



**LEADERSHIP:** OASIS reform will be slow and steady, says Wyatt Smith. SEE PAGE 5

**VERSUS:** Indie popster Zoey Deschanel makes power-folk cool. COMPLETE SECTION INSIDE

## Athletics plans for bowl

by **KOBI ANKUMAH**  
News Contributor

Commodore Nation is being urged to begin the mobilization for a trip to a postseason bowl appearance by the football team.

Vanderbilt Athletics has partnered with Total Sports Travel, a company that has arranged travel packages and bowl game activities for Southeastern Conference teams for 24 years, to make bowl travel arrangements.

Fans and alumni are encouraged to start planning to attend the bowl game right now and to be prepared to act once the Commodores know where and when they will play.

Vanderbilt became bowl eligible by beating Kentucky last Saturday night in Lexington, Ky.

"The win over Kentucky to become bowl eligible was particularly special, and a bowl game is a great way to end your time here," said senior Marty Pendleton.

The win practically guarantees a bowl berth, and a victory Saturday against the University of Tennessee or the following week at Wake Forest will make the Commodores a lock for the postseason.

It has been more than a quarter century since the black and gold visited a bowl, and many students are excited.

"I'm very excited they made it this far, I knew it was possible," said senior Cassandra Carter.

"I don't care where it is, I'm going," said senior Ashley Morgan.

Those who are interested should go to the Total Sports Travel Web site at

<http://www.totalsportstravel.com> to sign up for future information. There is no cost or obligation to sign up for information.

Information will continue to be updated as it comes available on the official Web site at <http://www.vucommodores.com/bowlbandwagon>.

Tara Welytok and VUCommodores.com contributed to this story.



Redshirt freshman Larry Smith, freshman Casey Hayward and junior Greg Billinger celebrate after Saturday's victory over Kentucky. The Commodores are eligible for a bowl for the first time in over two decades.

### VANDERBILT'S POSSIBLE BOWL BIDS

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. <b>AT&amp;T COTTON BOWL CLASSIC</b><br>Dallas, TX<br>Jan. 2, 2009    | 4. <b>GAYLORD HOTELS MUSIC CITY BOWL</b><br>Nashville, TN<br>Dec. 31, 2009 | 7. <b>ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL</b><br>New Orleans, LA<br>Jan. 2, 2009 |
| 2. <b>PETROSUN INDEPENDENCE BOWL</b><br>Shreveport, LA<br>Dec. 28, 2008 | 5. <b>PAPAJOHNS.COM BOWL</b><br>Birmingham, AL<br>Dec. 29, 2008            | 8. <b>OUTBACK BOWL</b><br>Tampa, FL<br>Jan. 1, 2009              |
| 3. <b>AUTOZONE LIBERTY BOWL</b><br>Memphis, TN<br>Jan. 2, 2009          | 6. <b>CHICK-FIL-A BOWL</b><br>Atlanta, GA<br>Dec. 31, 2008                 | 9. <b>CAPITAL ONE BOWL</b><br>Orlando FL<br>Jan. 1, 2009         |

## ADMINISTRATION

### BOT Member Andrew Wilson: From mechanical bull to medical school

by **LAUREN KOENIG**  
News Contributor



The Hustler's project profiling members of the Board of Trust continues with Andrew Wilson.

Although Andrew Wilson graduated two years ago and is now embarking on a career in academic medicine, he maintains strong ties to Vanderbilt as a Young Alumni Trustee.

Wilson was elected to the Board of Trust as a senior and currently serves on the Audit and Academic Programs committees.

Wilson is in the process of completing an M.D./M.B.A. program at Baylor College of Medicine.

"On my most ambitious days, I tell people I would like to be a dean of a medical school. ... I will say, however, that my experience on the board has made it clearly evident how important business skills are to be a good doctor in a complicated healthcare system," said Wilson.

Wilson will rotate through all of the committees throughout his four-year term.

"It is a fantastic system in which we get to appreciate and contribute to the many aspects of the Vanderbilt community," he said.

In addition to belonging to several honor societies, Wilson served as the treasurer for Alternative Spring Break, as vice president of the Interfraternity Council and was a member of Vanderbuddies, Vanderbilt Students Volunteering for

Science and Squirrel Camp.

Wilson cites his involvement in Dance Marathon as one of his best experiences at Vanderbilt.

"There's something about having a conglomerate of willing volunteers (students and faculty) and even Video Game Vince from across the hall all having fun for a good cause," he said. "It shows you the character and culture of our university."

As a morale captain, Wilson said he had the excuse "to meet some of the most extraordinary people I didn't see in my usual routine. I was also freakishly good at riding the mechanical bull."

Wilson has some important advice for current students.

"As old-fashioned as it sounds, make sure you write down important phone numbers and make copies of electronic documents. ... Second, regardless of what any professor says, Wikipedia is a completely respectable source of information," he said.

Most importantly, Wilson encourages students to "do what is right, even when you are tired, even when you don't want to, even when it is the hard thing to do." ■

## ACADEMICS

### First-year seminar offers chance to stop music piracy

by **KOBI ANKUMAH**  
News Contributor

"Music City, U.S.A." is a great place to live to catch live acts around town, but for a student illegally downloading music, it's a different story.

Last school year, 23 Vanderbilt students received subpoenas to answer for allegedly illegally downloading music. Since 2006, a total of 96 subpoenas have been served, according to Sal Ortega, Vanderbilt's Digital Millennium Copyright Act expert.

That's pretty much the impetus for a new Commons seminar for first-year students. "Stealing In Music City" will give students a chance to formulate their own systems of a legal, cheap way of distributing digital music while having artists and labels compensated.

Director of the Music

Library Holling Smith-Borne and Education and Outreach Librarian Sara Manus developed the class after the Recording Industry Association of America sued several college students (including Vanderbilt students) for illegally downloading music.

"The impact that I would like to have on the students taking the course is to increase their ability to critically think about the issue of music copyright and for them to look at it from a variety of perspectives," said Smith-Borne. "It's easy to look at P2P (peer-to-peer) file sharing from a consumer perspective but what about the music industry professional, or the artist, or the lyricist?"

First-year student Sarah Barr was attracted to the class for various reasons.

"I write and perform music, so I am fascinated with the entire

music industry," said Barr. "I've never had any experience with copyright laws or dealing with music from the piracy side so I came into this class to gain knowledge and to hear different perspectives."

