

Forget the BCS: The Hustler created its own playoffs ...

For more, see **Sports, page 6** 









**TODAY'S WEATHER** 

# The Banderhilt Hustler

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007 • 119<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 79

#### THE WALL

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

#### **TODAY** Pre-Kwanzaa celebration

The Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center will host a pre-Kwanzaa celebration from

noon to 2 p.m. in the

auditorium.

Kobilka

#### **TODAY Discovery Lecture** Series: Brian

Stanford University professor of medicine Dr. Brian Kobilka will speak from 4 to 5 p.m. in Light Hall, Room 208. His lecture is titled "Structure and Dynamics of the Human beta 2 Adrenoceptor."

#### **TODAY Revision workshop**

The Writing Studio is sponsoring a workshop on paper revision from 5 to 6 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Room 117. Students are asked to bring a draft to learn how to apply revision strategies to their own papers.

#### **TODAY East Asian studies** film screening

The film "Pirated Copy" will be shown from 6 to 8 p.m. in Stevenson 4327.

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 6 **Entrepreneurship** lecture

The College of Arts and Science Council will host a presentation from three entrepreneurs who will share their experiences and advice at 6:15 p.m. in the Board of Trust room in the Student Life Center.

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 6 Blair concert

University of Louisville cello professor Paul York will play at 6:30 p.m. at the Blair School of Music, Room 1191.

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 6 **Rec food drive**

The annual drive will benefit the Nashville Rescue Mission. Canned vegetables, rice and other nonperishable foods will be collected at the Rec through Dec. 21.

See http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu

# LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

#### Looking past the label

People might think I...

... like saying vagina. ... should look androgynous.

am a women's and gender

... should protest, rally and studies major.

preach about women's

... am supposed to be a

This series was inspired by the idea that each person has a distinct story, and it is important to get to know each other in order to make this big world a bit smaller. It is also based on the notion that our differences are what make us unique.

Only by facing our own misunderstandings can we begin to break down the walls we have created.

> als isn't enough to understand their struggles, passions and unique stories. To watch these students discuss identity in their own words, go to: nsidevandy ... I have a boyfriend (I do love women, just not

Just reading about these individu-

in that way.).

am angry and belligerent. ... really I do. Vagina, vagina, vagina! ... you won't catch me without my eye shadow and lip gloss. I am all about special education.

... I am shy in public.

... I am only like that when prepping for finals.

# Meet Lesley

Looking past the label: **Feminist** 

by SYDNEY WILMER Asst News Editor

KATIE DEPAOLA

Staff Reporter

Lesley Colon was an unabashed feminist before she even knew the meaning of the word.

"Ever since I was little, and I saw (my dad) hit my mom, I just knew in my gut that that was not

The New York City native, who grew up in a "very poor," Puerto Rican household, is quick to clarify exactly what the term "feminist" means to

As a woman, "I just want to be seen as equal,"

"In my family, the men are the breadwinners. The women are the ones who stay at home, take care of the kids and make dinner for their husbands."

The oldest of four, Colon realized after her sisters were born they should not think it was acceptable for her dad to hit her mom simply because "he was the man."

"My sisters are not going to be taught to be submissive to a man," she said. "They are just as good as a man. They are going to get that highrise job. They are going to be the CEO of some

When she got to Vanderbilt, Colon realized that was called feminism.

Please see **MEET LESLEY**, page 3

#### NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

#### **Bush says intelligence report** shows need to be vigilant about Iran's nuke ambitions

President George W. Bush said Tuesday the international community should continue to pressure Iran on its nuclear programs, asserting Tehran remains dangerous despite a new intelligence conclusion it halted its development of a nuclear bomb four years

"I view this report as a warning signal that they had the program, they halted the program," Bush said. "The reason why it's a warning signal is they could restart it."

Bush spoke one day after a new national intelligence estimate found that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in the fall of 2003, largely because of international scrutiny and pressure.

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

## **RIAA sues** 23 students for illegal downloading

by EVE ATTERMANN

Asst News Editor

The Recording Industry Association of America is suing 23 Vanderbilt students for illegally downloading music onto their computers.

Cindy Frank, director of service delivery and project management for Information Technology Services, says the university has seen an increase in students being sued due to the RIAA's increased litigation

"Last year we had 20 students (sued) for the whole Please see ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING, page 3

## Leaders hope to increase university presence in Nashville

by DAVID BROWN

Staff Reporter

Interim Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos, the Rev. James Lawson and others gathered Tuesday discuss Vanderbilt's past, present and future relationship with the Nashville community.

The event, hosted by the Vanderbilt Center for Nashville Studies, featured speeches by Zeppos and Lawson, who both discussed the continued need for Vanderbilt to be a vital part of Nashville and to serve as a model for urban areas around the world.

"Our growth and our struggles have been very much tied to the Nashville community," Zeppos said. "We need to attain mutual betterment, and (Vanderbilt) and Nashville will continue to grow together."

Zeppos also highlighted

the vision of The Commons, where freshmen will live both at Vanderbilt and in Nashville, to change students in and outside the classroom.

"The Commons is a launchpad for this unique, intertwined relationship Vanderbilt between Nashville," Zeppos said. "The Commons will change the way students interact with the Nashville community."

Lawson also shared his views on the need for both Vanderbilt and Nashville to embrace the model set forth from the movement of the '50s and '60s.

Lawson described his experiences during the civil rights era being ousted from Vanderbilt due to his numerous civil rights protests as well as his recent return to Vanderbilt and how his presence on campus has served to remind others of racial injustices.

"The university must take a

great deal of pride in its present path, but recognize the shame of our past," Lawson said. "We have come a long way, but the journey is far from over."

Lawson emphasized that the primary goal of a school like Vanderbilt is to prepare young minds to be leaders.

