, except for cases where the parents are woefully ignorant of intelligent money management practices. Adults who do not manage money well are almost invariably poor, and the spending habits their children learn from them perpetuate class divisions across generational lines.

It’s funny, then, people pay so much attention to this country’s sinking competence in science and mathematics when the most basic tidbits of knowledge needed to survive in the modern world are carelessly neglected. Very few people need to be able to solve a quadratic equation, and even fewer need to know the difference between meiosis and mitosis. But every single person in this country must, at some point, face the choice between paying taxes and breaking the law. Everyone is going to get an offer for a credit card application, and everyone is going to need to be able to balance their income with basic living expenses like food, shelter and medical care. It’s no wonder students constantly bemoan the uselessness of the information they are forced to ingest.

The simple solution is, of course, to add a standardized finance course to school curriculums. If physical education can be made a priority (Read: Playing kickball in the school gym for an hour a day), so can financial education. A multi-year finance course could greatly reduce bankruptcy filings, increase the national savings rate and drastically improve the quality of life for lower- and middle-class Americans, all at a reasonably low cost.

It’s unfair and borderline immoral for children of low-income families to not have the same exposure to basic money management that those of upper-income families receive all of their lives. The public education system should offer the opportunity to level the socioeconomic playing field without a redistribution of wealth by the government. Gambling a child’s future lifestyle on the financial skills of their parents is not a winning proposition.

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

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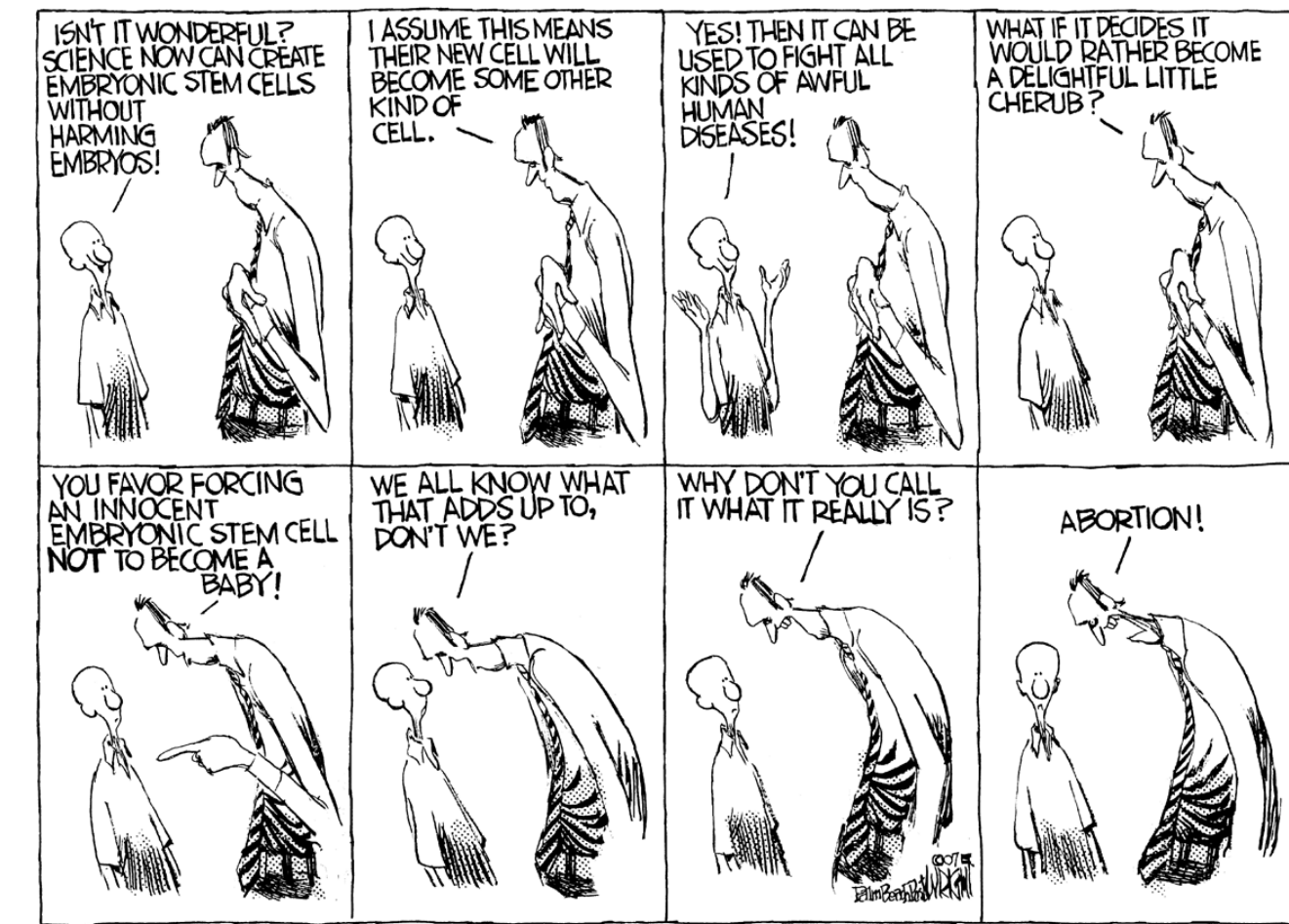
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COLUMN

Denying free speech unacceptable, even in cases of racial bigotry

THOMAS SHATTUCK
Guest Columnist

The Guardian reporter Jonathon David Farley recently wrote an article called “DNA of the KKK” stating the Science Museum of London cancelled its lecture by Nobel Laureate James Watson due to his racist beliefs.

