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CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008 • 120TH YEAR, NO. 34

THE WALL

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

THIS WEEKEND
VUT's 'Misalliance'
VU Theatre will put on George Bernard Shaw's play "Misalliance." The show begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. The show is free to all undergrads.

TODAY
Writing workshop
The writing workshop "What is My Paper About, After All?" — Revising Thesis Statements" presents students with strategies to construct strong thesis statements. The workshop will begin at 12:10 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Room 117.

TODAY
Branscomb Open Mic Coffee House
The Branscomb Quad is hosting a coffee house with free coffee and student acts. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Branscomb courtyard.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Test of severe weather sirens
The Vanderbilt severe weather warning sirens will sound for approximately 30 seconds following the Metro siren test at noon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Holi
Masala-SACE is sponsoring the festival of colors. Students can come out and get messy throwing powdered color, jello, water balloons and "mystery balloons." The event begins at 12 p.m. on Wilson Lawn.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Rang Barse: A Musical Journey Through India
This concert features a fusion of traditional Indian and Western instruments, as well as a guest performance by Joe Rudolpho on the sitar. Admission is free for Vanderbilt students and \$5 for non-students.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Blair Student Showcase
As part of the Blair Signature Series, the Blair Student Showcase will be held in Ingram Hall at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
Vanderbilt Commodore Steel Drum Band Spring Concert
The Vanderbilt Commodore Steel Drum Band will perform a free concert at Ingram Hall at 8 p.m.

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

An un-Common class

by NIKKI BOGOPOLSKAYA
Staff Reporter

Commons draws students of high talents to form Class of 2012.

Each new group of admitted students always seems to be better than the last. But with the draw of The Commons, the Class of 2012 might be even more exceptional than usual.

Exactly one week ago, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions sent out admission decision letters to what they refer to as a "truly historic" class of applicants, who, according to the Vanderbilt Admissions blog, "featured an amazing depth of personal and scholastic excellence — energy, passion, leadership and commitment to a range of ideals (diversity, community, humanity, service, etc.)."

As of mailing day, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions had received 16,875 applications, up 30.7 percent from the 12,911 applications they received last year.

In a year of historically low admissions rates, as The New York Times reported this week, Vanderbilt's acceptance rate also dropped — from 35.7 percent last year to 23 percent this year.

Of the admitted students, the average class rank was in the top 3.7 percent of their class; 92 percent of the students admitted were ranked in the top 90 percent. The middle 50 percent of SAT scores for the admitted students was 1380 to 1540 and the middle 50 percent for the ACT was 31 to 34.

And the admitted Class of 2012 is not only ranked higher than the rest of us, they are more diverse. Admissions for students of color increased from 27 percent last year to 30 percent this year, and both applications and admissions from students in the northeast, southwest and west coast increased. International applicants were considerably more interested in Vanderbilt as well — up to 739 this year from 444 last year.

All this information is readily available on the Office of Undergraduate Admissions blog, run by admissions officers Thom Golden, Ken Shows and James Onwuachi. Golden regards the blog as a "means of serving the information needs of our digital public."

"It only takes a few seconds into a Google search to discover the high level of interest and questions about Vanderbilt and especially Vanderbilt's admissions process," Golden said. "We were noticing that in many cases individuals were attempting to fill that information gap with wrong and/or misleading facts. The Vandy Admissions blog is an attempt to provide accurate information

Please see **ADMISSIONS**, page 3

CLASS OF 2012
Number of applications: 16,875
Percent increase in applications: 30.7
Percent admitted: 23
Average class rank: Top 3.7 percent
Middle 50 percent of SAT: 1380 to 1540
Middle 50 percent of ACT: 31 to 34



BRAD WEINER / photo provided

The admissions office held their annual "stripping party" last week, where staff gather around the bins of admitted student packets and remove, or strip off, the paper adhesive.

Being the best of buddies



BRYAN CANDELARIO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Brooke Huffsmith (left) and graduate student Kelly Harper (right) help one of the buddies play pin the tail on the donkey at the annual Best Buddies carnival on Thursday evening at the Student Recreation Center.



CAMPUS NEWS BRIEF

Professor Giorgio named chair of biomedical engineering

Todd D. Giorgio, professor of biomedical engineering, has been named chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Vanderbilt News Service reported.

He will succeed Thomas R. Harris, an Orrin Henry Ingram Distinguished Professor of Engineering, who is retiring in May.



GIORGIO

"While conducting a national search for a successor to Dr. Harris, we became convinced that Dr. Giorgio would be the best possible person to chair the Department of Biomedical Engineering," said Kenneth Galloway, dean of the School of Engineering, to Vanderbilt News Service. "During the past eight months, he served as a very effective interim chair of the department. His considerable leadership skills, scholarship and teaching abilities will prove valuable in leading the department to even higher levels of achievement."

Giorgio said he wants biomedical engineering "to achieve greater visibility within the university and throughout the academic world consistent with the accomplishments and potential of our faculty."

"Biomedical engineering at Vanderbilt brings together quantitative engineering with fundamental science," he said, "leading to innovations in medical practice."

Please see **GIORGIO**, page 3

A Holi lot of colors

by SYDNEY WILMER
Senior Reporter

Wear a white T-shirt and a pair of shorts, but do not expect them to stay that way when the powdered paint starts to fly, splatter and then smear.

All members of the campus community are invited to participate Saturday in celebration of the traditional Hindu festival Holi on Wilson Lawn at noon. Also called the Festival of Colors, the holiday is held in honor of spring.

Sophomore Sheena Walia, one of the main coordinators of this year's Holi celebration, said the student group Masala-SACE will provide pizza, paint powder and, for the first time, T-shirts.

"This is a holiday I have celebrated my whole life," Walia said. "It is one that everyone takes part in as well."

Unlike Diwali, which the group honors annually in November with a dance and cultural showcase, students from all over campus participate in Holi.

"There is always an audience at events like Diwali — not at Holi," Walia said.

Though participants tend to come out of the event stained various colors, Walia insists it is entirely worth turning the shower hot pink, purple and green.

"I would say it is really fun," Walia said, "because you are throwing colored powder and water balloons all over the place."

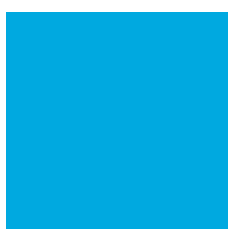
Walia made only one warning — those with lighter colored hair should probably cover it. Blond hair has a tendency to turn several different shades of color during the festivities.

Walia encourages everyone to stop by Saturday.

"Typically, people walk by and join in. It is so much fun," Walia said. "And this year there will be even more color!" ■

—Sydney Wilmer can be reached at sydney.e.wilmer@vanderbilt.edu

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ODDS & ENDS

WEATHER
compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

SATURDAY



Partly Cloudy, 64/45

SUNDAY



Partly Cloudy, 72/53

MONDAY



Mostly Sunny, 71/52

VUPD CRIME LOG
compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

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.

