

## TALENTED



## TENTH



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## BLURRED LENS IN VANDY'S VISION



Vanderbilt Photo Archive

By: Corey Ponder  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The New Vanderbilt Visions Program may not be achieving its goal in reaching the Class of 2010 as it was originally designed to do. Many freshmen see the weekly meetings and required attendance as a burden rather than an educational experience.

According to the Vanderbilt website, the new Vanderbilt Visions program is the solution to educating freshmen about the Vanderbilt Creed. What was once the job of the VUcept experience, this program has expanded to become a year long initiative to teach incoming freshmen about scholarship, honesty, civility, accountability,

caring, discovery, and celebration.

Freshmen like Morgan Turner, find most of the meetings a waste of time. "In our second week we had that speaker come about sexual violence...we tried to talk about how sexual violence was bad, but that discussion was pretty stunted as basically it's bad and there's not much else you can say about it." Discussions in group meeting are characterized by these empty discussions, according to her and other freshmen and even VUceptors who were asked for candid commentary.

Aside from the ineffectiveness at prompting dialogue, there seems to be other issues which many freshmen find with the program. Freshman Emani Davis summed up freshman sentiments, "Meeting

every; week to talk about nothing at all is just bad...you learn more about campus issues through experience rather than being told." The weekly meetings have been a thorn in the sides of many freshmen, some have resorted to ignoring the mandatory attendance policy.

With such apathy pervading the freshmen class, it is apparent that the program this semester is not where administration wants it to be. It does not seem that the administration has any more effective plans for second semester either. Junior Debangshu Roychoudhury, who has some knowledge of the planning, stated, "The Visions program has yet to define a full syllabus for the spring semester which is supposed to be for issues on race and diversity."

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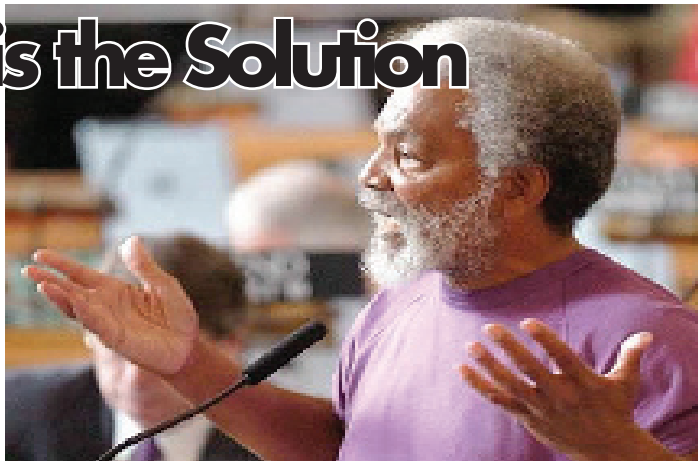
## SEGREGATION is the Solution

By: Dominique Harris  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Recently, County District Judge Michael Coffey ordered a temporary injunction blocking the implementation of a Nebraska law that promotes re-segregation. This law, known as the Learning Community Law, planned for Omaha schools to be divided into three large districts one White, one Black, and another Hispanic by 2008.

The injunction was made in response to a suit made by the Chicano Awareness Center and five parents of children in the Omaha public school system. The NAACP also filed for a suit against the law last May. Both organizations, as well as many parents, feel the amendment is calling for re-segregation. According to Tommie Wilson, president of the Omaha NAACP branch, "We [the NAACP] believe that we should be making progress towards greater integration...and segregation is a moral wrong regardless of who advocates it."

According to the Chicago Tribune, Omaha's city serves 46,000 students, in which 56% of the students are minorities and 53% are impoverished. Overall, the Omaha school



Ernie Chambers, Nebraska State Senator

district serves a student base, 3 percent Asian, 31 percent Black, 20 percent Hispanic and 46 percent White. Last year the Omaha city schools received \$400 less per student than districts in the surrounding suburbs.

Superintendent John Mackiel and the Omaha school board had been working effortlessly over the past year to integrate the public schools of Omaha with different methods. The "one city, one district" campaign was launched last spring, in hopes of bringing the integrated educational experience back to the students of Omaha, something Mackiel deems important for every student. However, the campaign was met with opposition from parents and administrators,

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### EVENTS @ THE BCC

November 7th  
Holocaust Lecture Series  
Against Cultural Genocide- Documentary Feature:  
"From Swastika to Jim Crow"  
BCC Auditorium 12 Noon & 6 p.m.

November 9th  
The Return of McCheck  
8 p.m. - 10 p.m. BCC Auditorium

November 15th  
"In the Black" Business Workshop and Discussion  
Featuring Roland Jones, McDonalds Franchise Owner  
12 Noon

November 29th, 3:10 PM  
Reception to Follow at the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities  
Sponsored by Black Europe-Black European Studies Reading Group & PAVDS

#### EVENTS IN NASHVILLE AREA

The Lion King  
October 26 - December 3  
Andrew Jackson Hall  
Come experience the phenomenon of Disney's THE LION KING. Marvel at the breathtaking spectacle of animals brought to life by award-winning director Julie Taymor, whose visual images for this show you'll remember forever. Thrill to the pulsating rhythms of the African Pridelands and an unforgettable score including Elton John and Tim Rice's Oscar-winning song "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" and "Circle of Life." Let your imagination run wild at the Tony Award-winning Broadway sensation. Newsweek calls "a landmark event in entertainment." Nashville's most eagerly awaited stage production ever will leap onto the TPAC stage this season.

College Sunday hosted by Mt. Zion College Ministry  
Come hang with other college students and hear the word.  
Where: TSU Gentry Center

When: November 12th from 11:15 am to 3:00 pm

## Founder's Note

By: Gavin Fletcher

In September of 1903, William Edward Burghardt DuBois published an article entitled "The Talented Tenth" and submitted it as the second chapter of *The Negro Problem*, a collection of articles from Black scholars. In his article, DuBois wrote of a group of exceptional Black men and women who uplifted the Black race by being "leaders of thought and missionaries of culture among their people." He invoked the memory of Black men and women who led Black people out of the bondage of slavery and rallied against the continued disenfranchisement of Black people in the post-Antebellum era to embrace the legacy of progress in the face of unimaginable inequality. The catalyst of that progress was the leadership and guidance from the group DuBois characterized as the "Talented Tenth."

Able-minded Black men and women must be able to articulate and assert their humanity and blackness poignantly and eloquently. DuBois articulates that the "Talented Tenth" must take the lead in the righteous battle for the seemingly evasive equality and liberty so earnestly sought after by our forefathers and foremothers. History has taught us that intellectual engagement through a medium is an essential resource for attaining equality and liberty.

The Black students of Vanderbilt University must assume the

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# Immigration and the Mexican Elections

By: Tanya Alvarez  
STAFF WRITER

Immigration has become a hot topic in the news recently and is an issue being discussed in the Tennessee elections. However, many people are still unaware of the political situation in Mexico, which has the potential to influence immigration into the US significantly over the next few years. Mexico is working to become a more democratic country, but it is apparent in this last election that there is a lot left to do. In order to understand the immigration issues that are affecting our own country, it is essential that we look at the countries where those issues are starting. The elections in Mexico may seem like a million miles away, but in truth they reside here—in the minds of many immigrants who are currently working in the United States today, and who may be already thinking about bringing the rest of their families to the U.S.

The presidential election in Mexico took place on July 2 of this year, yet even now there are still some questions over whether or not the president elect, Felipe Calderon from the PAN party, will be able to take office. Of over 40 million votes, only 402,708 votes separated the winner from the loser, which is about 2%. After the election, the candidate that lost, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador from the PRD party, demanded a recount of all votes claiming irregularities.

Mexico has had a history of rigged elections, and so the government has placed a new system that limits cheating in the election process in order to improve democracy in Mexico.

This new system requires that the polls each have representatives from every party who serve as witnesses to accurately count votes. Unlike the United States elections, Mexican presidential elections are counted by vote, and then, each of the polls sends a summary page that specifies the results of that specific poll.

When Lopez Obrador demanded a recount, the Tribunal Federal Electoral, which is in charge of determining the outcomes of elections, asked Lopez Obrador to specify which polls he wanted to recount and document the

irregularities. After conducting the recount, the tribunal took almost two months to validate the outcome of the election. They decided that the irregularities, which existed, did not hinder one candidate any more than the others, and were only a side effect of having a new system of elections and such a large turn out at the polls. Irregularities were noted as a normal occurrence in any election, and therefore the federal government discarded Lopez Obrador's objections to the election.

