



GREEK SCENE: Panhellenic chapters meet potential new members Saturday. SEE PAGE 5

CAMPUS LIVING: Increased card access to dorms accomodates students. SEE PAGE 5

Women's basketball opens regular season tonight



Meredith Marsh (23), Christina Wirth (34) and the Vanderbilt women's basketball team open their regular season against Texas A&M Corpus Christi tonight at 7 p.m. in Memorial Gymnasium. See page 6 to read an interview with Wirth in the Friday Conversation.

SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

CAMPUS LIVING

Vanderbilt honors Chef Bill James



JULIE CRIDER / photo provided

Ginger James, Bill James, Jr., Delores Grant and Camp Howard participate in a ceremony honoring the late Chef Bill James, for whom Rand's new Chef James Bistro is named.

by JENNIFER DENNARD
News Contributor

On Wednesday morning, Chef James Bistro was officially dedicated to the late Chef Bill James.

"He was the first really honored African American chef in the 1970s and '80s," said Director of Dining Camp Howard. "He was very well known and respected both at Vanderbilt and elsewhere."

James worked at Vanderbilt Dining for over 30 years.

Howard presented a plaque to James' son, Bill James, in memory of the chef and his contribution to Vanderbilt.

Nearly 50 people gathered for the occasion, including present and past dining workers.

"He truly loved Vanderbilt," said Bill James of his father.

Chef James enjoyed music, athletics, ice sculpting and other activities but really dedicated himself to the culinary arts. He worked his way up to executive chef at Vanderbilt and retired in 1993. Bill James and his wife agreed that football and food were Chef James' main passions.

"He was always about helping someone else to achieve," said James' daughter-in-law, Ginger James. "Everyone looked up to him." ■

ADMINISTRATION

Board's Reynolds supports education

by RUTH SMITH
News Contributor

Voted one of Business Week's 50 most philanthropic Americans in 2004, Board of Trust Member and Chairman and CEO of both the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation and EduCap Inc. Catherine Reynolds annually donates millions of dollars to worthy causes.

The Catherine B. Reynolds donates money to over 50 causes, including Teach for America, the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and Reading is Fundamental, a national literacy organization. All of these charitable organizations have one thing in common: They aim to educate the youth in both factual and cultural knowledge.

Reynolds believes a solid education is one of the most important factors in a child's development, and she has dedicated her life to helping people achieve this. When Reynolds, a girl from a working class family, attended college, most student loans originated in



The Hustler's project profiling members of the Board of Trust continues with Catherine B. Reynolds.

government programs.

However, she saw that with tuition costs rising, these programs simply did not cover the demand for financial aid. After graduating from Vanderbilt in 1979, she joined a small student loan company in Virginia headed by a local Catholic priest, and it was from here that she completely reformed the student loan industry, turning it into the \$17 billion industry that it is today.

Each year, Reynolds and her husband, Wayne Reynolds, host the International Achievement Summit, a summit which brings together graduate students and leaders in the arts, business, public service, science, exploration and sports. The aim of the conference is to introduce students to real-life role models: people the students

can look up to and aspire to be. Previous speakers have included President Bill Clinton, President-Elect Barack Obama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Indiana Colt quarterback Peyton Manning.

"We know how to change lives with (the summit). We know how to touch the souls of young people," Reynolds said in an interview on "60 Minutes."

As a pioneer in the student loan industry, Reynolds has also recently served as a member of the U.S. Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education. She has been praised by other members of the commission for her work.

"As a taxpayer, I am glad to have people like Catherine and her competitors provide lending services that appropriately should be handled by free enterprise, not by government bureaucrats and politicians," said Richard Vedder in his online blog.

At Vanderbilt, Reynolds currently serves on the Academic Programs and Student Life Committees. ■

ACADEMICS

Vanderbilt ranked No. 9 best place to work in academia

by LOUIS DALRYMPLE
News Contributor

Vanderbilt chalks up another accolade to its recognized resume, as it was named one of the top 10 places to work in United States Academia.

Out of the 73 institutions evaluated, Vanderbilt University ranked No. 9, significantly higher than last year.

Announced in the November issue of The Scientist magazine, this ranking was formulated from surveying over 2,000 researchers, administrators, teachers and various other scientists from research institutions all across the nation.

Respondents were asked to evaluate their respective

institution according to 41 different criteria in eight general areas. Among these criteria were quality of mentoring, pay, infrastructure and environment.

Since The Scientist magazine's 2004 survey, tenure has been regarded as more important than peer relations. In 2007, however, peer relations took the lead. This year's survey showed similar results, with respondents deeming relationships with co-workers and mentors to be the most important characteristic of a work environment, above both pay and tenure.

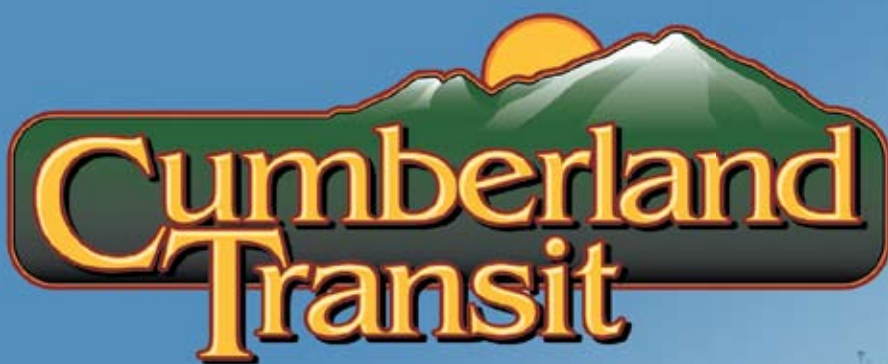
Respondents at Vanderbilt considered these relationships to be both strong and

accessible. In addition, Vanderbilt was specifically noted for its excellence in infrastructure and supportive environment.

"Our top 10 ranking in The Scientist is a wonderful reflection of the strong leadership Vanderbilt has in its department chairs, deans and senior faculty," said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty.