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

THE 123456789 STARTING 9

compiled by SARA GAST

1 Jobless claims for unemployment benefits shoot up to highest point since September 2005

WASHINGTON — The number of new people signing up for unemployment benefits last week shot up to the highest level in more than two years, fresh evidence of the damage to a national economy clobbered by housing, credit and financial crises according to The Associated Press.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new applications filed for unemployment insurance jumped by a seasonally adjusted 38,000 to 407,000 for the week ending March 29.

2 States facing budget trouble consider releasing inmates early to save millions

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Lawmakers from California to Kentucky are trying to save money with a drastic and potentially dangerous budget-cutting proposal: releasing tens of thousands of convicts from prison, including drug addicts, thieves and even violent criminals, The Associated Press reported.

Officials acknowledge that the idea carries risks, but they say they have no choice because of huge budget gaps brought on by the slumping economy.

3 NATO gives Bush support on missile shield ahead of meeting with Putin

BUCHAREST, Romania — NATO allies gave President Bush strong support Thursday for a missile defense system in Europe and urged Moscow to drop its angry opposition to the program, reported The Associated Press. The unanimous decision strengthened Bush's hand for weekend talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said it was "a breakthrough document on missile defense for the alliance." At Bush's first NATO summit in 2001, "perhaps only two allies gave even lukewarm support for the notion of missile defense," Rice said.

4 TVA sets \$597 million emissions controls on coal plant near Smokies

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Valley Authority has agreed to install a \$597 million pollution control system on a coal-fired power plant that's contributing to haze in the Great Smoky Mountains, according to The Associated Press.

The 712-megawatt John Sevier plant in Rogersville will be getting smokestack scrubbers and a selective catalytic reduction system that are expected to reduce pollutants by more than 90 percent. The plant is one of three TVA coal plants nearest the pollution-prone national park along the Tennessee-North Carolina border.

5 Metro police crush almost 1,500 weapons to keep them off the street

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Metro police destroyed nearly 1,500 confiscated guns at dawn on Wednesday, reported The Tennessean.

"The reason we destroy them is to keep them off the street, but we don't want to be in a situation where we're housing them forever," said Sgt. Neil Cook. "The numbers have been picking up the last few years — we're getting more and more guns."

The Metro gun vault is home to about 20,000 confiscated guns at any one time, Cook said.

6 'Green Hills rapist' will stay in prison for at least six more years before eligible for parole

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The man known as "the Green Hills rapist" after breaking into eight women's homes and raping them will stay in prison at least six more years, the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole voted this week.

Three of the board's seven members voted Monday to keep John W. Peltier Jr., 49, behind bars for the maximum amount of time before another parole opportunity, The Tennessean reported. One more vote was required to make it final.

7 Cat causes hour-long power outage for 400 in Sumner County

SUMNER CO., Tenn. — A power outage caused by a cat left 400 Sumner County residents in the dark for an hour Wednesday night, according to The Tennessean.

But electric company officials were initially scratching their heads about what kind of cat had climbed into the Ocana substation near Gallatin. Officials with the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation confirmed that the animal, which was killed by the electric shock, was a "large housecat," but for a short time thought it could have been a bobcat.

8 CDC is under fire for role in scandal

WASHINGTON — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was accused by lawmakers and a whistleblower on Tuesday of watering down a report on the dangers of formaldehyde exposure.

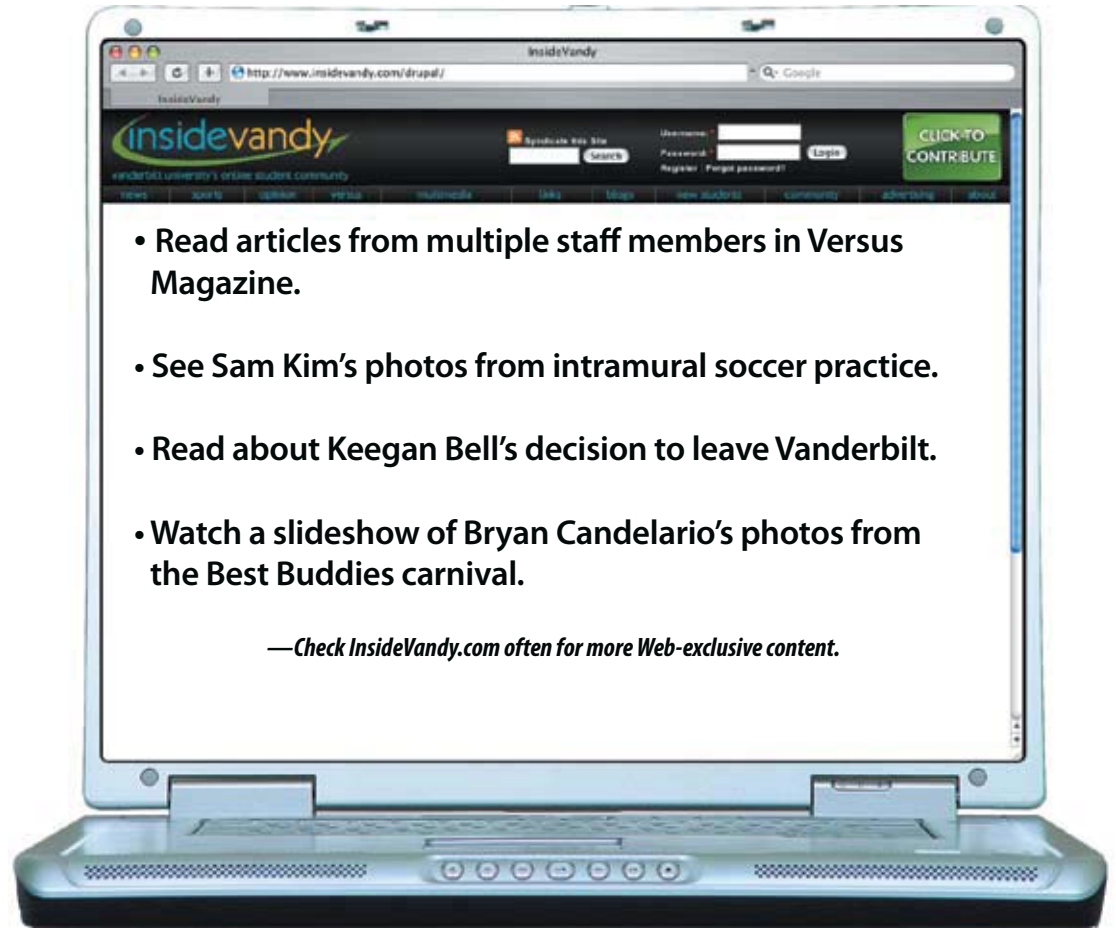
"It was not acceptable science," said Rep. James Sensenbrenner Jr. of Wisconsin, top Republican on the House Science and Technology subcommittee on investigations. The panel is examining the CDC's role in investigating the dangers of formaldehyde fumes in trailers and mobile homes distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to house people displaced by hurricanes Rita and Katrina reported The Tennessean.