Unfortunately, in Mexico these kinds of disagreements within the government do not get solved easily. While the tribunal was in session deciding the outcome of the election, the PRD party and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador rallied their followers and protested the elections, openly criticizing the government of fraud and threatening the opposition. The group, together with 1.5 million supporters, marched down the main street in Mexico City and performed a sit-in along a substantial stretch of Reforma and at the central square of

the city that lasted until September 25. This sit in forced traffic into chaos.

After the tribunal made its decision, Lopez Obrador and his followers met again, declaring Obrador the Legitimate President of Mexico. The group has decided that they will continue to pursue this by having their own parallel government and naming their own cabinet. The PRD is a socialist party that thrives because it promises to essentially take from the rich in order to give to the poor. Their policies include raising taxes on wealthier companies and individuals and giving away the money to those who are below the poverty line.

People are afraid that if this group, which is obviously out of control, takes over, it will be the beginning of a socialist government that takes private property away from owners to give to the masses. Mexicans who own property are afraid in investing their money in Mexico and are beginning to look into investing in the United States. With all of the protests going on, it has become hard and uncomfortable for many to live in that environment. These are important factors that can potentially have real effects in the immigration status. If this situation continues to get out of hand, many predict that more and more people from Mexico will want to migrate to the United States.

At Vanderbilt, many people are interested in how immigration is changing the culture in the United States. We are always looking for ways to understand and live in a diverse society, especially when immigration is such a complex issue—one that affects all of us whether we know it or not. Americans are now putting new laws into effect in order to deal with the immigration issues, but it is important to note that the problem does not start here. Immigrants come from different countries for many reasons. The U.S. has a history of people who came here to escape political and religious persecution, so it would make sense that we understand how people might want to leave a place where life is no longer safe.



AP Photo Archive

## KEEPING THE COVENANT

By: Gavin Fletcher  
STAFF WRITER

For Bethany Paschall, former member of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, the mission of the Nashville Black Covenant Coalition (NBCC) is clear, "We have to talk to and include the people who usually are not heard. We have to get on the streets, in the trenches; these are the people who are most affected by the problems in struggling Black communities."

With the intentions of identifying indigenous leaders, as well as to coalesce for the purpose of Black community empowerment and uplift, the NBCC recently held its inaugural town hall meeting at Pearl-Cohn High school. The NBCC plans on organizing the communities for progressive change by using grass root organizing.

Nashville residents entered Pearl-Cohn High's auditorium at 9a.m. and were greeted with the rhythmic beats of African drums played by Nature's Drummers, and laced with the passionate, intellectually charged rhymes and flows of spoken word from various community members.

The meeting began with the reading of statistics illustrating the grim realities faced by many Nashville communities.

Disparities ranged from homelessness, incarceration rates, and infant mortality to family income. While Blacks represent 25.9% of Davidson County's population according to the 2000 U.S. Census, they are overrepresented in homeless shelters (50%) and in Davidson County jails (65%).

Pastor Henry Blaze III from Progressive Baptist Church reminded everyone, "Our struggle has always been to gain respect and dignity of our lives."

A respect for life that Howard Allen, who is homeless, failed to see when Tara Denise Cole, who was a homeless Black woman, was murdered this past August; "She was thrown into the river by two White men," says Allen, "Where

was the outcry from the Black community or the Black Churches then?"

Edward Kindall, board member of Nashville's Metropolitan Board of Public Education, told everyone how the schools were failing Black children.

"67% of Black children in Nashville are in remediation. Approximately 100% of the Black males at Hillwood High failed the Gateway exam," stated Kindall.

All Tennessee students must pass the Gateway exam, which tests algebra, biology, and English, to be eligible for graduation from high school.

With the seemingly myriad of problems and difficulties faced by many Black communities in Nashville many called for action and community-empowerment.

"We cannot look to establishment leaders, we have to look beyond them, and we can't wait for them," said Paschall.

Dr. Amiri Al-Hadid, chair of Africana Studies at Tennessee State University called for strategic planning. "We have to start dealing with the imperialism in our community," stated Al-Hadid in reference to the gentrification happening in many once majority Black communities in Nashville.

Xuam Lawson, also known as the Xman from 81.1WFSK, said that we need to reach the youth and that radio was the way to do that. "In order to reach the youth you need a voice and we need to take that voice back."

Asked why he attended the meeting Lawson simply stated, "I wanted to make sure it wasn't just another meeting where nothing happened."

The next meeting for planning and grass root training will be held on Saturday, November 11th, 2006 at the Progressive Baptist Church from 1 pm to 3pm.

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# VISIONS

From BLURRED, page 1

There is potential to educate incorporate the principles of diversity into the Vanderbilt Visions Program. However, this opportunity is fading, as they are opting to avoid certain issues that challenge diversity and race relations on campus. Roychoudhury said that "there is no mention that current events, such as the pig's head on the Schulman Center and the incident last year at You Greek Me Greek will be spoken about."

The pig's head dropped outside of the Schulman Center, and the You Greek Me Greek incident, which involved a racial

slur aimed at NPHC sorority members while in the store by the storeowners, are both issues which could definitely spark or liven up the discussion that has been severely lacking in the meetings of this semester.

Perhaps the planners of Vanderbilt Visions will make better programs for next semester which will improve the features that have been disliked this semester. However, with the program omitting provocative issues dealing with diversity and race relations, the program could be seeing more of the same apathy next semester.

# A School of Their Own

By: Corey Sullivan  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR



Nashville area students

Bridges Academy is a unique private school expected to open in Nashville in the fall of 2007 to educate and enrich the lives of African-American teenage males.

Bridges Academy will target a different population than most private schools in the Metropolitan area. President Derek Young points to the high crime and drop-out rate among the African American male population as the main motivation behind the creation of this school. The school hopes to combat these negative outcomes by providing "brotherhood, wisdom and faith" to its scholars.

The Academy is founded on an empowering and visionary motto: "Transforming Lives. Producing Leaders."

The Bank of America building located in East Nashville will be the site for this innovative faith-based school. The initial class will consist of 100 fifth and sixth graders and is expected to grow until it reaches its target of serving fifth through twelfth graders. While the school will demand high tuition, estimated at around \$10,000 per student, President Derek Young assures that students' financial needs will be met through scholarships.

# Segregation

From SEGREGATION, page 1

who feared the loss of authority and quality of their schools.

As a compromise with the parents and administrators, the learning community laws were passed. These laws called for the Omaha and the ten adjacent school districts to be grouped together with a common tax base and shared resources by the year 2008. They also allowed for students to attend any school in the district where there is space, and transportation would be provided.

Senator Ernie Chambers was not pleased

with the original law and called for an amendment that would have the schools broken up into three districts along the racial lines of the city. Chambers, a Black State Senator, argues that since past efforts of integration have failed, the community needs to face reality, beginning with giving the parents of color control of the schools their children attend. The amendment passed legislation and was later signed by Nebraska's governor Dave Heineman on April 14th, 2006. When this law passes litigation, it will be reversing the desegregation implemented in Omaha 30 years ago.



The staff of Talented Tenth encourages our readers to vote for the candidate that they believe will best be able to represent the views of Tennesseans in the Senate. To register to vote or to find out more about the political process, log onto [www.declareyourself.org](http://www.declareyourself.org).

### HAROLD FORD, JR. Memphis, Tennessee

BA University of Pennsylvania JD University of Michigan

Special Assistant of Economic Development Administration, Law Clerk

U.S. House of Representatives '96-present;  
committee on budget, committee on finance

National Education Association, Fund for Children and Public Education

Superior speaker with considerable charisma. Has little management experience outside his political organization but has great vision of unification of various constituencies.

10 years of legislative experience at federal level. Has family wealth and the Ford family is one of the most politically connected families in Memphis

Largely scandal free with mostly positive ad campaign barring certain negative ads criticizing Corker on immigration policy

Wants reduction of national debt as well as maintaining flexibility to increase spending

Voted in favor of Marriage Protection Amendment several times

Believes that No Child Left Behind is under funded

Voted against Alaskan drilling and voted to adopt Kyoto protocol that would reduce gas emissions.

Voted with 97% of Republicans on Immigration Law Enforcement Act and Secure Fence Act of '06

Pro Gun-Control

**EDUCATION**  
**NON-POLITICAL JOBS**  
**POLITICAL JOBS**  
**ENDORSEMENTS**  
**LEADERSHIP**  
**DYNASTY**  
**SCANDALS**  
**BUDGET**  
**GAY MARRIAGE**  
**EDUCATION**  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
**IMMIGRATION REFORM**  
**GUN CONTROL**

### BOB CORKER Chattanooga, Tennessee

BS, University of Tennessee

Founded multistate construction and real estate company

Mayor of Chattanooga '01-'05, TN State Finance Commissioner '95

U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Right to Life, National Rifle Association.

