



Professor Mark Dalhouse and his students discuss the 2006 midterm elections while watching the results come in on CNN in the Branscomb lobby Tuesday night. Dalhouse teaches a freshman seminar on student activism.

ELECTION 2006

Democrats gain ground in Senate, House Corker wins Tennessee Senate seat.

By Anne Malinee
STAFF REPORTER

Resurgent Democrats toppled Republican senators in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Rhode Island and gained ground in the House Tuesday, challenging Republicans for control of Congress in midterm elections shaped by an unpopular war in Iraq and scandal at home.

Congressional Democrats, locked out of power for most of the past dozen years, needed gains of 15 seats in the House and six in the Senate to capture majorities.

In Tennessee, former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker narrowly defeated Democratic Rep. Harold Ford Jr., with 51 percent of the vote.

Incumbent Democrat Phil Bredesen won the Tennessee gubernatorial race over opponent Jim Bryson, and Rep. Jim Cooper, the Democrat incumbent for the Tennessee fifth district congressional seat, won easily over Tom Kovach.

Vanderbilt students congregated in Sarratt Art Gallery to take shuttles to the polls sponsored by the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, Leaders Engaged for an Active Democracy, and the Student Government Association.

Junior Mary Ellen Hadley, a first-time voter who is supporting Harold Ford Jr. for Senate, said, "It's important to just get involved and say you have a part in what's going on, make your voice heard."

Please see ELECTIONS, page 4

Living Wage (n.): Supporters, administration disagree on term

In this issue, The Hustler takes a closer look at the growing debate over instituting a living wage at Vanderbilt. This term is widely used by supporters to describe the income employees must receive in order to provide basic necessities for themselves and their families. While a recent poll shows a strong majority of students support a living wage at Vanderbilt, the administration has said the term represents an arbitrary number. Pay for Vanderbilt employees is being negotiated as contracts expire Nov. 15.

By ALLISON SMITH asst news editor

Rain poured around a 20-by-20-foot white tent on Rand Terrace, one of campus's most highly trafficked spots. Unfazed by the weather, the uniformed workers and students huddled under the tent on Oct. 27 and pleaded for a living wage at Vanderbilt.

"This is a question about justice, dignity and fairness," Divinity School professor Melissa Snarr shouted above the crowd's "amens" and "mmhms."

"Morality demands a living wage," Snarr said.

Grounded in the idea that someone who works full time should not have to live in poverty or rely on public assistance, the living wage is calculated differently by supporters for every city. The living wage in Nashville calculated in 2005 by the student-led Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees organization is \$10.18 an hour or \$42,336 a year for a dual-income family of four.

University officials do not acknowledge the term "living wage," but they agree that the lowest-paid workers should receive a pay increase. They said that LIVE's calculations are arbitrary and that the market determines pay for employees. In addition, officials said organizations like LIVE do not take into account other advantages of working at Vanderbilt, such as the environment and health benefits.

About half of the 603 Vanderbilt employees represented by Laborer's International Union of North America are paid less than \$10 an hour, according to the union.

The living wage sit-in, organized by LIVE, took place just weeks before the employee contract is set to expire Nov. 15. Among other terms of employment, the contract determines rate of pay for Vanderbilt's workers. It is negotiated every five years between LIUNA, the union that represents Vanderbilt's employees, and the

administration.

Beau Worsham, the union representative in Vanderbilt's negotiations, said he expects to make big changes in the employee contract this year because of a recent spike in union membership. The new members are mostly those who earn the lowest wages at Vanderbilt.

The union, which is primarily composed of blue-collar workers, has almost doubled in size, increasing its dues-paying members to 400 within the last two years, Worsham said.

The union's proposed pay plan would increase employees' base pay and give them a pay increase each year on the job, regardless of performance.

"We are asking for some pretty cutting-edge, out-of-the-box sort of language that will completely change the pay plan system here at the university," he said.

While university officials said they support an increase in wages for those at the bottom of the pay scale, they also want to keep pay in line with the market and what other Nashville employers pay their workers.

"We share in the desire to modify

“Know that our interest is to have as much equality in the system as we can.”

the rates of the lowest paid," said Kevin Myatt, Vanderbilt's chief human resources officer. "We may differ on how to get there, but we agree on the need to do it."

Myatt said that the union is "trying to take the negotiations to the public."

"Know that our interest is to have



Vanderbilt employees, Markus Ford, James Johnson, Michael "Hoss" Barridge, Clinton Hall, Dequita, John London, Suzanne, Be Le, James, could be affected by an increase in base pay.

as much equality in the system as we can," Myatt said. "We are supportive of an evaluation process, but we have a difference of an opinion with the union of what pay for employment

“Morality demands a living wage.”

is. Beau is asking that we reward employees for every year in the job. That is not how we structure our compensation policies."

Part of a larger movement

The voices of living wage supporters at Vanderbilt echo those of other colleges and organizations across the country.

The first living wage ordinance was passed in 1994, after workers in some of Baltimore's homeless shelters and soup kitchens noticed that many of their visitors coming for food and shelter held full-time jobs. They noticed that

the minimum wage to about \$2 more than the federal minimum wage.

Now, more than a decade after the first living wage ordinance was

passed, 140 municipalities across the country and universities such as Georgetown, Harvard and Belmont have adopted a living wage for employees.

However, according to Vanderbilt political science professor John Geer, the issue still receives little coverage in mainstream media, leading to a sluggish rate of improvement in workers' pay.

"It is not a part of what most voters cite as an important issue," Geer said. "There are, unfortunately, many pressing concerns that never get a lot of attention. This is such an example."

History of living wage at Vanderbilt

At Vanderbilt, the living wage debate involves a disagreement between those who say Vanderbilt faces a moral imperative to adopt a living wage and those who view living wage as an intellectual

argument that should be explored through theoretical discussion while the market continues to set the base pay.

As far as Vanderbilt's role in the national issue, Kevin Myatt, Vanderbilt's chief human resources officer, said he is "not in position to determine what our role is on the national front."

"Living wage is a complex issue that has many moving parts and is not solely about base pay compensation," Myatt said.

Currently, the base pay for workers at Vanderbilt is \$7.55 an hour. In 2004, the union and the administration increased wages to this amount from \$6.50 an hour. The change was made in a wage re-opener, which allows the union and administration to discuss pay increases between contract negotiations, as provided for in the employee contract negotiated five years ago.

The employment contract in negotiation right now "may very well be their only opportunity within the next five years to address the issue of a living wage. The university is pushing for a five-year agreement with no re-openers," said Beau Worsham, the union representative in Vanderbilt's negotiations.

Economics and emotions

Kevin Myatt, Vanderbilt's chief human resources officer, said that the human resources department thinks about what Vanderbilt can do to develop the abilities of each employee it hires.

"I would much rather spend time and energy to put a program in place to provide people the opportunity to gain new skills," Myatt said. "That skill will allow them to provide the best for their families regardless of where they work."

Administrators also said that the numbers behind living wage are difficult to calculate, and, according

THE STUDENT VOICE

How familiar are you with the issue of a living wage?

Not at all	Not very	Somewhat	Very
18%	17%	50%	15%

Do you think that the issue of a living wage affects you?

Yes	No
55%	45%

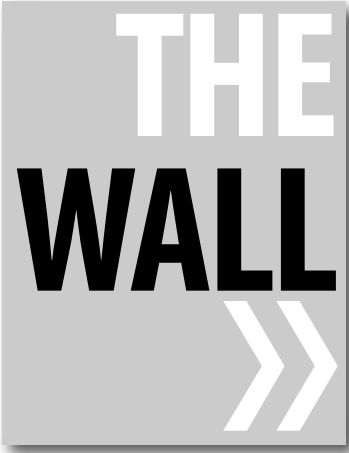
Would you support a living wage at Vanderbilt?

Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support
8%	16%	39%	37%

Will the issue of a living wage be a factor in your voting decisions in the November elections?

Yes	No	Not Voting
53%	27%	20%

Margin of error: +/- 5 percent. Polling conducted by Scott Clement for The Hustler.



BY THE NUMBERS

49%

Increase in Tennessee early voting turnout over the 2002 midterm with more than 867,000 people participating, spurred by interest in the race to replace Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.



Source: AP

NOTABLE

Brad Gomez, an assistant professor at the University of Georgia, found that "rain significantly reduces voter participation at the polls by a rate just under 1 percent per inch," and that every inch of rain cuts the Democratic vote by 2.5 percentage points in a study titled "The Effect of Bad Weather on Voter Turnout and Partisan Vote Share in U.S. Presidential Elections, 1948-2000."

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY
Partly Cloudy, 63/50

THURSDAY
Sunny, 75/55

FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy, 77/61

Source: AP

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Allison Smith

Writing Studio to speak with university speechwriter

The Writing Studio will hold an event entitled "On Writing: A Conversation with Laura Miller" today at 4:30 p.m. The conversation will provide an opportunity for audience members to pose their own questions and talk with her about speechwriting techniques. Laura Miller is senior public affairs officer and chief speechwriter for Vanderbilt.

American Beerpong Association to hold tournament at Buffalo Billiards

The American Beerpong Association of America, founded by 2006 graduate Kyle Lininger, will hold a beerpong tournament Thursday night from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Buffalo Billiards. The cost to play is \$5 a person. There is limited space, so to pre-register, please call (240) 671-2733.

Alpha Delta Pi and Interfaith Council sponsor panel discussion

Vanderbilt's Interfaith Council and Alpha Delta Pi are sponsoring an Interfaith Panel Discussion, representing 10 different religions. The topic is "Is Faith Relevant? Faith and Spirituality Today." The event will take place Thursday at 7 p.m. in Benton Chapel.

Zeta Beta Tau begins fall philanthropy events

Zeta Beta Tau has begun its fall philanthropy event "Get on the Ball." For every signature their colorful ball gets, the fraternity's sponsors have agreed to pay a certain amount to the Children's Miracle Network. Members of ZBT will roll the ball around campus collecting signatures until Friday.