"Taking young people and preparing for the future is not merely a monetary affair," Lawson said. "We must make sure young people become involved in the entire community, not just its wealth."

Lawson also spoke about the old Nashville, where exclusionary structures of racism and sexism hurt the

He said he hopes in the future "Nashville can become a place where the human can be celebrated and acknowledged and where an inclusive urban area can blossom." ■



The Rev. James Lawson shares his past experiences at Vanderbilt and in Nashville and discusses the future city-school relationship at an event hosted by the Vanderbilt Center for Nashville Studies Tuesday.

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# Odps & ENDS

#### WEATHER

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

**TODAY** 



Partly Cloudy, 47/37

**THURSDAY** 



Few Showers, 56/51

**FRIDAY** 



Mostly Cloudy, 65/56

#### **VUPD CRIME LOG**

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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#### **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

#### Climate change extravaganza: 10,000 participants add to greenhouse gas burden during Indonesian conference, critics say

Never before have so many people converged to try to save the planet from global warming, with more than 10,000 jetting into this Indonesian resort island, from government ministers to Nobel laureates to drought-stricken farmers.

But critics say they are contributing to the very problem they

"Nobody denies this is an important event, but huge numbers of people are going, and their emissions are probably going to be greater than a small African country," said Chris Goodall, author of the book "How to Live a Low-Carbon Life."

#### U.N. nuclear watchdog: U.S. report on Iran 'consistent' with its own findings

A new United States intelligence review that concludes Iran stopped developing a nuclear weapons program in 2003 is consistent with the United Nations atomic watchdog agency's own findings and "should help to defuse the current crisis," the organization's chief said Tuesday.

"Although Iran still needs to clarify some important aspects of its past and present nuclear activities, the agency has no concrete evidence of an ongoing nuclear weapons program or undeclared nuclear facilities in Iran," International Atomic Energy Agency director-general Mohamed ElBaradei said in a statement.

ElBaradei said he viewed "with great interest" Monday's release of a U.S. National Intelligence Estimate that said Tehran halted nuclear weapons development in late 2003 under international pressure.

#### Abbas closes 92 Hamas charities in West Bank; Israel frees 429 Palestinian prisoners to support Abbas

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has closed 92 charities linked to Hamas, officials said Monday, part of an intensifying West Bank crackdown on the Islamic militants who seized the Gaza Strip and are challenging renewed peace talks with Israel.

Israel released 429 Palestinian prisoners to try to bolster Abbas and build on momentum from last week's Mideast peace conference in Annapolis, Md., where Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said they would aim to reach a peace deal in 2008.

Joy mixed with tears as buses carrying the prisoners, most from Abbas' Fatah movement, rolled into his walled headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

#### NATION

#### **National Guard evacuates residents in** flooded Oregon town as 2nd storm leaves closed roads, power outage

National Guard troops evacuated residents in a flooded town Tuesday and tens of thousands of residents remained without power after back-to-back storms pounded the Pacific Northwest, killing five people.

Troops with the Oregon Air National Guard used inflatable rafts to evacuate flooded residents in Vernonia, a mountain timber town on the Nehalem River, about 35 miles northwest of Portland.

"They're moving down the streets, and through the backyards," said Maj. Mike Braibish, spokesman for the National Guard.

Vernonia, which has about 2,200 residents, had been largely cut off by landslides that blocked roads into the community, but Guard trucks with high clearance were able to get in late Monday and more were being sent, Braibish said.

#### Poorly refrigerated vaccines force parents to get new shots for their children

Every year, thousands of American children go through the tearful, teeth-gritting ordeal of getting their vaccinations, only to be forced to do it all over again. The vaccines were duds, ruined by poor refrigeration.

It is more than a source of distress for parent and child. It is a public health threat because youngsters given too-weak vaccines are unprotected against dangerous diseases. And it accounts for a big part of the \$20 million in waste incurred by the federal Vaccines for Children program.

"This is a substantial problem that needs to be addressed through prevention, and when problems are discovered, often times through revaccinations," said Dr. Lance Rodewald, director of immunization services at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

#### CAMPUS

#### Engineering professor creates animated science education program

An animated computer program created by a Vanderbilt professor of computer science and computer engineering is being used in Nashville public school classrooms to teach science to middle school students. But the teachable agent called Betty's Brain does much more: It also teaches students how to learn.

Supported by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education, a research team headed by Gautam Biswas, working closely with collaborators at Stanford University, has shown students learn science content much better by using Betty's Brain. Studies being performed at Meigs Academic Magnet School in Nashville and at schools in the Palo Alto and Los Altos school districts in California show the students also carry over that learning to new subjects, practice monitoring themselves along the way and have fun in the process.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

#### **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.

#### **QUESTION:**

Who is in charge of the university besides iChancellor Zeppos?

#### **ANSWER:**

The university is governed by a Board of Trust of approximately 55 members, each of whom serves a five-year term. The chancellor, who is chosen by the board, is the chief executive officer of the university. The Board of Trust members include Chairman Martha Ingram, Vice Chairman Darryl Berger, Vice Chairman Dennis C. Bottorff and Secretary William Bain Jr.

General officers of the university are Interim Chancellor Nick Zeppos, who is also provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs; Lauren Brisky, vice chancellor for administration and chief financial officer; Harry Jacobson, vice chancellor for health affairs; Mike Schoenfeld, vice chancellor for public affairs; David Williams II, vice chancellor for university affairs, general counsel and secretary of the university; and Matthew Wright, vice chancellor for investments.

More information can be found online at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/orgchart.html

SNAPSHOT

#### AIDING THE CAUSE



Nashvillians Ryan Massa-McKinley and Luke McKenty and junior Alex Beard serve themselves dinner at a benefit hosted by Face AIDS Monday in the Student Life Center. Members of the Sankofa African Drum and Dance Ensemble performed at the event commemorating World AIDS Day.

