



SPECIAL REPORT

diversity at vanderbilt

Diversity at Vanderbilt is an eight-part series appearing in every Monday and Friday issue in September.

We are attempting to bring diversity to the forefront of campus discussion.

The profiles are not meant to showcase one group over another but to demonstrate the depth of the Vanderbilt community.

Lambda elects first straight president

VanDenBossche encourages joining diverse groups.

By Glenna DeRoy
NEWS EDITOR

The Vanderbilt Lambda Association, the gay-straight alliance on campus, has elected a straight president, Kristen VanDenBossche, for the first time in its history.

VanDenBossche said that Lambda will undergo several changes this semester, but while she proposed many of these modifications, she said that her election had more to do with the passion she exhibited for the organization.

"The main reason I got the nomination and the award of the presidency is that there was a lack of energy in the organization," she said. "I had a pretty big excitement for what the organization can be, and I had a lot of ideas on how to increase membership and bring quality programming."

Since 40 to 50 percent of the 75 undergraduates involved in the organization is composed of straight allies, VanDenBossche's sexuality does not alienate her from the group by any means.

However, she said that her election shows that there are open-minded people on this campus.

"If they're willing to elect someone like me and put the responsibility for representing their organization on campus in the hands of someone who is not gay, it really shows that the community is accepting," she said.

VanDenBossche extends that characterization to the entire campus, saying that, for a university with such a negative

Please see DIVERSITY, page 3

INTERHALL

Interhall freshman elections held this week

Integration of the Commons to be focus of Interhall initiatives this year.

By Darcy Newell
ASST NEWS EDITOR

As Interhall gears up for its new term, representatives from all freshman residence halls are needed in both the president and judicial vice president positions.

Interhall, Vanderbilt's Residence Life Government, is a student organization made up of representatives from every dormitory on campus. The group partners with the Office of Housing and Residential Education and is responsible for all issues surrounding on-campus housing.

Please see INTERHALL, page 2

FOOTBALL

Dores start strong, but lose in Big House



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

Vanderbilt linebacker Jonathan Goff (47) rises above the pile to block a Michigan field goal attempt in Ann Arbor on Saturday.

Behind blocked field goal and trick play, Vanderbilt down six at half.

By Nicole Floyd
ASST NEWS EDITOR

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Coming out of the tunnel prior to Saturday's game at Michigan Stadium, the Commodores were supposed to run to the left. Somehow Chris

Nickson went right.

Minutes away from making his first collegiate start in front of 109,668 fans, the redshirt sophomore took a few steps to the right before realizing that his teammates were heading in the other direction.

However, the Commodores were not

fazed by the aura of the Big House. When Nickson and his teammates came out of the tunnel again, they trailed by just six points.

"I felt like we had an amazing chance to take over the game and dominate it," Nickson said. "We had the opportunity. The

Please see FOOTBALL, page 6

DINING

New Quiznos now open in Highland Quad

Location proves convenient.

By Nicole Floyd
ASST NEWS EDITOR

The new Quiznos located in Morgan House in Highland Quad is now open for business.

The restaurant, which is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to midnight, features a full menu of Quiznos sandwiches.

Business is off to a great start, and even bigger increases in sales are expected once more students become aware of the new location, said General Manager T.J. Jennings. "Business is good," he said. "It gets better and better every day."

The plans to bring another Quiznos to campus began after the franchise did some research.

"We did a little research and asked the students what

they thought about having a Quiznos over here, and we received a positive response," Jennings said.

Students living in Highland Quad seem to be pleased with the newest addition to Vanderbilt dining.

"It's a lot more convenient," said junior Amanda Iovino. "It's good for people in Morgan to have a place to eat. That way I can use my meal plan and not walk all the way to Rand."

Junior Alex Feinberg, a resident of Lewis House, agreed.

"I think it is pretty convenient, especially for those of us who live out here in the boonies," Feinberg said. "It's going to be a good way for me to run out of money on my card pretty quick." ■



PETER TUFO / Vanderbilt Hustler

Tom McGill poses in front of the latest addition to Vanderbilt Dining.

CRIME

Several off-campus burglaries reported

Vanderbilt students urged to lock their doors at all times.

By Allison Smith
ASST NEWS EDITOR

Nine burglaries have been reported at off-campus Vanderbilt student residences from July 24 to Aug. 30. According to Steve Freeman, a Metro Nashville Police Department officer, most of the nine burglaries have resulted from residents leaving their doors unlocked.

"This is someone who just found a new method of operation," Freeman said. "He's just trying doors at night. If people would just lock their doors at night it would probably deter him."

The majority of burglaries in off-campus residences took place between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. in the residences on Natchez Trace, Fairmont Drive and Acklen Avenue.

"It is unusual to have this many break-ins in one area," Freeman said. "They are targeting residents who do not lock their doors. That is why I called VUPD—to make students aware so they can take some type of precaution."

Freeman said there was a reported case where the burglar walked into an unlocked house and spoke with one of the people living there. He said he was there to see someone else and then walked out with a computer.

Freeman said he encourages all students to record their laptop serial numbers so that their laptops can be recovered if stolen.

"Apparently this guy is not very aggressive," Freeman said.

A bike was stolen from junior Meg Zoffuto's off-campus house. She said someone must have unlocked the bike, which was locked up outside the house because the lock was there, but the bike was gone.

"I think the burglaries are unfortunate, but I think it is a reality of living off-campus," Zoffuto said.

Senior Lauren Gibbs, who lives on Natchez Trace, said she does not feel that her belongings are any less safe than when she lived on campus.

"I still use precaution," Gibbs said. "I lock my doors every time I leave, but I did that when I lived on campus."

Freeman said there is a "good chance" that the same person is performing all the break-ins because he sees the same method being used over and over again.

He has received two descriptions — "one, male black around 25 to 30 years old, about six feet and another description, male black, 30s, medium build, with short dreadlocks."

Freeman encourages students who see something suspicious to call Metro or VUPD.

Andrew Atwood, captain of the Community Relations Division of VUPD, said that while he has not noticed any trends on the Vanderbilt campus, he encourages students to register their bikes online at VUPD's Web site and lock their dorm rooms.

Atwood said a good way for students to prevent theft is to "be aware of the crime occurring in their community."

"Obviously the security alerts go out, and every time that something gets reported to us, it goes on the crime log. Hopefully, if students see something like a bike stolen, they will think to register their bike or something along that line." ■

THE WALL

NOTABLE

Fashion rules dictate that no white clothing can be worn between Labor Day and Memorial Day, but where did this principle originate?

