

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Interhall election to be held today

Current President Southern endorses Donovan.

BY KATHERINE FOUTCH
HUSTLER ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Kyle Southern, Interhall president, announced his endorsement of presidential candidate junior Devin Donovan today.

Southern said he chose to endorse Donovan because of her experience with Interhall and the Nashville community.

"All her experience both within Interhall, on campus, and in the Nashville community gives her a good perspective to serve student interests and lead Interhall next year," Southern said.

Donovan said Southern's endorsement is a testament to her commitment to Interhall.

"His endorsement is indicative of my potential and of all my accomplishments I have achieved this year and my ability to go to the next level next year," said Donovan.

Junior Russell Ross, the other Interhall presidential candidate, said he does not believe Southern's endorsement will hurt his campaign.

"His endorsement of Devin will not impact (the fact that) I will do wonderful

things for the university next year," Ross said. "It won't hurt my campaign at all."

Ross said he thinks Southern endorsed Donovan because of misinterpretation.

"I outline certain policy measures that need to be implemented and there has been a mischaracterization that I have just been criticizing," Ross said. "I think that has led to Kyle's endorsement of Devon."

Please see ELECTION, page 2

The Candidates



Devin Donovan



Russell Ross

Voting for Interhall President online or on the Sarratt Promenade today until 8 p.m.

COMMONS

Commons on track, on budget

Other universities undertaking similar projects.

BY ROBERT PROUDFOOT
HUSTLER SENIOR FEATURES REPORTER

Despite increases in construction costs due to Katrina, officials say that The Commons construction project is on schedule and on budget.

"So far we are looking great," said Susan Barge, associate provost for residential colleges. "The fact that we were so far into the project before Katrina was to our benefit."

All 10 houses of The Commons, holding 1,550 freshmen, will be completed by the fall of 2008. This includes the construction of five new buildings, a student center and the renovation of five existing buildings. Gillette Hall, an existing dormitory on Peabody, will be the first to be renovated and will be closed next fall.

College Halls A series

• Look forward to stories on safety issues, Common Ground and communication issues.

Nim Chinniah, deputy vice chancellor, administration and academic affairs and oversees the Freshmen Commons budget.

Chinniah stressed the importance of making the right comparisons when looking at costs. It would be "inaccurate" he said to compare The Commons and any other funding project on campus such as Medical Research Building Four, the Buttrick renovations or the Student Life Center.

"There really isn't a good comparison," Chinniah said. "Every project stands on its own. When the Board of Trust looks at a project, it is aware of all the factors."

The Board of Trust, a 55-person body that governs Vanderbilt, voted last February to completely fund and prioritize the creation of The Commons, a living-learning environment for all freshmen. Philanthropy also is an important aspect of funding of The Commons.

"Our trustees play a twofold role. Not only do they bless a project, but they are also the same people that write the checks."

Please see COMMONS, page 3

HEALTH

FDA warns against Ritalin, Adderall

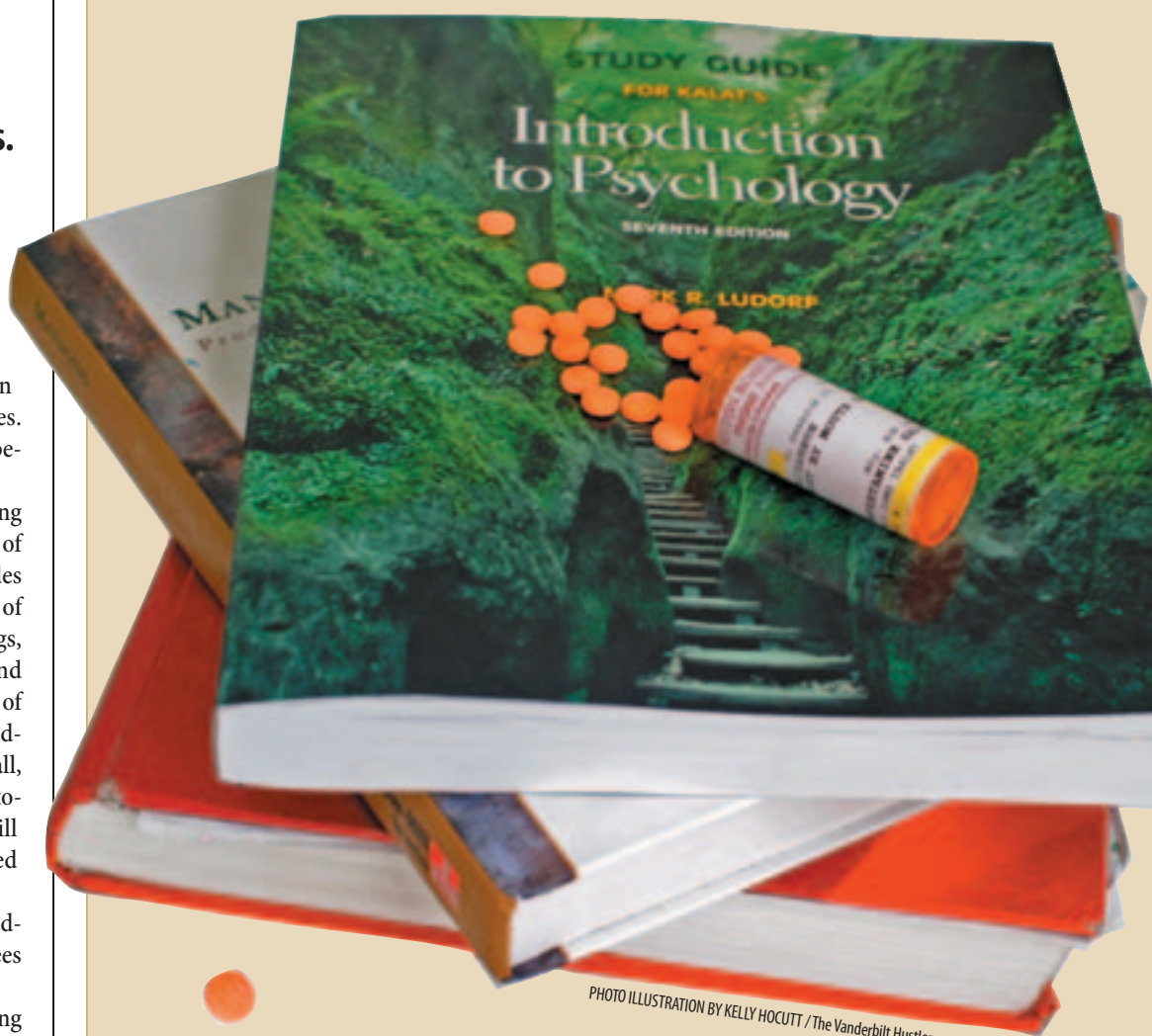


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KELLY HOCUTT / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students frequently use drugs to help focus while studying; most don't mind warnings.

BY AMY ROEBUCK
HUSTLER REPORTER

The Food and Drug Administration advisory panel voted Thursday to more strongly warn consumers of the dangers of Ritalin and Adderall.

The drugs are popular amongst Vanderbilt students because they treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

"They are very important to me when it comes to studying and I have been prescribed them since third grade," said one female junior.

One male junior said that on the drugs one can "go for six hours in a row."

However, students have shown that in some cases, the drugs lead to an increased risk of heart attacks, serious cardiovascular problems and even death.

Although the current labels caution people with certain pre-existing heart conditions about some of the drugs' possible negative effects, the FDA may decide to implement a "black box" warning, the most severe warning that the agency can issue against a certain drug's risk.

The large and ever increasing number of prescriptions written for them each year has sparked

Please see FDA, page 2

SPEAKERS

Ashcroft discusses due process, death penalty

"You don't have to move to live in a safer neighborhood"

BY MEREDITH CASEY
HUSTLER NEWS EDITOR

Former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft spoke about the death penalty on Monday evening as part of Project Dialogue, whose theme this year was "Crime and the Ultimate Punishment".

The average length of time between sentencing a defendant to the death penalty and execution is about 11 years in the United States, according to Ashcroft. This average "reflects an intention to get it right," Ashcroft said while answering media questions prior to his public lecture.

When the 9/11 terrorist attacks occurred, President Bush told Ashcroft to never let that happen again, Ashcroft recounted. Ashcroft recognized that 9/11 was a "horrible American tragedy" in which approximately 3,000 Americans lost their lives. He compared these numbers to the 16,000 individuals who are murdered each year in the U.S.

"We need to curtail murder in our culture... there are five times as many people murdered each year than people who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks."

Ashcroft is in favor of capital punishment because it deters people from committing crime and promotes a sense of justice and closure for the loved ones of the deceased.

"The death penalty saves both innocent and guilty lives," said Ashcroft. "The death penalty helps culture digest the crime and move forward... it is societal self-defense."

He spoke about serving as Attorney General and the difficult position he was put in when faced with cases in which the defendants had been sentenced to death row. The government reviews such cases in a blind way that aims to prevent racial and geographic discrimination when administering the death penalty.

"As the Attorney General I review all capital punishment cases... It is an area where you don't want to make mistakes, and you must keep in mind the distinction that any form of detention takes a life, but capital punishment ends a life."

