



ACADEMICS: Black academic faculty members wanted in Tennessee universities. [SEE PAGE 3](#)

BOYLE: Obama goes sour on progressive promises with centrist appointments. [SEE PAGE 4](#)

Season of giving

VSG teams with Charles Davis Foundation to sponsor Angel Tree

by **KELLY JONES**
News Contributor

For 13 years, the Charles Davis Foundation has teamed up with Vanderbilt Student Government to sponsor the Angel Tree gift drive, a foundation that focuses on giving gifts to children in need.

"This is an annual event that the VSG Community Service Committee does," said President Joseph Williams. "It's a chance to do something great and bring smiles to children's faces."

Charles Davis, a former Vanderbilt and Chicago Bulls basketball player, experienced firsthand life as a poverty-stricken child. Growing up in the inner-city projects of Nashville, Davis vowed that if he ever overcame the difficult life, he would give back. After retiring from pro basketball, he created the Charles Davis foundation, an organization devoted to enhancing the quality of life for impoverished children in the Nashville area.

Children participating in the program request two toys and an article of clothing, roughly amounting to \$25 per child. From there, members in the community adopt a child and purchase those items on his or her wish list. This year, VSG successfully spread enough awareness to engage many members in the Vanderbilt community to sponsor a child. "We've improved our strategies and as a result, reached out to a greater number of organizations, diversifying the number of contributing individuals," Williams said.

Faculty, students and organizations were generous



Joseph Williams, dressed as Santa Claus, entertains children at the Angel Tree event in the SLC Ballroom, on Thursday morning, Dec. 4.

enough to adopt 491 children, one of the largest numbers sponsored thus far. VSG alone purchased over \$600 dollars worth of toys and clothes for the children.

On Wednesday night, VSG volunteers spent hours wrapping hundreds of gifts for sponsored children to open on Thursday morning.

"It definitely is a tiresome

task, but the sleeplessness is worth it," said Vice President Wyatt Smith.

Yesterday, all 491 children from metro Nashville filled the entire Student Life Center ballroom in anticipation of tearing the wrapping paper off their requested gifts. Cheers of joy and excitement could be heard from the Branscomb Varsity Market.

"Seeing the kids faces truly made it a heartwarming experience and made me realize how a little bit can go so far in a child's life," said Community Service Committee Co-Chair Aysha Malik.

Also present was Davis himself, who had nothing but rave remarks for how well organized the event was. ■

ADMINISTRATION

Fortune secures permanent position in public affairs

by **EVE ATTERMANN**
Administration Specialist

Beth Fortune, a former gubernatorial press secretary and political reporter, has been named vice chancellor for public affairs, a position she has held on an interim basis for the past six months, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos announced on Wednesday.

"My goal was to work hard to try to earn the job, and I'm very happy with the outcome," said Fortune.

As vice chancellor for public affairs, Fortune will be the university's chief spokesperson and will lead communications, government and community initiatives.

Fortune joined Vanderbilt in September 2000 to serve as associate vice chancellor for public affairs after serving as press secretary to former Gov. Don Sundquist for more than six years. She was promoted to an interim vice chancellor position in June after Michael

Schoenfeld left the position for one at Duke University.

Fortune said she is planning on evaluating some aspects of her predecessor's policies but that it would take a while.

"I've been a part of the Division of Public Affairs for eight years, and we're a pretty sound operation, but there's always room for improvement," Fortune said.

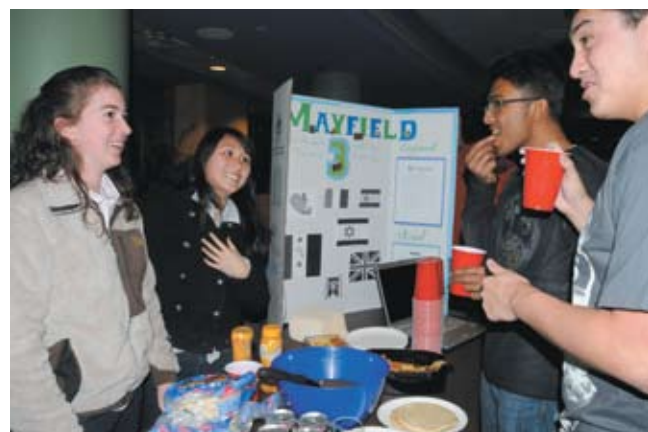
According to Fortune, her background in journalism should be put to good use in a position that has her dealing with the media.

"Having a journalism background has helped me at every juncture of my career, and the time I spent as press secretary to the governor was invaluable in terms of dealing with crises, damage control, the media and many different constituencies," Fortune said. ■



FORTUNE

Housing showcase



NICOLE MANDEL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Mayfield 3 residents discuss their project, "Around the World in 180 Days: The Taste of Discovery", with interested students on Thursday, Dec. 4 in Sarratt Student Center.

CAMPUS LIVING

Housing costs lower around town

by **JENNIFER DENNARD**
News Contributor

Compared to other local schools and apartments in Nashville, Vanderbilt's housing costs are quite high. Jim Kramka, senior director of Housing Facilities Operation and Management, said there are reasons for these price differences.

"The Office of Housing and Residential Education is completely self-supporting and

does not receive any subsidy from student tuition," Kramka said. In addition, housing costs also cover several additional features, such as card systems, security staff, student programming, fire safety, renovations and repairs.

"(OHARE) strives to be prudent and frugal with the money that students and their families pay for housing," Kramka said.

