

With three teams in the top 25, it's a good time to be a Commodore fan...



JOHANNA DIETZ/The Vanderbilt Hustler

For more, see Sports, page 6

The sweeps period is killing television...

For more, see guest columnist Matt Grimes Opinion, page 4



WHAT'S NEW ON

InsideVandy.com

InsideVandy maps out Taste of Nashville locations around campus...

For more details, see Life at InsideVandy.com.

The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 19

THE WALL

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

TODAY Alternative Spring Break Benefit

The benefit will feature food and entertainment by a cappella groups and will take place in the Student Life Center Ballroom from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the Sarratt Box Office for \$8 or at the door for \$10. Groups and student organizations can receive a discount. All proceeds go to Alternative Spring Break.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22 Networking your way to an internship session

The session will provide you with tips on how and when to search and the benefits of interning. The session will also explain how to use networking to find internships. The event will take place in Student Life Center, Room 220 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22 Open Mic Night at the Writing Studio

Take five minutes in the spotlight to showcase your original works of poetry, songs, fiction, non-fiction or satire. Sign up online at www.vanderbilt.edu/writing/events.html, at the Writing Studio or at the door. The event takes place from 9-11 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Room 117.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22 LAN Party in Sarratt Student Center

Come for a full night of gaming tournaments on PlayStation 3, Wii, Xbox and even the N64. Show up early to get raffle tickets for free game copies, a console (either wii or Xbox 360) and other door prizes. Come to play, watch or just eat the food. The event will take place from 7 p.m. to midnight.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23 AND SATURDAY, FEB. 24 Dance Marathon

Support the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt by coming to Dance Marathon. The event is this weekend, Feb. 23-24, 7 p.m. to 9 a.m. in the Student Recreation Center. There will be food, prizes, entertainment and games. Tickets are \$10 and a silent auction will take place. For more information visit www.vudm.org.

Check out <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

Campus engineers drop into E-Week



Freshman Fred Hijazi prepares to compete in the egg drop competition held Tuesday afternoon in Featheringill Hall as a part of E-Week.

—See video coverage of the egg drop on: insidevandy.com

Alternative Spring Break hosts benefit today

Proceeds to offer financial aid to participants.

by KELSEY PENDLETON
Contributing Reporter

Alternative Spring Break, the largest student organization on campus, will host a fundraiser Wednesday. The benefit, which is in its second year, has become the major fundraiser for scholarship funds available to ASB applicants.

The average cost to participate in ASB is \$260; however, some sites where airfare is necessary can cost more than \$500.

"This year, we gave out about ten thousand dollars in financial aid, and one of the big contributors was last year's ASB Benefit," said ASB Treasurer, senior Marcela Camargo.

This year, ASB Benefit will feature a buffet with samplings from local restaurants including Maggiano's, Bosc's and Calypso Cafe. Live entertainment will be provided by student groups such

as Momentum, Swingin' Doers and Shun Minutia, a medical school band. Senior Bart Freeze and sophomore Jade Morales will also perform. Larry Dowdy, dean of electrical engineering and computer science, who has participated in 15 ASB trips, will speak.

Senior Sarah Reinhold, public relations chair for ASB, said she expects a large crowd this year.

"We're trying to grow more and give out more aid every year until we can meet everyone's needs up to 100 percent," she said.

ASB Benefit will be held today from 5-7 p.m. in the Student Life Center Ballroom. Tickets are available at the Sarratt Box Office for \$8 or at the door for \$10.

"We don't feel like money should be a factor that inhibits students from being able to participate in ASB," said ASB Education Co-Chair, senior Stephanie Saclarides. ■

"We don't feel like money should be a factor that inhibits students from being able to participate in ASB."

—Stephanie Sadarides, ASB Education Co-Chair

IMAGE week raises body image awareness

Student organization has positive effect on students with disorders, image issues.

by CHRISTINE BROWN
Staff Reporter

Senior Regan Bush, a student who has recovered from anorexia, may never have shared her story confidently if she had not met 2006 graduate Katie Protos and become involved with the student organization IMAGE.

"I was anorexic in my senior year of high school; when I came to Vanderbilt, I was in recovery, but I was still looking for people who encouraged positive body image and self-acceptance," said Bush. "So I searched around the campus, and after meeting Katie I found IMAGE. She was also in recovery herself and understood the pressures that students face at Vanderbilt. Through IMAGE I found a group that was willing to reject that ultra thin stereotype."

Students met Monday in Furman for the first event of IMAGE week to discuss how they can best approach friends whom they believe have an eating disorder.

IMAGE is a student organization designed to raise awareness about eating disorders and negative body image as portrayed in the media. An event each day this week will address different issues surrounding eating disorder illnesses.

"It is an activist group not a support group," said Protos. "We are a group where people can go and express their frustrations with body image on campus, vent about body image and eating concerns but use that energy to do good."

Protos discussed various tactics that students could use to approach their friends at the Monday event. For instance, she recommended being caring but firm and confronting the issue by being honest but not accusing your friend. Above all, she stressed the importance of friends in dealing with eating disorders.

"This event is mainly aimed at helping people communicate with their friends, help them in the right way," Protos said. "Too often friends have the best intentions, but the way that they go about talking to

someone alienates them and can actually damage their healing process."

IMAGE addressed the issue of body image in the media and how that influences eating disorders at a Tuesday discussion. This program looked at how the media influences the public and aimed to offer students ways to combat negative media confrontations.

IMAGE will hold a forum entitled, "Bodies Across Cultures" today at 12:10 p.m. in the Student Life Center and a nutrition lecture tonight at 6:30 p.m. in Sarratt 363. Thursday, there will be a panel discussion led by people who have survived eating disorders.

"The survivor panel discussion is a very deep opportunity to look at how eating disorders have affected someone's total life and the life of their family and friends," Protos said. "It is particularly powerful because it is students' stories, people just like you and me who have

struggled with this, who you may have never thought have struggled with these issues."

Throughout the week IMAGE will raise awareness with a table on the Wall featuring a lifesize Barbie doll. They will also sponsor a clothing drive, where students are encouraged to give away clothes that are too small for them.

"I think there's such a pressure to focus on the number on the back of your jeans. We encourage people to get rid of those," Bush said.

Although IMAGE is particularly active this week, it has had a positive effect on many students at Vanderbilt who have been struggling with body issues.

"IMAGE was a place where I could talk about body image," Protos said. "I could talk about eating disorders, and it didn't have to be secret. It was always nice to have IMAGE when I would start to struggle again; it was a place to regroup myself. IMAGE is a great way to use our own experiences to help other people." ■

—Listen to IMAGE President Reagan Bush discuss her struggle with anorexia and reflect on the role IMAGE played in supporting her recovery on:

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CORRECTION

The photo in the Feb. 19 issue entitled, "Students use local center to climb," was inaccurately credited to Mason Hensley. Tyler Hagen shot the photo. The Hustler regrets the error.

WEATHER

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

TODAY



Isolated Storms, 60/41

THURSDAY



Sunny, 61/33

FRIDAY



Mostly Cloudy, 57/45

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

Feb. 18, 2007, 1:55 a.m. — A person was arrested for driving under the influence on 21st Avenue South.

Feb. 18, 2007, 2:45 a.m. — A person was hit by a taxi cab driver after an argument in Lot 73 of the shuttle lots. Victim was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

Feb. 19, 2007, 12:30 a.m. — A verbal argument ensued between subjects resulting in rocks thrown from a vehicle in Lot 25 on 24th Avenue.

Check out <http://police.vanderbilt.edu/crime-log.htm> for complete listings.

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

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW

The news you need — in brief

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

CAMPUS

Vanderbilt economist James Foster to be honored in Mexico

A Vanderbilt University economist will be honored this month in Mexico; his work on anti-poverty measures is one of the foundations of Mexico's "Oportunidades" program to help the poor.

James E. Foster, professor of economics and senior fellow at Vanderbilt's Institute for Public Policy Studies, will receive a rare Honorary Degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo. In the 135-year history of the university, only six other people have received the honor for "professors and researchers for their ... science working toward the improvement of the living conditions and welfare of mankind."

Foster will be presented with the honorary degree Feb. 23 at the university.

"I feel incredibly honored by this," Foster said. "How nice that people whom I've never met have read my work and feel that it's worth noting."

The "Progesa" program in Mexico, now called "Oportunidades," was crafted by Mexican economist Santiago Levy, who used Foster's system of measuring poverty in order to identify the correct participants for his program.

Levy instituted a system to pay poor families to keep their children in schools and take them to medical clinics for health care. The program has proven so successful that 25 countries have adopted versions of it, and Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York City, is considering offering similar incentives to the poor in the city.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

Ugandan music compiled by Vanderbilt ethnomusicologist to fight HIV/AIDS

As part of the effort to combat HIV/AIDS, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings will release a new album of uplifting music from Uganda compiled by a Vanderbilt ethnomusicologist.

"Singing for Life: Songs of Hope, Healing and HIV/AIDS in Uganda" is set to release Feb. 20. Greg Barz, associate professor of ethnomusicology at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music, is responsible for the compilation. The CD shares the "Singing for Life" title with a 2006 book he wrote about the role music and storytelling play in efforts to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

"Sonically, it's a luxurious experience," Barz said. "When I listen to the CD, I can picture the people dancing. I'm hearing communities. Some people will just put it in their CD players and groove to really great African music."

"But I think the majority of people will be suspicious, in a good way. They'll be compelled to put the story together with the music, which we've made easy with the artwork and liner notes. When you get the broader perspective, the experience is elevated to a powerful understanding of the healing potential that can be unleashed when the arts and medicine combine efforts."

