



The Hustler sports staff hands out its mid-season awards.

See sports, page 6



McCain likely to combine forces with Huckabee.

See Opinion, page 5

Unsurprisingly, drinking and driving gets a thumbs down.

See The Verdict, page 5



TODAY'S WEATHER



Morning Showers, 59/32
Extended forecast, page 2

The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008 • 120TH YEAR, NO. 13

THE WALL

compiled by SARA GAST

THIS WEEK

Yearbook portraits
The Commodore yearbook's portrait photographers are in Sarratt 112, today through Friday. Undergraduates are invited to stop by from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is no cost to sit for portraits.

TODAY

'Crash Course in Writing About Film'

This extended workshop will introduce students to one aspect of formal analysis they can use to construct written arguments about film. New (or refreshed) skills will be practiced on Robert Zemeckis' "Back to the Future" from 4 to 7 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Room 117.

TODAY

'The Jena 6: The case, the rally and the aftermath'

Students are invited to come kick off the World on Wednesday Black History Month special and hear more about the controversial Jena 6 case, in Jena, La. Graduate student Erika Burnett, who attended the rally in Jena, will share her stories from the march that attracted thousands of supporters.

TODAY

'Serve God, Save the Planet'

Dr. Matthew Sleeth, who rejected a lucrative medical career and materialistic lifestyle for environmental activism, will speak about that transition at 4 p.m. in Benton Chapel.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7

'Of Rage and Redemption'

The art exhibit from Ecuadorian painter and graphic artist Oswaldo Guayasamin opens in the Fine Arts Gallery and Sarratt Gallery. The exhibit runs until March 20.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7

Nobel Laureate lecture

Rigoberta Menchu, a Mayan Indian from Guatemala internationally recognized for her work for social justice and cultural reconciliation for indigenous people, will speak at 7 p.m. in Benton Chapel.

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

Williams and Smith to lead VSG

Duo plans to start work today.

by SARA GAST
News Editor

Joseph Williams and Wyatt Smith won the Vanderbilt Student Government presidential elections Tuesday night, becoming the second VSG team to lead the student body.

"Unbelievable," Williams said after the results were announced. "Wyatt's been here before, but I've been zero for two in the last two elections. I guess this was the one to win."

About 36 percent of the undergraduate population voted in the election, which is the second in school history after Interhall and the Student Government Association merged to form VSG in 2007. Seniors Cara Bilotta and Perry Gragg won the election last spring.

The percentage by which Williams and Smith beat candidates Jared Anderson and Courtney Holliday is not being released, according to attorney general Andrew Gossett.

"It's amazing," Smith said. "Whenever you're in an election like this, you never know what is going to happen. Everyone has such a strong base."

Both Williams and Smith emphasized their intention to begin acting immediately.

"Tomorrow we go to work," said Smith, who said room reservations and Vandy Vans were some of the first issues the duo would tackle. "We're going to e-mail Dean (of Students Mark) Bandas tomorrow morning. There's a lot to be done."

Williams echoed that idea, saying the team was ready and able to get to work right away.

"There's a lot of things in place already," he said.

Please see **VSG**, page 3



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Joseph Williams and Wyatt Smith win the 2008 VSG presidential election Tuesday evening in Sarratt. The pair ran on a platform based on the "upperclassman experience."

Super Tuesday students survive severe weather to vote, view results

by TAMESHA DERICO
Contributing Reporter

Rain, thunder and an eventual tornado warning did not stop some students from attending the Super Tuesday viewing party at The Commons. The event, sponsored by Election Alliance, featured free coffee and election results from MSNBC and CNN on the big screens in the Commons lounge.

Students cited different reasons for their interest in the Super Tuesday primaries. Sophomore Courtney Towner has not yet registered to vote, but she is following the race closely.

"It's important to me because it is the first time that I can vote," she said. "I plan to register in my home state and vote in November." Sophomore Alexa Marcotte said she believes it is important to vote in the primary so that she can "have a say about who the nominee is for (her) party, to put the best candidate forward."

Lilly Massa-McKinley, program coordinator for the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, works closely with Election Alliance and

said she believes students are so interested because of this year's candidates.

"The candidates on both sides are really inspiring young people and are intentionally reaching out to them as a valued constituency," she said. "As far as comparing (this year's primary) to past elections, I think the candidates themselves are the biggest factor turning out younger voters."

A variety of national issues were also on students' minds. Towner says she worries about global warming; Marcotte has her eye on Clinton's policies.

"I voted for Hillary Clinton because I like her health care and education policies," she said. "However, the national debt is a major problem because we will bear the burden when we are older. We need strong economic policies, and we need to educate the next generation about it."

Junior Kevin Duong is from Knoxville and cast his ballot in Tennessee today.

"I support Clinton because of her education policy," he said.

Charity Hemphill is only a sophomore, but she already



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students watch the Super Tuesday results in The Commons Center on big screens in the lounge. Students have been more politically active throughout the last month.

worries about the job market for Vanderbilt graduates.

"Health care is important," she said, "especially the economic impact of it. So many people come here to be doctors, and it will punish our generation of doctors if we socialize health care."

The viewing party ended as students were ushered into the basement of The Commons during the tornado warning, but Massa-McKinley said she was impressed by the recent political activism.

"I noticed growing interest on campus as Super Tuesday inched closer and closer," Massa-McKinley

said. "Students turned out in large numbers for the most recent CNN debates as well as the Vanderbilt Caucus held last Friday."

Political Science Professor John Geer agreed for the most part with Massa-McKinley.

"There was more interest in Harold Ford's campaign last year than the presidential primary this year," he said. "(However,) I suspect the fall campaign will be very different." ■

—Tamesha Derico can be reached at tamesha.s.derico@vanderbilt.edu

ELECTION UPDATE

McCain pushes for GOP command on Super Tuesday; Clinton, Obama battle for Democrats

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain swept a string of delegate-rich, East Coast primaries Tuesday night, reaching for command of the race for the Republican presidential nomination. Democrats Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama traded victories in an epic struggle from Connecticut to California, The Associated Press reported.

McCain, the early Republican front-runner whose campaign nearly unraveled six months ago, won in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware to gain all 198 delegates at stake there. He also put Illinois and Oklahoma in his column.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee won a series of Bible Belt victories, in Alabama and Georgia as well as his own home state. He also triumphed at the Republican West Virginia convention, and told The Associated Press in an interview he would campaign on.

Please see **SUPER TUESDAY**, page 3

Experience requirement remains intact

Students vote against resolution in Tuesday's referendum.

by JARRED AMATO
Editor in Chief

Students have spoken.

While the resolution to eliminate the one-year experience requirement for Vanderbilt Student Government president passed in both the senate and house, students voted against it in Tuesday's referendum. Much to the surprise of senators Fabiani Duarte and Wyatt Smith.

"I'm very surprised," said Duarte, who proposed the resolution with Smith and Campus Services Co-Chair Tyler Armstrong, "because it passed unanimously in the senate, passed again in the house after a healthy debate and both presidents supported it."

Smith also found the fact that 1,274 students voted "no" to the amendment, which would allow any undergraduate to lead VSG, compared to 806 who voted "yes" perplexing.

The experience requirement as it stands requires presidential candidates to have served for one year in VSG.

"I'm disappointed it didn't pass," Smith said. "On one hand, I respect the opinion of the students who voted. On the other hand, the wording (of the referendum) was vague and seemed a bit contradictory in the way it was laid out."

Duarte said he also felt the amendment could have been more clear.

"I think I voted against my own resolution," he said, expressing confusion about the wording.

By voting "yes," students said they did not want there to be an experience requirement for VSG President and that anyone could run for the office.

By voting "no," students said they wanted to keep the requirement.

"I don't think we did a good job publicizing this and making it clear what students were voting for," Smith said. "Still, there's a reason we have a referendum, and we respect that. We're not going to try to overturn anything this cycle."

Duarte agreed. "I believe wholeheartedly in the resolution," he said, "but we have to do it the right way." ■

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



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ODDS & ENDS

WEATHER

compiled by SARA GAST

TUESDAY



Partly Cloudy, 48/35

WEDNESDAY



Partly Cloudy, 55/37

THURSDAY



Sunny, 47/30

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by SARA GAST

Sunday, Feb. 3, 4:10 p.m.:

A GPS tracking device was stolen from a vehicle in South Garage.

Sunday, Feb. 3, 10 p.m.:

Gift cards and music CDs were stolen from a vehicle in South Garage.

Sunday, Feb. 3, 11:26 p.m.:

Cash was stolen from a vehicle in South Garage.

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 SARA GAST

1 Stocks tumble as weak service-sector report stirs concerns about the economy's health

NEW YORK — Wall Street plunged Tuesday, The Associated Press reported, driving the Dow Jones industrials down 370 points after investors saw an unexpected contraction in the service sector as evidence the economy is sinking into recession. It was the Dow's biggest point drop since last August.

The volatility that pummeled stocks in January returned with the news the service sector shrank last month for the first time since March 2003.

2 Presidential race gives a political flavor to Mardi Gras celebration

NEW ORLEANS — Fat Tuesday and Super Tuesday collided on the streets of the French Quarter, where revelers added a distinctly political flavor to the city's annual raucous bash.