Positive, successful speaker who has also run a multimillion-dollar company. Takes consistent conservative position on each issue.

Four years of service as mayor of Chattanooga. Has no exceptional familial connections and is a self-made millionaire.

Largely scandal free. His ads criticize Ford Jr. for being too liberal for Tennessee.

Fiscal Conservative who strictly believes in lowering taxes. Believes in reducing the size of Federal government through a balanced budget

In favor of current Tennessee law prohibiting gay marriage

As mayor of Chattanooga, pushed for incentives to pay teachers more in struggling schools.

Unclear positions

Will make Defense and Intelligence spending the first priority on the federal budget.

Against Gun-Control

## Red or Blue Pill?

By: Samora Legros  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



In the Matrix, Neo had the option of deciding the outcome of his life by choosing either a red or blue pill.

The game of politics does not present such decisions, but has two predominate political umbrellas; Democratic and Republican. Before taking Democratic or Republican prescription, the voter should read the label and know the capabilities and side effects of his or her vote. The senatorial race in Tennessee senatorial race should not be based on a party affiliation, but rather the positions taken by Bob Corker and Harold Ford Jr. At 5:30pm on October 29, 2006, the streets of Children's Way were filled with supporters and campaigners who rallied prior to the Ford vs. Corker debate at Ingram Hall. At 7:00pm, the bell rang and the contenders went toe to toe in a mediated, heavyweight bout.

After traveling on a mission trip to Haiti, Bob Corker returned to Tennessee and engaged in organizing non-profit housing for various underdeveloped Tennessee districts. As a self-made businessman and former mayor of Chattanooga, Bob Corker is responsible for the reduction of crime by 51% in Chattanooga. He takes a pro-life stance and does not believe in banning partial birth. For education, Corker supports funding for teaching centers that will train and put high performing teachers in low performing schools. In terms of overseas politics, Corker believes that engaging in diplomatic communications will stabilize relations with nuclear power holders, such as Iran and North Korea.

Corker supports big oil, and believes that the U.S. should continue to import oil from other countries. Corker concluded, "The Mexican border is too porous" after visiting and seeing various areas of open fence along the border.

As a representative of the Ninth District of Tennessee, Harold Ford Jr. is currently in his fourth congressional term. Ford Jr. has a plan for using Tennessee's soybean fields as an alternative fuel resource, a plan that encourages reliance on our own citizens for resources instead of importing them. The cost of higher education tuition has astronomically increased and Ford has a plan for a bill that would require the signing of a country contract. This contract would require the person to do work for a service corps, such as a teaching union, in exchange for tuition payments. On the war in Iraq, Ford feels that the United States cannot leave until its ethnic federations have become decentralized and separated into "four separate ethnic federations". After visiting Iraq four times, he has criticized the military occupational leadership of Donald Rumsfeld. Ford agrees that the cost for Medicare for the elderly and disabled is outrageous; "Medicare should negotiate with drug companies to reduce the cost of prescription drugs." In the beginning of the year, Ford voted for the strongest anti-illegal immigration bill. At the debate, Ford criticized Corker for not firing one of his employees who had hired several illegal immigrants.

It is highly recommended that you research the platforms of each candidate and exercise your constitutional right to vote on November 7, 2006 for the candidate who will represent the needs and concerns of you, your family, and your country.

## Why Talented Tenth?

From FOUNDER'S NOTE, page 1

role in which they were destined to fulfill: like Dubois, we believe that Black people "have a contribution to make to civilization and humanity, which no other race can make." It is with this heavy burden of responsibility and the seemingly apathetic environment in which Black thought finds itself at Vanderbilt University that we see the need to create a publication which not only enlightens but embraces the intellect of Black students on campus. Simply reporting and photographing token Black events on campus IS NOT ENOUGH. In fact, it is a gross injustice and undermines the respectability of Black communities at Vanderbilt University. This publication, dubbed Talented Tenth in reference to our forefather William Edward Burghardt DuBois, will serve as a vehicle for Black students on campus to ensure that their voices are heard without any attempts to distort, misrepresent, or stifle those voices.

Talented Tenth will primarily address the interests of the Black communities on campus and Vanderbilt communities at large. We will also target Black collegians and Black communities in the greater Nashville area. Talented Tenth will review and critique contemporary opinions and literature relevant to Black communities. Students interested in pursu-

ing careers in art design, event planning, journalism, poetry, marketing, etc., will all be able to contribute to the Talented Tenth. By utilizing the printing press we hope to reach as many people as possible and incite critical thought of the complexity and diversity of the experiences of Black people. Believing that the progress of Black people is inexorably tied to the United States' promise of a pluralist and Democratic society, Talented Tenth will assume a pivotal role by providing a forum for critical thought and informing various communities.

The mission of the Talented Tenth is to analyze, critique, and expose the complexity and diversity of experiences of Black people not only here at Vanderbilt but throughout the world. We will represent the ideological and intellectual diversity of Black people. We will call forth all of our Black brothers and sisters to assume their responsibility to uplift their people. We will stand with our non-Black brothers and sisters who advocate for a truly pluralist, Democratic society. We will remove ignorance, improve the level of cultural awareness, and enhance the quality of life for the African Diaspora. In remaining true to our mission, Talented Tenth will be firm in its resolve to promote critical thought and progressive change for the betterment of society.

# We Live In An Ownership Society?

-www.campusprogress.org

By: Corey Ponder  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Owning anything is difficult when you are in debt. Today, the average young person carries a college debt of over \$26,000 – more than double what it was ten years ago. Their credit card debt is over \$4,000 – more than 55 percent higher than it was in 1992. Young people spend nearly 25 percent of every dollar they earn on debt payments.

Young people are not the only ones experiencing money trouble. For the past five years, the average household income has stagnated. That is the longest period of stagnation on record. In 2004, incomes of typical middle-class families were at their lowest level since 1997. The minimum wage has remained unchanged for eight years and has not kept pace with inflation – if it did, it would be \$8.65 an hour, not \$5.15. Today the minimum wage represents a lower share of the average worker's wage than at any time since 1949. Meanwhile, 45.8 million Americans lack health insurance and nearly one-quarter of all Americans reported having trouble paying medical bills in the past year, which is one of the leading causes of personal bankruptcies. More women this year will declare bankruptcy than will graduate from college.

Conservatives point to the fact that in 2004 the economy grew at a rate of 3.8 percent, but most of this growth benefitted the wealthy minority while

everyone else continues to struggle. Thus, the gap between the rich and poor is approaching all-time highs. In 2004, half of the nation's income went to the top one-fifth of households. Also, in that same year the average CEO was paid 240 times more than the average American worker.

So let's review: Rising costs and stagnating incomes equal more debt, more poverty, and a growing disparity between the rich and poor. Why is this happening?

The primary reason is that the policies of the Bush administration and conservatives in Congress put big business and the very wealthy ahead of the vast majority of hard-working Americans. Take the centerpiece of their economic agenda: tax cuts; tax cuts are great if they are distributed fairly. However, President Bush's tax cuts are put into place to act as a boon for those who are exceptionally wealthy at the expense of everyone else.

Not a believer yet? Well, believe the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a nonpartisan government organization headed by a former senior Bush economist. In 2004, the organization reported that the wealthiest 20 percent of Americans (average incomes around \$180,000) saw their share of federal taxes drop by nearly 1 percent from 2001 to 2004. Unfortunately, while their tax rates were

dropping, middle-class taxpayers (with average incomes from around \$51,500 to around \$75,600) saw their share of federal tax payments increase.

The CBO report speaks for itself. But we could talk numbers all day, but we can also judge the economic agenda of the conservatives by looking at their priorities. They control the White House and the Congress. If they wanted to raise the minimum wage, they could. If they wanted to balance the budget by rolling back their unfair tax cuts instead of slashing money from programs for veterans, the needy, the elderly and the sick, they could. If they wanted to decrease the tax burden on the 80 percent of Americans who saw their rates go up over the past four years, they could. But don't hold your breath.

Instead, President Bush, after \$1.4 million in campaign contributions from the credit card industry, signed a law allowing corporate loan sharks to chase you forever if you go broke. And now Congress is considering chopping nearly \$9 billion from the nation's student aid programs to fix the massive budget deficit caused by the tax giveaway to the mega-rich.

Unless there is dramatic change, today's young people could be the first generation to be in a worse financial state than their parents.

## Diabetes - On The Rise in The Black Community

By: Rachael Goetz and Jessica Chandler  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS

At 2:00 o'clock in the morning, you and all of your friends are going out for pizza. You realize you cannot join them, because you know that if you eat this late, you will have to stay up all night to monitor your blood glucose level. This scenario may not sound familiar to you, but it is strikingly recognizable for many Americans living with diabetes.