Barz has been studying the role of the arts in combating HIV/AIDS in Africa since 1999. HIV infection rates have fallen from 30 percent to 5 percent in Uganda over the past decade, and Barz argues that efforts to convey good information by storytellers, dancers, musicians and other artists have played a prominent role in that success.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

Engineer wins NSF award for Internet initiative

Professor Yi Cui has earned recognition and funding for a novel idea — one that could give multimedia streaming service YouTube a run for its money.

The Vanderbilt assistant professor of computer science and computer engineering has won a prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER Award for his research on peer-to-peer networking to enable peer-to-peer multimedia streaming over the Internet.

He intends for his system to allow entrepreneurial Internet streaming video services to succeed without investing large amounts of capital on hundreds of computer servers. His plan will involve the computers of the subscribers themselves, who will share video-streaming data with other subscribers through an automated system.

Current multimedia Internet streaming services, such as YouTube, must rely on centralized control by dedicated computer servers. The current system requires the streaming of multimedia data to individual computers through Internet connections, resulting in bottlenecks and slowed or interrupted delivery.

In Cui's system, subscribers' computers could become part of the multimedia-streaming service network, allowing their available bandwidth to be borrowed to stream multimedia signals to other peer computers on the network. This approach could reduce the price of the multimedia streaming service, help eliminate bottlenecks and distribute the electronic traffic more efficiently. It could also enable multimedia-streaming services to enter the industry without investing as much capital in servers and bandwidth subscription.

"The NSF sponsorship will enable us to assess networked computers' ability to transmit multimedia data based on the customary use of the computer, the inferred bandwidth available to the computers and a variety of customer usage patterns," Cui said. He will test his system through the Open Source Teaching service, using his system to deliver multimedia educational materials freely.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT REGISTER

Young heart patient shares his story through children's book

At noon on Feb. 14, 8-year-old Nathan Stickles held a book signing for patients and families in the Pediatric Cardiac Clinic. Stickles is the main character in a children's book written by Jessica Howard Ennis, publications editor at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, and illustrated by John Howell.

"Nathan's Special Heart" tells Stickles' story, from the discovery of a 1-inch hole in his heart at age 6 months through his journey to Children's Hospital for a procedure to close the hole at age 7. Nathan's cardiologist, Tom Doyle, is also featured in the book.

The book contains a bookmark with the annual financial report information and so will serve as Children's Hospital's annual report.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT REGISTER

Danny Glover makes Vanderbilt appearance to support living wage



Actor Danny Glover visits Peabody on Tuesday to promote Vanderbilt's living wage campaign. He also participated in a town hall meeting at the Scarritt-Bennett Center hosted by the union representing Vanderbilt's lowest-paid workers.

Supreme Court throws out \$79.5 million verdict against cigarette company

Ruling could bode well for other businesses seeking to limit big-money settlements.

by MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

The Supreme Court threw out a \$79.5 million award that a jury ordered a cigarette maker to pay to a smoker's widow, a ruling that could bode well for other businesses seeking stricter limits on big-dollar verdicts.

The 5-4 decision Tuesday was a victory for Altria Group Inc.'s Philip Morris USA, which contested an Oregon Supreme Court decision upholding the jury's verdict.

Yet the decision did not address a key argument made by Philip Morris and its supporters across a wide range of businesses: that the size of the award was unconstitutional. They had hoped the court would limit the amount that can be awarded in punitive damage cases.

Instead, Justice Stephen Breyer wrote in his majority opinion that the award to Mayola Williams could not stand because a jury may punish a defendant only for the harm done to the person who is suing, not to others whose cases were not before it.

"To permit punishment for injuring a nonparty victim would add a near standardless dimension to the punitive damages question," Breyer said.

The company had argued that the jury

was encouraged to punish Philip Morris for health problems suffered by every Oregonian who smoked its cigarettes.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito, Anthony Kennedy and David Souter, joined with Breyer.

Dissenting were Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia, John Paul Stevens and Clarence Thomas. Ginsburg said Tuesday's ruling made punitive damages law even more confusing.

Jesse Williams died of lung cancer in 1997 at the age of 67. He had smoked two packs a day of Philip Morris-made Marlboros for 45 years.

His widow argued that the jury award was appropriate because it punished Philip Morris for a decades-long "massive market-directed fraud" that misled people into thinking cigarettes were not dangerous or addictive.

She won compensatory damages of \$800,000 and punitive damages of \$79.5 million, 97 times the compensatory damages, in the fraud lawsuit she filed against Philip Morris. A state court previously cut the compensatory award to \$500,000, which is unaffected by Tuesday's ruling.

The case now goes back to the Oregon high court, which could order a new trial, reduce the award or reinstate its decision. ■

Spring Forward



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Bilotta, VUPD to plan Vandy Van reforms for coming year

VSG survey receives overwhelming student response.

by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI
Asst News Editor

More than 1,100 students responded to the Vandy Vans survey last week, providing helpful insight for both Vanderbilt Student Government and the administration in their efforts to improve the overall quality of the program.

Newly elected VSG president Cara Bilotta said she was thrilled with the overwhelming response to the survey.

"I read all 776 written responses and received great constructive feedback," Bilotta said.

A plurality of the respondents, 40.8 percent, were sophomores, and 86.4 percent of total respondents felt Vandy Vans were necessary to ensure the flow of students to and from The Commons and main campus.

General themes from the written response option of the survey included requests for more of the larger vans, additional stops at Sutherland and Crawford Houses, and Memorial and East Halls, and including Mondays in the Peabody-Branscomb shuttle.

The administration has reviewed the survey, and Bilotta plans to meet with the Vanderbilt University Police Department in the coming weeks to discuss the feasibility of the student comments.

Bilotta plans to propose the addition of Mondays to the Peabody-Branscomb shuttle this semester due to the large amount of campus and organizational activities and meetings that occur on Mondays.

Other concerns, such as the addition of vans and stops, require more time before they can be enacted.

"Larger issues require incremental change," Bilotta said. "Hopefully over the summer we can begin to make improvements, because we have to take into consideration the cost of the vans, vehicle maintenance, gas prices and the acquisition of new drivers."

The larger issues Bilotta plans to confront include the addition of several more of the larger "Omega" vans, increasing service to 24 hours and creating various new stops at The Commons.

Extra stops were excluded from Peabody this semester due to the construction of new residence halls and concerns about longer route times.

Student respondents to the survey reported that wait times for the vans vary from five to 15 minutes. With the addition of new vans to the route, these times would be cut significantly. Sixty percent of respondents agreed that a wait of five minutes was a reasonable amount of time to expect a van to arrive.

There were also various misconceptions Bilotta wished to clarify.

Several students requested schedules for both the express and regular vans, but traffic often makes these schedules impossible to manage.

Currently the regular van arrives at regularly scheduled intervals. Several years ago the Student Government Association and Interhall added the express van, which would operate without a schedule and continue its route, stopping to pick up students only if they were already waiting at the stop. As a result, it is possible for both the regular and express vans to occasionally meet at the same stop.

"I know it's frustrating to see the express and regular vans back-to-back at times. Unfortunately, because of the differences in travel between the two vans, that will occasionally happen," Bilotta said.

Another misconception concerned the revival of the reverse route to speed up travel times. A reverse route was tested years ago when Vandy Vans was conceived as SafeTrips. However, the reverse route actually took longer due to all the left-hand turns on the route.

"It's not to say we can't try to revive the reverse route, but my gut instinct is that it's not likely the route will be successful," Bilotta said.

Although students proposed the addition of a downtown route last year, Bilotta found less than 1 percent demand for such a route.

"If anything, we had a few requests for adding Sportsman's as a stop," she said.

In all, Bilotta said she found the feedback from the poll invaluable.

"I hope when issues appear in the future that students will be equally as responsive as they have been for the Vandy Vans survey," Bilotta said. ■

James Lawson addresses Class of 2010



The Rev. James Lawson addresses the freshman class with a lecture entitled, "Making the Most of What You Have," as a part of Vanderbilt Visions.

MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Iran will not disarm before Western nations

by ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tuesday that Iran would only halt its uranium enrichment program and return to negotiations if other Western nations do the same.

Ahmadinejad told a crowd of thousands in northern Iran one day ahead of a United Nations Security Council deadline that it was no problem for his country to stop, but that "fair talks" demanded a similar gesture from the West.

"That ... we shut down our nuclear fuel cycle program to let talks begin. It's no problem. But justice demands that those who want to hold talks with us shut down their nuclear fuel cycle program too. Then, we can hold dialogue under a fair atmosphere," Ahmadinejad said.

The Security Council has set Wednesday as a deadline for Iran to stop uranium enrichment or face further economic sanctions.

Ahmadinejad spoke in a far more conciliatory tone than the one he usually adopts, avoiding fiery denunciations of the West with a call for talks.

"We are for talks but they have to be fair negotiations. That means both sides hold talks under equal conditions," he said.

However, he added that it was unacceptable for countries to demand that Iran stop its nuclear activities without reciprocity.

"We say how is it that your (nuclear fuel) production facilities work 24 hours a day, but you feel threatened by our newly established complex, and we need to shut it down for talks," he asked.

Iran has long insisted that it will not stop its nuclear activities as a condition

for negotiations to start.

"The condition they set for talks is a condition that deprives us of our rights," Ahmadinejad said of the United States and its Western allies. "We have never been after confrontation and tension. We have always been for dialogue but dialogue under fair conditions."

Enriched to a low level, uranium is used to produce nuclear fuel but further enrichment makes it suitable for use in building an atomic bomb.

Ahmadinejad said Iran would not give in to coercion and warned the United States and its allies they will fail to force it into giving up its nuclear program.