The logical reasoning is that white reflects light and heat; wearing white would make you cooler in winter, and thus, should be avoided. The rule may also stem from a class issue. In the late 19th century and the 1950s, more people were entering the middle classes. The "nouveau-riche" were often unaware of the standards of high society, so they were given specific codified rules to follow in order to fit in.

QUOTABLE

"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country. All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day... is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race or nation."

—Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor Web site

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY

Mostly Cloudy, 82/66

TUESDAY

Isolated Storms, 83/62

WEDNESDAY

Partly Cloudy, 79/60

CORRECTION

In the story, "Employee August Johnson retires after 55 years," in Friday's issue, the headline was incorrect. Mr. Johnson is not retiring. The Hustler regrets this error.

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Nicole Floyd

NPHC Greek Mystique

Tonight at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center, there will be an informational event for any students interested in learning more about the NPHC Greek organizations on campus.

Interhall Freshmen Candidates Meeting

There will be an Interhall candidates meeting for freshman hall presidents and judicial vice presidents on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema.

V-SMAC Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 5 is the first committee meeting of the year for Vanderbilt Students Meeting for the Awareness of Cancer. Fliers are posted around campus with the exact time and location of the meeting.

Bush adviser to lecture on the connection between Christianity and Israel

Dr. Richard Land, adviser of religious affairs, nationally syndicated radio host and leader in the Southern Baptist Convention, will be giving a lecture next week about the connection between Christianity and Israel. It will be on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. in the BCM.

Rally Across America riders return to Vanderbilt

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, Vanderbilt graduates Austin Bauman and Tom Reardon, who have spent the summer biking around the United States in support of childhood cancer research, will have their "finale ride" onto campus to join a Vineyard Vines trunk show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Nicole Floyd

Sept. 1, 2006, 12:45 a.m.—A weapon's law violation occurred at 21st Avenue and Children's Way.

Sept. 1, 2006, 3:03 a.m.—Officers issued a student citation for simple assault and drunkenness at 2321 West End Ave. (Lot 17).

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

SERVICE GUIDE

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

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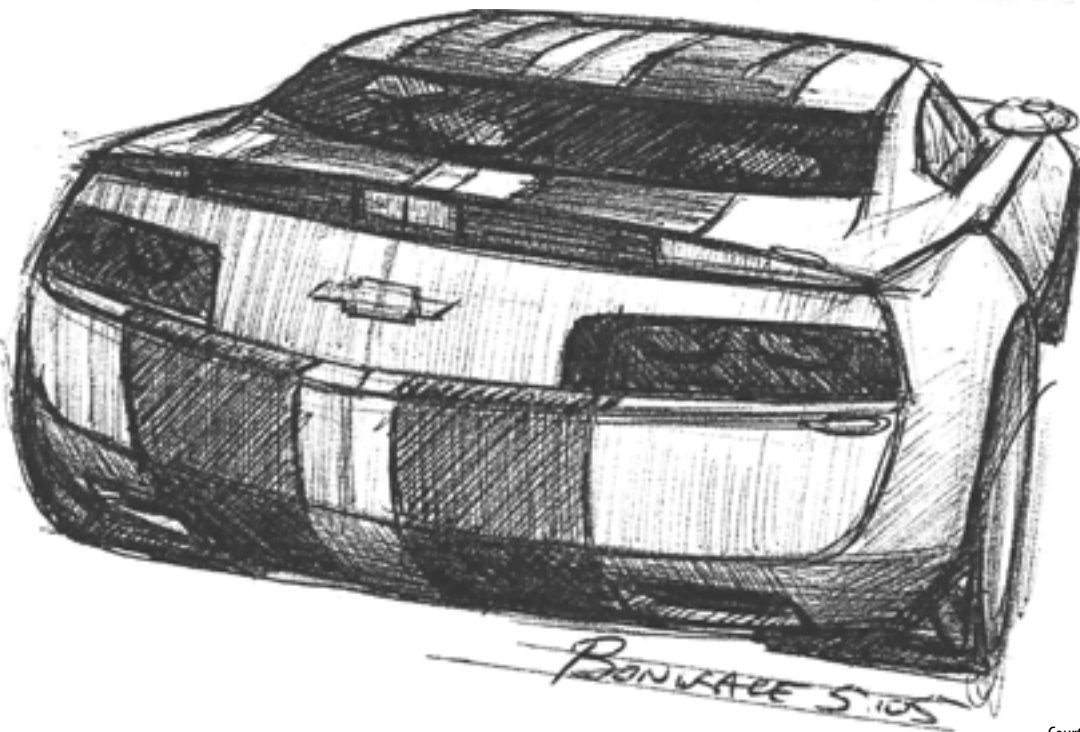
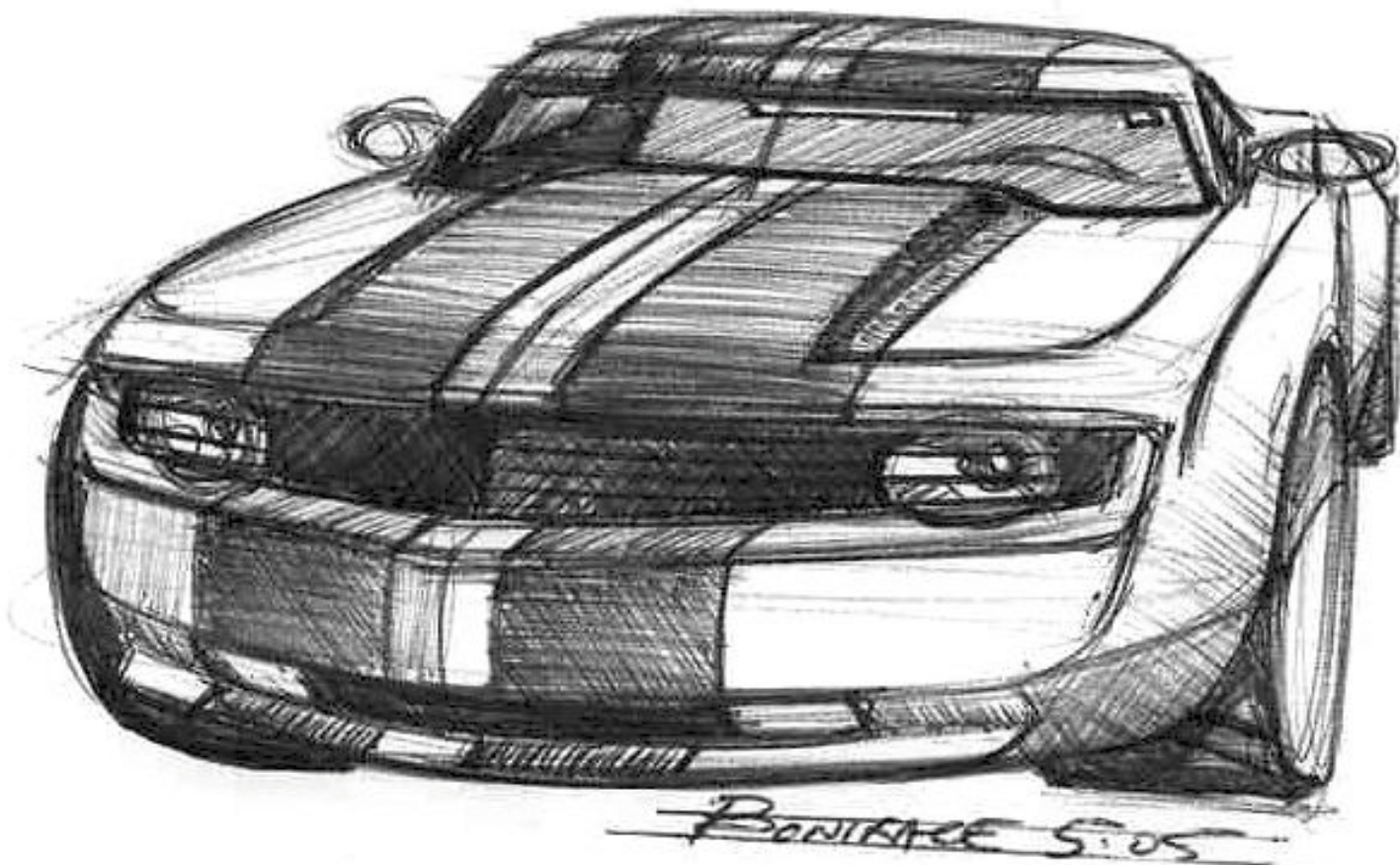
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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