Alesia Billingslea, 21, a Neuroscience major in A&S, was diagnosed with diabetes at eight years old. She lives with Type 1 diabetes, formally known as juvenile diabetes.

In 1993, Billingslea's mother became concerned when she noted a decline in her daughter's weight and her tendency to eat ice. In addition, Billingslea had a sore on the bottom of her foot that had not healed over the past two months. Weight loss and slow healing wounds, along with increased thirst, extreme fatigue, and constant hunger, are symptoms of Type 1 diabetes.

Billingslea initially managed her condition by receiving injections of the hormone insulin three to five times per day, depending on her food intake. People with Type 1 diabetes must receive insulin in order to survive, because insulin is necessary for the body to process sugar, or glucose, and produce energy.

In people without diabetes, insulin is produced in the pancreas and helps glucose to get into the body's cells. Without insulin, glucose builds up in the blood and then passes out of the body unused.

The rise of diabetes in the African-American community has reached epidemic proportions. According to the American Diabetes Association, 13.8% of Black Americans have diabetes.

The type of diabetes most prevalent in the African American community is known

as Type 2 diabetes, also known as adult-onset because it is most prevalent in adults over the age of 55. For these individuals, the pancreas is usually producing enough insulin, but their body is not using the insulin correctly. This is known as insulin resistance. If this type of diabetes is untreated, the pancreas will eventually stop making insulin.

Type 2 diabetes can often be managed through weight loss, diet, and exercise, though medication is also sometimes necessary. Without treatment, the condition can lead to many additional health risks, such as heart disease, stroke, and eye and kidney problems.

Scientists are not certain why Type 2 diabetes is so common among African Americans, however, most scientists agree that the tendency to develop Type 2 diabetes is increased by heredity, obesity, lack of physical activity, and other health risk factors such as high blood pressure.

According to studies by the National Institute of Health (NIH), more African Americans have high risk factors for diabetes. African Americans have a substantially higher rate of obesity than white Americans and report less physical activity.

African Americans are also more likely to experience complications related to diabetes, such as cardiovascular disease, and have a higher diabetes related death rate.

"The mortality rates among African Americans in the North Nashville area are the highest in the nation," says Professor of Health Psychology, David Schlundt.

Professor Schlundt works closely with the Nashville REACH 2010 project, a coalition with the CDC that focuses on lowering the rates of diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease in African Americans.

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## Where are all the Classy Black Women?

*The Black Female stereotype in Film gives a distorted view of Black women*

By: Morgan Turner  
STAFF WRITER

**B**lack women certainly have a presence in the media today. Whether it be on television, in movies, or on the radio, they certainly make their presence known. In film, there



Black female actresses

are only a handful of A-list Black actresses and they seem to play the same roles all the time. But is the image being presented a positive one?

"I think the majority of the time Black women are portrayed as loud, aggressive, overbearing and rude," says freshman Emani Davis.

For example consider Tyler Perry's films. His character Madea has gained popularity in the African American community. Madea is loud, carries a gun, smokes illegal substances, and is violent. Although the films portray this in a humorous light, it is not a positive representation of Black women.

According to www.about.com's newsletter on race relations, in films 56% of Black women are shown being physically violent, compared to White women's 11%. Media certainly helps perpetuate that stereotype; Madea shoots her gun on multiple occasions in her films.

The portrayal of Black women does not seem to get better from there; if they aren't loud and physically harming someone, they are the victim of a multitude of situations.

In Madea's Family Reunion, one of the main characters, Lisa, is in an abusive relationship and only in the end of the film does she decide to get out of the situation.

It seems that film has one portrayal of Black women. They are either barely making ends meet or they are causing a scene. Rarely are we portrayed as smart and intellectual women.

In film, Black women are often portrayed as objects of desire.

In the film *Swordfish*, Halle Berry exposes her breasts for absolutely no

reason. In promoting the film, she bragged about the fact that she as paid a large sum of money to expose herself.

"The sexuality attached to black women is vulgar," says Dr. Donna Ford, Betts Chair of Education and Human Development.

When asked about the implications of such images on academics, Ford states, "Actually I believe it does. You seldom see a Black female in an intellectual role. [Society] may get a distorted image of what Black women are [because] you focus on [superficial things] rather than working to get to college."

For some, the negative portrayal is a source of motivation.

"I do think it has a positive effect on the academic performance, at least for me. I would like to break the stereotype of a Black woman in society and show that a Black woman is capable of anything," says Davis.

Fortunately, the film industry may be trying to make a positive change. In the film, "The Manchurian Candidate," Kimberly Elise plays a ranked officer of military that helps the main character Ben Marco (played by Denzel Washington), regain his memory and his sanity.

Kerry Washington recently portrayed an assassin opposite Angelina Jolie in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. Although promoting violence through aiding her boss in assassinating people, her character was smart and well spoken.

There are actresses that are trying to cast in positive roles. Hopefully the trend will continue and the image of Black women in film will change.

## Differences in De Janiero Affirmative Action in Brazil

By: Kofi Gyasi  
STAFF WRITER

Affirmative Action is a subject that many Americans believe is unique to the states. However, Brazil is a country with similar issues regarding racial diversity and inequalities. For years Brazilians have prided themselves in being a society devoid of discrimination and felt the U.S. could learn from its more enlightened race relations. Since the majority of Brazil's citizens are of mixed races and heritage, the concept of race is also radically different. Unlike America's rigid classifications, Brazil's racial divisions are much more fluid, as illustrated by the recent census allowing for more than 100 categories.

However, Brazilian society does have racial divisions. In the 1990s, Brazil's politicians reexamined discrimination within the society and admitted its existence. The upper classes tended to be very White, while the lower classes were ma-

majority Black. While these facts would probably not be of surprise to Americans, to a country that believed itself more enlightened on these matters, it caused real self-examination.

To remedy this situation, Brazil looked to American universities' policy of affirmative action to redress past discrimination. Many colleges and graduate schools in Brazil have begun implementing racial quotas to bring groups who were virtually unrepresented in academia into these institutions. The controversy surrounding Affirmative Action in the U.S. has now begun in Brazil with other additional dimensions. The country now struggles to define who is Black and who is White, often times with students newly adopting America's sacred one-drop rule. Brazilian society is becoming more "racialized" and so the effects of the newly implemented policy of Affirmative Action have not yet been determined.



Geographic Map of South America

# Tea: The Cure to our Daily Stress?

By: Joi Howard  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

**H**ave you found yourself feeling a bit overwhelmed by all the tests, papers, and other necessities of college life?

"If I were to rate my stress level on a scale from one to ten at this moment, I would say that it's about a nine. That's only because I have had three major tests, two papers, and about two hours of sleep a night for the past week!" laughs Rachel Conard, an A&S sophomore.

Luckily for Rachel and others facing stress, there is a new study of London's University College which indicates that the cure to the common stress could reside within just four cups of tea a day.

Specifically, researchers recently studied 75 young male regular tea drinkers by dividing them into two groups and monitoring them for six weeks. In the study, one group was given a fruit flavored caffeinated tea mixture made up of the components of an average cup of black tea; the other, a caffeinated placebo, same in taste but without the active tea ingredients.

To see if there would be a variation between the two drinks' effectiveness in bringing stress levels back to normal, both groups were exposed to stressful situations such as a staged shop lifting accusation, where they were required to give a verbal response and

argue their case before a camera. During the tasks there was an increase in blood pressure and heart rate in both groups, factors that suggest a rise in stress hormone levels. About 50 minutes following the tasks, cortisol levels dropped by an average of 47 percent in the tea



Tea relieves daily stressors

drinking group, but only by 27 percent in the control tea group.

Even more, researchers found that blood platelet activation- linked to blood clotting and the risk of heart attacks- was lower in tea drinkers. This group also reported a greater

degree of relaxation in the recovery period after the task.

However, ULC Professor Andrew Steptoe says that this is one the first studies to assess tea in a double blind placebo controlled design, meaning neither the researchers nor the participants knew which group was drinking actual tea. He even said that because tea is so chemically complex, they are not certain which ingredients of the tea were responsible for the effects on stress recovery and relaxation in the study.

This study may imply that drinking black tea may speed up our recovery from the daily stresses of life.

"While black tea may not reduce the actual levels of stress we face, it does seem to have a greater effect in bringing stress hormone levels back to normal, which may eventually help us from acquiring illnesses such as coronary heart disease," said Steptoe.

After being told about this study Rachel Conard, notes "When stressed, I tend to go for sodas and sweets to help keep me alert; I never really thought that drinking tea may be helpful in situations of stress."

Thus, instead of opting for the sugary sodas in times of pressure, it may be worthwhile to grab that cup of tea, as it may help you to embark on your scholarly endeavors with more tranquility.

