

# ELECTION '08

## The Vanderbilt Hustler

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008, 120<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 73



**ELECTION 2008:** Students watch results at the Election GameDay in the Commons Center. SEE PAGE 3

**VERSUS:** Girl Talk chats about musical influences, copyright law, and Nirvana. FULL SECTION INSIDE

# OBAMA WINS

*'Let us summon a new spirit of patriotism.'*



MORRY GASH / AP Photo  
President-elect Barack Obama smiles as he gives his victory speech at Grant Park in Chicago Tuesday night, Nov. 4. Obama, the first elected African-American president, won more votes than any other candidate in history. Over 100,000 supporters greeted Obama at his Chicago speech.

## Decisive victory for Illinois Democrat

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama swept to victory as the nation's first black president Tuesday night in an electoral college landslide that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself. "Change has come," he told to a huge throng of jubilant supporters.

The Democratic senator from Illinois sealed his historic triumph by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of wins in hard-fought battleground states — Ohio, Florida, Virginia, Iowa and

more.

On a night for Democrats to savor, they not only elected Obama the nation's 44th president but padded their majorities in the House and Senate, and come January will control both the White House and Congress for the first time since 1994.

Obama's election capped a meteoric rise — from mere state senator to president-elect in four years.

In his first speech as victor, to thousands at Grant Park in his

home town of Chicago, Obama catalogued the challenges ahead. "The greatest of a lifetime," he said, "two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century."

He added, "There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as president, and we know that government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face."

McCain called his former rival to concede defeat — and the end of his own 10-year quest for the White House. "The

American people have spoken, and spoken clearly," McCain told disappointed supporters in Arizona.

President Bush added his congratulations from the White House, where his tenure runs out on Jan. 20. "May God bless whoever wins tonight," he had told dinner guests earlier.

Obama, in his speech, invoked the words of Lincoln and echoed John F. Kennedy.

"So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of service and responsibility where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder," he said. ■

## Despite missteps, SAVE registers 1,361 students

by HANNAH TWILLMAN  
News Contributor

Several students were unable to vote in Tuesday's election after registering to vote with the Vanderbilt chapter of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment.

SAVE's mission is to increase voter turnout among young people by removing access barriers and promoting stronger civic education. According to junior Cameron Pastrick, president of the Vanderbilt chapter of SAVE, making sure students are aware of how to register to vote is important in increasing youth turnout.

"Twenty-five percent of youth unintentionally miss the registration deadline," said Pastrick.

Senior Conner George filled out and turned in a voter registration form distributed by members of SAVE when they visited Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, of which he is a member.

"I took a form and filled it out," said George, who was joined by several other members of the chapter.

After returning the form to the SAVE representatives, he did not give the matter another thought. "I just assumed they'd take care of it," George said.

In mid-October, however, one of the other members of his fraternity who registered with SAVE told George that he was still classified as unregistered when he visited the Web site for the Tennessee Department of State Voter Registration Information Lookup.

"So I checked (the Web site), and sure enough, I wasn't registered. A couple of my brothers checked and they weren't either," George said.

George said he thinks at least 10 others in his chapter who registered with SAVE were unable to vote on Tuesday. He said he thinks SAVE somehow made a mistake with their registration forms.

"It seems pretty cut and dry that they just dropped the ball and didn't deliver the forms," George said.

Pastrick said some students had turned in incomplete or illegible forms. If the student sealed the form after filling it out, the volunteers were unable to check to see whether the form was correct. Once

collected, volunteers brought the registration forms to the board of elections to be reviewed, she said.

"Every single person who filled out their form incorrectly was contacted (unless their phone number was not on the form) by the board of elections.

... All the student needed to do was call back with the correct information and they would (within 24 hours) receive a voter registration card," Pastrick said.

"Ultimately, individuals are responsible for the accuracy of information on their registration forms, and once forms are turned in to election officials we no longer have access to them," said Director of Policy and Programs for national SAVE Bobby Campbell.

George, however, said he doesn't think this was the case with his registration.

"I filled out everything completely," he said. "I'm positive no one ever called me. And I haven't heard of anyone who filled out one of SAVE's forms from my house who was actually registered. I don't know how 10 to 12 guys would have filled out something wrong."

"I'm commissioning in the Navy in about six months, and I get no say now in who my boss is next year," said senior Jason Evert, who also was not registered despite applying. "Regardless of whether or not my vote would have made a difference, a lot of people have fought and died for the right to vote."

"To have a student organization meant to recruit voters disenfranchise students is really ironic and disheartening," George said.

"It is very unfortunate that some of these forms were initially incorrectly filled out, however (students) had ample time to correct their errors, they just needed to make a small effort," Pastrick said. "We are very systematic in our procedures, and registering was successful for most everyone else."

Nationally, SAVE registered almost 10,000 students to vote in this election. At Vanderbilt, SAVE and the Election Alliance jointly registered 1,361 undergraduate students this year. ■

—Lauren Koenig contributed reporting to this article.

## Tenn. Sen. Alexander wins in landslide

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee found support across the political spectrum to trounce Democrat Bob Tuke and win re-election on Tuesday.

