

How would you respond to the death of a sibling? For Vandy point guard Alex Gordon, it's motivation, and he's not alone . . .

For more, see **Sports, page 8**

Vanderbilt Visions is failing the freshman class...

For more, see columnist Jason Levine Opinion, page 6



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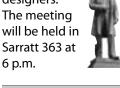
The Handerhilt Hustler

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 4

THE WALL

TODAY Hustler informational meeting

The Hustler is seeking interested writers, photographers, editors and designers. The meeting will be held in



Register for art and dance classes in Sarratt lobby

Sign up for classes from painting to pottery or ballet to hip-hop dancing. Registration is open Jan. 15-19 from noon to 6 p.m. and Jan. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration ends today for country music course

Today is the last day to sign up for MUSL 152 Country Music, taught by Peter Cooper. Cooper is new to the Blair School of Music. He has been a music writer for The Tennessean and is a singer/songwriter who has played on Leno and Letterman, among others.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18 "The Yeatsian Sequence: Nineteen **Hundred** and Nineteen" lecture at Flynn Auditorium

Helen Vendler, professor English at Harvard University, will discuss the poetry of William Yeats. The speech lasts from 4:10 to 6 p.m. on Thursday.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19 "Casino Night" on Friday night



The VenUe and the Vanderbilt **Programming Board** is sponsoring Casino Night for students only Friday night from 8 to 11 p.m. in the Student Life Center.

Martin Luther King Day begins on musical note



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The Fisk Jubilee Singers, a choral group composed entirely of Fisk University students, perform traditional "slave songs" all over the world. Their performance preceded Bishop Joseph Warren's keynote address Monday in Benton Chapel.

VSG: Only one ticket announces intention to run

Declaration of candidacy extended to Jan. 18.

by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI Asst News Editor

Elections for the first-ever Vanderbilt Student Government presidency might be less exciting than anticipated. At an information session held last night, only one ticket announced candidacy.

Cara Bilotta, current Student Government Association executive vice president, has announced that she will run for VSG president alongside EVP candidate Perry Gragg, former Interhall secretary of

In an attempt to create a more competitive race, representatives from both organizations decided to open the candidacy until Jan. 18 at 5 p.m. Potential candidates need to contact either the current attorney general of Interhall, Chris Skene, or SGA, Elizabeth Scott.

Skene said lack of publicity does not explain the lack of competition for the position.

"Personally, although the candidates meeting was publicized around campus, I think it's entirely possible that new candidates will emerge in the next few days," Skene said.

As of now, the Bilotta-Gragg ticket will win the general election unless any candidates other decide to run.

The Bilotta-Gragg ticket heralds from both former student body organizations.

Gragg said as the Interhall secretary of security, he has already worked a lot with Bilotta in the past, which has proven to him that they can continue to work well together for VSG.

"I served as EVP for SGA this year, and it was both a privilege and an honor," Bilotta said. "Boone and I got a lot accomplished this year, and I am very excited to



Although the candidates meeting was

publicized around campus, I think it's

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begin campaigning with a new platform for next year."

Amongst the aims of their platform, Bilotta and Gragg plan to focus a lot on student

"We plan on expanding the use of the Vandy card and Vandy Vans and bringing the Collegiate Readership Program to campus, to name a few (plans)," Bilotta said.

Compared with previous SGA elections, current SGA President Boone Lancaster said the biggest difference is that the VSG election will be drawn out into a waterfall effect.

"For instance," Lancaster explained, "if you ran for one

position and didn't get elected, you could always run for another position. That way you don't lose anyone with a strong personality or anyone who really wants to be involved."

> The format of the rolling elections begins with the election of the president and EVP and is followed by the election of the speaker of the senate, speaker of the house and the chief of staff.

If more tickets declare candidacy, the primary election will occur on Jan. 30 and the general election will be held the following

Last semester, Interhall and SGA voted to dissolve their organizations in favor of a new student government body, VSG, pending February elections. A student body referendum also approved the change.

Class taught by Senate candidate Ford fills in half hour

Some students upset by communication failure.

> by ANNE MALINEE Staff Reporter

Former U.S. Rep. and Senate candidate Harold Ford Jr. will teach an undergraduate political science course this semester, but some students say they will be unable to take the class because they were not told



appointed a visiting professor of public policy, will teach a onecredit-hour seminar entitled "Foundations of American Political Leadership," university announced Monday.

Ford, who has been

Richard McCarty, dean of the College

of Arts and Science, said more than 400 students in relevant departments received an e-mail from the Office of the University Registrar notifying them about the class, which was added to the course schedule this week.

"It filled up in less than half an hour," McCarty said.

"I happened to be sitting in front of my computer when the e-mail came in, so I went right on to OASIS," said senior HOD and political science major Warren Langevin, who snagged a spot in the class.

The e-mail was sent Jan. 15 at 11:35 a.m. by Racquel Goff, assistant registrar for the College of Arts and Science. The e-mail was blind carbon copied, but the body text addressed all political science, public policy, history and American history

C. Neal Tate, chair of the political science department, said an e-mail he received about the course indicated that all history, American studies, public policy and political science majors were contacted.

Some students, however, said they did not receive an e-mail and did not know the class, labeled PSCI 288, was open for enrollment.

"That would have been something I would have been interested in, but I definitely didn't receive anything about that, unfortunately," said senior history and political science major Aaron Crist.

"I had nothing in my inbox from the political science department about the class," said junior political science major Alan Dyer. "I didn't get any notification

"I'm a little disappointed," Dyer said. "I would have certainly liked to have had the opportunity to get a spot in the class. I think it would be a good educational opportunity no matter what your political affiliation is."

"I had only read about it in The Hustler and of course got very excited, but I had not received the e-mail," said junior political science major Ashley Evans.

"I would have really been interested in taking it, so not getting the opportunity is rather disheartening," Evans said.

Senior Chris Randolph, president of the Undergraduate Political Science Please see FORD, page 2



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VUPD CRIME LOG

Jan. 13, 2007, 4:52 p.m. An arrest was made for public intoxication and trespassing property at the Village at Vanderbilt.

Jan. 13, 2007, 8:52 p.m. - An arrest was made for trespassing property at the Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Jan. 14, 2007, 2:00 a.m. – An arrest was made at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital for illegal consumption.

Jan. 15, 2007, 2:45 a.m. – A DUI arrest was made on 21st Avenue.

Jan. 15, 2007, 8:17 p.m. A patient at the psychiatric hospital assaulted someone four times on the left arm. The investigation is still active.

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

SERVICE GUIDE

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Hustler.

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW

The news you need — in brief

WORLD

More than 75 dead in Baghdad university bombing and marketplace attack

An explosion outside of a Baghdad university killed at least 65 on Tuesday in the deadliest attack in Shiite areas. About 45 minutes after the university bombing, gunmen in a minivan and two motorcycles opened fire on an outdoor marketplace in a Shiite neighborhood in eastern Baghdad. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said the attacks were in response to Monday's hanging of two of Saddam Hussein's henchmen, angering Sunni Muslims.

The attacks came on the heels of a United Nations report stating over 34,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed due to sectarian violence.

