

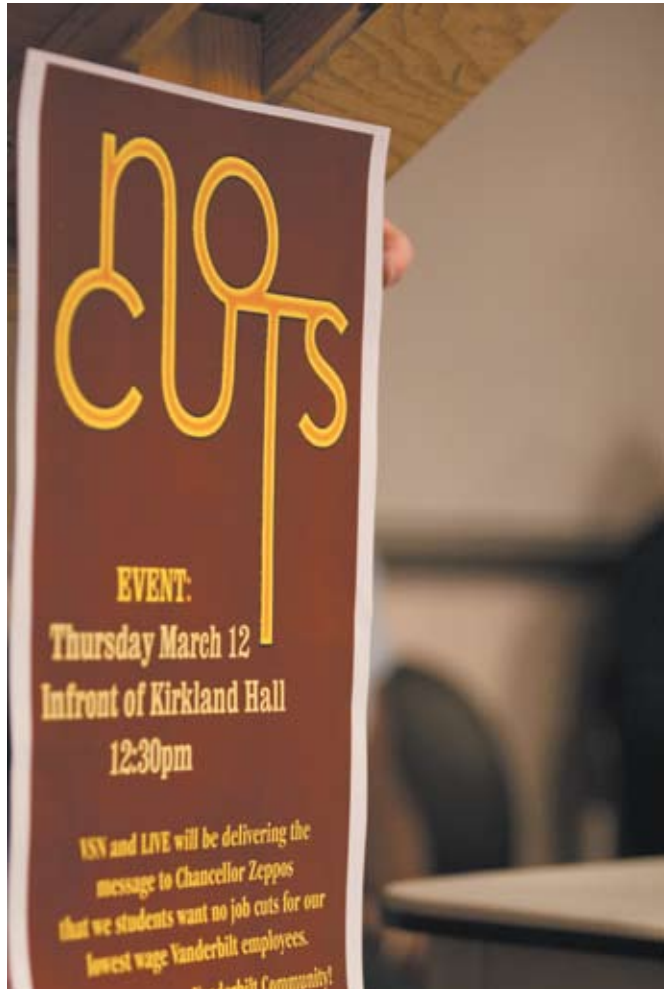


OPINION: Poythress outlines the social nuances of working out at the Student Rec Center. [SEE PAGE 6](#)

SPORTS: Men's basketball falls to Alabama in SEC Tournament, loses chance of making NCAAs. [SEE PAGE 9](#)

LIVE confronts Kirkland

Students to vote for newest YAT



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

LIVE protesters rallied Thursday afternoon in Sarratt 189 to a crowd of students and administrators. Hail and a wintry mix forced part of the event indoors, but the group eventually made their way to Kirkland Hall to deliver its message to Provost Richard McCarty. A Vanderbilt employee presented the letter asking the university to protect its lowest paid workers' salaries.

by **CALLIE JONES**
News Reporter

CHELSEY FELDMAN
News Reporter

Rain, hail and several location changes did not stop the No Cuts rally Thursday afternoon in front of Kirkland Hall.

The protest, sponsored by LIVE, sought to pressure the university to prevent the layoffs of Vanderbilt's lowest paid employees. Due to inclement weather, the first part of the protest was held in Sarratt 189.

"The goal is to reach out to the administration and give them an opportunity to make this a community-wide discussion on how to help the entire Vanderbilt community in these times of economic hardship," said senior Braden Clark.

No Cuts, which is comprised of Living

See Editorial for more information on LIVE's No Cuts campaign.

[See page 4](#)

Income for Vanderbilt Employees and Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence, has taken up the plight of the lowest-wage workers on campus in light of the economy's impact on the university. The rally comes after the organization petitioned and met with students and faculty to examine the situation.

"This rally is a way to come together as a community to express our solidarity with Vanderbilt's lowest wage workers. We want the chancellor to guarantee the job security of those most vulnerable to this devastating economic climate," said senior Eli Peghali, organizer of the organization.

"We are a university and we value our student's input," said Beth Fortune, vice chancellor for public affairs. "It was a completely appropriate, very civil rally. The chancellor will be meeting with several members of the group when his schedule permits as well."

While the administration informed No Cuts that it is working to prevent any layoffs, they have made no guarantees. The campaign asked the administration to



To listen to the full podcast of the No Cuts rally held Thursday afternoon go to www.INSIDEVANDY.com

ensure that workers will not experience any layoffs, cutbacks, hourly reductions or loss of benefits in the next year as Vanderbilt experiences a budget reduction.

The group also requested that Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos take a pay cut if the university is faced to cut jobs. Fortune said the chancellor voluntarily reduced his salary a few months ago, and it will go in affect next year. The chancellor and his family also made a \$1 million donation to the school at the end of last year, she said.

LIVE's call for a pay cut comes just three weeks after the Chronicle of Higher Education examined the salaries of some of the highest paid individuals in higher education. Fortune explained that the figures presented in the article were misleading as they represented

Please see **NO CUTS**, page 3

Albright, Sharansky headline IMPACT

by **SAMANTHA SMITH**
Senior Reporter

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Israeli Legislator Natan Sharansky will be speaking on campus Tuesday and Wednesday for the annual IMPACT Symposium.

Incoming chair of the Vanderbilt Speakers Committee sophomore Theo Samets said students will likely be struck by the two big names, but the committee is also excited about the insight the two individuals bring to the events' theme, "Diplomacy in the New Millennium."

"We chose the theme because with the new administration, it is a topic on a lot of students'

minds. These two speakers were natural choices for the topic, too," Samets said

Albright, who will speak Tuesday, was U.S. Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001. She will likely speak about geopolitics and the current implications of global commerce. She was also the former president for the Center for National Policy and teaches at Georgetown University's School for Foreign Service.

"I think its great that Vanderbilt provides undergraduates the opportunity to hear from people who have shaped the world so significantly," said first-year student Matthew Taylor. "Madeleine Albright

Please see **IMPACT**, page 5



ALBRIGHT



SHARANSKY

by **LAUREN KOENIG**
Senior Reporter

Students of the Classes of 2008 to 2010 will have the chance to decide who will be the next member of the Board of Trust by voting online for the Young Alumni Trustee March 16 to 20.

"While there is no set list of qualifications for a YAT, having a poised, passionate voice for Vanderbilt and an extensive campus involvement are highly emphasized," said Christina Barnes, the student alumni program coordinator. "The YAT is someone with discernment and sound judgment, who can perceive

and articulate the current campus climate."

The YAT is valued for having a different perspective compared to a more experienced member of the board.

"Because the BOT is comprised of so many experienced trustees, they really look to the Young Alumni Trustees to represent the student and young alumni perspective," Barnes said regarding the YAT's potential for influencing major decisions made by the BOT.

After the election next week, one of three seniors — Joseph Williams, Lauren Page Black or Ayo Ositelu — will become the 2009 YAT based on receiving a majority of votes.

LAUREN PAGE BLACK

Black is a neuroscience and chemistry double major who has served as the president of VUcept, an Alternative Spring Break site leader and the service chair and vice president Panhellenic of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Black said she particularly enjoyed helping to shape the first-year experience.

"Through VUcept I have been able to get to know so many people at Vanderbilt, and these interactions have made me so proud of our school," she said.

She said her most rewarding experience as a Vanderbilt student was visiting Uganda with the Kampala Project during the summer of 2008 and working with a nurse and her family at a maternity ward.

"I am so proud to go to a university that realizes the value of this kind of an education (and) encourages you to form real relationships with those you are serving," Black said.

As a YAT, Black hopes to use her skills as a good listener to "actively address the issues" of the Vanderbilt community and to improve the "information exchange between YATs and current Vanderbilt students so that the needs of the student body are known and addressed by the BOT."

After graduation, Black said she is considering a program director position with Manna Project International in Nicaragua, moving to Africa for the year or attending medical school.

AYO OSITELU

Ositelu is a biomedical engineering and mathematics double major. Among the many organizations he has been a part of, he has served as president of the African Students Union, vice president of the Biomedical Engineering Society, regional academic excellence chair for the National Society of Black Engineers and has participated in the Multicultural Leadership Council, Vanderbilt Students Volunteering for Science, the Nashville Adult Literacy Council and Alternative Spring Break. Ositelu has also tutored students at Nashville's Kip Academy and served a brief stint as Vanderbilt's mascot, Mr. C.

Ositelu said he is forever grateful and obliged to live up to this honor. He credits his work with the ASU and MLC as what most allowed him to make an impact on the Vanderbilt community.

"The most rewarding experiencing ... has to be 'Harambee: Celebration of African Cultures,' where the ASU raised \$2,000 for the Kasiisi Project, a non-profit organization aiding the development of elementary schools in rural western Uganda," Ositelu said.

"I would love to be a part of the team of highly motivated individuals that places Vanderbilt University as one of the top 10 research and teaching universities in America while meeting and sustaining Vanderbilt's personal goals and further diversifying our campus," he said.

Ositelu said he is working on finding a job for after graduation.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS

Williams is an economics and political science double major as well as a Managerial Studies: Leadership and Organization minor. Although he has prominently served as Vanderbilt Student Government president, he has also held other leadership positions in VSG. He has been heavily involved in Beta Upsilon Chi/Brothers Under Christ fraternity, VUcept and Campus Crusade for Christ.