Alexander is a former two-term governor who also ran for president twice. Tuke is a Nashville attorney and former chairman of the state Democratic Party who struggled to raise money during the campaign.

With 77 percent of precincts reporting, Alexander had 1.26 million votes, or 68 percent, to Tuke's 532,880, or 29 percent.

Alexander praised Tuke for running "a clean campaign on



MARK HUMPHREY / AP Photo  
Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and his wife, Honey, greet supporters after he was declared the winner in his re-election bid.

the issues" after the Democrat called to concede. Alexander

pledged to take a bipartisan approach to his second term in office, which will be especially important given Republican losses in other Senate races around the country.

Moderates, conservatives and even liberals supported Alexander's re-election bid, according to voter interviews conducted for The Associated Press by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

Alexander won about 80 percent of the conservative vote, a majority of moderates and three of every 10 liberal votes in a state where conservatives and moderates dominate.

He also received three of every

four votes from independents, virtually all GOP votes and one of every five Democratic votes.

"I am grateful to the Republican Party for giving me the opportunity to be its nominee," Alexander said. "But I also thank the independents and Democrats who supported me."

Alexander avoided becoming the first incumbent senator to lose a re-election bid in Tennessee since 1994. Democrats now haven't won a Senate race in Tennessee since Al Gore's last re-election in 1990.

Seven other incumbents were also re-elected. ■

**SPORTS:** Johnson says smart defense key to putting a stop to Tebow and the Florida Gators juggernaut. SEE PAGE 6

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# SNAPSHOTS

**ELECTION EDITION**  
compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

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HIGH **78**, LOW **47**  
Sunny

**THURSDAY**



HIGH **78**, LOW **54**  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

## Dems expand their control of Senate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats fattened their majority control of the Senate on Tuesday, ousting Republican Sens. Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina and John Sununu of New Hampshire and capturing seats held by retiring GOP senators in Virginia, New Mexico and Colorado.

With 29 of 35 Senate races called, Democrats were guaranteed at least a 55-45 majority, including two holdover independents who vote with Democrats. But they were hoping for even greater gains in a political environment that clearly favored Democrats.

North Carolina state Sen. Kay Hagan, little known politically before her run, defeated Dole — a former Cabinet member in two Republican administrations and 2000 presidential hopeful. Dole had tried to tie Hagan, a former Presbyterian Sunday school teacher, to atheists in an ad that appeared to backfire.

In New Hampshire, former Democratic Gov. Jeanne Shaheen defeated Sununu in a rematch of their 2002 contest.

## Democrats capture House control

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats retained control of the House and pushed for historic gains in their majority Tuesday by solidifying their dominance in the Northeast and making inroads in the South and West.

"It's the night we have been waiting for," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Ousting 22-year veteran Rep. Chris Shays in Connecticut gave Democrats every House seat from New England. Their victory in an open seat on New York's Staten Island gave them control of all of New York City's delegation in Washington for the first time in 35 years.

Democrats also rode the coattails of a decisive victory by Barack Obama in New Mexico to win one House seat they haven't controlled in four decades and another the GOP had held for 28 years. Both were left up-for-grabs by GOP retirements.

Democrats unseated a half-dozen Republican incumbents and captured eight open GOP seats, capitalizing on the unusually high 29 Republican departures. Republicans knocked off three Democratic incumbents.

With more than 380 of the 435 House races decided, Democrats held leads for a dozen other Republican-held seats. Republicans were leading in fewer than a handful of seats held by Democrats.

For the first time in more than 75 years, Democrats were headed for big House gains in back-to-back elections. The picked up 30 seats in 2006.

"This will be a wave upon a wave," Pelosi said.

## Exit poll: Obama wins women, blacks, Hispanics in big electoral win

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama soaked up most of the votes from the nation's women, blacks and Hispanics and siphoned off enough white support to leave John McCain with no way to win.

McCain eked out only a thin majority among white Americans, whose strong support is necessary for a GOP victory, exit polls showed.

McCain and Obama split white votes across the U.S. except in the South, where McCain got twice as many white votes as Obama. Southern whites had favored George Bush by similar margins in 2000 and 2004.

Overall, McCain was backed by just over half of white voters, who make up three-fourths of the electorate. Whites had favored Bush over John Kerry by a whopping 17 percentage points in 2004.

## Exit poll: Tenn. independents broke for McCain; GOP base remains loyal

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Republican John McCain carried the independent vote while holding onto the GOP base in Tennessee on Tuesday.

He also appealed to those most concerned about the economy and voters wanting a candidate who shares their values, according to voter surveys conducted for The Associated Press by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

"I vote for the man, not the party," said McCain voter Carol Bing, 61, of Martin. "The economy is the most important issue for me, and I think it should be important for everyone."

