



**NEWS INSIDE:** Spring break doesn't have the monopoly on service trips. **SEE PAGE 3**

**OPINION:** Return of the Quick Shots — To smoke or not to smoke? **SEE PAGE 4**

## Increased card readers lead to positive results

by DANIELLE GANTT  
Senior Reporter

In an effort to increase safety measures, 357 electronic card readers have been added to buildings around campus since 2004.

"I feel like it's a bit of overkill," said senior Kristen Kirksey while she waited for an elevator in Towers I.

"I have to swipe my card to get in the building, swipe my card to get up the elevator and if you live in a suite, you have to swipe your card again, and then we all have to unlock our doors with our keys," said Kirksey, who has noticed Vanderbilt's increased usage of electronic card readers during her four years on campus.

While Kirksey and other students find the new security measures to be a nuisance, some students welcome the heightened security.

"The electronic card readers are a good tool to have for students' protection," said senior Gustavo De Pena Rondon, who has had expensive valuables stolen from his dorm room in the past.

"Safety has improved, and I feel like the readers should be used widespread across campus," he said.

Vanderbilt administrators are thinking along those same lines, and no matter how much of a hassle the electronic card readers have become for students, the results are clear. There has been a



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Joshua Ho uses his Comodore Card to gain entry into Tolman Hall. All dorms and halls now require card swipes for access.

drastic decrease in robberies and other crimes in dorm rooms, according to Senior Director of Housing Facilities Operation and Management Jim Kramka.

"For a long time, one could find the electronic readers on the perimeter of buildings. Once you were in, you were in," said Kramka, who explained that a rash of laptop thefts in Branscomb Quadrangle sparked the expansion of electronic card readers on campus.

"People would tailgate students to get into the dorms and after entry, walk up and down the halls turning door handles until they found one that was open, grab what they wanted and leave," Kramka

	Start	Add	End
2005:	47	51	98
2006:	98	51	149
2007:	149	181	330
2008:	330	74	404

said. "We just did Kissam (Quadrangle) in the past summer. There used to be a person who would repeatedly get in the dorm, try doors and take what they wanted. We have him on video from the surveillance cameras. It is the same guy, but of course,

surveillance cameras only help after the fact. The electronic card readers are a preventative measure."

After the electronic card readers were added to Kissam, the problem ended, according to Kramka.

Please see **CARD READERS**, page 3

## Chancellor Zeppos says 'no' on English-Only



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Kathy Chambers speaks to the audience against the English-Only referendum that is the focus of the upcoming local election after a viewing of "The Visitor" on Thursday evening.

by RUTH KINSEY  
Senior Reporter

Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos, along with eight other heads of universities and colleges in Nashville, released a statement over break urging the citizens of Davidson County to vote "no" in the upcoming English-Only referendum.

In an open letter to The Tennessean published on Dec. 28, the higher education leaders denounced the initiative as one that would cause untold problems for Nashville. The letter outlined their worries about the signal of narrow-mindedness the passage of such an initiative might send to the wider American and global communities, as well as the negative effect they feel it could have on education.

The referendum for the English-Only initiative, proposed by Councilman Eric Crafton, a Vanderbilt alumnus, is scheduled for Jan. 22.

"As academic leaders, we are concerned about the impact — literal and symbolic — on our mission of teaching, learning, curing and discovering," the university officials wrote in the letter.

If passed, the referendum would deny the right to government services in any other language but English. It would prevent the city of Nashville from allowing interpreters to translate government-issued materials into other languages. The city of Nashville would become the first major metropolis in America to pass such an initiative.

Zeppos said he worries the law would adversely affect the Nashville community, and possibly the Vanderbilt experience, by possibly reducing the applicant pool.



To listen to a podcast of Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos commenting on the English-Only referendum, go to [www.INSIDEVANDY.com](http://www.INSIDEVANDY.com)

"As an institution of higher learning, we rely on the diversity of our community," said Zeppos. "However if it is passed, I hope we would remain true to our mission of learning, discovery and diversity."

The initiative is opposed by various Nashville leaders and celebrities, among them Mayor Karl Dean, Bishop David Choby, television host Anastasia Brown, businessman Tom Oreck, head of Nashville NAACP Reverend Sonnye Dixon and Councilman Buck Dozier. It has also generated a negative reaction from the Vanderbilt student body. On Thursday night, the Vote NO campaign hosted an informational meeting on campus about the English-Only referendum and a film screening of "The Visitor," a drama detailing the plight of illegal immigrants in New York City.

According to Zeppos, voting against this initiative is of the greatest importance.

"We must vote 'no' for the future of Nashville, the future of education and the future of Vanderbilt," he said. ■

—Norah Scanlan contributed reporting to this article.

For more on the English-Only referendum, see page 4.

## What is it worth to you?

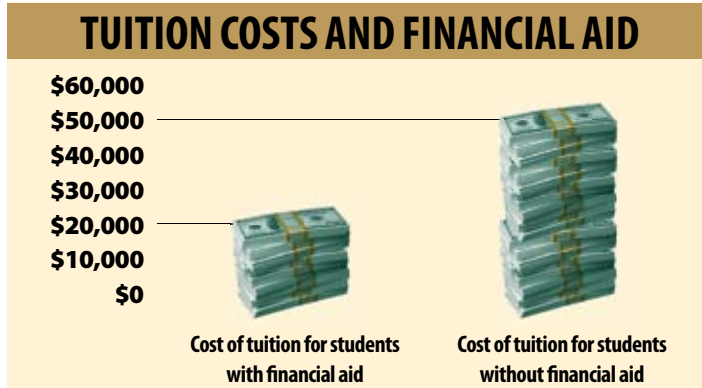
Kiplinger's Personal Finance ranks Vanderbilt 15th of "Best Value" universities.

by EPPA RIXEY  
Hustler Reporter

Kiplinger's Personal Finance ranked Vanderbilt the 15th "best value" school among private universities, despite an estimated cost of attendance of over \$50,000 a year.