Vanderbilt alum redesigns GM Camaro



Courtesy of ROBERT BONIFACE

Popular sports car scheduled for re-release in 2009.

By Heidi Boris
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Robert Boniface, class of '87, is taking on the auto industry in a big way. Since his appointment to Director of the General Motors Advanced Design Studio, Boniface has led the design teams of the 2002 Jeep Liberty, 1998 Dodge Intrepid and the 1996 Dodge Intrepid ESX Hybrid Concept Car.

His most recent accomplishment, however, is the designing of the Chevy Camaro Concept.

The Chevy Camaro, long hailed as General Motor's answer to the Ford Mustang, was discontinued in 2002. Now, the car's most diehard fans, those who love fast, affordable muscle cars, can breathe a sigh of relief.

The decision to redesign the Camaro came out of a conversation between Boniface and Ed Welburn, vice president of Global Design, at a hotel bar.

Boniface said of the meeting, "Ed told me to keep the project secret. I was fortunate to be at the right place at the right time."

Now Boniface, who designs "the 'bones' of the car," has much to celebrate.

The Camaro Concept Car will be a character in the upcoming "Transformers" movie, slated for release on July 4, 2007. Also, two weeks ago it was announced that the Camaro Concept Car will be going into production in 2009.

"I can't wait!" Boniface said. "The Camaro has a good business plan and public appeal. We also made sure that the model was drivable, and it is wonderful to know that it will be made available to the public."

During design, Boniface kept the consumer in mind.

"It's a cool car. When you drive out on the street, many people make

it a cerebral thing. They think about the car too much. I wanted people to make an emotional connection to the car. Although it is affordable, the Camaro is not about what you need; it appeals to what you want," Boniface said.

Coincidentally, while majoring in psychology and economics at Vanderbilt, Boniface drove none other than the Camaro, so the idea of reviving the car hit close to home for Boniface.

"This is a true American car. This was really a grassroots project to bring it back for a lot of enthusiasts, myself being one of them," Boniface said.

This is not surprising coming from a man who has spent his entire life around cars. Growing up in Youngstown, Ohio, Boniface's father kept a collection of cars in his garage.

"I was always sketching them," Boniface said of his father's cars. "Pairing my love for cars, my artistic ability and great education, it made sense."

Boniface has only wonderful things to say about Vanderbilt; however, he is disappointed with how few Vanderbilt graduates he encounters in his profession. Along with Boniface, Mark Reuss, a 1986 graduate of Vanderbilt, also worked on the Chevy Camaro Concept.

"Besides Mark, there are very few Vanderbilt graduates in the auto industry, but it is a huge business," Boniface said.

When asked how the university prepared him for his career he stated, "Vanderbilt did a wonderful job. Any top tier school is a necessity to work in a firm like GM or any corporate environment. My degree from Vanderbilt taught me how to think and reason. It also taught me how to interact with people and prepared me for business interactions."

According to Boniface, "sketching cars on desks during class" did not hurt either. ■

INTERHALL: Organization collaborates with many groups

From INTERHALL, page 1

"Interhall works primarily with Residence Life to ensure a satisfactory experience in all the houses, as well as working with dining, Greek affairs, athletic affairs, etc," said President Devin Donovan.

Freshmen interested in representing their halls must attend the mandatory candidates meeting this Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema.

This year, Interhall is working specifically to integrate the theme of the Commons into student and residence life, Donovan said.

The Commons, the first step in the implementation of college halls at Vanderbilt, will reorganize the way students live on campus. Beginning in 2008, all first-year students will live in one of 10 residence halls, or "houses," as they will be called, on the Peabody campus.

About 150 students will live with faculty members in each house, and Dean of Commons Frank Wcislo will reside on the campus. The initiative also emphasizes changes in dining and programming.

"The Commons is really exciting for us," Donovan said. "It's more than just

relocating the freshmen. Having the faculty members living in the dorms will create a new kind of community and having the first-year students living together will really unite the entire campus."

Interhall also joins SGA in promoting such initiatives as the Vandy Vans system and DoreWALKS, a nightly escort service provided for students, which aim to promote safety on the Vanderbilt campus.

In addition to these projects, Interhall also co-sponsors such on-campus events as Dance Marathon, Rites of Spring and Earth Week. ■



WILL KEENAN / Vanderbilt Hustler

Central Library is set to undergo renovations based on the recommendations of a task force that will be appointed this month.

Central Library to receive massive renovation

Zeppos will appoint task force at end of the month to make recommendations.

