



OPINION: Miller uses Eastwood in 'Gran Torino' to explain English-Only implications. [SEE PAGE 4](#)

SPORTS: Friday Conversation with bowler Josie Earnest, the anchor of the team. [SEE PAGE 7](#)

Homeless man and ringworm reported in Kissam

by **EPPA RIXEY**
Staff Reporter

While many students may complain about the island of singles that is Kissam Quadrangle, recent events suggest a new set of guests seem to enjoy the accommodations. A homeless man was discovered washing up in Reinke Hall on Jan. 11 and two cases of ringworm have been reported by residents of Currey Hall since the return from winter break.

Homeless man found showering in Reinke Hall.

On Jan. 11 at approximately 8:07 p.m., an unknown visitor entered Reinke Hall. According to sophomore Peter Chisnell, a resident of Reinke, the individual began to follow him and a group of his friends near the Quiznos in Carmichael Towers West. He was wearing a Vanderbilt class of 2012 sweatshirt and fell into step behind them.

When the students reached the dorm, the man entered with them. At this point the individual approached sophomore Reinke resident Spenser Schwartz and inquired if he could see his room.

"(The man) asked about my room and my stuff. I became uncomfortable and asked him to leave," Schwartz said. The individual then entered the bathroom, presumably to wash up, according to Schwartz.

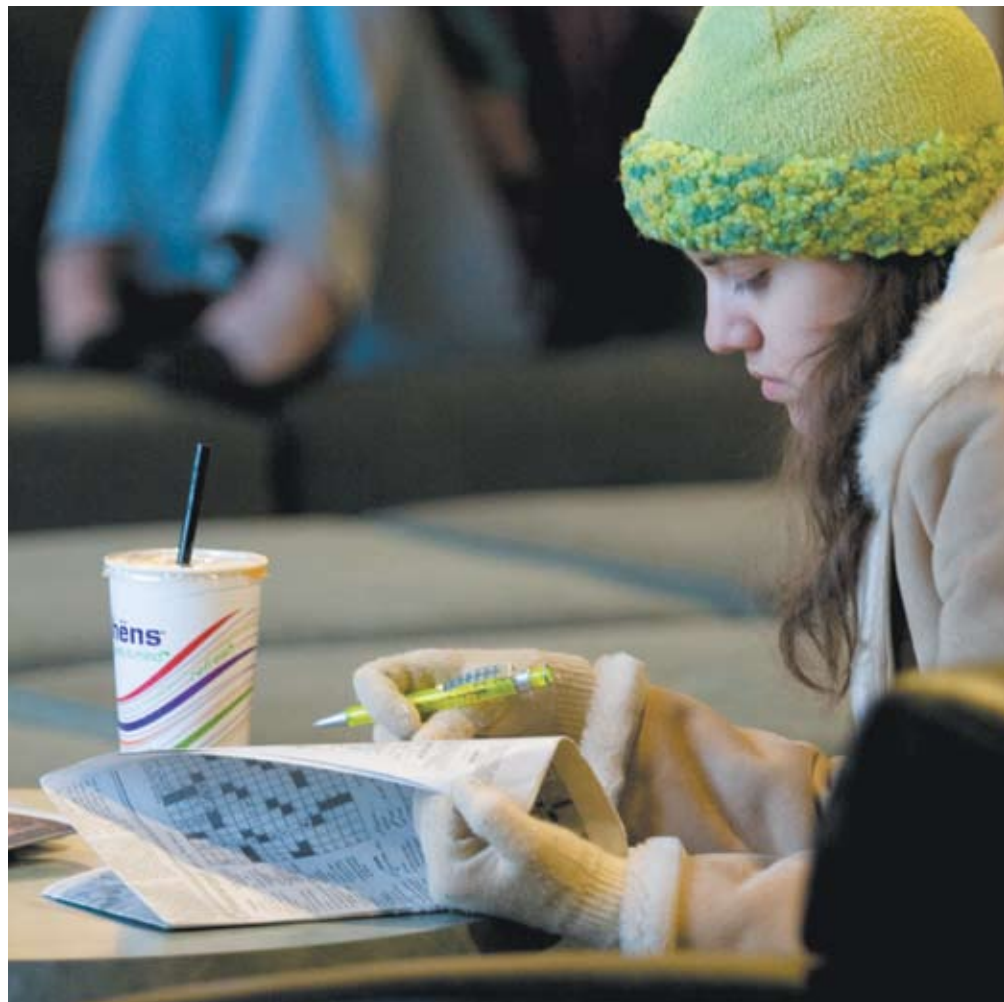
Chisnell was already in the bathroom and was confronted by the individual, who deliberately removed the doorknob and closed the bathroom door.

"He asked me if he could see my room," Chisnell said. "He stood a little too close to me and it made me uneasy, so I refused."

Chisnell said he then left the bathroom and immediately woke his resident advisor, senior Chris Thompson, and informed him of the situation. Thompson called the Vanderbilt University Police Department, who were

Please see **KISSAM**, page 3

Students feeling the freeze



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

First-year student Kelsey Tabares reads in Sarratt Student Center as temperatures drop outside Thursday. Temperatures will continue to drop throughout the week. According to weather.com, it will feel like minus 1 at 9 a.m. Friday as students make their way to early classes, with temperatures expected to reach a high of 18.

Israeli-Palestinian vigil promotes peace with bias, but without conflict

by **LAUREN KOENIG**
Senior Reporter

"A Moment For Peace, Gaza and Israel," a nonpartisan effort coordinated by a variety of Vanderbilt student groups, showed that conflict is not inevitable when mourning the civilian lives lost in a highly controversial war. The vigil was led by four speakers and Gary White, the associate director of Religious Life.

The Muslim Student Association, Vanderbilt Interfaith Council, Vanderbilt Hillel, the Malaysian Student

Association at Vanderbilt, the Middle Eastern Student Association and the Vanderbilt chapter of Amnesty International co-sponsored the event.

The event drew more than 200 members of the Vanderbilt community, potentially in response to advertisements on campus and via Facebook.

Senior Jeanine Mansour, a member of MESA, was one of several students who e-mailed back and forth about the situation in Gaza over winter break.

"I pitched an idea of a candle-

lit vigil for all the innocent lives lost and to keep all politics out of the event," said Mansour. Afterward, MESA's president Hassan Atassi promoted the event.

"As (the situation) escalated, we all decided that an event spreading awareness and promoting peace was definitely necessary," said senior Neelam Khan, president of Interfaith Council. "Due to civilian deaths having occurred on both sides of the situation, both MSA and MESA felt it was important to involve Vanderbilt Hillel

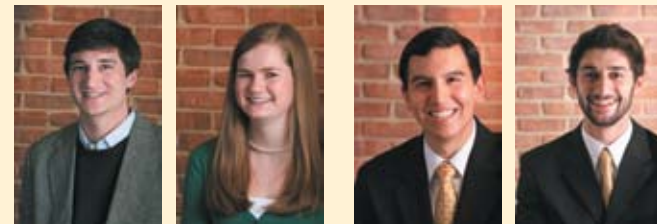
Please see **PEACE**, page 3



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Several campus organizations co-sponsored "A Moment for Peace, Gaza and Israel," an interfaith and nonpartisan vigil to commemorate the loss of civilian lives in the current conflict between Israel and Hamas, Thursday night at Benton Chapel. Speakers included retired faculty member William Longwell, Jewish representative Rabbi Kilel Rose, Muslim representative Dr. Awadh Binhazm and moderator Gary White.

Meet your VSG candidates



SMITH MURPHY

DUARTE SACLARIDES

The signs are up and the stickers are running out fast. For a concise overview of the VSG presidential candidates' platforms, check out the Hustler staff's comprehensive chart.

[SEE PAGE 3](#)

Nerves run high as economy, job market hurt

by **DANIELLE GANTT**
Senior Reporter

With the economy in recession and unemployment at the highest rate in 16 years, some seniors are nervous about going into an insecure job market.

"Well, naturally it's just scary to graduate from college, because there's just so much uncertainty out there," said Abigail Richards, a senior in Peabody College. "So, to get a better job, I am going straight to grad school so that I can make more money and fight for the jobs higher up instead of the lower jobs that they're cutting out anyway."

Senior Brian Wile is also going to graduate school, but the economy is still causing problems for him, even as a student in the School of Engineering.

"I'm going straight to grad school, and it's not that hard to get into grad school at this point," said Wile. "But the funding situation is always rough, so a lot of funds that would have been put towards research are going towards other supposedly practical things ... getting funding (for) my research is an issue."

"I am 100 percent nervous about the job market," said Jeanine Mansour, a senior in the School of Engineering. Mansour plans to seek opportunities outside of the country until the U.S. economy stabilizes.

Cindy Funk, the director of the Career Center, said she is not surprised seniors are creating back-up plans like going to graduate school and working outside of the country to ensure they will have something to do after graduation.

"I think students are now a little more open to having some more opportunities to look at," said Funk, who said she thinks the percentage of students going straight to graduate school would be higher than in previous years.