"Families hit by the economic downturn may feel that private institutions are out of their financial reach, but they will be surprised by our findings," said Janet Bodnar, editor of Kiplinger's.

Kiplinger's ratings are based on a combination of wide ranging statistics that include admissions rate, SAT scores, graduation rate, student/faculty ratio, cost and aid offerings. Widely known for its high base tuition, Vanderbilt has been



able to stand out as a value for its robust financial aid offerings.

According to the Office of Financial Aid, 60 percent of the undergraduate population receives some form of financial aid, and the average cost per year for one of these students is only \$21,839, a significant difference from the total cost without aid of \$52,303.

In spite of the disparity between the cost with aid and the cost without aid, most students are in support of the financial aid programs Vanderbilt has.

"There were a couple places I was considering, and this was the best offer I got from a private school. It's a great value with grants and scholarships instead of loans," said first-year student Elizabeth Magdycz.

"I probably would not have come to Vanderbilt without financial aid," said senior Jim Frank.

Vanderbilt further cemented its best value ranking in October when Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos announced an expanded aid program. The new program promises

no student will graduate with need-based loans; instead they will receive increased scholarships, grant assistance or a combination of the two. This initiative has placed Vanderbilt in an elite group of only 30 colleges or universities who are able to both provide need-blind admission and meet 100 percent of demonstrated need.

"Our enhanced aid program is a modest investment that will yield enormous returns in assuring that qualified students who want to attend Vanderbilt will now be able to do so, regardless of their financial situation," Zeppos said in an e-mail to the student body when introducing the new aid program.

Caltech managed to take the top spot on Kiplinger's list, followed by Yale, Princeton, Rice, Duke and Harvard. ■

—Vanderbilt News Service contributed reporting to this article.

**SPORTS:** Commodores look to begin SEC play with a win at Rupp Arena against the Kentucky Wildcats. **SEE PAGE 5**

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# SNAPSHOTS

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

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### TODAY



HIGH **53**, LOW **45**  
Mostly Sunny

### SATURDAY



HIGH **46**, LOW **27**  
Cloudy

### SUNDAY



HIGH **42**, LOW **29**  
Partly Cloudy

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### BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## "ODDS" AND ENDS

### Upstate NY man sprinkled nails on driveways of foes for two years

**STONY POINT, N.Y. (AP)**—Police in upstate New York say a man has been sprinkling roofing nails on the driveways of people he didn't like to cause flat tires for two years.

Stony Point police Lt. Peter Quinn says Michael Delisio was arrested Tuesday after an officer staking out one victim's home saw nails being thrown from Delisio's car.

Quinn says the 60-year-old man from West Haverstraw has been charged with harassment, criminal tampering and mischief.

He says victims in Stony Point and Haverstraw have complained more than 40 times since 2006 and that he's never seen vandalism performed with "this type of consistency."

It was not clear if Delisio has a lawyer. Messages left at the court of his arraignment and at his home were not immediately returned.

### School bus liquor-store run gets cops' attention, embarrasses school district

**BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)**—A school bus driver made an unscheduled stop at a liquor store, then allegedly asked a student to help hide her purchases when police stopped her, the district superintendent said.

It does not appear the driver had been drinking, Billings Public Schools Superintendent Jack Copps said. No charges had been filed but the driver quit her job this week.

Copps said someone spotted the bus at the liquor store on Dec. 12 and called authorities. No students were on the bus at the time, he said.

By the time officers caught up with the bus, the driver had picked up some middle school students and allegedly asked one student to hide a paper bag with bottles of alcohol near the back of the bus, Copps said.

Copps said the school immediately notified its bus contractor, First Student, that the woman was not to transport any of the district's students.

School district policy prohibits alcohol on school property or in vehicles transporting students. Copps described the incident as "embarrassing."

### Man guilty in chain saw attack on neighbor's door after parking feud

**SCRANTON, Pa. (AP)**—A Pennsylvania man faces up to 37 years in prison now that he's been convicted of tearing open a neighbor's door with a chain saw in a fit of anger over parking.

Authorities said 34-year-old Robert Kane began sawing through the front door of Jamie Zaleski's apartment in Scranton last March while Zaleski and several friends ran out the back.

Kane was angry because a friend of Zaleski's parked in front of his house. Police say Zaleski heard a knock at the door, asked who it was, and Kane responded, "Your worst (expletive) nightmare. Open the door or I'll cut it down."

He then cut a gash in the door with a chain saw, authorities said.

The defense said Zaleski never actually saw Kane wielding the saw. But a witness testified that Kane bragged about the incident, and the jury convicted Kane on Tuesday of attempted burglary, terroristic threats and other charges. A sentencing date wasn't immediately set.

### NY man demands estranged wife pay him for kidney or return donated organ

**GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP)**—A Long Island surgeon embroiled in a nearly four-year divorce proceeding wants his estranged wife to return the kidney he donated to her, although he says he'll settle for \$1.5 million in compensation.

Dr. Richard Batista, a surgeon at Nassau University Medical Center, told reporters at his lawyer's Long Island office Wednesday that he decided to go public with his demand for kidney compensation because he has grown frustrated with the negotiations with his estranged wife.

He claimed he has been prevented from seeing their children, ages, 8, 11 and 14, for months at a time.

"This is my last resort; I did not want to do this publicly," Batista said.

He said he gave his kidney to Dawnell Batista, now 44, in June 2001. She filed for divorce in July 2005, although he claims she began having an extramarital affair 18 months to two years after receiving the kidney transplant, his attorney, Dominick Barbara said.