Please see ASHCROFT, page 2



Ashcroft

MEDIA

VSC discusses grievance against The Slant

BY ALLY SMITH
HUSTLER REPORTER

The Vanderbilt Student Communications Board agreed Monday to pass a resolution resolving a Student Grievance against *The Slant* for a top ten list it printed in December 2005.

The VSC Board, which is composed of five student representatives and three faculty members, voted to "accept and acknowledge the concerns expressed in the grievance and to resolve to work with the VSC staff to improve the division's orientation about the issues raised in grievance." The grievance was filed jointly by the National Pan-Hellenic Conference at Vanderbilt, the Black Student Alliance, Interhall and the Student Government Association after a "Top Ten" list in the Dec. 7 issue of *The Slant* offended many, especially within the black community.

The grievance recommended greater training for the editors of student publications on the part of VSC, especially in regards to diversity.

Ceaf Lewis, editor-in-chief of *The Slant*, said

the resolution "won't effect (*The Slant*) as much as the grievance process did. The role of the Head of Standards and Professionalism had already been shifted before the resolution. Before (the position) was more internal, now it is more of a PR person, someone whose job is to keep us more aware of what we write."

Lewis did say however that the incident was influencing editorial decisions. "There were some things in today's issue that we decided

Please see SLANT, page 2

Vagina Monologues are back



KELLY HOCUTT / The Vanderbilt Hustler
An all Vandy cast rehearses their performance for Vagina Monologues on Friday night. Writer and performer, Eve Ensler, created a one-woman show that speaks of women's bodies covering subjects often considered taboo, risqué, and threateningly empowering. The show was held last night and is showing again tonight in Ingram Hall from 7p.m. to 9 p.m.



OUR VIEW

Read why the *Hustler* editorial board feels that the changing of our student identification numbers away from social security numbers is a welcome move but much overdue. See Page 4

QUOTABLE

Taking myself off the team is the most difficult decision I've ever had to make. But it's the right decision.

- U.S. figure skater Michelle Kwan after making the decision to drop out of the Olympics



THEATRE

Vanderbilt theater will present Hamlet this weekend and next at Neely auditorium. Read about why members of VUT choose to tackle the difficult play and what the audience should expect when they head to the theatre. See Page 8

POLL

\$13.7

Amount of money, in billions, that Americans spent yesterday for Valentines Day.

WEATHER

Extended forecast on page 2

INSIDE

- In the Bubble 2
- In History 2
- Crime Report 2
- Opinion 4
- Our View 4
- Life 8
- Fun & Games 10

PAGE 2

Today is Wednesday, February 15, 2006

IT IS THE	THERE ARE		
26th	50	13	86
day of classes	class days until exams	class days until Spring Break	calendar days to commencement

WORD OF THE DAY

PAR-A-GON

n. 1. model of excellence or perfection

Source: Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1564 Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa.
- 1820 American suffragist Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, Mass.
- 1879 President Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.
- 1898 The U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.
- 1933 President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that claimed the life of Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak.

Compiled by the Associated Press

FORECAST

- THURSDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 67
Low: 43
- FRIDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 47
Low: 31
- SATURDAY
Rain/Snow
High: 36
Low: 25

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Meredith Casey

LEAD meetings

There are two LEAD meetings tomorrow at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the CPH house (behind Branscomb) to discuss the implementation of a discussion panel focusing on local issues pertaining to Vanderbilt and the Nashville community at large (immigration, the vanderbubble, etc.). Anyone interested should attend one of the meetings or email sean.m.harris@vanderbilt.edu or adelaide.g.schwartz@vanderbilt.edu.

The Vagina Monologues

Writer and performer Eve Ensler created a one-woman show that speaks of women's bodies covering subjects often considered taboo, risqué, and threateningly empowering. This year, an all VU cast will perform The Vagina Monologues were performed yesterday evening and today from 7-9 p.m. in Ingram Hall. This performance is open to everyone. Ticket sales are now available at the Sarratt Welcome Desk for \$15/person.

Love Your Lover Week

Come by the Rec Center during Love your Lover week (Feb 13- 17) for free condoms, brochures on safe sex, or ways to say no.

Dance Marathon

Dance Marathon is February 17-18 from 7 p.m. - 9 a.m. at the Student Recreation Center. Guest tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from dancers, at Sarratt box office, or at Dance Marathon. Dave Barnes, Who's Bad (Michael Jackson Cover Band), and several campus groups will perform! All proceeds benefit the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. Event volunteers are still needed as well. Visit www.vanderbilt.edu/dance_marathon to sign up to volunteer.

Compiled by staff from various sources. Check out <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Katherine Foutch

Feb. 12, 3:16 a.m. — The glass doors leading to the dry cleaners in Branscomb Quad were shattered through an act of vandalism. There are no suspects and the case remains active.

Feb 12, 2:56 p.m. — An incident of trespassing occurred at 2501 West End Avenue (Borders). The suspect was arrested through a misdemeanor Citation.

Feb. 12, 8:55 p.m. — A license plate was stolen outside of 2422 Kensington Place (Alpha Tau Omega). There are no suspects and the case remains active.

For complete listings visit <http://police.vanderbilt.edu>.

CORRECTIONS

• In Monday's article entitled "Vandy helps out Tulane student media" it was stated that Vanderbilt Student Communications staff members Chris Carroll and Jim Breaux traveled to New Orleans to help Tulane's student media. Chris Carroll, Jeff Breaux and Jim Hayes were the three staff members who went to New Orleans. The Vanderbilt Hustler regrets the error.

• In Monday's staff editorial entitled "Ben Folds a success for VPB" it was stated that students mocked Hootie and the Blowfish for the Wendy's song. It was a Burger King song. The Vanderbilt Hustler regrets the error.

Election: Both have experience

From ELECTION, page 1

Donovan currently serves at the organizational vice president for Interhall. As such, she has worked with groups including the Office of Housing and Residential Education, the Office of Traffic and Parking, and Vanderbilt Athletics.

This year, Ross serves as the secretary of security for Interhall.

Both Donovan and Ross have three years of experience working with Interhall.

According to Donovan's platform, she wants to "campaign for ('students') needs and ensure a

satisfactory living experience in every dorm on campus."

Donovan believes that her experience and ability to communicate with students sets her apart from Ross.

"My experience with Interhall has best prepared me to promote positive change on campus and bring real ideas to the forefront," Donovan said. "My experience and ability to accomplish those two things are the real differences with our platform." ■



KELLY HOCUTT / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Former Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft, discussed ideas concerning the death penalty in Project Dialogue's series, "Crime and the Ultimate Punishment," on Monday night in Ingram Hall.

Ashcroft: Former official supports 'ultimate punishment'

From ASHCROFT, page 1

Ashcroft said.

Ashcroft implied that he supports a federal law that would make the death penalty a possible sentence in all fifty states.

"I'm pretty much a states' rights guy but the states shouldn't be able to repeal federal law... the death penalty should be uniform throughout the nation," he said.

During his lecture, a student asked Ashcroft to comment about nations of the world that have the death penalty, listing Iraq, Iran, Vietnam, China, among others, and he replied, "If they can get

something right... just because we have it doesn't mean we have it the same way."

Ashcroft emphasized increased enforcement of anti-crime and anti-drug laws as opposed to continually enacting new legislation.

"You don't have to move to live in a safer neighborhood," Ashcroft said.

Ashcroft has personal ties to the Vanderbilt community through his Uncle Samuel Clemson Ashcroft who once taught in the Peabody School of Education.

"My uncle passed away two weeks ago so I have been looking forward to visiting Vanderbilt and

being a part of a community that my uncle used to be a part of," said Ashcroft.

Ashcroft served as the Attorney General during the 9/11 terrorist attacks and during his term took a leading role in developing the nation's anti-terrorism strategy. Before taking office, he served as Governor of Missouri, and U.S. Senator.

The purpose of Project Dialogue is to get students and professors talking about issues that affect them and their place in the world, according to Gary White, associate university chaplain and chair of the Project Dialogue Committee. ■

Slant: Diversity training for Slant members not mandated

From SLANT, page 1

might be excessive, so we toned those things down," he said. Slant staff members also plans to diversify its staff by "actively recruiting" writers. The changes will depend on the next editor.

Despite the fact that diversity training was not mandated, SGA President Kate Morgan said "it

is smart of the VSC board to not dictate the details at the moment ... but this is the kind of response the community is hoping for. I think the acknowledgement that the primary editorial staff of each publication receive a larger 'this is what I means to be a publication at Vanderbilt' training."

Zakyia Smith, president of the

BSA, was unavailable for comment.

VSC staff members were happy with the outcome as well.

"At the very least the resolution will remind students working in student media about the sensitivities that exist," VSC Media Advisor Paige Orr Clancy said. "I'm not really sure what other resolution could be reached. There are ways that things

could have been worse for all parties involved, but I think all sides of the debate were willing to resolve the issue amicably." Board members also plan to hold a forum open to the campus where students will be able to speak with division heads of each media organizations.

The Vanderbilt Hustler is a division of VSC. ■

FDA: ADHD drugs are easy to come by for Vandy students

From FDA, page 1

a controversy over whether ADHD is simply more prevalent or has become over-diagnosed.

Dr. John Greene, director of Vanderbilt Student Health, pointed out that stimulants are the most widely prescribed medicine for behavioral problems in children.

