



**OPINION:** Miller and Tierney share differing views on the value of Valentine's Day. SEE PAGE 4-5

**SPORTS:** Vanderbilt women's basketball routs No. 9 Florida Gators, moves to 8-2 in SEC. SEE PAGE 7

## Dance Marathon expected to perform despite falling economy

by **ALLIE MORRIS**  
Senior Reporter

Despite the failing economy, Dance Marathon is expected to receive a total donation rivaling last year's \$144,823.06.

"Dance marathons around the country use a pretty recession-proof strategy of asking lots of people for small amounts of money. These small asks add up and largely haven't slowed as a result of the economy," said junior Patrick Frailey, Dance Marathon fundraising chair. So far this year, Dance Marathon has received a total of 1,000 donations and, according to Frailey, that number continues to rise.

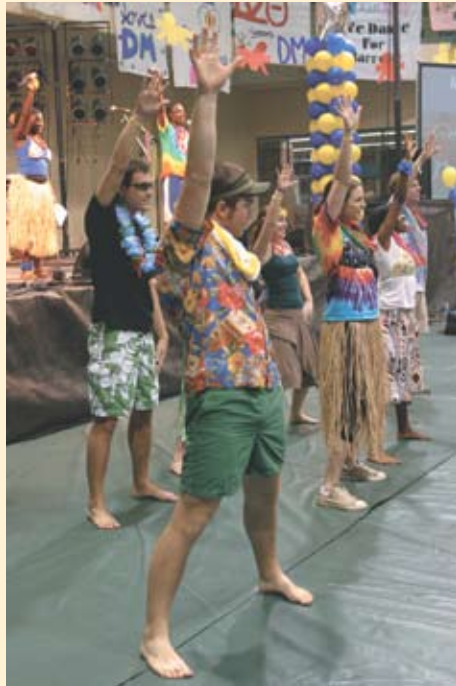
Dance Marathon made roughly \$6,000 in 2003 when it was first established at Vanderbilt.

Since then, the organization has grown exponentially and over the past six years has raised \$574,000 for the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, according to Anna Crossley, assistant director of development for Children's Miracle Network.

Dance Marathon teams consist of dancers, required to raise \$250 dollars, and moralers, required to raise \$175. As of Feb. 2, the top fundraiser is team Morale Captains, who have already raised over \$11,000.

All of the proceeds raised by Dance Marathon goes to the Children's Hospital.

"Last year, VCH had over \$17.5 million in uncompensated care, and 60 percent



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students perform the morale dance at the annual Dance Marathon last year. All proceeds benefit the Monroe Carell Children's Hospital, which pledges to treat every child.

of the families treated at the hospital required financial assistance," Frailey said. The Children's Hospital is part of the Children's Miracle Network, a network of hospitals that pledge to treat every child who is admitted.

To make donating a little easier, the group has created a system whereby donations can be sent via text message.

"We know that not everyone who wants to contribute can make it to the event," said Nancy Tan, Morale Committee co-chair and emcee. "So all they have to do is text 'VUDM' to 90999 and that automatically contributes \$5."

There are also a few programming changes, Tan said.

"In terms of events, there are a few additions. We are playing 'singles out' (a '90's dating game) this year," Tan said. Participants compete for dates with juniors Wyatt Smith or Tracy Branding. "We are having a VH1 comedian come."

Also performing this year is cover band Foreplay and Seven Beers Ago, Tan said.

"The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. We have the fashion show with all the athletes again. The '90's dating show begins at 10:45 followed by the hypnotist. (The) VH1 comedian is coming on at 12:30," Tan said.

Despite the minor changes and economic realities the mission is the same, according to Tan.

"It is still the biggest fundraiser on campus, and it is basically a 14-hour party of a fundraiser," Tan said. "This is a great place where people can see student groups like VIBE and Momentum perform. But mostly, it is about raising money for a great cause." ■

Sydney Wilmer contributed reporting to this article.

## Students teach to avoid job market

by **DANIELLE GANTT**  
Senior Reporter

Graduating seniors are now considering Teach for America and similar programs in greater numbers, many to escape the uncertain job market.

"It is too early to say exactly how big of an affect the economy will have on graduating seniors," said Cynthia Funk, the director of the Career Center. "However, we expect for the number of students choosing to go to graduate school or into programs like Teach for America to rise this year."

According to Jake Ramsey, a Teach for America campus representative, this year has seen the highest percentage of students wanting to participate in Teach for America on Vanderbilt's campus.

"We have over 15 percent of the entire senior class that has at least begun an application," Ramsey said.

Even with this increase in participation in the Teach for America application process by Vanderbilt seniors, Ramsey is slow to attribute this increase to the failing economy.

"I knew someone who got laid off from Bank of America and then decided to do Teach for America," Ramsey said. "The economy certainly plays a part but at the same time, the numbers have been rising a lot over the past years."

Graduating seniors who already know they are participating in the program seem to agree with Ramsey. Seniors Max Meyers said the economy had no impact on his decision to do Teach for America because he knew he wanted to do the program since

### ECONOMIC STRUGGLES



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

he was a first-year student.

"I am adopted and I realized that to get me to this point, as a student at Vanderbilt, took people believing in me. Belief in me brought me to this point, and I hope to pass the same thing on to others," Meyers said. "I want to help humanity."

Senior Luke Bidikov said he also had wanted to do Teach for America since he was a freshman. He said the economy played no role in his decision.

"I always knew I didn't want to go straight from college into working for some corporation. I knew I would take time off to do service," Bidikov said. "My family immigrated here, and I want to help America become the America they dreamed it would be. I want to help America become the America it ought to be."

Bidikov and Meyers are examples of what Ramsey said he believes to be the main reasons students find Teach for America an attractive option after college.

"Students have the opportunity to do something good with measurable results," Ramsey said. "It's challenging and a good career move." ■

### MONEY RAISED BY DANCE MARATHON SINCE 2003

Since its beginning in 2003, Dance Marathon has raised a total of \$574,000. Most years, fundraisers beat the amount raised the previous year.



## Young Alumni Trustee finalists nominated from graduating class

by **LAUREN KOENIG**  
Senior Reporter

One of three students from this year's graduating class will have the opportunity to continue influencing the Vanderbilt community for another four years.

Seniors Joseph Williams, Lauren Page Black and Ayo Ositelu are this year's nominees for Young Alumni Trustee.

Potential YATs are nominated by their peers. A nomination committee made up of members of the junior class and the most recent graduates selected the candidates Saturday. These classes as well as the senior class will vote on the winner.

The finalists each said they were honored to be nominated.

"I am very thankful and excited to learn that I have been nominated amongst my peers," Ositelu said. "A special thanks to the



BLACK OSITELU WILLIAMS

person who submitted my name for this selection."

"I couldn't be more flattered to be nominated for Young Alumni Trustee," Williams said. "My work as (Vanderbilt Student Government) president and working with various YATs over the past several years has shown me how the student voice can be heard loud and clear by the various stakeholders at Vanderbilt, from the chancellor to the Board of Trust."

"Vanderbilt has meant so much to me, over the past four years. I have been able to participate in things I never would have

dreamed of," Black said. "... I've grown so much since my first year, as has Vanderbilt. Our university is in midst of some incredible transitions. I would love ... to help our school continue find new ways to improve while maintaining its roots in our traditions."

Once elected, the student will serve on the Board of Trust for a four-year term. He or she will be required to attend the two board meetings each year and rotate through all of the committees throughout the term.

"I look forward to learning more about the full slate of responsibilities for Young Alumni Trustees," Ositelu said.

Williams said he thinks the importance of a YAT is to help the Board understand current students.

