

**ELECTION 2006**

## Alumni compete in Kentucky election



Photo provided by JONATHAN RODGERS

Jonathan Rodgers, a 2002 graduate, displays his campaign sign with 1992 graduate Amanda Main Ferguson and her two-year-old daughter Maggie. The two are running for the same seat on the Lexington city board of education.

### Three Vanderbilt graduates appear on Lexington ballot.

By Ryan Farha  
STAFF REPORTER

The election ballot in Lexington, Ky., will feature three Vanderbilt alumni, two of them vying for the same seat on the city board of education, this November.

Jonathan Rodgers, a 2002 graduate, will face Amanda Main Ferguson, who earned her master of psychology in 1992, and two other candidates for the seat. Jim Gray, a 1975 graduate, is running for the position of vice mayor.

The Lexington Herald-Leader has endorsed all three Vanderbilt graduates. Among the six candidates for vice mayor, Gray was endorsed along with two others, and Ferguson and Rodgers were endorsed as the paper's first and second choices, respectively.

Rodgers said that he was happy to learn that his opponent also graduated from Vanderbilt.

"I thought it was fantastic," he said. "The board of education race is amazingly interesting because it's such a low-profile race. For the most part, we're the last thing on the ballot."

Gray said that the Vanderbilt-heavy ballot is proof of the university's promotion of civic

duty.

"It's a nice testament to Vanderbilt's encouragement of public service," he said. "I was encouraged that way when I was at Vanderbilt."

Rodgers agreed, saying that he attributes their combined presence on the ballot to a shared Vanderbilt experience.

"We all believe in the city, and we're all trying to approach the same thing because there's something that Vanderbilt instilled in us," he said.

Rodgers, Ferguson and Gray have Vanderbilt in common but all came from different backgrounds.

Rodgers is an accomplished cellist and photographer, Ferguson is an experienced educator, and Gray is the president and CEO of one of Lexington's largest companies.

Rodgers and Ferguson are competing against two other candidates: an elementary school principal of 15 years and a school bus driver of seven years.

"I've got a lot of good word of mouth. I'm trying to strategically place my yard signs; my working budget is about five hundred dollars," Rodgers said. "Then again, it's a complete crap shoot." ■

## Kappa Delta treats Girl Scouts



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The sisters of Kappa Delta sorority invite Girl Scouts to their house for a Halloween celebration where festivities included various arts and crafts projects as well as skits.

## Delta Sigma Theta hosts Fear Factor



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Quavaian Louis, Brandon Bryant and Darnell Martemus (left to right) eat pickled pig's feet during Fear Factor: Delta Style. Delta Sigma Theta and the Vanderbilt Programming Board teamed up Tuesday to create different Fear Factor challenges across campus.

**FACULTY**

## Faculty Senate reports rise in student mental health issues

Assembly to hold panel discussion on possible solutions.

By Allison Smith  
ASST NEWS EDITOR

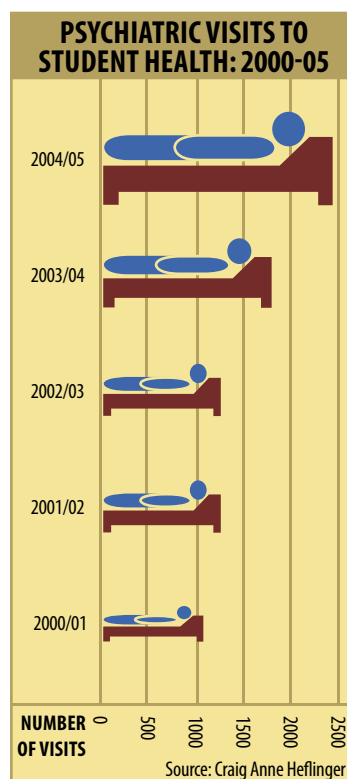
Students at Vanderbilt have more mental health issues than they did 11 years ago, according to a report by the Faculty Senate's Student Life Committee.

The Faculty Senate is the representative and deliberative body of the Faculties and is centrally involved in the governance of the university.

The report also states that colleges around the country are reporting increases in mental health-related issues. In order to combat these issues at Vanderbilt, the report recommends that administrators, faculty members and students must first "recognize how important these problems are."

"There are mental health problems among our students more than anyone is aware of," Craig Anne Heflinger, a member of the committee, said. "Vanderbilt has been doing a good job compared to other universities in many ways, but we need everyone to be better informed."

The Senate first reported its findings at the monthly Faculty Senate meeting on Oct. 5. According to Heflinger, the response she received included "nothing but support and interest" in her presentation.



On Thursday at its monthly, closed meeting, the Senate will hold a panel to discuss the committee's findings and the recommendations in the report.

SGA President Boone Lancaster is the only student representative on the panel. He said that his role on the panel would be to "make sure the Faculty Senate keeps sight of the students' perspective and our

perception of the resources available for health support."