Admittedly, Watson’s idea African-Americans are racially inferior due to their genetic makeup is both offensive and foolish, but why does that justify canceling his lecture? Was he going to lecture on that specific subject? I doubt it. In fact, the whole situation sounds like discrimination based on a man’s non-rational beliefs.

This seems to be a sign of academic intolerance. Farley, in his article, later goes on to claim “many Americans still defend the man.” I feel we should. It is an ominous sign when no one listens to a man based on one idea, as if he had no others. Watson’s importance has little to do with racial inferiority or eugenics at all.

If you delve into a bit of history, you’ll discover Watson shared his Nobel Prize with Francis Crick for discovering the structure of DNA. The

fact is most scientific breakthroughs involving the human genome in the past 50 years are based on his initial research. That is why he is important — not some half-baked white-supremacist theory.

You can’t preach tolerance but still

“If you delve into a bit of history, you’ll discover Watson shared his Nobel Prize with Francis Crick for discovering the structure of DNA. The fact is most scientific breakthroughs involving the human genome in the past 50 years are based on his initial research. That is why he is important — not some half-baked white-supremacist theory.”

pick what to hear and what to censor — I hope the Federal Communications Commission catches this article. The free exchange of ideas relies on the basis that all ideas, no matter how absurd, can be traded openly. The intellectual market is no place for cloak and dagger games, but that is what seems to be going on. It’s a popularity contest that we’re all going to lose.

Everyone means everyone. I hate

to say it, but if Watson is a racist and a bigot, anyone who denies his right to speak is no better. As Mario Savio said in his speech at the University of California, Berkeley, “There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can’t take part; you can’t even passively take part, and you’ve got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you’ve got to make it stop.”

I guess what I’m getting at is this: To deny one man is his beliefs is to deny academic and intellectual evolution, so for once maybe America should stand up for one of their own.

Let us all stand up for the First Amendment and throw our bodies on the machinations of ignorance and intolerance with the hope ideas will be treated as just that. Heresy is not a crime, only refusing to listen is. So when comes down to it: Watson and the Science Museum of London, I wish a plague upon both your houses.

—Thomas Shattuck is a freshman in the 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.

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(((OVERHEARD)))

on
insidevandy

Submitted in response to:
"Current generation lacks Hemingway" by Carl Hoff

Anyone can say that

Submitted by Ben Quigley on Saturday, Nov. 24 - 05:59.

Anyone can say Hemingway, Whitman and Eliot are literary giants and will endure forever. It takes more effort to critically judge present-day authors because there is not yet an established body of "classics." There are no safe bets. You can say Tim O'Brien's writing shows dark genius, or Philip Pullman will be remembered for as long as John Milton, but perhaps someone will disagree with you. Worse, perhaps posterity will judge differently, and you will be made a fool of.

It is easier to equivocate — to say the classics are classics (though not always fun to read) and that popular literature is popular (though not always literature). Most people do this, but there is an even easier road: Say instead today's literature is garbage, and we can never live up to the monumental standard set by certain classic (and more importantly, time-tested) works of literature.

Because so many people keep their "classics" on one shelf and the books they really read on another, not many people will stand up to this second type of critic, of whom Carl Hoff is an example.

Very few people try to make critical judgments about today's literature at all. Even among those who have read over 4,000 pages of J.K. Rowling's work, people tend to hesitate at the thought her writing might be "good." With Hemingway and the other classic writers, it is the opposite. People read them for high school and college English classes but entertain themselves with Dan Brown on the side and forget Stephen Crane forever.

Hoff seems to believe this is because people today have no character or class. The "classics" are bread and milk, but today's literature is Skittles and Pepsi for the mind and soul. If we particularly like anything written after 1975, it is probably because our brains have already rotted away.

Don't take that from him. Take yourselves seriously as literary critics. My guess is Hoff does not restrict his leisure reading to literature written before 1960, in spite of his letter from Nov. 15. Neither do you. If we begin to thoughtfully discuss Richard Adams and Connie Willis, instead of only Melville and Fitzgerald, we can defeat the notion people stopped producing literature after the end of World War II.