Williams said his work in VSG especially allowed him to make an impact on campus, but each organization has contributed to his experience at Vanderbilt.

"Being a part of 15 to 20 first-year students' lives for three years as their VUceptor was just as rewarding as being a part of a fraternity of men who can walk through the ups and downs of life together," he said.

Williams said he is interested in the YAT position because it will help him to give back to the Vanderbilt community.

"I view it simply as an opportunity to continue what I've done in various leadership positions on campus communicating and negotiating for the desires of current Vanderbilt students in the most effective way possible to make Vanderbilt better every day," he said.

After graduation, William plans to be a high school history teacher in the Nashville public schools for two years as a corps member in Teach for America and then attend law school. ■



NEWS INSIDE: Online ballots fall through for Towers suite selections due to technical difficulties. [SEE PAGE 3](#)

WHERE HOME and CAMPUS LIFE COME TOGETHER

NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

WEST END LUXURY APARTMENTS

Just steps away from Vanderbilt University is luxury that you can call home. 20 & Grand offers:

- Spacious one & two bedroom floorplans
- Full-size washer/dryers
- Huge closets
- Dual phone lines & cable-ready outlets
- Reserved covered parking
- State-of-the-art 24-hour fitness facility
- Controlled access entrances & visitor entry system
- Onsite management & 24-hour maintenance

twenty & GRAND

615.327.1377
2000 GRAND AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
INFO@TWENTY-GRAND.COM

West End Ave
21st Ave
19th Ave S
Grand Ave

20 & GRAND

SNAPSHOTS

compiled by CHELSEY FELDMAN

WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

TODAY



HIGH **45**, LOW **39**
Cloudy

SATURDAY



HIGH **52**, LOW **45**
Rain

SUNDAY



HIGH **61**, LOW **41**
Few showers

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

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday and Friday during the academic year except for during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break.

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each.

The Vanderbilt Hustler is a division of Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. Copyright © 2008 Vanderbilt Student Communications.

LOCATION

The Hustler offices are in 130 Sarratt Student Center on the Vanderbilt University Campus. Address postal mail to 2301 Vanderbilt Place, VU Station B 351504, Nashville, Tenn. 37235-1504.

AFFILIATIONS

The Hustler is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers, Southern University Newspapers and the Southeastern Journalism Conference and is an associate member of the Associated Press.

TO ADVERTISE

Display ads: (615) 322-4237 or e-mail advertising@vanderbilthustler.com

Display fax: (615) 322-3762

Office hours are 9 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday — Friday

Visit us online at <http://www.vsc-media.org/advertising.html>

TO REPORT A NEWS ITEM

Campus news: Call 322-2424 or e-mail news@vanderbilthustler.com

Entertainment news: Call 343-0967 or e-mail vibe@vanderbilthustler.com

Sports results: Call 343-0967 or e-mail sports@vanderbilthustler.com

CORRECTIONS

The Hustler strives for accuracy and fairness and will correct errors of substance. See our correction policy on the Opinion page for information about notifying us.

PRINTER

The Hustler is printed at Franklin Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions are available for \$125 per semester or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler. A pdf subscription order form is available at <http://www.vscmedia.org/hustler.html>

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

FRIDAY SPICE

NY assemblyman wants to tax patrons of strip bars to aid trafficking victims

ALBANY, NY (AP)—You might call it a “pole tax.”

The New York legislator who brought the nation its first law against driving while using a cell phone is proposing a \$10 tax for patrons of nude and seminude dance clubs and strip bars.

Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, a Bronx Democrat, says the revenue would go toward helping victims of human trafficking at a time when government budgets are being slashed.

The bill does not have a Senate sponsor yet.

In Texas, state lawyers are fighting to preserve their \$5 “pole tax,” a cover charge on strip clubs, is being challenged by business owners.

The Texas Legislature approved the fee in 2007, hoping to spend the money on sexual assault and health insurance programs, but a judge declared it unconstitutional. The state is appealing.

89-year-old arrested for taking a kid's football drops lawsuit against parents

BLUE ASH, Ohio (AP)—An 89-year-old Ohio woman arrested for refusing to return a neighbor kid's football has dropped her lawsuit against the boy's parents.

Edna Jester's attorney filed to drop the lawsuit on Monday. She had sued her next-door neighbors in December, claiming she suffered emotional distress because footballs and other playthings belonging to them keep landing in her yard in the Cincinnati suburb of Blue Ash.

In October, Jester confiscated the neighbor boy's football and wouldn't give it back. She was taken to a police station charged with petty theft. The prosecutor later dropped the case.

The lawsuit had sought unspecified monetary damages from neighbors Paul and Kelly Tanis. The family could not be reached for comment.

NYC funeral director offers full funeral service as payment for construction

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City funeral director is offering a deal to die for.

Peter Dohanich put an ad on Craigslist seeking a reliable contractor to fix up his apartment in exchange for a full service funeral.

Dohanich, who is licensed in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, says he wants a contractor to build a sitting room off the living room of his ground floor apartment.

In return, Dohanich says he'll provide a full funeral, including cremation or burial, embalming, a coffin, viewing, church service and even a hearse or limo for loved ones.

The 51-year-old Dohanich admits some may view his ad as bizarre, but he says it's savvy, not spooky.

CA appeals court rules contract written, signed in blood is legally unenforceable

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A blood oath isn't good enough for a California appeals court.

The Fourth District Court of Appeal in Santa Ana agreed with a lower court Tuesday when it ruled that a contract written in blood between two Korean businessmen is unenforceable.

In October 2004, Jinsoo Kim and his friend Stephen Son were out drinking at a sushi restaurant and karaoke bar when Son asked the waiter for a safety pin, pricked his finger and wrote the contract on a piece of paper — in blood and in Korean characters.

Under the deal, Son promised to repay Kim roughly \$170,000 for money Kim lost investing in Son's companies.

The translated note read: “Sir, please forgive me. Because of my deeds you have suffered financially. I will repay you to the best of my ability.”

Son later added similar promises to the note in ink, according to court papers. Kim sued his friend in 2006 to collect.

“We conclude the trial court properly decided Kim's lawsuit was based entirely on a gratuitous unenforceable promise,” the appeals court ruled.

Minn. teen gives away thousands in found cash discarded by drug dealer

ROSEMOUNT, Minn. (AP)—A 16-year-old Minnesota boy has given away thousands of dollars to fellow students and a school aide. The bag full of money he found was apparently tossed by a drug dealer.

When asked how he got the \$100 bills, the student first said it was his allowance. He later said he found it in a ditch — and led police to a spot by a highway where they also found marijuana and scales.

The boy, described as learning disabled, gave away about \$11,000 of the nearly \$18,000 in the bag. Law officers collected the money from students and from the school bus aide, who had reported that someone slipped \$1,200 into her bag.

The boy is not expected to face charges. A sheriff's deputy says he's “a good kid” who was trying to help people in need.

NH town elects surveyor as newbie police chief before he attends academy

ASHLAND, N.H. (AP)—The newly elected police chief in one New Hampshire town is eager to get to work, but first he has to graduate from the police academy.

Tony Randall is a licensed surveyor who on Tuesday was elected the top cop in Ashland, a rural community of about 2,000 residents.

He's never worked in law enforcement but says his experience running a business and dealing with people will help him police the town about 40 miles north of Concord. He plans to attend the police academy starting in September and has six months to graduate or town officials will appoint someone else as chief.

Delinquent lawyer taxpayer confronts surprised Philly mayor on TV

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The mayor of Philadelphia drew some special attention when he named three lawyers he said owed more than \$350,000 combined in back taxes, interest and penalties.

Mayor Michael Nutter held a news conference Wednesday on the sidewalk in front of the lawyers' offices, a 2-minute walk from City Hall. He said if they don't pay by April 2 their business assets will be seized and sold by the sheriff.

He seemed surprised when one of the lawyers confronted him.

In front of a camera for WCAU-TV, attorney Robert Gamburg said he was trying to work out a payment plan. He asked Nutter why he and the other two lawyers were being singled out from all the thousands of delinquent taxpayers.

The mayor said to Gamburg, “Pay your taxes and everything will be fine.”

CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

• Dr. Paul Farmer Speaks at Vanderbilt

Dr. Paul Farmer, the co-founder of Partners in Health, will speak at Langford Auditorium at 4 p.m. The presentation is open to undergraduates and medicine students, and admission is free. To attend, RSVP at <http://www.farmeratvanderbilt.googlepages.com>.

• MOSAIC presents Live VU

MOSAIC, along with other organizations, is presenting a show featuring performances by VIBE, Voices of Praise, Rhythm and Roots, Original Cast, Swinging Dore, Vandy Taal, AASA, VAHS, VIDA, MASALA- SACE, Nilaja-Amari and Tongue N Cheek. Live VU starts at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center, and the after party, featuring DJ Rage, starts at midnight in the Board of Trust room.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

• Vanderbilt Undergrad Chinese Association Ping Pong Tournament

Show off your skills or watch friends compete in the tournament, co-sponsored by the AASA and ISSS, at 1 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. Prizes for winners include P.F. Chang's gift cards, sports equipment and more. Registration is free to VUCA members, and nonmembers must pay a small fee at the door. E-mail daniel.g.hwang@vanderbilt.edu for registration information.