The class will also have a list of speakers affected by illegal downloading, such as Alice Randall, the only African-American woman to ever write a No.1 country song; Tim Dubois, a Grammy nominated songwriter and clinical professor of management at the Owen Graduate School; and Randall Foster, licensing and business development manager of Naxos of America.

For more information, check out the Common Place Web site for a complete description of the class and class time. ■

Lily Chen contributed to this story.

## CAMPUS LIVING

### Housing advises students before Thanksgiving Break

by **ETHEL MICKY**  
News Contributor

Once a room has been vacated for break, residential staff members will complete safety inspections and check for potential hazards. No searches of rooms will be conducted, but any visible policy violations can be documented.

During break, maintenance staff and housekeeping personnel will be working in dorm rooms. The beds must be moved away from air handling units, appliances and plumbing fixtures in order for work crews to easily access them. Blinds should be left open especially in ground level rooms, as VUPD will be making random checks to search for movement inside empty rooms. ■

1. Backup all data on your computer. Turn off the power and unplug the cord.
2. Defrost, clean and unplug refrigerators.
3. Unplug all other appliances, including televisions and alarm clocks.
4. Set thermostat midway between "warm" and "cool" settings.
5. Move bed away from wall if directly below a window or next to a vent.
6. Remove fish and clean out aquariums.
7. Take out the trash and recycling.
8. Do not leave belongings on the floor, and move all valuables away from windows.
9. Close and lock your windows, leaving the blinds open.
10. Turn off all lights and lock the door, taking the key with you.

**SPORTS:** Recruiting period ends with high hopes; plus, reactions to football's historic victory. SEE PAGE 10

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# SNAPSHOTS

compiled by HANNAH TWILLMAN

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WEATHER.COM

### TODAY



HIGH **52**, LOW **36**  
Sunny

### THURSDAY



HIGH **47**, LOW **28**  
Sunny

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**BACK ISSUES**  
Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Big 3 carmakers beg for \$25 billion as aid stalls in reluctant Congress

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Detroit's Big Three automakers pleaded with a reluctant Congress Tuesday for a \$25 billion lifeline to save the once-proud titans of U.S. industry, pointedly warning of a national economic catastrophe should they collapse.

Millions of layoffs would follow their demise, they said, as damaging effects rippled across an already-faltering economy. But the new rescue plan appeared stalled on Capitol Hill, opposed by the Bush administration and Republicans in Congress who don't want to dip into the Treasury Department's \$700 billion financial bailout program to come up with the \$25 billion in loans. "Our industry ... needs a bridge to span the financial chasm that has opened up before us," General Motors Corp. CEO Rick Wagoner told the Senate Banking Committee. He blamed the industry's predicament not on management failures but on the deepening global financial crisis.

And Robert Nardelli, CEO of Chrysler LLC, told the panel the bailout would be "the least costly alternative" when compared with damage from bankruptcy.

### Ex-Clinton official Holder is Obama's top choice for attorney general

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Eric Holder, formerly second in charge at the Justice Department, is President-elect Barack Obama's top choice to become attorney general, an Obama official and people close to the matter said Tuesday.

Holder's selection would mark Obama's first step toward filling his Cabinet, and he would become the nation's first black attorney general if confirmed by the Senate.

Obama would be putting a career prosecutor at the helm of a department beset by low morale and internal investigations. He has called on the Justice Department to be immune from political influence from Congress and the White House.

"Internally, there is a morale problem the likes of which I have never seen before," Holder said in an interview late last year. "Externally, there is a crisis of confidence that the nation has with regard to the department."

A member of Obama's foreign policy working group, Holder also would be called on to help close the Guantanamo Bay military prison, as Obama has promised to do, and prosecute terrorism suspects.

### Aruba police pursue new evidence in Holloway case 3 years removed

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**—A new witness has come forward in the 2005 disappearance of American teenager Natalee Holloway in Aruba, and prosecutors said Tuesday they are seeking more evidence against the only remaining suspect.

A woman told Dutch police this month that Joran van der Sloot confessed to her years ago that he was involved in Holloway's disappearance, according to Ann Angela, a spokeswoman for the Aruba Prosecutors' Office.

But the Dutch Caribbean island's chief prosecutor said authorities still lack proof they need to convict Van der Sloot, who has been arrested twice and released for lack of evidence.

"After three years of investigating, it is very, very difficult to find that evidence," prosecutor Hans Mos told The Associated Press. "We have to be realistic."

Holloway, an 18-year-old from Mountain Brook, Alabama, was last seen in May 2005 leaving a bar in the Aruban capital Oranjestad with Van der Sloot on the final night of a high school graduation trip to the island. Extensive searches have found no trace of her.

### Ark. seizes 21 more children from evangelist's group compound

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)**—State officials on Tuesday took into protective custody 21 children associated with an evangelical group whose founder faces federal child sex charges.

The children, all younger than 18 and part of the Tony Alamo Christian Ministries, were taken while custody hearings were being held for six girls seized during a September raid of Alamo's compound in Fouke, in southwest Arkansas. The court must decide whether the girls should be returned to their parents or remain in state care.

Authorities took three children into custody Tuesday at the courthouse in Texarkana, 130 miles southwest of Little Rock. Police seized the other 18 children from two vans during a traffic stop, said Julie Munsell, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Human Services. She said she didn't know why the children were in the vans or where they were headed, and she declined to elaborate on the court order, which cites allegations of neglect and physical abuse as the reason for the seizures.

On Monday, a 14-year-old girl taken by the state during the September raid testified that Alamo molested her, counted a number of young girls as his wives, and coached her and others to say they weren't touched improperly or beaten.

### Memphis soldier killed in Iraq helicopter crash near Mosul

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—Two soldiers, including one from Tennessee, were killed when a U.S. military helicopter made a "hard landing" after hitting wires in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

The U.S. military said the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter went down at about 6:10 p.m. Saturday in the eastern part of the city. The military also said that "the incident appears to be combat-unrelated and there was no enemy contact in the area."