THE VERDICT

Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff!
Compiled by Reeve Hamilton

Kindle		Amazon unveils newest technological gadget — a sort of iPod for books. Though, the Kindle Shuffle may never catch on.
Miss Puerto Rico		Wins despite outbreak allegedly caused by pepper-spray prank. Great story, but it might be a lie. Creative excuse, though.
Dr. J. Robert Cade		Gatorade inventor may have died at age 80, but his concoction will live on in dehydrated athletes and obese kids for years to come.
Carson Daly		Set to become first late-night host to cross picket lines of writers' strike. Other hosts, when asked about it, said, "He has a show?"
Whole Foods		If you haven't spent an entire day at the new organic grocery store in Green Hills, you haven't been using your time wisely.
Anthony Marshall		Maybe he needs 25 years in prison to learn that manipulating his Alzheimer's-ridden mother, Brooke Astor, was totally uncool.
Lois Gibbons		Forensic artist's picture of "Baby Grace" helps solve case. Though it would be lovely, hope she never has to paint your portrait.
Google Inc.		Internet search leader investing hundreds of millions in alternative energy sources. For more on this story, you can Google it.

We have ISSUES

Torch Editor in Chief Douglas Kurdziel and Orbis Editor in Chief Haley Swenson break down the immigration debate and evaluate the Republican and Democratic candidates' position on this important but complex issue.

DOUGLAS KURDZIEL

Guest Columnist

While the war in Iraq is certainly the largest foreign policy issue to be confronted in the upcoming presidential election, domestic concerns would probably have a greater effect on America's citizens. Health care, Social Security and government spending have all found their way into the nation's dialogue, but no single domestic issue affects American citizens on a daily basis and the world's perception of America more than that of illegal immigration.

Each of the candidates for the Republican nomination is an advocate of securing the border. However, their policies for dealing with illegal immigrants already in the country vary widely.

Rudy Giuliani, former mayor of New York City, has come under fire for creating a "sanctuary city" in which illegal immigration is protected. Indeed, Giuliani did say in 1994 he "wanted to protect" illegal immigrants in New York and stresses the importance of helping illegal immigrants come out "from the shadows." In many of the GOP debates, Giuliani has made clear his belief in a national, tamper-proof identification card for all immigrants.

Mitt Romney has attacked Giuliani's creation of the sanctuary city and would cut funding to any such cities as president. He wants to encourage legal immigration for skilled workers, while at the same time creating an environment that would discourage illegal immigration and deny amnesty. Central to his plan is the creation of an employment verification system that would prevent U.S. employers from hiring illegal immigrants. Stopping illegal immigration, he says, is important to protect not only current American citizens, but also legal immigrants.

Like Romney, Fred Thompson opposes amnesty and would work to end sanctuary cities and welfare benefits for illegal immigrants. Thompson has voted yes on a bill to expand visa programs for skilled workers and to allow more foreign workers into the United States for seasonal agricultural work. This strict regard for the rule of law and recognition of

the importance of legal immigrants makes Thompson's immigration stances very attractive to traditional conservatives.

While Giuliani, Romney and Thompson clearly occupy the upper positions in the race for the Republican nomination, other candidates like Ron Paul, Mike Huckabee and John McCain have their own unique views on immigration. Of these three, however, only Paul has a truly conservative position. Both Huckabee and McCain promise to maintain some of the welfare benefits illegal immigrants currently receive. Huckabee claims to oppose amnesty, but he provides a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants currently in this country. He would also support financial aid and college education for the children of illegal immigrants. McCain has been criticized for his Z-visa program that would, as Mitt Romney noted, "Let everybody who's here illegally, other than criminals, stay here for the rest of their lives." On the other hand, Paul would end all incentives for illegal immigration, going so far as to end birthright citizenship and all welfare services, stating explicitly, "Taxpayers should not pay for illegal immigrants who use hospitals, clinics, schools, roads and social services."

Overall, though, the best immigration reform proposals will place the highest priority on physically securing our borders, end all incentives for illegal immigrants (like amnesty and welfare benefits) and work to welcome the legal immigrants, and their culture, into the fabric of America, rather than allowing them to exist with no stake in American society. By following this model, Mitt Romney and Ron Paul offer the most creative and principled paths to true immigration reform.

—Douglas Kurdziel is a junior in the College of Arts and Science.

HALEY SWENSON

Guest Columnist

The talk of guest-worker programs, mass deportation, a militarized southern border, a 700-mile long border fence and official English-language laws can be overwhelming. Combine this multitude of policy options with a constantly shifting language on immigration, in which politicians shun the word "amnesty" but support everything it means, and in which the decision to use the word "undocumented" rather than "illegal" to describe immigrants is cast as some politically correct, Orwellian trick. It's difficult to track any of the Democratic presidential candidates' stances when the debate is so complicated and multi-faceted.

The spotlight fell on the Democratic positions on immigration reform when Tim Russert asked Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., to clarify her position on Gov. Eliot Spitzer's recently abandoned attempts to include immigrants without proper documentation in a tiered driver's license system during an Oct. 30 Democratic debate. The law would force drivers who currently drive but have no access to a legitimate license to work within the system to prove they are qualified to drive and provide them with identification in the case they get in an accident or are stopped by law enforcement.