"I think the administration is working really hard to make students aware of the resources available to them," Lancaster said.

"I was fortunate last semester to sit on the Health and Wellness Committee that made some of these recommendations. The biggest thing is just the lack of knowledge of what's available. There are many resources available that I'm only aware of because I was on the committee."

The report recommends that Vanderbilt increase resources for early identification and support for problems and addresses differential access among groups of students.

Sophomore Amy-Lee Gillard said the first step toward that goal is decreasing the negative associations related to seeking out a mental health professional.

"I think at Vanderbilt there's a big stigma about seeking help," she said. "They need to make it less taboo to access treatment."

The committee also recommended that Vanderbilt improve the infrastructure dealing with mental health issues. According to Heflinger, though, recent administrative changes that centralize the operation under Dean of Students Mark Bandas are a step in the right direction. ■

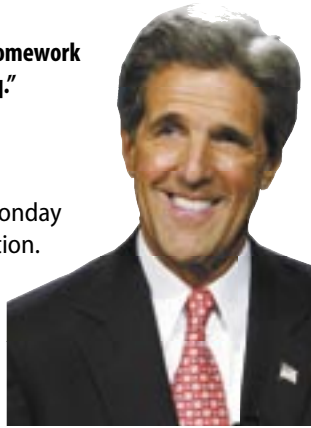


## QUOTABLE

**"You know, education—if you make the most of it, you study hard and you do your homework and you make an effort to be smart, you can do well. If you don't, you get stuck in Iraq."**

— Senator John Kerry

Kerry, D-Mass., spoke to students at Pasadena City College in California on Monday and was supposed to say, "I can't overstress the importance of a great education. Do you know where you end up if you don't study, if you aren't smart, if you're intellectually lazy? You end up getting us stuck in a war in Iraq." The joke was meant to be an attack on President Bush, not U.S. troops, according to Kerry.



Source: AP

## NOTABLE

Steve Milton, through concentration and perseverance, has created a 3,300-pound ball comprised of rubber bands that is almost 5 feet tall and takes up half his two-car garage. Though it's not official, the 26-year-old believes he has broken the record for the heaviest such ball, eclipsing John Bain's mark of 3,120 pounds.

Source: AP

## WEATHER FORECAST

### TODAY

Scattered T-Storms, 56/39

### THURSDAY

Showers, 58/33

### FRIDAY

Sunny, 52/35

## TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Allison Smith

### '80s Night to be held at Cohen

Chef's Table at Cohen will host '80s Night tonight from 5-7 p.m. Come dressed in your leg warmers and aviators!

### Holocaust Lecture Series presented in Sarratt Cinema

Tonight at 7 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema the Holocaust Lecture Series will present "Darfur Diaries: Messages from Home."

### Alpha Kappa Alpha celebrates Passion in Pink Month

Join the Eta Beta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as they celebrate Passion in Pink Month with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation at Sarratt Promenade tomorrow from noon to 2 p.m.

### Deadline Friday for climbing trip to Kings Bluff

The deadline is Friday to sign up for the Outdoor Recreation Center's climbing trip to Kings Bluff, Tenn. The price is \$16. Kings Bluff is a great location for both beginner and intermediate climbers. Some climbing experience is preferred, so try the wall first. Estimated trip duration is Saturday, Nov. 11 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Sign up for mountain biking trip to Bowie Nature Park

Beginning to advanced riders will pedal through piney woods, around lakes, through creeks and over rocks. There are just enough hills to create fun descents, and the terrain is suitable for all rider abilities. You must provide your own bike (you may rent one from local bike shops if you don't have one), helmet and water bottle. Estimated trip duration is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12. Deadline to sign up for the trip at the Outdoor Recreation Center is Friday.

### Sign up for spelunking trip Camps Gulf Cave

The most unique feature of this cave is the sheer size of three of its rooms. Since there is a lot of "breakdown," sturdy boots and lots of energy are the trip pre-requisites. Estimated trip duration is 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 12. Deadline to sign up for the trip at the Outdoor Recreation Center is Friday. Cost of the trip is \$27.

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

## VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Allison Smith

There was no crime to report.

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

## SERVICE GUIDE

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

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

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### BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## ELECTION 2006

# Facebook adds new element to 2006 political campaigns

*Web site links users directly to absentee ballots and poll results.*

By Sydney Wilmer  
STAFF REPORTER

Politicians and activists have found a new way to reach college students this election season—facebook.com.

Some politicians have used the popular social networking tool to create their own profiles and appeal to students through politically themed Facebook groups.

Facebook has also been used to increase college students' political motivation in general this year. For example, the "Rock the Vote" Facebook group links students directly to absentee ballots and poll results.

Freshman Kathleen Fuchs said the group might be accomplishing its goals, despite Facebook's often "trivial uses."

Although she said she is trying to "disengage herself from the Facebook community," she downloaded her absentee ballot through the link.

