# HUS

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012

CONSTRUCTION BY LIZ FURLOW NEWS EDITOR

### SARRATT RENOVATIONS TO BEGIN MID-FEBRUARY

Sarratt renovations will commence mid-February with work on the bookstore and restrooms in Rand, with further renovations to follow after Commencement completion set for the fall of 2012.

The former main floor of the bookstore will be converted into a large, open space that can be used for a variety of purposes, including additional seating during dining hours and an open space for performances student and gatherings.

The Office of the Dean of Students began renovation plans six month ago, with the goal of incorpo-

rating student opinions into the renovated space.

After gathering student input through an online submission form, Facebook and Twitter, a planning committee of Sarratt and Rand staff as well as four student representatives reviewed more than 1.300 student submissions to make plans for the renovations.

In mid-February the Vanderbilt community will be able to submit opinions about furniture and finishes.

information is More available on the Sarratt renovation website (www. vanderbilt.edu/sarratt) and Facebook. ★

### Overtime disappointment

FINAL, VANDERBILT 77



No. 18 MISSISSIPPI **78** STATE



The Mississippi State Bulldogs defeated Vanderbilt 78-77 in overtime in Memorial Gym Saturday evening. See page 11 for more on the Commodore's weekend in basketball.

### University to hold town hall meeting

KYLE BLAINE

SENIOR REPORTER

University officials will hold a town hall meeting Tuesday, Jan. 31 to address the ongoing tension between the school's nondiscrimination policy and religious freedom, according to a message from Chancellor Nick Zeppos.

The meeting will take place from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in Furman Hall to discuss any concerns. Room 114. It is open to Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff.

James Hudnut-Beumler, dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School, will moderate the discussion with Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty

and David Williams, vice chancellor for university affairs and athletics, general counsel and university secretary. According to a release by Vanderbilt News Service, they will explain and take questions about the university's position in an effort to ensure the content and purpose of the nondiscrimination policy are more fully understood and to continue

In a campus-wide email sent Friday, Zeppos outlined the university's stance on discrimintation and religious freedom.

"I want to assure you the university does not seek to limit anyone's freedom to practice his or her religion," Zeppos wrote.

"We do, however, require all Vanderbilt registered student organizations to observe our nondiscrimination policy. That means membership in registered student organizations is open to everyone and that everyone, if desired, has the opportunity to seek leadership positions."

The university began reviewing the constitutions of all student organizations at the beginning of last year, following allegations in November 2010 that Beta Upsilon Chi (BYX), a Christian fraternity on campus, asked an openly gay member to resign due to his sexual orientation. The investigation into the BYX allegations is still ongoing,

according to Dean of Students Mark Bandas.

The university has

found three religious organizations in violation of the nondiscrimination policy. The noncompliance issue is the same for Christian Legal Society, Graduate Christian Fellowship and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Each group's constitution contains a clause which restricts leadership positions to individuals who share the group's core religious beliefs. The university is in the process of determining whether these clauses violate the school's nondiscrimination policy; until a determination is made, the groups will retain provisional status. ★

# VSG platform progress report: Technology

KATIE KROG SENIOR PRODUCER

Student Body President Adam Meyer and Vice President Maryclaire Manard ran for office with an extensive platform. With the second semester now underway, The Hustler sat down with Meyer to talk about his administration's accomplishments thus far. In this series of "VSG Platform Progress Reports," The Hustler examines how well the current VSG administration has accomplished the goals stated in their platforms.

### **PLATFORM GOALS**

• Collegiate Link

**Organizational Online Portal** 

In Progress

According to Meyer, this online program will be the equivalent of YES (Your Enrollment Services), except it will be used for extra-curricular activities instead of classes. He said this site will make it easier for students to join clubs and to interact with organizations such as AcFee. Currently, the program is in training stages, and an exact date of release is not yet available.

### • Expansion of Portable Card Reader System

Completed

According to Meyer, this initiative has been successful. Any student organization can reserve a portable card reader to sell tickets for their on-campus events, and there are now two card readers so that multiple student groups can sell tickets at the same time.

According to Sarratt Student Center Box Office Manager Bryan Masters, card readers are now available for use at the



MANARD AND MEYER

door of student organization events.

"Feedback on this aspect of the expansion has been overwhelmingly positive," Masters wrote in an email. "We are excited about how the expansion of the program is making it easier for student organizations to raise funds for their respective causes."

For more information, contact Bryan Masters at bryan.masters@vanderbilt.edu.

#### Online Ticketing Ordering on the Card

In Progress

Currently, there is no way for students to use their Commodore Cards to purchase event tickets online. Student groups may register their events on Ticketmaster, but online tickets are only purchasable with credit or debit cards.

"We're in talks," Meyer said, "but the technology isn't there yet."

• Expanded Card Access Hours Not expected to happen this academic year

see VSG page 2

### Safety on campus

SUOULAN JIANG STAFF REPORTER

After the aggravated robbery and burglary in Lupton dorm last semester by sophomore safety Andre Simmons and Danny Diaz, The Hustler contacted Vanderbilt University Police Department about the security measures in place on campus, and how students can stay safe.

### **AlertVU**

The AlertVU system sent out a message at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 15, warning students, faculty and staff members of a robbery in Lupton.

The first message read, "ALERT! Robbery reported at Lupton Hall on Vanderbilt campus. One suspect in custody, one suspect still possibly on campus.

More information to follow."

The alert was canceled an hour later. VUPD released a second alert stating, "CANCEL ALERT. No robbery actually occurred. Incident still being investigated. No ongoing threat on campus."

According to a press release issued by the university on Nov. 17, "After the robbery was reported, a campus wide alert was sent out because the location of the second suspect was unknown. The alert was later canceled because inconsistencies in the report that was filed and other evidence led police to believe that there was not an ongoing threat to campus."

August Washington, the assistant vice chancellor and chief of police of VUPD explained how the AlertVU system worked.

"We are not perfect, but we

are getting better every single day," Washington said. After the case, the police officers had a discussion on how to use the language and the way alerts should be released.

According to the Vanderbilt University Annual Security Report 2011, AlertVU is expected to "deliver a small amount of critical information in a very short time."

According to Washington, the department did not have enough time to verify all of the facts of the case, and had not yet had time to compile interviews or uncover further details.

During Washington's two and half year of service in VUPD, it is the first time that a real emergency alert was released about a crime on campus. For VUPD, it

see **SAFETY** page **3** 







LAUREN KOENIG

STAFE REPORTER

A \$5 million renewal grant awarded by the Lilly Endowment will help to further the development of the Divinity School's doctoral program in Theology and Practice.

The new grant will be used to enhance the training for students seeking to apply "practical theology" to their work. Formed nine years ago by the Divinity School and the graduate department of Religious Studies, the program is designed to provide religious leadership training as well as an academic study of religion.

Doctoral candidates typically include students seeking to become pro-

fessors directly involved in congregational ministry or academics in other fields seeking to connect their work to ministry practice.

"We are well on our way to becoming a national model of best practices in doctoral education for people who want to teach for and learn from ministry," Ted Smith, director of the program, told VU News.

Students are prepared on how to work with issues related to nonprofit fields, social services and lay religious leaders in addition to the clergy. Since its initiation, 31 fellows have been admitted to the program and one has already graduated with her doctorate.

"From the endowment's point of view, Vanderbilt's

program is a key element in our efforts to enhance the quality of the Christian ministry by improving the quality of teaching in theological schools," said Craig Dykstra, Lilly Endowment senior vice president for religion.

The Lilly Endowment is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation. According to their website, the foundation seeks to support causes related to religion and community development, especially those projects benefiting young people and leadership education.

The initial \$10 million grant provided by the Lilly Endowment was the largest grant previously received by the Divinity School. ★

### This is not the same old Vanderbilt'



CHRIS HONIBALL/ THE VANDERBILT HUSTLE

Head coach James Franklin and the Vanderbilt football team were recognized during the halftime of the Vanderbilt v. Mississippi State game Saturday. Franklin was presented with game balls for his first win against Elon and his first SEC win against Ole Miss.

and to obtain a weekend

access card, visit http://

www.vanderbilt.edu/com-

modorecard/ and click on

the "Lost or Found" icon.

HDTV and New Tele-

Not expected to hap-

### VSG: Card access hours help security

from **VSG** page **1** 

According to Meyer, he and Manard had hoped to expand card access hours from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., but a student survey over the summer showed that the majority of students would not be affected by the change.