Dodects to record live show during fall concert

The Dodects will hold their fall concert Thursday at 7 p.m. in Ingram Hall. The show will be recorded live and reproduced as a CD. Tickets to the event will cost \$7 on the card in Sarratt or in cash at the door.

Final Holocaust Lecture Series event to be held tonight

A lecture by Piotr Wrobel of the University of Toronto entitled "While 6 Million Died: Cultural Genocide in Poland" will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Renaissance Room of the Vanderbilt Law School.

Former R.E.M. manager to speak Thursday

Bertis Downs, former manager of R.E.M., will give a speech entitled "Making Music in the YouTube Era: Digital Access and Intellectual Property" at 4 p.m. Thursday in the Flynn Auditorium of the Vanderbilt Law School. The talk is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and the Vanderbilt Law School.

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

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Allison Smith

There is no crime to report.

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

SERVICE GUIDE

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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.

LIVING WAGE: Employee contracts to expire Nov. 15

From LIVING WAGE, page 1

to Myatt, "folks don't really understand what is behind the numbers."

Nim Chinniah, deputy vice chancellor for administration and academic affairs, said he thinks that living wage started as an economic argument but has become too emotional to be discussed rationally.

"I think what organizations like LIVE do is they take an economic argument—this is what a person needs to be paid to survive, so to speak," he said. "Now let's move from an economic argument to a purely emotional argument. You find some human being. You put them on the front page and write it is despicable that this person is paid \$7 an hour to work anywhere."

Chinniah said this emotional argument is flawed because it does not account for the employees' surroundings.

"I think it's an irresponsible argument to just arbitrarily pick a dollar number because, you know, just getting people to that number does not say anything about the environment that they live and work in," he said.

Chinniah said the argument ignores the longevity of Vanderbilt employees, which he says surpasses that of most other companies.

"When people say if you don't pay your employees a living wage, you don't care about your employees, I think that's almost as silly as me saying anybody that is for a living wage is trying to disrupt American civilization," he said.

Supporters disagree with administration

LIVE, a student-run organization, started in May of 2002, when a custodial worker approached a few students at Blair with a clipping about the Harvard Living Wage campaign.

According to Ellen McSweeney, an active member of LIVE, he asked them, "Why not here?" and they got to work on starting a student group dedicated to worker concerns.

"I think the university is being run more like a corporation than an ideal place for higher education," McSweeney said. "You would be surprised with the small pay raises that the university will fight against."

McSweeney said that the incremental pay raises the union is planning over the next several years are a positive step towards a living wage.

"The union must be practical and present contract chances which are within the scope of what the university will eventually do, but our group holds up the living wage as an ideal that both the university and the union should be aspiring to," she said.

Beau Worsham, the union representative in Vanderbilt's negotiations, cites some 300 employees who make less than \$10 an hour as a "problem."

But Worsham said that the negotiations are about more than a salary increase. In his view, they are meant to address "a long-standing problem at Vanderbilt in that you have the haves and the have-nots."

"All I want is some distribution of the wealth," he said. "I want the employees that go about their jobs quietly, unnoticed, and make things work at this university for the students and for the faculty to be recognized."

What's at stake

While Kevin Myatt, Vanderbilt's chief human resources officer, said it isn't likely that Vanderbilt will acknowledge the term "living wage," he said the university will continue to evaluate and assess what it pays its employees, which it thinks is an "appropriate market value."

Union contracts expire Nov. 15.

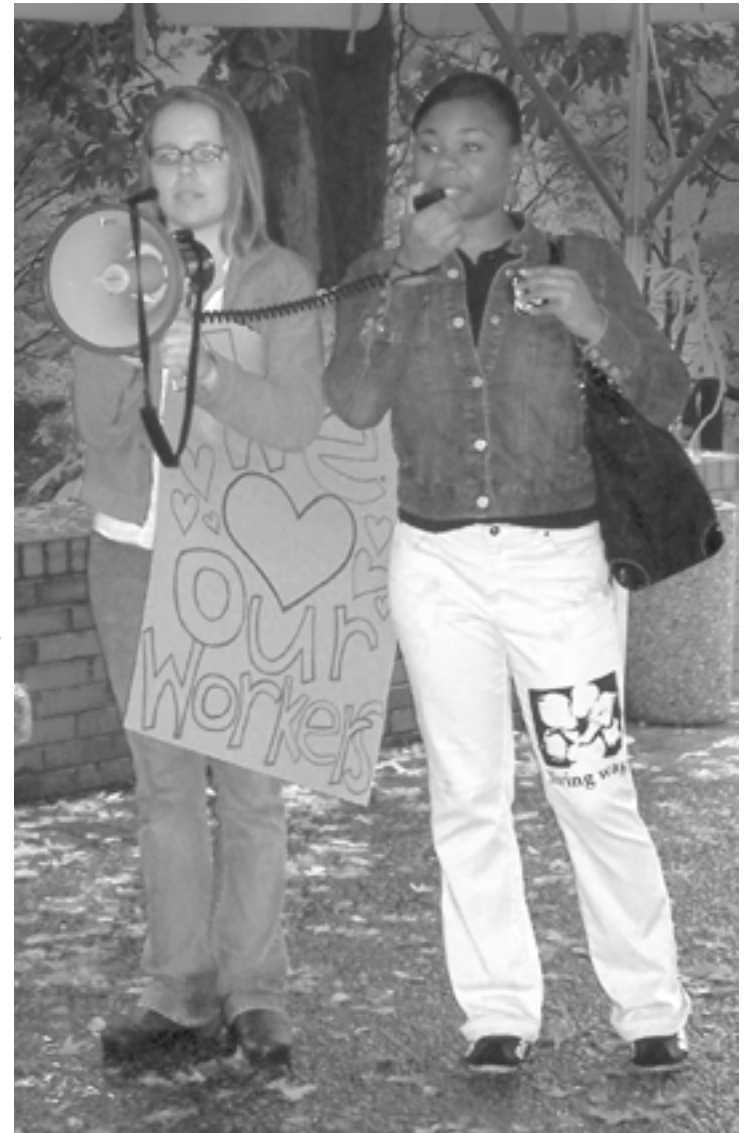


PHOTO PROVIDED

Seniors Ellen McSweeney (left) and Erica Williams, both active members of Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees, lead the Oct. 27 living wage "teach-in" that took place on Rand Terrace. Speakers explained "why Vanderbilt can offer fair wages and fair work and how you can help."

However, union officials say that they do not expect an agreement will be reached by that time. University officials, however, say they see no reason why a contract cannot be negotiated by the deadline.

In any case, the outcome of the negotiations will be anticipated by many, as this contract will likely set Vanderbilt's pay rates for the next five years. ■

Folks don't really understand what is behind the numbers."

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LIVING WAGE

Custodian chooses which bills to pay

Osborne works 'paycheck to paycheck.'

By Sydney Wilmer
STAFF REPORTER

Custodian Marilyn Osborne has worked at Vanderbilt for over five years. She spends most of her hours at work cleaning 15 fraternity houses and various dorms.

"I'm a lead person, which means I'm in charge of a cleaning crew," she explained. "I look forward to coming to work every day. Everyone here is very nice, especially the frat guys."

Nevertheless, when she wakes up at 3:30 a.m. on Monday and Friday, she can never be sure what she will find.

"A few weeks ago, I found an elevator filled with liquor bottles, and last weekend the walls of Branscomb were covered in mud," she said.

Osborne explained that these tasks do not bother her. For Osborne, the mess is something like job security.

But as the student group Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees points out in its fliers around campus, the level of base wages for Vanderbilt employees has become a contentious issue.

"I like working here at Vanderbilt, but I only make \$9.06," Osborne said. "It would be closer to \$8 if I wasn't in charge of a crew."

Without overtime, this means that Osborne makes around \$200 a week, which according to LIVE, is more than \$600 below the living wage.

"Mainly what we are doing is

working paycheck to paycheck," Osborne said. "I have to choose what bills I pay each week. I try to pay the lights, water and gas. If it wasn't for Vanderbilt paying our bus route, I couldn't do it."

What is more difficult, though, are the daily and weekly expenses.

"I try to spend between \$30 and \$40 a week on groceries," she said. "You have to buy milk twice a week and bread."

"I think people should start out working at \$9 and work up to \$10," she said. "I started at \$5.55. It was hard to get by."

She said that at this rate of pay, it was difficult to provide for her family by herself.

"It is the hardest when you've got a short check that week, and you have a big electric bill and have to go to the doctor," she said.

The key for Osborne is organization and budgeting.

"I try to save \$5 a week for Christmas. I want to get all of my friends nice gifts and usually will have a big bill to pay," she said.

Osborne said that although Vanderbilt's benefit package does not excuse its low wages, it provides a strong motivation to continue working at Vanderbilt.

"I stayed because my son and daughter want to go to college," she said.

Because she has worked for the university for five years, Vanderbilt will pay 70 percent of Vanderbilt's tuition at any school her son chooses to attend.

The university has spent \$10 million this year on this benefit alone, according to Mark Petty,

assistant vice chancellor for Plant Operations.

Osborne said the benefits package is nice to have, but in many ways it takes away some of her financial freedom.

"I would like to be in charge of my own retirement," she said. "If I would rather have a different package, I wouldn't mind that."

The package includes: a retirement plan for two people, health insurance for three people, dental insurance for two people, 10 days paid vacation, bus fares, and free GED and counseling programs.

But while Osborne "gets by," she said she has witnessed what she said are the negative effects of low wages.

"I wouldn't mention any names, but I have seen people who are hungry eat out of the trash cans," she said. "I know they are hungry. Most of them only get one good meal a week, and that's Friday before they pay their bills."

