



**SPORTS:** Women's basketball prepares for 10th consecutive NCAA Tournament. **SEE PAGE 6**

**OPINION:** Poythress continues his series of advice on social graces, offering a guide to Rand. **SEE PAGE 4**

## Raising flags

Lambda's PRIDE week inspires support, ambivalence on campus.

by MADELEINE ENGLIS  
News Reporter

More Greek houses voted to fly rainbow flags for Lambda's PRIDE Week than ever before, a fact seen by some students as a reflection of strengthening support for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex community here on campus.

"The number of Greek chapters hanging flags and contributing otherwise to PRIDE Week has been unprecedented, and it is obvious that this campus is becoming a progressive beacon for the rest of Nashville and Tennessee to follow," said senior Klint Peebles, president of Lambda.

Nevertheless, some members of the Greek community on campus worry that although they agree with Lambda's agenda, it is unfair to ask houses to fly a flag supporting what some see as a political cause.

"It was expressed in our chapter that Greek organizations shouldn't have to make political statements, and it's unfair that if we choose not to fly the flag, we are seen as bigots," said senior A.J. Axelrod, a fraternity member. "I don't really buy that, but it was a concern expressed in our house."

"I think that if you put it up you support gay rights, but if you don't, it doesn't mean you don't," said junior Edward Bryan in response to the idea that chapters will be seen as "bigots" if they do not hang the flag.

Other students, though, do not agree that flying a rainbow flag is a political statement.

"I think it's just a way to show support for a different group on campus — just like supporting the baseball or the basketball team," said junior Jessica Walder, member of a sorority.

However, making an executive decision on an issue that some consider political and others view as a symbol of support and solidarity has caused disagreement and discomfort within some of the chapters.

"In the end, exec made the call and decided to fly the flag. I'm proud of that decision, but it was definitely tough for some people to deal with," Axelrod said.

"There are several hundred people in one organization, so it's hard to have one cohesive viewpoint," said junior Kelly Hibbard, member of a sorority.

Despite the differing views on what the flag may represent, the fact remains that the majority of sororities and eight fraternities are flying it.

Please see **LGBTQI**, page 3

## Passing of the torch



CHRIS PHARE/The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Vanderbilt Student Government presidency was turned over to junior Wyatt Smith Wednesday night. At the dinner, Smith, Joseph Williams and Chancellor Zeppos reflected on the past year's successes. Check InsideVandy.com for the whole story.

## Student housing costs to increase for next year

by LAUREN KOENIG  
Senior Reporter

Significant increases in housing expenses are anticipated for the 2009 to 2010 academic year, according to Associate Provost and Dean of Students Mark Bandas.

While the exact increase in cost to students is still unknown, these increases in expenses are likely to affect the cost of housing for students.

"The Office of Housing and Residential Education is funded solely and completely by income generated from housing fees," Bandas said. "That means that all OHARE costs must be covered by income from housing students."

The rise in housing expenses is expected to be above Consumer Price Index prices, the measure of the average costs for urban households. Bandas said while OHARE typically does not raise prices over the CPI, the index "is not an accurate indicator of the costs faced by the housing office."

The expected increase is largely due to an increase in the cost of utilities and plant operations as well as student financial aid, provisions for building replacement reserves and debt service due to interest rate increases, according to John McDaniels, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs.

"Utilities have increased significantly for the university — electricity 17 percent, water 6 percent and coal 25 percent," said Mark Petty, assistant vice chancellor for Plant Operations.

"The housing rate for the next academic year may well reflect these increases," Bandas said.

Typically, Vanderbilt's housing charge does not change significantly from year to year, Bandas said. In recent years, the annual rise in housing charges has been about 5 percent in order to consistently maintain and even upgrade the level of services provided to students.

OHARE is currently working with Vanderbilt Student Government to develop proposals to reduce housing costs and mitigate the financial

burden on students.

According to VSG President Wyatt Smith, rising water rates and coal costs can be a part of the process in lowering these costs," Smith said. "If we could reduce energy consumption by even 10 percent by turning off lights from rooms not in use, unplugging appliances when not in use and not leaving water running in sinks and showers, we could account for any potential increase in housing costs and potentially even see them go down."

Smith also noted that the increased cost of housing will cover future residential projects. "Carmichael Towers is going to require central air conditioning upgrades in the next five to 10 years, a major capital-intensive project that we need to begin building a reserve to cover," he said.

Bandas said students are always benefiting from fees past students have paid. The Kissam renovations of the past summer were the result of such a reserve.

"Current students are paying their fair share of past construction, current operations and future repairs," Bandas said. "Vanderbilt is not alone in experiencing a considerable increase in the cost of utilities due to economic circumstances."

"While some increase in the housing rate may be unavoidable, I expect that it will be at or below the increases that many of our peer institutions are considering," Smith said.

Housing costs as a whole continue to remain a factor in financial aid evaluations and packages.

"At all times, we strive to be prudent and frugal with the money that students and their families pay for housing," said Bandas. "This effort is even more important in the unprecedented financial situation that Vanderbilt, the nation and the world face at present." ■

## Sigma Phi Epsilon suspended for semester

by HANNAH TWILLMAN  
News Editor

The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon colony now face an "unprecedented situation," according to Vice President of Programming Ralph Passarella.

After a situation involving an underground pledge in February, the Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct brought several charges against both the colony and individual members, resulting in the decision to suspend the colony.