• NPHC Step Show

The National Pan-Hellenic Council will perform in their annual step show in Langford Auditorium. The show starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10 at the Sarratt Student Center box office. For \$15, you can gain admission to the after party in the Student Life Center.

SNAPSHOT

PURIM PALOOZA



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior Max Housman and senior Gian Rossi of the Vanderbilt Juggling and Physical Arts Club juggle clubs during the carnival hosted by Chabad to celebrate the Jewish holiday. Various carnival-like attractions crowded Alumni Lawn Tuesday afternoon for the event.



Visit the Commodore Yearbook table At 2009 Grad Fair Wed. 3/18 & Thurs. 3/19 Sarratt Promenade

Any undergrad who has had his/her yearbook portrait taken for the 2009 Commodore is eligible. No purchase necessary.

No portrait yet? No problem: Last chance for yearbook portraits is at Grad Fair. No appointment necessary for seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen.

www.VanderbiltCommodore.com

Online Towers ballots cancelled

by KELLY JONES
Senior Reporter

The first attempt to offer online ballots for Carmichael Towers Suite selections was cancelled by Vanderbilt Student Government and the Office of Housing and Residential Education due to technological complications. Students will still have to apply by paper ballots.

A number of issues contributed to the decision to postpone online submissions. "The system must be designed to allow only students who have registered for housing and have not yet taken a room to be on a ballot. The system has to provide a mechanism for informing students that their name has been placed on a ballot and for them to accept or decline their place on the

ballot," said Director of Housing Assignments Jason Jakubowski. "If someone declines, the ballot must be voided, and everyone on the ballot informed of that fact so that they can put together a new ballot."

Because the online system lacked these necessary abilities, OHARE was forced to cancel its plan. OHARE had planned on starting their initiative to offer all ballots online by starting with Towers.

"In working with our developers on this project, we decided that we would pilot online ballots with just one kind of accommodation," Jakubowski said. "We selected suites because we wanted the biggest return on our initial investment of planning and programming."

Although Towers ballots will no longer be available

online, Jakubowski said he does not believe this will affect the number of students who apply for suites due to the attractiveness and popularity of the living area.

"We anticipate that the competition for suites will be as competitive as ever," Jakubowski said. Although the process was not implemented for this selection process, OHARE plans to have ballots for all housing options online for the 2010-2011 selection process.

Jakubowski stressed the efficiency and convenience of online ballots.

"The less the process distracts students from their studies and activities, the better," Jakubowski said.

Completed Towers ballots must be returned to the Office of Residential Education on Monday by 4:30 p.m. ■

NO CUTS: LIVE optimistic

From NO CUTS, page 1

benefit packages. Nonetheless, Vanderbilt employees made the list four times, more than any other university on the list.

"Vanderbilt is a large, complex institution," Fortune said. "We pride ourselves on leaders that are very knowledgeable and that are very skilled and — frankly — in demand in other places." Fortune said she does not know of any other administrators who have taken pay cuts, but did not rule out the possibility.

In the last few weeks, over 800 students, faculty and staff have signed a petition asking the administration to ensure

the job security of workers. The petition was handed to Zeppos on Thursday.

"Our position is shared by the vast majority of the Vanderbilt community because it is congruent with the values that make this university so special. What we are calling for is a proactive expression of the Community Creed, a deeply felt concern for the well-being and dignity of others," Feghali said.

Some Vanderbilt workers were also optimistic about the rally.

Vanderbilt custodian Dewayne Arbogast agreed that the prospect of layoffs is one that demands attention.

"Any layoffs would be devastating because there are simply no more jobs in this community. People would be in a situation where they would lose everything," Arbogast said.

The group was optimistic about the rally and for their cause.

"A community does not have expendable or replaceable parts. A community looks out for its own in times of hardship," said sophomore Benjamin Eagles. "In this spirit, we wish to promote a message of shared sacrifice and solidarity with the workers."

The second part of the rally took place in front of Kirkland Hall on Thursday. ■

Office of Housing Assignments

Important Information

Carmichael Tower Suites ballots due March 16

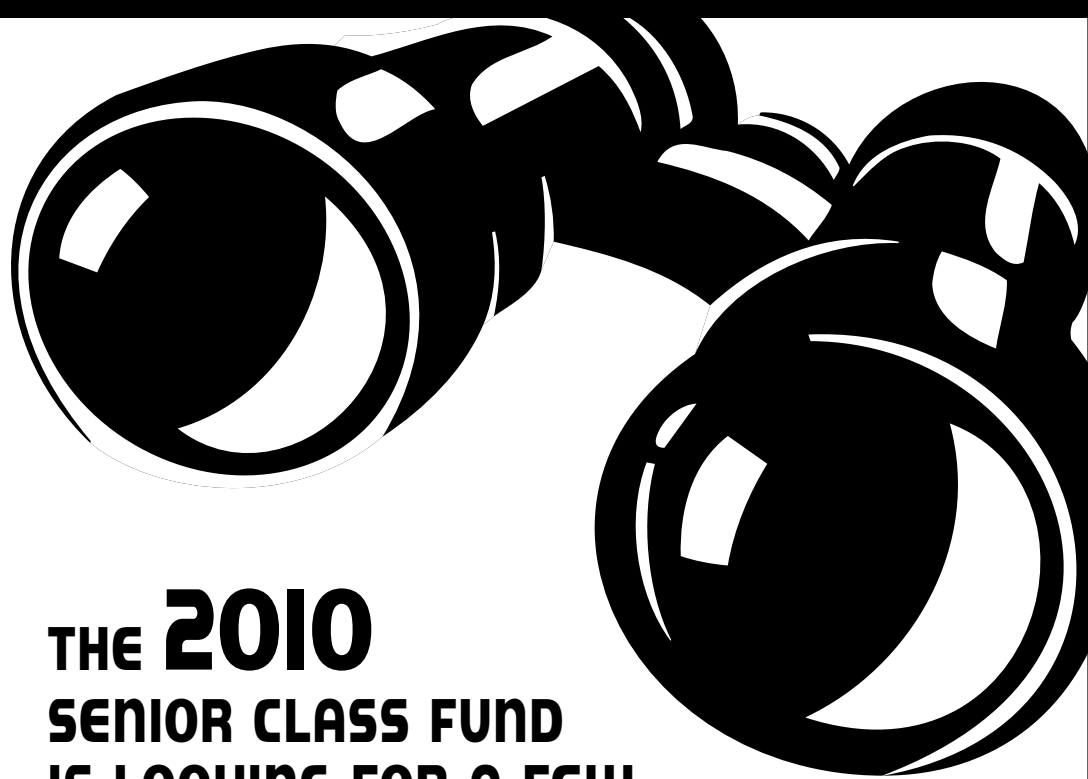
Carmichael Tower Suite Ballots will not be on-line for the 2009-2010 Housing Selection Process. Instead, paper ballots for Carmichael Tower Suites may be picked up in the Office of Housing Assignments (4113 Branscomb Quadrangle) starting on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Completed and signed ballots are due back to the office on Monday, March 16, 2009 by 4:30 pm.

Due to technological complications, the Office of Housing Assignments has made the decision to postpone the web based Carmichael Towers Suite housing ballot pilot project for the 2009-2010 Housing Selection Process. Students who are interested in competing for Towers Suite must pick up the paper ballot (white ballot) for CT suites starting on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 8:00 am. Completed CT suite ballots are due to the Office of Housing Assignments on Monday, March 16th, 2009 by 4:30 pm. The selection order for CT suites will be posted on our website (web) on Tuesday, March 17th by 5:00pm and the selection event will take place on Wednesday, March 18th from 1PM – 6 PM in the Branscomb Recreation Room.

The Office of Housing Assignments is committed to improving the housing selection process for our students. The web-based ballot project will continue to be further developed and explored with VSG and it is our hope to have this initiative completed for 2010-2011 selection process.

Office of Housing and Residential Education
4113 Branscomb Quadrangle
Phone: (615) 322-2591
Website: www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



THE 2010 SENIOR CLASS FUND IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD COMMODORES.



- ★ Leadership qualities
- ★ Communication skills
- ★ Organizational ability

If you're a rising senior with the right stuff, apply to be a Senior Class Fund officer. You'll be leading next year's campaign for the Class of 2010's parting gift to Vanderbilt.

Visit vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund to apply. Applications are due by March 31.

QUESTIONS?

- ★ e-mail seniorclassfund@vanderbilt.edu
- or
- ★ check out the FAQs on our Web site

VANDERBILT THE FUND

2010 SENIOR CLASS FUND

CABANA

St. Patrick Day Kick off Party for Vandy Cabana Card!

Get discounts right away...

- (March 17th Specials)
- Free Soda with Food Purchase
- \$1 Bud & Budlight Bottles
- \$2 Drafts
- \$3 Stoli Strawberry Martini
- \$4 Don Eduardo Tequila Shots

Come by between 6 and 10 pm on March 17th to get your Cabana Card for discounts and to earn points toward prizes at Cabana!

Updated weekly specials to your email.

Bring your Vandy Id to register.

Check out details at clubcabananashville.com/vandy

Thrifting

1) *n.* a philosophy

that celebrates the recycling of formerly-owned items;

2) *adj.* finding new use and new love

for vintage material goods which have been donated;

3) *n.* the thrill of finding a whole, new outfit for only \$15,

allowing Vanderbilt students to have

more money in their pockets.