"Although Vanderbilt has experienced dramatic increases in grant support from the National Institutes of Health over the past decade, it remains an institution that values collegiality, interdisciplinary research programs and support for junior faculty." ■

BOYLE: First-year girls need stylish clothes and shoes to win the hearts of future sorority sisters. SEE PAGE 6



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by JANELLE STOKES

WEATHER

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TODAY



HIGH 71, LOW 44
Partly cloudy

SATURDAY



HIGH 48, LOW 32
Rain showers

STAFF

- Editor **Michael Warren**
michael.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu
- Day Managers
Hannah Twillman
hannah.t.twillman@vanderbilt.edu
- Eve Attermann**
eve.a.attermann@vanderbilt.edu
- Janelle Stokes**
janelle.k.stokes@vanderbilt.edu
- Opinion Editor **Thomas Shattuck**
thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu
- Senior Copy Editor **Hannah Twillman**
hannah.t.twillman@vanderbilt.edu
- Academics Specialist **Judy Wang**
zhu.wang@vanderbilt.edu
- Administration Specialist **Eve Attermann**
eve.a.attermann@vanderbilt.edu
- Campus Living Specialist **Norah Scanlan**
norah.o.scanlan@vanderbilt.edu
- Leadership Specialist **Lily Chen**
lily.z.chen@vanderbilt.edu
- Greek Scene Specialist **Janelle Stokes**
janelle.k.stokes@vanderbilt.edu
- Science and Medicine Specialist **Allie Morris**
allison.d.morris@vanderbilt.edu
- Sports Specialist **David Rutz**
david.c.rutz@vanderbilt.edu
- Election Project Director **Katherine Miller**
katherine.m.miller@vanderbilt.edu
- Art Director **Matt Radford**
matt@vscmedia.org
- Photo Editor **Chris Phare**
chris.phare@vanderbilt.edu
- Journalist-in-Residence **Tim Ghianni**
tim.c.ghianni@vanderbilt.edu

SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

Gunshot report at Virginia Tech a false alarm, new system imperfect

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—An exploded cartridge from a nail gun produced sounds similar to gunfire near a Virginia Tech dormitory Thursday, briefly scaring a campus still scarred from mass shootings last year.

The scare was the first use of the university's revamped crisis alert system. Virginia Tech added text messages and other ways of warning students of possible danger to its system of e-mail alerts after gunman Seung-Hui Cho took 32 lives before turning the gun on himself.

The results were spotty: While an initial text message explaining police were investigating potential gunfire was successful, text messages that explained the sounds were not gunfire did not go through on mobile phones. The problem was traced to the service provider in the mountainous area, university spokesman Larry Hincker said, and school officials have asked the vendor for an explanation.

"We attempt to use as many channels as possible to notify the community of emergency situations," Hincker said in a statement. "We regret that the one system not under our control failed to work as expected."

Police secured Pritchard Hall around 1 p.m., and searched every room in the 1,000-student dormitory. They reopened it two hours later after finding no evidence of gunshots.

The school sent out a campus alert saying police were investigating "reported sounds of gunshots in Pritchard Hall" before police determined that the sounds came from an exploding cartridge from a nail gun that had been set off near a trash bin.

King family seeks to cash in on MLK-Obama items due to entitlements

ATLANTA (AP)—Zealous guardians of his words and his likeness, the family of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is demanding a share of the proceeds from the sudden wave of T-shirts, posters and other merchandise depicting the civil rights leader alongside Barack Obama.

Isaac Newton Farris Jr., King's nephew and head of the nonprofit King Center in Atlanta, said the estate is entitled to hundreds of thousands of dollars in licensing fees — maybe even millions.

But while Obama's election as the first black president may be the fulfillment of King's dream and could yield a big windfall for his estate, policing his image and actually collecting any fees could prove to be a legal nightmare because of the great proliferation of unauthorized King-Obama paraphernalia, much of it sold by street vendors.

King's writings, likeness and voice are considered intellectual property, and almost any use — from graduate thesis papers to TV documentaries — are subject to approval by his estate, now administered by his surviving children, Martin Luther King III, Dexter King and the Rev. Bernice King. (Because Obama is an elected official, his words and image are in the public domain and can be used without permission.)

Farris said he expects to announce deals in the coming weeks to license some items featuring images of King and Obama, and may sell some in the King Center bookstore alongside recordings of his speeches, postcards, calendars, mugs bearing images of King, and other licensed merchandise, which nets the center about \$800,000 annually.

Prince Charles turns 60 waiting to receive throne from mother

LONDON (AP)—Talk about an apprentice. By the time he turns 60 Friday, Prince Charles will have spent a lifetime in line to become king.

That's put him in quite a bind. The longest-waiting heir in British history only ascends to the throne when his beloved mother dies or decides to step down.

Queen Elizabeth II hosted a birthday party for her son Thursday at Buckingham Palace. The Philharmonia Orchestra, of which the prince is patron, played for invited members of his extended family, European royalty and assorted society figures.

His sons William and Harry addressed the guests, describing Charles as an inspiration — but also poked fun at their aging father, joking that an electric stair lift would be installed at his country home in Gloucestershire, in southwest England, to mark his birthday.

Charles' wife Camilla was throwing a more private bash on Saturday at the prince's rural estate, complete with a performance by sexagenarian rocker Rod Stewart.

But the queen won't be giving Charles the present many believe he craves most — the crown. The queen has indicated informally that she plans to keep the job for life and some people think the 82-year-old monarch intends to live forever, or at least as long as her mother, who died at 101.

Budget deficit hits record; jobless claims surge as stock market fluctuates

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's financial picture grew darker Thursday, a day marked by breathtaking numbers: a quarter-trillion-dollar budget deficit for a single month and projections of up to \$1 trillion for a year, a half-million new applications for unemployment benefits and a 900-point swing on Wall Street.