According to Passarella, nine total charges were brought against the fraternity, including underground pledging, an off-campus party, distribution to minors and hazing — a record number.

Passarella said the fraternity president, junior Chris Baity, pled guilty to all nine charges.

Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey said the decision was made to suspend the colony will remain in effect until Aug. 1, after which time the former members will be eligible to undergo a membership review. After meeting these requirements, the colony could reorganize and would be on social probation for one year.

Passarella said all of the members have had their memberships revoked, but will be re-instated after undergoing a membership review and realigning with the ideals of the national fraternity. He also added that none of the members will be able to live off campus, an issue he thinks will be difficult to overcome.

"We've used an off-campus house in recent semesters to fulfill the fraternal and social needs that would be provided for by a house on campus. The lack of a common meeting place is definitely going to be an issue we have to address," he said.

In a statement, Torrey said several Greek organizations have been able to take part in the Greek community despite not having houses, also saying that no organization is permitted to have an off-campus house.

"Recognition from Vanderbilt University is not contingent upon having a house," she said. "Several chapters are non-housed and are recognized members of the Vanderbilt Greek community."

"As a young IFC fraternity, it becomes difficult to compete (especially in recruitment) when you have a tiny fraction of the resources of nearly every other fraternity. One such resource is an

on-campus house," Baity said.

Baity and Passarella said the administration is confident that the colony will be able to overcome these difficulties, both due to its past performance and its current efforts to fix many of the mistakes made. Having only been on campus for five years, the colony won Chapter of the Year for the Interfraternity Council last year, among several other awards.

"They really firmly believe that we can turn this around, that these problems aren't necessarily systematic. They're things that we were already phasing out," he said.

Torrey said that the members' honesty was appreciated and taken into account when deciding the consequences.

"It should be noted that the new members, brothers and officers of Sigma Phi Epsilon were honest and forthright throughout the investigation and hearing process. This resulted in a more educational and rehabilitative sanction than merely suspending the group for a longer period of time," she said.

Passarella said the officers and members aren't entirely sure how best to move forward, but are definitely determined to reorganize. ■

**NEWS INSIDE:** Albright and Sharansky discuss diplomacy in the age of Obama at IMPACT Symposium. **SEE PAGE 3**

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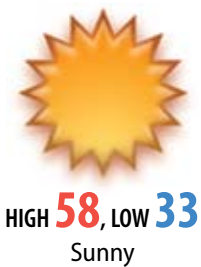
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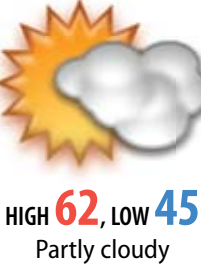
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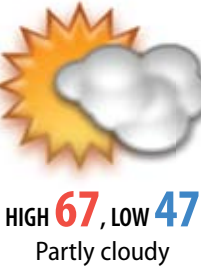
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## CONTACT US

- 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.

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**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**  
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**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

### Police say Pa. labor chief too drunk to sign name, but remorseful

**HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)**—Police in Harrisburg say the acting chief of Pennsylvania’s Labor and Industry Department was too drunk to sign a citation for public drunkenness.

Forty-three-year-old Sandi Vito entered a rehabilitation facility last week, shortly after news stories were published about an incident at a downtown hotel bar.

The Patriot-News published a copy of the citation in Thursday’s editions. It said Vito was “extremely intoxicated,” and the line for her signature contained the entry “too drunk to sign.”

A Labor Department spokesman notes his boss expressed her “sincere remorse” about the incident. He says the attention being paid to the citation is ridiculous.

Vito has been acting secretary since February 2008. She awaits a Senate vote on naming her to the position permanently.

### NJ considers ban on bare-it-all ‘Brazilian’ wax in light of hospitalization

**TRENTON, N.J. (AP)**—New Jersey is drawing the line when it comes to bikini waxing.

The state Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling is moving toward a ban on genital waxing altogether after two women reported being injured in their quest for a smooth bikini line.

Both women were hospitalized for infections following so-called “Brazilian” bikini waxes; one of the women has filed a lawsuit, according to Jeff Lamm, a spokesman for New Jersey’s Division of Consumer Affairs, which oversees the cosmetology board.

Technically, genital waxing has never been allowed — only the face, neck, abdomen, legs and arms are permitted — but because bare-it-all “Brazilians” weren’t specifically banned, state regulators haven’t enforced the law.

“The genital area is not part of the abdomen or legs as some might assume,” Lamm said.

Regular bikini waxes would still be allowed. Genital waxing can be dangerous in that the hot wax can irritate or tear delicate skin in the bikini area, resulting in infections, ingrown hairs and rashes, according to skin care experts.

Despite such risks, millions of American women — and some men — choose to have the hair down there ripped away, and a majority of salons in New Jersey offer the procedure for between \$50 to \$60.

### Woman accused of biting, punching son’s principal after child is suspended

**PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)**—A Rhode Island woman is accused of punching and biting her 11-year-old son’s school principal after she was told the boy was being suspended.

Police say 30-year-old Aleyda Uceta also bit an officer trying to arrest her after Friday’s incident at Roger Williams Middle School in Providence.

She is charged with assault on school officials, assault on police officers and resisting arrest.

Police say Uceta punched Principal Rudolph Moseley Jr. in the face and bit his left arm after he told her that her son would be suspended for three days for refusing to go to a room for misbehaving students.

Attempts to reach Uceta by phone for comment were unsuccessful.