9 Democrats will count Florida at convention

WASHINGTON — After months of taking swipes at one another, Florida Democrats and their national party chairman announced Wednesday that the state will be represented at the national convention this summer, according to The Tennessean.

"We will absolutely seat the delegation from Florida at the convention. That is in everybody's best interest," said Democratic Party Chairman Howard Dean. "All of us are committed to make sure that happens."

WHAT'S NEW ON INSIDEVANDY.COM



- Read articles from multiple staff members in Versus Magazine.
- See Sam Kim's photos from intramural soccer practice.
- Read about Keegan Bell's decision to leave Vanderbilt.
- Watch a slideshow of Bryan Candelario's photos from the Best Buddies carnival.

—Check InsideVandy.com often for more Web-exclusive content.

SNAPSHOT

MAKING A COMMITMENT TO FITNESS



LAUREN FONDREIST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

As part of HOD 2510: Health Services to Diverse Populations, students work with four Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee in Commit to be Fit, teaching the importance of nutrition and physical fitness for a healthy lifestyle. On Thursday, Director of Football Operations Brian Reese showed kids around McGugin Center, giving them a tour of the weight rooms, academic center and football stadium.

2007-2008 Templeton Research Lectures in Religion and Science

The Causes of Religion

Three lectures by

Dan Sperber

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris

Monday, April 7
Asking the Right Questions

Tuesday, April 8
Beliefs and Values

Thursday, April 10
Rituals and Institutions

All lectures begin at 4:10 pm with a reception following Vanderbilt University Law School, Moore Room

For more information, contact the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture

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Vanderbilt remembers MLK

Today, Vanderbilt University will continue to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s death with its conference "We Speak for Ourselves: A Poet, a Prophet and Voices for the 21st Century," a press release said.

The two-day conference, which is presented by the Robert Penn Warren Center for Humanities, has three more events for the general public. In Flynn Auditorium in Vanderbilt Law School, Angela Davis will speak at noon on "We are Not Now Living the Dream: (the) Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Human Rights in the 21st Century" and there will be a panel at 3 p.m. on Robert Penn Warren's book "Who Speaks for the Negro?"

At 7:30 p.m., the Rev. James Lawson will speak at Fisk University Chapel on "Allowing a Living Past to Compel a Pregnant Now."

The conference has sought to examine the many issues raised in alumnus Warren's book through panels and presentations.

"This extraordinary gathering of minds will continue the much-needed conversation on justice and community, to which Warren the poet and writer lent his voice and to which King the prophet gave his life," Mona Frederick, executive director of the Robert Penn Warren Center, told Vanderbilt News Service. "We feel confident that the time is right to begin this much-needed national conversation."

For a full schedule, visit www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw_center

Mismatched marriage



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

"Misalliance," VU Theatre's final show of the year, opens tonight at 8 p.m. Additional performances of the British comedy are Saturday, April 5, Thursday, April 10, Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are free for undergraduates.

The show, which was written by George Bernard Shaw, "celebrates the battle of the sexes and the hopeless communication gap between parents and their children," the VU Theatre Web site read. For more photos from the show, go to InsideVandy.com

GIORGIO: Plans include expansion of faculty, research

From **GIORGIO**, page 1

His goals include hiring more faculty members, expanding research areas, attracting additional graduate students, strengthening undergraduate education and forming small businesses from promising research, the press release said.

"We have a special opportunity, through a combination of expansion and retirements, to hire a substantial number of new faculty members over the next five years," Giorgio said. "We have the resources to strengthen our current areas of expertise and to establish new areas of research in cooperation with medicine and the biological sciences."

The department has 18 faculty members who are primarily located on two floors of the Stevenson Center. About 300 undergraduate engineering students and 70 graduate students are enrolled in biomedical engineering.

In addition to his primary appointment, Giorgio also serves as professor of chemical engineering and professor of interdisciplinary materials science. He is on the executive committee of the Vanderbilt Institute for Nanoscale Science and Engineering.

Giorgio is a researcher at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, where he has contributed new ideas to the treatment of cancer through his work on the disease at the cellular and molecular levels. He and his team have discovered new materials to infiltrate the nuclei of malignant cells to deliver therapy more effectively than conventional methods. They have also developed methods to detect breast cancer at very early stages by using nanoparticles that bind to the cancer cells.

As a result, the cancer is more easily imaged, facilitating early detection of the most lethal, metastatic form of the disease. He is working on developing a

point-of-care breast cancer test that would be used in a physician's office much like a home pregnancy test to detect cancer at even earlier stages.

Among his achievements was participation in an interdisciplinary team that developed an artificial liver, which is being used to treat patients with liver disease and traumatic injuries.

Giorgio joined the Vanderbilt faculty as an assistant professor of chemical engineering in 1987. He was named associate professor of chemical engineering in 1993 and associate professor of biomedical engineering in 1996.

He is a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. He has won an outstanding teaching award from the School of Engineering and four awards for the best research paper from the Vanderbilt Engineering Research Council. ■

Support the Senior Challenge by April 15



It's a little **green** for the black and gold.

When you give to the Senior Class Fund, you're not only adding to the totals for the Class of 2008—you're helping future students as well. And, it's your participation that matters most.

Thanks to a graduate from the Class of '63, we've created the Senior Challenge—and that means up to **\$100,000 toward undergraduate scholarships**. But only if you participate.

When the Class of 2008's participation reaches 25 percent, this generous alumna will give a tree and plaque in honor of us. As participation totals climb, so does the dollar amount of the gift—up to \$100,000 **when 80 percent of us make a gift**.

Please—give a little green to the black and gold. Find out more at vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund.

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ADMISSIONS: Blog success among students, parents

From **ADMISSIONS**, page 1

to interested students and parents in a simple online format as well as an effort to demystify the admissions process."

The blog has been highly successful among students and parents alike, who have sent e-mails, letters, phone calls and even plates of cookies to the admissions office as thanks.



BRAD WEINER / photo provided
The admissions office spent many long hours going over files and evaluating potential students, especially in the month of March.

"We have tried to open a window on the personal side of our office and on the admissions process itself," Golden said. "What is it like to read all those applications? We write about that. What's it like to visit countless numbers of high schools and stand behind a table at a college fair? We put that out there."

The most recent post on the blog addresses the waitlist, which this year, according to Dean of Admissions Doug Christiansen, is both larger

and more qualified than in previous years.

"Ninety-five percent of students who were denied or put on the wait list could most surely do the academic work here," Christiansen said.

But in a time when all the applicants were extremely strong, Christiansen cites "the rigor of your curriculum in high school, if you took advantage academically of everything in your high school — AP and IB courses, class rank, GPA" as being key figures.