Among the men dressed in leather loincloths and the women flashing glimpses of flesh for beads were some whose costumes had political themes, according to The Associated Press. Louisiana voters don't head to the polls until Saturday, so many let their costumes make political statements on a day when 24 other states were holding presidential primaries and caucuses.

3 Vanderbilt area voters support a variety of candidates

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — As the school day ended at Eakin Elementary near Vanderbilt, more voters filed into the gym to cast their vote. Poll officer Rob Heywood said there was a line early this morning — but no more than a 15-minute wait — and that foot traffic had been steady all day.

Tennessean blogger Angela Patterson said she did notice a little more diversity on a few levels at this precinct; the difference also showed in the choices.

4 Some Super Tuesday voters find machine hiccups, delays

Scattered voting problems, including machine glitches and long lines, were reported early in some states in the biggest Super Tuesday ever held in America, according to The Associated Press. But overall, voting appeared to go smoothly.

Eight precincts in Chicago had minor problems and a ninth was expected to stay open for several extra hours after misplaced voting equipment caused a nearly two-hour delay in opening the polls.

5 Airline delays in 2007 second worst ever

WASHINGTON — A quarter of domestic flights failed to arrive on time in 2007 — the industry's second poorest performance on record — and analysts say it is likely to get worse.

According to The Associated Press, more than 26 percent of commercial flights in the U.S. arrived late or were canceled last year as rising passenger demand and an industry preference for smaller planes intensified congestion in the skies and on runways.

6 Restraining order accuses Lutfi of taking over Spears' life

LOS ANGELES — A restraining order against the man who's been at Britney Spears' side during her downward spiral alleges he drugged her, took over her finances and controlled the ravenous paparazzi "like a general," The Associated Press reported.

The order against Sam Lutfi was based on a lengthy declaration from Spears' mother, Lynne, who says Spears met the 33-year-old in October 2007 and he "essentially moved into Britney's home and has purported to take control of her life, home and finances."

7 7-time Cy Young winner Clemens speaks under oath to congressional lawyers

WASHINGTON — Roger Clemens spoke under oath for about five hours to congressional lawyers Tuesday, according to The Associated Press, where he told them he did not use performance-enhancing drugs.

"It was great to be able to tell them what I've been saying all along — that I've never used steroids or growth hormone," Clemens said after emerging from the offices of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

8 US faces fresh claims of civilian deaths in Iraq

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military faced complaints Tuesday from its Sunni allies over claims that more civilians had been killed by American forces, The Associated Press reported, amplifying tensions as the Pentagon tries to calm anger over an air strike last week that claimed innocent lives.

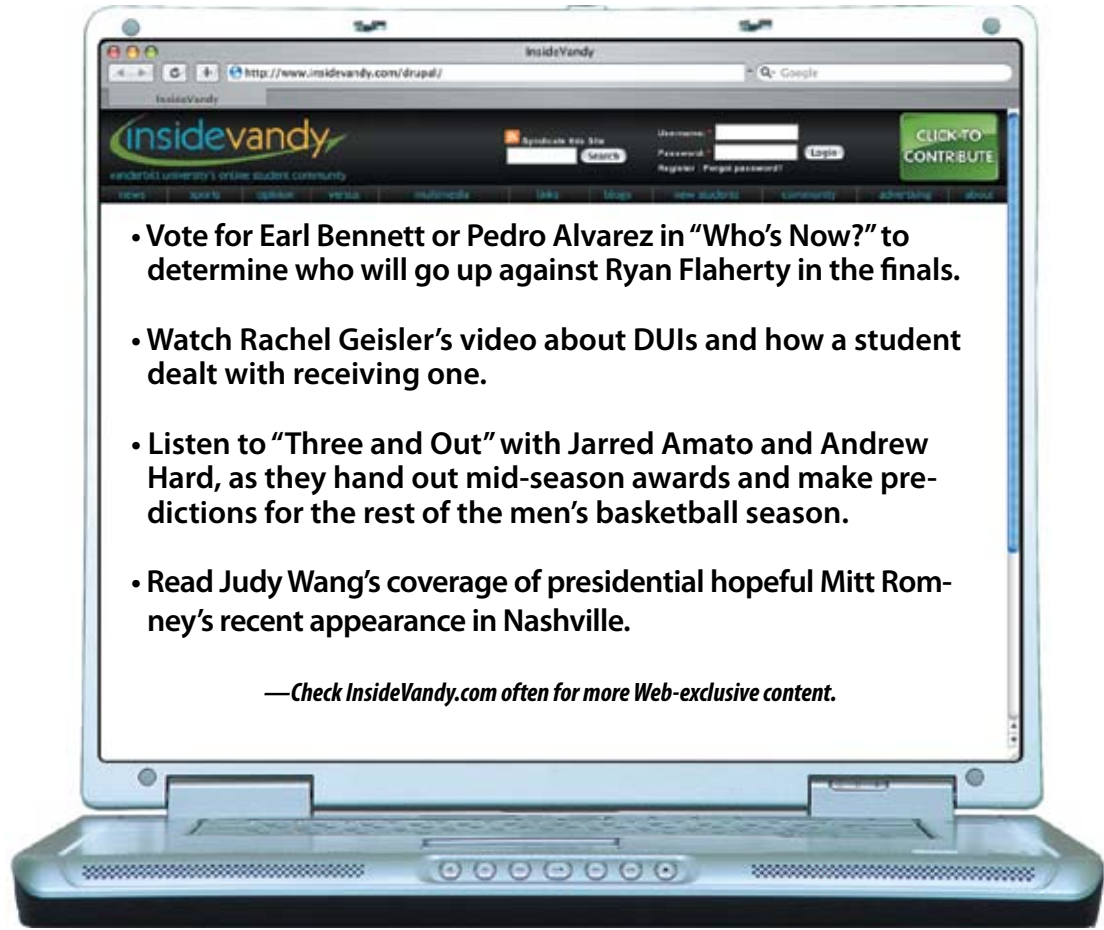
The disputes have further strained ties with anti-al-Qaida fighters considered crucial in turning the tide against extremist violence.

9 Vanderbilt group stages Evening of Sacred Blues

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Buddy Miller, Jimmy Hall and Ashley Cleveland with Kenny Greenburg are among the performers who will perform gospel blues songs at a concert that is part of a semester-long study of "God in Music City," Vanderbilt News Service reported.

"Tryin' to Get Home: An Evening of Sacred Blues" will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, at Downtown Presbyterian Church at 154 5th Ave. N. in downtown Nashville. Contributions will be accepted at the door to benefit MusiCares and the Gospel Music Trust Fund.

WHAT'S NEW ON INSIDEVANDY.COM



- Vote for Earl Bennett or Pedro Alvarez in "Who's Now?" to determine who will go up against Ryan Flaherty in the finals.
- Watch Rachel Geisler's video about DUIs and how a student dealt with receiving one.
- Listen to "Three and Out" with Jarred Amato and Andrew Hard, as they hand out mid-season awards and make predictions for the rest of the men's basketball season.
- Read Judy Wang's coverage of presidential hopeful Mitt Romney's recent appearance in Nashville.

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

SNAPSHOT

MANNA MUSIC



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Jeb Raulston and Scott Krenitski perform at Manna Project International's annual MannaFit on Tuesday evening in the Student Life Center. The event featured music, food and prizes, and all proceeds went to Manna to fund its work in Latin America.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT

YEARBOOK PORTRAITS TODAY

Record numbers of students already had their portraits taken for the 2008 Commodore yearbook. This is your last chance to be included.

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Sitting for portraits is fast, easy and free

Filmmaker presents energy production's everyday problems

by **ARYEH HILLMAN**
Contributing Reporter

It's the little things that will save the world.

"My belief is that we need to show people how our small impact and small choices on a daily basis can make a big impact on the world and that it's not that difficult to make a different choice on a daily basis," said environmental activist and filmmaker Jeff Barrie. "It's really difficult to motivate people to conserve energy, and I think the most powerful way is to show them a film about what's going on, what the problems are and what the solutions are."

Barrie, European studies associate professor Florence Faucher-King and earth and environmental science senior lecturer Brendan Bream spoke on a panel Monday evening following a showing of Barrie's film, "Kilowatt Ours."

Barrie said in the movie he tried to make environmental

problems more imaginable to the average person. At one point in the film, Barrie explained one kilowatt-hour, the amount of electricity needed to power about 10 light bulbs for an hour, takes roughly a pound of coal.

"That was my motivation for making this film the way I did," Barrie said, "looking at the unseen costs of energy production in America today and what we can do about it, how we can turn that around."

Unlike other doomsday films, Barrie's sought to show environmental problems, which are not intractable.

"I didn't just want to make another film about the problems, but I wanted to focus on solutions to those as well," Barrie said.

Moreover, Barrie showed using energy-efficient devices like special light bulbs and geothermal heating is pragmatic since people can save money with them.

Barrie was invited to campus by Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling, a student-led environmental group participating in Focus the

Nation, a nationwide program educating elementary- to university-age students about global warming and the importance of clean energy.