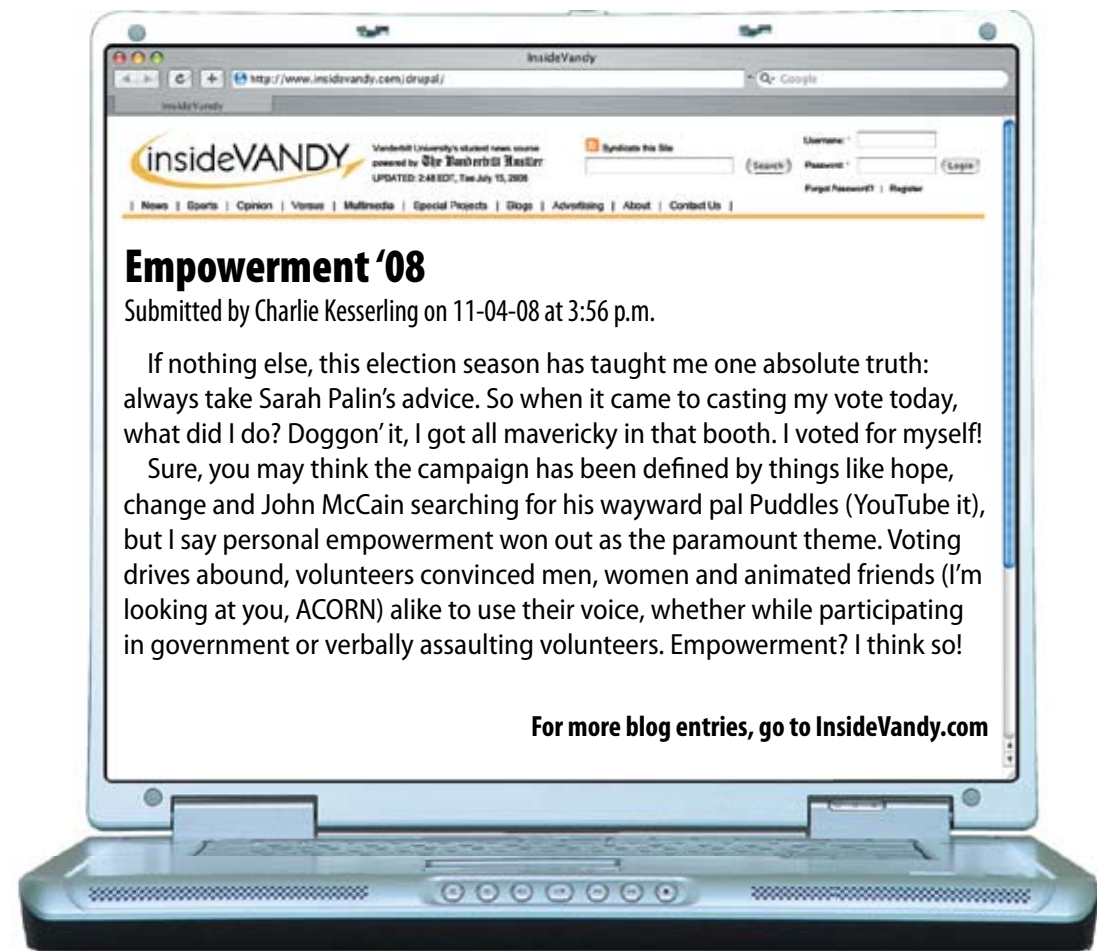
McCain won two of every three independent votes in Tennessee, where independents make up about a third of all voters. Republicans and Democrats split the other two-thirds, and McCain and Democrat Barack Obama each carried their party's base.

## Student voters sound off on voting:

- "I'm voting because it's not only a privilege but a responsibility as American citizens. Especially during this election, where we have no idea who's going to win, my vote counts more."  
—Emily Degerberg '11
- "As an 18-year-old, it's my first opportunity to exercise my right to vote. We're going through a lot of trouble."  
—Tyler Wallace '12
- "I think that as a citizen, it's your responsibility to be informed and voting is a way you can do this. It's a small action that really means something significant."  
—Ricky Dyer '12
- "I think our nation is at a point where it needs a change. We're voting for a new face of America."  
—Kyle McGrath '12
- "The whole point is to choose our representation."  
—Jessica Aviles '12
- "I think it's important because we need change. Very badly. Every vote counts."  
—Caroline Plaine '12

Compiled by Samanta Smith

**FROM THE BLOG**



### Empowerment '08

Submitted by Charlie Kesserling on 11-04-08 at 3:56 p.m.

If nothing else, this election season has taught me one absolute truth: always take Sarah Palin's advice. So when it came to casting my vote today, what did I do? Doggon' it, I got all mavericky in that booth. I voted for myself!

Sure, you may think the campaign has been defined by things like hope, change and John McCain searching for his wayward pal Puddles (YouTube it), but I say personal empowerment won out as the paramount theme. Voting drives abound, volunteers convinced men, women and animated friends (I'm looking at you, ACORN) alike to use their voice, whether while participating in government or verbally assaulting volunteers. Empowerment? I think so!

For more blog entries, go to [InsideVandy.com](http://InsideVandy.com)

**SNAPSHOT**

## FREE BEN AND JERRY'S ON ELECTION DAY



ERIC GLASSER / The Vanderbilt Hustler

In an effort to encourage people to vote, Ben and Jerry's shops across the country, including Nashville's 21st Avenue location near Vanderbilt's campus offered free ice cream to voters.