"If you want to speak from the position of power and make use of the oppressing leverage of some international institutions, you have to know that you will fail against the unity and resistance of the Iranian nation," he said. ■

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OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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OUR VIEW

Defense of a cause is the only moral course of action

Vanderbilt students have held the reputation of being apathetic for longer than many current students realize. John Sergent, who later sponsored the first anti-segregation resolution in the student government, describes his experience during the early days of the movement: "I knew what was good and what was right, and the divinity students were protesting and were marching around Kirkland Hall, but I was a first-semester student in college, I had joined a fraternity, I had a girlfriend — life was great, and I didn't want to hear about it."

Sergent's first-year perspective strikes a familiar note with scores of Vanderbilt students. To be sure, we do not live in the 1960s and, for all of the pundits' talk, the nation is not nearly as polarized as it could be. We are not, after all, on the verge of another Civil War, and the vast majority of students live very comfortable lifestyles.

The lack of a great polarizing issue on the scale of the draft surely contributes to a general air of apathy on campus, but one must also remember that in today's ever-competitive workforce there is much to risk in

staking one's reputation on a social movement.

This, however, is a risk worth taking. Every day, groups of Vanderbilt students coordinate to tackle issues, and whether one agrees with them or not, their willingness to fight for their beliefs is commendable. Every single time one takes a moral stance on a controversial issue, he risks offending his acquaintances, his friends and his family, but his conscience remains clean.

As the great community organizer Saul Alinsky writes, "Once you accept your own death, all of a sudden you're free to live. You no longer care about your reputation. You no longer care except so far as your life can be used ... to promote a cause you believe in." Alinsky is quite extreme, and his words are quite theatrical; nobody is expected to die for the living wage or to accept imprisonment for promoting the free market. However, if we are to shake this reputation as the ranks of the apathetic we must stand up for our beliefs. Whichever side we choose as individuals is immaterial; the important thing is to defend one's morality lest he bargain it away for the sake of comfort.

LETTER

Diplomacy defeats war in serving U.S. interests

To the Editor:

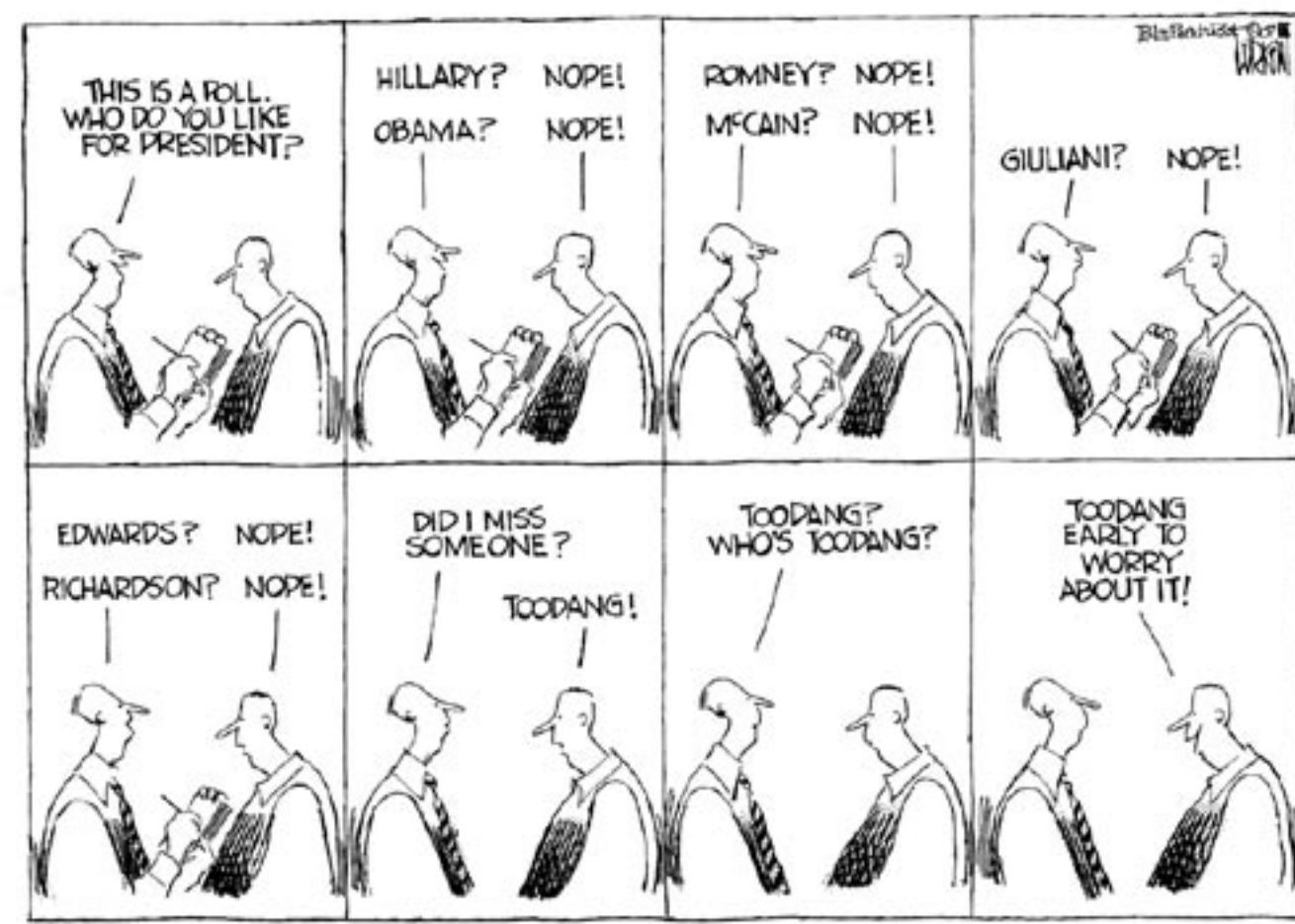
Reading Michael Wilt's Feb. 16 column about the importance of victory in Iraq made me think. I could see his sincerity in the importance of "victory," in the importance of striving for what is best for American soldiers, the people of Iraq and finally American citizens. But I have to question if prolonging this war is really what is best.

The first point I would like to make is that opinion polls tell us something of what American soldiers, and Iraqis both want, for what it is worth. In February of 2006, 72 percent of US troops said they wanted the war over in 2006. Only one in five support "as long as it takes." Additionally, 70 percent of Iraqis want a U.S. timetable for withdrawal, ranging from 6 months to two years. In my mind then, opposing an unending war puts one more in accordance with the feelings of those directly involved.

As for Iraq's effect on our safety, remember that the National Intelligence Estimate reported that the Iraq war was increasing the threat of terrorism.

So what I am driving at is that if we examine what is truly in the best interest for Iraqis, U.S. soldiers and ourselves, we may find that the Iraq Study Group's recommendation of a "diplomatic offensive" has higher chances of achieving our goals than does prolonged fighting. Look how well diplomacy worked in North Korea. Rejecting diplomacy outright in favor of more force doesn't seem right in this light. To me it seems to be protecting the ideology of might makes right, and shock and awe military diplomacy in lieu of doing what reality is telling us is best.

Paul Fleming
Graduate School



Don Wright—MCT

COLUMN

We must sweep out television's trash

MATT GRIMES
Guest Columnist

Don't you long for the time when seemingly trivial plot details would be slowly peeled back like layers of an onion in the elevator conversations between Meredith Grey and Derek Shepherd? Aside from it being the longest elevator ride west of the Mississippi, the scenes served a soap opera-like function, allowing for a natural (and occasionally chaotic) escalation of events throughout the course of a single episode.

As it stands now, Meredith Grey finds herself in an alternate dimension amid the company of two deceased yet strikingly chiseled hunks in a blatant appeal for higher spectatorship.

Yep, it's February sweeps. For those of you unfamiliar with television slang, "sweeps" refers not to any sort of clocking of athletic opponents or chores done for your mother on a bright Saturday morning. Rather, these sweep periods refer to four chunks of time during which television networks conduct polling sweeps on smaller markets that are not usually calculated in weekly measures. As a result, normal

programming becomes inundated with a blitzkrieg of commercials promoting special guest stars and hypersensitive plot lines oftentimes not in keeping with a show's tone, all in an attempt to heighten ratings and to determine local advertising rates. Sweeps can have both beneficial and detrimental effects alike to television broadcasting.

The major sweeps occur in November and February, often denoted in the past by "Will & Grace" bringing Harry Connick Jr. into a story as Eric McCormack's non-gay foe — again. As episodic dramas and comedies approach their season finales, there appears another round of sweeps in May. This particular month often featured "Friends" concluding with a wedding, a birth, a drunk wedding, Tom Selleck wanting a wedding, two characters having unexpected sex, a guest star and character having unexpected sex, two characters wanting sex with one another but opting for another available mate, or a revelation concerning love and sex in general with Ross usually being awkward. Or, if you really want to up the ante, send the six principal characters to a foreign location and watch the

fireworks explode.

And then there is July, the ugly duckling of the bunch, the white Michael Jackson among his black brethren. In the summer month, there is usually no new installment of sitcoms but, instead, a smattering of racially- and/or sexually-charged reality shows that no one will watch and a Lifetime-cum-NBC movie about a James Patterson-esque heroine investigating crimes following abuse from her alcoholic father and her rape by a still-as-yet-unidentified criminal the protagonist is determined to apprehend before she will be truly at ease with her humdrum life.

But in November and now February, the general public finds itself subjected to ludicrous and, sometimes, embarrassing and preposterous stories featuring their favorite programs.

