

Check out  
The Hustler's  
Baseball  
Preview

For more, see Sports, page 8



Vanderbilt's efforts  
to improve rankings  
may be counter-productive. . .

For more, see columnist Tyler J.P. Smith  
Opinion, page 7



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# The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007 • 119<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 13

## THE WALL

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

### TODAY

#### Annual Internship Fair and Reception

All students interested in internships should attend an information session from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Wyatt Center Rotunda in Peabody College. Hosted by the Human and Organizational Development Internship Program, the fair will host various Nashville area businesses and non-profit organizations, such as the Hospital Corporation of America and Southwest Airlines.

### TODAY THROUGH FRIDAY

#### Last chance to get yearbook portraits taken

All students wishing to take their yearbook portraits or retakes must stop by Sarratt 112 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Seniors are encouraged to make appointments as soon as possible because the schedule is filling up quickly.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 8

#### McGill Project applications due

Applications to join the McGill Project are due Thursday, Feb. 8 in Branscomb 4112. McGill is the site of a cooperative program with the philosophy department to encourage discussion of controversial issues.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 8

#### MannaFit Benefit Dinner in Student Life Center Ballroom

On Thursday night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., a dinner will be held benefiting Manna Project International, featuring food from various restaurants from PF Chang's to SATCO and a silent auction. Tickets are \$12 in advance on the card or \$15 cash at the door.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 8

#### 'Finding Common Ground' Discussion

Students wishing to voice their opinions about The Commons, Greek life, upperclassman living or freshman safety should come to Wilson Hall 103 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday.

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

## Shakur advocates devotion to activism



TYLER HAGEN / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Afeni Shakur, keynote speaker for Black History Month, challenges youth to resist political and social apathy in a Tuesday night address in the Student Life Center. "I'm concerned about your lives," she said. "I'm concerned about your priorities. Somebody has to be responsible for our schools and hospitals. These are local political issues ... We need people to represent us, people who are articulate. Please don't go to jail. On Spring Break, do not get busted."

## Jamie Lynn Sigler cancels speech again

by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY  
Asst News Editor

Jamie Lynn Sigler, known for her role on "The Sopranos," canceled her speaking engagement for the second time. The Vanderbilt University Speakers Committee scheduled Sigler to speak Feb. 15 to tell students about her battle with an eating disorder.

"What happened was she ended up having another commitment for HBO and as a result couldn't come speak," said Nate Meltzer, outgoing co-chair of the Speakers Committee.

The Speakers Committee held a meeting Tuesday night to discuss how to respond.

"We got the call about two weeks before the event. That's just a risk you take with celebrities or politicians," Meltzer said. "You never know when they're going to have another obligation and where their priorities are going to lie."

Meltzer said the committee would decide at the meeting what to do next.

"We had pressure to come to a decision quickly, but we're not in a position to do that."

"I know for a fact we won't be having Jamie Lynn again. It still remains what direction we will be taking."

Meltzer remains open to student input on the committee's next step.

"We're really open to suggestions, especially from the student body. We are willing to take suggestions," said Meltzer. "We try to keep our fingers on the pulse of the student attitude." ■

## Sprinkler head breaks, causes flood in Scales



TYLER HAGEN / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Rooms in Scales House were flooded with two inches of water Tuesday evening after a sprinkler head broke. Freshman Alex Alm, above, said, "I am speechless. There was probably \$400 of damage to my personal belongings, and half of my clothes were soaked."

## Manna Project fundraiser to benefit new health clinic

Planners anticipate crowd of 600 people for dinner event.

by ALICE CAMPBELL  
Contributing Reporter

Manna Project International volunteers aim to raise money and awareness at Thursday night's Mannafit.

The third annual benefit will take place in Student Life Center from 6 to 8 p.m.

"We're promising food, but we really want to give the people who come to Mannafit an experience," said sophomore Jake Ramsey, vice president of publicity for Manna.

With a slide show presentation, noted speaker, silent auction and background music, the two-hour event hopes to raise several thousand dollars and enable students to learn what has made Manna such a meaningful experience to its volunteers and beneficiaries, Ramsey said.

Manna Project International started as a non-profit organization in 2004 by Vanderbilt students and alums to "initiate positive change in underserved communities" by "fostering and encouraging communities of young adults to use their passions and education in service to communities in need," according to its Web site.

Since 2004, students from Vanderbilt, University of South Carolina, University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the University of Washington have worked locally and in three impoverished communities in Managua, Nicaragua where the groups promote literacy, teach English, provide healthcare and build much-needed facilities and playgrounds, among other projects.

Ramsey said Manna's founders chose Managua as a starting point because it's nonviolent and hospitable to change. Proceeds from Mannafit this year will go to fund a new health clinic in Managua.

"We hope that our sites in Nicaragua will serve as the archetype for connecting college grads with developing communities," Ramsey said.

All food and auction items were donated by businesses and sponsors such as Interhall, Kappa Alpha Theta and Alpha Kappa Psi, so nearly all profits from admission tickets will go directly to the cause.

Food from Fleming's, Carrabba's, McDougal's, the Spaghetti Factory, Calypso Cafe, P. F. Chang's and Provence will be served, and silent auction items include baked goods, bicycles and American Airlines tickets.

Based on numbers from last year and the amount of tickets they have already sold, planners anticipate a crowd of about 600 people. However, unlike last year when they ran out of food due to an influx of ticket sales on the day of the event, they feel more prepared to feed and entertain everyone who shows up.

"I went to Mannafit last year on a whim ... and was inspired by what I saw, so I applied to be a volunteer in Nicaragua in May for three weeks," said Katie Blume, a sophomore who has become involved since last year's Mannafit. ■

— Kelsey Pendleton contributed reporting to this article.

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**WEATHER**

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

**TODAY**



Mostly Sunny, 38/26

**THURSDAY**



Wintry Mix, 38/21

**FRIDAY**



Mostly Cloudy, 39/23

**SATURDAY**



Mostly Cloudy, 37/18

**VUPD CRIME LOG**

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

There is no crime to report.

Check out <http://police.vanderbilt.edu/crimelog.htm> for complete listings.

**SERVICE GUIDE**

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

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

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**CORRECTIONS**

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

**PRINTER**

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

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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**

**Cancer center receives \$6.5 million to study tumor environment**

A tumor relies on its environment to grow and spread in the body — something the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center will be exploring more closely with the help of a new \$6.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute.

This marks a new type of grant from the NCI, sparked in part by a new wave of interest in and attention to the “microenvironment” of a tumor, making it the latest hot-button word in cancer research.

“We have been looking specifically at what was inside the cancer cell,” said Lynn Matrisian, chair of cancer biology at Vanderbilt-Ingram. “We were really focused on the seed, and we forgot about the soil.”

Matrisian said experts are now focusing attention on the “soil,” or tumor environment — something that could alter cancer outcomes if the soil is tended well.

The NCI grant will allow Vanderbilt-Ingram to become a key player in a new network of investigators looking at the microenvironment and researching different areas related to the soil where the tumor sets up camp. Members of the network will meet twice a year to share discoveries.