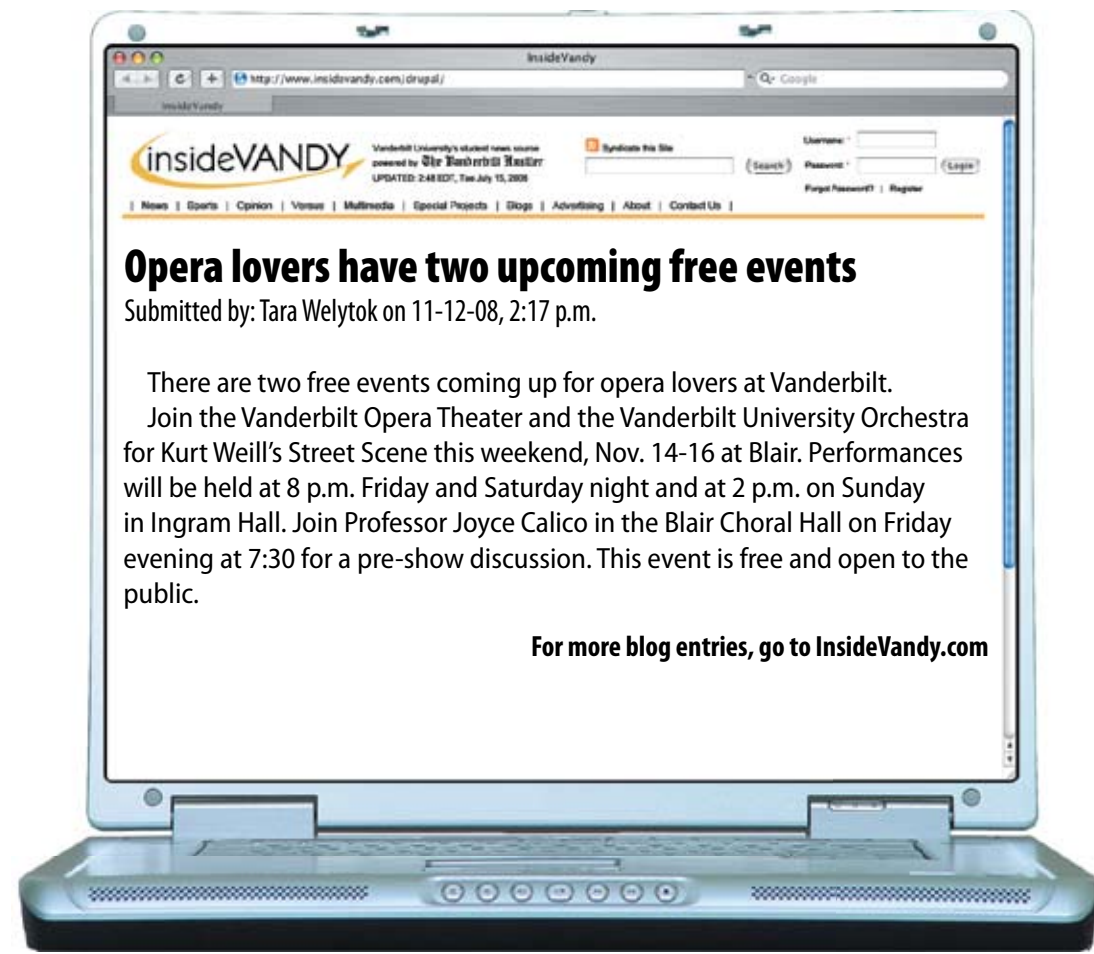
There was some good news, with the stock market rallying from near its lows for the year to its third-biggest point gain ever. But analysts predicted that the steady drumbeat of gloomy statistics would only get worse in coming months as the country endures what could be the worst downturn since the severe 1981-82 recession.

The initial costs of the government's economic bailout efforts sent the U.S. budget deficit for October soaring to a record \$237.2 billion, putting it on track to reach the once-unfathomable sum of \$1 trillion for the year.

"And as bad as these numbers are, they may look good a year from now because things are going to get much worse," said Sung Won Sohn, an economist at the Smith School of Business at California State University.

In more grim economic news released Thursday, the number of newly laid-off workers applying for jobless benefits last week hit the highest level since the period right after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

FROM THE BLOG



Opera lovers have two upcoming free events

Submitted by: Tara Welytok on 11-12-08, 2:17 p.m.

There are two free events coming up for opera lovers at Vanderbilt. Join the Vanderbilt Opera Theater and the Vanderbilt University Orchestra for Kurt Weill's Street Scene this weekend, Nov. 14-16 at Blair. Performances will be held at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday night and at 2 p.m. on Sunday in Ingram Hall. Join Professor Joyce Calico in the Blair Choral Hall on Friday evening at 7:30 for a pre-show discussion. This event is free and open to the public.

For more blog entries, go to InsideVandy.com

SNAPSHOT

FINANCIAL BOOTCAMP



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Economics faculty members Stephen Buckles and Malcom Getz, pictured, offered financial advice to students on Thursday, Nov. 13. Favorite moments included savings tips and Getz's bowtie. Read the full story at InsideVandy.com.

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VSG resolutions update

by LILY CHEN

Leadership Specialist

At the Vanderbilt Student Government meeting on Wednesday, several orders of business were addressed and events updated.

Senators held a round of discussion regarding first-year students' and upperclassmen meal plans, some advocating the fourth meal and some against the no rollover policy. Discussion then led to parking and debate over whether faculty members should create disincentives for students bringing cars on campus.

New resolutions were presented including:

VSG Resolution S: 08-09-15 "Omnibus bill amending the VSG statutes for consistency"

1. The resolution makes amendments to VSG statutes on the following areas that have been amended in VSG Constitution:

Area Coordinator title is changed to Programming Director

Residential Greek House President and Off-Campus House President are combined into one Residential Greek/Off-Campus Area Representative

Committees will be filled according to procedures established by the Executive Vice President and approved by the Executive Board

The Attorney General can be a Presidential Candidate or Vice Presidential Candidate.

Blair Council President candidates only need to gather 50 signatures to declare the candidacy.

Area Representative candidates need to gather 50

signatures from that area to declare the candidacy.

Area Representative candidates campaign budget limit is \$65.

VSG primary and general elections only apply to the following positions: President/Vice President, Senators, School Council members and Area Representatives

In the event that only two candidates are running for single-office elections, the Primary Election shall be forgone.

Amend "VSG is taking revenue from a portion of 'Courtney Salters' budget" to "VSG will take in revenue from the portion of the budget of the Director of Student Governance that was previously allocated for SGA."

Allow president/vice president candidates to assemble an eight-member campaign team prior to mandatory candidate meeting.

Amendments include:

"BE IT RESOLVED that sub-clauses E and F become sub-clauses F and G respectively, and that a sub-clause be added to clause 6.2.2 that reads: E. For Area Representatives: 25 signatures from residents of the candidate's area. This does not apply to the Greek/Off-Campus Area Representative, who shall collect 10 signatures from residents of Greek and off-campus housing."