Freshman Matt Irwin said he was inspired by an idea Barrie presented about ways to reduce the use of energy at Vanderbilt.

"During the discussion he hit upon the point of potentially getting an energy audit done at Vanderbilt," Irwin said, referring to Barrie's idea of bringing in a third party to evaluate ways Vanderbilt could reduce its energy usage.

"I'd like to tell his point to SPEAR and to Net Impact to see what we can do to get the administrators here to do an energy audit," Irwin said, "to turn off the lights in buildings that aren't used at night, turn down the heat in buildings that aren't used at night, such as Stevenson and Featheringill Hall and just begin to eliminate some of the waste and some of the cost we are facing that we don't need to be facing." ■

—Aryeh Hillman can be reached at aryeh.b.hillman@vanderbilt.edu

—To listen to Barrie discuss his inspiration, go to: insidevandy.com

VSG: Team to begin work, invoke change immediately

From **VSG**, page 1

They stressed that they intended to capitalize on this period of transition, which both dubbed "the honeymoon session."

"Things are already started," Williams said. "Now is the time to push. We're ready to start. We're ready to put the students' voice out there."

Anderson and Holliday said making sure students are heard was always their main concern.

"Ultimately, it's all about the students," Holliday said. "It doesn't matter who actually wins as long as the students have a voice."

Williams' and Smith's platform centered around

the "upperclassman experience," and they believe a strength for them is their already-established relationship with administration.

"That's why I like this time," Williams said. "I get to sit down in meetings with Cara and administrators and start working."

Connecting The Commons to main campus and expanding dining options were some of his initial priorities, Williams said.

"We need to keep pushing forward," he said. "We need to make real change." ■

—Sara Gast can be reached at sara.m.gast@vanderbilt.edu



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Romney rallies at Pancake Pantry



JUDY WANG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Republican Mitt Romney rolled into town early Monday morning, stopping by Pancake Pantry to meet the locals and discuss his platform. At press time, Romney had Super Tuesday victories in four states.

—To read more about this event, go to: insidevandy.com

SUPER TUESDAY: Obama, Clinton vie for delegates

From **SUPER TUESDAY**, page 1

"The one way you can't win a race is to quit it, and until somebody beats me, I'm going to answer the bell for every round of this fight," he said.

Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, won a home state victory. He also took Utah, where fellow Mormons supported his candidacy. He, too, breathed defiance.

"We're going to go all the way to the convention. We're going to win this thing," he told supporters in Boston.

Democrats played out a historic struggle between Clinton, seeking to become the first female president, and Obama, hoping to become the first black to win the White House.

Clinton won at home in New York as well as in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Arkansas, where she was first lady for more than a decade. She also won the caucuses in American Samoa.

The former first lady said, "I look forward to continuing our campaign and our debate about how to leave this country better off for the next generation."

Obama won Connecticut, Georgia, Alabama, Delaware, Utah and his home state of Illinois. He also prevailed in North Dakota, Minnesota and Kansas, three caucus states.

After an early series of low-delegate, single-state contests, Super Tuesday was anything but

SUMMING IT UP: SUPER TUESDAY RESULTS

Compiled by Tamesha Derico
Results courtesy of MSNBC

Republican Party

Huckabee: Alabama, Arkansas, West Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee

McCain: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Missouri

Romney: Massachusetts, Utah, North Dakota, Montana

Democratic Party

Clinton: Arkansas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Tennessee, New Jersey, New York

Obama: Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Utah, Idaho, Connecticut, Colorado

Too Close to Call: Missouri, New Mexico

small — its primaries and caucuses were spread across nearly half the country in the most wide-open presidential campaign in memory.

The result was a double-barreled set of races, Obama and Clinton fighting for delegates as well as bragging rights in individual states, the Republicans doing the same.

Polling place interviews with voters suggested subtle shifts in the political landscape, potentially significant as the races push on through the campaign calendar. ■

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OUR VIEW

Williams moves VSG forward

Since the beginning of this semester, Vanderbilt Student Government has been more active and accomplished than any other time in recent memory. If it was to abandon this productivity after the election, VSG will do a disservice to itself and the students on this campus.

Too often during leadership changes in VSG — for that matter, most organizations — an idle period ensues. The interrupted plans from past leaders become permanently unresolved while the goals of the new leaders remain unrealized until they are comfortably in office. Cara Bilotta's desire to move next year's elections to after spring break certainly recognizes this trend.

Newly elected Joseph Williams, however, has already begun work. Already, he has assumed the responsibility of meeting with administrators, clearly recognizing the gap in action following VSG elections each spring.

The admirable immediacy and enthusiasm Williams brings to his position illustrates the wisdom the overwhelming majority of the student body demonstrated in electing him to office Tuesday. We are definitely excited to hear Williams's plans to begin work immediately.

Progress toward many of the goals Williams has articulated can certainly be made even before spring break,

particularly considering his ability to lobby the administration and lay groundwork in that capacity.

With the upcoming Senate elections, there will be an additional amount of turnover for the new president and vice president to overcome. Because of this, Williams and Smith must take care to keep their platform close at hand to maintain their momentum. Hopefully, though, the existing leaders and this new group of leaders will take note of Williams and Smith's immediate enthusiasm and sense of purpose and follow suit for the remainder of this semester.

In not slowing down at all during this transition, VSG has made a critical stride.

LETTER

Black History Month must be more than ritual

To the Editor:

Originally, Negro Achievement Week was created to stress and highlight the contributions of the black American to society as a whole. Fast forward 30 years, and I find myself wondering if Black History Month has become just another ritual.

For most of society, the contributions and history of black Americans are irrelevant. Our history as a people has been reduced to Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and George Carver, while the likes of Asa Phillip Randolph, The Cargo of the White Lion and Edward Bouchet have faded into darkness. As a kid I would ask my mom about February, and she would say, "We have Black History Month so people will know we have a history and we are Americans too." Though

Black History Month should be a time in which we consider our own talent expression and value of character. It should be a time in which we pay homage to those who lived during a very eventful past 400 years, regardless of race."

I was once a firm believer black history and American history are one and the same, the wisdom I have developed over the years has led me to agree with my mom. Black History Month has become necessary because without it our history would vanish into the shadows.

In a very personal way, February is one of the greatest months of my year. It is during this month we as a society come face to face with some of the greatest moments in American history, as well as some of the more putrid. As a fan of history, I read and revisit the world's greatest triumphs and failures on a daily basis. In theory, even if at no other time, February should serve as an occasion for discussion, reflection and self-examination. Black History Month should be a time in which we consider our own talent expression and value of character. It should be a time in which we pay homage to those who lived during a very eventful past 400 years, regardless of race.

My conflict is a part of me has always believed this month strengthens the segregation it was intended to neutralize. But I overwhelmingly fear that without it, black history will always be abridged, containing only Martin's dream, Rosa's bus and George's peanuts and soybeans. I fail to believe the discontinuation of this month would be greeted by the overdue insertion of black history into its rightful place in American history.

Black History Month is quickly becoming a ritual, just another way to describe the shortest month of the year. Sadly, if this month does become something we just do, how much history will be lost as a result? On the same accord, if we as a society only confront some of the most important timeframes in history (civil rights, Jim Crow, slavery) on a very superficial level for just a few weeks per year, what will be the final cost?

Steven D. Townsend
Graduate School

Biased television generally harmless



Thomas Shattuck, Columnist

Do I think bias is bad for journalism? Well, this depends on what you call journalism. In the Op-Eds and shows like "The Daily Show" or "The Colbert Report," I would say bias should not only be expected, but encouraged. The bias they give gives a fresh and sometimes amusing perspective, and since you already know their basic slant, it allows you to interpret their points objectively. There are those who take "Hannity & Colmes" seriously, as if the two were prophets, but there are also people who have vegetation fetishes; this is just the way life is. Since those who watch it seriously are only hearing what they already believe and those who disagree with the personality's opinion don't actually watch the show, the biases presented are generally harmless.

I can't quite say this for the news section. Those who present the news do so as if every exhalation drips with pure truth so tangible you can see it. The news should always strive to be as accurate as it can.

Free speech entails the freedom of political bias



Justin Poythress, Columnist

We should not only expect political bias in journalism and media, but we should welcome it. Political bias falls under freedom of speech, one of our most inalienable rights which have made this country great, right up there with shopping at Wal-Mart and laughing at scientologists.

Besides, no matter how hard one might try, it's really impossible for a writer to prevent at least a bit of their own opinion from leaking into a story. The Patriots are evil. Who wants to read an article or watch a news story not slightly slanted toward one's own point of view? You may be wondering why it is all media outlets, outside The Hustler, are liberal leaning. This is because Democrats have more time to follow the news while expecting free handouts delivered by the government: a theory which may or may not stem from my own political bias.

QUICK SHOTS

One Issue,
Four Responses

Is political bias a bad thing in journalism?



Journalism different than entertainment
Glenna DeRoy, Guest Columnist

Political opinion has its place in media, but not in journalism.