"I don't take Facebook that seriously, but I used it to get to my absentee ballot," she said. "I had been meaning to do it, but it saved me a hit to Google."

Fuchs said the ballot link might encourage students who would not otherwise vote via absentee ballot to obtain one online.

"Being at college, you are so removed from the world, you might not remember," she said. "This might remind you."

While college students have historically been politically active, students such as freshman Jensen Hart say Vanderbilt's insular nature limits their involvement.

"It is hard to be more politically alive when your life takes place in a two-block radius," she said.

She said Facebook could be a good tool to raise awareness because students rarely leave campus.

Freshman Cliff McCold agreed, pointing out the influence political Facebook groups have already had this year.

"Like we saw when the 'I Will Donate a Dollar to Darfur For Every 1,000 People That Join This Group' made the news, Facebook can have an impact," he said. "More than 500,000 people joined that group."

Groups can act as a form of petition, he said.

"Some of them try to get politicians to recognize the environment as a real political issue," he said.

Students such as McCold and freshman Philip Brenson said that information directly posted by politicians had less of an effect on them, however.

"I haven't seen but one or two, but I know they are just using it as a way to plug us," McCold said.

"I make up my mind before I say which candidates I support on Facebook," Brenson said. "I read their profiles, but it did not influence my choice on who to vote for."

Some students, such as Hart, are unable to see Facebook as a serious political tool, however.

"I consider myself more literally politically active than active on Facebook," she said. "When you put issues on Facebook, you automatically are demeaning them, putting them on the same level as photos you tagged from a party last weekend."

Others, such as freshmen Greg Pipes and Jeremy Sandler, said that group invitations seem like disingenuous ways to gain support for political views.

"A lot of people say they agree with issues just to add one more group to their list, but that doesn't mean it means anything," Pipes said.

"I've joined a lot of political Facebook groups, but they are mostly jokes," Sandler said. "Facebook is more important to stay in touch with friends and get closer to people in the Vanderbilt community." ■

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## Students celebrate Halloween with costume contest and cupcake bar in Rand Dining Center



The winners of the Rand Halloween Bash costume contest helped themselves to the cupcake decorating bar station. Tim Collazzi (left) won first place, Maria Gagliano won second and Miranda Lee (right) won third.

JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler

ELECTION 2006

## Politicians' children criticized for online photos

Some students say family issues are fair game in political contests.

By Kristen Chmielewski  
SENIOR REPORTER

Senatorial candidate Bob Corker has recently come under scrutiny for photos of his daughter found on the social networking site facebook.com.

The current race between Corker and Harold Ford Jr. has increasingly focused on the personal lives of the candidates, drawing upon the lives of candidates' family members.

Julia Corker, 18, has received particular attention for tagged photos of her kissing another young woman and dancing in her underwear at a college party.

Similar cases have arisen regarding the children of other notable public figures and candidates.

For example, other criticized Facebook photos include those of Shelley Davis, daughter of Rep. Tom Davis, holding a handle of alcohol; Pierce Mallon Bush, nephew of President George W. Bush, partying; Caroline Gohmert, daughter of Rep. Louis Gohmert, riding a mechanical bull and being groped atop a bar table; and Jonathan Frist, son of Sen. Bill Frist, donning a beer belt.

The ethics of bringing such personal information into the public sphere have been debated. For example, Bruce Oppenheimer, a Vanderbilt political science professor, raised concerns about who is actually posting such information.

"Is it a member of an opposing campaign, is it a political specialist, is it another student, or is it a random individual?" he asked. "Either way, you don't know who exactly is bringing this information to light."

Oppenheimer also said that this information is not even relevant to a campaign.

"In my personal opinion, I think that going into a candidate's personal life and family should be out of bounds for the campaign," he said.

Senior Rachel Kochert said that the children of political figures should be given the same rights as normal college students.

"They should have the same rights as other students to have fun and relax among friends," she said. "We should be focusing on the campaign. Sorry, but what their kids do has nothing to do with what the political figure will do once elected."

Oppenheimer said ultimately each voter must decide whether such information is important in forming perceptions of public officials.

"The information is easily available for public view and scrutiny," he said. "The real problem lies in whether the public will be susceptible to this information and use it in their perceptions of the campaigns."

Students, such as senior Stephen Johnson and junior Laura Sensenig, said that family issues were fair game even though the children are not the ones being elected to office.

"These pictures of politicians' kids should be fair game, because if a senator doesn't have control over his own family, does that foreshadow how he or she is to run the state or the country?" Johnson asked. "On the other hand, though, these are college kids having fun, and they are not the ones who will be elected to office."

"I feel like senator's family issues are not relevant and should not influence their campaign; however, once familial issues have been brought to the forefront by an opposing party, I feel using family issues as a political hinge is fair game," Sensenig said. ■

ELECTION 2006

## Negative advertising marks Tennessee race

RNC ad denounced by many.