At neighboring Belmont University, housing costs vary

based on the different levels of housing available. For instance, Belmont charges approximately \$1,000 more for living in an apartment style dorm. Unlike Belmont, Vanderbilt has a set fee for housing that does not vary based on room size or other factors.

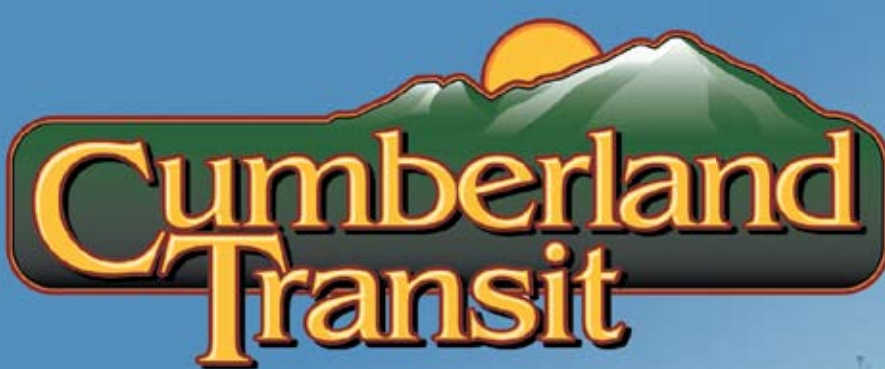
"We wanted each student to pursue the housing options that best met his or her needs without regard to cost," Kramka said. ■

APPROXIMATE SEMESTER COST PER PERSON

Vanderbilt University	Belmont University	Village at Vanderbilt	Wesley Place Apartments
			
\$3,914	\$3,550	\$2,750	\$2,950
For any type of university housing	2 Bedroom Apartment with 2 people	1 Bedroom Apartment with 2 people	1 Bedroom Apartment with 2 people

Chart- Information compiled using www.rent.com and www.belmont.edu

SPORTS: Will the No. 1 Tide or the red hot Gators win the SEC title? Plus, men's basketball falls hard to UIC. [SEE PAGE 6](#)



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by HANNAH TWILLMAN

WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

TODAY



HIGH 39, LOW 23
Partly cloudy

SATURDAY



HIGH 45, LOW 27
Rain / Snow Showers

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

India names Pakistani masterminds, date plot back to 2007

NEW DELHI (AP)—A Pakistani militant group apparently used an Indian operative as far back as 2007 to scout targets for the elaborate plot against India's financial capital, authorities said Thursday, a blow to Indian officials who have blamed the deadly attacks entirely on Pakistani extremists.

As investigators sought to unravel the attack on Mumbai, stepping up questioning of the lone captured gunman, airports across India were put on high alert amid fresh warnings that terrorists planned to hijack an aircraft.

Also Thursday, police said there were signs that some of the six victims of the attack on a Jewish center may have been tortured. "The victims were strangled," said Rakesh Maria, a senior Mumbai police official. "There were injuries noticed on the bodies that were not from firing."

Members of an Israeli rescue group which had a team in Mumbai said it was impossible to tell if the bodies had been abused, however, because no autopsies were conducted in accordance with Jewish tradition.

The surviving gunman, Ajmal Amir Kasab, 21, told interrogators he had been sent by the banned Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba and identified two of the plot's masterminds, according to two Indian government officials familiar with the inquiry.

Carmakers' bailout pleas hit Senate skepticism on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Desperate U.S. automakers ran into fresh obstacles from skeptical lawmakers Thursday as they appealed with rising urgency — and a new dose of humility — for a \$34 billion bailout. Without help, said one senator, "we're looking at a death sentence."

With lawmakers in both parties pressing the automakers to consider a pre-negotiated bankruptcy — something they have consistently shunned — the Big Three were contemplating a government-run restructuring that could yield results similar to bankruptcy, including massive downsizing, in return for the bailout billions. But there was no assurance they could get even that.

And that wasn't all the unwelcome news. Congressional officials said one leading proposal — to tap an already approved fund set aside for making cars environmentally efficient — wouldn't give the carmakers nearly as much money as they say they need.

The auto executives pleaded with lawmakers at a contentious Capitol Hill hearing — their second round in less than a month — for emergency aid before year's end. But with time running out on the current Congress, skepticism about the bailout appeared to be as strong as ever.

Democrats want a more assertive Obama on economic crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats are growing impatient with President-elect Barack Obama's refusal to inject himself in the major economic crises confronting the country.

Obama has sidestepped some policy questions by saying there is only one president at a time. But the dodge is wearing thin.

"He's going to have to be more assertive than he's been," House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., told consumer advocates Thursday.

Frank, who has been dealing with both the bailout of the financial industry and a proposed rescue of Detroit automakers, said Obama needs to play a more significant role on economic issues.

"At a time of great crisis with mortgage foreclosures and autos, he says we only have one president at a time," Frank said. "I'm afraid that overstates the number of presidents we have. He's got to remedy that situation."

Calif. trio charged with torturing, abusing teenage boy

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP)—A teenage boy who limped into a local gym with a chain locked to his ankle had been burned by a baseball bat heated in a fireplace and forced to watch a family eat meals while he went without food, a woman accused of abusing him said in a jailhouse interview.

Kelly Layne Lau spoke with KGO-TV of San Francisco a day before she and her husband, Michael Schumacher, were charged with kidnapping and torturing the boy. Caren Ramirez, the teen's former guardian whom he called his aunt, was also charged with abuse Thursday.