SOURCE: AP

Castro in "grave condition" after at least three failed operations

Fidel Castro has had at least three failed operations (as well as) complications from an intestinal infection. He is facing a "grave prognosis," Spanish newspaper El Pais reported.

"The Cuban leader bled abundantly in the intestine," El Pais reported. "His condition was aggravated because the infection spread and caused peritonitis, the inflammation of the membrane that covers the digestive organs."

U.S. officials have speculated that Castro had cancer, but Cuban officials have repeatedly denied claims that Castro was in a grave condition and did not comment on the El Pais reports.

Also detailed in the report was an account of a second operation to clean the infected area. However, after the procedure Castro had inflammation of the bile duct, a condition with an 80 percent mortality rate. A prosthetic device implanted in the bile duct apparently also failed.

<u>NATION</u>

Sen. Obama launches presidential campaign, forms exploratory committee

Senator Barack Obama filed paperwork forming a presidential exploratory committee that allows him to raise money and put together a campaign structure and is expected to announce his candidacy on Feb. 10.

The rookie Illinois senator and leading candidate for the Democratic nomination would become the first black president if he succeeds in his campaign.

"Politics has become so bitter and partisan, so gummed up by money and influence, that we can't tackle the big problems that demand solutions," Obama said in a video on his Web site. "And that's what we have to change first."

Obama has impressed audiences with his soft-spoken appeal and burst onto the national scene at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, where his keynote address captivated the listeners who immediately considered him a presidential contender.

Prices soar for California citrus after temperatures plummet

A string of subfreezing nights in California's citrus groves ruined nearly 75 percent of orange, lemon and tangerine

Since Friday, temperatures dipped below freezing into the low 20s and teens on four straight nights; the fruit is threatened whenever the temperature falls below 28 degrees. Harvesters said only limited amounts of fruit were picked before the freeze.

"We may adjust the prices as we discover the full extent of the damage next week, but for now, if you bought an orange at the supermarket for 50 cents, expect to pay a dollar to \$1.49 for it," said Todd Steel, owner of Royal Vista Marketing, which sells California citrus to markets throughout the country.

CAMPUS

Vanderbilt leads multi-university consortium to tackle nuclear waste issue

Vanderbilt is leading a multi-university consortium in a major effort to improve the nation's efforts to deal with nuclear waste safely and effectively.

The consortium, originally formed to advise the U.S. Department of Energy and its stakeholders on ways to manage the nation's military nuclear wastes, consists of engineers and scientists who have participated in efforts in the last decade to clean up nuclear weapons production sites and to dispose of nuclear wastes safely and who now seek to apply these principles to civilian nuclear power. Vanderbilt will lead the organization into a new phase

of development designed to improve the clarity of the technical standards for nuclear waste management based on experience developed earlier by the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Shareholder Participation to help guide both nuclear weapons sites remediation and safe management of wastes produced by nuclear power plants. SOURCE: SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

New organization launched to help black women pursue careers in philosophy The Collegium of Black Women Philosophers was

launched at Vanderbilt through a five-year pilot program. "Philosophy is still viable in part because women and

people of color have recharged the discipline in innovating and exciting ways," said CBWP founder Kathryn Gines, assistant professor of philosophy and African American and Diaspora studies at Vanderbilt. "Part of that is seen in feminist theory and race theory being developed, and part of it has been the challenging of racism and sexism in a lot of classic texts."

The CBWP will support black women in the field through networking, mentoring and financial support. It also plans to offer financial support to black women philosophers to attend conferences, where much of the networking that leads to job opportunities takes place.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT REGISTER

FORD: Seminar class to begin Jan. 23, meet six times this year

Association, said he found out about the course in a class taught by Tate. He said he did not receive an e-mail about how to

"I don't necessarily think it was the fault of anyone in the political science department," Randolph said. "It could have been a glitch or something. I don't think you can blame anyone for this."

Tate said the university was trying to squeeze 30 students into the class, which was originally capped at 20, but there are no further plans to expand enrollment.

"I wish we could do a 100-person course, but I think we would be making a big mistake," said Dean McCarty, who

course small and interactive. Ford's seminar will meet six Tuesday

afternoons this semester, with the first two class meetings on Jan. 23 and 30. In a memorandum offering a draft

description of the course, Ford, who spent a decade in Congress, said the class will focus on the "dynamism of political leadership." "From the genius of the founding fathers to the tough and persistent tests faced by

our presidents to carry out their vision, the class will explore what constitutes strong and vibrant political leadership and how it was used to create a democratic form of government that is the envy of the world," Ford said. ■

Syracuse professor speaks during MLK Day



On Monday, Steven Taylor gave a commemorative lecture on development and developmental disabilities entitled, "Acts of Conscience: World War II Conscientious Objectors and Institutional Exposes." The lecture was a part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Series.

MLK Day of Service brings 18 student groups together

Large number of students withdraw commitment.

by NICOLE FLOYD Staff Reporter

Eighteen student organizations and 102 students joined together Tuesday to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in service projects within the Nashville community.

Donna Rizzo, president of the MLK Day of Service, and Samora Legros, secretary/ treasurer of the MLK Day of Service said although they had support from Chancellor Gordon Gee and the administration, not having the day off combined student hindered participation.

"At the end of the day we still helped people out," Legros said. "We got to know people better that we wouldn't necessarily be put in the same scenario with because we have different cliques and different forms of separation. The fact that those who participated were able to unite says a lot about the character of some of the individuals here at Vanderbilt."

Legros and Rizzo said while they were pleased with the overall outcome of the day, they were disappointed several groups decided to at the last minute.

withdrawtheircommitment According to Rizzo and

dropped out during the were unable to have as two days prior to the event, forcing organizers to cancel service projects at several organizations.

to participate included the high priority," Harston said. National Black Law Students Association, Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling, Collegians Helping Educate and Encourage Responsible Socializing, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Every Campus Ministries, Alpha Phi Alpha, Students for Kenya, Are You M.A.D.?, and Zeta Phi Beta.

participants came from Delta Delta Delta.

The group originally planned to send approximately 120 of its members; however, that number dropped to 15 early Sunday morning.

Palmer Harston, philanthropy special event co-chair for Delta Delta Delta, said the organization apologizes for withdrawal of so many participants.

"We really, really wanted to participate because of the diversity of the event and what it means for Vanderbilt," Hartson said. "Being able to join with other organizations is really important to us as well. Because of timing

many members as we had

originally hoped." "I hope it is not a reflection of our house's commitment Groups that were not able to service, because it is a

> The 15 members of Delta Delta Who volunteered at the Junior Achievement site have decided to return there next weekend to finish the tasks they begun Tuesday.

Rizzo said that a complacent attitude contributed to the decrease in participants.

"Peoplearesocomfortable The largest loss of with their place right now that nobody wants to do anything that is going to set them out to make it look like they are doing something totally different," she said.

Despite the participants that dropped out, Rizzo and Legros said the day was a success.

This is the first year Vanderbilt students have taken part in the day, but Rizzo said it would not be the last. They plan on making the day of service an annual event.

