



Was coach Bobby Johnson's decision to stay a good call ... or a bad call?

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



Just because you're studying abroad next semester doesn't mean you should avoid a relationship ...

For more, see **Opinion**, page 4



Facebook's latest controversy went largely unnoticed by Vanderbilt ...

For more, see **News**, page 3

TODAY'S WEATHER



Showers, 63/51
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The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 82

THE WALL

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

TODAY Biology seminar

The Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology will present Eric Skaar speaking on "The Battle for Metal Between Staphylococcus Aureus and Its Host" from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. at the Medical Research Building III, Room 1220.

TODAY Last day of Hanukkah

Hanukkah will end at nightfall. The Jewish holiday celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13 Spring basketball sign-up deadline

It is the last day to sign up for spring basketball at the Rec. There is a \$40 entry fee for non-freshmen and a \$10 forfeit fee for all freshman leagues. Games begin Jan. 20 for students.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13 Last day of class

Classes end today for all undergraduate schools.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13 ChriSMahanukwanzika party

The Vanderbilt Lambda Association will host its annual end-of-semester holiday party from 7 to 9 p.m. in the GLBT Resource Office.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13 Commons concert

Speakerheart/WRVU will host a concert featuring Damien Horne, Shanna Crooks and Trevor Rosen from 7 to 9 p.m. in The Commons Center. Attendees are encouraged to bring extra coats to be donated to the Nashville Rescue Mission.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13 Discovery Lecture Series

Biochemistry professor Richard Hanson from the University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, will deliver a lecture at 4 p.m. in Light Hall, Room 208 titled, "Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxykinase: The Joy Of Thinking Outside The Box."

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



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Meet Nick

Looking past the label:
Gay

by SYDNEY WILMER
Asst News Editor

KATIE DePAOLA
Staff Reporter

Looking past the label

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.

People might think I...
... am obsessed with fashion and designer clothes.
... hate sports.
... am gay because something traumatic happened to me when I was younger.
... find it impolite to put me in a situation where I have to acknowledge or talk about my sexual orientation.
... go to PLAY, the local gay dance club, every weekend.
... am all about rainbows and lavender.

— Provided by
Nick Wells

But...

... I wear the same pair of jeans every day. I have to admit, though, "The Devil Wears Prada" was awesome.
... I live and breathe sports. I rarely miss home football or basketball games, and I have a hard time getting any homework done if there's a good game on.
... that is absurd. I had the most boringly normal childhood ever ... except for the alien abduction.
... I prefer the opportunity to educate people about what being gay actually means as opposed to the idea that people should tiptoe around this part of my identity.
... I prefer going to a bar with friends and playing darts, shuffleboard or just watching a good ball game on TV. Also, I'm a horrible dancer.
... I look better in black, and I'm severely allergic to pollen. (I have to admit that I own a pair of rainbow suspenders, but who doesn't?)

When senior Nick Wells came out to himself in the summer before college, "it wasn't just some sudden epiphany." But it was a day he will remember for the rest of his life.

"It was August 16, 2001. I had to say to myself in the mirror, 'I'm gay.' I know it sounds kind of stupid, but it was a really powerful experience and emotional one for me."

It was something he had been wrestling with for a long time. And the fact that he had grown up in an environment hostile toward homosexuality only made the process more difficult.

For the first 19 years of his life, Wells bought into a "flawed definition of what being gay really was." He internalized the beliefs of others, thinking "that being gay is a choice, so you can't be gay if you don't choose to be gay, (and) that gay men are purely sexual beings," Wells said.

So when he felt an attraction to other males, he called it admiration and tried to put the feelings aside.

Please see **MEET NICK**, page 3

Just reading about these individuals isn't enough to understand their struggles, passions and unique stories. To watch these students discuss identity in their own words, go to:



NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

Ice storm glazes Midwest, cuts power to nearly a million homes and businesses

A thick glaze of ice brought down power lines and cut electricity to close to a million homes and businesses, closed schools and canceled flights Tuesday as a major storm blasted the nation's midsection.

At least 23 deaths had been blamed on the storm system since the waves of sleet and freezing rain started during the weekend.

Officials in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma had declared states of emergency. President Bush declared an emergency in Oklahoma on Tuesday, ordering federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts.

SOURCE: AP

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

Johnson to stick with Vanderbilt

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

When Duke and Vanderbilt face off in Nashville on Oct. 25, 2008, coach Bobby Johnson will continue to pace the same sideline.

He withdrew his name from consideration for the head coaching position at Duke, confirmed Vice Chancellor for University Affairs David Williams Tuesday afternoon.

"I think we play Duke next year for Homecoming, and I'm glad Bobby will be on the sidelines for the black and gold," Williams said. "I think Bobby loves Vanderbilt. He loves what he's doing here, and so do we. This is where he wants to coach."



JOHNSON

After interviewing for the Duke job Monday, along with former UCLA coach Karl Dorrell, Johnson, who is currently on the road recruiting new players, called Williams at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday to inform him of his decision to stay.

"I'm grateful to Vanderbilt University, its administration, staff, students and fans," Johnson said. "I have a deep sense of loyalty to Vanderbilt. We've enjoyed some successes in recent years, but all of us want to see more success in the future. That's the goal as I go further in this position."

Williams was certainly pleased with the news.

"I've felt for a long time that Bobby is the guy we want at the helm of our football team," Williams said. "Bobby possesses a rare combination as a coach, mentor and leader. We truly believe Bobby and his staff are an ideal fit for our university."

"Duke correctly identified our coach as an excellent candidate to turn their program around. They saw what we see every day: a man that goes about his business in a very professional manner."

Johnson has a 20-50 record in six seasons with Vanderbilt and is 14-21 since 2005, which ties for the most wins in a three-year span since the Commodores registered 15 victories from 1982-84. The team finished 5-7 in 2007.

"Bobby and his staff have been successful at Vanderbilt," Williams said. "They have indeed changed the culture around our football program."

Johnson added he is pleased with the support the administration has shown for the coaching staff and players.

"Their continued commitment to the program will definitely give us a better opportunity to create a winning football program at Vanderbilt," Johnson said. "I'm excited about the future of Commodore football."

Duke, meanwhile, continues to search for a replacement for Ted Roof, who went 6-45 in four-plus seasons in Durham. ■

VSG Angel Tree benefits Metro elementary school students

by ELIZABETH MIDDLEBROOKS
Staff Reporter

About 490 elementary school students received some Christmas cheer Tuesday thanks to the Vanderbilt community.

Students from Shwab, Caldwell, Napier and Warner elementary schools gathered Dec. 11 in the Student Life Center Ballroom to receive their gifts, donated based on wish lists submitted to the Vanderbilt Student Government Angel Tree.

Children from Nashville elementary schools have benefited from the Angel Tree for 13 years.

VSG worked with the Charles Davis Foundation, a local group committed to "making sure kids have resources" to make the event a reality, said Charles Davis, a Vanderbilt alumnus and founder of the organization.