By **Ellie Atkins**
STAFF REPORTER

Renovation plans are underway to make the Jean and Alexander Heard Library more conducive to faculty and students' academic and social needs.

The administration has been receiving complaints about the library for years, but at the end of September, a task force will be appointed to generate ideas for the library's makeover, said Nick Zeppos, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

"The library really needs to be a more inviting, exciting and stimulating place for the faculty and students," he said.

"Our library is not one that is a major social or academic hub on campus. It is not a place that students or faculty view as an inviting place to spend time learning. A strong main

library will help us build community on campus."

The task force will be comprised of 10 to 12 faculty and staff members who will travel to other colleges and universities to study how Vanderbilt could make its library more successful. The task force will also include library staff members and representatives from a hired library-consulting firm.

The renovation plans generated by the group will aim to serve the needs of both current and future students.

"I'm going to ask this task force to project into the next 20 years and come up with a plan for a main library that will serve us well into the future," Zeppos said. "Our students are very smart, and we are very committed to providing them with what they need to excel."

Sophomore Melody Bishara reacted

positively to the administration's plans to renovate the library.

"I really just don't enjoy the atmosphere of the central library," she said. "I'm happy to see that the administration is working to improve it. It's important to have an inviting central library—a

place the students don't dread going."

Zeppos said that the task force will be asked to finish their initial recommendations by the end of the Fall 2007 semester and that renovations should begin approximately a year from that date. ■

DIVERSITY: Interaction between groups crucial

From **DIVERSITY**, page 1
reputation, Vanderbilt's diversity is "really not that bad."

"I think we have diversity on paper beautifully," she said. "I think that's a huge goal of any major university."

As for diversity in practice, VanDenBossche said, "It's not as bad as some people make it seem, but it's not as good as it could be."

"We have lots of diversity awareness organizations on this campus, and there are hundreds of people involved in them."

However, VanDenBossche said that she does see the need to promote interaction between the various diversity awareness groups on campus and considers the Multicultural Leadership Council the first step toward achieving that.

"If there is resolve on the part of the leaders to get together and collaborate, that mentality will trickle down so that our individual members associate with each other," she said. "At that point, we're not necessarily a minority anymore. Maybe we're a majority."

VanDenBossche said she was encouraged that Vanderbilt students are starting to cross more boundaries in their organizational associations than they were before.

"More and more students are starting to join organizations that they weren't born into," she said. "It's almost like a social movement on campus of people stepping out and saying, 'Hey, I can be a part of this organization even if the color

of my skin or sexual orientation wouldn't automatically put me in that group."

As president of Lambda, VanDenBossche said she feels a personal responsibility to promote diversity on campus.

"I think that as one of the bigger diversity awareness groups on campus, our responsibility is not just to promote diversity; it's to be at the forefront of diversity awareness on this campus," she said. "That means an involvement in the Multicultural Leadership Council and a commitment to work with leaders of all diversity awareness groups to combine programming and create connections. It's our job to promote all diversity

awareness organizations, not just GLBT organizations."

VanDenBossche encouraged students who are not currently involved in a diversity awareness organization to explore every opportunity and every type of group before deciding to join one.

"Look through these groups of people, get to know the leadership, pick one and get involved," she said. "Go for where you think you can get to the top and make some changes. The only way things are going to change around here is if you take a proactive stance."

Lambda will hold its first organizational meeting on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. in the GLBT house behind Branscomb. ■

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OPINION



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OUR VIEW

Series examines range of diversity on campus

There is one national ranking in which Vanderbilt manages to beat Duke. It is The Princeton Review's not so prestigious ranking of schools with "Little Race/Class Interaction," on which we pull in to a dishearteningly high fifth place. Only recently did Vanderbilt manage to finally fall off of its "Alternative Lifestyles Not an Alternative" list, which ranked schools according to the amount of discrimination against homosexuals. Though it is tempting to disregard these rankings, they are not baseless concoctions of The Princeton Review's imagination. Diversity issues are among the most important matters facing this campus.

The Vanderbilt Hustler is attempting to bring the diversity issue to the forefront of campus discussion, via an eight-part series examining the issue at Vanderbilt every Monday and Friday of September. Through this effort, the Hustler will seek to increase awareness of the diversity that does exist on our campus in hopes that people will begin to appreciate and acknowledge it. The first part of the series appears in today's paper, profiling Vanderbilt Lambda Association's first straight president, Kristen VanDenBossche.

Lambda, the gay-straight alliance on campus, is a truly diverse organization because it brings people of varying persuasions together. According to VanDenBossche, between 40 and 50 percent of Lambda is heterosexual, with the rest identifying differently. Too often, people think of the promotion of diversity in terms of promoting of a single, homogeneous minority group. This is not what Lambda, or The Hustler, seeks to do.

Diversity is about variety. The heterosexual, Caucasian American fraternity boys and sorority girls contribute to diversity on campus just like the majority of people who do not fall into those categories do. The purpose of our diversity series is not to allot certain groups on campus higher value than others. It is to examine a variety of groups we have on campus in hopes of creating a more cohesive picture of our campus.

Diversity is about unity, not division. It is only through bringing all people together and identifying ourselves as one community, the Vanderbilt community, that we can truly call ourselves diverse. The individuals and organizations profiled in the Diversity at Vanderbilt series all fill unique roles on campus. The profiles do not serve to distinguish these people as different from the general Vanderbilt community; they serve to demonstrate what the Vanderbilt community really is.

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.

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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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.

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EDITORIAL CARTOON

SCIENTISTS HAVE CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF DARK MATTER, WHICH, IN ITS PRESENT STATE, SEEMS TO EMIT NO LIGHT WHATSOEVER.



Don Wright — KRT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hustler article misrepresents anti-Bush protest

To the Editor:

I am once again abhorred by the misrepresentation of both your reporting and photojournalism. I find it extremely irresponsible of your publication to present exaggerated representations as fact. I reference last Friday's cover article, "President Bush appears at Loews campaign event" (9/1/06), as the most recent offense.

In direct opposition to the photos you

plastered the front page with, the anti-Bush protestors greatly outnumbered those who supported Corcoran or Bush and, furthermore, they out-performed, out-cheered and out-vocalized the relatively sedated supporters for the aforementioned Republicans.

Finally, allocating an entire paragraph explaining such a juvenile slogan as "Bush is Sexy" proves not only elementary, but sad. Of the bounty of inspired posters brought and slogans championed, you perhaps chose

the most base and insignificant as a highlight of the event.

We, the Vanderbilt community, expect far better from such a well funded and circulated publication and simply deserve better.