"I think the Board of Trust can always better understand how their decisions affect the day-to-day life of the Vanderbilt undergraduate," he said. ■

## Mayfield residents demand compensation, decision on hold

by **CHRISTEL MARINCICH**  
Senior Reporter

by **RUTH KINSEY**  
Senior Reporter

Mayfield Place residents who live next to the construction site near Highland Quadrangle asked for housing compensation in a proposal given to the Vanderbilt Student Government senate on Wednesday.

Mayfield residents wrote a proposal and signed a petition demanding an additional one-fourth point in the housing lottery as compensation for the disruptions created by the unexpected construction—from blasting noises every morning to flooded bathrooms.

"I live 10 feet from the blast site. The first I knew of it was a note on my refrigerator when I moved in saying I would feel an earthquake every morning," said sophomore Elisa Boody, VSG Highland representative and Mayfield resident.

The senators compared the construction work at the Mayfields to the construction work last year at The Commons. Last year's residents of The Commons did not receive any compensation.

"In the past, there hasn't been any precedent for housing compensation. However, the proposal is well thought-out and deserves serious discussion," said senior Wyatt Smith, VSG president-elect.

In addition to VSG Please see **MAYFIELDS**, page 3

**NEWS INSIDE:** With the executive board appointed, the race to fill the rest of the seats in VSG begins. SEE PAGE 3

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# SNAPSHOTS

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

## WEATHER

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### TODAY



HIGH **62**, LOW **42**  
Mostly cloudy

### SATURDAY



HIGH **55**, LOW **36**  
Mostly cloudy

### SUNDAY



HIGH **47**, LOW **29**  
Partly cloudy

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## FRIDAY SPICE

### Even deactivated, grenade a bad show-and-tell idea for grade school class

**EULESS, Texas (AP)**—Officials cleared out a Dallas-area elementary school briefly Thursday morning after a second-grade student brought a deactivated hand grenade for show and tell.

Eules police Lt. John Williams says the student walked into his classroom with the grenade at Oakwood Terrace Elementary School. The teacher took it, placed it on a desk and notified the principal.

The school was evacuated until police arrived and inspected the object. Williams says that although the grenade still had a pin, it had a hole at the bottom and was empty.

No injuries were reported. Students returned to their classrooms after 15 minutes, and the unidentified student was getting a good talking to from police.

### Cops arrest man who sought help from police in removing his handcuffs

**BARNSTABLE, Mass. (AP)** — A Massachusetts man who walked into a police station and asked for help removing a pair of handcuffs dangling from one wrist ended up wearing another pair instead.

Barnstable, Mass., police Sgt. Sean Sweeney said 21-year-old Allahmanamjad Barbel showed up Tuesday claiming he couldn't get off the cuffs his sister slipped on him at a child's birthday party.

Police ran Barbel's name through the state warrant system and discovered he had outstanding warrants on charges of driving with a suspended license, leaving the scene of an accident, threatening to commit a crime and making annoying phone calls.

Sweeney said police removed the cuffs then slipped on a new pair to arrest him.

They never confirmed his story about the party.

### Goats suspected of causing barn fire in Wyoming by nibbling through heaters

**LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP)** — These goats may have gotten a baaah-d idea from Mrs. O'Leary's cow.

A fire destroyed a barn near Laramie, Wyo., on Monday. Firefighters suspect some goats inside the barn started the fire by nibbling through electric heater cords or knocking down a heating lamp. Barn owner Dale Wood says the barn was a total loss and at least three female goats died.

Neighbors alerted Wood's son to the fire, who called firefighters and tried to put out the flames.

For years, legend had it that Catherine O'Leary's cow started the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

### Inexplicable 13th juror prompts mistrial in Texas murder trial

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Usually, the trouble is not finding enough jurors. In Harris County, it was one too many.

State District Judge Mark Kent Ellis had to declare a mistrial Tuesday in a murder trial after an extra juror was allowed to deliberate. Criminal juries must have only 12 members. Ellis said the 13th juror would be considered outside influence.

"In 23 years I've never seen anything like this," Ellis said. "The jurors all seemed pretty upset, but there's no way to unring that bell."

The judge blamed a substitute bailiff. Juror Paula Harlan said the extra juror tried to leave, but the bailiff said she needed to complete paperwork that was never brought to her.

"It was a weird deal," Harlan said.

### Woman who sang about fire on surveillance charged with 7 arsons

**DREXEL HILL, Pa. (AP)** — Police in a Philadelphia suburb say a 19-year-old woman accused of arson was caught on a surveillance camera singing, "The fire department is going to be mad at me."

Police say Amanda Gessner touched off seven blazes in trash and brush between 3 a.m. and 5:45 a.m. Tuesday within blocks of where she lives in Upper Darby Township.

Officials say Gessner was witnessed earlier in the evening at a local convenience store singing the ditty about the fire department. Her tune was caught on the store's surveillance camera.

One fire damaged a home where a family of four was sleeping. They escaped without injury.

Gessner is being held on \$100,000 bail, charged with arson and related offenses.

### Mich. zoo offers peek into animals' sex lives, champagne and food included

**BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (AP)** — A Michigan zoo is hosting an exotic, erotic afternoon on Valentine's Day, when consenting adults will get an unabashed look at how wild animals make babies.

WWMT-TV says the \$50-per-couple, adults-only event at Binder Park Zoo — dubbed "Zoorotica" — is sold out and there's even a waiting list.

Visitors will receive champagne, hors d'oeuvres, a video presentation and a guided tour, including the homes of snow leopards, giraffes, zebras and various primates and reptiles. Some stops will be areas not usually open to the public.

The Battle Creek Enquirer reports that other zoos have offered similar programs with cute names like "Woo at the Zoo" and "Jungle Love."

## CALENDAR

### THIS WEEKEND

#### FRIDAY, FEB. 13

##### • Roses for A. Rose

Alpha Chi Omega's spring benefit, which will take place at the sorority's house from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., is in memory of Allison Rose, a member of the chapter who passed away in August 2006. The benefit will feature desserts and all proceeds will go to the Love and Loyalty Grant in Memory of Allison Rose.

##### • Vagina Monologues

Project Safe produces this show, which runs Feb. 14 through Feb. 15 in the Sarratt Cinema at 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Project Safe Violence Against Women Hardship Fund.

##### • Dance Marathon

The benefit will be held in the Student Recreation Center from 6 p.m. until 9 a.m. the next morning. Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale at the door; food is included with ticket purchase.

#### SATURDAY, FEB. 14

##### • Designer Purse Sale

Delta Delta Delta will be hosting a discount designer sale at their house from noon until 2 p.m., with 75 percent off the original retail price of handbags, sunglasses and jewelry. A part of the proceeds will benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## SNAPSHOT

### 'THE COUNTRY WIFE'



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

VUT's production of "The Country Wife" premiered Thursday night in Neely Auditorium. The show will continue until Feb. 21.

## 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.



Art studio paint brushes. Photographed by Nicole Mandel.

**Student photographers interested in joining the staff are invited to the next meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, in Sarratt 130.**

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# Update on Colas trial suspects

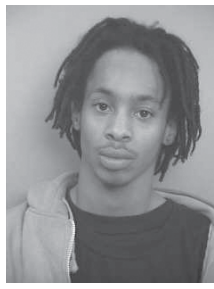
by SAMANTHA SMITH  
Senior Reporter

SWAT officers assigned to the Special Response Team arrested two more suspects in the murder of Vanderbilt Associate Professor of Anthropology Pierre Colas and his sister Marie Colas late Friday night.

The investigation by East Precinct detectives indicates that Lavonta Churchwell, 19, and Nathaniel Carson, 29, conspired with the four men arrested earlier this fall, according to a Metro Nashville release. They face charges of murder, robbery, identity theft and forgery.



CARSON



CHURCHWELL

Carson was arrested in his W. Greenwood Avenue home, and Carson was arrested on Charles E. Davis Boulevard. The two are scheduled to be arraigned on Feb. 25 and are being held at a \$250,000 bond.