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# MEET LESLEY: Feminists strive for change

From **MEET LESLEY**, page 1 Bringing ideas into action

But this realization involved more than simply hearing the word.

During her sophomore year, Colon tried out for "The Vagina Monologues" and finally discovered a place where her ideas fit. Being a member of the cast brought everything together.

"I've been the shoulder to cry on when someone has been raped, so that just hit it home for me," she said. "Vagina Monologues.' I guess it was my

At the same time, Colon enrolled in

a women's and gender studies class, and her identity as a feminist soon crystallized.

Though she does not keep up with a lot of the women she met through the class and the play, she recognizes their unique bond.

"Just walking around campus and knowing that you share that power, where we can change something. That's the connection I have with those

Working for a woman's world

Colon recognizes the reaction to

feminism can be negative, but she said those reactions are mostly based on misconceptions.

"I feel like if you say feminist, people think you are this go-getting, women-power (person)," she said. "Automatically, they think you are biased against men and hate men. I appreciate the other half."

And what frustration she does have is based on workplace sexism, she said.

"I think that overall, people think a lot of feminists are angry. I'm frustrated more than angry. I'm not going to punch a wall," she said. "(Society) has look at the man's resume before they'll look at mine."

Until she graduates next year, Colon has committed herself to the creation of a multicultural sorority chapter at Vanderbilt, hoping to embrace women of all cultures "so (they) can all come together and strive for one thing."

For Colon, feminism is about creating change — not getting mad or getting

"Just because my dad hit my mom doesn't mean I hate men for life," she said. "It is my dad's fault for hitting my

made progressive steps, but they'll still mom, but it's society's fault for making him think it's OK to hit my mom.

> "And that's what I feel a lot of feminists are trying to change — that whole (attitude that) 'It's OK for men to do this; it's OK for men to be better; it's OK for men to be treated better"

And, in part, Colon wants to use her career to help make that change.

"To impact society ... you have to get at the kids young. You have to teach to the future," the special education and child development major said. "I'm going to be like, 'Sweetheart, you're just as good as a dude.‴ ■

## **ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING: ITS** educates students about pirating risks

From **ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING**, page 1 year," Frank said. "This year we have had 32 students in October alone."

Of those 32 students, 23 have been identified, while the rest remain anonymous IP addresses. Because Vanderbilt operates on an open Internet network, the RIAA is able to track down IP addresses, linking them to individual computers engaging in illegal music downloading.

The school itself, however, has been asked to give students' names to match their IP codes.

"We make the best interest to give the names," Frank said. "We live in Music City, and musicians ... are benefactors, and we often work with them. We have to be mindful of that. RIAA represents the music industry, and the music industry is right across the street. Some universities say they aren't going to do this, but we want to

play nice with everyone."

According to Frank, the RIAA is more likely to go after college students because most colleges operate on open networks and therefore it is easier to track music

ITS and the Office of Student Conduct work together to track down and inform students of their imminent suits. The RIAA works in a three-pronged system for identifying and eventually attempting to settle with those students who are engaging in illegal downloading.

"They first send out copyright infringement notices, which say that they've noticed the following IP number has been illegally downloading music," Frank said. "They then send notice that they will file a suit against a student and send a subpoena. A final notification is one that offers a settlement option to the student, usually for \$3,000."

Students who choose to ignore the settlement option and fight the suit in court often face fines in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, Frank said.

ITS has been educating students of the risks of illegal downloading, as well as supplying legal options. VUMix offers Napster, Ruckus, MyTracks and Joost, all legal downloading options that work for Windows, Macintosh and Linux.

Frank estimates ITS has spent half a million dollars on the efforts to inform, educate and provide legal alternatives for the student community.

"We've negotiated inexpensive deals for students," Frank said. "Napster is \$2 a month and offers 3 million songs. We have also spent a lot money and time marketing them. We encourage these legal methods for downloading music." ■

### **Happy Hanukkah**



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustle

Seniors Laura Schwinder and Aleza Remis light a candle in honor of the first night of Hanukkah Tuesday at a Hanukkah party in the Ben Schulman Center for Jewish Life.

## 1-year experience requirement for VSG president to remain

by LILY CHEN Staff Reporter

Vanderbilt Student Government President Cara Bilotta elected not to modify the eligibility requirements for students who want to run for VSG president in the upcoming spring elections.

The change, which would have eliminated the requirement that presidential candidates have at least one year of student government experience, was

originally meant to open the field to more candidates, as only two groups ran last year.

This year, however, "promises to be an exciting election with at least four tickets for election," Bilotta said.

Bilotta spoke with her advisers, including Dean of Students Mark Bandas, Director of Finance Ashley Thompson and Director of Student Governance Courtney Salters, as she decided not to

write the proposal. Positions such as residence hall representative, cabinet member and judicial vice president of a residence hall fulfill the experience requirement.

According to Bilotta, her advisers felt because VSG works extensively with the administration, a new president with prior experience would make the transition process more effective.

Instead of dealing with the learning curve, they can jump right into the job, which is especially important because a

the president serves just a oneyear term, Bilotta said.

"After getting feedback and listening to their thoughts on the issue, I found value in having experience for the level of involvement required to be president," she said.

In addition, Bilotta said the role of president requires a thorough knowledge of the position and a firm grasp on how VSG works, so candidates should have at least a basic level of experience.

"In order to do a job

effectively, a person needs to have experience, whether as a leader of another organization in the past or a leader in student government," said Katherine Tennis. "Many people don't realize that being president is a job with a lot of responsibility and those with less experience may get overwhelmed."

Bilotta also said she believes if a student were passionate and committed to making change they would take advantage of the many opportunities available to participate in VSG and become involved earlier on.

