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SPORTS: Will the Commodores win the SEC **Championship?** See page 6

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JAN. 26
• Mannafit 2010



provided by LUCIE RHOADS

Mannafit supports the 150 students participating in 11 spring break trips in Central and Latin America. The event includes food from over 35 local restaurants and a silent auction of 60 items. Tickets are on sale for \$12 on the Card and can be purchased on the Wall. The fundraiser is in the Student Life Center Ballroom from 6 to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27 VSG primary election
 Polls open at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, so vote online or at polling places in Sarratt Student Center for one of the three tickets running in the first round of the 2010 Vanderbilt Student Government election. Voting will close Thursday at noon, and results will be announced in the Sarratt Promenade



 Your Endowment. Your Vanderbilt. Your Future. The Vanderbilt Investment Club hosts the Chief Investment Officer of Vanderbilt University, Matthew Wright, who will discuss the current state of Vanderbilt's endowment, in 114 Furman Hall from 6:45 to 9 p.m.

 Pizza and Politics with **Carol Swain** Come listen to Vanderbilt Law Professor Carol Swain discuss the past, present and future of the Republican party in a conversation hosted by the Vanderbilt College Republicans. Free pizza will be provided. The event begins at 7 p.m. in Calhoun

 Unite for Sight presents Paul Sternberg
The chairman of the Vanderbilt Eye Institute and chief medical officer of the Vanderbilt Medical Center, Sternberg will talk about the treatment of age-related eye disease. Dinner will be provided at the event, which will run from 7-8:30 p.m. in Stevenson Center 5211.

ONLINE ISSUE

OPINION: Check out Inside-Vandy.com on Wednesday for an online edition of the **Opinion Section.**

WEATHER WEATHER.COM





No residents in Chancellor's Residence, but house not unused

Belle Meade mansion used differently by Chancellor Zeppos than former chancellor Gordon Gee.

> by CONRAD GOERINGER Staff Reporter

many universities, Vanderbilt maintains residence for its chancellor. But today, Braeburn, valued at over \$6.5 million dollars according to the Davidson County Property Assessor's office, serves as nobody's permanent mailing address.

National attention was focused on the residence in 2006, when a Wall Street Journal article highlighted former Chancellor Gordon Gee's unmonitored spending spree. Gee allegedly spent \$6 million, not approved by the Vanderbilt Board of Trust, on renovations to the mansion. His popularity, coupled with the \$1.25 billion dollars raised during his stay

MORE ON

InsideVandy.com

View an audio slideshow of an exterior tour of the Chancellor's Residence.

as chancellor, was believed to save him from public criticism as many chose to overlook the

"We paid for that house over and over and over again (from money raised at functions hosted at the house)," Gee told the Wall Street Journal.

Yet when Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos replaced Gee in 2008, he chose not to live in the controversial mansion.

"I already had my own house," Zeppos said. "We've lived there for 30 years. ... We like it there. That's where we raised our children, our kids grew up and went to college, and when they come back they like the idea of being in their own space, their old bedrooms, things like that."

Zeppos' decision to live in Please see **CHANCELLOR**, page 3



MARGARET FENTON / VSC Media Services

Braeburn, the chancellor's residence in Belle Meade, sits quiet on a wet afternoon last week. Despite extensive renovations conducted under the former chancellor, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos does not live in the house.

BRAEBURN BY THE NUMBERS

- 19,500 square feet
- Six bedrooms
- Six full bathrooms
- Three half-bathrooms
- 9 acres
- Located 4.5 miles from campus
- Valued by Davidson County at \$6,536,200
- Purchased in 1964
- Contains a main home and coach house



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos explained that the Chancellor's Residence should benefit every member of the Vanderbilt community.



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

From left, moderator Hannah Twillman and presidential and vice-presidential candidates Avsha Malik, Theo Samets, Andrew Morse, Susan Gleiser, Lori Murphy and Lee Pedinoff prepare for the start of yesterday's debate.

VSG candidates debate to win student voters

by SARA GAST Staff Reporter

The three pairs of candidates vying to be the next set of Vanderbilt Student Government leaders each tried to prove why they're the best yesterday afternoon at the third annual Hustler-sponsored presidential debate.

Each team had 90 seconds to respond to the questions, which ranged from the candidates' top priorities to the biggest issues they feel students face today. Through each answer, Please see **VSG DEBATE**, page 3

MORE ON

InsideVandy.com To watch video clips from the debate and read the live Twitter feed with highlights of the event, go to InsideVandy.com.

Q: You each have many ideas and policies you'd like to pursue as part of your platform. What would be your top three priorities if elected, and how would you work to accomplish them?