The "Vandy Santa Claus"

delivered toys, clothes and shoes to the children, who eagerly unwrapped their gifts and showed them off to their classmates.

Vincent, a kindergartner at Shwab, proudly displayed his Transformers toy set, declaring, "I'm going to play with my toys when I get home!"

Another Shwab kindergartner, Elizabeth, received two stuffed-animal puppies, one of which she said she plans to name "Rose."

"I love puppies," she said. "I wanted a real one for Christmas."

This may be the only opportunity for many of these children to receive holiday gifts, said Ora Kay Thedford, an administrator for the Charles Davis Foundation.

"The Vandy Santa Claus did a good job this year," she said.

Davis said he wants to bring children to campus to



ELIZABETH MIDDLEBROOKS / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Elizabeth, a kindergartner at Shwab Elementary, plays with the stuffed animals she received from the VSG Angel Tree on Dec. 11 at the Student Life Center.

"expose them to everything Vanderbilt has to offer."

His wife, Toni, also a Vanderbilt graduate, said a visit to campus as an underprivileged Nashville youth convinced her husband to apply to Vanderbilt.

The foundation brings

students to campus through a variety of events, including the annual Angel Tree.

"The Angel Tree has benefited (Shwab Elementary) for a long time," said Ginny Cox, Family School Coordinator for Shwab. "It's a wonderful thing." ■

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Odds & Ends

WEATHER

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

THURSDAY



Morning Showers, 55/38

FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy, 50/37

SATURDAY



Rain, 48/28

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

Sunday, Dec. 9, 1 a.m.:
A person was intoxicated and passed out in a room in Lupton House.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 5:54 p.m.:
A subject left a laptop unattended in the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. When he returned, the laptop was gone.

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.

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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

2 truck bombs kill at least 26 in Algerian capital; U.N. buildings heavily damaged

Truck bombs exploded minutes apart Tuesday in central Algiers, heavily damaging United Nations offices and partly ripping the facade off a government building. At least 26 people were killed, including U.N. workers, and scores were wounded, officials said.

The North African branch of al-Qaida claimed responsibility in a Web site posting and said suicide bombers carried out the attack. Jihadists in Iraq who later affiliated with al-Qaida were blamed for attacking the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad in 2003, killing 22.

The two bombs exploded around 9:30 a.m., and one had deliberately targeted United Nations offices, according to the head of the U.N. refugee agency in Geneva.

SOURCE: AP

Guatemala approves law allowing pending adoptions, mostly to U.S. couples, to be finalized

Guatemalan legislators approved a new law Tuesday to tighten adoptions, while allowing pending adoptions — mostly to United States couples — to go through without meeting the stricter requirements.

The legislation had upset thousands of would-be parents who had invested their savings to adopt a child from Guatemala, which is second only to China in sending adoptive children to the U.S. Many feared thousands of children would be left in limbo.

However, the law approved by Congress stipulates that pending adoptions, some 3,700 children already matched with prospective parents, will be allowed to move forward without being subject to the new rules.

SOURCE: AP

Iranian president calls U.S. intelligence estimate on Iran nuclear program a 'step forward'

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday called a U.S. intelligence report concluding Iran stopped its nuclear weapons program four years ago a "step forward" in comments that marked a change from his usually harsh anti-Western rhetoric.

Although Iran denies it ever had such a program, Ahmadinejad told reporters that an "entirely different" situation between the two countries could be created if more steps like the intelligence report followed.

"We consider this measure by the U.S. government a positive step. It is a step forward," the hard-line leader said.

SOURCE: AP

NATION

Police: Autopsy shows Colorado church gunman killed himself

The man who killed four people at a church and missionary training center shot himself in the head and died after being hit by shots from a church security officer, police said Tuesday.

Matthew Murray, 24, was struck multiple times by a security officer at New Life Church Sunday, but his death was ruled a suicide, the El Paso County Coroner's Office concluded after an autopsy.

Murray shot himself in the head, said police Sgt. Skip Arms.

SOURCE: AP

Republicans favored to win vacant congressional seats in Ohio, Virginia; both incumbents died

Republicans were favored to keep two conservative congressional districts Tuesday in Ohio and Virginia in special elections to fill the seats of two incumbents who died recently.

The winners will complete the terms of Rep. Paul Gillmor, who was first elected in a northwest Ohio district in 1988, and Rep. Jo Ann Davis, who represented southeastern Virginia for seven years. Gillmor died in a fall in September. Davis died of breast cancer in October.

SOURCE: AP

CAMPUS

History of Vanderbilt Law School revealed in first book to chronicle school's 132-year path

"Vanderbilt Law School: Aspiration and Realities," written by Dean for Administration and professor of law Donald Welch Jr., tells the story of Vanderbilt Law School, founded in the late 1800s, for the first time.

Welch said he "spent all day, every day for five months" in Vanderbilt's archives, researching university and law school records and the correspondence of former deans, faculty members and administrators.

Welch said he first became interested in writing a history of the law school after the wife of former Dean John Wade delivered a box of Wade's personal papers to his office. Wade joined the faculty in 1947 and served as dean from 1952 to 1972.

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.

compiled by LISA GUO

QUESTION:

What is that round building next to Stevenson Center?

ANSWER:

It was first built in 1962 to hold a first-generation computer, called a mainframe, which took up the entire building. The computer, with all its blinking lights, was an example of state-of-the-art technology, so the building was built with glass walls to showcase it.

In 2000, the building was converted to the Biomolecular Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Center, but "we wanted to try to keep the building because we were speculating that it was so unique that it would one day be a historic building," said Judson Newbern, associate vice chancellor of campus planning and construction. "We wanted to keep the composition of the building."

And so, in order to put in the NMR magnets, "we kept the sides of the building, cut the top off, dropped the magnets in and built the roof again," Newbern said.

Campus architects also designed part of Stevenson to match the round building.

"We took the design of the chemistry building and curved the side to pick up the curve of the NMR center," Newbern said.



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

SNAPSHOT

WEIRD WARM WEATHER



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students ate lunch and worked outside Tuesday in the uncharacteristically warm weather. Temperatures hit 76 degrees in the afternoon but are expected to drop into the 60s today.

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MEET NICK: Campus not 'truly accepting' of gay students

From **MEET NICK**, page 1

At night he prayed, "God, please don't make me gay."

He realized many of his beliefs about the gay community were incorrect after his junior year at McCallie High School in Chattanooga when he met "some real-life gay people" while working at Gap.

"I was like, 'What? They can't be gay. They're so normal and nice, and not a predator or a child molester.'"

Soon after this, Wells began confronting his own feelings.

"I began to embrace the romantic feelings that I was feeling — not just about sexual attraction, but romantic attraction, spiritual, emotional, physical, just like it is with any two people who are attracted to each other.

"Right before I came to Vandy, it hit me, and

I finally realized what everything meant," Wells said.

"The light had to click in my head — Nick, you're gay."

The next step

After accepting his sexual orientation, Wells was forced to re-evaluate other aspects of his identity as well. Being gay has made him more sensitive to issues that face other marginalized people.