"I've heard it over and over again. I have seen many

ECONOMIC STRUGGLES



Turn to the Hustler for more of this series on how economic conditions are affecting Vanderbilt students now and in the future.

students who try to avoid the job market by going to graduate school or wanting to start some kind of business or going into teaching. Teach for America was really popular in the past," Funk said.

Since most graduate school applications are already due, Funk estimates that a lot of students will consider taking at a "gap year" — either not having a job or settling with a transition job.

Despite the poor state of the economy, the biggest enemy of the senior job hunt is actually the seniors' own job strategies, Funk said.

"Most students rely heavily on online searching, and they must remember the 20/80 rule. Only 20 percent of jobs are advertised," she said. "The other 80 percent you can find through your network. We always talk to students about networking. It's really critical, and even more critical in an economy like this."

Funk suggested students also look toward internship opportunities.

"Companies might be looking more towards offering internships because they would be relatively cheaper. Some companies are cutting back on how many they offer, but they are still offering them," Funk said.

Funk advises seniors to stay calm.

"Organizations are still hiring. It is happening. We've had some success stories. Some students have already been hired by companies," she said. ■

KISSAM QUAD BY THE NUMBERS

1959

Date constructed

597

Number of residents

6

Number of buildings

\$1.3 million

Money spent on renovations

INSIDEVANDY: Blair mandolin professor passes away after 20-month battle with brain cancer. [SEE INSIDEVANDY.COM](#)



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by NORAH SCANLAN

WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

TODAY



HIGH **24**, LOW **15**
Sunny

SATURDAY



HIGH **40**, LOW **28**
Partly cloudy

SUNDAY



HIGH **39**, LOW **24**
Partly cloudy

CONTACT US

Editor-in-Chief **Sydney Wilmer**
Sydney.e.wilmer@vanderbilt.edu

Managing Editor **Eve Attermann**
Eve.r.attermann@vanderbilt.edu

Online Editor **Ben Gotow**
ben.gotow@vanderbilt.edu

News Editorial Board Member **Hannah Twillman**
Hannah.t.twillman@vanderbilt.edu

News Editorial Board Member **Norah Scanlan**
Norah.o.scanlan@vanderbilt.edu

Opinion Editor **Thomas Shattuck**
Thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu

Sports Editor **David Rutz**
David.c.rutz@vanderbilt.edu

Art Director **Matt Radford**
matt@vscmedia.org

Photo Editor **Chris Phare**
chris.phare@vanderbilt.edu

Journalist-in-Residence **Tim Ghianni**
tim.c.ghianni@vanderbilt.edu

SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

FRIDAY SPICE

Man waiting for tools gets a 30 pound brick of marijuana instead

DENTON, Texas (AP)—A man in Denton, Texas who was expecting a shipment of tools instead received a 30-pound brick of marijuana that police say is worth more than \$10,000.

Officer Ryan Grelle says the man opened the box Monday night, realized it contained drugs and contacted police.

The package from the Pharr area was handled by UPS in McAllen on Jan. 6. and apparently was intended for a Dallas address.

The Denton Record-Chronicle reports no such address exists in Dallas, so the package wound up 40 miles to the northwest at the similar address in Denton.

NJ man illegally posed as female animal doctor and rescuer, police say

VINELAND, N.J. (AP)—Police say a New Jersey man posed as a female animal doctor, ran an illegal veterinary practice and set up a phony rescue agency that may have duped pet lovers out of thousands of dollars.

Vineland police arrested 26-year-old Daniel C. Tyce on Friday and charged him with practicing medicine without a license. He is being held on \$10,000 bail.

Police say he ran a business called South Jersey Small Animal Rescue, falsely identifying himself as Dr. Danielle Smith, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania veterinary school.

Police say he inoculated pets and offered small animals for adoption for a fee. He also solicited donations, claiming the agency was a nonprofit. Authorities say it was not.

Police do not know if Tyce has retained a lawyer.

Gun goes off in Utah Carl's Jr restroom, injures and frightens

CENTERVILLE, Utah (AP)—The man escaped with a few cuts to his arm, but the toilet made out much worse.

Police say a man's gun fell out of its holster while he pulled up his pants after using the bathroom at a Carl's Jr. restaurant Tuesday. The gun fired when it hit the floor and shattered the commode.

A few shards of porcelain cut the man's arm, and a woman in an adjacent restroom who was frightened by the noise reported she was having chest pain. Both people were checked at the scene and released.

Police say they confiscated the 26-year-old man's firearm while they review the incident. The man had a concealed weapons permit. No charges are being filed.

Line cut at Wall Mart leads to scuffle, arrest of 2 Ind. men

MUNCIE, Ind. (AP)—Two Indiana men have been arrested in a scuffle with an off-duty police officer who complained when one cut ahead of him in a line at a store.

Exactly what happened is in dispute.

Police say 26-year-old Edward Pluhar Jr. went to the front of the line Sunday at a Wal-Mart in Muncie — and wouldn't budge when Officer Chris Kirby complained.

Pluhar's father, Edward Pluhar Sr., was nearby. He said Tuesday his son had waited in line for 25 minutes when a clerk asked him to exchange an item. When he returned, according to the father, the clerk waved him to the front.

The senior Pluhar denied Kirby's claim that he threatened to shoot him and said Kirby insulted his son.

The Pluhars are free on bond.

A Wal-Mart spokeswoman had no comment Wednesday.

Police: Pa. couple spent windfall from bank computer glitch, arrested

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania couple is behind bars after police say they failed to call the bank when a glitch put an extra \$175,000 in their account.

Authorities say 50-year-old Randy Pratt and 36-year-old Melissa Pratt instead withdrew the money, quit their jobs and moved to Florida. They were buying a house in the Orlando area when the mistake was traced.

The two were arraigned Tuesday on theft and other charges and jailed in lieu of \$100,000 bail. A public defender was being assigned.

A \$1,772.50 deposit showed up in their FNB Bank account last summer as \$177,250. Police say Melissa Pratt said her husband, a roofing installer, often got large checks and she wasn't aware of any error.

Wife in NY kidney case denies cheating claim by ex as 'absurd'

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—The woman whose estranged husband is demanding \$1.5 million for the kidney he gave her during happier times denies accusations that she was unfaithful.

An attorney for Dawnell Batista calls Dr. Richard Batista's claim "absurd and ridiculous."

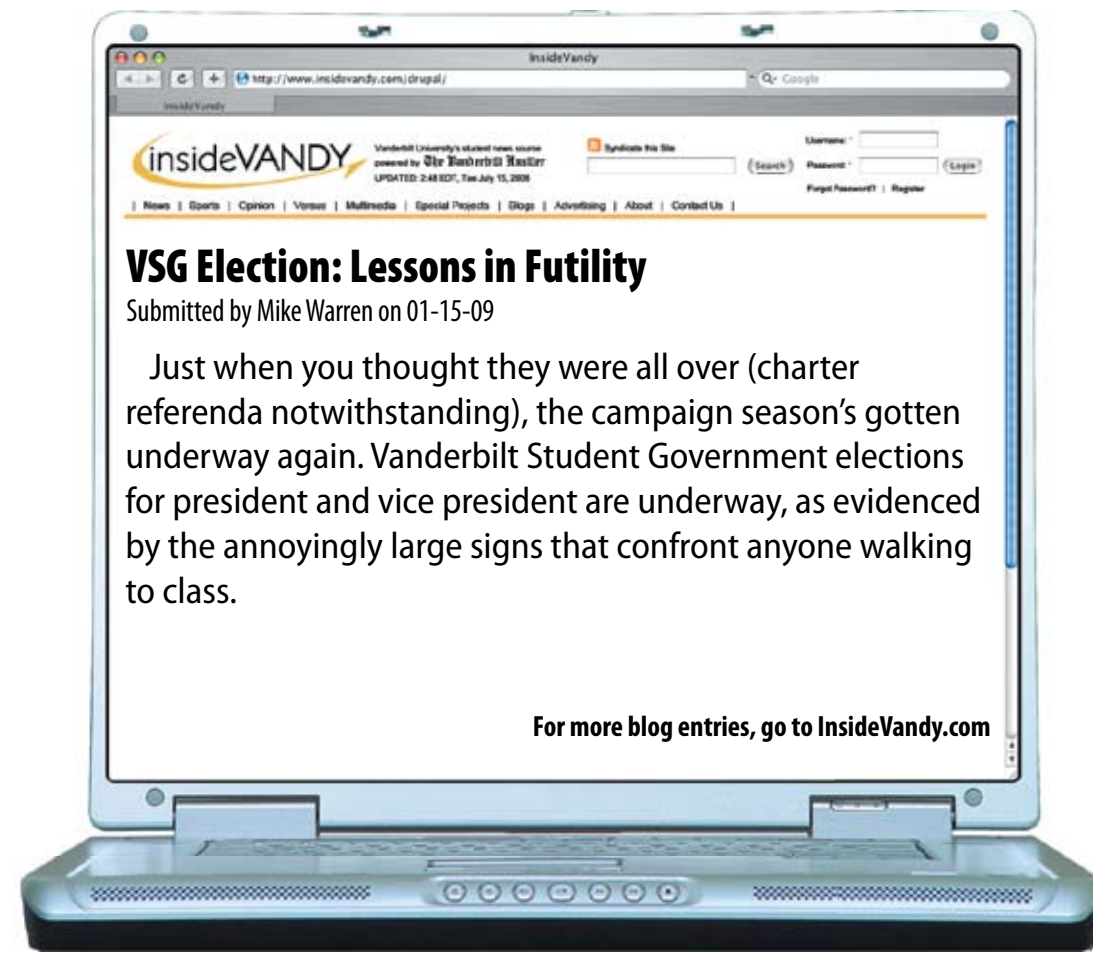
The doctor made the allegations last week when he went public with his kidney compensation demand. He was sued for divorce in 2005 and says he has been denied visits with his three children.