Fox's "24," a show known for bringing back recurring characters in sporadic fashion, returns the conniving former President Charles Logan (Gregory Itzin) and his mentally unhinged designing woman of a wife, Martha (Jean Smart, bless her soul) in a conspiracy

Please see **GRIMES**, page 5

LETTER

Court rush reveals Vanderbilt's misplaced priorities

To the Editor:

Was it with intentional irony that The Hustler paired two front-page stories: first, the "well-spent," \$25,000 fine to Vanderbilt due to a mobbing of Memorial Gym, and second, John Edwards' letter to the chancellor in support of the living wage movement? The Hustler states "even Chancellor Gordon Gee rushed the court, by many accounts leading the pack." It's a sad commentary that Chancellor Gee chose to lead the pack in spending \$25,000 to dance on a basketball court, yet has chosen not to lead the pack in guaranteeing a decent, living wage for all of Vanderbilt's employees. You may celebrate someone's ability to throw a ball in a hoop, but I will celebrate when none of Vanderbilt's employees are forced to live in a homeless shelter or out of a car. The editors of The Hustler wrote that this mobbing of the court helped Vanderbilt gain "a tremendous amount of pride and self-respect." Imagine the pride and self-respect we would gain from knowing that all of the people that make this university function are treated fairly.

Mike Pullmann, Pre-Doctoral Fellow
Center for Evaluation and Program Improvement
Vanderbilt University

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section 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 our website.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to The Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editor-in-chief. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

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

All submissions become the property of The Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which The Hustler is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to The Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at 615-322-2424 or the editor-in-chief at 615-322-3757.

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Your voice doesn't stop here. The Vanderbilt Hustler encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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Nashville, TN 37243-0021
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Metro District 18
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GRIMES: Television regresses into mediocrity

From GRIMES, page 4

destined to be more crazed than Jack's terrorist brother. "Law & Order" (any of them, pick your favorite franchise) brings in a washed up has-been to portray a grieving parent/sibling/neighbor/person afflicted with mental illness invariably involved with the case. "Seinfeld" was impeccable save for its series finale, a spectacle of a trial in contrast to the typical 30-minute span known for being a show about nothing. "Criminal Minds" dragged in James Van Der Beek to boost their post-Super Bowl time slot this past January, but not even Dawson could paddle the sinking ship out of that creek.

Perhaps the granddaddy of all lunacy, the Sweepmaster of the boob tube, is "ER," a show known for exiting/killing off cast members when a jump in ratings is necessary. There was the intern killed by the schizophrenic, Dr. Greene's death by tumor, Dr. Carter's random foray into South Africa, and, this cynic's favorite, Dr. Romano's demise by crashing helicopter. Indeed, now every episode of the hospital drama — including the Valentine's

Day ode to love — is marketed as an "ER event you can't afford to miss."

Trying not to be overshadowed, Shonda Rhimes, creator of "Grey's Anatomy," has concocted an "ER" event of her own — crash a riverboat into a passenger ferry because of a stunningly low fog bank and force the interns of Seattle Grace into action. Let me tell you, everything's going down on Grey's Anatomy — Izzie drills holes into a man's head, George searches for a missing boy, Alex rescues a pregnant woman whose makeup reminds me more of Barney than of a severely injured patient, and a blonde girl makes a case for becoming the star of the next "Children of the Corn."

Oh, yeah. And Meredith Grey dies. I hate the sweeps periods. Sure, they pull high-profile names into shows to provide a much-needed oomph to floundering, but at what cost? Should these strategies detract from the quality of the broadcast, lending nonsensical episodes to a year's work? Some believe compromising the integrity of a program for two or three episodes two or three times each year is perfectly acceptable,

perhaps even a necessary evil.

I beg to differ. "ER," once a mainstay staple of caliber and class, has regressed into mediocrity, its cast lineup as unpredictable and unstable as a Quentin Tarantino film or Britney Spears' mental health. Critical darlings such as "Arrested Development" and "Freaks and Geeks" remain relatively true to their narrative threads, never once jumping the shark, a la "Happy Days." There is not one episode of the Jason Bateman comedy I would not watch; each 22-minute bloc of time flows easily, untainted by the misuse of visiting celebrities or the supplanting of a contrived narrative.

Bring back the gradual progression of a story, despite the implications of sweeps weeks. Show the true nature of a television show, and ferry accidents won't be necessary. Nor will guest star appearances by dead corpses.

In short, bring back the elevator talk, even if it is the longest elevator ride west of the Mississippi.

—Matt Grimes is a sophomore in Peabody College.

THE VERDICT

Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff!

Peanut butter		Peter Pan and Great Value brands may have been linked to an outbreak of salmonella poisoning. When will we learn that peanut-butter-and-raw-chicken sandwiches are delicious but deadly?
Video games		Recent studies show that surgeons who play video games may be more effective at their jobs, particularly at delicate television-guided operations. Finally, our investment in an Atari Jaguar just might pay off!
Asteroids		Apparently an asteroid named Apophis may hit Earth in 2036. People probably will not enjoy the headline "Earth to be destroyed" that morning.
Internet addiction		A 58-year-old IBM employee has been fired for visiting an adult chat room from his work computer. He is now suing the company, claiming protection due to his Internet addiction. Most people with Internet addictions manage to keep it in their pants during the workday, so sympathy is in short supply.
Robert Adler		The co-inventor of the remote control died of heart failure Feb. 15 at the age of 93. If he'd gotten off the couch he could have lived to 120.
Vinton Cerf		The Google vice president and "founding father of the Internet" claimed a day will come when we connect our socks and our wine corks to the Internet. We can't wait until our footwear gets hacked on a daily basis.
Drugs		An Ohio police officer expressed surprise that teenagers were using "the big pockets in the pants" to hide drug paraphernalia. Stupid kids and their rock music.
Bionic eyes		Scientists claim bionic eyes could restore sight to the blind in as little as two years at a cost of \$30,000 each. "Blade Runner" is now one step closer to becoming a reality.
Sylvester Stallone		The actor may be banned from entering Australia if convicted of smuggling illegal steroids into the country. Only 192 countries to go!
The Bahamas		Immigration minister Shane Gibson has resigned following allegations that he gave Anna Nicole Smith special treatment when she wished to immigrate to the island nation. It's nice to know that some corrupt officials aren't in it for the money, preferring fully clothed hugs from washed up porn stars instead.
Spearmint		According to recent findings, spearmint tea may reduce excessive body hair, but it also reduces male libido. Not that men really drink spearmint tea, but now even the option to do so is gone.

COLUMN

Sorority affiliations displace individual identities

JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

Before I begin, I want to be clear that I have no intention of ranking sororities in any way. However, I do want to address an issue related to the fact that many people already have some type of ranking system as to which sororities collect the best girls, whether they admit it or not.

I want to use a story to illustrate this idea. I recently attended a fraternity party, and as I chatted with a fellow student, I made the grave mistake of asking her to remind me of her sorority affiliation. She immediately grabbed her closest friend from the same sorority and said, "You know; just think of the best sorority!" I paused for a while and guessed (the letters have been changed). "Chi - Theta - Alpha?"

From her immediate reaction, I would have thought I had just accused

both of them of mass genocide or child cannibalism. "How could you think..." was her response of shock and disgust. After a little consideration, I decided to call her out on this point. "Really? Is it really that bad to be Chi Theta Alpha? I didn't know they were that awful." She immediately changed her response: "No, no! It's not that; I have a lot of friends in Chi Theta Alpha," similar to how someone accused of homophobia or racism would defend themselves by claiming to have gay or black friends.

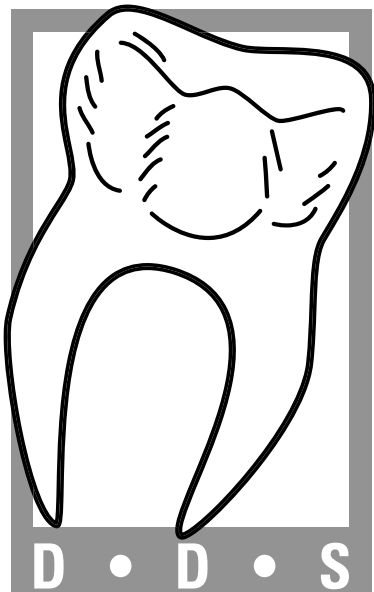
I think the sorority system is wonderful and forges great bonds of friendship and sisterhood. However, I have noticed a disturbing trend as many Vanderbilt sorority women link themselves quite strongly with their respective organizations. It is one thing to have pride and love your sisters, but it is quite another to fawn over women whose names are unfamiliar but whose clothing bears your letters. Women often allow

their sorority to become their identity, placing far too much value on their memberships and not nearly enough on their own identities. All this does is perpetuate stereotypes of sororities.

I have noticed the destructive capability of this habit: consider the women who do not get into sororities they feel are "right" for them. This can be very damaging to a woman's self-esteem if she judges herself based on her memberships rather than her value as an individual.

I encourage sorority women to remember that time at the beginning of the second semester of your freshman year, when all of you stood on equal ground, awaiting the assignment of your social future for the next three and a half years. Take pride in yourself, not in what letters you wear.

—Justin Poythress is a sophomore in Peabody College.



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SPORTS

WHAT 2
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Upcoming Events

**Men's Basketball
No. 17 Vanderbilt at
Mississippi State
Tonight**

7 p.m. CT

104.5 The Zone

The Commodores (18-8, 8-4 SEC) will not have an easy task tonight against the Bulldogs, who have won four of their past five games. Mississippi State has put itself on the bubble and boasts a solid all-around player in Jamont Gordon. While the Bulldogs are no Gators, Vandy will have to play its best to beat them. The Commodores have avoided letdowns all season, and we think they will again.