## POETRY CORNER

### "WE WEAR THE MASK"

"It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others. . . . One feels his two-ness - an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.

--WEB DuBois



## "SANCTUARY"

BY: MARKEENYA GUNN

### Featured Poetic Genius:

*Paul Laurence Dunbar*  
1872-1906

#### We Wear the Mask

*We wear the mask that grins and lies,  
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—  
This debt we pay to human guile;  
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,  
And mouth with myriad subtleties.*

*Why should the world be over-wise,  
In counting all our tears and sighs?  
Nay, let them only see us, while  
We wear the mask.*

*We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries  
To thee from tortured souls arise.  
We sing, but oh the clay is vile  
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;  
But let the world dream otherwise,  
We wear the mask!*

### Her Façade

By: Angela Moore

Great Wall of China-  
Got nothing on the stones  
She constructed.  
Got here by sweat  
And tears; she refuses  
For someone to take her place  
For granted.

She's Ms. Brown... to you.  
She's just as good  
Maybe better.

Don't mistake her  
For the one seen  
Laughing and joking; don't  
Be fooled by the nice girl  
Standing right outside...

Through these doors,  
In this room,  
The proper name is used.

You call her Ms. Brown  
Because she's just as good  
Maybe better.

Might as well refer to myself as we  
Cause the person I know and the one that you see  
Have long since strayed from similarity  
Truly my mind is my sanctuary  
Where fears are openly expressed  
Secret memories caressed  
and tucked away behind this lovely façade  
I navigate the darker corners, that intangible mental  
where I'm free to delve into the experimental  
Without reality to interfere  
I am my own, only, in here  
I pursue the confines of clean living  
since the real world is not so forgiving  
But I can't, I won't subdue the infatuation  
this love affair with my imagination  
We travel, one inside the other  
day in and day out, my dreams  
would blow your mind  
Or would they?  
Cause I suspect  
that I am one of many  
able to perfect  
the art of a dual existence  
With ease I flow back and forth  
careful not to confuse the two  
I put my best face forward  
My other face grins within  
at this obvious charade  
that has become second nature  
and my second self  
Prim and pressed, dressed in my Sunday best  
The world would shun my nudity

So I do us a favor  
Rather than rock this world  
I join the crowd, gathered beneath the cloud  
of suppression, the perpetual showing  
of human life  
My imprisonment of myself, within myself  
is a comfort to the other inmates  
it's what distinguishes us from the primates, cause  
what it means to civilize  
is to become a master of disguise  
a creature of unnatural habits  
a stranger to oneself  
building upon the stereotypes of the ages  
like the animals we ogle, we lock ourselves  
in cages  
To open them would equal chaos  
For they have been closed for so long  
And I count myself as fortunate to even  
know these cages exist  
I, no We, cling to one another  
One succumbs and one resists  
But if I know myself, I can't ever be too  
far from home  
To know someone else, an impossibility, because they  
are too far gone  
So with great certainty, I refer to myself as we  
Cause the being I know, and the one that you see  
have long since strayed from similarity  
and my mind, I liken to sanctuary

#### ATTENTION POETS:

If you have poetic talent that you want to display in Talented Tenth, contact Angela Moore. (angela.p.moore@vanderbilt.edu)

# Vandy: No Longer a Dry Campus

By: Althea Jack  
STAFF WRITER

After more than 15 years, Vanderbilt has rejoined nine other SEC schools in sponsoring a women's swimming and diving program for the 2006-2007 school year. Leading the Commodore women's swimming and diving program is Jeremy Organ. The announcement of his new position of head coach of the team was made by Vice Chancellor David Williams in September.

Organ, a native of Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada, started his swimming career through the receipt of a swimming scholarship to the University of North Dakota. After receiving his degree, he remained at the University of North Dakota for four years, serving as a team coach. Organ relocated to Pensicola, Florida to pursue an opportunity to work with a local club team. An opportunity to work with the Nashville Aquatic Club brought him to the Centennial Sports Complex here in Nashville in 2002. While keeping abreast of opportunities to make progress, he heard about Vanderbilt's swim team, applied for the position and now serves as Head Coach.

When asked about Vanderbilt's decision to launch the women's swim team at the expense of the men's soccer team, Organ responded that it must have been "a tough decision" for the university. He spoke about collegiate teams "coming under fire" as a result

of lack of funding and opportunities to progress. As a fellow collegiate athlete, he can empathize with teams that are facing issues of disbandment, but com-



Centennial Sports Complex Pool

ments that this was "a great move by the University to add a [swim] team."

Given Organ's credentials, there is no doubt that Vanderbilt made a great decision to place him at the forefront of this endeavor. His connections with some of the largest club teams and private teams in the Southeast region will be invaluable resources. He has also

been able to secure this year's schedule, which includes swim meets against University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, and participation in the

Southeastern Conference meet. Such exposure will give a great impression to the rest of the SEC swimming community; letting them know that Vanderbilt is back on the map and is excited to be a part of the most competitive swimming division. Organ's goals for the new season are centered on getting

his team adjusted to the demands of a competitive division, competing well and recruiting for next year.

His recruiting efforts have gotten many women excited for this new program. Over 50 women expressed strong interest in joining the team and the current roster consists of 27 women who have been practicing and conditioning everyday in order to prepare for the rigors of Division I competition. One of these women is Mary Fitcher, a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. A swimmer in her early adolescent years, she read and responded to the recruitment meeting email excited about an opportunity to be a part of a Division I team. A challenge to joining the team for her was "fitting it in my schedule." Practice is everyday; four days of the week require the sounding of the 5am alarm and the fifth day takes the team for a run around the park. However, such a schedule fails to get Mary down; "It is mentally and physically challenging, but it is worth it." For her, it is the genuine excitement about the team, the season and just being a Division I collegiate athlete that has allowed her to be a part of a program whose achievements are highly anticipated.

*Look out for more information about the progress of Vanderbilt's women's swimming and diving team and their meet schedule.*

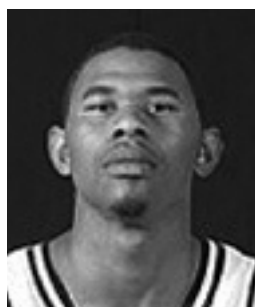


## "1 on 1" with a 'Dore



### Shan Foster

Junior, Position: Guard/Forward  
Hometown: Kenner, LA  
Pre- Season All-American Candidate  
Pre- Season All- S.E.C



**What is your favorite offensive play:** The Double Screen  
**What is your pre-game ritual:** I like to pray to get myself in the right state of mind.  
**What aspect of your game do you pride yourself in the most:** I take pride in improving my jump shot and my three point shot  
**What is your favorite NBA Team:** the Phoenix Suns  
**What is your favorite NBA Player:** Steve Nash  
**What is your future aspiration:** To be a professional basketball player  
**Why did you choose Vanderbilt:** I chose Vanderbilt for its academics and because it competes in one of the most competitive conferences.  
**What is your favorite food:** I love macaroni and cheese  
**What is your favorite television show:** the Fresh Prince of Bel'air  
**What is your favorite extra-curricular activity:** Playing the piano is my outlet to relax daily.  
**What is your favorite South Eastern Conference opponent:** The Kentucky Wildcats  
**What is your hidden quality:** I can sing and play the piano

### Dee Davis

Senior, Position: Guard  
Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio  
Pre- Season All-American Candidate  
Pre- Season All- S.E.C 1st Team  
Pre- Season Wooden Candidate



**What is your favorite offensive play:** The fall screen out of our break offense  
**What is your pre-game ritual:** I always take a nap and then shave my legs and underarms.  
**What aspect of the game do you pride yourself in the most:** Improving my basketball handling skills as well as my leadership abilities  
**What is your favorite WNBA Team:** the Indian Fever  
**What is your favorite WNBA Player:** Tamika Catchings  
**What is your future aspiration:** I want to be a basketball coach.  
**Why did you choose Vanderbilt:** I chose Vanderbilt because of its location, size, academics, the competitive South Eastern Conference and also because there is family nearby.  
**What is your favorite food:** I love crab legs  
**What is your favorite television show:** the Jamie Foxx Show  
**What is your favorite extra-curricular activity:** bowling.  
**What is your favorite South Eastern Conference opponent:** The University of Tennessee  
**What is your hidden quality:** I make it a point to hold my family close to my heart.