Dawnell Batista denies his claim that she began an affair with a physical therapist about a year after receiving the transplanted kidney in 2001.

The couple appeared in matrimonial court Tuesday. The trial is tentatively set for early March.

Several legal experts doubt the doctor will get money for his kidney.

FROM THE BLOG



VSG Election: Lessons in Futility

Submitted by Mike Warren on 01-15-09

Just when you thought they were all over (charter referenda notwithstanding), the campaign season's gotten underway again. Vanderbilt Student Government elections for president and vice president are underway, as evidenced by the annoyingly large signs that confront anyone walking to class.

For more blog entries, go to InsideVandy.com

SNAPSHOT

MEMORIAL MADNESS



Students cheer for the men's basketball team during Memorial Madness. At the second annual pep rally, sponsored by VSG and held Wednesday evening before tip-off of the SEC home opener against Georgia, the first 500 students were given retro A.J. Ogilvy jerseys. FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

PHOTO of the WEEK

The photographers who cover campus for student media are working hard to capture images of life at Vanderbilt.

This image was selected as the Photo of the Week.

Check here next Friday to see another standout student photo.



Hannah Tuomi looks to the top of the key as Vanderbilt runs its offense against Tennessee.



CHRIS PHARE used a tilt-shift lens to create a Scheimpflug effect with this photo. A Scheimp-what? The special lens he used allowed him to tilt the plane of focus, resulting in an image with out-of-focus spectators and Hannah Tuomi in focus.

Student photographers interested in joining the staff are invited to the next meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20, in Sarratt 130.

VSG candidates' platforms

At 12:01 a.m. Thursday morning, the two teams from each Vanderbilt Student Government presidential campaign raised their banners along the Wall, officially marking the beginning of the campus campaign season. Now the race has begun, the Hustler has compiled a list of issues both candidates address in their platforms. In the chart below, we highlight the different approaches the candidates plan to take on topics like academics, transportation, campus living and technology. For a more comprehensive description of each candidate's set of goals, visit their Web sites, <http://www.fabianianddeno.com> and <http://www.wyattandlori.com>. For podcasts of interviews with each candidate, go to [InsideVandy.com](http://www.insidevandy.com). Stay tuned for more in-depth VSG election coverage.



WYATT SMITH
Junior
Reform, Ala.
HOD and political science major
Economics minor



FABIANI DUARTE
Junior
Huntsville, Ala.
Global communications and politics major

ACADEMICS

- Improve OASIS by adding new servers. In the long run, completely replace it.
- Increase the availability and quality of pre-major advisers and add adviser performance evaluation.
- Increase the number of "W" courses.
- Lower textbook prices at the Vanderbilt Bookstore.
- Host free MCAT, LSAT and GRE practice tests each semester.

TECHNOLOGY

- Continue wireless upgrades, especially in Furman, Calhoun and Wilson.
- Increase awareness of campus events by creating a downloadable undergraduate student Google calendar.
- Creation of a more interactive VSG Web site to improve communication with students.

CAMPUS LIVING

- Renovate Branscomb by improving bathrooms, access to kitchens and adding picnic tables.
- Introducing an online housing ballot system for all suites in Towers, Morgan, Lewis and Branscomb.
- Allow online submission of campus areas that need additional lighting for safety.
- Create an InformVU notification system to send text messages about non-emergency notices, such as power outages.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Introduce biodegradable take-out containers at Rand and The Commons.
- Create a VSG Environmental Affairs Committee.
- Publicize better conservation habits by continuing partnerships with eco-groups across campus.

SERVICE TO VANDERBILT

- Expand on-campus social options by hosting recently released movies in Sarratt Cinema.
- Involvement of VSG in student event management by providing additional volunteer support and improve publicity.

TRANSPORTATION

- Purchase an additional VandyVan, post schedule at VandyVan stops and create removable line barriers.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

- Give students an opportunity to lobby for Pell Grant funding and Hope scholarships.
- Connect members of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation with campus events.
- Help students to seek career and internship opportunities.

Compiled by CHRYSTEL MARINCICH AND RUTH KINSEY

ACADEMICS

- Modernize OASIS by ensuring seniors are not bumped from courses, providing AXLE course information among other changes.
- Promote communication between faculty and VSG to get postings of course syllabi online.

TECHNOLOGY

- Improve access to wireless internet across campus, especially Wilson, Calhoun and Furman.
- Improve cell phone service across campus to allow for better access to AlertVU.
- Bring Back Vandy Swap — a service that will allow students to buy and sell textbooks and other items.
- Remobilize Vandy Rides — a service to promote communications between students needing car rides out of Nashville.

CAMPUS LIVING

- Make off-campus living more accessible for seniors.
- Improve on-campus dining options by adding restaurants and extending Hemingway Market hours.
- Expand off-campus dining by adding Five Guys, Jimmy John's, PF Chang's, Logan's, Amerigo's, Jason's Deli, SATCO and Ken's Sushi.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Continue the addition of blue recycle bins in dorms.
- Improve current pick-up program to prevent overflowing recycle bins.
- Make it easier to recycle on campus.
- Expand dorm energy competitions.
- Improve conservation efforts to save money. The money can be used for grants.

SERVICE TO VANDERBILT

- Host town hall meetings to make communications between VSG and students easier.
- Transform Sarratt Student Center to a real student center by adding commodities such as a pool table and a foosball table.
- Provide more TV channels to the Vanderbilt cable network.
- Allow students 100 pages of free printing.
- Provide on-campus DVD rentals.

TRANSPORTATION

- Improve VandyVans by eliminating long wait times and adding GPS, which can be accessed on student cell phones.
- Provide 24-hour VandyVans.
- Make airport shuttles free.
- Ensure parking spots for students in the new Mayfield parking garage.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

- Expand VSG service programs such as Angel Tree and strengthening the Dismas House Project.
- VSG will help pass out applications and volunteer with ASB, Manna Project and other service organizations.

KISSAM: Health and safety concerns raised

From **KISSAM**, page 1

able to make it to the scene in 8 minutes. According to Maj. Bob Pasinger, the individual was confronted by an officer and asked for identification. The man admitted to being homeless and claimed to have been drinking with some students on Elliston Place and followed them back to campus.

"(The intruder) had a criminal history, but not for sexual assault or anything like that," said Pasinger. The officer on the scene then issued the homeless man a criminal trespass warning and escorted him to West End Avenue, warning him that if he was found on the premises again he could be arrested. At press time, nothing had been reported stolen.

"Safety and security are everyone's responsibility," Pasinger said. "Incidents happen a lot, but they are less likely in dorms because the dorms have improved security relative to the rest of campus."

Ringworm outbreak reported in Currey.

There have been extensive rumors circulating about reported cases of ringworm in Currey Hall. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, ringworm is a fungal infection of the skin that is contagious, passing between individuals through direct or indirect contact.

Kissam Quadrangle resident advisors have taken a proactive

role, warning their residents to take precautions and emphasizing personal hygiene.

"There have been some reports of ringworm (awesome!). So wear shower shoes and try not to rub up against the shower walls. The shower-curtain-as-towel-when-someone-stole-your-clothes-as-a-joke idea, while highly amusing, might not be good for you," resident advisor and senior Wayne Johnson wrote in an e-mail to the members of his hall in Currey.

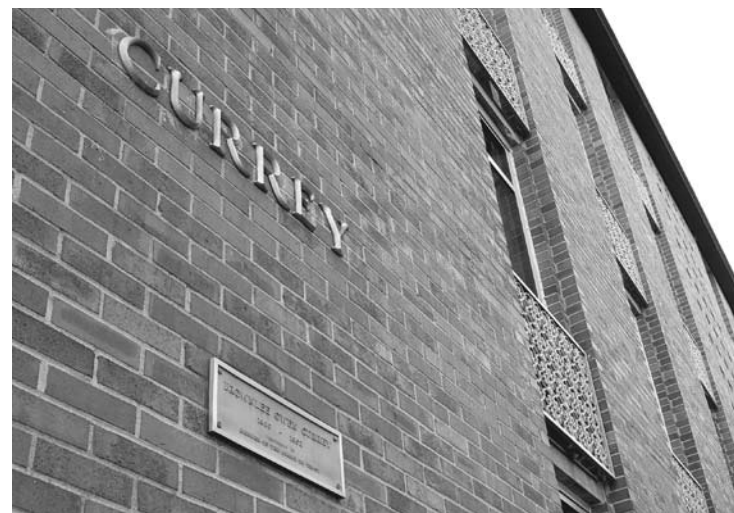
Contrary to this report, the Residence Life Coordinator Monesca Smith insisted that there have been no cases of ringworm in Currey.