"I used to not be that way, and it's really forced me to open my eyes and re-evaluate the way I see the world," Wells said.

Though he was not going to give up his love for college football or change his manner of dress, Wells did begin questioning some of the values that had once shaped his character.

Today, he happily admits to being, "delightfully liberal and progressive," but the transition was not

easy.

Unable to reconcile what he sees as an anti-gay rights agenda within the Republican Party, he began questioning his conservative background.

"I've had to adopt what amounts to a new identity," he said.

Today, he serves as president of Human Rights Campaign, an organization devoted to achieving full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

"I tell people I'm so thankful I'm gay because it's made me a more compassionate, more thoughtful, and really a more rational and reasonable person."

Being gay at Vanderbilt

At the end of Wells' sophomore year in spring 2003, he had to leave Vanderbilt for academic reasons: The combination of a difficult coming

out process and a growing participation in social activism had taken a significant toll on his grades.

He took two years off to work on a Democratic political campaign in Seattle, Wash, which proved instrumental to his personal growth and helped him regain a balance in academics and activism, he said.

After taking time away from Vanderbilt, Wells realized he would not have come to the school, or even applied, had he realized how unwelcoming the campus was to openly gay students.

Vanderbilt is "a great place to go if you're gay, as long as you don't express that you're gay," he said. "That is not acceptance."

As a university, "You can't be a marketplace of ideas if you aren't accepting of different people. Not just tolerant, but truly accepting — where people don't feel afraid to be who they are." ■

'Important' recruitment efforts may do damage to environment

by **JUDY WANG**
Staff Reporter

Admissions officers are burdening the world of travel with their international recruitment efforts.

In an article on Inside Higher Ed, history professors Joyce Appleby and Nikki Keddie of the University of California in Los Angeles explain that colleges "contribute significantly to the burden of travel with their conference-going, yearly recruitment and fund-raising activities."

Even as colleges move toward "greener" campus initiatives, trips by professors attending conferences, students traveling for breaks and admissions officers recruiting new students lead to a high environmental cost.

But to Director of Undergraduate Admissions John Gaines traveling is simply indispensable to the university.

"It's really important for us to be out there and visible in the national scene," Gaines said.

The Office of Admissions also travels around the world in order to raise the international

reputation of the university. And under the guidance of Associate Provost for Enrollment Doug Christiansen, staff members are looking at traveling about three to five times more in the coming years than they travel now.

This internationalization effort coincides with a goal to increase the international student population from 3 percent to 8 percent.

The number of applications is growing every year, and this year there are more high school graduates than ever before.

"There are more students applying, and Vanderbilt is right up there in the top tier of schools that students consider," Gaines said. "When prospective students come visit and see the students here interacting, the professors and the community creed, Vanderbilt becomes more appealing."

In the Office of Admissions, there are 26 officers who are assigned specific territories in the United States. Those officers travel to high schools in their region, attend college fairs and hold informative "Vanderbilt Road Shows."

"It's important for prospective

students to see real people and for Vanderbilt to see students in their home environments," Gaines said.

Staff members attend a variety of conferences, such as the National Association for College Admission Counseling. This national conference connects high schools and colleges by bringing together delegations from universities and counselors from high schools across the nation.

Besides the national conference, there are regional organizations that some admissions officers attend. Tennessee, along with eight other states, is in the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling.

"That networking allows us to meet high school counselors from different regions and helps us when it comes time for selection," Gaines said.

Overall, the amount of money allocated to traveling is around \$400,000, a small percentage of total costs spent by the Office of Admissions.

And if the trends hold, this figure does not look like it will be reduced any time soon. ■

Fifth graders use cartoon to learn science

by **REBECCA TYRRELL**
Asst News Editor

Fifth graders have a new science study partner: Betty.

Betty's Brain, an animated "learning-by-teaching" computer program developed in part by a Vanderbilt professor, is helping some Nashville and Californian public school students learn science.

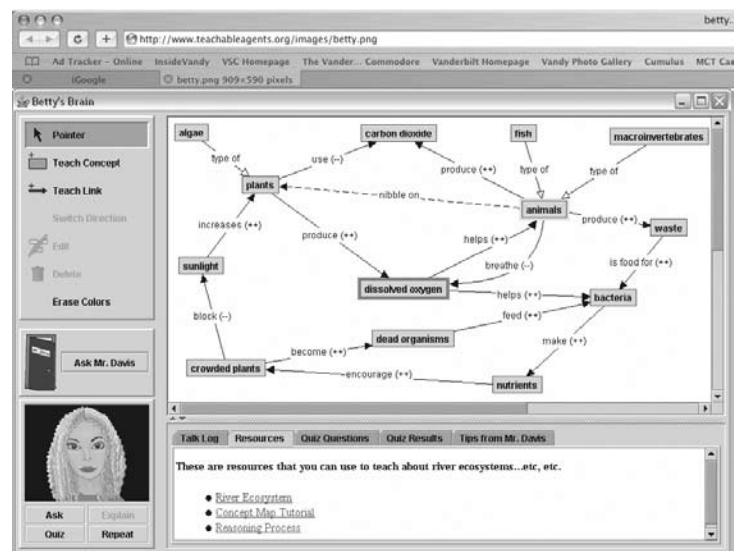
Professor of computer science and computer engineering Gautam Biswas and collaborators at Stanford University created the system under the theory that students are motivated to "learn more deeply" when they monitor someone else's learning.

"They do this in the context of a bigger story," Biswas said. "Betty is a middle school student who wants to join the high school science club, but she doesn't know enough to join the club yet, so the students are trying to teach her enough so that she can join."

Unless students periodically check whether Betty understands the concepts and relations, she will refuse to take the test. In this way, Biswas has built in the strategy of self-monitoring.

"They're not just learning a particular topic but learning how to learn," Biswas said. "You're not telling them to pay attention to XYZ but teaching them to monitor their understanding of concepts along the way."

Betty's Brain was developed



in response to the crisis in science education and the need for innovative computer-based learning, according to the Teachable Agents Group at Vanderbilt Web site.

"There have been lots of reports that standards and achievement in science and math education in the U.S. are falling," Biswas said. "On the other hand, we're becoming more technologically advanced, so something needs to be done to make science education more fun and change the way things are done."

So far the program has been incorporated into classrooms at Meigs Magnet School in Nashville and at schools in the Palo Alto and Los Altos school districts in California.

Sharon Melton, a teacher at Meigs, has already noticed changes in the classroom.

"I have found that students that struggle in science pay greater attention when they see their concept maps appear during class," Melton said. "I think it is an invaluable tool to show students the work they have completed and let them see what others have done. It helps students that struggle see themselves as not alone."

Barbara Rector, also at Meigs, has found the program beneficial not only for students but also for her as a teacher.

"The computers are great motivators and useful for the students to receive feedback, but there is still a need for student-teacher interaction," Rector said. "The development of the teacher tools has helped me pinpoint the areas I need to address with my students." ■

Facebook removes disputed application after complaints of privacy invasion

by **EAMON CULLEN**
Contributing Reporter

Amid user unrest, Facebook agreed last week to remove from its Web site Beacon, a program allowing users to see their friends' purchases from online retailers.