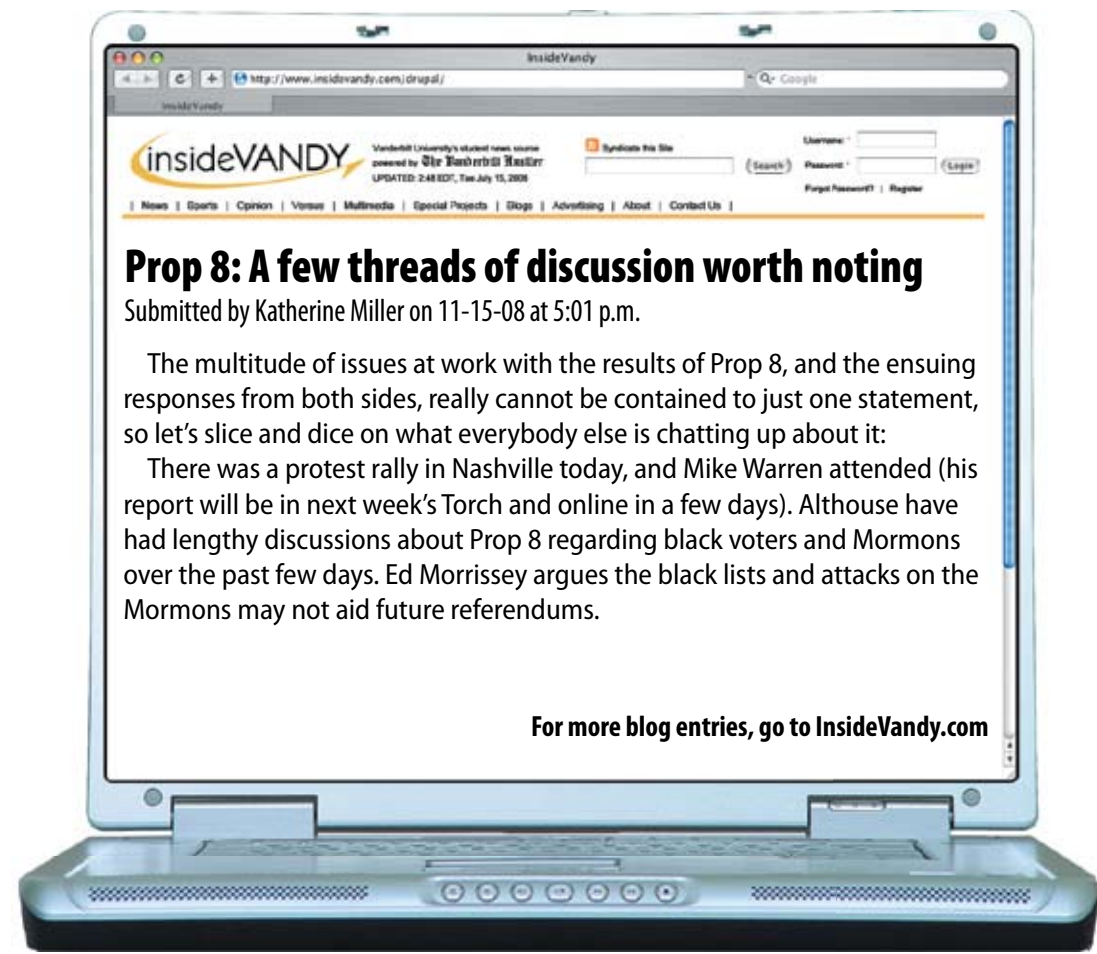
Killed were Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald V. Clark, 37, of Memphis, Tenn., and Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christian P. Humphreys, 28, of Fallon, Nev.

Both were assigned to the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force 49, U.S. Army Alaska, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Army spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Allen told the Anchorage Daily News that Clark and Humphreys were the only two on board the helicopter and no one else was killed or injured. The Army did not say which of the two pilots was flying when the crash occurred.

Clark joined the Army in February 1992 and was assigned to Fort Wainwright in November 2006. Humphreys joined the Army in June 1998 and was assigned to Fort Wainwright in April. Both deployed to Iraq in July, Allen said.

Including Clark, 89 service members from Tennessee have been killed in Iraq, according to an Associated Press count. Nine service members from Tennessee have been killed in Afghanistan.

## FROM THE BLOG



### Prop 8: A few threads of discussion worth noting

Submitted by Katherine Miller on 11-15-08 at 5:01 p.m.

The multitude of issues at work with the results of Prop 8, and the ensuing responses from both sides, really cannot be contained to just one statement, so let's slice and dice on what everybody else is chatting up about it:

There was a protest rally in Nashville today, and Mike Warren attended (his report will be in next week's Torch and online in a few days). Although have had lengthy discussions about Prop 8 regarding black voters and Mormons over the past few days. Ed Morrissey argues the black lists and attacks on the Mormons may not aid future referendums.

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

## SNAPSHOT

### 'STREET SCENE' CAST BEGS FOR SPOTLIGHT



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Blair School of Music put on its annual opera last weekend. "Street Scene" garnered positive reviews over its weekend run.

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS



**ACADEMICS**

# 'Freakonomics' author explores different thinking

by JUDY WANG

Academics Specialist

In a sold-out event, over 800 students, faculty and members of the community gathered Tuesday night to hear journalist and author Stephen Dubner apply economic analysis to many unique social phenomenon.

Dubner explored the "Hidden Side of Everything" as he shared stories from the anticipated sequel to his New York Times best-seller, "Freakonomics."

"It's all about incentives and how people respond to them," said Dubner throughout the night, as he explored several historical events.

Using examples such as the

decline in student test scores during the 20th century and hospitals' concern of hand washing hygiene, Dubner reminded the audience that though behavior change is beneficial to society, that type of change is the hardest to come by.

Instead, Dubner reasoned that it was "technology that always came to solve those problems."

A journalist by trait, Dubner explained how he partnered with economist Steven Levitt in order to "tell stories" instead of explain economics in technical and erudite terms.

"The language of economics is sometimes bland and boring," joked Dubner during

his lecture. Instead, he relayed anecdotal references in order to explain concepts such as negative externalities and utility maximization.

"We thought he would be a very interesting speaker for the university," said senior Nick Williams, a member of the Vanderbilt Speakers Committee. "He also is in a good position, because of the economy, to talk to about real time events that are happening right now."

"Basically, he taught us to think outside the box if we want to enact change," said sophomore Quentin Harmon. "Overall, it was a very interesting lecture." ■

## Sketching it out



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Eli Branson sketches a costume design for a costuming class offered through the theater department. Students can get hands-on experience in many different aspects of theater production.

