



Alex Gordon faces the Gators in his home state one last time.

See Sports, page 6



What do cornbread and civil rights have in common?

See News, page 3

Bobby Brown makes his way onto the list of celebs soon to kick the bucket.

See Opinion, page 4



TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly Cloudy, 37/27
Extended forecast, page 2

The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008 • 120TH YEAR, NO. 8

THE WALL

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

TODAY Pregnancy resource forum

This panel is a collaborative effort by the Vanderbilt Feminists and the Vanderbilt Students for Life to provide real information about the choices women have when faced with an unplanned pregnancy. The discussion is in Sarratt 112 at 3 p.m.

TODAY Women's tennis

The women's tennis team plays Michigan at the Curry Tennis Center at 2:30 p.m.

TODAY VSVS sign-up deadline

Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science is a service organization composed of students who bring hands-on science lessons to elementary and middle school students and requires less than a 10-hour commitment per semester. Sign-up will be in Stevenson 134.

SATURDAY, JAN. 26 Semiformal 2008: A Winter Vandyland

The Multicultural Leadership Council invites everyone to attend their semiformal, which will be held in the Cannery Ballroom from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Free transportation will be running continuously from Branscomb during that time. Tickets are available at either the Sarratt Box Office or on the Wall for \$15.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 'Makes Me Wanna Holla!'

Rhythm & Roots Performance Company presents their annual kickoff to black history month production at 7 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday at Ingram Hall.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY Alpha Phi Omega information session

Vanderbilt's co-ed service fraternity will host an information session for all students interested in joining the organization and learning about the pledging process at the Community Partnership House at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

SUNDAY, JAN. 27 '30 Years of Women's Basketball at Vanderbilt'

Vanderbilt will celebrate 30 years of women's basketball with a program and lunch in the Student Life Center at noon. Vanderbilt will play Ole Miss in Memorial Gym at 2 p.m.

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

Growing green

A low turnout at the Greening Vanderbilt forum emphasizes the need for environmental 'culture change' on campus.

by SYDNEY WILMER
Senior Reporter

It just isn't going to happen overnight. This point was stressed over and over again Thursday night as leaders of environmental groups, researchers, professors and students assessed the state of "green" affairs on campus at the Greening Vanderbilt forum.

"If I had a million dollars," said the recently hired recycling coordinator Jennifer Hackett, "I could (perfect campus recycling) tomorrow. But I don't."

Hackett, one of four speakers who discussed

initiatives on campus, was quick to drive home the point that having an effective program will require more than just money, though.

And others seemed to agree. Discussion toward the end of the forum came down to one other key point: Being an effectively "green" campus will require a culture change.

Senior Will Deacy agreed, saying he was not shocked by the low turnout at the open event. "I wasn't expecting to see a lot of people here tonight," he said.

Please see GREENING VANDERBILT, page 3



House sends experience issue to students

by GLENNA DeROY
Editor Emeritus

Students will get the final word in the experience requirement debate, though it took Vanderbilt Student Government house members two votes and more than an hour to give it to them.

The student body will vote Feb. 19 to approve the elimination of the requirement after a two-thirds majority of the house voted in favor of a resolution that would allow any undergraduate to lead the organization.

The VSG senate unanimously approved the resolution, proposed by senators Fabiani Duarte and Wyatt Smith last week.

The experience requirement states that the student body president must have served one year in VSG and must have served during the semester of his or her election for at least 30 days before declaring his or her candidacy.

Students will vote only on whether they would like to do away with the one-year provision since the house vote immediately eliminated the 30-day requirement.

The hour-long debate included disagreements over whether to delay the conversation, a discussion of proper presidential qualities and expressions of concern for the organization.

Tower II President Kyle Larson called the discussion "hasty," adding, "We're just throwing the question out there without discussing it outside the house and senate among ourselves."

But Chief of Staff Joseph Williams called the debate "absurd" and drew



SARA GAST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Exactly two-thirds of the house voted in favor of a resolution to eliminate the experience requirement Wednesday night. The student body will have the final say and will vote to approve the resolution Feb. 19.

applause when he said, "For us to sit here in this room, in the world of student government and to pretend that no other students on this campus care, sends an arrogant message."

Some house members felt it would take more than good intentions to run for president, though.

"You may have a vision, but you need to be able to implement it," Larson said. "A president needs a relationship with senators and house presidents to get their vision on the table, discussed and acted upon."

But Duarte said many peer institutions, such as Cornell University, Duke University and Washington University in St. Louis, do not have experience requirements, and Jessica Cohen, a transfer student and West

Hall representative, said inexperienced tickets were useful at her former university.

"You'll get a lot more interest in the election in general, and in the end, the students will make the right choice," she said.

Some house members still worried students would take advantage of relaxed requirements to boost their resumes or gain attention.

But Smith disagreed. "These aren't middle school elections; this is college student government," he said. "People who are wanting to run are people who want to change this university." ■

— Glenna DeRoy can be reached at glenna.h.deroy@vanderbilt.edu

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

Senate delays vote on abortion resolution to consider amendment

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A resolution that would have changed the state's constitution to allow more limits on abortion has been delayed in the Senate so lawmakers can review an amendment added to the measure, The Associated Press reports.

The resolution seeks to nullify a state Supreme Court ruling that the Tennessee Constitution offers greater protection for abortion rights than the U.S. Constitution.

The proposal states, "nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion."

Some critics are concerned that the proposal could lead to an effort to ban abortions completely in the state. If so, the amendment considered on Thursday would allow lawmakers "to enact, amend or repeal statutes regarding abortion" in cases of rape, incest or the mother's safety.

House votes to begin investigation of Simon



SARA GAST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The house voted unanimously Wednesday to investigate the actions of Speaker of the House Reid Simon. Attorney general Andrew Gossett will file a report as early as next week.

by JARRED AMATO
Editor in Chief

The Vanderbilt Student Government house voted unanimously Wednesday to pursue an investigation into the fulfillment of duties of Speaker of the House Reid Simon.

Attorney general Andrew Gossett will first conduct a thorough investigation and then file a report, which will be submitted to the senate as early as next week. At that point, the senate will deliberate, and if two-thirds find that Simon did not fulfill his duties, he will be impeached.

"It's always good to investigate any suspicions or complaints against our officials," Gossett said.

The decision to launch an investigation came six days after President Cara Bilotta voiced her frustrations with Simon, who is running for president along with Jared Anderson and Joseph Williams.

"I have been disappointed by the actions of a member of my executive board," Bilotta said on Jan. 17. "However, the ultimate decision to reprimand Reid Simon is in the hands of the senate and house."

The house took action Wednesday, and Simon said he has nothing to hide.

"I applaud the house for voting for the investigation. I welcome such an investigation and encouraged house presidents to vote for the investigation," Simon said. "I wait in anticipation for The Hustler to report the findings and for my name to be vindicated."

Please see VSG INVESTIGATION, page 3

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ODDS & ENDS

CORRECTION

Photo captions were inaccurate in Wednesday's issue. The Vanderbilt Student Government candidates' photo on page 1 said the first meeting was held in Furman Hall when it was held in Wilson Hall. Second, Voices of Praise is not a part of Jeremiah Generation. The Jeremiah Generation Praise Team is one part of Jeremiah Generation, and that is who performed on Monday night.

WEATHER

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

SATURDAY



Partly Cloudy, 49/31

SUNDAY



Mostly Cloudy, 52/33

MONDAY



Mostly Cloudy, 55/47

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

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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LOCATION

The Hustler offices are in 130 Sarratt Student Center on the Vanderbilt University Campus. Address postal mail to VU Station B 351504, Nashville, Tenn. 37235-1504.

AFFILIATIONS

The Hustler is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers, Southern University Newspapers and the Southeastern Journalism Conference and is an associate member of the Associated Press.