Introduced in early November, Beacon allowed online companies to post a customer's recent online purchases onto his or her Facebook news feed, in turn showing one's entire network what he or she had recently bought online.

This automated system did not first ask for the buyer's consent: It opened a pop-up window offering the shopper the ability to "hide" the purchase only if he or she clicked on it within the 20 seconds before the window disappeared.

Beacon was offered freely by Facebook to a number of online companies, about 40 of which decided to take up the service before it was disbanded, including the retailer Overstock.com and the movie ticket seller Fandango.com.

Problems became noticeable from early on, and people started to complain about invaded privacy issues.

Four weeks after its inception, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg ended Beacon, issuing a

lengthy apology to the community by way of his Facebook blog.

But this is not the first time Facebook has sparked concerns of privacy violation.

In his quest for achieving "freedom of information," Zuckerberg has added a number of functions to the Web site, including last year's news feed, which brought almost instantaneous clamor of Facebook's invasion of privacy.

Instead of eliminating the news feed, Zuckerberg added new privacy filters to the program.

"People don't necessarily like what's being posted on (Facebook), but that's why they give you the option to take it off," said senior McClain Walker.

Vanderbilt students remain largely unaware the Beacon controversy ever took place, and now that it is gone, it is likely to end up completely forgotten.

"I (never knew) anything about it," Walker said.

Not a single student asked had heard about the program. ■

—The Associated Press contributed reporting to this article.

GREAT BIG SHOWS PRESENTS

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Fiery Furnaces
WED 2/6 @ Exit/In

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WED 1/23 @ Exit/In

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OPINION

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OUR VIEW

Editorial Board engages in wishful thinking

A new documentary, "What Would Jesus Buy?" directed by Rob VanAlkemade, has injected a healthy dose of cynicism into the holiday season, a time when general cheer and materialism tend to prevail. The film follows the Rev. Billy, a flamboyant character who has made it his sole spiritual duty to fight against the evils of shopping. As he goes about his mission, which includes an exorcism of Wal-Mart headquarters and warnings about the Shopocalypse, the film examines the excessive commercialization of the holiday season. In the true holiday spirit of anti-consumerism, each member of the Hustler Editorial Board has compiled a list of items that might be on his or her wish list, were it not already filled with talking Jesus action figures and other goodies and gadgets available now at low, low prices! Indeed, it is more often the intangible and the ideological wishes that would really improve, not only our own lives, but the world. And it is important to take time to consider, as the year draws to a close, what we really need next year.

Glenna DeRoy

- For a competent president
- For a stress-free second semester
- For CBS to air "Kid Nation: 2"

Sara Gast

- For eternal fitness without exercise or healthy eating
- For someone to invent teleportation
- For life to be a constant musical

Lisa Guo

- For snow
- For 12 hours of sleep a day
- To keep in touch with friends after college

Reeve Hamilton

- For religion to get out of politics
- For someone to give me a job
- For Barack Obama to win the Democratic nomination

Jarred Amato

- For good health and a full set of teeth
- For the writers' strike to end
- For the "Beal Bounce" to hit No. 1

Darcy Newell

- For a T-Pain/Lil' Wayne collaboration
- For Tila to pick Bobby over Dani
- For harsher punishments for parole violators

COLUMN

North Korea finds common musical ground

SOO YANG
Columnist

The New York Philharmonic will do more than just a performance as they travel this winter to North Korea, arguably the world's most secluded and repressive country. The philharmonic, using the arrangements of Bach and Beethoven, will also shatter the silence of expression and art imposed by the regime, which has dehumanized North Koreans into a mass of unfeeling, soulless, starving victims for over 50 years. Imprisoned within the geographical and ideological confines of the country, these people continue to suffer from brutal despotic rule, endless poverty and our inexcusable ignorance. Yet, in realizing their plight and the power of music, the philharmonic will seize this opportunity to speak life, hope and liberty through language that transcends both censorship and translation.

As expected, the philharmonic faced intense external and internal criticism as they accepted the invitation from North Korea to perform in the capital city, Pyongyang. Some believe this move condones the country's atrocious human rights violations while others claim the regime will exploit this event as a validation of its political legitimacy. However, the critics seem to forget that the philharmonic has only decided to perform after the North Korean government agreed, upon the band's request, to make their performance accessible for all North Koreans, not just for the regime's exclusive, ruling minority. The government will allow the philharmonic to play American pieces and offer the North Koreans a rare chance to experience foreign culture without the government's interference.

Although the regime's intentions are questionable, the effect of this event is not. Primarily, this concert will signal the end of America's non-engagement policy that has hurt the North Korean people more than their government. In retrospect, the lack of communication between the United States and North Korea only resulted in a lack of progress for the regime's transparency and the humanitarian crisis in the country. Waiting for regime change or regime collapse in North Korea was as wise as waiting for China to overthrow its communist system overnight for a Western-style democracy. Only active diplomatic engagement will pull the country from its comfortable seclusion and turn the regime more self-conscious and vulnerable by making their repressive system more visible to the larger world.

Even Bush, a fanatical war hawk, seems to understand this reality of diplomacy as he wrote a letter directly to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in an effort to further resolve the nuclear issue. Moreover, it is clear this bold, daring move will confront the regime by engaging with the people and promoting cultural dialogue between two sparring societies. We have all witnessed the aftermath of military engagement in the "democratization" of Iraq, and therefore, we must give diplomacy a chance. However, this diplomacy will be novel in the sense that music, not words, will connect ordinary citizens, not politicians.

Obviously, this concert will not initiate a nationwide revolution against the North Korean government. It is also certain that this event will not end all the problems afflicting the country. However, this small gesture of cordiality will build a bridge of dialogue between our citizens and the Korean people who are victimized by their regime and demonized by our president. To the disappointment of some, the sound of freedom in this unique occasion will not transfix the country with shock and awe. Rather, the sound of freedom will resonate beyond the walls of the performance hall and penetrate into the hearts and minds of all North Koreans, providing a glimpse of hope and inspiration to a forgotten people.

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

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LETTER

VSG experience requirement should be decided by student vote

To the Editor,
The debate over the Vanderbilt Student Government experience requirement has reached the pages of The Hustler. This is a worthy issue that needs to be fully debated, and hopefully the VSG Senate and House will take up the issue for debate in January when it reconvenes. Although President Cara Bilotta decided not to pursue the issue at this point, no other member of VSG is prevented from proposing an amendment removing the requirement. Proposing an amendment is the best way to substantively use an opinion to enact change and address this issue.

I think the most effective way to truly listen to the student voice on this matter would be to place a referendum on the ballot in February with presidential elections so the student body can

decide for itself whether it would want to require its candidates to have some experience. That is the only way to lay this issue to rest — otherwise this battle will consume a lot of VSG's time that could be better spent speaking for students.