For store locations, visit giveit2goodwill.org



Sophomores stress over Arts and Science writing requirement

by JOSLIN WOODS
Senior Reporter

Sophomores in the College of Arts and Science had difficulty enrolling in 100-level writing courses this semester, leading to discussion of changes for next semester. A notable minority of students was not able to enroll in its first choice of classes and some students faced limited options due to a lack of offerings for particular time periods, Director of Undergraduate Studies Mark Schoenfield said.

"The problem of the time period has always been there, but anecdotally, I feel like we got more complaints this year," Schoenfield said.

Part of the Arts and Science AXLE writing curriculum requires that all sophomores complete one 100-level writing course in any department before the end of their sophomore year. Schoenfield said the administration and Vanderbilt Student Government are taking proactive steps in order to prevent conflict in future semesters for sophomores trying to complete their writing requirement.

Many sophomores agreed the course enrollment process became more stressful and time-consuming in order to find a writing course to fit with their schedules, especially if their class was cancelled or if they were bumped.

"I spent a lot of time during finals when I should have been studying searching for W classes on OASIS. It caused me a lot of extra stress I didn't need when I was worried about studying and making good grades on my finals," said sophomore Brittany

Benedetti.

Sophomore Chris Atkins faced a similar problem, and his schedule would only allow him to choose from two different 100-level writing courses to fulfill his requirement, none of which were his first choice.

"I got into the one I wanted, but I didn't get in until late so I missed a couple days of class, and I had to e-mail the teacher myself. It was a lot more complicated than it ever should have been, especially for a writing class that every sophomore has to take," he said.

Mid-way through this semester, Schoenfield e-mailed a survey to all students currently enrolled in a 100-level writing course in order to get an idea of what happened to students when they tried to register and if they got into their desired writing class.

"The purpose (of the survey) was to have a better understanding of the process by which students are getting into W courses and then to deduce how we could make that process a smoother and more efficient one for the students," Schoenfield said.

According to Schoenfield's preliminary survey analysis, although the majority of students who responded did get into their first choice, a large minority did not.

"We know that most people did get into their first choice, but I would like to see that number higher than what we have now," Schoenfield said.

This semester, there are 73 100-level W courses offered for students trying to fulfill that portion of the AXLE writing requirement, and Schoenfield said this number may increase

in future semesters.

"Looking at this survey, it looks like we need more sections, but that is only based on current enrollment," Schoenfield said.

VSG President-elect Wyatt Smith pledged to make improvements in the writing course enrollment process because he said it is important for students to have as many options available to them as possible and to have the ability to pursue courses they are really interested in, not only in the English department. Smith said he has already begun working towards his writing-course platform.

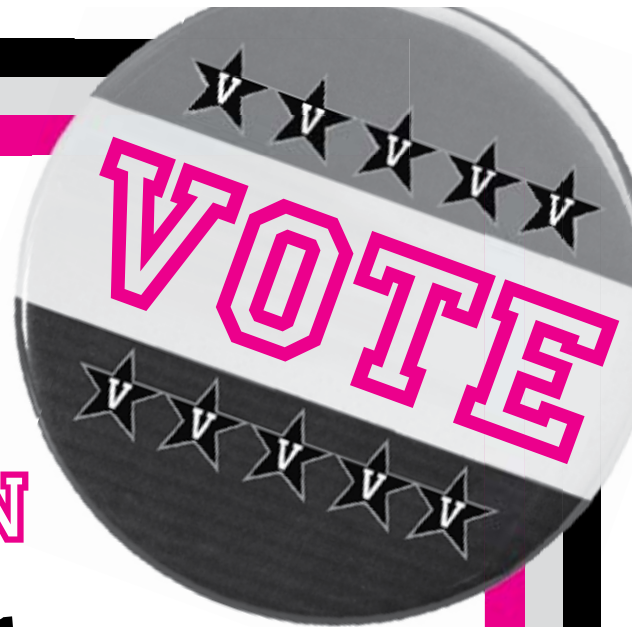
"It is a very workable issue and they are open to working on it. But a lot of the control is held within the actual department within the (College of) Arts and Science," Smith said. "It comes down more to faculty being able to fulfill the adoption process for W courses."

Smith said VSG is currently working on a two-prong process in order to alleviate the W course issue, which includes working with the provost office to ensure that OASIS does not get overloaded so students are able to access the system and working directly with directors of undergraduate studies to encourage professors to go through the W course enrollment process, especially for those who are already fulfilling the requirements of writing 20 pages and a writing review process.

"I encourage students to contact professors they are close to or whose classes they have enjoyed to improve academic services by making more courses count for W credit," Smith said. ■

2009

YOUNG ALUMNI TRUSTEE ELECTION



Juniors & Seniors

Choose your voice on the Vanderbilt Board of Trust!

Vote to elect the Board's next Young Alumni Trustee — a graduating Senior with:

- A Poised, Passionate voice for VU
- Well-Rounded Campus Involvement

The 2009 Young Alumni Trustee Slate

Lauren Page Black
Ayo Ositelu
Joseph Williams

Be on the lookout for information about your chance to vote!

Voting will be held online March 16th-20th

Vote through the facebook event :
"2009 Young Alumni Trustee Election"

contact Christina Barnes from the Alumni Association
for more info:
christina.m.barnes@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt sends police to 100 Oaks shopping center

by CHELSEY FELDMAN
News Reporter

The Vanderbilt Medical Center recently expanded its clinics into the 100 Oaks outdoor shopping center in South Nashville, bringing with it thousands of new patrons and workers to the center. The Vanderbilt community views the new expansion of the medical center as a satellite of the Vanderbilt campus, and the university has therefore assumed the responsibility of security in the area.

Now, rather than having local mall security, the Vanderbilt University Police Department provides constant armed patrol of the area to ensure the safety of their patients and other members of

the Nashville community. Not only has the clinic benefited from increased security, but local merchants have also noticed a drastic difference in the atmosphere. In addition to watching the medical center, the VUPD also patrols the parking lot and periodically enters shops to check the area for danger.

"They're right here and come really fast," said storeowner Ronald Gooch in an interview with Nashville's NewsChannel 5.

Now that there are police officers in the area at all times with arrest powers some security guards lack, response times for local crime are drastically lower.

VUPD has arrested one store employee for stealing funds

and issued 29 misdemeanor citations for shoplifting. Additionally, five traffic citations were issued, mostly for failure to stop at a stop sign.

Although VUPD has yet to face serious felonies, mall patrons are reassured by their presence.

"I noticed right away when I came in," said shopper Mary Diehl to NewsChannel 5. "I saw Vanderbilt patrols out there (that) I hadn't noticed before."

Vanderbilt officers hope to offer more security in the 100 Oaks shopping center, including parking lot safety and self-defense classes. They also hope to expand their forces in the area to include bicycle cops. ■

IMPACT: Speakers' views balanced

From NO CUTS, page 1

was a leader in the Clinton administration during a time of economic prosperity. Maybe she can help lead us through this hard time."

Samets admits most students probably do not know the other headlining speaker, Sharansky, who will speak Wednesday, but said he hopes students will come to the symposium both nights anyway.

"Sharansky will provide a good balance as a major figure in the neo-conservative movement, but what is also interesting about him is the fact that he spent 13 years as a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union, unwilling to renounce his Jewish faith. He is the Soviet dissident," Samets said.

Sharansky was also a former

member of the Israeli legislature, the Knesset, and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Freedom. Sharansky graduated from the Physical Technical Institute in Moscow with a degree in computer science. He later became the spokesperson for the Helsinki Movement, the oldest functioning human rights organization in Russia, according to a recent press release.

He immigrated to Israel after nine years of imprisonment for allegedly collaborating with the CIA. He has written a memoir titled "Fear No Evil." He will be speaking about the spread of democracy and struggles for human rights.

Tickets are on sale now and are free to Vanderbilt students with ID, but \$5 for other area

students and \$10 for the general public. According to Sarratt Ticket Office, half of the tickets have already been sold. Albright will speak Tuesday and Sharansky on Wednesday, both beginning at 7 p.m. Both talks will be held in Langford Auditorium and a book signing will precede each event from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

IMPACT, which began in 1964, is one of the oldest university lectures series of its kind. Former speakers have included former Presidents George H.W. Bush, Robert Kennedy, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. ■

—Sydney Wilmer contributed reporting to this article.

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

THE NEW SCHOOL OF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

INTRODUCES THE

CERTIFICATE IN ACCOUNTANCY PROGRAM

This summer you can:

- Fulfill the accounting education requirements to sit for the CPA exam
- Satisfy leveling requirements for a Master of Accountancy program

Apply today and prepare to enter one of the fastest growing career markets.

Courses begin May 26, 2009

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon

Tuition and books: \$9,960

Individual courses: \$1,245 - \$1,660

Apply before April 15, 2009

for a 10% discount



APPLY TODAY AT

cap.lipscomb.edu

615.966.5951

Graduating Seniors, don't forget to stop by the

2009 Grad Fair

Wednesday, March 18, 10am-3pm

Thursday, March 19, 10am-3pm

In the Sarratt Promenade!!