Douglas Rothkopf, the attorney representing Dawnell Batista, did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

### Employees in Chicago schools spent \$67K on unused cappuccino machines

**CHICAGO (AP)**—An inspector's report shows Chicago Public Schools employees bent rules to spend \$67,000 for espresso machines that largely haven't been used.

The report shows the nation's third-largest district bought 30 cappuccino machines for a culinary arts program.

But several months after the purchases only three were in use, though not for the program. One has disappeared and 22 hadn't even been opened.

The report by school district inspector general Jim Sullivan reveals employees separated the purchases to stay under \$10,000 so they wouldn't have to seek competitive bids or school board approval.

A school official says one employee was fired and disciplinary action is pending against three others.

### Seal turns hatchery into all-you-can-eat buffet, still rescued despite theft

**SANDWICH, Mass. (AP)**—Life is a big buffet for a young seal with a talent for breaking and entering.

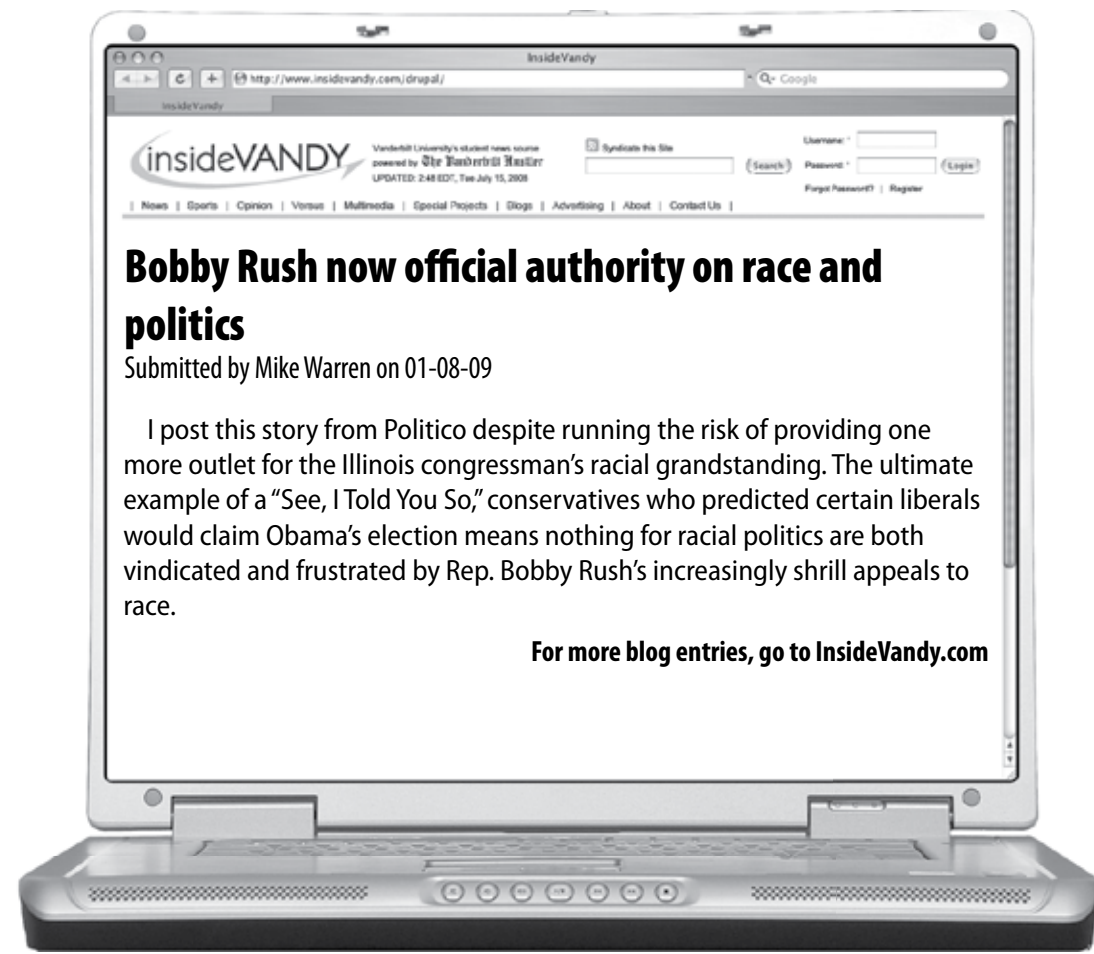
A young harbor seal somehow broke into a fish hatchery on Cape Cod on Tuesday and turned the place into an all-you-can-eat buffet.

The female seal briefly had the run of the Sandwich Hatchery, downing untold numbers of trout before Division of Fisheries and Wildlife employees found it, the Cape Cod Times reported.

The seal, just under 3 feet long, was released on a beach by members of the Cape Cod Stranding Network, which rescues marine mammals that end up on land.

The seal looked healthy and "pretty full," said network spokeswoman Katie Touhey.

## FROM THE BLOG



## SNAPSHOT

### STOCKING UP



SYDNEY WILMER / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Junior Austin Ayers volunteers in the book store on behalf of the Navy ROTC by stocking shelves during the second day of classes.

# \* 4 out of 5

**VANDERBILT UNDERGRADS refused an offer of alcohol or drugs in the past month. — Core Survey, 2008**

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS

## Hypothermia in Nashville? YES!

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Hypothermia is a potentially fatal condition in which the body temperature drops below the normal range, usually after prolonged exposure to cold weather when not wearing warm or dry clothes.

Hypothermia begins with severe shivering and can progress to slurring speech & confusion.

If it progresses, unconsciousness, lowered blood pressure and even death can occur. Even mild cases can lead to cardiovascular, respiratory & neurological disorders.