He additionally noted the growing importance of extracurricular involvement.

"It was important for students to not only be in a club, but to make a difference in their club, and have their recommendations talk about that," Christiansen said. "We wanted a group who had endeavored something in the ninth grade and pursued it all through high school."

The Vanderbilt Admissions blogger team agrees on this note.

"Vanderbilt approaches the review of your application in a holistic way, considering the applicant in his or her totality," said admissions officer Ken Shows blogged last Friday. "After countless hours spent reading your applications and discussing (sometimes heatedly) the merits of a student, we take a very brief moment to celebrate. The admissions staff is humbled by the quality of our applicants and (wishes) to congratulate the admitted Class of 2012." ■

—Nikki Bogopolskaya can be reached at veronika.bogopolskaya@vanderbilt.edu

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OPINION

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER Editorial Board

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OUR VIEW

Admissions day reveals a dazzling future

Each year, the class hears from administrators and Admissions alike that theirs is Vanderbilt's superlative class. The staggering numbers for the class of 2012, however, may redefine the national perception of the university.

Given the 12 percent plunge in the overall acceptance rate for the university, and the simultaneous advent of The Commons, a rise in the U.S. News and World Reports rankings seems likely, even if it is just a notch or two up. These developments only strengthen the value of our own degrees for our future beyond Vanderbilt. We certainly appreciate that reinforcement of our degrees, especially since more than one member of the editorial board doubts slightly whether they would have been accepted this year.

The acceptance and application statistics reflect the continued shift towards a diversified, nationally oriented student body, rather than a regional one composed of those of a more homogenous stripe. Beyond the diversity of the class lies their sheer academic excellence.

Critically, though, the statistics must translate into actual well-rounded individuals prepared to contribute to the vibrancy of the Vanderbilt campus. While the editorial board has the utmost faith in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, we hope the rise in applications derives from a desire to be part of the Vanderbilt community and The Commons, and not because of the elimination of the "Why Vanderbilt?" essay from the application.

As with each entering class, we must genuinely embrace this diversity of origin and ideology, while demonstrating some of the shared traits that make this campus unique: the commitment to service and, for many, faith, as well as the ever-popular balance between rigorous academics and a hearty social life.

If its past excellence is any indication, the class of 2012 should have no difficulty in continuing Vanderbilt's dynamic ascent on the national scene.

Looking for the cold, hard facts?

For more information about the class of 2012, see today's story on page one of the News section.

COLUMN

'We Are Vanderbilt' pledge should be extended



MIKE WARREN
Columnist

In light of the response this column received, I have decided to reexamine my disdain for student-led movements to tackle perceived problems of bigotry on our campus. In fact, noting the relative success of the "We Are Vanderbilt" initiative, I would like to take this opportunity to implore student groups, VSG and others, to take up another cause. It is time for students and the rest of the Vanderbilt community to stand up to the university about a very troubling aspect of our institution: the continued employment and support of English professor Houston A. Baker Jr.

The Vanderbilt community became aware this week of Baker's involvement with the university's commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event, set for today, will be attended by everyone from the mildly radical left (James "The United States is the number one enemy of peace and justice in the world" Lawson) to the really radical left (Angela "America's Most Wanted Black Panther"

For Vanderbilt to include in today's celebration Houston Baker ... shows one of two things: Either Vanderbilt and the event's organizers are ignorant to Baker's racist rantings, or they simply don't care."

Davis). Baker himself was given headline status on the press releases and posters. That Vanderbilt would think to associate Baker with the anti-racist message of Dr. King should give students wishing to disassociate the university with hateful cause for concern.

Enlightened members of the community will note that last September's issue of The Vanderbilt Torch (please excuse the shameless plug) featured Justin Offerman's story covering the outlandish statements Baker made in regard to the Duke University lacrosse team rape accusation. Baker's letter to the Duke administration was heavily quoted, offering a few gems to reveal the professor's racially charged rhetoric.

The letter, available online, uses some form of the word "white" eleven times in the letter, each time referring to the lacrosse players in a derogatory manner. Baker stated that the university wished to "protect white, male, athletic violence," and he complained about a "cover of silent whiteness" that protected these players. He referred to "drunken Duke boys" as the "young, white, violent, drunken men among us" and repeatedly wrote of "white privilege."

Some may find these statements speaking truth to a serious problem; I find them unprofessional, hateful and racist. Of course, in those aspects, the letter pales in comparison to an e-mail Baker sent to the mother of an unindicted lacrosse player (sent from his Vanderbilt account) in December 2006, as Offerman also reported. In the e-mail, Baker called the woman's son and his teammates "a scummy bunch of white males" who allegedly "beat up a gay man in

Please see **WARREN**, page 5

Top 10 Ways to Help out the Recession

JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

It's no secret there's been a financial pinch recently. Some have even speculated that we're headed for a major collapse. Well, now it's time for you, as the pampered crust of the economic pie, to do your part in pulling this country to its feet. So stop hoarding your money or using it as wallpaper and start spending.

- 10. Go to a casino:** Casinos are just barely scraping by on a couple million per day. With their shiny lights, thinly veiled prostitution rackets and \$20 martinis, these institutions essentially make up the backbone of the American family.
- 9. Only eat at expensive restaurants:** It's no wonder our economy is struggling with all these selfish, insensitive consumer choices like going to the grocery store or growing your own rhubarb patch. The task may seem daunting, but take simple steps. Instead of ordering from Papa John's, get P.F. Chang's, or instead of grabbing a burger at Wendy's, reserve a banquet for you and 50 friends at Magianno's.
- 8. Always drink bottled water:** Who uses free, common tap water they get from faucets and drinking fountains all over campus when they can just as easily pay over a dollar for someone else to put it in a bottle?
- 7. Charities:** These days it's nearly impossible to buy a sandwich or pick up the paper without being solicited by some type of fundraiser. A recent study revealed that Vanderbilt has 1.8 charitable causes per student, so pick your favorite one — or whichever one whose representative guilts you the most.
- 6. Buy drugs/ alcohol:** Even if you have no intention of using large quantities of these personally, give them to friends, stray hobos or Andrew Solomon.
- 5. Throw litter on the ground:** Besides the convenience to you of not having to find a trashcan, you are really doing a public service. The more trash scattered around, the more janitorial staff needed and the more jobs created.
- 4. Shop at the bookstore:** Why pick up your supplies at a store that doesn't throw 30 percent extra on its prices? Add to that the convenience and the fact that your parents are probably footing the bill, and it's win-win.
- 3. Buy more gifts for sorority sisters:** As they stand, sorority dues are obscenely cheap. Sorority pledges won't think you care about them unless they receive weekly jewelry engraved with the sorority letters. In order to generate more sorority gear, consider making T-shirts to commemorate each chapter meeting.
- 2. Throw out old clothes:** At the end of the day, you're tired and stressed; the last thing you want to worry about is hanging up clothes or a growing laundry pile. Plus, this way, you can keep up with daily fashion trends and plan more shopping excursions!
- 1. Get money from parents:** That thousand-dollar deposit they made last week is running a little thin. They simply don't understand all the stresses of textbooks, athletic gear, school supplies and new clothes on a college budget. Whatever you do, don't get a job to pay for your own alcohol.