Thank you for your consideration and openness to criticism.

Alex Kruzel
Senior, A&S

COLUMN

Fraternity party themes add to campus problem

I was extremely shocked and disheartened that, in the aftermath of two reported rapes on campus within the first

Guest Columnist

KAZMIRA PYTLAK

week of school, the fraternity Sigma Chi chose "Principals and Schoolgirls" as the theme of its party this Saturday. Not only is it absurd that a college-educated woman should even be asked to dress and act like a little schoolgirl, but it is morally reprehensible and socially irresponsible for the members of this organization - part of the social scene which dictates the way a majority of men and women socialize on this campus - to promote a party at which people are expected to participate in the very gender/power inequities which encourage and lead to rape.

Yes, men and women alike choose to go to these parties, and it is absolutely their right to do so. But to anyone who would attempt to argue that these parties are "just for fun," I will say you are completely wrong. Events like these, and there have been many - "Rock Stars and Groupies," "CEOs and Business Hos"...the list goes on - indirectly but powerfully contribute to a climate and culture on this campus in which it is apparently OK in the minds of some men to force sex upon women. If rape continues to happen on this campus, more than we will ever know or see

because so much of it goes unreported, then the Vanderbilt community is in deep trouble, and sexist costume parties like these are a part of the problem.

This problem, of course, is a huge, multi-faceted one which won't be solved in a day. We cannot ban frat parties or ask women to keep an eye on their beverages and expect a culture of rape to magically disappear. It is a problem that takes many forms, in many different social institutions and situations, which are continually sanctioned by the school and student body. Rarely does anyone speak out, get angry or simply ask: why? Why do so many women feel like they have to sexualize themselves in a co-ed party setting? Why, and I'm speaking from experience, is it normal for a man to push a woman half his size against a wall and grind with her at a dance party? And why do men on our campus always call the shots - in terms of location, music, style and, of course, costume theme - when it comes to partying? Why in the world is it so uncommon for organizations of women to exercise control over events that play such a significant role in many students' social lives? These questions should incite discussion, not just of gender inequities on our campus, but also of the power relations which both surround and structure them.

If we want to call ourselves a "community" and claim to support and protect each of our members, then we must begin asking questions and doing

Please see PYTLAK, page 5

COLUMN

Voting and election reform key to better democracy

Six years ago, the very structure of our country was put to a test that we passed, truth be told, simply because on a large

The Dissenting VU

CHRISTOPHER McGEADY

scale, the American people are so politically disconnected that we have a hard time agreeing as a reasonable majority on anything. The beauty of our system is that, in spite of any problems, there is a nine-person body that can decide things like the highly contested 2000 election. I believe, in order to better maintain democracy, we should reexamine how we conduct our largest and most important elections so that the voice of the people is truly known and heard.

Election and voting reform are a constant issue in one way or another. Whether it is electronic voting machines or accusations of voter fraud, it's always something in terms of how we operate our democratic machinery. At present, our national elections experience a slew of problems, especially presidential elections.

First, our current presidential election structure calls for voting in each state to be for a group of electors equal in number to the total number of Congressmembers representing that state - with three for Washington D.C. - and those electors are the ones who really cast the deciding votes. With different states having different

laws and methods for voting - as one example, most states require presidential electors to vote according to the state's popular vote, but not all of them - the way in which each state apportions the electors is highly inconsistent. This asinine and indirect system - the Electoral College - was devised to protect American voters from themselves in a time when they still needed it, but we live in a completely different world today. We may still need to be protected in some ways, but it's hard not to know nowadays what a vote for president means. Legislation has circulated that would have states give their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote, but it would be far simpler to simply get rid of the Electoral College altogether and institute a straight popular vote for the presidency.

Second, the case for a simple, federally standardized and fail-safe voting method, brought to the forefront in 2000, has been reinforced lately by Mexico's hotly contested presidential election. Conservative Felipe Calderón won by 0.58 percent over leftist Andrés Manuel López Obrador, but López Obrador alleges massive fraud in the election. Considering Mexico is a country of 107 million with a history of corruption among public servants, it's not all that impossible that what López Obrador has said is true. How can we ensure the validity of such an election? And why

Please see McGeady, page 5

COLUMN

New campus publication creates division not diversity

Vanderbilt Student Communications has taken a step toward the segregation of our campus periodicals. The Talented Tenth, the newest probationary member of VSC, dedicated to

Columnist

BLYTHE RIDGE

coverage of the black community, may actually hamper rather than promote the spread of diversity in the Vanderbilt community.

While the Talented Tenth's editor-in-chief, Nathan Ford, assures us that writers will be encouraged to write for other campus publications, it is doubtful whether such encouragements will be heeded. As a result, Vanderbilt newspapers will be essentially segregated.

More effort should have been made to diversify the publications currently established. Each minority group on campus should have its own voice, but why limit the scope of your audience? It would be much more beneficial for all students to work together on publications that represent what all of Vanderbilt has to say about the issues.

I'm not saying that we should all assimilate into one group. Rather, to achieve true diversity and accurately represent our community, we should

display our individual identities in a common arena. By dividing our periodicals, we are dividing our interests. Admittedly, as I have observed in the brief period of time I have been writing for this publication, the Hustler staff is not as diverse as desired. The question is why.

Maybe many minority students feel uncomfortable writing for the currently established publications because they feel that their viewpoints are not represented in them. However, contributions by these students would give a new voice and perspective to these periodicals. Perhaps installing new sections to the current periodicals that specifically cover more racial, ethnic and religious topics would achieve the desired goal of getting out the viewpoints of different groups, while enlightening those who do not belong to them.

I am not against what the Talented Tenth is trying to accomplish. In fact, I agree wholeheartedly that our news is currently reported through a periscope that excludes the views of many. However, I feel that the division of our media will accomplish nothing more than the division of our community.

—Blythe Ridge is a sophomore in the College of Arts & Science.

THE RANT



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Compiled by Reeve Hamilton

"In light of the conflict in the Middle East, is it still appropriate to refer to the capital of Lebanon when describing a drinking game?"

"Why are we in freaking school on Labor Day?"

"I hate professors who refuse to use OAK!"

"My suitemate blindly supports President Bush. It is embarrassing."

"How many number two operatives does Al-Qaeda have, and why can't we ever seem to get any of the number ones?"

"I wish with all of my heart that I could continue to wear white, but I know that I can't without destroying everything America stands for, so there really is nothing for me to do but stay in my room until Memorial day."