Sophomore Emily Baldwin agreed, saying if a student were genuinely interested, they would look for ways to get involved.

"I think the experience requirement is also a good screening process participants before they take on such a large leadership role, Baldwin said. "If a student wasn't interested in any other point, then why are they choosing to be active now?" ■

## Possible biotech company move would benefit Vanderbilt lab

by REBECCA TYRRELL Asst News Editor

Biotechnology firm TyraTech, which centers on insect-repellent research and technology developed by a Vanderbilt researcher, may relocate its headquarters to

Essam Enan, a biochemistry professor and chief scientific officer of TyraTech, develops insecticide and parasiticide with unique blends of natural active ingredients.

Nashville.

The firm, currently based in Melbourne, Fla., plans to compare incentives available from the state of Tennessee similar information from Research Triangle, N.C.; Melbourne; and Palm Beach County, Fla. to determine where to relocate their headquarters.

"Of course, moving to Nashville will be easier for everyone because I'm here, my lab is here, and my group is here. This would make people close and (allow for) daily communication and daily discussion, which would make life easier for everyone," Enan

The firm develops different products for different markets, including mosquito and fly



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Dr. Essam Enan, a biochemistry professor and chief scientific officer of TyraTech, develops pesticides from natural plant oils in his Vanderbilt University Medical Center lab.

repellent and products for plants, vegetables, fruits, flowers and cotton, and works to develop technology for crawling insects such as ants

and spiders. According to Enan, the research done for TyraTech has a dramatic impact worldwide.

"If you can keep mosquitoes away from people, this will help a lot with protecting you from disease," Enan said.

The plant-based chemicals used in their products have been used in flavors and the cosmetic industry for years, according to Enan, and are among the products the Food Drug Administration generally regards as safe, unlike

the commonly known insect repellent, DEET.

with technology, these chemicals have been combined to create a "synergistic blend" which serves to repel mosquitoes and even prevent some human

"We are working on developing treatment human intestinal parasites," Enan said. "There's about 1.5 billion people in the world infected with intestinal parasites, so it's a big concern." ■

-Lisa Guo contributed reporting to this article.

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# **OPINION**

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**OUR VIEW** 

## Experience requirement limits opportunity to lead

The decision to sustain requirements that make it impossible to run for Vanderbilt Student Government president without a year of experience does not bode well for the future of campus government. In this unfortunate rejection of democracy, VSG has opted to insulate itself rather than invite the participation of the entire community.

Students should not be granted unlimited freedoms on this campus, but they should be allowed to elect a president of their choice. If the rest of VSG follows the lead of its current president and maintains this requirement, it will limit that choice and deny the majority of students the opportunity to seek the presidency.

 $The \, cultivation \, of relationships \, with \, campus \, administrators \,$ represents one important component of the position, an obviously time-consuming, responsibility-filled job. But an outsider could learn the ropes, and indeed, proven campus leaders from other student organizations could bring

valuable experience and a familiarity with the university to the table. Just because these prospective presidents have never been to a VSG meeting does not mean they are any less qualified than a minimally involved member of VSG.

VSG not only asserts its own arrogance with this move, but it could also prevent important issues that have not arisen in their own meetings and day-to-day experiences from entering into the debate. VSG, if it maintains this rule, will engage only with itself as it decides its future, rather than the general student body.

VSG members can use their influence to sway student opinion toward certain candidates, and the student body will most likely continue to elect experienced members of the organization to lead it. The current president should not assume the lay student cannot comprehend VSG operations, however. She should assist the students' choice with the transition, no matter his or her personal experience at Vanderbilt.



Don Wright --- MCT

LETTER

## Workers cannot be blamed for ignorance of international events

Ignorance and apathy toward the plight of our fellow global citizens is a problem all too common in modern American society. However, an equally pressing issue is that of insensitivity towards the struggles of other community members often demonstrated by privileged members of the Vanderbilt student community. With all due respect, I feel the article "Ignorance of genocide cannot be excused" demonstrated a disturbing lack of understanding of the lives of minimum-wage (or slightly above) workers across the nation and in our Vanderbilt community.

Last Christmas, I was given the wonderful gift of a "Bruegger's Cup," which gives me as many free refills of coffee as I like. Thus, I stop by Bruegger's every day before class without fail. In addition to nursing a growing caffeine dependency, this cup has allowed me to get to know the employees of Bruegger's on a more personal level. The life of the average worker at a bagel store is drastically different than that of a college student, and these differences need to be taken into account before pigeon holing these hardworking individuals as ignorant and uncaring. Most of these employees, earning little more than minimum wage, work multiple jobs and an average of 80 hours a week. Between the stresses of

raising children, paying bills and simply making it through these tedious and draining days, picking up The New York Times or turning on CNN is left off the to-do list. I complain about having a long day when I have over three hours of class,

As university students, access to the Internet and a Google search on "Darfur" requires little or no thought and preparation, which is not the case for many Americans who do not own computers or have such unfettered access to them.

but when compared to the amount a minimum wage employee must work in order to make ends meet, I realize exactly how much of a brat I sound like.

The media coverage of the situation in Darfur is scarce and brief, making understanding the situation an even more challenging problem. The situation in Darfur is incredibly complex, and I am 100 percent positive many Vanderbilt students would have given similar answers to those of the Brueggers workers

if asked to describe it. Not to mention as university students, access to the Internet and a Google search on "Darfur" requires little or no thought and preparation, which is not the case for many Americans who do not own computers or have such unfettered access to them.