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CORRECTIONS

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PRINTER

The Hustler is printed at Franklin Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Call (615) 343-3064 9 a.m. — 5 p.m., Monday — Friday.
 One semester's delivery via U.S. Postal Service is available for \$125 or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

THE 123456789 STARTING 9

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

1 Congress and Treasury Secretary announce deal on tax rebates; business breaks to boost economy

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders announced a deal with the White House Thursday concerning an economic stimulus package that gives most tax filers refunds of \$600 to \$1,200 and more if they have children, The Associated Press reported.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Congress would act on the agreement — hammered out in negotiations with Republican Leader John A. Boehner and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson — “at the earliest date, so that those rebate checks can be in the mail.”

2 Medical breakthrough spares kidney transplant patients from taking anti-rejection drugs

LOS ANGELES — In what's being called a major advance in organ transplants, doctors say they have developed a technique that can free many patients from needing anti-rejection drugs for the rest of their lives, according to The Associated Press.

The treatment involved weakening the patient's immune system, then giving the recipient bone marrow from the donor. In one experiment, four of five kidney recipients were off immune-suppressing drugs up to five years later.

3 Suicide bomber kills provincial police chief at blast site in Mosul

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber killed an Iraqi police chief and two others Thursday as they surveyed the wreckage of a blast a day earlier that devastated a predominantly Sunni neighborhood in the volatile city of Mosul, The Associated Press reported.

The casualty toll from Wednesday's explosion rose to at least 34 dead and 224 injured, said Hisham al-Hamdani, the head of the Ninevah provincial council. The blast obliterated an apartment building and ravaged adjacent houses just minutes after the Iraqi army arrived to investigate tips about a weapons cache.

4 Nashville publisher sues Don Imus, claiming defamation

NEW YORK — A Tennessee book publisher is suing Don Imus for more than \$4 million, The Associated Press reports, saying the radio shock jock badmouthed the company last year and called its commercials for a book about former President Gerald Ford “cheesy.”

Flatsigned Press Inc. says it was maligned last year after it paid to advertise on “Imus in the Morning.” It says Imus claimed the publishers “have been waiting for (Ford) to croak so they can unload these” books.

5 Egypt begins to control influx of Gazans; Israel says it wants ties cut with territory

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP — Egyptian border guards took measures to control huge crowds of Palestinians streaming from Gaza to Egypt across a breached border for a second day Thursday, but they did not try to halt the flow, according to The Associated Press.

On Wednesday, Palestinian gunmen used land mines to blast the border partition so Gazans could escape an Israeli closure imposed last week that made food, fuel and other goods scarce. Tens of thousands of Gazans have rushed into Egypt without any border controls.

6 Vanderbilt psychologist wins prestigious National Academy of Science award

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Vanderbilt psychologist Isabel Gauthier has received a 2008 Troland Research Award from the National Academy of Science, Vanderbilt News Service reports.

The annual awards include a prize of \$50,000 and recognize unusual achievement and to further their research within experimental psychology.

Gauthier was chosen “for seminal experiments on the role of visual expertise in the recognition of complex objects including faces and for exploration of brain areas activated by this recognition.”

7 Italian Premier resigns after losing confidence vote on his government

ROME — Italian Premier Romano Prodi resigned Thursday after his government lost a risky Senate confidence vote, The Associated Press reports.

The center-left government fell four votes short of the 160 needed for victory. The vote was 161-156.

Elected in April 2006, Prodi's government has been shaky from nearly the start, but it lurched toward collapse after a small Christian Democrat party yanked its support earlier this week in the latest squabbling among his allies.

8 As Senate takes up eavesdropping bill, Bush opens wiretapping documents to House

WASHINGTON — Ending months of resistance, the White House has agreed to give House members access to secret documents about its unwarranted wiretapping program, a congressional official said Thursday.

The Bush administration is trying to convince the House to protect the telecommunications companies that helped the government eavesdrop on Americans without a court's approval, according to The Associated Press. Congress created the court 30 years ago to oversee such activities.

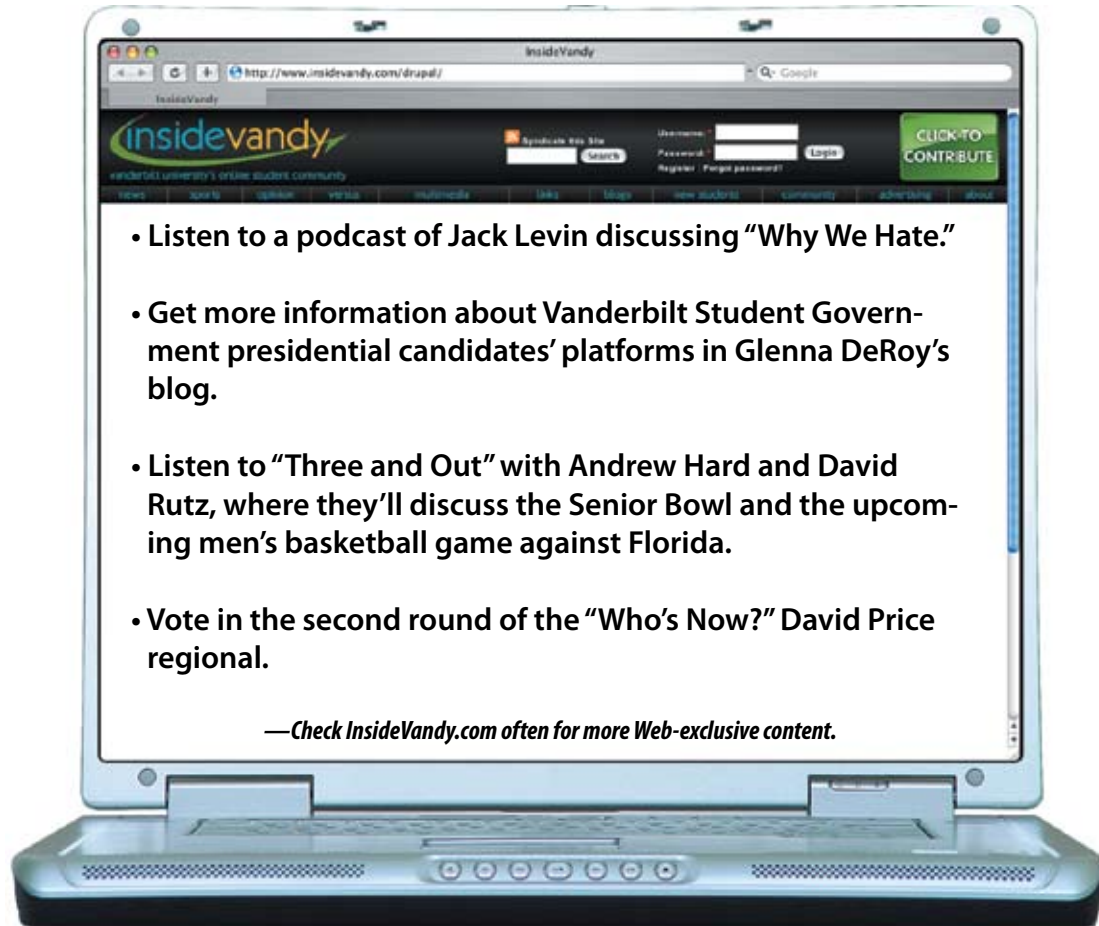
9 Kids learn more when mom is listening

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Kids may roll their eyes when their mother asks them about their school day, but answering her may actually help them learn.

New research from Vanderbilt reveals that children learn the solution to a problem best when they explain it to their mom, Vanderbilt News Service reports.

“We knew that children learn well with their moms or with a peer, but we did not know if that was because they were getting feedback and help,” said Bethany Rittle-Johnson, the study's lead author.

WHAT'S NEW ON INSIDEVANDY.COM



- Listen to a podcast of Jack Levin discussing “Why We Hate.”
- Get more information about Vanderbilt Student Government presidential candidates' platforms in Glenna DeRoy's blog.
- Listen to “Three and Out” with Andrew Hard and David Rutz, where they'll discuss the Senior Bowl and the upcoming men's basketball game against Florida.
- Vote in the second round of the “Who's Now?” David Price regional.