Prediction: Vanderbilt 74, Mississippi State 68

**Baseball
Lipscomb at No. 1
Vanderbilt
Today**

4 p.m. CT

Hawkins Field

The Commodores (6-0) will play for the first time as the No. 1 team in the country. Freshman Mike Minor gets his first career start, while Vanderbilt looks to avenge last season's loss to Lipscomb (5-2).

Prediction: Vanderbilt 10, Lipscomb 2

**Women's Basketball
No. 7 Louisiana
State at No. 12
Vanderbilt**

Thursday

8 p.m. CT

Memorial Gym

No. 12 Vanderbilt has won six straight games by commanding margins but will be tested Thursday by No. 7 LSU. Commodore seniors Dee Davis, Carla Thomas and Caroline Williams will play their last home games in the black and gold so make sure to come cheer them on. The way they've been playing, it will definitely be worth it.

Prediction: Vanderbilt 70, LSU 66

**Men's Basketball
No. 25 Alabama at
Tennessee
Wednesday**

7 p.m. CT

Although both teams have underachieved this season, they will probably get to the Big Dance. Tennessee (18-9, 6-6) needs to win this one at home, while Alabama (19-7, 6-6 SEC) looks to stay on top of the mediocre SEC West. It is currently tied with Ole Miss and Mississippi State.

Prediction: Alabama 80, Tennessee 72

**Women's Tennis
No. 3 Georgia Tech
at Vanderbilt**

Thursday

2:30 p.m. CT

Currey Tennis Center

The Commodores will have a tall task Thursday as the No. 3 Yellow Jackets come to Nashville.

Prediction: Vanderbilt 4, Georgia Tech 3

RECORD: 54-33

COLUMN

Great time to be a Commodore fan



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Senior Dee Davis and the rest of the women's basketball team are ranked 12th and have won six straight games by an average of 23.5 points.



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Junior Shan Foster hugs his mom, Anita Harris, after the men's basketball team stunned No. 1 Florida last Saturday. The Commodores are now ranked 17th.



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Junior David Price, the ace of the Commodore pitching staff, said the team's recent No. 1 ranking by Collegiate Baseball won't be discussed much by players.

JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

There are currently only two schools that have their men's and women's basketball teams and baseball team in the top 25. The North Carolina Tar Heels are one. The second? None other than your Vanderbilt Commodores.

Not bad for a school that was supposedly too small and too smart to compete with the nation's best. Not bad for a school without an athletic department, billionaire boosters or lower academic standards for its players.

Vanderbilt baseball earned a No. 1 ranking by Collegiate Baseball on Monday, men's basketball is ranked 17th after upsetting Florida and women's basketball is ranked 12th after winning its sixth straight game. We might as well start calling 2007 the Year of the Commodore.

Base-ballin'

For junior All-American David Price, the fact that the Commodores are ranked No. 1 for the first time in school history comes as little surprise.

"Coach (Tim) Corbin told me that there was going to be a day like this, and I believed him," Price said.

Before Corbin arrived in 2003, Vanderbilt had gone five seasons without a winning record. Now, it's poised to make a run at Omaha, although Corbin is far from satisfied yet.

"Anything can be taken away from you the minute you start feeling too good about yourself," he said. "My job as a coach is to make these kids realize what their potential is, and their potential is far greater than what we've played up to this point. To be a national championship team, you have to continue to improve throughout the season."

There's little doubt that this group will. Off to a 6-0 start, including three wins over top-25 teams, the Commodores join women's basketball (1993) and women's golf (2004) as the only sports to achieve a No. 1 ranking in school history.

The team is hitting .340 with six homers and 17 doubles, while the deep pitching staff has a 1.83 earned run average. Additionally, Collegiate Baseball, the nation's oldest college baseball poll, named Price a National Pitcher of the Week for his outing on Sunday.

Men's basketball riding high

While much of college will be a blur 20 years from now, storming the court after Vanderbilt upset No. 1 Florida is something fans and players will never forget.

Because of their victory, the Commodores (18-8, 8-4 SEC) were rewarded with

a \$25,000 fine from the SEC and a No. 17 ranking by the Associated Press. This is the highest ranking since 1993, when the team was eighth. They were also back in the ESPN-USA Today poll (at No. 21) for the first time since 2004.

Vanderbilt has now won an impressive 12 consecutive games at Memorial Gym and is off to its best league start in coach Kevin Stallings' era. They are 17-5 in the last 22 games and have beaten six top-25 teams, second most in the nation.

"I think they were an NCAA tournament team before we played them," said Florida coach Billy Donovan. "I do have a lot of respect for their team. They have earned and deserve the right to be in the NCAA tournament."

Still, Stallings, who was named one of 15 finalists for the Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year Award yesterday, isn't ready to make that claim.

"I've done a real good job not speculating and not looking," Stallings said. "I couldn't tell you what our RPI is. I couldn't tell you where we were in last month's bracket if we were in it or out of it or on the fence or blowing bubbles. At the end of the season, we'll add them up and see if we have enough."

The Commodores return to action tonight when they play Mississippi State, tied for first in the SEC West, in Starkville.

"Our team has been pretty good all season long about not having a big letdown," Stallings said. "We've won a number of pretty good games against ranked teams so our team has been down this path before. I think the thing that most enables you to stay away from a letdown is the fact that Mississippi State is playing great basketball."

Women's basketball on fire

All teams want to peak around tournament time, and that's exactly what Melanie Balcomb's squad is doing. The Commodores (23-4, 9-3 SEC) have won six in a row, outscoring opponents by an average of 23.5 points per game in the process.

"Their execution is the best I think I've seen in women's college basketball," said South Carolina coach Susan Walvius. "Vandy reads very well so they exploit your defense, and they exploit how you are reacting to them."

The three seniors are playing exceptionally well, most notably SEC Player of the Week Caroline Williams, who scored 50 points in a pair of victories last week. Williams now leads the nation in 3-point shooting at 50 percent and is shooting 92 percent from the foul line.

Williams, along with classmates Carla Thomas and Dee Davis, will be honored Thursday during Senior Day festivities following the team's home game against LSU.

It's hard to think of a better time to be a Commodore fan, and hopefully the best is yet to come. ■

Byars deserves league's top honor

by CHIP ROBIE
Sports Reporter

Before basketball season began, Vanderbilt was picked by the media to finish fourth in the Eastern Division of the Southeastern Conference, and junior Shan Foster was the only Commodore to garner an All-SEC vote.

When the Commodores opened the season 1-3, the nadir of which included a loss to Furman at home, even the preseason prediction looked a little optimistic.

What caused the turnaround? Let's start with SEC Player of the Year frontrunner Derrick Byars — the same player reporters didn't even consider among the league's best only a few months ago.

"Derrick is our backbone right now. He's the guy who's getting it done for us," said senior Dan Cage. "We're winning, and no one thought we would. Derrick is one of the biggest reasons for that."

Byars was just named SEC Player of the Week for the second time after dropping a career-high 32 points on 11-of-15 shooting against South Carolina last Wednesday and torching then-No. 1 Florida for 24 points, eight assists and five steals on Saturday.

"Without question, Derrick Byars should be considered for the SEC Player of the Year," said Florida coach Billy Donovan.

Byars' accomplishments have been nothing short of remarkable. He is averaging 19.7 points per game in SEC play, which is second best behind South Carolina's Tre Kelley.

He also boasts the highest field goal percentage among guards (51.8 percent), is sixth in 3-point shooting (41.3 percent) and eighth in steals (1.5 per game). He is also averaging 4.9 rebounds and 3.2 assists.

Additionally, Byars plays his best when he

needs to do so the most. He's averaged 20 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists, while shooting 53.6 percent, in eight games against ranked opponents.

While his thunderous dunks and his uncanny ability to hit shots after double-pump fakes have made their way onto Sportscenter, Byars' defense has been truly impressive. Whether containing a substantially larger Al Horford or switching to defend a quick point guard such as Taurean Green, Byars has proven himself to be versatile.

Simply put, Byars is a Renaissance man on the court, and deserves to become the first Commodore since Dan Langhi (2000) to earn SEC Player of the Year honors.

"He might be able to do more things on the basketball court than any kid I've ever coached," said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings. "He's got freakish talent. There's nothing he can't do. He can defend, he can rebound, he can score, he can pass and he can handle the ball."

Winning the award won't be easy, however. Byars faces stiff competition from Tennessee's Chris Lofton, who makes a 3-pointer look like a free throw. In addition, Louisiana State's Glen Davis, the reigning player of the year, has put together some gaudy numbers, but will be hurt by his team's disappointing season.

One could make the case that any of Florida's starters are worthy of the award, but their balance may be what hurts them the most. None of them are as irreplaceable as Byars, who has led the Commodores to an 18-8 record, including 8-4 in the SEC.

"Derrick is, in our minds, the best player in the league," Cage said. "He does so many things that don't show up in the stat sheet. If the season ended today, he'd get a lot of votes, and he'd get all of our votes. He deserves it." ■



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Vanderbilt senior Derrick Byars is among the SEC leaders in several categories and a main reason for the Commodores' success. The rest of the league is taking

CLUB SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



Photo courtesy of Vanderbilt sailing club
The Vanderbilt sailing club held off No. 5 College of Charleston to win the second North Points Regatta of the spring season in Clemson, S.C., on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Sailing stuns Charleston to capture regatta

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

The Vanderbilt sailing club arrived with modest expectations at Lake Hartwell in Clemson, S.C., for the second North Points Regatta.

The team was competing against 10 other schools from the Southeast, including national powerhouse College of Charleston, ranked fifth in the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association of America, and had not practiced much recently due to the cold weather.

But the Commodores not only held their own — they won.

“We were pretty pumped,” said junior Beverly Landstreet. “It is impressive when we do well against teams like Charleston, who live on the water.”