- Snag your gift from the VU Alumni Association
- Talk with the **Career Center**, find out about volunteering with **Admissions**, get your picture taken for the **Yearbook**, donate to the **Senior Class Fund**, browse the **Bookstore** graduation goods, get info on **Class Rings**, **Commencement** and more!
- Get plugged into your **VU alumni chapter network** in your new city!
 - Enjoy refreshments and fun!

For more information contact Christina Barnes: christina.m.barnes@vanderbilt.edu

Sponsored by your **VU Alumni Association!**

OPINION

SYDNEY WILMER
Editor-in-Chief

EVE ATTERMANN
Managing Editor

BEN GOTOW
Online Editor

HANNAH TWILLMAN
News Editorial Board

NORAH SCANLAN
News Editorial Board

THOMAS SHATTUCK
Opinion Editor

DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

The Vanderbilt Hustler EDITORIAL BOARD

Surviving the rec center



JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

There are certain locations that, even for an eight-month freshman, are easily identifiable as social centers. For those of you who are intimidated by such venues or just ignorant of the people around you, I'd like to give you a guide related to the social norms and expectations associated with these hotspots.

The first one is the Rec Center. Now pretty much everyone I know of likes the idea of working out — just thinking about exercising makes us feel healthy and responsible. However, there is a much smaller set of people who enjoy working out, or for that matter, who actually follow up on the idea.

Unless you're one of the freaks who goes to the gym at least five times a week, carries around an exercise notepad to record and ponder his experience, and drinks a protein shake before and after, it can be extremely difficult to motivate yourself. By the way, the first rule of this social forum is to completely avoid these people and refrain from commenting on or ridiculing their gym diary; it tends to be a very sensitive subject.

So what is acceptable Rec Center socialization? Well, to be honest, not much. People are expected to conduct their interactions with minimal physical contact because everyone wears grungy workout garb and tends to be very sweaty. In fact, some people actually just wear the same outfit every day. On top of this, extraneous chatter with people you are not actually working out with is typically frowned upon. This doesn't rule out a friendly "hello," but these acquaintances are there to exercise and avoid chitchat. Why do you think they put their iPod on in the first place?

If you think the rule of limited socializing applies inside the gym, multiply that by 10 once inside the locker room. As far as I know, girls may be having social therapy sessions inside their locker room, but for guys, if you go as far as washing your hands next to another man, you're getting a little too friendly.

Another unique aspect of the Rec's social dynamic is the "spot." The spot request is not a necessity, but it does provide a sense of comfort and security if lifting heavy weights. The "spottee," however, will not ask just anyone for a spot. You need to look like you know what you're doing and work out on a semi-regular basis yourself. I myself received my first stranger spot-request just three months ago. On the flip side, you are never permitted to refuse a spot. Try this out next time you're at the gym, even if you're just about to use a treadmill. Once you ask for a spot, I guarantee you the spotter will at least hover awkwardly behind you for several moments before giving you an encouraging pat and leaving. There is also the understanding that, in a stranger spot, you will only be asked to spot for one set, after which the "spottee" must find another helper.

One final word of warning on the Rec: Though it might seem like a great place for everyone just to be healthy, the crowd here consists primarily of people who are already in ridiculously good shape and will make you feel unworthy to be using the same equipment.

— Justin Poythress is a senior in Peabody College. He can be reached at j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

LIVE tries new tactics

On Thursday afternoon, Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees protested possible wage or hourly cuts affecting the lowest paid staff at Vanderbilt. "The cut is going to affect all of us," said Jessie Grant, a housekeeper from Towers 3. LIVE made it clear that these cuts would not only hurt those it targeted but the strength of the Vanderbilt community as a whole.

LIVE's tactics for this particular protest were acceptable on all accounts. The group warned administrators beforehand and were respectful in the way they both delivered a hand-written message and series of speeches. Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs Beth Fortune praised the group and described the event as completely "appropriate." But it is important to remember that while student activism is welcomed on Vanderbilt's campus, and should be pursued as much as possible, there is a fine line between being collaborative and confrontational.

Two years ago, the Living Wage campaign encountered obstacles from administrators when it stormed a Board of Trustees committee meeting. Though the event took place after over a semester of friendly rallies and their motives were admirable, their methods alienated instead of allied themselves with administrators.

"Those who do their homework, create a base of student support and start building coalitions — those have been the ones that make the most

impact," said former Chancellor Gordon Gee in early 2007. Gee went on to say that he wouldn't do anything with a gun pointed to his head, and it seems logical that Zeppos feels similarly. Perhaps though, Gee's best advice was for organizations to be both tenacious and inclusive.

While Gee spoke of a young SPEAR and even younger LIVE, the situation has not changed so much that this advice is irrelevant. Noble goals and visible protests do not necessarily lead to success, especially considering the difficulties. All parties involved will have to rely on patience and open lines of communication.

While putting pressure on the administration using public media outlets like Fox News can be effective in the short-term, the university's economic setbacks pose a larger, long-term problem. Sure Zeppos might feel the pinch, but his motivation will be short-lived. Developing a plan for budgetary allocations and recommendations for cost-cutting outside of decreasing staff wages would serve both the staff and the administration better.

Zeppos plans to meet with students involved in No Cuts in a few weeks. When he does, members should consider — as they likely have — that the most effective way to get their message across is to know the facts and be open to suggestions. But perhaps more important than that is to remain persistent.

Another academic option

AKSHITKUMAR MISTRY

Guest Columnist

The Hustler recently announced that the early decision Class of 2013 is the most competitive ever. If I were a high school senior, around this time, I would be thrilled upon receiving an acceptance letter from Vanderbilt. To attend one of the nation's best universities — and leave it virtually debt free — and to do it in one of the worst economic periods, yes, I would be going nuts!

The expanded aid program is just the perfect move by Vanderbilt to help students reduce economic burdens in the current times of hardship. The entering Class of 2013 will be a fortunate class to have all their need-based student loans replaced with Vanderbilt grants and scholarships in all its four years. Pause and think for a moment of this immensity.

In light of the economic stress students in the U.S. face, early in February Sen. Lamar Alexander, former governor of Tennessee and former Secretary of Education, urged universities to reduce tuition. To deal with the rising cost of higher education, he suggested community colleges be tuition free and colleges offer students the option of a three-year bachelor's degree. While our institution is already one step ahead of Sen. Alexander, we should focus more on his latter proposal.

It is an innovative idea well-suited to meet the demands of the exponentially increasing amount of knowledge and the current economic crisis. Let's face it — we can't learn it all. I remember enrolling in a course called Bangladesh: History and Identity at my previous institution. I don't remember over 90 percent of its material, but I was required to take it or another such history course. My time and money were spent on 24 such course credits — nearly a year's worth — in fields neither interesting to me nor necessary for my career, yet required to graduate, was not worthwhile.

Instead, in a three-year program, students would prepare for their chosen careers. They will acquire the knowledge they need to begin their careers together with lifelong learning skills, such as writing, verbal reasoning, research methods, data analysis and accessing resources and relevant information, to help them manage the vast body of knowledge in their fields.

Because the program will be focused and geared toward their interested careers, students will find it attractive, more enjoyable and high quality. More importantly, in the highly competitive job market, it will improve their chances of beginning a successful career early.

The time it takes to start a career has grown, requiring one to overcome more and more hurdles. To practice medicine independently, for example, requires eight to 12 years after college, with residencies and fellowships taking four to eight years after medical school. Astonishingly, to become an assistant professor takes a similar number of years after college. One has to wiggle through internships and post-doctoral years before they are competitive to apply for a position. In many science-orientated academic careers, one begins earning the expected salary right before the age of 40, when life is half over. For many, this means late retirement.

The option of a three-year bachelor's degree is a solution worth pursuing. Not only will it save Vanderbilt (and other colleges) money, but its graduates will enjoy a better quality of education, an early lead in the competitive job market and successful careers. Think about it — it's not too good to be true.

— Akshittkumar Mistry is a second year student in the Medical School. He can be reached at akshittkumar.m.mistry@vanderbilt.edu.

Welcome back, stem cell research



AIMEE SOBHANI
Columnist

Scientists have been stuck in a bit of a dark period thanks to the ban on the use of federal dollars to conduct research on human embryonic stem cells. After eight long years, scientists can finally get back to the business of conducting lifesaving research thanks to President Barack Obama's executive order reversing the ban.

The executive order, which the Obama administration released last Monday, revokes a policy implemented in 2001 by the Bush administration that limited federal funding on stem cell research on the basis that such research resulted in the "destruction of human life." Harvesting embryonic stem cells (which have the unique capacity to differentiate into several kinds of cells) results in the destruction of human embryos, and the administration could not justify the "deaths" of these embryos — despite the fact that some of these embryos would eventually be disposed of once their period of usefulness expired.

In other words, this policy represented an extreme form of the pro-life argument. Apparently, the destruction of human embryos solely created for research purposes is too much of a burden on some people's consciences. I'm not a follower of utilitarianism, but it seems justifiable to destroy one little bundle of cells for research that could potentially improve or even save the lives of thousands of people.

I guess this thought occurred to Obama as well, and lo and behold, scientists dependent on federal funding are now free to pursue potential cures for Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and even cancer. Of course, with the current economic situation, it seems unlikely that giving extensive funding to stem cell research is a top government priority at the moment, but once the financial crisis is over, the scientific community can expect to receive enough money to conduct its vital research.