Four suspects were charged in August with double criminal homicide after a

police investigation led to the discovery of several high-ticket items being purchased from local businesses with Colas's identification. The four suspects were seen smiling and laughing on store surveillance tapes.

Police were able to make the arrest based on a description of the car used during the purchases. Suspects George Eugene Cody, 29, and Gennyfer Dawn Hutcherson, 35, live on West Sharpe Avenue, two blocks away from Colas's home. Suspects Thomas Andrew Reed, 20, and Michael Shane Holloway, 22, were there with a group that sells magazines and were staying at the La Quinta Inn. The four know each other through a relative. ■

# Student group takes initiative to fight childhood obesity

by TAYLOR DAVIS  
News Reporter

The National Institutes of Health recently awarded \$3 million to researchers at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital to begin studies on ways to reduce obesity in children age two and under. Vanderbilt students are joining in this battle against childhood obesity.

Last fall, juniors Kristy Hamilton and Daniel Mayrsohn founded Healthy Head Start, a service organization that educates children and adolescents on healthful eating.

According to Hamilton, Tennessee ranks as one of the worst states in the nation when it comes to childhood obesity.

"We saw a need in the community and wanted to reach out to kids hit the hardest

by obesity," she said.

With children in lower socioeconomic classes being at the greatest risk for obesity, Healthy Head Start primarily works in underprivileged areas of Nashville. They work closely with the Andrew Jackson Boys and Girls Club where they served a healthy Thanksgiving feast to over 120 people and now lead a bi-weekly health and nutrition curriculum.

"We really want to teach kids how to make the best decisions that they can with what they have," Hamilton said.

Additionally, they assist in home economic and physical education classes at a local high school and fitness classes at a local YMCA.

"Obesity is a huge issue. If you look at the data, the percentages of overweight,

obese, and super-obese children climb each year," said Jamie Pope, a nutrition faculty member and Healthy Head Start adviser. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (1976-1980 and 2003-2006), obesity prevalence in children ages 12-19 alone has increased from five percent to 17.6 percent.

Pope said no clear-cut reason for this increase exists. It is due to a combination of both genetic factors and home environments that do not encourage physical activity and healthy eating.

"This is the first generation whose life span is projected to be shorter than their parents'. The best approach in decreasing obesity is to target children," Pope said. ■

# Medical Center address highlights cuts, successes

by ALLIE MORRIS  
Senior Reporter

The failing economy was the prime focus of the annual State of the Medical Center address given by Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Harry Jacobson on Wednesday.

In front of a packed auditorium of medical center staff and employees, Jacobson acknowledged the economic hard times yet also expressed his belief the medical center would come out of the recession a stronger institution.

"Call me crazy, I call it optimism," Jacobson said. "Two things happen to companies in a recession: They falter and fail or they struggle, adapt and come through strongly. The second course is exactly what is in store for us, we will struggle and become smarter, survive and thrive," he said.

Despite the optimism, Jacobson admitted the medical center had not been able to avoid the effects of the crisis. He reported the value of the medical center's endowment dropped and that investment income is down \$24 million as of Dec. 31, 2008. Due to rising rates of unemployment and loss of income, Jacobson predicts a lower demand for elective surgery, further cutting profits.

The medical center has reacted to the economic crisis by cutting back spending and even freezing some building projects.

"We responded with a sense of purpose and resolve and we brought down spending quickly and efficiently with no effect in patient care," Jacobson said



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

While the recession has affected the medical center's construction plans by freezing some current projects, others will be completed. Vice Chancellor Harry Jacobson attempted to assuage concerns during his State of the Medical Center address.

proudly. He also said the medical center is committed to keeping spending low while "keeping the team together." Although work has been frozen on the expansion of the Medical Research Building, thereby terminating construction jobs, Jacobson said the management team decided to reduce their hours in order to maintain employment.

Jacobson continued his optimism by highlighting the positive change he expects in the coming as a result of the new president.

"The new president brought renewed energy to Washington ... a new approach to health care and biomedical research

and higher education," Jacobson said. President Barack Obama has pledged to provide additional funding for the National Institute of Health and extra Medicaid funding, which would be helpful to balance Gov. Phil Bredesen's proposed cuts in TennCare, Tennessee's Medicaid program.

For the second half of the address Jacobson reflected on the past year and how the medical center fared in the completion of the 2009 goals. Generally, he said, the medical center exceeded expectations, rising in national rankings, successfully banning smoking and receiving new grant money. ■

# Vandy Karma aims to raise awareness

by LAUREN KOENIG  
Senior Reporter

Vandy Karma, founded at the end of fall semester, is the first organization at Vanderbilt to spread awareness of Hindu culture.

"We like to describe ourselves as a cultural organization and not a religious organization because we represent Hindu culture and not just Hindu religion," said senior Aniket Rali, president of Vandy Karma, who co-founded the group with junior Sahitya Denduluri.

Currently, 65 students from the undergraduate, graduate and medical schools make up the group's membership.

"Vandy Karma will strive to explain how

our ancient Hindu scriptures translate into the daily life of a Hindu and what influence other religions and cultures have had on the Hindu culture," Rali said. "We hope to provide a forum for interfaith dialog based around Hindu culture."

There is some overlap with the Masala SACE organization that focuses on Indian culture, according to first-year student Surosree Ganguli, co-chair of Vandy Karma's public relations. However, Vandy Karma is more unique in its specificity.

"There are people with many different religions in India. Masala SACE is for all Indians, whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Christians, etc. Vandy Karma, though, focuses on the Hindu culture — we want to make it a learning experience that's open to the community," Ganguli said.

"The entire campus is our target audience. Our membership includes several other religions such as Islam, Buddhism, Christianity and Sikhism. As a matter of fact, both our faculty advisers and several members of the executive board are non-Hindus," Rali said. "Several events have already been hosted to help provide insight into the logic behind Hindu traditions such as yoga, meditation, etc."

The group will offer yoga classes later in the semester to explore the science behind yoga and the various yoga techniques.

The group has an ongoing program called "Discover Hinduism" that organizes trips to a local temple to discuss specific aspects of Hindu culture. Next week's discussion topic will be "Iconography in Hindu Idols." ■

# MAYFIELDS: Extra points still in question

From MAYFIELDS, page 1

representatives and Mayfield residents, Jason Jakubowski, director of housing assignments, and Randy Tarkington, interim senior director of residential education, were present at the meeting. The Office of Housing and Residential Education are against the proposed compensation for Mayfield residents.

"Yes, we could have done a better job to inform the Mayfield residents of the construction. We have done our best to alleviate the noise though," Jakubowski said. "But when you start giving out points, it's a zero sum game. I do not want to disadvantage a higher class — a senior on a

ballot may not get a room of their choosing if the Mayfield residents get compensation."

VSG representatives said they were concerned that if they passed the proposal it would set a bad precedent, leading to multiple petitions from other students. If the Mayfields's proposal is granted due to the number of signatures on the petition, they believe they would get countless petitions and proposals from Kissam Quadrangle residents demanding compensation.

While VSG has yet to make a decision on the matter, the debate will continue in the next VSG senate meeting. ■



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Despite noise complaints from construction, VSG and housing officials said construction near Mayfield Place will probably not impact the number of points residents receive for the housing lottery.