Clinton responded by saying she understood why Spitzer would want to instate such a law when so many immigrants live in New York, and the federal government has done so little to help the state cope with this often undocumented population, but she did not necessarily support his plan. Sens. Barack Obama, D-Ill., Chris Dodd, D-Conn., and John Edwards, D-S.C., pounced on her answer as an instance of flip-flopping. Yet, isn't Clinton's response actually quite rational? She does not believe such an

approach to be the ideal solution to problems with immigration, but she understands why the governor has turned to such a solution? In today's political climate, such answers are immediately cast aside as political dodging, rather than as complicated answers for complicated questions.

Following the debate, a Boston Globe article argued immigration was an issue the GOP could exploit to create division among Democratic candidates. In fact, most of the Democratic candidates agree on the basics of what comprehensive immigration reform should include: a more secure border, some form of a guest-worker program and a path to citizenship. The disagreement in the Oct. 30 debate was more a sign of other candidates' desire to pounce on an opportunity to portray the frontrunner in the polls as too polished and indirect than of some great schism in the Democratic Party.

Dodd declared he was opposed to Spitzer's plan because driver's licenses are a privilege, and illegal immigrants have not earned it. But his "clear and simple" position begs the question: What should states do about the undocumented immigrants who are driving anyway? How does that stance help law enforcement?

Immigration reform must balance consideration for the nation's economic interests, national security interests and human rights. We can't expect simple and clear-cut answers to problems with immigration, and we shouldn't imagine simply electing the right president will take care of any concerns about immigration. Responses to mass immigration will come from Congress and, perhaps more importantly, from our state and local governments. We must keep in mind in order to understand and create appropriate reforms, the conversation about an issue so complex cannot merely take place in presidential candidates' debates, especially those in which candidates are often asked to provide their stance in 30 seconds or less, regardless of how complicated the question might be.

—Haley Swenson is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

OPEN FORUM ON IMMIGRATION

Who: Professors Katharine Donato, Robert Barsky, John Hiskey and Edward Wright-Rios

When: Thursday, Nov. 29 7 to 9 p.m.

Where: Calhoun Hall Room 337

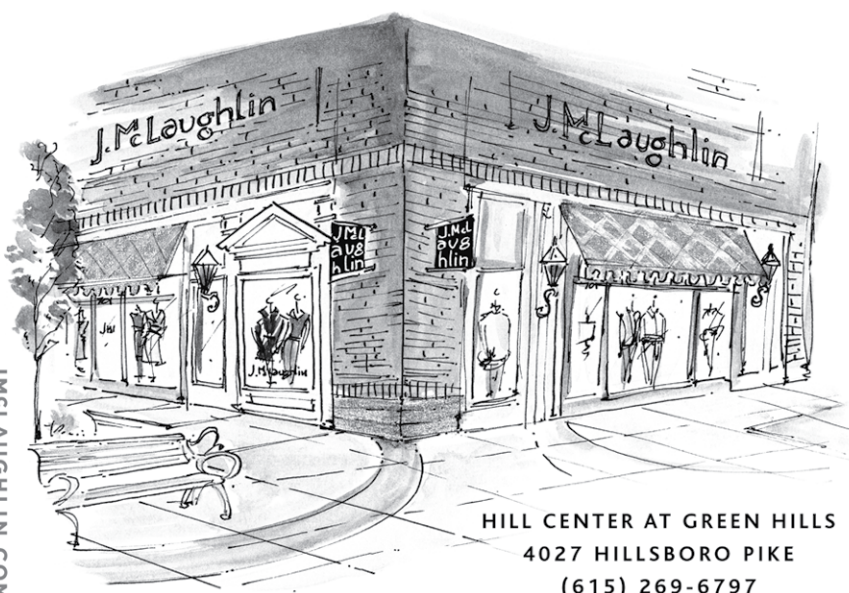
Dore Dialogue

What do you think about the immigration debate? Discuss with fellow students on InsideVandy.com

J. McLaughlin

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SPORTS

Inside
the
NumbersA look back at the
2007 Vanderbilt
football season

21.7

Points per game, second
worst in SEC

22.6

Points allowed per game,
fifth best in SEC

150.2

Rushing yards per game,
eighth best in SEC

176.4

Passing yards per game,
ninth best in SEC

325.2

Yards allowed per game,
fourth best in SEC

70.4

Red-zone scoring
percentage, second worst
in SEC

13

Fumbles lost

30

Sacks by defense, third
most in SEC

.650

Field-goal percentage,
second worst in SEC

34,629

Average home attendance

1,207

Combined rushing yards by
Cassen Jackson-Garrison
(594), Jeff Jennings (346)
and Jared Hawkins (267)

14

Catches by Vanderbilt's
tight ends

6

Interceptions by D.J.
Moore, tied for most in SEC

25.7

Yards per kick return by D.J.
Moore, fourth best in SEC

22

Punts Brett Upton put
inside the 20

3

Consecutive seasons that
Earl Bennett has caught at
least 75 passes

113

Tackles by linebacker
Jonathan Goff, third most
in SEC

12

Tackles for loss by
linebacker Marcus Buggs

12

Pass breakups by
cornerback Myron Lewis,
tied for second most in SEC

4

Straight losses to end the
season

2

SEC wins

19-28

Combined record of four
opponents Vanderbilt
beat (1-AA Richmond not
included)

25

Years Vanderbilt has gone
without playing a bowl
game

Bennett's future remains up in air

Junior wideout has until mid-January
to decide whether to declare for draft.by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

Three years ago, a 6-foot-1 wide receiver with a small afro and even smaller acclaim arrived on West End, hoping to earn to a spot on Vanderbilt's special teams unit.