"(It is) highly unlikely for ringworm to be passed from a shower," she said.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine, however, claims the opposite.

"(Ringworm) can be passed from one person to the next by direct skin-to-skin contact or by contact with contaminated items such as combs, unwashed clothing and shower or pool surfaces," the medical encyclopedia specified.

The Student Health Center was not aware of any increase in cases of ringworm. According to Nurse Practitioner Barbara Presley, "fungus is always among us" and "not to panic." Ringworm can be self-treated with over-the-counter products in four weeks. ■



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Kissam Quadrangle dormitory Currey Hall was recently plagued with several cases of ringworm, causing students to worry about the hygiene levels of their showers and bathrooms.

PEACE: Students have mixed reactions to vigil for Gaza crisis

From **PEACE**, page 1

in the event. We all agreed on the peaceful and educational objective.

William Longwell, a retired Vanderbilt faculty member, provided a brief history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Dr. Todd Lake, Rabbi Kilel Rose and Dr. Awadh Binhasz spoke about the Christian, Jewish and Muslim connection to the situation. All speakers were asked to provide unbiased, non-political remarks for the event, according to Eric Walk, a sophomore and member of Hillel.

Overall the public's reaction was highly favorable.

"It was really cool to bring in three different perspectives," said junior Crystal Fang. "I was kind of surprised how well it went. People were able to stick with their beliefs and still listen to others."

First-year student Arfayat Ahsen agreed.

"I really thought it was a great effort by all who were involved. I'm glad they introduced the history and other concepts behind it," said Ahsen.

Nonetheless, some said they thought it was impossible to completely remove all subjectivity.

Prior to the vigil, sophomore Shira Paul expressed concern that the poster promoting the event, depicting a crying Palestinian child, only told one half of the story.

"The principle of the program sounds really great, but the point of the event is (not only) to recognize Palestinian deaths," said Paul.

Walk said the flyers posed a point of contention between Hillel and some of the other groups that was quickly resolved.

"The fact of the matter is that some of the partner groups started putting up flyers and publicizing before it was approved by everyone, but we were very happy with the way it was handled when issues were raised. Students were very cooperative and collaborative," Walk said.

"Obviously everyone has a bias," said first-year student Omar El-Khattadi. "But while everyone was clearly part of



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Rabbi Kilel Rose was one of the speakers at Thursday night's event to honor Gazan innocents.

one religion or another, they focused on the humanitarian need."

"It was an excellent event," said Executive Director of Vanderbilt Hillel Ari Dubin. "There were things tonight I felt comfortable with and then some that I felt less comfortable with."

Walk echoed the sentiment, saying each group was probably uncomfortable with different aspects of the event, but overall the program was a success.

"The event went as well as we could have possibly

hoped," Walk said. "We know that all parties were probably offended by some things, and not by other things, and that everybody views these sorts of things differently and through different lenses."

Despite the different approaches to the concept, the one thing everyone agreed on was the need for peace.

"This vigil will hopefully help all of us see that no matter what faith you belong to, peace is what we ultimately want," said sophomore MSA member Imran Huda. ■

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MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
6:00		6:00		6:00		
9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
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
6:15	6:15	6:15	6:15			6:15
6:15	6:15	6:15				

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English-Only hysteria



KATHERINE MILLER
Columnist

If you have not welcomed “Gran Torino” into your life yet, two things: It’s time, and don’t see it with just anybody. “Gran Torino” blasts any and every shred of political correctness into some very distant, terrible place where Clint Eastwood does not finish things.

Eastwood’s Walt Kowalski — a disgruntled, lonely Silver Star veteran in Detroit — shoots racial epithets in almost every scene, but he shoots them at friends and enemies alike — hell, he fields racial epithets from friends. Kowalski sacrifices a lot for neighbors he describes offhandedly in words Vanderbilt would expel you for. He just ignores the collective conscience of society toward language. He’s the egalitarian racist with a heart of oddly endearing steel.

“Gran Torino,” like all iterations of the American Canon, revolves around immigration. Everybody has an immigration story — mine originates in Slovakia and arrives in 1920s Central Florida with celery and sugarcane, collusion and lending discrimination. As President Bush said in his farewell address, “This is a Nation that inspires immigrants to risk everything for the dream of freedom.” When the personal stories bleed over into the practical concerns, though, the debates surrounding referendums like English-Only can become a tad heated.

Let’s contain the hysteria for a few minutes. The details of English-Only complicate the argument a bit, even on the personal side. Eric Crafton speaks fluent Japanese. He learned it while living in Japan. The first generation of my mother’s family never really felt comfortable in the U.S. or with English; later generations assimilated. Crafton argues his measure expedites the assimilation process and relieves potential burdens on the metropolitan government to be everything to everyone.

Again, examined in a vacuum free from the crazy, streamlined government business garners a little commonsensical merit. If we regard language as verbal currency, it seems impractical to expect governments to operate on multiple currencies, so long as the government protects those interpersonal elements, like health and safety. Casting about for another metaphor, if the federal government mandated that Vanderbilt teach all classes in English, Spanish and Farsi, although hilarious, it would be a little inconvenient for Vanderbilt.

But all this practical talk forgets a critical element: English-Only is redundant. Tennessee State Law, in 1984, (TCA 4-1-404) established English as Tennessee’s official language and stipulates, “All communications and publications ... produced by governmental entities in Tennessee shall be in English.” So if this just reinforces law already in place, what exactly will English-Only do?

“Unite Nashville,” Crafton says.

Behind what? Cost-efficiency? Practical foresight? Redundancy? Hardly pursuits composed of the evangelical fervor Crafton parades around. No, “unite” belies a subtext beyond that currency of language and far beyond the confines of government business.

Whether intended or not, “unite” creates a movement, attaching some moral sanctity to the English language. As Soo Yang argued last week, immigrants know realizing the American dream involves English. Still, Nashville doesn’t quite seem trapped in the throes of some Pentecostal terror. But even if Nashville’s existence mirrored 1900s New York, the cultural attack on non-English speakers rejects that core libertarian American spirit. We do not allow anyone else to dictate our lives.

That American spirit and the immigrant story unite in the modern complexities of “Gran Torino.” Eastwood’s Kowalski boasts all the outward trappings of racism but without pretense. Through gritted teeth, he proves himself to be a true American and neighbor in the Christian sense — the specific words matter little in the end. In Nashville, the English-Only movement says words matter most, because that’s all they have in the end. Just some words.

—Katherine Miller is a junior in the College of Arts & Science. She can be reached at katherine.m.miller@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

Students will learn to handle economic woes

Students across the board have started to notice the effects of the economic situation — research funding has been slashed, loans have become more difficult to procure and summer employment opportunities have dried up. The media have been baiting the public with horror stories and terrifying statistics. At the current point it is rather hard to assuage people’s fear; they do have some basis. However, it is necessary, despite everything, to take the problems in stride. Students will find something worthwhile to spend their time on, whether they have a job or not.

Unfortunately for those applying to graduate school, both funding is down and applications are up — a poor combination for a “would be” applicant. Furthermore, trying to get loans of any kind is becoming increasingly difficult. Though in the end, people hell-bent on going to grad school will find a way no matter what.

Students planning to enter the workforce are probably more concerned than their counterparts who have chosen to pursue higher education.

Several companies including Lehman Brothers have shut their doors, unemployment is slowly rising and some businesses (primarily banking institutions) have started and have maintained hiring freezes in all departments. Despite all of this, there are still jobs to be found. The Career Center still tells everyone to network, which theoretically should still be feasible, and companies are still posting jobs (though competition has increased). Cindy Funk, director of the Career Center, said there might be an increase in the number of internships since they tend to be cheaper than hiring full-time employees. While not as appealing (or lucrative), at least internships offer opportunities for advancement.

No matter if you’re going to grad school, going to be working (it’s actually possible) or just loafing about for the foreseeable future, you’ll just have to wait. Even the most over-achieving student cannot move mountains (literally or metaphorically) or single-handedly fix the economy. You’re not special and you probably never will be.

English-Only impact exaggerated by staff

To the Editor:

There were several articles written about the English-Only referendum in Friday’s edition of the Hustler. Both of the opinion articles vastly overestimated the impact of the bill, should it be passed. Soo Yang claimed speaking Spanish or Chinese could soon become illegal in some parts of Nashville, and the editorial claimed companies like Nissan and Toshiba have staff who have been transplanted from their home countries and may be uncomfortable using English. First, the law would not make it illegal to speak any language anywhere; it would also have no impact on private businesses. If you want to open a bar where the staff speaks only Spanish, it would be legal whether or not the referendum is passed. The proposed change deals only with government documents and hearings. Even in these, if you were not familiar with English, you would still be able to participate, but tax dollars would no longer be used for interpretation. Instead, the citizen who has chosen to live in Nashville but not to learn the official language would need to provide his or her own interpreter.