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# Students gather for Election GameDay

by ABRAHAM HANSON  
News Contributor

The Commons facade was awash in red, white and blue lights and balloons lined the dining hall where hundreds of students gathered to celebrate the end of an historic election.

Housed in The Commons, Election GameDay sought to capture the attention of first-time voters. Shuttles departed from Peabody campus all day to bus students who were casting votes for the first time.

Multiple big screens projected minute-by-minute coverage of election developments. Freedom Sings of the First Amendment Center performed familiar folk and soul tunes. Vanderbilt Dining served platters featuring American classics: meatloaf, mashed potatoes and apple pie.

"It is exciting to see people voting and watching the



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Juniors Jalencia Burchett, Ifeoma Aduba and Naatuere Ajanaku take a moment to hang out with the honorary mascots of the evening, the larger than life donkey and elephant.

election returns. It indicates a healthy democracy," said senior Kevin Duong.

"I am impressed with the turnout," said sophomore Eliza Horn. "The young vote is important. This election has challenged ideas of political activism at Vandy."

Featuring election game cards and photo-ops with

cutouts of the candidates, the event presented both the playful and competitive sides to American electoral politics.

"We called this Election GameDay because like sports, this is competitive and fun but also unifying," said event co-chair junior Sarah McKibben.

The event was the culmination of a series



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students gathered in the Commons Dining Center to watch the election results for the Election Alliance's Election GameDay event. Interested students and faculty were able to discuss the results as they came in.

organized by the Election Alliance.

"This is a truly coalition

effort," said event co-chair junior Alexandra Tennant.

"We wanted to bring everyone

together in one place to experience this monumental election." ■

## Virtual School takes election to schools

by LOUIS DALRYMPLE  
News Contributor

CNN's Lou Dobbs personally helped students learn about the election process via the Vanderbilt University Virtual School.

Dobbs, along with State Representative Beth Harwell, participated in the final installment of the Virtual School's "Race for the Presidency" series, which provided fifth through 12th grade teachers throughout the nation with a program dedicated to teaching about the election process.

The program's curriculum covered a gamut of election-related topics, from analyzing political advertisements to

examining the processes and importance of the Electoral College.

Participating schools were given the opportunity to take part in a series of 15 videoconferences with various established presenters. Each videoconference had two sessions, offering students and their teachers a chance to listen, ask questions and discuss politics with the presenters.

The series' concluding videoconference took place on Oct. 30 and featured Dobbs of CNN's "Lou Dobbs Tonight." Over 200 students from high schools across the nation participated in the videoconference with Dobbs.

"The Virtual School at

Vanderbilt viewed this videoconference as the highlight of the "Race For the Presidency" series and appreciated the generosity of Lou Dobbs to give his time and expertise to share dialogue with the students from the seven participating schools," said Patsy Partin, director of the Virtual School.

Distinguished Professor of Political Science John Geer said he thought the program might serve as an effective admissions tool.

"The Virtual School provides a nice way to connect with these high school students. In so doing, it may offer an opportunity to recruit talented students to our campus," said Geer. ■

## Election impacts Supreme Court's future

by SARAH BILSKY  
News Contributor

Though the Election Alliance's focus has been mainly on the campaigns and the candidates, Monday's lecture explored the election's impact on the Supreme Court.

"In a lot of ways, whoever is elected tomorrow will have a lot of influence over the Supreme Court ... about how the justice system in this country will work," said Carrie Russel, a J.D. and Ph.D. candidate

who spoke at the event.

Russel predicted that at least one justice would retire during the next president's office, which she said would make this election important regardless of outcome.

Russel also discussed the relationship between the judicial branch and the executive branch of the government and outlined the candidate's plans for justice nominations, which both include abstaining from litmus tests, a term for using single issues to determine if a candidate is

acceptable.

"Alexander Hamilton once said that the court is the least dangerous branch of the government," said Russel, referring to the enormous influence the president has over the Supreme Court.

Junior Alexandra Tennant said she agreed with Russel's assertions.

"I think a lot of the judges are getting up there (in age) so (the election) will be really important for the Supreme Court," said Tennant. ■

## 'Role' players drink up



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

VUT opens its show "RolePlay," by British playwright Alan Ayckbourn, this Thursday, Nov. 6. Senior Christen Sottolano plays Paige Petite in the hilarious and offbeat comedy.