VSG's rules and procedures are an important thing to get right, but they are only important insofar as they affect VSG's central mission: serving as the student body's voice. If a business spends more time arguing over who gets to be CEO than over how to best serve its customers, it won't be very successful. Likewise, VSG should focus on serving students through dialogue with administrators and actually addressing issues that affect students.

Should VSG oppose the imposition of mandatory meal plans or not? Should

VSG co-sponsor political events? Should VSG try to increase parking spots or lower parking permit prices? These are real campus issues that deserve attention from VSG leaders, media and students. In my experience with student government, I have seen VSG can and does have influence over these issues when there is cooperation among members and attention is fully devoted to student issues.

Election qualifications and requirements are an important topic worthy of attention, but the issues for which VSG exists and the student voice it represents should receive even more attention.

Jared Anderson
Junior, College of Arts and Science
VSG Speaker of the Senate

COLUMN

Students need to DTR already

SEAN TIERNEY
Commons Sense

My column is really supposed to be about The Commons, but I can't think of anything and it's the last week of the semester, so I'll instead try my hand at a topic every great writer has to tackle at some point: college relationships and studying abroad.

For a year now, I've listened to classmates talk about how they couldn't get involved with this girl or that guy or anybody altogether because they were studying abroad in

the near future. Everyone knows there's no reason to start something for 10 weeks if you're not going to see each other for three to six months, right? Now that almost everyone I know is past that awkward pre-abroad semester, (so no, I'm not trying to win the heart of some globetrotting girl.) here's my opinion on it, and in the spirit of Christmas, it's piled high with cheese:

What does it matter if you're going away in a few months? In 100 years, you'll be dead. Every relationship has an expiration date. Some will last decades, some will last a

Please see **TIERNEY**, page 5

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

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editor-in-chief. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

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

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

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

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424 or the editor-in-chief at (615) 322-3757.

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

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((OVERHEARD))

on
insidevandy

Submitted in response to:
"VSG experience requirement inherently wrong" by Tyler Armstrong

A few objections

Submitted by WestEndWarrior2 on Mon, 12/10/2007 - 18:18.

"I believe there are only two qualifications for an effective student representative and leader — you need to have an opinion and you need to care about making things better. A person with these traits will make a great VSG president"

Uh, I would hope that anyone with a pulse would have an opinion and want to make things better. However, that doesn't mean they will make a good president. They also need negotiating skills to deal with administrators. They need to be a good listener to tend to their constituents. They need to have organization skills to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of VSG's committees. I have a lot of faith in Vanderbilt students, but not just any Vanderbilt student would make a good president — to say so is ridiculous.

"VSG should welcome candidates who care enough to run for president, as only through stiff election competition are new ideas and visions for the future of the university born."

I agree with the competition idea, but one would think anyone who would care enough to run for president would also care enough to be involved in some small way sometime before deciding to run.

"Regardless, this charge is still indicative of one of the largest issues facing VSG. If our constituency views VSG as arrogant, we have a huge problem."

I would think the largest issue facing VSG would be the administration trying to grandfather in mandatory meal plans, the opening of The Commons next year or doing something worthwhile. Mr. Armstrong, I think your priorities are misplaced ...

Crisis of Legitimacy

Submitted by Kevin McNish on Tues, 12/11/2007 - 00:41.

The biggest problem with VSG is neither arrogance, nor grandfathering in mandatory meal plans, nor the opening of The Commons. The biggest problem with VSG is an apparent majority of students aren't convinced it's worth having. The results of the referendum last year on combining SGA and Interhall provide at least some evidence of how widespread this belief is: Less than 20 percent of the student body voted on it. Just over a third of the undergrad population turned out for the first VSG presidential election.

Something has to drive such voter apathy (antipathy, even?); that something is VSG/Interhall/SGA's spotty record over the last few years.

Think of something VSG/Interhall/SGA has done in the past few years. A lot of the upperclassmen will probably remember the \$9,000 "Hotel Rooms for Nobody" debacle two years ago, the worst (but certainly not the only) case of student governmental financial mismanagement in recent memory. Others of you are probably lamenting your shortened winter break and VSG's failure to address the issue successfully.

What got me was the whole "streamlining" lie. We were all promised a sleeker, more efficient student government. If its budgetary rules are any indicator, however, we're in for an even larger and more bloated government. Take a look at VSG's constitution: "VSG's budget shall be no less than the sum total of the Student Government Association's budget and Interhall's budget for the 2006-2007 school year." (Article XII, Section I). Not only did the budget not shrink, but also it couldn't shrink according to that constitution. Even the updated budgetary rules, buried deep in the VSG Statutes (Section 7.1), allow VSG to levy an amount of money equivalent to that levied by Interhall and SGA combined.

Of course, there are other factors contributing to student discontent with VSG; for example, the dismissal of a mostly well-reasoned claim made by a student outside of VSG as being "laughably ignorant" or, in the same letter, the author's belligerent claim that "the media (is) attempting to distort citizen apathy into government incompetence." Citizen apathy is largely a symptom of government incompetence; no distortion of anything is necessary. When events and statutes such as those I've listed above convince the student body that VSG can't get anything done, students are going to be apathetic. This is not a particularly difficult claim to prove, logically or empirically.

VSG has a crisis of legitimacy; students don't care about it because it so very rarely produces worthwhile tangible results that don't come in the form of donations to Greek philanthropic events. VSG is rightly perceived as arrogant for requiring any student running for its presidency to have a year of experience precisely because the current state of VSG makes that year of experience look completely worthless.

I may have only gotten 2.6 percent of the vote in the VSG presidential election last year, but there will be more student government abolitionist candidates in the future, and their ideas will probably find more sympathy from a wider audience if VSG doesn't shape up its act. Whether or not they will have the audacity to flout the experience requirement as I did remains to be seen.

Oh, and one last bit: Mr. Armstrong, I noticed that the Highland Quad Varsity Market is now open until 1 a.m. at the behest of your committee. As a former resident of Highland Quad, I want to let you know that this is a change from which I would have greatly benefited, and I would imagine the current residents of Highland Quad are thankful for your committee's efforts. This is the sort of existence-justifying thing I think most of us want to see out of VSG.

Kevin McNish Arts & Science '08

THE VERDICT

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

Talking Jesus		Wal-Mart has sold out of this action figure, and Target.com only has a limited supply. Your Christmas list may need revision.
Weed		Overall drug use among U.S. teens is dropping, especially marijuana use. Vicodin is on the rise, though. Way to go Vicodin!
Evolution		According to researchers, human evolution is speeding up. It's about time we buckled down and got serious about this stuff.
Blogging		The blogosphere has a brand new member: the world's favorite evil figurehead, Iranian Prime Minister Mahmoud Ahmadinejad!
Led Zeppelin		The three surviving members, with a combined age of 183, reunited for the first time in 19 years and got a whole lotta love.

