



ELECTION 2006



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

NAME:	Harold Ford, Jr.
PARTY:	Democrat
AGE:	36
EDUCATION :	Law degree from University of Michigan; bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania
EXPERIENCE:	Member U.S. House, 1996-present

FORD CORKER FACE OFF *at Vanderbilt debate*

By Meredith Casey
SENIOR REPORTER

Vanderbilt hosted the final debate between senatorial candidates Harold Ford, Jr. and Bob Corker Saturday, bringing national media attention to campus.

Several news trucks were set up outside the auditorium to get live shots for local and national news channels, and the street in front of Ingram Hall was closed to normal traffic to give news trucks and campaign supporters adequate space.

The event, broadcast on WTVF-TV NewsChannel 5, C-SPAN and CBS affiliates, marked the third statewide debate between Corker and Ford. Previous meetings occurred earlier this month in Memphis and Chattanooga.

Democrats are within six seats of gaining control of the Senate, and Tennessee's race is one of the most closely contested races in the country. If Ford emerges victorious, he would be the first black senator elected by a southern state since Reconstruction.

Ingram Hall's 600 seats were packed with Tennessee residents, Vanderbilt students and professors, members of the Tennessee Chapter of the League of Women Voters, reporters and photographers for the debate.

Approximately 100 students were in attendance, but junior Breanne Hataway said even those who were unable to reserve a

Please see DEBATE, page 3



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

NAME:	Bob Corker
PARTY:	Republican
AGE:	54
EDUCATION :	Bachelor's degree in industrial management from the University of Tennessee
EXPERIENCE:	Mayor of Chattanooga, 2001-2005; commercial real estate owner and developer; Tennessee finance commissioner, 1995-1996; co-founder of nonprofit Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, 1986; construction company founder

STUDENT LIFE

Scandalous costumes cause concern

Professor says disturbing trend reflects flaws in American culture.

By Nicole Floyd
ASST NEWS EDITOR

As Halloween approaches, newspapers, comedians and scholars have drawn attention to the evolution of women's Halloween costumes.

The prevalence of sexualized costumes on the racks of costume retailers everywhere prompted the New York Times to explore the issue in a piece entitled, "Good Girls Go Bad, for a Day," and comedian Carlos Mencia recently joked that a more fitting name for Halloween would be Dress-Like-a-Whore Day.

Professor Julia Fesmire of the Women's and Gender Studies program feels that the evolution of women's Halloween costumes says something about U.S. culture as a whole.

"I'm not just seeing this once a year," Fesmire said. "It's coming up all over the place."

She attributes much of the appeal of provocative Halloween costumes to images that are presented to women year-round in the form of advertisements, catalogs, television and films.

"I can see why they are making these choices," she said, "These costumes are inevitable in a culture that is going to continue to objectify and sexualize women."

While she said she cannot imagine what the appeal of sexy Halloween costumes is for women who would otherwise consider themselves modest and conservative, she feels that a lot of women may be donning "sexy" costumes because they feel increased pressure to do so.

"I don't know what the appeal is," Fesmire said. "I would think that a lot of students are doing it because they want to fit in. Vanderbilt is a beautiful campus with



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Ashley Christensen (left) dresses as a mobster and Annie Dietz dresses as Snow White to celebrate Halloween Saturday night.

a lot of beautiful people, and I think there is a lot of pressure."

Many students, however, disagree that there is pressure to dress in revealing attire for Halloween.

Despite the prevalence of "sexy cops" and "sexy nurses" at campus parties Saturday night, freshman Rebecca Ruben and junior Jessie Peterson said that they felt no pressure when choosing their costume.

"Honestly, no, I don't think there is any pressure from the social setting to dress provocatively," Ruben said.

Peterson, who dressed up

as a pilot, said she feels that the appeal of provocative Halloween costumes has more to do with the nature of Halloween.

"It's an excuse to dress that way," Peterson said. "There is no other time during the year when you can dress that way and get away with it. It's not taboo at Halloween to dress provocatively."

Ruben, who described her angel costume as "sexy, but not slutty," agreed.

"Halloween gives you an excuse, kind of how drinking gives you an excuse, to act how you usually wouldn't and blame it on the fact that it is

Halloween," she said.

Junior Nattaly Perryman said that Halloween also offers a chance for some women to explore their sexuality.

"I don't think every female waits for Halloween to come around to express their sexuality, but for the typical Vanderbilt girl it is an excuse for socially conscious girls to express facets of their true sexual identity," she said. "Half of these girls are not as conservative as they come off to be Monday through Friday."

Dr. Adie Nelson, a professor of sociology at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, told the New York Times that some women may be using Halloween as a safe space in which to play with sexuality.

"Hey, if we can claim Halloween as a safe space to question these images being sold to us, I think that's a great idea," Nelson said.

Fesmire said she can understand this argument but believes that there are more appropriate ways for women to challenge the highly sexualized images being sold to them.