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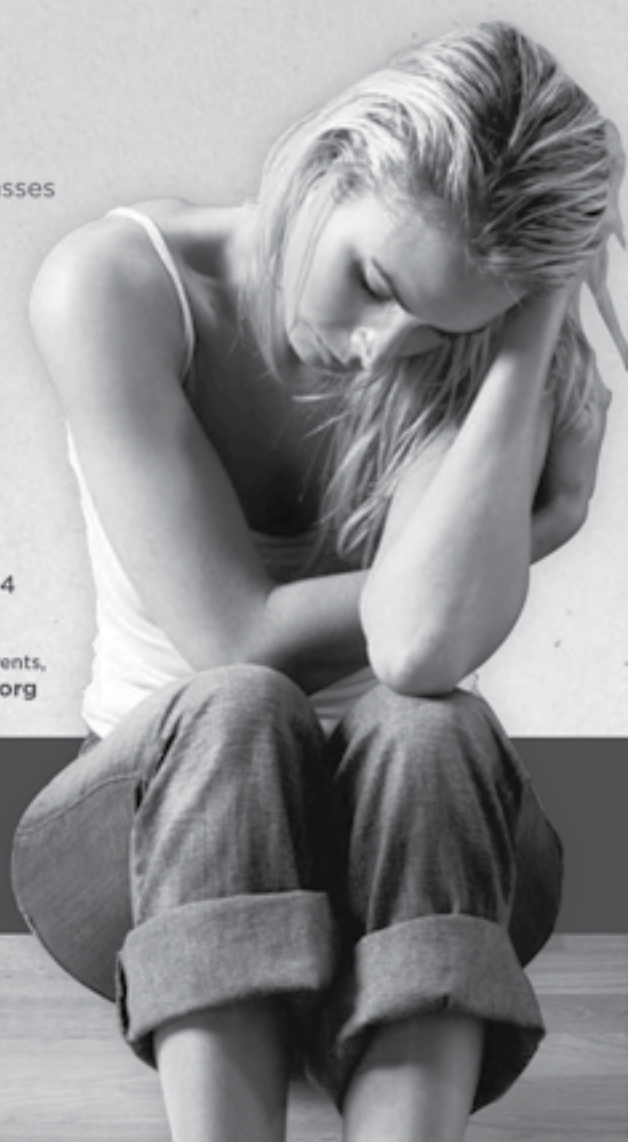
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\*The Great American Smokeout is November 20.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS



# OPINION

## Registration woes mar election results



**CAROLYN PIPPEN**  
Columnist

As I sit here writing this article on Monday, less than two hours before the official commencement of Election Day 2008, I have no idea in what state our country will find itself as you read this Wednesday morning. We may be celebrating the first election of a black president, the first election of a woman vice president or the first write-in election of a character of "The West Wing" (I'm not saying I voted for Bartlet ... but I'm not saying I didn't).

Regardless of which of these predictions prove to be accurate, however, I already know one thing for sure — there are more than a few enthusiastic and well-educated students among us who had no say in the matter.

I'm not talking about the girl whose absentee ballot did nothing to sway her overwhelmingly conservative home state, or even the guy who slept through his alarm and decided Tuesday morning that voting was for parents and political science majors. No, there are more than a few responsible citizens on our campus and throughout the country who did everything they were supposed to do in order to make their voices heard and, quite simply, got screwed.

Earlier this semester, SAVE, a student-run voter education organization, made an effort to go around campus and encourage students to register to vote in Tennessee, where perhaps their vote was needed more or the actual voting process would be simpler. When some of the students went to check their status before the election, however, their registration had not been submitted, and an e-mail to SAVE produced only an apology and the encouragement to vote in the next election cycle.

This is only one of many stories I have heard about problems with registration in the months leading up to elections, and ironically, it's usually the organizations that do the most to encourage student voting that end up creating the most debilitating roadblocks. Many will remember the 2006 debacle in which over 50 student Democrats were unable to vote due to the loss of their registrations; in this case, it was actually the office of senatorial candidate Harold Ford who literally stuck a handful of all-but-guaranteed votes into a drawer and forgot them.

I understand that in the majority of these cases, the intention is rarely to disenfranchise eager young voters, but the fact remains that the registration process is too often a confused and disorganized one, and the lack of legal accountability in the cases of such errors makes for an epidemic of irresponsibility at a time when we desperately need the system to be working in our favor.

Perhaps someday in the future, the voting process will finally enter into the 21st century and our nation's greatest right and privilege will no longer be one of its most antiquated and inefficient systems. In the meantime, I hope the youth of America will learn to guard themselves against these devastating mistakes.

Be wary of third party organizations who generously volunteer to take care of all your registration needs; their intentions may be pure, but the chances of your forms getting lost — address and social security number included — are much higher when in the hands of an overworked student much like yourself. Instead, try to work as closely with your local government as possible, and do it as early as possible. In fact, register now. The 2012 election is only 1,460 days away, and you're not going to want to miss out ... again.

—Carolyn Phippen is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at carolyn.m.pippen@vanderbilt.edu.

### EDITORIAL

## Obama victory offers renewal

Sen. Barack Obama's victory over Sen. John McCain in this election means an end to the nearly two-year long presidential campaign. The transformation to a new president of a new party means that the U.S. will undergo a change in government and a change in politics.

What is important to remember is that no matter who wins or loses this national election, life in these United States continues. The partisan bickering of the last couple presidential election cycles will probably not end, and

many policy disagreements could continue to go unresolved. Still, the American people have spoken, and President-elect Obama deserves to have his decisions as president judged fairly.

All Americans should be proud that citizens were able once again to exercise their voting privileges in a national election. The future of the U.S. is uncertain, but the peaceful transition of power should assure all Americans that our two century-old electoral tradition continues.

**“What is important to remember is that no matter who wins or loses this national election, life in these United States continues.”**

## Shuttles to polls successful effort by Election Alliance

The result of the presidential election notwithstanding, the work of the Election Alliance on Election Day should be commended.