Obama's executive order is something about which people with vastly different political beliefs can get excited. For example, Sen. John McCain actually supports stem cell research. While staunchly anti-abortion people may never come around to the idea of stem cell research, the medical breakthroughs that will hopefully occur as a result of the research will benefit large segments of the population, no matter what beliefs they hold.

Looking at the bigger picture, this change in policy represents a triumph over the belief that government has the right to ban something on the grounds that it is inherently "immoral." Bush's argument against the research rested solely on a moral foundation. Don't get me wrong — it is completely necessary to consider moral problems when thinking about scientific research. There are some pretty obvious immoral uses of science, such as creating clones to be our personal slaves or to serve as lab rats. On the other hand, it is much more difficult to make an argument against stem cell research on moral grounds.

While morality and ethics have their place in the realm of scientific research, does the government really have the right to decide what is moral? If you answer "yes" to this question, I wonder what your position is toward repressive, undemocratic governments in other parts of the world. I doubt you believe these governments' attempts to impose "morality" on their citizens are justified. Moral standards are relative, and government cannot treat them as absolute truths that must be followed at all costs.

My point is, there are some areas where so-called moral questions need to be pushed aside, and stem cell research is definitely one of these areas. The possible benefits from this research are staggering, and it's good news for everyone that scientists now have a much easier time of pursuing them.

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

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

"Ah, so Crist does have a first name after all. I thought someone was just spelling Christ wrong."

"Dear girls in my hall who don't wash their hands after using the toilet — ew."

"People need to learn how to properly use listservs. I'm tired of my inbox being full of incompetence."

"Someone needs to explain to me how the temperature can go from 80 degrees to 40 degrees in one day."

"Grins needs to make extra food on Monday nights so there will be food left for all of the people who don't congregate there right after sorority meetings."

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 hustler.newseditor@gmail.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

SPORTS

COLUMN

Commodores win the SEC title in their way

by DAN RYAN
Sports Reporter

It certainly wasn't the easy way for the Commodores to win their sixth Southeastern Conference Tournament championship, but it was their way. After struggling away from Memorial Gym during the regular season and playing without sophomore forward Hannah Tuomi, the team's best rebounder and second leading scorer, the Commodores still ensured that their streak of nine consecutive appearances in the NCAA women's basketball tournament would remain intact.

Factor in that the Commodores faced three of the SEC's top teams in seventh-seeded Georgia, third-seeded LSU and regular season champion Auburn on their way to this year's SEC Championship, coach Melanie Balcomb's third since coming to Nashville in 2002, and the victory becomes even more impressive. This was the second time Vanderbilt defeated Auburn in 2009. Two of Auburn's three total losses this season came at the hands of the Commodores; the Tigers went 29-1 against everyone else they played this season.

Vanderbilt also benefited from outstanding performances from their upperclassmen. Senior Christina Wirth led the Commodores in scoring in each of their three games as she earned tournament MVP honors. Fellow senior



Christina Wirth holds the SEC Tournament championship trophy as the Commodores celebrate after beating Auburn on March 8. It was Vanderbilt's third title since 2004.

Jen Risper also contributed mightily in Vanderbilt's run to the title, scoring 12 points and playing 38 minutes in the final on her way to being named to the

All-Tournament team.

Junior Merideth Marsh continued her long-range assault on SEC foes, including a dagger in the second half

of the championship game against Auburn after the Tigers had trimmed the Vanderbilt lead to three. Both Wirth and Marsh played in every minute of

the tournament for the Commodores.

While Vanderbilt certainly possesses enough offensive firepower to hang with any team in the league, it was their defense that set them apart and allowed them to cut down the nets in Little Rock. Named the SEC Defensive Player of the Year, Risper proved deserving of the honors as she shut down SEC Player of the Year DeWanna Bonner of Auburn, holding the 6-foot-4-inch guard to just nine points in the championship game, far below her season average.

Perhaps the most impressive part of this year's tournament title is that it marks the third time Vanderbilt has brought home SEC hardware since 2004. Balcomb inherited a healthy program when she arrived, but the strides that have been made in terms of SEC titles and NCAA Tournament runs are staggering. Only Tennessee has won more SEC Tournament games and championships than the Commodores, who now post a record of 40-24 in SEC Tournament games and own six Tournament championship trophies.

With all these things considered, it becomes readily apparent this team is willing and able to make some noise in the NCAA Tournament beginning March 21. Vanderbilt is peaking at an ideal time and would have to be considered "en fuego" as they prepare for the Big Dance. ■

Despite small size, Risper delivers at post position

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

Senior Jen Risper knows she's not the typical size for a post player. The 5-foot-8-inch senior and Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year welcomes the challenge, however, of defending larger opponents.

"I just feel like I have a lot to prove at times because I am smaller," Risper said. "I know now I'm playing post. I definitely embrace it."

With sophomore forward Hannah Tuomi, the team's leading rebounder during the regular season, sidelined with a stress fracture, Risper was called upon to fill her role.

She responded with a string of sensational performances in the SEC Tournament, averaging 7.7 rebounds and two steals per game, tops on the team. She was rewarded with a selection to the All-Tournament squad.

Also, Risper's tenacious defense in the SEC Tournament championship on Auburn's DeWanna Bonner was key to Vanderbilt's triumph, as Bonner was held to just nine points, far

below her season average of 21. The Tigers were held to a season-low 54 points in the game.

"That makes me so excited," Risper said of the shutdown performance. "It's just not just for me. It's for Hannah, because she's not out there right now."

With the NCAA Tournament approaching, Risper is aware any game could be the last for her and her fellow seniors Christina Wirth and Amy Malo. She's doing her best, however, to have a focused mentality and live in the moment.

"One of our coaches told me that you can't have fear, not even a pinch of it, because it will paralyze you," Risper said. "That's kind of been my motto for the rest of the season is just be (to) fearless, don't hold back."

Back to work

The SEC Tournament champion Commodores got a few well-deserved days off before returning to practice Thursday as they prepare for the NCAA Tournament starting next weekend. Depending on when Vanderbilt's first-round game will be, the Commodores could have a break period of up to two

weeks between games.

Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb has experienced this layoff before.

"Sometimes it hinders your momentum," Balcomb said. "Now (the players) are in school, and it gives us a good time to get ready mentally for academics to get some stuff done because I know they have a lot of tests and projects this week, as well as physically because you're beat up, you're sore. It gives you some time to recover."

Risper recalls the last two years as being examples of a long break period being a blessing and a curse. Two years ago, Vanderbilt rode an SEC tournament championship to a No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament but was shocked in the second round. Last year though, the Commodores got to the Sweet 16.

"When I was a sophomore, it definitely felt like we kind of lost momentum. Then last year we had a break and we did great in the NCAA Tournament," Risper said. "This year I think it's going to be a good thing just because you get to rest your body and kind of step away a little bit and

heal up and come back together. I think we'll be fine."

Commodores await their seeding

Unlike Selection Sunday, women's basketball teams go through Selection Monday. Vanderbilt will hold a viewing party at Memorial Gym Monday night when the team will learn of its seeding and first-round match-up.

"We're excited," Balcomb said. "We'll just be watching and having a good meal together and enjoying it together as a team."

Vanderbilt, sporting a 24-8 record, has compiled a resume that includes a 4-0 record against top-10 opponents, but also several tough losses, including road defeats to Kentucky, Georgia, Ole Miss and Michigan, none of whom are likely to make the field of 65.

ESPN's latest edition of "Bracketology" pegs the Commodores as a No. 4 seed.

"We missed some opportunities earlier in the year and had some bad losses, which happens," Risper said. "We might not get a higher seed but it's ok." ■



Jen Risper defends Auburn's DeWanna Bonner (24) in the SEC championship game on March 8. Risper, the SEC Defensive Player of the Year, and the Commodores held Bonner to nine points.

Freshman Gibbs makes an impact

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Reporter

As the No. 22 Vanderbilt Commodores celebrated their sixth Southeastern Conference Tournament championship on Sunday night with a 61-54 victory over No. 6 Auburn, freshman guard Tia Gibbs acknowledged that there is still much to be done.

"We're hungry for the (NCAA) tournament," she said. "Winning the SEC is a big accomplishment, but it's not all that we want."

Gibbs is one who should know about big accomplishments, having been named Kentucky's Miss Basketball at the culmination of her career as a five-year starter for Butler Traditional High School in Louisville, Ky. As the school's career scoring leader, the 5-foot-

9-inch Gibbs came to Vanderbilt with great hype and quickly worked her way into the rotation of coach Melanie Balcomb's four-guard lineup.

But even she admits she was not completely prepared for the grind of the SEC Tournament.

"I knew we had three games back-to-back, and my body was way more tired than I thought it would be," she said. "No one's body felt good, so it was who had more heart who would win the game."

Having averaged about 11 minutes per game during the regular season, no one can fault Gibbs for being sore, as she played an average of 26 minutes in each of the Commodores' three consecutive victories in the tournament.