Each month, doctors write prescriptions for about two million children and one million adults who suffer from ADHD. Thirty million prescriptions for these drugs are written every year.

"There is no question that the number of students on stimulants such as Adderall, Concerta and Ritalin are increasing each year both at Vanderbilt and at other universities," Greene said. "My opinion is that there are individuals in grammar school, high school and college who clearly need stimulant medications in order to function in a normal classroom

setting. However, there is little doubt the medications are over-prescribed and often with minimal or no prior academic and psychological testing."

Dr. Kate Gelperin, a medical officer in the Office of Drug Safety at the FDA, said to *The Washington Post* that stimulants have long been known to increase heart rates and blood pressure, which can directly lead to death from heart problems.

Through intensifying the warnings on the labels of stimulant drugs, the FDA said that it aims to make parents of children with behavioral problems more aware of the negative effects that the use of such drugs could have. The goal is to make doctors give more careful thought to writing prescriptions and encourage parents to seek other, non-medical ways to treat their children's problems.

"Individuals are often placed on these drugs without including other

important interventions such as time management and study skills," Greene said.

In addition to the millions of people in the United States with valid prescriptions for stimulant drugs, they can also be used as drugs of abuse.

Greene said that 10 to 15 percent of college students at some universities report that they borrow Ritalin, Adderall or similar drugs.

One male junior said that it was easy to get Adderall for free from friends who had an excess supply.

"I think that specific guidelines for prescribing and taking these medications are clearly needed and that consideration should be given to a warning on drug labels," he said.

Some students were aware of the health risks as well as other milder side effects.

"I don't take it regularly," said one female junior. "I only take it when I study. I don't like the antisocial side

effects of them."

Other students were not aware of the risks.

"I wasn't aware of the risks, and no, I'm not concerned about them," said one male junior. ■

SERVICE GUIDE

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CORRECTIONS

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

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EGG DONORS NEEDED \$20,000 (PLUS ALL EXPENSES)

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School	Project Name	Opening	Cost	Beds	Cost Per Bed*
Vanderbilt	Freshmen Commons	Fall 2008	\$150 Million	900	160k
Princeton	Whitman College	2007	\$110 Million	500	220k
Arizona State	McAllister Project	Fall 2007	\$90 Million	1900	47k
Baylor	Brooks Village	N/A+	\$43 Million	700	61k

*—Figures are rough estimates.
+—Approved Feb. 3, 2006 and still in planning stages.
Note: Vanderbilt will also renovate the rest of Peabody to have 1550 beds at an adjusted cost of 97k per bed.

Commons: Project is the first step on the road to a College Halls program

From COMMONS, page 1

The funding for Freshmen Commons will come from bond proceeds, philanthropy and internal sources. Administrators will not disclose more detailed information about sources of funding citing the on-going process and confidentiality.

"Philanthropy is playing a key role in the funding of the Commons," Barge said. "We would not have put the first spade in the ground without it."

The last time Vanderbilt had construction of this magnitude for residential housing was during the period of 1962 to 1977. These fifteen years saw the increase of Vanderbilt's residential occupancy by roughly 2,500 beds.

The period started with the completion of Branscomb Quadrangle, and Morgan and Lewis in 1962. It has been thirty years since a residential building was built on campus Barge said.

The merge of Peabody College and Vanderbilt University in 1979 gave Vanderbilt access roughly 700 pre-existing beds.

These buildings were renovated throughout the late 1980s.

Vanderbilt isn't alone in its desire to build more housing with the residential college template.

Arizona State University is implementing a residential college called McAllister Academic Village. Once completed in the fall of 2007, it will house almost 2,000 freshmen students.

The \$90 million budgeted for student housing will also pay for academic buildings and a dining center. Unlike private universities, ASU must disclose sources

of funding, including the issuing of debt.

This construction project comes in light of Ira and Mary Lou Fulton, real estate developers, who gave ASU a gift of \$100 million last December.

Princeton University is currently building a \$110 million residential college to house 500 students, increasing enrollment by ten percent to 5,100.

It is called Whitman College after Princeton's influential alumnus Meg Whitman, CEO of Ebay, who donated \$30 million to the project. Chinniah and Barge have both said that generous philanthropy is already in place for The Commons.

Barge stressed that The Commons is the first step for College Halls, and that it can also stand-alone.

"The Freshmen Commons are not a residential college. It is a launching pad, a foundation for the future College Halls," Barge said. "One of the benefits of The Commons is that it fits in as a phase one. It also fits in as a homerun on its own. Our focus is 100 percent on Freshmen Commons right now."

According to Barge and Chinniah, the Board of Trust plans to eventually implement College Halls, a series of seven colleges housing the whole upperclassman population.

The next phase of College Halls would be the demolition of Kissam Quadrangle to create two new residential colleges.

Barge said there currently is no definite timetable for its implementation.

The second phase cannot be started until the Board of Trust approves funding. ■

NATION

Man shot by Cheney suffers heart attack

Cheney has not yet spoken publicly about the accident.

BY LYNN BREZOSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — The 78-year-old lawyer wounded by Vice President Dick Cheney in a hunting accident suffered a mild heart attack Tuesday after a shotgun pellet in his chest traveled to his heart, hospital officials said.

Harry Whittington was immediately moved back to the intensive care unit and will be watched for a week to make sure more of the metal pellets do not reach other vital organs. He was reported in stable condition.

Whittington suffered a "silent heart attack" — obstructed blood flow, but without the classic heart-attack symptoms of pain and pressure, according to doctors at Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Memorial.

The doctors said they decided to treat the situation conservatively and leave the pellet alone rather than operate to remove it. They said they are highly optimistic Whittington will recover and live a healthy life with the pellet in him.

Asked whether the pellet could move farther into his heart and become fatal, hospital officials said that was a hypothetical question they could not answer.

Hospital officials said they were not concerned about the six to 200 other pieces of birdshot that might still be lodged in Whittington's body. Cheney was using 7 1/2 shot from a 28-gauge shotgun. Shotgun pellets are typically made of steel or lead; the pellets in 7 1/2 shot are just under a tenth of an inch in

diameter.

Cheney watched the news conference where doctors described Whittington's complications. Then the vice president called him, wished him well and asked if there was anything that he needed.

"The vice president said that he stood ready to assist. Mr. Whittington's spirits were good, but obviously his situation deserves the careful monitoring that his doctors are providing," the vice president's office said in a statement.

Cheney, an experienced hunter, has not spoken publicly about the accident, which took place Saturday night while the vice president was aiming for a quail. Critics of the Bush administration called for more answers from the Cheney himself.

Whittington has said through hospital officials that he does not want to comment on the shooting. A young man at Whittington's Austin home who identified himself as his grandson said Tuesday he did not have time to talk to a reporter and closed the door.

The furor over the accident and the White House delay in making it public are "part of the secretive nature of this administration," said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. "I think it's time the American people heard from the vice president."

Before hospital officials announced details of Whittington's condition, the hunting accident had produced a raft of Cheney jokes on late-night television.

"I think Cheney is starting to

lose it," Jay Leno said. "After he shot the guy he screamed, 'Anyone else want to call domestic wiretapping illegal?'"

On Tuesday morning, the White House spokesman briefly joined in the merriment, joking that the orange school colors of the visiting University of Texas championship football team should not be mistaken for hunters' safety gear.

"The orange that they're wearing is not because they're concerned that the vice president may be there," press secretary Scott McClellan said. "That's why I'm wearing it."

Hospital officials said they knew that Whittington had some birdshot near his heart and that there was a chance it could move closer since scar tissue had not had time to harden and hold the pellet in place.

After Whittington developed an irregular heartbeat, doctors performed a cardiac catheterization, in which a thin, flexible tube is inserted into the heart, to diagnose his condition, said Peter Banko, the administrator at the hospital.

The shot was either touching or embedded in the heart muscle near the top chambers, called the atria, officials said. Two things resulted:

— It caused inflammation that pushed on the heart in a way to temporarily block blood flow.

— It irritated the atria, caused an irregular heartbeat known as atrial fibrillation. ■

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2006
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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

OPINION

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JORDAN MAMORSKY, MANAGING EDITOR

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OUR VIEW

Identity theft protection long overdue

Social security numbers are critically important to all of us for many reasons. Most notably, they provide every citizen with a way to identify himself in official capacities. These numbers are extremely personal, and for this reason, in the wrong hands, they have the potential to create identity theft issues. Social security numbers are often the key to finding out all sorts of personal information about a person, and for this reason, they must be kept private.

Traditionally, Vanderbilt has used students' social security numbers as their student identification numbers. We feel it is unacceptable that Vanderbilt often requires us to recite our social security numbers in public or write them on documents such as exams, book store return receipts or Student Health Center registration forms. With the increase in identify theft in recent years Vanderbilt has been putting its student community at high risk to thieves looking to steel our identities.

However, this year, the Vanderbilt administration has begun to take steps to make its student safer by reducing the possibility of identity theft. The 12-month program that began in December 2005 will ultimately lead to the issue of separate identification numbers to students. Moreover, in a resolution this week, SGA unanimously voted to support the administration's program and to approve of the administration's move to protect students from identity theft.

The start of a twelve-month program is a step in the right direction, but it seems that the task could have been completed more quickly. While we applaud the administration for finally taking steps to prevent the possibility of identity theft, we feel that they have moved too slowly on this issue. Identity theft has been increasing in the U.S. and the idea change in our student identification numbers was first discussed several years ago.