Lau told the TV station that Ramirez and the boy came to live with her family more than a year ago because they had nowhere else to go.

She said Ramirez instructed them to discipline the boy as she did. Lau said she struck the boy in the knee with a baseball bat at least five times, KGO reported Wednesday.

Lau said she participated in the abuse because she was afraid Ramirez would hurt her own children. Ramirez also burned the boy with a hot aluminum bat, Lau said.

Ramirez would not let anyone else feed the boy, Lau said, adding that the teen would sit in the living room and watch while the Schumacher family, including their four young children, ate meals in the kitchen.

US mulls unusual tactic as Blackwater charges loom for 2007 shooting

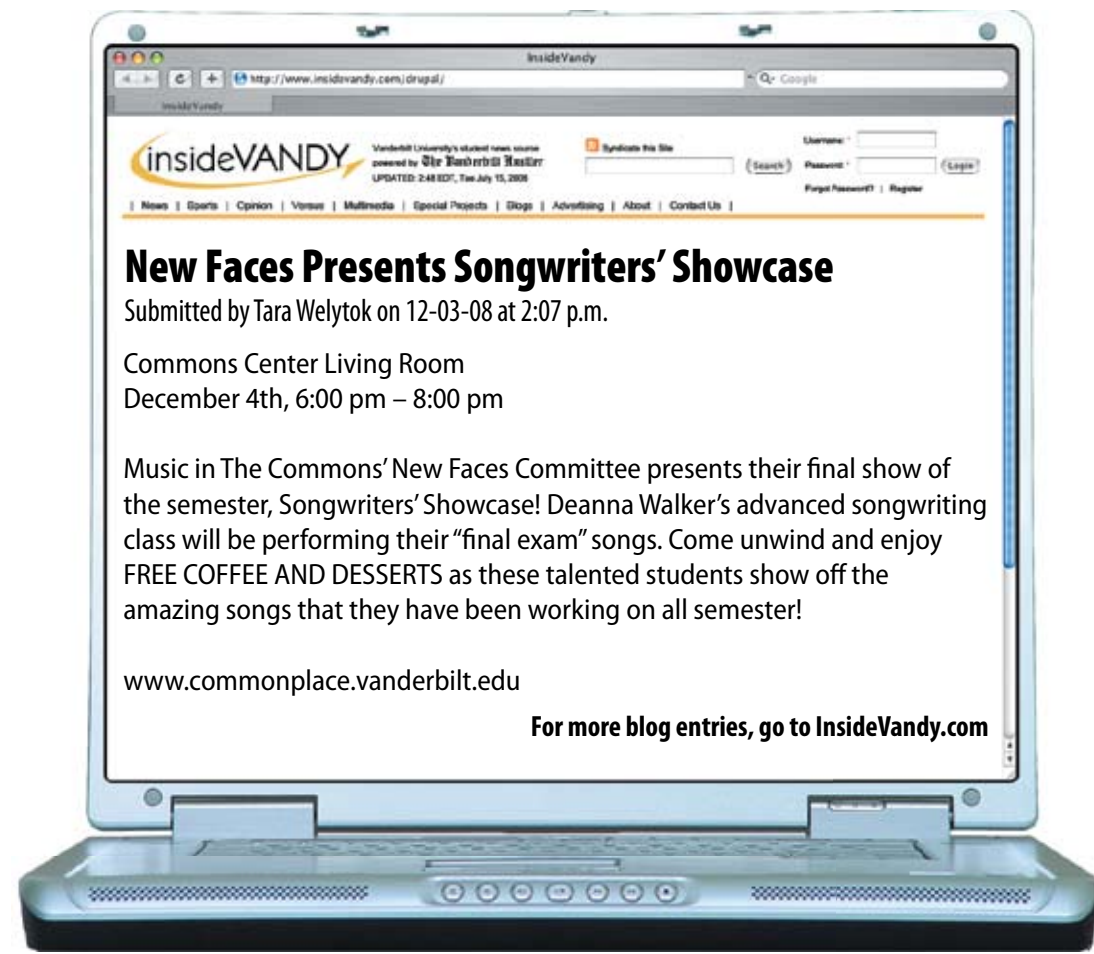
WASHINGTON (AP)—Blackwater Worldwide guards involved in the deadly 2007 Baghdad shooting of Iraqi civilians could face mandatory 30-year prison sentences under an aggressive anti-drug law being considered as the Justice Department readies indictments, people close to the case said.

Charges could be announced as early as Monday for the shooting, which left 17 civilians dead and strained U.S. relations with the fledgling Iraqi government. Prosecutors have been reviewing a draft indictment and considering manslaughter and assault charges for weeks. A team of prosecutors returned to the grand jury room Thursday and called no witnesses.

Though drugs were not involved in the Blackwater shooting, the Justice Department is pondering the use of a law, passed at the height of the nation's crack epidemic, to prosecute the guards. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 law calls for 30-year prison terms for using machine guns to commit violent crimes of any kind, whether drug-related or not.

The people who discussed the case did so on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose matters that are not yet public.

FROM THE BLOG



SNAPSHOT

VIBE DANCE TEAM



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The VIBE performance group dazzles fans on Wednesday, Dec. 3. The team performed during halftime at the men's basketball game.

*85%

OF VU UNDERGRADS
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— Corc Survey, 2008

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS

*December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month.