—Check InsideVandy.com often for more Web-exclusive content.

SNAPSHOT

FINDING OUT ABOUT FOREIGN LEARNING



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students get more information about studying abroad at the Global Education Office's Study Abroad Fair on Thursday. Representatives from the programs were available to address questions from students interested in participating in one of Vanderbilt's many programs.

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Everyday culture inspires hate crimes

by **ALLIE MORRIS**
Staff Reporter

He began with Einstein, threw in some Jerry Springer and ended with the courage of the common man.

Tuesday night Jack Levin, an authority on hate crimes and violence, lectured on the question "Why We Hate," the theme of this year's "Project Dialogue," a bi-yearly lecture series whose goal is to unite the Vanderbilt campus through discussion of societal issues.

"This series is important on campus because there is not much opportunity to discuss the issue of hate," said Carolyn Hughes, a Peabody professor, who brought a class to the lecture.

Levin, who began the lecture by warning listeners not to be distracted by his "Einstein-esque appearance," spent the rest of the time explaining how power, thrill and defensiveness motivate hate crimes and how ordinary people can help curb the hate.

Despite Levin's appearances on many news programs, including "48 Hours" and "20/20," he began by referencing one of his four appearances on "The Jerry Springer Show," where he met with three neo-Nazi teenagers. He said these teens, like most hate-crime perpetrators, wanted to feel important, dominant and powerful.



LEVIN

Levin explained that most people who commit hate crimes are "dabblers," and commit the crimes as a "hobby" when they want power or are feeling defensive.

"In the four months following 9/11, hate crimes against Arabs increased 1,600 percent," Levin said. "Thrill is another motivation."

"Bored teenagers often commit hate crimes that include vandalism, threats and sometimes assault," Levin said.

Organized hate groups, who often commit more serious crimes like murder, only account for 5 percent of hate crimes.

And Levin explained that hate crimes spawn feelings of revenge, which turn into more hate crimes, which leads to a vicious cycle of violence.

The inspiration for hate crimes, Levin said, comes from dominant culture.

"Sympathizers, the people who laugh at racist jokes or use racial slurs, provide the encouragement those bad people who hear the slurs support," he said.

Levin said a solution to hate crimes starts with the courage to act.

"Don't forget hate begins with the silence of ordinary people," Levin said in conclusion. ■

— Allie Morris can be reached at allison.d.morris@vanderbilt.edu

—To listen to a podcast from the event, go to:



VSG INVESTIGATION: Simon welcomes inquiry

From **VSG INVESTIGATION**, page 1

The allegations against Simon stem from a letter he presented to The Hustler on Jan. 10, which stated he had created an "ad hoc special committee of house members to supervise a student discussion" of the VSG experience requirement to take place Jan. 17. Simon added that junior Randall Norman, his presidential running mate, would chair the committee.

Bilotta, however, had no knowledge of this event. For an ad hoc committee to be formed, it must either be appointed or approved by the president.

Simon then apologized for the wording, instead calling it a "focus group."

Still, since members of the senate had already written a resolution regarding the experience requirement, which passed Wednesday and will be voted on by the students, Bilotta informed Simon on the evening of Jan. 13 no such event would be necessary. The VSG executive board voted 4-1 — with Simon as the lone dissenter — in favor of that decision.

Simon said he does not believe the executive board had

the authority to prevent him from holding the event, adding that "all of this boils down to constitutionality."

On Jan. 11, Simon spoke with Dean of Students Mark Bandas, asking him to send an announcement about the focus group through the VSG listserv. Bandas complied.

"In the past, I have routinely honored announcement requests from VSG executive board members on the assumption that such requests had VSG approval," Bandas said in an e-mail last Friday.

Bilotta said Simon did not have her permission.

Then, on the afternoon of Jan. 13, Simon e-mailed the announcement to Bandas, who had it sent out to the student body the next day at 4:01 p.m.

Simon had an opportunity to halt the e-mail after meeting with Bilotta, but failed to do so.

"Reid contacted me after the e-mail went out and told me that the VSG exec board had decided against holding the forum in their Sunday evening meeting," Bandas said. "He said that he had sent me an e-mail advising me of this decision

on Sunday evening. I did not receive this e-mail."

While Simon acknowledged he did not send the e-mail, he said he thought he had.

"I didn't find that out that my e-mail didn't get sent until I saw the e-mail myself Monday afternoon," he said.

It is these allegations that brought the house to call for an investigation, although a few members were initially skeptical, wondering if it would damage VSG's reputation.

"(The investigation) would be talked about and be a reflection of us," said freshman Lori Murphy, Reinke Hall president. "We have to ask, is it worth it? What is it going to accomplish?"

Others disagreed.

"A lot of people are unsure of the validity of VSG, which is why no matter what the outcome, an investigation should be held," said freshman Will Parks, Vaughn House president. "I think it would look worse if we didn't do anything." ■

— Jarred Amato can be reached at jarred.s.amato@vanderbilt.edu

GREENING VANDERBILT: Future improvements vague

From **GREENING VANDERBILT**, page 1

For him, the forum was a place for likeminded campus groups to network and understand the green initiatives underway, Deacy said.

"I just came to get a better understanding of what is going on on campus," agreed sophomore John Michel. Michel said he also came because of an interest in environmental policy and on behalf of the student group Net Impact.

"I don't think the average student is informed as much as they should be," Michel said.

Top on the agenda were the status of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certifications on campus and improvements in dining, said Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling president Brent Fitzgerald.

Reports on LEED certification noted that a number of Vanderbilt's recently constructed buildings, like Featheringill Hall, could achieve at least basic LEED certification with minor improvements.

Sustainability Coordinator Andrea George explained that water and energy conservation were also extremely important. She said she hopes that further education on the topics and an updated Web site will help students and faculty understand the process a little more.

"With the 'Think 1' campaign," George said, "we are trying to find out the best way to get students to change their behavior."

Hackett also announced all residence halls except Carmichael Towers will be equipped

with blue recycling bins in the fall. She said she hopes Towers will be similarly outfitted by the fall of 2009, saying, "Improvements will occur as finances allow."

Hackett said collecting data was the central goal at the moment.

Though senior Adam Greenhall said he was glad to see the gathering Thursday night, he was disappointed in the lack of defined goals in programs like recycling.

"We are seeing all this really positive stuff, but we don't turn the lights off at night," he said. "We don't really know where we are going with all of this." ■

— Sydney Wilmer can be reached at sydney.e.wilmer@vanderbilt.edu



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Green groups, like Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling, promoted their efforts and shared information with the campus community at the Greening Vanderbilt forum Thursday night.

Comparing cornbread to civil rights

First black woman to integrate Miss. Bar Association speaks at Vandy.

by **NORAH SCANLAN**
Contributing Reporter

Vanderbilt was first on civil rights lawyer Constance Slaughter-Harvey's list of law schools, but she didn't apply because of an extra exam. Turns out, our loss was the University of Mississippi's — and the nation's — gain.

In 1970, Slaughter-Harvey became the first black woman to graduate from Ole Miss's law school, overcoming prejudice along the way and breaking through racial barriers to become the successful principal of a law firm specializing in civil rights cases.

Addressing Vanderbilt Law School on Wednesday, Slaughter-Harvey compared equal justice to a cornbread recipe, calling upon the nation's cooks — the leaders and judges — to reconstruct this mixture, as she believed it to be spoiled by discrimination and disregard for human rights.

The recipe, Slaughter-Harvey said, results in unsettling "stomach aches" and suffering of its victims. She likened the recipe for equal justice to her own cooking, which varies depending on her mood.