Increasing academic opportunities, making the city more enjoyable and accessible, and increasing the value of a Vanderbilt degree

---Malik/Samets

Make area representatives more representative of area, utilize umbrella organizations and cut VSG's wasteful spending

---Morse/Gleiser

Improve student organization relations, continue expanding on making services relevant for students

---Murphy/Pedinoff

DKE remains on campus after sanction

by LAURA DOLBOW

Asst News Editor

Despite being the second fraternity to have their charter suspended last semester, Delta Kappa Epsilon will remain a chapter at Vanderbilt.

Over winter break, Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity was issued a sanction that revoked its recognition, suspending the organization from the university community. The chapter then submitted an appeal with a new proposal containing a plan of action for moving forward.

The proposal, which was accepted by the university, stipulates the reorganization of the group to only include sophomores and members. The upperclassmen will resign from the fraternity because they were the ones involved in the incidents whereby the fraternity got in trouble.

"There are some other logistical details related to that (proposal) as to the house and the functioning of the fraternity and the involvement of the local alumni and the national fraternity that we're still resolving," said Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey. These decisions will be discussed in

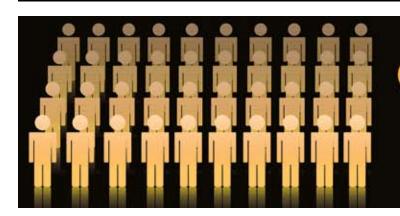
a conference call between the parties today.

Delta Kappa Epsilon was sanctioned last March for an incident related to its fraternity initiation. The chapter was charged with and found responsible for a variety of risk management violations, Torrey said. At that time, the chapter was put on probation until the end of February of this year.

In fall 2009, however, there was an incident that was determined to be a violation of their probation. The incident involved a risk management violation at an off-campus event, and it subsequently led to the decision to suspend the

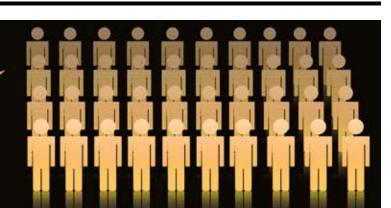
Torrey said such measures as the original sanction aren't meant to remove the chapter from campus, but instead to help the group return even stronger.

"When you consider the fraternity life cycle from a broad perspective, especially for chapters that are as old as many of the chapters at Vanderbilt, it is a natural part of the evolution of an organization to be suspended for a period of time and then come back even stronger," Torrey said. "We want for our chapters to be here." ■



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CORRECTION

In the Wednesday, Jan. 13 issue of The Hustler, the top sports moments of the 2000s were placed in the incorrect order. The No. 1 moment of the decade was supposed to be the women's bowling national championship. The Hustler regrets the error.

CRIME LOG

compiled by AMANDA NIEMAN

Thursday, Jan. 21, 10:30 p.m.

A person turned over a wooden pipe to a Vanderbilt area coordinator, who turned the drug equipment over to an officer in Crawford Hall.

Friday, Jan. 22, 1:10 a.m.

A person was in possession of a metal grinder. A Vanderbilt area coordinator recovered the drug equipment and turned it over to a police officer in Memorial

Around the Loop

compiled by SYDNEY WILMER

WHAT ISSUE IS MOST IMPORTANT IN THE **VANDERBILT STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION?**



"Accountability for what they say in the debate and the drive to fulfill objectives in VSG."

Ben Scott '13



"Housing seems to be my biggest qualm. Something will be done in 20 years, and in 20 years they'll be calling my phone."

- Kelcie Bartley '11



"I'd like to see more options for parking, since the new garage is not for us."

- Justin Barisch '11



"Dining, just because it is a daily thing. Friday afternoons there is nothing open."

- Katie Robins '10



"There is not a lot of good housing suited for upperclassmen"

- Jian Tian '11

SERVICE GUIDE

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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.

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Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.



Who is: CHERRIE

TEACHES: Principles of Marketing and **Investment Analysis**

ATTENDED: Vanderbilt University (B.A. in Business Administration) Dartmouth College (M.B.A. from Tuck School)

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

In high school, I worked on the evening shift in a local sewing factory, sewing ladies garments. Punching a time clock and doing the same task mindlessly over and over helped me understand the value of a good job.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SPOT IN NASHVILLE?

I live in Hillsboro Village, so many of the spots there are common stops. Is there any place better than Fido's for good food, interesting people and cozy places to camp out? Hoyt Hill at Village Wines is better than an iPhone app when it comes to wine selection.

WHAT'S ONE THING STUDENTS WOULD BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU? I was on the 4H hog and cattle judging team in high school. Winners got big prizes!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE VACATION DESTINATION?

I love the beach. It is the only place on earth where I can sit and do nothing but stare out to sea. Panama City Beach is my current favorite, as friends from my childhood have homes

compiled by AMANDA NIEMAN

SNAPSHOT

Iron Chef: Commons



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler Freshmen Nikhil Goel and Catherine Cocke prepare their ingredients during the Commons Chef Competition. Four students from Hank Ingram competed in a cook-off against three professional chefs.