*4 out of 5

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refused an offer of alcohol or drugs
in the past month. — Corc Survey, 2008

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*It's OK to say no.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS

ACADEMICS

Tennessee focuses on recruiting black professors

by JUDY WANG
Academics Specialist

Tennessee state and regional officials are seeking to increase the number of black professors at colleges and universities, according to The Tennessean.

Currently, Tennessee black faculty makes up 9 percent of the total full-time faculty in four-year colleges and universities, compared to a national average of 5 percent. However, this number has been largely stagnant while the black student ratio has increased from 5 percent within the past 10 years.

To James Hill, a Vanderbilt graduate student pursuing a

research-oriented career in academics, the focus should fundamentally be on attracting students.

"In order to attract more black professors, you need to have more black graduate students that want to pursue a career in academia, and not stop at their Masters or Ph.D., then enter a non-academia position," said Hill.

In order to reach this goal, a \$2 million scholarship project through the Southern Regional Education Board has been created to encourage minority doctoral candidates to stay in academia. According to experts, a problem preventing black candidates from completing

their doctoral degrees is finance.

Overall, Hill personally saw no difficulties as a black graduate student pursuing his career goals. However, he noted that having a mentor of the same race would be a "win-win situation" just because they "may be able to understand you better."

With the recent state budget crisis, it has been harder to attract students and professors as hiring has been frozen and other jobs have been eliminated. However, Vanderbilt is one of the universities strongly pushing diversity, and "they are doing the best they can," Hill said. ■

GREEK SCENE

NPHC uses unique intake process

Organizations seek to attract students by promoting group principles

by JANELLE STOKES
Greek Specialist

While Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council fraternities and sororities ready themselves for new pledge classes, the historically black fraternities and sororities on campus adhere to a different membership intake process.

National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities and sororities do not participate in formal recruitment. Instead, they invite interested individuals to begin by introducing themselves to the organization.

"NPHC doesn't go through a formal process," said junior

and treasurer of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity Chris Griffin. "People show interest by attending events. They might fill out an information form, go to informational or interest meetings, and basically just show their face to the people in the organization."

If a new addition to the chapter is being made to the fraternity or sorority, interested members must fill out an application, meet the GPA requirements and be asked to join the official membership intake process. NPHC fraternities and sororities typically do not accept new members every semester or year, which explains their smaller size compared to IFC and Panhellenic organizations.

Senior and president of Zeta Phi Beta sorority Whitney Hubbard said the addition of new members is at the discretion of the organization and the new

potential members are kept discreet to the campus community until the probate. The probate is the formal presentation of the new members to the campus community.

Hubbard advises potential interests to weigh their options in choosing Greek life, research the history behind the organizations and talk to members for information.

"I think that people want to be Greek just to be Greek," said Hubbard. "Or they like the people in that organization and just want to be apart of something. (Potential new members) need to truly want to continue and expand upon the ideals of that specific organization."

"Many people feel like their work stops once they become Greek, but truly the work doesn't start until you fully come into the organization," she said. ■



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OPINION

A change I can count on



FRANNIE BOYLE
Columnist

Just one month ago, radical Barack Obama supporters thought their all but elusive dreams had come true and they had won over the centrist moderation that had ruled the Democratic Party for so long. Unfortunately for the dreamers, Obama's first month as president-elect had given them reason to doubt that the changes he had promised will ever come to be.

Obama has announced many of his cabinet picks already, and it looks like the White House is shaping up to be much more moderate than many expected. Obama ran his campaign on progressive change, but many of his appointments suggest that he may be going for something else.

His foreign policy and national security appointments suggest he will be taking a much more realistic approach to foreign affairs than he suggested he would during the campaign. Many are speculating that policies set by the late-term Bush administration will not change. He has chosen Jim Jones, a bipartisan figure known for his distinguished military experience, as his National Security advisor; he will be keeping President Bush's Defense Secretary Robert Gates at the Pentagon for at least another year, which suggests his promise to get the troops out of Iraq in 16 months might not be fulfilled; and he has appointed relative centrist Hilary Clinton as his Secretary of State, which is perhaps his most controversial pick. These three alone will provide a diverse set of views, and many speculate they will support a more pragmatic foreign policy approach than Obama spoke of during the campaign.

Other picks include Bill Richardson, a renowned centrist Democrat, for secretary of commerce; Timothy Geithner, a right-of-center leader for secretary of treasury; and many former Clinton staffers. Larry Summers was Clinton's former secretary of treasury, and now he has been appointed as Obama's economic advisor. Former political director for the Clinton administration, Rahm Emanuel, was appointed as Obama's chief of staff. Many others, like Eric Holder, who is Obama's choice for attorney general, served with the Clinton administration as well.

It does seem Obama is turning his back on his promise for change by reintroducing elements of both the Clinton and the Bush administrations, but he may not be doing it for political reasons. He may be choosing based on experience, and by stacking up leaders who are already comfortable in Washington, he is giving the American people a sense of stability. His current lineup will be able to take control come January. They will give confidence to the American people going through uncertain times with the economic crisis and the lack of leadership during the remaining month of Bush's presidency.

Obama's decisions have been surprising, and all the more respectable considering he won by such a large majority. They are pragmatic choices, and they will be the pragmatic leaders America may need to walk her through tough times. Conservatives can let out a big sigh of relief, at least for now, but ideologues, don't stop hoping because I am sure as things get better, Obama will be able to revert back to his focus on change.

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

EDITORIAL

Sexual misconduct policy disadvantages accused

Some reported changes to the student handbook regarding sexual misconduct could set a dangerous precedent for future accusations and should be reconsidered by the Office of the Dean of Students.