"You can be a witch, just keep your body parts covered," she said. "The more appropriate way to challenge these images would be to choose healthier ones."

Junior Biz Ramz said she and her friends purposely chose to wear costumes that were more conservative in an attempt to defy the stereotype that girls use Halloween as an excuse to dress promiscuously.

"All my friends and I hate the stereotype that girls use Halloween as an excuse to dress slutty and get away with it," Ramz said. "We'd rather have an opportunity to dress comfortably when we go out." ■

MEDIA

Vanderbilt Hustler wins Pacemaker award

ACP honor considered highest distinction in collegiate media.

The Vanderbilt Hustler was presented with the 2005-06 National Newspaper Pacemaker Award Saturday at the National College Student Media Conference in St. Louis, Mo.

The ACP Pacemaker is largely considered the highest national award presented to college media outlets. They are awarded based on coverage and content, quality of writing, opinion page leadership, evidence of in-depth reporting, design, photography, and art and graphics.

The Hustler has won the Pacemaker Award four times in the past five years, in 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2006. This year's award honors the efforts of former editors Vanessa Hoo and Sean Seelinger. ■

TELEVISION

Donovan appears on Wheel of Fortune

Interhall president wins \$10,000, trip to Europe in Saturday's episode.

By Sydney Wilmer
STAFF REPORTER

Senior Devin Donovan said her objective during her "Wheel of Fortune" debut was to solve a few puzzles and keep from embarrassing herself.

Donovan surpassed her goal, however, taking home a 12-day European vacation and \$10,000 in the Oct. 28 episode.

Donovan said she plans on investing her money and taking her older sister to Europe this summer as a graduation present to herself. The European trip includes stops in Berlin, Paris, Prague, Rome and Budapest.

To celebrate her appearance on the show, Steve Caldwell, director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, threw a viewing party at the Pub when the episode aired. Donovan said friends and

sorority sisters attended the function.

"It was nerve-racking to see myself on TV," she said. "I knew there were times where I had gotten confused and did not know what that would look like in front of everyone."

Donovan said she did not see Vanna White much because of multiple costume changes in the 14-hour, six-episode taping that day, but she did get a chance to speak with Pat Sajak.

"He was really personable and talked to all of the contestants, and his son is looking at Vanderbilt, so we will probably hear more from him soon," she said.

Although Donovan only received a week's notice before she had to fly to Los Angeles, practice was important for her.

"I had only seen 'Wheel of Fortune' two or three times

Please see WHEEL OF FORTUNE, page 2



NOTABLE

Britney Spears has named her second baby son Jayden James.

The Sept. 12 birth certificate was filed with Los Angeles officials this week and records that Jayden James Federline was born at Cedars Sinai hospital in Los Angeles. Jayden, who at six weeks has yet to make his public picture debut, was born two days before the first birthday of Spears' first son, Sean Preston.

Source: CNN

QUOTABLE

"It's kind of an urban legend. But in the humane industry it's pretty typical that shelters don't do adoptions of black cats or white bunnies because of the whole satanic sacrificial thing. If we prevent one animal from getting hurt, then it serves its purpose."

—Phil Morgan, executive director of the Kootenai Humane Society in Couer d'Alene, Idaho, on prohibiting black cat adoptions from now to Nov. 2, fearing the animals could be mistreated in Halloween pranks or sacrificed in satanic ritual.

Source: CNN

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY

Mostly Sunny, 77/58

TUESDAY

Showers, 69/52

WEDNESDAY

Scattered Showers, 59/44

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Nicole Floyd

Spring course registration begins today

Course request period begins in A&S, Blair, Engineering, Peabody and most graduate/professional schools today. Contact the University Registrar for additional information. Spring course request period ends Nov. 10 at 4 p.m.

Enjoy Halloween treats with SGA

Today, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., come meet members of your Student Government Association and enjoy Halloween treats in Rand.

AcFee applications currently available on SGA Web site

AcFee applications are currently available on the SGA Web site under the news section. AcFee is a student-led group that allocates the sum of activities fees for organizational programming on campus. The due date for the application is Nov. 10 by 7 p.m. Each applicant will then have an individual interview during the week of Nov. 27. If you have any questions about the AcFee process or the student application process, contact Leigh Taylor at leanor.l.taylor@vanderbilt.edu.

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

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Nicole Floyd

Oct. 27, 3:31 a.m.—A suspect was identified for a drug/narcotic offense at 2200 Children's Way.

Oct. 27, 4:32 a.m.—An arrest was made for trespass of real property at 2043 Scarritt Place.

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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CORRECTIONS

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

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE: Donovan says experience positive

From WHEEL OF FORTUNE, page 1

because I don't really watch television that much," she said. "My sorority sisters bought me the handheld game and tested me."

Donovan, who is an English major, said she enjoyed the process because she loves words and puzzles.

Donovan said that while she was

not nervous when she arrived in Los Angeles, the show's final round worried her.