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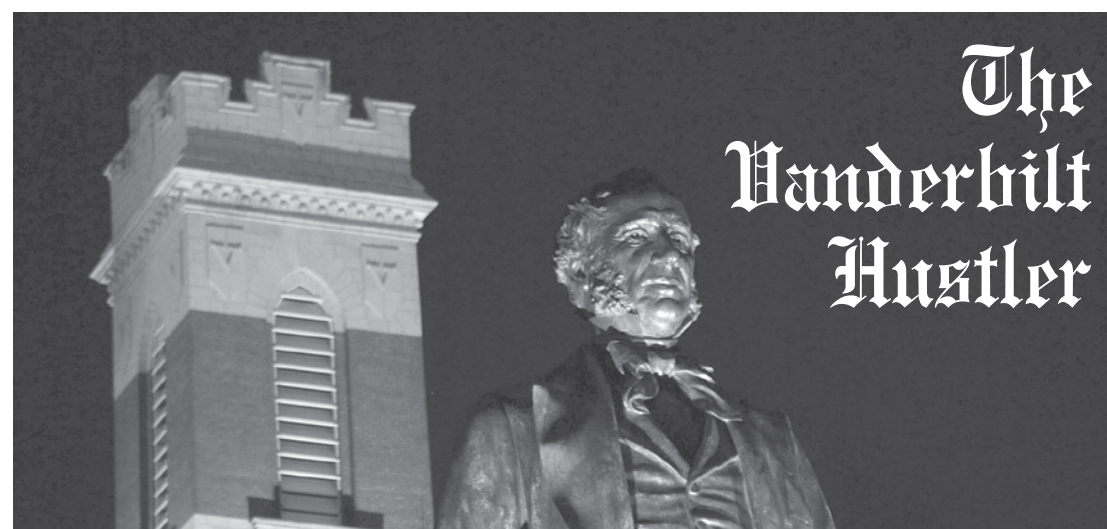
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Session #2: 3:30pm -5:30pm

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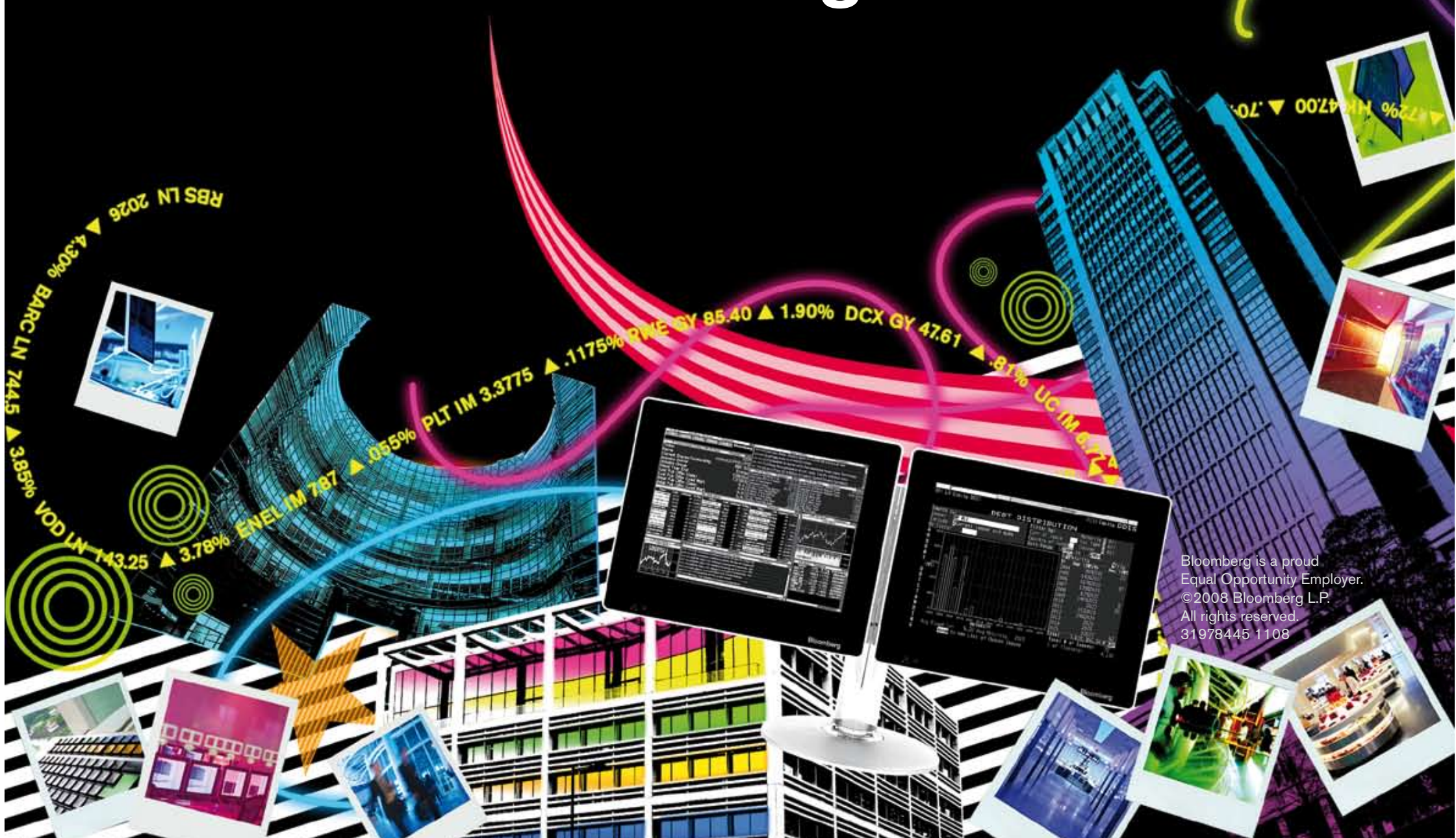
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**LEADERSHIP**

# OASIS changes in beginning stages

by LILY CHEN  
Leadership Specialist

In accordance with Vanderbilt Student Government Executive Vice President Wyatt Smith's Letter to the Editor, plans for a transformation of OASIS are in place.

According to Smith, changes to OASIS have been proposed and have been debated since former VSG President Cara Bilotta was in office. Bilotta had met with the consulting firm hired by the Office of the Provost in order to relay students' feedback on what features they wanted to be included in OASIS.

"Students have voiced desires for drop-down menus of courses, search by professor functions, a more workable and easy to use

interface. All of these things are going to come with some time," said Smith.

As Smith explained, OASIS is interconnected with many other databases, research systems and developmental computer programs around campus much like a maze. In order to completely replace OASIS, a new system would need to be able to link into this maze, and whatever system is used must be custom built for Vanderbilt.

"As of now, we've moved beyond just getting feedback. The step right now is that a replacement system is being designed in a custom way for the university," Smith said. "It's an update that's planned but not yet scheduled."