Source: VANDERBILT REGISTER

**VU Theatre debuts ‘Playboy of the Western World’ at Neely Auditorium on Feb. 16**

“Playboy of the Western World” inflamed audiences and caused weeklong rioting when it debuted at the National Irish Theater in Dublin in 1907. On Feb. 16, Vanderbilt University Theatre will bring it to the stage of Neely Auditorium.

“Playboy of the Western World” focuses on the reception given to Christy Mahon as he wanders into a small Irish village, declaring that he has just murdered his father. The villagers initially embrace Christy, determining that his courageous act has made him “the playboy of the Western world.” However, their vision of him soon changes as the plot develops.

“Our own present craze for reality shows and celebrity status may help explain the world of ‘Playboy’ and why the women in this rural town flip for a murderer,” said Terryl Hallquist, director of the production and associate professor of theatre.

“Playboy of the Western World” will be performed at 8 p.m. Feb. 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24, and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 18. Admission is \$8 for the general public, \$5 for graduate and professional students, and free for undergraduates with a Vanderbilt ID. Tickets go on sale Feb. 12 at the Neely Auditorium box office. Tickets may be reserved by calling 322-2404.

Source: VANDERBILT REGISTER

**‘Off the Wall’ lectures explore Mexico and Modern Printmaking exhibit at the Frist**

Starting Feb. 15 Vanderbilt professors will offer informed perspective on the acclaimed exhibition “Mexico and Modern Printmaking: A Revolution in the Graphic Arts, 1920-1950,” at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros are among those featured in Mexico and Modern Printmaking, which examines the political and artistic contributions made by Mexican and foreign-born printmakers living in Mexico during the Mexican Revolution. Visitors can see 125 prints and posters by 50 artists in the exhibition, which runs through April 15.

Edward Wright-Rios, assistant professor of history, will address “Making Art and Revolution: The Prints, Politics and History in Mexico’s Taller de Gráfica Popular, 1937-1960” on Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. Wright-Rios will discuss the remarkable story and artistic production of the world’s most enduring graphic arts cooperative in historical and political context.

Professor of Art History Leonard Folgarait will discuss “Giving Context to Modern Mexican Art and Printmaking” on March 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The center will provide translators and translation equipment for all lectures, which are free and open to the public, to accommodate Spanish-speaking members of the audience. In addition, Wright-Rios will lead a professional development workshop for K-12 teachers.

Source: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

**Divinity School to host domestic violence seminar for ministers**

Ministers and others interested in combating domestic violence may attend a seminar on Feb. 9 hosted by Vanderbilt Divinity School.

The “Ignorance is Not Bliss: Violence against Women and What Ministers Need to Know” seminar will offer instruction on how to help victims of domestic violence. A panel of experts will explore why violence against women is considered acceptable by some, how religion contributes to and challenges that acceptance and how to care for victims of violence.

Panelists will include Linda Manning, director of the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center; Amy-Jill Levine, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies; Barbara McClure, assistant professor of pastoral theology; Brad Braxton, associate professor of homiletics and New Testament; and John McClure, the Charles G. Finney Professor of Homiletics, chair of the Graduate Department of Religion and a fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture.

The seminar will run from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Divinity School, Room G-23. A reception will follow in the school’s Tillett Lounge. Both the seminar and reception are free and open to the public.

Source: VANDERBILT REGISTER

**Panel to address housing, dining complaints**

**Housing issue concerns sophomores.**

by CHRISTINE BROWN

Staff Reporter

Students will have a chance to voice concerns to administrators about the effects of The Commons on housing for upperclassmen.

The meeting, which will be held Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in Wilson 103, will allow concerned students to speak directly with administrators to learn more about their living situation on campus in the next few years.

The discussion was created in response to criticism from students, particularly the current sophomore class, who will be the first class at Vanderbilt not granted permission to live off campus.

Sophomores Taylor Gould and Clay Maffett led the movement voicing students’ concerns to administrators. In addition to meeting specifically with Chancellor Gee and Assistant Provost of Special Projects Howard Sandler, they created a Facebook group called “Students Against the College Halls Initiative,” which has 959 Vanderbilt members.

According to Gould and Maffett, the group was designed to gain support and show the administration that the college halls are unfair to current students at Vanderbilt.

“We just have to make the administration aware of how many students are affected by this. Meeting with Chancellor Gee

and Howard Sandler I think has made a difference in how they view student’s concerns,” Gould said. “It will be nice to have this forum so everyone can get a chance to talk to administrators and maybe ask different questions or get more direct answers than we have received.”

In addition to housing, students will also have the chance to address Director of Dining Camp Howard on dining facilities on campus.

“Having a food facility where the freshman class can gather is an extremely exciting prospect,” former Director of Dining and current assistant vice chancellor of business services Frank Gladu said. “We will look at the way that we provide our services and meal plans and will always be adjusting them to make them more flexible. What is in place today will always need to be changed for tomorrow.”

Sandler said he hopes the forum will help bring a more positive light to The Commons and to having more students live on campus.

“We hope that current students can get away from focusing on the immediate problems and instead help shape the way that the university is going for the future,” Sandler said. “I think it will be good to have more seniors on campus because as a university we need more senior leadership on campus.” ■

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# Housing Help! workshop explores future options



MARK BENEKE / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Sophomore students question Director of Housing Jim Kramka on their future housing options after the opening of The Commons in Crawford House classroom Tuesday evening. The question and answer was well attended by interested students.

# Bernanke: Education, not protectionism would help deal with income inequality

by JEANNINE AVERSA  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bolstering education and training rather than erecting trade barriers would help narrow the economic gap between low- and high-income workers, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Tuesday.

In his most extensive remarks to date on economic inequality, Bernanke also issued a fresh warning for the United States to steer away from policies that seek to erect protectionist barriers to trade and investment opportunities or to stifle the economy's flexibility. Such a course, he cautioned, "would do far more harm than good."

His remarks come as Democrats, who have sought to portray the Bush administration's economic and tax policies as mainly benefiting the wealthy, have made it a priority to take steps to alleviate widening economic inequality in the United States. President Bush, in recent speeches, has tried to calm angst among those who worry about their job and economic security in a constantly changing

economy.

Bernanke, in remarks delivered to the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, said disparities in education and training is "likely the single greatest source of the long-term increase in inequality."

Thus, "policies that boost our national investment in education and training can help reduce inequality while expanding economic opportunity," he said.

A copy of the chairman's prepared remarks was made available in Washington.

His remarks underscore the economic disparity among workers that has widened over the decades.

In 1979, a full-time worker close to the top of the wage scale earned about 3.7 times as much as a full-time worker near the bottom of the wage rung. Reflecting the relatively fast growth of wages of higher-paid workers, workers near the top of the wage scale today earn about 4.7 times as much as those near the bottom, Bernanke said.

Bernanke, while exploring various possible forces behind this, did not offer specific policy solutions. That, he said, must be left to politicians. ■

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TO: The Residential Community  
 FROM: Jim Kramka, Senior Director of Housing Facilities Operation & Management  
 SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSING ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

Students seeking suitable furnishings or accommodations for the 2007-08 academic year due to disabilities, medical conditions, psychological conditions or for other reasons, should make an appointment to meet with me between February 7-16.

Students will be asked to provide supporting documentation from their professional caregivers. 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 from the InterResidence Hall Association.