# VSG candidates

The presidential races may be over, but the campaigning has just begun. On Thursday at 12:01 a.m., campaigning for Vanderbilt Student Government senate and house council positions officially began. Students running for these elected positions include:

**A&S Senate:**

- Tyler Boyd
- Maria Crist
- Zye Hooks
- Lauren Jansen
- Andrew Maguire
- Tommy Obenchain
- Alexa Papaila
- Hannah Rogers
- Ben Scott
- Joshua M. Sirchio
- Matt Snyder
- Sloane Speakman
- Veronica Venezia

**Blair Senate:**

- Thomas Crespo
- Susan Gleiser
- Shaun Kahler
- Suranjan Matthew

**Attorney General:**

- Amaobi J. Enyinnia
- Ning Foncham
- Aftan Barber

**A&S Council President:**

- Fabiani Duarte
- John Gaffney
- Timothy O'Connor

**Engineering Council President:**

- Lauren Nichols

**Peabody Council President:**

- Jane Slatton

**Blair Council President:**

- Jordan Holland
- Liz Rogers
- Erin Steigerwald

**Engineering Senate:**

- James Des Cognets
- Michael Kariya
- Andrew Morse
- Amanda Palmer
- Jason Sabourin
- Alexandra Seamens
- Aaron Stevenson
- Taylor Stevenson

**Peabody Senate:**

- Kate Goudge
- Adam Meyer
- Timothy Howze

All students running for an elected position in VSG attended a mandatory candidates meeting on Feb. 5 to declare their candidacy. They also had to submit a petition with 100 student signatures (25 for a council representative) by Wednesday to have their name placed on the ballot. During the petitioning period, students were forbidden to begin an official campaign. Two students have already been disqualified from the campaigning process for campaigning before 12:01 a.m. on Thursday.

The primary election is on Feb. 18, and the general election will be held Feb. 25. ■



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6:15	6:15	6:15	6:15			6:15
7:45	7:45	7:45				

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# OPINION

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## Obama should go green



**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

Puff it, pass it and permit it. Catchy slogans are good. It's like click it or ticket except it doesn't make me angry. In fact, put to a test, it would be difficult to determine which of those laws is more useless. Smoke has been rising over the issue for a while, and to be perfectly blunt, Michael Phelps just got burned by Kellogg's blazing his endorsement stash, and it's high time for us to cash the issue with some kind of joint resolution. All right, I promise that's all the puns I'm going to use (see if you can find all eight).

To get to the point at hand, here we have another political action everyone from both parties should be able to get behind. On the other hand, being fair to President Barack Obama, I seriously

doubt there is any chance of this happening. I suppose it wouldn't create the best image for the first-ever black president to prioritize positive legislation on rolling blunts.

I don't care what you claim your opinion on drugs is, at the very least we

**"I don't care what you claim your opinion on drugs is, at the very least we should all concur that America should have consistency in its laws, right?"**

should all concur that America should have consistency in its laws, right? Well, as much as I despise research, let's do a side-by-side comparison. Each year, there are over 85,000 alcohol related deaths. In 40 percent of violent crimes, 78 percent of assaults and 88 percent of criminal damage cases, the offender was under the influence of alcohol. Compare this to almost no reported cases of marijuana-induced crime and zero cases of death by marijuana overdose.

Don't just gloss over these stats. That means that the clear majority of the times there is criminal damage or an assault, it relates to drinking. Let's also examine how our war on drugs is going. So far, barely over one month into the year, our federal and state governments have already spent over \$6 billion for the "war on drugs."

When we inspect our nation's history, homicide rates per citizen have been highest during Prohibition and the war on drugs, which began in 1969. Meanwhile, 47 percent, or close to half of all Americans, have admitted to smoking pot sometime during their life. What is happening here? Somebody tell me I'm not the only one looking at these facts in complete disbelief!

Where is this tremendous negative image of weed coming from? Wasn't Phelps arrested a few years back for drunk driving? And now it's worse? I'll tell you where it comes from — mainly just because it's been illegal for so long.

I mean, look at what those anti-drug advertisements used to be: Some out of control teen smokes a bowl, then steals his grandmother's car and runs over a handicapped infant while molesting his sister. The image has changed slightly to doped-up losers who giggle while eating candy and bagel bites. Yeah, that fits better into the category of illicit activity over the raging alcoholic who curses his wife and beats his children. So what could we expect to see if our country evened up its drug policy? More people smoking, yes, also a drop in alcohol use, the extinction of cigarettes, a drop in crime and billions of dollars back in taxpayers pockets.

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

### EDITORIAL

## Teach for America is not the only available option

Due to economic constraints and other factors, more graduating seniors at Vanderbilt and across the nation have considered Teach for America. Jake Ramsey, TFA Campus Representative said, "Over 15 percent of the entire senior class has at least begun an application." Ramsey, however, does not attribute the rise directly to the economy. He says the number of applications have been rising over the past few years. However, other similar organizations like AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps who do not recruit as heavily on campus have not released similar statistics.

TFA recruits college graduates to teach in both urban and rural schools in an attempt to ameliorate problems with educational inequality. While the program involves a two-year commitment, it does give real world experience and practical training.

Several students cite a desire to help as their primary motivation, but there are other motivations, too. Ramsey points out "it's challenging and a good career move."

TFA does serve a specific purpose that helps a distinct demographic. In that sense, it is a perfectly reasonable organization to support. However, it is important to remember that there are other important organizations recent graduates can support. AmeriCorps helps communities in need. The Peace Corps, who help out with AIDS education and prevention, technology needs and community infrastructure in developing countries also need volunteers.

Problems don't go away, and there is always a need for people to help solve them. There's no reason to limit service options. If you want to help, just do it.

## A manly Valentine's Day

To The Editor:

So I'm about to get my lunch on Wednesday, and I decide to pick up a copy of Versus. And I notice that the cover is pinker than one of those unicorn-rainbow notebooks girls used to carry back in elementary school. After I glance at the bands playing this weekend, I turn the page.

More Valentine's Day stuff. Some drivel about "The Notebook" and how the connection between the main actor and actress "threatens to burn a hole in the screen." I wish it had, because then I wouldn't have ended up viewing the worst movie of all time in its wretched, disgusting entirety. To my shame, I kept holding out hope for an explosion, a car chase, something. A black mark on my record, to be sure. But I digress.

Then, I turn the page and get more of the same. By

the time I get near the back, I'm getting beat over the head about "what NOT to do" on Valentine's Day.

You want some real advice in the lady department, fella? Do something she'll always remember. Cook her a full rack of delicious ribs, with a porterhouse steak for dessert. Or take her to Bob's Drive-In Theater to see "The Green Berets." Or show her how to change the oil on your old Chevy Blazer. Use your imagination.

And to go ahead and pre-empt some wise guy: yes, I do have a girlfriend. We quest together all the time. She's a gorgeous level 57 rogue with long, black hair. And when we kiss, her lips are sweeter than honey.

**Drew Rankin**  
Senior  
College of Arts and Science

## The misremembered



**THOMAS SHATTUCK**  
Opinion Editor

Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia, more commonly referred to as Vlad the Impaler, happens to be known for one thing above all else: the torture and slaughter of thousands without any apparent justification or reason (at least not for the methodology). Vlad was an ardent defender of his country, which he lost control of multiple times during his lifetime, and a crusader extraordinaire. In Romania, particularly among peasants, he is remembered as a prince who guarded his people from outward aggression. Admittedly, he may have enslaved or executed the Wallachian nobles (i.e. the Boyars), but I digress.

Vlad eventually came to inspire Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula," though it is thought Stoker perhaps was influenced more by the Countess Bathory, who killed somewhere between 60 and 700 (convicted only of 80) young women and according to legend bathed in and drank their blood. In a strange coincidence, both Vlad's and the Countess's family were primarily recognized for their wars with the Ottoman Turks. Either way, Vlad has ended up being remembered for something tangential to his life — I doubt he would not recognize himself in the novel "Dracula," nor would consider his methods of execution extreme. He's not alone.

General Tso, whose real name was Zuo Zongtang, was a Qing Dynasty general from Hunan province. When he was younger, he managed to fail the official court exams seven times. He did not achieve any measure until the Taiping Rebellion in 1850. He was later appointed as a Grand Secretary and then Marquessate. However, despite his military and political success, he's known for a chicken dish that may not be from his home region and most likely he never tasted.