Competing in six races at the lake, Vanderbilt placed in the top three in every one. The club’s A division was skippered by Landstreet and crewed by Becca Dunny, while the B division was skippered by junior Noah Walcutt and crewed by freshman Steve Knubley.

“It was a lighter breeze so there was lot more strategy than usual, which worked to our advantage,” Landstreet said. “Since we don’t get to practice very often our boat-handling isn’t as good as other teams, so we rely on what we know from sailing when we were younger.”

Vanderbilt has competed in two regattas already this spring, and travels to North Carolina State this weekend and Tennessee the following weekend. They hope to finish in the top six in the South Atlantic Sailing Association’s North Division.

As Vanderbilt’s oldest club sport, sailing has been on campus since 1962. The club now includes over 30 members and has received tremendous alumni support recently.

Last summer the club purchased a 13-foot Boston Whaler motorboat for use as a safety and coach boat, which will allow them to practice more easily and to host regattas. The club also has eight Flying Junior dinghies maintained at Percy Priest Lake. ■

Lacrosse cruises in opener

HUSTLER STAFF REPORT

The Vanderbilt women’s lacrosse team kicked off its 2007 season in style, cruising to an 18-5 victory over Albany on Monday.

“It’s just what you want to see on the first day,” said coach Kathy Swezey.

Led by four goals each from junior Margie Curran and sophomore Cara Giordano, the No. 19 Commodores burst out to a 10-0 lead midway through the first half and never looked back.

The Commodores scored three goals within the first two minutes of the contest and outshot the Great Danes 25-6 in the first half en route to taking a 13-1 lead.

“I am pleased with our team’s performance,” Swezey said. “There were several girls that popped into my mind that had great games, and then I realized I was thinking about just about everybody. I feel like every person on our squad stepped up.”

Curran led the way for the Commodores, registering four goals and an assist. Giordano added four goals while senior Kendall Thrift had three goals and an assist.

It was also a big afternoon for the Commodore freshmen. Anastasia Adam tallied two goals and an assist, while Sarah Downing, Carter Foote and Laura Keenan also scored goals to aid in the victory.

“We could tell from the first time they stepped onto the field in the fall that they were going to make a big impression on our program, and they have,” Swezey said. “None of them play nervous or tight. They just go out and play confident, and that’s exactly what we want to see from them.”

The victory celebration will be short-lived for the Commodores, who now turn their attention to defending national champion Northwestern. The Wildcats come to Nashville on Sunday. ■

COLUMN

NASCAR has no place on Bristol’s network

ALEX BARD
Columnist

Last week, I called my friend back in Boston to check what was on ESPN at that moment. I was stuck watching NASCAR Week instead of Pardon the Interruption, but I was sure this must have been Southern regional coverage.

Alas, I was wrong. He told me, “NASCAR is on,” followed by some words you just can’t print. I couldn’t believe that the most important sports network was previewing the NASCAR season for an entire week. Apparently the South did rise again in the form of 500 miles of left turns.

I’m not trying to start the sport/non-sport debate (for the record, I think of NASCAR as a

sport, just as much as horseracing is); I’m just expressing my shock at its rise in popularity and its ability to take over ESPN afternoons. Call me old fashioned, but I’d rather discuss basketball or spring training than hear about new restrictor plate regulations or Dale Earnhardt Jr.’s feud with his racing company (and, yes, I blame George W. Bush and Trey Wingo for the fact that I know what those two things mean).

I understand that there is a whole science and strategy to stock car racing. I don’t understand, however, why 300 million Americans are being subjected to NASCAR coverage, especially when there exists people like my mom who say, “Can’t you just go and watch a highway for five hours instead?”

With a healthy proportion of people holding this attitude, why would ESPN dedicate an entire week to the sport? Sure, some people don’t like baseball, but you don’t hear them question its qualification as a sport.

Some things should remain in their place. No one is challenging the South’s reign on NASCAR (nor Skoal nor John Deere tractors), and thus the sport should remain in its roots.

I have few outlets at Vanderbilt to remind myself of my home in New England, and the boys in Bristol rank near the top.

I get NASCAR out my window every morning, I don’t need it on ESPN every afternoon, and I don’t think I’ll be alone when I gladly welcome back Tony, Mike, Stat Boy and the “Happy Happies” this week. ■

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FOCUS

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Do you think Vanderbilt is a socially active campus? Why or why not?

"There just seems to be a lot of activism on campus. It just seems like there are always things going on that reach beyond the Vanderbilt community. Even if we aren't extremely active, we try to be."

—Alex Howard
Freshman

"I think Vanderbilt is involved. We started Alternative Spring Break, which has become a national organization, impacting thousands of people. That is a big contribution to Vanderbilt, Nashville and other communities."

—Gian Rossi
Sophomore

"I would say we are very active, as evidenced by organizations like Alternative Spring Break. Even if people aren't particularly active, they are at least socially aware."

—Allison Musto
Senior

"I don't think Vanderbilt students are aware. Vanderbilt is a bubble, and I think we don't know what is going on outside of it. We are so busy we don't even notice our own social problem, which surprises me because this is the most boring campus on the planet."

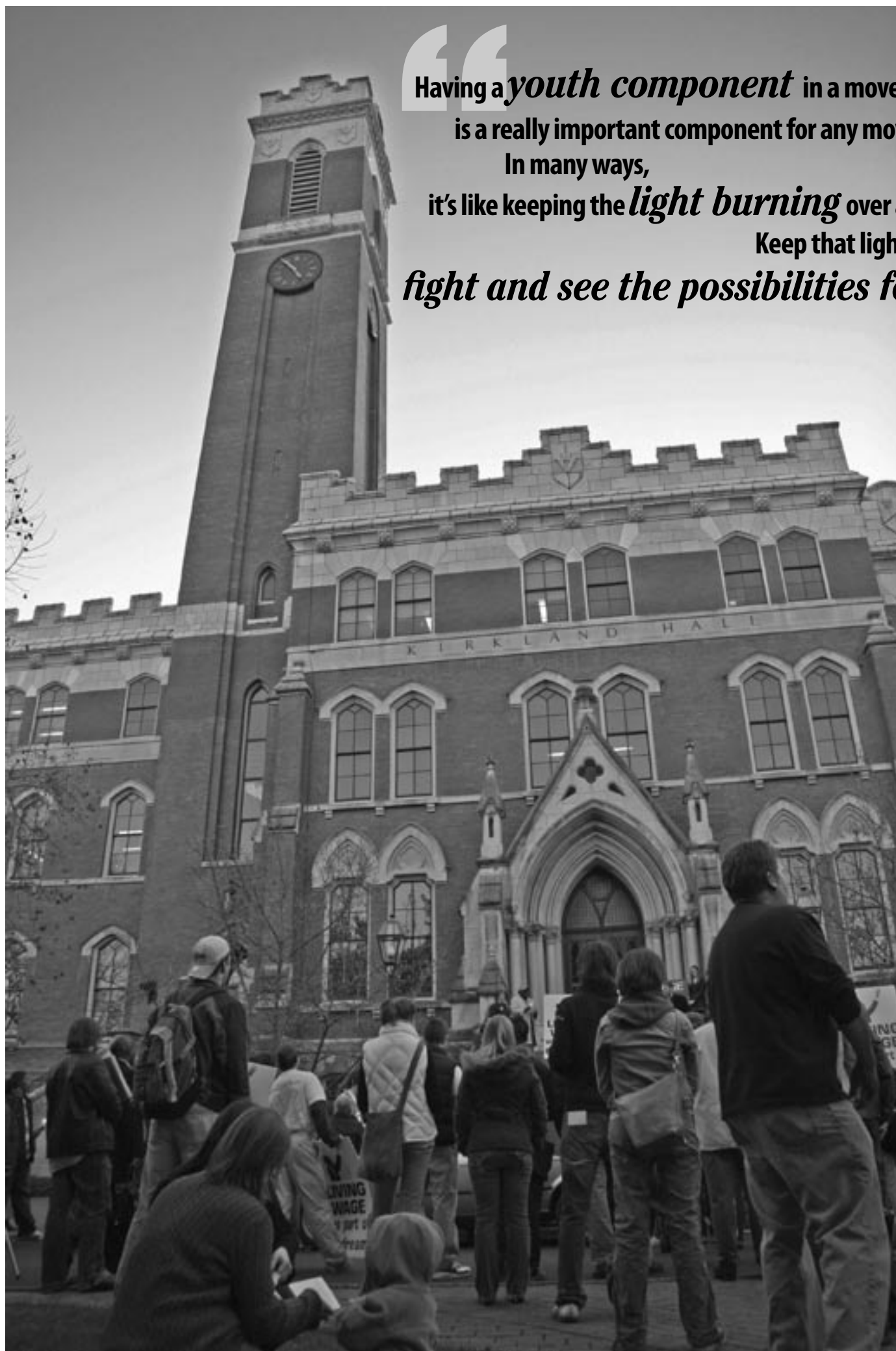
—Broderick Stewart
Sophomore

"We are infrequently a socially aware campus, but I think that is coming around with organizations like LIVE. Most people don't give a damn, or they just don't know what's going on. There are a few kids that are trying to make a difference, though."

—Franklin DeFelice
Junior

"I think it is a very peripheral part of the campus. Most students are satisfied with their wallets, income and standard of living. People at Vanderbilt don't need very much, so they don't do very much. I think this is sad because since we don't need so much, we have more ability to change things than other people."

—Seth Harkins
Freshman



Students gather around Kirkland Hall in support of a living wage at Vanderbilt. The living wage movement is one of many examples of social activism on campus.

MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Having a *youth component* in a movement

is a really important component for any movement *to be successful*.

In many ways,

it's like keeping the *light burning* over a long period of time.