Students wishing to schedule an appointment with me should contact Carolyn Land at 343-0117.



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\$600/month for 6+ months	\$450/month for 6+months

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[www.insidevandy.com](http://www.insidevandy.com)

# U.S. astronaut charged with attempted murder in bizarre love triangle

by MIKE SCHNEIDER  
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — She was the RoboChick. He was Billy-O.

According to police, her obsession with him led her to drive 900 miles from Houston to Orlando, bringing with her a trench coat and wig, armed with a BB gun and pepper spray, and wearing a diaper to avoid bathroom breaks on the arduous drive.

Once in Florida, Lisa “RoboChick” Nowak apparently confronted the woman she believed was her rival for the affections of William “Billy-O” Oefelein. And this tawdry love triangle has one more twist — it involves two astronauts.

Nowak, 43, a married mother of three who flew on a space shuttle in July, was charged with attempted murder, accused of hatching an extraordinary plot to kidnap Colleen Shipman, who she believed was romantically involved with Oefelein, a space shuttle pilot.

Specifically, police said Nowak confronted Shipman, who was in her car at the Orlando airport, and sprayed something at her, possibly pepper spray.

At first the astronaut was charged with attempted kidnapping and other counts, and a judge had permitted her release on bail. Then, in a surprise move, prosecutors upped the charge to attempted murder, basing it on the

weapons and other items they said they had found with Nowak or in her car: a pepper spray package, an unused BB-gun cartridge, a new steel mallet, a knife, rubber tubing and large garbage bags.

Nowak’s lawyer, Donald Lykkebak, disputed that upgraded charge, which allowed police to keep the astronaut in jail. “In the imaginations of the police officers, they extend these facts out into areas where the facts can’t be supported,” said Lykkebak.



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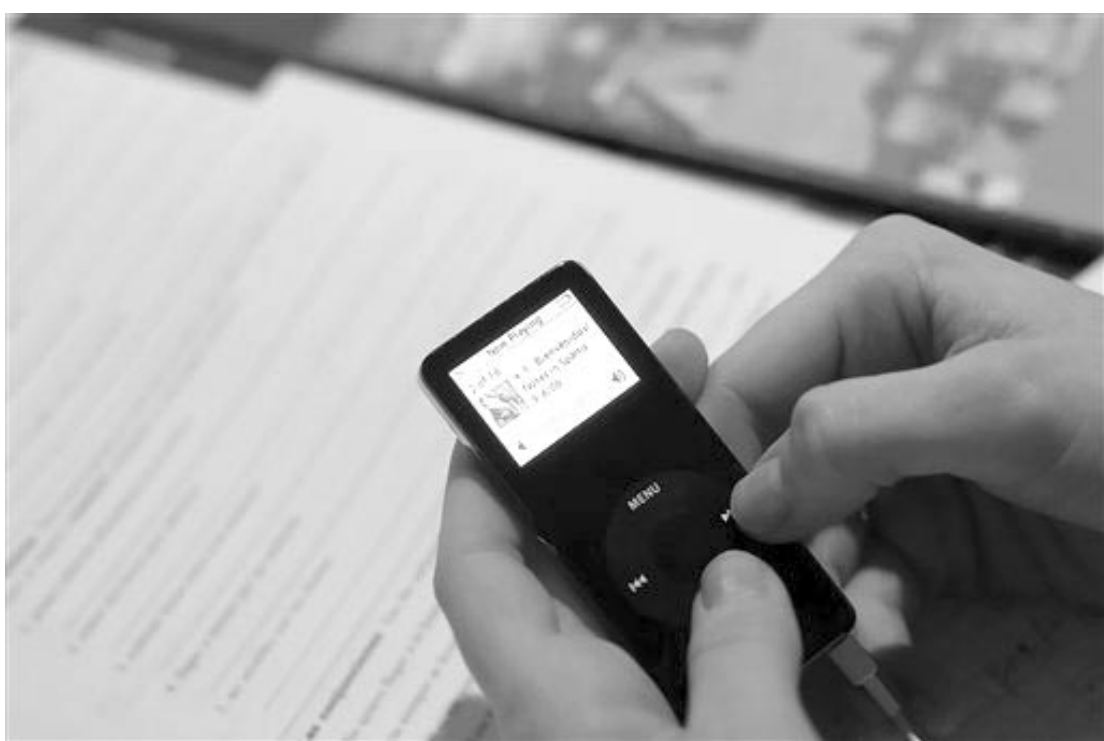
**“[We had something] more than a working relationship but less than a romantic relationship.”**

—Lisa Nowak, U.S. Astronaut

and Oefelein, who both live in the Houston area, had trained together as astronauts, but never flew into space together. Shipman, 30, works at Patrick Air Force Base near Kennedy Space Center.

Earlier, Nowak was quoted by police as saying she and Oefelein had something “more than a working relationship but less than a romantic relationship.”

Neither Oefelein nor Shipman could be reached for comment Tuesday, nor could Nowak’s husband be found. ■



Apple Inc. has agreed to format its music for mp3 players other than the iPod, but only under certain conditions.

AP PHOTO

## Apple to expand iTunes

by MICHAEL LIEDTKE  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Inc. indicated it would open its iTunes store to other portable players besides its ubiquitous iPod if the world’s major record labels abandoned the anti-piracy technology that serves as the industry’s security blanket.

Steve Jobs, Apple’s chief executive, made the case for abolishing the protections known as “Digital Rights Management,” or DRM, in an open letter posted Tuesday on the company’s Web site.

The essay, dubbed “Thoughts on Music,” cited the anti-piracy technology as the main reason music sold through iTunes can’t be transferred to other portable players besides the iPod.

If not for the DRM safeguards, Jobs asserted that Apple would be able to create a more flexible system

that would allow iTunes music to work on other devices, such as Microsoft Corp.’s recently introduced Zune.

Jobs suggested that consumers unhappy with the status quo should urge the world’s four largest labels — Universal Music Group, EMI, Sony BMG Music Entertainment and Warner Music Group — to sell their online catalogs without the DRM restrictions. Those four labels distribute more than 70 percent of the world’s music.

“Convincing them to license their music to Apple and others DRM-free will create a truly interoperable music marketplace,” Jobs wrote. “Apple will embrace this wholeheartedly.”

iTunes’ incompatibility with other music players has drawn fire in Europe, where Apple’s limitations have been branded anticompetitive. Over the past eight months,

consumer rights and protection groups in Germany, France, Norway and the Netherlands have lodged complaints against Cupertino-based Apple.

Raising a bit of irony in his dissertation, Jobs noted that three of the four largest music labels are owned by European interests.

Even if iTunes remains incompatible with other players, Jobs argued that most consumers can still easily load their digital music on just about any computing device that they desire.

That’s because most consumers already own a library of CDs unencumbered by DRM restrictions or acquire other music files, either legally or illegally, that aren’t copyright protected.

Based on Apple research released for the first time Tuesday, Jobs estimated that just 22 out of every 1,000 songs stored on an iPod were purchased from iTunes. ■

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# OPINION

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### OUR VIEW

## Arguments against higher standards fail to convince critical thinkers

One of the hazards of argument is that one often finds himself arguing in favor of a position he would find abhorrent. Such is the case with today's letter concerning Interfraternity Council's academic standards.