Now that SGA, the administration, and various students have agreed on the importance of changing the current system of student identification, the administration should not waste any time in the new system's implementation.

“
Vanderbilt has been putting its student community at high risk to thieves looking to steel our identities.

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 Vanderbilt 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. Let-

ters 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 Vanderbilt 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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The Vanderbilt Hustler encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

President Kate Morgan
Student Government Assoc.
1542 Station B
sga@vanderbilt.edu
Sarratt 359
(615) 322-8742

President Kyle Southern
Interhall
7010 Station B
interhall@vanderbilt.edu
Sarratt 357
(615) 421-7515

U.S. Sen. Bill Frist
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3344
(615) 352-9411

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

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

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

Sen. Douglas Henry, Jr.
Tenn. District 21
11 Legislative Plaza
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Councilor Ginger Hausser
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(615) 783-0106

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Don Wright — KRT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Current Interhall president endorses Devin Donovan

To the Editor:

While I initially intended to abstain from endorsing one candidate for Interhall President, after reviewing the candidates' platforms and considering the future good of Interhall and, therefore, the students of Vanderbilt, I endorse with great confidence Devin Donovan.

Devin's three years of service to Interhall—as a dorm representative, Cabinet member and this year as Organizational Vice President—have established her as a uniquely qualified candidate to lead next year's residential life government. As our university faces great challenges to its community and great opportunities for its future, Devin stands ready to tackle the issues that matter with the needs and interests of her fellow students foremost in her mind.

Devin has already done a remarkable job for Interhall and for the residents of this campus, and she understands the function, focus and influence of Interhall as well as anyone.

Apart from her work in Interhall, her extensive involvement in mentoring, the Greek community and promoting Vanderbilt to prospective students have given her a deep commitment to and understanding of this place and how to make it better.

Devin Donovan has my strongest support in her effort to become the next leader of Interhall, and I encourage all campus residents to cast their votes for her today. Her service will continue to lead us well.

Kyle Southern
Senior, A&S
Interhall President

Burchard's definition of 'American' skewed

To the Editor:

I am writing to you to express my astonishment of Chad Burchard's simplistic view on immigration and assimilation of immigrants. He states how the Founding Fathers were opposed to immigration and backs his assertions with quotes. This part of the article is very well written and researched, so congratulations are in order.

However, where he does fall short is when it comes to American culture and assimilating foreigners. His views that Americans are only those people who have had ancestors endure past battles are ridiculous. He even goes as far as to claim that, people who have come to the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century are somehow less American because they cannot relate to the battles of Gettysburg and Chancellorsville. I would like him to go and state his views at an assembly of Second World War veterans, who fled Nazi persecution and came to America to fight under American colors.

Even today, recent immigrants demonstrate their patriotism for this great country. According to the Department of Defense, currently 60,000 immigrants serve in the U.S. armed forces. That is five percent of the current number for all armed forces. Seven percent of enlisted

Navy personnel consist of immigrants. Those people are much more American than Chad Burchard will ever be.

My definition of being American is also simple. It is not about past history and whether your ancestors participated in the Civil War. Those who are American realize why those battles were fought and the ideals the soldiers were trying to preserve. True Americans realize how expensive freedom and liberty are and the sacrifices they require. The recent Mexican immigrant who is in Iraq, protecting Burchard's right to sit in front of his computer and write questionable articles is American, despite his citizenship status.

The recent Guatemalan immigrant who works 20 hours a day and still goes to church on Sundays is American. Those people understand that being American has a lot more to do with ideals and beliefs than it does with history.

Everyone can sit safely at home and write about how great American ideals are and how proud they are to represent them. Not everyone can preserve them. Recent immigrants who preserve those ideas on a daily basis are deserving of everyone's admiration, not their scorn and antipathy.

Ventzislav Stoytchev
Junior, A&S

COLUMN

Call for assimilation to 'The American Story' is inconsistent and unrealistic

The argument "this is what the founding fathers wanted" is so often used as an attempt to cut off debate on an issue that I was glad to see



LONDON CALLING

TIM
BOYD

Chad Burchard pointing out the dangers and complexity of doing so on the topic of immigration. Burchard is also correct to claim that it is difficult to come up with a single set of "principles" by which America's founding generation can be defined. One thing that they did all largely believe in, however, was the Enlightenment view of "reason" - the idea that mankind should be able to address problems using rational thought.

Doing well through most of his article, Burchard's own faculties of reason appear to have deserted him at the last. The final point of his article concerned determining when immigrant communities can claim to have "assimilated" to American life. It is, says Burchard, when "an

immigrant adopts the American story, and no other, as his own. When, for example, a Mexican immigrant sees the Mexican War as a war 'his side' won."

The problems with these two sentences should be evident to anyone who reads them, and it may be that they were simply not thought through and do not actually reflect Burchard's real views. However, just in case they do, it is worth stressing just how such sentiments are not only inconsistent, but also offensive and utterly unrealistic.

The "side" that Burchard wants immigrants to support in the Mexican War in order to be assimilated is presumably that of the U.S. government. And yet his illustration of how important it is to be steeped in the cultural heritage of the "American story" is to point to his friend's deep commitment to the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). Surely, then, his friend is also "unassimilated" - as, by his definition, are any white Southerners who still feel some sense that the Confederacy was their "side" in the Civil War.

After all, not even the most devoted fan of the "Lost Cause" is going to deny that the Con-

federacy engaged in open warfare with the U.S. Army. Yet aligning yourself with the heritage of open rebellion against the federal government is apparently laudable, while a Chicano viewing the Mexican War as, say, a thinly disguised grab for land by the U.S. government against his ancestors, is a sign of having failed to culturally assimilate.

In fact, the very idea that immigrants should have to view the history of the nation they choose to live in as their "side" in order to be accepted as integrated into it would be horrendously offensive in many cases. Are we to expect today's Na-

“
Even if we could realistically expect the descendants of immigrants to the U.S. to simply forget their own background and adopt the 'American story,' exactly which story are we talking about?”

Please see BOYD, page 6

COLUMN

Boehner's loan legislation encourages business, hurts students

With all of the cuts currently being proposed by the federal government in a respectable attempt to get the budget deficit under control, after examining new leg-



OPINION EDITOR
ADEN JOHNSON

islation regarding student loans, it is clear that these new policies will not only hurt the ability of many students and their families to pay for a college education, but will ironically end up costing the government, and thus taxpayers, even more money.

There are some merits to the new loan legislation which are worthy of mention to provide a balanced picture of the new policies. Congress has eliminated the three percent loan origination fees that many lenders have charged in the past. In addition, Congress also mandated that lenders absorb an additional one percent of the cost of students defaulting on their loans. These two new policies will without a doubt take some financial burden off the federal government and make it easier for students to initially receive loans for college. However, it is important to balance these positive changes with the shortcomings of the legislation.

Through the new laws, the government is hoping to reduce its role in the college loan process and instead increase the role of private lenders. At first glance, this seems like an appropriate strategy to reduce government expenditures while still guaranteeing loans to students that want to attend college. Ironically, however, this privatization approach will end up costing both the government and the recipients of student loans more money.

Studies by both the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Budget Office have found that "direct-lending" programs, which forward loan applications directly to the government and avoid middleman companies like Sallie Mae, actually save money regardless of increased government involvement. This is because the government can borrow money at much lower rates than private business, and the profit factor of private lenders is eliminated. It has been estimated that every dollar loaned through middlemen companies costs the federal government at least nine cents, which could be avoided through the expansion of already existing direct lending programs. Instead, the new legislation actually reduces the role of these programs in favor of private lenders.

The new laws also eliminate a popular program that

allowed universities to directly lend to students and avoid the increased costs associated with using private lenders. Couple the reduced role of both of these direct lending programs with a federal student loan debt cap that was not adjusted for the massive inflation in college costs, and the laws have successfully created a new dependency on private lenders to fund college educations, which ends up costing both the government and citizens more money.

Even worse is the fact that Congress eliminated the traditionally adjustable student loan rate, which was currently at 5.3 percent, in favor of a fixed rate of 6.8 percent starting in July. In addition, interest rates for parent loans will increase from 6.1 percent currently to 8.5 percent in July. These changes will help the government save an estimated \$13 billion over the next five years. It is good that the government is taking initiative to balance the budget, but this \$13 billion could have been saved by reducing the role of private lenders. Instead, the bill will be passed on to consumers as a result of the changes and the government will continue to pay for an unnecessary bureaucracy.

It is hard to fathom that lawmakers would not have realized the consequences of these new changes until one examines who was responsible for them and where the money for their campaigns came from. The new House Majority Leader, John Boehner, who was largely responsible for the legislation, has collected \$236,000, second most in Congress, from educational lending companies and his PAC is the single largest recipient of money from Sallie Mae, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

The reduced role of direct-lending programs as a result of the new laws provides educational lending companies with more business and thus more profit. This profit is coming directly from taxpayers and from students and their families. In addition, minimizing the amount of federal loans available to students increases the need for private, non-government affili-

“
These companies have received exactly what they paid our elected officials for—more business—while people simply trying to live the American dream suffer from unnecessary higher costs.”