### Wisc. jewelry robbers fleeced by other thieves as they flee store with loot

**MILWAUKEE (AP)**—Two robbers leaving a Milwaukee jewelry store with cash and gems did not get far with the loot — another group of thieves robbed them as the pair left the crime scene.

Police Lt. Thomas Welch says a fight broke out in the street Wednesday before the groups got in vehicles and a chase ensued.

Welch says officers pulled over both vehicles and arrested four people, including the original two robbers, ages 40 and 31, and two men from the second group, of ages 22 and 27. All four are from Illinois.

But he says police didn’t recover any cash or jewelry and are searching for more suspects.

No estimate was available of the value of the stolen items.

### Mass. seniors tell board: Let us eat doughnuts at Council on Aging

**ASHBURNHAM, Mass. (AP)**—Senior citizens in a Massachusetts community are telling a town official to keep his hands off their doughnuts.

Francis “Bill” Johnson is chairman of the advisory board in Ashburnham, a 90-minute drive northwest of Boston. He said at a Council on Aging meeting this week that spending money on doughnuts and pastries for the local Senior Center’s morning coffee club encourages unhealthy eating habits in a population that already has health issues.

Council on Aging board member Lorna Fields says Johnson has “overstepped his boundaries.” She says that many seniors won’t eat “carrot sticks and stuff” and that healthier items such as grapes and cheese are available.

A cream-filled doughnut covered with sprinkles has about 350 calories.

But 67-year-old Senior Center regular Betty Bushee tells The Telegram & Gazette of Worcester that no one has the right to tell seniors what to eat.

### Mont. man ties state record by catching ‘brawny’ pygmy whitefish

**KALISPELL, Mont. (AP)**—Here’s a fish tale that could use a little exaggeration.

A Kalispell man ice fishing on Bitterroot Lake in northwestern Montana on Tuesday caught a tiny fish so big that it tied a state record.

The pygmy whitefish weighed in at only 3.7 ounces and measured all of 8 1/4 inches — but that’s brawny compared to usual pygmy whitefish, which are about 4 or 5 inches in length and weigh only a few ounces.

“My arm is still hurting,” joked Eric Tullett, who reeled in the fish with a glow hook and maggot. Tullett’s catch tied the state record held by two other anglers, who caught 3.7-ounce pygmies in February 2005.

Wildlife and Parks, says the nonnative shrimp may be responsible for an increase in growth rates among pygmy whitefish.

## CALENDAR

### THIS WEEKEND

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 20

##### • Rainbow ReVU PRIDE Banquet

The PRIDE banquet in the Student Life Center Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. will conclude Lambda Association’s second annual Rainbow ReVU, a week celebrating the LGBT community at Vanderbilt. There will be dinner, student and administrative speakers, an awards ceremony and performances by student arts groups. Tickets are \$10 on the card at the Sarratt box office.

##### • Great Performances presents Jil Aigrot

Jil Aigrot, an Oscar-winning vocalist for her performance in “La Vie En Rose,” will perform in Ingram Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and can be purchased online at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/greatperformances/tickets.html>.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 21

##### • InVusion

The Multicultural Leadership Council is putting on their annual showcase in honor of Multicultural Awareness Month. Performers include the African Student Union, the Asian American Student Association, Masala-Sace and many others. Dinner before the show is at 6 p.m. and costs \$7. The show begins at 7 p.m. and tickets are available at the Sarratt box office

##### • Blair Student Showcase

Watch your talented Blair peers perform in their annual showcase at 8 p.m. in Ingram Hall as a part of the Blair Signature Series. The performance is open to the public.

## SNAPSHOT

### MED CENTER WATER MAIN RUPTURE



ZAC HARDY/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Bruce Coleman, Kevin Arnold, Charlie Clark and Kevin Cobb, shovel the asphalt patch material that will remain in place for roughly a month before another arm of Metro City brings in road-laying equipment due to a water main burst on Saturday and will likely redo the entire intersection at 21st Avenue and the Medical Center.

## 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.



Nick Cromydas goes up for a passing lob from Arkansas’ Blake Strode.



**OLIVER WOLFE** used a 70-200 lens at a 2.8 aperture and a fast shutter speed so the action would be frozen and the background would have a nice blur to it. Besides that, he said, “I just took my time and got lucky with the shot!”

**Student photographers interested in joining the staff are invited to the next meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, in Sarratt 130.**

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# The IMPACT of diplomacy

by **EVE ATTERMANN**  
Managing Editor

**HANNAH TWILLMAN**  
News Editor

Diplomacy can mean different things in different regions of the world, as evidenced by the two speakers at this year's IMPACT Symposium.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Israeli legislator Natan Sharansky spoke at the two-day event, organized by the Vanderbilt Programming Board's Speakers Committee, where they each addressed "Diplomacy in the New Millennium."

While Albright called for Obama to restore America's place in the world by reaching out to guide the "global marketplace of ideas," Sharansky stressed the idea that human rights should be the most important component of international policy-making.

Speakers Committee co-chair Theodore Samets, a sophomore, said this year's event was purposefully centered on how American policy can have an international effect.

"Obviously, we continued our focus on foreign policy this year. But it was broader, removed from Islam and the Middle East and more focused on America's role in the world," Samets said. "Next year we plan to bring IMPACT home, to talk about the many issues facing our own country."