While plenty of data has been collected concerning the performance disparity between men and women in academic environments, it is not at all clear that this disparity is due to "genetic tendencies associated with gender." It is likely the author meant "sex," as in a biological condition, rather than "gender," a social role, but let us for the moment take him at his word and extrapolate this idea to its logical conclusion.

Vanderbilt is a highly selective university, and nobody is arguing that the university should open

its doors to any and all comers. Rather, admissions are based on one's potential to benefit from an academic environment. Should it be proven that the average man is less able to perform academically simply because he is male, it would therefore follow that Vanderbilt should admit many fewer men and more women in order to maximize its academic production.

It is also disheartening when one arguing on the subject of intellectualism cites an urban legend as fact to bolster his claims. Contrary to popular belief, Albert Einstein made moderate to excellent marks. However, let us assume once more the letter is correct. For every mythical Einstein who made poor grades yet assumed the mantle of brilliance, there are thousands upon millions

of poor students who did not, in fact, revolutionize the discipline of physics.

Finally, it is something of a chimera to directly correlate fraternity membership and size with higher GPAs. Many sororities and fraternities maintain test banks, an advantage denied the general student population, and yet nobody will say test banks create smarter students just as nobody will say the theft of a test key makes one brilliant. In addition, those who join Greek organizations tend to be more motivated than average, and they are likely to perform well with or without a handful of letters on their shirts.

Vanderbilt is one of the top universities in the nation. It is a shame when all are not dedicated to making it the best possible.



Don Wright—MCT

### LETTER

## Torch staffer presents illustrious history of commentary on living wage issue

### To the Editor:

I read with amusement Monday's "Our View" which the front page of The Hustler called a "burn" of The Torch. I could not help but laugh at the asinine arguments put forth criticizing The Torch of everything from having poor writing, false advertisement, crass and uncaring attitudes, and ill-informed discussion because this editorial certainly did not maintain any semblance of good journalism. I could pick apart the many flaws in these unimportant points about the advertisement's language, but I would like to address the point of The Torch's satirical ad and why it was run in the first place.

First, The Hustler suggests that The Torch has eschewed rational debate on the issue of a living wage in favor of choosing "to troll people" and simply mock their positions. This is patently untrue. If the editorial board had bothered to do a basic search of www.vutorch.org, which chronicles every issue since February 2004, they would have discovered two articles devoted to the subject, one in November 2005 and the other in November 2004. Additionally, in the last issue Kevin McNish covered living wages in great depth in his article, which, incidentally, focused on the poor reporting of Hustler staff and its failures in checking the facts living wage supporters gave them.

Additionally, I can't help but wonder why The Hustler is choosing to criticize The Torch now since many of its issues contain similar satirical pieces.

The September issue, for example, had a similar fake advertisement and last April even contained several pages that mocked what The Torch would be like if all the staff members became liberals. Yes, The Torch is not The Slant and will probably never achieve its level of humor, but political satire has long been recognized as an acceptable form of presenting an issue. The Torch ran this piece in addition to its many articles discussing the living wage issue; this fake advertisement was merely another avenue to show the Vanderbilt campus that not everyone supports the actions of LIVE.

I suggest that everyone, including The Hustler's editorial board, pick up the recent issue of The Torch and read the whole thing. If you are so inclined, visit www.vutorch.org and check out the back issues, including those that have in depth discussions of the living wage issue. The Hustler is right that market forces will judge whether or not The Torch deserves the audience of the Vanderbilt community, but based on its past high levels of distribution and the many compliments I have heard about its writing, including about this present issue, I believe that the Vanderbilt community will not be disappointed.

**Meredith Trezise**  
Junior, A&S

*Editor's Note: This is not an official communication on behalf of The Torch.*

### LETTER

## Parity not a concern of Greek standards

### To the Editor:

The Hustler Editorial Board misrepresented the facts in its Feb. 2 "Our View" ("IFC should increase GPA requirement").

The academic standards of Greek Life pose a unique and complicated issue. The Hustler editorial considers the raising of Panhellenic Council GPA minimums a "good decision" and questions the Interfraternity Council's hesitance to do so, but it ignores a much larger sociological trend. Recent statistics indicate that females perform better overall at all levels of education than males do. A number of possible reasons are given for this. Some explanations cite failures in child rearing, but the most persuasive explanations address natural genetic tendencies associated with gender.

Needless to say, this is far too complex an issue to explain in a letter to the editor, but it is also too complex an issue to deal with in a 400-word diatribe. Toward the end of the editorial, the editorial board asks, "Why is this grade disparity something we must tolerate, let alone encourage?" The answer: The grade disparity should be tolerated only so far as it allows for sex differences. Females (at Vanderbilt and at other schools, Greek or otherwise) tend to outperform males academically.

Raising the GPA standards so that IFC fraternities must equal Panhellenic sororities will not discourage any disparity for longer than a semester. It will, as the IFC has stated, simply shrink the recruitment pool. This would be occurring in an environment where sororities already dwarf fraternities. Because fraternity size is positively correlated with higher GPAs, raising this standard may very well affect an unintended result. Larger Greek organizations provide students with more outlets from which to seek help and more models of success, but these organizations will shrink if the standard is raised. Moreover, Greek hopefuls who need help may be locked out of a system that could benefit their GPA.

A stagnant GPA requirement does not establish "fraternities as being innately less intelligent and less selective than sororities;" it merely acknowledges the natural differences between male and female academic performance and allows for one semester's adjustment to college life. The issue at stake here is not the establishment of intellectual inequality versus intellectual parity, and shame on you all for associating lower GPAs with lower intelligence. Recall Albert Einstein's report cards for a minute and comprehend that GPA is a measure of sustained academic performance, not intelligence. Back in reality, there are two issues at stake. The IFC is justly advocating the fraternities' right to offer the opportunity of Greek life to as many men as seem fit. After that, it remains each fraternity's responsibility to ensure that new members achieve their academic goals and live up to the standards of the community.

**Drew Donnelly**  
Junior, Peabody College

### 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.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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

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Nashville, TN 37243-0021  
(615) 741-3291

**Councilor Ginger Hausser**  
Metro District 18  
521 Chesterfield Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37212  
(615) 783-0106

## COLUMN

## Advising relationships betray lack of trust, interest

**BRENNAN McDAVID**  
Guest Columnist

Vanderbilt is a great institution. I love this university, and I will love it after I leave in May. However, with love and proximity comes criticism, so I cannot help but notice minor assaults and harassments of students by the administration. The conflict I have in mind is in regards to the advising system.

Since I came to Vandy, I have been a part of an adviser-advisee system. Though the adviser has changed more than once, I have stayed the course as advisee. Of course, all that is required of an advisee is setting the meetings, arriving at said meetings and bringing all belongings pertinent to said meetings. I have carried out this ritual of meeting eight times now, and I wouldn't say the ritual interferes with my life or puts me out of my way. Though I might be more content to complete my registration without seeking my "adviser code," I can't insist that my life is any worse for it.