"To all have types of students come together and help and fight for a cause they believe in and make a change in their community — I think that is something King would definitely support, and it is something Legros, 138 participants and classes starting, we he fought for," Rizzo said. ■

Fuddruckers leveled for development

T.G.I. Friday's, Jason's Deli, Bank of Nashville fill retail space.

by CHRISTINA ENGLAND

A pile of rubble remains after the demolition of Fuddruckers over the weekend to pave the way for new development. A shopping center with T.G.I. Friday's, Jason's Deli and the Bank of Nashville will replace the vacant lot left by Sala Thai and Fuddruckers.

Fuddruckers closed summer 2005 and neighboring restaurant Sala Thai abruptly closed last September, leaving almost an acre of vacant property on the corner of 21st Avenue and West End.

Carl Storey III, a broker with Baker Storey McDonald Properties, said the redevelopment will allow the new businesses a stronger base to fill a niche in the

"Our targeted clientele are Baptist (Hospital) faculty,

local Nashville businessmen and, of course, Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff," Storey said. "We hope the new retailers will serve an important demographic group." An article published in The Tennessean in December

about the new development said the construction represented a surprising departure from the West End real estate market that previously had been targeted toward Vanderbilt students. Mike Schoenfeld, vice chancellor for public affairs, said

the western corridor is changing rapidly with new shopping areas, hotels and restaurants to accommodate the influx of business near the campus. "It is not surprising that new contractors want to use the land," Schoenfeld said. "These are prime retail spots that

have been underutilized in the past." The Tennessean article reported that the new development is an "example of a changing West End real estate market"



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustle

Fuddruckers was demolished last weekend to make way for new businesses. T.G.I. Friday's, Jason's Deli and Bank of Nashville will fill the available space.

geared more toward local Nashville business people, while students like sophomore Mika Coffman think the new development targets students.

"I don't see why it won't work for Vandy students as well," Coffman said. "Though it may be designed for upscale clientele, Vandy students in some ways really will be frequent consumers, especially if T.G.I. Friday's and Jason's Deli get on the Taste of Nashville program so students can eat there on the card."

Kendra Abkowitz, an Arts and Science senior, said she thinks the new development is beneficial to Nashville residents.

"As long as it's something that's proactive to Nashville and helpful to citizens here, then I think the redevelopment is overall a good thing — definitely better than the pile of rubble that's there right now," Abkowitz said.

Schoenfeld said the new additions will cater to the Vanderbilt community and receive a lot of traffic from students and faculty.

"Tastes at Vanderbilt are pretty sophisticated," Schoenfeld said. "Also, because of the location, there will be considerable retail and traffic to whatever new businesses are presented in that area."

Storey said the architects designing the new development have been instructed to include architectural features found on Vanderbilt's campus to make the structure more homogenous to the campus.

"We hope that Vanderbilt faculty and students will be as integral a part of our customer base as the campus is in the design of our project," Storey said. ■

University officially cancels unintended student benefit

Students no longer receive free ride on city buses.

by SYDNEY WILMER Senior Reporter

Due to the Metro Transit Authority's recent card reader upgrades on Nashville buses, students who expect a free ride on the city's buses will discover their Vanderbilt cards no

Freshman Garrett Speigel said he is frustrated by what he sees as the university's cancellation of student bus fares; however, Dean of Students Mark Bandas explained the university never intended to offer the service to students.

"The service was never intended for student use," said Dean of Students Mark Bandas. "It was a benefit for

According to Ken Browning, director of plant services at Vanderbilt Medical Center, the original contract never included student riders, but memory inadequacies in MTA's card readers meant that anyone with a Vanderbilt ID card, including former employees, could ride free of charge.

Though the university encountered higher than expected bills, Browning does not attribute this to student use.

"I suspect that the higher costs we encountered were not from student use," he said. "They were most likely from former employees."

Since the upgrade, however, card readers on the bus contain Van derbilt'sdatabase of employees. Consequently, students and others "not on the payroll" will no longer have access to free transportation, Browning said.

"Students were never included in the contract because student needs, which



LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

A Metro Transit Authority bus makes its way up 21st Avenue. MTA has made improvements to the card readers on city buses, no longer allowing students or former employees to ride for free.

are more for entertainment and include later and odder hours, do not mesh well with bus system's hours," Bandas said. "Student leaders were consulted and most did not feel it was important to include students in the package."

The university's downplay of the situation explains why most students were unaware of the accidental benefit.

"I didn't even know we were able to ride the buses for free," said senior

Other students, like Spiegel, said that was a waste of money." ■

they used the bus on a regular basis.

"I used it to go to Wal-Mart a lot,"

"Freshmen aren't allowed to have cars, so it seems unfair not to have some transportation in place," said freshman Erin Fahey.

While some students say they are upset by the loss of the benefit, others see it as a reasonable adjustment.

"Theprevailingopinion has been that no one rides the bus," said sophomore Nick Lee. "If it was expensive, I think it

Nursing students move to off-campus location as building undergoes renovations

Students await completion of project, make minor complaints of new environment.

by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI Asst News Editor

Nursing students began classes this semester at a temporary off-campus location, as renovations on the heating system in the

are in progress.

The heating system has needed replacement since 1974, but the nursing school was just able to raise the \$2.1 million necessary to complete the project last year.

According to Mindy Godchaux Nursing Annex Schuster, assistant dean

quarters of the total cost of this year's renovation will go toward infrastructural improvements to the heating, electric and plumbing systems. The rest will be used to subdivide several large

for administration, three-

lecture halls into mediumsized classrooms that will accommodate a wider variety of classes.

"In addition, the overall look and feel — the finishes, the lighting and aesthetic scheme - will all

Please see NURSING, page 4

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From NURSING, page 3

be enhanced, and you will not feel as though you are stuck in 1972," Schuster said.

Moving off campus became the administration's only option when the deans of the other graduate and undergraduate schools determined that they did not have the space or the resources to support the nursing curriculum, Schuster said.

"We looked at every possible option on the Vanderbilt campus, but there was no location that could accommodate both the large lecture room and small seminar classrooms needed," said Linda Norman, dean of the nursing school.

Jim Carell, who has endowed nursing scholarships in the past, pointed the administration to an unoccupied building he owned off of Nolensville Road.

Norman said proximity to campus was factored into the decision for the temporary location of the school.

"I am not going to speak for the students, but I believe that they were pleasantly surprised with the space of the building," Schuster said.

However, students have complained about hour-long shuttle rides, a lack of Vanderbilt Card access and a scarcity of good restaurants in the area.

"The classrooms are adequate, but there is no stadiumstyle seating, so it is kind of hard to see sometimes," said nursing student Cassie Simpson. "They really renovated the building more than I expected. My only complaint is that it's inconvenient, especially for those of us who are undergraduate seniors and don't get to spend much time on campus anyway."

Nursing students such as Heather King raised concerns about the safety of the building's location but said they were pleased to see them addressed when administrators hired a building security guard.

"We argued that we did not pay over \$40,000 a year to go to school in the ghetto," King said. "The faculty at (the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing) listened and has made changes to ensure that we are safe and have a comfortable environment that is conducive to learning."

Halli Carr, a registered nurse, said that while she anticipates the opening of the improved annex, things were going smoothly in the temporary building.

Nursing student Amanda Ruiz said she is not inconvenienced by the move, as her classes only meet at the off-campus location twice a week.