Meyer said the survey showed that only a small percentage of students return to their dorms between 8 and 10 p.m., whereas a large number of students typically return after midnight.

"I'm glad we didn't make that change," Meyer said. With the increased security issues on campus last semester, Meyer said he feels

that expanded card access hours would possibly have negatively impacted campus security.

#### • Installing Printers in **Campus Hotspots and Dorms**

**Completed** 

The new VUprint program, which allows students to print to campus printers from their laptops or personal computers, started last semester.

According to Meyer, the Commodore Card Office helped with the initiative to start VUprint and install printers across campus.

Currently, new printers are being piloted in Lewis and the Commons.

"A concern of ours is who's going to maintain and pay for these printers," Meyer said. "The pilots will help us figure out whether it's worthwhile."

### • Textbook Buy Back **Improvements**

In Progress

According to Meyer, VSG has historically been very active in working with Follett, the company that managed the previous Vanderbilt Bookstore.

"We didn't know the bookstore was getting sold (when we wrote our platform)," Meyer said.

Although the improvements Meyer and Manard had planned have not yet come to fruition, Meyer dore Card lost or stolen said VSG has been working with Barnes and Noble to establish the connections that had existed between professors and Fol-

#### • Temporary Access **Cards for Weekends**

In Progress

By following a process outline on the Commodore Card website, Vanderbilt students can obtain temporary dorm access cards if they lose their Commodore Cards over the weekend.

According to Meyer, VSG is currently working to publicize this process.

To report your Commo-

pen this academic year "We chose not to contin-

vision Channels

ue pursuing this," Meyer said. He added that, for HDTV to be added to the student TV packages, students would have been required to pay their own bills and buy their own have space to support the HD boxes.

"We're trying to get them to look at ESPN," Meyer said, "but there's currently no legal way to accomplish what we had hoped."

 Creating a Vandy DVD Club

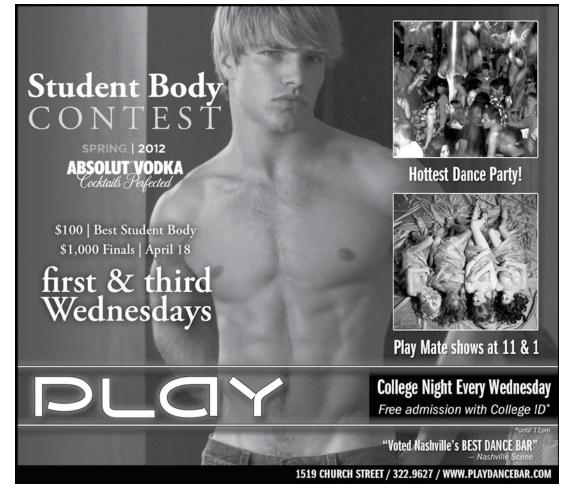
Not expected to happen this academic year

According to Meyer, VSG first considered the possibility of bringing Redbox to campus, but Redbox requires a campus to have 15,000 students before they will consider installing a rental station.

Meyer said VSG also considered a DVD library similar to one at Notre Dame, but the university did not endeavor.

To read more VSG Progress Reports, visit www.insidevandy.com. ★





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### SERVICE GUIDE

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**AFFILIATIONS** The Hustler is a member of the

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The staff of The Vanderbilt Hustler is committed to ensuring our work is

fair and accurate.

Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@insidevandy.com.

You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

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### **BACK ISSUES**

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

### **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

### OWEN HOSTS GRADUATE INFORMATION SESSION

The Owen Graduate School of \$20,000 higher for graduates Management will hold an open house Jan. 25 to educate Vanderbilt undergraduates and recent graduates about available Master's of Business Administration degrees and related programs available through the school.

According to Tami Fassinger, Chief Recruiting Officer for Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management, the average salary is about

with MBAs than for those with just an undergraduate degree.

Registration, food and refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m. The information session, along with a drawing for door prizes, starts at 7 p.m. To register, sign up online at owen.vanderbilt.edu, or contact Owen Admissions for more information, 322-6469 or admissions@owen.vanderbilt.edu. ★

#### **VUPD CRIME LOG**

COMPILED BY **GEOFFREY KING** 

#### JAN. 15. 3:13 A.M.

A person was arrested for liquor law violations, hit-and-run and driving under the influence at the Vanderbilt University Hospital.

#### JAN. 17, 12:15 A.M.

A liquor law violation was issued after VUPD was called to Hank Ingram House for an intoxicated student. The student was transported to the ER.

### JAN. 17, 1 A.M.

A liquor law violation was issued after VUPD was called to Memorial House for an intoxicated student. The student was transported to the ER.

### JAN. 17, 1:30 A.M.

A liquor law violation was issued after VUPD was called to Hank Ingram House for an intoxicated student. The student was transported to the ER.

#### JAN. 17. 1:45 A.M.

A liquor law violation was issued after VUPD was called to the Commons Center for an intoxicated student.

### JAN. 17, 2:43 A.M.

Impersonation and drunkenness citations were issued at Branscomb after a person was found publicly intoxicated and in possession of false identification.

#### JAN. 19, 1:55 P.M.

An indecent exposure citation was issued after a student was reported walking toward a dorm when an unknown person exposed himself.

### JAN. 20, 5:10 A.M.

A drunkenness citation was issued at Cole Hall after a student was found urinating in the stairwell.

# SAFETY: Your personal safety is your responsibility'

from **SAFETY** page **1** 

was a practice for them to make improvements as well.

The AlertVU system is in compliance with the Clery Act, a federal law requiring that universities and colleges across the country disclose campus crime information and notify the university community of any ongoing threats in a timely manner. Crimes requiring notification include manslaughter, sexual assault, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, robbery, arson and vehicle theft.

Vanderbilt Environmental Health & Safety Department also experienced an AlertVU problem last year.

Johnny Vanderpool, the program manager of VEHS, described what happened that day.

On April 4, 2011, the AlertVU system experienced a technical issue. At approximately 3 p.m., Vanderbilt officials received a tornado warning alert from our weather monitoring company, Accuweather. At that time, Vanderbilt officials attempted to activate the AlertVU system to deliver a "Tornado Warning" alert message.

not activate and no message was ever delivered. "We feel confident that the AlertVU program review and the new procedures instituted at W.A.R.N. will proemergency notification system for future emergencies," Vanderpool said one year after the incident.

Alerts warn students of oncampus threats requiring immediate action, while security notices provide students with in-



campus and raise student aware-

#### **Security on Campus**

VUPD contributes 93 trained officers, several community service officers and a contract with Allied-Barton Security Services whose employees work as security guards in residential halls and at the medical center.

The force itself works in four zones on campus, with plans Unfortunately, the system did for possible expansion to a fifth zone, which would encompass the campus perimeter. The fifth zone would help to protect students in nearby off-campus housing, which is especially pertinent vide Vanderbilt with a reliable as more students are forced off campus next year.

In addition to the security services VUPD provides, the department also offers community education programs, such as classes on alcohol and drug awareness, property protection, domestic violence education and

workplace violence education.

events around campus.

to various dorms and Greek

Lieutenant Rochelle Waddell teaches Rape Aggression Defense classes for women, a program that teaches awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, as well as self-defense training. The class is offered in a single, 12-hour session, or three or four shorter sessions for those who cannot dedicate a whole day to the program.

According to Washington, however, the greatest challenge to student safety is when students involve themselves in high-risk activities such as drinking alcohol or taking drugs, which prevent good decision-making skills and expose students to danger.