Osborne emphasized that she sees hunger as a serious problem among her co-workers.

"If you leave your lunch in the refrigerator, when you come back, someone will have tampered with it," she said.

Osborne is active in the union's negotiations with the administration for higher wages and is involved with Vanderbilt Community Alliance's advertising campaign in The Tennessean.

"If they could come up with the money, it would make a difference in a lot of people's lives," she said. ■

LIVING WAGE

Hotel worker makes ends meet as single mother

McKnight says time is biggest obstacle to furthering her education.

By Mary Alice Williams
STAFF REPORTER

At a two-star hotel located just a few blocks from campus, Tiffany McKnight, 26, has worked as a housekeeper for more than two years. Working 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. most days, she can be found on the seventh floor, cleaning guests' rooms.

She makes \$7.25 an hour and, as a part-time employee, does not receive any benefits.

What keeps McKnight working at this hotel without benefits are the hours. As a single mother of four, McKnight's daily duties begin far before her shift at the hotel.

"I come in after I get my kids ready for school in the morning, and when I get home, they are about to get out, so, that works for me," she said.

In the morning, McKnight also drives a carpool of her co-workers to the hotel. They split the cost of gas for the commute from east Nashville to West End. The carpool is necessary because, as McKnight said of her job, "the pay is nothing."

McKnight's paycheck goes wholly to paying bills and providing for her family. After meeting these expenses,

she said, there is no room for savings.

"I don't make enough money; there just ain't no way," she said.

McKnight is not the only housekeeper at the hotel who would benefit from the increased pay that living wage supporters advocate.

"Why don't you tell them about how we don't get no raise?" interjected another employee.

The two housekeepers explained that in the past two years, they have only received one raise.

McKnight's co-worker preferred to remain anonymous, saying, "I can't be answering all these questions. You watch—they'll fire us. I can't get fired; I got two kids."

Before leaving the conversation, she proved her point, pulling a photograph out of her pocket; it was a school picture of her young son.

According to one assistant manager, employees at the hotel have a hard time getting benefits. As a former hotel desk clerk, she did not get any either.

"I'm a manager now, but there were many years where I didn't get anything," the

assistant manager said. "Yeah, I get benefits now, but it's been a long road to get here."

Although McKnight would like to get a job with benefits, she said that many places do not hire employees without a GED. McKnight said time is the biggest obstacle to finishing her education.

If she does get her GED, she knows exactly what she would do with it: "I want to be a registered nurse," she said.

Even with her lack of time, McKnight finds the energy to celebrate holidays. She said her Halloween would be busy enjoying time with her children.

"I'm gonna go home and get my kids ready for Halloween," McKnight said. "One of them is going to be a witch. The other is going to be a cheerleader, and my two boys are going to be Power Rangers—one yellow, one blue."

Although McKnight said a pay raise would be "much, much better," she finds a way to make ends meet with \$7.25 an hour.

"I have my days sometimes when I ask myself 'How am I doing it with four kids?' But I'm doing it," she said. ■

Employee still enjoys work at Vanderbilt after 14 years



JONATHAN DIETZ / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Custodian Carolyn Lawless, a Vanderbilt employee of 14 years, says she enjoys her job cleaning dorms such as Lupton. Making sure her job is done right is her favorite part, she said. Although she does not have a least favorite part, she said, "I do what I suppose I got to do."

LIVING WAGE

Economists say living wage a trade-off

Most agree the policy is not the best solution for poverty.

By Kay Robinson
STAFF REPORTER

Most economists agree that instituting a living wage is not the best way to bring the working poor above the poverty line.

According to economics professor Stephen Buckles, the decision to support a living wage depends on the values and perspectives of the individual economist.

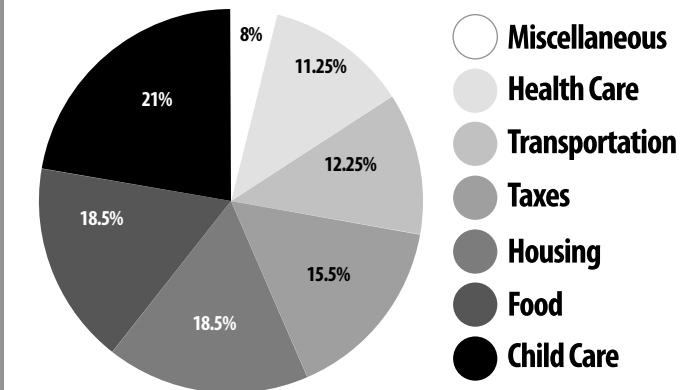
"As an individual, I would be in favor of a raise," Buckles said. "We're a rich country, and I think we can afford to be more sensitive to those people. I would rather have a person cleaning my office making a wage that at least brings them above the poverty line."

Buckles explained instituting a living wage as a trade-off—some workers lose their jobs, but the quality of life improves for others.

"You're not going to get rid of poverty by raising the minimum wage, but you're not going to plunge the economy into a depression either," he said.

Buckles also outlined the idea of the "trickle-up effect." People whose earnings are just above the living

The Living Wage Breakdown



These factors make up the total living wage of \$42,335.52, calculated by Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees to support a Nashville family of four.

wage will also receive pay increases as the people in the lowest income-earning bracket are brought up, he said.

Aleksey Dubrovnsky, a junior who is currently enrolled in a labor economics class, said that it comes down to a cost-benefit analysis. Dubrovnsky is a Hustler sports reporter.

"It's not just a matter of coming up with the money," Dubrovnsky said. "You have to think about what you have to give up to do that. You have

to take away from somewhere."

"You have to remember, though, the percentage of people working at the minimum wage is very small, and of that small number, maybe 0.5 percent would lose their jobs," he added.

Opponents of a living wage say that teenage workers, not families who live under the poverty line, are the primary beneficiaries of such a policy.

"Living wage is based on a family of four: two adults, two children,

assuming that there is only one wage earner in the family," said Kathy Anderson, an economics professor. "If you look at the tier of workers, they don't fit that; they are teenagers still living with their parents."

Anderson said the use of an earned income tax credit is a more effective way to provide incomes in line with the cost of living in most areas. The earned income tax credit is a supplement to the wages that low-income workers receive. The tax credit reduces or eliminates the income taxes they pay.

"They get a higher wage, but only if they work," Anderson said.

The cost of an earned income tax credit is less than that of raising the minimum wage, but it increases the size of government, Buckles said.

While most economists would favor earned income tax credit, he said many politicians are wary of giving government a bigger role in the market.

Buckles also said that raising wages without accounting for continually changing rates of inflation results in a cycle of wages trying to keep pace with inflation. ■

LIVING WAGE

Movement faces national political resistance

Partisan conflict, interest groups make federal action difficult.

By Allison Malone
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The movement for a living wage has met considerable political resistance on national and state levels, according to political scientists. As a result, supporters have focused their efforts to raise wages on municipalities and private employers such as Vanderbilt.

According to political science professor Bruce Oppenheimer, Vanderbilt is relatively receptive to demands from its employees to raise base wages compared to most private businesses.

"There is some effort to do something within the private sector, that is within large employers, to get people to move their base wage rates, for example, what's being done at Vanderbilt," Oppenheimer said.

While Vanderbilt raised its base wages in 2004, from \$6.50 an hour to \$7.55 an hour, some think that Vanderbilt is not doing enough to compensate its workers.

Political science professor Brooke Ackerly said Vanderbilt should be a leader

on this "social justice issue" as a "positive role model in the community."

"We have a choice. The market doesn't decide what we pay. We can choose to pay a living wage," Ackerly said.

Nationally, Congress cannot pass a minimum wage bill because of partisan conflict.

"About the only way Democrats can get it up is if Republicans put other riders on it such as eliminating the estate tax," Oppenheimer said.

Despite the conflict between Democrats, who have traditionally supported raising the minimum wage, and Republicans, Rep. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.), said he thinks legislation to raise the national minimum wage will pass soon.

"Congress has waited some nine years to raise the minimum wage," Cooper said. "Republicans stopped the increase. I think you will see the increase pass this year from \$5.15 to \$7.25."

Minimum wage bills have also seen political opposition on the state level.

According to Cooper, raising the

minimum wage at a city or state level should be "a last resort."

"It's very difficult for one city or one state to pass wage changes because you risk being at a competitive disadvantage," he said. "It's better to do it at a national level."

In Tennessee this year, a minimum wage bill did not pass in the state legislature because of the resistance from political interest groups, Oppenheimer said.

"The fear in localities is that if you raise wage standards, you will lose industry to neighboring communities and states, so it's a problem when individual communities try to go it on their own," he said.

Politically, the living wage movement has been most successful at the local government level.

"These are really largely grassroots organizations that are raising the question, and most of the effort to try to get it changed has been at local levels," Oppenheimer said.

Ackerly said local coalition-building has been key to the movement's success.

Please see POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, page 4

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ELECTIONS: Students turn out to vote in tight Senate race

From ELECTIONS, page 1

"I don't like the way things are going and to change that you need to vote," said sophomore Jason Zarrow, a Los Angeles, Calif. native who switched his voter registration to Tennessee.

"Plus, if you don't vote, you can't complain," he said.

"I think people don't realize how tight races are," said freshman Frances McGrath, a member of LEAD who also helped coordinate the shuttles.

McGrath, 17, is not old enough to vote but got involved with LEAD while taking Professor Mark Dalhouse's freshman seminar on student activism in the 1960s.

"When you have races this tight, voting actually does matter," McGrath said.

In a comeback unlike any other, Sen. Joe Lieberman won a new term in Connecticut-dispatching Democrat Ned Lamont. Lieberman, a supporter of Bush's war policy, ran as an independent, but will side with the Democrats when he returns to Washington.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton coasted to a second Democratic term in New York, winning roughly 70 percent of the vote in a warm-up to a possible run for the White House in 2008.

Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania became the first Republican senator to fall to the Democrats, losing his seat after two conservative terms to Bob Casey Jr., the state treasurer.

In Ohio, Sen. Mike DeWine lost to Rep. Sherrod Brown, a liberal seven-term lawmaker.

Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island, the most liberal Republican in the Senate and an opponent of the war, fell not long afterward to Sheldon Whitehouse, former state attorney general.

That left a fistful of heavily contested races uncalled.

In Virginia, Republican Sen. George Allen and Democratic challenger Jim Webb were locked in a seesaw race, neither man able to break ahead of the other.

In Missouri, Sen. Jim Talent held a lead over Democratic challenger Claire McCaskill with nearly 25 percent of the precincts counted.

Montana Sen. Conrad Burns, seeking a fourth term, battled Democrat Jon Tester.

Indiana was particularly cruel to House Republicans. Reps. John Hostettler, Chris Chocola and Mike Sodrel all lost in a state where Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels' unpopularity compounded the dissatisfaction

with Bush.

Republican Rep. Nancy Johnson lost in her bid for a 13th term in Connecticut; Anne Northup fell in Kentucky after 10 years in the House; and Rep. Charles Taylor was defeated in North Carolina.

Scandal likely cost Republicans a seat in Ohio, where Democrat Zack Space won the race to succeed Bob Ney, who pleaded guilty to corruption this fall in the Jack Abramoff scandal.

Among the GOP losers, Hostettler, Santorum and DeWine all won their seats in the Republican landslide of 1994, the year the GOP grabbed control of the House and Senate from the Democrats and launched a Republican revolution.

All 435 House seats were on the ballot along with 33 Senate races, elections that Democrats sought to make a referendum on the president's handling of the war, the economy and more.

Democrats piled up early gains among the 36 statehouse races on the ballot.

In Ohio, Rep. Ted Strickland defeated Republican Ken Blackwell with ease to become the state's first Democratic governor in 16 years. Deval Patrick triumphed over Republican Kerry Healey in Massachusetts, and will become the state's first black chief executive. Attorney General Eliot Spitzer won the New York governor's race in a landslide.

Voters in Vermont made Rep. Bernie Sanders, an independent, the winner in a Senate race, succeeding retiring Sen. James Jeffords. Brooklyn-born with an accent to match, Sanders is an avowed Socialist who will side with Democrats when he is sworn into office in January.

Democrat Amy Klobuchar, a county prosecutor, won the Minnesota Senate race to replace retiring Sen. Mark Dayton, a fellow Democrat.

In Maryland, Democratic Rep. Ben Cardin captured an open Senate seat, defeating Lt. Gov. Michael Steele.

Casey, a conservative challenger who opposes abortion rights, ran well ahead of Santorum, a member of the Senate GOP leadership in search of a third term.

Next door in Ohio, Democratic Rep. Sherrod Brown was defeating Sen. Mike DeWine by a double-digit margin. ■



MARK HUMPHREYS / AP Photo

Republican Bob Corker, candidate for Tennessee's U.S. Senate seat, talks with Suzie Coffey, a supporter of his opponent, Rep. Harold Ford Jr., D-Tenn., as Corker campaigns in Knoxville, Tenn., Tuesday. Corker defeated Ford with 51 percent of the vote.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS: Movement successful at local, grassroots levels

From POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, page 3

"The living wage movement has been effective where people have been able to build coalitions across racial divides, class divides, and often faith-based communities have been catalytic in the movement," she said.

At Vanderbilt, supporters of a living wage formed a coalition Oct. 24 to tie in the Nashville community with pre-existing groups, such as

LIUNA, the union that represents Vanderbilt employees, and Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees.

The Vanderbilt Community Alliance announced the launch of an ad campaign Tuesday in *The Tennessean* urging the administration to institute a living wage. ■



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with

LAURA MILLER,
Vanderbilt Senior Public
Affairs Officer and Chief
Speechwriter

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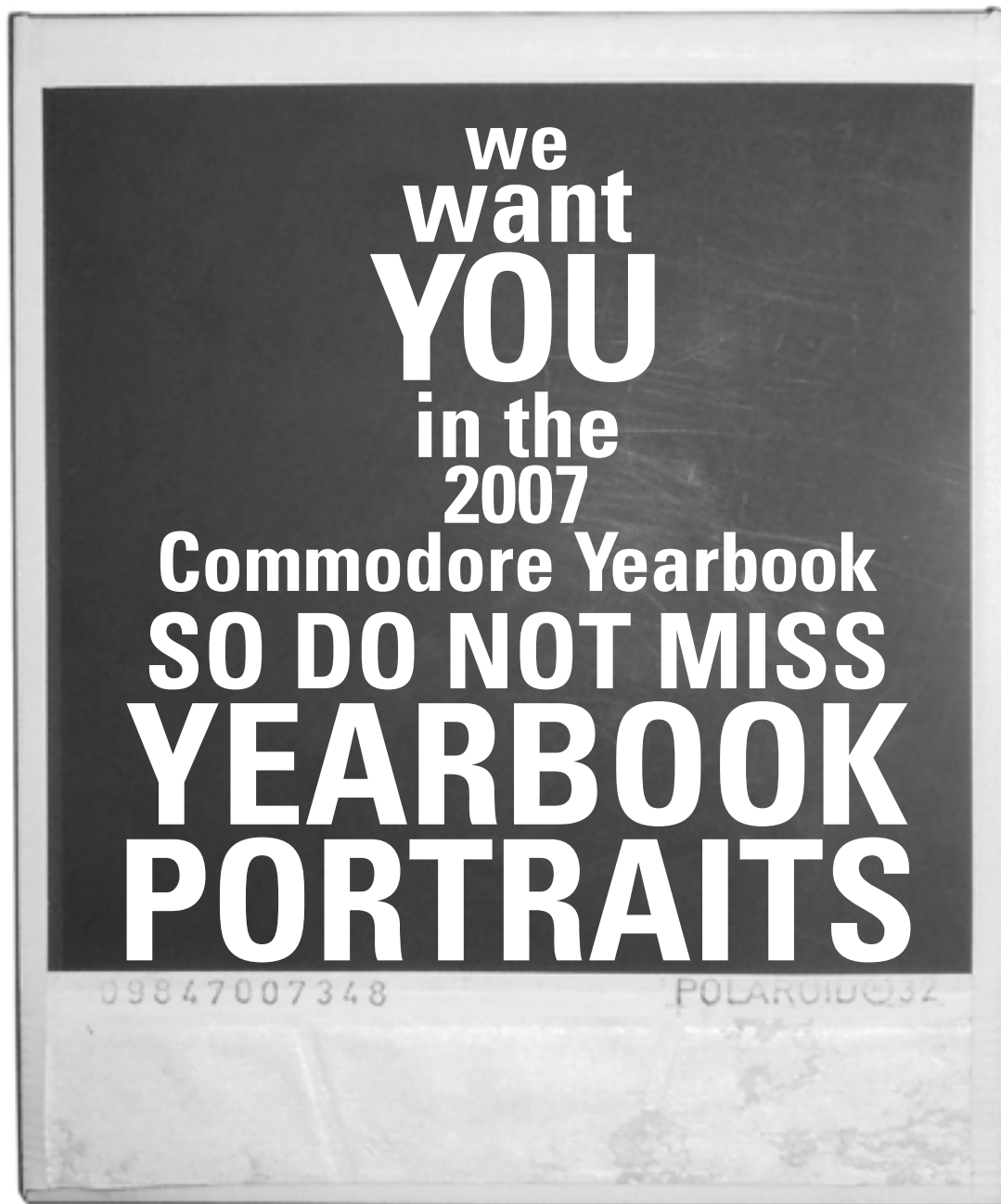
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OUR VIEW

LIVE members set example of activism

The living wage issue at Vanderbilt is complicated. While not all Vanderbilt employees make the calculated "living wage" of \$10.18 an hour, all Vanderbilt employees are offered a benefit package that is tough to beat and none of them make wages as low as the federal minimum wage. At the same time, benefits alone cannot put much-needed food on the table. It is not a simple issue.

There is one thing about the living wage movement at Vanderbilt that is crystal clear. The amount of time and energymembers of the student group Living Income for Vanderbilt Employees dedicate to fighting on behalf of others is no small thing. Work towards a more equitable environment on our campus and beyond is a noble pursuit. These students serve as models for others on campus and should be respected for their efforts, as they only seek to bring good to others, regardless of the differing opinions that may exist.

Students fortunate to witness critical race

Election day, the much anticipated and debated event, has come and passed. While the outcome has probably left roughly half of the population feeling less than satisfied, students should consider themselves fortunate that they were able to witness and be a part of the political process here in Tennessee.

The Tennessee senate race quickly became one of the most watched and most talked about midterm races in the country. While the race did not, at all times, consist of rhetoric that reflected well on the state, it revealed the state as a force to be reckoned with. It monopolized discussions on cable news. It attracted the attention and presence of political rock stars like senators Barack Obama and John McCain. All eyes have, for weeks now, been on us.

In the future, no party will be able to write Tennessee off as a foregone conclusion, Republican or Democrat. This race should be enough to spur interest in even the most politically apathetic student because we had the chance, living in the state's capital, to experience political history.