Describing her own experiences as an international diplomat under the Clinton administration, Albright offered advice to President Barack Obama on how to address the "emergency room" of issues he has inherited, especially the economic crisis and the ongoing armed conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

An open critic of the Bush administration, Albright expressed her hope for the possibilities of the new president. She stressed the fact that recovery — from both current events and America's current international reputation — will take time, however.

"(We) must begin by restoring foundations of political strength — our alliances, our support for a capable international system and our good name," she said.

Sharansky said he thought diplomacy could be a means for spreading freedom

and democratic governments in a world increasingly overrun with dictatorships. The former legislator was imprisoned as a political dissident in the Soviet Union before immigrating to Israel in 1986.

"You must connect all your support with human rights," he said. "I can assure you that in every country in the Middle East that is not free there are dissidents."

Sharansky said it is the free world's responsibility to make clear to these defectors that they are its allies. It is only then, he argued, that the dissidents will be able to crumble the very structure of their dictatorships.

"This is how the Soviet Union fell without a shot," Sharansky said. "In different cultures — and different mentalities — there are dissidents living a life of double-think, and they are suffering for it."

Sharansky then listed Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and Cuba as places in which freedom of political expression is right now being repressed.

Albright also expressed concern for these areas. She said Obama will have to deal with military issues such as nuclear arms in North Korea and Iran, humanitarian issues like the genocide in Darfur and environmental issues such as the global implications of climate change. She was also particularly concerned about the possibility of encouraging a new generation of terrorists by prolonging military involvement in the Persian Gulf.

Students found both speakers to be informative and personable.

"It was a really great way to teach people about international relations," said junior Allison Heiser. "Especially during Albright's speech, it was a diplomacy 101 lesson, and as an avid supporter of diplomacy, I found a lot of what she said incredibly helpful and interesting."

"I thought Madam Albright was perhaps the most inspirational speaker I have yet had the privilege to hear," said sophomore Ellington Griffin. "To me, she embodies the woman that every other modern woman should aspire to be: intelligent, inquisitive, witty, self-assured and kind."

Samets agreed, adding that both speakers seemed approachable and genuinely happy for the opportunity to talk to students.



OLIVER WOLFE/The Vanderbilt Hustler



ZAC HARDY/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Madeleine Albright and Natan Sharansky both spoke to enthusiastic crowds. Albright, who spoke Tuesday, faced a sold out crowd with her characteristic humor. Sharansky shared anecdotes of his days as a Soviet political prisoner.

"Both with Mr. Sharansky and Mrs. Albright, I was surprised by how excited they were to be on a college campus," said Samets. "They both acted as though they had a lot riding on their speeches — and considering that Mrs. Albright went to North Korea and took us to war in Kosovo and Mr. Sharansky spent nine years in a Soviet prison, has beaten Gary Kasparov in chess and is a close adviser to many world leaders — that says a lot." ■

## LGBTQI: PRIDE Week receives visible support

From **LGBTQI**, page 1

Aside from Greek organizations, many other communities and organizations have elected to visibly show their support for the LGBTQI community.

"With the rainbow flag campaign, we have reached out to those organizations with physical buildings on campus that could hang or fly a flag in order to promote visibility," Peebles said. Such additional organizations include but are not limited to: both National Pan-Hellenic Council houses on campus, the Vanderbilt Student Government office, McGill Hall, all houses on The Commons, the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Sarratt Student Center, the Student Life Center and International Student and Scholar Services.

According to Peebles, there exists a certain type of organization that has historically

tended to show more support toward the LGBTQI community — but this may not always be the case.

"The multicultural and diversity-oriented organizations have previously been more likely to support a campaign such as this one as most marginalized groups tend to show solidarity with each other ... but (this year) the heterosexual community and our allies have been much more supportive and we are honored to have the support of the Greek system," Peebles said.

Thanks to the increased support of the Greek system and all other participating organizations, this year's PRIDE Week will mark a historic landmark for the LGBTQI community at Vanderbilt.

"Lambda truly wishes to express its sincerest thanks to the Greek system for its efforts to commemorate this week and support all students regardless of their differences," Peebles said. ■

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### ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- Applications should be submitted by students of Vanderbilt University.
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### AWARD PRESENTATION

The Alexander Award will be presented at the Student Media Reception in late April.

### HOW TO APPLY

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The application includes instructions and guidelines for submitting your application.

**The application deadline is Monday, March 30 at Noon.**

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**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

As far as centers of social congregation go, Rand is the queen bee, Central Station, subject of focus in the second part of my series. Most people eat lunch at some point during the day, and unless you're trying to appear tasteful and refined, Rand is the place to go. It's quick, it's cheap, convenient and every day is packed with hundreds of trite, meaningless social acknowledgements. Along with the range of destinations that are part of Rand is a range of expected manners of social conformity.

Let's begin with the mailroom. The mailroom is an in and out business, and besides the guy who consistently jokes that you owe him \$40 for five stamps, there's nothing really interesting going on. The acceptable topics of conversation in this arena focus around what someone just received in a package or how many Blair concert flyers you had to throw out. Also, one should be aware that the mailroom is not exciting or enjoyable, so loud discussion, shouting out to friends or excessive smiling are frowned upon.

Let's move up these stairs to the bookstore. First of all, the only people burning their money on memorabilia are alumni, visiting tour groups and frantic freshmen during the holidays. This means that you do not simply wander into the store to peruse the two brands of overpriced shampoo available. The bookstore, though a somewhat less unpleasant environment, is even quieter than the mailroom. In this situation, it's permissible to inquire what an acquaintance has come there to purchase or make some form of biting clever remark about how textbooks are more expensive than they should be. Once you have what you need, there's no reason to dawdle.