In addition, the Office of the

Provost has also hired Director of Enrollment Management and Information Systems Lori Shipley to supervise the implementation and development of the new system.

"It's good to see that the administration is finally prioritizing OASIS reform by getting a project manager working full-time on a new course registration," said VSG President Joseph Williams. "The level of communication between administration offices and the student voice has been good, and they're asking us at all levels what things we want improved. Although we understand it is a long process due to IT systems, we're looking forward to a new system being implemented as soon as possible." ■

## Blair School of Music: Training the next Yo-Yo Ma at Vanderbilt?



Freshman Blake Johnson practices the cello at Blair on Tuesday. The school offers classes and lessons for a variety of instruments, even for non-Blair students.

OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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**Meghana Chalasani**

*Committee Members*

**John Chen**  
**Tim Duckworth**  
**Cherie Fathy**  
**Kristen McCabe**

**Tessa McLain**  
**Travis Meyer**  
**Mary Lamar Washburne**  
**Alison Weiner**

The Student Alumni Board serves to enrich YOUR experience at Vanderbilt through events which further class building and connecting with Vanderbilt alumni!

*Be on the lookout for these events:*

**Sophomore Slam Dunk Tailgate 11/20**  
**Admiral's Room in Memorial Gym 5:30-6:30pm**

**Junior Networking Lunch 12/7**  
**More details to come!**



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**GREEK SCENE**

# Zeta Beta Tau rolls into philanthropy

**Children's Hospital aided by fraternity's annual project**

by **KELLY JONES**  
News Contributor

This week, members of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity began their fall philanthropy event, "Get on the Ball."

The event entails rolling a 6-foot beach ball throughout the campus while getting as many people as possible sign it. With each signature, local businesses, friends and families have pledged to donate a few cents. Students are also welcome to donate money to the change jar.

At the end of the week,

Zeta Beta Tau will give 100 percent of the proceeds to the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital located at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

"Get on the Ball" has been in existence for three years and has seen remarkable results.

"Our success is due to all the brothers who volunteer a few hours of their time to roll the ball around campus," said Community Service and Philanthropy Chair junior Nick Williams. "Last year, we raised roughly \$2,380 from nearly 5,000 signatures."

The gigantic ball can be found on the Wall. However, Zeta Beta Tau will also bring it to various places on campus and to the basketball games tonight and Thursday night. ■



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Sophomore Nate Horadam signs ZBT's Children Hospital ball on Monday. For every signature on the ball, money would be donated to Vanderbilt University's Children's Hospital.

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# Elections

## Spring 2009 Student Media Leader Elections

The Vanderbilt Student Communications Board of Directors is seeking applications for the following Student Media Leadership positions:

**The Vanderbilt Hustler/InsideVandy.com**

Division Head (Spring 2009 Academic Semester)

**Versus**

Division Head (Spring 2009 Academic Semester)

**Applications are due Thursday, December 4 at Noon.**

Division Head Applications are available at [www.vscmedia.org](http://www.vscmedia.org)

Elections will be held during the VSC Board of Directors meeting at **3 p.m., Monday, December 8 in Sarratt 189.**

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# OPINION

## Differing views are necessary



**THOMAS SHATTUCK**  
Opinion Editor

As the year progresses, the days get shorter and the temperature begins to drop. Some people describe it as wonderful — they claim to enjoy the seasons. I, however, do not. I, by nature, resist change, but sometimes even my whims must be subdued for the greater good.

These days we all seem to be caught up in such an elusive concept of the necessity of change. “Yes we can” has shifted from a slogan to mantra; people who barely exercise are now hell-bent on marching in protest. Protest what? At this point, it hardly matters, but does it really serve the greater good as it purports? That is to say, does change in general entail an improvement in the human condition? Of course, it is incorrect to say change necessitates anything more than change; it is optimistic, if not foolish to expect much else.

That’s the primary ideological conflict of our time: change versus the status quo. This conflict has become mired in its own self-righteous intent, failing to form any sensible kind of dialectic synthesis. Furthermore, as long thought is striated on class boundaries, it seems unlikely any kind of significant, lasting agreement will be made. It would tragic if it was not intentional — we have chosen to bury ourselves through our own vanity.

It’s rather simple. Differences over various types of policy have risen frequently through the course of history — both in remote past as well as in significantly more recent times. Normally, there is a discussion, congressional debates and the ilk, but now being in opposition has become synonymous with being unethical, immoral or unintelligent. These ad hominem arguments are what make any discourse difficult, if not impossible.

I would not argue for homogeneity. People should maintain their political and corporate affiliations; they serve a purpose in their own right. Those who live in rural counties and urban centers will have opposing views. It’s natural. Furthermore, differences in thought generate new ideas through the aforementioned ideological conflict. Homogeneity, in other words, would decimate the rise of modern thought. An outcome that would be best avoided, though in the current social atmosphere, it might be postulated as a positive end. That’s the crux of the problem: Differences are now sought out and eliminated instead of being accepted.

This leaves the question as to how this synthesis can be accomplished. As of now, the current two-party system defies any form of acceptance. It is more efficacious to remove the theorized enemy than compromise. Admittedly, compromise at times is necessary, but rarely is it seriously desired. Both John McCain and Barack Obama talked about their ability to reach across the aisle, but this is more a statement of pragmatism than any interest in adaptation. Now that Democrats have assumed a non-negligible majority in Congress, what little hopes for an understanding have been dashed. Liberals have hailed this as an important breakthrough, while conservatives have lamented what they see as a threat to their ideals.

This is pure madness. It is unreasonable to assume your viewpoint will survive. In fact, it is dangerous even to believe it should. Beliefs are not fixed intangible entities, they are meant to change, evolve and eventually adapt to the present reality. No matter the social inertia, things will change, hopefully for the better.

—Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at [thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu)

### EDITORIAL

## Tortellini Tuesday dinners at Rand rule

Vanderbilt Dining and Rand Dining Center have perhaps realized their greatest achievement.

The Tuesday dinner menu of tortellini and salad bar, colloquially known as “Tortellini Tuesday,” has transformed Rand dinner into a weekly phenomenon. Students from all parts of campus, including freshmen tired of Commons Center fare, make their way toward Rand for the hot Italian treat of a meal.

There are, of course, some setbacks. Even when four stations are open, lines are long and move relatively slowly. Those students old enough to remember Cohen’s pasta nights on Peabody campus will be quick to note that Rand has less variety in meat choices. The to-go containers are often too flimsy for such a substantial dish.