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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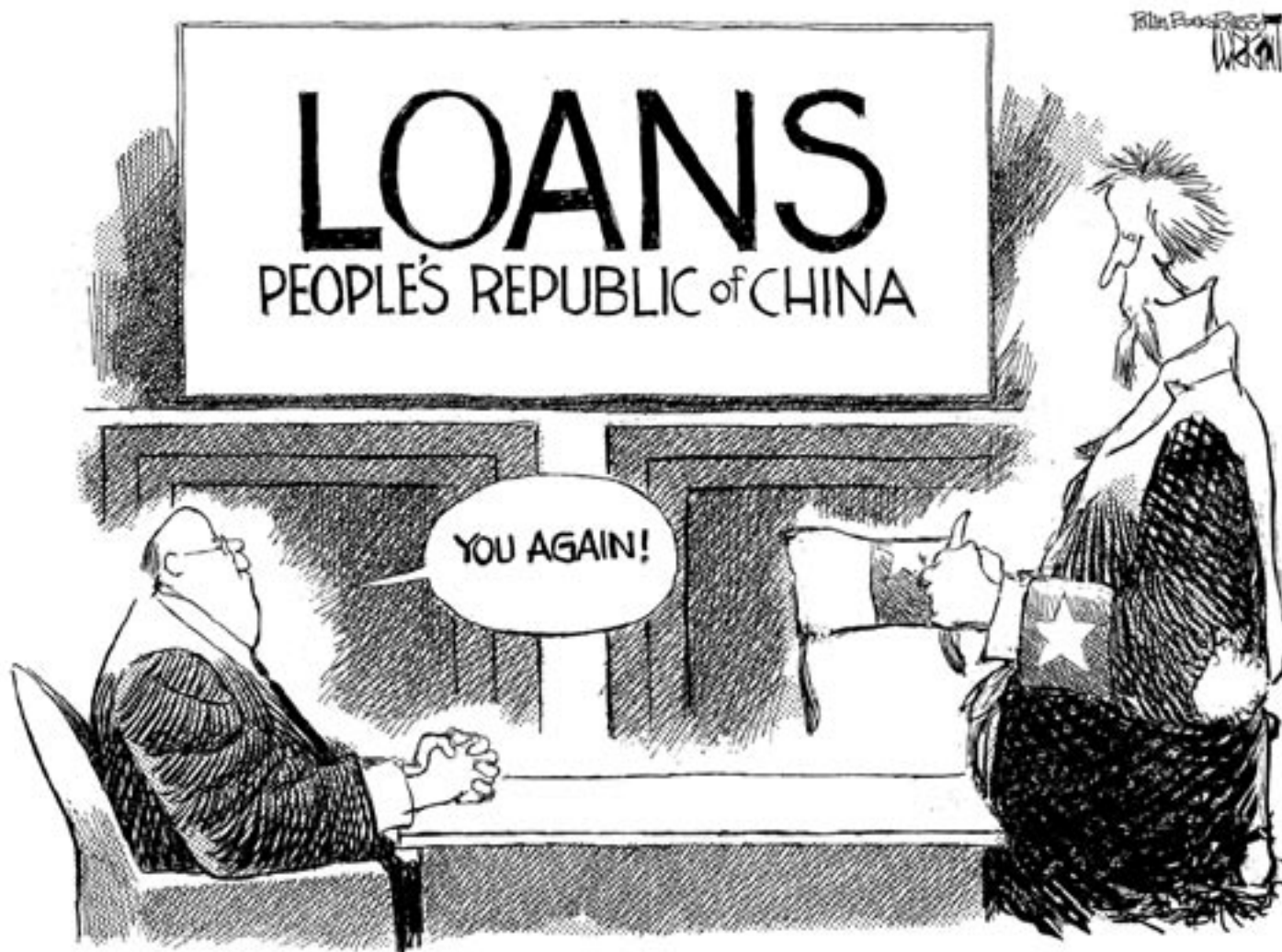
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



Don Wright —MCT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Teach for America not just about salary, prestige

To the Editor:

In his letter to the editor on Monday, Charles Stanley criticized the Teach for America program and its participants for their motives. Like Charles, I am a dedicated elementary education major, and my decision was also not based on salary, prestige or selfishness either. However, I am a strong supporter of Teach for America.

I have to agree, Teach for America is a great resume booster, and I can understand why participants' motives might seem questionable, but what student would choose to make \$28,000 working in the most challenging classrooms in the country if he or she were not passionate about the cause? Most of these graduates do not wish to have careers as teachers, yet they see an opportunity to take two years of their lives to make a difference in

a child's educational experience.

It may be true that Teach for America participants are not as qualified as Peabody graduates, but unfortunately, neither are most of the teachers in our school systems. I'll even go as far as to say that, in my opinion, many non-Peabody Vanderbilt graduates are as qualified or more qualified than many teachers to be in these underprivileged classrooms. These students need intelligent, dependable and dedicated role models who will encourage them to be successful, and Peabody graduates are not the only ones who can fulfill this role in the classroom. The nation's teacher shortage needs to be filled by highly educated, motivated people who are willing to take on the challenge of educating children, not just anyone who graduates with a teaching degree. We all know the high ranking, high paying jobs are appealing, so

Teach for America draws in the brightest students where they are needed most without requiring a lifetime commitment.

I agree with Charles that two years is not enough time to make a change in education, but that is not the goal. Two years is enough time to make a difference in each of the 30 young students who don't find enough guidance anywhere else. Even if you secretly do this as a way to give your resume that extra boost, if for two years you are willing to give up a high salary and the opportunity to brag about your prestigious job title and you are willing to face new challenges every day improving a child's life, as long as you put your whole heart into it, you have my respect.

Catherine Blessing
Sophomore, A&S

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 **liberal** because...

By Chris Sailer

I am a liberal because I believe in the power of ideas. America is nation birthed by men with powerful ideas, a nation that has given hope to those people at home and abroad dreaming of a better lot. The exercise of governmental power can be both positive and negative; yet, when functioning properly, government achieves what no other institution or individual can.

Liberals believe that individual freedoms are sacred and to be cherished. In the past, liberals have grappled with the rights of workers to fair treatment; they have come to the aid of the elderly with the creation of social security; they have joined with oppressed minorities as they claimed an equal stake in the American Dream. Government is not the enemy of American freedom; rather, it should safeguard the rights of those like gays, political dissidents and religious minorities whose lifestyles or ideas do not conform to the social norm.

No American holds a monopoly on truth. Liberals conceive of our country as a dialogue, sometimes even an argument, in which everyone has an unsilenceable voice. Should gays be prohibited from marrying? No. Should the Ten Commandments be hanging in our secular courtrooms? No. Is it the sacrifice of "essential liberties," especially first, fourth and sixth amendment liberties, "for a little temporary security" (Ben Franklin) appropriate? No. One may disagree with a homosexual's right to marry and the "Roy's Rock" decision; one may support the President's wiretaps; yet, marriage equality, secular government and freedom from governmental intrusion does direct harm to no one, whereas their prohibition is decidedly injurious to minorities. Americans are free, not when government is small, but when government defends individual liberty.

Government also has a very real responsibility to do those things no individual can do themselves. "Taxes Suck"; however, tax dollars

(when used judiciously), achieve an indispensable good. I cannot buy an aircraft carrier, mediate disputes between China and Japan, rebuild New Orleans or give the working poor a shot at home ownership. My tax dollars, plus yours, your brother's and my neighbors', can. Should the government tax those with more money simply because they are rich? Yes. Taxation will not sap the desire of rich people to get richer. It is true that investment, and thus the economy, will slow; however, that growth will be offset by a national investment in functioning social programs. Social programs are not a free ride. They are opportunities indispensable to the achievement of the American Dream. Economics tells us that economic inefficiency is bad. There is nothing less efficient than poverty. Americans generally have better access to education, financial resources and enjoy greater social mobility than do most; yet, there is a substantial, marginalized subset of our population whose access to these benefits is severely impaired. It is our human capital that sets us apart from the rest of the world; imagine where we would be if we tapped all of our human resources.

"Liberal" is not a dirty word. It is a belief in the obligation of Americans to develop a vision of our nation that we can all be proud of; it is to embrace the progressive tradition and to recognize the enormous potential that we, as a people, have. Words like pride, optimism and vision are curiously absent from our political discourse. Government is more than politics; it is the power to influence lives for the better. Our generation must abandon attachment to the status quo and take up the task of defining the American dream. Being a liberal is, to quote Gandhi, about "being the change you wish to see in the world"; besides, when has being conservative ever been revolutionary?

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 **zionist** because...

By Max Moshe Kuperman

I am a Zionist because I believe that all nations have the right to live in safety.

Six million Jews were shot and cremated in the Holocaust. Arab states like Libya and Tunisia kicked out 850,000 Jews and robbed them of all their valuables. Millions of Jews were expelled from Spain.

Each time the Jews have lived in others' land, it did not matter how much the Jews contributed to the societies. One ruler could have been tolerant while another could have called for their extermination. For example, in 1920s, German Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau and Interior Minister Hugo Preuss, both loyal German patriots, were slaughtered in death villages. So while Jews may have had it good in the Diaspora, they could not ensure the safety of their children, because the next ruler might be anti-Semitic. The only way to ensure that a leader would not rise to kill the Jews is for the Jews to live in their own land, under the administration of their own people. To be the majority in one's own land provides greater safety than to be a nervous minority in someone else's land.

Compare this situation to an African-American student's experience. He was the only black student in his class in the 1950s and suffered from threats of expulsion and violence from those who said African-Americans did not belong in white society. Of course the student would feel a lot more comfortable in a place where people accepted his right to study in peace and where there were others like him. The student felt impotent in a place with few other people like him, subject to the will of the leaders of that place. But if he were around similar people, he would not feel as threatened, and most likely he would not be threatened by violence.

I am a Zionist because I believe the world gains from Israeli technological advancements.

Israel is the second Silicon Valley of the world. AOL Instant Messenger was developed in Israel. The Pentium processor in your computer and the original Motorola cell phone were also developed in Israel. Israeli scientists have discovered breakthrough technologies to fight breast cancer more effectively and save lives. Israeli agriculturists have discovered new water-saving devices that help thousands of American farmers daily. The list goes on. For more Israeli inventions, go to www.Israel21c.org.

I am a Zionist because I believe in democracy and freedom.