COLUMN

Our generation often falls into trap of self-victimization



ANDREW SOLOMON
Columnist

My mother, who still calls me wondering why I won't stop printing things like "I'd be better off working in a Saigon whore house" in our school newspaper, sent me an article a few weeks back about the rise of entitlement in young adults. In her ceaseless effort to turn me into a decent person, she occasionally does this kind of thing, and it always makes me stop throwing baby seals through my wood-chipper long enough to reflect on what she's trying to get through to me.

The article cited several credible sources and psychological studies that claimed the average young adult is turning into quite the scumbag. The number of college students diagnosed with secondary narcissism is steadily increasing. Dean's offices are jammed with students claiming they've been slighted or dealt with unfairly in their class. My strict no-research policy for these articles

prevents me from throwing any numbers at you, but I don't really think you need those to be convinced. Just ask your physics teacher how many kids jam his office at the end of the semester claiming they deserve a better grade.

It's especially bad here. Since I already have a history of stereotyping essentially every socio-economic group on this 90210 of a campus, I might as well keep it up; Vanderbilt, you whine too much. You have a nasty habit of thinking the world owes you something when, in fact, it doesn't owe you a thing.

A good part of it is simply the world in which we live. Ours is a place of almost limitless convenience, casual relationships and instant gratification. We are accustomed to having to put minimal effort into the things we want and having them show up conveniently on our doorstep 3-5 business days later. All this has made our modern America the greatest place in the world to live, but it is beginning to come at a price: This sense of entitlement is spilling over

Please see **SOLOMON**, page 5

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 Web site.

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 issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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Rep. Jim Cooper
U.S. House of Rep.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4311
(615) 736-5295

Rep. Brenda Gilmore
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35 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243-0154
(615) 741-1997

Sen. Douglas Henry Jr.
Tenn. District 21
11 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243-0021
(615) 741-3291

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

SOLOMON: Personal sacrifice has become unknown and undervalued

From SOLOMON, page 4

into other aspects of our lives.

You can't expect to obtain something without doing the required work to earn it. This concept seems to be falling out of favor amongst our generation. Everyone gripes about the teacher or class being stupid when they bomb their paper. We need drugs to coerce us to stay in the library for more than an hour. You whine about the fact that that girl last night wouldn't come back to your place, even after you danced for, like, at least 20 minutes. In all of these cases, there is a common bottom line: You didn't earn it.

Don't think I'm excluding myself from all of this. We all fall into the trap of victimization. It's so much easier to sell it to yourself when you believe it is not your fault. The fact that

we failed to earn something isn't the problem. The problem occurs when we look outside of ourselves for something to lay the blame on.

Next week, try to re-examine what it is you want and what you need to do to make your desire a reality. Just understanding what you need to do to accomplish your goals is at least a step in the right direction. But if this goal is something you truly want, you must realize it's not just going to come to you. You have to work to achieve your goal, and take pride in the fact that the journey there was what you take the most pride in.

—Andrew Solomon is a senior in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at andrew.j.solomon@vanderbilt.edu

WARREN: Vanderbilt must refuse to tolerate racism — from all sides

From WARREN, page 4

Georgetown" and "get drunk in Durham," calling them "a bunch of farm animals."

Statements like these beg the common exercise: Let's make the speaker a white man, replace "white" with "black," and see the appropriate response. Angry tirades about the "young, black, violent, drunken men among us" or calling "a scummy bunch of black males... farm animals?" A white academic would be fired and ostracized for such comments, and rightfully so.

Why, then, does Baker get a pass, both by his employer and his field at large? He is regarded as the foremost thinker on African American and Diaspora Studies, practically building the discipline from scratch nearly 40 years ago. Such departments almost exclusively house far-left

professors with far-left views, with Baker's central role in the discipline's development perhaps a critical contributing cause. He is also the past president of the Modern Language Association, and he has published extensively on literature, the Civil Rights movement and black identity.

These examples of Baker's successful academic career certainly speak to his employment at such prolific institutes as Yale, Virginia, UPenn, Duke and now Vanderbilt. Of course, while I find his views on race in America completely misguided, I certainly cannot fault Vanderbilt for wanting to bring to the university a well-published, experienced and major name in academia.

But for Vanderbilt to include in today's celebration Houston Baker, who has never publicly apologized or retracted any of

his statements on the Duke lacrosse case, shows one of two things: Either Vanderbilt and the event's organizers are ignorant to Baker's racist rantings, or they simply don't care.

The intent of "We Are Vanderbilt" was to raise awareness about a small group of students making irrational and indefensibly bigoted statements about other students. In recent time, Baker himself has made irrational and indefensibly bigoted statements about students. Perhaps VSG and other groups can start a movement to get our university to fire racist professors. That's a pledge I can definitely sign.

—Mike Warren is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at michael.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu

THE RANT



What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. Send in your rants with the subject "Rant" to: opinion@vanderbilthustler.com

"Whoever owns the white SUV with 'Hoot! Hoot! Baby Hooties!' and other Chi-O stuff written all over it, WASH YOUR CAR! Rush was over months ago. I don't understand how this can remain on your vehicle for so long, you lazy sorostitute."

"To the person who stole all my towels from the Stambaugh laundry room: I hope you've enjoyed wiping your junk on my LCR monogram, because it's been great walking from the shower to my room butt-naked for the last month. Could you return at least a hand towel? Even the cleaning guy is getting real sketch around me, not to mention my hallmates."

"To the couple making out on the main steps in front of Garland — seriously? It's bad enough that I have to go the computer lab on a Monday night, but it's worse when I have to walk around two slobbering idiots. I am pretty sure you can find a better, more private place to make out."