I do not write this to excuse a lack of compassion in anyone, but more to point out those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. Placing blame for American apathy on these minimumwage workers is not only unfair, but also classist and elitist. Instead of directing one's frustration at the lack of awareness about the genocide in Darfur toward others, why not focus on the Vanderbilt undergraduate population? Over 300 people took place in the Walk for Darfur, but a member of STAND, the coordinating group, reported that pathetically few of them were Vanderbilt students. Before lashing out at other members of the community, we should first improve the situation of activism on campus. The opportunities to get involved are endless, and making a personal commitment to taking action and rejecting the status quo will do far more to help the state of affairs than criticizing others.

> **Anna Elliott** Sophomore, College of Arts and Science

COLUMN

## Venezuelans cast vote to preserve democracy

**SOO YANG** 

Columnist

When Venezuela voted no on last Sunday's referendum, they really meant "si." Yes to preserving their national constitution, yes to their democracy, yes to freedom and yes to their basic human right of suffrage. The country's rejection of the constitutional reforms was a reality check for Hugo Chavez, the current president of Venezuela, who proposed these radical amendments to advance his socialist vision and to secure a potential life-long presidency. The reforms, which also included a reduced workweek, nationalization of the central bank and overhaul of regional governorship, would have effectively enthroned this cunning dictator. With his recent closure of a major independent media outlet and his growing popularity from the poor who benefited from his eight years in office, this referendum was expected to show the rest of the world how easy it is for a democracy to wither under the pressure of demagoguery. On the contrary, the rejection of his reforms convinced the world what President George W. Bush has been so desperately trying to show: Democracy is the will of the people.

Democracy has become a meaningless cliche used by tyrants and prime ministers alike for maintaining political correctness, obfuscating facts and attaining political immunity. However, as university students from Venezuela literally branded this ancient, Greek jargon on their chest to demonstrate what Chavez was undermining, democracy regained the fresh spirit of activism, justice and equality that inspired Aristotle, John Locke and Thomas Jefferson. Ironically, Chavez also regards himself as a true proponent of "democracy" because he instituted democratic functions in communities and economic equality for the working poor. However, Chavez intended to establish his vague and contradictory socialist/democratic utopia through the state's virtual ownership of the people and elimination of dissent. Yet, the redistribution of wealth and land affected the lives of millions, especially the poor, and with their renewed sense of hope and happiness, their support for the president naturally grew to blind compliance. On the other hand, the wealthy ruling minority perceived him not only as a threat to democracy but also as a threat to their economic hegemony. In essence, the tension leading up to this referendum was a classic proletariat versus bourgeoisie struggle. However, the students who protested Chavez's authoritarian vision changed this conflict into a clash between the uneducated and the educated - where democracy was awkwardly and precariously thrown in the war zone.

It is possible to see how Chavez exploited the suffering of the poor and their lack of education to secure a winning electorate. However, it is also possible to see how Chavez was purely intent on rebuilding Venezuela with a bottom-up policy and that his antidemocratic reforms were the only means to do so. (Dictatorships in Chile, South Korea and Greece have vastly modernized their respective countries.) Whatever the case, Venezuelans voiced their concerns that democracy is not worth destroying for the sake of one person. Although this seems reasonable in our wealthy, stable democracy, in a poor third-world country, where this one person represents the country's opportunity for prosperity and security, this decision is truly bold and exceptionally profound.

-Soo Yang is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

#### **OPINION POLICY**

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, quest 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

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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U.S. Sen. Bob Corker **United States Senate** Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-4944 (615) 250-8160

Rep. Jim Cooper U.S. House of Rep. Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4311 (615) 736-5295

Rep. Brenda Gilmore Tenn. District 54 35 Legislative Plaza Nashville, TN 37243-0154 (615) 741-1997

Sen. Douglas Henry Jr. Tenn. District 21 11 Legislative Plaza Nashville, TN 37243-0021 (615) 741-3291

**Councilor Ginger Hausser** Metro District 18 521 Chesterfield Avenue Nashville, TN 37212 (615) 783-0106

## Liberal media actively seeks to undermine 2008 elections

MIKE WARREN

Columnist

If recent events and trends are any indication, the mainstream media have become saboteurs in the 2008 election. The media are actively seeking to manipulate the flow of information in order to create the ideal electoral situation for what is decidedly a liberal establishment in America.

Recently, the media has seemingly revved up their old templates to apply to this particular race, and they are sabotaging the Republicans, no holds barred. Consider the joke of last week's CNN/YouTube debate. Anderson Cooper and company defended this unusual debate (and the corresponding Democratic one) as a method by which more "regular Americans" could get

their questions answered by the candidates, and, based on the result, it should have occurred to most of the TV audience why debate questions aren't usually left up to regular Americans. Nevertheless, CNN and Cooper did actually have the ultimate power in choosing the questions from the pool of over 5,000, and what was actually asked should indicate CNN had the intention of defining the issues of debate with a narrow aim to make Republicans look closed-minded and backward.

Harkening back to Howard Dean's infamous comment in 2004 about campaigning in the South, it would appear to the uninformed observer that the largest issues of the Republican Party are "God, guns and gays," as indicated by the crop of questions asked by everyone from a country kid wielding a rifle to a Clinton campaign steering committee member. By focusing questions on "don't ask, don't tell," which certainly has not been a recent issue in either party, CNN effectively sets the agenda by portraying Republicans as Bible-thumping (literally), homophobic, racist (the Confederate flag? Are we seriously going there?), gun-

Republican issues that need sorting out during the primaries, like immigration, federal spending and the threat of Islamofascism in Iran and elsewhere, were touched upon, but the questions like whether or not the candidates believed every word of the Bible overshadowed the constructive ones about taxes. The candidates responded fine, working well within the confines presented by CNN, but for what was the most-watched debate of this never ending election cycle, the issues that needed fleshing out were disappointingly ignored.