"A lot of people are upset that they're having classes off campus, but for the spring semester we will only be using the temporary facility for 28 days, which isn't quite as bad as it might sound if we were off campus all the time," Ruiz said.

Renovations on the Nursing Annex are expected to be complete by August 2007. ■

U.N. agency reports 34,452 civilians killed in Iraq in 2006

New estimate represents an increase over earlier numbers.

by KIM GAMEL Associated Press

The United Nations said Tuesday that more than 34,000 Iraqi civilians were killed in sectarian violence last year, nearly three times the number reported dead by the Iraqi government.

The Iraqi Health Ministry did not comment on the report, which was based on information released by the Iraqi government and hospitals. The government has disputed previous figures released by the U.N. as "inaccurate and exaggerated."

The same day the figure was released, two back-to-back explosions struck a used motorcycle marketplace in central Baghdad, killing at least 15 people and wounding 74.

The first bomb was attached to a motorcycle in the market. As the curious gathered to look at the aftermath, a suicide car bomber drove into the crowd and blew up his vehicle. Authorities said at least three policemen were among the dead.

The blast appeared to target the mainly Shiite neighborhood near the market but also was near the Sheik al-Gailani shrine, one of the holiest Sunni locations in the capital.

The U.N. figure was released as Baghdad braces for a major security operation to be launched by the Iraqi government and U.S. forces aimed



KARIM KADIM / AP

A firefighter washes away blood at Bab al-Sheik market in central Baghdad. Two bombs were detonated five minutes apart Tuesday in a used motorcycle marketplace in central Baghdad, killing at least 15 people and wounding 74 others, police said.

at quelling the rampant sectarian violence that has been on the rise since the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shiite mosque in Samarra.

Gianni Magazzeni, the chief of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Iraqin Baghdad, said 34,452 civilians were killed and 36,685 were wounded last year.

Iraqi government figures announced in early January put last year's civilian death toll at 12,357. When asked about the difference, Magazzeni said the U.N. figures were compiled from information obtained through the Iraqi Health Ministry, hospitals

across the country and the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad.

Hakimal-Zamili, adeputy health minister, declined to comment on the figures, referring questions to the Baghdad morgue, which could not be reached for comment.

Magazzeni said 6,376 civilians were killed violently in November and December — 4,731 of those in Baghdad, most as a result of gunshot wounds. He noted that was a slight decrease from the previous two month period, during which UNAMI recorded a total of 7,047 civilians killed.

The mission's latest bimonthly report also noted that some figures were not yet included in the total for December.

The U.N. report also said that 30,842 people were detained in the country as of Dec. 31, including 14,534 in detention facilities run by U.S.-led multinational

At least 13 other people were killed or found dead in Iraq on Tuesday, according to police, including four who died when a roadside bomb struck a police patrol in a predominantly Shiite area of downtown Baghdad. ■

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- Allowing members of the Vanderbilt community to participate in the creation of content and connect with one another through an interactive Web site
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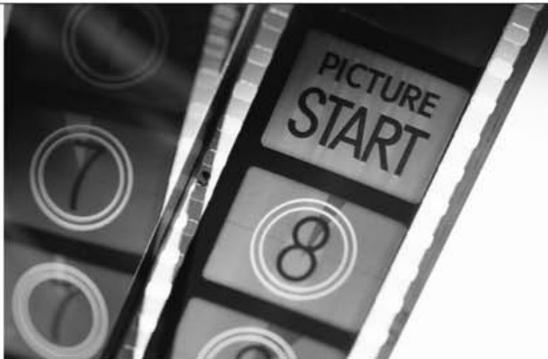
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WILLIAM LOWERY VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCTION UNDERGROUND FILMS (Zoom, License to Wed, Santa Baby) VANDERBILT, 2000

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OPINION

THE **VANDERBILT HUSTLER**

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OUR VIEW

Student disinterest leads to disappointment once more

It is difficult to imagine what would pos-

sess a group to pledge 120 members, for

example, when only 15 could attend.

The concept of service is a noble one. Keeping one's word is an honorable endeavor as well. Therefore, it stings when someone does the exact opposite, as it did when 138 students withdrew their participation from the MLK Day of Service just two days prior to the event.

Those who attended the Day of Service are to be

commended, particularly since the university did not cancel classes for the holiday. The volunteers well reflected the values we should display when we represent Vanderbilt. Those who pledged to volunteer

and did not, however, set a less sterling example.

It is almost certain that some of the groups that left the project had good reasons for doing so. At the same time, however, it is difficult to imagine what would possess a group to pledge 120 members, for example, when only 15 could attend. Scheduled service projects had to be cancelled because groups and individuals alike made promises they did not keep. A popular excuse for those withdrawing from the service day involves the timing,

which coincided with the beginning of classes. Yet these organizations knew when the Day of Service was scheduled, and they knew when classes were starting.

Of course it is best to make commitments and then follow through with them, but the situation suggests the following question: is it better to make a promise that one

> cannot keep, or is it better never to promise at all? On the one hand, it looks and feels terrific to make a grand, sweeping (and perhaps public) commitment, but on the other it looks and feels terrible when worthwhile

service projects have to be cancelled due to sudden

The coordinators of the MLK Day of Service event made clear that this was the first MLK Day of Service but it would not be the last. In the future we should aspire as representatives of the Vanderbilt community to commit our time and our resources only to promises we know we can keep, so those we claim to help shall not be left to bear the consequences when such promises are broken.



COLUMN

Presentation and perception trump reality

CEAF LEWIS **Opinion Editor**

Every so often I find myself with an hour to kill late at night before I am ready to go to sleep, so I watch a little bit of television. The other night, I watched a tremendously dark show about a brash young scientist who, despite his theoretical brilliance, is quite inept. It has been hinted that he is child to parents who do not love him and subject him to frequent abandonment and emotional abuse. On several occasions, he has almost killed his dearest friend and benefactor, who suffers through these travails with ever-fraying patience while diverting ever more of his time and resources to the strange young man at the expense of his family.

This scientist spends most of his time pining for a woman, but his love is tragically unrequited. As a result, he performs hideous genetic experiments, even cloning, on

himself, and he eventually manages to submerge his own characteristics under those of a charismatic alter ego. For several years the scientist must suffer through watching the love of his life become involved with his exact opposite. Although eventually the scientist wins the heart of his beloved, one could argue that this change of heart comes far too late to undo the damage caused by the previous state of affairs.

I am, of course, writing about a show called "Family Matters" which aired on ABC and CBS from 1989 until its cancellation in 1998. It ran as part of ABC's popular "TGIF" block of family-friendly programming, despite the show's treatment of such horrific and tragic subject matter. How did it manage to stay in the lineup?

"Family Matters" owes much of its success to its surroundings: those of the traditional family comedy. The show includes the hardworking father, the doting mother, the occasionally shallow teenage

daughter, the annoying neighbor, the wisecracking grandmother and, perhaps most importantly, the laugh track. Thus "Family Matters" was able to bill itself convincingly as a show suitable for viewing by all ages, because from the very beginning it defined how viewers perceived it. The reality that was the above tragic subject matter mattered little compared to the weight of popular opinion and perception.