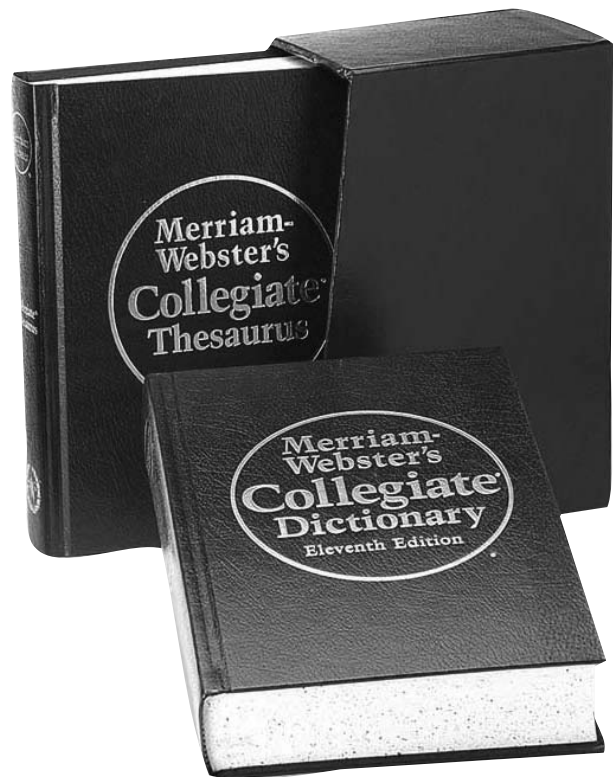
"In the future, when we have a unique performance like the indoor drumline regionals on campus, why don't people take advantage of the opportunity instead of complaining about it? Those 'high schoolers in velvet jumpsuits' are hard working, talented musicians who have put in months of rehearsal to get to this point. Besides the fact that indoor drumline is an incredible performance genre that most people never get to see, these students deserve more respect for the effort they have put forth. They'll be back this coming weekend with the indoor color guards for the Southeastern Championships. My suggestion is, instead of complaining about them, go enjoy the music!"

"For all of those terribly wonderful VSG members who, by taking away any advantage my overachieving might have brought me, made it possible for me to live in Kissam again as a junior, I hope you fail at life."

"Dear Housing, You better build me a house as nice as the Peabody dean's house next year. Because it looks like I'm going to be homeless. Cordially, The Class of 2010."

"Hey, what happened to the Rave? I want to thank Matt Gist!"

Compiled by Katherine Miller



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SPORTS

2008 football captains announced

THE RUN DOWN

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FRIDAY
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Vanderbilt (19-7, 6-3 Southeastern Conference) re-enters SEC play after a two-game hiatus, losing one to Southeast Missouri and winning one against Middle Tennessee State. The Commodores play the Rebels (17-11, 4-5 SEC) in Oxford for a three-game series starting today. The two teams haven't met since last year's SEC Tournament, where the Commodores swept Ole Miss to advance to the championship game. During the regular season last year, Vanderbilt took two of three from the Rebels in Nashville.

Ole Miss enters the series having won two games in a row after losing its previous five. Vanderbilt has won five of its last six.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Men's Tennis

With just two weeks remaining in the regular season, Vanderbilt's 30th-ranked men's tennis team will embark on a three-match road trip to close the regular season. This weekend, the Commodores (11-6, 3-5 SEC) will play at No. 8 Tennessee on Friday and at No. 3 Georgia on Sunday. The Commodores are coming off a split with No. 7 Ole Miss and No. 49 Mississippi State last weekend. Vanderbilt dropped a 6-1 decision to Ole Miss before downing Mississippi State, 4-3.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Women's Tennis

The No. 13 Vanderbilt women's tennis team welcomes No. 17 Tennessee and No. 10 Georgia for a pair of pivotal SEC matches this weekend at the Currey Tennis Center. The match with Tennessee is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m., while opening serve for Sunday's match against Georgia is a noon start. The Commodores enter the weekend with a 15-3 overall record and a 5-3 mark in conference matches. Georgia (13-4) and Tennessee (13-5) enter the weekend with identical 6-2 marks in SEC play. A pair of Vanderbilt wins this weekend could catapult the team into second place in the SEC Eastern Division.

THEY SAID IT...

"As far as developing my skills as a baseball player, my father was the biggest influence on that part of my life."

RYAN "FLASH"
FLAHERTY

read more of Ryan Flaherty's journal at VUCommodores.com



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SMITH

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VUCommodores.com

Three-year starting safety Reshard Langford, veteran offensive lineman Bradley Vierling and senior wide receiver George Smith have been elected 2008 captains by their Commodore football squad teammates.

Head coach Bobby Johnson publicly announced the selection of Langford, a redshirt senior from Tanner, Ala., Vierling, a redshirt junior from Warminster, Pa., and Smith, a sixth-year senior from Pembroke Hills, Fla., during a press conference held Tuesday in McGugin Center. Johnson initially told the Vanderbilt squad during a luncheon after the Black and Gold Scrimmage.

Langford has never missed a start in the Commodore secondary, and enters his final campaign having started 35 consecutive games. Vierling will start his first year at center next season after playing multiple line positions 2006-07. Smith has started 25 games, returning in 2008 as the team's active leader in receptions and receiving yards.

The Commodores open the 2008 season with a road trip to Miami (Ohio) University on Thursday,

Aug. 28. Vanderbilt's six-game home schedule, which features Southeastern Conference games against South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida and Auburn, will start Thursday, Sept. 4, versus Steve Spurrier's Gamecocks.

Johnson strongly endorsed the result of his squad's captaincy vote. Every member of the team voted for both offensive and defensive captains.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the players' decision," Johnson said. "We're talking about three players that are excellent leaders for our team, great representatives for the university and key guys to our eventual success as a football team. Since the 2007 season ended, Reshard, Bradley and George have demonstrated the traits you want to see in your captains."

The announcement is another remarkable achievement and accomplishment in Smith's career as a Commodore. Four years ago this month, Smith was lying helpless in a Florida hospital intensive care room, from the affects of a rare neurological disorder. The ailment, acute transverse myelitis, caused swelling to Smith's spinal cord, resulting in temporary paralysis. He was bedridden for most of a month, regaining movement only after repeated

blood transfusion procedures.

After months recuperating in Florida — and a semester away from classes — Smith returned to Vanderbilt to begin the slow process of returning to the Commodore squad. It took Smith more than a year to regain full strength and more than 30 pounds lost in the illness before doctors approved his return to full contact on the football field. Since his return, Smith has caught 76 passes, good for nearly 1,000 yards and eight touchdowns, as wide receiver.

Langford has been a punishing presence in the Commodore secondary since the first game of the 2005 season. The leader of a unit that returns all four starters from a year ago, including All-SEC cornerback D.J. Moore, Langford is the team's active career leader with 120 solo tackles, 170 total stops and eight interceptions.

Vierling will guide the youthful offensive line. The Commodores will replace all five starters lost to graduation, including likely NFL first-round draft pick Chris Williams. Of the returning Vanderbilt offensive linemen, Vierling and fellow redshirt junior Ryan Custer are the most experienced. A smart, yet aggressive player, he averaged nearly 30 snaps last year while playing guard and center. ■

“friday
conversation

KEEGAN BELL

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: How did your teammates react when they heard the news that you were going to transfer? You and A.J. (Ogilvy) are pretty close.

KEEGAN BELL: Just like I knew they would. We're kind of a family; we're real close and they were very supportive. They wished me luck, and they knew that I knew what was best for me and that there were no hard feelings towards them. They support me, and we're all going to stay in contact. We're so close; we're all kind of like best friends. They're sad. They're definitely disappointed and all that, especially A.J. A.J. and I have been so close, we're kind of like brothers. He was kind of devastated, but he said whatever's best for me he'd fully support.