"I wasn't scared, it was just surreal," she said. "But the final round was hard because you have to guess a letter and guess the answer in the next three seconds."

Overall, Donovan said she had a

positive experience on the show.

"I made a lot of friends, and all the contestants were in the same hotel, so we got to go eat dinner together one night," she said. "I was really lucky that my mom could come with me."

To other "Wheel of Fortune" hopefuls, Donovan said, "Choose good letters—RSTLNE!" ■

Vanderbuddies holds annual Playday



GABY ROMAN

Vanderbuddies hosted their annual Playday at the Student Recreation Center Friday where children play a spirited game of musical chairs. Vanderbuddies is a tutoring program that allows groups of students to volunteer at local elementary schools.

ROTC

Three-star general speaks to Navy ROTC at Mess Night

Event honors active and former Marine Corps officers.

By Allison Malone
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lt. Gen. Buck Bedard, a three-star general, spoke to Navy ROTC students about his time at Vanderbilt and experience as a military officer Friday night.

Navy ROTC hosted their annual Mess Night at the University Club. Marines and members of the Semper Fi society attended Mess Night, a formal event to recognize enlisted and active duty officers as well as former Marines.

"Mess Night allows the midshipmen to hear stories, learn lessons and get to know both active duty and former Marines from all different communities," said senior Shane Waters, a midshipman first class. "It is a rare opportunity to see the brotherhood of the Marine Corps first hand."

Bedard served 37 years of active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and was a former Marine officer instructor for Vanderbilt's Navy ROTC in the late 1970s.

"Having Gen. Bedard in attendance was great, not because he was a lieutenant general, but because he was eager to share his vast amount of knowledge with younger Marines and midshipmen," he said.

"Lt. Gen. Bedard has been there, done that for everything," said senior Alec Williamson. "He has seen it all, so he gave us a lot of good wisdom, knowledge and perspective on what we should expect as junior officers going into the military while the country is at war."

According to Williamson, a series of toasts during the event honor those who fought in every American war.

"We have a final toast to those who fought and died as Marines," he said. "It's a big tradition, and the whole purpose is to honor those who have served or served and died in the Marine Corps."

Williamson said people of all ranks attended the event, from students to a World War II veteran.

"There is a common tie between everyone in the room because they all played some role in the history of the Marine Corps," he said. "Some have yet to start their career, and many have already participated in the history of the Marine Corps." ■

SCHOLARSHIPS

American Airlines offers study abroad scholarship
Grant pays for student's airfare.

By Ellie Atkins
STAFF REPORTER

The study abroad office, in partnership with American Airlines, will offer a new scholarship for students hoping to study abroad. Unlike most other study abroad scholarships, the Global Leaders Scholarship will provide funds for the student's airfare.

Senior Boyce Adams, who currently serves as Vanderbilt's American Airlines campus representative, said he believes the goal of this scholarship is to help the students cover airfare costs that are not covered by financial aid.

"A lot of times scholarships will transfer abroad for academic purposes, but there's not many scholarships that will pay for the actual travel," Adams said. "American wants to help fill that void."

Adams said he works to promote the airline and to ensure that students are able to find inexpensive airfare.

The Global Leaders Scholarship will provide one student with a free round-trip ticket to any of the 243 cities in 53 countries that American Airlines services each semester, beginning in the spring of 2007. In addition to the scholarship, American Airlines now also offers a 10 percent discount for all Vanderbilt study abroad students flying with American.

"In addition to the Global Leaders Scholarship, American is also partnering with the Ingram Scholars Program to give discounts to students completing a summer

project," Adams said. "It is my goal as campus representative to provide students with the greatest possible discounts, and hopefully, make them frequent American flyers."

In January 2006, American Airlines launched the student representative program at 11 schools across the nation. In May, the partnership between Vanderbilt and American Airlines began when 11 more schools, including Vanderbilt, were also chosen for the program.

"The study abroad program is very beneficial to students, and we want to help provide students with an additional avenue for finances to study abroad," said Chris Koller, college marketing program director for American Airlines. "Travel costs sometimes hinder students, and so we wanted to offer a scholarship to cover the cost of travel. It benefits the students, but also American Airlines, because it familiarizes them with our product."

"The scholarship will provide a needy student with a well-deserved support for travel," said Gary Johnston, director of Vanderbilt's study abroad office. "A lot of students on

financial aid are left short for travel fares, so this is a nice enhancement."

Applications for the spring semester scholarship are due Nov. 10, and the winner will be announced Nov. 15. Scholarship applications can be found at the study abroad office. All applicants must be currently receiving merit or need-based financial aid. ■

DEBATE: Multiple issues discussed

From DEBATE, page 1

ticket benefited from this debate.

"I thought that it was a really great thing that Vanderbilt could have the debate here, because it brought a political atmosphere to campus that students could be exposed to," she said.

The debate, held in a town-hall format, covered a wide range of topics including the war in Iraq, competing approaches to fighting terrorism, human rights, the environment and U.S. dependence on oil, immigration, social security, minimum wage, the national deficit, negative campaign advertising and distrust of politicians.