Nevertheless, the crowds of diners speak for themselves. The magnitude of students who are willing to stand in long lines for a taste of some uncommon dining hall food clearly indicates that Tortellini Tuesday is a winner. The employees cooking behind the glass are patient and professional. The weekly schedule ensures the good eats do not become redundant (as many argue even the best of the Commons food can become).

Most importantly, however, is that the food itself

is great. The marinara and alfredo sauces, chopped chicken and garlic options, and the seemingly endless amounts of tasty tortellini means that dinner at Rand is back again.

The problem with dinner on campus in the past has been the lack of what brings students together

at lunchtime. With Rand as a central place on campus, students and faculty often gather for lunch meetings or just to enjoy a break during the day. Discussions of all different topics between all sorts of students occur. The transformation of Rand, with the addition of Chef James Bistro and other restaurants, has only enhanced the dining hall as a place of social and intellectual interaction. The Commons Center provides another of these places, particularly for Peabody students and freshmen, and a new, exciting dinner menu has translated that success to the evening hours as well.

Tortellini Tuesdays has been a part of making Rand cool for dinner again, perhaps if only for Tuesdays. Still, this means more students, rather than heading off to other quality, if decentralized, restaurants for dinner, are coming to eat in a place that, by its very location, fosters community involvement. This is an aspect of living at Vanderbilt (and not just on The Commons) we can all hope to make better in the coming years.

— Michael Warren

“The magnitude of students who are willing to stand in long lines for a taste of some uncommon dining hall food clearly indicates that Tortellini Tuesday is a winner.”

## There’s more to it

To the Editor:

I recall my freshman year as a proud Stape 2 resident, witnessing the 30 or so women on my hall anxiously running in and out of the bathroom where there was better lighting to view the final product of their make up and even I felt the anxiety

of ensuring that your outfit was unique, stylish and expensive from head to toe. For almost a week, I was forced to hear the women on my hall complain over and over about their uncertainty of their outfits before they stepped out onto Greek Row to make their rounds. It was then that I initially witnessed the underlying superficialities that exist within the rush process, and my mind was further molded when I heard various horror stories from the rushees themselves, which I will not repeat for I was not personally there to witness these stories unfold. It was not until I read, “... despite what Greek Life is telling you, it does matter what you wear,” and the recommendation to “... pick out the most expensive pair of jeans that you own, or at least the most recognizable brand” in this past Friday’s Hustler that I realized how blatantly true these stories of the rush process were and shook my head that this was publicly admitted in our campus newspaper as if it was OK rather than shameful.

My sorority prides itself on the character of its women and what she can bring to our organization and how she can better our chapter. Daddy’s income or the latest Citizen’s or Rock and Republic jeans she may be donning will neither work tirelessly to raise money for the chapter’s

philanthropy, develop a substantial program that will benefit the Vanderbilt community nor will they represent your sorority with dignity. Instead, it is the woman wearing the designer clothing who is so focused who will. It is disappointing and disheartening as a Greek member that as we encroach on 2009, women continue to judge one another on superficial intangibles that do not, I will repeat, do not matter. It is those who deem these superficial intangibles as an important factor who continue to make them matter.

I encourage women to evaluate what is important. By focusing on “the most recognizable brand” of jeans she may own, you will blind yourself from focusing on the most hardworking, ambitious brand of person who will better your chapter, Greek Life and the Vanderbilt community.

Brittany Simmons  
Junior  
College of Arts and Science

“It is disappointing and disheartening as a Greek member that as we encroach on 2009, women continue to judge one another on superficial intangibles that do not, I will repeat, do not matter.”

“If your family doesn’t have strong traditions, then I imagine this is very depressing. I would suggest it is time to take matters into your own hands.”

## Spreading holiday cheer



**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

The holiday season is just around the corner. Symptoms are popping up all around us. Stores, in the eagerness to atone for several months of a tanking economy, have pulled out all the stops and are already sucking in consumers left and right with shiny red and green colors.

If there’s one thing that makes the bitterly cold days that start while it’s still dark a little more bearable, it’s some seasonal decorations. And let’s be honest, we could all use a little bit of a pick-me-up these days. All the girls on campus have just enjoyed their first full day of continual judgment shrouded by doubt and insecurity this past weekend. Apparently, according to some Hustler sorority advice, if your collective outfit is under \$500, then you’re not fit for any self-respecting group of superficial friends.

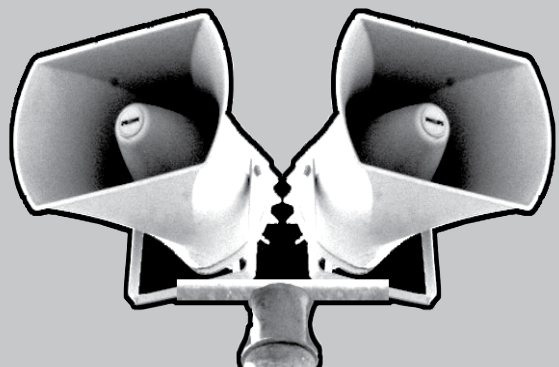
After a highly divisive election stretch, we need something to bond over, like Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the culmination of the American spirit: football, gluttonous eating and oppression of native minorities. But the true satisfaction of Thanksgiving comes from not having to give gifts. You know the time for that is right around the corner, and it’s more than likely around that time I’ll have another pointless article about “good gift ideas,” which would in reality equate to the gift of teenage pregnancy. But for now, the focus is just on gathering around family, spending time together and passing out in the afternoon. Few times can match the nationwide family focus of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I feel tradition and holiday ritual are vital during these times: There’s no need to tamper with perfection. If your family doesn’t have strong traditions, then I imagine this is very depressing. I would suggest it is time to take matters into your own hands: try starting up

some of your own traditions that are not too intricate but are at the same time unique. For example, do a turkey hunt, where bits of the turkey are hidden throughout various nooks of the house. It makes the meal that much more fulfilling when you eat it off the floor. Alternatively, instead of eating pumpkin pie or helping a charity, try throwing pies at the homeless. Or you could just find a new family that knows how to be American. The beauty of tradition is there are no surprises. Everyone has been assigned an understood role. Each girl has her own special Thanksgiving or Christmas dish she is responsible for cooking and each guy has his own chair, bean bag or couch he must guard and occupy for the duration of the day. Another trait that adds to the glory of Thanksgiving is that despite the difficulty of leaving vacation behind, there are only a few weeks of agonizingly stressful study before the next mini-vacation begins.