VH: You talked before about you and coach Kevin Stallings not seeing eye-to-eye. I remember you were very enthusiastic about coming here. What did you think was going to be your role?

KB: I thought it was going to be more of my style, where I'm a little more of a flashy player.

VH: Like Steve Nash, right?

KB: Right, I kind of like to do that. He was just kind of negative about that sort of stuff, and with a number of things, it just felt I couldn't play as much my game as I thought I was going to be.

VH: Had transferring been on your mind for a while?

KB: During the season, I wasn't going to think about it at all. After every season, I was always going to evaluate how the season went and how things went. During the year I got frustrated a little bit, but nothing like this where I would even think about transferring. Afterwards, I talked to my family and let the frustrations out and came to this conclusion.

VH: I know you said you didn't know where you were going to go, but do you have any specific coach or program in mind?

KB: I just want a coach that knows how I play and wants to play the up-and-down style. I like positive coaches that are very enthusiastic. I want to be able to play my game. I'm a point guard. Yeah, I can score, but I really like to dish the ball. Being somewhere I could push it up and play more and more my style of basketball would be a perfect fit.

VH: That game against DePaul, is that more your style, where you had 12 points and eight assists?

KB: That is. It was more freelancing stuff, that between-the-legs pass and all that kind of stuff; I like to do that. And when an opportunity comes to be able to score more, I enjoy scoring, that's one of the strengths of my game, I believe. So yeah, that was more of a hint of my style and how I like to play.

VH: Do you think playing in the SEC has improved your game?

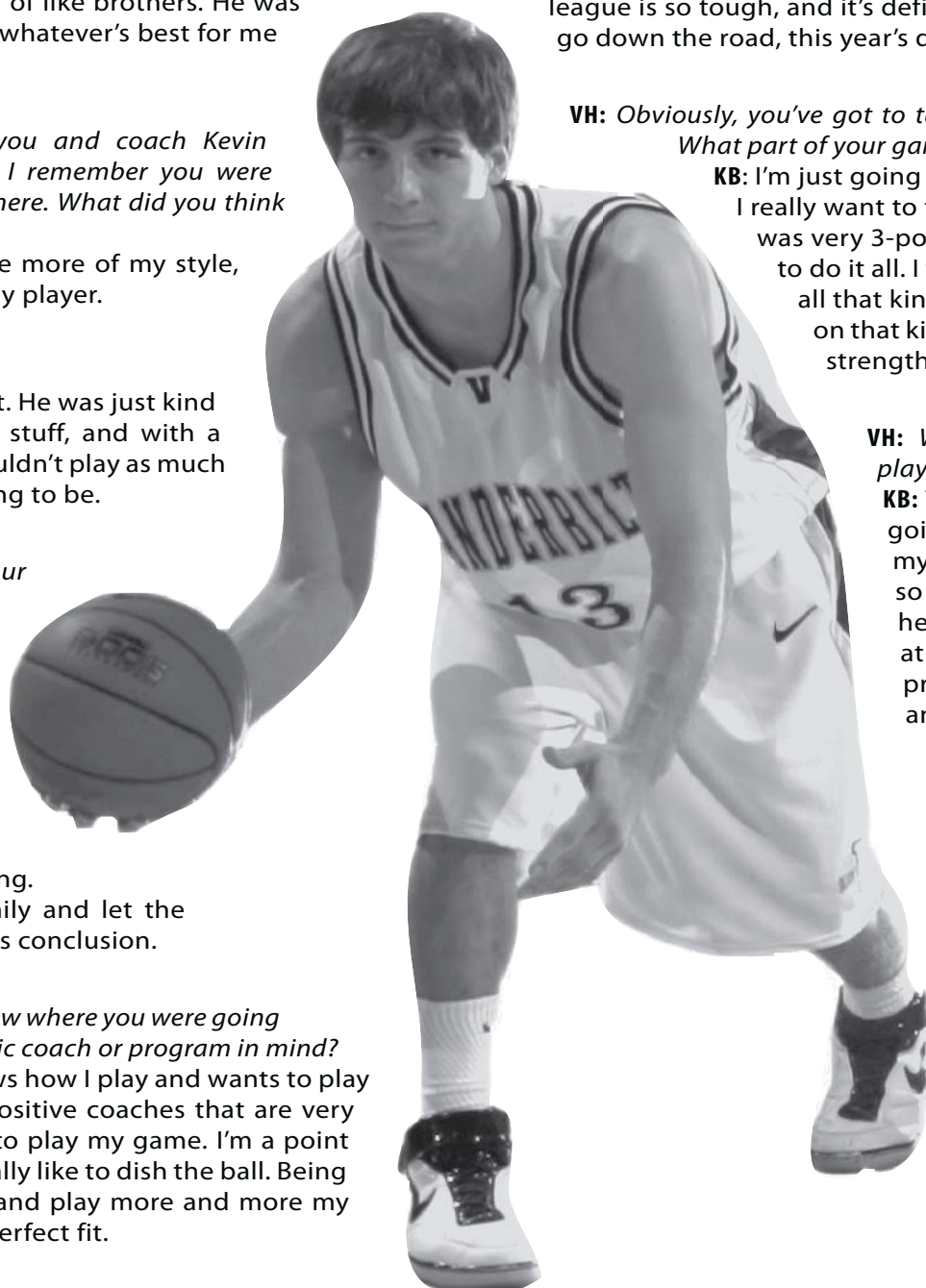
KB: Definitely. Coach (Stallings) has gotten me so much better. I really appreciate everything he's done. The players have gotten me better. The league is so tough, and it's definitely given me great experience so when I go down the road, this year's definitely been beneficial.

VH: Obviously, you've got to take a year off because of NCAA regulations. What part of your game do you want to work on the most?

KB: I'm just going to work on everything as much as possible. I really want to try and add a new dimension to my game. I was very 3-point oriented this year, and I want to be able to do it all. I feel that's what I should do, jump shots and all that kind of stuff. So I'm going to go back and work on that kind of stuff, and improve my defense, fitness, strength and just kind of work on everything.

VH: What do you think you'll miss most about playing at Vanderbilt?

KB: The fans, the students, the guys. Definitely going to be weird not being around them and my girlfriend, Jence Rhoads. She plays here so it's going to be weird not being around her and seeing her progress and having her at the games. Other than that, it's just a great program. It's a great place, a great university, and I'm definitely going to miss it.



Dores get revenge in Murfreesboro

Late pitching leads Vanderbilt to comeback victory over MTSU.

by **BILLY SHERK**
Sports Editor

Solid relief pitching propelled Vanderbilt to a comeback 6-5 win against Middle Tennessee State on Wednesday. The win halted a two-game losing skid in Murfreesboro for the Dores, who are now 19-7 in the regular season.