As the Hustler reported Wednesday, several policy changes were made to the student handbook. Some of these changes, in theory, will make the process for determining sexual misconduct more consistent. An updated set of guiding questions for hearing boards offers a systemized way of conducting sexual misconduct hearings fairly.

The definition of consent as it relates to incapacitation and intoxication is also updated for the better. The handbook disregards the inanity of the idea that one drink incapacitates a person from making rational decisions regarding consent to sexual actions. Rather, the qualifications for incapacitation are delineated and, per the update, simple intoxication is not a sufficient requirement. This reflection of reality does not give the accused an excuse for sexual misconduct. The Dean of Students and the Office of Student Conduct should be commended for taking these aforementioned steps.

What is troublesome is the modification of the burden of proof for sexual misconduct cases. This burden has shifted from "clear and convincing" to "the preponderance of evidence, or more likely than not." This shift simply means less protection for the accused from potential false accusations of sexual misconduct in exchange for easier convictions for alleged sexual aggressors.

Daniel Swinton, director of the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, reportedly does not believe this shift will lead to an increase in false accusations. This circumvents the issue; alleged victims are not expected to suddenly

begin coming out of the woodwork with false accusations simply because of a relaxed burden of proof. What is troubling is that more of the falsely accused will be wrongly convicted.

In the United States judicial system, the burden of proof for the prosecution for criminal cases is reasonable doubt. This means that the case against the accused must prove to a reasonable person that there is no "reasonable doubt" of guilt. The definitions of these terms are often up to interpretation, but jurisprudence offers workable boundaries for reasonable doubt.

In civil cases, the burden of proof is the easier preponderance of evidence, also the burden for sexual misconduct cases for Vanderbilt students. As a private entity, Vanderbilt has the right to shift this burden, but is this a fair way to treat such delicate matters as sexual misconduct? The problem is that these cases are nearly always a matter of "he said, she said," that makes reasonable doubt and even clear and convincing evidence a difficult burden of proof to reach.

What seems to be the case, however, is that rather than the university requiring alleged victims leveling serious charges against fellow students to make tighter cases, it takes the easier route of lowering the bar. Whether this the result of pressure from angry parents of alleged victims or that from interest groups remains to be seen.

True victims of sexual misconduct and accused aggressors alike deserve justice. At Vanderbilt, however, punitive swiftness has replaced equality under the law. The university is urged to consider the judicial tradition of the U.S. rather than the potential knee-jerk reactions of overzealous accusers. —Michael Warren

What are we accomplishing?

MIKIL TAYLOR
Guest Columnist

We work hard here at Vandy. From projects to papers, homework to tests, we are constantly busy. Why?

The common answer will be grades, stored up for the future so that one day we may make a few extra thousand dollars a year. Good jobs are our goal, and working hard now seems like a good way to get there. Unfortunately, the road does not stop there. Those jobs we want are too often as stress-filled as our college years (albeit with more money). So what we are doing, in effect, is just conditioning ourselves for the future of a stressful life, always pushing that extra bit to get ahead in the job, confident that the extra half-hour of time at the office will be key to a promotion. A promotion it may get, but happiness it will not. Our lack of time we assume will be solved once we get a real job? It's still spent working or recuperating. We gain nothing but money from our travails in college. The road does not have an end. Every step we take up in the ladder serves to further amplify the pressure to succeed.

Well, what's wrong with that? Life is stressful anyway, and we're just making the best of it.

We fail to develop our sense of leisure. What is leisure to most of us? A night spent wasting time, going out with friends, playing video games or other things that serve to distract us from the

week. We do not learn to use our leisure time for interesting things because we're forced to spend all our time getting good grades. I'd be willing to bet fewer than 10 percent of undergraduates have read a book outside of class during this semester. I sure haven't. My time is too valuable, my days too short to spend time reading that could be spent getting a few extra points on an assignment or having a lot of fun with friends.

“Good jobs are our goal, and working hard now seems like a good way to get there. Unfortunately, the road does not stop there.”

In a tough school like Vanderbilt, truly independent learning is discouraged. How could we be expected to discover something new unless we're getting course credit for it? Whether a scientific, literary or personal insight, it must be to turn in for a grade or else it's probably pushed aside for more immediately important work, like pulling that History grade up from a B to a B+.

In our quests for future happiness, we develop new bullet points for our resumes, find spouses, strive for "at least a 3.0 this semester." We lose our time. We lose the time to lose ourselves in a book, to write a book, record an album, invent something, learn to cook. We lose the things that make us truly happy, improve our lives and impact the world. And an A in Econ 101 isn't going to change that. We have to ask ourselves, and our university, what are we accomplishing?

— Mikil Taylor is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at mikil.taylor@vanderbilt.edu.

Don't fear the keeper



THOMAS SHATTUCK
Opinion Editor

These days, the news has been rife with reports and articles on the economic downturn. Of course there was that whole incident in Mumbai, but in the day-to-day slog of journalistic publications, it has been a minor detraction from everyone's favorite topic. In fact, if one was to read through the first few pages of most major (agenda setting) American newspapers, one would be under the impression that the average person cares for little outside of money and more specifically, other people's financial position. All in all, this might be an accurate image of modern society, but it seems limited, as if something was left out. This absence of other news, some of it actually relevant, is sometimes (frequently) referred to as the gatekeeper effect.