Do it for Mom!



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Yearbook portraits next week in Sarratt 112 New, extended hours: 11am - 8pm

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Breaking up is hard to do



SCOTT CARDONE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students practice writing "Dear John" letters at a seminar on difficult writing situations on Thursday evening. Laura Miller, chief speechwriter for former Chancellor Gordon Gee, and Director of the Writing Studio Jennifer Holt led the class on how to write your way out of sticky situations.

Recycling at home basketball games gives fans one more reason to cheer

by AIMEE SOBHANI

Staff Reporter

Students can now help protect the environment while enjoying basketball games at Memorial Gym.

The Sustainability and Environmental Management Office has teamed up with Vanderbilt Athletics to offer recycling at all basketball home games. Fans can recycle both plastic bottles and commemorative cups at the game, and clean cardboard from vendors is also collected.

Though it has been a staple at football games since the 2008 season, recycling at basketball games only started recently because of "budgetary reasons," according to Kara Schlegel, activities coordinator with the university's recycling center.

Recycling first became available at the men's basketball game against Southern Miss on Jan. 2.

opportunity" to prevent recyclable items from filling up a landfill, Schlegel said.

"One game can produce up to 150 bags of garbage — and approximately 25 percent of that is made up of recyclable goods," she said.

Currently, there are 19 green recycling totes placed throughout Memorial Gym. Garbage cans are located next to the totes so fans can conveniently dispose of both recyclable and non-recyclable

Schlegel said recycling efforts at the basketball games have been "hugely successful."

"After monitoring the last four games, we have found that the fans have caught on very quickly. ... Our recycling program couldn't be happier with the initial interest," she said.

Though fans are recycling, many students at Saturday's Auburn game

Basketball games provide the "perfect did not realize the option was available. However, they thought the new program was a step in the right direction.

"I think it's a great idea to go green," said first-year student Sam Fraifeld.

Senior Liz Lehman also applauded the new program. "Anything we can do to recycle more is a good thing," she said.

Student organizations are teaming up with the recycling center to help with the recycling efforts as well.

"We invited some of the green student organizations to be part of our 'Black, Gold & Green Women's Basketball Night," Schlegel said. "We thought it would be perfect during the 'Jam the Gym' game to promote our new recycling implementation."

Schlegel hopes the recycling program can be expanded in the future.

"It is our hope that we can eventually implement in-house recycling for all of the Vanderbilt athletic venues," she said. ■

VSG DEBATE: Tickets discuss policy plans

From **VSG DEBATE**, page 1

the presidential and vicepresidential candidates tried to express to students why they should vote for their ticket in this week's primary election.

Presidential candidate Aysha Malik opened by expanding on her leadership capabilities as well as those of running mate Theo Samets.

"What stops organizations from implementing changes is not the absence of sound ideas or strong policy, it's the absence of strong leadership, ... which Theo and I can certainly bring," Malik said.

Current Engineering Senator Andrew Morse said that his and vice presidential candidate Susan Gleiser's lack of experience within VSG's executive leadership is a strength in helping them represent students.

"I've seen what works and what doesn't work in our organization," Morse said. "We don't have a narrow view of what VSG does, and we know how students think about the organization."

To counter that, current Vice President Lori Murphy and her running mate, Lee Pedinoff, said their position as "the most experienced ticket" sets them

Earlier in the week, the candidates presented their platforms, which were an overview of what they hoped to accomplish and implement while in office. They discussed them further on Sunday.

Murphy and Pedinoff established the most extensive platform, with reaching out to student organizations a key theme throughout their goals, while Morse's and Gleiser's shorter platform allows them to focus on their "core mission to make VSG represent the student body," Morse said.

Malik said their five-part platform set forth a realistic group of ideas with which "I think we'll be able to succeed and not be left with a laundry list of things to do."

"It's Theo's and my unvielding faith in our commitments that will help us achieve those initiatives," Malik said. ■



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CHANCELLOR: Less use, lower expenses for mansion

From **CHANCELLOR**, page 1

his own home eliminates excessive wear on the residence and has resulted in lower operating

"There is no chef, no cleaning staff — it is a university building," Zeppos said. "If the grass has to be mowed, someone goes out and mows it just like they would on Alumni Lawn."

Zeppos explained that the mansion is currently used for various functions, ranging from student and community events to faculty receptions and

Some aspects, such as food, have changed drastically since the days of Braeburn's personal chef. Zeppos recalled what he described as one of the "wildest and craziest" parties ever held in

"I'll never forget the first course. It was soup, but it was served in cabbage bowls. Literally, cabbage cut in half with a hole scooped out filled with soup," he said.

Since that time, all catering at the Chancellor's Residence has been changed to in-house offerings.

"I like to have nice food," he said, "but I think we always have to be alert to how much something costs, so all the catering and all the food is Vanderbilt's. We have no outside caterers ... although it is great food."