She once added red food coloring to her mother's



Constance Slaughter-Harvey spoke Wednesday at the Vanderbilt Law School about the importance of equal justice and the enforcement of civil rights, better public education and less police brutality.

SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

recipe for cornbread, which her husband ate and did not comment on despite its red color. Like her cornbread, she said, in the pursuit of equal justice under the law, we never know what is coming, but despite its unpredictability, we are expected to consume it no matter how surprising.

"Why don't we change?" Slaughter-Harvey, the first black woman to integrate the Mississippi Bar Association, asked the audience.

She recounted her solution to the injustice in our country — a new recipe for equal justice, with ingredients including enforcement of civil rights

legislation, improvements in public education, monitoring of federal agencies and police brutality prevention.

"Leaders would never have to apologize," Slaughter-Harvey said in response to one listener who wondered how we would we finally know when we achieved the right recipe.

"I think it's really exciting that we've had Constance Slaughter-Harvey here," said Rebecca Stubbs, a law student and chair of the Student Advisory Board of the law school's Social Justice Program, which helped bring Slaughter-Harvey to campus. "So many people think we have

conquered social racial issues, and that's simply not true. There are still marginalized groups in our society, and civil rights are still being violated in this country every day." ■

— Norah Scanlan can be reached at norah.o.scanlan@vanderbilt.edu

OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER Editorial Board

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OUR VIEW

VSG demonstrates responsiveness

Still in its infancy, Vanderbilt Student Government took a major step forward Wednesday when the house voted in favor of a resolution that will give students the right to decide whether the one-year experience requirement for president should be removed.

Unlike the senate, which was unanimous in its support of the resolution, the house was divided as both sides made passionate and compelling cases. Initially, the resolution appeared to fail, but after a recount, the decision was reversed as exactly two-thirds of the house voted "yes." We are thrilled it was.

To the students who see VSG as an

idle body, Wednesday night proved not only is our student government actually engaging in healthy debate, but also it is willing to put its trust in us. It was the political process at its finest.

Beyond this, VSG's detractors have now been presented with an opportunity to act on the perceived failings. Many have long held that students who have demonstrated the type of leadership that transcends a specific organization could effectively lead VSG and enact real change on campus. Now, this possibility may become a reality.

The editorial board applauds

senators Fabiani Duarte and Wyatt Smith for first proposing the resolution and then fighting to ensure that it passed, as well as the members of the senate and house who voted in favor of it.

Ultimately, by giving the students the final say in the experience requirement debate, VSG demonstrated it is in fact democratic, and not arrogant or close-minded as some have suggested. This referendum reflects the way in which VSG seeks to emulate our own national government, and, in doing so, presents the Vanderbilt undergrad as a stronger body, better able to translate the mores of our nation onto our campus.

COLUMN

Why guys do stupid things



ANDREW SOLOMON
Columnist

Ever since I started writing again, I've hit a dry spell. That's right, I said it. Girls see me on campus and dive behind bushes as I pass. Ex-hook ups cry uncontrollably at the sight of me. I'm used to getting slapped the morning after; now I can't even get in a "Nice shoes, wanna screw?" before the girls around here haul off and wail on me.

Until a couple days ago, I was totally confused as to why this was happening. Then a friend of mine let me in on a little secret that everyone else knew but me: "Everybody hates you." I still couldn't really see what he was getting at, so I asked him to elaborate. Apparently my recent string of articles has managed to transform me into the most reviled, misogynistic, self-centered asshole on campus. Not even my mother will return my phone calls anymore. This has to stop.

So in an effort to convince everyone out there that I'm not the least bit sexist (and hopefully get some play out of it), I've decided to play one for the ladies and help you understand why guys do all the stupid crap we do. After polling the two girls who still talk to me, I've come up with a guide of sorts:

The Offense: We always forget things: your birthday, your name and your best friend's twin sister's great aunt's anniversary.

The Explanation: These things have nothing to do with us getting drunk or you performing sexual favors. Actually, according to recent gender-specific neurological research, women are wired to remember details men would normally forget. Formation of new memories appears to depend on the hippocampus and medial temporal lobe in the brain, and men apparently forgot to stand in that line when they were passing out body parts. But I think the real reason is men believe we don't need special dates or events to enjoy being with you; we love you just the same, no matter what day it is.

The Offense: We don't get along with your friends.

The Explanation: We know you've never missed a Wednesday afternoon Starbucks date since freshman year, but sometimes we don't get along. You've got to understand: When we first met you, she was the one making sure you went home at night so you wouldn't make a "mistake." As nice as it is to be called a mistake (trust me, I know), it's not the way to get on our good side. We know she's struggling because we're taking up a good bit of the time she used to spend with you. Just give it some time, and we'll warm up, we promise. Or you could speed up the process and invite her to a little ménage à trois.

The Offense: We get belligerently drunk and start yelling/try to hook up with your sorority sister/punch holes through walls/insert moronic male behavior here.

The Explanation: As we plunge deeper and deeper into our drunken stupor, non-vital systems in our body begin to shut down. First go fine motor skills, then memory and common sense, and finally the ability to refuse overt sexual advances from overweight women with negotiable morals. It's stupid, we know, and we honestly regret it every time we wake up the next morning with 15 angry text messages from you. There's no legitimate excuse here, only a perpetual apology and guarantee that the next time we see you, we'll do anything we can to make it up to you. The most beautiful thing we've seen is you smiling after we can laugh about what an idiot I am. You have no idea the power you hold when you have the ability to forgive.

Just as a little experiment, I'm going to run this topic in a Part I of II, but I'd like your input. Please email me or post on InsideVandy and tell me what male behavior confuses you the most. If it's good, I'll use it in next week's article.

—Andrew Solomon is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at ajsolomon@gmail.com

Top 10 Endangered Celebrities

MEDORA BROWN
Guest Columnist

In light of the recent rash of untimely celebrity deaths (Heath Ledger, Brad Renfro, Ike Turner, Bobby Fischer), I present a list of the celebrities to watch out for: Top 10 Endangered Celebrities.

10. Hilary Duff: No addictions, no legal troubles, no messy relationship issues, but with Heath dying, anybody could be next. And the recent lip-synching allegations are oddly reminiscent of those brought against Brit a couple years ago. Could it all be downhill from here for Duff?



9. Owen Wilson: After his attempted suicide last August, I worry about Wilson's mental state. However, he is dating Le Call and seems to be having fun globetrotting with pals, so he's pretty low on the endangered list.



8. Paris Hilton: Nikki's going to wake up one morning and realize she's been living in her big sister's shadow, and she's gonna off Paris, crazy Whitney-style from "The Bodyguard." Speaking of Whitney Houston . . .



7. Bobby Brown: Did he have a heart attack? Did he not? Either way, if you're having heart trouble before you hit 40, you know you're in trouble. His legal woes, his substance abuse and his messy divorce all add up to a lot of strain on the ticker, so I wouldn't be surprised if Bobby's heart gave out again.



6. Eminem: The comparisons to Elvis still apply. For almost two years, Eminem has been reclusive, depressed and binge eating. Ever since the death of his best friend, Proof, Slim Shady has ballooned to over 200 pounds. He also has a heart condition and was rushed to the hospital last month. The end may be near for the "8 Mile" star.



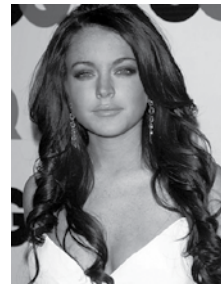
5. Amy Winehouse: With her hubby in jail, her marriage on the rocks and her drug habit back in full force (Valium, Club Drug and crack! Oh my!), the British pop singer is in trouble. Though she's back in rehab she seems pretty resistant to make substantial "changes to her habits."



4. Kiefer Sutherland: Like Lindsay, Jack Bauer is out of jail from his second DUI charge. A crazy partier — episodes of "24" have been rewritten to accommodate injuries he's sustained while out — it's only a matter of time before Kiefer has his next major, and perhaps fatal, incident.