But despite the



Tia Gibbs defends LSU's Courtney Jones (22) in the SEC Tournament semifinal. Gibbs has earned significant playing time for Vandy despite being a freshman.

grueling nature of back-to-back-to-back games, Gibbs credits the team's practices with more than preparing them to take home the title. The Commodores entered the tournament having lost two games in a row to Ole Miss and Tennessee, and Balcomb put her

players to work in the practice gym in order to get back on the winning track.

"Losing those two, practice was crazy of course," she said. "I feel like the competing and tough practice made us more ready for the games. I can truly say that the

practices were harder than the games."

Gibbs has had a busy season, averaging 5.2 points, 2.4 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game as a freshman. The life of a college basketball player can be very taxing at times, but she has found a way to cope with it all in her free time.

"If I'm not going to the movies with the team or anything, I love to sleep," she said.

With the women's tournament field set to be decided on Monday evening, Gibbs is reluctant to throw out any predictions. But with Vanderbilt expected to receive at least a No. 3 seed, she knows that there is still much to accomplish.

"We're ready," she said. "We're not satisfied yet." ■

Baseball begins SEC slate with the Rebels

by GEOFF HUTCHINSON
Sports Reporter

The Commodores (10-4) will host the 14th-ranked Ole Miss Rebels (9-3) this weekend at Hawkins Field in a three-game series starting Friday night at 6 p.m. This series marks the conference opener for both the Commodores and the Rebels. Junior left-handed pitcher Mike Minor will be taking the mound for the Commodores in the first game of this pivotal series, which should provide an indicator for the Commodores of their place in the Southeastern Conference this season.

The Commodores are coming off a 22-4 drubbing of cross-town rivals Lipscomb, a game in which Vanderbilt piled up 17 runs in the last four innings of the game. Those 22 runs were the most

scored by a Commodore team under coach Tim Corbin, and the most since the team put up 22 runs against Yale in 2000.

Sophomore Curt Casali went 3-3 with a home run, two RBIs and two runs scored in the blowout for Vanderbilt's ninth win in 10 games. He now leads the team with five homers and 19 RBIs. Also, redshirt freshman Drew Fann cranked a grand slam on the first pitch he ever saw as a collegiate player.

Redshirt freshman catcher Aaron Westlake is leading the SEC in batting average with a .500 clip and is among the league leaders in many other hitting categories.

Ole Miss comes to town as the first ranked opponent to come to Hawkins this season. The Rebels are coming

Please see REBELS, page 9

REBELS: Vanderbilt begins SEC play

From REBELS, page 8

off of a two-game sweep of Austin Peay this past week and have dominated their opponents as of late, reeling off six straight victories. The Rebels are a pesky bunch as they lead the SEC with only 51 strikeouts, while tied for third with the Commodores with a .344 batting average. The Rebels are led by senior

outfielder Logan Power, who is hitting .364 with 3 home runs and 15 RBIs thus far on the season.

Saturday's game will start at 3 p.m. with sophomore right-hander Caleb Cotham taking the mound for the Commodores, and Sunday's game will start at 1 p.m. with senior right-hander Nick Christiani getting the start. ■



PAUL LEVY / VU Media Relations
Hawkins Field welcomes back SEC baseball this weekend as Vanderbilt hosts the 14th-ranked Ole Miss Rebels. The series begins Friday evening at 6 p.m.

COLUMN

A letter to the freshmen

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Reporter

OK. So you lost to Alabama in the first round of the SEC Tournament and there is no way that you will get a bid to the NCAA Tournament. Big deal.

You four true freshmen (six, counting walk-ons) came to Vanderbilt as coach Kevin Stallings' most heralded recruiting class since taking over the Commodores. You are all oozing with athleticism, and you have had Vanderbilt fans across the country foaming at the mouth with excitement about the potential for this team.

But you must understand that this will require a long-term commitment to the Black and Gold to truly live up to expectations. Being a freshman (I will never give in to calling you first-years) at Vanderbilt is difficult enough in its own right. Add in the commitment to a

varsity sport and it's a miracle everyone has made it this far.

Your team was recently rated by college basketball expert Ken Pomeroy as one of the least experienced squads in the nation. Out of 344 teams, you were ranked 338th.

The fact that you have won 19 games so far this season is a testament to the fine coaching job that Stallings has done, possibly the best of his career.

But there is always room for improvement.

Use the likely NIT bid as an opportunity to grow as a team. Understand your limitations and try to play within yourselves. You are such an athletic bunch that sometimes you rely too much on raw talent, leading to the occasional lazy pass or defensive lapse.

This team is heading in a much better direction than a certain blindfolded sports reporter, and it would be a shame to see all of that talent



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshmen Jeff Taylor and Brad Tinsley have been as good as advertised for Vanderbilt.

go to waste. Commit yourselves to getting better over this last bit of the season and hit the gym hard to train for next year.

The future is very bright for this team, and the power to make a difference is in your hands. This is a lot of responsibility for a group of freshmen, but in just a few short months, you'll be sophomores. You are all

seasoned veterans by this point in the season, but soon your class status will catch up with your playing experience.

Enjoy a few weeks of rest and relaxation once the season comes to a close, but then be prepared to get right back to work.

For the best, there is no offseason. ■

COLUMN

Hopes for Big Dance dashed



CHRIS O'MEARA / AP

Alabama's Alonzo Gee scores two of his game-high 25 points as Charles Hinkle (2) looks on Thursday night during the SEC Tournament. The Crimson Tide defeated Vanderbilt 82-75.

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

held a lead.

Vanderbilt was soundly beaten in the first five minutes of each half; in the first, the Commodores missed their first eight shots and trailed 10-2 early. In the second, they didn't score a field goal until over six minutes had past. By then they trailed double digits and futiley played catch-up the remainder of the contest.

It was porous defense by the Commodores that did them in, as Alabama got consistent dribble penetration and got around and by Vanderbilt players for numerous baskets in the paint. Give the Tide credit for being unflappable down the stretch too; Alabama went 12-12 at the free throw line in the final minute of play to stave off the Commodores' comeback attempt.

On the other hand, freshmen Brad Tinsley and Jeff Taylor both played terrific games, leading the team with 20 and 17 points, respectively. Tinsley knocked down five 3-pointers, while Taylor did a great job of attacking the basket.

The Commodores still have a chance to get to 20 wins. And should they get a high-enough seed in the NIT, they could be hosting a game or two in Memorial Gym.

As for the NCAA Tournament, I expect this will be a one-year hiatus with every player on the roster likely returning. Meanwhile, the Commodores have a chance to end the 08-09 campaign on a positive note with a strong postseason run. ■

It was a long shot to get into the Big Dance, but that doesn't make Thursday night's loss to Alabama any less disappointing for the Vanderbilt Commodores.

Vanderbilt's hopes for a late-season surge into the NCAA Tournament were dashed as the Commodores fell 82-75 to the Crimson Tide in the first round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament.

The National Invitational Tournament, better known as the NIT, is Vanderbilt's likely postseason destination now.

That the Commodores (19-12, 8-9) were even in the conversation for the Dance was a big turnaround for a team that was 5-8 in the SEC after a loss to Georgia.

Three straight wins, including a road win over then-No. 12 LSU, seemed to buoy the Commodores. A SEC title was still probably the only way Vanderbilt could have made the field of 65, although three wins may have done it.

Not that it matters after Vanderbilt was brushed aside by Alabama (18-13, 8-9), with the Tide taking a six-point halftime lead and never letting the Commodores get closer than five in the second half despite a late barrage of Vanderbilt 3-pointers. Quite simply, the Commodores didn't play with the urgency necessary given the circumstances. They needed to win this game but never even

Introducing Friends & Family.®

Unlimited calling to any 10 numbers. Anywhere in America. Anytime.

Get the best value in wireless.

Choose **10** numbers to share on any Nationwide Family SharePlan® with 1400 Anytime Minutes or more.

Choose **5** numbers on any Nationwide Single Line Plan with 900 Anytime Minutes or more.
Activation fees, taxes & other charges apply.*

Choose any numbers on any network. Even landlines. Change your numbers online anytime!

Plus, get unlimited talk with America's Largest Mobile to Mobile Calling Family. Over 80 million strong.

Samsung Omnia™

- Customizable touch screen with QWERTY keyboard
- 5.0 megapixel camera
- Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional

\$99⁹⁹

\$169.99 2-yr. price – \$70 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation.

Samsung Sway™

Verizon Wireless 3G Exclusive

- Get V CAST™ Music with Rhapsody®
- 2.0 megapixel camera and camcorder with flash and zoom

\$29⁹⁹

\$79.99 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation.

Switch to America's Largest and Most Reliable Wireless Network.

Call 1.888.640.8776
Click verizonwireless.com
Visit any store

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES Open 7 days a week.

COLUMBIA 375 S. James Campbell Blvd. 931-381-0898 DICKSON 100 Lowe's Dr. 615-446-2355 FRANKLIN 420 Cool Springs Blvd. 615-771-6448 Cool Springs Galleria 615-771-7971 GALLATIN 1152 Nashville Pike 615-452-7800 In Collaboration with Alcatel-Lucent	HENDERSONVILLE 223 Indian Lake Blvd. 615-822-1128 LEBANON 1424 W. Main St. 615-443-2355 MADISON 1915 Gallatin Pike 615-859-2355 MT. JULIET 401 S. Mt. Juliet Rd. 615-773-1900	MURFREESBORO 580 N. Thompson Ln. 615-896-2355 NASHVILLE 4044 Hillsboro Pike 615-385-1910 6800 Charlotte Pike 615-353-2112 SMYRNA 480 Sam Ridley Pkwy. W. 615-355-6560
---	--	---

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS
1-800-899-4249

*Our Surcharges (incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 9.5% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 7¢ Regulatory & 85¢ Administrative/line/mo. & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 6%–26% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts).