So what's my point? I have no intention of giving an impromptu history lesson nor do I have particular emotions for either Vlad or Tso. In simplistic terms, it is that in defiance of existentialist principles, we

humans have little or no control over how we're remembered. Jean-Paul Sartre once said, "It is only in our decisions that we are important," though this hardly seems true, absolute veritas. If there is anything to be learned from the Walachian prince or Chinese general, it would be that despite your best intentions, you will never be remembered for what you believe is important. That would afford humanity a certain prescience or understanding that it lacks.

Though I suppose it is pleasant to be remembered — something most of us will never experience. The truth of the matter, with more than six billion people living on the planet, it is hard for an individual to make a dent in it. Sure, you can refuse to recycle or drive Hummers, but that just makes everyone else's life a little more difficult and in the long run really doesn't help with your credibility. Hell, most people couldn't name this year's Noble laureate in literature (J.M.G. Le Clezio) or even last year's (Doris Lessing), even though these two are supposed to represent the pinnacle of the narrative form. Furthermore, most people would have trouble naming more than five winners in any of the categories since its beginnings in 1895 (first awarded in 1901).

I'd normally attribute this to human failure — that is to say the failure of people to be human — but that hardly seems fair. It's simply impossible to stand out among the crowded throngs in any meaningful way. I suppose it is beneficial for people to be fruitful and multiply, but after a while, the multitudes and myriads become a tad overwhelming. The idea that even the best in their respective fields will not be remembered even in the near future might seem depressing for obvious reasons, but look on the bright side: No matter what you do, no matter how terrible a mistake you make, most people will forget soon enough — unless of course you're the captain of the Titanic.

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## V-Day pre-req for an MRS degree



**KATHERINE MILLER**  
Columnist

At Valentine's Day, one universally acknowledged truth rolls itself in on a furious, insatiable tide of hearts and stuffed animals, bursting forth from CVS: All girls everywhere forever desire — nay, need — a man.

The singular demand of women is marriage. History and culture remind us daily. Just like that old patriotic saying, "Nothing says 'I love my country' more than showing one's legs tastefully," who can forget The Magazine of Domestic Economy's timeless motto from the year of our Lord 1835, "We are born at home, we live at home and we must die at home"? Never forget that you must die at home, admittedly an inconvenience, but have some pride.

Keeping these tenets of becoming a lady in mind, how should one proceed this Valentine's Day? Procure yourself a gentleman, and beware the dark pitfalls of groupthink.

Valentine's Day creates a strange sociological condition akin to Stockholm syndrome. Even if a girl cares nothing for Valentine's Day, she ends up in a conversation about how she cares nothing for Valentine's Day. This then escalates into that group delivery of the tiring "I Don't Need a Commitment Now" monologue, during which the aforementioned girl considers if she's become one of Those Girls, which ultimately concludes with idly watching selected scenes from "Love Actually."

Other symptoms of the February affliction include a primal need to exert tyrannical control over romantic minutia if "Bride Wars" teaches us anything (besides "It's a wonder any man ever wants to date a woman, let alone marry one" or "Anne Hathaway's had a rough year").

The affliction must be deterred. But how to find a man this late? While a young lady might be inclined to look no further than the casual hookup, avoid that gentleman because he will likely later constitute an ill-advised decision in that young lady's personal canon, or else he's hooked up with an over/under of three of her friends. Hell, probably both.

In such troubled times, one must turn to an expert on mysterious happenings and romance — an expert like Nancy Drew. I feel like it would be called "The Case of the Hidden Husband" and involve some sort of conundrum in which the unfortunate plight of Nancy's objectively unattractive, pathetically dateless friends drives her to hunt down the surly hoodlum who attacks all the handsome, wholesome boys who just want to marry girls who wear heels and pearls while they trade vacuuming tips. The case would certainly go unsolved, however. Mostly because some deranged single girl, at whose paltry marital prospects Nancy chuckles smugly once in a department store, would come after Nancy with a knife, cut a bitch and steal Ned.

But, look, never fear. Quite honestly, things could be worse. You could be Rihanna or Chris Brown. One suspects they sincerely regret those neck tattoos now. Among other things.

Besides, sans the unrelenting joys of handmade Valentine's cards, Valentine's Day remains this odd cultural touchstone we feel like we should care about, but can't seem to find it within ourselves to do so — like horseracing or Reese Witherspoon and Jake Gyllenhaal. Wait, I'm starting to sound like one of Those Girls now ... Valentine's Day provides you with a framework by which to live your life. Submit to its power, capture a man and throw some candles, flower petals and chocolate around.

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

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

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

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

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# The Valentine's Day massacre



**SEAN TIERNEY**  
Guest Columnist

Hold onto your highly-regimented gender role; that fuzzily sexist, heart-shaped holiday has arrived! Here's a manly men's how-to guide for Valentine's Day. If you're of the female variety, then this column is not for you. Scoot!

On Valentine's Day, every encounter with a girl is booby-trapped. (And not in the good way.) Single gals blame men at large for their suffering. Your girlfriend or current hook-up buddy (which forms the delightful acronym, CHUB) reads into everything you do. Your grandmother wants to know why you're not at least engaged by now. Tread carefully or you'll find yourself asking God for your damned rib back.

Valentine's Day is all about manufactured, scheduled, universal

romance, which means actually making it romantic is pretty difficult. You can try going over the top, but let's face it guys: We're not good at outdoing the bare minimum. And remember, a woman may swoon over romantic gestures in the movies, but without a soundtrack, professional writers and Hollywood looks, you'll probably just come off looking creepy or dangerous (And not in the good way).

Your only hope is to lower expectations. Don't try pulling out all your romantic antics at once. The reason why taking things slow with girls works is it gives them time to realize how bad you really are and to adjust their expectations accordingly. For example, it is a fact that after three hours of foreplay, a woman will think the sex is great no matter what.

If you haven't already made dining arrangements, then you're screwed. (And not in the good way.) If you have, remember that it's your job to be the

fatty. Girls don't like it when their appetites are bigger than guys'. They also don't like it when you tell them they should go on a diet — even if it's true.

If it hasn't come up in your relationship yet, it will: conversation. No, no conversation in particular, just conversation in general. You may even be asked to express — in full sentences — what it is you're thinking. This is a daunting task for most men, as we must frantically empty our heads of the few thoughts we do have and fill them with non-sexualized thoughts before we can respond. (I recommend practicing a few days ahead of time.) The exception is if your woman talks about her own problems — say absolutely nothing, indicate that you sympathize, memorize a handful of important and trivial details in case she later tests how well you listened, and encourage her to tell you more while you zone out.

After chowing down, watching a romantic movie is an appropriate excuse to turn off the lights and kill two hours of this difficult holiday. All chick flicks must have four things: an impending wedding, mediocre humor, a Stepford hunk and a right-in-front-of-her-nose-the-whole-time moment. They also ignore the fact that the hard part isn't getting into a relationship but staying in it. Instead of "Made of Honor" (it's not my fault I saw it), try "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "Meet Joe Black," "Amelie" or "Before Sunrise."

It's time to speak of gifts (not for CHUBs). There is nothing women don't make unnecessarily complicated, including gifts they love that you bought them chocolate. They love eating chocolate. They hate themselves for loving chocolate. They have more nuanced feelings toward a Cadbury bar than you have toward your own mother. Don't let your undying devotion scam

you into buying expensive jewelry. You probably wouldn't pick out the right thing, and she's planning on dumping you soon, anyway. And you'll look like a fool walking around campus with flowers. I like to give goldfish. It's a little something different that says, "I'm ready to take our relationship to the level where we share a pet, but not to the level where I trust you with anything I care about." The guilt trip potential is enormous once the goldfish inevitably dies.

Be advised, women often say or do the opposite of what they mean. This is probably a systemic guerrilla tactic used to disrupt the normal operation of patriarchal society. But if you follow my advice tomorrow you just might be enjoying mind-blowing lovin'. In a very, very good way.