Niche publications, columnists and television commentators all add a different perspective to the spectrum of media options. Though these sources — most notably celebrity cable news "journalists" — purport to deliver news, they offer opinion. These men and women are not journalists; they seek to entertain, not inform. Journalism — and those who wish to be called journalists — should remain free from political bias. It has become commonplace to consider "the media" biased, but "the media" may be too general a term. It encompasses everyone — from Chris Matthews and Bill O'Reilly to Matt Bai and Chris Cillizza. Chances are you do not recognize the names of those last two men, the only ones in the list who should be termed journalists. The reports they file — whether in a newspaper, magazine or blog — should remain unbiased at all times. But the media as a whole should welcome political opinion, as long as a clear distinction can be made between slanted commentary and straight news.



Political bias enlightens public
Amy Sobhani, Columnist

A lot of people complain about bias in the media, but political bias in journalism is not necessarily a bad thing, as long as journalists report factual information to the public.

I personally despise neutral news reporting. It makes everything dry and boring because the reporter does not want to accidentally slip up and reveal his or her own political views. Again, who cares if a story is a little biased? It's perfectly all right to insert politically charged language in a "neutral" news piece, just as long as the reporter is not secretly getting paid by an outside religious group.

Political bias in journalism can actually be enlightening. It allows people to see the other side's point of view, which could help bridge the divide between the left and the right. Plus, it would stir up a lot of controversy, and who doesn't enjoy a little controversy?

—Interested in writing a Quick Shot? To suggest an issue or question, e-mail opinion@vanderbilthustler.com

COLUMN

Identity comes at the expense of reality



THOMAS SHATTUCK
Columnist

I have a slight problem: the Facebook Political Compass application. Everyone seems to have it, but it really doesn't tell me anything about anyone. I can't think of a single person who is strictly liberal or conservative. Most people are a mix of ideas constantly in conflict and getting jumbled together in some abstract thought process. The compass application, however, just averages the answers and gives a nice, simple readout. This can't be right.

Take me, for example: I'm apparently halfway between liberal and moderate. Seems reasonable enough, until you

actually find out what my beliefs are. I support higher taxes supporting larger government with a focus on education and social services. Pretty liberal enough, but it's only one facet of my political ideologies. The liberal appellation stops making sense when you take into account I support enforced military service for all residents as a form of civic duty I consider a fundamental base of a democratic society.

Furthermore, I believe personal responsibility supersedes the moral responsibility of government. This would involve legalization and lesser restrictions for a lot of substances and a complete revision of civil law (think lawsuits). I still can't figure out how this

makes me slightly liberal. I think this makes me odd, a score that apparently cannot be represented on my compass, so why bother with it?

This is the crux of the problem. We all want to be identifiable. Facebook works off the idea you can be accurately identified through an almost negligible amount of personal information. We become two-dimensional cardboard cutouts, readily digestible by anyone interested enough to look us up. Instead of making the application more complex to define us, we become defined by its limitations. We become simpler. You can see this in the festering boil of racial bigotry and general incompetence MTV

Please see **SHATTUCK**, 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.

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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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COLUMN

A tale of four candidates and two campaigns



KATHERINE MILLER
Opinion Editor

With Mike Huckabee's jaunt around the South on Tuesday, picking up delegates like little evangelical Easter eggs, he has seen a substantial gain in political leverage. Valentine's Day approaches, and it's time for a little awkwardly nonchalant card exchange by John McCain's locker. McCain, meanwhile, blasted through New York, Illinois and California while pulling Missouri out as well. At this point, the McCain-Huckabee ticket seems, and moreover, feels more than likely.

The exchange has a bit of a mail-order bride vibe to it, admittedly — a tenuous marriage of convenience designed to appeal to independents and national defense-minded conservatives while inviting the religious right and Southeast to ride in the side car on the way to the presidency. On the other hand, however, for all their differences, McCain and Huckabee share teen idol status among starry-eyed members of the media. McCain's pragmatism and wit combined with Huckabee's easy demeanor and folk charm could hold enormous sway, even among the Obama-Oprah-Kennedy shrine.

Of course, with Hillary Clinton's victory in California late last night (too late, unfortunately, for me to devote the analysis I wanted to provide for it), the Republican ticket must be viewed within the context of a McCain-Clinton battle. Keeping in mind Clinton's icy

centrism, McCain's independent voter appeal and the extra push that Huckabee's Christian constituency can provide could prove exceptionally significant in a race between two Washington establishment candidates, in a contest that would either read straight out of Emily Post, or else "Heathers." In battleground swing states like Missouri, particularly, where evangelicals and moderates fought it out Tuesday (ultimately favoring McCain), McCain's marriage of convenience may be what takes Clinton down.

Keeping this strange, unlikely partnership between two candidates declared dead last summer for lack of funding and flailing campaign infrastructure, it's of interest to compare them to another pair of Republican candidates: Mitt Romney and Fred Thompson. No two candidates wasted more rock star potential than Romney and Thompson.

Romney's executive demeanor and experience, economic acumen and sexy, sexy hair looked presidential. Instead of capitalizing on financial plans and private sector experience and positioning himself as a serious domestic policy threat, Romney devised an ill-fated, ill-advised stab at Iowa, home to populist social conservatives to build momentum. Yes, the former governor from the bastion state of liberalism, who actively participated in the Electric Moderate on Social Issues Slide was going to win Iowa. Seriously, who thought of this plan? The fruits of this modern marvel of political thinking can be

seen in the results of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama where Romney placed third in all three contests.

Meanwhile, Thompson translated his political savior status from last summer into a seeming indifference concerning the game of politics that, at best, seemed a little reluctant Washington, and at worst seemed like apathy. Recently, Mike Warren asked me why I have such a strong distaste for Thompson. I don't dislike Thompson, actually; in fact, I appreciate his deadly assassin move in South Carolina on behalf of McCain. At the end of the day, however, it cannot be denied that Thompson exchanged party fervor and breathless anticipation, albeit misplaced on a candidate who had the proper conservative credentials but lacked magnetic zeal, for lazy campaigning.

In the end, I believe, it all comes down to one thing: patience. Thompson had too much, Romney had too little, and McCain and Huckabee had just enough to survive last summer and thrive when momentum actually mattered.

It's not a perfect ticket, of course, but these aren't perfect times and there's a lot to like between McCain's ability to just get stuff done and Huckabee's earnestness and faith. And, at the end of the day, President John McCain is not President Hillary Clinton.

—Katherine Miller is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at katherine.m.miller@vanderbilt.edu

THE VERDICT

Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff!
Compiled by Katherine Miller

Dutch robots		They'll pump gas in your car, say "in a jiffy, sir" and sing songs from 'Grease.'
Sam Lufti		According to Lynne Spears, Britney's manager wears top hat, twirls moustache while making the puppet dance.
Abercrombie		Police dropped obscenity charges against Virginia Beach's store; capitalism and sex win again.
Common sense		It's shocking Hillary Clinton and Mike Huckabee, who have both lived in Arkansas, won Arkansas? Really, CNN?
Iraq		At last, our friends to the east have a new flag! We were all so sick of their old one.
Drinking and driving		Californian driver hit power pole during final minutes of the Super Bowl and 8,300 people lost power. Worst decision ever.
Mike Huckabee		Huck's relevance means the sweet, sweet drama of a brokered convention lives on!
Congress		Continues pledge to do nothing productive in any legitimate policy sphere by spending hours talking to Clemens on Super Tuesday.

SHATTUCK: 'Real World' mentality limits political and social dialogue to constricting stereotypes

From SHATTUCK page 4
likes to call "The Real World."

Every single character on this God-forsaken show represents an American stereotype. There's the naive but vaguely sweet Southern ditz. There's the vocally charged African-American who believes MTV will be his or her personal political platform. There's the flamboyantly gay man, followed up with an angry lesbian. Lastly, the rest of the crew is filled with sincerely messed up individuals who enjoy drinking a bit too much and have no concept of

personal property.

Over the past decade and a half the show has been on air, each of these "roles" has become increasingly pronounced. As a TV show, it's completely mindless but harmless I suppose, but as a representation of American youth it's just frightening. It starts when people compare their friends, acquaintances and enemies with characters from the show and these people slowly embody their doppelgangers. I'm sure MTV is thrilled emotionally complex people have managed somehow to relate

to the thinly veiled stereotypes, but as a person you should find this horrifying. We've managed to debase ourselves into characters that couldn't exist in reality.

Let's face it: People are complicated. We don't always understand each other, which is just fine. There's no reason to limit a person to his or her surface characteristics. People are people; people on MTV aren't.

—Thomas Shattuck is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu

COLUMN

Moderate Republicans fail in general elections



MIKE WARREN
Columnist

John McCain's victories in yesterday's Super Tuesday Electoral Extravaganza indicate Republican voters are ready to let bygones be bygones with the Arizona senator's spotty record of immigration, campaign finance reform and supporting fellow Republicans. While the race for the GOP nomination isn't quite over, it is becoming clear McCain will be the nominee.

What are conservative Republicans to do? It is obvious a Barack Obama presidency would be disastrous for conservatives, which is evident from his rating by National Journal as the "most liberal senator of 2007." Hillary Clinton is really no better; she and Obama have many of the same positions on issues like taxation, judicial activism and entitlements. Nevertheless, some Republicans have taken a bold stand, stating they would never vote for John McCain, even if it meant crossing party lines to vote for the usually politically despicable Clinton or (in fewer cases) Obama.