So gather up some courage and throw out the pumpkin that has caused bacteria to begin spreading over your carpet and start trying to find out what in the world a cornucopia looks like and why anyone would get one.

—Justin Poythress is a senior in Peabody College. He can be reached at [j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu)



**Annoyed? Need to rant?  
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### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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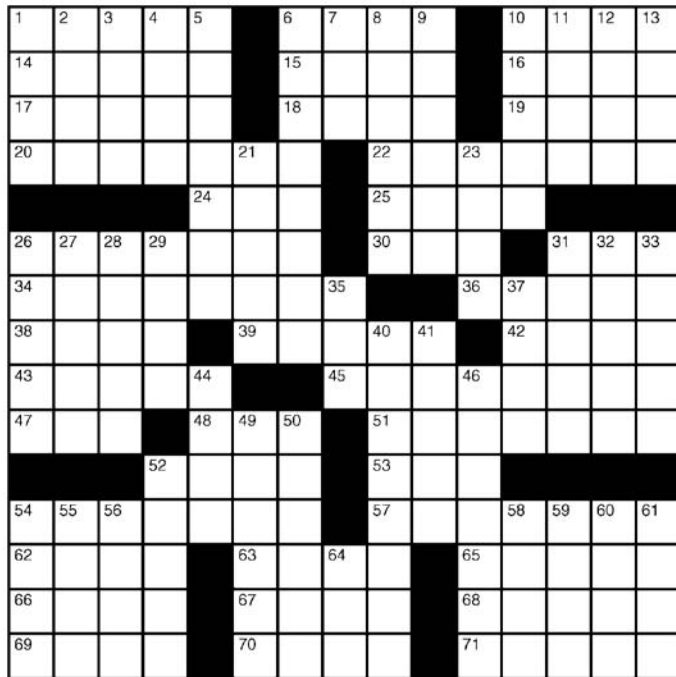
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11/19/08

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nebraska city
  - 6 Jaffe and Huff
  - 10 Used leeches
  - 14 Correct software
  - 15 Family chart
  - 16 "Damn Yankees" gal
  - 17 Greek letter
  - 18 Remainder
  - 19 Saudi man
  - 20 Deciphering stone
  - 22 Pollen carriers
  - 24 Duped
  - 25 Glamour rival
  - 26 Event official
  - 30 Aug. follower
  - 31 Distress signal
  - 34 Sprays
  - 36 Norman's nickname
  - 38 Just around the corner
  - 39 Razz
  - 42 German automaker
- DOWN**
- 1 Nose alert
  - 2 Brief note
  - 3 Fortas and Lincoln
  - 4 Overwhelming soldiers
  - 5 Christie and others
  - 6 Bestride
  - 7 "Chances \_\_\_" (Mathis hit)
  - 8 Army meals
  - 9 Sink to the bottom
  - 10 Point a finger at
  - 11 Traditional wisdom
  - 12 Zest
  - 13 Blots
  - 21 Fortune cards
  - 23 Austrian range
  - 26 \_\_\_ Cruz, CA
  - 27 Prepare to drive
  - 28 Wipe out
  - 29 Job to do
  - 31 Pan-fry
  - 32 Command
  - 33 Dangerous slides
  - 35 U.S. defense grp.
  - 37 Bundle of yarn
  - 40 Domestic
  - 41 Communication option
  - 44 Gracile
  - 46 As a group
  - 49 Jalopy
  - 50 Alaskan capital
  - 52 Onions' kin
  - 54 Armstrong or Myerson
  - 55 Operatic song
  - 56 Cash drawer
  - 58 Louisville Slugger
  - 59 Lamenters' cry
  - 60 Stable female
  - 61 Thirst quenchers
  - 64 Approx.

## 11/17/08 SOLUTIONS



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

## 11/17/08 SOLUTIONS

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# SPORTS



Vanderbilt co-captains George Smith (88), Reshard Langford (33) and Brad Vierling (60) have seen the football program rise from a doormat to national prominence during their time with the Commodores.

## Seniors will go out in fitting style

by MIKE KRANZLER  
Sports Contributor

The Class of 2009 has seen it all in our time at Vanderbilt, from Chancellor Gordon Gee's defection to the implementation of The Commons.

But one of the most satisfying moments of our college careers came on Saturday night as the Commodores finally ended 26 years of futility by wrapping up their first bowl berth since 1982. The Commodores have come aching close over the last three seasons, and it is fitting that this senior class will get the opportunity to close out their college careers in style.

As freshmen, the Commodores rode Jay Cutler's arm to a 4-0 start, only to lose to Middle Tennessee State on a blocked field goal. The only other win that the team could muster was a season-ending victory in Knoxville, knocking UT out of bowl contention but also leaving us just one win short of our own invitation. Our sophomore year saw us

scratch together four wins and come oh-so-close in several other games. A potential game-winning field goal fell just short against Arkansas, and a full-on meltdown led to a loss to an inferior Ole Miss team. We beat a ranked Georgia team on the road, but could not generate any sort of consistency in 2006.

As juniors, we struggled under the weight of high expectations. We fumbled in the red zone on the potentially game-winning drive against Georgia and watched them dance on our midfield logo. The Commodores upset South Carolina over fall break but again fell just one game short.

Finally, our persistence has paid off with victory No. 6. Many fans feared these were "the same old Commodores" who would choke under the pressure of getting that sixth victory, but this team has proven everyone wrong in achieving something that has not been done since before we were all born.

And now more than ever, it really is Good to Be Gold. ■



Commodore fans who trekked to Lexington saw a Vanderbilt victory that clinched the team's first bowl eligibility since 1982. The sourness of the past 26 years makes this season all the more sweet, David Namm writes.

## Vanderbilt program has turned the corner

by DAVID NAMM  
Sports Contributor

For some reason, the sun seemed to shine a little brighter Sunday morning as it rose over Vanderbilt Stadium. For some reason, the readily available umbrellas were put back into storage that morning — after all, there would be no rain on this parade. For some reason, the giant cloud that had consumed, had haunted, had defeated Vanderbilt football for the past quarter century was forced out with the dawn of this monumental, new day.

The Commodores had become bowl eligible, and what a beautiful day it was.

To put this accomplishment in perspective, one only needs to look at how far the world — let alone Commodore sports — has come in 26 years. In 1982, a gallon of gas could have been sold at the dollar store, Cal Ripken Jr. started the first of his 2,632 consecutive Major League Baseball games and has since been retired for seven years, and — perhaps scariest of all — two of my aunts were still in high school. Yeesh.