"BE IT RESOLVED that a sub-clause shall be added to 6.3.1 that reads as follows: E. For Area Representatives: \$40."

Resolution passed. Resolutions compiled by General Secretary Melissa Zhu.

CAMPUS LIVING

Housekeepers' wages rise, but not enough, say some

by ETHEL MICKEY

News Contributor

Vanderbilt housekeepers pay range will increase to \$10.10 an hour on Dec. 1, rising over two dollars from the \$7.92 starting wage in 2006.

"Our current wages are very competitive within the Middle Tennessee area," said Interim Chief Human Resources Officer Lenon Coleman. However, the National Low Income Housing Coalition claims that the minimum wage needed to afford a one-bedroom apartment in Nashville is \$10.18.

The most recent contract negotiations concluded in the

spring of 2007. Included in the accepted contract proposal were wage increases, the introduction of a performance evaluation process and a modification of the sick-leave policy.

"(Housekeepers receive) virtually the same benefits as all university employees," Coleman said. These benefits include health care, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, as well as tuition benefit and retirement.

Most housekeepers will make more than the starting wage due to years of service and performance increases. There are nearly 200 housekeepers on campus who, along with groundskeepers,

skilled craftsmen and dining employees, are represented by the Laborers' International Union of North America.

A few years ago at Vanderbilt, a "living wage" campaign developed with students and faculty advocating raising the wages of housekeepers to meet the minimum of \$10.18. Coleman recognized that student input is valued by the administration, as shown by the student contribution in the organization of The Commons.

Coleman said, however, that this student involvement is hard to balance in the "living wage" bargaining process.

"The collective bargaining agreement is a contract

between the university and the union. It is protected and controlled by a myriad of federal laws," Coleman said. Employees have access to management with a structure set up to hear concerns and grievances.

Vanderbilt Community Alliance, a coalition of faculty, students and employees, has been actively fighting to raise wages to the "living" standard. While Vanderbilt will be the closest it has ever been to reaching this mark in December, employees will still be 8 cents shy of the mark.

For more information about Vanderbilt's "living wage" campaign, go to <http://www.vandycommunity.org>. ■



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GREEK SCENE

Sorority hopefuls meet chapters Saturday

by JANELLE STOKES
Greek Specialist

On Saturday, 542 registered undergraduate women will participate in Panhellenic Preview Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. These women will visit the 10 sorority chapters with their Greek Ambassadors and

experience a non-mandatory preview of fall rounds.

The purpose of this event is to give the potential new members practice in the sorority recruitment process. The event is similar to formal recruitment, but there is no scoring or ranking done.

Vice President of Recruitment

senior Emily Kveselis said the Preview Day is a rehearsal for new sorority members who will be on the other side of the recruitment process.

"It's really just practice for the sophomores (and new members) in the sorority, and for the potential new members so that they are not shocked," Kveselis

said. "The basic expectation (for the day) is that everyone is going out to meet as many women as they can."

Kveselis expects that 500 to 520 of the registered women will come out. Numbers of potential new members who participate in the process have decreased after each stage of the recruitment

process in the past.

"I want (potential new members) to realize that we have 10 great chapters," Kveselis said. "I hope they also realize whether or not this is a good decision for them or not."

Freshman Amanda Nieman plans to attend Panhellenic Preview Day with her Greek

Ambassador and group.

"I think that fall preview day will help me get a better idea of the different sororities and get a better idea of what rush will be like in January," Nieman said. "The Greek Ambassador is someone who you can ask your questions (because) no one really knows what rush is like." ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Student body approves of extended card access

by JENNIFER DENNARD
News Contributor

After almost two weeks of greater card access in campus residential areas, students have shown a positive response to the new policy.

As previously reported in the Hustler, this policy allows students living in certain residential areas — Branscomb Quad, Carmichael Towers, Highland Quad, Vanderbilt-Barnard Halls and Kissam Quad — to access all the floors (even those of the opposite sex) of the dorms in their area between noon and 9 p.m.

"I definitely think it's a positive thing," said junior Camille Brandon, who lives with three other students in a Chaffin apartment on Highland Quad. With the new policy, she can access all floors of Lewis and Morgan Houses during the designated times.

"(The policy) promotes a greater sense of community for people who live (in the areas)," said Brandon. "Since we don't



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Senior Joshua Ho uses his Commodore Card to gain entry to Tolman Hall near Alumni Lawn.

have a common area to share with people other than our roommates, it makes it easier to interact with more students."

Brandon, however, is not worried about any security problems with the new policy.

"If VSG and VUPD worked together on the policy, I'm sure it was well planned," she said.

For Branscomb residents, the policy similarly grants access to other buildings and also to floors of the opposite sex.

"I like (the policy) because it allows me to visit my friends without having to call them

annoyingly to let me onto their floors," said sophomore Alex Ernst, a resident of Stapleton House.

The policy similarly affects Kissam residents, though some students are looking for more.

"It would be great for the side doors of Kissam Quad buildings to be open later because sometimes it's a huge inconvenience to go to the front," said sophomore Laura Regan. "I think (the new card access policy is) still safe because in order to get onto the actual floors you need to swipe in again." ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Vanderbilt alum works production for 'Gone Country', credits VTV

by HUGH SCHLESINGER
News Contributor

Vanderbilt alumnus Justin Smith has returned to Nashville, at least momentarily, for the production of the third season of the CMT reality show "Gone Country 3."

"Gone Country 3" chronicles the two-week immersion of celebrities from different realms of the entertainment industry in country music and its culture.

Smith, who graduated in 2003 as a communications studies major, works as the show's lead coordinator of the production staff, organizing anything and everything the production staff needs for shooting, including readying the cameras, lights and actors. He first got his start in television production while at Vanderbilt, working for Vanderbilt Television,

eventually becoming station manager.

Smith credits much of his success to his experience at Vanderbilt and with VTV.

"I wouldn't be where I am right now if it wasn't for VTV," he said.

After graduation, Smith moved to Los Angeles, Calif., where he now works for the production company Renegade 83. He has returned to Nashville, however, to film the finale concert for "Gone Country 3," a show that immerses quasi-celebrities in the country culture by having them participate in farm activities and then perform country music songs.