**Alcohol can contribute by:**

- Dilating the vessels so that there is excess heat loss;
- Producing drowsiness which can lead to falling asleep outside or in wet situations;
- Impairing judgment and reducing awareness of surroundings.

**HOW TO HELP:**

- Remove the person from the cold.
- Try to prevent further heat loss by removing wet clothes & cover with blankets.
- Do not shake or rub the person to warm them up.
- Keep the person still & quiet.
- Seek medical attention immediately.
- Call VUPD at 322-2475.

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# Cathy Ryan named interim VUPD chief, Lynch accepts new position

Vice Chancellor Fife to lead the search

by SYDNEY WILMER  
Editor in Chief

Major Cathy Ryan was named interim police chief for the university Thursday afternoon, replacing Chief Marlon Lynch.

"Major Ryan comes to this role with 21 years experience within the Vanderbilt community," said Lauren Brisky, vice chancellor for administration and chief financial officer in a

press release. "We are indeed fortunate to have someone with her extensive background to serve in this capacity."

Beth Fortune, the university's vice chancellor of public affairs, explained how much Lynch will be missed at the university.

"Jerry Fife, associate vice chancellor for business services, will be heading the national search for a permanent replacement," Fortune said.

Lynch, assistant vice chancellor and chief of police, has resigned his Vanderbilt position effective Feb. 1 to take

a job as associate vice president for safety and security at the University of Chicago. Lynch, who came to Vanderbilt in 2005, is a native of Chicago.

"In his tenure as assistant vice chancellor and chief, Marlon (Lynch) developed a comprehensive plan for the future of the Vanderbilt Police Department and made significant strides toward putting that plan into motion," Brisky said in a press release.

"Just as important, he created a vision for his team members and maintained the sense of

professionalism and duty to the organization that have been a hallmark of the VPD for many years."

Ryan has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Texas-Arlington and a master's certificate from the University of Virginia. She is a graduate of the FBI's National Academy and the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy.

Last year had been marked by significant overturn in the administration, with five positions being permanently

filled after national searches, two of which were internal appointments to those who held interim positions. Fortune secured her position after serving as interim vice chancellor for public affairs, and dean of Arts and Science. Carolyn Dever was also hired after serving in an interim position. Additionally, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Richard McCartney and Dean of the School of Medicine Jeff Balsler were all internally appointed after national searches. ■



CHIEF CATHY RYAN



COURTESY OF ROBERT SIEGLER

From left, sophomore Lauren McDuffy, junior Charlotte Hassan, junior Eva Imbsweiler and junior Susan Miller work as part of the Georgia Baptist Home and Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless on AWB by providing medical care, food and clothing for children in poverty.

## Students participate in the 'alternative' alternative over break

by LILY CHEN  
Senior Reporter

Spring Break is not the only break with an "alternative" option, as about 40 students who participated in Alternative Winter Break, learned. While some students spent their winter break relaxing and sleeping, others traveled to various cities donating their time and participating in various service projects through Alternative Winter Break.

"AWB offers leadership opportunities for students as well as a unique service experience," said Assistant Director of the Office of Active Citizenship and Service Lilly Massa-Mckinley. "They get to learn about communities, violence, foster systems, poverty, an array of issues."

This winter, students participated in Alternative Winter Break at four sites: Atlanta, Ga., La Mision, Mexico, New Orleans, La., and St. Louis, Missouri.

"We strive to do meaningful service that has tangible

results," said co-chair senior Robert Siegler. "This way we expose students to different things and they can learn about themselves as well."

In Atlanta, students worked with Georgia Baptist Home and Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, providing medical care, food and clothing for children living in poverty. The New Orleans trip gave students a chance to contribute to the Katrina rebuilding effort, reconstructing homes and other community buildings. In St. Louis, students worked with women who were just released from prison, helping them get back on their feet, as well as supporting families with children suffering from cancer. And while in Mexico, students worked with the Door of Faith Orphanage, interacting with the children and repairing buildings.

"In Mexico, we volunteered at the orphanage and worked with children, fixing their dorms that were falling apart," said La Mision's site leader sophomore Yvonne Carter. "From these trip you learn that

you might barely make a dent with what you're doing but you learn about an issue and you can educate your peers about it."

The St. Louis site proved to be a learning experience for site leader junior Kelsey Pendleton.

"I was really surprised at how accepting and appreciative the women from the prisons were. It just shows that things aren't always how you expect them to be," Pendleton said. "It's a really refreshing experience to realize that at the end of the day when you've really pushed yourself to know what you did was worthwhile."

AWB, inspired by the success from programs such as Alternative Spring Break, began in 2005. While students typically pay the trip fee, there are fundraisers and donations during the year and financial aid available.

"Not only do students benefit, but the communities really appreciate the help these students offer," McKinley said. ■

## CARD READERS: Expensive devices well worth it, said Kramka

From CARD READERS, page 1

The electronic card readers have not only significantly lowered the amount of robberies on campus, but they also lowered the amount of cases of voluntary and involuntary assaults, as well as reported cases of alcohol violations, Kramka said. He thinks because students only had access to their own floors or those of their own sex, intoxicated students are able to find their rooms more easily and not those

of unsuspecting sleepers.

Although the electronic card readers are "quite expensive," consuming "significant outlays of students' housing dollars," he said.

Kramka believes their effectiveness is worth the cost.

"We have put them everywhere the architectural building allows," he said. "These card readers have made Vanderbilt University an unattractive target for criminals."

Kirksey said she thinks tougher safety measures were needed to prevent crimes on campus, but she disagreed with the electronic card readers as being the most attractive method of safety.