TIERNEY: Study abroad should not prevent love

From TIERNEY, page 4
summer, some will spark at the first coffee date, some won't get off the ground for four years. My point is, relationships will never be on your time. So make the best of what you can. It's crushing to think of how many kisses are missed out on just because plane rides are already booked. And who said you can't be in a relationship with someone who's abroad, anyway?

It's now easier than ever before to communicate with people back home, making it much easier to keep a long-distance relationship going. Just ask anyone who goes to a different school than their significant other. I'm sure it's a challenge but not unprecedented. It's at least a better option than the always terrible, awkwardly-hook-up-for-the-last-two-months-of-the-semester plan or the lame, acknowledge-you're-interested-in-each-other-but-do-nothing-about-it strategy.

I don't get the people who actively avoid getting into relationships before they go abroad. You're not going away forever, so do you like them or not? Are you expecting them to wait for you while you go off skydiving in South Africa or touring Amsterdam? And if you're hoping to start something with them when you get back, why don't you want to be in a relationship with them before you go? "DTR" that shit!

So, the person you like is going away for a while. It's not a perfect situation, but it's ok. If we could choose who we love and who loved us back, the world would be a very uninteresting place. "Love" might be too strong a word, but you get what I'm trying to say. You still have right now.

—Sean Tierney is a junior in the College of Arts and Science and the Editor in Chief of The Slant.

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SPORTS

Vandy would be better off without Johnson

NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

Bobby Johnson withdrew his name from consideration from the Duke head coaching position Tuesday, but that doesn't mean we can't ask: Would the Commodores have been better off had Johnson taken the job in Durham?

GOOD CALL

by JOSH BERMAN
Sports Reporter

While Bobby Johnson announced his decision to return to Vanderbilt, that's not necessarily a good thing. In fact, I'm sure there were plenty of people who were secretly hoping Johnson jumped on a plane for Durham.

Don't get me wrong. I both understand and appreciate what Johnson has accomplished during his six seasons in Nashville. I know the 14 victories over the past three years have not been topped since the early 1980s. I know the Commodores have road wins at Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina and showed the ability to compete with the Southeastern Conference's best on a weekly basis. I know the team is more athletic and talented than it has been in a long time, and I am aware the fact the Commodores are even competing for bowl berths would have been something to brag about as recently as a few years ago.

However, there is a problem that comes with modest success: Fans expect and deserve more. They saw the fumble lost in the red zone in the closing minutes against Georgia. They saw the two missed field goals and botched extra point against Kentucky. They saw the conservative play-calling and fourth-quarter meltdown at Tennessee. They saw the embarrassment that is also known as the season finale against Wake Forest.

They also realize if only one of those games had gone in the other direction, their Commodores would have at least been in the conversation for a bowl berth.

Similar things could be said about last year, when four of the eight losses were by a combined 18 points. Or the year before, when four of the six losses were by a total of 21 points (remember MTSU?).

You can blame the players if you want, but the real blame for the Commodores' streak of losing season falls on the coaching staff. There is a reason they continue to lose more close games than they win.

There is no sense of urgency. Johnson and his staff undoubtedly want to win, yet they continue to play not to lose. They try to hold on for victories, rather than try to blow teams out, which shows their lack of trust in their players to make plays.

There is no creativity. With five seniors on the offensive line, three running backs and a wide receiver corps that featured the best player in school history, the offense was supposed to be exciting and explosive, not boring and predictable.

The few times the Commodores took chances, such as playing D.J. Moore on offense, it paid off. And even if it didn't work, wouldn't you rather go down fighting than continually go three-and-out after two conventional running plays and a pass on third-and-long?

Again, Johnson deserves an enormous amount of credit for turning Vanderbilt around. But, that's exactly why we'd be better off without him. He's been a great coach from Sunday to Friday, recruiting better and better players and building a respectable program. On Saturdays, however, he has struggled.

No team in any BCS conference has a longer bowl drought than Vanderbilt. It's not going to change under Johnson. That wouldn't have concerned Duke fans, but it matters to us. ■

BAD CALL

by NATHANIEL HORADAM
Sports Reporter

Remember when the Commodores shocked then sixth-ranked South Carolina on Oct. 20? The defense was superb and the offense almost mistake-free, and despite a demoralizing defeat against Georgia the week before, the Commodores were seemingly en route to a bowl eligible season.

Despite a stomping by Florida two weeks later, Vanderbilt still could have won one of its next two games to reach the postseason. Then we watched the Commodores blow the Kentucky game and drop a heartbreaker at Tennessee when Bryant Hahnfeldt's 49-yard field goal sailed barely wide.

And now the season-ending collapse has stirred mixed sentiments about whether or not Vanderbilt is better off without Bobby Johnson. It's not.

It isn't his fault that his best halfback fumbled on Georgia's eight-yard line with just over two minutes remaining in the game. Nor is it his fault that his kicker, who hit last year's game winner against Georgia, has been extremely unreliable and missed two field goals and an extra point against Kentucky. Vanderbilt lost that game by seven points.

Nonetheless, the Commodore offense became conservative way too early in games. It stopped trying to score points in favor of not turning the ball over in all three of the team's critical losses. That is a coaching decision, whether it's the offensive coordinator or head coach, and something needs to change for next season.

Vanderbilt had a legitimate chance at winning nine games and the Southeastern Conference, but critical mistakes at critical times dropped that win total to five. Still, how often could you say that the Commodores had a chance to finish 9-3 before Johnson arrived? The answer is never.

The biggest problem for the Commodores is with less talent, they can afford fewer mistakes, which explains its narrow defeats. But, that shouldn't diminish the fact that Johnson put together a team that was competitive in what is hands-down the best six-team division in college football — the SEC East.

The Commodores averaged less than one SEC win and two overall in his first three years as coach. Both of those averages have more than doubled over his last three seasons. Vanderbilt hasn't been this competitive in the SEC since the early '90s, and it's only going to get better.

Recruiting classes are improving. Good recruits are the foundation necessary for a good program, and if he's bringing them here, then there's no reason to get rid of him. Players are increasingly skilled, strong and athletic, and Johnson's staff does a great job developing them.

Vanderbilt has much more difficult academic and character standards than any other SEC school, and still has taken some big steps over the last few years, and will continue under Johnson's guidance.

Unless the university can succeed in attracting a very prestigious coach who has a successful track record in major Division I-A programs, Vanderbilt is better off being patient and sticking with Bobby Johnson at the helm. ■

Jorgensen, Williamson capture top honors

HUSTLER STAFF REPORT

Freshman Rita Jorgensen and senior Austin Williamson walked away with top honors at the Vanderbilt men's and women's cross country postseason award ceremony Monday night.

Jorgensen was given the Most Valuable Performer award for the women's squad as she was the top finisher for the VU women's team in five of six races.

"Rita stepped up to the role of front runner and team leader this season even though this was her first season of collegiate competition," said coach Steve Keith. "Rita was honored as SEC Freshman of the Week in September for her winning performance at our Vanderbilt Invitational in a very challenging collegiate field and never looked back as our MVP."

Williamson closed out his collegiate campaign as the Most Valuable Performer from the men's team after leading the Commodores in three of five races in 2007.