The concert will be a free event for music fans of all ages and will include original performances by the "Gone Country 3" cast. As the finale, the cast members, including Sheila E., George Clinton,

Justin Guarini and Taylor Dayne, will put on their final performances for the judges who will then decide the winner.

Smith said the concert is an event that should not be missed. According to Debbie Tyner, the show's production coordinator, this season has featured the best cast in the show's three-season lifetime and features some great talent for the free price of admission. The show will begin at 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Wildhorse Saloon. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Other than encouraging students to come to the show, Smith also offered some advice to students trying to break into the television business.

"Network, network, network. What's important is who knows you," Smith said. "And go work for VTV." ■

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OPINION

Let them eat cake



THOMAS SHATTUCK
Opinion Editor

As many know, and most will learn, everyday life is rather confusing. It's not simply making breakfast or jogging regularly or even making money. If it were, life would be drastically simpler. Oddly enough, most Americans do not find this simplicity appealing. We intend to make life as confusing as possible to keep ourselves busy, perhaps in an attempt to forget. That is to say there might in fact be a problem, but what it actually is cannot be so readily defined. A kind of quasi-existential angst brought on by the post-modern age.

Carl Jung would have you believe the issue has been created by this influx of ever increasing technological advance, as if man cannot handle what he wrought. As it is said, man's reach exceeds his grasp, though this is merely a misquotation of Robert Browning. Browning originally spoke of it as an injunction, intending that the thought of the future should be hopeful. Unsurprisingly, I disagree with Jung and believe the technological advances are a symptom of such mental deterioration and not its cause. We did create our inhuman machinations to vex ourselves; we created them to complete ourselves, though perhaps success has been limited.

Of course, we are not alone in our creationist attempts; the corporations are here to fill our ever-increasing metaphysical holes with worthless merchandise in a bleak and futile attempt to prevent social change. This is not their fault; the corporate structure is a necessary facet of a modern society, and as they perform this role, they should remain.

A problem arises, however, when corporations assume autonomy from the legal structure that created them. A legal person was never meant to have free will. This is not some half-assed attempt at calling for revoking the charters of any of the numerous corporations who have run amuck. I do not particularly care either way; it is just a reminder of the concept's history.

Initially, these legal persons were temporary, consisting of limited groups of people normally in an attempt to perform some public good such as oversee a park or construct a bridge (such as toll ways). They were not allowed to run other corporations and their charters were revoked if they exceeded the role initially set out for them. The current framework of the American corporation owes much to the Civil War and the 14th Amendment, which prevents the state from denying or depriving any person life, liberty and property. As legal persons, corporations then decided to assume these rights for themselves.

As legal persons, corporations are omnipresent. This does not mean you should flee to the hills or that the country will collapse from some imminent apocalypse. However, it is also fair to say our new neighbors will not save us from ourselves. Since a company consists primarily of furniture, buildings and other inanimate objects, it is hard for it to have sympathy (or any emotion for that matter). This means in the modern age one not only has to keep track of oneself but also one's corporate companion. If we do not keep watch, we will find ourselves in several sorts of uncomfortable and precarious predicaments. So corporations may not fill the void in your life, but you need them just the same; more importantly, they need you too.

— Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

Economy message confuses

Thursday morning, the Vanderbilt community received an e-mail from Chancellor Nick Zeppos. The subject line indicated the e-mail was a "message on the economy." The text of the 1,700-word e-mail is available at InsideVandy.com and on the Vanderbilt homepage.

Zeppos made the message clear: "We are very strong and sound financially." The reinforcement of Vanderbilt's assumed financial stability comes at a time when the country's economy is in the midst of uncertain trouble.

Zeppos reiterates how Vanderbilt's team of economic and financial advisers is "prudent, expert and proactive." He attributes the university's financial stability to "conservative budgeting and financial planning." The chancellor includes a mathematical explanation of how the endowment payout, presumably to quell any concerns that this year's endowment payoff will be in danger.

Zeppos argues that nothing at Vanderbilt will change because of the crisis. Still, whether intended or not, Zeppos's e-mail is concerning in both its length and its content, and it raises questions about the validity of the chancellor's claims.

Is the university's financial situation in trouble? The e-mail does not make mention of how much the endowment's investment portfolio is projected

to lose. The loss could be minimal, or it could be large; nothing in the e-mail indicates such severity. Still, it is disconcerting and somewhat confusing as to why the chancellor felt compelled to mention the university's financial situation in the first place.

Zeppos said the e-mail was written in response to concerns raised by members of the community.

"I wish I could talk to each person on our campus to let them know we are strong and we are great," Zeppos explained. "We will be fine, and our future is bright."

Who were the concerned community members? Were they students worried about the solvency of the newly announced financial aid program? Were they faculty members concerned with the fate of their retirement funds? Should these and other people anxious about a volatile financial market simply take the university's word that "everything will be fine"?

Our community deserves more than this cryptic response to the few who have asked legitimate questions about the university's endowment. Vanderbilt's financial problems may be nonexistent, but Thursday's message from Zeppos may have fostered more unease in a community that more than likely assumes the university has all of its financial ducks in a row. — Michael Warren

OASIS reform will take time

To the Editor:

In reading your Wednesday editorial, "OASIS Program Outdated, Inefficient," I recognized that many students share your concern about the usefulness and outdated nature of the course registration program. To be honest, I feel like I am typing in the nuclear codes to a weapons system or opening up the original DOS version of Oregon Trail every time I log on, and all of us at Vanderbilt Student Government recognize the need for improving the method by which students register for courses. In the past few months, we have been part of a discussion within the administration about reforming the system for a newer, more efficient model that would allow for drop-down menus of classes, search by professor functions, and a cleaner user interface. Having seen the OASIS reforms on the way, I am excited that change is coming, albeit very slowly.

The vast nature of Vanderbilt's IT network makes replacing OASIS difficult. If OASIS were not so highly integrated with other university databases, then the replacement would be relatively easy, as the Office of the Provost could simply purchase a new registration system from a higher education vendor and patch it into our academic enrollment system. But our network is much more complicated, interweaving student course load information through databases in financial aid eligibility, housing, student health, enrollment management and university schedules and reservations. Nearly every element of the student

life cycle is connected with the OASIS system, and because our course offerings are so numerous and OASIS's interconnectivity with other IT systems is so complex, a replacement system solution must be custom built and carefully integrated.