"I appreciate Vanderbilt's effort to make us safer," Kirksey said. "But I can't even get over to Towers III and IV to see friends without swiping at least twice. They must work harder to find a secure and convenient answer." ■

## Professor of violin Connie Heard is University's new endowed chair recipient

by LAUREN KOENIG  
Senior Reporter

Cornelia Heard, professor of violin and chair of the strings department was named the holder of the new Valere Blair Potter Chair at the Blair School of Music. The chair is endowed through a donation by Valere Blair Potter's grandchildren.

"It is a great honor to be made sort of an official part of the school by being the first faculty member to hold the Valere Blair Potter Chair," said Heard. "I am grateful to the grandchildren of Valere Blair Potter for their continued commitment, generosity and vision, and also to Mark Wait, dean of Blair for his incredible support and leadership."

Heard has been familiar with the Blair School of Music since its very beginning.

"As a young child I was one of the first students to attend the Blair Academy of Music when it opened its doors in 1964," Heard said.

She studied and worked in New York for nearly 10 years before moving back to Nashville and joining the Blair String Quartet and the Vanderbilt faculty in 1982.

Heard teaches as part of both the college and pre-college programs at Blair.

"I am one of those people who feel very lucky

to have a wonderful job that offers enormous satisfaction," Heard said in regard to the teaching and performing aspects of her profession.

She has performed as a soloist with the North Carolina Symphony, Nashville Symphony and Municipal Chamber Orchestra, N.Y.C., among others.

"We are very excited to receive this endowed chair, and most proud of this recognition by the Potter family of Connie's accomplishments as a performer and teaching artist," said Mark Wait, dean of Blair.

Heard is looking forward to the further development of the school. "I have been able to watch and participate in the growth of the school ever since and see it develop into not only the best pre-collegiate music school in the region, but also one of the best collegiate music schools in the country."

Valere Blair Potter was a Nashville community philanthropist who helped to found the Blair School in 1964. The school served as the pre-college music division of George Peabody College until 1981. ■



CORNELIA HEARD

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12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	
4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
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# OPINION

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# New Year's frustration

**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

The new year has begun, and with it arrives a countless collection of resolutions that fizzle within the first month. I don't mean to be solely pessimistic and derogatory. There are plenty of people who made no resolutions at all. They either have tricked themselves into believing their lives are perfect and nothing could be going better or are lazy realists who understand change is just a buzzword thrown around to get people excited about politics.

Personally, I made a couple of resolutions. Why? Tradition mainly, but at least I'll make it to mid-February. I plan to give you some advice that will allow you to do the same, and the first lesson is low expectations are half the battle. In authentic journalistic spirit, I decided to Google the top 10 New Year's resolutions and want to offer some input on the highlights.

About half of all resolutions have something to do with losing weight or getting in shape. And why not? I recently read about 90 percent of all Americans are obese and unattractive, with the majority of this population centered in New Jersey. Yet all of the traditional ways to get fit involve ugly words like "dieting" and "exercise." I myself invented the unique "gum and water diet," which I plan on selling to Cosmopolitan. But why resort to this when you can simply wear lots of layers and limit your interactions to dimly lit areas? Better yet, with sorority selection and initiation happening, now is the perfect time to pick up an eating disorder or drug habit.

Another common resolution, represented by the number of Nicorette advertisements, is to quit smoking. This is not a bad idea: As far as cool trends go, smoking is being replaced by energy conservation. Just because you already don't smoke doesn't mean you can't make a difference. This year, you can vow to be extra annoying to people smoking around you. Wave your hand in front of your nose, wrinkle

your face and make exaggerated coughing noises. If they still don't seem to get the hint, converse loudly with your friend about how smokers are ruining the world.

If you have a humanitarian leaning, inform the person about the secret dangers of smoking, like cancer.

A number of people each year go out on a limb and promise to stretch themselves in the future by pledging to "have fun" and "enjoy life more." These are the people you saw on New Year's Eve passed out in a pile of vomit and party hats. The true key to succeeding lies not in your determination but in carefully selected resolutions you know you can keep. For example, commit to putting on at least one different article of clothing each day. Promote world peace in the upcoming year by personally avoiding any international trade of illegal firearms. Or, if you're someone who is prone to distraction, dedicate yourself to one hour of uninterrupted television per day. Whatever you hope to achieve this year, remember that just writing the resolution down will make you feel more successful and make resolutions you know you can keep (I resolve not to pilot a helicopter in the Middle East).

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

## EDITORIAL

# Nashville universities defend immigrants' rights

Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos joined the presidents of seven other Nashville universities in decrying the possible adoption of the English-Only ballot initiative. The joint statement, submitted to The Tennessean, claimed, "It is especially important that the higher education community in Nashville be heard on this issue. It is the obligation of institutions of higher education to help their communities think critically about important issues of public policy, especially when the policies have a deep and lasting impact on these communities." The letter later goes on to say the amendment would have a shotgun effect, which would cause severe, unexpected repercussions while only marginally correcting problems concerning illegal immigration.

Zeppos and the others should be commended for taking a stand against an initiative that would limit Nashville's ability to grow into a truly multicultural city. As it stands, this initiative, if passed, will be the first major metropolitan community to pass an English-Only law in the United States. Considering Nashville is known as the Athens of the South, this ban would be an ignominious mark on a fairly distinguished municipal history.

Furthermore, as Zeppos and his colleagues pointed out, a language ban would hurt Nashville's ability to recruit international business. They claimed, "A multilingual population is the logical consequence of our efforts to become the business relocation site of choice in the United States. Middle Tennesseans cannot expect to have a thriving, or even stable, economy without an environment

that is welcoming and accommodating of the needs of business and those individuals that businesses bring with them."