By Harish Krishnamoorthi  
STAFF REPORTER

The senatorial race between Harold Ford Jr. and Bob Corker has become characterized by negative advertising.

With Election Day approaching, polls show Ford and Corker within a few percentage points of each other.

John Geer, a Vanderbilt political science professor who recently wrote a book on negative advertising, said negative ads are a common feature of American politics.

"There are lots of ads that have gotten a lot of comment in the news media," he said. "I think the public will deal with the negative ads and deal with the choices."

In fact, Geer endorses the idea that negative advertising can be a beneficial part of the election process.

"They can be helpful because you can learn useful information about candidates," he said. "When you're buying a car you need to know the good and the bad, the same with candidates."

In Tennessee, an advertisement supported by the Republican National Committee has drawn national media attention to the Corker-Ford race.

At the end of this particular ad, a white woman claims that she met Ford at the Playboy mansion and asks him to call her. It has also been said that the ad plays off racist fears of interracial relationships.

While Ford admitted that he attended a Playboy-sponsored Super Bowl party in 2005, Corker

has labeled the ad "tacky." He has attempted to make it clear that the ad is sponsored by the RNC, not the Corker campaign.

However, Geer said the ad might have had a negative effect on the Corker campaign despite his disapproval.

"We can't be sure, but I think the ad had backlash against Corker for a little bit because it forced Corker to play defense for a week," Geer said. "It's alright to make fun of the Playboy party, but what was the goal of that part of the ad?"

While the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and various politicians have condemned the advertisement, the RNC has disagreed, calling the ad "fair" and refusing to remove it.

"That's their call," Geer said. "That's a judgment, not bad or good. It doesn't have a place in politics and the Republicans regret that."

However, Tennessee is not the only state with to employ a heavy amount of negative advertising, Geer said.


"I think this is common in all parts of the country," he said. "Maybe the Playboy ad was unique to Tennessee, but the parties don't have a lot to run on, and it results in a lot of attacks."

Geer said Ford campaign's advertising has been slightly more effective than Corker's.

"Ford overall, but I think Corker's latest have been his best," he said. "There will continue to be money spent, but overall, you may have to give a slight edge to Ford." ■


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# OPINION



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## OUR VIEW

### Mental health awareness is vital

With the Faculty Senate's report on the rise of mental health issues Vanderbilt students, it is imperative that we make ourselves aware of the resources available with which to address them.

Students should educate themselves on the effects of mental illnesses not only to better take care of themselves, but so that they can stay vigilant in preserving the well-being of their friends as well.

At Vanderbilt, students have, among other resources, the Psychological & Counseling Center, Student Health, the Office of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Prevention, the Vanderbilt Police Department, and the Opportunity Development Center.

If a student notices signs of depression, substance abuse or other abnormal behavior in themselves or their friends, it is their duty to seek help.

In a stressful college environment, it is very easy for students to feel overwhelmed or depressed. We encourage students to take advantage of the counseling center and other resources to improve their overall mental wellness.

### Speakers Committee picks well

Often, seeking help for psychological disorders can be difficult. It is not always easy to admit the existence of a problem, and doing so is often associated with a fear of being stigmatized. Jamie Lynn Sigler's appearance at Vanderbilt will hopefully make the act of seeking help for mental health issues less taboo.

Sigler is best known for her portrayal of the character Meadow on HBO's award-winning, hit show "The Sopranos." Many viewers may not be aware that Sigler has had a long struggle with an eating disorder. She chronicled this struggle in her book "Wise Girl: What I've Learned About Life, Love, and Loss." Now, as a spokesperson for the National Eating Disorders Association, she tours the country raising awareness and reducing the stigma associated with such disorders.

Speakers Committee has recently brought such notable people as Maya Angelou and Paul Rusesabagina. While Sigler is notably different in subject matter, she still brings an important and relevant message to our campus. Speakers Committee is to be commended for arranging this event and addressing an issue that has not received enough productive discussion on this campus.

## 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

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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.

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

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

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United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
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(615) 352-9411

**U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander**  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 225-4311  
(615) 736-5129