But what is disappointing about these meetings is, I think, rarely known until a student's second semester in their senior year. You see, what happens in that semester is a sort of revelation wherein the advisee discovers they are not going to graduate because some detail of CPLE has been overlooked.

Of course, this moment of discovery does not extend to the adviser, because he or she has experienced this before. And the administration does not feel any unexpectedness because, as it turns out, they knew it all along and were just waiting until you had settled into your last semester and passed the add/drop period to write you the dreadful letter: "Our records indicate..."

Something is amiss in this scenario. From the outside, the advising system shows a lack of trust in the individual student, as if he or she is incapable of designing their own curriculum and satisfying all requirements. Thus, from this view, it is reasonable for students to

rely entirely on the system. If we are not trusted, there cannot be any expectation of independent success. The view from the inside, though, reveals the inadequacy of adviser training and disinterest on the side of professors who have better things to do than sit with a student to discuss trivialities. In other words, the system is flawed and it's no wonder mailboxes are filled with these notices.








I realize AXLE is less convoluted and devilish than CPLE; the relative ease of completing AXLE may clear up some problems. I only think it's fair, on the part of the students who suffered through the advising system under CPLE, to tell the administration we have noticed how badly the advising system is put together and we know that you are ultimately responsible for causing us so much grief.

And we are so very glad we never have to deal with it again.

—Brennan McDavid is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

## THE VERDICT

Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff!

Lisa Nowak		Murderous astronauts encourage every teenager's fascination with "DOOM"-style space marines.
Apple		Will these stout buccaneers calling for an end to digital copy protection create a 21st century Port Royal of piracy?
Rudy Giuliani		Not because we don't like him, but because we're bracing for a deluge of "Rudy! Rudy! Rudy!"
Rick Perry		The Texas governor finally did something in the public interest by mandating the new HPV vaccine.
Iran		Iran is enriching uranium in defiance of international demands, which is just plain annoying.
Physicists		There may be a way to see other dimensions. For more information, see the above "DOOM" joke.
The Hardy Boys		The repetitive novels were already annoying; adding Tom Cruise will hardly improve matters.

## COLUMN

## Efforts to improve rankings sap university's strength

**TYLER J.P. SMITH**  
Columnist

I have never quite felt such a surge of heavy emotion as I felt when I read Wednesday's issue of The Hustler. Inside, I found numerous articles and opinions on stereotypes and how they relate to Vanderbilt's image. What could be more exciting? A bunch of people expressing the usual complaints about "Vandy girls" and frat boys. Awesome.

However what really bothered me was a title saying that "administrators" would now begin working "to enhance Vanderbilt's public image." My only fear was that the implication of all of this discussion on stereotypes is that Vanderbilt administrators truly believe there is a problem with well-dressed young men and women and how they impact Vanderbilt's national image.

To address the complaints concerning stereotypes, I can only say that anybody who took the time to write these articles has not taken time to look around campus. While living and breathing exhibits of these so-called stereotypes are prevalent around the brick buildings and magnolias of our campus, so are step dancers,

athletes and hippie activists. Anybody who truly thinks our classrooms are filled with girls wearing UGG boots and guys wearing bar hats either has never actually set foot on our campus or has an extremely discriminating eye that seeks out these walking stereotypes.

More importantly, stereotypes based on appearance have hindered civil rights progress over the past century. After all, with Martin Luther King Jr.'s influence we have been told from childhood not to judge people based on skin color. Why should it be that when one makes a decision to wear certain clothing, others declare this "vanity" or "elitism" and judge him? After all, our own chancellor wears bow ties, an object of clothing long associated with preppies and American aristocracy. Would we call him a close-minded traditionalist?

That said, the opinions people hold about these stereotypes are their opinions, and I do not challenge their right to hold them. Students can complain all they want about what people are wearing, but it is a shallow complaint indeed. The implication of these opinions seems to be that people want our school to change in a

way favorable to their preconceived notions of what a university should be. And the thought of attempts by the university administration to enforce this change scare me very much. A university is not an institution that should bend to a national rankings system devised by a "third-rate news magazine," as author Tom Wolfe described the infamous U.S. News and World Report. It is true that the majority of American college applicants may not attend a school with an image like Vanderbilt's. However, why does Vanderbilt need to change if it continues to receive enough applications and maintain its levels of great professors and excellent students?

Furthermore, fundamentally changing Vanderbilt in order to increase a temporary ranking may make the university interchangeable with any other top 20 schools. I did not come here in order to attend a generic "top school"; I came because Vanderbilt offered me something the others did not. Vanderbilt has a truly unique image and character that may be bothersome or be misinterpreted, but it remains distinct from the bleeding-heart mentality of

the Ivies and other top schools. That distinction does not mean Vanderbilt is simply Southern and conservative. Rather, I believe Vanderbilt students and faculty harbor a mix of views that all compete for attention, without one ideology coming to dominate all others. Chancellor Gee even pointed out to parents that a great thing about Vanderbilt is the pervasive Southern influence means the institution is not so blindly politically correct that only certain opinions can be found "acceptable."

What Vanderbilt needs to do as the 21st century continues is to focus on getting top professors, improving campus life and remembering its founding culture while continuing to embrace necessary changes. Focusing on ambitious national strategies for getting everybody in the country to apply sound fine on paper, but if these schemes threaten the character and distinguishing strength of an already outstanding university, are they really worth it?

—Tyler J.P. Smith is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

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Check online to download and print application

Application due date is February 23, 2007

# BASEBALL PREVIEW 2007

## WHAT 2 WATCH 4

### Upcoming Events

**Men's Basketball No. 23 Georgetown at Louisville Tonight 6 p.m. CT ESPN**

The Hoyas (16-5), who beat the Commodores in the season opener, have been quietly playing great basketball. Meanwhile, Rick Pitino's Cardinals (16-7) have grown up quickly in conference play. I like Louisville to pull off the mild upset at home.

*Prediction: Louisville 69, Georgetown 65*

**Men's Basketball No. 1 Florida at Georgia Tonight 6:30 p.m. CT**

Florida (21-2) seeks to remain undefeated in conference play, while Georgia (13-8) looks to get back on track after losing here to Vandy. The Bulldogs are a good team but have lost three of five and need to rack up some wins quickly if they want to make a run at the tourney. Even though they're at home, there's no way they'll beat the Gators.

*Prediction: Florida 84, Georgia 73*

**Men's Basketball No. 6 Pittsburgh at West Virginia Tonight 6:30 p.m. CT**

Pittsburgh (20-3) is still leading the Big East, but I'm not as high on them as I once was. While West Virginia (18-4) was supposed to be in rebuilding mode this year, it is in contention for another tourney appearance. I like the Mountaineers at home in this one.

*Prediction: West Virginia 75, Pittsburgh 72*

**Men's Basketball No. 5 North Carolina at No. 16 Duke Tonight 7 p.m. CT ESPN**

The fact that both teams are coming off disappointing losses takes a little luster away from this one. Still, it's the best rivalry in college basketball. There is no question who the better team is, and I expect the Tar Heels to come out angry after losing to North Carolina State.

*Prediction: North Carolina 81, Duke 70*

**Men's Basketball No. 21 USC at No. 2 UCLA Tonight 9:30 p.m. CT**

The Trojans, winners of three straight, are just one game back of the Bruins for first place in the Pac-10. UCLA is coming off victories over both Oregon schools.