While their comments might seem like an exaggeration, it is important to note Nissan, Toshiba and other foreign companies do operate within the metropolitan statistical area. Like many multinational companies, some of their staff and administration have been transplanted from other countries, and though they might speak English, it seems unreasonable to deny them services in a language with which they are more familiar. If anything, it makes Nashville appear backward or even xenophobic. This is hardly a cause to rally behind.

In the end, it will not prevent illegal immigration or even force the immigrants currently residing here to leave. In fact, it will pose a more serious problem to foreigners legally living in Nashville. The initiative will prevent newcomers from becoming fully acclimated to Nashville culture. Without the ability to bridge the language gap, important civil and social services will remain out of their reach. Not only will this ban cause legal issues, but it also prevents access to services most of us take for granted.

The president's letter emphasizes both the multicultural aspect of Nashville and the role the higher education system plays in drawing immigrants to the city. Not to mention, the importance of international students at their respective institutions. We should support them as they support the rights of Nashvillians — new and old.

# Referendum demonizes immigrant population

**SOO YANG**  
Columnist

Soon, speaking Spanish or Chinese in parts of Nashville may become officially illegal. On Jan. 22, voters of Davidson County will determine the outcome of a charter amendment proposed by Councilman Eric Crafton that will establish English as the official language of the metro government. According to the charter, all government statements and documents will be published exclusively in English. Going further, the amendment states "no person shall have a right to government services in any other language," but vaguely suggests "exceptions to protect public health and safety" may be considered. As expected, the English-Only proposal has faced intense opposition from immigration advocates and elected officials on grounds of principle. The measure, in all aspects, is discriminatory, and by passing it, the government will prevent immigrant communities from participating in public policy while restricting a form of free expression. In response to these criticisms, the English-Only campaign argues that the measure, if enforced properly, will boost the city's economic competitiveness, reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies and reinforce incentives for foreigners to learn English. Unfortunately, the campaign's rationale is everything but rational.

Whether this amendment is passed or not, the upcoming referendum will cost approximately half a million taxpayer dollars. More money will be lost from lawsuits and other legal actions following an exceptionally controversial policy change affecting an entire city government. Likewise, enforcing this drastic regulation will not be cheap.

Although foreign companies that have already moved to Nashville will not leave the city because of this amendment, potential firms willing to open an American branch will likely reject a candidate city with an openly xenophobic metro government. Even domestic companies with extensive international operations will be reluctant to open an office in Nashville.

Foreign companies are not the only groups in Nashville experiencing unprecedented growth. Between 1990 and 2000, there has been a 320 percent increase in the number of foreign-born immigrants in Nashville. Currently, more than 30,000 Hispanics call Nashville home, and the city contains the largest Kurdish community in the United States. Even those who support the English-Only measure admit the demands for government services in foreign languages are increasing. Rather than working to meet the demand, however, those who support the amendment irrationally claim the increase in demand for services in foreign languages is wrong and dangerous. Crafton and his supporters also argue that this measure will strengthen the incentive for immigrants to learn their English. However, the immigrants know better than anyone else that learning English is critical for attaining their American dream. Thus, many first-generation immigrants who have lived in U.S. for 10 to 20 years still cannot speak English not because of lack of incentive but difficulty of learning. If Crafton were truly concerned with the plight of Nashville immigrants, he should have developed English tutor programs in struggling communities aimed at easing the transition and integration process. The immigrants keenly understand that better English means better life in America and do not need another reminder from a politician who pretends to sympathize with their struggles.

—Soo Yang is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [soo.r.yang@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:soo.r.yang@vanderbilt.edu).

**Ban should not be extended**  
**Aimee Sobhani, Columnist**  
The smoking ban that currently applies to the medical center should not be extended to main campus. I can see why smoking is a bad idea in an area where hundreds of people with weak immune systems congregate, but the majority of students can probably handle a little secondhand smoke every now and then. There are plenty of areas on main campus where smokers can partake without affecting others. I personally don't like cigarette smoke, but I don't think this is enough of a reason to forbid a small number of individuals from ingesting cancer-causing chemicals.

**Smoking should be accepted**  
**Thomas Shattuck, Opinion Editor**  
As a smoker, I have to admit I never really supported the ban at the medical center to begin with, and I definitely wouldn't like it if smoking was banned on main campus. The fact of the matter is outdoor smoking presents no risk to surrounding bystanders and therefore is simply an inconvenience. It seems hardly reasonable to ban smoking so as not to offend a certain segment of the population. People do not have some mythical, unalienable right to not be annoyed or bothered. If I want to die in an unseemly, circuitous manner, so be it, it's my call.

**Personal liberty comes first**  
**Katherine Miller, Columnist**  
I've never smoked a cigarette, largely because the Truth ads of our youth convinced me one cigarette was the way of leprosy, lechery and the latter half of "Requiem for a Dream."  
However, were Vanderbilt to extend the medical center's smoking ban westward, I would smoke a cigarette in protest ( ... just one). Maybe a cigar. A smoking ban in the open air, far away from the medical center, infringes on personal liberty for personal convenience. Now, of course, I am from Virginia. If Virginia were Rome, we'd be uncovering frescos with tobacco plants and, like, John Rolfe with a golden Virgin Mary halo. The U.S. was founded on tobacco. But even if it wasn't, Vanderbilt shouldn't literally be the Vanderbilt bubble. Besides, smoking's sexy on "Mad Men."  
—Interested in writing a Quick Shot? To suggest an issue or question, e-mail [opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com](mailto:opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com).