— Sean Tierney is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [sean.f.tierney@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sean.f.tierney@vanderbilt.edu).

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



MERYEM DEDE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

# Porn industry offers hope

**CAMERON PITTMAN**  
Guest Columnist

The thought of graduating is depressing. With that in mind, we should all seriously consider a job in the pornography industry.

People love porn too much to let the recession hurt the industry. It stands to reason that as people get laid off, more people have more free time. Some people choose to be productive and search for jobs during their downtime. Others choose wrist exercises.

Consider how graduates from many of the majors offered at Vanderbilt can apply their skills to the adult film industry:

Economics majors should look into managing the financial side of smut peddling. Keeping the books should be relatively easy. Marketing majors can create marketing plans, communications and build relationships both within the industry and with mainstream America. Due to high unemployment, I would advise marketing super cheap videos. Engineers can use their

degrees to construct sets and ensure they will be safe for cast and crew. Theatre majors may have a leg up in getting acting jobs in erotica, but holes are always open for amateurs.

Computer engineers should take note of the movie "Pirates" (2005), an adult flick with a \$1 million budget and special effects comparable to the Hollywood film it parodied. Special effects in pornography are a new reality, and pornos need computer nerds.

Audio production values are also scaling with better visuals. Pay attention Blair kids: The days of "bow chicka wa wow" are over; smut scores will soon be on shelves next to John Williams CDs. Many pornos will soon need deeper string sections and a broader range of percussion instruments.

English majors are also desperately needed to develop better (I was going to say "more realistic," but who really cares if porn is believable?) porn scripts that do not include reparmen. They should consider collaborating with foreign language people to develop intriguing characters with exotic accents. And fashionistas can design

costumes, which should be easy because designing birthday suits requires minimal effort.

Photographers should look no further than high-class porno mags. Porn is always classy in black and white, regardless of what kind of unholy act is being performed. And, for everyone else, it is cheap and easy to set up a Web site, camera and Paypal account. The possibilities are endless.

The adult industry is also appealing because they have requested a \$5 billion government bailout, which is odd because porn has not suffered in the recession. The adult industry reasons, however, that the American spirit needs more dirty flicks in these desperate times. Larry Flynt believes that "It's time for congress to rejuvenate the sexual appetite of America."

The adult industry knows what it is doing. We would be wise to join them.

—Cameron Pittman is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [c.pittman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:c.pittman@vanderbilt.edu).

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OF VANDERBILT MEN  
agreed that being drunk  
is NO EXCUSE for forcing  
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—Lynette Jacobs-Priche, dissertation, 2006

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## SPORTS

# Top-ranked bowlers seek to return to their winning ways

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Editor

Two straight third-place finishes may cut it for some bowling teams, but not Vanderbilt. And especially not when the Commodores are No. 1 in the nation.

Looking to get back to their winning ways of last fall, when the Commodores won all three tournaments they entered, the Vanderbilt's top-ranked women's bowling team returns to the lanes this weekend in Baltimore, Md., at the Morgan State Invitational. The tournament will pit the Commodores against some of the other top teams in the country, defending national champion Maryland-Eastern Shore among them.

Despite blowing leads in both tournaments they've entered in 2009 to finish third both times, the Commodores still received 15 of 18 first-place votes by voters from the National Tenpin Coaches Association to maintain their grip on the top spot in the most recent rankings.

"It's always flattering to be ranked No. 1 by your peers," said Vanderbilt coach John Williamson. "But I don't think we're that worried about what other people think about us."

Despite the lack of team success, the Commodores have still displayed impressive performances in 2009. Williamson said his entire team has been bowling strongly, particularly freshman Brittni Hamilton, who won individual titles at both tournaments in January. Also, it was announced last week that junior Josie Earnest was to be named co-female amateur athlete of the year in Tennessee after another stellar campaign in 2008.

However, Earnest believes she and her teammates are capable of far better than they've shown in recent weeks.

"It never sits well with us," Earnest said of not winning tournaments. "We led both tournaments by well over 200 pins going into the bracket, so two third-place finishes were not what we wanted. We're always capable of bowling better. I think the last several tournaments we've felt like we've performed below par and we were still leading by triple digits going into the bracket. I expect exceptional things to happen over these next few tournaments."



NEIL BRAKE/VU Media Relations  
Josie Earnest said she and Vanderbilt's top-ranked bowling team are capable of exceptional things over the next few weeks.

"I think the last two tournaments in particular were a learning experience," Williamson said. "We're looking at making some adjustments and trying to focus a little bit better and learn how to finish those tournaments."

Senior Michelle Peloquin said the team has worked on maintaining its momentum when it captures large leads heading into the final days of tournaments.

"We have focused on this in recent practices and I'm anxious to see how we will respond," Peloquin said. "I have confidence that this practice will pay off and we will have improved in this area."

Despite the recent letdowns, Williamson feels the Commodores have not wavered in their self-assurance and that the team is on the brink of snapping out of its recent funk.

"I think overall we feel pretty good about what we're doing," Williamson said.

Not that continuing to come short of victories will be acceptable for the Commodores.

"We've never walked in and expected anything lower than a No. 1 finish, but we're going to focus on the things that put us in a position to win," Earnest said. "It's all about taking care of the things that you can control and letting things fall into place." ■

# Young LAX team looks to surprise foes

by BRIAN LINHARES  
Sports Reporter

In 2008, the Vanderbilt women's lacrosse squad earned 13 wins, a school record. However, the season ended in disappointment, as then-eighth-ranked Princeton University ended the Commodores' run in the first round of the NCAA tournament, by a final tally of 14-10.

They haven't forgotten.

"Since we graduated seven starters last year, most top programs don't expect very much from us," said sophomore defender Claire Leonard. "But, I know that we will prove to everyone that this is not a down year for us, even though we are young."

Ranked 12th in the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association preseason poll, the Commodores complete in the intense American Lacrosse Conference. Defending National Champions since 2005, the Wildcats of Northwestern University lead the ALC. Two other top-15 teams include Vanderbilt and Johns Hopkins, with Ohio State and Penn State on the cusp of the top-20.

"We have a very tough schedule so almost every game is a 'key game,' but the University of North Carolina game, this Sunday, is vital," Leonard said. "It will allow us to set the tone for our entire season, earn the top programs' respect and show the country that this is not a rebuilding year."

Spearheading the attack for the Commodores will be senior Cara Giordano and junior Carter Foote. The play of Giordano, an IWLCFA all-American, and Foote last spring earned each a position on the preseason ALC all-conference team heading into 2009. Midfielder Sarah Downing, who started every contest last year, will help orchestrate the offensive operations.

"Cara Giordano, a senior captain, is a very passionate leader that is going to contribute a lot on both sides of the field," Leonard said. "Juniors Sarah Downing and Carter Foote and sophomore Katherine Denkler are going to be incredibly effective on the attack."

To help support the efforts of the



STEVE GREEN/VU Media Relations  
Cara Giordano (9) is one of just five seniors on 12th-ranked Vanderbilt, who opens its season Sunday against North Carolina.

upperclassmen, the Commodores brought in an exceptional recruiting class, led by Baltimore Sun Player of the Year Ally Carey. Moreover, several of the frosh hail from state championship teams, including Kendall Pittinger (Maryland), Hannah Clark (Pennsylvania) and sisters Kacie and Kelly Connors (New Jersey).

"Our freshmen are also impressive and will definitely contribute all over the field," Leonard said.

The freshmen will have to learn quickly, for juggernaut Northwestern visits Nashville in the Commodores' third game in late February. Then, through the first three weeks of March, the following five-game road trip features dates at Boston University and Duke, ranked 10th and third, respectively.

Nonetheless, the outlook is positive for the Commodores.

"I am really excited for this season because I think we are going to surprise a lot of teams with our speed, talent and team chemistry," Leonard said.