A show with a similar plight is "Sports Night." This Aaron Sorkin endeavor aired from 1998 until 2000, managing in the process to achieve neither stability nor more than a cult following. A popular sentiment voiced on an episode of "Family Guy" was that "Sports Night" was "a comedy that's too good to be funny." Therefore it would appear that ABC's efforts to mask what was really a drama as a comedy failed, and the question would be, "Why? Why should Please see **LEWIS**, page 7

COLUMN

Vanderbilt Visions blinds freshman class

JASON LEVINE

Columnist

When I received my course schedule via e-mail a few weeks before the first semester, it looked as if there was an error. I never signed up for a course titled "Vanderbilt Visions," and I could not understand why I was scheduled to attend a course for which I would receive no academic credit hours and would meet every Monday night from 7:15 until 8 p.m.

I eventually learned Vanderbilt Visions is the yearlong freshman orientation program. Our Visions groups met almost every day the first week of school for various freshman activities. After the week ended, however, our Visions class continued to meet once a week for the remainder of the fall semester, and this schedule recently began once more

After completing the first half of the Visions curriculum, I can say without reservation the Vanderbilt Visions program fails to accomplish its goals, and my impression is that most of my peers feel the same way.

The Vanderbilt Web site says the following about the program: "Vanderbilt Visions facilitates the successful transition of firstyear students to university life. Together with faculty and student mentors, they discuss opportunities, challenges and resources at Vanderbilt; explore the meanings of personal responsibility; exercise critical thinking; and create a community within which all can learn."

When viewed through the above lens, Vanderbilt Visions has largely been a waste of time. Although most VUceptors have been excellent, the curriculum itself is so far beneath the intellectual level of our class that at times I can tell I am far from the only one who feels the course is an insult to our intelligence. I am now beginning the second semester of my freshman year and can say by this point most freshman have already made a successful transition to college life, which the program aims to achieve.

While I certainly enjoy conversing with my peers about the meanings of "personal responsibility," and as much as I love to exercise critical thinking, I have many other academic and extracurricular commitments, and I certainly can be spending my time more productively. At our first class of the semester, for example, our Visions class sat $down\, and\, discussed\, what\, we\, did\, over\, Winter$ Break, spoke about our goals for college and then played a game of charades.

Yet Visions has not been a complete failure. I have met new people I never would have come across had it not been for the program, and we all had fun during orientation week. However, if Vanderbilt Visions is to be a yearlong program, major changes need to be made. As much as I would enjoy receiving some academic credit for the "course," that alone is nowhere near enough. The executive directors of the program need to sit down withfreshmen currently enrolled in the program and discuss why it has not been effective. I personally believe doing something like creating topics of conversation that are more stimulating to students will immediately improve the program.

I would like to congratulate the administration on a great idea for an initiative, but let us now turn a great idea into a great program that inspires the freshman class. To the executive directors of Vanderbilt Visions: on behalf of the freshman class, I ask you to please consider changing the Vanderbilt Visions program. Let Vanderbilt set the standard for other fine universities to follow, and work with our students to create the most successful freshman orientation program that exists.

—Jason Levine is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, quest 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

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 quest column at the editor's discretion.

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

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

President Boone Lancaster

Bush's plan not enough to end chronic instability in Iraq

Mistakes certainly

have been made by the

However we got to this

now are incalculable.

—Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates

United States in Iraq.

moment, the stakes

CHART WESTCOTT **Columnist**

It is common rhetoric among pundits and politicians alike that the price of failure in Iraq is too high. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates summed up this line of thinking in a speech to the Senate Armed Services Committee: "Mistakes certainly have been made by the United States in Iraq. However we got to this moment, the stakes now are incalculable." Gates is referring to the geopolitical future of the entire Middle East: if America fails to create a stable, united and democratic Iraq, there is a

the influence of Iran, Syria or Saudi Arabia. In this scenario Iraq will become a focal point for extremism, religious conflict and perhaps open warfare between Shiites and their Sunni neighbors. How can the United States prevent this from happening? President Bush's solution is a "surge" in troop numbers.

Bush announced last Wednesday that he plans to send 20,000 more American troops to Iraq, and five brigades are headed straight for Baghdad. Bush said in his address the job of these troops is "to help Iraqis clear and secure neighborhoods, to help them protect the local population and to help ensure that the Iraqi forces left behind are capable of providing the security that Baghdad needs." These troops may alleviate the sectarian violence in the city of Baghdad, but they will not be sufficient to stabilize Iraq to the extent that U.S. troops will be able to withdraw without consequence.

The primary cause for concern with Bush's plan is that there are subtle indications that Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is less than enthusiastic about the new strategy. A representative for the prime minister said, "What is suitable for our conditions in Iraq is what we decide, not what others decide for us," which suggests Maliki will continue to shelter his militia allies from interference by American soldiers. If U.S. troops are unable to confront these militias, especially that of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, then stability becomes a game of chance at best.

The plan also does not call for a sufficient amount of troops to accomplish its stated goal. Bush is asking for only 20,000 troops to increase the overall number of forces to 150,000. Does the number 150,000 sound familiar? It should, because it is the number of troops that was in Iraq two years ago. There is no reason to believe that changing military tactics in Baghdad and boosting troop strength by only 15 percent will solve the political problems facing the country as a whole.

Complicating matters further are the various interests of the major states in the region. It is no secret that Iran and Syria are arming and supporting extremists in high probability that Iraq will come under Iraq. These states are capable of doing

so, almost without interference, because of the porous borders separating them from Iraq. As long as the Iranians and Syrians possess the ability to funnel arms and money across their respective borders to death squads, it is unrealistic to believe the violence will stop. The Iranians

and Syrians are not stupid. They have undoubtedly realized they cannot allow Bush's plan to succeed; they cannot even allow the media to perceive the plan as being moderately successful. These states are likely to raise the stakes in Iraq by moving more arms and money to their militias and death squads than ever before. They know that as more Americans die in Iraq, the U.S. anti-war movement will become stronger and troop withdrawal will become much more likely as a result.

In order to solve the problems in Iraq, it is necessary to stop the extremists from instigating chaos and attempt to instill order in the country. Bush's plan grossly underestimates the resources necessary to accomplish this goal, considering the massive problems Iraq faces simply maintaining order. It would not be the first time that this administration has underestimated the resources needed to accomplish a task. Bush either must commit the necessary resources to secure and stabilize Iraq, or he must order the immediate withdrawal of our troops and accept the harsh consequences of failure.