"Austin has shown what four years of hard work and consistent training will show," Keith said. "Already one of the fastest Commodores ever on

the track, Austin was our top runner for all but one race this season. His leadership, while hard to replace for next year, has been invaluable to the younger runners."

Seniors Amanda Grosse and Rick Semones captured the Most Improved awards. Grosse earned the first varsity letter of her career after finishing the Race for the Cure in a time of 18:36. Semones was the men's team's third-place finisher in five of six races.

"Amanda improved greatly through the season, just missing the varsity standard in October and then totally blowing away the standard with a run of 18:36 at the end of the season," Keith said. "Rick has been one of our most consistent runners all season and vastly improved over last year."

Adrienne DiRaddo and James Kasten won the Best Newcomer award.

"Adrienne showed poise and experience at a level that you like to see in freshmen," Keith said. "Through hard work this past season, (Kasten) moved up to the level of contributing to the team score in most every race. I look for more steady improvement from James over the next few years." ■

DePaul up next for Dores

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

No. 20 Vanderbilt (9-0) looks to remain undefeated tonight in Chicago when it takes on Big East member DePaul.

The Commodores continued to climb in the polls after defeating Lipscomb 90-67 Saturday night at Memorial Gym.

Freshman A.J. Ogilvy tallied his first career double-double with 26 points and 10 rebounds, and senior Shan Foster added 21 points on 7-of-10 shooting. Foster and Ogilvy currently rank first and second, respectively, in scoring in the Southeastern Conference.

Vanderbilt and DePaul will meet for the first time since the first round of the 1965 NCAA Tournament, when the Commodores won 83-78.

DePaul is 2-3 on the season after losing to Kansas 84-66 on Saturday, with both wins coming at home. Senior guard Draelon Burns leads the team in scoring with 17 points per game, while forwards Dar Tucker and Karron Clarke are averaging 12.4 and 10.6 points per game, respectively.

"They're like us in a lot of ways," said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings. "They really push the ball on offense, they're a very good 3-point shooting

team, and I'm not saying this is necessarily like us, but they're very athletic so offensively they pose a lot of problems."

With its speed and quickness, DePaul has the ability to penetrate and then kick out for open 3-point attempts, which could pose problems for Vanderbilt.

"They're shooting over 40 percent from three for the season so that's kind of all you need to know," Stallings said.

Vanderbilt is currently third in the Southeastern Conference in scoring offense (85.9 points per game), but last in scoring defense (74.6). Stallings said he is not concerned.

"When you play as fast as we play, you're going to allow some points, and that's OK," he said. "We would much rather win the game 90-80 than 60-50. Nevertheless, I would like for some of our defensive numbers to go down — defensive field-goal percentage, 3-point defense."

In addition, Stallings said he would like to see the Commodores improve on the boards, as they currently rank 10th in rebounding margin.

"I don't think we're going to be a great rebounding team," he said, "but we can be a heck of a lot better than we were in the second half the other night (against Lipscomb)."

On another note, freshman Andre Walker returns to play in the Chicago area for the first time since signing with the Commodores. Walker attended Homewood-Flossmoor High School where he averaged 15 points, 8.2 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game as a senior in 2006.

The game starts at 7 p.m., and ESPN Classic will televise the game. ■



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Jermaine Beal and the Commodores travel to DePaul tonight at 7 p.m. The game will be aired on ESPN Classic.

Freshmen make immediate impact

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

As that Australian kid continues to dominate the headlines — and justifiably so — the rest of the freshman class has gone quietly about its business, playing quality minutes as members of Vanderbilt's second unit.

"They've all gotten better since the beginning of the season," said coach Kevin Stallings. "They have been efficient and productive and, at times, they have come in and given us a defensive spark."

Their numbers certainly aren't overwhelming — they are averaging a combined 6.9 points and 5.9 rebounds per game — especially when you compare them to classmate A.J. Ogilvy's (19.6 and 6.3). The importance of point guard Keegan Bell and forwards Darshawn McClellan and Andre Walker to the 9-0 Commodores, however, goes beyond any statistic.

In an age when freshmen tend to come in with big egos and unrealistic expectations for playing time, these three have not only understood their roles, but embraced them.

"Coach always says 'five is one,' and we've really bought into that," Bell said. "It does make it a lot easier when you're close with everyone and enjoy everyone on the team. I think that's why some teams that are good don't make it as far because they don't have that chemistry."

Bell, a playmaker from Hazel Green, Ala., has 23 assists to just 12 turnovers and said he thrives in the Commodores' up-tempo offense. No. 13 also said he is a big fan of Phoenix Suns' point guard Steve Nash because of his passion for the game and "the fact that he was a little guy that came from nowhere."

"I love dishing the ball, especially what we're doing now, just pushing the ball so much," Bell said. "That's my thing — the Steve Nash style. I just like to get up and down. I guess I like to be a little fancy sometimes, but right now my role is to get it to the big guy and get it to the shooters."

McClellan (3 points and 3.4 rebounds per game) and Walker (2.6 points and 1.7 rebounds per game) have added much-needed depth in the frontcourt, playing close to 15 minutes a game.

"(Darshawn's) been busting his butt, getting rebounds, playing real physical," Bell said. "Dre is a great athlete, a great passer, and he can really run the floor."

Most importantly, the freshmen have played well as a unit. "We've really gelled together well, and for some reason we have great chemistry out there," Bell said. "It's because all of our guys are such great guys, and we get along well, and we're all like best friends off the court."

Walker echoed that sentiment.

"I like playing here, all the fans, I'm glad we're ranked, and we all get along so it's been a good experience," he said. "I think we've played really well together. There's not really a dropoff when we get in the game."

That hasn't gone unnoticed by Stallings.

"The question was how would we be when we went to the bench? Would there be a huge dropoff or would there not?" he said. "The subs have been admirable in their play and in their ability to keep leads and keep our starters fresh."



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

While everyone knows about A.J. Ogilvy, Darshawn McClellan and the rest of the freshman class have given the Commodores a spark off the bench.

Adjusting to college life and the college game has been easier thanks to the team's seniors, who have shown the freshmen how to carry themselves and what it takes to be the best.

"I always jokingly say Ross is like a father figure because he's so old, but he is," Bell said. "He's always there to give you a helping hand and whenever you want to talk about something. (Gordon's) just that leader that brings energy, brings excitement and makes you want to be out there and makes you go as hard as you can."

Bell, McClellan and Walker have done just that thus far. As a result, they've yet to lose a game in their college careers.

"It's been a lot of fun," Bell said. "We've been working so hard, so it feels good to have that payoff. Being a freshman, I'm just kind of used to the winning atmosphere right now so it's just great, and I'm really having a good time." ■

Kentucky off to interesting start

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Reporter

Kentucky's 70-51 loss to No. 15 Indiana of the Big Ten Conference capped a very forgettable week for the Wildcats.

First, Kentucky was defeated at home by No. 1 North Carolina, 86-77. The loss marked the fourth straight time the Wildcats fell to the Tar Heels in their annual contest.