Please see JOHNSON, page 7

AROUND THE LOOP

What do you think about Vanderbilt Traffic and Parking?

Compiled by Alliden Johnson



BRANDON SHORENSTEIN
Sophomore

"It absolutely sucks."



JERRY SCHOOLS
Sophomore

"Vanderbilt Parking is abominable. Parking should be free and there is a need for more spaces!"



TRAVIS BERNARD
Sophomore

"Parking sucks a fat one. Vanderbilt parking tickets are more than Metro parking tickets!"



LATOYA FRNAKLYN
Junior

"There are too many permits sold for the amount of spots available. It's an inconvenience to the Vanderbilt community."



AMY KAUFMAN
Junior

"The parking office needs to sell less permits in order to accommodate students better."

COLUMN

Islamism proves hypocritical in its protest of controversial cartoon

Seldom do the troubles of modern society correlate with a campus controversy. Perhaps even more rare is when the radical Muslim world snarls at Europe rather

decides to print? After all, no Brazilian has a bone to pick with the Hustler's political commentary. This controversy polarizes the conflict between liberalism and Islamism.



COLUMNIST

DAVID ELLISON

than our fair Republic. The liberal Western tradition collided with the Koran, and a usually benign Denmark has temporarily supplanted Iraq as the front lines in the Clash between Civilizations. Back in September, it seemed innocuous enough when a Danish newspaper printed a tasteless caricature depicting the prophet Muhammad with a bomb for a turban. Despite the fact that Islam forbids imagery of the prophet, one would think that a Western paper would have a free pass when it comes to political parody.

We have a long tradition of lampooning religion—from various popes of the Renaissance to Evangelicals in contemporary America. Besides, it seems that the cartoon itself criticized "political Islam" rather than the religion of the prophet. I've had a friend don a Jesus costume for Halloween, and it seems absurd to think that such accoutrements would put my friend's life in danger, much less incite flag burning, effigy hanging and chaotic episodes of violence. The silliness of such a notion underlines the dramatic interdependence between globalism and jihad. For instance, why should an Indonesian care about what some Danish newspaper

One of the greatest advancements of human civilization has been freedom of expression. Indeed, the world would be a far more boring place had Dante been forbidden to sing the praises of Beatrice in his "Divine Comedy," and "Big Brother" would remain a distant afterthought had not Orwell been free to explore the depths of cynicism. For better or worse, Orwell would recognize the ability of the press to check the authority of government, and NGO's often measure democracy through freedom of the press. In the midst of the culture wars that plague this continent, this columnist is hard pressed to find another issue that unites pornographers and Protestants.

It seems odd to Western ears that the entire world does not value freedom of expression. But then again, Islamism has just now filled the post-Cold War void. Toleration is fundamental to the liberal tradition, as evidenced by the many ethnicities and races that now flock to our shores. Islamism, on the other hand, interprets toleration as the vice that begets all other sin. To allow other religions to practice freely is to give an infidel a foothold in the caliphate. To tolerate freedom of expression is to question the Koran and Islamic Law. To pursue life, liberty and happiness is to open the soul to decadence. In addition to the fundamental quality of

Please see ELLISON, page 7

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Honor Council Elections

Today! February 15, 2006

Candidates

Arts & Science '09

- Veronica Alvarado
- Ashley Anderson
- Sarah Byrd
- Andrew de Stadler
- Daniel Ember
- Jonathan Frist
- Sarah Hoff
- Sumaiya Hossain
- Caroline Nebhan
- Arick Park
- Ashish Patel
- Ian Roundtree
- Matt Specht
- Abby Stuffebam
- Peter Tufo
- Shu Zhang

Arts & Science '07

- Brian Hoffman
- Christina Liu
- Alex Rieger
- Issac Sanders
- Emily Skelton
- Jay Tseng
- Michael Wilt

Peabody '08

- Jeff Nolan
- Daphne Penn

Peabody '07

- Rachel Fetridge

Blair '07

- Kathryn Moreadith

Arts & Science '08

- Alex Castille
- Najib Chami
- Claire Earll
- Whitney Gage
- Ashley Haynes
- Jamie Kendall
- Yang Linda Guan
- David Nelson
- Sarah Rachmiel
- Patrick Reppert
- Rachel Schneider
- Benjamin Strauss
- Edward Wood

Peabody '09

- Sarah DeLisle
- Caroline Hickey
- Michael Ma
- Zach Sandman

Engineering '09

- Michael Systma

Engineering '08

- Cynthia Hlavacek
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COLUMN

Death penalty serves as an ineffective deterrent

Deterrence is one of the most commonly cited arguments calling for a continuation of the death penalty. It proposes that the threat of an execution will prevent murders better than imprisonment. Thus,

GUEST COLUMNIST

BRENT FITZGERALD

in order to be justified, deterrence would require state executions not only to be prompt and consistent, but also to show a direct decrease in the number of murders. As a result, the facts concerning deterrence do not support its argument.

To begin, for deterrence to achieve its goal—to reduce murders—the death penalty must be used whenever the crime occurs; otherwise, criminals could believe that they would be among those not sentenced to death and, therefore, would not feel deterred from committing the crime.

In America today, approximately only two percent of all convicted criminals of murder will eventually receive the death sentence, and even fewer among them will actually be executed. This leaves a rational American to wonder which criminal out of 50 will be chosen to be executed and how that criminal is chosen. More importantly, why is one human being killed while the rest live, even though they all committed murder?

Defenders of the death penalty could retort that if the laws were changed, more people deserving death could be executed. That is, defenders propose eliminating the long, expensive process, yet it is this very process that allows the death penalty to be constitutional. The unconstitutionality of the death penalty according to 1976's *Woodson v. North Carolina* was rectified once the trial became two trials and once the opportunity for litigation was extended.

In consequence, not only does the death penalty demand so much time, thereby eliminating its need for promptness, but also it does not even apply to the vast majority of the criminals for whom it is intended.

Still, supposing the death penalty did justify deterrence through swift, consistent actions, could the death penalty directly deter people from murder? Volumes of information and research indicate no.

People who commit murder either do so wittingly or otherwise. Those who premeditate murder assume that they will not be caught, so they have no fear of repercussions. Meanwhile, those who do not premeditate murder commit the crime due to a variety of reasons that deterrence cannot sway.

Under conditions like extreme emotional stress, the influence of drugs or alcohol, panic from committing another crime and mental illness or retardation, people do not grasp the severity of their actions or imagine what future consequences will follow. Thus, deterrence would not enter their minds either.

Nonetheless, if just extreme punishment is what is needed to deter future crimes, then long-term imprisonments offer as much success as the death penalty and maybe even more in some circumstances. According to Uniform Crime Reports, states with the death penalty, as a whole, show no difference in homicide rates as states without it. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, between 1972 and 1990 Indiana, which has the death penalty, did not experience any decrease in homicides in relation to Michigan, which abolished the death penalty, despite the notion that the death penalty ought to have stemmed the number of murders.

In further contrast to the deterrence argument, 10 of the 12 states that do use the death penalty have homicide rates below the national average. According to a 2004 FBI Uniform Crime Report, police officers are most in danger in the South, which contained 90 percent of all executions in 2000. There have even been cases where people, wishing for suicide but unable to do so out of fear, commit murder so that they can receive the death penalty and have the state kill them. In addition, according to a study between 1989 and 1991, author William Bailey discovered that violent acts tend to peak around the time of a publicized execution.

As a result, the current situation diverges greatly from the arguments of deterrence. Still, it could be possible that deterrence could justify the death penalty if the state executed every single human being who murdered another human being. Both American society and the defenders of the death penalty would never tolerate dozens of executions each day. Without the need for such carnage, life imprisonments would better substitute the death penalty since such alternatives are equally successful if not more effective. ■

Brent Fitzgerald is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

COLUMN

The burden is on Israel for democracy in the Middle East

One of the earliest usages of the well known idiom 'the straw that broke the camel's back' appears in Charles Dickens' "Dombey and

GUEST COLUMNIST

CHRISTIAN RICHMOND

Son," in which Dickens writes, "as the last straw breaks the laden camel's back," meaning there is a limit to everyone's endurance, or everyone has a breaking point.

Surely the persecution of the Jewish people has tested the validity of this known idiom, as the Jewish people have had many straws placed upon their collective back. In 1948, in an effort to balance the historic scales of justice, the United Nations gave the Jewish people a homeland in the land of Palestine. Still deeply scarred from the horrors of the Holocaust, the Jewish people began to settle in Palestine and remove the straw from their back. Unfortunately, the straws of injustice never touched the ground, as they were forcefully transferred from the backs of Diaspora Jews to the collective back of the indigenous Palestinian people.

The creation of the state of Israel gave a homeland to the Jewish people, yet took away 72 percent of the homeland of the Palestinian people. Unexpecting Palestinians were uprooted from their homes and run out of the land, creating a Palestinian refugee population of over four million, the largest refugee population in the world today. Backed by the guilt-stricken political, military and economic forces of Western Europe and the United States, the Israelis marched through Palestinian cities, towns and neighborhoods, taking land as they pleased. As former Israeli Prime Minister Moshe Dayan stated in

1956, "What cause have we to complain about their fierce hatred to us? For eight years now, they sit in their refugee camps in Gaza [and West Bank], and before their eyes we turn into our homestead the land and villages in which they and their forefathers have lived." The scales of historical justice were indeed altered with the creation of Israel. The same year that the Jewish people were given a safe homeland, the now 60-year long process of displacement, oppression, and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians began.