LEWIS: Framing must be handled wholeheartedly to be effective

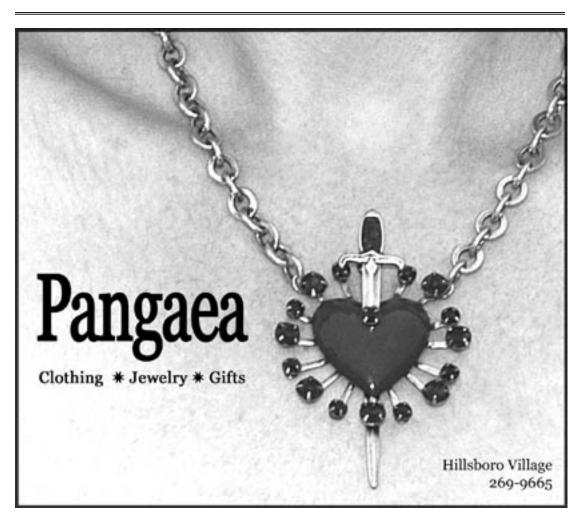
From **LEWIS**, page 6

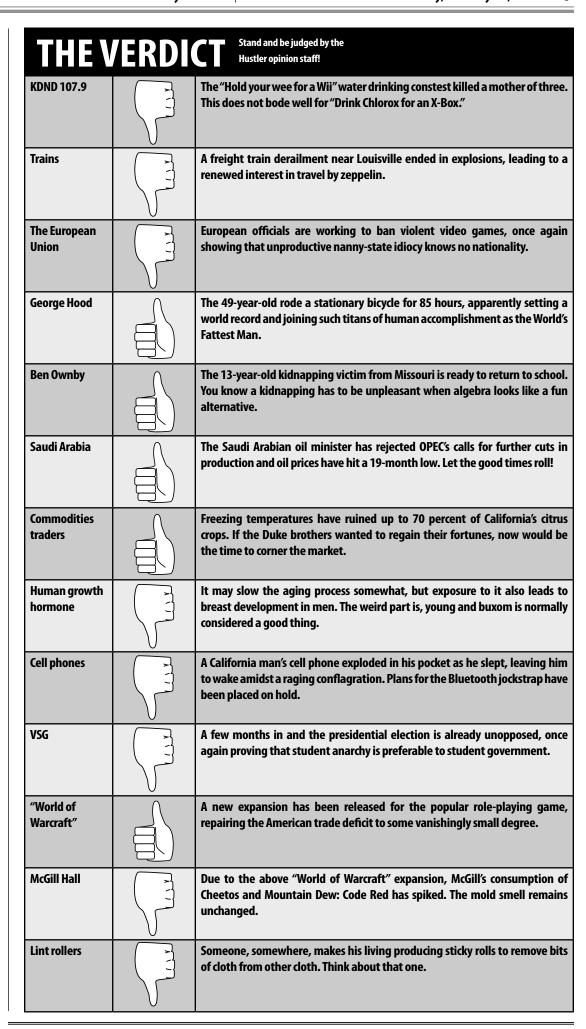
Night' failed? This is a preposterous situation and I will not tolerate it!"

The answer lies in the manner in which these shows were framed. "Family Matters" reveled in all of the fabulous trappings of the family sitcom, using them as an excuse to get away with outlandish plots and the darkness that lurked within Urkel's heart. "Sports Night," however, treated its sitcom-esque backdrop as something to be fought. The laugh track was taken out in the second season and the show gradually became almost indistinguishable in tone from Sorkin's Arts and Science.

other contemporary series "The West 'Family Matters' succeed where 'Sports Wing." Very few people, therefore, were fooled into believing "Sports Night" was a comedy, while almost everyone believes "Family Matters" to be almost completely innocuous. The lesson would seem to be that framing must be handled quickly and completely to be effective, and framers such as the producers of "Sports Night" who appear slow and indecisive will find themselves judged in the court of public opinion before they have even had a chance to take the stand.

—Ceaf Lewis is a senior in the College of







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SPORTS

WHAT 2 **WATCH 4**

Upcoming Events

Men's Basketball No. 10 Alabama at Vanderbilt Tonight 7 p.m. CT **Memorial Gym**

Vanderbilt (11-6, 1-2 SEC) hopes for more Memorial Magic tonight, a week after it stunned Tennessee at the buzzer. Alabama (14-2, 1-1 SEC) presents problems in the interior with talented big men Jermareo Davidson and Richard Hendrix. The Commodores will need big performances from Derrick Byars and Shan Foster to pull off another upset. Prediction: Vanderbilt 77, Alabama 75

Men's Basketball No. 4 North Carolina at No. 16 Clemson **Tonight** 6 p.m. CT **ESPN**

The Tigers (17-1, 3-1 ACC) recently lost their first game of the season at Maryland and will have to bounce back quickly against North Carolina (15-2, 2-1 ACC). The Tar Heels, led by Brentwood Academy's Brandon Wright, are also looking to get on track after being upset by Virginia Tech. Prediction: North Carolina 88, Clemson

Men's Basketball No. 20 Notre Dame at Villanova Tonight 6 p.m. CT ESPNU

Notre Dame (15-2, 3-1 Big East) is off to a strong start and appears to be one of the best in the Big East, while Villanova (12-5, 1-3 Big East) has struggled. The Wildcats need to get on a roll fast, and home victory tonight is almost a must. *Prediction: Notre Dame* 72, Villanova 64

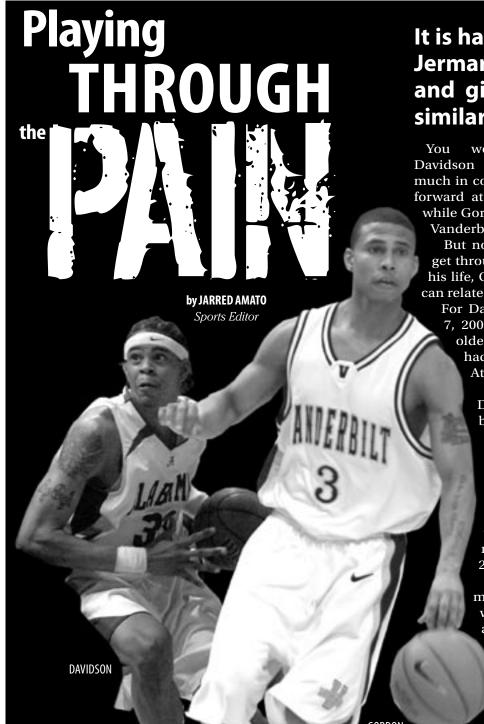
Women's Basketball No. 11 Vanderbilt at No. 16 Georgia Thursday 6 p.m. CT

This is marquee matchup between two of the SEC's best teams. Vanderbilt (16-2, 3-1 SEC) will have its hands full on the road, but Georgia (14-4, 2-2 SEC) isn't as dominant as it has been in the past. Expect the Commodores to pull out a close one. Prediction: Vanderbilt *73, Georgia 68*

Men's Basketball Wake Forest at No. 17 Duke **Thursday** 6 p.m. CT **ESPN**

Duke (14-3, 1-2 ACC) is no longer the team to beat in the ACC, but Wake Forest (9-7, 1-3 ACC) isn't either. The Blue Devils should win, but look out for Wake freshman Anthony Gurley out of Newton North High School. Prediction: Duke 74, Wake Forest 66

OVERALL RECORD: 9-6



It is hard to put yourself in the shoes of Alabama's Jermareo Davidson, who has lost both his brother and girlfriend this season. After experiencing a similar tragedy, Vanderbilt's Alex Gordon can try.

wouldn't expect Jermareo Davidson and Alex Gordon to have much in common. Davidson is a senior forward at the University of Alabama, while Gordon is a junior point guard at

But now, as Davidson struggles to get through the most difficult time of his life, Gordon is one of the few who

For Davidson, it all began on Nov. 7, 2006, when he learned that his older brother, Dewayne Watkins, had been shot in the head in an Atlanta suburb.

following weekend, Davidson went to visit his brother with his girlfriend, Murphy, Brandy Nicole a senior at Alabama, in Atlanta's Grady Hospital. On their way back to Davidson's home early Sunday morning, the Ford Explorer Murphy was driving flipped over multiple times on Interstate

While Davidson suffered only minor injuries, his girlfriend was thrown from the vehicle and died hours later in the same hospital in which his

got worse on Dec. 20, when Watkins passed away. Even Gordon, who knows

brother lay paralyzed. It

Davidson's pain all too well, has trouble comprehending what the past month has been like for the Crimson Tide forward.