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

**Rep. Edith Langster**  
Tenn. District 54  
35 Legislative Plaza  
Nashville, TN 37243-0154  
(615) 741-1997

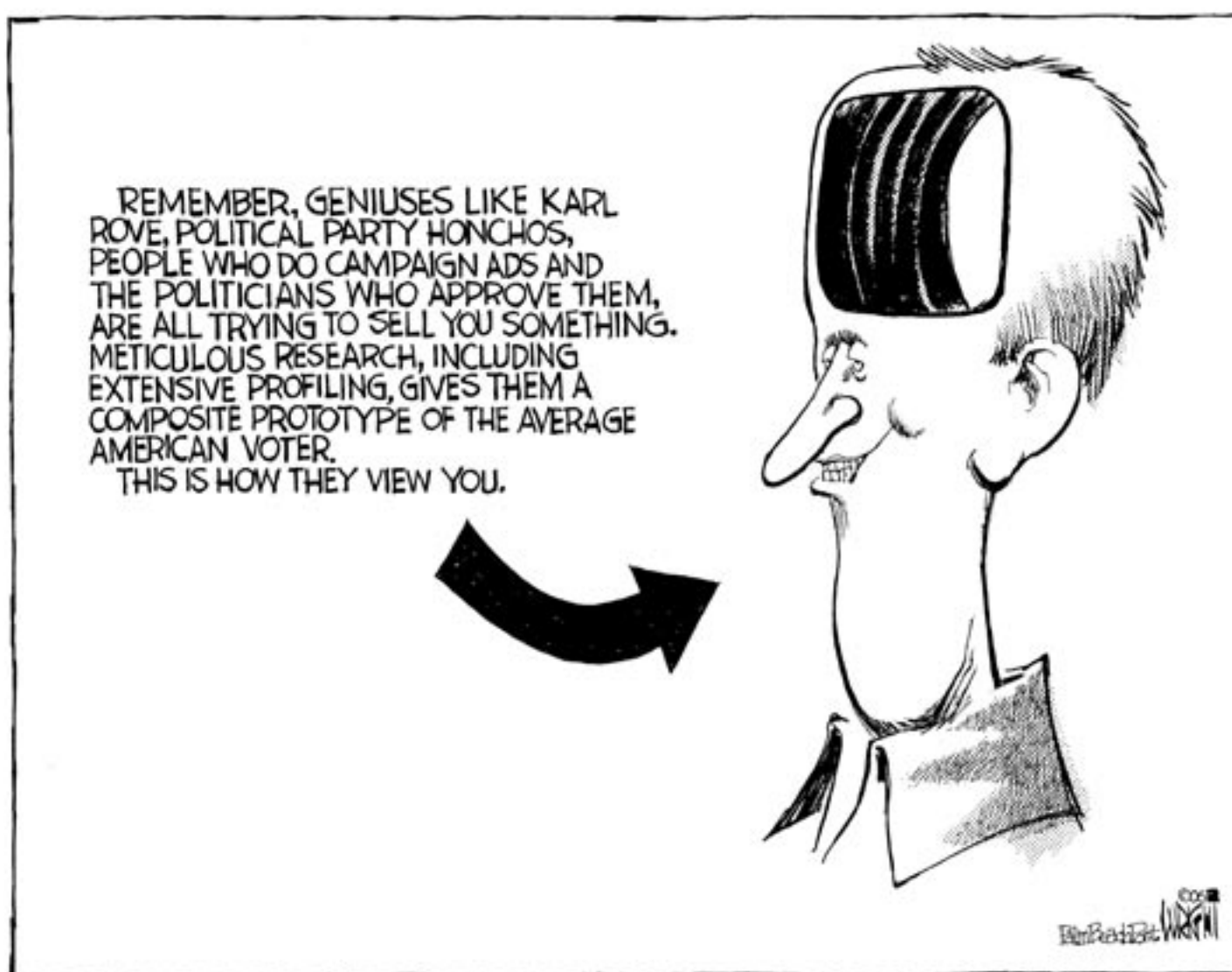
**Sen. Douglas Henry, Jr.**  
Tenn. District 21  
11 Legislative Plaza  
Nashville, TN 37243-0021  
(615) 741-3291

**Councilor Ginger Hausser**  
Metro District 18  
521 Chesterfield Avenue  
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The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



Don Wright —MCT

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Hustler's coverage of Senate debate is biased

#### To the Editor:

I am shocked that the article "Ford Corker face off at Vanderbilt debate" was so amazingly biased toward Harold Ford Jr., coupled with the paper's endorsement of Ford in the very same issue. The article spent much of the time either quoting Democratic Congressman Jim Cooper, who was not countered with any respected Republican leader, and then also with quotes from students who said that the debate was either won by Ford or was "even." Frankly, when reading the article online, I had to double-check to make sure I was reading a news piece and not an opinion article. To my dismay, it turned out that it was a front-page article.

It is certainly the paper's choice as to whom to endorse as an editorial board. I served on the editorial board when we voted to endorse John Kerry in 2004, and while I voted to endorse Bush, I supported the paper's right to make the endorsement in the first place. However, our reporting in the news section was, to use a popular phrase, "fair and balanced." This article, appearing as "news," which could be more appropriately termed an extension of the editorial board's opinion, was an absolute disappointment to all readers who expect a fair and accurate assessment from the news writers of The Hustler. We expect that when you present one side, you present the other side as well. In such a heated contest as this election, one would expect that the newspaper would take greater

care in presenting its news articles as accurate, fair and representing all sides of an issue.