The loss drops MTSU to a record of 12-12-1.

Vanderbilt entered the third inning of the match-up trailing 4-1 after the Blue Raiders drove in two runs off a fielder's choice RBI by Zach Barrett. A possible double-play ball hit to senior shortstop Alex Feinberg was thrown low to

UPCOMING BASEBALL SCHEDULE

April 4 to 6
at Ole Miss (three game series)

April 8
vs. Western Kentucky

April 9
vs. Austin Peay

April 11 to 13
at Mississippi State (three game series)

first on the turn, allowing the MTSU base-runner to reach home plate.

The Dores redeemed themselves in the third with junior Jonathan White and senior David Macias both hitting one-out singles to lead the offensive resurgence. Wild pitches by MTSU starting pitcher Chad Edwards scored White and advanced Macias to third. Macias later scored after a series of three walks of junior Pedro Alvarez, junior Ryan Flaherty and Feinberg.

In the fourth, senior Dominic de la Osa tied up the game for the

Dores with a two-out RBI single to left that scored senior Shea Robin. MTSU tied it back up in the bottom half of the inning with an RBI single.

Then the Dores' relief took over. Junior Nick Christiani, freshman Chase Reid and redshirt freshman Russell Brewer combined their efforts to hold the Blue Raiders scoreless in the final five innings of the ballgame.

"The story of the game for us was the three guys who pitched in relief," said head coach Tim Corbin. "Christiani put a band-aid on it and shut them down. Reid came in and did yeoman work and Brewer threw strikes."

Christiani picked up the win after coming in for starting pitcher freshman Sean Bierman, who allowed four earned runs in 81 pitches. Reid followed, entering in the seventh and striking out Barrett to leave two Blue Raiders stranded. Again in the bottom of the eighth, with the tying run at second, Reid stymied an MTSU comeback by striking out Riley Bishop and getting Bryce Brent to fly out.

Brewer finished things up for the Dores with a strike-out and a fly-out to second to end the game.

De la Osa and Macias led the Commodore offense. De la Osa went two for five with a run batted in, and Macias scored twice on a hit and two walks.

Alvarez continued his re-establishment in the Vanderbilt line-up in his second game back from a six-week injury, knocking in one run in four at bats.

"We had to battle to get back on top," said Corbin. "When it was 6-5 I was thinking there was no way it was enough. I just didn't think that."

Next up for the Commodores is the Ole Miss Rebels, who they will face in a three-game series on the road this weekend. ■

Women's track returns to action on the road

Jorgensen and Kazmer look to continue recent success at Stanford, Auburn meets.

by **NICHOLAS HUDSON**
Sports Editor

Women's track and field will be in two places at once this weekend as they send split teams to Stanford, Calif., for the Stanford Invitational and Auburn, Ala., for the Tiger Track Classic.

The distance runners will make the longer trip to Stanford. They have been successful this year, led by strong performances by freshman Rita Jorgensen, among others. Jorgensen placed first in both the 800- and 1500-meter runs last week at the Yellow Jacket Invitational. She recorded a 4:29.79 in the 1500-meter run, which is the third fastest time in the conference so far this season.

Senior Valerie Kazmer also won in the 3000-meter steeplechase last weekend. She ran it in 11:03.14, which is the fourth fastest in school history and over 10 seconds faster

than anyone else in the race.

"Rita and Val have had some great numbers for this early in the season," said head coach D'Andre Hill. "We're really excited as to where our distance program is going. We're hoping they can build on that this weekend at Stanford ... The distance group will be able to face some great competition at Stanford so we're excited about that."

The rest of the team will be facing strong Southeastern Conference competition from teams like Tennessee (16), Kentucky, South Carolina (21) and Auburn (17) when they travel to Auburn.

"We're looking forward to going to Auburn this weekend," Hill said. "We weren't able to get a lot of things done last week due to the weather. We have an opportunity to go to the site where the SEC meet will be held."

Barring any weather delays, they will begin competing Friday afternoon. ■



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

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bargain-hunter's dream
 - 5 ___ Ferry, N.Y.
 - 10 Rowboat rower
 - 14 Frozen treats
 - 15 Down Under gems
 - 16 Jazz singing
 - 17 The one singled out
 - 18 Disturbed
 - 19 Traffic diverter
 - 20 Top-drawer
 - 21 Concoct
 - 22 "Beetle Bailey" character
 - 23 Flowerlike badge
 - 25 Worked for
 - 26 Military cafeterias
 - 29 "Barnaby Jones" star
 - 32 Penultimate round
 - 33 Tenth mo.
 - 36 Drove (a nail) obliquely
 - 37 Afternoon TV fare
 - 38 Lose vitality
 - 39 Collapsible bed
 - 40 Onward
 - 41 Picture border
 - 42 Of Greco-Roman culture
 - 44 Severe critic
 - 47 Scrawny guys
 - 51 Like a rainbow
 - 52 Choice cut
 - 54 Adam's garden
 - 55 Traditional wisdom
 - 56 Kind of cigar or sandwich
 - 57 Went by car
 - 58 Grounded birds
 - 59 In isolation
 - 60 HOMES part
 - 61 Unvarying
 - 62 Sanctify
 - 63 Honey
- DOWN**
- 1 Indian instrument
 - 2 Sneeze sound
 - 3 Tilts
 - 4 Appreciated
 - 5 Has suspicions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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4/4/08

4/2/08 SOLUTIONS

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T	E	N	C	E	N	T	S	E	N	D	O	R	A
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		E	L	S	C	A	L	L	S	G	A	S	
U	S	E	M	O	N	E	T	A	R	I	S	E	
T	A	R	T	A	N	S	O	F	T	E	N	E	R
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		D	O	E	R	S	D	E	C				
Q	U	A	D	R	A	N	T	S	S	H	O	E	S
E	M	M	Y	L	I	E	U	T	E	R	R	A	
D	A	Y	S	S	E	W	N	S	N	E	A	D	

- 6 Tyrants
- 7 Military post
- 8 Tooted
- 9 Mach topper
- 10 Academy Awards
- 11 Squirrel treat
- 12 Kitchen appliance
- 13 Mighty mount
- 22 Bando and Mineo
- 24 Decade count
- 25 Harvardians' rivals
- 27 Warms up
- 28 Frogs, toads, newts, etc.
- 29 Oft-used abbr.
- 30 Scary word?
- 31 TV soundstage
- 33 Mare's morsel
- 34 Summer hrs. in Chicago
- 35 Golfer's peg
- 37 Skyrocket
- 38 Stumbled
- 40 Took off
- 41 Guy
- 42 Edam or brie
- 43 French resort
- 44 Hay units
- 45 Kitchen lure
- 46 Rugby formation
- 48 Revere
- 49 Communication services
- 50 Contemptuous expression
- 52 Temporary calm
- 53 Clarinet relative
- 56 Taxi

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