"That's unexplainable, unthinkable," he said. "I know he's still handling it, but

Gordon, too, has dealt with tough

His life changed in 2000 during a usual

game of pick-up basketball. It was then that his older brother, Anthony, suffered a fatal heart attack due to a previously undetected heart condition. He was just 20 years old.

"I lost my brother to a heart attack on the basketball court, but I can't imagine losing my girlfriend (in a car accident), let alone my brother to a gunshot wound," Gordon said. "It's tough, man, I don't even know what to say."

Gordon said there is not much advice one can give to a person after experiencing such a tragedy other than to rely on one's faith.

"Going through something like that, you can't really tell anybody anything," he said. "It's just one of those things where I'd tell him to keep God first, because that's how I overcame my situation."

In an ideal world, each day would get a little bit easier for Davidson. But, that's far from reality. As Gordon knows all too well, the pain of losing a brother doesn't fade.

"It gets worse as time goes on, because the more success you attain, you want the ones you care for and the ones you love to be around you," Gordon said.

Despite the hurt, Gordon pushes on. And rather than feel sorry for himself, the hurt is what drives him, especially when times are most difficult.

"I use my brother for my motivation," he said. "There are times when I feel I'm too tired or times when I feel like I'm too sore, but he just motivates me more to keep going."

Davidson is also attempting to use his losses as motivation, but it certainly hasn't been easy.

"I have never known any studentathlete, from the time I was a player to now, who has had to endure so much heartache in such a short period of time," said Alabama basketball coach Mark Gottfried.

Gordon comes close. ■

Transfer policy for athletes needs work

Should players have to sit out a year when switching schools?

GOOD CALL

by ROBERT WYNKOOP

Sports Reporter

Making transfer athletes wait out an entire season before being allowed to play does more harm than

The premise is obviously to prevent collegiate athletes from designating themselves as "free agents" and switching among schools, but when an athlete is forced to sit out a full academic year, all it does is make him more valuable to a team.

If redshirted, the transfer will practice, train and improve (in theory) his or her abilities throughout the season, while still having a year of eligibility beyond the "normal" graduation time.

Although it happens often in collegiate athletics, this amounts to eliminating the term "student athlete." One of the unique challenges of being a student athlete is that these players must find out how to balance the game all the while making the

In addition, we cannot overlook the problem currently facing collegiate athletics: it is no longer an "amateur" institution.

People claim they love college sports because of their innocence. However, that is far from the case.

Everyone — from the schools to the coaches to the television networks to the bookstores to the sneaker companies — makes money off the student-athlete. College athletics is a multi-billion-dollar industry that exploits the players who put in the hard work.

While paying student-athletes is an issue for another day, other things can be done to give them a sense of empowerment, which they rightly deserve.

For example, coaches promise players the world when recruiting them. They tell the players how much they love the program and how they will never leave, but then take off when a better opportunity (i.e., more money) comes along.

How is it fair, then, that a student-athlete is forced to stay at the school? Shouldn't he or she be allowed to transfer, just like the coach, without having to sit out a year? Undoubtedly, problems would arise if players

could transfer at will. However, stipulations could be put in place to prevent student-athletes from taking advantage of the policy.

Student-athletes are powerless in a system that takes advantage of them and it is about time something changes.



Should Vanderbilt senior Derrick Byars have had to sit out a year when he decided to transfer from Virginia?

BAD CALL

by ANDREW BARGE

Senior Sports Reporter

There is a reason many fans prefer college sports to professional sports. People enjoy watching upsets. They like watching teams play with a chemistry that is derived from being classmates, not business associates. If the transfer rule was removed, they would see less of both.

A team able to buy championships does not exist in college sports. While some schools may be more athletically heralded than others, smaller programs are able to recruit sleepers and enjoy success on a national level. As a result, the likelihood for upsets is much higher in college.

The transfer rule that requires players to sit out a year keeps college athletes from becoming free agents after every season.

The fair playing field that makes upsets possible would also take a hit. Elite teams who are one marquee position short from competing for a championship could easily recruit an established player from a smaller school.

Even the best teams have down years, and removing the transfer rule would allow high profile schools to steal from the smaller programs. College sports would not be nearly as enjoyable with all of the good players on the same teams.

Imagine if the top juniors in the country, who only had one shot left to win a National Championship, all decided to attend the same school. Not only would this be unfair to the other teams, but it would be unfair to the current players of that team.

New personnel year in and year out would make the collegiate style of play resemble professional sports. Athletes could play with a more selfish attitude because, without a transfer rule, the athlete has no reason to stick around when they can go play somewhere else.

With all of the personnel changes, chemistry within the teams would not be the same. In college, athletes live together, go to class together and train in the offseason together. Fans that prefer the college level to the professional game care more about the way the game is played rather than the athletic talent present.

Allowing collegiate athletes to transfer at will would put the NCAA into a free-agent frenzy and ultimately kill its loyal fan base. ■

Cage rivalry moves from driveway to Memorial

Brothers to square off tonight.

by ANDREW HARD

Senior Sports Reporter

Dan Cage has faced hundreds of opponents in his basketball career and has had great success against most of them.

But on Wednesday night, he will face the player who knows his game better than anyone in college basketball: his brother, Greg.

Greg Cage is a freshman at the University of Alabama and redshirted last season when the Tide defeated Vandy 77-74 in Tuscaloosa.

Tonight the two will face off against each other for the first time away from the driveway when No. 10 Alabama travels to Nashville. Dan, for one, is excited about the opportunity.

"It's not an experience many people get to have," Dan said about facing his brother. "It was great (in high school) to wear the same color jersey as he did, and it will be exciting to look across the court Wednesday and see him in the crimson and white."

Brotherly advice

Dan came to Vanderbilt in 2003 while his brother was still a junior at Bishop Central High School in Indianapolis.

As the oldest of six children, Dan had plenty of advice for Greg when he came to Alabama.

"I told him it's a tough league, and practice is a battle every single day," he said. "You can never allow yourself to get frustrated. Every day you have to work have tipped," Dan said. as hard as you can but also make sure you're enjoying every second of it."

So far, Dan said Greg is enjoying his experience in Tuscaloosa. He has tallied four points and one rebound in four games this

Associated Press

Former Arizona guard J.P. Prince

is transferring to Tennessee and

will be eligible to play for the No.

22 Volunteers next season, athletic

Prince, a 6-foot-6 sophomore

originally from Memphis, averaged 2.2 points, 1.9 rebounds and 1.8 assists

in 28 games last season for No. 11

officials announced Tuesday.