Clearly, CNN wanted to maintain the media's image of the Republican Party, an image further expounded upon with the sudden rise of former governor Mike Huckabee in the polls, a phenomenon quietly predicated in the recent heavy

By focusing questions on 'don't ask, don't tell,' which certainly has not been a recent issue in either party, CNN effectively sets the agenda by portraying Republicans as Bible-thumping (literally), homophobic, racist (the Confederate flag? Are we seriously going there?), gun-slinging, angry white men. 🥕

coverage of the Huckabee campaign by every news outlet. Out of nowhere, the electric-bass playing, exercise-conscious, wisecracking former Baptist minister with no money and no name recognition has gained the lead in Iowa and is polling well nationally. Huckabee himself may attribute this to hard campaigning and a resonating message, but most mindful conservative Republicans should realize the "other man from Hope" offers very little (hope, that is) for advancing the conservative and Republican principles regarding those aforementioned important issues. The media have been curiously complicit in putting Huckabee on a political pedestal, but watch as

slinging, angry white men. Important he falls just as quickly as he ascended. The mainstream media have a stake in advancing a weak Republican candidate under the guise he is strong, because once Huckabee slips (and he invariably will), they will pounce on him at a time that may be too late for the other candidates to recover.

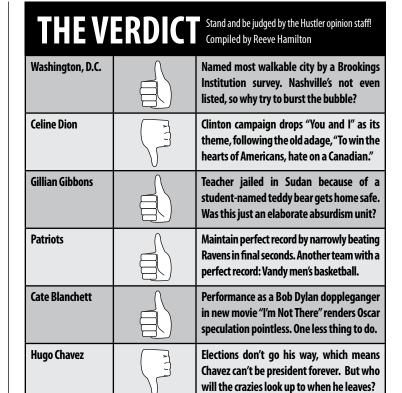
> The media's template for the Republicans is clear: Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney, two very electable (to use the irritating jargon) candidates, fight it out while no-name Huckabee rises above the fray for his few weeks of glory. Ron Paul is the weirdo with all that support from the pesky Internets, and Fred Thompson, as the most solidly conservative candidate, is trounced by a media that unfairly characterizes him as lazy and constantly sets him up to fail their own impossible standards.

> > Huckabee will falter and fall by the wayside, having fulfilled his role as the distracter. Voters that flocked to Huckabee will be left to support either Giuliani or Romney only half-heartedly (when they should be supporting Thompson all along), and Republicans will go on to nominate whomever without the gusto needed to defeat the Democratic juggernaut of Hillary Clinton. Every major newspaper editorial, cable news commentator and nightly news anchor will present the situation

in the same eerie formula, with comments about Republicans being "disillusioned" or some other buzzword permeating through the industry.

The Republicans, like the Democrats, deserve to use the primary season as a time to iron out issues within the party, figure out their most viable candidate and enter the national race with a sense of purpose and confidence. When the media already predetermines the outcome, Americans of all political stripes lose.

-Mike Warren is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science and associate editor of The Vanderbilt Torch.



The Nanderhilt Hustler

## ((OVERHEARD)) (insidevandy

Everyone should enjoy a rousing rendition

of "The Dreidel Song," and Happy Hannukah

to those whose holidays have started!

Submitted in response to: "America must reconsider national goals" by Chris Skene

Oh, and we don't torture

Hannukah

Submitted by Michael Wilt on Monday, Dec. 3 — 03:24.

Oh, and we don't "torture prisoners." Watch your language when you're engaging in this kind of agit-prop. We've waterboarded some TERRORISTS, who aren't prisoners.

The problem isn't that the U.S. is too wrapped up in politics. The problem is that there are demagogues such as yourself who mislead people in order to push your ideological agenda.

Pointless semantic quibbles

Submitted by Commadoor on Monday, Dec. 3 — 03:36.

Pointless semantic quibbles aside, the fact that you're defending the use of torture in any circumstance is kind of disturbing.

Actually...

Submitted by Chris Skene on Monday, Dec. 3 — 15:59.

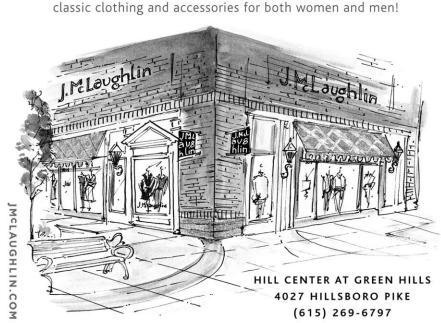
The Oxford English Dictionary defines a prisoner as "a person who has been captured or who has surrendered to an opponent in war; a captive." Sounds like those "terrorists" are prisoners to

Now, waterboarding is simulated drowning, where the person being waterboarded can be made to believe that death is imminent. I'm pretty sure that's torture.

## J.MLaughlin

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# **SPORTS**

## The Vanderbilt Hustler presents its own ...

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

We all know the Bowl Championship Series is flawed, so instead of arguing about it, we decided to come up with our own eight-team playoff and predicted how it would all unfold.

## **FIRST ROUND**

No. 1 Ohio State No. 8 Hawaii

After complaining for the entire season about the lack of respect it gets, Hawaii is left scratching its head when Todd Boeckman and Ohio State score 45 points on the overmatched Hawaii defense.

After stud quarterback Colt Brennan throws his third pick of the day, Warrior coach June Jones decides to go to his backup plan, which involves Brennan chucking the ball down the field. When he realizes his plan B is the same as his plan A, and he has no backup plan, he angrily throws his pink lei to the ground, which will later be auctioned off on eBay for charity.

"What can I say?" said a befuddled Jones in the postgame press conference. "I haven't had to plan against a legitimate team this year." The Buckeyes win convincingly, 45-14.