**Smoking is a personal choice and right**  
**Mike Warren, Columnist**  
On an open-air campus like Vanderbilt's, people should be allowed to smoke. People have the freedom to smoke, and people also have the freedom to ask someone to stop or move somewhere else. Smoking bans impede on individual freedom, plain and simple. I don't smoke, and I don't like when people smoke around me. Smoking can lead to emphysema and lung cancer, and I hate to see my friends and family engage in a practice that could shorten their lives considerably. Still, it is their choice to do so, or at least it used to be. Smoking bans are all the rage these days, in order to either stop the effects of secondhand smoke or save the lives of those who choose to light up. It may be impolitic to say, but the grave threat of secondhand smoke is a joke. And while Vanderbilt is interested in influencing the lives of its students through education, its role is not to be the good habit police. Vanderbilt has every right to ban smoking on its private property, but think of the smokers! I say no to the ban.

## QUICK SHOTS

One Issue, Four Responses

### Should the smoking ban be extended to main campus?

**Annoyed? Need to rant?**  
**Have an issue you'd like to voice your opinion on?**  
E-mail the Opinion Page at [opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com](mailto:opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com)

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## SPORTS

## Vanderbilt opens SEC play in tough environment

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Editor

Kentucky's legendary Rupp Arena has been regarded as one of the most difficult environments for road teams in the country, but Vanderbilt has given the Wildcats fits in each of its last three visits.

Riding a six-game winning streak after their most recent 78-48 thrashing of Massachusetts, the Commodores tip off at Kentucky (11-4) tomorrow in both teams' Southeastern Conference openers. Vanderbilt has defeated the Wildcats in five of their last six meetings, most recently a 93-52 crushing at Memorial Gym in February that was one of the worst defeats in Kentucky's storied history.

The different look of both squads in 2009, however, leads coach Kevin Stallings to shrug off any chance of there being any carryover from the rout.

"It's just a new team and a new season and a new situation," Stallings said regarding this year's squad. "Very few of these guys know what it took to beat Kentucky last season."

In Vanderbilt's last visit to Rupp however, the Wildcats snapped the Commodores' 16-0 start to the season with a double overtime, 79-73 win to prevent the Commodores from being the first team ever to win in three consecutive visits to Lexington.

"I really don't know if words can do it justice," said sophomore A.J. Ogilvy of playing at Rupp. "It's one of those things you have to experience for yourself to know how tough it is."

What did Ogilvy tell the freshmen on the team who have never played in Lexington?

"Expect a big, loud crowd," he said. "Very hostile."

Kentucky will also welcome a hostile team, as

Vanderbilt has seen its play dramatically improve since a lackluster 5-3 start.

Vanderbilt (11-3) held a dominant rebounding advantage and ripped off a 31-8 run to start the second half against the Minutemen in the easy victory.

Ogilvy scored 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds in just 22 minutes of play to lead four players who scored in double figures. Junior Jermaine Beal had 10 points to go along with six assists in another efficient performance from the dependable point guard.

Stallings felt encouraged by the offensive balance he saw heading into Lexington after Vanderbilt's second-half outburst in its first true road victory.

"The more guys that make perimeter shots the better our offense is going to flow because the less pressure there's going to be on our inside game," Stallings said. "It's just kind of the nature

of basketball. If we do a decent job of shooting from the perimeter we'll have more space to work inside."

The play of the young team's defense has been particularly impressive. During their winning streak, the Commodores have not allowed an opponent to shoot better than 38 percent from the field and have seen their rebounding dramatically improve as well.

Stallings expects that defensive intensity to continue against Kentucky.

"What I believe about this and what I'm confident about this team is that we're going to be up there and guard their behinds," he said. "We'll have to rebound. We'll have to finish possessions. We'll have a real chance. I like the path we're headed down."

Those aspects of Vanderbilt's game will be critical if the team expects to stop talented junior guard

Jodie Meeks, averaging 24.4 points per game to lead the SEC, and sophomore Patrick Patterson, one of the conference's best frontcourt players who already has registered nine double-doubles in non-conference play.

Stallings said he thought Meeks and Patterson are two of the best players and the conference, and unfortunately they happen to be on the same team. Battling Patterson in particular on the boards will be a challenge for the Commodores.

"We'll be tested this weekend," Stallings said. "We'll see if we really made progress or not because getting rebounds against UMass is one thing, getting rebounds against Kentucky is another."

"It's definitely been more of a mindset going in there during games," Ogilvy said. "I think we're ready for them." ■



JOHN RUSSELL / VU Media Relations  
A.J. Ogilvy (4) and the Commodores look to once again be a tough match-up for Kentucky as both teams open SEC play tomorrow at Rupp Arena.

## VANDERBILT BASKETBALL



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Jence Rhoads (22), Christina Wirth (34), Meredith Marsh (23) and Hannah Tuomi (15) welcome No. 7 Tennessee Sunday in hopes of snapping a 15-game losing streak in the series.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
The men's basketball team has won six in a row heading into tomorrow's game against Kentucky. Jeff Taylor (44) and A.J. Ogilvy (4) rank among the team leaders in scoring.

**No. 24 Vanderbilt vs. No. 7 Tennessee**

**When/Where:** Sunday, 2 p.m. at Memorial Gym

**TV:** College Sports South

**Last time they met:** UT eliminated Vanderbilt from the SEC Tournament with a 63-48 victory. Guard Jen Risper led the Commodores with 14 points.

**Vanderbilt at Kentucky**

**When/Where:** Saturday, 1 p.m. at Rupp Arena

**TV:** Raycom

**Last time they met:** Vanderbilt crushed the Wildcats 93-52 at Memorial Gym on Feb. 12. Shan Foster and A.J. Ogilvy paced the Commodores with 20 and 19 points, respectively.