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form, credit approval & V CAST Music with Rhapsody terms and conditions. Up to \$175 early termination fee, up to 40¢/min after allowance & add'l charges apply for data sent or received (incl. Mobile Web ads). Friends & Family: Only domestic landline or wireless numbers (other than directory assistance, 900 numbers or customer's own wireless or Voice Mail access numbers) may be added; all qualifying lines on an account share the same Friends & Family numbers, up to account's eligibility limits; My Verizon required to set up and manage Friends & Family numbers. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Offers & coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 weeks & expires in 12 months. Rhapsody and the Rhapsody logo are trademarks & registered trademarks of RealNetworks, Inc. Compatible V CAST Music phone req'd. V CAST Music with Rhapsody PC software & Windows® XP or higher req'd to download music to PC; compatible USB cable req'd to sync music to phone. Network details & coverage maps, PC software & complete terms & conditions at verizonwireless.com. Always download legally. © 2009 Verizon Wireless. FFOU

THE BACK PAGE

Hustler and Versus can be read online at InsideVandy.com



Click the gold Hustler/Versus button at the bottom right of the home page



WHO SEES THIS AD?
11,500 STUDENTS
and many faculty/staff,
parents and alumni

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

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

3/11/09 SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
 1 Greek letter
 7 Metal seam
 11 Chum
 14 Doing the same old same old
 15 Eager and enthusiastic
 16 Adam's mate
 17 Encapsulate
 18 Kept
 20 D.I.Y. buy
 21 Do it wrong
 22 Wet behind the ears
 23 Wasn't colorfast
 25 Bay window
 27 Craving
 28 Sculling instrument
 29 Passed through a membrane
 31 Positive answer
 32 Raw meat entree
 35 Storage room
 36 Acting ruler
 40 Flowing above the rim
 44 Slow-witted
 47 Glacial periods
 48 Block of time
 49 Qatar leader
 51 Esteem
 52 Gun on stage, e.g.
 53 Vaulted recesses
 55 Neither's companion?
 56 Periphery

- 57 Narcissus
 59 Spring from cover
 62 New Haven alum
 63 Anderson of "WKRP..."
 64 Opposed
 65 Writer Hentoff
 66 "East of ..."
 67 Peruse anew

- DOWN**
 1 Prevarication
 2 Cape __, MA
 3 Spanish fish
 4 Interwoven locks
 5 Fine, dry particles
 6 Noshed
 7 Battle hand
 8 Highest peak
 9 Set aflame
 10 6/6/44
 11 Extreme poverty
 12 Get even for
 13 Rock shelves
 19 \$ promise
 21 Ms. Bombeck
 23 Type of pear
 24 Past due
 25 Bird with plumes
 26 Student
 29 Giraffe's cousin
 30 Cabernet sediments
 33 Pacino and Kaline
 34 Self-regard
 37 Always

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14								15				16	
17								18				19	
		20						21			22		
23	24					25			26		27		
28						29			30		31		
32			33							34			
35									36		37	38	39
									40				
44	45	46				47						48	
49			50			51					52		
53				54		55				56			
57									59		60	61	
62						63			64				
65									67				

- 38 Roman tyrant
 39 Lobster catcher
 41 Of the pride
 42 Lotion ingredient
 43 Frankenstein's gofer
 44 Muffle
 45 Chevy model
 46 Maladjusted individual
 50 Gridiron zebra
 52 Actress Laurie
 54 Flounder cousin
 56 Roam
 58 Pentagon grp.
 59 ___excellence
 60 Made in the ___
 61 Turner or Mack

3/11/09 SOLUTIONS

L	I	S	P	S	E	S	S	S	S	E	W			
T	O	T	A	L	L	A	U	G	H	M	A	E		
Q	U	E	T	O	L	I	T	E	R	A	T	I	V	E
P	I	G	S	T	I	E	D	I	T	E	D			
E	C	H	O	K	E	R	R	S	N	E	S	S		
C	L	A	S	S	I	E	S	P	N					
R	O	N	N	E	C	K	S	L	E	M	A	N		
U	T	I	C	A	R	I	O	A	D	E	L	E		
S	H	E	L	F	I	N	D	R	I	N	O	R		
A	U	K	S	O	N	L	A	N	D					
S	C	U	M	A	P	A	R	T	A	G	E	S		
C	A	N	O	E	S	E	S	A	M	E				
A	P	H	R	O	D	I	T	E	R	E	R	U	N	
M	R	I	N	A	R	I	S	K	N	I	S	H		
P	I	T	S	N	A	R	E	S	T	E	A	L		

WORK FOR THE HUSTLER

E-mail: sydney.e.wilmer@vanderbilt.edu

Call: 615.322.2424

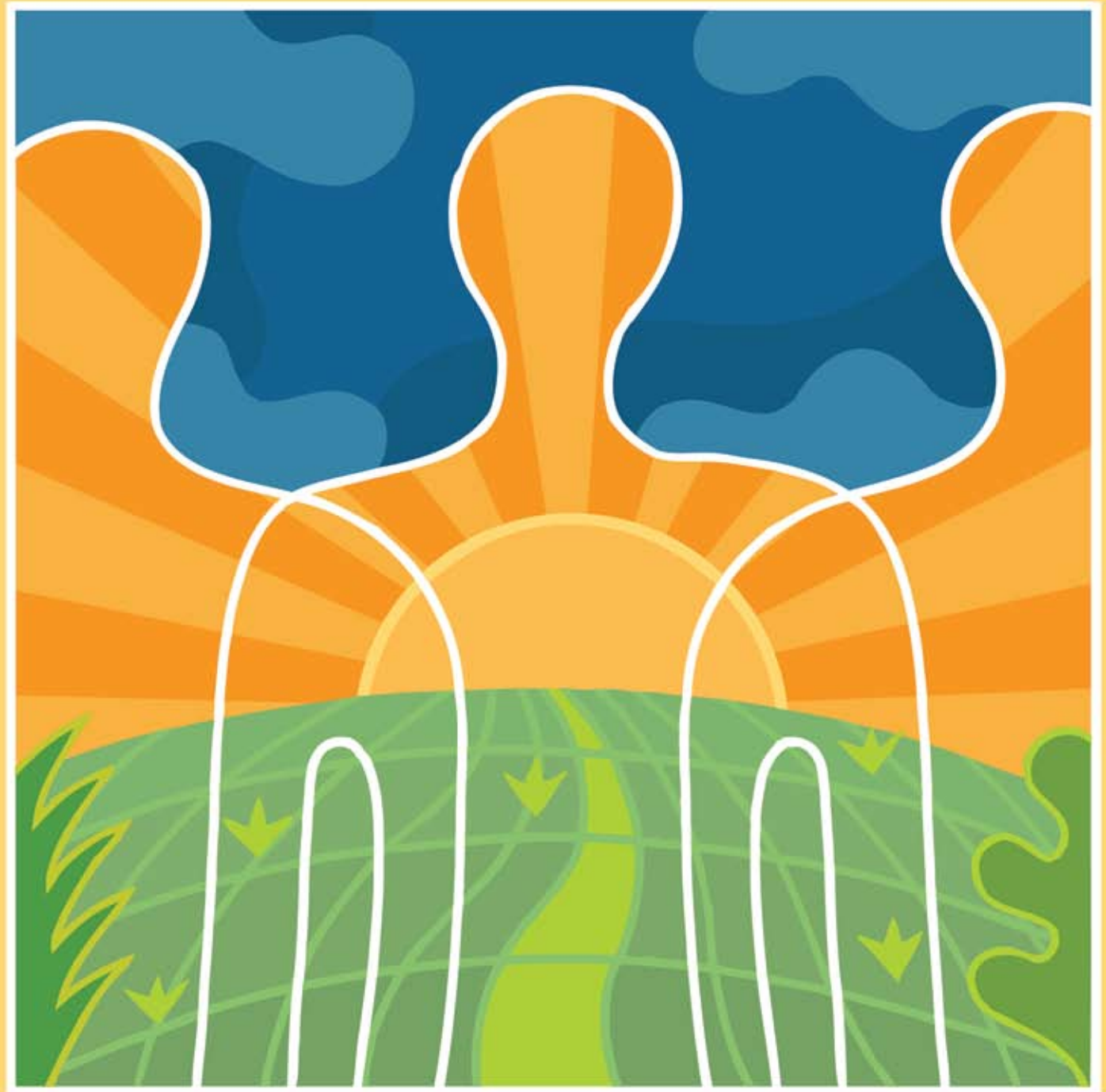
Stop by: Sarratt 130



Helping people find their way in times of personal crisis

MAPS

Mental Health
Awareness and
Prevention of
Suicide



For more information or to learn how you can help, visit www.vanderbilt.edu/pcc



A service provided by the
Vanderbilt University Psychological
and Counseling Center



Over 35,000 unique visitors
and hundreds of thousands
of ad impressions each month.