Questions were assembled by the Tennessee League of Women Voters and asked by prearranged audience members.

Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., said that one issue he expected the candidates to cover was stem cell research.

"I was surprised that the issue of stem cell research was not brought up," he said. "Corker is against stem cell research, and Ford is for it. It is important for Tennesseans to know that Corker is to the right of Tennessee senators Frist and Alexander."

Students in attendance, such as juniors Justin Gatlin and Hataway, said that Ford outshined Corker in Saturday's debate, citing Ford's clear message, developed plan and references to specific legislation.

"Ford won – his answers had more substance, and he had more of a plan," Gatlin said. "He was more confident, but overall, it

was a very good debate on both sides."

"As far as a winner, Ford was able to lay out a plan and had a clearer message," Hataway said. "He answered the questions, whereas Corker laid out supplementary information and referred back to previous questions."

Junior Alan Dyer and senior Chris Randolph said it was an excellent, evenly matched debate.

"I felt like they both had good points, and Ford had more firm policy plans in mind whereas Corker spoke more in general," Dyer said.

"I watched the Memphis debate and Ford won that one, but tonight both candidates were more evenly matched," Randolph said. "Ford is clearly the better politician – sometimes too good that he comes across as insincere. I didn't see a whole lot of difference between them."

Likewise, Christian Grose, a Vanderbilt political science professor who said he believes a Tennessee victory will depend on whether voters are swayed by Ford's charisma or Corker's personal attacks, declined to immediately pick a winner.

"I'll have to watch the debate again on TV," he said. "The room was behind Ford, but the so-called winner of the debate depends on which sound bytes the media uses."

However, Cooper said he was ready to declare a Ford victory.

"His answers were more human, detailed and knowledgeable. I like Corker, but this is not his year," he said.

During the debate, Ford and Corker made direct attacks on each other's character, experience and past actions.

Corker framed himself as a genuine Tennessean who will carry a banner for the state and preserve values of faith and family, saying, "I've lived my life to be here tonight," in his opening remarks.

Ford portrayed himself as an accessible candidate with new ideas and clear plans who will work with Tennessee residents.

"What I hope to do tonight is to lay out a positive vision – to lay out how we can balance our budget, chart a new course, a changed course in Iraq and find new energy sources to ensure so that no twelve or thirteen or fourteen-year-old child living today will ever have to travel anywhere around the globe to protect to my oil appetite," he said.

He framed Corker as a "parrot" of Washington who would keep the Republican status quo on most issues.

"If you like what is going on in Washington, then don't vote for me," he said.

A heated moment of the debate occurred when Ford challenged Corker on his alleged hiring of undocumented workers. During this exchange, both candidates addressed each other directly, ignoring the debate format and earning a reprimand from debate moderator Chris Clark.

Students who could not be at the debate can visit <http://www.wtvf.com/Global/story.asp?S=5603301> to watch it in full. ■

ROTC

Army ROTC takes on Ranger Challenge

Team wins ninth place.

By Sara Tabor
STAFF REPORTER

The Vanderbilt Army ROTC placed 9th out of 18 teams this weekend in the 2006 East Region ROTC 5th Brigade Ranger Challenge.

Vanderbilt's 10-member team, composed of students from surrounding schools such as Lipscomb University and Belmont University, traveled to Fort Jackson, S.C., for the weekend event.

"We did really well considering that we are a really small school," said senior Jeff Benedict, Vanderbilt's team captain. "We have about 40 people in the program, a much smaller pool to choose from than the large schools."

Ranger Challenge takes place at universities across the country and focuses on engaging cadets in challenging competition that enhances leadership and encourages teamwork, said a Ranger Challenge Web site.

"It is the Army physical fitness competition, 10 members that compete in events," Benedict said. "It is grueling but definitely worthwhile."

Ranger Challenge consists of several events including a grenade assault course, a written test on land navigation and infantry operations, and a test on assembly and disassembly of a rifle.

"There is definitely something to be said about pushing yourself beyond what you think you are capable of doing – it really does build your self confidence," Benedict said. "The ability to do that through a team really helps you develop your leadership skills and defines group relationships." ■

Nightmare on Greek Row



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Zane Ullman, a Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brother, welcomes guests into their haunted house, A Vandyville Horror, Sunday night at the old Phi Delt house. The event was co-sponsored by Kappa Kappa Gamma and National Panhellenic Council to benefit Youth AIDS.

ELECTION 2006

Democrats say Iraq dissatisfaction fuels party's momentum

Republicans say a liberal Congress would mean higher taxes, which would affect millions of Americans.

By Tom Raum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats claimed momentum heading toward the Nov. 7 elections as they sought to tap into voter unhappiness over Iraq. Republicans challenged polls showing a Democratic edge and said a major voter turnout effort would help them stay in power and limit losses.