The Election Alliance's efforts to provide transportation to the polls for Vanderbilt students were successful. With two shuttles running continuously from Branscomb and The Commons to Eakin Elementary, students voting

here in Tennessee were able to make it to the polls easily. The 12-hour schedule between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. offered a convenient window for students to find time around classes to vote.

The shuttle service was quick, on time and run very smoothly. Employees of the Office of Active Citizenship and Service and Election Alliance volunteers were readily

available for questions and help at the pick-up locations. These locations were well advertised and well marked.

Helping students make voting easier, as well as educating those voters throughout this electoral season, has been a hallmark of the Election Alliance.

—Michael Warren

THE VERDICT		
Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff! Compiled by Thomas Shattuck		
Saddam Hussein		The former dictator of Iraq apparently at one point (i.e. before he was executed) owned a yacht estimated to be worth over \$30 million. Not to mention, this happens to be the surviving yacht, since the other was destroyed in 2003.
Japan		Residents in the sleepy Japanese fishing port of Obama partied for Barack Obama before Tuesday's U.S. presidential election. Talk about a great name.
Kids		According to Reuters, the long arm of the law didn't have to reach too far to arrest one Australian teenager, who was caught breaking into a police station in the early hours of Monday.
South Korea		South Korea's highest court upheld on Thursday a decades-old adultery law that can send people to jail for having an extramarital affair, which critics say is anachronistic and infringes on personal freedom.
Election		For the love of God and all that is holy, the election is over. But what will all the self-righteously indignant folks on this campus have to protest now?
Gay marriage		After five months of gay marriage, Californians are voting on Proposition 8 to end whatever progress they've made. Nice.
Emperor Nero		What? He could at least play the violin.
Barack Obama		Not only can he cure cancer, acne and lymphoma, but he's now the president. Way to go.
Bill Kristol		According to Gawker, Neocon columnist Kristol doesn't just drink the Republican Kool-Aid; he's the giant punchbowl crushing through the wall. This is the guy who had the nerve to tell Jon Stewart on the Daily Show, just a few days ago, that McCain was going to win.
Keanu Reeves		Not only did he hit a paparazzo with his car, he got away with it. Maybe Sean Penn will get up some more gumption and finish what he started.
MPAA		Congratulations, the MPAA is now 40-years-old. Forty years of censorship and abuse of nonexistent power. To another 40 years of imbalanced and unfair rating systems.
Employment		Are you trying to get a job? Good luck. Seriously, don't even try.

## How to panic properly



**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

With a 24-hour CNN rhetoric on why our economy is worse than Mark Wahlberg's last movie, I felt it was time to weigh in with my financial expertise. I dove into an extensive research process that began by looking at the headlines in the Money section of USA Today and ended five minutes later by taking a nap. The conclusion I have come to, my fellow Americans, is that it is time to panic. And I'm not talking about your ordinary, run-of-the-mill "I forget to get Cab Cash" panic. Nor am I even referring to the academic, blown-out-of-proportion "This chemistry grade is going to reduce my future to blackmailing immigrants in California."

From my understanding of the situation, this current economic crisis is far worse than the Great Depression, the Holocaust, Pompeii and the last issue of The Slant combined. This is the brand of panic where you can't just switch the channel to "Classless street hookers go to charm school but don't really become better people" and then feel better about life. This time of our lives calls for crippling, emotionally devastating panic that causes you to question your faith, buy bars of gold and contemplate suicide.

You may be getting worried, thinking, "Justin, I'm only a college student, I don't have enough money to take drastic measures." Well, don't fret. There's plenty of ways for you to get in on the action. Referring to this election as the most important event in American history is a healthy first step. Right now the only hope we have is surrendering to total government control under Barack Obama. So how do we respond to this growing crisis? With calm, wise, long-term perspective? By no means.

Now is the time to lose your mind and abandon any rational behavior. Obviously you

don't want to go into the job market, try to buy a house or for that matter, go outdoors. Who knows what could happen? If you do decide to brave the outside world, you should probably do some looting.

Day-time looting is typically not advisable, but with today's economy, anything goes. Your best bet here is to use a brick or a dense rock. Smashing windows on the second floor or above will make the process considerably more difficult.

But what about the small remnant of money I have right now? Besides obviously selling all your stocks and your collection of family photos, you should begin burning your money to insure against inflation. If possible, use your flaming currency to light other basic commodities, such as candles, a wood stove or your crack pipe. If you have devoted yourself to this course of preventative panic and followed all of these steps but find you still feel uneasy, then it's time to consider more serious measures. Pack up any of your non-charred khakis, sundresses or suit jackets and head over to Liberia. If the movie "Blood Diamond" has taught us anything, it's that Africa can easily be exploited for its natural resources by entrepreneurial Westerners. Why should you sit back while other people reap all the benefits?

—Justin Poythress is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu.

**“Now is the time to lose your mind and abandon any rational behavior. Obviously you don't want to go into the job market, try to buy a house or for that matter, go outdoors. Who knows what could happen?”**

### OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page 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 InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com. Letters via e-mail must come from

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. 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.