As for businesses, the column and editorial incorrectly assumed that the availability of government services in the native tongue of a few executives is a top priority. Many of their employees are U.S. citizens, but those who reside

in foreign countries and regularly work in the U.S. are well-educated individuals and are very skilled, if not fluent in the English language. After all, if they are going to run a branch in the U.S., they need to be able to communicate with their potential employees. Zeppos said we need to provide an environment that is sensitive to the needs of business considering a move, but the primary motive when considering a potential move is the tax rate and fees associated with operating in the proposed location. If Nashville wants to entice foreign businesses to uproot and move to Tennessee, we need to ensure the move is worth the investment. Businesses are naturally attracted to the places where their costs are lowest. If Zeppos and other university leaders want to ensure that we continue to attract foreign businesses, they should focus on reducing the corporate tax rates rather than “feel-good legislation” that has no demonstrated impact on business decisions.

While the articles correctly noted the legislation could spark some lawsuits, the right of state and local governments to declare an official language has been consistently upheld. A long, drawn-out legal feud would be extremely unlikely.

Erik Soderstrom
Freshman
College of Arts and Science

THE RANT



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

Compiled by Thomas Shattuck

Not quite sure how a “Vigil for Gaza” is a non-political event. The crying Palestinian child on the posters didn’t help, either.

I wish people wouldn’t make the effort to walk past the toilets to puke in the showers.

A plane crashed because of geese? I feel real safe now. Way to go U.S. Airways.

Vanderbilt wins its first bowl game in over 50 years and what does the Hustler put as the lead story on its front page? A report on rain at sorority rush. Really?

Eight degrees? Seriously? I didn’t even know that was possible.

Whoever is strategizing in the registrar’s office needs to be fired! After bumping me from two classes the second semester of my senior year, the least you could do is let me look at my class rolls.

A world without Guantanamo



AIMEE SOBHANI
Columnist

President-elect Barack Obama will face a lot of challenges once he drops the “elect” from his title and officially assumes the presidency in less than a week. Obviously, taking concrete steps to improve the economy is at the forefront of the agenda, but another problem Obama plans to solve early in his presidency is that of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The questionable treatment experienced by several detainees, some who might be guilty only of being at the wrong place at the wrong time, represents gross misconduct on the part of the Bush administration and has stained our country’s reputation as a strong defender of human rights and democratic values. Guantanamo has left the U.S. susceptible to charges of hypocrisy since the treatment of detainees indicates our country does not practice what it preaches. Additionally, terrorist organizations have used Guantanamo as a recruiting tool; some Web sites utilize graphic images of tortured detainees to convince potential newcomers to join the fight. Of course, Bush did not intend to help dangerous anti-American groups swell their ranks, but sadly, that was the net effect of the decision to violate various international laws.

Obama, however, hopes to start the long, slow process of regaining respect from the international community by “fixing” Guantanamo. The first action his administration should take is to review every detainee’s case, which will hopefully lead to the release of individuals who are not guilty of any crime or who pose no threat to our security. Extraditing harmless individuals will be seen as a sign of goodwill and will allow the U.S. to focus more attention on legitimately dangerous individuals.

As far as the real terrorists go, the Obama administration should provide them with legal counsel and give them the opportunity to plead their cases in a court that will punish them accordingly. Such a move will show the U.S.’s commitment to the ideas of justice and rule of law — ideas on which this country is based.

Obviously, closing down the detention center is easier said than done; after all, the U.S. government can’t just unlock the doors, release the prisoners and pretend nothing ever happened. There are a lot of legally murky issues surrounding Guantanamo, issues that will probably take a lot of time and effort to resolve. The torture of some detainees especially complicates matters since evidence collected through torture cannot be used in court.

Several reports released shortly after the election indicated the Obama administration would make closing the infamous prison a high priority, and there were hopes Obama would close Guantanamo during his first 100 days in office. Obama himself admitted in last week’s episode of “This Week with George Stephanopoulos” that closing the detention center has proven to be much more difficult and problematic than he previously predicted, and much to the disappointment of human rights activists, he did not seem to think the task could be accomplished within the 100-day time frame.

I sincerely hope Obama’s team will take closing down Guantanamo as seriously as the media claims it will. The fact that it has already begun to look at the issue thoroughly implies that though Guantanamo isn’t closing on Jan. 21, we can expect it will shut down sometime in the near future. Eliminating vestiges of the previous administration as soon as possible will allow the country to move on and will remind people here and all over the world why we elected Obama.

—Aimee Sobhani is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at aimee.f.sobhani@vanderbilt.edu.

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments, arguments in bad faith or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in the Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com. Letters via e-mail must come from

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor’s discretion.

All submissions become the property of the Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which the Hustler is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bad habits are not personal choices to be made

AKSHITKUMAR MISTRY
Guest Columnist

A recent Quick Shots featured the question “Should the smoking ban be extended to main campus?” The four columnists said “no,” arguing along the lines “smoking is a personal choice and right,” “(it) infringes on personal liberty for personal convenience,” “if I want to die in an unseemly, circuitous manner, so be it, it’s my call.” Three of the four made light of the issue of secondhand smoke, one going as far as to ridicule the notion as a joke. What we do not realize is in the current state of our society, one’s personal decision to indulge in unhealthy habits undesirably puts the health of 10 other people at risk.

No, I am not talking about secondhand smoke. There is too much scientific evidence concluding its injurious effects for me to make that argument here. Instead, I want to bring to your attention to the current health care crisis to re-evaluate the arguments made in favor of one’s personal right to smoke — or eat unhealthily or carry on other insalubrious habits for that matter.

Take for example smoking and obesity, together the biggest burdens on our society. A 2008 Johns Hopkins University study published in the journal *Obesity* estimated that the direct cost of obesity on health care in America currently well exceeds \$150 billion. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention calculated a similar value of \$75 billion a decade ago, approximately \$100 billion in 2007 dollar value. Who knows how high the actual cost is now? And who pays all this? We, those trying to keep ourselves healthy, pay for those who decided they had the right to eat

McDonald’s or smoke every day by paying higher premiums to our insurance companies.

This rising cost of health care has left so many in this country uninsured, and in the case of my parents, unemployed as well, since health care coverage drains businesses. In our country, lack of health insurance is life threatening. A great majority of the uninsured show up in emergency rooms with advanced stages of diseases, and according to the Institute of Medicine, 18,000 of them die every year from the lack of insurance.

Smoking and obesity, though they may not be the cause of the current health care crisis, are making the crisis worse. Even though a minority of people smoke or indulge in unhealthy habits, their caring becomes an unnecessary economical burden on the entire society and many lives are indirectly affected. Because it takes a change in the behavior of more than a single person to prevent this, I can see why it would be favorable to extend the smoking ban — or even charge smokers a monthly fee, as the state of Alabama Employees’ Insurance Board decided to do to its obese workers if they do not take measures to reduce weight.

We as a society, facing economic and health care crises must carefully review the notion of personal liberty and choice because limited resources have made our lives indirectly more interdependent. You are not completely free from the society you live in. So if you want to die in an unseemly, circuitous manner — i.e. smoke — it may not be your call.

—Akshitikumar Mistry is a first-year medical student. He can be reached a.mistry@vanderbilt.edu.

In response to “Man up, Vanderbilt”

To the Editor:

Having enjoyed some of her past opinion pieces, I was disappointed to read Katherine Miller’s “Man up, Vanderbilt.” She presents a list of qualities that make a “real” man — qualities, she argues, Vanderbilt guys are lacking. Up to the second to last paragraph, Miller’s piece is mostly a light-hearted, if close-minded, rant. I’m with her on getting rid of the shorts with the tiny lobsters and ducks on them, and I agree that long, manicured bangs on dudes scream “pretty boy.” But the characteristics Miller describes, such as enjoying hunting and fishing and being interested in football, are personal preferences and hobby choices. They say nothing about what kind of “man” the person is. Her article is simply a list of qualities in men that turn her on. Why she published her collection of girlish, sleepover fantasies eludes me (although after seeing her picture in the *Hustler*, I’m strongly considering deleting indie music from my iPod and taking up fishing).

Seriously, though (I’m keeping the indie music; it would never work out

between us), I don’t know what school she goes to, but at the Vanderbilt I attend, most guys are into football, many are into hunting and fishing or something like it. I don’t see many dudes wearing scarves, and it is certainly hard to find anyone who listens to indie music. So where exactly has she observed this “Buddy Holly glasses bubble?” Did she get punked by that one guy on the unicycle? Is that what this is about?

Maybe she’s right; maybe I’m just out of touch with the current Vanderbilt culture. Now that I think about it, Vanderbilt women need to get their acts together as well. They are acting too much like guys. Real women don’t eat cheeseburgers (and fries!) in front of guys. Real women look their absolute best, every hour of the day, even when they’re sleeping (makeup at all times goes without saying). Real women like shopping and cooking and should be able to whip up three signature dishes at any time. Their hair is always done and, for the love of God, no baseball caps. Miller said, “Sometimes the truth has to be delivered. I’m just the mailman, delivering the mail.” But “real” women should not aspire to join the workforce, so the only thing she should be delivering

is a sandwich to her husband.