3. Pete Doherty: The lead singer of Babyshambles and The Libertines is better known as the guy who got Kate Moss put in rehab for her coke addiction. As a teenager, he was a crack whore, and despite a change of professions, his paycheck still goes to the same dealers. It's only a matter of time before he goes, but, knowing Pete Doherty, it'll be spectacular, creative and totally bizarre.



2. Lindsay Lohan: She's out of rehab/prison again, but she seems to be back to her old ways. To top it all off, as part of her DUI sentence she has to work in a Los Angeles County morgue for two days. I guess the judge hopes it will act as a deterrent, but after a couple days around cadavers, I bet the water she's been sipping lately won't be quite hard enough for her.



1. Britney Spears: This girl is a train wreck waiting to happen. She's been diagnosed with some sort of bipolar disorder, and though she refuses to be committed, her lawyers have come up with a "creative" treatment plan. Her 1 a.m. shopping sprees and fake British accent mean she won't be seeing her sons any time soon, and it seems to just be a matter of time before she's involuntarily committed. Or worse.

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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.

President Cara Bilotta
Vanderbilt Student Government
1542 Station B
cara.bilotta@vanderbilt.edu
Sarratt 355
(615) 322-8742

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4944
(615) 736-5129

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

COLUMN

McCain's policies hurt true conservatives



MIKE WARREN
Columnist

Based on the recent developments in the Republican primary season, it would seem the GOP electorate has warmed up to Sen. John McCain. South Carolina, having flatly rejected McCain in favor of George W. Bush eight years ago, gave the architect of campaign finance reform and comprehensive immigration reform the go-ahead last weekend.

For conservatives of the God-fearing, middle-class, talk-radio listening variety (perhaps the core of the Republican Party), McCain presents many contradictions. On the one hand, his service and sacrifice in the Vietnam War, paired with unabashed and genuine patriotism, gives conservatives exactly the type of character needed in the White House.

Nevertheless, the downsides to McCain are greater in number and in importance for conservative voters. Illegal immigration, an issue that the New England blueblood Republicans wish would just go away, is perhaps one of the topmost priorities for conservatives in the South and West. McCain, with his underhanded attempt to push McCain-Edwards amnesty last summer, differs greatly with voters on the solution for the problem.

Even so, the sum of these transgressions against conservative doctrine does not fully explain the aversion conservatives have to John McCain. Behind all the straight talk, the stories of heroism and the "let's get it done" mentality, there lies an identifiable strain of contempt. McCain does not reserve it exclusively for the conservative movement; anyone opposed to his warped pragmatism is fair game. The contempt is, nonetheless, a sign that McCain shares with his liberal counterparts a sense of do-goodism, that if only we just all did it his way, our problems would melt away.

What the vehement rejection of his immigration reform from the electorate said

to McCain was not that he was out of step with the people, but that the people were out of step with him. Active conservatives, by calling their legislators to demand no amnesty, destroyed what could have been another legislative landmark in his senatorial record, the holy grail of solving the immigration problem that would have propelled McCain to sure victory in November 2008. McCain would be able to serve the people if the people just got out of his damn way.

This leads me back to my initial question. Why, if Americans are so concerned about illegal immigration, did South Carolina, a Southern state with a conservative Republican electorate, give John McCain this victory? McCain won 33 percent of the vote, the lowest percentage victory of any Republican candidate in the primary, indicating the win might not mean what it used to. South Carolina, like many states, also runs an open primary, giving the ability for registered independents and even Democrats the ability to vote in the Republican primary. Perhaps South Carolina Republicans have simply forgotten about the comprehensive immigration reform mess and allowed the media-driven momentum McCain received following his New Hampshire victory to easily sway them.

The most disheartening possibility is that Republicans saw campaign finance reform, comprehensive immigration reform, Social Security for illegal immigrants, global warming legislation and sharp criticism for the running of Guantanamo Bay on McCain's record and shrugged it off. Maybe Republicans suffer from a political battered wife syndrome, where the party keeps coming back to McCain even when he beats up some of its principles, like national sovereignty and freedom of speech. It's time for Republicans to stop blaming their conservative ideology and voting for someone who snubs those core beliefs.

— Mike Warren is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at michael.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu

LETTER

Hustler's Roe v. Wade anniversary coverage fails to represent pro-life side

To the Editor:

Samantha Orovitz's article in the last issue of The Hustler, "Roe v. Wade turns 35," gave the Vanderbilt community a very one-sided version of why last Tuesday was an important day in America. Jan. 22 is the date on which, in 1973, the Supreme Court determined women have a constitutional right to abort their children without considering the wishes of the unborn baby, the father or any other family member.

On this date, the court sanctioned the killing of the unborn baby by the mother at any stage of pregnancy, knowing full well many women could choose to abort their fully formed and birth-ready children just days before their due date, citing mental or physical health reasons if necessary to get the job done.

Like the Vandy Feminists, I too encourage all women to empower themselves, fight for their rights and place a serious emphasis on sexual health and safety. As a woman myself, I applaud their commitment to standing up for me and providing support when I need it. However, I doubt I am the only person at Vanderbilt who has chosen to refrain from joining in their "celebration" of Roe v. Wade and all it entails. I'm not surprised The Hustler article chose to omit the views and actions of those students like

myself who proudly supported Tuesday's March for Life, seeing abortion as fundamentally wrong and much more serious than other "sexual health" issues.

Since it was pronounced legal, more than 40 million women have aborted their children under the guilt-free guise of "reproductive choice." Fetuses cannot speak for themselves, but one day a year, they have a voice. On Tuesday, approximately 100,000 people — black, white, men, women, young, old, religious and non-religious — marched the streets of Washington, D.C. to dispute the notion Roe v. Wade should be "celebrated." These pro-life people all agree Roe is, at best, a convenient lie packaged and sold as "constitutional" to generations of panicked and vulnerable women. Even though the Vandy Feminists and other pro-choice groups may try hard, it's impossible to sugarcoat the awful truth of the death of an unborn child.

Instead of using Jan. 22, 1973, to "relate feminism to our lives," The Hustler should encourage students to think about what the date really stands for: the beginning of a truly degrading and sad era in American history.

Catie Carter
Junior, A&S



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

"Is it just me or did Mr. Commodore seem hung over at Saturday's basketball game? I'm gonna have to see more dedication from him if we want to make it to the tournament."

"The Jerk Store called; they're running out of Reid Simon."

"To all liberals who whine about Mike Warren's conservative views: Consider the fact the other 98 percent of The Hustler is blatantly liberal. Even the damn crossword puzzles have a liberal bias. If you are so upset with one conservative viewpoint every now and then, I suggest you quietly skip over the lone section of The Hustler that isn't left-winged and get your anti-GOP fix elsewhere."

"Why the hell can't we get Cab Cash during the week?? Do the Powers That Be not think that we might need to go places during the week?"

"Whatever jerks live in Tower 1, suite ####, are the most selfish, antisocial idiots at Vanderbilt. Apart from playing emo music to drown their fears of eternal virginity, they also disregard accepted social mores of turning off their music at a decent hour. If anyone knows the people who live in this suite, please tell these self-absorbed twerps that they are some of the rudest, if not most pugnacious, imbeciles on this planet. And de-friend them."

"Is there something in the water that makes girls' skin turn orange in January? Oh wait, that's just rush."

"The Study Abroad Office is the most unfriendly, unhelpful office in this school. Advisers have office hours one day a week for two hours? And when they do, they only tell you to go to the Web site. How do these people get paid?"

Compiled by Katherine Miller

LETTER

Grade deflation serves Vandy students

To the Editor:

I had written up a much longer reply to Daniel Israel's invective against administrators looking to curb grade inflation, but I think a shorter letter should suffice. As an advanced graduate student, teacher and a long-time member of the workforce (including in an administrative capacity at Vanderbilt), I have to say the vast majority of his statements are misguided when they are not flat-out wrong.