*Prediction: UCLA 76, USC 74*

**OVERALL RECORD: 35-25**

## Alvarez anchors solid infield

by ANDREW HARD  
Sports Reporter

Led by first team preseason All-American third baseman Pedro Alvarez, the Commodores return all five starters from last year's infield.

Alvarez was named the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year in 2006 after batting .329 with a school-record 22 homers and 64 RBI in 63 games. He also showed outstanding patience at the plate with a "Moneyball"-like .456 on base percentage and a team-high 57 walks.

Alvarez will easily contend for National Player of the Year honors in only his second year of college ball, and could be the No. 1 overall draft pick when he is eligible next summer.

After batting second last season, Alvarez will hit third this year. Batting behind him will be sophomore shortstop Ryan Flaherty, who led the Commodores with a .339 batting average and will be the defensive stronghold in the infield.

At second base, junior Alex Feinberg will get the nod after starting 54 games last season. Expect him and Flaherty to be a very potent double-play combination as Feinberg made just three errors in 2006.

At first base, junior Brad French looks to build on his outstanding finish last season, where he hit .360 as a starter in the team's final 15 games. He also plays rock-solid defense, committing only four errors in 2006. Sophomore Kurt Lipton has switched from the outfield to back up French.

Behind the plate, junior Shea Robin expects to get most of the starts with the departure of Brian Hernandez. He hit .327 with five homers and 36 RBI last year and threw out 8 of 31 potential base-stealers. Senior Carter Hawkins will be the backup.

While the Commodores hit for a high average last season, Vanderbilt coach Tim Corbin said that the team needs to turn singles into extra-base hits.



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations  
Sophomore third baseman Pedro Alvarez, the reigning National Freshman of the Year, headlines an infield that returns everyone from last season. The Commodores' season begins Friday.

"We finished second or third in the conference in hitting, but to me it was a hollow figure," he said. "I think run production is the most important thing when it comes to offense and that means getting on base. I thought the thing we needed to improve on most is the ability to drive in and create runs." ■

## Vandy returns all three outfielders

by JARRED AMATO  
Sports Editor

The Commodores return all three starting outfielders and go two or three deep at each position.

Junior David Macias, who earned all-league honors in the prestigious Cape Cod League this summer, is the team's centerfielder and leadoff hitter. He hit .328 and boasted a .447 on-base percentage for Vandy last season.

In right field will be the versatile junior Dominic de la Osa, who can play either corner outfield spot, third base or shortstop. Like Macias, de la Osa was an all-league selection in Cape Cod over the summer. Batting fifth, de la Osa is one of the

Commodores' power threats. He hit .319 to go along with nine homers and 46 RBI last season.

In left field will be junior Ryan Davis, who hit .323 with four homers and 31 RBI a year ago. Davis went deep in the Commodores' 6-2 victory over the Alumni team last Saturday.

"Every single guy that returns should make a jump in production offensively," said coach Tim Corbin. "A lot of that comes from experience that they gained last year and over the summer. They were able to hit off of our pitchers every day as well and were able to face some quality pitching and know how to handle it. I think with age comes strength and strike zone discipline and knowledge.

With that, they better themselves offensively and we become better as a team."

In addition to the three starters, the Commodores feature talented backups at each position. Senior Matt Meinganser will see time in left field, while junior Parker Hanks will play right.

Arguably the most improved player from a year ago is centerfielder Jonathan White. As a result, he will serve as the primary designated hitter and also see some time in the outfield.

Freshmen Jordan Wormsley is promising, as is classmate Alex Hilliard, who recently switched from the infield to the outfield. ■

## Rotation has depth after Price

by PETE MADDEN  
Sports Reporter

Although junior ace David Price has solidified his position at the helm of the Commodore rotation after setting the school record for strikeouts in a single season in 2006, punching out a total of 155 batters in 110.1 innings of work, several pitchers will compete for the coveted spots behind him in the starting rotation in 2007.

Sophomores Nick Christiani and Brett Jacobsen, juniors Cody Crowell and Ty Davis, and senior Stephen Shao are all capable of undertaking these crucial starting roles this spring.

Christiani had the most appearances on the mound of any Commodore in 2006, pitching in 25 games in his freshman season. The resourceful right-hander went 3-4 overall, with a 4.79 ERA, and is currently projected as the No. 2 starter.

"It's exciting. I'm honored to be able to do it," Christiani said. "Everyone on our team is a good pitcher and could step into that spot. If we were at different schools we'd all be starting, we've all been working hard and I'm privileged to have that spot."

Jacobsen won both of his starts last season and has a good chance of starting on Sunday against Baylor.

"Brett is one of the most improved pitchers on our team," Corbin said. "He stayed in Nashville over the summer and worked very hard in the weight room and with (pitching coach Derek Johnson)."

Crowell started 15 games for the Commodores in 2006, earning a 6-2 record and a 3.95 ERA. The burly left-hander excelled against the stiff Southeastern Conference competition, recording three wins and a team-best 4.37 ERA among starters in 10 SEC appearances.

"Cody will vie for a spot in the starting rotation and possesses three good pitches," Corbin said. "He had a breakout year in 2006 and developed some consistency."

Davis finished the 2006 season with a 5-5 record and a 3.91 ERA, best among the Commodore starters, but he struggled in SEC play, going 0-3 with a 4.40 ERA in 11 appearances, including four starts. Although his progress was slowed by back surgery in the fall, Corbin is confident that his right-hander will recover to turn in a fine season.

"He figures to bounce back and pitch for us either as a starter or middle reliever," Corbin said. "He pitched in a lot



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations  
While there are many options in Vanderbilt's starting rotation, senior Casey Weathers has established himself as the team's closer with his mid- to high-90s fastball.

of big games last year. In order for us to go far this season, he needs to have a good year."

Although he appeared only in relief for the Commodores in 2006, the tenacity of left-hander Stephen Shao, 2-3 with a 3.62 ERA in 23 appearances in 2006, continually impresses Corbin.

"Stephen is probably one of the most versatile pitchers for us over the last four years," Corbin said. "He fits any role and wants the ball every time and you want to give it to him. He is extremely competitive and fearless."

While some may misconstrue this uncertainty in the starting rotation as a weakness, especially this close to opening day, Corbin realizes the Commodores are fortunate to have such a qualified pitching staff with a plethora of talents.

"Compared to recent years, where we had spots defined by the winter, now we have five or six guys that are relatively even in what they can do," Corbin said.