"No matter how much an institution invest," said Washington, "Your personal safety is your responsibility." ★

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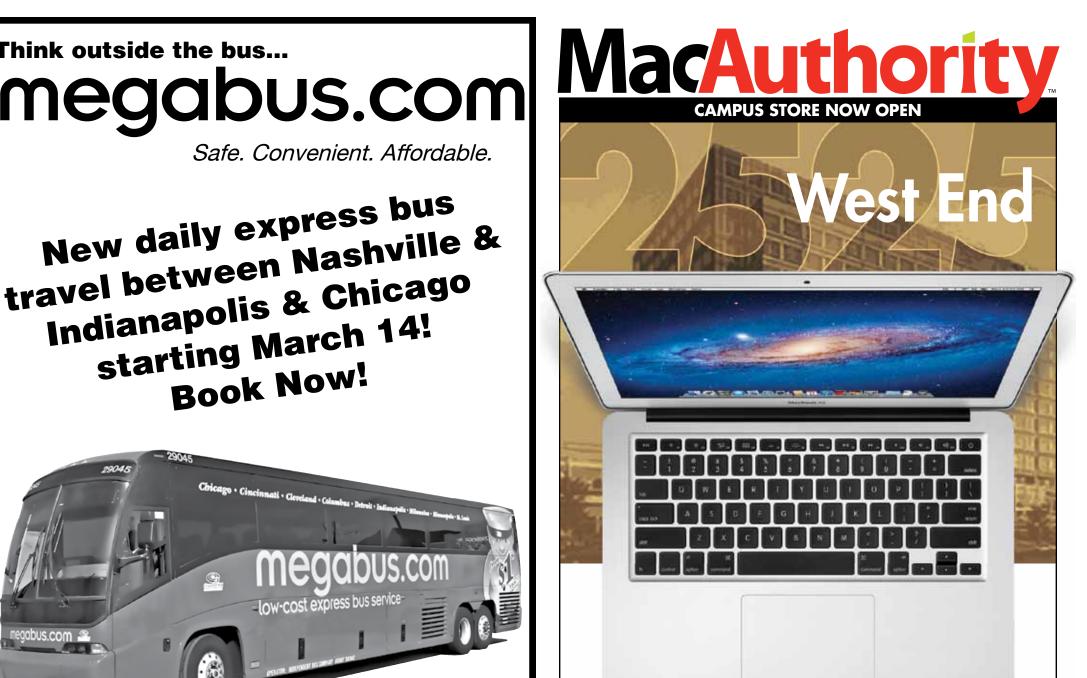
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**Authorized Campus Store** 



Students planning to travel internationally should make an appointment with the Student Health Center four to six weeks before their trip to ensure proper immunization.

### Student Health encourages travel medicine services

LAURA DOLBOW STAFF REPORTER

With spring break just over a month away, the Student Health Center is encouraging students to think about a crucial part of the planning process beyond deciding between the senior cruise and the Bahamas — scheduling a travel medicine consultation.

"Ideally, we like students to schedule appointments four to six weeks before departure," said Matt Bumbalough, family nurse practitioner. "Waiting until the last minute can affect their ability to get certain vaccines or be properly immunized before they go on a trip."

Travel consultations are recommended for any international travel. "Unless they are going to London or somewhere we really don't have 'travel-illnesses,' they need to have the consult," Bumbalough said.

Students can request an appointment by calling 322-2427 during business hours. Appointments can typically be scheduled within a few days. "A pre-travel questionnaire is posted on our website," Bumbalough said. "We ask them to download, print and fill out the form completely before their visit."

Information regarding the destination as well as scheduled activities is used to create personalized recommendations for each individual. "For instance, if someone is primarily going to be in the city but planning to take a hiking trip in the mountains, that affects what medications or preventative treatments they might require," said Bumbalough.

The consultation itself does not cost anything, but vaccinations range from \$25 to \$440.  $\star$ 

### Lawmakers debate halving some state scholarships

LUCAS L. JOHNSON II ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Psychology student Jay MacDonnchadh says a plan that would cut some students' lottery scholarships in half is a bad idea.

"If it wasn't for the lottery scholarship, I would have had to work my way up through community college," said the University of Memphis senior.

MacDonnchadh, 21, is among hundreds of Tennessee students who depend on the scholarship, also called the HOPE Scholarship.

A proposal from a panel of state lawmakers would reduce by 50 percent the lottery scholarship awards for students who do not meet both standardized testing and high school grade requirements.

Right now, students can get a scholarship worth \$4,000 for each of four years if they either earn a 3.0 grade point average in high school or score a 21 on their ACT college entrance exam.

Students who attend a four-year institution and meet one of the criteria would get a two-year award amount, under

one of the criteria and retain the award through year two would be eligible for a full award in year three.

The plan, which doesn't apply to students attending community colleges, is estimated to generate about \$13 million in savings the first year and \$17 million each year thereafter.

But opponents of the plan say it's unnecessary because the lottery scholarship program currently has nearly \$400 million in reserves and tickets for the Tennessee Lottery's popular Powerball game have increased by a dollar, which will likely mean additional revenue for the future.

"We just don't need to go across the board slashing it and putting a lot of ... kids off it," said House Democratic Caucus Chairman Mike Turner of Nashville. "I think the lottery is pretty sound."

Lottery officials announced strong secondquarter results last week that raised \$78.2 million for state education programs, an increase of almost \$5.8 million over the same quarter

the plan. Those who meet last year. Gross sales for December ,Äî \$114.2 million Âî were the highest of any December since the lottery's inception in 2004, officials said.

> "The lottery's mission is to raise the most dollars as possible, as responsibly as possible, to fund the designated education programs," Rebecca Hargrove, president and CEO of the Tennessee Lottery, told The Associated Press.

"To date, we've done that quite successfully, raising an enormous excess over what has actually been distributed so far. How that large, remaining reserve fund is to be used, however, is a policy matter to be determined by state elected officials."

Regardless of the surplus, some lawmakers say the state still needs to be conservative.

Currently, the cost of the scholarship program is outpacing lottery revenues. To make up the difference in the short term, the state has dipped into the lottery reserves. If nothing is done, state officials estimate the lottery reserve balance could dwindle to about \$145 million by 2021, including the \$50 million that state law requires remain in reserve for the program.

A bipartisan Lottery Stabilization Task Force recommended the plan to cut the scholarships in half for some students, and to maintain a minimum reserve balance of \$100 million in the future.

Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey of Blountville formed the task force and said he favors its recommendations to ensure the future of the scholarship program.

"If we're going to make this lottery financially solvent, there will be some changes," Ramsey said. "We want that lottery scholarship to remain."

Dick Gregory, vice chancellor for the Tennessee Board of Regents and a task force member, said he wants to "get students to the spot where they can be most successful," which he believes the implementation time will do.

"What this allows is a time for the reforms the state are undertaking to hopefully work and prepare students better to be in a position to receive the scholarship," Gregory said. ★



# -InsideVandy

win stuff



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Follow @InsideVandy on Twitter for campus news updates to win swag, \$50 gift certificates and an iPad 2!

Go to www.InsideVandy.com for complete contest details.

### Important Information

### Register for 2012-2013 Housing February 6-12

All Undergraduates eligible to return for Fall 2012 must register for the Housing Assignment Process for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Register online at **www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd** and follow the link to the upperclass housing application anytime between Monday, February 6, and 6 p.m. Sunday, February 12. Your VuNetID and password are required for logging into the application process.

Students who apply after the deadline of 6 p.m., on Sunday, February 12 will (1) not be allowed to reserve their current space and/or (2) lose a point of seniority for the housing assignment process.

All students are eligible to apply for off-campus authorization. All students that currently live off-campus must re-apply for authorization each year.

### Deadline to register is February 12, at 6 p.m.



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

### **ATTN: Current Residents**

### think <u>OUTSIDE</u> the BUBBLE

### Apply for Off-Campus Housing for 2012-2013 between February 6 – 12

If you are interested in living off-campus for 2012-2013, complete the online off-campus housing application. The application can be found on the Office of Housing Assignment's website: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd/main/housing-assignments/

### **Rules for Off-Campus Authorization:**

- 1. ALL Vanderbilt University undergraduates are eligible to apply for off-campus authorization (this includes rising seniors, rising juniors, and rising sophomores)
- 2. Students seeking off-campus authorization must submit both an on- and off-campus housing application
- 3. The off-campus application opens on February 6th and closes on February 12th students will be notified of decisions on February 16th
- 4. Students have until February 28th to decline their off-campus authorization



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

### INFORMATION SESSIONS ON SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSING ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

Students seeking suitable furnishings or accommodations for the 2012-13 academic year due to disabilities, medical conditions, psychological conditions or for other reasons, should make an appointment with Matthew Sinclair (matthew.s.sinclair@vanderbilt.edu) or in the Housing Assignments Office, January 30-February 10.

Students will be asked to provide supporting documentation from their professional caregivers. Appointments will only be scheduled if a student has sufficient documentation from their professional caregiver. Professional caregivers providing supporting documentation should not be family members. The caregivers should provide detailed information on their professional letterhead including:

- A confirmed and clear diagnosis
- Relevant medical history
- Test results that support the diagnosis (where appropriate)
- Course of treatment
- A description of the specific type of housing and/or furnishings required
- An explanation of how the described housing will help the student meet her/his special need

This information will be reviewed and evaluated by appropriate University officials. All information provided with special requests may be evaluated through a blind review process by a committee consisting of professional staff members of the Office of Housing and Residential Education, University health professionals, and/or student representatives.