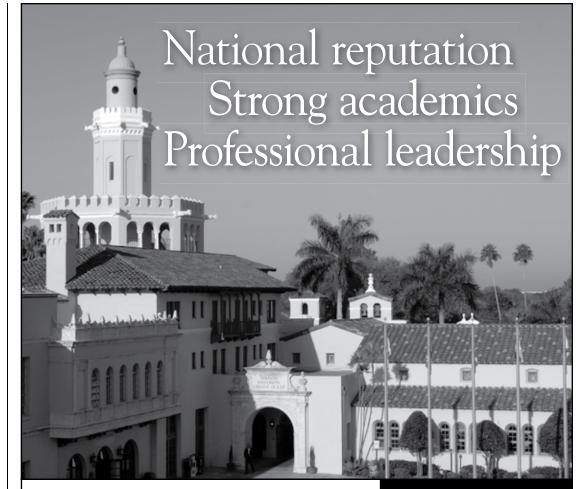
For many years, one student lived at Braeburn - the small coach house adjacent to the Residence served as the home of the president of the Student Government Association. But this trend doesn't appear to be returning any time

"(The coach house) is in total disrepair, so if the winner of the next presidency says they want to live in the coach house, well, it isn't habitable,"

Gee justified the residence's renovations and decor by explaining how a home with a large area for entertaining is an important fundraising tool.

"(I have not) sat down with a ledger," Zeppos said, "(but) everyone's goal is that the residence should work for the faculty, staff, students and alumni — it's a wonderful place to entertain and make people feel special about their relationship with Vanderbilt." ■





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COLUMN

Corporations' undue influence over policy



COSTANTINO Columnist

When I grow up, I want to be a lobbyist. Most people respond to this as if I've said my life dream is to sell crack to third graders, but I stick to the goal despite the stigma. I think the right to assemble might be my favorite part of the first amendment, but I also think it's the most underrated right. By everyone except huge corporations, that

is — they get it. They get it, and they manipulate the system so well that the whole industry's reputation has been soiled. The bigger your group, the louder your voice, the nicer your pamphlets, the better you will fare in the crowded political arena. These are simple facts about our political reality, and I wish that the constituencies on the margins understood it half as well as Exxon or Big Pharma did, but sometimes life is hard, and dreams don't come true. That said, I am not jaded enough to not be outraged by the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.

Here's what happened: Citizens United, a conservative nonprofit, wanted to show a documentary called "Hillary: The Movie" in theaters, on the Internet and on certain cable channels during the 2008 primary season. The McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law of 2003 prohibits the broadcast of "electioneering communications" paid for by corporations or special interest groups within a certain window of time before elections, so clearly the fight was on between this group and the FEC. Dedicated Hillary-haters could still see this documentary in theaters, but the law prevented its airing on TV. Before this decision, there were limits in the McCain-Feingold Act on how much money a corporation could donate to an interest group to support a candidate or policy. Now this constraint has been overturned, and corporations enjoy unlimited spending abilities toward interest

In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court increased the strength of two already controversial claims: That corporations are "persons" and have rights as such, and that money is a form of political speech. I don't mean to be indelicate, but that's just crap. Corporations aren't people. Being composed of people does not make you a person, nor does it imbue you with special fake human powers. Money has many admirable abilities, but functioning as political speech does not number among them. Even as someone who believes in the positive impact lobbying and outside interest groups can have on political action and discourse, I think the court has gone too far. Corporations and labor unions already have an outsized impact on policy, and lifting this crucial restriction on campaign spending will only widen the gap between this wealthy minority and the rest of the country.

At this rate, I wouldn't be surprised to see the absurdly conservative Roberts court grant these personified corporations the right to vote

-Claire Costantino is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at claire.v.costantino@vanderbilt.edu.

THE VERDICT Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff! Compiled by Peter Nygaard **Democrats** For the first time in 30 years, a Republican won a Senate seat in Massachusetts when Scott Brown defeated Martha Coakley in a special election for the late Ted Kennedy's seat. To put it in context, in the last Senate election in Massachusetts, Republican Jeff Beatty finished third to Democrat John Kerry and write-in vote Green **Scott Baio** The former "Happy Days" star got into trouble after posting an unflattering photo of first lady Michelle Obama, accompanied by an equally unflattering caption, on his Twitter account. A flood of messages poured in to his account that ranged from mild insults to death threats to, the worst of all, reminders that dude ... you're Scott Baio. The "Dexter" star recently announced Michael C. Hall that he had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, but that it was in remission. Less than a week later, he walked home with the Golden Globe for Best Performance in a Television Series — Drama. No joke here. You want to be entertained? Go watch the show. Nazis A month after it was stolen, the "Arbeit Macht Frei" ("Work Sets You Free") sign that originally hung in Auschwitz was returned to the museum that stands in place of the death camp. This begs the real question of: "Um ... why do you guys still need it?" Hackers Apologies to everyone whose cover I'm about to blow, but a recent study

showed that the most common

passwords in use include such genius

ideas as "12345" (and the like),

"password," and "abc123." In the

words of Sterling Archer, that is just ...

babytown frolics.