We Americans cherish freedom. Our forefathers came to this new land to flee religious persecution. We have set up our country in a way that gives people from the left, center, right and all other political positions the opportunity to engage in politics and have their voices heard. The same can be said of Israel. Liberals, moderates, conservatives, Arabs, Jews, Muslims, Christians, Bedouins and others are represented in the Israeli business world, the Israeli parliament, the Supreme Court and the federal government. Israel is a beacon of freedom in the Middle East. One can openly declare his criticism of Israel without fear of persecution. This level of tolerance can be a model for Israel's repressive neighbors.

I am a Zionist because the Jews have a historic connection to their homeland.

Jews have continuously lived in Israel for more than 2,000 years. Sometimes they were in the majority, and sometimes they were in the minority, like when they were expelled by foreigners like the Romans. Still, there has been a continued presence of Jews in their homeland. One needs only to read the Bible or any history textbook to understand that Jews are eternally connected to all Israeli cities like Jerusalem, Acre, Haifa, Beer Sheva, Nazareth and others.

I am a Zionist because Israeli culture is fabulous.

Gorgeous guys and gals line the streets of Tel Aviv, schmoozing in outdoor cafes and later hitting one of hundreds of glowing nightclubs and bars that party until six in the morning. Glowing bodies bathe on the Cancun-like beaches. Youngsters play volleyball all day on the beach with friends. People live their lives to the fullest, something that we can all learn from.

I am a Zionist because I believe in religious freedom.

The modern state of Israel has been the most religiously tolerant government ever to exist in the Holy Land. Under Roman and Arab rule, Jewish and Christian holy sites were ransacked and desecrated. Only now, under Israeli rule, is a Muslim free to go the Al-Aqsa Mosque, a Christian free to go to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and a Jew free to visit the holiest place of his religion, the Western Wall. Most Christian and Muslim citizens of Israel will concede that Israel is very respectful of their religious rights.

THE VERDICT

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

Voting Glitches		How can we bring democracy to the rest of the world when we can't even do it right ourselves?
Weeklyradio address.com		Most consistently hilarious political humor that can be found on "The Internets" via "The Google."
Marc Christopher Vincent		Sentenced to jailtime for putting wife's puppy in oven. This seems like a situation that could have been avoided.
SC Gov. Mark Sanford		Turned away from polls because he forgot his registration card. Embarrassing. Wins election anyway. Not embarrassing.
Kirstie Alley		Former "Fat Actress" dons bikini to show off new slim figure. Good thing the show got cancelled.
String Cheese Incident		Jam band breaks up after playing together for 13 years and through songs that seemed even longer.
Britney Spears		Files for divorce from K-Fed. This is clearly her best career move since making that "Toxic" video.

I am a Zionist because I believe that women should have equal rights to men.

Women in Israel have equal rights to men, surpassing any status of women in the rest of the Middle East and being up to par to Western European standards. Women serve in important leadership positions. In fact, the second woman of modern times to become a prime minister of a country was Golda Meir of Israel. The current foreign minister of Israel is a woman, Tzipi Livni. The president of the second largest bank in Israel, Bank Leumi, is a woman, Galia Maor.

I am a Zionist because I believe that minorities have rights.

Israeli Arabs constitute the world's largest group of free Arabs. They have full citizenship. In fact, Arab representatives sit in the Israeli parliament and the Israeli high courts. The richest group in Israel is not Jews, but Arab Christians. Many Arabs from countries such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan marry Israeli Arabs just for the opportunity to move to Israel. Many Druze and Bedouin Arabs proudly serve in the Israeli army and are decorated war heroes.

In all, I am proud to be a Zionist. I believe in the right of the Jewish people to finally be secure in their own land while shining as a beacon of democracy and human rights and contributing useful new technologies to the world. Thank you to the Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and adherents of other faiths who stand up for Israel. It is the right thing to do. Please continue supporting this just cause that touches us all, whether we use AOL Instant Messenger, support democracy or just believe in the principles that our country, the United States, was founded on.

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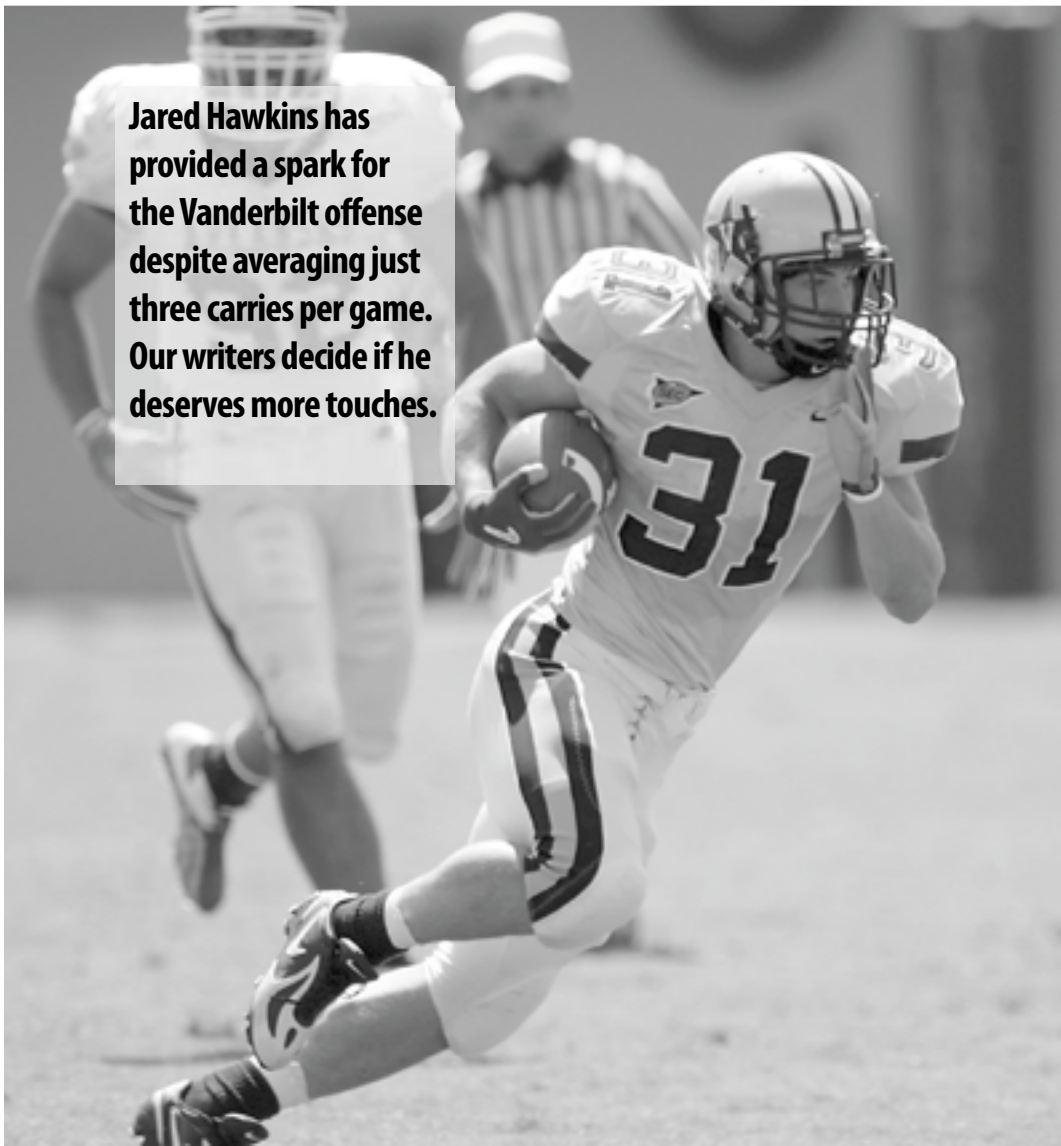
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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Look at the stats: J-Hawk deserves the rock

Jared Hawkins has provided a spark for the Vanderbilt offense despite averaging just three carries per game. Our writers decide if he deserves more touches.



NEIL BRAKE/VU Media Relations

GOOD CALL

By Andrew Barge
SPORTS REPORTER

Cassen Jackson-Garrison is definitely our starting running back.

He scored eight touchdowns last year as a sophomore and, after co-starter Jeff Jennings went down with a torn ACL, entered this season as the only running back with game experience. A big chunk of the carries belong to him.

With that out of the way, let's talk about Jared Hawkins. The redshirt freshman has rushed for 267 yards on just 32 carries, giving him an 8.3 yards per carry average. When giving Jackson-Garrison time to rest, Hawkins has displayed great quickness while hitting the holes hard. He appears to be a worthy running back of the future, but he gets the ball only three times a game.

Establishing the running game has been a problem for Vanderbilt all year long. If Chris Nickson can't find a way to escape the pocket, the ground attack is taken away all together. Granted, the offensive line has been banged up all year, but two rested running backs would be much more effective against these stingy SEC defenses.

So why not see what Hawkins can do?

Some could argue that he's too small for so many carries in the SEC. Hawkins is listed at 5 feet 9 inches and 190 pounds. So is Michigan's Mike Hart, who has been a Heisman Trophy candidate all season long. Like Hart, Hawkins can be classified as a speed back. Jackson-Garrison, while not a power back by any means, is more balanced with his 220 pound frame. Splitting carries between the two different backs would change the tempo of the game, making it more difficult for opposing defenses to prepare for our run.

Other doubters might say that there simply aren't enough carries to go around. With Nickson being a scrambling quarterback, he definitely contributes a significant amount of our rushing attempts. But Jackson-Garrison gets about 15 carries a game, which is more than he has ever handled in his career. His impressive sophomore season was spent splitting carries with Jeff Jennings, so isn't it reasonable to think that Jackson-Garrison would be more effective with some extra rest? Why not give both Hawkins and Jackson-Garrison 10 carries per game?