Students who have previously received special consideration will receive an email regarding 2012-2013 housing assignments.



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

# HOUSING SELECTION FAO'S

### **Housing Application**

- 1. Do I have to register for housing? Yes; all students must register for housing (between February 6-12), and participate in the appropriate selection event. Please refer to A Guide to the Housing Assignment Process for more information.
- 2. What happens if I miss a selection deadline? You will not be able to participate in that selection event, and will be assigned housing at the end of the process.
- 3. Who should I talk to about the housing application and selection processes? If you want the most accurate information, then you should contact the Office of Housing Assignments at 615/322-2591.

### **Blakemore House**

- What is Blakemore House? Blakemore House is one of Vanderbilt University's residence halls, and will be newly-introduced for the 2012-2013 academic year. The University acquired the property in 2011 and is renovating it for Fall of 2012.
- 2. Where is Blakemore House on campus? Blakemore House is approximately 500 feet from Dudley Field, about a 10-minute walk from Rand and Sarratt (about the same as Highland Quad, and perhaps shorter than the walk from The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons' "Upper Quad" area).
- 3. Who will live in Blakemore House? Blakemore House is open to all continuing (non first-year) Vanderbilt University undergraduates.

### **Off-Campus Housing**

- 1. Who is allowed to apply for off-campus housing? All upperclass Vanderbilt University undergraduate students.
- 2. How many students will be authorized for off-campus housing? The Office of Housing and Residential Education expects to authorize approximately 1,050 students for off-campus living.
- 3. How does seniority apply to the off-campus authorization process? The order of approval will go as follows: (1) students already living off-campus, (2) rising 4th-year students, (3) rising 3rd-year students, then (4) rising 2nd-year students.

GUEST COLUMN

### Weed the weed-out courses

AKSHITKUMAR MISTRY

GUEST COLUMNIST

A dismal reality of college education in the U.S. is that 25 percent of Caucasian and 14 percent of underrepresented minority students who aspire to a STEM degree -Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — earn one in four years, according to one longitudinal study out of UCLA in 2010.

While substantial racial disparities are exposed, equally alarming is the lower degree completion rate that prospective STEM majors have than their same-race peers pursuing non-STEM degrees. Growing evidence suggests that the conventional practice of using rigorous introductory STEM courses to identify future scientists by "weeding out" others discourages otherwise capable students from pursuing STEM degrees. For instance, last month's issue of Science magazine — one of world's top academic journals — claimed that "weed-out courses hamper diversity."

The evidence comes from surveys conducted by the Bayer Foundation. In 2010, Bayer surveyed over 1,200 chemists and chemical engineers from underrepresented minorities as well as Caucasian and Asian women in the chemical field. A significant number of them (40 percent) reported that they were discouraged from pursuing a STEM career, and that college was the place (60 percent) and college professors were the individuals responsible (44 percent) for this discouragement.

Last year, in an effort to hear the

other side of the story, the Bayer Foundation surveyed over 400 chairs of STEM departments from the nation's top 200 research universities and institutions producing mostly African-American, Hispanic and American Indian STEM graduates. Of the surveyed chairs, 46 percent acknowledge that weedout courses drive capable students away from STEM majors.

Interestingly, though, a majority (57 percent) "see no need to significantly change their introductory courses to retain more STEM students, including women and minorities." More than 85 percent of the chairs surveyed were Caucasian males.

These statistics are quite shocking, especially now when we need to produce more STEM professionals to help us solve various national and global crises. Students excited by the cool science experiments performed in high school hit a wall in college. They lose their momentum in the crowd of hundreds that quietly slouches in the seats staring at the instructor lecture for an hour. Many introductory STEM classes make it clear that majority will get a B- or C+, perhaps as a means to scare away those not serious about a STEM degree. It sets up an unpleasant competitiveness and infuses a sense of insecurity that hinders active, curiosity-based learning by students, who instead start memorizing theories, laws and equations so as not to be left behind in class without really understanding concepts.

Most of those who manage to pass by regurgitating are scared to enroll in advance STEM courses, which are generally abstract and "applied," like game theory or population dynamics. STEM, which in the real world is cool and amazing, becomes unpleasant and discouraging.

We — including the STEM chairs of our nation's leading institutions — have a false sense that high-quality education is one which many students fail to achieve; when in reality, that education is not accessible to a greater portion simply because of poor instruction. Research has consistently demonstrated that students grasp concepts better with active learning rather than passively hearing a lecture for an hour, and then watching some graduate student solve practice problems that they couldn't. STEM fields in reality are all about application in the real world with visual, experiential, hands-on problem solving.

But it's easier said than done. STEM professors whose jobs and salaries depend on research grants will not have the time or energy to be innovative and creative instructors, willing to make the effort to understand why a majority of the students have low grades. Unless the institutions and STEM chairs prioritize improving the quality of teaching in STEM rather than ignoring this problem, introductory lecture STEM courses will continue to "weed out" students as rampantly as they have been.

—Akshitkumar Mistry is a fourth-year student in the Medical School. He can be reached at <u>a.mis-</u> try@vanderbilt.edu.

### COLUMN

### Everybody's talkin' (but are we saying much?)

ALLENA BERRY COLUMNIST

Perhaps it comes from a desire to flex my intellectual muscle while I can, soaking up these last few months as an undergraduate engaged in dynamic discussions.

Or, perhaps more cynically (and, by default, more correctly), it comes from a sense of obligation to make sure I am squeezing the most out of my Vanderbilt tuition.

Whatever the motivation, I have been attending more speakers in my last year at Vandy than I have in all the years previous. And I've noticed one unflinching, unattractive quality about the majority of the talks through which I've sat: I know what the speaker is going to say before he or she says it.

This isn't the result of some recently discovered telepathic gift, although I have always guessed that I could acquire psychokinetic powers, if only I had the diligence — and irritable parents — of one fictional Matilda.

Rather, I can make a (capital "S," and therefore meaning the Speech as an entity) is no longer the only platform for speakers. We've got Facebook, Twitter, blogs, vlogs: Everyone has something to say and, warranted or not, they think we care to listen. Speeches — or, at least the ones I have heard recently — are no longer the medium for sharing novel ideas. With the assistance of image consultants and the rise in concern of a "public image," many choose to stay in an intellectual safe zone for fear of stepping on the toes of the Internet critic (i.e., a "hater").

I realize the irony of this diagnosis coming from a girl who writes a weekly opinion column. But hear me out. I can't help but notice the duality of our current social networking situation; I can know what you say an instant after you sit down to type it. Break-ups, make-ups, mis-haps and more are covered in a 24-hour news barrage that can leave a less Twitter-savy individual (such as myself) perplexed.

When an individual does say something controversial — a la Charlie Sheen, Ashton Kutcher, or any number of our current politicians — they begin to manicure their image in such a way that they don't really say anything interesting at all.

This wouldn't be the worst thing in the world if the same mentality didn't encroach on my old-fashioned Speeches. In some of the recent Speeches I've attended, I've watched audience members cringe with discomfort as someone asks the speaker a complicated question. These questions would garner an interesting response, to be sure, but could also make the speaker look less than favorable with his or her sizable Twitter fan base. More often than not, the speaker tap dances his or her way around the pointed response, ending with picked over phrases that leave me motivated, if not informed.

With the rise of quicker, larger platforms for speech, and the seeming decline of the traditional lectern-and-audience set. I couldn't help but ask the question: Is anyone really saying anything anymore?

Of course, it is completereasonable assumption ly possible that I am senas to what the speaker is timentalizing a thing that going to say before they never truly existed. Persay it because the Speech haps, in the height of the liberal arts institution, speeches and debates were not as intellectually stimulating as I imagined them to be. But, I fear that as it becomes easier and easier to say whatever pops into our heads - and as it becomes easier for our virtual peers to critique us, becoming our real or imagined "haters" — we lose opportunities to make valuable statements when more traditional platforms are made available. As my sister aptly pointed out to me over break, "Everyone now thinks they have a hater," making it wise to stay in the realm of generalities that a wide margin of individuals can support. Or else we face something worse than a "hater"; an intelligent conversation with someone who has a legitimate viewpoint that is different than our own.