#### 2006-2007 Men's Basketball Home Schedule

11/15/06 vs. Georgetown	8 p.m. CT	12/09/06 vs. Georgia Tech	4 p.m. CT	02/03/07 vs. Georgia	6 p.m. CT
11/25/06 vs. Elon	7 p.m. CT	12/16/06 vs. Nicholls State	7 p.m. CT	02/14/07 vs. South Carolina	7 p.m. CT
11/28/06 vs. Furman	7 p.m. CT	12/29/06 vs. Alabama A&M	7 p.m. CT	02/17/07 vs. Florida	12p.m. CT
12/02/06 vs. Toledo	7 p.m. CT	01/10/07 vs. Tennessee	7 p.m. CT	02/25/07 vs. Kentucky	1 p.m. CT
12/05/06 vs. E. T. S. U.	8 p.m. CT	01/17/07 vs. Alabama	7 p.m. CT	03/03/07 vs. Arkansas	2 p.m. CT
12/07/06 vs. Lipscomb	8 p.m. CT	01/27/07 vs. Ole Miss	12p.m. CT		

#### 2006-2007 Women's Basketball Home Schedule

11/06/06 EA Sports (Exhibition)	7 p.m. CT	12/03/06 vs. Clemson	4 p.m. CT	01/14/07 vs. Florida	2 p.m. CT
11/18/06 vs. Dartmouth	TBA	12/20/06 vs. Lipscomb	7 p.m. CT	01/25/07 vs. Tennessee	6 p.m. CT
11/20/06 vs. Texas A&M(CC)	7p.m. CT	12/21/06 Holiday Classic	1 p.m. CT	02/04/07 vs. Alabama	2 p.m. CT
11/24/06 vs. Florida Atlantic	12p.m. CT	12/21/06 Holiday Classic	3 p.m. CT	02/11/07 vs. Auburn	2 p.m. CT
11/25/06 Tournament	12p.m. CT	12/30/06 vs. Princeton	2 p.m. CT	02/18/07 vs. South Carolina	2 p.m. CT
11/21/06 Tournament	2 p.m. CT	01/01/07 vs. La Salle	2 p.m. CT	02/22/07 vs. LSU	8 p.m. CT
		01/04/07 vs. Arkansas	7 p.m. CT		



# A NEW GENERATION

By: Dexter Nathaniel  
STAFF WRITER

This upcoming National Basketball season, fans can expect a new outlook with players changing teams and conferences as well as major changes in the rules and regulations. This Off-Season thirty teams made transactions, which may lead to a shift of power in the conferences. The Chicago Bulls' acquisition

of free agent Ben Wallace was one of the most significant transactions, as the Bulls will be inheriting a first team all-defensive player as well as a multiple Defensive Player of the Year winner.

For the position of center, the New Orleans Hornets traded Tyson Chandler of the Chicago Bulls for P.J. Brown. Peja Stojakovic also

joins Chandler in New Orleans by signing as a free agent. The Memphis Grizzlies fans will have to deal with the loss of Shane Battier whom the team traded to the Houston Rockets in return for Stromile Swift and first-round pick Rudy Gay, a young star from the University of Connecticut.

The 2006-2007 basketball season also marks the introduction of a new game ball. The league agreed to switch from the traditional leather ball to a microfiber composite that will optimize grip and handling throughout the entire game. Some

players, including Shaquille O'Neal, have expressed dissatisfaction with the new ball. The Associated Press reports O'Neal's response; "It's the worst decision some expert [has] made... The NBA's been around how long? A hundred years? Fifty years? So to change it now, whoever that person is needs his college degree revoked." Hopefully, players will be able to adequately adjust to using the new game ball and offensive outputs will not diminish.

For more information and latest updates on trades, scores and roster adjustments, visit [www.nba.com](http://www.nba.com).

## NBA OUTLOOK

By: Nicole Cherry and Dexter Nathaniel  
SPORTS WRITERS

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

**New Jersey Nets**  
05-06 Record: 49-33  
Playoff Result: Lost in the 2nd round to Miami (4-1)  
Outlook: With Jason Kidd at the helm of this potent offense expect the Nets to make another playoff run. The key to the Nets' upcoming season will be Vince Carter's continual offensive explosions and Richard Jefferson's overall consistency. However, if the Nets want to improve on last years playoff performance they must improve defensively against elite players such as Shaquille O'Neal and Dwayne Wade.

**Philadelphia 76ers**  
05-06 Record: 38-44  
Playoff Result: N/A

Outlook: This season the 76ers will rely on the veteran leadership of Allen Iverson and Chris Webber, and the young talent of Samuel Dalembert, Andre Iguodala and rookie Rodney Carney to have a successful season in hopes of making the playoffs.

**Boston Celtics**  
05-06 Record: 33-49  
Playoff Result: N/A

Outlook: This season the Celtics will rely on their young players such as newly added point guard Sebastian Telfair and sophomore Gerald Green. Ultimately, this team's success will depend on the performance of Paul Pierce.

**Toronto Raptors**  
05-06 Record: 27-55  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: Look for the Raptors to be one of the surprise teams thanks largely to emerging superstar Chris Bosh, the addition of T.J. Ford from Milwaukee and the drafts first pick Andrea Bargnani.

**New York Knicks**  
05-06 Record: 23-59  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: Newly appointed coach Isiah Thomas has the responsibility of turning the NBA's highest paid, very disorganized and young franchise into a contender or else expect major off season changes.

#### Central Division

**Detroit Pistons**  
05-06 Record: 64-18  
Playoff Result: Lost in Eastern Conf. Finals to Miami (4-2)  
Outlook: It's hard to imagine the Detroit Pistons as an elite team after trading away one of the game's best defensive player Ben Wallace. Look for Nazr Mohammed who will finally get his chance to serve as Wallace's replacement. However, it is up Chauncey Billups, Tayshaun Prince, Rasheed Wallace and Richard Hamilton to keep this team going.

**Indiana Pacers**  
05-06 Record: 41-41  
Playoff Result: Lost in 1st round to New Jersey Nets (4-2)  
Outlook: Newly acquired Pacer Al Harrington will provide a much needed lift on both ends of the floor. Look for Jermaine O'Neal to return to his all star form and sophomore Denny Granger to continue last season's success. Expect this team to make the playoffs.

**Cleveland Cavaliers**  
05-06 Record: 50-32  
Playoff Result: Lost in 2nd round to Detroit (4-3)  
Outlook: LeBron James finally got his team to the playoffs, and made a wonderful showing. Barring injury, this team definitely has the talent to make it to the Eastern Conference Finals.

**Chicago Bulls**  
05-06 Record: 41-41  
Playoff Result: Lost in 1st round to Miami (4-2)  
Outlook: The Bulls have the talent at all positions, especially at guard with Ben Gordon. With the addition of Ben Wallace, look for the Bulls to make a deep playoff run.

**Milwaukee Bucks**  
05-06 Record: 40-42  
Playoff Result: Lost in 1st round to Detroit (4-1)  
Outlook: Andrew Bogut had an impressive rookie season last year. Along with Michael Redd and the newly acquired Charley Viliannueva expect the Bucks to make a playoff push.

#### Southeast Division

**Miami Heat**  
05-06 Record: 52-30  
Playoff Result: NBA Champions  
Outlook: Now with a championship in hand will the Heat underachieve? Being one of the oldest teams of the NBA the Heat will once again rely heavily on Dwayne Wade. If Shaquille O'Neal is healthy expect the Heat make a serious defensive stance of their title.

**Charlotte Bobcats**  
05-06 Record: 26-56  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: Bobcats fans should expect another rebuilding year performance. This team has young talent such as Emeka Okafor, Adam Morrison, Gerald Wallace and Raymond Felton but they are a year away from seriously competing for playoff position.

**Orlando Magic**  
05-06 Record: 36-46  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: Dwight Howard has to have a MVP caliber year for the Magic to make the postseason. The addition of J.J. Reddick and the development of Jameer Nelson should make this team competitive.

**Atlanta Hawks**  
05-06 Record: 26-56  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: This franchise has enough talent to compete but the question is will they compete? Joe Johnson needs to emerge as the leader he was brought in to be and sophomore Marvin Williams needs to improve on his rookie season for this team to have any chance at respectability.

**Washington Wizards**  
05-06 Record: 42-40  
Playoff Result: Lost in 1st round to Cleveland (4-2)  
Outlook: Gilbert Arenas emerged as a perennial guard but Antawn Jamison and Caron Butler must continue their offensive production and the team must learn to play defense if they wish to improve on last season.

### Western Conference

#### Northwest Division

**Denver Nuggets**  
05-06 Record: 44-38  
Playoff Result: Lost in 1st round to L.A.Clippers (4-1)  
Outlook: Carmello Anthony continues his emergence as both a leader and an offensive force to be reckoned with. The teams success lies on the health of Marcus Camby, NeNe Hilario and the relationship between George Karl and Keyon Martin.