Perhaps my sarcasm is too harsh; Miller is mainly discussing fashion choices and hobbies, both of which are pretty harmless. But it’s a slippery slope, and she starts losing traction quickly at the end of the piece when she writes, “By the way, fighting is hot. Don’t forget that.” Sure, I agree guys who get into fistfights can seem really manly. Most would probably agree. But this is dangerously naive; minor cuts and bruises are often not the only outcome of these fights. Almost 1,000 people died from fistfights in 2005 in the U.S. And in reality, fighting reveals a lack of manliness, as those who fight are usually insecure, feeling that that they must make up for something. The bottom line is advocating fighting because you think it’s “hot,” even in a lighthearted piece like this, is incredibly immature and a little pathetic. It’s hard out there for most guys, even Miller’s treasured manly ones, and we’ll take anything we can get to impress the ladies. So be careful what you wish for.

James Stoeckle
Senior
College of Arts and Science

Vanderbilt is behind the times

To the Editor:

I have been attending Vanderbilt since the fall of 2001. I’ve completed my bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and I am now working on my Ph.D. The only two things that have remained the same are OASIS and VUwebmail. Both of these horrible systems have occasionally undergone “upgrades,” but nothing excuses Vanderbilt’s inability to replace these horrible systems. OASIS stunk in 2001, and it stinks today as nearly a decade later.

I attended my senior year of high school at a local state college in Pensacola, Fla., in

2000, and their system at the time was way more advanced and way more stable, as well as being a Web-based service. Gone are the days of the blinking white-on-black DOS-like user interfaces. Information Technology Services at the very least could have upgraded to an aesthetically pleasing graphical user interface design. But no, they do not mind that we are stuck in the mid-’90s with our registration software and horrible webmail browser.

Monday’s editorial said, “OASIS is neither the simplest nor most efficient, but it’s the best there is for right now.”

I disagree. If Vanderbilt ITS would get their hands out of their pockets they could easily purchase a better, more efficient system. Oh, it is expected to be upgraded in 2010? We as students should not accept this, and Vanderbilt should not expect us to go 10 years without upgrades to the things we use every semester, and in the case of webmail, every day. I guarantee you they’ve upgraded the computers and other systems in ITS more frequently than every 10 years.

We should demand more from this school. I demand more from this institution. Why would you get rid of computer

labs in Featheringill Hall? Oh, undergrads are required to purchase laptops and carry them around everywhere. We still need access to computers! What schools don’t have computer labs on campus? We are in an age of great technology, and we have no computers on campus. We are unable to print, our webmail client looks like 1995 America Online e-mail, and the way we register for classes hasn’t been replaced in probably a decade. Get it together, Vanderbilt!

Christopher Jarrett
Ph.D. candidate
Chemical and Physical
Biology

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SPORTS

Vanderbilt edges Georgia for first conference win

by BRIAN LINHARES
Sports Reporter

The Vanderbilt men's basketball team defeated Georgia in its Southeastern Conference home opener on Wednesday night in a defensive struggle, as the Commodores held the Bulldogs (9-8, 0-2 SEC) to only 18 points in the first half en route to a 50-40 victory.

Sophomore center A.J. Ogilvy led the Commodores (12-4, 1-1) in the scoring column with 18. Ogilvy, hampered by a bone bruise in his right heel, returned to the lineup after sitting out two of the last three games, including the league opener at Kentucky on Jan. 10.

"Not being as familiar with the guys, it's amazing how quickly you lose (rhythm)," Ogilvy said on his return. "You lose conditioning as well, so you have practice over the next few days to get that back up."

Ogilvy's rhythm with the freshmen, however, did not suffer.

Of a heralded recruiting class, the freshmen trio of Brad

Tinsley, Lance Goulbourne and Jeffrey Taylor made several key plays for the Commodores in the second half to provide a lift in the low-scoring affair.

Tinsley, one of the leading scorers in Oregon high school history, notched his only points of the contest on a dunk. Beating Georgia guard Corey Butler on the baseline, the 6-foot-3-inch guard revved up the crowd and provided a much needed energy boost for the Commodores.

"Brad is very deceptive, athletically," said coach Kevin Stallings. "Give him a little bit of a running start, and he'll poke one on you."

Not to be outdone, Goulbourne scored 2 of his 7 points on an alley-oop on a fast break. His dunk, like Tinsley's, helped to tip momentum in the favor of Vanderbilt after a first half in which the Commodores were cold from the field.

Jeffery Taylor, one of two freshmen starters (Tinsley being the other) turned in 6 points, on 3-5 shooting from the field, and three rebounds in 26 minutes of play.

"Jeff Taylor has been an absolute bright spot for our team," Stallings said. "I didn't know what I had. We knew we had some good players, we knew they were young. We thought Jeff had a chance to be good and had a chance to make a significant impact. We didn't know how much."

The freshmen Commodores will have to continue playing beyond their years in the upcoming days. On Saturday, the squad travels to Starkville for a road contest with Mississippi State (see the preview below).

The following week, Vanderbilt will return home to face two of its toughest tests yet. Next Tuesday, Bruce Pearl leads Tennessee into Memorial Gymnasium with the memory of last year's defeat, knocking the Volunteers off as the No. 1 team in the nation. And, on the following Sunday afternoon, Billy Donovan's Florida Gators come into Nashville. As the freshmen continue to develop, the Commodores look to be a difficult task for any team to handle. ■



FRANCIS SIMPSON/The Vanderbilt Hustler
Jeff Taylor (44) dunks as Vanderbilt and Georgia players look on during the Commodores' 50-40 victory Wednesday. With its fourth straight win over Georgia, Vanderbilt also won its ninth consecutive home conference game and improved to 16-1 at Memorial Gym in SEC play since 2006.

Women's team looks to stay undefeated in SEC

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

The No. 18 Vanderbilt women's basketball team looks to stay atop the Southeastern Conference when Louisiana State visits Memorial Gym Sunday afternoon in a battle between two of the three teams still undefeated in SEC play. The teams tip off at 2 p.m.

The Tigers (9-5, 2-0 SEC) lost 6-foot-6-inch 2008 SEC Player of the Year Sylvia Fowles to the WNBA and are not the powerhouse they were when she led them to three straight Final Fours in the NCAA Tournament. Still, they have defeated conference foes 17 straight times in the regular season since losing to Vanderbilt at Memorial in February of 2007.

LSU defeated New Orleans Wednesday for its third straight win and eighth in 10 games. Junior guard Allison Hightower, one of only two players to start in all 14 games, leads the team with 13.6 points per game.

The Commodores meanwhile are riding high after defeating then-No. 7 Tennessee last Sunday for the first time in 17 tries. Their performance left Volunteer coach Pat Summitt impressed with what she called the most aggressive team she'd faced at Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt (13-4, 2-0) showed off its offensive versatility by getting consistent dribble penetration on the Volunteers. The Commodore backcourt, despite having a poor day shooting from beyond the arc, out-hustled and outplayed the Tennessee guards in a sparkling performance.

"Jen Risper and Jess Mooney and even Meredith Marsh were taking people off the



ZAC HARDY/The Vanderbilt Hustler
Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb looks to lead her team to a third straight win when LSU visits Sunday. The game will be a "Jam the Gym" event and tickets will cost the general public only \$1.

dribble and attacking," said Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb.

Winners of two straight games after losing the final two of non-conference play, the Commodores are beginning to look like the team that was picked at the beginning of the season to win the SEC.

Senior forward Christina Wirth said she and her teammates have put their early season struggles behind them.

"We've learned our mistakes in past games. That's what (non-conference play is) for," Wirth said. "We know what we're capable of." ■

Bowl victors add three recruits

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Reporter

Fresh off their stunning 16-14 victory in the Music City Bowl, the Vanderbilt football team has three more verbal commitments to boast, according to VandySports.com. Wesley Johnson, from nearby Montgomery Bell Academy, headlines the group. At 6-foot-5-inches and 248 pounds, Johnson is an undersized offensive tackle but does all the little things right that should make him extremely successful once he gets into a

college weightlifting program. He is rated as the No. 14 recruit in the state of Tennessee this year.

Johnson will be joined on the Commodore offensive line by Mylon Brown, an offensive tackle from Dade City, Fl. At 6-foot-5-inches and 295 pounds, he boasts a 7-foot wingspan to go along with his impressive genetics (his uncle, the late Jerome Brown, was an All-American for the University of Miami and an All-Pro for the Philadelphia Eagles). Brown was somewhat unknown after suffering a chipped bone in

his leg at the beginning of his senior year, but his doctors are confident he will be fully recovered before he even steps onto campus.

The most recent commitment has come from Eddie Foster of Colleyville, Texas. The 5-foot-10-inch, 165-pound cornerback runs the 40-yard dash in a blazing 4.38 seconds and is rated as the No. 65 cornerback in the country.

The Vanderbilt Hustler will continue to provide recruiting updates leading up to and beyond National Signing Day in early February. ■

Commodores hit the road again

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

The road of the Southeastern Conference has not been kind to Vanderbilt the past two seasons.