Both sides agreed on Sunday that the war in Iraq was a leading, if not central, issue in the contests to decide control of the House and Senate.

"This election is becoming more and more a referendum on George Bush, his failed policies both overseas and at home with a rubber stamp Congress," said Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, head of the Senate Democratic campaign committee.

His Republican counterpart, Sen. Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina, said Iraq and the broader fight against terrorism were important issues, but "President Bush's name is not on the ballot." Democrats, she said, were trying "to make it a national referendum."

Schumer and Dole were among the politicians and party leaders who sparred on the Sunday talk shows just nine days before the elections.

Democrats need a gain of 15 seats to win control of the 435-member House and six seats to claim the 100-member Senate.

With approval slumping for both the war and the president, recent polls show Democrats have their best chance to reclaim the House since the GOP swept them from power in 1994, and a shot at capturing the Senate as well.

As the candidates entered their final full week of campaigning, House Democrats worked to emphasize the GOP role in the Iraq war. The party's campaign committee said it would air television commercials criticizing Republicans for supporting the war in about a dozen competitive races in the coming days.

"Despite a war gone wrong and no plan for victory, politicians like (Rep.) Rob Simmons keep voting to stay the course again and again," says one commercial, airing in Connecticut.

Democrats have increased the number of races where they are advertising in recent days, a sign of confidence as the election approaches. In addition to new offensives in Kansas, Kentucky and New Hampshire, officials disclosed plans to run commercials against Republican Rep. Jim Walsh this week in the area around Syracuse, N.Y.

House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, said polls showing a Democratic advantage, especially in the House, "don't mean anything, because what we have are 435 individual races all around the country, local candidates running on local issues."

"If we mobilize all our voters, we'll do well on Election Day," Boehner said.

Ken Mehlman, chairman of the Republican National Committee, sounded a common Republican theme – that a Democratic-led Congress would mean higher taxes. Democrats accused him of scare tactics.

Mehlman suggested "cross-the-board tax increases affecting millions of Americans" if Democratic Rep. Charles Rangel became chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. The New York lawmaker is now the panel's senior Democrat.

Last week, Vice President Dick Cheney contended Rangel wanted to undo popular tax cuts enacted during Bush's first term. Cheney's claim was based in part on Rangel's own remark that he could not think of one of Bush's tax cuts that merited renewal.

"Once again the vice president hasn't the slightest clue about what he's talking about. He's never talked with me and neither has anyone in the administration about taxes," Rangel said Sunday. Rangel said his own remarks referred to broad-based tax overhaul efforts.

"What I did say was that, if they want to have tax reform, if they want simplification, everything has to be on the table," Rangel said.

Democratic party chief Howard Dean said Democrats "have no intention of raising taxes except on the people who have got enormous tax breaks – like the oil companies – from the Republicans."

In Senate races, both national parties were focusing on a dwindling number of states, notably Tennessee, Missouri, New Jersey and Virginia.

Democrats had strong leads against Republican incumbents in Rhode Island, Montana, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

"The momentum here is outstanding on our side," said Democratic Rep. Harold Ford Jr. of Tennessee, vying for the seat now held by retiring Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

Ford denounced as "a piece of smut" an RNC-financed TV attack ad in which a white woman with bare shoulders says she met Ford at a "Playboy party," looks into the camera and whispers, "Harold, call me."

The ad does not mention that Ford is black. Civil rights groups complained the commercial makes an implicit appeal to a deep-seated racial fears about black men and white women.

"I don't think race had anything to do with that ad. I just think it was an uncalled-for, despicable, inappropriate ad," Ford said. He added, "The party of family values should not have run that in Tennessee or anywhere, for that matter."

Ford's GOP opponent, former Chattanooga, Tenn., mayor Bob Corker, was invited to appear with Ford but was not available, according to the Fox network.

Mehlman repeated his assertion that the RNC had no control over the independently produced ad, even though the RNC paid for it.

Also Sunday, rivals in Maryland's closely watched Senate race held a nationally televised debate in which Republican candidate Michael Steele,

the lieutenant governor, said the Iraq war was "a mess" and blamed the Pentagon for poor planning. Democratic Rep. Ben Cardin repeated his opposition to the war and said he hoped U.S. troops could be withdrawn by 2007; he called that a goal, not a deadline.

A poll released Sunday by The Washington Post had Cardin leading Steele by 11 percentage points.

In the New Jersey Senate race, Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez held a slight lead over Republican Tom Kean Jr., 48-42 percent in a poll published Sunday in The Record of Bergen County.

Meanwhile, the New York Times endorsed Connecticut Democrat Ned Lamont for Senate while The Hartford Courant and New Haven Register backed Sen. Joe Lieberman's independent bid for a fourth term.

"Ned Lamont has run a far less polished campaign than Mr. Lieberman, but the more we see of him, the more impressed we are by his intelligence and his growing sophistication about the issues facing the nation," the Times wrote.