Behind strong upperclassmen leadership and talented freshmen, Vanderbilt could certainly surprise many of its foes. The Commodores aim to not only improve upon the 13 victories, but also run deeper into the NCAA tournament this May. ■

# Wirth, Beal MVPs for Vanderbilt so far

by MIKE KRANZLER  
Sports Reporter

Just past the half-way point in SEC play, Christina Wirth and Jermaine Beal have stood out in particular for Vanderbilt basketball this season. Here's why they're our MVPs so far for the Commodores.



SAM KIM/The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Christina Wirth scored 20 points Thursday night and has lived up to her All-SEC billing, leading Vanderbilt with 14.7 points per game.

In her fourth year on the squad, Christina Wirth has been a solid contributor since the day she stepped foot on campus. In her freshman season, she was one of only four players to play in every single game of the season and played four different positions that year in order to maximize her effectiveness.

A 6-foot-1-inch senior from Mesa, Ariz., Wirth was a McDonald's All-American as a senior in high school and has consistently lived up to her billing. She has steadily increased her scoring output each year while also improving on the defensive end. One of the most versatile Commodores, she has the size to play inside coupled with the range to shoot from the perimeter.

Wirth was a first-team All-Southeastern Conference pick last season and is poised to repeat that honor in her final year. She is averaging 14.7 points per game while also at or among the team leaders in minutes, field goal percentage, 3-point shooting percentage, rebounds, assists, blocks and steals. A veritable Jill-of-all trades, Wirth contributes to every facet of the game for Coach Melanie Balcomb. She also has yet to miss a single game in her career and has started 93 consecutive contests.

The Lady Commodores look poised to have a special season, and Wirth continues to lead the charge for one of Vanderbilt's most underrated teams. In a year when the men's team has struggled to produce a consistent effort from game-to-game, Wirth's performances alone are worth the price of admission. ■



FRANCIS SIMPSON/The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Jermaine Beal has coupled steady play at the point guard position with lights-out accuracy from beyond the arc for the Commodores.

As the heartbeat of this team, Jermaine "Dolla" Beal has been the unquestioned leader and MVP of the Commodore men through the first half of the season. Beal first made himself known in the fifth game of his career at Vanderbilt when he drove the lane to sink the game-winning shot with four seconds left in overtime against Toledo.

Originally a pass-first point guard, Beal has taken it upon himself to lift this team offensively as they struggled mightily to start the season. As the team's best perimeter threat, he has shouldered the load of taking more 3-point shots, a cornerstone of Coach Kevin Stallings's offense, and has started to make them with more and more consistency.

As Beal goes, so goes this team. On a team absolutely racked with injuries this year, he has been the one shining bit of consistency that has righted the ship and gotten this team going in the right direction. A 6-foot-3-inch junior from DeSoto, Texas, he is averaging 12.6 points per game, up from 7.6 as a sophomore and 3.8 as a freshman. He is averaging a team-high 3.4 assists per game while also leading the team in steals and minutes per game.

But if nothing else, Beal has been a stabilizing force and a leader on a team that has needed those qualities more than anything else. The roster is dripping with potential and athletic ability, but Beal has been the one to get the Commodores to break their slump and start moving in the right direction.

The sky is the limit for this young team, and with Beal running the point, anything is possible. ■

# Rested Vanderbilt has chance to avenge loss

by NICK GALLO  
Sports Reporter

The last time Vanderbilt and Tennessee locked horns, the visiting Volunteers came out victorious, leaving a bad taste in the Commodores' mouths.

Vanderbilt shot terribly from the field, while allowing the Volunteers to score at will, and although the Commodores made it respectable most of the way, they could never get close enough to the Volunteers to take the lead, as their archrivals cruised to a 76-63 victory on Vanderbilt's home floor.

Almost a month later and after three straight wins, Vanderbilt is looking to avenge the early season loss when it visits the Vols tomorrow at 2 p.m. The Commodores have had a full week to prepare for Tennessee, but have a tough stretch of games coming up. A home match-up with Kentucky and a road date with Florida are on the horizon, but the Commodores must take care of their in-state rival first, who stand at 15-8 just like Vanderbilt.

The elder statesman of the team, redshirt junior guard George Drake, understands that they have to take care of business one game at a time.

"Basically we've got to take each game one day at a time and one game at a time. We've just got to come out there and play to win

each game," he said. "We'll worry about the game ahead of us and we won't look over any game."

Preparing for the upcoming game has been crucial and guard Brad Tinsley believes that the experience of playing Tennessee once already this season will help their chances in Knoxville. "After you play a team, I think you get a little bit of how they play and how their guys play. It's nice playing them a second time. Hopefully we can get up there and get a win," he said.

Tennessee stands at 6-3 in the SEC, while Vanderbilt is at 4-5. A win on Saturday could be a season-changer for the Commodores. A shot of confidence that comes along with a big win would be a major boost to this talented but young team.

Vanderbilt has plenty of skill but has just been hitting its stride as of late. The Commodores will need a cohesive effort on Saturday, which coach Kevin Stallings duly noted.

"It's nice now because finally we've hit a pace where we are scoring with some consistency and we are getting some offensive rhythm and flow," Stallings said.

With Vanderbilt's offense beginning to gel, the Commodores must also look to their defense for support if they hope to come away victorious in Knoxville. Vanderbilt must find a way to stop the incredible duo



FRANCIS SIMPSON/The Vanderbilt Hustler  
George Drake and the Commodores feel ready for Tennessee after a week to prepare.

of Tyler Smith and Wayne Chism who are averaging over 30 points, nearly 15 rebounds and five assists per game between them.

Drake reiterated multiple times during the seven days off the Commodores re-committed to their defensive principles, while also recovering from injuries.

"(This week) has been a bit of both, rest and hard work. Some of the players have been banged up," Drake said. "This has been a real good time for us to rest our bodies and get our injuries or whatnot taken care of."

Hopefully for the Commodores, this week off will be the key to redemption against their rival Volunteers.

The game will be televised on Raycom Sports. ■



# friday conversation with NICK CROMYDAS

Interview by MEGHAN ROSE  
Sports Reporter

**Vanderbilt Hustler:** How have you seen the dynamics of the team change over the course of your four years on the team?

**Nick Cromydas:** The difference is remarkable — my first year was a huge transition. The program had two new coaches who believed in leading the team in a way that was foreign to almost all of the returning players. It took a little bit of time for everyone to fully buy into Coach Duvenhage and Boysen's system. We ended up that season ranked 71st in the country. As we grew up a little each year, our results began to improve. My sophomore year we finished No. 36 and lost second round in the NCAA tournament. My junior year we finished No. 25 and lost in the second round again. Our improvement was a function of our faith in the program. I am honored to say that I was here for its transition and am the first four-year player in our coaches' new program.

**VH:** As an impact player for both the singles and doubles contests, would you say that your play differs from one match to the other?

**NC:** Ideally, I would like my singles play to be the same as my doubles play. Coach is always pushing me to play aggressively and that's the type of attitude that has produced the best results in the

past four years. I usually do a better job of keeping to that game plan in doubles, and I would say I enjoy doubles more. There is a lot more energy and it's fun being out there with somebody else. The singles court can be a pretty lonely place if you're not having a great day.