Employers and graduate/professional programs do, in fact, know where you get your degree from, and they do pay attention to it. While there is not always a space for you to write in your alma mater, your transcript (required material: Who is going to just take your word for it that you got a 4.0?) just happens to inform the admissions officers of the institution from which it comes. In addition, and this is especially true for those new to the workforce, your educational information plays a significant role in constructing your resume and leaving off the institution is like claiming you held a job somewhere but not naming the company or giving references. In addition, he seems to lack a solid grasp on the long-term realities of grade inflation.

He suggests that if next year's class is more selective, and thus better, they deserve higher grades on average. If all schools adopt a policy of offering higher grades to better classes of students, then in the end every school in the country ends up giving nearly every student a 4.0, as we all know that it is a rare occurrence indeed for a school to post a stable or declining quality of incoming classes, no matter the quality of the school.

I would also like to point out that grade inflation is evident and is considered by many, even within the student body at Vanderbilt, to be a problem. I'm not picking on anyone, but I want

to be as honest as possible about what is going on and the attitudes involved. Israel points to the request for Peabody to reduce its average grade from a 3.7 to a 3.4, which I can honestly say is a positive step.

The administration recognizes high GPAs are earned, not just by being part of a more selective class or going to a better school, but also by being extraordinary. The name and reputation of the school speaks for itself in terms of weighting your GPA against those with similar numbers from other schools.

In sum, too much attention is placed by students on the specific numbers they receive at the end of each semester. The administration's efforts to curb grade inflation aren't motivated by a desire to see bad grades, as Israel suggests, but rather to curb unrealistically high grade levels. If Israel thinks he will be getting C-range grades and lower more often because of policies to reduce inflation, the problem with his grades lies with his efforts, not with school policy. In my classes, an A is an accomplishment. I rarely hand out bad grades, but an A at the end of the semester represents something significant about the abilities of the person who receives it, and when those who have worked hard, but by comparison not distinguished themselves nearly so much ask for an equivalent grade, both my expectations of my students and the accomplishments of those who stand at the top of the heap are cheapened, and that is a cheapening clear enough for the wider academic world to see when they are appraising your qualifications as a candidate to their graduate school or place of employment.

Shaun M. Haskins
PhD candidate, Program in Comparative Literature

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pizza & draft

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(-win prizes-)

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SPORTS

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W2W4

Men's Basketball @ Florida

Sunday at Noon

No. 14 Vanderbilt travels to Gainesville to take on the two-time defending national champion Florida Gators (17-3, 4-1 Southeastern Conference). Everyone remembers the last time these two teams met on Feb. 17, as Vanderbilt (17-2, 2-2 SEC) beat the then-No. 1 Gators 83-70 at Memorial Gym. The Commodores have not beaten Florida in Gainesville, however, since 2001. Coach Billy Donovan's team is young but has plenty of talent, led by freshman swingman Nick Calathes who is averaging 19.9 points per game in SEC play.

Women's Basketball V. Mississippi Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Vanderbilt women's basketball team hosts its annual "Jam the Gym" event on Sunday when Mississippi (8-8, 2-1 SEC) visits Memorial Gymnasium. All tickets for Sunday's fan-appreciation game are available for only \$1. Events surrounding the Commodores' key SEC match-up include a headband giveaway for the first 1,000 fans in attendance as well as a mascot basketball game at halftime and a post-game clinic and autograph session. Vanderbilt (13-6, 2-2 SEC) plays its first unranked opponent since beating Mississippi State on Jan. 10.

Women's Tennis Friday-Saturday Currey Tennis Center

The No. 16 Vanderbilt women's tennis team returns home this weekend to face two nationally ranked opponents as it welcomes No. 23 Michigan on Friday at 2:30 p.m. and hosts No. 9 Notre Dame at noon Saturday. Vanderbilt enters the weekend with a 3-0 dual match record after defeating two ranked opponents last weekend in Albuquerque, N.M. The black and gold got past host school No. 67 New Mexico 5-2 last Friday and dominated No. 38 Colorado 7-0 on Sunday. Five Commodores enter the second week of the season with perfect singles records.

THEY SAID IT...

"He's done nothing to hurt himself and probably even strengthened his status. I've got Chris going 19th to the Eagles (in updated draft projection), and I can see him moving up from there."

MEL KIPER JR.

NFL Draft Analyst on Vanderbilt offensive tackle Chris Williams

DAILY

17

Average margin of victory for the Florida Gators this season

Final homecoming for Gordon

Senior point guard calls Gators his biggest rival.

by ANDREW BARGE
Sports Reporter

Most Vanderbilt fans would circle Tennessee or Kentucky on their calendars as the big rival game.

For a Florida native, though, going to Gainesville holds that title.

"(The Gators) are my rival, being from Florida. I'm always excited to play in front my family and my peers in Florida," said point guard Alex Gordon, who grew up in Pensacola.

The senior will travel to the Stephen C. O'Connell Center, commonly referred to as the "O-Dome," for the last time as a Commodore on Sunday. Despite playing in front of friends and family, however, Gordon doesn't think he'll treat the game any differently.

"From a mental perspective I'll treat it like any other game," he said. "You always want to keep a level head. If you're too hyped or too low, that's when you don't play your game."

The Commodores have yet to beat the Gators on the road in Gordon's tenure, but this year could be different. Florida, after losing all five starters from last year's championship team, features a lineup primarily consisting of underclassmen.

The Dores, meanwhile, start three experienced seniors and travel to Gainesville with the higher ranking for the first time in years.

"We're the ones ranked this time," Gordon said, who bounced back from a rough Tennessee game with an 18-point performance against LSU. "When you're ranked you carry expectations with you, so we'll have to bring it."

Vanderbilt (17-2, 2-2 Southeast Conference) sits at No. 14 in the Associated Press poll despite dropping two of its last three SEC contests. Conversely, the Gators (17-3, 4-1) have played their best basketball since league play started.

After overcoming early growing pains in the beginning of the season, Florida has won four of its first five SEC games. On Sunday, both teams will look to better establish themselves in the competitive SEC East division.

In the teams' last meeting, Vanderbilt



Senior Alex Gordon, a Pensacola native, and the rest of the Commodores come into Sunday's game against the Gators as favorites.

upset the top-ranked Gators in Memorial Gym, snapping Florida's seven-game win streak against the Commodores. Given the recent history between the two programs, don't expect either team to take Vanderbilt's superior ranking too seriously.

"For the first few years I was here, we were the underdog. Experiencing both sides of that teaches you to just play hard all the time," Gordon said. "They know that too, so being

favored doesn't mean much. It's going to be a good game regardless."

Over his four-year career, Gordon has represented Vandy as both the favorite and the underdog in big games. That's why he's planning to leave it all on the court on Sunday in his final homecoming. ■

—Andrew Barge can be reached at andrew.barge@vanderbilt.edu

friday conversation ROSS NELTNER

After torching LSU last Saturday, senior forward Ross Neltner took some time to talk to The Vanderbilt Hustler about a number of topics, including his large shoe collection.

VANDERBILT HUSTLER:

How good did it feel to get back into a good rhythm against LSU?

ROSS NELTNER: It was good. You don't have to score a bunch of points to have a good game. I think that's a misconception that fans have, but it was nice to go out and score some points after I had not played very well at Kentucky and UT. It was even better to get a win.

VH: Kentucky, Tennessee and then Florida are three of the toughest road trips of the year. Who has the toughest arena in the SEC to play in?

RN: One of those three, definitely. Arkansas is probably up there too; when they're playing well they get a lot of people there. We understand that we're in a tough stretch right now, but we feel like we still have a pretty good chance of winning down there (at Florida).

VH: Do you ever hear specific things that the hecklers say?

RN: Not really. It's one of those things that once you get in the game, you just start focusing on what you're doing and not really what everyone is talking about.

VH: How's the typical day of practice go?