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Any questions? Just e-mail [seniorclassfund@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:seniorclassfund@vanderbilt.edu).

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# SPORTS

## Marve impresses in first season

by DAVID SHOCHAT  
Sports Contributor

Perhaps the greatest surprise of the 2008 Vanderbilt football season has been the emergence of redshirt freshman linebacker Chris Marve. But if you ask Commodores, they'll say they saw the play-making ability of this young star coming.

"Everyone here knew what he could do," said junior linebacker Patrick Benoist. "He's come out and made a lot of big plays, and he looks like a vet out there."

After a year of redshirting, Marve has exploded onto the scene this season for the Commodores, making big plays in every game, including a forced fumble against Ole Miss that helped Vanderbilt capture a close victory.

While Marve is a smart player, the 6-foot, 225 pound linebacker is quickly garnering the reputation as a fierce tackler and someone you probably would not want to get angry. On the season, Marve has 68 tackles, which is second on the team, two sacks and two forced fumbles.

With the departure of Jonathan Goff to the NFL,

Marve has stepped for the Commodores and looks to be the next star at the middle linebacker position for Vanderbilt. Marve credits his success on the field this season to his mentors.

"Last year was a great opportunity to learn from Goff and (Marcus) Buggs," he said. "Both of them are great teachers, great players and both are in the NFL now."

Marve began playing football in eighth grade but did not begin to play linebacker until high school. At White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn., Marve recorded a combined 331 tackles between his junior and senior seasons, which helped him to win Tennessee's Mr. Football in Tennessee's 5A division his senior season.

Now, on the heels of a 16-tackle performance against Duke where he also forced a fumble, Marve is making his name known.

"He's got it all: big, strong, fast," Benoist said. "He's just out there flying around, making plays."

Despite his youth, coach Bobby Johnson is not surprised with the success his player is having.

"You never know how a redshirt freshman is going to do, but we sort of had an indication of how he worked when he was on the scout team, when he was redshirting and in spring practice," Johnson said. "He was one of those serious guys who wanted to do everything right, so we had a pretty good indication that he was going to do well."

Though Marve has been a great player since high school, his success and talent comes from his focus, hard work and love of the game.

"I just love to play football," Marve said. "I love to make tackles. I like the position I play, linebacker, and I believe a linebacker should get to the ball on every play, and that's what I try to do."

With such a great attitude Johnson believes the best is yet to come for Marve.

"He'll get better and better every year," Johnson said. "Just experiencing playing big games and seeing different plays and players, he'll be much better."

While the future is very bright for Marve, he is still focused on this year and getting Vanderbilt to a bowl.



NICOLE MANDEL / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Linebacker Chris Marve (13) registers one of his 16 tackles against Duke. Patrick Benoist (30) says Marve's physical and mental skills have allowed him to be successful this season.

"I just need to get better every chance I get, keep playing fast, keep playing hard and give my best effort every chance I get," Marve said. ■

### SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by Geoff Hutchinson

	<b>1. Florida</b> 7-1 (5-1 SEC) The Gators are playing so well right now that the best thing opposing teams could do to avoid embarrassment would be to not show up to the stadium. The Gators can clinch the SEC East this weekend with a win at Vanderbilt.
	<b>2. Alabama</b> 9-0 (5-0) Week by week, the Crimson Tide have found ways to win games, even though they have not looked as dominant as they did to start the season. They face their last real test this weekend at Baton Rouge against LSU in Saban Bowl 2.
	<b>3. Georgia</b> 7-2 (4-2) Georgia's BCS hopes were dashed after getting mauled in the World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party. The Georgia defense will have nightmares about Tim Tebow and his five touchdowns.
	<b>4. LSU</b> 6-2 (3-2) LSU rebounded from their blowout defeat to Georgia with a nice victory over Tulane. The Tiger faithful will be extra energized for this match-up with Saban coming back.
	<b>5. South Carolina</b> 5-3 (3-3) The Gamecocks shot themselves in the foot with early losses in the SEC. The Gamecocks have played much better as of late, and Steve Spurrier has finally found a quarterback in Stephen Garcia.
	<b>6. Vanderbilt</b> 5-3 (3-2) When Vanderbilt quarterbacks have protected the ball, the Commodores have been very successful this year. If they don't protect the ball against the Gators, this game could get ugly.
	<b>7. Ole Miss</b> 5-4 (3-3) The Rebels won two games straight for the first time this season. The Rebel attack has been led by the emergence of steady quarterback play from Jevan Snead.
	<b>8. Kentucky</b> 6-3 (2-3) The Wildcats became bowl eligible for the third consecutive year under Rich Brooks. The Wildcats have been able to win even though they have gotten little production from their quarterbacks this year.
	<b>9. Arkansas</b> 4-5 (2-4) The Razorbacks have come a long way from earlier in the season when they were getting blown out every weekend.
	<b>10. Auburn</b> 4-5 (2-4) The wheels have fallen off the Auburn bandwagon, as the Tigers have lost their last four games.
	<b>11. Tennessee</b> 3-6 (1-5) It is quite possible that the Vols will rally around their coach Phil Fulmer after his resignation, or it is also very possible that the Vols will keep playing terribly.
	<b>12. Mississippi State</b> 3-6 (1-4) The Bulldogs are the worst in the SEC this season. They gave UT their only conference win.