For instance, this quote: "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..." While this is a quote of just one political science professor, it is not countered at all by any other person who would refute that Ford is charismatic or that Corker makes personal attacks. It is absolutely ridiculous to present the race as a choice between Ford's charisma and Corker's personal attacks, and not have any other person respond to it from the other side. The list goes on, from Jim Cooper's heavy quotation to the lack of any positive assessment by a student of Corker's performance, despite the fact that outside the debate hall Corker supporters outnumbered Ford supporters by almost a 3- or 4-to-1 margin.

This article did not represent the facts correctly or responsibly. It was completely skewed toward representing Ford as the winner of the debate when this is not the duty of the news section of the paper.

**Michael Wilt**  
Senior, Arts & Science

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Cartoon insults American soldiers

#### To the Editor:

As I perused Monday's edition of The Hustler, I was filled with disgust at the insensitivity of the editorial cartoon. The cartoon, depicting a headstone of a soldier killed in action in Iraq was not only distasteful, but it was disrespectful to all soldiers and their families. The inscription on the tombstone read, "Sent to Iraq during official slogan 'Stay the Course'/Killed in Iraq during new official slogan 'Victory is Essential.'" I applaud The Hustler for attempting to exercise one of the basic rights we have in the U.S. of criticizing our government officials and their policies, but instead of doing this, the cartoon mocked the dead. It dishonored our fallen heroes by equating the value of their sacrifice to an official slogan. This cartoon did not attack President Bush as I believe it intended to do. This cartoon was a personal attack on all soldiers and their families. The soldiers that fight and die in service of our country deserve more respect from this paper. These brave men and women are not fighting because of a slogan. They risk, and some sacrifice, their lives and limbs for the basic ideals and freedoms we take for granted, such as the right to publish this cartoon. This cartoon equated the value of human life to a ridiculous piece of propaganda. Even if you disagree with a slogan, or even with the war in general, our soldiers should not be mocked.

**Kimberly Norton**  
Biological Sciences Department

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Burke's response confusing

#### To the Editor:

Moving the discourse back somewhere towards the direction of relevance and out of the mud-slinging pit Kate Burke used in her response to my letter to the editor, I must confess myself somewhat confused as to the point of her letter. I will admit my own letter did indeed have overtones of a pro-life stance; however, I never asserted that men should have any control over what goes on with the woman's body, and thus I find Burke's entire letter nothing short of amusing. I merely pointed out that currently, if men try to fight women on abortion, they are labeled as domineering chauvinistic pigs, and if they try to fight against responsibility after birth, they are sneered at as playboys trying to weasel his way out of his choices. How can women claim the power to opt out of parenthood and not allow men the same choice? Not to mention Miss Burke asserts, "Are the men of Vanderbilt planning on staging a revolution against women they impregnated?" followed by, "The women I know who have been in such compromising positions resented having to make such difficult choices." Burke has artfully managed to word everything so as to make it seem as if every abortion performed is the result of a near rape. I dare say most unplanned pregnancies hardly happen under such conditions.

I would like to call into question where Burke obtained her statistic that "most men in the United States are pro-choice." Dr. Arthur Shostak, a professor of sociology at Drexel University, is the author of "Men and Abortion: Lessons, Losses and Love"; one of, if not the, premier study in the relationship between men and abortion. In his studies, Shostak found that a fourth of the men he interviewed who had been involved with an abortion offered to pay the costs of child-raising if the woman would have the child; half of the men offered marriage and to raise the child together. More than one in four men who accompanied their partner/spouse to the abortion clinic felt it was akin to murder. These statistics, documented I might add, seem to be conflicting with Burke's sentiments that men just can't wait to shirk responsibility by supporting abortion.

In a recent 2003 Gallup poll, 72 percent of Americans support spouses notifying their partner in the event of a planned abortion — 79 percent of men responded in favor, as did 67 percent of women. Also, a CBS News poll conducted this very year shows that over half of Americans polled were against abortion, unless the mother's life or health were threatened or in the event of a rape. Another 15

Please see LARSON, page 5

# 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](mailto:opinion@vanderbilthustler.com) with the subject "Fill in the blank."

## I am a **republican** because...

By Jared Anderson

No one said being a Republican in 2006 was easy. Next week's election is the most competitive we have seen in a while, and this could turn out to be one of the most pivotal in determining our nation's future path. It is helpful during times like this to revisit the reasons and principles that support one's political views. Although principles don't always match practice, I am a Republican because of the principles that the Republican Party is built upon.

The Republican Party is the party committed to a political system that maximizes economic liberty through free enterprise, individualism and free markets. I recall receiving my first paycheck two years ago and being frustrated at the chunk deducted by the federal government. I had worked for six hours that week for wages that I won't see anytime soon. The Republicans stand for lower government spending and lower taxes. The money our nation saves from a lower portion of government spending in the gross domestic product is freed up for investment spending, which, in the long run, will increase GDP, tax revenues and the overall standard of living for all Americans of every income bracket.