"I think the strength behind that," he said. "Is whoever doesn't start can move into a relief role, allowing us to put in a guy who may be just as good as the starter. This should avoid any dips caused when changing pitchers and give us balance throughout the staff." ■

## 2007 Vandy Baseball Schedule

Opponent	Date
Rice	Feb. 9
Arizona St.	Feb. 10
Baylor	Feb. 11
OHIO	Feb. 16
OHIO	Feb. 17
OHIO	Feb. 18
LIPSCOMB	Feb. 21
PITTSBURGH	Feb. 23
BALL STATE	Feb. 24
BC	Feb. 25
AUSTIN PEAY	Feb. 27
XAVIER	March 2
XAVIER	March 3
XAVIER	March 4
W. KY	March 6
UIC	March 9
UIC	March 10
UIC	March 11
Belmont	March 14
OLE MISS	March 16
OLE MISS	March 17
OLE MISS	March 18
W. Ky	March 20
Arkansas	March 23
Arkansas	March 24
Arkansas	March 25
MTSU	March 28
S. Carolina	March 30
S. Carolina	March 31
S. Carolina	April 1
Austin Peay	April 4
ALBAMA	April 6
ALBAMA	April 7
ALBAMA	April 8
BELMONT	April 11
Kentucky	April 13
Kentucky	April 14
Kentucky	April 15
Lipscomb	April 17
MTSU	April 18
TENNESSEE	April 20
TENNESSEE	April 21
TENNESSEE	April 22
TENN TECH	April 25
FLORIDA	April 27
FLORIDA	April 28
FLORIDA	April 29
Georgia	May 4
Georgia	May 5
Georgia	May 6
MTSU	May 8
Auburn	May 11
Auburn	May 12
Auburn	May 13
LSU	May 17
LSU	May 18
LSU	May 19

(Home Games in CAPS)



# THE STARTING NINE



## THE 2007 VANDERBILT COMMODORES

Led by Pedro Alvarez and David Price, Vandy is ranked eighth by Baseball America. The Commodores return eight position players and all but one pitcher from last year's team, which lost to Georgia Tech in the Atlanta Regional. Tim Corbin's squad has its eyes set on Omaha this spring.



**TIM CORBIN**  
Head Coach

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Fifth season as Dores' head coach  
• Overall record of 144-95



**DAVID MACIAS, CF**  
#1, Junior  
Bats Switch, Throws Right

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Hit .328 with HR and 23 RBI in leadoff spot  
• Led team with 15 hit by pitches  
• Name to Cape Cod All-League team this summer



**RYAN DAVIS, LF**  
#33, Junior  
Bats Left, Throws Right

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Hit .323 with four HRs and 31 RBI  
• Named to NCAA Atlanta Regional All-Tourney team  
• Very accurate arm



**DOMINIC DE LA OSA, RF**  
#3, Junior  
Bats Right, Throws Right

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Hit .319 with nine HRs and 46 RBI  
• Named to Cape Cod All-League team this summer  
• Versatile player who led team in stolen bases



**RYAN FLAHERTY, SS**  
#22, Sophomore  
Bats Left, Throws Right

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Hit .339 with two HRs and 49 RBI  
• Named 30th best prospect in Cape Cod League  
• "Anchor of our infield," Corbin said



**ALEX FEINBERG, 2B**  
#8, Junior  
Bats Right, Throws Right

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Hit .322 with one HR and 23 RBI  
• Made just three errors all season  
• Projected to bat second in lineup



**PEDRO ALVAREZ, 3B**  
#24, Sophomore  
Bats Left, Throws Right

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Reigning National Freshman of the Year  
• Hit .329 with 22 HRs and 64 RBI  
• Starred on Team USA this summer



**BRAD FRENCH, 1B**  
#28, Junior  
Bats Right, Throws Right

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Hit .312 with three HRs and 16 RBI  
• "Old school player who's a winner," Corbin said  
• Had .985 fielding percentage



**DAVID PRICE, P**  
#14, Junior  
Bats Left, Throws Left

**QUICK FACTS**  
• National Pitcher of the Year Candidate  
• One of five finalists for Golden Spikes award last year  
• Ace of Team USA staff this summer



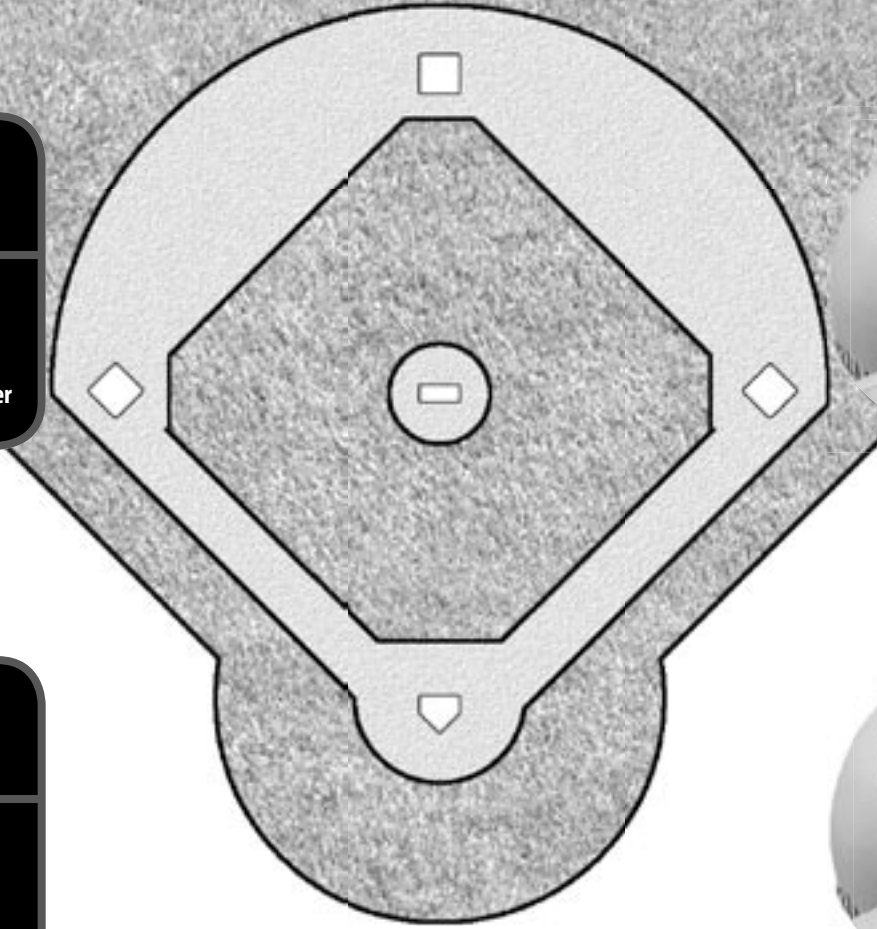
**JONATHAN WHITE, DH**  
#40, Sophomore (R)  
Bats Left, Throws Left

**QUICK FACTS**  
• "Most improved player on team," Corbin said  
• Named top pro prospect out of NY Collegiate League  
• Possesses good speed, hits for power



**SHEA ROBIN, C**  
#17, Junior  
Bats Right, Throws Right

**QUICK FACTS**  
• Hit .327 with five HRs and 36 RBI  
• Earned SEC All-Tourney honors  
• Continues to improve defensively after switching from infield



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## INSIDE THE NUMBERS

- 4.5 MIL** Dollars spent on project to add on to Hawkins Field
- 8** Vanderbilt's preseason ranking in Baseball America
- .339** Sophomore Ryan Flaherty's batting average last season
- 22** Home runs Pedro Alvarez hit last season, a school record
- .447** On-base percentage of leadoff hitter David Macias
- 155** Strikeouts David Price had in 110.1 innings
- 8** Potential starting pitchers Vanderbilt has on its staff
- 24** Players who competed in various summer leagues
- 3,141** Points earned by the Rock Stars, winners of the Omaha Challenge
- 28-2-1** Record of Team USA, led by Vandy coach Tim Corbin
- 38-27** Last year's record
- 29** Commodores who have been drafted over last three years
- 2** Victories over Michigan in last year's NCAA Atlanta Regional
- 3** Times David Price earned National Pitcher of the Week honors
- 574** Strikeouts by pitching staff, a school record
- 57** Walks by Pedro Alvarez, who also had a .456 on-base percentage
- 15** Times David Macias was hit by a pitch
- 25** Appearances by Nick Christiani, most on team
- 14** Stolen bases by Dominic de la Osa

# Hawkins to make most of final shot

## Senior serves as 'player-coach,' Corbin says.

by JARRED AMATO  
Sports Editor

As a member of Vanderbilt coach Tim Corbin's first recruiting class, catcher Carter Hawkins can't believe this season will be his last.