"Why does the Vandy Van always leave right before I get there? Also, why, if there are railings, are we not allowed to stand inside the new Vandy Van bus?"

"I think it is weird that there are card readers in the tunnel below Towers. I'm afraid I'm going to get stuck down there."

PYTLAK: Fraternity parties should not condone mistreatment of women

From PYTLAK, page 4

what we can change the culture at this school which sanctions and rationalizes both gender inequality and violence against women. I think we need to start by turning critical attention to the people who organize and attend these events. I would expect that such undoubtedly intelligent students would be able to find more respectful and mature ways to socialize, and, if they believe that women should be respected at our university, then we should all expect them not to organize such offensive events. But, if social pressures or other choices urge them to continue doing so, then it should be demanded

that they explain and justify to all members of the Vanderbilt community the reasons why this kind of party should be promoted by fraternities and the Greek system and tolerated by the rest of us.

Those in or outside the Greek system who choose not to attend these parties should work to create social spaces, organizations and events that are comfortable and equitable for both sexes (which doesn't mean, of course, that they can't be sexy and fun), and which absolutely refuse to condone any violent or disrespectful treatment of women.

Finally, each of us must

assess the meaning and value of misogynistic social activities as a part of student life at Vanderbilt and fully consider their impact on all Greek and non-Greek members of this university community, as well as the impression they offer to those outside it. Vanderbilt is only as safe, equitable and reputable a place as we choose to make it, and we must actively and collectively make that choice if we want a better, safer school. I believe we, as a student body and community, are more than capable of doing so.

—Kazmira Pytlak is a senior in the College of Arts & Science.

McGEADY: Elections need simplicity, acitivity

From McGEADY, page 1

do we think that it is a good idea to delegate to a court a decision that is supposed to be made by the people? A better, more accurate voting system would help ensure that democratic decisions are not made by the judiciary, but by voters. Organizations such as FairVote and Americans for Voting Reform have detailed proposals on their Web sites for new voting systems that could help to eliminate the problem of voting irregularities.

Finally, and I know we've been trying unsuccessfully to do it for years, but our voter turnout and our all-around civic sense needs to be addressed, especially among minorities,

young people and lower-income levels. According to the Census Bureau, 64 percent of voting-age citizens went to the polls in 2004, but that's the overall average. Turnout percentages in various categories were higher for the elderly, white, wealthy, educated and employed citizens while significantly lower numbers were recorded for other groups. In the interest of trying to be fairer in our elections and more representative in our government, it is essential that we reverse the trend of low and declining turnout so that the true voice of America is heard.

Our elitist voting record, combined with outdated voting institutions and inconsistent methodology, has

had ramifications recent and historical about which we can only guess. Multiple times in our history, the winner of the popular vote has not become president, with the election in 2000 being just one stark example. No one knows what life would be like in another universe where things happened differently, but in terms of our future, there is no better time than the present to institute serious election and voting reform. Democracy requires simple, clear elections and an active citizenry: we need to do better on both counts.

—Christopher McGeady is a sophomore in the College of Arts & Science.

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SPORTS

Nickson's first start shows signs of promise

By Will Gibbons
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

Alabama's 2003 Mr. Football often watched Jay Cutler play in tough stadiums last season. Yet on Saturday Vanderbilt's starting quarterback Chris Nickson found himself in a situation never experienced before by a Vanderbilt quarterback: playing in the Big House in front of nearly 110,000 fans. Despite the pressure, Vanderbilt's redshirt sophomore never looked rattled.

"I thought Chris was terrific," Earl Bennett said. "He had great composure in the pocket and also running the ball."

Nickson's stat-line isn't overly impressive: the quarterback completed 11 of his 25 passes and threw for 99 yards, along with rushing for 22 yards. However, what didn't show up on the stat sheet was that Nickson never panicked. He took six sacks, but always got up and didn't throw any unnecessary interceptions. This was part of the reason why Vandy was within striking distance for much of the game.

"Just watching their film, I knew (Michigan would) be physical and bring everything they had," Nickson said. "Even though we lost, I think it was quite fun for me to just to be able to take on their licks."

While the outcome was not what they wanted, the Dores will take some important lessons from Saturday's tussle with the 14th ranked team in the nation to use throughout the season. The Commodores will now turn their attention to taking the pressure off Nickson's shoulders and having more consistent play from their offensive line. Against Michigan, Vanderbilt's offensive line, which allowed the fewest sacks in the SEC last season, struggled, and Nickson often found himself scrambling in the pocket.

A unit which was supposed to be a strength for the Dores was unable to keep the quarterback off the turf.

"We just didn't take care of what we needed to do on the front line," senior offensive tackle Brian Stamper said.

The offense also failed to establish the run. Vanderbilt had a total of 42 yards rushing, with starting tailback Cassen Jackson-Garrison only rushing for two yards. Teams never want their quarterback to lead the team in rushing, yet, on Saturday Nickson led the way with 22 yards rushing, while true freshman Jared Hawkins ran for 18 yards in his first collegiate action. The running game will have to improve for the offense to have more success as the season wears on.

"I don't want to say we lacked a running game, but if we had been more successful it would've opened up some more lanes for us," Nickson said.

Field position and turnovers also plagued the Commodores all day. Nickson fumbled the ball twice. For the offense to gel, it's clear more stability will be necessary.

"We're not good enough to turn the ball over on offense and still be successful," coach Bobby Johnson said.

Playing at Michigan is akin to taking a trial by fire approach to breaking in a new quarterback. Now, there are several lessons learned that the team can take into SEC play, which starts at Alabama next week.

"Coming to the Big House, it could be a tough task for anybody," Stamper said. "Just like we are as a team, he's going to get better as we go along." ■



FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL: Vandy's offense stalls in critical situations

From FOOTBALL, page 1

team felt like the game wasn't as hard as some anticipated."

Trailing 13-7, Vanderbilt opened the second half with thoughts on taking the lead.

"Score," said junior tailback Cassen Jackson-Garrison. "When the game's close like that, all we need is a touchdown to take the momentum."

However, when Vanderbilt needed one yard on third down, it couldn't get it. Jackson-Garrison was stopped for a three-yard loss and the Commodores were forced to punt. No. 14 Michigan went on to win the game, 27-7.

"When you get to third-and-one, you've got to convert it just to stay alive, just to keep the defense off the field," said coach Bobby Johnson. "The defense played too much today."

After Michigan marched down the field with ease on the game's opening drive to take a quick 7-0 lead, it did not look promising for the defense. But, the 26-point underdogs did not back down as they allowed just two field goals the rest of the half.