Finally, let's examine the most intricate of the Rand sub-sections — the actual dining area. Two quick hints here to make yourself stand out and appear awesome. If you're a guy, seat yourself at a table with at least 15 to 20 other people. It doesn't matter if you know them. While sitting down, speak loudly and laugh even louder while also making sure that you regularly shout acknowledgements and greetings to passers-by.

For girls, the demonstration does not have to be quite so elaborate, but you need a willing partner; otherwise, it may backfire. Once you spot a friend you haven't seen since this morning, scream out, ignore anyone you may have been talking to at the moment, run over, hug her and loudly exclaim for several minutes about how good it is to see her. Phrases you may wish to weave into your conversation include: "hot," "pretty," "ho," "I love you" and "let's totally hang out sometime."

It should also be noted that during the lunch rush, real estate is at a premium. Therefore, if you don't want to sit less than three seats away from a stranger, spread your stuff out as much as possible. If, heaven forbid, you happen to get stuck eating alone, don't panic. Calmly take your food upstairs to eat. Assist your case by appearing to be just too busy. You can grab a Hustler, snap on your iPod or cover your table with anything that looks like schoolwork. Though there's no shot of you actually doing anything useful, you'll be able to avoid being pegged in the Tolman creeper category.

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

## EDITORIAL

# In the name of pride

Lambda's PRIDE Week began on March 16, and many campus organizations flew rainbow flags after being approached by the organization. Klint Peebles, president of Lambda, equated the number of flags as a sign of support, stating, "this campus is becoming a progressive beacon for the rest of Nashville and Tennessee to follow."

There is little doubt that acceptance of LGBTQI is increasing; however, the flags themselves may bear little correlation to this fact and, in a way, they are even beside the point. Several members of the Greek community expressed concern over oblique social pressure, asserting that not flying the flag was equivocated to being bigoted. They felt that the flag was a political statement, and forcing a majority of their chapter to vote on that statement was inappropriate. The fact that pressure existed, however subtly, is unacceptable. Lambda promotes tolerance and diversity and

PRIDE week should therefore express acceptance, not conformity.

However, this is not purely the fault of Lambda's. If anything, the pressure is merely one result of having such a close community. Many campus organizations do not espouse specific political beliefs, especially when it comes to gay rights. Abstaining from an outward statement does not imply disagreement. Furthermore, organizations and individuals who do disagree with Lambda's objectives retain the right to their beliefs.

While visibility is important, inculcating a willingness to discuss difficult or divisive issues plays a more central role in campus life. With over 6,000 undergraduates as well as a large administration, faculty and staff, Vanderbilt embodies various, often conflicting viewpoints. Mediating these differences becomes essential to maintaining a cohesive community unit.

# A perpetuation of a common misconception

To the Editor:

Carolyn Phippen began her opinion piece ("A moral argument," March 16) by stating that the easiest way to garner public favor these days is to "sign anything that includes the terms 'Bush-era' and 'overturn.'" I necessarily disagree. If I were trying to gain public approval, I'd much prefer to deliver uplifting news pertaining to the world's dire economic situation, specifically, our nation's own financial troubles.

Of course, the real issue at hand is Phippen's reticent stance on research scientists now being able to access newly acquired lines of embryonic stem cells with federal funding. She felt it was important to "completely dissect the issue before jumping to dramatic conclusions." What dramatic conclusions is she speaking of? I certainly haven't heard of any rash logic used by scientists upon news of the ban lifting. Dr. Susan Wenthe, the head of Vanderbilt's Cell and Developmental Biology Department, was interviewed by both Channel 4 and 5 News and had nothing but promising, yet rational, statements to make about accessing embryonic stem cells for research purposes.

Phippen goes on to say that the reason why Bush initially placed the ban on further funding for embryonic stem cell lines (aside from the pre-existing 60 cell lines available) was to halt "that particular subset of research to which a large portion of our country has strong moral objections." I wonder if perhaps Americans maintained a more thorough dialogue with the scientific community, they might not be so quick to stigmatize this very topic. I also understand that communication is a two-way street, and it's just as much the research realm's responsibility to relay information in such a way that "Joe Six-Pack" can comprehend (which might be slightly unrealistic).

Phippen feels that it is the obligation of the nation's citizens "to determine right from wrong ... and that power cannot ... be invalidated." I completely agree with her. She is wholly correct in denouncing theft and murder as immoral, and that it has been

up to us as Americans to prevent these acts from transpiring. However, for her to address embryonic stem cell research as a moral dilemma and then lump it into the same category as theft and murder is sensationalism at its best and flawed logic at its worst.

She makes a valid point in stating that every individual has moral breaking points, and no two are the same. Phippen explains that this is a general cause of political disagreement, which is why she thanks "God for the two-party system in moments like this." Harrumph, I say! When I see statements such as that, I can only imagine that Phippen is insinuating that the political right holds a higher regard for life than their liberal counterparts. It's moments like these when I grow tired of partisan antics, including using a higher power as some sort of "holier than thou" trump card — an all too familiar tactic utilized by our conservative friends.