VSG needs to know its limits



MIKE WARREN Columnist

Scott Brown's electoral win last Tuesday is as interesting as it is gratifying. Sure, the Republican gets mad props for pulling off the come-frombehind victory in the People's Republic of Massachusetts to fill the seat of Chappaquiddick Ted, the Fredo of the Kennedy clan. And yes, Brown's success

means the president's health care reform bill will die a deserved death. Maybe Obama will spend a little less time on TV trying to sell a bill nobody wants.

But there's something else about the Massachusetts Miracle I appreciate. The incumbent party, the Democrats, got walloped. I like that. I'm not an acrossthe-board incumbent basher, but there's something pretty cool (and American) about voters taking the opportunity to deny one party or one person complete control over our government. As a country, we can be pretty reliable when it comes to throwing out the corrupt bums.

Unfortunately, Vanderbilt undergrads don't have the luxury of throwing out the incumbents when it comes to student government. According to the Vanderbilt Student Government constitution, the members of the executive board are required to have had at least one year of student government experience. That means the six people on the three presidential tickets are all entrenched incumbents.

Where's the chance for an insurgent citizen campaign? When will your average psychology major or marching band member or humble Hustler columnist have the chance to make his run for VSG president? Never, and I suppose that's a problem. It's one more reason why VSG appears, to an outsider, more like a self-promoting leadership club than a

realistic arbiter of important issues between students and administrators.

Take yesterday's debate in Sarratt Cinema. While most everyone was enjoying watching the Colts come back and dominate in the

... **VSG** appears, to an outsider, more like a self-promoting leadership club than a realistic arbiter.

second half, I was stuck "watching" the game on ESPN's GameCast while the candidates pontificated on why they deserve to be in charge of our money. Incumbent veep Lori Murphy explained that her top priorities included installing GPS in the VandyVans, while Aysha Malik's campaign wants a free shuttle service downtown on Thursday nights. Huh?

About the only candidate who made any sense to me was Andrew Morse, who said he had the shortest platform and the least experience on the executive board. He wants to cut waste and acknowledged that many lofty plans for VSG just aren't feasible now. Governments great and small seem to be on a "let's try to fix everything" bender. It's nice to see politicians acknowledging their limits and realizing exactly what government can't do. We need more of that, locally and nationally. But in VSG? It'd be a start.

-Mike Warren is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at micahel.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu.

LETTER

Vanderbilt lives

To the Editor:

I am concerned about the "death" and "killing" of Vanderbilt recently lamented by Mike Warren and Katherine Miller in their columns about the end of Greekness.

On Jan. 17 Mike Warren argued in "Vanderbilt University is dead" that Vanderbilt has died, and will continue dying, without Greekness. I am interested in the shared experience of dying implied by this statement. For convenience's sake I will call this ongoing death the "Vanderbilt experience."

For Warren, "Vanderbilt" signifies a singular character, a community characterized by Greekness and "the sort of (Greek) individuals who socialize with others, who become a part of something more important than themselves." Unfortunately this makes Vanderbilt a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts, for when we add all of these (Greek) individuals together, they somehow fall short of the totality of Vanderbilt, which is Warren's complaint. Yet what if we did not make Greekness a requirement for taking part in Vanderbilt and instead took what Warren calls the "geeks playing Halo in their rooms," who are not part of Vanderbilt but at least at Vanderbilt, and added them to the "sort of (Greek) individuals who socialize with others"? Would this not then equal one whole Vanderbilt and solve Warren's mathematical dilemma?

Let us turn to Katherine Miller's column "Vanderbilt's PR failure: publicly killing Greek life" to see if we can't bring this matter to sensibility. Miller departs from Warren by saying Vanderbilt is killing Vanderbilt (and doing it publicly) because of an obligation to engage in "diversity." Psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan might interject by saying "the frame is already marked by part of its content" that diversity and Greek life cannot be together because Greekness must negate diversity, just as diversity must negate any and all things akin to Greekness.

But to be fair to Miller, I'll examine the signifiers "diversity" and "Greekness" to confirm their polarity. "Diversity" rejects monoculture in favor of many cultures, prefers infinite Difference to the most temporary Sameness. We might even conjecture that diversity negates all singularizing modifiers.

"Greekness," on the other hand, presupposes identification with "Greek life," which is contained, under Miller's definition, within the fraternities and sororities of the IFC, Panhellenic and NPHC. To be part of "Greekness," one must allow one's self to be limitedly modified by the signifier "Greek," which is a fundamental negation of diversity because it engages in a singularizing reduction. Thus "Greekness" seems to embrace Sameness, might even be a kind of Sameness. So it is impossible to be Greek and be diverse. This is no fault of Miller's — the two words are opposed to one another from the very onset.