While the Vanderbilt offense sputtered, its special teams came up with one of the biggest plays of the day early in the second quarter when junior linebacker Jonathan Goff blocked Michigan's Garrett Rivas' 42-yard field goal attempt.

"We got a little more push on the ball," Goff said. "We just tried something a little different and tried to get some more hands up in the air. I was able to come out and make a play for a momentum swing."

That play set up Vanderbilt's lone score, a 30-yard touchdown pass from wide receiver Earl Bennett to Marlon White. Nickson threw a lateral to Bennett who then found White all alone in the end zone.

"They were concerned about

Earl, got up there to tackle him, and we were wide open in the end zone," Johnson said. "Earl did a good job, didn't panic, just floated it up there and we caught it."

Later in the half, Michigan seemed poised to add to its six-point lead, but Kevin Grady fumbled and Vanderbilt's Theo Horrocks recovered. The Commodores went to the locker room feeling confident, while the fans in the Big House booed their team as they came off the field.

The second half did not turn out to be as successful as the Commodores had hoped. The defining moment came midway through the third quarter when Michigan faced a fourth-and-one situation and elected to go for it.

While the Commodores had lost three yards in a similar situation earlier in the quarter, the home team gained three. Three plays later quarterback Chad Henne found Tyler Ecker in the back of the end zone to give Michigan a commanding 20-7 lead.

Johnson noticed a difference between the offensive lines. "They have a very good offensive line, and they can grab hold to you and control you," Johnson said. "We've got to react better than we did. Sometimes you've got to tie your belt buckle a little bit more and say we're not gonna take this anymore."

As a result, Nickson was sacked six times while Jackson-Garrison gained just two yards on eight carries.

"We just didn't take care of what we needed to do on the front line," said senior offensive tackle Brian Stamper. "Coach Caldwell emphasizes it every practice, every game. It starts and ends with the o-line, and we can't pass the ball, we can't run the ball unless we protect."

As for Nickson, who was 11-

25 for 99 yards with two fumbles,

Saturday's loss was still fun. "It was exhilarating just to be out there on the field with that big of a crowd," he said. "What can I say; you've got to be up for that. It was just a fun time for me despite the loss. I think the guys had a great time, just to be back on the field again."

After the game, Johnson compared Nickson's first start to another Vanderbilt quarterback's.

"I remember Jay Cutler's first couple games," he said. "It looked just about exactly the same."

In fact, it was probably worse. Against Georgia Tech on Aug. 31, 2002, Cutler was 10-23 for 73 yards with two interceptions.

"Coming to the Big House, it could be a tough task for anybody," Stamper said. "Just like we are as a team, he's going to get better as we go along." ■



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

Sophomore wide receiver Earl Bennett, a pre-season All-SEC selection, throws touchdown pass in the second quarter Saturday against Michigan. Bennett's completion on a trick play was one of the few offensive highlights for the Commodores in their season opener.

From the CHEAP SEATS

Should the Vanderbilt football team have a quarterback controversy?

YES

Matthew Specht
SOPHOMORE, A&S

There needs to be a change at the quarterback position. You may get points for trying in third grade, but not when you play football in the SEC. The quarterbacks who are successful playing against big-time programs are the ones who consistently find their receivers in the end zone, and the only Commodore touchdown pass in Saturday's game was thrown by No. 10. With a completion percentage of 100 percent and a touchdown through the air, Earl Bennett was the Dores most successful passer. I think it's about time coach Johnson put him under center.

Jambu Palaniappan
ASST SPORTS EDITOR

There absolutely is a quarterback controversy. Chris Nickson, whose speed and supposed running ability make him a dual threat, can't even hold on to the football. How can he possibly beat opposing defenses? We need someone in the pocket who can sit back and get the ball in the hands of our strong receiving corps. Be it Mackenzi Adams or Richard Kovalcheck, either would be a step up from Nickson. Bobby Johnson doesn't need a quarterback to win games; he just needs one who won't lose them. At the very least, the competition will force Nickson to work harder and attempt to improve.

NO

Jarred Amato
SPORTS EDITOR

Fans should not be creating a quarterback controversy. People forget that Jay Cutler was 10-23 for 73 yards and two interceptions in his first ever start. While fans may look at Chris Nickson's stats from Saturday and demand that Adams or Kovalcheck take over, they're forgetting a few things. One, without a running game, it's almost impossible to pass effectively, especially against the No. 14 team in the country. Two, without protection, no quarterback can perform well. Three, playing at the "Big House" is difficult for even the most experienced players. Give Nickson a chance to run this team.

Allison Malone
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Chris Nickson started his first collegiate game against Michigan, a No. 14 ranked team, in one of the biggest college football stadiums in the nation. All eyes were on Vanderbilt to see how the team would do without Jay Cutler. Under these circumstances, I think Nickson handled the pressure pretty well. Let him settle down—he will gain confidence in the coming games. Why replace him when he hasn't even had a chance to show what he can do? And, let's face it—he has one more game's worth of experience with this team than his back-ups.

SOCCER

Women's soccer upsets No. 22 Dartmouth for first victory

By Max Franklin
SPORTS REPORTER

The women's soccer team came back from a two goal deficit to upset No. 22 Dartmouth, 3-2, to end its weekend at the Auburn Classic. The win came after a tough 1-0 loss to William and Mary on Friday night.

"This win was just what the doctor ordered," head coach Ronnie Coveleskie said. "We stated before the game that it was important for us to get a win today and show the intangible ability to compete. We did that and in return our team got a hard earned win."

The Commodores (1-1-2) scored their first goal of the weekend right before halftime on Sunday when senior forward Lea Lafield beat her defender and blasted in a shot from 25 yards out, her second goal of the season. Early in the second half, Dartmouth's Becky Poskin scored two goals in two minutes, both

from deep inside Commodore territory, to give the Big Green a 2-1 lead. Vanderbilt came back strong when senior midfielder Susan McAleavey headed one in off a cross from junior forward Amy Baumann.

With less than three minutes in the game, just when it looked like the Dores were headed to overtime for the third time in four games, sophomore forward Amy Wilcox took a cross from McAleavey and scored the game winner from five yards out to give Vandy a 3-2 lead and their first win of the young season.

"Dartmouth is a good team that provided a challenge for us," Coveleskie said. "For the third straight week it was very hot and we had to battle through those conditions. We gave up the two quick goals, but our kids did a fantastic job of composing themselves and then came back to score two goals late in the match, including the game winner with

three minutes left."