The patches take time to create and the maze of connections within the internal network makes this process quite long. University administrators have brought in a consulting firm to determine the best method for creating a new course registration program and hired Director of Enrollment Management and Information Systems Lori Shipley as project manager. While progress is underway, the OASIS reforms may not be completely updated for several months.

In the meantime, students should take advantage of the new online course syllabi finder on OAK to learn more about the expectations of potential classes and encourage their professors to add syllabi to the database. This improvement to the OAK offerings, as well as more improvements scheduled to take place in the spring, should help ease the course registration process for students until a new system is fully in place. We invite students to share their concerns or ideas for improvement of the system with us, and plan to continue pushing for a replacement to our archaic OASIS system as soon as it can be designed and integrated into our university's IT network.

Wyatt Smith
Executive Vice President
Vanderbilt Student Government

THE RANT

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

"We go to Vanderbilt University not Cal Berkley — the student body is conservative; get over it."

"To the girl with the annoying voice in Health Psychology: STOP shouting all of your ridiculous opinions in every single psychology class. These are lectures, and no one wants to hear about how your father goes hunting or how your mother sprayed you with water as a child."

"For those of you that decided to play musical chairs in Sarratt the other day ... that is cool and all, but can you maybe go play it somewhere else ... where people aren't studying?"

"Hey, maintenance for Kissam? Is there anyway you can bring up some soap and toilet paper for Hemingway 4? When you get a chance?"

"When will it stop raining? I want to go outside again."

"For the record, if you have to vomit there are bathrooms."

Compiled by Thomas Shattuck

March of the penguins



FRANNIE BOYLE
Columnist

November is a pretty tough month. For some, it begins with a massive hangover from the Halloween festivities the night before, and for everyone, it ends with an extra five pounds from Grandma's feast for Thanksgiving dinner. Unfortunately for the many women who are Greek or are planning on going Greek, the worst part lurks around mid-month: Fall Rounds.

Freshmen on Vanderbilt's campus are lucky enough to experience fall rounds for the first time tomorrow. Whether they are girls attempting to immerse themselves into the sorority world or they are taunting guys watching from a distance (forgetting that their hell is only a few months away), all will feel the pressure and tension in the air.

The freshmen girls, who are new to the process, will be nervous, but sophomores new to their sororities will probably be even jumpier. It will be their first "rounds" experience on the other side, and trust me — there is a lot to learn. The upperclassmen will be a bit more relaxed, but we all know they will be a little anxious about the next class coming in. And of course, there will be those juniors gloating about their decision to avoid formal rush next semester by making plans to study abroad.

This is my first year on the other side, so I have nothing to offer for upperclassmen, but there are a few things that I wish my Greek Ambassador had shared with me last year I had to learn for myself. So here are a few pointers for those freshmen girls out there who are a little lost with the whole process:

First of all, despite what Greek Life is telling you, it does matter what you wear. Yeah, yeah, you are all wearing the same shirt and no jewelry that makes you stand out, but what you choose to do with your bottom half does really matter. You better pick out the most expensive pair of jeans that you own, or at least the most recognizable brand. If you are lacking in this department, get to Green Hills Mall pronto. You should probably use the same strategy with your shoes as well.

Second, if you are a girl that likes your personal space, you better just open up the bubble for a day, because you are going to have more loving from other girls than you have ever had in your life. When you get picked up at the doors you will either be grabbed by the arm, guided by a hand on the back or even better, linked elbow-to-elbow with one of the sisters. During conversations, you might get frequent taps on the shoulder or brushes on the arm. Just get used to it. Ironically, it is the sorority's awkward way of making you feel more welcome.

Most importantly, do not worry about the whole holding a conversation thing. Fall Rounds is just one absurd practice session for the bigger event to come in January. Just let the girls in the sorority T-shirts take control. They are supposed to be spitting mad game at you anyway. You should try to avoid topics such as politics, religion, what boys you have hooked up with, how much you drank last weekend or how much you did not drink last weekend. Weather is fair game, because Nashville weather is wild. Other than that, sit back, relax and enjoy meeting the older girls that you have been scared to meet all semester.

— Frannie Boyle is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at maryl.f.boyle@vanderbilt.edu.

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.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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

President Joseph Williams
Vanderbilt Student Government
5009 Station B
joseph.williams@vanderbilt.edu
Sarratt 355
(615) 322-8742

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

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3344
(615) 279-9488

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

Rep. Brenda Gilmore
Tenn. District 54
P.O. Box 281934
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 876-3665

Sen. Douglas Henry Jr.
Tenn. District 21
11 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243-0021
(615) 741-2380

Councilmember Keith Durbin
Metro District 18
1704 Sweetbriar Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 673-4210

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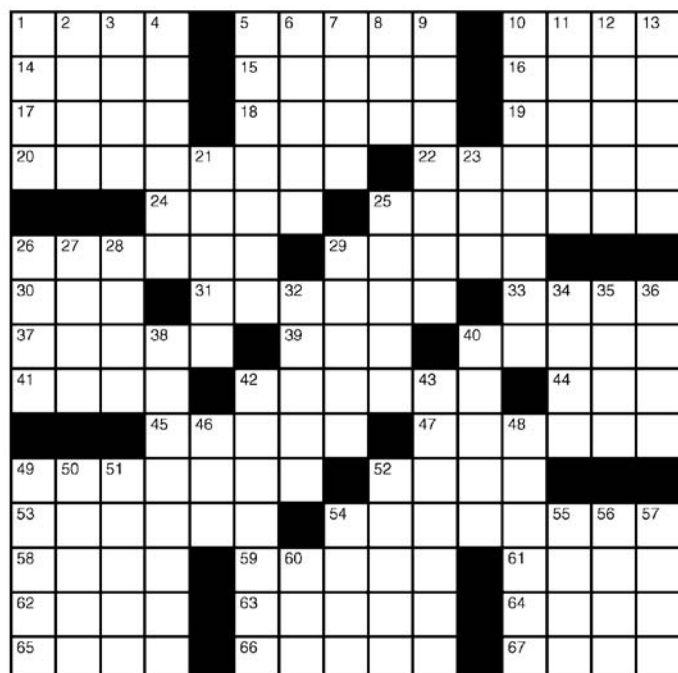