In 1967, the scales of justice were further altered, as the Israelis sought to increase the size of the nation given to them at the expense of the already displaced Palestinians by seizing and occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians had already lost 72 percent of their homeland so as to accommodate the creation of Israel. After losing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians had lost the entirety of their homeland to a foreign, western power. Today, U.S. claims of bringing democracy and freedom to the people of the Middle East are among the most blatant examples of hypocrisy in contemporary politics. The democracy we have been attempting to spread hinges on a double standard that sets Israel above all Arab nations. Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, receiving over \$3 billion a year since 1967, not to mention military, political and diplomatic support, all of which adds up to over \$90 billion in aid in the past 45 years. The second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid is Egypt, which maintains friendly ties with Israel, despite Israel's military occupation of Palestinian land and Israel's unilateral attack on the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula in 1956.

The U.S./Israeli claim of spreading democracy and freedom in the Middle East has led to decreased freedom and increased violations of

inalienable human rights in the form of massive settlements blocks in the West Bank, hundreds of checkpoints restricting freedom of movement, and within the past two years, the construction of Israel's Apartheid Wall, every foot of which is on Palestinian land, and which stands twice as high and three times as long as the Berlin Wall.

Last week, the Palestinian people demonstrated that they want freedom and democracy by electing Hamas. Hamas is not corrupt, rebuilds Palestinian communities time and time again through humanitarian relief projects and opposes any force that denies the democratic values of freedom and liberty, including the Israeli occupation of its people's land. While Hamas refuses to recognize Israel, Israel refuses to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to a state of their own. Hamas has stated that it will recognize Israel once Israel recognizes the Palestinian's right to a state by returning to the 1967 borders. In other words, once Israel demonstrates that it will follow international law, remove the illegal checkpoints, the apartheid wall and the settlements from the West Bank, then Israel can prove that it is finally ready for peace and finally ready to be recognized by the democratically elected representative of the Palestinian people. ■

Christian Richmond is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

Boyd: More than one "American story" exists

From BOYD, page 4

tive Americans to internalize the idea that their "side" won out in the Indian Wars conducted by the U.S. Army during the 18th & 19th centuries? In the extreme case, are we to expect a Jewish family moving to Germany in 2006 to view the Third Reich as having been their "side," simply because it represents the history of the government of their new home?

Added to the sheer cultural arrogance involved in calling for an immigrant to accept "no other" story but the American one as their own is the hopelessly unrealistic nature of this as criteria for assimilation. As Burchard's example of his friend in the SCV illustrates, one cannot simply dismiss a person's family his-

tory and cultural heritage. Why should even a third or fourth-generation Mexican-American, whose ancestors may very well have fought under Santa Ana in the Mexican War, be told that this is not part of his "story"? If this is to be the standard for Americanism, isn't it time Americans stopped celebrating such foreign cultural traditions as Oktoberfest or Cinco de Mayo or St. Patrick's Day and restricted themselves to fireworks on the Fourth of July and turkey at Thanksgiving?

Even if we could realistically expect the descendants of immigrants to the U.S. to simply forget their own background and adopt the "American story," exactly which story are we talking about? The one of being on the forefront

of religious and political freedom, technological progress and economic wealth or the one rooted in the casual destruction of native civilizations, chattel slavery and a belief in white supremacy? These are all aspects of the highly complex "American story" - and I'm not even sure that all naturalized Americans today want to uncritically accept all of it as "their own."

It is perfectly reasonable for a nation to expect new immigrants to abide by its laws and to take steps to inform them of the culture and history of their new homeland. But to expect them to deny their own ancestry and heritage in order to be accepted as "assimilated" is to set a standard for Americanism that cannot and should not be required. ■

Aden Johnson is a junior in the College of Arts and Science.

Johnson: New loan laws increase bureaucracy and fees

From JOHNSON, page 5

ated loans with even higher interest rates. These companies have received exactly what they paid our elected officials for - more business - while people simply trying to live the American dream suffer from unnecessary higher costs.

Without a doubt, guaranteed student loans are a luxury that allow many people who wouldn't normally have the opportunity to get

a higher education to receive one. In a country that espouses equal opportunity, programs like this are essential. We must ask ourselves, then, if these new laws are morally just. Is it moral to exploit Americans who want a college education but cannot afford it without loans by charging them higher interest rates than necessary so private business can make even more profit? I am not arguing against a free market or against

capitalism - these economic philosophies are what have made America so successful. However, when it comes to our citizens simply trying to obtain an education to make better futures for themselves, it seems immoral to exploit this desire so that private lenders can make more money from it. ■

Aden Johnson is a junior in the College of Arts and Science.

The *Hustler* staff sends their "get well" wishes to one of Vanderbilt's favorite professors.

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Ellison: Cartoon controversy connects to Vanderbilt

From ELLISON, page 5
Ironically, this is a shared aspect with capitalism. While the West wants to make a quick buck, the Islamist wants to impose a medieval society upon our 21st century world. How else could one explain the anger that stemmed from the Danish cartoons? Bin-Laden may claim that capitalism has no respect for the Middle East, but how can he defend the Islamist logic of imposing sharia wherever a Muslim may happen to live? Muslims are certainly a minority in Nashville, but would it be justified if sorority girls should trade their pastel t-shirts for a black scarf and few civil rights?

The fact that several European newspapers defended their freedom of expression by posting the offending cartoon, and the subsequent Muslim reaction does not bode well for the future of the current geopolitical scheme. While George Bush has largely dodged accusations that his foreign policy constitutes a "clash of civilizations" between the West and the Muslim world, Europe has proved to be a laboratory of cultural conflict. With declining birthrates and stagnant economies, the imperial powers opened their borders to former colonists that now find trouble integrating with society. While America hyphenates to delineate heritage, France largely ignores ethnicity by claiming homogeneity in citizenship—a rather fraternal reminder of the Revolution. As evidence by the aftermath of Katrina and the riots in France, neither system really works that well in quelling anxious minorities and immigrants.

Take for instance the sad tale of Theo Van Gogh, an ancestor of the famed post-impressionist. After producing a controversial documentary on violence against wom-

en in Muslim societies, an Islamic fundamentalist ritually massacred the filmmaker on the streets of Amsterdam. The West could have shrugged off the dastardly deed had it occurred in Karachi, but Theo was martyred in his own country, the cradle of religious toleration. Therein lies the hypocrisy and evil of Islamism—the West welcomes refugees and immigrants, yet must conform to the medieval values of these fundamentalists. Some later justified the murder on grounds that Mr. Van Gogh abused the freedom of expression and that he in a way deserved his grisly fate among the canals and cafes of Amsterdam. The examples of the Danish cartoon, of Theo Van Gogh and the general evil of Islamism show that yes, freedom and liberty can be abused in an attempt to start a "clash of civilizations" or undermine the liberal institutions that we hold dear to our hearts. The subject merits discussion beyond this humble article, but is it possible to abuse freedom of speech? This columnist gives a resounding "no."

Perhaps our campus should learn a lesson about freedom of speech as well. "The Slant" has been pushing the line all year long, and quite frankly—it's been hilarious. Perhaps critics have been clubbed by the medieval revelation that only a jester speaks the truth, or maybe the critics suffered an epiphany of stupidity.

"The Slant" contributes much more to this campus than most of the other Acfee applicants, and if the recent controversy is any indication, it is one of the most influential. If you can find a way to be personally hurt from something as harmless as a college paper, the joke's probably on you. Laughter gets me through Blue Monday to Hangover Friday,

and an effort to curb humor violates my right to pursue happiness. All "The Slant" wished to do was propose the ideal Rites lineup. Is that too much to ask? One may need a sense of humor to laugh at a cartoon of Muhammad, but one should not need to be Cosmo Kramer to not get pissed off at some prank. The bright side of this local controversy is that I get to contribute my two cents for the dream Rites of Spring.

Although a resurgent Zeppelin might change my mind, swing I'd for a lineup of J.J. Cale, Toots and the Maytals and David Byrne. A little blues and dash of "Cocaine" would be a great way to start the weekend, Toots would bring fist-pumping reggae joy to a Friday evening, and I'd love to see the genius behind "Stop Making Sense" live. After an "I Love the '90s" reunion last year, I'd like to see Vanderbilt music grab some of its edge back. Sadly, the chances are slim that such a concert would convene for our musical pleasure. Even if my dreams don't come true, I'll veil my anger with light chuckles and a hearty laugh. ■

David Ellison is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

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LIFE

What to Watch for
W2W4 2/15-2/21**Wednesday 2/15**

KEEP you ear to the ground, it's singer songwriter Conor Oberst's 26th birthday. Oberst fronts the indie band Bright Eyes.

Thursday 2/16

SLIP on those tights with pride, today's the anniversary of the patenting of the nylon stocking. The invention of the nylon polymer by DuPont was a boon to cold legs and silkworms everywhere.

Friday 2/17

VISIT the Frist Center today as they open two new art exhibits, one of Impressionistic landscape paintings and another of Art Nouveau silver.

Saturday 2/18

CATCH up on some movie classics from the mid-90s at Sarratt Cinema, with showings of "Clueless" and "Billy Madison" at 7 and 9 p.m.