"I was just trying to be the punt returner or go down on kicks and help out," Earl Bennett recalled last Saturday. "I was fortunate enough to play, and I just made the best of it."

Bennett most certainly did. In addition to switching hair styles, the junior from Birmingham, Ala., also became the most prolific wide receiver in Southeastern Conference history, catching at least 75 passes in each of his three seasons with the Commodores.

Now, Bennett is confronted with a decision he never imagined he would have to make — whether or not to declare himself eligible for the 2008 NFL Draft.

"I hope not," said Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson, when asked if his star player had put on the black and gold uniform for the last time. "Earl's a smart guy, and he's going to look at it in a logical way. He's going to gather all of the information that he can, and I don't think he'll make a snap decision."

Bennett met with Johnson on Monday to begin the process and plans to request an evaluation from the NFL's draft advisory board, which will give him an idea of where he is projected to be drafted. Bennett, who will rely heavily on the advice of his family and coaching staff, has until mid-January to announce his plans.

"If they think I could benefit from a senior year then I will come back," Bennett said. "Whatever they tell me, I'm going to take into deep consideration because they want the best for me."

Senior offensive tackle Chris Williams, who has already accepted an invitation to participate in the prestigious Senior Bowl and is projected to be a high-round draft pick, gave Bennett valuable advice.

"Listen to people closest to you — your family and the coaches — because obviously agents and those guys will gas you up and tell you you're going in the

first round," he said. "On draft day, they're going to get paid regardless, because they have several clients, not just you."

While the process will undoubtedly be stressful, Williams acknowledged that things could be much worse for Bennett.

"He's in a great position," Williams said. "He can come out and get drafted or he can stay. ... We'll see how it works out. I wish him the best."

While the senior class of receivers is relatively thin — Texas' Linus Sweed, LSU's Early Doucet and Oklahoma State's Adarius Bowman are the headliners — there are a number of talented juniors who could declare, including Cal's DeSean Jackson, Michigan's Mario Manningham and Oklahoma's Malcom Kelly.

Still, there is no question Bennett can match up with any of them. Despite catching passes from three different quarterbacks, facing constant double-and-triple teams and playing with a less-talented supporting cast than the aforementioned receivers, No. 10 has still caught a SEC-record 236 passes for 2,852 yards and 20 touchdowns in 35 games.

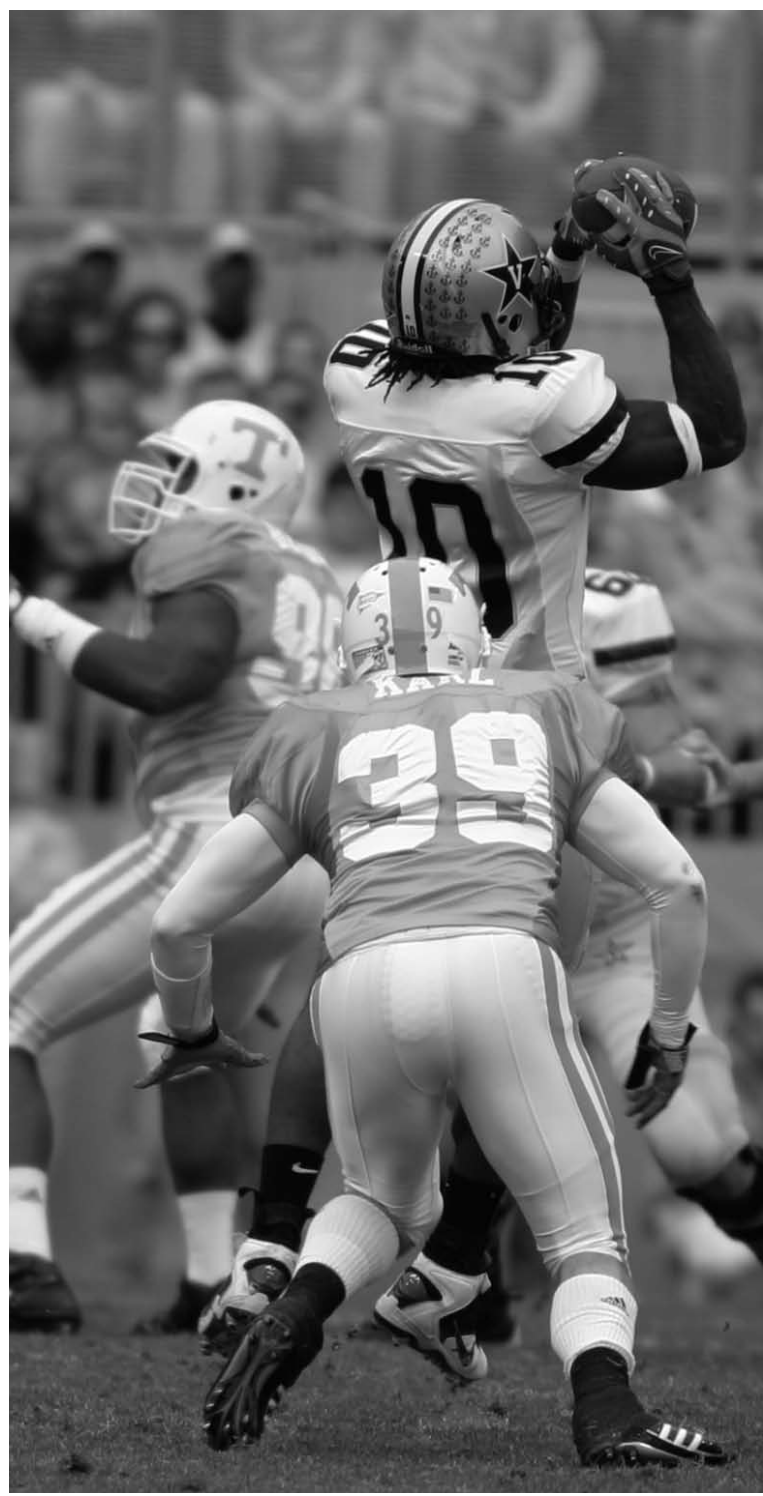
"For him to come in here and do that, get hit as many times as he gets hit when he catches the football, I think is remarkable," Johnson said.