Schumer, Dole and Ford were on "Fox News Sunday." Boehner appeared on ABC's "This Week," Dean and Mehlman on CBS' "Face the Nation," Steele and Cardin on NBC's "Meet the Press" and Rangel on "Late Edition" on CNN. ■

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OUR VIEW

The Hustler endorses Harold Ford, Jr.

In their final formal debate, Democratic candidate Harold Ford, Jr. and Republican candidate Bob Corker made a concerted effort to differentiate themselves. Ford considers himself part of a younger generation. Corker insists he has led more of a "Tennessee life." Ultimately, what stood out were the candidates' political similarities.

Ford and Corker hold similar positions on several key issues, including immigration reform and the need for alternative energy. Both candidates hold traditionally conservative social values. Their most heated arguments in the debate revolved around trivial matters such as Corker's alleged employment of illegal immigrants and which side had run a more negative campaign. The most substantive difference between the two candidates is their approach to the war in Iraq.

Throughout his campaign, Corker has repeated the theme of "stay the course." In Saturday night's debate, he anticipated that the war on terror would continue for "decades." Though Ford supports the war, he recognizes that it requires "a new set of tactics." Ford supports dividing Iraq into three separate Sunni, Shi'ite and Kurdish regions, a realistic plan with proven bipartisan support.

As a congressman, Ford has worked well with both Republicans and Democrats. Most recently he is co-sponsoring a bill with Republican Senator Rick Santorum. He has been as outspoken in his criticism of his own party as he has of his opposition, during the attempted filibuster of Samuel Alito and with issues regarding the war most notably. Ford has established himself as a strong individual rather than merely a person that toes the party line.

In an era marked by political division, this country needs senators that are willing to cross the aisle and promote unity. It needs senators that recognize failing policies and aren't afraid to take a stand in promoting realistic alternatives.

It is clear that Corker is trying to run a local campaign, but the differences between the candidates are primarily national issues.

Ford has demonstrated his focus on these issues by outlining specific plans for change in the debates. The change needed in this country, given the number of American lives that are at stake and our country's waning reputation, is our policy in Iraq. Ford has demonstrated that he is capable of working effectively towards a feasible solution in a bipartisan manner. For these reasons, we endorse Harold Ford, Jr. for Senate.

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 or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in The Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on our website.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to The Hustler office or via e-mail to editor@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either

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

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

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

CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

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"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Don Wright —MCT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Only women have the right to deal with unplanned pregnancies

To the Editor:

Kyle Larson's sophomoric letter addressing the male role in pregnancy termination teetered between the obvious and the absurd with a conclusion reveling in pro-life cliché. On one hand, his letter serves as a humbling reminder of the nature of human reproduction—it occurs in the bodies of women, not men.

Larson asks why men do not have a legislated right to assert agency in the outcome of unplanned pregnancies. He resents the powerlessness of men in these situations. On the more absurd side of things, he asserts: "Men should not, and will not, sit idly by as the fate of their children is wrenched from their hands." Yikes! Are the men of Vanderbilt planning on staging a revolution against women they impregnate? Are the men at Vanderbilt really anxious to make such important decisions not only for themselves, but also for others? The women I know who have been in such compromising positions resented having to make such difficult choices.

What Larson neglects to include in his letter is that most men in the United States are pro-choice. There are more pro-choice men in this country than pro-choice women. One unplanned pregnancy I am aware of interfaced with this statistic. The 23-year-

old woman wanted to include the biological co-creator in the decision process; however, she realized it was ultimately a decision she was going to live with for the rest of her life. While deciding to go through an adoption in order to provide a loving nuclear family for her son, she was ignored and called "self-indulgent" by the biological co-creator for refusing to adhere to his insistence upon having an abortion. Despite being 40 years old, successful and wealthy, he did nothing to help her or to take responsibility for his role in the situation.

Why? Because he resented that the decision was ultimately her own.

Why was it ultimately her decision? Because pregnancy occurs in the bodies of women, not men.

If Larson has a problem with this, he should take it up with God or develop science in order to achieve otherwise.

The situational role of men with respect to unplanned pregnancies stems from the biological role. Larson may not like it, but women going through the agony of an unplanned pregnancy don't like their position in the circumstance either. He writes in his letter: "People need to understand that a wild night of debauchery can lead to these sorts of situations, and one must learn to live with the consequences of one's actions."

“

The situational role of men with respect to unplanned pregnancies stems from the biological role...[At] the end of the day, pregnancies happen to women.”

Touché. For men, that means accepting that, at the end of the day, pregnancies happen in women.

I hope Larson will clip his letter from The Hustler, highlight the parts he is most proud of and post them on his refrigerator. As he grows older, he will read his words with different eyes. When he leaves the walls of Vanderbilt (or maybe while here), he will come to see that life is not a rigid map, and ultimately, biology and social location often trump the ideals of fairness and equality.