Keep that light burning in young people to

fight and see the possibilities for a better world.

—Larry Issac, Sociology professor

With this installment of the Focus section, *The Hustler* examines social activism on campus. Throughout Vanderbilt's history, students have taken part in a wide array of social movements — from the civil rights movement to living wage — in an effort to stand up for what they believe in. The following articles illustrate the struggles they have faced as well as the successes they have achieved.

Instigator of Vanderbilt desegregation now serves as professor of medicine

John Sergent reflects on past, compares classmates to today's university.

by GLENNA DeROY
Editor-in-Chief

When Professor of Medicine John Sergent looks around, he sees a different Vanderbilt than the one from which he graduated in 1963.



SERGENT

According to Sergent, Vanderbilt during the 60s was not only apathetic but also "incredibly homogeneous." "It wasn't just that it was apathetic; it was that everybody pretty much had similar backgrounds and similar ideas about everything," he said. "You may feel it's apathetic now, but you had a Muslim president of the student body a few years ago. Vanderbilt, of the top 30 universities in the country, has the fourth highest percentage of blacks in the freshman class. I promise you. It's a very different Vanderbilt."

He said that Vanderbilt owes its active student body to the increased diversity of today's university, for which Sergent laid the foundation in his time on campus.

When Sergent arrived at Vanderbilt "there were probably three black students on campus," but by the time he left, the board had voted to desegregate the university.

As a student government senator during the 1960-61 academic

year, then-sophomore Sergent spearheaded the successful student-led effort to bring black undergraduates to Vanderbilt.

At that time, Vanderbilt would only admit black students if a comparable program did not exist for them in Nashville. Thus, all undergraduate schools and the medical school were entirely off-limits to black students.

The university expelled civil rights activist James Lawson, a student in the Divinity School, during Sergent's first year on campus, and despite his better instincts, the freshman did nothing.

"I knew what was good and what was right, and the divinity students were protesting and were marching around Kirkland Hall, but I was a first-semester freshman in college, I had joined a fraternity, I had a girlfriend — life was great, and I didn't want to hear about it," he said.

Sergent said that although it is hard to imagine today how much courage it took for students to join the civil rights movement, he does not know why he waited as long as he did.

"I think the answer to that is simply inertia," he said. "Everything was going so well. I think you tend to compartmentalize things because you couldn't live with it if you didn't. You either make the decision that you're going to become completely radical and work every day, every minute to change the system, or you compromise and you compartmentalize and you take that part of your life and you do what you can."

THE LONG ROAD TO DESEGREGATION

Sergent began to do what he could the following year, becoming the first student body representative to introduce an anti-segregation resolution to student government.

"The typical things we dealt with were things like whether the alley behind the TriDelt house ought to be one-way or two-way," he said. "So one day, in the middle of debating the alley behind the TriDelt house, I proposed a bill that we should recommend to the Board of Trust that Vanderbilt admit qualified Negro applicants."

The resolution failed by one vote, but Sergent and his followers proposed that a student body referendum be held a month later.

Battling a student apathy that "would be hard to describe," Sergent and other supporters such as former Hustler editors Lamar Alexander and Roy Blount Jr., sought to educate the student body in almost every way possible — from public debate to newspaper editorials to group meetings.

"That was a very interesting month," he said. "I just made myself available. I would go to talk to anybody — sororities, dorms, whatever. It was the most interesting experience."

Sergent said that most students he spoke with did not have the experience with desegregation that he did. Halfway through his high school career, Sergent's high school in Frankfort, Ky., underwent a peaceful, relatively uneventful integration.

According to Sergent, Vanderbilt in those days was an intensely Southern school, with about 85 to 90 percent of the student body coming from

Tennessee and its border states.

"I found myself frequently being the only person in a large group or in the dorm that actually not only favored desegregation, but had been through it and thought it was no big deal," he said. "I was really probably the only person I knew, of my good friends, that had ever gone to school with a single black person."

In speaking with students, Sergent discovered that many did not really understand what desegregation would entail. For instance, one sorority woman was surprised to hear that white and black students would live in the same dorms once black students were allowed to attend the university.

Still other students could not fathom the possibility of a desegregated campus — or country, Sergent said.

"I can remember a lot of friends who said it will never happen," he said. "Arkansas or Alabama or wherever they were from will never desegregate, and they really believed it. It was such an ingrained part of the life they grew up with. People today don't realize it was as rigid here as South Africa."

The referendum lost by approximately 100 votes, Sergent said, but the failure may have been a blessing in disguise, as the board voted to desegregate the university in its next meeting.

"My thinking is that (Chancellor Harvie) Branscomb wanted it to lose because if it had passed, the board members were so reactionary, that they probably would have just said, 'We're not going to do it. We're not going to let the students push us around,' and it might not have happened," he said. ■

Vanderbilt alumnus draws from experience to author activism handbook

Administrators and students analyze current campus movements.

by SYDNEY WILMER
Asst Focus Editor

Less than five years ago Jennifer Dillard was a sophomore in Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science. Heavily involved in what is now LIVE and Vanderbilt's chapter of the Sierra Club, a national conservation and environmental organization, Dillard learned a great deal about activism and the obstacles associated with it.

Though she said the success of these organizations during her time at Vanderbilt was limited at best — Sierra Club losing its battle for purchasing more expensive Green energy from TVA in 2002, and experiencing the university's first open aversion to the living wage issue — she said the struggles changed her perception of the world around her.

"I learned more from working on the living wage than I learned in any of my classes," Dillard said.

Today, Dillard, now a law student at Georgetown's Law Center, is compiling a handbook to help guide Vanderbilt student activism; in doing so, she hopes to impart some of this wisdom both on the organizations she helped found and on new ones like the Vanderbilt Biodiesel Initiative.

"A university is a huge bureaucracy," she said. "Having a road map for that is helpful."

Though at this point the manual consists of a series of questions, Dillard said she hopes she can answer them from her own experience. The questions address a range of problems, including dismissive administrators and publicity generation.

"Students need to know these are the tactics that work and these are the people in the administration that can help," Dillard said.

Dillard admits that most of her knowledge stems from her own mistakes. Blaming Sierra Club's choice to circumvent the administration in creating a Clean Energy Proposal for the initiative's failure, she explained that working with the school, though difficult, is a crucial step in forwarding campus movements.

"We probably should have done a little more research and worked directly with administration before we presented our proposal," she said.

Dillard stressed that the university likes to have ownership of initiatives.

"It is hard for the person in charge of a university to look like they are taking someone else's proposals," Dillard said. "They want it to look like they had a lot to do with the proposal. They don't want to feel like they were backed into a corner."

Dillard said considering this may have changed the outcome of the Sierra Club's initiative.

EXAMINING THE TACTICS

In the midst of LIVE's living wage campaign and in light of SPEAR's recent victory in establishing a sustainability coordinator position in December, the creation of a student activism handbook seems an appropriate measure, said SPEAR President, senior Jenny Magill. For Dillard, the contrast between these two student movements lends itself naturally to one question: What factors lead to successful student activism on campus?

"I have been doing this for 26 years," said Chancellor Gordon Gee. "Many students engage in what I call guerilla theatre. They don't do their homework. They protest."

"Then you have students that do their homework. Those who do their homework, create a base of student support and start building coalitions — those have been the ones that make the most impact," Gee said.

Gee explained that an organization must work closely with administrators and be patient.

"I would model SPEAR as a group that has done the kind of work that breeds success," said Gee, adding that LIVE's tactics have been "less effective."

After last semester's storming of the Board of Trust meeting in December, some students and administrators have called LIVE's tactics into question.

"I think we have been misrepresented in a lot of ways," said LIVE member, junior Taylor Daynes. "A lot of people think of us in terms of the union, and we are not involved with the union. We are just friends of the union."



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Activists march in support of a living wage. Jennifer Dillard said she hopes her student activism handbook will help guide the fute

Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Michael Schoenfeld said LIVE's protest was an "ultimately counterproductive and not particularly effective form of protest."

Though Gee said that "the university is comfortable in its position" concerning living wage, he encouraged the group to try creating more student-based coalitions and bring the battle back to campus rather than attempting to generate national publicity.

"We won't do anything with a gun to our head. They should stop joining in on union tactics and start developing common ground," he said, making reference to Danny Glover's recent appearance on campus and a letter former Senator John Edwards sent to Gee in support of a living wage.

Others say the comparison between SPEAR and LIVE in regards to tactics, is, as SPEAR advisor Linda Rosencrantz said, "an unfair one."

Even Dillard, who agrees that working with the administration is the key to success, disapproves of the comparison.

"I think it is an ideological problem," Dillard said. "If the administration has made up its mind you have to try a new approach. We don't want to make them feel like they are forced to do something, but we can't go halfway. You have to make it a big issue."

"The problem we face is in order to get this message across, we have to present it in an unconventional way," said Eric Schechter, mathematics professor and unofficial LIVE faculty sponsor.

Schechter said this, in turn, gives the group a radical image. "Unfortunately, if you go through the regular channels, it doesn't get you noticed," Schechter said. "When the university is under no legal obligations to recognize the cause, publicity is the only tactic at our disposal."

"We tried to go to the proper venues," said LIVE's Daynes. "We went to the young board of trustees and met with faculty, but we weren't being taken seriously."

Daynes said, though, historically, "No social movement ever really follows the rules."

Some do not see LIVE's tactics as radical.

"I think they're effective," said sophomore Aziz Malik. "If they'd only held up posters (and) handed out pamphlets, I don't think they would have reached this level of success."

In relation to other, larger movements, "it's not that extreme because tactics of larger movements have been violent," said

Professor of Sociology Larry Isaac. However, he did explain, within the context of campus, "I can understand how some might see it as forceful."