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11/14/08

- ACROSS**
 1 Lays a lawn
 5 Forewarnings
 10 Biggest seat in the house
 14 Actress Falco
 15 Raid
 16 Fortas and Lincoln
 17 In real time
 18 Army posts
 19 Afternoon parties
 20 Hearty eaters
 22 Wistful
 24 Top-drawer
 25 Most pricey
 26 Donnybrooks
 29 Actress Marisa
 30 Cochlea site
 31 Defective cars
 33 Elan
 37 Comic bits
 39 Long period
 40 Rad!
 41 Burn slightly
- DOWN**
 1 Part of SASE
 2 "Garfield" dog
 3 Singing star
 4 Go up and down
 5 Moral
 6 Demi of "Ghost"
 7 Drops the ball
 8 "King" Cole
 9 Methods
 10 Spoo!f
 11 Corpulent
 12 Noteworthy acts
 13 Selling feature
 21 Travel charges
 23 Arctic explorer
 John
 25 Summer or perhaps
 Shalala
 26 Armstrong or Myerson
 27 Garden tool
 28 Opera song
 29 Worker's devices
- ACROSS**
 42 Highly seasoned sausage
 44 Miguel, CA
 45 Aids in wrongdoing
 47 Al and Bobby of auto racing
 49 Flower parts
 52 Part of a dance
 53 Bivouacked
 54 Uses a ruler
 58 Cain's victim
 59 Put into effect
 61 Badgered
 62 Solitary
 63 Bus itinerary
 64 Frat party attire,
 perhaps
 65 Whale groups
 66 Holiest of cheeses?
 67 Pipe part
- DOWN**
 32 Butcher's stock
 34 Relaxed condition
 35 Arcturus or Rigel
 36 2,000-pound weights
 38 Beats down
 40 Baseball groups
 42 Mailers
 43 Changes genetically
 46 Busy insect
 48 Sudden gushes
 49 Dandruff locale
 50 Prohibition
 51 Make minor alterations
 52 Splinter groups
 54 Hawaiian island
 55 Subterranean growth
 56 Outer limit
 57 Dress line
 60 At present

11/12/08 SOLUTIONS

SIMMS COBS SLAY
 ARIEL LULU NITLE
 METRO ARAB AVON
 LEAD MUSKETS
 ASSIGN AERIE
 REUNITES BLOODY
 ERR NESS SOIREE
 NATO TIS LITMA
 APACHE SOTS GIG
 SEXTON TORTOISE
 ALDA S EARNER
 TANGELO BETA
 OMOO ERGO UTTER
 NEON STUN ROWDY
 INNS SANE ERAISE

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

11/12/08 SOLUTIONS

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

Vanderbilt seeks a fresh start at Kentucky

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist

It's on the tip of everyone's tongue. It's been within Vanderbilt's grasp for over a month. And once again, Kentucky stands in the way of that elusive bowl eligibility.

Vanderbilt heads to Lexington Saturday for a 7 p.m. game on ESPN2 trying to halt a four-game losing streak, and redshirt junior center Bradley Vierling welcomes the challenge.

"We're going to have a great opportunity to beat them and get win No. 6," Vierling said.

For the second year in a row,



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Chris Nickson (3) may start Saturday against Kentucky. He relieved starter Mackenzi Adams on Saturday against Florida and led the offense to its only two scoring drives of the game.

Vanderbilt enters the annual game with the Wildcats with a 5-4 record. The Commodores have been stuck on five wins since Oct. 4.

Vanderbilt and Kentucky have a history of close games. The two teams played a thriller in Nashville last year, with a last-ditch rally engineered by redshirt

junior quarterback Mackenzi Adams coming up short in a 27-20 loss. Kentucky has won four in a row against Vanderbilt despite the Commodores out-gaining them every time.

Adams completed a career-high 20 passes for 193 yards and two touchdowns in last year's game, but he doesn't see too much of a parallel between this and last year's squads.

"They're definitely a different team and we're kind of a different team on offense," Adams said. "I have a lot of confidence in the offense around me and we're going to make some big plays."

Lately, big plays have

been hard to come by for the Commodores. They've scored 14 points or less in each of their last five games and are ranked 117th out of 119 teams in Division I in total offense with a scant 255.6 yards per game.

They also might be without their starting quarterback. Adams suffered a hip pointer against Florida but practiced this week and could still play. If he isn't ready to go, the Commodores will play redshirt senior Chris Nickson, who is 5-1 as a starter this year and led two touchdown drives in relief against the Gators.

"I don't think Chris' confidence

was lifted or lessened when he was benched for Mackenzi," Vierling said. "He's always been a confident guy. He just played his game and he did what he always has done."

Vanderbilt, meanwhile, is doing all it can to shake off the rocky last month. With three crucial games remaining on their schedule, the Commodores are intent on finishing the year strong, according to redshirt junior safety Ryan Hamilton.

"We don't want to lose another game this season," Hamilton said. "The past four games, we're going to try and forget about them and start fresh." ■

COLUMN

Don't miss out on this year's Memorial Magic



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler
The student section rejoices after the Commodores upset then-No. 1 Tennessee on Feb. 26 at Memorial Gymnasium.

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist

"It's one of the best places in college basketball on game night," said coach Kevin Stallings last February.

"This is one of the best environments I've had," said coach Melanie Balcomb after her team shocked powerhouse Duke in December.

Vanderbilt's basketball coaches are talking about Memorial Gymnasium, which is becoming established as one of the toughest venues in college sports and a site for games you don't want to miss.

Both the men's and women's teams open play at home this weekend, with the women playing tonight against Texas A&M Corpus Christi and the men on Sunday against Morehead State.

The layout of Memorial has made it unpopular with visiting coaches due to having the benches on the baselines rather than the sidelines, which they feel gives the Commodores an unfair advantage.

The visiting coaches (that's you, Bruce Pearl) can complain all they want. The bigger advantage comes from the crowds the Commodores draw and the tremendous amount of energy they bring every night when Vanderbilt tips off. With over 14,000 people screaming and the noise echoing off the walls, Memorial Gym gets extremely loud.

And the teams respond.

Over the last two seasons, both the men's and women's teams have had sparkling marks in Memorial's friendly confines. The men are 31-1 in their last 32 games there; the women are 29-4 in their last 33.

Two years in a row, the No. 1 team in the country has come to play the Vanderbilt men's team. Two years in a row, they went home defeated.