Kate Burke
Divinity School

COLUMN

Vanderbilt administration listens, responds to student opinions

At many other schools, the administration may be "higher-than-thou" and virtually impenetrable, but I am proud to say I go to a school where opinions are heard and actions

are taken based on these opinions. The head of Vanderbilt Dining. There are now healthier eating options on campus at The Pub and Music City Coffee Company has replaced Bravo Gelato.

Opinion Columnist
STEPHANIE FLEISCHMAN

I recently wrote about the faulty Card systems, and promptly got phone calls from the head of the Commodore Card office and again the head of Vanderbilt Dining. I was informed that they are working on improving the Card system already, and are working to get a network that is IP-based instead of comparable to the 56k modems of the past. The new systems are expected this spring.

These are just a few examples of how the administration listens with ears wide open to what students have to say and is incredibly responsive. Even if actions aren't taken, discussion is opened up, as evidenced by my recent article about homelessness.

If you observe issues with anything on

“

[The] administration listens with ears wide open to what students have to say and is incredibly responsive.”

campus, I encourage you to speak up because action will be taken if possible, or, at the very least, your opinions will be sought after and you will garner attention for these issues. It is important to realize that the administration does not necessarily know anything is wrong unless you voice problems to them.

—Stephanie Fleischman is a junior in the College of Arts and Science.

Fill in the blank

In this new series, contributors are asked to complete the phrase "I am _____ because..." by filling in the blank with an affiliation of their choice: political, religious, Greek, philosophical, academic or otherwise. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this series, and can do so by emailing opinion@vanderbilthustler.com with the subject "Fill in the blank."

I am a **democrat** because...

By Anna Falkner

I am a Democrat because I believe in creating the future of America. The people of today must be champions of the people of tomorrow, striving to improve and enrich our lives and the life of our nation.

I am a Democrat because I believe that the powerless deserve protection. Because the provision of subsidies to the powerless is in our nation's best moral and economic interest, I support a government made up of intelligent, well-trained individuals who love and appreciate the public good. I believe that it is my responsibility to hold all people to the highest ideal and to be a support and resource for their achievements.

I am a Democrat because I believe that protecting the powerless includes protecting our home and our land, seeking to enrich it and to make our time here on this earth a considerate one, leaving a land for our children that will make their time on this earth more potent and incredible for the care that we – and they – can give it.

I am a Democrat because I hold that the children of America deserve the attention of every possible caring adult. Every morning the entire nation wakes up to the responsibility of shaping our children into critically thinking, intelligent, creative and considerate individuals. I believe that teachers should be treated as professionals. They should be given the respect and resources that are necessary to fulfill their mission to influence the future of our country. I believe that every teacher should be "overly" qualified for his or her job, and the government should take on the responsibility of aiding them in that endeavor so the teachers of America represent to our children the very "salad bowl" that has made this country so culturally exciting.

The children of America deserve to be given a thoughtful and socially relevant education, one not based solely on the surface understanding children are required to demonstrate on standardized tests. Our government must give all students every resource so they may learn that the future of America is most important, that they are worthy and essential citizens of

these United States, and that they hold the responsibility for the care and development of their nation.

I am a Democrat because I believe in the equality of all humankind. We must strive to become an equitable and honorable nation. I believe that we as a nation must not become gender- or colorblind – to do so would mean becoming blind to the discrimination still present in our society.

It is the right of all people to hold jobs that match their abilities, to choose whom they marry and to fulfill their potential as responsible, contributing individuals.

I am a Democrat because I believe that every man, woman and child has a right to speak for themselves, no matter what it is they have to say. Free speech is the cornerstone of democracy; the language of our past shows us how to shape the language of our future.

I am a Democrat because I believe any person considering America the place where they can best live out their lives, where their children can make a difference and where they can contribute most to society should be free to make a legal and decent home here.

I am a Democrat because it is within the Democratic Party that I feel comfortable in my differences. I do not necessarily embrace every ideal, yet I believe that I have a place. My differences, though not standard principle, make me an interesting and valuable part of the political tête-à-tête, and they make me valuable within my party.

I am a Democrat because I believe that being progressive is a way of life. We must not ever be content with the status quo, because what is the progression of time without the progression of the mind and spirit of our nation? Every individual seeks to change and develop over time, to generate a potent and influential life and to create a lasting impression on the future of their society. Why should we not seek this as a body of people?

—Anna Falkner is junior in Peabody College and an officer in Vanderbilt College Democrats.

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 to with the subject "Rant" to:

opinion@vanderbilthustler.com

Compiled by Reeve Hamilton

"Why is The Hustler still allowing Chris Donnelly to write opinion columns? I just don't get it. I was mad when the fiasco around him broke out, but it wasn't until I saw his latest opinion column that I realized how little his actions taught us. Why should any of us even care what he has to say after he smeared the integrity of this university and everyone affiliated with it by appearing on Fox News after the 9/11 panel? You may think I might sound hypocritical about Donnelly's right to free speech. Donnelly threw away that right when he did not share his concerns with the people that mattered: us. Instead, Donnelly ran to Young America's Foundation and then to Fox News. If Donnelly wanted to express a grievance against this university, the U.S. public was not the appropriate audience. I was never consulted when Donnelly wanted to express his views beyond the university gates; neither was anyone reading this for that matter. I will not stand idly when one of my own peers devalues my college education by complaining to the free world. What he has done is completely unforgivable. The Hustler should not give him a second chance."