The Commodores (12-4, 1-1 SEC) will try to reverse that trend when they head to Starkville, Miss., to face a hot Mississippi State team tomorrow at 7 p.m. Since 2006, the Commodores have gone a gaudy 16-1 in SEC play at Memorial but struggled to a 5-12 mark on the road.

In Starkville, they have had even less success; the Commodores have not won a game there since 1993.

"It's been a while, but all it is is confidence," said junior point guard Jermaine Beal. "Hopefully we'll go in there tough, both physically and mentally, and come out with a W."

The Bulldogs (13-4, 2-0) have won four straight games heading into their game with the Commodores. That included victories at Arkansas, who has knocked off two top-10 opponents in Texas and Oklahoma, and at home against Alabama.

Mississippi State is led offensively by junior Jarvis Varnado with an average of 12.9 points and 9.8 rebounds per game, but it's his defense that has him pegged as a first-rounder in the NBA Draft if he leaves after this season. His three-block performance in the Bulldogs' 83-74 win over Alabama actually lowered his average of 5.3 blocks per game.

The Bulldogs, after mainly using a zone last season, the primarily use a man-to-man defense that has coach Kevin Stallings concerned about how to work the ball inside against the country's most prolific shot blocker.



FRANCIS SIMPSON/The Vanderbilt Hustler
George Drake (34) blocks Georgia's Terrance Woodbury Wednesday. Coach Kevin Stallings expects Vanderbilt's gaudy defensive numbers to be tested against Mississippi State.

"The big fellow back there causes lots of problems," Stallings said.

How to get around the lanky 6-foot-9-inch Varnado is a problem in and of itself for Vanderbilt to solve on offense. As Stallings pointed out, it's not easy to get him away from the basket.

"If you have a prolific shooting big man that you want to shoot a whole bunch of three-pointers, there might be (a way to lure him outside). This is not the NBA," Stallings said. "We're not all blessed with 6-foot-10 guys who can stand out there and make shots until he has to come out. But you just have to do your best against him. Sometimes you have to take it at him. Sometimes you don't need to challenge him. Sometimes it's better off just throwing it back out because he's getting ready to block it."

Luckily for the Commodores, they have their big man back in the lineup in sophomore center A.J. Ogilvy, who made an immediate impact in his return against Georgia. Ogilvy scored a

game-high 18 points in the 50-40 victory after missing the team's conference opener, a 70-60 loss to Kentucky.

Ogilvy suffered a bruised heel during practice last week but appears almost fully recovered. He will play against Mississippi State.

"It felt a lot better being out there and being able to contribute to the team's effort rather than watch from the sideline," Ogilvy said of returning to the lineup.

"With him in the game, it helps us out rebounding, defensively, offensively," Beal said. "Having A.J. really helps us a lot."

Ogilvy added four steals in the game as the Commodores smothered the Georgia offensive attack. But facing what Stallings calls a "fast, fast, fast" four-guard lineup in Mississippi State will be a change from the more physical Georgia team who could only muster 40 points.

"Right now we have a gaudy defensive field goal percentage," Stallings said. "Let's see if it's still that way at the end. I hope it is." ■

friday conversation with

JOSIE EARNEST

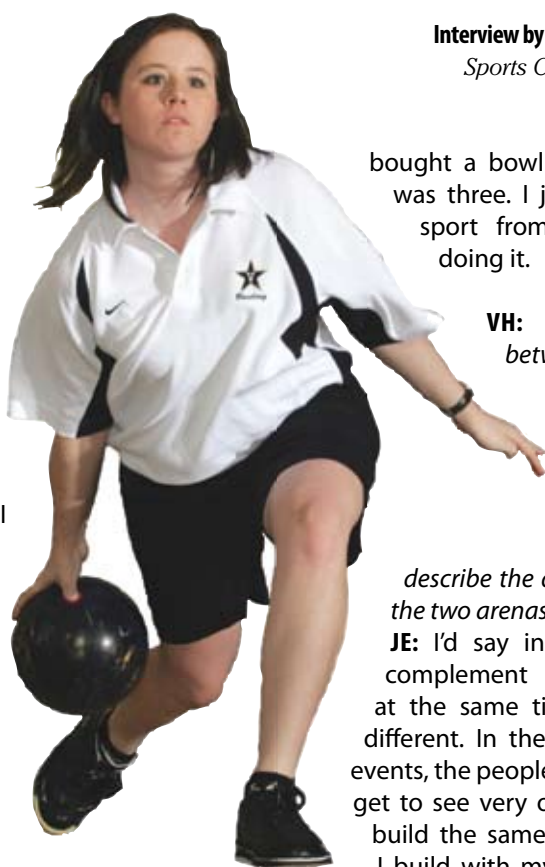
Interview by MEGHAN ROSE
Sports Contributor

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: You were named NCAA Player of the Year in 2008, how would you describe that honor?

JOSIE EARNEST: It was an awesome feeling because I was only a sophomore at the time. I knew I had worked hard enough, put in the time and I had a great team to back me and put me in that position to succeed. I didn't really expect the honor, being so young, but I feel like my hard work really paid off. It really was a team award as well because without my great team, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish it.

VH: In addition to your collegiate bowling career, you are also a member of the Junior Team USA. How did you first get interested in bowling?

JE: I got started at a really young age. My parents



NEIL BRAKE/VU Media Relations

bought a bowling center when I was three. I just picked up the sport from there and kept doing it.

VH: Transitioning between collegiate bowling at Vanderbilt and the Junior Team USA for the past few years, how would you describe the differences between the two arenas?

JE: I'd say in some ways they complement each other, but at the same time they are very different. In the Junior Team USA events, the people I bowl with I don't get to see very often, so you don't build the same relationships that I build with my teammates here. In some ways they are very similar though, since we are constantly working as a team.

The Vanderbilt bowling team has risen to the No. 1 ranking in the country after winning three tournaments during its fall season. Junior Josie Earnest leads a talented roster looking to win its second national championship in three years as they begin their spring season at the Mid-Winter Invitational this weekend in Arkansas. She spoke with The Vanderbilt Hustler about the honor of being named NCAA Player of the Year in 2008, how the team handles being ranked the best in the nation and what bowling in the "anchor position" means. Read the whole interview at InsideVandy.com.

VH: With a recent national championship title under your belt and a current No. 1 national ranking in the National Ten Pin Coaches Association coaches' polls, how would you describe the team's shifting mentality?

JE: I would say that our mentality had definitely shifted. When we won the national championship, we weren't ranked No. 1, but we knew we were good and very capable of winning. It was a different goal for us to reach. Now that we're ranked No. 1, we're trying to handle our ranking better and accomplish our goals.

VH: When competing in nationals, you said you bowl the anchor position, how important is this role for you?

JE: I usually bowl the fifth and 10th frames in these situations. We joke around as a team and say that I'm the bowling leader of the team. Some bowlers like to lead off, but the anchor position is a position that I enjoy being in. I love being the last ball in the last throw.

VH: Having won four gold medals and a silver medal this past September in El Salvador with the Junior Team USA, where do you hope to go from there?

JE: The Junior Team USA is a feeder system for the

adult team. It's very difficult, though, because professional bowlers are allowed to be on that team as well. It's a very high goal, but it's something that I'd like to accomplish.

VH: As the team to beat this year nationally, what goals have you made as a team?

JE: We don't really look at the rankings. We didn't know until our coach came into practice one day and mentioned our ranking. We know it's just a number that the other coaches vote on. It's really the number at the end of the season that matters. Right now, we're just taking care of what we can take care of. We're doing all that we can do at practices and at tournaments and the rest will take care of itself.

VH: How would you describe the importance of the upcoming tournaments on your schedule as the team begins to gain momentum for the NCAA Bowling Championships in April?

JE: In the fall, we went out east for our tournaments. But now, we're playing a lot more central teams throughout the rest of the season. Rankings are really based off your performance in the central region and how we score against the teams in this region. ■

COLUMN

Despite youth, team plays strong defense

by ANDREW BARGE
Sports Reporter

How important is defense in basketball? Ask Jermaine Beal, or any Commodore for that matter, and you're likely to hear the same answer.

"Defense wins championships," said the junior point guard. "Our goal this year is obviously to win a championship, so we have to work on defense every day."

If you're wondering if the practice is paying off, look at Wednesday night's game against Georgia. The Commodores managed just 50 points with only sophomore A.J. Ogilvy scoring in double figures. After watching his team shoot 2-16 from downtown, you'd expect coach Kevin Stallings to make his players sleep in Memorial Gym.

But nothing could be further from the truth. He knew his team had an off night shooting. "Well if you like offensive basketball, tonight was your night," Stallings said jokingly.

Sure, he was happy his team won, but it was how the Commodores won that had him in a good mood — the 20 forced turnovers, Georgia's 33 percent field goal shooting and the 40 points allowed.

It was defense. "I commend our guys for their effort and how hard they played defensively — our ability to force turnovers and keep their field goals down," Stallings said. "You look at what our guys did defensively and I thought that was huge."

Vanderbilt's defense gave the Bulldogs fits all night. Georgia's two leading scorers, Howard Thompkins and Terrance Woodbury, managed just seven baskets on 27 attempts.