This is indeed a gloomy forecast. To increase one's chances of survival, it might be advisable to make friends with a geek in McTyeire or McGill. Quickly now! And try to be sincere!

> **Kelly Swope** College of Arts and Science

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@insidevandy.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

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

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Tuesday, January 26, 2010 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Student Life Center, Meeting Room #3



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Vanderbilt rallies, shoots past Auburn Tigers





Vanderbilt at Tennessee

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27 KNOXVILLE, TENN. TIPOFF IS AT 6:00 P.M. CST TV: ESPNU **RADIO: 104.5 FM**

Vanderbilt (15-3, 4-0 SEC) travels to Knoxville this Wednesday to face instate rival Tennessee. Coming off an impressive comeback win against Auburn on Saturday afternoon, the Commodores look to defend their unblemished conference record against the Vols (15-3, 3-1).

by BRIAN LINHARES

Sports Reporter

As the Commodores trailed by 11 at halftime on Saturday, head coach Kevin Stallings deferred to his

"I didn't get the job done in the first 20 minutes," Stallings said. "My assistants got it done in the second half. They had some louder words than normal at halftime."

Their words resonated.

Vanderbilt (15-3, 4-0) outscored the visiting Tigers 51-30 in the second half en route to an 82-74 victory. Forward Jeffery Taylor, who was held scoreless in the opening period, spearheaded the outburst with a team-high 18 points.

"In the second half, I played smarter and more aggressive," Taylor said. "I wanted to be out there experience under our belt helped us." ■

and help my team. I wanted us to start 4-0 in the (Southeastern Conference).

"I didn't play a lot in the first half, and that was a

It certainly was. As Stallings benched Taylor due to two quick fouls, Auburn blew past the Commodores. Behind the efforts of forward Lucas Hargrove, who led all performers with 19 points and 10 rebounds, the Tigers held a 41-25 advantage in the closing minutes of the first half.

"I wouldn't say we were looking ahead (of Auburn), but we were just starting slow," Taylor said. "It almost cost us. They were up by 16 at one point, and we cut it to 11 at the half. We were able to keep going after halftime."

After Hargrove opened the second half with a dunk, Taylor led the Commodores on an 11-2 run to help them claw back into contention. Supporting Taylor's stalwart efforts were guards Brad Tinsley and Jermaine Beal, who scored 15 and 14 points, respectively. Moreover, they notched a combined eight assists for a team whose cohesion showed as the afternoon progressed.

"Brad played great the whole game, and I could see it coming," Stallings said of his previously struggling sharpshooter. "He had his best practice of the year on Monday and his second-best practice of the year

Tinsley's work paid off.

"As a shooter, you don't want to see yourself in a slump," he said. "My confidence wasn't down, but our offense does a great job getting each other open, and I was still able to contribute."

Hopefully for the Commodores, Tinsley's struggles are behind him. In the next seven days, Stallings' unit has road dates with Tennessee and Kentucky. Recently, Vanderbilt's trips to Knoxville haven't gone smoothly, which sticks with junior center A.J.

"We haven't played well in Knoxville the past few years," Ogilvy said. "Last year, our youth was something we couldn't overcome.

"These guys are a year older, and getting



NICOLE MANDEL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Jermaine Beal (0) goes for the 3-pointer over DeWayne Reed (12). The Vanderbilt Commodores faced the Auburn Tigers Saturday afternoon (Jan. 23). The Commodores came back after halftime to lead in a victory of 82-74.

COLUMN

The Commodores will win the SEC Championship **BAD CALL GOOD CALL**

The Dores' fast start in the SEC is for real.

by ERIC SINGLE

Asst Sports Editor

A week from now, this article is going to look either prophetic or foolish. But for now, the rest of the Southeastern Conference needs to watch out for Vanderbilt.

On Wednesday, Vanderbilt will play a motivated and angry Tennessee Volunteers basketball team in Knoxville. Bruce Pearl's team was dominated this weekend in Athens by a Georgia team who had not won a conference game in three tries and had lost to Wofford and St. John's earlier in the year. The Volunteers will be eager to cushion their fall from the top 10 with an impressive home win over the streaking Commodores.

And on Saturday in Lexington, they will play the No. 1 team in the nation on the road for the first time since 2007, when they lost by 10 at Florida. The Kentucky Wildcats hold the nation's final undefeated record at 19-0, the nation's most electrifying freshman guard duo of Eric Bledsoe and John Wall and the nation's hottest coach in John Calipari. The Wildcats' shot at a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament hinges on their ability to hold serve at

But for now, if they haven't established themselves as serious contenders for the outright SEC title, the Commodores certainly have legitimized their right to be in the conversation.