Sunday 2/19

TREK through the desert with "Lawrence of Arabia" at the Belcourt Theatre. Part of the Classic Oscar Picks series, "Lawrence" shows Sunday, Monday and Wednesday.

Monday 2/20

CELEBRATE President's Day by venerating the president of your choosing. Though it's traditionally used to honor Washington and Lincoln, why not spend the day paying tribute to Calvin Coolidge?

Tuesday 2/21

SPEAK your native language today, it's International Mother Language Day. Organized by UNESCO in 2000, the holiday celebrates diversity and multilingualism in the rapidly shrinking world.

THEATRE

VUT brings its 'Hamlet' to Neely

BY MONIKA BLACKWELL
HUSTLER REPORTER

Its lines are some of the most quoted of any play, its story one of the most tragic, but

William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is still considered timeless despite its familiarity. The members of Vanderbilt University Theatre have chosen to tackle this esteemed work as their first play of the spring semester.

Director Terryl Hallquist said that one reason the play is applicable is due to present day politics.

"We're a country at war and Hamlet's country is a country at war, so there are some good parallels there, too," Hallquist said. "Everyone connects with Hamlet, but we don't quite understand him."

She also pointed to current statistics about violence against women and described the conflict she faced working with a classic hero who was so vicious against women.

"As a woman I don't want to excuse bad behavior towards women so you have to try to figure out a balance, try to understand where all that anger and venom is coming from," Hallquist said.

Hallquist emphasized that it will focus on the current generation of actors and students. "This is your 'Hamlet,'" she said, "Hopefully it reflects the tensions going on in your world personally and politically."

VUT's "Hamlet" is also made more approachable by the fact that

it is not set in a particular period. Hallquist explained that its staging is pulled from many periods so that it becomes more universally interesting.

Senior Jason Dechert, who plays the role of Hamlet, said that "putting a timeless piece of art into a timeless setting" makes it accessible to everyone.

Despite the fact that "Hamlet" has been performed a countless number of times, the actors still feel that they have maintained originality in this version of the play. Brielle Bryan, a junior playing Gertrude, said she doesn't feel pressure to conform to one way of playing the role and that there is always room for interpretation.

"Nobody's ever seen our 'Hamlet,' nobody's ever seen how Brielle plays Gertrude, nobody's ever seen what happens in the closet scene between us, and in that way it's really liberating because we're giving people a chance to see it for the first time," Dechert said.

Twenty-three Vanderbilt students are involved in the play, including eight freshmen. The cast also includes Mackenzie Shivers as Ophelia and Tyler Weakas as Horatio.

"We're not members of the Royal Shakespeare Company," Dechert said.

The play will be performed Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. and next Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.



Jason Dechert, left, is Hamlet, and Matt Derby, right, plays the roles of Claudius and the Ghost in VUT's production of "Hamlet."



The production's industrial stage design and forbidding lighting scheme put a bleak, modern spin on Shakespeare's historic play.

Photos by PETER TURNO/The Vanderbilt Hustler

COLUMN

?

Is there a difference between the types of Diet Coke?

Diet Coke has long been a staple on the Vanderbilt campus — more than 200 self-proclaimed addicts can be found on Facebook. With so many versions now available, how does one make an informed choice on whether

ASK ME ANYTHING

**XIMENA
LEVANDER**

to pick Diet Coke, Coke Zero or Diet Coke with Splenda to fulfill his cola needs?

The difference comes down to the artificial sweetener used and how that chemical tastes.

Diet Coke contains Aspartame, however Coke Zero uses a combination of Aspartame and Acesulfame Potassium (Ace K) to add sweetness in place of the high fructose corn syrup found in regular Coke.

When consumed, Aspartame breaks down into phenylalanine and aspartic acid — two amino acids found in proteins — and methanol, which is found in certain fruits and vegetables. The body digests these products in the same way that they are normally metabolized, making Aspartame safe for normal consumption.

Ace K, often used in combination with another artificial sweetener, enhances the sweetness of Aspartame

and produces a more sugar-like taste in Coke Zero. The body does not metabolize Ace K, which is composed of acetoacetic acid and the mineral potassium.

According to the International Food Information Council, another reason to consider drinking diet sodas is neither Aspartame nor Ace K promotes tooth decay although regular soda with high fructose corn syrup does.

You may be asking yourself, since I drink a lot of Diet Coke, how much is too much?

To answer this question, the Food and Drug Administration established the Acceptable Daily Intake, a value to determine the safe amount of a given product for normal consumption if that amount were consumed every day of a person's life.

According to the IFIC, in order "to reach the ADI (for Aspartame), an adult would need to consume about 20 cans of diet soft drink, or 42 servings of sugar-free gelatin, or 97 packets of low-calorie tabletop sweetener," a level significantly higher than the typical Vanderbilt undergraduate consumes. Drinking the ADI for Aspartame gives "the sweetness equivalence of consumption of about one and a half pounds of sugar per day by an adult. This amount of sweetness would be difficult for an individual to consume during one day, let alone every day over a lifetime."

Diet Coke with Splenda on the other hand uses an ar-

tificial sweetener called Sucralose, a compound derived from sucrose, better known as table sugar.

The FDA approved Sucralose, discovered in 1976, for use in 1998. Replacing three hydrogen atoms found on a sugar molecule with chlorine atoms makes Sucralose. Anywhere that sugar is normally used, Sucralose can be used, and unlike aspartame it does not lose its sweetness when baked at high temperatures or stored for extended periods of times.

How noticeable is the difference in flavor between the three beverages? After my own taste test, I found that I prefer the taste of Coke Zero to either Diet Coke option, and the difference in taste becomes quite apparent when drinking all three products in one sitting.

Every person will have their own taste and product preference, hence the marketing power for Coca-Cola having three different products to allow everyone to find a non-calorie beverage choice of their own.

—Ximena Levander is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

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send it to:

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Web site YouTube.com offers a place to share and view homemade digital movies, from impromptu cell phone videos, to well-produced films. That funny video of guys dressed up in weird outfits or that amazing clip of out-of-control weather are probably on YouTube. Recently shot your own cinematic masterpiece? Share it with the world on YouTube. The Internet will thank you.

Expand musical horizons with last.fm:

Feel stuck in a rut on your music choices? Don't know anyone else who listens to Captain Beefheart as obsessively as you do? Music tracking and recommendation Web site last.fm keeps track of your listening habits through a free plugin and finds others who listen to the same songs. Checking these "musical neighbors" can lead to discovery of new bands to enjoy.



You
Should
Know



- 01 Belle and Sebastian
The Life Pursuit
- 02 Cat Power
The Greatest
- 03 Jenny Lewis with
The Watson Twins
Rabbit Fur Coat
- 04 Delta 5
Singles And Sessions 1979-1981
- 05 We Are Scientists
With Love and Squalor
- 06 Clap Your Hands Say Yeah
Clap Your Hands Say Yeah
- 07 Magneto
Sounds Like Space
- 08 The Budos Band
The Budos Band
- 09 SNMNMNM
Exploderama
- 10 Robert Pollard
From a Compound Eye
- 11 Wilco
Kicking Television: Live in Chicago
- 12 Slow Runner
No Disassemble
- 13 Luke Doucet
Broken (And Other Rogue States)
- 14 Death From Above 1979
Romance Bloody Romance
- 15 Beck
Guerolito



LIFE section seeks writers for these topics:

Bars
Wine
DVDs
Nashville

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Exitin.com

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THU 16-Feb

Bob Schneider w/ Andy Waldeck
SUN 19-Feb

Fiery Furnaces w/ deadboy & The Elephantmen & Sybris
THU 23-Feb

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club w/ Elefant
FRI 24-Feb

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SAT 25-Feb

Belcourt Theater
Belcourt.org

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Raul Malo
FRI 24-Feb

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Umphrey's McGee
WED 22-Feb

Will Hoge w/ Southern Bitch
SAT 25-Feb

Galactic w/ Gamble Brothers Band
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SUN 23-April

Tickets available at all Ticketmasters, 255.9600, and ticketmaster.com, exitin.com

FOOD

Bistro adds unique French flair

BY STEPHANIE YEWDELL
LIFE FOOD WRITER

Do you have an intimate date planed? Are you going out with a group of friends? Bistro 215, located next to the Green Hills Mall, is a versatile option to accommodate both parties.

A bucolic chandelier hangs in the entrance, where the hostess awaits to seat customers. The feel is comfortable, cozy and rustic, complete with cushy booths and warm wooden fixtures. The sense is elegant casual, with a clientele of all ages. In the warmer months, Bistro 215 increases its seating capacity by allowing diners the choice of eating on their patio. Although Tennessee

allows restaurants to offer smoking sections, Bistro 215 is completely smoke free.

Bistro 215 serves American cuisine infused with French flair. Flip over the menu, and those fluent in French can order in whichever language they choose. There is an extensive choice including colorful salads, mile-high sandwiches and refined entrees. A three-course meal is possible to conquer, leaving the diner full and satisfied. The kitchen is fast and efficient, bringing the entree a few minutes following the first course. It is often a rush to finish the salad in order to enjoy a hot entree.

Served on toasted baguettes, the smoked salmon dip (\$9) is an excellent starter. Dill, capers and red onions add to the delectable flavor of the dip. The traditional but savory French onion soup (\$6) is a must have item on the menu.