The three goals were a season high for Vanderbilt and perhaps a sign that their offense is progressing to the level it started at last season, when the Dores reeled off a 12 game winning-streak due to opportunistic goals and a stifling defense.

"We have to figure out how to score goals," Coveleskie said. "The two things we have to start doing are eliminating mental lapses and we need to get better in the final third."

While the Dores were able to recover from their two-minute lapse in the second game of the weekend, William and Mary scored its lone goal of the contest on Friday just two minutes into the game on the only shot Vanderbilt allowed in the first half. The Dores out-shot the Tribe 13-9 for the game but were unable to put points on the scoreboard, as two shots bounced off the crossbar and William and Mary saved four others.

"William and Mary didn't allow us much space to create chances throughout the match," Coveleskie said. "They were difficult to get behind because they had more players playing behind the ball."

For the weekend, senior goalkeeper Tyler Griffin recorded eight saves, McAleavey lead the team with five shots on goal, while sophomore midfielder Katie Schulz had two shots on goal and Lafield, Wilcox, and junior midfielder Meredith Kohn each had one.

"We are playing good soccer and are coming together as a team," Coveleskie said. "I think once we get the offense figured it out, the goals will come and we will get the results that I believe this team is capable of."

Vanderbilt heads to California next weekend to take part in St. Mary's College Fall Classic. The Commodores will take on the host Gaels on Friday at 6:30 p.m. CT, and will then face Cal on Sunday at 1 p.m. CT at Saint Mary's Stadium. ■

CROSS COUNTRY

Dores begin cross country season on positive note

By Drew Goodwin and Harish Krishnamoorthi
SPORTS REPORTERS

The Vanderbilt men's and women's cross country teams opened their seasons this weekend at the Belmont Invitational on Friday at Percy Warner Park.

The men's team leader, junior Austin Williamson posted the best time for the Commodores in a fifth-place finish in the Belmont Invitational at Vaughn's Gap in Bellevue, Tenn. However, it was two new members of the team that left a lasting impression to coaches, teammates and opponents with times in the top 15 to help push Vanderbilt to a second-place finish, just behind the Bruins of Belmont University.

Williamson (15:10.48), freshman Thomas Davis (15:10.73), who actually produced a personal best and transfer Austin Weaver (15:28.98) stayed together for most of the race until Weaver dropped slightly back near the end.

"Our three guys grouped together in the front really made the difference today," head coach Steve Keith said. "They were able to push themselves and push each other to run with a purpose and finish strong. I hope they can continue to do that throughout the season. That would be huge."

Vanderbilt cross country fans held high hopes before the season began because of the potential of the highly touted newcomers.

Austin Weaver, a transfer from Notre Dame, holds the record for cross country state titles in Tennessee where he was an eight-time track and field/cross country

letterwinner at Franklin Road Academy from 1999-2002. Freshman Thomas Davis also comes with an impressive resume, having won the 2006 Kentucky State Championship in the 1600 with a scorching time of 4:18.74.

"I'm very excited to be coaching our two new runners," Keith said, "but I didn't hold any expectations coming into the meet. I just wanted to see how they would run together, and I am very encouraged by the results."

These new guys give us a depth on our roster that we never had before. We now have three legitimate top runners, and with Chris Noel (15:57.87) and Mike Nordlund (15:59.45) as our fourth and fifth guys, I like our chances against anybody."

The women's team also had a successful start as they finished with four in the top 30, with seniors Erika Schneble and Brittany Sizer placing 7th and 11th, respectively.

"We have more potential, and I think that health was an issue for some of our runners," Keith said. "It was great to see Brittany and Julie [Eckerly] together for a lot of the run, and I think we'll be full strength in three weeks."

The other Commodores in the top 40 were Amanda Scott (26th), Ashleigh Wetzell (28th) and Julie Eckerly (33rd).

Coach Keith will spend the next three weeks trying to prepare his runners for another test at Vaughn's Gap. On Sept. 23 the Commodores will try to bring some momentum into the Commodore Invitational against a very tough field. ■



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

Vanderbilt sophomore Matt Long tackles the course at the Belmont Invitational Friday at Percy Warner Park. The Commodores finished second.

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- 5 Stupid person
- 10 Scotch shot
- 14 Brainstorm
- 15 Take forcibly
- 16 Continental cash
- 17 Chicken _____
- 18 Some aquatic plants
- 20 Made beloved
- 22 Loos and Louise
- 23 Invitation acronym
- 24 Bring to closure
- 25 French dramatist
- 28 Big bang letters?
- 29 Big galoots
- 33 Deleted
- 34 Shout to surprise
- 35 Singer Falana
- 36 Less civil
- 37 Neon or argon
- 38 Jewel weight
- 39 Assist, criminally
- 40 Military science
- 41 Vivacity
- 42 European defense assn.
- 43 Jolson and Jarreau
- 44 Soap remover
- 45 Actress Farrow
- 46 Seniors' grp.
- 47 Upgrade machinery
- 51 Deviant
- 55 Dupe's words of woe
- 57 Hawaiian island
- 58 Bamboo stem
- 59 Cuban dance
- 60 Plaintiff
- 61 Singer Gibb
- 62 Slammin' Sammy
- 63 Duration

DOWN

- 1 Enjoy
- 2 Norse deity
- 3 Require
- 4 Enabled
- 5 Turned aside
- 6 Proceed stealthily

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9/4/06

9/1/06 SOLUTIONS

O	W	L	S		C	O	V	E	T		F	L	E	W
D	E	E	P		A	G	I	L	E		R	O	L	E
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F	L	A	K		E	V	I	T	A		G	O	R	E
T	Y	R	E		L	E	M	O	N		S	N	O	W

- 7 Pinned down
- 8 NYC arena
- 9 Albanian-Italian strait
- 10 Lucy's mate
- 11 Iron oxide
- 12 Quarter
- 13 Velvety plant
- 19 Common conjunction
- 21 "Lou Grant" star
- 24 Hall of Famer Slaughter
- 25 Campaigned for another term
- 26 Island west of Curacao
- 27 Military school student
- 28 Ski lifts
- 29 Four-time Formula One champ
- 30 Skin openings
- 31 Make happy
- 32 Lecherous man
- 37 Festive
- 38 Nile port
- 40 Bemoaners
- 41 Pop's pop
- 45 A Stooge
- 46 Addis __, Eth.
- 47 Costa __
- 48 Writer Hunter
- 49 Be inclined
- 50 Follow orders
- 51 Words of woe
- 52 Hawaiian island
- 53 Attention-getter
- 54 Entice
- 56 Holy sister

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