The Republican Party understands and seeks to address the challenge facing our strongest social programs. Republicans work to lower the taxes on Social Security benefits. Republicans favored raising the Social Security earnings limit. When it appeared that Social Security would not be sustainable in its current form, it was the Republican Party that offered solutions to the problem instead of idle words.

The Republican Party defends our rights as citizens and property owners. The Kelo eminent domain decision came down from the Supreme Court last year and enabled governments to take land from an individual if a wealthy developer could generate more tax revenue with it. It was the conservative Republicans on the Court who strongly dissented from the decision, arguing it violated property rights. Republican legislators around the nation proposed legislation to protect homeowners from having their land stolen from them.

The Republican Party trusts the citizens of our nation. Republicans trust citizens to do what they feel is best with their money without government interference. Republicans trust citizens to own firearms in order to hunt and defend their homes if necessary. Republicans trust citizens to say whatever they like, even if it isn't politically correct.

The Republican Party recognizes and understands the threats

that face America today. In the 1990s, President Clinton attempted to bribe North Korea out of building nuclear weapons, but North Korea built weapons anyway. The Republican Congress and our Republican president understand that such an approach will not work. The Republicans also understand that terrorism is not a result of a misunderstanding between cultures. They know that there are many people in this world who do not share our interests and goals, and our nation's foreign policy must stand against those people when they threaten our national interests and security.

The Republican Party is the party of ideas and efficient government. It was the Republican Congress that first proposed term limits for congressmen. It was the Republican Congress that first introduced the Balanced Budget Amendment to the constitution and supported the line-item veto. It was the Republican Congress that demanded that all congressional committee meetings be open to the public as a matter of good governance. It was the Republican Congress (not Bill Clinton, who is often erroneously credited) that proposed and enacted welfare reform.

The Republican Party supports the environment but also understands that our protection of the environment must not come at the cost of destroying businesses' and workers' jobs. When we impose unrealistic environmental regulations on our factories, we see the results when those factories must lay off thousands of workers to offset the cost of regulation compliance. Republicans support policies that protect both working families and the environment through increased investment in environmentally friendly technology.








For all its faults and missteps, the Republican Party is still the best vehicle to enact policies that will benefit all Americans. In practice, our political parties often fall short of the expectations that we, as Americans, set for our government. Many times, the policies that the Republican Party enacts are not rooted in Republican principles. But time and time again, they come closer than our friends across the aisle.

In the end, it is the Republican Party that stands for efficient government, free enterprise, free citizens, and a safe and secure America, and that is why I am a Republican.

—Jared Anderson is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science and Vice President for Membership in the Vanderbilt College Republicans.

### THE VERDICT

The opinion staff passes judgement on everything inside the bubble and out.

Oprah		Gives everyone in her audience 1K for charity. Now they can all be mini-Oprahs.
Witherspoon-Phillipe		Reese and Ryan call it splits. Hopefully divorce helps their careers as much as it did Nick and Jessica.
Abstinence-only education		Government spending on abstinence-only education for people up to age 29. Sounds as futile as the war on drugs.
Representative Loretta Sanchez		Congresswoman critical of no-fly list winds up on it. Is this coincidence, karma or Karl Rove?
Hubble telescope		NASA announces repair mission in 2008, reversing earlier decision. More pretty pictures on the way.
John Kerry		Messes up speech and seems to attack troops instead of Bush. Big difference there, buddy.
Bob Barker		Announces that the time is right for retirement after 50 years in television

## LARSON: Letter misses point

From LARSON, page 4

percent support greater restrictions, while only slightly over a quarter of Americans support non-regulated abortion.

Furthermore, in a random telephone survey conducted by the Los Angeles Times, only 7 percent of men and 8 percent of women admitted to being involved with an abortion – a statistic that was well under even a third of the expected rates. This in turn leads to the fact that a majority of persons who have an abortion performed feel a sense of shame about their actions, since of course the argument that it is a private matter is null and void in an anonymous survey. One would tend to think that feelings of shame are associated with actions one internally deems as "wrong." Of course, that would only be logical, and thus should be thrown out the window, correct?

I never intended to write a piece that was firmly entrenched in the pro-life category, but, again, to merely bring into the discussion a related matter. However, Burke's charming letter, although I remain baffled as to the nature of her rebuttal, has prompted me to write this follow-up article. I of course espouse that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and it is usually my habit not to respond to rebuttals – however, her letter was not an opposition to the argument, but rather little more than an attempt to belittle the author instead of the position. I sincerely hope that in future publications Burke will avoid name-calling and childishness and instead focus on the issues.