RN: We get up here at about 2:15 (p.m.), get on the court by 3:15 (p.m.), get some shots up for about seven to eight minutes, stretch for another seven or

eight. Then we just do warm-up drills, shooting drills. Then we work on offense and defense, whatever coach (Stallings) thinks is important for the game coming up.

VH: What is your pre-game routine?

RN: It just depends. I listen to music, stuff like that, just rest and focus on the game and what I can do to help the team be successful.

VH: How many pairs of basketball shoes do you own?

RN: Whew, at least 20.

VH: Who is the toughest player you've had to guard?

RN: Probably (Kentucky's) Patrick Patterson. He's a big, strong guy. He's physical, he plays hard, and he knows how to use his body well.

VH: He was tougher than Tyrus Thomas every day?

RN: When I was down at LSU, Tyrus wasn't what he ended up being. He was a red-shirt; he got injured. Brandon Bass and Glen Davis were the guys. Brandon Bass is a tough guy to guard. He was a monster.

VH: Do you have any hidden talents?

RN: I play piano and guitar, but I'm not very good.

Vandy ready to 'Jam the Gym'

All tickets \$1 when Dores host Ole Miss Sunday.

by ANDREW HARD
Sports Editor

The Vanderbilt women's basketball team has the perfect recipe for a solid performance on Sunday.

After a disappointing loss Sunday in Knoxville, the Commodores had a week off to regroup and retool. They take on an Ole Miss squad that struggled in non-conference play despite a 2-1 start to the conference season.

Most importantly, they return home to Memorial Gym. When Commodore fans "Jam the Gym" on Sunday afternoon (2 p.m.), all tickets will be \$1.

Junior Christina Wirth and freshman Hannah Tuomi led the offensive attack in last Sunday's game. Wirth tied a career high with 24 points, and the up-and-coming Tuomi recorded a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

"Wirth was aggressive from the start, and I was really proud of the way she looked for her shots confidently," said coach Melanie Balcomb.

Tuomi has impressed Balcomb with her strong inside presence, starting each of the last six games for the Commodores. Tuomi's rebound total on Sunday was a career high.

"Hannah comes to fight every day in practice, and that's how she's earned herself a starting spot," Balcomb said. "It's not about understanding or doing things correctly; she's trying to do everything we teach. She's got a great attitude and a great work ethic, and good things happen to people like that."

Wirth (13.5 points per game) leads the Commodores in scoring. Helping pace the balanced attack is two-time Southeastern Conference Sixth Woman of the Year Award winner Liz Sherwood (12.9) along with junior Jennifer Risper (8.8) and sophomores Merideth Marsh (8.1) and Jessica Mooney (7.4). Vanderbilt comes into Sunday's contest averaging 72.7 points per game, good for third in the SEC.

Ole Miss is last in the SEC in scoring defense at 68.8 points per game. But the Rebels have won back-to-back conference games against then-No. 20 Arkansas and South Carolina, hoping to turn around a 6-7 non-conference record with a successful SEC slate. Ole Miss is led in scoring by 6-foot-3 junior center Shawn Goff (13.7) and sophomore guard Shantell Black (10.2).

After turning the ball over 24 times on Sunday in Knoxville, Vanderbilt looks for a more efficient offensive performance this time against the SEC's worst defensive team.

"The tough part (Sunday) was points off turnovers," Balcomb said. "(Tennessee) scored 29 points off our turnovers and 18 points off our fouls."

Sitting at 2-2 in SEC play, Vanderbilt looks to defeat the Rebels for the fifth time in the teams' last seven meetings and to move back over .500 in SEC play.

The Commodores travel to Florida and No. 14 Georgia next week before returning home to take on South Carolina Feb. 7. ■

—Andrew Hard can be reached at andrew.hard@vanderbilt.edu



DAVID PRICE REGIONAL SECOND ROUND



WHAT IS THIS?

We're running a 32-athlete, single-elimination tournament to find Vanderbilt's biggest star. You can check out the voting criteria, bracket and voting schedule below.

HOW DO I VOTE?

Go to WWW.INSIDEVANDY.COM to cast your vote. Voting for the second round of the Jay Cutler Regional ends **SUNDAY AT 5 P.M.** Results will be posted in the following issue.

1 **PEDRO ALVAREZ, JUNIOR**
Baseball, Third Baseman

- Preseason National Player of the Year and potential No. 1 pick
- Star of Team USA past two summers
- Turned down \$1 million from Red Sox to play for Vandy
- Fan favorite for his tape-measure homers

4 **MR. C**
Traditional Mascot

- "Old School"
- Recently received much-needed makeover
- "Undeflatable" spirit
- Strong and quick with good range on T-shirt tosses

2 **ALEX GORDON, SENIOR**
Basketball, Guard

- Versatile playmaker for nationally ranked squad
- "Red" is a fierce competitor who leaves it all on the floor
- Averaging 10.6 points and 3.6 assists per game
- Fan favorite for hustle and intensity

3 **D.J. MOORE, SOPHOMORE**
Football, Cornerback

- Playmaking cornerback earned second team All-SEC honors
- Six interceptions was most by a Commodore in 25 years
- Also excelled as kick returner and on offense
- Flipped into end zone after taking his interception to the house

THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:

Alvarez is college baseball's most feared hitter, while Mr. C is umm ... the nation's most feared mascot? Probably not, and despite taking down Big C in the first round, Mr. C has no chance against the All-American third baseman.

THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:

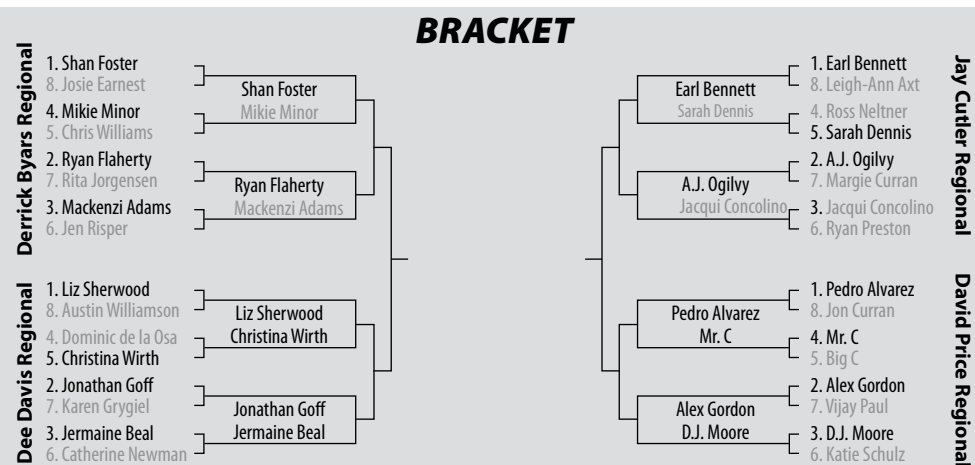
This is a great 2 vs. 3 match-up between two exciting playmakers. Gordon drives defenders crazy on the hardwood, while Moore frustrates offenses on the gridiron. What is the big difference between the two? Gordon has a Sweet 16 to his credit. Moore has two more years to take his squad to a bowl game.