## COLUMN

## Vandy football may attract better recruits after bowl victory

by GEOFF HUTCHINSON  
Sports Reporter

16-14. That was what the scoreboard read after the end of the 2008 Music City Bowl. As usual, the win signaled another victory for the Southeastern Conference in a postseason bowl game. Fans from around the world watched as the Boston College Eagles lost in Nashville to the ... Vanderbilt Commodores.

Let that marinate in your mind for a second. Yes, the same Vanderbilt team that had not won a bowl game since the 1955 Gator Bowl, and the same team that had not played in a bowl game since the 1982 Hall of Fame Game against Air Force.

It had been 53 years since the Commodores last won a bowl game, and all of that was changed on a cold, Wednesday night with a game-winning kick from senior kicker Bryant Hahnfeldt.

The win cemented the wonderful job coach Bobby Johnson and his staff has done since taking over the program in 2002. While the staff has had

its fair share of ups and downs, such as early entries into the NFL Draft, various coaches leaving to other schools and coach Johnson himself entertaining offers from other schools such as Duke, the team has maintained the course he implemented when he took over in 2002.

Since the last time Vanderbilt won a bowl game, there have been many great players who have come through the program, such as Jay Cutler, Corey Chavous, Boo Mitchell and Earl Bennett (who's back on campus, by the way), and that win, along with these players' successes in the National Football League, has allowed for the program to become more recognizable and represented in the football world.

After the historic victory, ESPN was able to catch up with All-American junior cornerback D.J. Moore, who played despite being injured in the game. When asked about the significance of this victory, Moore stressed the fact that the coaches would be able to recruit athletes with the ability

to tell them the Commodores win bowl games and play on national television.

This has already come to fruition for the Commodores, as shortly after their victory, the team picked up a commit from prized recruit Eddie Foster from the state of Texas, beating out the likes of Utah and Cincinnati, two teams that participated in BCS bowl games this past season.

In general, the success of the Commodores has helped in the recruiting process, as they have received multiple commitments in the states of Florida and Texas, two states well-known for the athletes they produce who play in college and the NFL, and two regions previously very underrepresented on past Commodore rosters.

The Commodores' victory on New Year's Eve was the culmination of all the hard work this staff and players have put in over the past seasons, along with the peak at the future of Vanderbilt football, as the team will return nine starters on defense and nine starters on the offensive side as well. ■

## Vanderbilt rolls over Tide, plays UT next

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Editor

After a solid performance against Alabama last night, the No. 24 Vanderbilt women's basketball team has an opportunity to snap another much longer losing streak against arch-rival Tennessee on Sunday.

The Commodores (12-4, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) defeated the Crimson Tide 85-76 to snap a two-game losing streak. Senior guard Jennifer Risper paced the Commodores with 17 points and six rebounds, while senior forward and leading scorer Christina Wirth added 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Vanderbilt raced out to a 47-22 halftime lead before Alabama got back in it in the second half, but the Commodores still won their third straight conference opener and fifth in the past six seasons.

With the memory of blowing



JOHN RUSSELL / VU Media Relations  
Christina Wirth (34) said the Commodores plan to attack every game this season. They will need to against archrival UT.

a 20-point lead to No. 6 Notre Dame back on Dec. 30, the Commodores were able to make this advantage stand up.

Next on deck, though, are the No. 7 Volunteers under legendary coach Pat Summitt.

Vanderbilt was swept in the season series last year by the Volunteers, losing at home 81-68 to snap a six-game winning

streak and in Knoxville 79-63, as well as a loss in the SEC Tournament, 63-48. The Commodores have not knocked off Tennessee since 2002 and have lost 15 in a row since then.

Turnovers plagued the Commodores in last season's match-ups with Pat Summitt's physical team as they gave the ball away 24 times in both losses.

Tennessee, who defeated Kentucky in its conference opener last night, are a perennial powerhouse, but it was Vanderbilt that was picked by The Associated Press to win the SEC Championship this season. Thus far, not all has gone to plan after a somewhat disappointing 11-4 run through the far easier non-conference schedule.

A road win to open SEC play was a good remedy.

"I always (say) to my team that it is a journey," said coach Melanie Balcomb. ■



CHRIS CARROLL / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
In a familiar sight this season, coach Bobby Johnson gives a post-game interview on ESPN following Vanderbilt's bowl win. The Commodores played more games on the national sports network than ever before this season and went 3-0 in games aired on the flagship network.

# THE BACK PAGE

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1/7/09 SOLUTIONS

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  - 25 Audience member
  - 27 Luzon Island battle site
  - 29 Ginsberg and Drury
  - 30 Ump's cohort
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- 54 Breaks off
- 55 Gossipy woman
- 58 Big cheese
- 59 Slices and dices
- 61 So far
- 63 Highest alert

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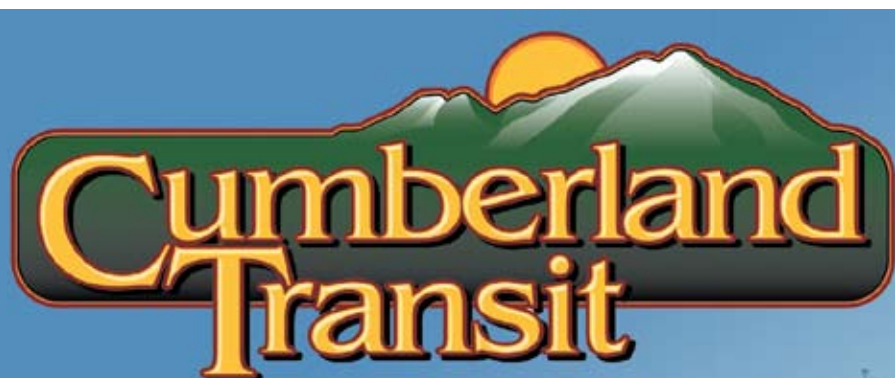


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