No. 2 LSU

No. 7 West Virginia





LSU's once-stifling defense, which has

struggled of late, finally steps up, keeping a banged-up Pat White in check. Knowing they have a lot to prove, as a two-loss team has never made the national title game, the Tigers make sure the game ends before triple overtime. Quarterback Matt Flynn, not wanting

to end his illustrious career (OK, season) with a loss, steps up big time, and Jacob Hester, playing with added fire, rumbles into the end zone twice as LSU defeats the worn-down Mountaineers 28-14.

QB, Pat White

No. 3 USC

Georgia coach Mark Richt employs yet another motivational tactic for his team, but

No. 6 Georgia

this one backfires. After the Bulldogs kick a field goal on their opening drive, set up on a 36-yard run by tailback Knowshon Moreno, they storm the field

The officials are not amused, and neither is Southern California.

and take down both goalposts.

After the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Georgia, a fired-up John David Booty finds Fred Davis down the middle for a big gain, and tailback Chauncey Washington scores on the next play to cap a very quick touchdown

From then on, it's all Trojans. Booty throws for 210 yards and a touchdown to Vidal Hazelton. Joe McKnight and Washington combine for 240 yards rushing and three touchdowns to control the clock.

Playing from behind, the Bulldogs have to air it out, and Matthew Stafford isn't up to the challenge. He throws three interceptions, and USC cruises to a 31-10 victory.

No. 4 Oklahoma No. 5 Virginia Tech





Garret Hartley kicks a 52-yard field goal as time expires to lift the Sooners past Virginia Tech 27-24 in the first round of the

NCAA playoffs. Freshman guarterback Sam Bradford outduels Tech's Sean Glennon by completing 22 of 28 passes for 267 yards and

three touchdowns, all of which go to wide

receiver Malcolm Kelly. The Hokies, known for their outstanding special teams, miss a 40-yard field goal in the final minute, which would give them the lead.



**QB, Sean Glennon** 



No. 2 LSU

QB, Colt Brennan

**SEMI-FINALS** 

No. 4 Oklahoma No. 1 Ohio State

**RB, Knowshon Moreno** 









QB, Todd Boeckman

Coach, Les Miles



USC senior quarterback John David Booty throws for four firsthalf touchdowns, and a breakout performance from freshman running back Joe McKnight (134 rushing yards, TD) allows the Trojans to throttle LSU 31-17 and roll their way to the national championship

In an interesting subplot, LSU head coach Les Miles calls an emergency press conference with his team down 28-3 at halftime, announcing he has signed a 7-year contract with Michigan during the intermission.

The team, shocked by the occurrence, shows resilience and rallies for 14 straight points to open the second half with interim coach Nick Saban at the reins. But LSU is no match for McKnight's career day with All-American Glenn Dorsey on the sidelines.

Sam Bradford is already making a case as the front-runner for next year's Heisman. Next week, he just may bring his Sooners another national title.

"It's truly incredible to see how much he's grown up in only one year," said coach Bob Stoops of his freshman guarterback. "We've been so fortunate to have this opportunity (to play for the title), and he's taking full advantage of it." With the Sooners trailing 14-7 at the half after a stout defensive performance by Jim Tressel's squad,

Bradford catches fire. He tosses two third-quarter touchdowns to Malcolm Kelly and leads a field goal drive that gives Oklahoma a 24-14 lead after three.

"We talked all week about putting together a 60-minute performance," said Ohio State linebacker James Laurinaitis. "We knew (Bradford) would be able to throw the way he did, and unfortunately we could not contain him today."

Todd Boeckman throws for 195 yards and a touchdown in the loss for the Buckeyes. The Sooners will take on USC in next week's national championship game in New Orleans.

**FINALS** 



No. 4 Oklahoma



QB, John David Booty



In college football's craziest season of all time, it is only fitting that the team that started the season No. 1 ends up back in the top spot.

No. 3 USC

It's been a long journey for the Southern Cal Trojans, who have overcome a home loss to Stanford earlier in the season to capture the first national title in the NCAA's new playoff system. They certainly earned it.

Pete Carroll's squad, which is more talented than the Miami Dolphins, plays its best football when it matter most, beating Georgia, LSU and Oklahoma in convincing fashion.

After losing to Texas in their last trip to the championship game, the Trojans handle this year's Big 12 op-

ponent from start to finish thanks to a big performance from John David Booty. After the game, Yahoo! Sports announces Joe McKnight received illegal gifts from a sports agency. In other news, the top four high school quarterbacks in the nation all commit to the Trojans on the spot.

Oh, life is certainly sweet in SoCal these days.



## Prosser remains in Vandy's thoughts

#### Wake Forest attempts to move on without one-of-a-kind coach.

by JARRED AMATO Sports Editor

When Kevin Stallings looks across court at the opposing bench before tonight's game against Wake Forest, his mind will go racing back to July 26, 2007. That's when Demon Deacons coach Skip Prosser collapsed in his office and died

of an apparent heart attack. "It's still a very, very disappointing thing," Stallings said. "It took me a long time before I could even bring myself to take his phone number out of my speed dial. I can't even imagine for his family, players and coaches, what they went through and are still going through."

While more than five months have passed since the basketball world said goodbye to one of the game's most respected and stand-up coaches, the healing process

"I was a big fan of Skip's because I thought Skip was one of the really, really successful guys in our business who didn't have a big ego," Stallings said. "There's about two or three of them, and he was one. I just appreciated who he was as a

When it came to coaching, Prosser was a throwback. His career began humbly, serving as a freshman high school coach for four years. He eventually became the assistant at Xavier University and its head coach before arriving in Winston-Salem in 2001.

"The fact that he never forgot that he was a high school coach seemed to be at the very fore of his mind," Stallings said. "He did it the right way. He was a great guy, a great person, a great coach. He was everything that embodies everything that's good about college basketball."