Saturday's 82-74 victory over Auburn showed exactly what the 2009-2010 Commodores are capable of. When the Commodores came out flat in the first half, Brad Tinsley kept Auburn within reach with 11 first-half points, highlighted

by a fast-break dunk with 2:13 left that woke up the student section. In front of a sold out crowd at Memorial Gym, Vanderbilt erased an 11-point halftime deficit in eight and a half minutes and never gave the Tigers a chance to breathe, controlling the pace for the entire second half.

Any one of seven or eight Commodores has the ability to step up and supply Tinsley's surge in production in any given game, which creates a terrifying amount of uncertainty for opposing defenses. But by the end of January, Vanderbilt must find out which of its players are committed to playing at a consistently high level for every single game. Coach Kevin Stallings subbed frantically on Saturday as the Tigers jumped out to an early lead, searching for the lineup of the day, and the offense's continuity suffered as a result.

With an understanding of the improvements that need to be made, I think the Commodores will be playing late in the SEC tournament. Moreover, I think they can take one or both of this week's tough road games.

Tennessee's lack of depth will catch up to them, and wouldn't it make sense that that weakness would manifest itself against an extremely deep Vanderbilt team? Kentucky is too young; they're good, but they will lose at least one game this season that will make you double take at the box scores the next morning. Who's to say that game won't be one of their two meetings with the Commodores?

By next Saturday evening we'll know a lot more about where the road to the SEC Championship runs through. But for now, Nashville is as good an answer as any.



NICOLE MANDEL/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Johnnie Lett (34) is no match for the size and strength of A.J. Ogilvy (4). The Commodores came back after halftime to win 82-74. Whether their victory will spark a SEC title run remains to be seen.

Wall, UK too much for Commodores, rest of SEC.

On Saturday afternoon, Memorial Gymnasium was rocking as the Vanderbilt Commodores made the Auburn Tigers' 16-point advantage disappear as if they were performing a magic trick. Behind the efforts of sophomore stud Jeffrey Taylor, the timely shooting of guards John Jenkins and Jermaine Beal and the sudden consistency of junior center A.J. Ogilvy, the Commodores moved to 4-0 in conference play with ease once they shook off a

week's worth of rust. It was easy, then, swaying to the sounds of the Vanderbilt alma mater and taking in the sea of black and gold, to be engulfed by the possibilities of this season. It is fair to ask what their ceiling may be, what their potential is and if these Dores could plausibly compete for the Southeastern Conference title. Unfortunately, Commodore fans, though this may be the most complete team Vanderbilt has seen in quite some time, an SEC title likely will not come this season.

The main reason for this currently resides in Lexington, Ky. There, you will find freshman John Wall, Kentucky's point guard extraordinaire who has put the immensely talented Wildcats on his back and led them to the No. 1 ranking in the land. His explosiveness, finishing ability uncanny court vision would be hard to stop in the NBA, let alone the SEC. Since he is so consistent, it is hard to envision Wall having a

late-season slump as the season wears on. Even if he does, however, Kentucky is stockpiled with talent, with Patrick Patterson, Eric Bledsoe and DeMarcus Cousins all capable of taking over games.

Thus, although of Vanderbilt's greatest strengths is their depth, matching up successfully with Kentucky - which they would have to do to win the SEC - seems farfetched for any team, even one as talented as the Commodores.

In addition, in spite of Vanderbilt's impressive SEC road wins over South Carolina and Alabama, both those games hint at legitimate causes for concern. Consider this: Against the Crimson Tide, Vanderbilt made only 54 percent of their 37 free throws, a percentage that while good enough to beat Alabama - will not cut it against the elites of the SEC. Also, against South Carolina, senior scoring machine Devan Downey went off for 35 points and caused six of Vanderbilt's 20 turnovers. Again, the Commodores cannot afford to shoot themselves in the foot with that many turnovers, especially against teams with more than one legitimate scoring threat. You can bet Bruce Pearl

and John Calipari were licking their chops when they saw Vanderbilt's sloppy play on the road.

Therefore, while progress of Kevin Stallings' club is exciting and undoubtedly impressive, tempering expectations is probably a better bet than

This week in Vandy sports



NICOLE MANDEL / The Vanderbilt Hustle

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Men's Basketball at Tennessee (6 p.m. CST, Knoxville, Tennessee)

The Commodores (15-3, 4-0 Southeastern Conference) look to remain undefeated in the SEC, as they travel across Route 40 and pay a visit to the Volunteers in Knoxville. Tennessee's seven-game win streak was snapped Saturday night in Athens, as the Vols (15-3, 3-1) fell to the Georgia Bulldogs, 78-63. Vanderbilt needs to capitalize on the loss of a number of key Tennessee players this season, including senior guard Tyler Smith, junior guard Melvin Goins, sophomore center Brian Williams and sophomore guard Cameron Tatum. Wednesday's contest will prove to be a vital steppingstone for the Commodores on the road, as they travel to Lexington next Saturday to face the formidable Kentucky Wildcats (19-0, 4-0), who boast the nation's sole untarnished record to date.