**Utah Jazz**  
05-06 Record: 41-41  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: The Jazz brought in Derek Fisher to provide veteran leadership to the young point guard Deron Williams, who was very impressive in his rookie season last year. Expect Andre Kirilenko to have another dominant statistical year. Unfortunately, there is too much talent in the west this year for the Jazz to make it to the postseason.

**Seattle SuperSonics**  
05-06 Record: 35-47  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: Last season was a disappointing year for the SuperSonics; but with the addition of Chris Wilcox to go with Ray Allen and Reshard Lewis, expect the SuperSonics to rebound from last season.

**Minnesota Timberwolves**  
05-06 Record: 33-49  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: It will be a definite struggle for this team to make the playoffs. Kevin Garnett is not to blame; the front office has to surround him with better players. The drafting of Randy Foye is a start. Do not expect this team to make the playoffs.

**Portland Trail Blazers**  
05-06 Record: 21-61  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: This team is in a rebuilding process. The drafting of Lemarcus Aldridge and Brandon Roy provides talent for Coach McMillan to work with. Prediction: another first round lottery pick in the upcoming draft

#### Pacific Division

**Sacramento Kings**  
05-06 Record: 44-38  
Playoff Result: Lost in 1st round to San Antonio (4-2)  
Outlook: Mike Bibby is one of the most underrated players in the league. Barring any distractions from Ron Artest, the Kings should have no problem returning to the postseason.

**Los Angeles Clippers**  
05-06 Record: 47-35  
Playoff Result: Lost in 2nd round to Phoenix (4-3)  
Outlook: Last year's run was amazing, and very exciting for the city of Los Angeles. Now with the addition of Tim Thomas, Elton Brand and company will prove that last year was no fluke.

**Los Angeles Lakers**  
05-06 Record: 45-37  
Playoff Result: Lost in 1st Round to Phoenix (4-3)  
Outlook: Kobe Bryant proved last year of how good he can be. This Lakers team surprised many by making it to the playoffs. In order to improve on last years performance, Lamar Odom must emerge as the offensive force to compliment Kobe Bryant. However, as long as Kobe Bryant is on this team the Lakers have a shot.

**Golden State Warriors**  
05-06 Record: 34-48  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: The Warriors are a very talented back court team but in the Western Conference front court depth is what is needed to compete. Since this team lacks front court depth a playoff run seems questionable.

**Phoenix Suns**  
05-06 Record: 54-28  
Playoff Result: Lost in Western Conf. Finals to Dallas (4-2)  
Outlook: Phoenix title hopes lies on the health of Amare Stoudemire's knees following microfracture-surgery. If Stoudemire fully recovers, this team is a definite top contender for the title because of reigning MVP Steve Nash, Shawn Marion and Boris Diaw.

#### Southwest Division

**San Antonio Spurs**  
05-06 Record: 63-19  
Playoff Result: Lost in 2nd round to Dallas (4-3)  
Outlook: Expect the Spurs to return to the rank of the elites now that Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili are all healthy. The addition of younger players such as Matt Bonner will offer the Spurs more quickness and versatility, things they lacked in last seasons playoffs. Do not be surprised if the Spurs are hoisting the Larry O'Brien trophy when the season ends.

**Dallas Mavericks**  
05-06 Record: 60-22  
Playoff Result: Lost in NBA Finals to Miami (4-2)  
Outlook: Dirk Nowitzki is one of the best forwards in the league, and his team needs him to play similarly to his playoff performance if they want to return to the finals. With no major changes to the roster and Avery Johnson's continued emergence as one of the best coaches the Mavericks will make another title run.

**Houston Rockets**  
05-06 Record: 34-48  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: The Rockets need Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady to remain healthy if they want to compete for a playoff position, if not expect another disappointing season. The addition of Shane Battier should, however, provide some much needed help, a playoff run is possible.

**New Orleans Hornets**  
05-06 Record: 38-44  
Playoff Result: N/A  
Outlook: Chris Paul is quickly becoming a superstar. The addition of Tyson Chandler, Peja Stojakovic and Hilton Armstrong should make this team very exciting and competitive for the upcoming season and the New Orleans area. Prediction: playoffs

**Memphis Grizzlies**  
05-06 Record: 49-33  
Playoff Result: Lost in 1st round to Dallas (4-0)  
Outlook: Although Memphis says goodbye to Shane Battier, bringing back Stromile Swift was not a bad idea. A healthy Damon Stoudamire and Pau Gasol along with rookie Rudy Gay will keep Memphis in the playoffs.

### 2006-2007 Award Predictions

#### Coach of the Year:

Scott Skiles (Bulls)

#### Defensive Player:

Ben Wallace (Bulls)

#### Sixth Man Award:

Jerry Stackhouse (Dallas)

#### Rookie of the Year:

Rodney Carney (Philadelphia)

#### Most Valuable Player:

Dwayne Wade (Miami)

#### NBA Finals:

Suns defeat Heat (4-2)

## From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

### DO WE NEED THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RACE?

How does it feel to be part of a perpetual problem; to live in a society where you are a constant disturbance and forced into chains; you are so much of a deviant that you adhere to laws that prevent you from learning how to read or write; such an abomination to humans that you are not even regarded as a whole person. Can you imagine waking up every morning and encountering the very flaw that has barred you (and those like you) from living a normal lifestyle, by merely looking in the mirror?

None of us are born into this world with the ability to choose the very characteristics that separate us from one another, but what if we could? If two homosexual parents were raising a child in a drastically homophobic environment, a socially conscious parental figure could not be faulted if they chose to make sure that the child was heterosexual in order to avoid hostility.

There is no doubt that in the United States we are separated along our inherent characteristics. Other than sex and age, race is the most obvious method of uncontrollable classification. I have come across a number of naïve individuals that presume that race is a distinct and defined category; however, race is perhaps the most crucial of the socially created divisions. How has something as uncontrollable as race become such a fierce method of categorization? So much so that it is perhaps our most common method of grouping citizens?

While race may currently be associated with the color of one's skin, in its historical sense it has always inherently dealt with competition. Long before we considered Black and White a race in America, the gladiators of Rome gallantly battled with one another in competitive races that resulted in a single winner.

If the criterion used to determine race is something that is just as temporary as the paper we write it on, it almost seems foolish to consciously separate ourselves along rigid racial lines.

Over the course of history, the malleability of this concept is such that it has been contoured to benefit those in positions of supremacy. American chattel slavery is the only kind of slavery where slave status became equal with race.

For something with such crucial implications, race is something that is determined by society. Whether this is a reality is not a question; however, it is imperative to address whether categorizations using the social construction of race are necessary and effective.

As passionate as our forefathers were, they could have at least chosen a method of separation along the lines of something that is clearly defined. Whether you agree with me or you feel that this categorization is one that is imperative and useful to the very fabric of American culture, we, the staff of the TENTH, encourage you to pick up a pen and join the conversation.

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### OPINION POLICY

We at Talented Tenth appreciate any thought provoking comments and opinions that you feel would be a benefit to our readers. Any letters sent for possible submission as an opinion piece, needs to be well written, cohesive, and contain logical arguments to any claims made. Submissions that do not meet these requirements and are nameless will not be considered for the publication. Letters can be submitted in person at the Black Cultural Center room #111 or by e-mail to chenise.t.upshur@vanderbilt.edu no later than midnight on December 9th. Once submitted, all articles become the property of the Talented Tenth and are subject to editing and condensation as the editor-in-chief deems necessary.

## HBCU vs. Majority University

By: Sean Tierney  
STAFF WRITER

Large or small, public or private, urban or country, every institution of higher learning falls into many different categories. One such category is the Historically Black College or University (HBCU). HBCUs are institutions that were dedicated to educating the black community before *Brown v. Board of Education*. With the outlawing of segregation in public schools in 1954, Black students have had to decide not only whether to stay in-state or go out-of-state, but also whether to go to an HBCU or a Traditionally White Institutions (TWIs).

There are advantages to each, and the decision is not easy. First, there is the financial aspect. HBCUs win this hands-down. HBCUs are usually considerably less expensive than TWIs. Fisk, for example, estimates total cost at about \$21,000 a year, and Fisk is on the high end of HBCU tuitions. By comparison, last year the average cost of a four-year, private college was about \$30,000 per year. (Vanderbilt is about \$47,000.)

HBCUs are also triumphant in meeting the needs of the Black student community. They can best provide a community where black students do not feel marginalized.

Then again, traditionally White institutions have the edge when it comes to academic quality: the best colleges and universities in America are under this category. There are over 100 recognized HBCUs, but very few get near the top

of college rankings. The quality of education can be very important to how a graduate performs in the working world. Because of higher tuition, TWIs also tend to have more money to spend on improving their quality of education and the overall experiences of their students.