While many coaches focus extensively on winning and often take shortcuts to do so, Prosser was refreshing, never losing sight of what was truly important.

"Coaching isn't wins and losses," Prosser said before his death. "It's teaching. That's the reason I got into coaching and the reason I've stayed in coaching."

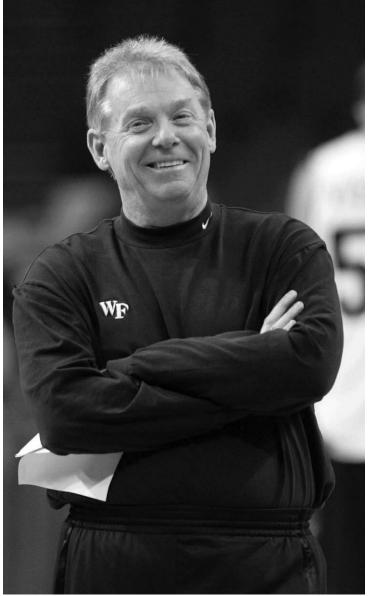
While life must go on for new coach Dino Gaudio, who had worked with Prosser for much of the last 26 years, and his team, Vanderbilt players cannot imagine what the Demon Deacon family is going through.

Vanderbilt senior forward Ross Neltner lived 15 minutes away from Xavier and had the opportunity to get to know

"I went and saw a bunch of his games when I was a youngster growing up," Neltner said. "It was definitely one of those things that all the college basketball world felt and definitely something that we hope Wake Forest and their team can bounce back from."

Senior Shan Foster certainly agrees.

"I couldn't imagine losing a coach to another team, let alone to a death," he said. "That's one of the tough parts about life



Wake Forest players are dedicating their season to their coach Skip Prosser, who died of a heart attack after a morning jog this summer. Prosser, one of the game's most respected coaches, will surely be missed by the entire basketball community.

that everybody has to go through, and my heart goes out to his family and those that are close to him."

As soon as the Commodores hit the floor tonight, they'll be doing their best to win. At the same time, in the back of their minds they realize there are worse things in life than losing a basketball game.

You can lose a friend.

"There's only 300 and some Division I head basketball coaches," Stallings said. "To lose a guy of Skip's magnitude, and how much he was respected and admired, it hit all of us who knew him very hard.

"It certainly makes you take stock in what you're doing, what you're thinking and how you're going about life and your job and things like that. All of us know it's one of those things that happens and hope it never strikes you."

Prosser didn't deserve to have it strike him. ■

## Commodores crack top 25

by DAVID RUTZ

Sports Reporter

The Commodores go into tonight's game against Wake Forest of the Atlantic Coast Conference a much different and much more confident team than they were when they played the Demon Deacons a year ago.

Instead of being 0-1, they are a perfect 7-0 and nationally ranked after dispatching Georgia Tech on Saturday.

The Commodores are ranked No. 23 in the new Associated Press poll after their 92-79 victory over Georgia Tech on Saturday, their second victory in a row in the series against the

"It's nice to have the recognition," said coach Kevin Stallings during his radio call-in show. "It's also very meaningless. It's meaningful that our players are earning some people's respect, but at the same time our formula for how we do things has to remain the same and can't be changed by the fact that all of the sudden we're ranked."

When compared to last year's win over Georgia Tech, Stallings noted vast improvement in his team.

"When I looked back and watched tape in preparation for (the Georgia Tech) game, we were awful a year ago," Stallings said. "But we had defined awful in a different way about two weeks before, so we all thought we had played well."

No doubt Stallings was referring to Vanderbilt's dreadful 1-3 start last year that included an 88-78 loss to Wake Forest. Senior Shan Foster had 23 points in that game, but Vanderbilt trailed nearly the whole way.

Things have changed in Nashville. Now the Commodores look to defeat a second straight ACC opponent, remain undefeated and continue playing top-notch basketball. In addition, Foster was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Week for the second time this season.

"Coach talked about after the (Georgia Tech) game that when he envisions the potential of our team and how good we can be, that is pretty much the thought that comes across his mind," Foster said.

The Demon Deacons (5-1) remain a strong team under new coach Dino Gaudio. In their last contest, they shrugged off the previous game, an upset at the hands of Charlotte, and routed South Carolina Upstate 72-48.

Freshman forward James Johnson leads Wake Forest with 12.7 points and 8.5 rebounds per game. Quick sophomore point guard Ishmael Smith led the ACC last year in assists and currently leads the team with 4.2 helpers per game. Chas McFarland, a 7-foot sophomore center, averages two blocks a game and provides solid post presence for the Deacons and a tough matchup for Vanderbilt's frontcourt.

However, senior center Alan Metcalfe has a confident attitude about the level at which Vanderbilt is playing.

"It is all clicking for the whole team, so it is just fun to play with them right now," Metcalfe said. ■



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12/3/07 <b>SOLUTIONS</b>												
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#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE **SUMMER RESEARCH AWARDS**



The deadline for the College of Arts and Science Summer Research Awards is coming up on Wednesday, January 16, **2008.** The program is designed to help graduate students with **outstanding potential** to accelerate progress on their research. It is meant to help excellent students in those departments in the College of Arts and Science in which summer support is rare or non-existent. There will be up to 25 awards of \$4500 each. Doctoral students in good standing making satisfactory progress toward the degree are eligible to apply. **Prospective applicants** should speak to their Director of Graduate Studies for more details about the award or for information on how to apply.



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12/3/07 SOLUTIONS

B L I N D S P O T L O S E S C U E S E S A M E

- 54 Mountain division
- 55 Mexican farewell
- 56 Hereditary units 57 Eradicate 58 African nation
- 60 "Lohengrin" lass 61 Bard's river

59 Hard to find

12/5/07

62 Flat fish 66 Souchong or oolong