Phippen ends her column with this, "Was I excited when I saw Obama had finally reopened the gates to new and unprecedented medical advancements? Of course. But my excitement was cautious, and yours should be too." Statements such as these confirm an ongoing misconception about scientific research. The public at large for some reason or another perceives the science realm as highly secretive and untrustworthy ... like you never know when they're going to clone Hitler, create the Borg and unleash chaos upon the common man. This is simply not true. If Phippen knew anything about the realm of research, she would realize that it is conducted in a very ethical manner with transparency and accountability being paramount. You know, sort of like our new government administration. Not everyone that supports embryonic stem cell research is an idol-worshipping, blood-drinking liberal who delights in the slaughter of fetuses. Of course, we do have our moments.

**Caroline Wiser**  
Research Assistant  
Medical Center North

## 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](mailto:opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com).

Compiled by Thomas Shattuck

If you're going to be a bed-wetting liberal, do us (Vandy) all a favor and be a little more conservative about it.

Geek thanks, AOPi. Now every time I walk through the Towers tunnel, I feel like I'm witnessing the bloody aftermath of a panda massacre.

It seems like Greek Life is doing everything that it can to put itself out of existence. Greek Row was like a ghost town this past weekend. And it's not looking like it will get any better.

Well the one good thing about no Sig Ep is that intramural sports got a whole heck of a lot easier.

Today, I spent the afternoon catching up on work in the library instead of enjoying the beautiful weather. I sat next to a window and ended up getting sun burnt anyways. I'm still behind. FML.

# Language extinction



**AIMEE SOBHANI**  
Columnist

When I hear the word "extinction," I generally think about animals, but thanks to "The Economist," I can now associate the idea with an entirely different concept: language. A significant percentage of the world's language may soon disappear, which begs the question: Why does it matter?

According to UNESCO, the organization within the UN that studies cultural matters, 2,500 of the world's 6,700 languages are now in danger of extinction. Accompanying the decline in "unimportant" languages is a rise in the popularity of English, Mandarin and Spanish, which are now spoken by about one-fourth of the world. The increase in the importance of these languages is a direct result of globalization. As the world shrinks, "the big three" have become the primary means of communication for many people, leaving many native tongues in the past.

On the surface, some might see a decline in the use of minor languages as a good thing. If the number of languages spoken in the world decreases, then language barriers could dissolve completely, leading to an enhanced expression of ideas among the world. Another way to look at the extinction of languages is in the Darwinian terms of natural selection: Nature "selects" the most useful languages, leading to the gradual dying out of rarer forms of communication.

Eventually, the world might even reach the point where there are only a few major languages in use. Of course, there is no way that the world would reach this point in our lifetimes, or even in the next millennium, but frequent interactions among different people could lead to an amalgamation of several languages into one. Closely related to this idea is the theory that over time, the world's population will become more homogenous because variations in the gene pool will fade away.

The disappearance of a third of the world's languages is not an event that will occur without repercussions. The disintegration of some cultures will likely follow as languages become extinct. Language and culture have a very intimate relationship with each other, which is why most countries have official languages. Governments realize language serves as an important tie to a particular culture, which is why, in an attempt to assimilate newcomers into their culture, they only conduct business in the official language. The logic makes sense: Only by learning the dominant language can an individual fully engage with a particular culture.

However, having an official language puts some cultures at risk. If people gradually forget the language associated with a specific culture, this culture could be lost in history forever. Thus, the real threat is not only the extinction of languages; it is the loss of the cultures associated with these languages, which will obviously lead to less diversity. A lessening of diversity is not a positive occurrence; after all, our school prides itself on its diversity, as does our own country.

What can be done to stop the extinction of languages? Going back to the animal analogy, the solution is to protect the "endangered" languages. Though it is important for people to learn the dominant language of their country, there is no reason for them to completely abandon their native language. Governments can encourage the preservation of little-known languages by offering incentives to individuals fluent in both the dominant language and their native tongue. Doing so could save a third of the world's languages — and the cultures and histories connected to them.

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

### OPINION POLICY

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

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

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.

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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.

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### 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](mailto: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

# Revisiting an educational experiment

**THOMAS SHATTUCK**  
Opinion Editor

The idea of segregating elementary and high school classes can hardly be classified as new. Originally, sexual separation policies were derived from religious and social traditions that are no longer as omnipresent as they once were. In our allegedly "enlightened" era, such discriminatory policies are found to be unacceptable. According to the New York Times, these ideas have taken new roots due to a 2004 federal regulatory change that gave public schools freedom to separate girls and boys.

Over the years, experimental policies have reinstated gendered classes with various

results. Last year, PS 140 in the Bronx, New York joined 445 other classrooms in offering single sex education in an attempt to stave off behavior problems and lagging test scores. Paul Cannon, principal of P.S. 140 told Times that "We will do whatever works, however we can get there," citing the fact that single-gender classrooms, unlike other methods, do not represent a significant capital investment.

Of course, Cannon had already tried other policies — updating computer labs, instituting family sporting events and hiring tutors. These were effective, but took time and effort, yet did not elicit any controversy. Many parents seem to help students focus, but groups such as National Organization for Women say

that segregation reinforces gender stereotypes.

I am not going to claim that NOW is wrong — I don't know, but I doubt they do either. A century ago, it would be true that gender segregation reinforced negative social values and disadvantaged girls with unequal treatment. These days, however, the situation is different. There is no conclusive data to support such an argument.

More importantly, NOW's concerns have become irrelevant in light of international competition. In 2002, only 69 percent of public high school students graduated, a statistic that has not improved over the years. In 2008, the graduation rate for colleges and universities was significantly worse.