I wonder if this is a wise move for Republicans. After all, conventional wisdom within the party suggests, in the White House, any Republican would be better than a Democrat. Do Republicans support him solely for the reason of stopping Clinton or Obama from winning in November?

In a way, McCain's candidacy may mirror those of other failed candidates. In 1976, Gerald Ford ran to stay in the office he was appointed to after Nixon's resignation. A moderate in the GOP, he faced competition in the primaries from the conservative challenger, Ronald Reagan, but Ford ultimately prevailed. That is, until the general election, where Jimmy Carter won by a small but decisive margin.

Twenty years later, Bob Dole, the senator who had run for the presidency three times before (and obviously lost), was nominated for a fourth time. A member of the Washington Republican establishment for decades, Dole also lost, this time to Bill Clinton, in what was admittedly a lackluster campaign on the Republican's part.

The problem with these candidates was they were running as moderates, touting experience and, especially with Dole, emitting the air of

inevitability for the nomination. Moderate Democrats win elections because their quiet disavowal of the left-wing fringe of the party keeps voters from being scared away and their soft populism on economics appeals to the middle class. Note Bill Clinton on the winning side and George McGovern on the losing side to prove this axiom.

Moderate Republicans, on the other hand, usually lose unless they embrace conservatives or conservatism. George H.W. Bush won as Ronald Reagan's vice president but lost as the moderate president. George W. Bush won as a compassionate conservative in a very tight race in 2000, but here, the evangelical voter turnout put this moderate Republican over the edge. The last moderate Republican running as a moderate to win the presidency was Nixon.

McCain has been consistently conservative on national security and government spending. He usually sides with the conservative wing on taxes, pro-life issues and judges. He differs with conservatives on issues of immigration and free speech. All of this factors into the equation, but the bottom line is McCain is a different kind of moderate than the Bushes, Dole or Ford. He is actually at odds, for whatever reasons of his own, with the Republican Party that supports him.

McCain's enablers in the media overuse the "maverick" meme for his willingness to break with his party and work across the aisle with Democrats. I wonder if McCain has the gumption to be a true maverick and actually support the Republican Party on some of its most prized issues.

As much as it pains me to do so, I admit I will support John McCain if he is the Republican candidate, and I would encourage other Republicans to do so as well. Just because the good senator has crossed us and moderated on us over the years, it gives us no right to back out on the party that better serves our conservative principles than the Democrats.

We should support him, but we shouldn't expect a win until a conservative runs for the president again. Bobby Jindal, 2012!

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

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SPORTS

THE RUN DOWN

W2W4

TODAY
Men's basketball at Georgia, 6:30 p.m.

The game against Auburn wasn't the prettiest, but at this point in the season, the Commodores will take a win any way they can get it. Georgia (11-8, 2-4), who lost for the first time at home their last time out against Kentucky, is on a three-game skid and hopes to turn things around with a victory against Shan Foster and company. Freshman A.J. Ogilvy, who had a field day against the shorter Tigers, will be challenged by experienced senior big man Dave Bliss, who had an outstanding game against Kentucky.

THURSDAY
Women's basketball vs. South Carolina, 7 p.m.

After impressive road wins at Florida and No. 14 Georgia, the Commodores look to extend their winning streak to four against a struggling South Carolina squad. The Gamecocks just won their first conference game of the season, a 59-50 triumph over Arkansas to improve to 12-10 overall and 1-6 in conference. South Carolina is struggling to find an identity as a team, evidenced by the fact a whopping 12 players average over 10 minutes per game.

THURSDAY
Men's Tennis vs. New Mexico, 2 p.m.

Vanderbilt had a busy week, winning two matches in two days. The Commodores took out Samford 7-0 on Saturday before defeating Memphis 6-1 on Sunday. The Lobos, on the other hand, are 1-2 and have dropped their last two matches, both 4-3 defeats at the hands of Boise State. The Commodores are led by senior Ryan Preston, who has excelled in both singles and doubles this season. Sophomore Vijay Paul seeks his fourth straight singles win.

2008 Commodore football schedule released

The Vanderbilt football team announced their official 2008 schedule yesterday, and they couldn't be more excited about how it turned out.

"The positioning of our off weeks should go a long way to keeping our team as fresh as possible as the regular season develops, especially late in the year," said coach Bobby Johnson. Vanderbilt has two new teams, Rice and Duke, on its non-conference slate. The Commodores play their first home game on September 4th against South Carolina and play in-state rival Tennessee at home on Nov. 22.

2008 SCHEDULE

8/28 at Miami (OH)
9/4 vs. South Carolina
9/13 vs. Rice
9/20 at Mississippi
10/4 vs. Auburn
10/11 at Mississippi State
10/18 at Georgia
10/25 vs. Duke
11/8 vs. Florida
11/15 at Kentucky
11/22 vs. Tennessee
11/29 at Wake Forest

SEC

Mid-Season Awards

As Vanderbilt wraps up the first half of its conference schedule tonight at Georgia, The Hustler decided to honor some of the SEC's best from the first eight games of league play.

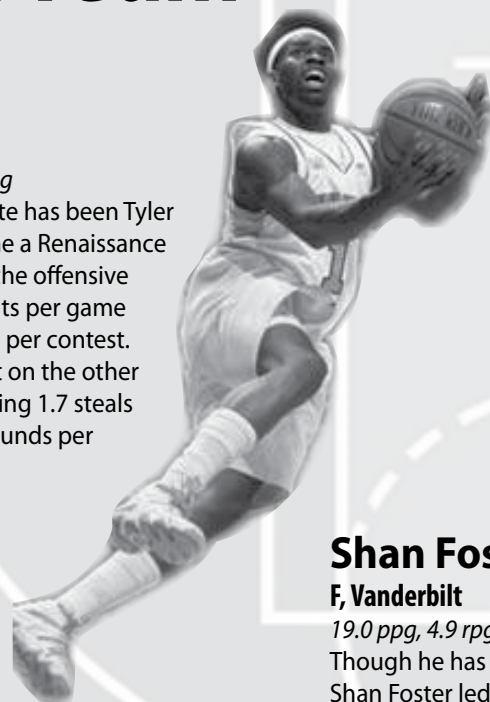
SEC First Team

Tyler Smith

F, Tennessee

13.0 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 3.7 apg

Tennessee's MVP to date has been Tyler Smith, who has become a Renaissance man on the court. On the offensive side, he boasts 13 points per game and almost four assists per contest. He is equally proficient on the other side of the ball, averaging 1.7 steals per game and 6.1 rebounds per game.

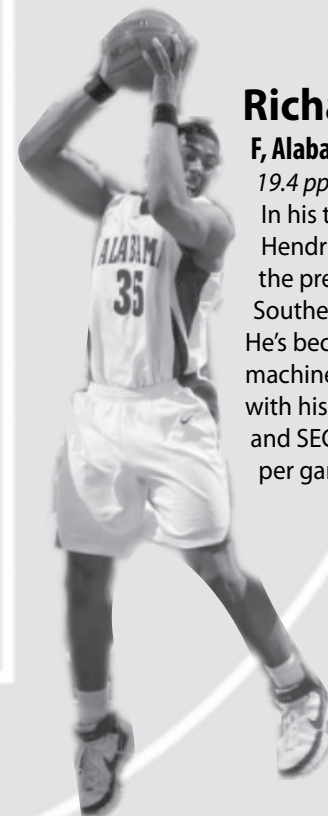


Shan Foster

F, Vanderbilt

19.0 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.7 apg

Though he has slowed down of late, Shan Foster led the Dores to a 16-0 start with his stellar shooting and commendable defense. Foster's made 85 3-pointers for a comfortable lead over Chris Lofton (70) for the SEC's top marksman.



Richard Hendrix

F, Alabama

19.4 ppg, 10.5 rpg, 2.1 bpg

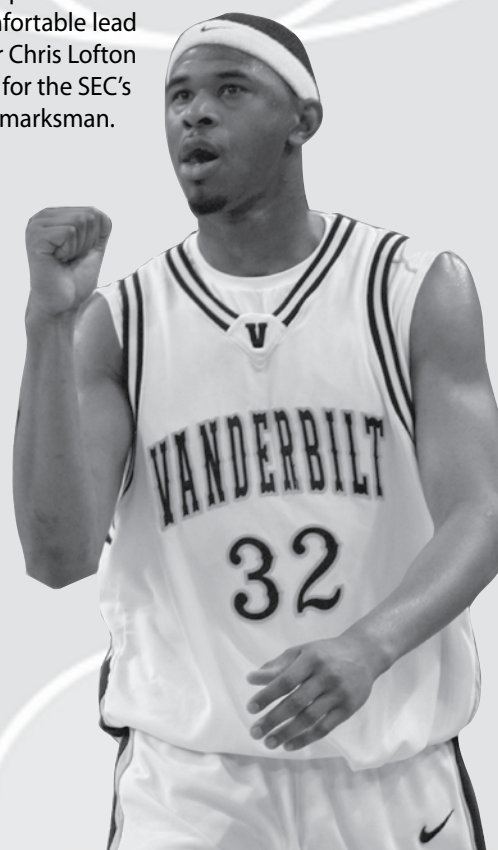
In his third season, Richard Hendrix has emerged as the premier big man in the Southeastern Conference. He's become a double-double machine for the Crimson Tide with his 19.4 points per game and SEC-leading 10.4 rebounds per game.