Then, on Dec. 4, highly touted recruit Alex Legion told coach Billy Gillespie he was transferring after just six games with the Wildcats. The freshman guard, who originally committed to Michigan before opting for Kentucky, will be ineligible to play for any other team for one year should he decide to enroll at another school in the spring.

Kentucky was left wondering why he wanted to leave the nation's most historic basketball program after such a short period.

Finally, in the loss to interstate rival Indiana, Kentucky's star senior forward Joe Crawford was thoroughly outplayed by his younger brother, Indiana freshman guard Jordan Crawford. Jordan scored 20 to Joe's 10 in the rout.

Kentucky (4-3) has the second-worst non-conference record thus far of Southeastern Conference teams.

TIGERS FALL APART: Louisiana State had a monumental meltdown in its 68-67 loss to No. 25 Villanova in the Big East/SEC invitational.

LSU led by 11 points at halftime and stretched its lead to 21 at 54-33 before the Wildcats began an amazing comeback with eight minutes to play.

Villanova reserve freshman guard Malcolm Grant scored 13 points in the last three minutes of the game. It included a stretch where he scored seven points in just 24 seconds.

The Tigers couldn't get a stop when they needed one, and Villanova made them pay.

Junior forward Dante Cunningham sank a lay-up off an offensive rebound with 5.9 seconds left to give Villanova its first and only lead of the game.

LSU (5-3) was unable to score and could only watch in disbelief as the Wildcats celebrated their astounding rally.

REBELS WITH A CAUSE: Mississippi and Vanderbilt have had a lot in common when it comes to sports in 2007. Both of their football teams finished last in their SEC divisions, and both of their basketball teams are making up for it with undefeated starts to their seasons.

The Rebels (7-0) extended their best start to a season since 2000 with a 76-67 victory over Central Florida.

Freshman guard Chris Warren leads Mississippi with 15.3 points and 6.0 assists per contest as the Rebels head into their next game against Belmont.

DID YOU KNOW? The SEC has only two ranked teams, and both of them are in Tennessee. ... Auburn shot 50 percent from the field but made only 12.5 percent of its free throws while getting trounced by West Virginia, 88-59. ... Since returning from being benched by coach Billy Donovan, Florida freshman Nick Calathes has averaged over 22 points and seven assists in three Gator victories. ... Alabama hasn't won consecutive games since the beginning of the season. ... Georgia turned the ball over a season-high 26 times against Wake Forest but still cruised to a 72-50 victory. ■

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12/10/07 SOLUTIONS

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- ACROSS**
 1 Blackthorn fruit
 5 Valuable violin, briefly
 10 Touch against
 14 Hearty's partner
 15 Somber
 16 Skeleton segment
 17 Hebrew month
 18 George who played Sulu
 19 Dismounted
 20 Jeans material
 22 Filter
 24 Make beloved
 26 Off. skill
 27 Bacon buy
 29 Play an improper card
 33 Chicken choice
 38 Passover feast
 39 Stashed away
 40 Peels
 42 Lyrical Gershwin
 43 Got up
 46 Dodgers, to Dodgers
 49 Bank worker
 51 Virginia's dance?
 52 Upper crust
 55 Goes in
 59 Academic divisions
 63 Evil spirit
 64 Hold up
 65 Musical syllables
 67 Philbin co-host
 68 Helper
 69 English assignment
 70 AC/DC power
 71 Prognosticator
 72 Actor
 Christopher
 73 Escrioire

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12/12/07

- DOWN**
 1 Shadow cast
 2 Encumbered
 3 Man who played Chan
 4 Most weird
 5 NCO rank
 6 Lobster pot
 7 Does yard work
 8 Keep from happening
 9 Wintertime windshield stuff
 10 Sea otter's meal
 11 Gaucho's weapon
 12 Military group
 13 Beret filler
 21 Maldives capital
 23 Change for a five
 25 Freeway entrance
 28 Rhythm
 30 Cut and splice
 31 "Pretty Woman" man
 32 Important times
 33 Huh?
 34 Take on
 35 Object of devotion
 36 "We ___ the World"
 37 Salty droplet
 41 Hook's mate
 44 Surprise hit
 45 Sniggler's prey
 47 Repair

12/10/07 SOLUTIONS

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- 48 Modified
 50 Tex or John
 53 To the point
 54 Delete
 56 French writer Zola
 57 Uses a lasso
 58 Late-night bite
 59 Hot tubs
 60 HOMES part
 61 Method
 62 Serb or Croat
 66 Affirmative vote



Congratulations iPhone Winner! Senior, Martha Legg

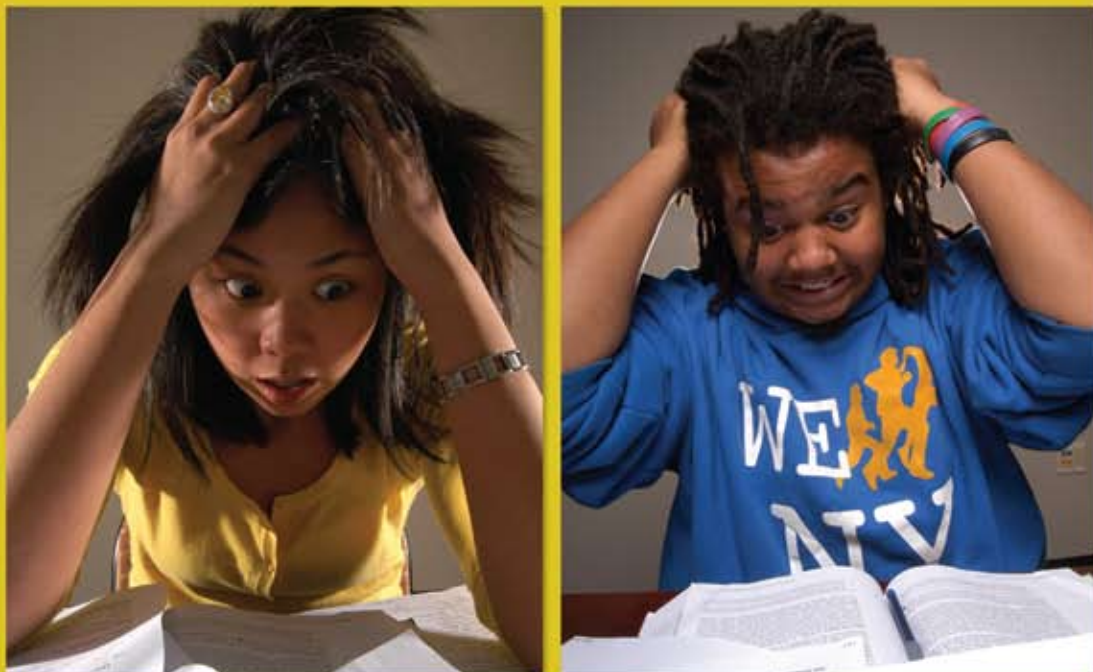
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