Only 12 percent of community college students, 33 percent of state university students and 56 percent of private four-year college students graduated. That constitutes an educational crisis.

To put it bluntly, at the moment, the only thing that retains any importance is improving education. Increasing retention, graduation and literacy rates should trump any intangible social concerns. Unfortunately, PS 140's experiment has yet to

produce concrete results, but such audacity should not be discouraged. Public and private school administrators will have to continue to innovate, weeding out ineffective policies with the hope of a better future.

That's what this is about: the future. The effort put towards educating elementary students leads to improvement in educational standards across the board as the years progress. To the dismay of many, results

from today's educational standards will not be apparent for decades, however, what we do now will have an effect. In theory, the United States is based on democracy and as Epicetus wrote, "Only the educated are free."

—Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at [thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu).

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



MERYEM DEDE / The Vanderbilt Hustler



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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS

## SPORTS

## Commodores enjoy familiarity in first round

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Editor

It may sound strange to say, but the 14th-ranked Vanderbilt women's basketball team has fond memories of a place called The Pit.

Just know that The Pit is a basketball court in Albuquerque, and actually it'd be more appropriate to say the Commodores have sweet memories, as it's the site of Vanderbilt's romp to the Sweet 16 in last year's NCAA Tournament.

The Commodores (24-8) return to their home away from home for the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday, where, as a No. 4 seed, they will battle 13th-seeded Western Carolina (21-11) at Bob King Court.

"I think that's kind of neat," said senior forward Christina Wirth. "I've never heard of that happening, a team going back to their home court if you want to call that for us, so we're kind of excited."

The Commodores, also a No. 4 seed last year, ripped through Montana and West Virginia in the first and second rounds last season in Albuquerque before being eliminated by top-seeded Maryland in Spokane, Wash.

Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb was enthusiastic at the prospect of returning to the site of last year's mile-high success; Albuquerque has an unusually high elevation that can be difficult to adjust to for some teams.

"We had a good experience there, a positive experience," Balcomb said. "We're 2-0 in Albuquerque. We're familiar with the altitude and the court and the gym and have good feelings about it, positive feelings."

For Vanderbilt, another part of staying in a good place mentally has been maintaining the strong play from its run to the Southeastern Conference Tournament championship. The championship game against Auburn was on March 8, meaning it will have been 13 days between games for the Commodores by the time they play the Lady Catamounts.

With that in mind, junior guard Merideth Marsh has said Vanderbilt has put a particular emphasis in its preparations on staying in a game-like mentality.

"What we've been doing is trying to keep the



 vs.   
 24-8, (10-4 SEC)    21-11, (14-6 SC)  
**No. 4 Vanderbilt vs. No. 13 Western Carolina**  
 Saturday, March 21  
 Tip-off is at 7 p.m. CDT  
 TV: ESPN2  
 The 4th-seeded Commodores begin their 10th consecutive NCAA Tournament Saturday when they take on the 13th-seeded Lady Catamounts.  
 Vanderbilt earned an automatic bid by winning the SEC Tournament, while Western Carolina has won 10 consecutive games en route to claiming the Southern Conference championship.

momentum going and making practices really hard, short, crisp," Marsh said.

"I think that we have the right intensity, a kind of sense of urgency at this point in the season," Wirth said.

Wirth has certainly shown that urgency in her final year with the Commodores. In addition to earning MVP honors for the SEC Tournament, she has been named an All-SEC First Team member, an Academic All-American and a finalist for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award.

Still, with the NCAA Tournament starting, any game could be the last one for her, and Wirth and her teammates want to make every one count.

"I wouldn't call it pressure or any added nervousness," Wirth said. "I think at this point you've played so many basketball games you know what to do. You're not worried about it. But at the same time you don't want any regrets so you're just going to lay it all out there."

Balcomb has taken notice of that attitude in her players.

"I just like the way we've responded to adversity," she said. "They're really working hard for each other and want to keep playing. And if you want to keep playing in March, those are the teams that do well." ■



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Merideth Marsh (23) and the Commodores have been all business as they prepare for their 10th consecutive NCAA Tournament starting Saturday.

# Men's basketball was right to reject College Basketball Invitational

Vanderbilt's season came to an abrupt end last week as the team turned down an invite to the newly established CBI. Were the Commodores right to pack it in early? Or should they have paid and played?

## GOOD CALL

by MIKE KRANZLER  
Sports Reporter

Sure, the Commodore men could have extended their season and tried to close out the campaign on a winning note. But was it really worth paying an estimated \$60,000 out of the team's budget just to play a few games against the likes of Vermont, Troy and UTEP?

If this team wants to get better, they would be much better served spending the off-season in the gym working together as a team. A few more games would not have made much of a difference in the grand scheme of things and possibly could have even hurt the team more.

The College Basketball Invitational is a brand new, third-tier tournament that is just another attempt at bringing in more money to the system. While it is definitely possible in looking at the field that the Commodores could have won the whole thing, this team is embarrassed enough to have not even made the NIT.

From what I have been told, this was coach Kevin Stallings' decision, and his team supports it. Hopefully, watching both the NCAA Tournament and the NIT from the couch will fuel the fire for this young team in order to inspire them to never let this happen again.

To some, an invitation to the CBI could even be seen as an insult, the kind of tournament possibly thought up by the same people who hand out last-place trophies in youth leagues so that no one feels left out.

This is a very young, very talented team, but at times they looked like they were lacking any true direction. But I can guarantee that this disappointing season will make them all the more hungry throughout the off-season.