Thursday, Jan. 28

Women's Basketball vs. Alabama (7 p.m. CST, Nashville, Tennessee)

Vanderbilt (14-6, 3-4 SEC) looks to rebound after Sunday afternoon's loss to Mississippi State. The Commodores are 9-2 at Memorial this season, and they will use their home-court advantage against the struggling Alabama Crimson Tide (9-11, 1-6) on Thursday night. Vanderbilt needs aggressive play and sharpshooting from senior quard Merideth Marsh, junior guard Jence Rhoads and junior forward Hannah Tuomi as they enter into the heart of conference play. Last season was a memorable one for the Commodores, one that culminated in a SEC championship title and a Sweet 16 appearance. While Vanderbilt lost key performers from last year's squad, including Christina Wirth and Jen Risper, coach Melanie Balcomb and the current Commodores are not disheartened. A conference victory against the Crimson Tide this week could prove a vital confidence boost for a young Vanderbilt.

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—Compiled by Meghan Rose

SEC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL POWER RANKINGS

*Records through Saturday afternoon



1. Georgia (18-1, 5-1) Georgia overtakes Tennessee in the power rankings after defeating the Lady Vols 53-50 at home on Thursday. The No. 8 Lady Bulldogs have stormed through their competition, sans a 22-point loss to Vanderbilt earlier in the season.



7. Mississippi State (12-7, 3-3)

Just like LSU, Mississippi State has a tough slate in conference this week. On Sunday, the Rebels traveled to Nashville to play the Commodores in Memorial Gym — always a hard venue to play. They will then face the conferenceleading Georgia Bulldogs at home on Thursday.



2.Tennessee (16-2, 4-1)

The Lady Vols became the last team in the Southeastern Conference to lose during conference play. Luckily for Tennessee, they had an opportunity to defend that loss right away, as they traveled to Baton Rouge to face the No. 19 LSU Tigers Sunday night.



8. South Carolina (10-8, 3-3)

South Carolina may have the most talented freshman in the SEC in Kelsey Bone, who leads the SEC in rebounding with 9.5 boards per game. The Gamecocks have struggled against ranked teams, going 1-3 with their sole win over Kentucky.



3. Vanderbilt (14-5, 3-3)

The problem for Vanderbilt this season in conference play has been the inability to win on the road. The win at Auburn on Thursday should help to build the confidence for the team. The next four games for the Commodores are games they should win before they get another chance to face the Lady Vols on Feb. 8.



9. Florida (10-9, 3-3)

Florida has had it rough this season, playing against some of the SEC's marquee and toughest teams. Though they almost upset Tennessee at home, Thursday's blowout loss to Alabama hurts the Gators' quest to build off their positive momentum.



4. Kentucky (15-3, 3-2)

Much like Vanderbilt, Kentucky has had a problem with winning on the road in the SEC, as they have lost both of their road games in conference. However, at home, Kentucky has been dominant, similar to their men's squad, defeating teams by an average of 17 points a game.



10. Auburn (11-8, 2-4)

These Tigers are another team facing a tough stretch in the SEC, as they are in the midst of a stretch where they face four ranked opponents in a row. They are 0-1 to this point, as Vanderbilt narrowly escaped Auburn with a 61-60 victory on Thursday. Next up are back-to-back road games against Kentucky and Tennessee, and then a home matchup against Georgia.



5. Mississippi (13-5, 4-1)

While Ole Miss is third in the SEC standings with a 4-1 record, the only quality win in conference the Lady Rebels have is a 9-point victory over No. 19 LSU at home. Once Ole Miss starts to face the tougher teams in the SEC, we will see how good the team actually is.



11. Alabama (9-10, 1-5)

12. Arkansas (8-11, 0-6)

On Thursday, the Crimson Tide managed a surprising 82-58 blow out victory over Florida. Alabama will try to build on this win with a road match-up against the winless Arkansas Razorbacks.



6. LSU (14-3, 3-2)

This week will prove if LSU has what it takes to compete for the SEC title this season, as they will face both Tennessee and Kentucky at home. Thus, the Lady Tigers hope their "sixth man" comes into play in these pivotal conference battles.



Looks like this is not the year for Arkansas basketball, for either men's or women's. The Lady Razorbacks have been blown out of most of their conference games, and are just looking for their first win in conference play. If it does not happen on Sunday against Alabama, we do not see it happening in the near future, as they have a three-game stretch of Vanderbilt, Tennessee and Kentucky.



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THE HUSTLER STUDENT NEWSPAPER AND VERSUS

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1/25/10

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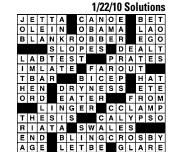
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