SCHEDULE

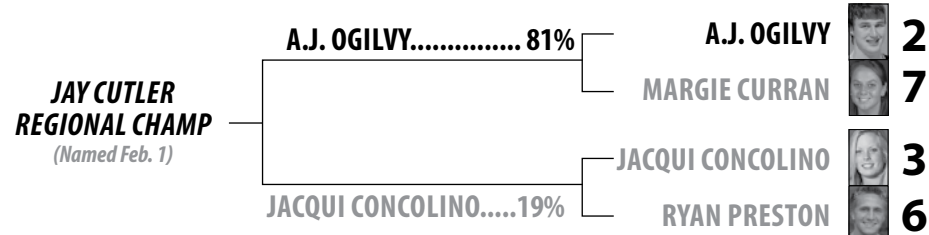
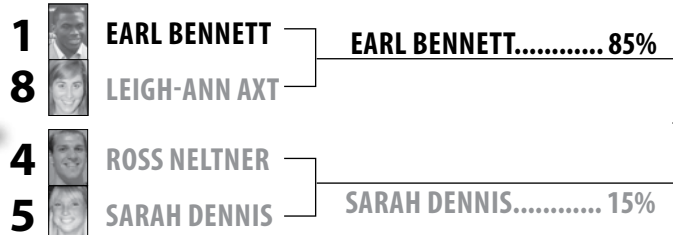
- FIRST ROUND**
1/17: Derrick Byars Regional
1/14: Jay Cutler Regional
1/16: David Price Regional
1/18: Dee Davis Regional
- SECOND ROUND**
1/21: Byars Regional
1/23: Cutler Regional
1/25: Price Regional
1/28: Davis Regional
- QUARTERFINALS**
1/30: Byars and Cutler Regionals
2/1: Price and Davis Regionals
- SEMIFINALS**
2/4: Byars Winner vs. Davis Winner
2/6: Cutler Winner vs. Price Winner
- FINALS**
2/8: Byars/Davis Winner vs. Cutler/Price Winner
- REVEAL CHAMPION**
2/11

VOTING CRITERIA

- **Individual accolades**
How big is your trophy room? Have you broken any school records, earned All-SEC honors or taken home any big-time awards?
- **Team success**
You may be talented, but remember the name on the front of the jersey is more important than the one on the back. Have you led your team to the Big Dance or won an SEC title?
- **National exposure**
You may be a hero in Nashville, but do people around the country even know you exist? Have you earned All-American status or appeared on Mel Kiper's Draft Board?
- **Fan appeal**
You may be big-time, but when you walk around campus, can fans even recognize you? Do they wear your jersey, cheer for you at games and friend (maybe even poke) you on Facebook?
- **"It" factor**
It's hard to quantify, but do you have the intangibles every star needs?



JAY CUTLER REGIONAL FIRST ROUND RESULTS



JAY CUTLER REGIONAL CHAMP
(Named Feb. 1)

Commodores look to start season strong

by **CHIP ROBIE**
Sports Reporter

After a promising 2007 campaign saw the Vanderbilt men's tennis team score an upset victory over Tulsa in the NCAA tournament, good things lie ahead for the Commodores.

The team returns its top four players, each of whom has been ranked in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Top 125 at some point during his career. Ryan Preston, who is twice a member of the All-Southeastern Conference first team, will play at the No. 1 position during his senior year.

He will be followed by Nick Cromydas, Vijay Paul and Evan Dufaux, in no particular playing order. Also returning are sophomores James Moye and Scott Lieberman.

Cromydas, a junior, emerged as a solid talent at the No. 2 slot last year and is a proven competitor, having notched a number of hard-fought victories in the competitive SEC.

Paul, asophomore, is immensely talented with his versatile game

and excellent footwork. His emergence last year as one of the SEC's top newcomers has been rewarded with the No. 79 ranking in the ITA poll.

Coach Ian Duvenage has brought in a talented crop of freshmen who will play right away. Bryant Salcedo, a top-ranked recruit who played through a match in the fall with a broken arm, looks most ready for SEC play, but Alex Zotov and Adam Baker aren't far behind.

"Bryant has been terrific, but so have Alex and Adam," said Duvenage. "All three of them will get some extensive playing time."

Fortunately, the freshmen have some veterans to look up to. Among them, Preston and Paul will provide a helping hand as they adjust to the traditionally competitive SEC.

"I hope that some of the freshmen get a chance to see action early and experience what I saw last year," Paul said. "Hopefully I can help make their transition into college tennis matches as effective as possible."

Bolstered by a solid top four

and a good freshman class, the tennis team will compete for a top ranking.

Duvenage speculated they are capable of being a top-10 team, but he acknowledges the divide that separates a top-10 team from a top-30 team isn't great.

"As far as expectations go, we really don't have any right now," Preston said. "We know we have some good talent and could potentially play great this year, but we haven't competed together yet, so it remains to be seen where we stand as a team."

The Commodores will get a shot to play great this Sunday at 11 a.m. when they host Michigan State at the Brownlee O. Currey Jr. Tennis Center.

"They're a tough opening match for us," Preston cautioned. "The first match of the year always involves a lot of excitement and some nerves, so against a solid team like Michigan State we need to simply play solid and let the result take care of itself." ■

—Chip Robie can be reached at richard.s.robie@vanderbilt.edu



PAUL LEVY / VU Media Relations

While senior Ryan Preston said the Commodores have the potential to be a great team, they enter the season without any expectations.

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The gestures, expressions, tones and body language the races use that annoy each other.

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2L

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

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

1/23/08 SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Workers' refrain
 - DDE
 - Residences
 - Actress Paquin
 - Actor Mineo
 - Made wool repairs
 - Clumsy clods
 - Nincompoop
 - Powdered
 - Defensive barriers
 - River through Paris
 - Andes autocrat
 - Squealer
 - Terminate
 - Model Campbell
 - Asner and Begley
 - Crude fellows
 - Wept
 - H.H. Munro
 - Cables
 - Extremes
 - "The ___ Mutiny"
 - Perfumed packet
 - Fellow
 - Social stratum
 - "Hoosier Poet"
 - In general
 - Abound
 - Marry again
 - Lap dog
 - Hot-platter platform
 - "___ Now or Never"
 - Playthings
 - Take as given
 - Instigate litigation
 - Long periods
 - Make shoe repairs
 - Male or female
 - Mets stadium

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15			16					
17					18			19					
20				21			22		23				
			24				25	26					
27	28	29				30	31				32		
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37					38	39				40	41	42	43
			44	45				46	47				
48	49	50		51			52		53				
54			55				56	57					
58						59	60				61	62	63
64					65		66				67		
68							69				70		
71							72				73		

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1/25/08

- DOWN**
- New Mexico art mecca
 - No-see-um
 - Scuttlebutt
 - Like Mussolini
 - Hayes or Stern
 - "The Accidental Tourist" director
 - Choice word
 - Knack
 - Boys of Rap
 - Young hooter
 - Easily led
 - Leveled
 - Passover repasts
 - Patella location
 - Shop
 - Out of order
 - Natl. network
 - Notable time
 - Penguinlike bird
 - Building lots
 - Cheap liquor
 - Kills one of every ten
 - Leaving nothing out
 - Org. of Flyers
 - Actress Ruby
 - Piggery
 - University domain
 - Type of rug or code
 - Pestle's partner
 - Strongly disinclined

1/23/08 SOLUTIONS

G	A	S	P		M	A	F	I	A		E	L	S	A	
A	G	A	R		E	L	A	N	D		L	A	I	D	
F	E	T	E		D	I	T	C	H		B	I	G	D	
F	R	E	C	K	L	E	S		E	P	O	C	H	S	
					E	L	A	N		C	R	E	W		
S	A	P	P	E	R		S	H	I	P	S	O	U	T	
C	R	A	T	E		S	W	I	N	E		A	S	H	
O	O	P	S		O	W	I	N	G		B	R	I	E	
U	M	A		I	N	I	G	O		T	E	E	N	S	
R	A	S	H	N	E	S	S		D	R	E	D	G	E	
					A	C	T	S		L	O	A	F		
H	O	N	C	H	O		D	E	W	Y	E	E	Y	E	D
A	M	O	K		O	L	I	V	E		D	O	V	E	
G	I	V	E		N	A	V	E	L		U	K	E	S	
S	T	A	R		E	P	E	E	S		P	E	R	K	

- Somewhat recent
- "David" or "The Thinker"
- Variety show
- English county

- Serpent's warning
- Fiddlesticks!
- "Auld Lang ___"
- Pelion's twin peak
- Part of GTE

n e c t a r

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