## Playing smart key to stopping Tebow

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Specialist

Reigning Heisman winner Tim Tebow and the high-flying offense of the Gators will bring their show to Nashville on Saturday, and Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson said he believes smart, sound defense will be the key to stopping them.

"We're trying to make sure we're playing smart (on defense) and making sure we execute," Johnson said. "They've got so many weapons, we can't help them out by being in the wrong place at the wrong time or missing tackles or letting them throw the ball over our head. So we've got to be smart."

Junior linebacker Patrick Benoist said the Commodores can stop the potent Florida attack with a solid, cohesive defensive effort.

"They're fast and they're a good team, but we're a good team too," Benoist said. "We've got to be ready to get a lot of people to the ball. If the first guy misses, we've got to have three or four guys ready to help him out."

Florida has averaged over 50 points a game since losing to Ole Miss on Sept. 27 en route to four straight blowout victories. Vanderbilt is seeking its first win in the series since 1988.

#### Moore honored

Vanderbilt cornerback D.J. Moore was named



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Junior cornerback D.J. Moore (17) has been named a semifinalist for the prestigious Jim Thorpe Award. He is tied for the team lead in interceptions.

as a semifinalist for the 2008 Jim Thorpe Award yesterday. Named for the Native American sports legend, the award is presented annually to the top defensive back in the country.

Moore, a junior, is one of 13 semifinalists for the award and one of five from the Southeastern Conference.

Count Johnson among those not surprised that the do-it-all Commodore

received the recognition. "D.J.'s got all the stats, and he does more than just play defensive back," Johnson said. "It's quite an honor for him."

Moore, a pre-season All-SEC pick at corner who also serves as the team's primary returner on punts and kickoffs, is tied for the team lead with three interceptions, as well as contributing 33 tackles and five defended passes.

"There's a lot of good defensive backs in the country but he's right up there with the top," Johnson said.

#### Smith might miss Florida

Senior wide receiver George Smith did not participate in practice Tuesday and may miss

Saturday's game against Florida while nursing an injured hamstring, Johnson said.

"George Smith is not responding like we wanted him to, so I don't know if he's going to make it or not," Johnson said.

Smith has four receptions for 48 yards since returning against Auburn on Oct. 4.

#### Red zone masters

The Commodores are second in the nation this season with a 92 percent conversion rate inside the 20-yard line, scoring on 22-24 chances.

Florida is the only team in the nation to top them in that category. The Gators have converted on 33-34 opportunities, good for a 97 percent clip. ■

## Soccer comes up short as season ends in loss

by BRIAN LINHARES  
Sports Contributor

With a 1-0 loss to the University of Kentucky in double overtime on Halloween night, the Vanderbilt women's soccer team's season came to a close. It was the fourth loss by one goal, as well as second in overtime, for the Commodores in Southeastern Conference play. They fell to 3-7-1, with an overall record of 9-8-2.

The Commodores started strong, taking a 6-1-1 non-conference record into league action, including two double overtime victories over Belmont and South Florida.

However, the SEC slate proved to a daunting task. Most



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Senior Amy Wilcox provided important leadership for the Commodores in 2008.

notably, a 3-4 loss in double overtime to the 15th-ranked Florida Gators, as well as a 0-1 loss at 17th-ranked Louisiana State, served as a microcosm

for 2008. The balance of many close games did not tilt towards Vanderbilt.

Senior Amy Wilcox helped lead the attack for the Commodores at midfield, starting 17 of the 18 games in which she played. Wilcox tied for third in goals scored with three and added three assists. Moreover, she provided invaluable leadership on a squad that featured 12 sophomores and seven freshmen.

In addition to Wilcox, Vanderbilt loses three time All-SEC midfielder Katie Schulz. Schulz lost a third of her senior campaign to injuries, appearing in 12 games, notching two goals. Furthermore, akin

to Wilcox, her impact was also intangible. The captain commanded the Commodore attack for a less experienced squad.

Luckily for the Commodores, the losses of Wilcox, Schulz and midfielder Taylor Ryer can be weathered; the Kinsella sisters return. Sophomore Molly Kinsella led Vanderbilt with eight goals and four assists and received All-Conference honors.

Furthermore, as the key offensive option, she ultimately proved to be the difference in several contests, principally a three-goal performance in the penultimate contest of the season at Mississippi State.

The other half of the duo,

forward Megan Kinsella, put forth a solid effort on the year as well. Starting all 19 games, her four goals and three assists ranked second on the team.

Goalkeeper Rachel Bachtel played an intricate role in the successes of Vanderbilt. Keeping opponents to an average of 1.23 goals per game, with five shutouts, the staunch sophomore kept nearly every contest within striking range.

Candace West, also an All-Conference selection and who saw action at midfielder as well as forward, turned in a quality campaign for the Commodores. The freshman saw action in seventeen games, starting ten. West led the freshmen with three goals and three assists. ■

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