Kyle Larson  
Sophomore, Arts & Sciences

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# FUN & GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

### 10/30/06 SOLUTIONS

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

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**  
1 Cattle calls  
5 Titled women  
10 Longing  
14 Environs  
15 Florida city  
16 Leg part  
17 Rob Reiner's father  
18 Inhibit  
19 Hourglass filler  
20 Lift  
22 Spare no expense  
24 Faced the day  
26 \_\_\_ it up (emoted)  
27 More protracted  
30 Cacophony  
32 Not of this world  
33 Night light  
34 Engagement  
38 Hubbub  
39 Stuck  
42 Nest-egg letters  
43 Female deer and hare  
45 Jug lugs  
46 Ocean speck  
48 Slight trace  
50 Turning points  
51 Pressing  
54 River mouth  
56 Be suitable  
58 Actor Massey  
62 At once, to an MD  
63 Underwater detection device  
65 Fencing weapon  
66 Part of HOMES  
67 Needle  
68 Getz or Musial  
69 Related  
70 Frozen raindrops  
71 Catch sight of
- DOWN**  
1 Delicate fabric  
2 Like a dental exam  
3 Existed  
4 Saving imperiled property  
5 Seuss or Spock

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62						63	64			65				
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

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11/1/06

- 6 Rancher's measure  
7 \_\_\_ tai (rum cocktail)  
8 Shade trees  
9 Deep blue gem  
10 Took for granted  
11 Beguile  
12 Door hardware  
13 Concluded  
21 Where the action is  
23 Vegas lead-in  
25 Went in  
27 Alan of "Shane"  
28 Potpourri  
29 Baseball team  
31 Dinghy tools  
33 Uneven hairdo  
35 Is not well  
36 Family diagram  
37 Has a snack  
40 Caries spotters  
41 Unclean  
44 Marked text to imperiled keep  
47 Blue-eyed cat  
49 Balin or Claire

### 10/30/06 SOLUTIONS

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- 50 Red table wine  
51 Unexpected victory  
52 Fashionably old-fashioned  
53 Legendary chalice  
55 Expunge  
57 Mr. Coward  
59 Makes a choice  
60 Certain tide  
61 Turn down  
64 Stirling negative

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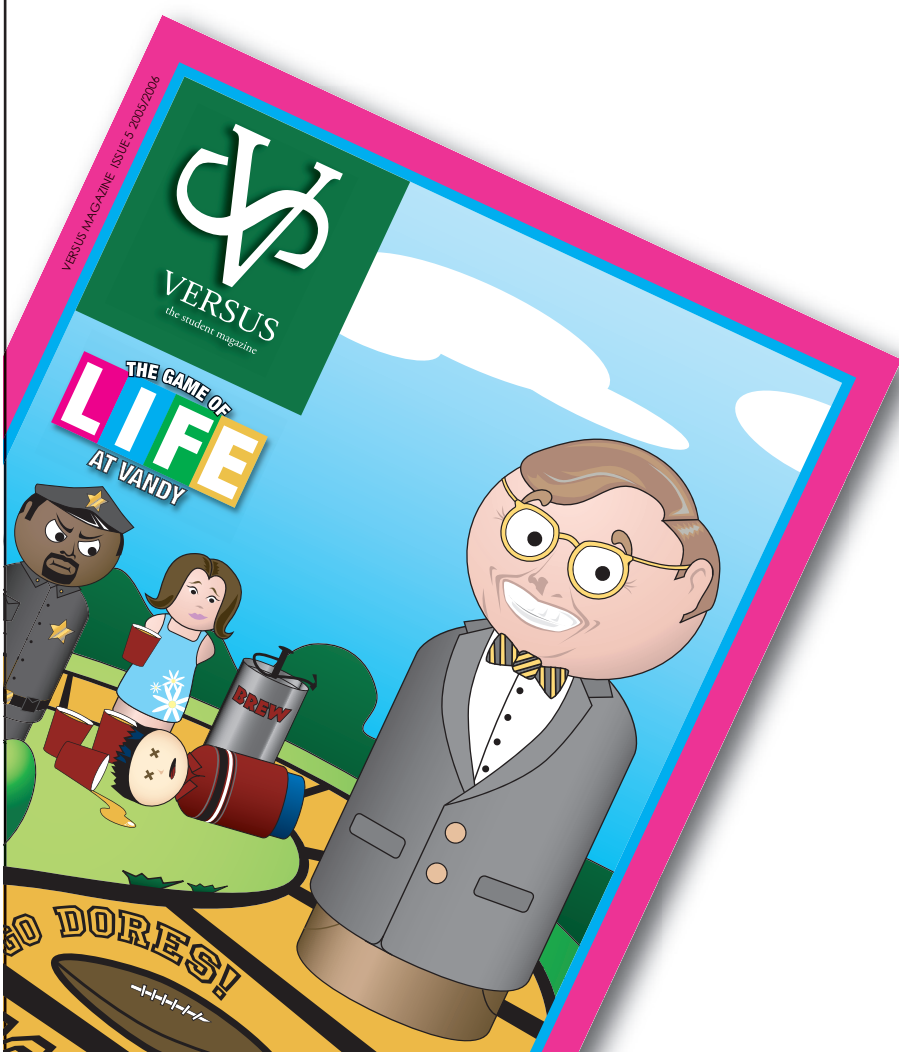


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