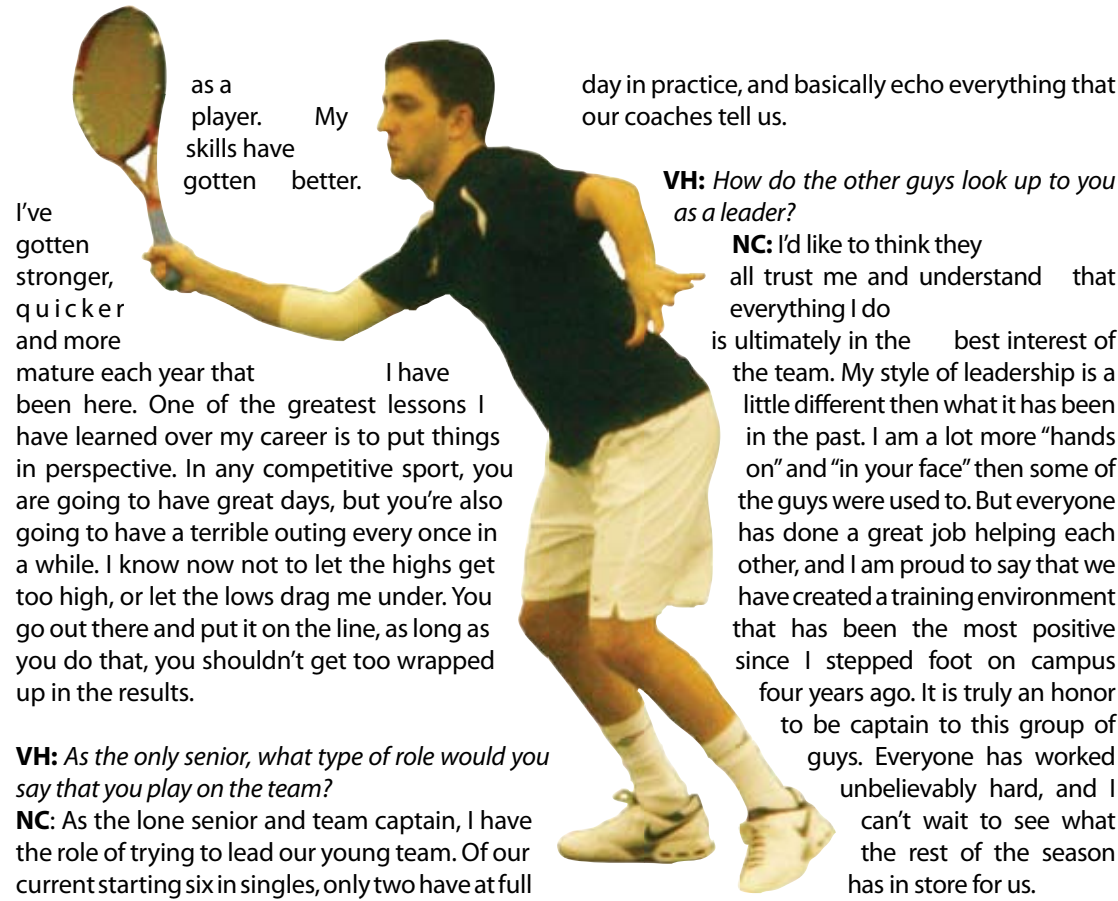
**VH:** Recently, you've been playing doubles with sophomore Bryant Salcedo. How would you say that you complement each other as players on the court?

**NC:** Bryant and I have had an interesting career together so far. Last year we played remarkably well together and had a pretty decent winning streak going for a while. We hit a bit of a rough patch, but we were able to pull it together at the end of the season and beat a top ranked team. This year, things have changed. We're both a year older, a year smarter. We haven't had the greatest start so far, but I feel that things are on the verge of clicking. He was one of the most talented players on our team, and when he's on, I can sit back and let him take over. I would say I bring a little more stability and leadership to our duo. I have a little more experience than Bryant in different situations and it's my job to almost quarterback each situation to help try and put the point on the board.

**VH:** How have you seen yourself grow as a player over the past four years?

**NC:** I feel I have grown in every way possible

Nick Cromydas, the men's tennis team's lone senior, took time to talk to the Vanderbilt Hustler about his role as a leader, his new doubles partner and why going to home tennis matches are awesome. You can read the whole interview by going to InsideVandy.com



I've gotten stronger, quicker and more mature each year that I have been here. One of the greatest lessons I have learned over my career is to put things in perspective. In any competitive sport, you are going to have great days, but you're also going to have a terrible outing every once in a while. I know now not to let the highs get too high, or let the lows drag me under. You go out there and put it on the line, as long as you do that, you shouldn't get too wrapped up in the results.

**VH:** As the only senior, what type of role would you say that you play on the team?

**NC:** As the lone senior and team captain, I have the role of trying to lead our young team. Of our current starting six in singles, only two have at full two years of college match experience. With that said, I try and help everyone adjust and prepare for the different situations that may come up in a season. I also try and keep the energy high each

day in practice, and basically echo everything that our coaches tell us.

**VH:** How do the other guys look up to you as a leader?

**NC:** I'd like to think they all trust me and understand that everything I do is ultimately in the best interest of the team. My style of leadership is a little different than what it has been in the past. I am a lot more "hands on" and "in your face" than some of the guys were used to. But everyone has done a great job helping each other, and I am proud to say that we have created a training environment that has been the most positive since I stepped foot on campus four years ago. It is truly an honor to be captain to this group of guys. Everyone has worked unbelievably hard, and I can't wait to see what the rest of the season has in store for us.

Read the rest at InsideVandy.com. ■  
GUY KOPSOMBUT/The Vanderbilt Hustler

## Vanderbilt routs 9th-ranked Gators



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Hannah Tuomi (15) scored 17 points in Vanderbilt's 84-68 win over Florida Thursday night.

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Editor

Merideth Marsh and the 24th-ranked Commodores made a loud statement to the rest of the Southeastern Conference Thursday night: look out.

Led by Marsh's school record-tying eight 3-pointers, Vanderbilt (19-6, 8-2) trounced No. 9 Florida 84-68 at Memorial Gym for its fifth win in six games. The Commodores remained one game out of first place in the SEC after Auburn defeated Kentucky, but the dominating performance made an impression on the Gators (22-3, 8-2), who had their seven-game winning streak emphatically snapped.

Marsh, a junior, tied the school record previously set by Abi Ramsey in 2005.

"Honestly I didn't even know until I came out of the game," Marsh said. "But yeah, it's nice. Teammates were getting me the ball, and I was feeling it, so I knocked it down."

"She's just really focused right now," said Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb. "She really shot it with confidence."

Vanderbilt never trailed in its second victory over a top-10 school this season; the Commodores defeated then-No. 7 Tennessee on Jan. 11.

Marsh finished with a career-high 26 points on the night. Senior forward Christina Wirth had 20 and sophomore forward Hannah Tuomi added 17.

The Commodores emphasized that their ability to get consistent stops on defense was the key to their offensive efficiency. Vanderbilt held Florida's leading scorer Sha Brooks to just 7 points and also

forced 23 turnovers.

"When we play defense like we played tonight, then they can relax and make those shots," Balcomb said of her sharpshooters. "They're not tight when they know we're going to get stops."

The Commodores scored the game's first 12 points and lead 24-7 before the game was nine minutes old. Marsh and Wirth combined to hit seven 3-pointers in the first half, with Wirth drilling all four she attempted.

A 3-pointer by Wirth put the Commodores up 29-13 before the Gators started clawing back. Vanderbilt's offense began to struggle finding open shots and kept using up all of the shot clock, and Florida went on a 12-2 run to cut the lead to six and entered the half trailing by only eight.

The second half, however, belonged to Vanderbilt entirely. After Florida got within 10, the Commodores outscored the Gators 33-16 over the next 10 minutes to give Vanderbilt its largest lead of the game at 27. Marsh hit four 3-pointers during the run that took the wind out of Florida's sails.

"I think the sign of a mature team is when you can make a run and stop their run before it starts," Wirth said. "At halftime, we just said that they're going to come out fighting and we've got to play even harder and better than we did the first half."

Georgia visits Sunday and Vanderbilt will try to avenge a loss to the Bulldogs back in Jan. 22.

"Obviously this is a very important stretch in our season," Wirth said. "We've got a little revenge game coming for us, so we're excited." ■

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