Devan Downey

G, South Carolina

19.8 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 5.2 apg

Downey's 5-foot-9 frame hasn't stopped him from making a big impression in his first season in the SEC. The Cincinnati transfer's 19.8 points per game and 5.2 assists per game put him in the upper echelon of guards in the conference.

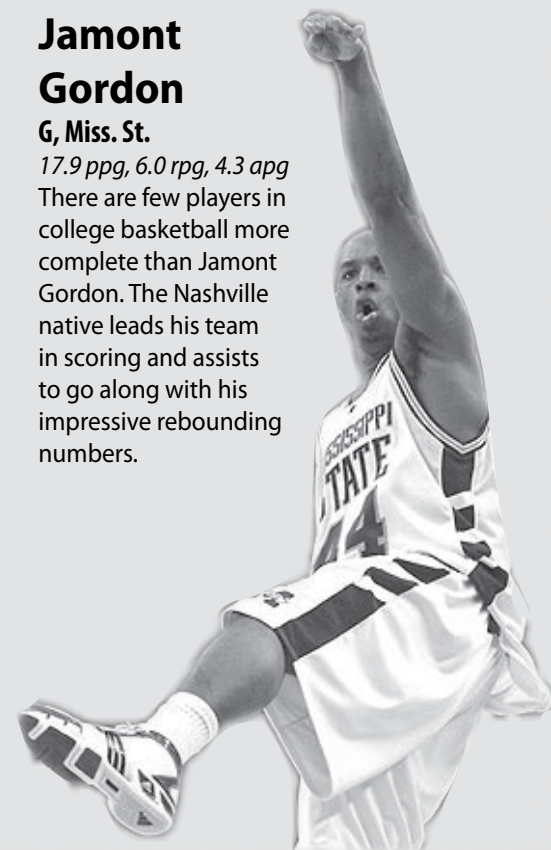


Jamont Gordon

G, Miss. St.

17.9 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 4.3 apg

There are few players in college basketball more complete than Jamont Gordon. The Nashville native leads his team in scoring and assists to go along with his impressive rebounding numbers.



Coach of the Year



Bruce Pearl, Tennessee

At a school where basketball is simply an activity to fill the sports pages between year-round football news, Bruce Pearl has built the Tennessee Volunteers into a national powerhouse in just three short years. Tennessee is by far the most talented team in the Southeastern Conference, but Pearl's kids still play with an intensity and aggressiveness unmatched by most teams in the country. Game in and game out, the Vols are the most difficult team to score against with their high-pressure defense in both full and half court. With scorers like Chris Lofton, JaJuan Smith and Tyler Smith, they are also the most difficult to defend. Bruce Pearl expects the intensity his kids bring to him every day, and he gets it from each and every player. And talk about a fan favorite: At pre-game introductions in Thompson-Boling Arena, Pearl is given an equal if not more raucous ovation than any of the players. He's the reason the Vols are gunning for yet another deep run in the NCAA tournament.

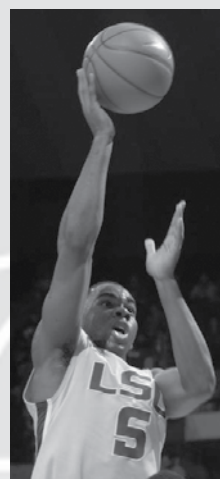
SEC Second Team



Chris Lofton, G, Tennessee

15.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.0 apg

The pre-season All-American candidate got off to a slow start but is beginning to find his form, scoring at least 20 points in each of his last four contests. Lofton's signature shot-making is vital for the Volunteers to stretch defenses.



Marcus Thornton, G, LSU

19.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.4 apg

Thornton is averaging an incredible 24.4 points per game in conference play. He exploded for 38 points in their 81-80 win against Auburn.

Chris Warren, G, Mississippi

16.0 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 5.2 apg

Warren's play helped Mississippi get off to its best start in school history at 13-0. Just a freshman, Warren is averaging a team best 16 points per game and 5.2 assists per game.

Patrick Patterson, F, Kentucky

17.1 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 1.8 apg

Where would Kentucky be without Patrick Patterson, who almost single handedly beat Vanderbilt at Rupp arena? Patterson gives Wildcats fans some hope with his powerful and mature inside game.



Marreese Speights, F, Florida

14.0 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 1.5 bpg

Even though Speights didn't get much playing time behind Joakim Noah and Al Horford last year for the NCAA champion Gators, he has quickly proven that he is a steady scorer and rebounder.



All-Freshman Team

Chris Warren, G, Mississippi

The catalyst in Mississippi's resurgence and 13-0 start.

Nick Calathes, G, Florida

Calathes is a major reason Florida is still 18-4 after losing its top six players after repeat NCAA championships. A tall guard at 6-foot-6, he is averaging 15.8 ppg and 6.1 apg, both team highs.

Patrick Patterson, F, Kentucky

Arguably the best big man in the SEC, the beastly Patterson is the main reason Billy Gillispie's first edition of the Wildcats have stayed afloat. His averages of 17.7 ppg and 7.9 rpg are impressive, and anyone that saw him handle Ogilvy can testify that Patterson is the best freshman big man in the SEC.

Anthony Randolph, F, LSU

Another dominant big man, Randolph has averaged 14.1 ppg and 8.6 rpg for the otherwise dismal Tigers. He notably dominated the glass against Vanderbilt, grabbing 19 boards.

A.J. Ogilvy, C, Vanderbilt

The endearing Aussie center has formed one half of Vanderbilt's inside-outside duo, averaging 17.7 ppg and 6.6 rpg. Despite some lackluster conference performances, Ogilvy's production more than qualifies him as one the best freshmen in the Southeastern Conference.

All-Glue Team

Jermaine Beal, G, Vanderbilt

Aside from being the best rapper in the SEC, "Dolla" leads the league with a 2.9 assist to turnover ratio. His steady play at the point has been crucial to the Commodores' success.



These guys may not rack up the best numbers on their teams, but rest assured they crash the boards, make the extra pass, get back on defense and hustle harder than anyone else. While the scorers get most of the glory, these five teams would not be where they are without these "glue" guys.

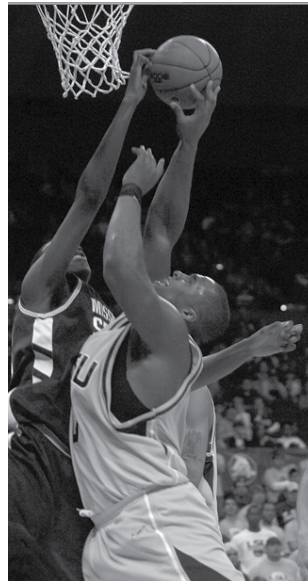
Wayne Chism, F, Tennessee

An unsung hero on the best team in the conference, Chism does a little bit of everything for the Vols. He always seems to step up in big games and was a major factor in the victory against Vanderbilt.



Jarvis Varnado, F, Miss. St.

The Tennessee native leads the nation in blocked shots with an absurd 4.9 swats per game.



Sonny Weems, G, Arkansas

The juco transfer is the full package, leading the Razorbacks in scoring, steals, free throw percentage, and three-point percentage.



Dan Werner, F, Florida

A "veteran" on the Gators, Werner has tripled his minutes this season as a sophomore and is a key member of Florida's short rotation.



SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by Eric Silver

	1. Tennessee 20-2 (7-1) Far and away the best team in the conference, the incredibly balanced Volunteers appear poised for an SEC championship and a deep tournament run.
	2. Mississippi State 14-7 (5-2) The Bulldogs are scuffling a little after a fast start in conference play. A close loss to Tennessee once again denied coach Rick Stansbury his 200th career win.
	3. Arkansas 16-5 (5-2) Three straight dominant victories have put the Razorbacks atop the SEC West. Coach John Pelphrey has proven himself to be a worthy successor to Stan Heath.
	4. Florida 18-5 (5-3) The Gators followed up their rout of Vanderbilt with a crushing loss at Arkansas, reminding everyone this team is still young and still has a long way to go.
	5. Mississippi 16-4 (3-4) Losing at home to creampuff South Carolina has to sting, seeing as the Rebels can't buy a win on the road. And worse yet, they visit a hot Arkansas team next.
	6. Vanderbilt 18-4 (3-4) It's gut-check time for the Commodores. This week's road games will go a long way toward showing whether Vanderbilt is a powerhouse or a pretender.
	7. Kentucky 10-9 (4-2) Don't look now, but the Wildcats are playing pretty good basketball. A victory over Auburn would give them a four-game winning streak — their longest of the year.
	8. Alabama 13-9 (2-5) Junior Richard Hendrix is having an outstanding season. The same cannot be said for the rest of the Crimson Tide, and by the time their upcoming brutal road stretch is over, their season may be officially down the drain.
	9. South Carolina 11-10 (3-4) The Gamecocks have a week off to celebrate their exhilarating win over Ole Miss and prepare for Vanderbilt. Can they avoid another season sweep by the Commodores?
	10. Georgia 11-8 (2-4) The Bulldogs have lost three games in a row, they're averaging the lowest point total in the league, and leading scorer Billy Humphrey has just 13 points combined in his last two games. Things are not looking up in Athens.
	11. Auburn 12-8 (2-5) Seeing as nothing else seems to be working, maybe the Tigers should continue not starting senior Frank Tolbert. He came off the bench against Vanderbilt and scored 32 points.
	12. LSU 8-13 (1-6) In football, they are the very best. In basketball, they are the very worst.