For now, though, it seems like there is a lot of sound and fury that, sadly, seems to signify nothing.

#hatersgonnahate, suppose.

—Allena Berry is a senior in Peabody College. She can be reached allena.g.berry@ van der bilt.edu.

### GUEST COLUMN

### The case for urban agriculture

BRUCE SPENCER GUEST COLUMNIST

If you were to guess what percentage of land was not being used in downtown Nashville, how much would you guess? Five percent at most, right? Maybe 10 percent? Try 20 percent.

That's right, Metro Planning Commission spokesman Craig Owensby told The City Paper that 131 of the 668 acres in downtown Nashville (officially designated the Central Business Improvement District) are vacant. Imagine 40 percent of Vanderbilt covered by derelict buildings, unused houses, or just tall grass. And the problem isn't just in Nashville. The New York City department of planning says that 154,000 acres of land in their city aren't being used. The city of Phoenix says that 11 percent of the city's urban core is vacant.

So, let's use some of this vacant land for urban farms.

Urban agriculture has been on the upswing in a number of cities across America, with Seattle most notably deeming 2010 their "year of urban agriculture." And why wouldn't there be? Who wouldn't rather have a fresh batch of spinach or tomatoes right from their backyard instead of the already half-composted variety you get at your local big-box retail store. Beyond the excellent taste of home-grown vegetables, there are

munity development. Is it possible for an entire city of bicycles.

two primary reasons why we should

use some of these vacant plots for ur-

ban farms: Food security and com-

more than 3.5 million people to live off of food grown within its boundar-

In the '90s in Havana, Cuba, people didn't have a choice. After the fall of the soviet bloc in the decade, Cuba lost its number one importer and exporter and with it, any supply of fertilizer, tractors, pesticides, oil, etc. Just imagine what life would be like if 57 percent of the calories you eat every day were suddenly gone.

How did Havana respond? They responded with urban agriculture. In 2008, 40 percent of all homes in Havana were involved in urban agriculture and were responsible for producing 25,000 tons of food annually.

Now, I'm not saying that urban agriculture has turned Havana into paradise, but I am saying that Havana has food freedom, which is something the United States doesn't have. With fields and fields of corn in America all having the same DNA, we're one fungus away from a serious food shortage. We all complain about being "free from foreign oil"; I say let's be free from "corporate agriculture" and be dependent on someone who will never double-cross us: ourselves.

The second reason we should support urban agriculture for vacant lots can be answered with a question: Do you want to live next to a crackhouse? I imagine that most of us want to live next to something beautiful, and that's what exactly urban farms are — beautiful. I personally would love to live next to an urban chicken farm more than I would a vacant lot full of busted-up

Additionally, there's a reason why most urban farms are called community gardens, and that's because they bring a community together. They're great meeting places to talk about current issues going on in a neighborhood or to talk about why Eli is now the better Manning. Plus, a community farm is a lot cheaper than a brick-and-mortar community center as there are only a couple things you need to start a community garden: land, seeds and tilling equipment.

If the city donates the vacant land (which they're obviously not using and have no reason to keep) to a community group, the group only needs \$500 at most for a tilling machine to till the soil, and all of a sudden you're on your way to a garden. As the plants grow, the property value of everything surrounding the garden will grow, the pride in the neighborhood will grow and most importantly, the community as a whole will grow.

At Vanderbilt, we have the Vanderbilt Garden Initiative, which turned a parking lot grass spot into a garden and is now raising its own vegetables, proving that urban agriculture is possible. So if you're at home and you see a vacant lot that's not being used, ask your city councilman or mayor to donate the land to a community group to be used for urban agriculture. I have a feeling that he or she will pick vegetables over vacancy any day.

-Bruce Spencer is a senior in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at bruce.e.spencer@vanderbilt.edu.

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### **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 Unreasonable arguments, arguments in 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 email address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Sunday or Wednesday.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

focus on an issue affecting students may be considered for a guest column at the All submissions be-

editor's discretion.

come the property of The Hustler and must Lengthy letters that conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which The Hustler is a division.

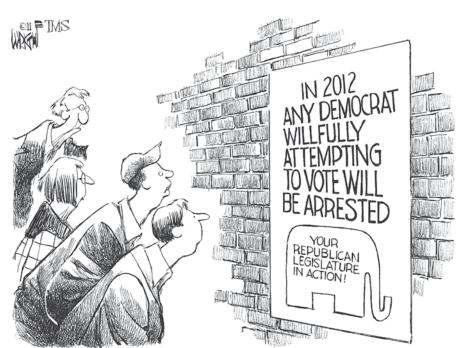
### Voter ID laws trivialize constitutional right

Response to "Illinois discriminates against students, poor people, minorities and the elderly," by Stephen Siao

To the Editor:

Mr. Siao's latest defense of the laws requiring voters to present valid photo ID, such as those passed in Tennessee and South Carolina, suffers primarily from his trivialization of the right to vote, which is fundamental to a Republican form of government. Mr. Siao compares voting, a constitutional right protected by the 15th, 19th, 24th and 26th Amendments, with various other activities that he dubiously asserts require photo ID, only one of which (the right of access to federal courts) is actually a constitutional right. Not only does this comparison belittle the efforts made by women, African-Americans and youth to gain suffrage by comparing their trials with the struggle to be able to purchase strong chemical drain cleaner — it also fails to establish that requiring photo ID is not an unconstitutional poll tax.

Even though the ID cards provided by states like South Carolina and Tennessee are nominally free, there are still costs that could make the ID requirement a poll tax. Consider South Carolina's voter photo ID law. It is true that, in South Carolina, the DMV will provide photo ID to those 17 and older for free. However, obtaining a free photo ID requires, among other things, certification of birth. Obtaining a South Carolina birth certificate requires a \$12 payment as well as a photo ID. For the significant proportion of citizens who do not have a birth certificate for whatever reason, the free photo ID for voting,



DON WRIGHT/ MCT CAMPUS

if it is possible to obtain, will cost money. Further, no photo ID is acceptable except one issued by South Carolina or the federal government. Out-of-state college students with a driver's license from their home state who intend to stay in South Carolina (and who therefore are eligible to vote in South Carolina) face the Hobson's choice of surrendering the privilege of driving in South Carolina and their home state for a free photo ID, paying money for new acceptable photo ID or forgoing the ballot altogether. Clearly, there are a significant number of situations where South Carolina's voter photo ID requirement will act as an unconstitutional poll tax.

Voter fraud is indeed an important problem that the government must handle in order to ensure the integrity of elections. Clearly, though, it merely serves as a pretense for the passage of voter photo ID laws that act as poll taxes and serve to disenfranchise eligible voters in a discriminatory man-

ner. Under section five of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Department of Justice is required to pre-clear changes to voting procedures in covered jurisdictions (including South Carolina) to ensure that there is no racial discriminatory effect. Even assuming that there is a constitutional right to obtain strong chemical drain cleaner without a photo ID (which there is not), the Department of Justice has no power under the Voting Rights Act to block a law requiring presentation of photo ID to obtain such chemicals, as Mr. Siao urges. Voting is so much more important than buying chemical drain cleaner, driving or even obtaining welfare. It is a constitutional right and a civic duty, and we ought to examine restrictions on voting carefully in light of the Constitution's suffrage amendments.

**Gregory Gauthier** Class of 2012, College of Arts and Science.

The opinion staff weighs in on the pros and cons of various topics found in recent headlines from around the world. Obscure references mixed with humor? THUMBS UP!

### THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE



it used to be? Don't worry, Newt's here to help. The National Organization for Marriage, the stated mission of which is "to protect marriage and the faith communities that sustain it," congratulated Newt Gingrich after his South Carolina primary victory this week, lauding him for his committment "to preserving marriage as the union between one man and one woman." Gingrich, of course, is noted for asking his first wife for a divorce after she was diagnosed with cancer, and later asking his second wife for an open marriage. "He may be an asshole," an anonymous NOMer concedes, "but at least he hates the gays ... right!?"

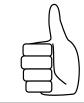
Do you feel like marriage isn't what

#### TWEETED OBITUARIES



CBS Sports, The Huffington Post and People all inaccurately reported that Penn State football coach Joe Paterno had died Saturday, a full day before the 85-year old actually died. The reason? An erroneous tweet from Onward State, a student-run publication that covers Penn State, started the rumor. It seems Twitter really is "technology of the future."