Featuring two starting running backs has been both popular and successful in recent years. Two years ago, Cadillac Williams and Ronnie Brown led Auburn to an undefeated season. Last year, Reggie Bush and LenDale White gave USC the nation's most explosive offense. This year, Darren McFadden and Felix Jones have Arkansas fans hoping for a BCS bowl invitation. Most successful teams give their backup running back the ball more than three times a game, so it's time we gave it a shot.

At 4-6, Vanderbilt has to win its final two games to become bowl eligible. This feat is certainly possible, but if our team is to get past Kentucky and pull off an upset over UT, the running game has to improve. Giving Jackson-Garrison the extra rest would make each of his carries more effective, plus we could see if Hawkins is the real deal. So again, I ask, why not see what Hawkins can do? ■



MASON HENSLEY/The Vanderbilt Hustler

BAD CALL

By Jarred Amato
SPORTS EDITOR

I'm a big fan of running back Jared Hawkins.

His ability to read blocks and make cuts, along with overall quickness and toughness makes him a valuable asset to the Vanderbilt football team.

I understand that after gaining 267 yards on 32 carries this season, it would be logical for the redshirt freshman to play more. For argument's sake, however, I'm going to prove why J-Hawk is best suited for his current role.

First, Hawkins's 8.3 yards per carry is misleading. The more carries he gets, the closer his average will get to starter Cassen Jackson-Garrison's 4.0.

As coach Bobby Johnson said, "The more you play, the less your yards per carry is going to be. That is just the law of averages."

Second, Jackson-Garrison is the starter for a reason. He's a proven runner who's not afraid to take a hit. In fact, No. 22 was in the lineup just two weeks after undergoing an appendectomy.

Not to say that Jackson-Garrison is a bruiser, but he is certainly more effective than Hawkins in wearing down defenses. At 5 feet 9 inches (his listed height) and 190 pounds, No. 31 is not equipped to handle more than a few carries. While Jackson-Garrison gains the tough yards up the middle, Hawkins has the luxury to come in fresh and take advantage of a fatigued defense.

"When you get everything out of one, then you have the other one ready to go and spell him," Johnson said.

What separates the two the most, however, is blocking ability. The Commodores are often in the shotgun and with a banged-up offensive line, require the running to pick up pass rushers. If Hawkins can't protect the quarterback, it doesn't matter how many yards per carry he averages.

Third, the fact that Hawkins is so unknown also works in his favor. Teams don't expect him to make the cuts and reads that he does. But, once they have a feel for what he likes to do, they're able to make the adjustments to stop him. For example, Hawkins had seven carries against Duke. His average? 3.7.

I understand that many professional and college teams favor the dual-running back system because it keeps both players fresh and opponents off guard. However, the teams that are successful (think USC '05 and Auburn '04) have the ability to run the football often. Vanderbilt cannot do that, as Jackson-Garrison averages just 14 carries per game.

While I admit that it is hard to explain why Hawkins does not get at least two or three more touches per game, we have to trust the coaching staff's personnel decisions. Clearly Johnson and offensive coordinator Ted Cain limit Hawkins's touches for a reason. If not, well, that's an issue for another day. ■

FOOTBALL

After another close loss, it's finally do-or-die



MASON HENSLEY/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt defensive back Joel Caldwell drags down Florida receiver Jemelle Cornelius during the Gators' 25-19 victory Saturday. The Commodores take on Kentucky Saturday.

By Andrew Barge
SPORTS REPORTER

Close losses have been a recurring theme for Vanderbilt football this season. Of the Commodores' five Southeastern Conference losses, four have been decided by a touchdown or less. Coach Bobby Johnson knows that limiting mistakes are the key to winning close games.

"There are going to be mistakes in every game, but nobody ever looks at the winning team's mistakes," he said. "The losing team makes mistakes, and everyone says 'that's exactly why they lost.'"

Costly mistakes have plagued the Dores all season long. Against Florida, a blocked punt on the opening drive helped set up the Gators' first touchdown, which proved to be the difference maker. Missed field goals against Ole

Miss and Arkansas caused narrow losses as well. Vanderbilt has put itself in a position to win in eight of its 10 games played this season but sits at 4-6.

Saturday's game against Kentucky should be no different. Last year, Jay Cutler connected with Earl Bennett for five touchdowns, but the Dores lost 48-43 and were eliminated from bowl eligibility.

This year, both teams enter Saturday with bowl hopes. Kentucky (5-4) is just one win away from receiving a bowl bid, while Vanderbilt has to win its final two games to avoid its 24th consecutive losing season.

Kentucky plays Vanderbilt as winners of three straight, including last weekend against Georgia.

"They definitely don't mind playing anyone in the league, and I think

they have confidence in what they are doing offensively and defensively now," Johnson said. "They definitely have some weapons."

Kentucky's offense has been surprisingly effective this season. After struggling through his sophomore season, junior Andre Woodson has shown great improvement throwing 20 touchdown passes, tops in the conference, with just seven interceptions.

"Woodson is pretty calm and cool in the pocket. I think he has done a fantastic job for them this year," Johnson said.

For Woodson to be contained, Johnson will particularly look to three veterans.

"(Against Florida,) Kevin Joyce did an excellent job of rushing the passer, and Jonathan Goff has been much more aggressive

this year," he said. "And, of course, Curtis Gatewood has had success all season long."

Offensively, the Commodores will look for Earl Bennett to continue his dominate play. The sophomore has caught 22 passes for 341 yards in the last two games. But quarterback Chris Nickson should not have to rely so heavily on Bennett that he alone defines the offensive performance.

"We have other receivers that have talent," Johnson said. "George Smith caught a touchdown for us the other day, and Marlon White has made some big catches this season, so you can't just double-team Earl all the time. Earl will have his opportunities."

Can the Dores finally get over the hump and host Tennessee with the bowl bid on the line? Only time will tell. ■

BASKETBALL

Dores unselfish in exhibition victory

By Jarred Amato
SPORTS EDITOR

With four of its five starters in double figures, the Vanderbilt women's basketball team cruised to 83-56 victory over the Premier Players Monday at Memorial Gymnasium.

After winning its two exhibition games, the Commodores feel confident with where they are heading into the season opener at Colorado Sunday.

"Our starting five has really been unselfish and the people who come in are working on that too," said senior Caroline Williams, who had 13 points, including three three-pointers. "We don't care who scores as long as we get a good shot and it shows with our box scores."

Senior Carla Thomas and sophomore Christina Wirth led the team with 15 points, while junior Liz Sherwood added 12. All three grabbed eight rebounds.

"I like our unselfishness, the entire team making the extra pass," said coach Melanie Balcomb. "You can tell they don't care who scores and we have a lot of offensive threats."

Balcomb also came away pleased with the defensive effort from start to finish. After giving up 42 second-half points in their 94-64 victory over DT3 in their first exhibition game, the Commodores made a concentrated effort to maintain their intensity throughout.

"What keeps you in games is defense so we really focused on that and did a much better job," Balcomb said.

Whether offense or defense, the Commodores are committed to playing as a team.

"It's not just two of us scoring or two of us playing good defense," Williams said. "It's everyone doing something good and it's just exciting to see."

If the first two games were any indication, teams are going to have



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt point guard Dee Davis leads the Commodores on both ends of the court.

a time matching up with the Dores. With Sherwood and Thomas inside and deadly three-point shooters Wirth and Williams on the wings, defenses will have quite the dilemma.

"Most of the time they try to pack it in and the fact that we have shooters that can punish them for that, it opens up everything in the end," Thomas said.

With the regular season fast approaching, it's clear that Vanderbilt is ready. ■

HOCKEY

Club hockey players in it for 'love of the game'

By Will Gibbons
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

Simply put, television does not do hockey justice. Costs of tickets to Nashville Predators games can add up as well. But there's free hockey within walking distance of Vanderbilt's campus on several Friday and Saturday nights throughout the school year.

Celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, the club hockey team is currently 3-4-1, holding a two-game winning streak. Division III members of the American College Hockey Association, the squad plays a mostly regional schedule. After a trip to Kentucky this weekend, Vanderbilt squares off against rival Tennessee at the Centennial Sportsplex for a pair of contests on Nov. 17 and 18.

"Those are the fun games," said junior Chris Welch.

But for this group, it's all fun. Playing club hockey is done, as they say, "for the love of the game." It represents a passion for the sport and an urge to stay competitive.

"I wanted to keep playing hockey just because I love the game," said John Henry Schroeder. "Being in Nashville, I thought the team would be just awful, but I got here and it was pretty fun."

"Growing up I've always played hockey, so I just kept playing because I love playing hockey," said Schroeder said.

The squad practices once or twice a week, with conditioning and weightlifting on other days. Most weekends it plays a set of two games, one Friday and another Saturday. With a limited operating budget, the team lacks a full-on recruiting effort, but it still manages to get plenty of talent.

"We usually get e-mails from guys, and if not, we try to work through some of the new guys to find friends that might not know about the team," Welch said.

An example of the potential of a club hockey program is Georgia Tech. With a \$70,000 operating budget, the Yellow Jackets recruit, have a team bus, radio broadcast, gamecast and trainer.



Courtesy of club hockey team

The Vanderbilt club hockey team rides a two-game winning streak and hosts the Vols Nov. 17 and 18.

Vanderbilt, conversely, relies on its MS-licensed goalie and/or trainers from the opposing team.

To some, the idea of hitting other people while skating on ice may seem unwise. To hockey players, it's no big deal.

"I started [skating] when I was three, so it's natural," Schroeder said. "You work up and start out pushing a milk carton."

Perhaps the best part of club hockey and other club sports, besides the aura of innocence surrounding it, is the camaraderie built. They may not spend as much time together as a varsity team does, but one cannot underestimate the level of friendship built on any team.

"You can make a lot of great friends," Welch said. "Some are independent, and there are guys in a lot of different frats, so you have friends all across campus in all different grades."