Odds 1525925999152317417298215228941

As the season hits the home stretch, we analyze the likelihood of the sure things ... and the long shots.

3-to-1

The odds of Vandy winning on the road this season

8-to-5

The odds of Tennessee winning the SEC East

9-to-1

The odds of Bruce Pearl going shirtless for another women's game this season

50-to-1

The odds of Kevin Stallings complimenting a referee. Ever.

3-to-2

The odds of Kentucky coach Billy Gillispie signing his contract

300-to-1

The odds of the Florida Gators winning their third straight national title

10-to-1

The odds of Jermaine Beal's album "I'm Ready" going platinum

The Vanderbilt Hustler presents

WHO'S NOW?

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 this Final Four matchup ends **THURSDAY AT 5 P.M.** Results will be posted in the following issue.

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?

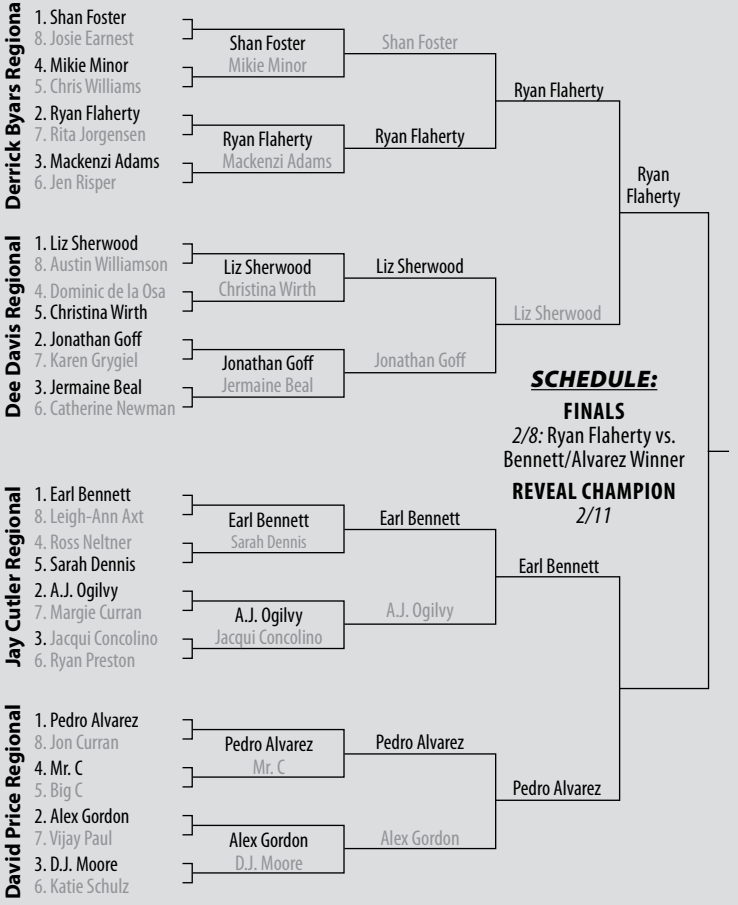
Fan appeal

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?

BRACKET



EARL BENNETT

JAY CUTLER REGIONAL CHAMP



VS.



PEDRO ALVAREZ

DAVID PRICE REGIONAL CHAMP

Shortstop Ryan Flaherty has already punched his ticket to the finals, but who will join him: his teammate, third baseman Pedro Alvarez, or wide receiver Earl Bennett?

HOW THEY GOT HERE:

Alvarez had an interesting journey, breezing past golfer Jon Curran in round one, taking out mascot Mr. C in round two and edging guard Alex Gordon in the quarterfinals. Bennett, meanwhile, bested swimmer Leigh-Ann Axt in round one, cruised past soccer player Sarah Dennis in round two and blew out the Aussie A.J. Ogilvy in the quarterfinals.

HOW THEY STACK UP:

Individual accolades

There are not too many records Alvarez and Bennett haven't broken or awards they haven't won. Both athletes are once-in-a-generation talents we have been lucky enough to see play. Bennett is the Southeastern Conference's all-time leader

in receptions, while Alvarez is the preseason National Player of the Year, so we'll give him the nod here — barely.

Edge: Alvarez

Team success

No player was more important to the Commodores' success than Bennett. Still, No. 10 fell short of his goal of a bowl game, while Alvarez led the Hawkins Nine to SEC regular season and tournament titles and a No. 1 national ranking.

Edge: Alvarez

National exposure

Alvarez is a two-time All-American and has starred on Team USA, but baseball doesn't compare to football in terms of popularity. When people around the country talk about Vanderbilt, they're likely to mention Bennett, the prolific wide receiver who's on his way to the NFL.

Edge: Bennett

Fan appeal

Put simply, everyone loves Earl. The "No. 10" jersey is worn by guys and girls alike around

campus, and his low profile makes his appeal even greater. At the same time, the large cheering sections at The Hawk and "Vote for Pedro" T-shirts prove fans also adore Pedro.

Edge: Bennett

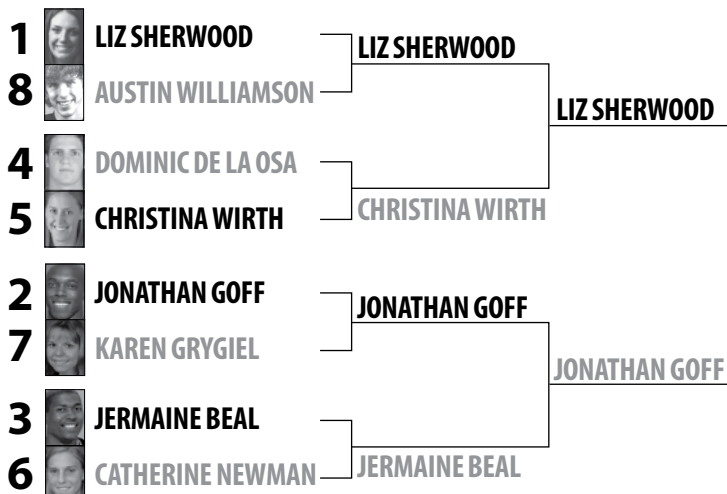
"It" factor

Still unsure who to vote for? Ask yourself this question: 20 years from now, which athlete will stick out in your mind the most? Which athlete will you brag to your kids about and say, "I was lucky enough to see him play"? We say Earl.

Edge: Bennett

THE HUSTLER'S TAKE:

You can't go wrong with either player. Alvarez is the projected No. 1 pick in the MLB Draft, while Bennett has already decided to skip his senior season and enter the NFL Draft. Both athletes are hard-working, unselfish and truly great ambassadors for this university. But, since we have to pick a winner, we'll go with Earl.

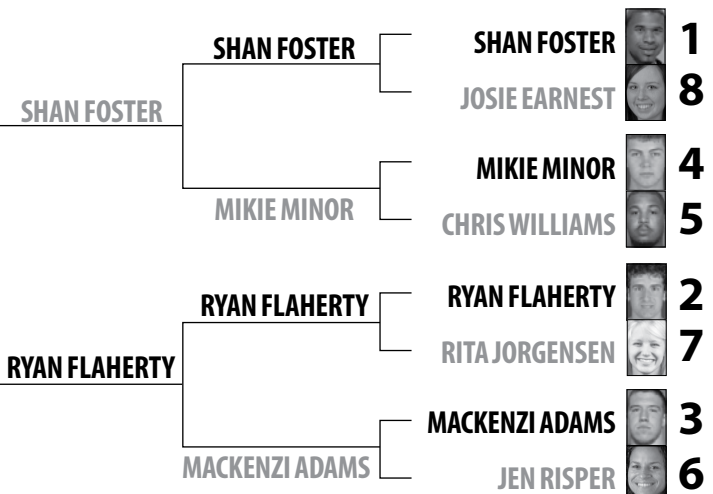


DEE DAVIS REGIONAL CHAMP

LIZ SHERWOOD ... 41%

DERRICK BYARS REGIONAL CHAMP

RYAN FLAHERTY ... 59%



**OFFICE OF
HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION**

TO: Undergraduate Students Returning for the Fall Semester 2008

FROM: Jason A. Jakubowski, Director of Housing Assignments

SUBJECT: Apply for 2008-2009 Housing February 11-24

All undergraduates returning for fall 2008 must apply for the housing assignment process for the 2008-2009 academic year. To apply, direct your Web browser to <<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd>> and click on the link to the housing application anytime between Monday, February 11 and 12:00 midnight, Sunday, February 24. Your VUnetID and password are required for logging in to the application.