### MITT ROMNEY



We don't actually have anything nice to say about him ... But even The Verdict feels bad about the week this guy's having.

#### **COUGARS**



Damn you, Courtney Cox! A Utah high school has vetoed a studentbody vote after the students chose a "Cougar" as its mascot. A cougar, of course, is a big-cat predator. But as Corner Canyon High School's administration points out, it may also refer to a different type of predator: "A middle aged woman seeking a relationship with a younger man.' It turns out nearby Brigham Young University's mascot actually is a cougar. Who knew those Mormons

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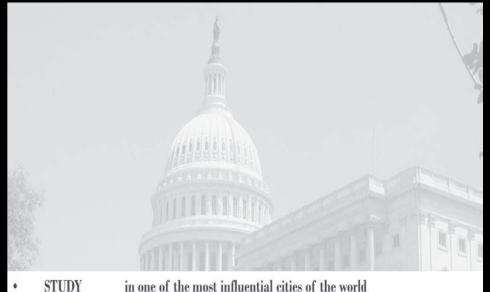
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### Tongue 'n Cheek makes strong showing at improv competition



DAN KING CONTRIBITING WRITER

Editor's note: Dan King is a member of Tongue N' Cheek.

Tongue N' Cheek, Vanderbilt's improv comedy organization, participated in the South regional of the Chicago Improv Festival's College Improv Tournament this Saturday. The competition took place at Georgia Tech in Atlanta and featured 13 different teams from colleges and universities in the South.

Tongue N' Cheek sent two teams to the competition. The two teams called themselves The Vanderbilt Improv Players and The Midnight Train to Awesome.

The competition was divided into two rounds. In round one, teams

### SOUND BITES

Some selected quotes from Tongue N Cheek's performances at the

"She's a Tri-Delt. They're in season

DAVID "PRIMO" JOHNSON

(While playing a cloud in love with another cloud.) "There was thunder and lightning, sparks flew, it was wet, then things cleared up and we lit a cigarette.'

PETER "VESPA" LINCK

"Try being *her* ugly friend." STEFANIE "MIMI" STEWART

were divided into four groups who competed against each other for a spot in the finals. The finals consisted of the four group winners and one "wildcard."

The Midnight Train to Awesome took second place in their group, falling to the Theatre Strike Force from the University of Florida.

The Vanderbilt Improv Players came out strong and took first place in their group, defeating Let's Try This from Georgia Tech, the home team.

After the preliminary round, both teams held their breath hoping that the Midnight Train had done enough to earn the wildcard spot. The group was disappointed to find out that they had not. That honor was given to the team Goodprov, Bad-prov from the University of Central Florida.

In the finals, the Vanderbilt Improv Players improved on their set from the first round, and were ultimately awarded fourth place in the competition.

This regional competition is meant to be a lead into the national competition in Chicago. "Improv Athens" from the University of Georgia won the regional and thus earned themselves a trip to the national competition in March.

For this competition both TNC teams performed "long-form" improv. Usually the group performs "short-form," which involves a series of short (3-5 min) games centered around some sort of performance gimmick. In long-form this website you can also find improv, the performers create an links to video of all the perforentire 25 minute long show off mances from the competition. ★

CHRIS HONIBALL/ THE VANDERBILT HUSTLE

Tongue N' Cheek performs dur-ing the Athenian Sing in Langford Auditorium on Sept. 16, 2011. TNC will next perform at Sarratt's Fourth Friday on Jan.

the top of their heads. Tongue N' Cheek has been spending all year working on perfecting this format.

The teams "compete" by performing 25 minute-long sets before an audience including 5 judges. The judges then score each team based on a variety of criteria including comedy, teamwork, cre-

ativity, technique and groupthink. This is the second year TNC has participated in the College Improv Tournament. Last year the group sent one team to a regional competition in Indianapolis, earning fourth place in the competition.

The College Improv Tournament is in its sixth year of existence. This year the competition includes over 120 teams from schools in all parts of the country.

TNC has several upcoming performances on campus. They will be this month's Fourth Friday performer on Jan. 27. Then they'll perform in Vandy-Barnard's lobby on February 4 and in Sarratt Cinema on February 10 and 23.

All of the shows are free.

For more information about the College Improv Tournament head over to www.chicagoimprovfestival.org.

The Life staff interviews a random sampling of students on campus' current hot topics.

### GREEK INDISCRETIONS

KELLY HALOM

STAFF REPORTER

As new sorority girls left their first chapter meetings on Monday night, there was definitely a feeling of celebration in the air. However, as the hours in the night dwindled down, a different feeling suddenly pervaded campus. As stories began swapping the next morning of hospital visits, police reports and girls passed out, students began to understand the true mess that Monday night created. Some Vanderbilt students wanted to share their thoughts on the night:

"You're in college. Control your alcohol. This isn't high school."

—Sarah Tardo, freshman

"We don't want it to shed a bad light on sororities because that's not what it's about. We spent the night in the Hank laundry room."

—Grace McKinney, freshman

"It's just kind of sad. I would hope people would feel that that's not necessary to have fun. For me, there are a lot better things to do in Nashville, even on our campus. You don't have to be doing something that's detrimental to yourself."

—Jordan Ridge, junior

"It was mass chaos on Commons. I got back and a bunch of people were throwing up and it was scary. There were sirens going off all night."

-Brooke Jacobson , freshman

### SARRATT RENOVATIONS

**CAROLINE ALTSHULER** STAFF REPORTER

Many students participated in outreach surveys and forums in order to voice their ideas for Sarratt's renovation after the bookstore relocated to West End. The recently-released floor plans reveal more dining space that will add 350 more seats to Rand. In addition, OACS will be moving their headquarters to the second floor. With all these changes, the Life staff asked a few students their opinions.

We've got to compete in areas other than academics. I think the administration knows that now and is willing to pay the price to convince more well-qualified students choose Vanderbilt for its style, luxury and hospitality.

-Matt Harper, freshman

I think it's great that OACS will finally be on the center of campus. Now, you will be able to drop in to grab keys for a service car in between classes.

—Jenny Watchmaker, senior

They (the plans) look good on paper, but I'll be curious to see if people really use the new spaces effectively.

—Peter Blumeyer, senior

I think they're trying to put too much stuff in such a small area. I don't feel the need for more meeting rooms, and I think both floors instead of just one should be for dining stuff. And of course, I wish they were putting in a Chick-fil-A.

—Lindsay Bogue, junior

I hope there are going to be more food options because it's pretty easy to get tired of what is in Rand. And obviously we could use more seats for the lunchtime rush.

—Chloe Mayo, senior

### Students consider Sarratt renovation plans long overdue

With recent plans to renovate Sarratt Student Center, upperclass students feel they are finally being included

ANGELICA LASALA STAFF REPORTER

Due to the relocation of Vanderbilt's bookstore from Sarratt Student Center to 2525 West End Avenue, the Dean of Students Office proposes to repurpose the old bookstore space and to renovate the second and third floors of Sarratt Student Center.

For freshman Matt Harper, Sarratt's renovations "come as welcome news to those of us looking for a great college experience that continues to exist even after exiting the classroom." Harper finds these renovations to be long overdue, especially when compared to the up-to-date Commons Center, a staple of the freshman experience.

"The Commons Center got it right by joining inviting lounge areas, ample study room, flexible meeting spaces, and the conveniences of a vibrant, clean and accommodating area to spend and enjoy a meal swipe," Harper said. "This opportunity to expand the highly-acclaimed freshman experience to the seemingly forgotten upper classes may prove vital."

Harper commented that Vanderbilt's students, especially those who spend most of their time on main campus, are "banished to a student center that saw its last renovation back when we were all in elementary school." And Harper isn't alone in his view that Sarratt's renovations will be a change for the bet-

Sophomore Martha Babbitt agrees that moving Vanderbilt's bookstore to West End and repurposing the space will ultimately improve campus life and "build on what Sarratt already offers." Bab-

bitt said, "Some people regret that the new bookstore is so much farther from the center of campus, but replacing it with new living space will, redundant though it may sound, make campus more livable."

Indeed, Sarratt's renovations are indicative of a push to make Vanderbilt student life as reputable as Vanderbilt academics.

"We've got to compete in areas other than academics. I think the administration knows that now and is willing to pay the price to convince more well-qualified students choose Vanderbilt for its style, luxury, and hospitality," said Harper.