The gatekeeper effect and other similar processes play an integral role in what Noam Chomsky would define as the propaganda model. Chomsky believes propaganda, as well as censorship, in media is propagated intentionally by those who own the media conglomerates. This seems reasonably true to a certain extent, however, it could be argued that other occurrences have a stronger influence than the political ideology than those who control the means of production. That is to say that normally the media outlets are so far removed from the parent companies that there is only minimal direct coercion. This being said, there is still significant economic interference in the distribution of information.

This economic interference is primarily derived from the fact that most modern media outlets are large corporations. This is problematic since it requires a newspaper (or similar) to produce content that will generate the most attention, not what is most important. Furthermore, there is an increase on visual packaging and not content. For example, during the election, most of the major networks were broadcasting statistics all day, even though in some cases only 1 percent of the vote had even been tabulated. This information was essentially useless — it provided no relevant data. By choosing to broadcast the election count in the early afternoon, the networks were not reporting other news. This prevented the average person from attaining useful information (domestic or international).

There is also the fact that companies who advertise in newsprint or on television have influence on the content produced. For example, when a Fox affiliate intended to run an episode of the "Investigators" (which is probably defunct at this point) that insinuated that Monsanto's bovine growth hormone product Posilac, Monsanto threatened to remove any advertisement spots it currently had with any Fox affiliate. Unsurprisingly, the episode was never aired. It's hard to blame Fox in this situation since running the show would have caused a multimillion-dollar loss. However, this call into question Fox's journalistic ethics. Furthermore, there is no reason to believe this incident is singular or isolated. In fact, it seems likely that intentional withdrawal of relevant information occurs frequently and just does not get reported (falsifying the news is not illegal).

On the bright side, most small (or smaller) media companies are not as susceptible since individual companies do not regularly invest millions of dollars in the form of advertising. Unfortunately, these smaller businesses tend to have slimmer profit margins, which means that they can still be coerced.

While most of us trust the news, however, this may not be as reasonable as initially thought. It is not illegal to intentionally falsify the news and in most cases, the falsification is rarely uncovered. Furthermore, there seems to be an economic incentive to not report the news as it is, but as it should be. In the end, what you read in the paper is as informative as a PR bulletin.

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



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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.

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Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

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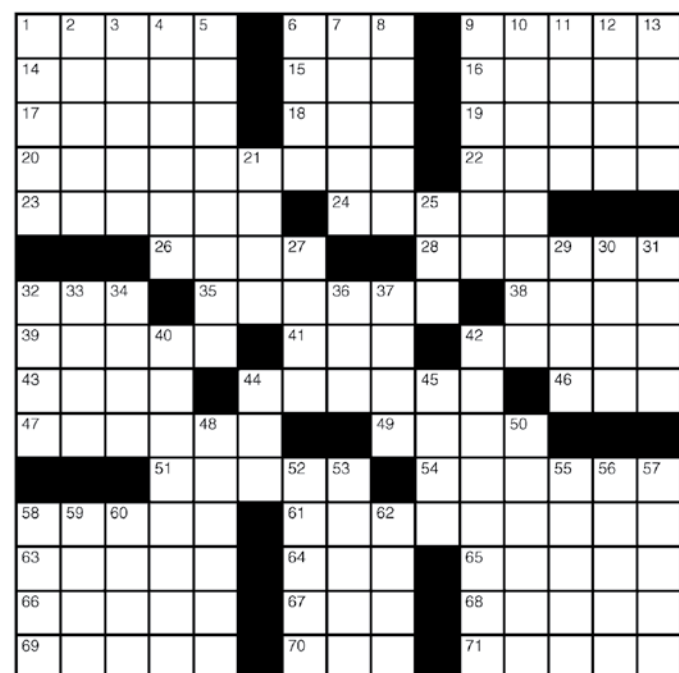
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12/5/08

- ACROSS**
- 1 Checked out
 - 6 Shake up
 - 9 Numbers game
 - 14 At the right moment
 - 15 Cycle starter?
 - 16 Puccini work
 - 17 Christian's frocks
 - 18 Carried out
 - 19 Underdog's victory
 - 20 Living security choice
 - 22 Yeas and nays
 - 23 Lampon
 - 24 Draws closer
 - 26 Willingly, poetically
 - 28 Took by force
 - 32 Clear tables
 - 35 Stain
 - 38 Big stink
 - 39 Stage whisper
 - 41 Final trio
- DOWN**
- 1 Musical finales
 - 2 Baker or O'Day
 - 3 Glenn of "Backdraft"
 - 4 Continental travel pass
 - 5 Portray in words
 - 6 Actress Ashley
 - 7 Negatively charged atom
 - 8 Corrugation
 - 9 "Mona Lisa" museum
 - 10 Antithesis
 - 11 Try out
 - 12 Apple or pear, e.g.
 - 13 Cereal grains
 - 21 Nautical stabilizer
 - 25 Volcanic fallout
 - 27 Conniving
 - 29 Twilight area?
 - 30 Countercurrent
 - 31 Drug measure
 - 32 Island east of Java
 - 33 Applications
 - 34 Deadly seven
 - 36 Tuesday god
 - 37 Old autocrat
 - 40 Female heir
 - 42 Antenna adjusters
 - 44 Replacements for LPs
 - 45 Part of a muzzle
 - 48 Art stands
 - 50 Red Bordeaux wine
 - 52 ... so often
 - 53 Artful transition
 - 55 Westminister, for one
 - 56 Vibrant
 - 57 Dishes (out)
 - 58 Golf standards
 - 59 Assist illegally
 - 60 Spanish appetizers
 - 62 Doesn't stay

12/3/08 SOLUTIONS

LEASSES FAM DEAL
APIECE LOO RAGE
MEDALS ANN ASIA
BEATIT SEINFELD
SPECK TITLES
OAF STL CON
PULSE AWARENESS
ERAS FRANS FLEA
CABALLERO FLIER
OAT EGO SPA
RAREST ODORS
ODOMETER FOOLED
YOGI ELS INLOVE
ABET SAO SCALIA
LENS TNN HERALD

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

12/3/08 SOLUTIONS

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

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SPORTS

Who will win the SEC Championship?