Students who apply after the deadline of 12:00 midnight on Sunday, February 24 will (1) not be allowed to reserve their current spaces; and/or (2) lose a point of seniority for the housing assignment process.

Students who will be entering their fourth year of study in fall 2008 are eligible to request authorization to live off campus at the same web site, between Monday, February 11 and 12:00 midnight, Sunday, February 24. Students requesting off-campus authorization must first have applied for on campus housing.

If you hope to study abroad, participate in an internship program, or take a leave of absence next fall (Fall 2008), but are not certain that you will do so (i.e., you have not yet been accepted or are unsure that you will participate) - then you should apply for and participate in the housing assignment process for next year. See "A Guide to the Housing Assignment Process: 2008-2009" for details. (The Guide will be available for download from our website in late February.) If and when it becomes clear that you will study abroad, participate in an internship program, or take a leave of absence, please notify the Office of Housing and Residential Education (322-2591) of your plans immediately.

Students who plan to live in Greek houses for the fall semester of 2008 must apply for the housing assignment process before the close of the application period, 12:00 midnight, Sunday, February 24. They should consult with their chapter presidents. These students should also complete Greek house authorization request forms and submit these forms to their chapter presidents. Presidents are responsible for assembling the Greek House authorization requests into packets for their houses and for submitting the complete packets to the Office of Housing and Residential Education, 4113 Branscomb Quadrangle, by the deadline of 12:00 noon, Friday, February 22.

More information about the housing assignment process is available on the housing website <www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd> and at 322-2591.

**OFFICE OF
HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION**

OFFICIAL NOTICE

TO: The Residential Community

FROM: Jason A. Jakubowski, Director of Housing Assignments

SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSING ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

Students seeking suitable furnishings or accommodations for the 2008-09 academic year due to disabilities, medical conditions, psychological conditions or for other reasons, should make an appointment to meet with me between February 6-15.

Students will be asked to provide supporting documentation from their professional caregivers. Professional caregivers providing supporting documentation should not be family members. The caregivers should provide detailed information on their professional letter-head including:

- A confirmed and clear diagnosis
- Relevant medical history
- Test results that support the diagnosis (where appropriate)
- Course of treatment
- A description of the specific type of housing and/or furnishings required
- An explanation of how the described housing will help the student meet her/his special need

This information will be reviewed and evaluated by appropriate University officials. All information provided with special requests may be evaluated through a blind review process by a committee consisting of professional staff members of the Office of Housing and Residential Education, University health professionals, and/or student representatives from the Vanderbilt Student Government.

Students wishing to schedule an appointment with me should contact the Housing Office at 322-2591.

Versus

Entertainment & Culture at Vanderbilt

WHAT IS IT?

Versus is a new weekly Entertainment and Cultural paper created by Vanderbilt Student Communications and the Versus staff headed up by Darcy Newell.

WHAT IT IS NOT

Versus is not a Thursday issue of the Hustler.
Versus is not a typical "news" paper.

WHAT DOES IT COVER?

Each week, Versus will include a different Features topic, a section for Music and Concert reviews, Culture (fashion, movie/restaurant reviews, etc.), and Fiction (poetry, short stories).

HAVE A SUGGESTION REGARDING CONTENT?

The Versus staff is eager to hear your comments and suggestions. Contact VersusVU@gmail.com



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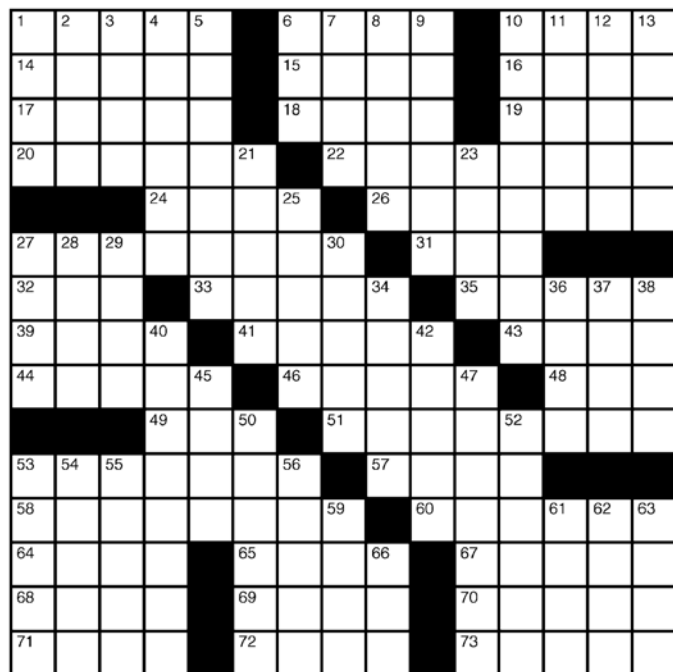
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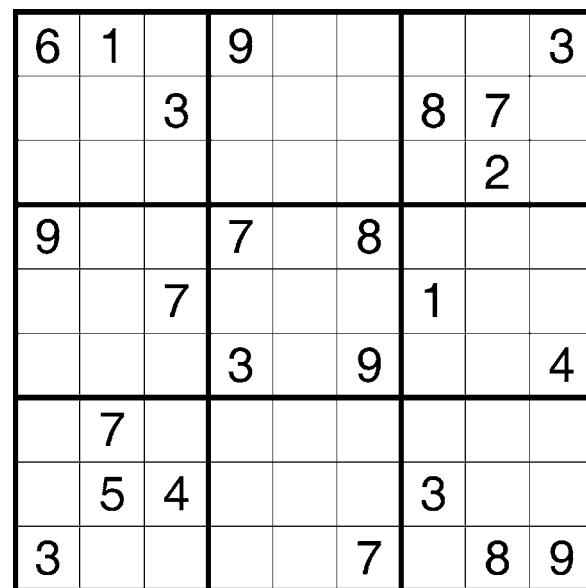
2/6/08

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 The Divine Bernhardt</p> <p>6 Black, in poetry</p> <p>10 Bundled package</p> <p>14 French river</p> <p>15 One Saarinen</p> <p>16 Cameo stone</p> <p>17 Structure starter?</p> <p>18 Set the pace</p> <p>19 Grimm beast</p> <p>20 Impedes</p> <p>22 More courageous</p> <p>24 Sports fig.</p> <p>26 Last to finish</p> <p>27 Spine piece</p> <p>31 "The Name of the Rose" writer</p> <p>32 Roman greeting</p> <p>33 Requisites</p> <p>35 Game site</p> <p>39 Can toppers</p> <p>41 Respond</p> | <p>43 TV's talking horse</p> <p>44 Flee to wed</p> <p>46 Portugal's neighbor</p> <p>48 Fill about</p> <p>49 Exist</p> <p>51 Turncoats</p> <p>53 Express again</p> <p>57 German wife</p> <p>58 Transistor parts</p> <p>60 Comes to terms</p> <p>64 Lot measure</p> <p>65 Coral's place</p> <p>67 Low joint</p> <p>68 Ogle</p> <p>69 March Madness org.</p> <p>70 Actress</p> <p>71 Witherspoon</p> <p>71 Untidy condition</p> <p>72 Sicilian volcano</p> <p>73 Snake to count on?</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Lost traction</p> <p>2 First-class</p> <p>3 Great Valley</p> <p>4 Take into custody</p> <p>5 Embolden</p> <p>6 Snake-like fish</p> <p>7 Signal sound</p> <p>8 Dental exams?</p> <p>9 Protuberance</p> <p>10 Avid reader</p> <p>11 Actress</p> <p>12 Dickinson</p> <p>12 Harp-like instruments</p> <p>13 Strain</p> <p>21 Scimitar's cousin</p> <p>23 Comic Imogene</p> <p>25 Shade providers</p> <p>27 Valley coursed by a stream</p> <p>28 Satan's realm</p> <p>29 Make over</p> <p>30 Alter to fit</p> <p>34 Head wrap</p> <p>36 Hence</p> <p>37 Within range</p> <p>38 Contributes</p> <p>40 Bedaub</p> <p>42 Small crown</p> <p>45 QED part</p> <p>47 Falls for honeymooners</p> <p>50 Forever, in poems</p> <p>52 Revolved</p> <p>53 Domain</p> <p>54 Roast host</p> <p>55 Fathers</p> <p>56 Put up</p> <p>59 Connery or Lennon</p> <p>61 Supplemented</p> <p>62 Otherwise</p> <p>63 Tarot user</p> <p>66 CAB's successor</p> |
|---|--|--|

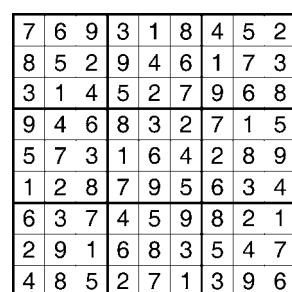
2/4/08 SOLUTIONS



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



2/4/08 SOLUTIONS



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