With the entire squad returning (pending, of



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Mike Kranzler writes that Kevin Stallings was right to turn down the CBI, a third-tier tournament that requires a sum of money to play.

course, A.J. Ogilvy's decision as to whether or not to test the waters of the NBA Draft), none of these players will want to feel like this ever again.

For the average sports fan, watching March Madness all day is one of the highlights of the spring. But for a team forced to wonder what could have been, nothing is more painful than watching others play in your place.

Besides, who wants to show off their collection of last-place trophies? ■

## BAD CALL

by NICK GALLO  
Sports Reporter

The Commodores passed up the opportunity to play in the CBI because of a large entrance fee into the tournament. Although these days, financial considerations are a great reason to make decisions, it seems like for this Commodore team, the valuable experience of playing in any type of postseason would have been a rewarding experience.

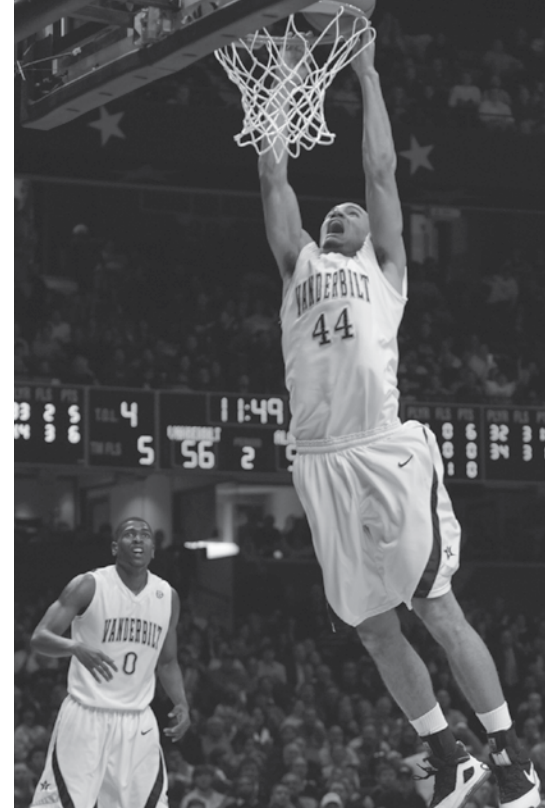
With so many contributors being underclassmen, the Commodores need as much experience playing together as they can — against real competition. The men will surely be honing their skills all summer, but nothing can replace intense competition in a tournament setting.

After Vanderbilt was prematurely bounced from the SEC tournament, the team most likely was left with a bad taste in its mouth. Having the chance to compete for a postseason championship and reaching the 20-win plateau might have been a nice experience for the Commodores, and it also could help build confidence for a young team.

Taking a look at the other teams in the CBI field, it seems that some high profile programs accepted invitations, and that it's not just for mediocre programs.

Stanford's head coach Johnny Dawkins is a disciple of Hall of Fame Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski and was Krzyzewski's right-hand man for 10 years. Dawkins thought that the CBI would be a valuable enough experience for his team that the entrance fee was worth it. If Dawkins thought so, why didn't Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings?

Clearly, other typical NCAA tournament teams also entered into the tournament. St. Johns, Vermont and UTEP are all in the field with Stanford, and Vanderbilt would have made this tournament even more interesting. The Commodores may have been the favorite to



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Jermaine Beal (0), Jeff Taylor (44) and the Commodores could have greatly benefited from extra play in the CBI, Nick Gallo writes.

bring the trophy home, after winning seven of their last 10 regular season games. With young, impressive stars like Jeffery Taylor and Brad Tinsley chomping at the bit to gain more playing experience, it would make sense for Stallings to keep his guys on the floor together.

This is the first time since 2003 that Vanderbilt hasn't played in a postseason tournament, and it seems that the experience of playing together and the opportunity to win a championship would make the cost to Vanderbilt worth it. ■



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  - 21 Passenger safeguards
  - 23 Opposed to
  - 27 Brief greetings
  - 28 Overly anxious folk
  - 31 Unifying idea
  - 35 Cover a part of
  - 37 Like a dental exam
  - 38 Cut, like lumber
  - 41 Frost's Muse
  - 42 Expedition
  - 43 Fast-food magnate Ray
  - 44 Running smoothly
  - 46 Frost over
  - 48 Heavy fog
  - 52 Not sugar-coated
  - 54 Pseudonym
  - 55 Achieves anew
  - 60 Building site
  - 61 Razor choice
  - 62 Beluga product
  - 63 Recently
  - 66 Pueblo people
- DOWN**
- 67 Woolly female
  - 68 "...Restaurant"
  - 69 Promised Land
  - 70 Melancholy
  - 71 Everett or Murdoch
  - 1 Robin's maid
  - 2 Become obvious
  - 3 Long Island county
  - 4 Blaster's letters
  - 5 Fruit concoction
  - 6 Young man
  - 7 Animation
  - 8 Coloratura's piece
  - 9 City in Scotland or Australia
  - 10 Sit in the front passenger seat
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  - 12 Clown around
  - 13 Allies' opponents
  - 21 Foot grip
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  - 26 Soak
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  - 34 Wapiti
  - 36 Composure
  - 38 Schuss or slalom

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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3/20/09

3/18/09 SOLUTIONS

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

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**\*Juniors & Seniors\***

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**Ayo Ositelu**  
**Joseph Williams**

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