The Bulldogs only shot two free throws and missed both. On Wednesday night, the Commodores didn't need offense.

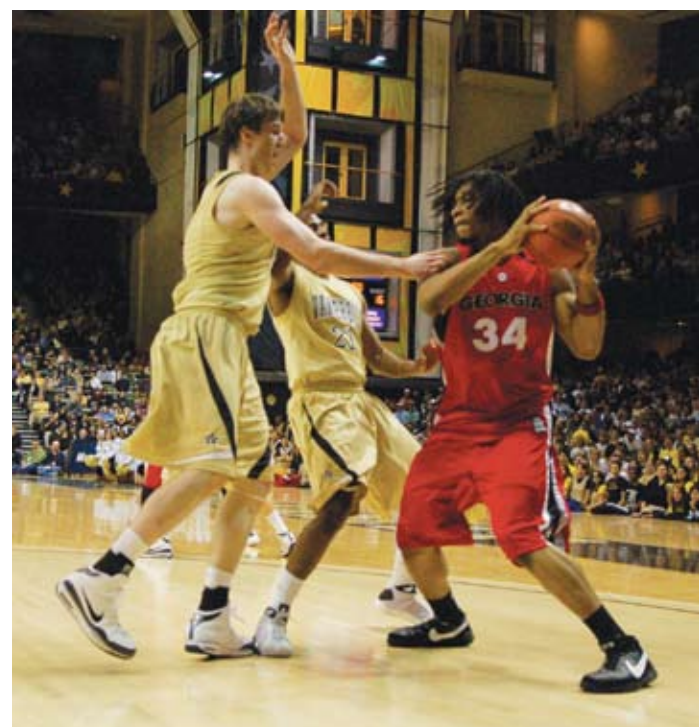
"You can survive bad shooting nights if your defense is solid," said Stallings, whose players have held opponents to a lowly 36 percent shooting on the season, best in the country. "It wasn't a thing of beauty offensively, but we played great defensively."

Commodore fans aren't used to this. Last year, a high-scoring offense gave the Commodores a high NCAA tournament seed but a sub-par defensive effort sent them packing after the first round. This year, with five freshmen coming in and playing significant minutes, Stallings expected plenty of growing pains for this year's team on the defensive end. To his surprise, the newcomers embraced the team's defensive mindset quicker than expected.

"Usually you get these guys out of high school and they can't guard their butt with either hand," Stallings said. "It's been a credit to them that they've come in and really bought into the concept of how hard we try to play defensively and how we have to play to be successful on the defensive end. Those guys are doing a nice job — they really are."

Despite some inconsistency on offense, the Commodores head deeper into conference play with a confident outlook. Did Vanderbilt's defensive effort during Wednesday night's league opener give us an early glimpse of a surprise season?

When you're playing solid defense night in and night out, anything is possible. ■



OLIVER WOLFE/The Vanderbilt Hustler

A.J. Ogilvy and Darshawn McClellan (21) defend Georgia's Albert Jackson (34) Wednesday night. The Commodores held the Bulldogs to just 33 percent shooting from the field.

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1/14/09 SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Beach toy
 - 5 Happens again
 - 11 "Nova" network
 - 14 Palo __, CA
 - 15 Gershwin song
 - 16 Single grain
 - 17 Ruled badly
 - 19 Hit the slopes
 - 20 Hiatus
 - 21 Print again
 - 23 Apt. manager
 - 26 Sawbones
 - 27 Flowed
 - 28 Stick with a stick
 - 29 Actor O'Toole
 - 31 Actress Dench
 - 34 Abnormal site of an organ
 - 36 Harden
 - 38 Enclosure
 - 39 Gregorian performer
 - 40 Austere
 - 42 Caboodle's partner?
 - 43 Goddess of folly
 - 44 Ornate wardrobe
 - 45 Winter whitening
 - 47 "The Jetsons" dog
 - 49 Tasty tubers
 - 50 Fuzz person
 - 52 Shed tears
 - 53 Storm and Gordon
 - 54 "Missing" co-star
 - 57 __ Aviv-Jaffa
 - 58 Actor Wallach
- DOWN**
- 1 Dawber or Tillis
 - 2 The Greatest
 - 3 " __ Not Unusual"
 - 4 Joined the network
 - 5 Invitation letters
 - 6 She sheep
 - 7 Donkey's enticement
 - 8 Not needed
 - 9 Highland dance
 - 10 Passover meal
 - 11 After marriage
 - 12 Use the oven
 - 13 Move
 - 18 Rowboat rower
 - 22 __ Mahal
 - 23 Jots
 - 24 Spiny sea creature
 - 25 Dip scoopers
 - 26 With gradually decreasing loudness
 - 29 Michelangelo masterpiece
 - 30 Camera-ready copy
 - 31 Ustinov autobiography
 - 32 Ustinov autobiography
 - 59 Meager
 - 64 Inside info
 - 65 Birch relatives
 - 66 China land
 - 67 Urgent letters
 - 68 Guthrie and Herman
 - 69 Ship's length

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1/16/09

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HAMS	EELS	SITES
SOURS	MALONE	
TERRA	SEDIMENTS	
ARISE	RATED	
NAB	ABATE	CAM
MARIS	SCALIA	
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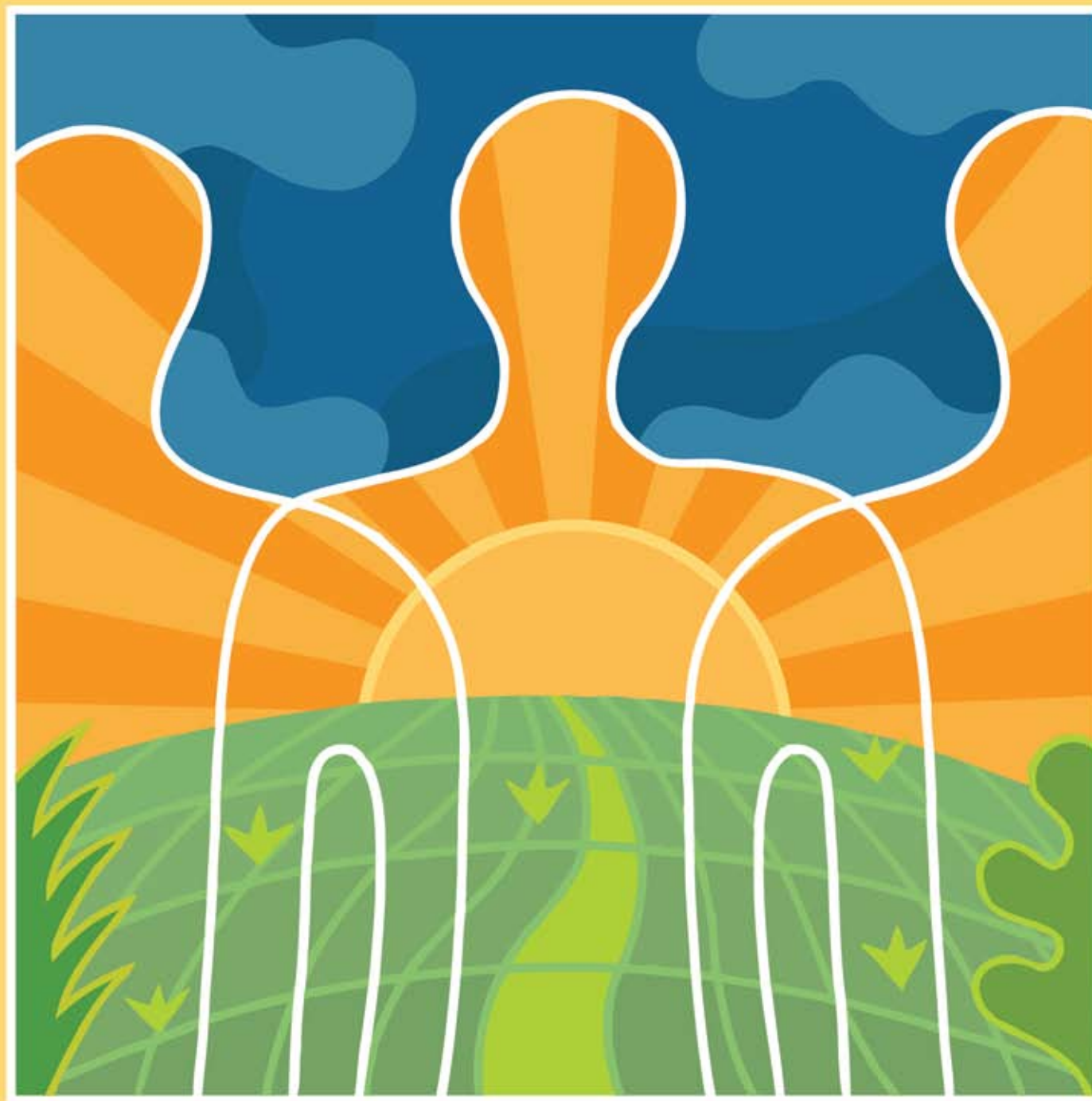
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