"Why would such a highly ranked and progressive university such as Vanderbilt allow abortion nonsense to appear as a leaflet in The Hustler? This is not Bob Jones University."

"Does anyone else feel the same way I do: The Hustler is painfully boring to read this semester?"

"I agree that being involved in a bunch of organizations that all do the same thing doesn't necessarily qualify one as "outstanding." But as a person who voted for and is a dear friend of the Homecoming Outstanding Senior, I do believe that being someone who impacts every person he meets and makes their life brighter and happier does qualify as someone who is "outstanding." And by being a senior who invests his time in so many people's lives on this campus, the Vanderbilt community definitely knows what is and is not "outstanding." I agree with the students."

Criticism of Michael J. Fox commercial unwarranted

A young, familiar face stares back from the television screen. He is almost an everyman; set apart by two distinctions. First, he is Michael J. Fox, famous movie and television star. Second, he



has almost no control over his movements as he weaves back and forth almost leaving the screen, a result of a worsening case of Parkinson's disease. Fox is a perfect illustration of the need for increased stem cell research.

Fox has been touring the country, appearing with candidates that support of stem cell research. The appearance that has garnered him the most attention is a television ad supporting Missouri's Democratic candidate for Senate, Claire McCaskill. The response from the opposition has been quick and ruthless.

The first attack was personal and came from conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh. "He is exaggerating the effects of the disease...He's moving all around and shaking and it's purely an act...This is really shameless of Michael J. Fox. Either he didn't take his medication or he's acting."

This attack quickly proved baseless. Fox's movements are a common side-effect, known as dyskinesia, of Parkinson's medication. If Fox were to be off his medication, he would have difficulty moving. Fox was, ironically, overmedicated for reasons of comfort. Michael Fox is also not allowing his disease to be "exploited" as Limbaugh has also accused. Rather, he is exerting his right to speak out about issues that he cares strongly about. In 2004, Fox recorded a similar ad for Republican Senator Arlen Specter.

The second attack against Fox was much less direct and much more political. Hoping to up the ante on Fox's star power, actors Jim Caviezel and Patricia

Heaton, along with sports stars Kurt Warner and Jeff Suppan filmed an ad instructing Missouri voters to vote against an amendment that would protect embryonic stem cell research. Despite Caviezel's creepy recitation of Aramaic, the most embarrassing moment belongs to former Rams quarterback Kurt Warner, who warns, "Californians agreed to spend 6 billion dollars on the exact same science. Now they admit there won't be any cures for at least 15 years. Same science. Six billion dollars. No cures." The bad news for the makers of this commercial is that they left in a blatant contradiction; the good news is that there could be cures for major diseases in as little as 15 years thanks to the very research they are opposing.

Both the personal and political attacks against Michael J. Fox have been without merit. Ultimately, the simple image of Fox struggling with his disease has proven to be the strongest case for stem-cell research. A study conducted by HCD research and Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion found that overall support for stem-cell research went from 78 percent prior to viewing the ad to 83 percent afterwards.

It is important that the minority who oppose this research, often a subset of those who call themselves "pro-life," realize what is actually being discussed. As Fox told CBS News anchor Katie Couric, "Hundreds of thousands of cells that are left over from in vitro fertilization are being wasted. People say 'protecting the unborn,' but they are going to be destroyed anyway. So let's use those cells to protect the unborn that are going to be born with diabetes, with genetic pre-disposition to Alzheimer's or Parkinson's or those that are going to be injured as children - spinal cord injuries. That is the 'pro-life' position."

Support for stem cell research is support for the value of the lives of Americans like Michael J. Fox, the late Christopher Reeve, Muhammed Ali, the incredible number of citizens that suffer daily and all of those that may in the future.

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CROSSWORD

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 - 17 Mike and George
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 - 21 Muscle spasm
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 - 26 Lawyers' grp.
 - 29 First part of a bray
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 - 37 Take down a peg
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 - 51 Decade divs.
 - 52 In a jiff
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 - 55 "Nova" network
 - 58 Once existed
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 - 9 Orestes' sister
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 - 18 Hi, on HI
 - 21 TV guide abbr.
 - 25 White House architect
 - 26 Loose-jawed
 - 27 Uncovers
 - 28 Not quite right
 - 31 Toss back and forth
 - 32 "Lou Grant" star
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 - 35 Fellow seamen
 - 36 Truly!
 - 40 Hit man
 - 41 Carved
 - 44 More immaculate
 - 46 Writer Zola
 - 48 Uncouth
 - 49 Letters in tennis?
 - 54 Chances to play
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