Those staying for the Tennessee football game should remember to attend the hockey game the night before, which will take place at 10:30 p.m. at the Centennial Sportsplex. It's sure to be a battle, and it won't require dancing on the home team's logo to start a fight.

And any sports fan knows a good rivalry has dislike all across the athletic realm. ■

SOCCER

Vandy poised for NCAA tourney run

By Max Franklin
SPORTS REPORTER

The Vanderbilt women's soccer team received a bid on Monday to play in the NCAA Soccer Tournament this weekend. The team travels to Clemson, a first-round regional host site, to face off against the Tigers in the first round.

"I'm so excited," said senior defender Kari Boersma. "We really were unsure if we were going to make it. We were just really excited, and we think that we have a good draw and a good chance against Clemson."

The Commodores (10-4-6) are one of five Southeastern Conference teams to make the tournament, where Clemson (11-7-2) is one of seven Atlantic Coast Conference teams to make it after finishing fifth in the ACC.

"Clemson's a very good team," said coach Ronnie Coveleskie. "They've had some great late season results, they're very well coached, and I think it's going to be a great matchup. I think we're going to battle, I think we're going to fight, and I think that once you get into the NCAA tournament anything can happen. It's just going to be two solid teams fighting to stay alive."

This is the second-straight NCAA Tournament for the Dores, and the seventh in their history. In 1998, Vandy fell to Clemson, 2-0, in the second round of the tournament, also at Clemson.

"I think it's good to travel," Coveleskie said. "Our girls enjoy traveling and it's the NCAA tournament, so everyone knows that it's do or die. I don't think we're going to worry too much

about being on the road."

Last season, at the Vanderbilt Soccer Complex, the Commodores fell in a shootout to Samford after ending regulation and overtime in a 1-1 tie. The Dores' last three postseason games, including a first round match with South Carolina at the SEC tournament last week, have all ended in penalty kick shootout losses.

"We've been practicing our penalty kicks a lot now," Boersma said. "We hope to just end it in regulation but I think we'll be ready if it comes down to that again. We want to do better than last year and we think we can. We ended our season a little bit early last year and we're pretty excited that we can do better this time."

Should the Dores advance on Friday, they would face the winner of the match

between UNC-Greensboro and No. 4 seed Oklahoma State. Vanderbilt is certainly prepared for the atmosphere of an NCAA tournament and looks to use their appearance last season as a stepping stone to further success.

"I think the experience is huge," Coveleskie said. "I think what it's done, two years in a row, is put us at the point where we expect to make the tournament. I think that gives us a little bit different of a viewpoint: we're not just happy to be here; we're here to win now." ■

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FUN & GAMES

SUDOKU

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

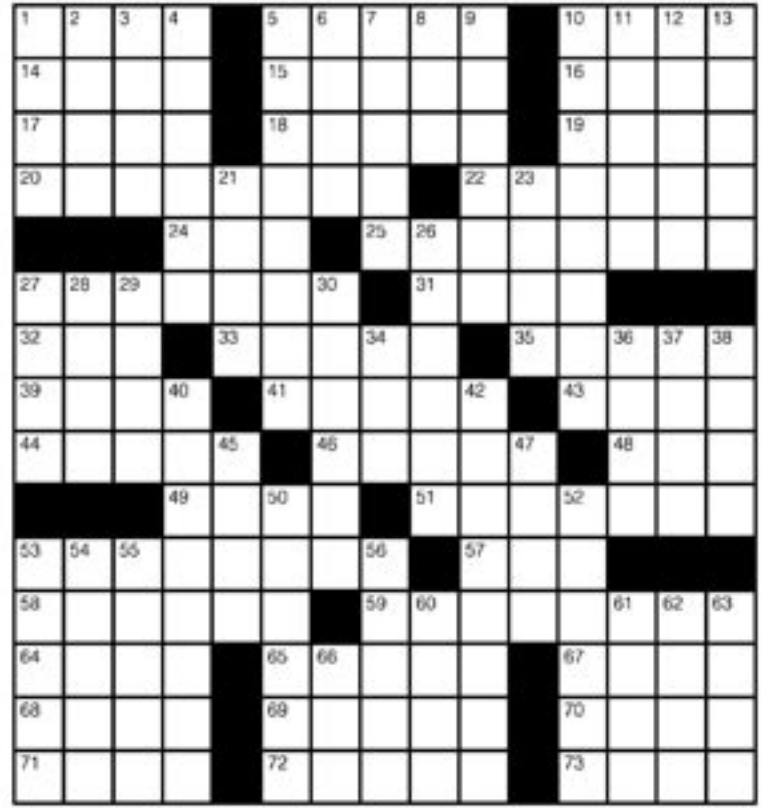
11/6/06 SOLUTIONS

3	7	4	9	6	2	1	8	5
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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Lysol target
 - Product name
 - Insect stage
 - Inter ___ (among other things)
 - Tropical porch
 - Organic compound
 - Small brook
 - Madonna movie
 - Polish partner?
 - Shortest distances
 - Hispanic
 - Finish
 - Components
 - Disperse
 - German river
 - PAC beneficiary
 - Pontificate
 - More modern
 - Israeli carrier
 - Headliners
 - Mark for removal
 - Paddle craft
 - Tasty goody
 - Youth grp.
 - Inkling
 - Chest of drawers
 - Archetypes
 - Actress Sandra
 - Greek goddess of wisdom
 - Some artists
 - Commotion
 - Under oath
 - White House office
 - Fork part
 - Eldritch
 - Greek cheese
 - Pulled off perfectly
 - Oboes and clarinets
 - Stew
- DOWN**
- Attire
 - Writer Wiesel
 - Provoke
 - Croquet stick
 - Liquefiers
 - Great review
 - Liqueur flavoring
 - Columnist Hentoff
 - Rang up
 - Harassed
 - Loosen, in a way
 - Tapered end
 - Choir section
 - Enthralled with
 - Prayer under
 - Eyed lewdly
 - Little detail
 - Soft drink
 - Ladd or Greenspan
 - Wickerwork material
 - Veteran seafarer
 - Insect snares
 - If not
 - Bring up
 - Hung around
 - Tightly packed fish
 - Biblical garden
 - Betwixt 12 and 20



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11/8/06

11/6/06 SOLUTIONS

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 50 Art rubber | 56 Germ cell |
| 52 Detonate | 60 Dry |
| 53 Rigatoni or tortellini | 61 In perpetuity |
| 54 House penthouse | 62 Evaluate |
| 55 Biblical pronoun | 63 Venetian blind piece |
| | 66 Tiny |

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OFFICE OF HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION OFFICIAL NOTICE

TO: The Residential Community
FROM: Jim Kramka, Senior Director of Housing Facilities, Operations, & Mgmt
Tina Smith, Senior Director of Residence Life and Residential Education
SUBJECT: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thanksgiving Break extends from November 18, 2006 – November 26, 2006. **During the break, all undergraduate residence halls will close.** Residence halls will close at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, November 18, and reopen on Sunday, November 26, at 9:00 a.m. Card access for all residents will be turned off during break.

DON'T PANIC! READ ON. Students needing to stay in ANY of the residence halls for any part of the break may do so if they register by midnight, Wednesday, November 15. Students may register online at www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd anytime during the period November 6 - 15. Please post an "Occupied" sign on your door when you are in your room during break. "Occupied" signs will be available from all main desks.

PLEASE NOTE: During break it may not be possible to provide residential staff in a particular building, or to provide staffing of information desks in a particular building. Because card reader access may be the only means of entry, compliance with the registration procedures above is essential. In addition, remaining students should take even greater care regarding their personal safety and security.

During the break, maintenance and housekeeping personnel will be working in student rooms. Please make sure that maintenance personnel can easily access the air handling unit by your window as well as kitchen and bathroom appliances and plumbing fixtures. Please move furniture and personal belongings away from the air handling units. Work crews will be inspecting rooms between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

- Execute a full backup of data on your computer. Turn off the power, and unplug the power cord from the wall or power strip. If the computer is turned off and disconnected from its power source, it need not be disconnected from the network.
- Defrost, clean out, turn off, and unplug refrigerators to prevent damage from power surges and outages.
- Turn off and unplug all other appliances. (Note: television channels on some sets may have to be reprogrammed when the power is restored.)
- Remove fish from, drain, and clean out aquariums.
- Carry your trash to the dumpsters. Do not pile garbage or trash in the common area or bathroom where it will remain until the residence hall reopens. Clean out your recycling containers.
- Set your thermostat midway between the "warm" and "cool" settings. If we are experiencing cold temperatures during the break, heat in the halls will be set at a moderate level.
- Move your bed a short distance from the wall if it is directly below a window. Condensation sometimes forms on cold windows and might find its way to bedclothes immediately below.
- Do not leave belongings on the floor of your room. If freezing temperatures strike causing broken pipes, flooding may occur in affected areas.
- Lock your door and take your key with you!

RESIDENCE HALL SECURITY AND SAFETY

- During break, residential staff will perform safety and security checks in student rooms. **Violations of University policy will be documented and students may face disciplinary action.**
- Be sure to close and lock your windows, open the curtains or blinds, turn off all lights. **Carry your key with you and lock your doors, including private bedrooms in suites and apartments.** If you live at ground level, make certain no valuables are visible from the outside. Please move bikes into your room or another secure area to reduce risk of theft.
- Do not leave jewelry or other valuable items in your room.** Vanderbilt University will make every effort to keep the residence halls secure during the break period, but cannot assume responsibility for your possessions. You should, therefore, take appropriate measures to safeguard your valuables.
- Residence halls will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 26, 2006.** Students returning to campus before this time must register by midnight, Wednesday, November 15. **Unless you have registered, do not arrive on campus prior to November 26, 2006 and expect to be admitted to a closed residence hall.**

Please plan now for the closing of these residence halls. If this causes a problem for you and you are unable to find a suitable solution, please see your RA or AD for assistance.

HAVE A GREAT BREAK!

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