The floor plans for Sarratt Student Center's renovations are now posted on the Dean of Students Office website and outside of the Rand entrance.

Also on the Dean of Students Office website is a link to a suggestion box form in which students can share input on how they think Sarratt's space should best be used. ★

### This Week in Music

JANUARY

### MONDAY, JAN. 23 5spot for old school dance

10 p.m. @ 5Spot in East Nashville

### Open Mic Night

Sign up at 5:30 p.m. 6-9 p.m. @ Bluebird

#### **Open Blues Jam**

8 p.m. @ Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar

### The Cab (pop/rock) featuring The Summer Set and He Is We

6 p.m. @ Rocketown

The Cab is a pop-rock band based in Las Vegas, Nev., and is definitely the act to watch for music aficionados who miss the days when Panic! at The Disco and Fall Out Boy reigned supreme. Rocketown Nashville, a non-profit youth outreach facility, is bound to be a refreshing alternative to rowdier crowds.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 24 Café Coco

Open Mic night 7p.m.

Music City Nights 6pm @ Limelight

For all who want food and entertainment on a college student's budget, this one's on the card. Every Tuesday, Café Coco hosts an open mic for acoustic singersongwriters. Sign-ups for performers start at 7 p.m., though showing up early is recommended. Music starts at 8 p.m. Enjoy some of Nashville's finest local talent and local eats at Café Coco, walking distance from Kissam Quadrangle.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25 Scott Harter (Jazz)

6:30 p.m. @ Whitfield's Restaurant and Bar

### **5spot for Old Time Jam (bluegrass)**

7 p.m. @ 5Spot in East Nashville

### Burning Las Vegas (r&b)

7 p.m. @ B.B. King's Blues Club

#### Dia Frampton featuring Andrew Allen

8 p.m. @ Exit/In

Dia Frampton, best known for being a finalist on NBC show The Voice along with Vanderbilt's own Patrick Thomas, has a quirky, acoustic sound in the vein of Ingrid Michaelson. Exit/In, located near Elliston Place, is a fittingly intimate venue.

#### THURSDAY, JAN. 26 • Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band

8 p.m. @ Exit/In

(R&B)

### FRIDAY, JAN. 27 •

David Andersen (Jazz)

### 6 p.m. @ Union Station Hotel

**DJ** Hammel Flying Saucer @ 10:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 28

Y2K's electronic 10 p.m. @ 12th and Porter

### Dance Marathon 'Miracle Family' party encourages participation

**CAROLINE ALTSHULER** STAFF REPORTER

Dance Marathon is known around campus as a crazy, fun-filled party (Feb. 17 — sign up now!) with lots of great food and dancing. However, amidst the the mission of Dance Marathon. All laughter. proceeds go directly to the Monroe Carrell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt and benefit patients' families.

Throughout the year, Dance Mara- emphasize why we VUDM and makes it

thon holds "Miracle Family" parties to so much more rewarding." emphasize to the children and the families that they are the most important co-chair, said, "By inviting the team facets of DM. Yesterday, DM held such captains and pairing them with our a party in the SLC Board of Trust in children, we reinforced that Dance which several families attended. There Marathon is really for the kids." hoopla of the event, it's easy to forget were snacks, games, children and lots of

Jennifer Quan, the Public Relations chair, exclaimed, "Getting to play with the children firsthand really helps to

Katharine Miller, Family Relations

Overall, children and the Dance Marathon participants alike had a great time. Don't forget to sign up for the Feb. 17 event (www.vudm.org) so that you too can be a part of the fun and make a lasting impact. ★

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	М	T	W	TH	F	S	SUN	
A	6:00 80	6:00 60	6:00 60	6:00 60	6:00 60	8:00 ю	8:00 60	
	9:30 🕫	9:30 90	9:30 %	9:30 90	9:30 %	9:30 %	9:30 90	
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### Updates from the recruiting trail



BECK FRIEDMAN/ FILE PHOTO

James Franklin and the Commodore coaching staff, including two new members, make final preparations for National Signing Day

**REID HARRIS** ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

While the Vanderbilt fan base has turned its attention to a talented basketball team this January, football coach James Franklin hasn't taken any time off since his team's appearance in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl. Working against the Feb. 1 deadline of National Signing Day, Franklin and his staff are working toward putting together what could be the most talented signing class in Vanderbilt football history. As signing day nears, several storylines have played into what the class of 2016 will look like in February.

### Barlow, Gattis hired as co-recruiting coordinators

Following a defeat at the hands of Cincinnati in the Liberty Bowl, Franklin faced more losses upon his return to Nashville in the form of assistant coaches Chris Beatty and Wes McGriff. Beatty, who served as the wide receivers coach and offensive recruiting coordinator, accepted a co-offensive coordinator position at Illinois. McGriff, a defensive backs coach and defensive recruiting coordinator, made a lateral move to Ole Miss. Losing two assistants less than a month away from signing day could be a critical loss for this year's class, as four-star wide receiver commitment Andre McDonald de-committed and Gattis, who coached the country's leading receiver at Western of talent the Commodores will need to compete in the South-Michigan last season, and George Barlow, who served as interim head coach at New Mexico for eight games, will replace Beatty and McGriff, respectively.

### Kiel picks LSU, then Notre Dame

After months of decision-making, five-star quarterback prospect Gunner Kiel narrowed down his college choices to LSU, Notre Dame and Vanderbilt before announcing his commitment to LSU in early January. However, Kiel doubled back to flip his commitment to the Irish before enrolling in classes earlier this month. Although the Commodores missed out on Kiel, the fact that they were in contention for the No. 1 quarterback recruit in the country speaks volumes about how far the Vanderbilt program has come over the past year.

### Two commitments enroll in spring classes

Franklin has emphasized the importance of signing a quarterback in every recruiting class, and this year is no exception. After narrowly missing out on Kiel, Franklin and his staff picked up the commitment of three-star quarterback Patton Robinette. Robinette, who also held an offer from Stanford, was attending orientation to begin classes at North Carolina on Jan. 8 before changing his mind and flying into Nashville for classes to start on Jan. 9. During his junior and senior years of high school, Robinette led his team to consecutive undefeated seasons and state championships before being named the Gatorade Player of the Year in the state of Tennessee. In addition to Robinette, linebacker Darreon Herring of Stone Mountain, Ga. started classes this semester in order to take part in spring practice.

As it stands with just over a week left until signing day, Franklin and his coaching staff have put themselves in a position to have a very successful signing day. Vanderbilt currently opened up his recruitment following Beatty's departure. Josh  $\,$  finds itself with a top-25 recruiting class that includes the type eastern Conference. Although none of the recruiting will matter if there are no results on the field, the Vanderbilt coaching staff is putting itself in a position to win for years to come. \*

### COLUMN

### Battle for the Volunteer state



CHRIS PHARE/ FILE PHOTO

Tuesday's game against Tennessee provides crucial test for Vanderbilt

ANTHONY TRIPODORO SPORTS REPORTER

In the Southeastern Conference, every opponent is tough, regardless of the sport or the matchup.

This is especially true of SEC basketball, where each team knows its opponents well and battles them multiple times

each season. Players must have a short memory in order to make it through the grind, and Vanderbilt's schedule this week is a perfect example of that.

After starting off 3-0 in the SEC, the Commodores took on Alabama in Tuscaloosa on Thursday and came away victorious. Just when it seemed like Vanderbilt had finally hit its stride, the team returned to Memorial Gym on Saturday to take on No. 18 Mississippi State and suffered a heartbreaking overtime loss, 78-77.

And the rollercoaster week is still not over.

"We have to put this game behind us; it's over with now," said junior guard John Jenkins. "Move on to the next one."

The next one, however, is not just another one; it's a big one.

Vanderbilt versus Tennessee, the biggest rivalry on Interstate 40, comes to Nashville Tuesday night at 6 p.m. in what will surely be a sold-out, electric Memorial Gym.

"Tennessee is always a tough game, so we have to go out there and give it our all," Jenkins

As the Commodores look to get the ball rolling after their eightgame winning streak was snapped on Saturday, they will also be looking to retake control of the rivalry, which has gone back and forth in recent years. These teams meet at least twice each season, and, in the 2008-2009 season, Tennessee took both matchups. The Commodores bounced back a season later and won both games.

Then, last season, the Volunteers retook control by winning both games.