It would be fitting if Bennett played his final collegiate game last Saturday as his first and last receptions would be touchdowns against Wake Forest. Despite hurting his lower back on a catch over the middle in the Commodores' 25-24 loss at Tennessee a week earlier, Bennett still managed to haul in six passes for 65 yards and a score.

"I'd take a win over stats any day," said the always-modest Bennett. "(If) we won this game, and I had no catches it would've been great because, hey, we would've been bowl eligible."

That's why as much as Bennett relishes the opportunity to play at the next level — he grew up idolizing wide receivers Jerry Rice and Tim Brown and "watched the NFL 24/7" — he also knows there is more to accomplish with the Commodores.

As he said, "There's a lot of unfinished business here." ■



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Earl Bennett has done more in three seasons than most wide receivers could do in six. As a result, the junior has a difficult choice to make: Declare for the NFL draft or come back for one more year.

COLUMN

Season ends in all too familiar fashion
Attitude adjustment needed as Vandy looks ahead to next season.JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

Almost.

That's how senior offensive tackle Chris Williams chose to define his successful yet maddening Vanderbilt career.

"Missed opportunities, man," Williams said, following Vanderbilt's depressing 31-17 home loss to Wake Forest last Saturday. "We didn't get it done when we needed to, and that's kind of the story of my career — almost. Almost. We miss field goals by this much; we fumble; we get sacked. We shoot ourselves in the foot any way possible. It's frustrating."

The offensive captain is certainly not the only player tired of the excuses and "what-ifs." After setting their sights on a bowl berth, with some even predicting a trip to a BCS bowl, the Commodores see no silver lining on this season.

"This didn't put a cap on it very well," said coach Bobby Johnson after his team got embarrassed by the Demon Deacons. "All of the positive things you saw during the season just don't look very good right now when you go through something like that."

It wasn't just the finale that put a damper on the year. Vanderbilt continually found ways to lose games, none more impressive than their fourth-quarter meltdown against the Volunteers.

The Commodores held a commanding 24-9 lead in Knoxville, having outplayed their rival in all phases of the game. As Gabe Hall said, "We smacked them in the mouth every single play." Phil Fulmer was once again on the hot seat, and Rocky Top was eerily silent.

The rest, as they say, is history. While many want



JOHN RUSSELL / VU Media Relations
Bryant Hahnfeldt drops to his knees after seeing his 49-yard field-goal attempt miss just wide late in the fourth quarter of Tennessee's 25-24 victory over Vanderbilt. The image serves as a perfect embodiment of the Commodores' season, which ended with four straight losses.

to label Broderick Stewart's roughing-the-punter penalty as the turning point, that would be putting far too much blame on Vanderbilt's most gifted pass rusher.

Want the real reason the Commodores lost yet another close game? They played not to lose — plain and simple. Instead of giving quarterback Mackenzi Adams the chance to bury the Vols on their Senior Day, Johnson and the rest of the coaching staff got conservative, seemingly content to hold on for a victory.

How else do you explain three consecutive three-and-outs in the fourth quarter?

"We're trying to move the ball," Johnson said afterward. "We also don't want to (be) in a situation where we throw an interception or do anything stupid. We're going to try to make them earn it."

For a program looking to go to its first bowl game in 25 years, that's the wrong mindset to have.

In the locker room minutes after Bryant Hahnfeldt's kick grazed off the left upright, players were furious, and justifiably so.