"It went by way too fast. It's exciting to be a senior, but it's also kind of sad and bittersweet," he said. "I just want to show the younger guys what Vanderbilt baseball is all about and make sure that they carry on the tradition that coach started five years ago."

In terms of on-field production, there are many players who are more important to the Commodores' success than Hawkins, who has recorded just 11 hits and three RBIs in three years.

But, when you look at the common denominator in all good teams — chemistry, focus and a strong work ethic — you realize how valuable Hawkins actually is.

"You very much need grinders," Corbin said. "Carter is definitely one of those guys that has those intangibles that help you win."

Whether it's showing a freshman what it's like to practice hard or reminding the team not to get ahead of itself, Hawkins is a coach's dream.

"He's a good intermediary between me and the team," Corbin said. "He understands what I want as a coach and I just think he's a good leader for the team because he keeps things in perspective."

With the Commodores, ranked No. 8 by Baseball America, set to kick off their season Friday against No. 1 Rice in the Houston Astros College Classic, Hawkins can't wait. He said that the team is more confident than it was a year ago when eight of its nine starters were freshmen or sophomores.

"It's about knowing that we've been there before," he said. "It's not a young team anymore."

While it would be easy to get caught up in the Omaha hype, Hawkins knows better. Cliché as it may be, Vanderbilt is prepared to take it one game at a time.

"We have our own goals in house but we try to make sure we focus on the fact that we have Rice on Friday," Hawkins said.

As a member of the 2004 squad that advanced to a Super Regional, the senior is willing to do anything to get back, which is why nothing matters except winning. Sure, he'd like to play more, but he understands his role and embraces it fully.

"Shea (Robin) is the starting catcher, but it is my job to push him, and Andrew Giobbi's job to push me and Jay Moreland's job to push him," he said.

The whole team benefits as a result.

"He's always into the game no matter if he's playing or not playing, and he keeps people into the game," Corbin said. "He's



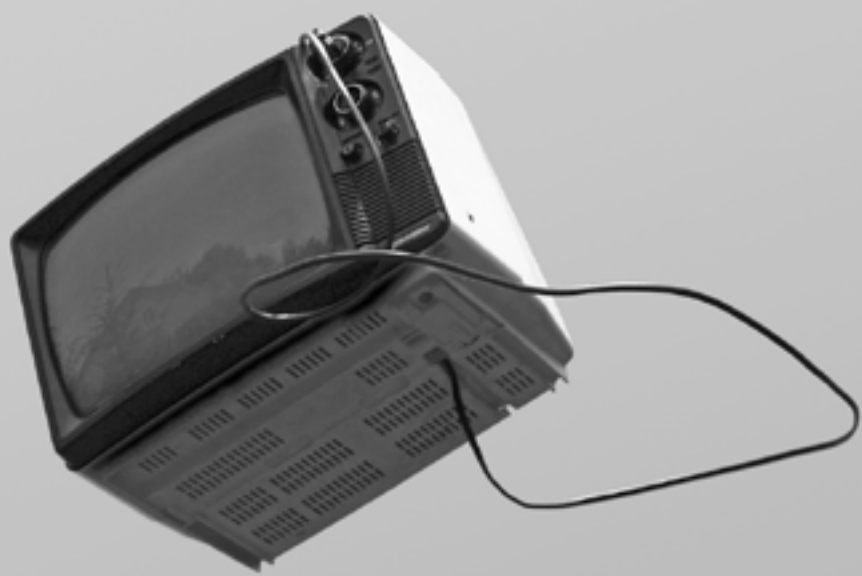
NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations  
Vanderbilt senior Carter Hawkins said his Vanderbilt baseball career has gone by too fast. He said he will enjoy every moment this season, which begins Friday against Rice.

very a good competitor and he keeps everyone on their toes."

Corbin is certainly going to miss Hawkins next season. "He's like a player-coach," Corbin said. "He definitely has a feel for other people, he's been in this program for four years, he's been on a Super-Regional team, and he's been on a Regional team. He's just got a good understanding of what this program is about."

With just one shot left, you can bet that Hawkins will make the most of it.

"It's been an unbelievable experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything," he said. "I'm going to have as much fun as I can and savor every moment because it's going to be over soon." ■



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Fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

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## 2/5/07 SOLUTIONS

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## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**  
1 Wield an axe  
5 Window part  
9 Metal coat  
14 Regan's king  
15 Fast-food choice  
16 Speeder catcher  
17 Not fooled by  
18 Shrinking inland sea  
19 Portents  
20 Lenders  
22 High-strung  
23 Relatives  
24 XIX  
26 List ender  
27 EST word  
31 Guest star spot  
34 Winning position  
36 Chinese chairman  
37 Appearance  
38 Grant recipient  
39 Facial feature  
40 Lennon's love  
41 Discovered  
42 Minor  
43 Stress  
45 WWII fighters  
46 Some cocktails  
49 NBC's "Law & Order: \_\_\_"  
52 Make tardy  
55 Peculiar deviations  
57 Jacob's father  
58 Same as mentioned  
59 Radius neighbor  
60 Mail unit  
61 Longest river  
62 Guzzler's sound  
63 Like yesterday's news  
64 Back talk  
65 Latin infinitive

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2/7/07

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- DOWN**  
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2 Painter Matisse  
3 Like Cheerios  
4 Goad  
5 Kind of electricity  
6 Home-run king  
7 Kind of crow?  
8 Undrawn, as a gun  
9 March with placards  
10 Bemoan  
11 Yemen's capital  
12 Soaks up some rays  
13 Scottish Gaelic  
21 Toward the center of  
25 Relaxation  
26 Mouse-spotter's cry  
28 Give off  
29 Engrossed  
30 Intrusive  
31 Coagulate  
32 Top-notch  
33 Planetary satellite  
34 Water sources  
35 Traveler's stopover  
38 Entry  
39 Guitarist Paul  
41 Bride-to-be  
42 Tiltin' tower town  
44 Slings mud  
45 Taken putts  
47 Type of ink  
48 Yuletides  
49 Window parts  
50 Serena's sister  
51 Practice  
52 Speech impediment  
53 Dog in "The Thin Man"  
54 New Mexico art colony  
56 Olympic racer

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