Alabama Crimson Tide



KENT GIDLEY / University of Alabama

Nose tackle Terrence Cody (62) celebrates his second-half fumble recovery against Auburn on Nov. 29. Cody anchors the physical front four of the No. 1 Alabama Crimson Tide, who are seeking to win their 14th consecutive game over the last two seasons under head coach Nick Saban.

by GEOFF HUTCHINSON
Sports Contributor

When you tune into Saturday's Southeastern Conference Championship Game between the undefeated No. 1 Alabama Crimson Tide (12-0, 8-0 SEC) and the No. 2 Florida Gators (11-1, 7-1), you should expect to see the Crimson Tide to be victorious.

Why, you ask? It is really simple.

It starts and ends with Alabama coach Nick Saban. Saban is arguably the best coach in the Southeastern Conference, and he has transformed Alabama into a title contender in only his second year as coach there.

One thing we know about Saban is the fact that he is a wizard when it comes to creating defensive game plans, so expect the Tide to be ready to stop the high-powered Florida attack.

Coming into this game, both teams are ranked first and second in the SEC in terms of scoring offense and defense. However, Alabama is a 10-point underdog going into Saturday's game, which is something the Tide is accustomed to, as they throttled Clemson and Georgia to start the season, both games in which they were widely expected to lose.

This Tide team has faced adversity all throughout this season and has had its fair share of challenges, including an overtime win over Louisiana State in Baton Rouge. The fact that Alabama has been tested throughout the year should be an added bonus going into this game, which should

be a highly contested match-up.

That's contrary to the Gators, who have not been in a meaningful game since their loss to the Ole Miss Rebels in late September. In that game, the Rebels were able to win because of their physical play, which led to three fumbles and three sacks, by far the worst output of the Gators all season long.

However, since that game, the Gators have seemed to find another gear in averaging over 280 yards a game on the ground, which is unheard of in the SEC.

Up to the task of stopping this potent running game will be the SEC's best run defense, which is led by Alabama's massive 380-pound nose tackle Terrence Cody, pictured above.

Against the Gators, the Tide's stellar trio of running backs Glenn Coffee, Mark Ingram and Roy Upchurch will need to continue their dominance in the running game, as Alabama does not want to get into a shootout.

At the same time, in order to win this game, the Tide will also need to make plays in the passing game without turning over the ball, and senior quarterback John Parker Wilson has done a great job this season of doing just that, as he has only thrown five interceptions on the whole season. Expect for him to connect with star freshman wide receiver Julio Jones early and often.

At the end of the day, expect coach Saban and his Crimson Tide to continue on their undefeated season with a 31-28 victory over the Florida Gators and head to the national championship game. ■

Florida Gators



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Florida's Percy Harvin (1) breaks free for a big gain during action against Vanderbilt on Nov. 8. The dual threat at receiver and running back, who leads the team in touchdown catches, is questionable for the SEC Championship game, but the Gators have plenty of other weapons.

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist

After Florida was shocked by Ole Miss on Sept. 27, wunderkind quarterback Tim Tebow made a solemn promise to everyone listening and watching.

"You'll never see a team play harder than we will the rest of the season," he said.

The reigning Heisman winner was serious.

Tebow and the Gators are on a mission for a national championship, and for the last two months they've annihilated everyone who's stood in their way.

While the top-ranked Crimson Tide provide by far its sternest test yet, the Florida offensive attack will be still too much for the Alabama defense to overcome in the Southeastern Conference Championship. No other team in the country has so much depth, and coach Urban Meyer has fulfilled his promise to assemble the fastest squad in America that creates mismatches against every defense it faces.

It starts with junior Percy Harvin, who despite nursing a sprained right ankle this week, has surely been giving Alabama's defensive coaches fits just thinking about him. The Tide haven't faced an athlete like him all season, and now they have to prepare for two situations: one where Harvin plays, one where he doesn't. Florida will win either way.

Harvin has starred at both wide receiver and running back for the Gators this season, leading the team in receptions, receiving yards and touchdown catches. Harvin has received treatment over the last week for the injury, but

the Meyer isn't telling whether he'll play him full-speed, use him as a decoy or bench him entirely.

Even if the Gators have to go with the latter, worst-case scenario, they've got plenty more where that came from. The freshman rushing tandem of Jeff Demps and Chris Raines has combined for 1,183 yards on the ground and 10 touchdowns. The two run a ridiculous 4.42 and 4.46 40, respectively. A talented corps of receivers surrounds Tebow, anchored by senior Louis Murphy, who's has four touchdown catches in his last five games.

Don't forget the solid defense of the Gators, too. Alabama loves running the football and has arguably the most physical offensive line in the conference, but the Gators will be up to the task. The third-best run defense in the conference made a statement in Florida's 49-10 throttling of Georgia, stifling the nation's best running back Knowshon Moreno. Linebacker Brandon Spikes, one of the best defensive players in the country and the heart of the Gator D, will be focused on stopping Bama's rushing attack led by Glen Coffee.