"I knew we were going to get bowl-eligible when the game started," Hall said. "We just didn't find a way to get it done. So, (am I) disappointed? Beyond imagine."

"It's making me really mad," added senior tailback Cassen Jackson-Garrison.

Asked if it was the worst loss of his career, Jackson-Garrison didn't hesitate.

"Yeah, by far," he said. "As a matter of fact, all of the losses this year rank in my top."

Junior wide receiver Earl Bennett agreed.

"We couldn't seal the deal these past few games, and it cost us being bowl eligible," he said. "It hurts not only me and the coaching staff, but the team as a whole and the university."

Johnson, who has done an admirable job building this

program yet struggled to make the next leap, has already turned his attention to 2008.

"I was telling the guys, we've just got to have a bigger sense of urgency on every football play we line up on," he said. "We've got a lot of work to do still. We've got a good number of guys coming back so we've got a chance to be better next year."

Perhaps. But, if the Commodores don't change their approach and learn how to finish, it will be the same old story.

Almost. ■

—To listen to Jarred Amato
and Andrew Hard reflect on the
2007 season, go to:

Dores
remain
unbeatenby JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

Vanderbilt men's basketball coach Kevin Stallings said he likes where his team is at through five games.

The undefeated Commodores crept closer to the top 25 after beating Bradley 95-86 in the finals of the South Padre Island Invitational on Saturday. Senior Shan Foster scored 22 points in the victory and was named tournament MVP, while freshman A.J. Ogilvy and sophomore Jermaine Beal were named to the all-tournament team after scoring 23 and 13 points, respectively.

"Any time you have a chance to win a championship it's special," Stallings said. "We feel great and excited about winning this tournament."

Vanderbilt came out strong and led by 18 points at the break. While Bradley rallied to cut the deficit to one late in the game, the Commodores never folded. They hit 28 of 31 free throws on the night, including all eight down the stretch.

"We really believe that when the game gets close, we're the best team in the country," Foster said.

In addition to defeating Bradley, Vanderbilt recently beat Utah State 77-56 and Valparaiso 87-78.

"I feel like we made a lot of progress this week, and that's what we talked about as a staff and as a team," Stallings said. "We're excited about our team. We feel good about our performance in this tournament, and we think the teams that we played will be heard from in their league as the season goes on."

The Commodores host South Alabama Thursday (7 p.m.) before returning Georgia Tech to Memorial Gym Saturday (noon). ■

SEASON REPORT CARD

Compiled by Jonathan Kurzner

- C- QUARTERBACKS**
The midseason emergence of Mackenzi Adams (1,043 passing yards with 12 touchdowns — nine passing and three rushing — and six interceptions) gave the offense stability. At the same time, the Commodore passing game was never as explosive as many thought it would be. The bottom line is if Chris Nickson had performed up to his preseason third-team All-SEC selection, Vandy would be getting ready for a bowl game.
- B RUNNING BACKS**
This group showed flashes of brilliance with huge rushing performances against Miami (Ohio) and Kentucky. Senior Cassen Jackson-Garrison (148 carries for 594 yards and five touchdowns) led the way, though fans will remember his costly fumble against Georgia before any of his successes. The tandem of Jeff Jennings, who will be another year removed from major knee surgery, and Jared Hawkins should give Vandy good production next year.
- B+ WIDE RECEIVERS**
Earl Bennett (75 receptions for 830 yards, five touchdowns) brings the grade way up. If Bennett opts to enter the NFL draft, he leaves arguably the greatest talent this program has ever had. Both George Smith (32 receptions for 370 yards) and Sean Walker (20 receptions for 270 yards) had their moments, and Justin Wheeler has a bright future. Tight end production was mediocre, at best.
- C OFFENSIVE LINE**
This veteran group, expected to be a real strength, underachieved, especially in pass protection. The mobility of Nickson and Adams bailed the line out of many sacks. Still, the running game's efficiency was a byproduct of solid blocking.
- B+ DEFENSIVE LINE**
In Broderick Stewart, who had a breakout season, recording a team-high six sacks, and Steven Stone (four sacks), Vandy has strong bookends to build the line around in 2008. Seniors Gabe Hall and Theo Horrocks were a steadying force in the middle and will be missed, along with defensive end Curtis Gatewood, who has a chance to thrive as an outside linebacker at the next level.
- A- LINEBACKERS**
Seniors Jonathan Goff (113 tackles and three sacks) and Marcus Buggs (76 tackles and three sacks) were the backbone of a Vanderbilt defense that held its own against nearly all opponents. Their shoes will be difficult to fill. Patrick Benoist should be a special player.
- B+ DEFENSIVE BACKS**
Cornerbacks D.J. Moore (83 tackles and 6 interceptions) and Myron Lewis are two emerging stars who give fans reason to be excited about the future. Junior safety Reshard Langford (65 tackles and two interceptions) was another bright spot in the secondary, which brings back everyone next season.
- B SPECIAL TEAMS**
Alex Washington and D.J. Moore were excellent on returns and supplied the Dores with a valuable X factor each week. Still some room to improve on the coverage teams and ball security on returns.
- D- KICKING**
Bryant Hahnfeldt left much to be desired, to say the least. He missed so many big kicks throughout the year (Kentucky and Tennessee come to mind immediately). Missing four of eight field goals from 30-39 yards just doesn't cut it. Punter Brett Upton improved throughout the season but ended with a pedestrian 39.2 yard per punt average.
- C- COACHING**
Questions about Bobby Johnson's job security are warranted after Johnson's most talented team lost its last four games and finished 5-7. The team played tough opponents close but rarely came away with a win to show for it, and that blemish must be partially blamed on the head coach. The team often played not to lose, which is a reflection on Johnson and his staff.