The women's team has dispatched such powerhouses as Duke, LSU and Georgia, all top-15 teams.

"It makes a difference," said senior guard Jen Risper of the home crowd last year. "You know you always have your team backing you up, your coaches and all of your close friends. But to have more people there, you just feel like there's that Memorial Magic there, too."

Memorial Magic has produced so many memorable moments over the years that it's hard to count. Look no further than the last game played there by the men, when all-time leading scorer Shan Foster capped his remarkable career at home with his greatest performance of all: a 42-point game with nine straight 3-pointers that rallied the team to an 86-85 overtime win. The performance was so amazing that it reduced Stallings and Foster to tears as they embraced after the buzzer.

Foster saluted the fans after the game, calling them, "Unbelievable."

This year, yet again, we all have the privilege of seeing two of the best hoops squads in the country week after week in the quirky gym.

The women's team has been excellent under Balcomb since 2002, with two Southeastern Conference championships and a trip to the NCAA Tournament every year since she took over coaching duties.

Vanderbilt has all five starters returning from last year's squad that won a school-record 11 conference games and reached the Sweet 16. The No. 12 Commodores are also the favorites to win the SEC Championship.

The men's team lost a star in Foster, but brings in an extremely talented corps of freshmen and has one of the best ball-handlers in the conference in junior Jermaine Beal. The team also returns star sophomore center A.J. Ogilvy and will showcase redshirt freshman Festus Ezeli, who at 6-foot-11-inches will form a potent frontcourt combination with the big Aussie.

The team has also been on a recent rise as they come off of consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances for the first time since 1989, and being a dominant home team has propelled them there.

And man, both teams are so much fun to watch. Don't miss out.

Look at Duke fans who have to camp out in tents for basketball tickets, while we get to walk right in for free. So stand on the wooden benches, yell your guts out, and high-five and bear-hug your peers. Be a sixth man or woman and be a part of Memorial Magic. ■

friday conversation with

CHRISTINA WIRTH

Interview by MEGHAN ROSE
Sports Contributor

Preseason All-Southeastern Conference First Team member Christina Wirth and the Commodores tip-off tonight at 7 p.m. in Memorial Gym against Texas A&M Corpus Christi. The senior forward spoke to the Hustler about her role as a team leader, how Vanderbilt handles being picked to win the SEC and how she became such a versatile player. Read the whole interview on InsideVandy.com.

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: As one of three seniors on a team picked to win the SEC this season, what would you say is your major role?

CHRISTINA WIRTH: One good thing about our team is that we have a lot more experience overall, not just with the seniors. Last year, we were pretty young, so I think my job is having the most experience on the team with Jen Risper. Our season has a lot of ups and downs, and you need someone on the team to keep everyone focused and to stay grounded.

VH: Having started 68 consecutive games through the end of last season, how important is it for you to have an impact in every game you play?

CW: I think you earn the respect of your teammates and they count on you. Whether I'm having a good game or not, I still feel that I can bring something to the team through communicating with and encouraging my teammates. I try to make sure we're on the same page with our coaches, and that the five of us that are on the court at the time carry it out on the floor.

VH: After averaging 13.1 points per game last season as a junior, what would you say your basic individual goals are for this season?

CW: I don't really make scoring a goal, I think that it's something that just comes if you're open you shoot, but you can't force it. For me, rebounding is definitely a big goal for me this season; we're pretty small underneath. All of our post players are about 6 feet tall. I think that rebounding is something that, as a team, we have to worry about, making sure that we are boxing out and be really disciplined. I also want to get to the free throw line a lot more this season. People know me as a shooter, and they run at me to try to take my shot away. I have to drive more, and try to take it to the basket.

VH: Both the preseason AP and the Coaches' Polls have Vandy ranked No. 12 in the nation. Has this recognition affected the team's spirits at all?

CW: I think that it's a great honor, to know that people are seeing us as one of those great programs. But as a team, we're doing a good job of not letting it get to our heads at all or putting too much pressure on ourselves. I think that we are going to go out there and know that we have a great opportunity in front of us, and we knew that even before the rankings came out. We're just going to take the season one game at a time, and hopefully we'll be in a good position come March and April.

VH: How much of an honor was it for you to be named to the All-SEC first team?

CW: It wasn't something that I was really expecting after the end of last season. We play in an amazing conference with amazing players. I don't think it's something that I've really done in my life, but God has given me the ability and the opportunity to go out there and play.

VH: What would you pinpoint as the greatest strength of your game?

CW: I'm definitely not the most athletic player by any means, but I think that I am pretty fundamentally sound. I know how to take advantage of what the other defense gives me. I can adapt well to the style of play of the other team. I've gotten better at my low-post play during my years here. Before college I didn't really play post at all.

VH: You're a very versatile player on the court. How have you managed to transition between guard and forward during your years at Vanderbilt?

CW: It was kind of tough. I had to learn a lot of plays during my freshman year for a couple of positions since they told me there was a chance I could play both post and guard. Our post coach, Vicky Picott, has done an amazing job of teaching me and she's been very patient with me. During my sophomore year, everything began to click for me.

VH: After only graduating senior Liz Sherwood from last year's team, how is the team meshing early on this season?

CW: I'm excited, we have everyone back except for one person, and we have two freshmen this season. Basically it's the same core, and we have a definite chemistry on the court and off the court. It's a lot of fun, and we're pretty competitive. I think it's going to help us a lot. Our program is getting pretty good at playing our best basketball at the end of the season. Give us a couple of months and a few games under our belt, and I think we'll be doing pretty well.

VH: How important is a successful start, as you begin to face tougher conference competition in the latter part of the season?


CW: We look at every game as an opportunity to get better, even exhibition games that don't really count. We make goals for every game, and we take each one seriously. We all know that these games now matter for seating in the tournament, and it's important to recognize how important these games now are, even though it's a very long season. Having a lot of experience on our team is really going to help us take care of business early.

VH: With all of the hype around the team this season, what goals have you set as a team?

CW: We have set individual goals for each game, but we also have goals as a team. We want to win the SEC regular season. We won the SEC Championship when I was a sophomore, but we haven't won the regular season since I've been here. We also want to win the SEC Championship and go to the NCAA Tournament again this season, and we want to go further than the Sweet 16. ■



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