With Florida surging out to an early lead and Alabama's run game snuffed out, the Tide will have to air it out in a futile attempt to play catch-up with the Gators. Alabama quarterback John Parker Wilson doesn't have the weapons or talent to compare with Tebow, whose ability to run and throw is unquestioned.

After playing the best football in the nation for the last nine weeks, the Gators are simply too powerful and too focused to trip up now, not with a national title berth at stake when they knock off the Crimson Tide. ■

Vanderbilt gets rude homecoming from UIC

by ERIC SILVER
Sports Contributor

Call it an Illinois thing.

After not losing a single home game last season, the Vanderbilt men's basketball team has already done so twice this year, losing both times to teams from the Land of Lincoln. The University of Illinois-Chicago Flames came away from Memorial Gym with a 74-55 victory Wednesday night, abruptly halting Vanderbilt's four-game win streak.

"We were severely out-played, out-fought and out-hustled tonight," said coach Kevin Stallings. "It was a very disappointing and embarrassing performance."

Hot shooting by UIC and untimely turnovers on Vanderbilt's part did the Commodores in. Vanderbilt was able to force the Flames to take tough shots with little time on the shot clock, but UIC didn't seem to miss from all parts of the court. Everything seemed to be dropping for the pesky Flames, who shot an incredible 63.2 percent from beyond the three-point stripe, including hitting seven of eight in the second half.

On the other hand, Vanderbilt (5-2) couldn't

seem to buy a bucket, as they missed countless open shots and easy layups. To make matters worse, the Commodores were out-rebounded by the visibly shorter Flames.

"We didn't have the defensive effort required to keep their score to a minimum," said sophomore center A.J. Ogilvy, who finished with 14 points. "We just didn't play well enough to win. That's what it comes down to."

While there are ample reasons to hang their heads, it's not as if the Commodores were playing a pickup team. The Flames, out of the Horizon League, have only dropped two close games this season, to Big East foe DePaul and perennial NCAA tournament darling Bradley.

Despite the ugly play, there were some bright spots for the Commodores. Freshman Jeffrey Taylor showed yet again that he will be a superstar for Vanderbilt in the future, dropping in 14 points and collecting seven rebounds, while classmate Steve Tchiengang, who had been suspended by the NCAA for the first six games, proved he is capable of playing at the Southeastern Conference level.

However, those few bright spots were not

enough to outdo UIC's hustle and Vanderbilt's lack thereof.

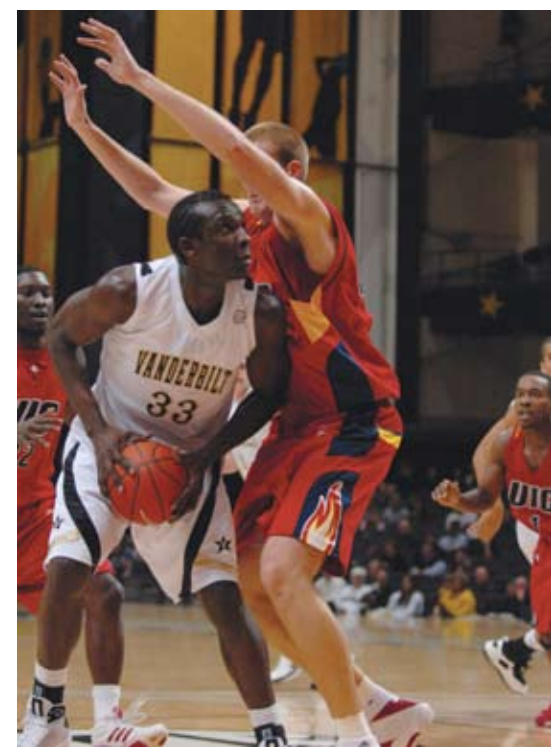
"Maybe our players thought this would be an easy game despite my urgings and telling them it would be a difficult one," Stallings said.

The game started well enough for Vanderbilt, as both teams traded leads in the beginning of the first half. However, UIC's lights out shooting propelled them to a 9-point halftime lead, and they never looked back. Josh Mayo led UIC with 30 points, and was a blistering 8-10 behind the arc.

Anytime the Commodores seemed to show some life, UIC (4-2) was able to immediately answer. With five minutes left in the second half, Vanderbilt was able to cut the lead to 13 and gain a sliver of hope off of a thunderous dunk by redshirt junior George Drake. However, UIC responded shortly after with a 3-pointer by sophomore Robo Kreps.

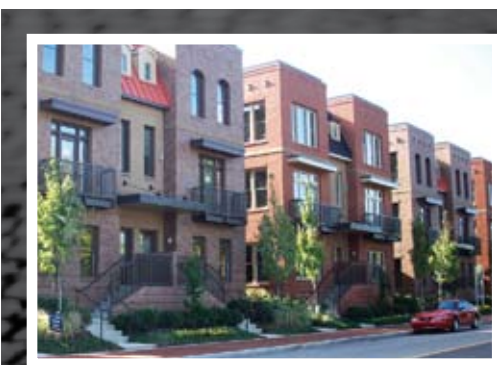
This year's version of the Commodores is young and will experience some growing pains — a lesson they learned the hard way on Wednesday.

"It's a hard lesson to learn, and probably one that we should have learned earlier in the season," Stallings said. "You can't look past any team." ■



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Steve Tchiengang (33) made his regular season debut Wednesday.



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