If recent history is any indication, Tuesday's game is crucial. Winning one game against Tennessee could mean winning the other. A win would be a huge confidence boost that could set the team up for success in the remaining stretch of the season, which includes many more SEC games, including two against Kentucky.

But for Jenkins and the rest of the squad, it's not the big one; it's simply the next one. ★

### WHITE OUT:





VANDERBILT VS. TENNESSEE

Tuesday, Jan. 24 6 p.m. CT Memorial Gym Nashville, Tenn.

Watch: ESPNU

Listen: 97.1 FM

### **EVENT DETAILS:**

• First 1,000 fans will receive a white commemorative t-shirt! • Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

### Southeastern **Conference** Power Rankings: Week of 1/22

BY **JACKSON MARTIN** 

#### 1. NO. 2 KENTUCKY (19-1, 5-0 SEC)

The Wildcats continue to roll through the SEC, posting a big win over Arkansas and edging Alabama at home this week. With Syracuse's loss to Notre Dame Saturday, the Wildcats may take over the No.1 ranking in all of college basketball this week.

### 2. NO. 14 FLORIDA (15-4,

Like Kentucky, the Gators rolled last week in conference play. The Gators will have to navigate a tougher schedule this week when they face both Magnolia State schools. Ole Miss visits Gainesville, followed by a trip to Mississippi State for the Gators.

### 3. No. 15 Mississippi STATE (16-4, 3-2)

The loss to Ole Miss seemingly came out of nowhere, but the Bulldogs responded by beating a streaking Vanderbilt team on the road. Despite three bad losses (to Ole Miss, Arkansas and Akron) the Bulldogs seem to have an offensive combination that could beat anyone in the country.

### 4. VANDERBILT (14-5, 4-1)

Beating Alabama on the road was a huge win for Kevin Stallings' team, but the Commodores couldn't follow up on that strong performance, losing in overtime to Mississippi State. Despite having one of the best home court advantages in the country, all but one of the Commodores' losses have come at home.

### 5. ALABAMA (13-6, 2-3)

The Crimson Tide may be on a threegame losing streak, but there's really no shame in losing to Mississippi State, Vanderbilt and Kentucky consecutively. However, it does cement the Tide at the bottom of the upper tier in the SEC.

### 6. ARKANSAS (14-5, 2-2)

An 86-63 thrashing at the hands of Kentucky looks bad, but beating No. 19 Michigan keeps the Razorbacks in this "best of the rest" spot. After a game against Auburn, the Hogs get another chance to prove themselves when they go on the road to face Alabama Jan. 28.

### 7. OLE MISS (13-6, 3-2)

The Rebels have some really bad losses on their resume. They also beat Mississippi State and Georgia this week, which is good enough for me to put them right below the actually good SEC

### 8. LSU (12-7, 2-3)

LSU doesn't totally suck, but they're definitely not good either. Upcoming games against Mississippi State and Kentucky certainly won't be pretty for the Tigers.

### 9. GEORGIA (10-9, 1-4)

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope continues to impress everyone in the SEC. Unfortunately, he doesn't have much help in Athens. The Bulldogs have lost four of their last five, and a matchup with Kentucky Jan. 24 says it'll be five of six.

### 10. TENNESSEE (9-10, 1-3)

I hate Tennessee far too much to give them any credit for beating No. 11 UConn Satu<mark>rd</mark>ay, <mark>so instead I'll say</mark> they should be pro<mark>ud</mark> of being the team on the court in that game with the least NCAA violations in the past five

### 11. AUBURN (12-7, 2-3)

Instead of leaving the Auburn football team to become the head coach at Arkansas State, Gus Malzahn should've just been hired to coach the Tigers' basketball team. His offenses usually scored more than this team does any-

### 12. SOUTH CAROLINA (8-10,

Who loses to Auburn in basketball? Seriously, that is awful. ★

### Weekend woes for Vandy basketball

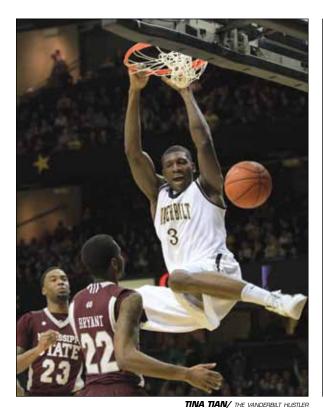


 $\hbox{COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Senior point guard Brad}$ Tinsley brings the ball up the court in the Commodores' 78-77 overtime loss to Mississippi State on Saturday night. With 16 NBA scouts watching on, junior John Jenkins and senior Jeff Taylor combined for 40 points in the contest. Lance Goulbourne converted a career-high four three-pointers, finishing the game with 12 points. Jenkins hit a three with 32.8 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 68, sending it into overtime. Vanderbilt clung to a 77-76 lead with just over a minute remaining in the extra period before Dee Bost scored the game-winner to cement the Bulldog victory. Bost finished the game with 24 points. It was the Commodores' third overtime loss of the 2011-2012 season.

Festus Ezeli made an impact for the Commodores, scoring 12 points and grabbing 14 rebounds in Saturday night's game. With the loss, Vanderbilt snapped an eight-game win streak, falling to 14-5 on the season and 4-1 in conference play. The Commodores held a 39-28 advantage at halftime.

On Sunday afternoon, the No. 25 Commodores fell to the South Carolina Gamecocks, 65-60, in overtime. Sophomore guard Jasmine Lister scored 12 points in the contest, while SEC-leading scorer Christina Foggie led Vanderbilt with 16 points. South Carolina's La'Keisha Sutton scored a game-high 20 points for the Gamecocks.

Tiffany Clarke (34) and Stephanie Holzer (21) anchored the Vanderbilt post-play, combining for 22 points. Holzer had a career-high day under the boards, pulling down 15 rebounds for the Commodores. It was Vanderbilt's first loss in Memorial Gym this season. The Commodores led 19-11 early, but South Carolina used a 16-2 run to close the first half with a 27-21





JAMES TATUM/ THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER



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### **ACROSS**

1 Thumbs-wav-up reviews 6 Knocks with one's knuckles 10 Not feral

14 Low-budget, in company names 15 Happily \_\_\_ after 16 October birthstone

17 Hexes 20 Dined 21 Twosome 22 Heart chambers

23 Positive thinker's assertion 25 Cleopatra's river

27 Surprised party. metaphorically 32 Beelzebub

35 Oboe or bassoon 36 Baled grass 37 "Jurassic Park" terror.

for short 38 Meanspiritedness 40 Home plate, e.g. 41 Above, in verse 42 Apple computer

44 Destination not yet determined 48 Detest

49 Oscar-winning film about Mozart 53 End of 56 Yard sale warning

57 British mil. award 58 Beatles song, and a hint to the hidden word in 17-, 27- and 44-Across

62 Opera solo 63 Like a steak with a red center 64 "That is to say ..." 65 Double O Seven 66 "P.U.!" inducer

67 Willy-\_\_\_: sloppily

### DOWN

1 Satisfy, as a loan 2 Like most triangle angles 3 Chooses at the polls 4 USNA grad 5 Slight trace

6 Symbol of financial

losses 7 State firmly 8 For each 9 Málaga Mrs. 10 Best-seller list

11 Mimic 12 West African country 13 Jazzy Fitzgerald 18 Indian bread 19"To your health,"

to José 24 Big-screen format 43 Showed on television 25 Russian rejection 26 "That's clear now" 28 Angels shortstop

> Avbar 29 Séar 30 Operate with a beam 31 Kept in view 32 Halt

33 Zone 34 Alaska, once: Abbr. 38 Obscene material 54 Fiddling emperor 39 Glazier's fitting 56 Flying prefix 40 Tough spot

59 Gold, in Granada 60 Insane

61 Record label initials

across the pond

47 Leave out 50'50s Ford flop 52 Hot-headed Corleone brother in "The Godfather" 53 Moby Dick chaser

42 Newton or Stern

43 Inundated with

45 Needle's partner

51 Typical

46 Sadat's predecessor

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Saturday, Jan. 28 • Between 3 pm and 6 pm • Panhellenic House Sunday, Jan. 29 • Between Noon and 6 pm • Panhellenic House Monday, Jan. 30 • Between 10 am and 4 pm • Panhellenic House

Tuesday, Jan. 31 • Between 10 am and 4 pm • Panhellenic House

EXPERIENCE ZTA OPEN HOUSE Monday, Jan. 30 • 7 pm • Student Life Center, Ballroom A

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