"In the 1960s, though, it wouldn't have seemed shocking," Isaac said.

STRUGGLING FOR SUCCESS

The struggle has not been easy, even for an organization like SPEAR, which Gee praised for its persistence and inclusiveness.

"I think there is a sense in the administration that student groups get started, get really excited, last for about two years, get busy, graduate and disband," Magill said.

Magill explained that one of the biggest obstacles is proving to the school that the organization is "not going anywhere."

Today Magill said she feels "recycling and environmental stewardship have become a part of the community because the university has taken ownership."

"I think SPEAR is doing the right thing," Dillard said. "When we have a giant coal plant on campus, it is hard for the administration to shut an environmental organization down. I think the living wage has done a lot too, though."

Dillard explained the living wage group always expected they would eventually need to take more drastic measures.

"If the school is opposed to it, if they don't agree with it ideologically, saying things like, 'I'm against the living wage,' you have to approach it from a much more aggressive angle."

For Dillard, who watched and participated as both the environmental movement and the living wage movement gained momentum on campus, social activism is a complicated issue. In the handbook, she hopes to illuminate the different approaches students can take in the course of activism, but she recognizes that these courses may not apply equally to different movements.

"Oftentimes the kinds of tactics people will use have to do with the obstacles they confront; if a movement isn't hitting obstacles they can follow (less shocking) tactics and get more support and get somewhere," Isaac said. "It's usually when they hit obstacles that they start taking different tactics." ■

—Elizabeth Middlebrooks contributed reporting for this article.

Vanderbilt Biodiesel Initiative seeks following

Student-led movement competes for mtvU, General Electric \$25,000 grant.

by NICOLE FLOYD
Focus Editor

GARRETT FAULKNER
Contributing Reporter

The Vanderbilt Biodiesel Initiative (VBI) has yet to gain a large student following, despite gaining publicity after being chosen as a finalist in mtvU and GE's ecomagination Challenge.

"I actually haven't heard anything about the biodiesel movement," said freshman Bryan Edwards. "I'm pretty clueless ... I haven't seen any posters around campus."

The VBI, a division of WilSkills, hopes to secure a \$25,000 grant from mtvU to facilitate the production and use of biodiesel in university vehicles. In the process, they also aim to teach the community about sustainability, as well as renewable and cleaner fuel.

Due to the newness of the group, graduate student Derek Riley, one of the primary initiators of VBI, is not yet concerned by the lack of student knowledge about the movement.

"This group started not too long ago, so it is still in its infancy," Riley said. "It's kind of tricky because it is difficult to get people excited about biodiesel vehicles because most Vanderbilt students do not commute to campus."

Biodiesel is an organic fuel source derived from a mixture of vegetable oil, methanol and lye. It can be used by itself in any modern diesel engine, or blended with ordinary diesel fuel; it is widely regarded as a cleaner and more

reliable alternative to petroleum-based fuels.

With the assistance of biodiesel manufacturers, VBI hopes to produce 100 gallons of fuel per week at the outset, with additional production to commence as early as summer 2007.

Vice Chancellor of Plant Operations Mark Petty said he is excited and optimistic about the possibility of biodiesel production.

"It's a very distinct possibility," Petty said.

"There certainly is legitimate use for this ... we would really like to take advantage of this as a project."

Dining has also lent their support to the initiative, offering to donate any vegetable oil waste from campus dining centers to the project.

"We're real enthusiastic and excited about the biodiesel initiative and the exposure it's getting on campus," said Jay Spiegel, purchasing manager of Vanderbilt Dining Services. "We are in the middle of discussions with the folks putting together the campus-wide initiative."

The VBI will require transportation vehicles and a biodiesel manufacturing center before any significant production can begin. Plant Operations already has a number of diesel vehicles that would be able to make use of biodiesel fuel, but VBI collaborators hope to fund additional transportation vehicles and the manufacturing center with the grant offered by the ecomagination Challenge.

Competition sponsors mtvU and General Electric will play a role in determining the winner, but an open online vote tally will also help determine the outcome. Therefore, VBI collaborators find it imperative to inform the student body about the project in order to garner votes and raise popular support.

Up to this point, members of WilSkills have relied mostly on word of mouth to get their ideas concerning biodiesel out into the community.

So far, Riley said he believes their efforts are paying off.

"Our group has tripled in size, and we have gotten many e-mails of support from various administrators, students, community members and other people who have heard

about the project," Riley said.

Should the VBI not receive the grant, they plan to appeal to corporate sponsors.

Petty said he feels the VBI's success is contingent on the ability of WilSkills to continue this initiative into the future. He said this sometimes proves to be difficult due to the nature of student-led movements and the turnover in leadership that occurs frequently.

"I think they are positioned to make this a long-lasting part of their legacy," Petty said.

Sophomore Hallie Shoffner said the great part about the biodiesel initiative is that it is already underway.

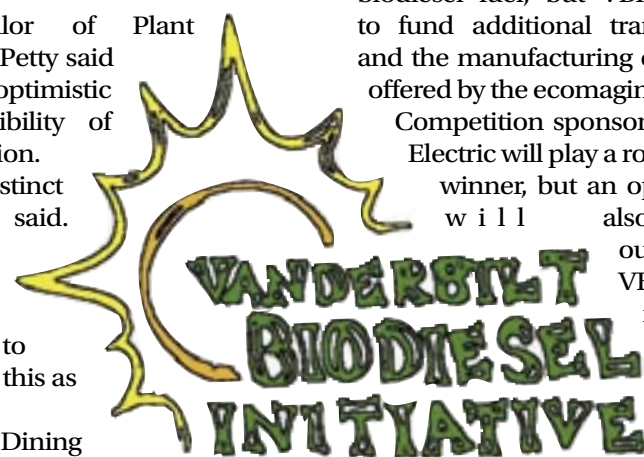
"It's here. It's now," Shoffner said. "It's something that every student can participate in to make a real difference right here on campus."

Riley said he is confident that a broader knowledge of the project will come in due time.

"I think it would be great to have a large student following, but I think having a dedicated student following is more important," Riley said.

The winner of mtvU's ecomagination Challenge will be selected in March. Interested students should vote at <http://www.ecocollegechallenge.com> by March 2. ■

—Kristen Chmielewski contributed reporting to this article.



FUN & GAMES

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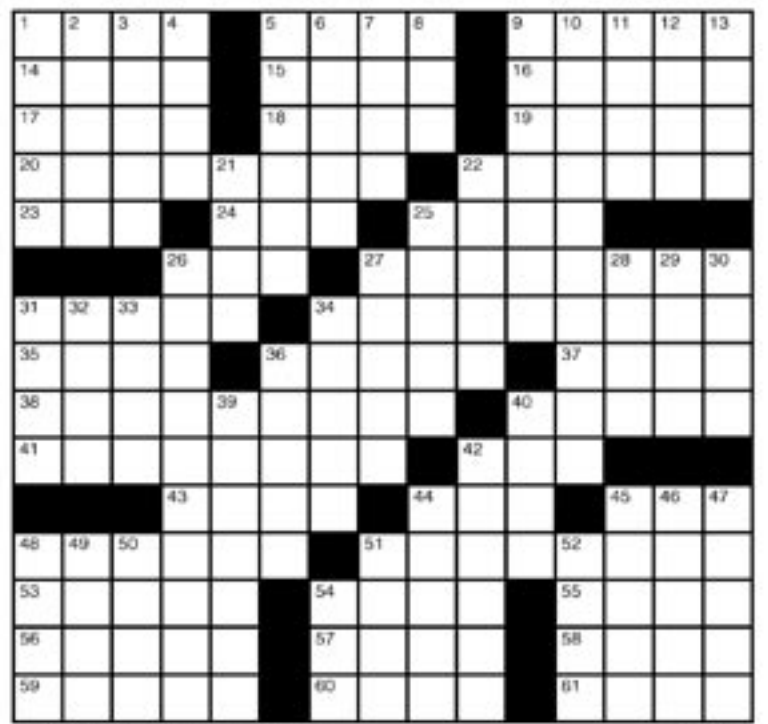
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- Confess
 - Tiny victory margin
 - Pays attention to
 - Actress Teri
 - Pot starter
 - Of long ago
 - Machu Picchu builder
 - Iranian currency unit
 - Old-time actress Pola
 - Jumping game
 - Agitate
 - Snaky shape
 - Long, long time
 - Take the plunge
 - Handle rudely
 - Familiarized with new surroundings
 - Visual aid
 - Leisure
 - Bathe
 - Dilapidated cars
 - Idi of Uganda
 - Plato's prized pupil
 - Guitar ridges
 - Wishful
 - Thirsty
 - Johnny of "Sleepy Hollow"
 - Untruth
 - Sound of a leak
 - Means of entry
 - Produce
 - Advancements
 - Exploited laborer
 - Lotion additive
 - Speak spectacularly
 - Sea eagle
 - Eccentric one
 - Luster
 - Equal
 - Breaks off



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2/21/07

- DOWN**
- Nimble
 - Wind indicators
 - Killer whales
 - Swaddle
 - Constricted
 - Leek's cousin
 - Males-only affair
 - Sushi bar offering
 - Award recipient
 - Simple
 - Brink
 - Laura or Bruce
 - State of irritation
 - Stunt
 - Expos
 - Hang in loose folds
 - U.S. leaders
 - Iridescent gems
 - Prison term
 - Send out
 - Lairs
 - Attired
 - Fabled also-ran
 - Rara follower
 - Arrangement
 - March Madness sport
 - Locks
 - Emancipated
 - Main meal
 - Sierra

2/19/07 SOLUTIONS

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- Permanent place?
- Got up
- Goes in search of
- Intensely eager
- Astronomer
- Sagan
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