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler Vanderbilt senior Dan Cage will face a familiar opponent tonight against Alabama. His

brother, Greg, is a redshirt freshman for the Tide. Different playing styles

Dan and Greg developed their games playing sideby-side for two years in high school, and while they are similar in many ways, Dan notes a few differences.

"Greg was always more athletic — a better defender and a better rebounder. I'm a little bit better of a shooter, but I'm not quite as tough," he said. "Greg had to play through a good deal of injuries."

One-on-one

"I used to beat him fairly regularly, but as we got older the scales "Nowadays when we play it turns into more of a wrestling match than a basketball game."

Knowing his brother's game so well, what advice would Dan give his fellow Commodores in defending

Prince to transfer to Tennessee

"Play him to drive and don't let him use his body," Dan said. "He's a very strong guy, so you can't be afraid to take a hit or two (when defending him)."

Parental conflict

The two Cage brothers will have nine family members in attendance at Wednesday's game, and you better believe the family can't decide between the

"Some of my brothers and sisters are making Tshirts that are half Vandy and half Alabama," said Dan. "They'll all be neutral, but whoever's winning at the time will probably get their support."

For Vanderbilt's sake, let's hope Dan gets the better of his brother on Wednesday and the Cage family experiences some good old-fashioned Memorial Magic. ■

"We are very excited about J.P. Prince

coming back to the state of Tennessee,"

coach Bruce Pearl said in a statement.

"... Our style of play should enable him

Prince can begin practicing with the

Prince initially said he was going

transfer to Vanderbilt, but given the

school's policy that prevents any

student from transferring mid-year, he

to reach his full potential."

began to look elsewhere. ■

team immediately.

Vandy will have its 'hands full' with Tide

Key to Commodores' success will be containing Alabama

Combine that with the crowd, and it's

-Alabama point guard Ronald Steele

by WILL GIBBONS

Senior Sports Reporter

The numbers favor Vanderbilt.

Alabama has not won in Memorial Gym since 1990. Southeastern Conference home teams have won 14 of 16 games thus far. The Commodores have won seven straight

So is there reason for concern about tonight's tilt with the Crimson Tide?

For starters, Alabama features two of the SEC's premier big men in Jermareo Davidson (13.9 points per game) and Richard Hendrix (14.9 points per game).

Add to that the Tide's three other starters in Mykal Riley, NBA prospect Alonzo Gee and preseason all-American point guard Ronald Steele. Considering all this, it is

no fluke that Alabama (14-2, 1-1 SEC) is rated 10th in this weeks' AP poll.

"They're big and very

athletic," coach Kevin Stallings said. "We're going to have our hands full."

The Commodores (11-6, 1-2 SEC) have won the past eight meetings in Nashville, and Alabama's players are well aware of their struggles at Memorial. "Obviously (Memorial Gymnasium)

History, however, is on Vanderbilt's side.

is unorthodox with the benches being behind the goals," Steele said. "I don't think anybody else's gym is like that. And then it's elevated, too, so it's just different surroundings. And they typically have good teams. Combine that with the crowd, and it's just a weird and tough place to

Although the Tide beat Vanderbilt in Tuscaloosa last season, Hendrix said Alabama will have to play well to leave Nashville victorious.

"It was a tough game against Vanderbilt last year here," he said. "We got the win, so

THE POWER TO .

we know they are going to be ready to play. It's hard to win in their arena. ... You add that in with playing against a talented team that plays well at that home court, and we know we are going to have to go into that game playing our best game."

For Vanderbilt, the keys will be to contain Alabama's rebounding, which is tops in the SEC at 42.3 rebounds per game, and also to continue to shoot well as a team.

Getting Shan Foster back on track from the outside will be essential to the Commodores' success. Foster has missed his past 10 three-point attempts, dating back to last Wednesday's Tennessee game.

Vanderbilt has also given up 49.5 percent field goal shooting in the first three games of conference play and 45 percent from the 3-point line.

addition to exercising its advantage on the inside against just a weird and tough place to play. Vanderbilt, Alabama coach Mark Gottfried is

> hoping his talented point guard is finally back to full strength after spraining his left ankle against Notre Dame in December.

"I think (a week between games) helped some," Gottfried said. "I think any time you rest an injury it helps. The Catch-22 for us is he needs rest, but he needs work and conditioning because he's missed so much practice already. So it puts us in a little bit of a tough spot as far as wanting for him to take time off, yet at the same time trying to get him more work to get him back in shape."

In the SEC, road wins are difficult to attain. By the same token, defending the home court is vital. Gottfried understands this point quite clearly.

"They have great atmosphere there," he said. "They have great fans. It's a tough place to play. And our guys are excited about that type of a challenge that we're looking at on Wednesday night." ■





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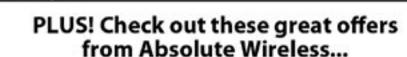
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FUN & GAMES

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

1/15/07 SOLUTIONS

2	8	1	7	3	5	4	9	6
7	5	9	8	6	4	2	1	3
4	6	3	9	1	2	8	5	7
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8		7						5		



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 1 Math subj.
- 5 Scarlet and crimson
- 9 Poker action
- 14 Actor Jannings 15 Send out
- 16 Flowed back
- 17 Dealer's model
- 18 Actress Sorvino
- 19 Cut partner?
- 20 Aid a con man
- 21 Bohemian
- 22 Red-faced
- 23 Bacon buys 25 Stoop element
- 27 Printer fluid 28 Barnyard
- strutters 32 Meager
- 35 Sheltered bays
- 36 Actor Torn 37 Percussion
- instrument 38 Like highways
- 39 "Little Man
- 40 Make lace 41 More achy
- 42 Toned down
- 43 Soft-shell clams
- 45 Sports enthusiast 46 Feel compassion
- for 47 Polite social behavior
- Balance sheet item
- 54 Woe is me 56 Clapton or Carmen
- Small harbor 58 Spoils taken
- 59 Volcanic flow
- 60 Give tongue to
- 61 Folk wisdom 62 Latin & others
- 63 Forest quaker 64 Outer layer
- 1996 election loser

DOWN

- 1 Aromatic tree 2 Single-celled organism
- 3 Margarita gamishes
- 4 Attire 5 Comment
- 39 Built a burrow
- 41 Infatuated

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- 6 U.A.E. rulers 7 Malicious gossip 8 Remains for the night
- 9 Set right 10 Unexpectedly

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- sudden 11 Footnote wd.
- 12 Watermelon discard
- 13 Countercurrent 24 Tolkien forest
- creature the line
- (obeyed) 28 Leads the nomad's life
- 29 QED part 30 Sacred service
- 31 Went fast 32 Some NCOs
- 33 Thin layer
- 34 Poker payment 35 Totes
- 38 Wordsworth or Tennyson

1/15/07 SOLUTIONS

М	Α	Т	Т		G	A	R	D	Ε	Ν		Α	В	C
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49 Adversary

50 Kind of model

52 Adam's grands

51 Singing star

53 Radar signal

55 Appearance

1/17/06

- 42 Fellow
- 44 Per unit 45 Hitch
- 47 Native New
- Zealander
- 48 Muse of lyric poetry

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