The decision to go to an HBCU or TWI is an important to individual students. But what does it mean for the country as a whole? Which is the best way to achieve equality: separating races or combining them? By focusing on educating blacks, HBCUs may be best able to offer support for Blacks to overcome the inherent advantages enjoyed by their White counterparts. Meanwhile, traditionally White institutions may continue to marginalize Blacks, thus benefitting more from going to the same schools. On the other hand, desegregated schools are best able to promote tolerance. Tolerance and acceptance is best taught at young ages, and college may be the first and only chance for many Whites and Blacks to live, work together, and learn from each other. It is hard for White students to learn from Black students and vice-versa if they attend different schools.

In the end, the decision to go to a historically Black college or university or a traditionally White institution is left up to each student. Much can be learned from how both types work, but the choice is a personal one, and different for everyone.

## UNFORGIVABLE BLACKNESS

By: Marvin Figueroa  
STAFF WRITER

Show after show, one bears witness to Blacks being portrayed as jesters whose only purpose is to serve their White masters. In popular novelas (Brazilian soap operas) Blacks hold the roles of servant or entertainer — as if these were the only positions that we are adept to occupy. When I speak with Black Brazilian children, there is an overwhelming majority who dream of becoming soccer players while a small number even consider attending college. It seems that regardless of the country, city, or state, there is a constant association of blackness with inferiority. Except for the fact that a sizable percentage of the population can trace their roots back to Africa, being in Brazil is no different from being in the United States.

The reality is that we face the same prob-

lems in the United States. Americans are constantly bombarded with negative images of African Americans as uncivilized, inept, and lazy individuals. Movies and rap videos constantly portray the African-American male as a hyper-sexualized and violent individual. Less and less of our brothers and sisters are attending institutions of higher learning and even less are completing school. As the Bush administration cuts back on Pell Grants, fewer of us are able to afford school. At any given point, there can be more of us in jail than they are in a university. In all, our community is in the midst of a crisis. However, what is specifically interesting is that as college students we have the ability to bring about immense change. Being educated individuals, we rep-

Continued on p. 11

## Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

I just read the Sports article titled, "Is Vanderbilt Ready for Another Black Quarterback?" I am floored that you would dare pose such a silly question. I understand the aims of the Talented Tenth, but I am outraged that you would try to bring race on the hallowed ground of football. It shouldn't matter that it's been nearly 10 years since we've had a Black quarterback. Chris Nickson is starting because he holds the Alabama state record for touchdowns (67) and is capable of holding down the job. Had he been White and thrown for 67 touchdowns he still would have been the starter. It's about talent, and Nickson has it. There have only been a handful of black kickers in the history of football, but does that mean schools are racist and discriminatory? No. More than seventy percent of NFL players are Black, but is the league discriminatory against whites? No. Tony Dungy, Marvin Lewis, Lovie Smith, Herm Edwards are all Black head coaches, but is Peyton Manning Black? How about Rex Grossman? Carson Palmer? They're not because it doesn't matter. It's football. It's about winning, and if Peyton was Black he'd still be the best quarterback in the modern era. Not every issue in life is about Blacks and Whites, so drop the rhetoric when it comes to sports. Don't applaud a player because he's Black; applaud him because he's good. More than 200 yards from scrimmage and two TDs? Good job, Chris Nickson.

~ Robert W. Wynkoop

# AMERICA INVENTED RACE!

By: Jeanine Mansour  
STAFF WRITER

Americans have used race to distinguish amongst those that are not a part of the dominant cultural circle. Race becomes an institutional criterion that can only survive with a conscious effort to sustain it. Those who created the racial system as well as those who are constrained by it, cooperate to maintain the status quo until later challenged. Basically, the social construction of race was designed deliberately to justify the institution of slavery, promotion of White solidarity, and create entitlements and advantages for Americans categorized as whites.

Slavery began as an economic interest however only in America was it adopted into racial construct to be followed. Race in this country is constructed as a social status and is now considered for many as their identity. For instance, a woman who is both African American and Caucasian will be judged instantly by her skin color. Race, unlike gender, is variable: it is relative to location and historical period. Race is an irrational means of achieving what seem to be rational objectives. So if America invented race, how can we UN-invent it?

Vanderbilt students can start by not aid-

ing the perpetuation of the race construct and of skin color identifying me as a person. I am so sick of hearing an African American say "hello" to another African American on campus, not because they know the person, but because they share the same skin color. I am so sick of the typical "Vandy girls" being too "embarrassed" to go to NPHC parties. I am so sick of seeing all the South Asian kids only sit with other South Asians in Rand. I am so sick of skin color and how it has shaped our behaviors and beliefs.

People have a misconception that skin color is cultural; that in America there is a 'black' culture and there is a 'White' culture. Let me bring an example to the table. You have three people: Black American, White American, and White British. In America, we categorize the Black person in one group and the two White people in another. However, in reality, the Black and White American shares more commonalities than the White American does with the White British. I guarantee you on the Fourth of July, the White and Black Americans are lighting up fireworks while the White British is recalling of the days of the American Revolution. The only thing that divides the Black

and White American is the color of their skin.

Yet, I will talk to so many Black and White Americans, and there seems to be such a "difference." Please Vanderbilt, please tell me the difference between Black and White. I understand the differences between the cultures of Northerners and Southerners; rich and poor; Baptist and Jewish; educated and non-educated. But please Vanderbilt, what is the difference in character and behaviors when comparing skin color? Tell me which skin color can dance better, cook better. Please tell me which skin color is more intelligent. Better athletes? Drug Dealers? Gay? Politicians? Tell me the difference between skin color so I know who to marry.

What I want to emphasize is that the color of your skin should not be your only defining characteristic. It is up to every individual and how they treat others to make change. Differences are a beautiful thing, and tolerance of these differences is even more beautiful. However, by Vanderbilt students letting the social construction of race rule our thoughts and actions, we are making a conscientious effort to keep race alive.

## CLOSING THE GAP

By: Morgan Turner  
STAFF WRITER



Dr. Donna Ford is taking steps to close the achievement gap in the African American community

find ways to increase gifted Black students in gifted programs. I'm also looking at the impact of family life on academic success as well as issues of acting White or Black" says Dr. Ford. "If we go by public schools (in Nashville), 17% are Black and too many of the Black students aren't doing well. They are just as capable their White counterparts."

Dr. Ford is one of three minority professors consistently doing research in this field but she notes that the lack of minorities is inspiration for her to work even harder. "It makes me work a little harder to keep people informed and recruit more minorities to do research in my field so it isn't so racially homogenous," says Dr. Donna Ford.

Ford's research has garnered her many awards. Most recently she was awarded the American Education Research Association's Scholars of Color Distinguished Career Contribution Award in 2005. She has also written several books including *Reversing Underachievement Among Gifted Black Students* (1996) and the co-authored *Multicultural Gifted Education* (1999).

Great strides are being made in closing the achievement gap through her research efforts. There will be opportunities coming soon for students interested in her cause to close the achievement gap. Dr. Ford and her colleagues are currently working on getting an Achievement Gap Center on Vanderbilt's campus.

The achievement gap is a huge issue in the African American community. No one knows this better than Dr. Donna Ford, the Betts Chair of Education and Human Development in Peabody College, and the only African American endowed professor here at Vanderbilt. Prior to joining the Vanderbilt University faculty, Dr. Ford held positions at the University of Kentucky, Ohio State University and University of Virginia.

One of the main reasons for Dr. Ford's presence and work with Vanderbilt University is to close the achievement gap by finding ways to get more African American students in gifted student programs at all levels of education; "My research is in several different areas. For years I have been trying to

From UNFORGIVABLE, page 10



Senior Marvin Figueroa in Sao Paulo

represent the best of our communities and the decision-making power of continued deterioration or recovery.

Some of the greatest social revolutions in Latin America have been led by university students. During the Civil Rights Movement it was college students that proved the backbone of civil disobedience and yet most of us stand idle as we witness the demise of brothers and sisters. We have become so involved in memorizing our chemistry formulas and theories that we forget there is a world starving for our innovative ideas, energy, and passion.

Some of us dream of becoming scientist and finding a cure for AIDS but how many of us serve as tutors children so a child will not engage in behavior that leads to contraction

of the disease. Our generation has become comfortable at the very moment that our community needs our activism. Oftentimes I hear from my colleagues that the reason why they can not help right now is because they are preparing to help in the future. While this perception may have some validity it reflects a false conception of time. Actively helping our community should be something that we constantly involved in. How many more young men must be raised thinking that the true test of manhood is how many women you sleep with or how many people you can intimidate? In a world where the question "how does it feel to be a problem" still proves relevant it is our responsibility to take action.

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SCARE	DUBOIS
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HAUNTED HOUSE	TRICK OR TREAT
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