Even so, nothing could quite sum up the yards Vanderbilt traveled to get back on track like their program-altering performance against Kentucky. In the past, Vanderbilt would have folded, finding some fickle way to fumble the game away. In the past, Vanderbilt would have walked away the prey instead of the predator. In the past, Vanderbilt would have lost.

Saturday, however, may have been — as Zac Efron would say — the start of something new for the Commodores. Behind the jaw-dropping skills of star corner D.J. Moore, the will of embattled redshirt senior quarterback Chris Nickson and, perhaps most importantly, the confidence of coach Bobby Johnson, the Commodores can finally close the door on a much-maligned chapter in their history.

Looking back on it though, maybe we're better for it. Maybe the sourness of the past makes this accomplishment all the sweeter. Maybe the hunger for a bowl game makes this one taste all the better. Either way, this much is true:

The Vanderbilt Commodores are bowl eligible. What a beautiful day it is. ■

## Commodore sports finish recruiting period

by MIKE KRANZLER  
Sports Contributor

The early signing period for several college sports has ended, and the Commodores have received National Letters of Intent from athletes in several sports.

A National Letter of Intent signifies a binding commitment between an athlete and a university, and it can only be nullified under special circumstances (such as a head coach leaving the program). This signing period lasts until today, which means the baseball team will soon announce their recruiting class.

Men's basketball only received an LOI from one recruit, Gallatin's John Jenkins, who has been verbally committed to the Commodores since December. However, he has seen his stock skyrocket up recruiting boards since his commitment and subsequent standout performance at the NBA Players Association Top 100 Camp. Possibly the best pure shooter in the class, the 6-foot-4-inch Jenkins is the No. 8 shooting guard in the country.

The women's basketball team did not have any surprises either, but Elan Brown, Tiffany Clarke, Stephanie Holzer and Gabby Smith all honored

their verbal commitments and signed their LOIs. From Atlanta, Brown was named a Fifth-Team Sporting News All-American in 2008, and was also a club teammate of Clarke's. Holzer and Smith are stars on two of the nation's best high school teams.

Men's golf announced the signing of two Chattanooga recruits from rival high schools. Ryan Thornton has led The Baylor School to three straight state championships, while Will Snipes of The McCallie School was named the area's Player of the Year. Snipes is also a classmate of Commodore football recruit Jay Fullam.

Men's tennis will also welcome two new home-schooled recruits. At 6-foot-4-inches, Sam Wells is ranked No. 95 by Tennisrecruiting.net. The Boca Raton product even defeated current Commodore Charlie Jones in the National Clay Court Championships last summer. Local product Ryan Lipman will also join the fold in the fall, and is ranked No. 5 in the nation by Tennisrecruiting.net with a 74-12 overall record.

Recruits can continue to verbally commit to Vanderbilt whenever they please, but the next signing period will be football's National Signing Day, which occurs on Feb. 4. ■

### VANDERBILT BASKETBALL

CHRIS PHARE/The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Jessica Mooney

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

##### Vanderbilt vs. Eastern Kentucky

The No. 12 Vanderbilt women's basketball team plays tonight in Memorial Gymnasium at 7 p.m. against Eastern Kentucky. The Commodores (2-0) have been led thus far by senior Christina Wirth, who has averaged 17.5 points a game in her final college campaign.

ZAC HARDY/The Vanderbilt Hustler  
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#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

##### Vanderbilt vs. Illinois

The men's basketball team has its first match-up of the season with a major conference team in Illinois (2-0) tomorrow at Memorial. The Big 10 school reached the national championship game in 2005. Vanderbilt (1-0) and the Illini tip off tomorrow at 7 p.m.

### SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by Geoff Hutchinson

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|  | <b>1. Florida</b><br><b>9-1 (7-1 SEC)</b><br>The Gators have been playing like the best team in the nation and get the chance to back up this statement against Alabama in the Southeastern Conference Championship in three weeks.                  |
|  | <b>2. Alabama</b><br><b>11-0 (7-0)</b><br>Alabama's great defense and special teams dominated Mississippi State Saturday night. Next on the line for the Tide is ending the six-game losing streak to rival Auburn.                                  |
|  | <b>3. Georgia</b><br><b>9-2 (6-2)</b><br>The Bulldogs have been looking like a rather average team recently, as they barely defeated Kentucky and Auburn the past couple of weeks.   |
|  | <b>4. LSU</b><br><b>7-3 (3-3)</b><br>It took 37 unanswered points in the second half for the Tigers to put away lowly Troy at home on Saturday.  |
|  | <b>5. Vanderbilt</b><br><b>6-4 (4-3)</b><br>It took 26 years, but the Commodores are finally bowl eligible. Now, the team needs to finish off the season strongly to improve their postseason bowl game.   |
|  | <b>6. Ole Miss</b><br><b>6-4 (3-3)</b><br>The Rebels are bowl eligible and are on a roll right now as they have won their last three games. Plus, they were the team that handed Florida its only loss.  |
|  | <b>7. South Carolina</b><br><b>7-4 (4-4)</b><br>The Gamecocks were the latest victims of the Gators with their 56-6 loss to Florida in The Swamp on Saturday, the worst loss of coach Steve Spurrier's storied career.                               |
|  | <b>8. Kentucky</b><br><b>6-5 (2-5)</b><br>The Wildcats have a bye this weekend before they go to Tennessee on Phil Fulmer Appreciation Day and try to beat the Volunteers for the first time since 1984.   |
|  | <b>9. Arkansas</b><br><b>4-6 (1-5)</b><br>The Razorbacks have played much better lately compared to the start of the season. However, they must win their last two games to finish the season bowl eligible, which is a pretty tall order.           |
|  | <b>10. Auburn</b><br><b>5-6 (2-5)</b><br>Auburn's offense has improved of late. However, its chance for postseason play comes down to a showdown in the Iron Bowl against undefeated rival Alabama, and a win doesn't seem too likely for War Eagle. |
|  | <b>11. Mississippi State</b><br><b>3-7 (1-5)</b><br>The Bulldogs have regressed this year after being the surprise team of the conference last season.   |
|  | <b>12. Tennessee</b><br><b>3-7 (1-5)</b><br>Things are going so badly for the Volunteers that they are slashing free food vouchers for their ushers. The question is, will they show up to play against Vanderbilt on Saturday?                      |

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