Dores set to host Duke

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

Memorial Gym should be rocking tonight as the No. 25 Vanderbilt women's basketball team hosts No. 9 Duke in one of its biggest nonconference contests in recent memory.

"We obviously feel good about the momentum and playing at home," said coach Melanie Balcomb. "We're hoping to get a really nice crowd. I think that's exciting for the program and the school, and we're just excited to play."

The first 500 students receive T-shirts and Vanderbilt faculty and staff get in for free, and the Bucket Boys are performing at halftime for what should be a highly entertaining contest. The Commodores (5-1) are riding high after beating Iowa State 62-53 on Sunday in the championship game of the Vanderbilt Thanksgiving Tournament.

Sophomore Lauren Lueders scored a career-high 14 points, while Tournament MVP Tina Wirth added 10 points and six assists. Merideth Marsh and Amber Norton provided a spark off the bench, scoring 11 and 10 points respectively, while junior Jen Risper turned in a solid overall performance, scoring eight points to go along with eight rebounds and five steals.

"We never got too high or too low," Balcomb said. "We were very businesslike, and I like that. We never got down when we turned it over, and we never got down when we missed shots. What we did was we went back, and we played defense and played it hard and played it better."

Balcomb said she was most pleased with the fact the Commodores scored 20 points off turnovers to the Cyclones' seven.

"That's the difference in the game right there," she said.

Vanderbilt will need to turn in an even better performance tonight against the Blue Devils. Balcomb and the players said they expect to.

"We're really young, but I can



JOHN RUSSELL / VU Media Relations

Sophomore Merideth Marsh and the rest of the Commodores are playing well, winning the Vanderbilt Thanksgiving Tournament in convincing fashion on Sunday. They will need a similar performance tonight as they host No. 9 Duke. The first 500 students receive T-shirts, and faculty and staff get in for free.

honestly tell you our last two games we played very well," Balcomb said.

"To see what we did (Sunday), I think we handled ourselves very well. We were confident, especially not panicking down the stretch with young guards on the floor and making free throws. Those are two very important things."

Lueders agreed.

"To go on the road and win at Clemson and then come here and win our Thanksgiving Tournament,

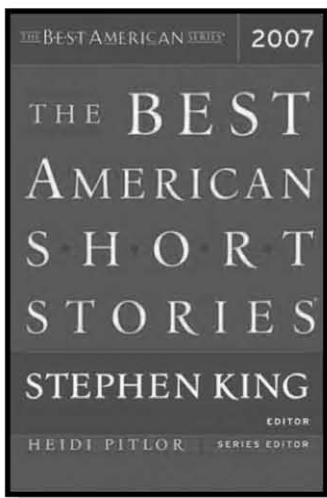
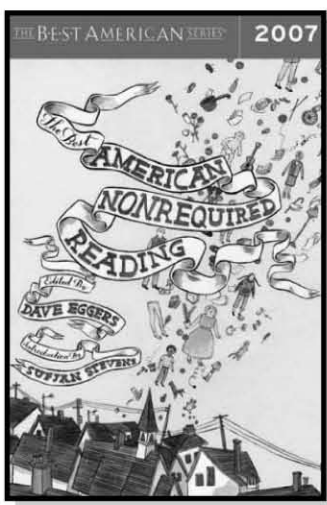
that's just huge for our confidence, both offensively and defensively," she said.

Duke arrives in Nashville with a 5-1 record, having lost to No. 2 Connecticut by 26 points on Sunday.

"I know they're young, just like we are, so I think that if we can get out there and kind of take them out of what they're used to doing, they're going to make some bad decisions," Wirth said. ■



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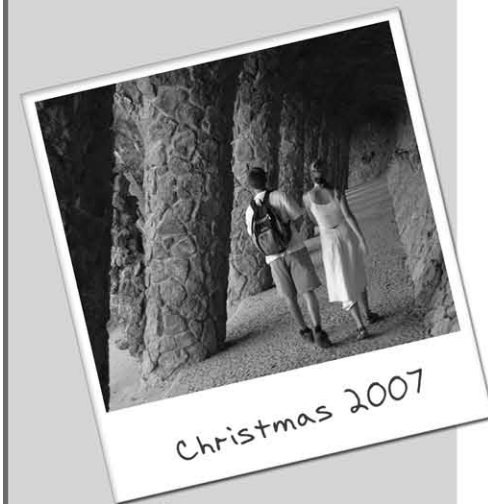
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