As for salads, they range from the timeless and simple to the artisan plate. The classic Caesar salad (\$8) is the perfect option when choosing a dish that comforts. The more adventurous Baby Greens Aux Lardons (\$11) has poached egg, bacon and apples with fabulous strawberry mango vinaigrette. The Blackberry Tuna (\$13) has fresh seared ahi tuna atop of bed of spinach, dotted with bits of gorgonzola cheese and almonds. Berry salsa and blackberry vinaigrette ties all the flavors together to complete the experience of the salad.

Bistro 215 takes traditional sandwiches and adds a unique twist. Instead of tuna, a generous portion of chicken salad hides beneath melted havarti cheese, atop toasted English muffins, in the Chicken Salad Melt (\$9). Bistro 215's club sandwich (\$9) sits inside a buttery, flaky croissant.

Various cuts of steak, assorted types of fish and chicken cooked in numerous styles, as

well as pasta dishes, are offered as entree choices. Presentation is elegant and simple. The French favorite, steak frites (\$14) is a generous 10-ounce steak, served next to a heap of thin cut French fries. In land-locked Nashville, the trout almandine (\$17) is an excellent option that cooks fresh rainbow trout with clarified brown butter topped with toasted almonds, with a side of rice and sautéed green beans. Two boneless chicken breasts are concealed under fabulous marinara sauce with a hint of wine, sprinkled with fresh basil and parmesan cheese, for the chicken basilica (\$14). The chicken is placed next to roasted garlic polenta, bringing out the flavors in the marinara sauce. The linguine pomodoro (\$16) pairs the interesting combination of shrimp and sweet Italian sausage together, tossed with succulent tomatoes, white wine and garlic, in the wonderful marinara sauces.

Dessert is not to be missed. Paulette's Mocha Chip pie (\$8) is Bistro 215's featured dessert. Mocha ice cream has chocolate chips within, dripping with homemade whipped cream. Toffee bits surprise the taste buds as one attempts to finish the large slice of cake. The Apple Rosemary Crepe with Orange Essence (\$6) is a mix of flavors, creating an interesting, different dessert. Warm cinnamon apples are wrapped in a light crepe surrounded by an orange sauce. Bistro 215 serves lunch throughout the week and features a wide variety for brunch on the weekends. Bistro 215 will also gladly box up any of their delicious dishes for dining in the pleasure of your own home or dorm room.



Bistro 215's interior uses ample wooden fixtures and rustic accents for a cozy, smoke-free atmosphere.

Food for thought

Bistro 215
3281 Green Hills Village Dr.
385-3636
Takeout: 385-7051

Hours: Mon-Thurs 11AM-11PM
Sat 10AM-12PM
Sun 10AM-11PM

Menu: French-American
Price: \$10-30
Atmosphere: Rustic
Dress: Snappy Casual

07

1-2 3-5 6-8 9-10

COLUMN

Seasonal stress could be a disorder

It seems that during this time of year, it is especially hard to be motivated. February is just a month when it is hard to be cheery. The

HEALTH COLUMN
Jon Pennycuff

weather is cold and dreary; the ground is brown and dead. Nothing seems to be uplifting, and the blah feeling has no explanation. Feeling blue, however, does in fact have a physiological explanation and is related to the weather outside.

Seasonal Affective Disorder is a mood disorder wittingly called SAD. Humans are cyclic creatures, and our functional clocks are generally set to our exposure to the sun, such as the sleep-wake cycle.

During fall and winter months, we receive less exposure to the sun, which can send some people into a depressive state relative to the seasonal variations of light. With days shorter during the winter, it is harder to get sun exposure, especially when we spend the majority of daylight hours in a classroom or office building. This lack of exposure can then shift our biological clocks and cause us to be out of sync with its natural setting.

According to the National Mental Health Association, the symptoms of SAD include regularly occurring depressive symptoms such as excessive eating, sleeping or weight gain. A craving for starchy or sugary foods may be especially strong.

To be diagnosed with SAD, the symptoms have to show recurrence, with seasonal episodes occurring over the last two years and outnumbering non-seasonal episodes of depression. Another indicator is the complete remission of the depressive state once sunlight exposure increases.

SAD has been linked to the neurohormone melatonin. Melatonin is released from the pineal gland of the brain and is associated with the sleep-wake cycle. During dark periods, melatonin expression increases. This increase in melatonin production during the darker months may be the culprit for the seasonal depression and has been shown to induce depressive symptoms.

There are several treatment options that seem to boost one's mood and combat SAD. Many people respond very well to phototherapy, a treatment where the patient sits under specially designed light bulbs that mimic the sun's natural light. Some people even find tanning beds helpful for alleviating SAD, but tanning comes with the caveats of skin damage and cancer. The best treatment, however, seems to be reorienting oneself to natural sunlight. In fact, one hour in winter sunlight appears to be as effective as two and a half hours under a sun lamp.

While daylight hours are on the upswing, there still are only a few hours of usable daylight once you subtract class, eating, work, etc. from your day. If you notice yourself feeling the winter blues, think about increasing your time outside. Take some time to walk around campus. Open the blinds in your dorm room to let in more natural light. Play some Frisbee on the quad, especially on the warmer days. While spring's sunlight and warmth are not too far away, you don't want to leave yourself feeling blah in the meantime.

—Jon Pennycuff is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

Life wants YOU to write stuff

TRAVEL

Take a break with a weekend trip

Many times we would like to take a break from the stresses of school but can't figure out how. Occasionally, it is a great recharge to jet off to a warm beach for the weekend or



LIVING IT LARGE
BOYCE ADAMS

visit friends or family.

Often, the biggest barrier between you and that Mai-Tai in Nassau is the price of an airline ticket. However, almost every airline has its own version of last-minute vacation or trip packages that allow the college student on a budget to enjoy a weekend outside the bubble.

Washington, D.C. is the perfect place to get away when you have a free weekend and is a frequent last-minute fare destination. Whether catching up with friends or touring some of America's most patriotic sites, Washington provides something everyone

can enjoy. There are various options that allow you to get there cheaply. Of course, there is Southwest service into Baltimore which is usually about \$150 roundtrip. However, since Baltimore is at least a 30-minute train ride from Washington, the US Airways last-minute fare into Washington Reagan National, usually \$138, would be more ideal. American Airlines also competes on this route with a similar fare, but the American flight would require a Monday return.

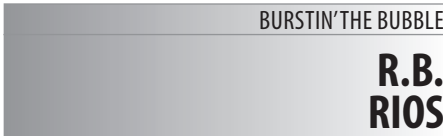
If Nashville weather has given you the winter blues, a trip to the Caribbean may be just what you need to get back on track. The weather is nearly perfect and the deals are just as great. Many airlines offer weekend packages — hotel included — beginning at around \$500. While a trip to the Caribbean may not be as cheap as the others I have mentioned, wouldn't it just feel good to get an early start on your tan? If you can sacrifice the cash, I would go full steam ahead on a trip to the Bahamas.

If fun in the sun seems to be a little out of

TRAVEL

Germantown offers alternatives

Stale air. Fluorescent lights. Elevators that smell like lager. It is time to vacate the dorm room and venture out of the Vanderbubble to breathe in the fresh air of some of Nashville's



BURSTIN' THE BUBBLE
R.B. RIOS

vibrant locales. This week, take a sunny afternoon to experience a neighborhood steeped in Nashville culture. Historic Germantown is nestled on the north side of Nashville between 8th and 3rd Avenues and begs you to come hither. This recently rejuvenated area is full of restored Victorian houses, and with new lofts and other housing developments underway, Germantown pleases the eyes as much as it does the palate. Of the many experiences Germantown offers, be sure to include the following on your day-trip to this Nashville gem.

The Nashville Farmer's Market is chock full of homegrown produce, ethnic food and flea-market atmosphere. Peruse both the outdoor produce stands and the inner courtyard, where, if you arrive early enough, you might take advantage of the food court's many offerings for a sure-to-please lunch. The Bicentennial Mall, conveniently located next door, provides an excellent location to enjoy your dessert, take a stroll and then watch the sunset.

After resting a while, and regaining your appetite, prepare to meet some new friends and feast your eyes on a site seen far too rarely by Vanderbilt students. Stroll over to 1235 6th Ave. N., to be embraced by the abounding happiness that is Monell's. Don't forget your manners while you allow yourself to be embraced by some new best friends, because Monell's serves a family-style feast to tables of 12. Menus have no bearing here, because all patrons are lavished with the same hearty

dishes of Southern cuisine. It is important to note, however, that on your table will be many dishes, served in very large bowls. You may need to pace yourself; this culinary tour is brought out in flights, and you will not wish to exempt yourself from any of what they have to offer. Delve into the smorgasbord of comforting Southern love and expect to be lulled into a state of contentment, in concert with a need to nap.

After this gastronomical expedition, you will be more than willing to head home and put your feet up, and that is exactly the effect that Southern comfort food is supposed to have. So, leisurely place your fresh local produce on your counter, give a yawn of satisfaction, rest your eyes and grin — infecting the concrete walls of your dorm with the quaint charm of historic Germantown.

—R.B. Rios is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

FUN & GAMES

SUDOKU

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02-13 Solutions

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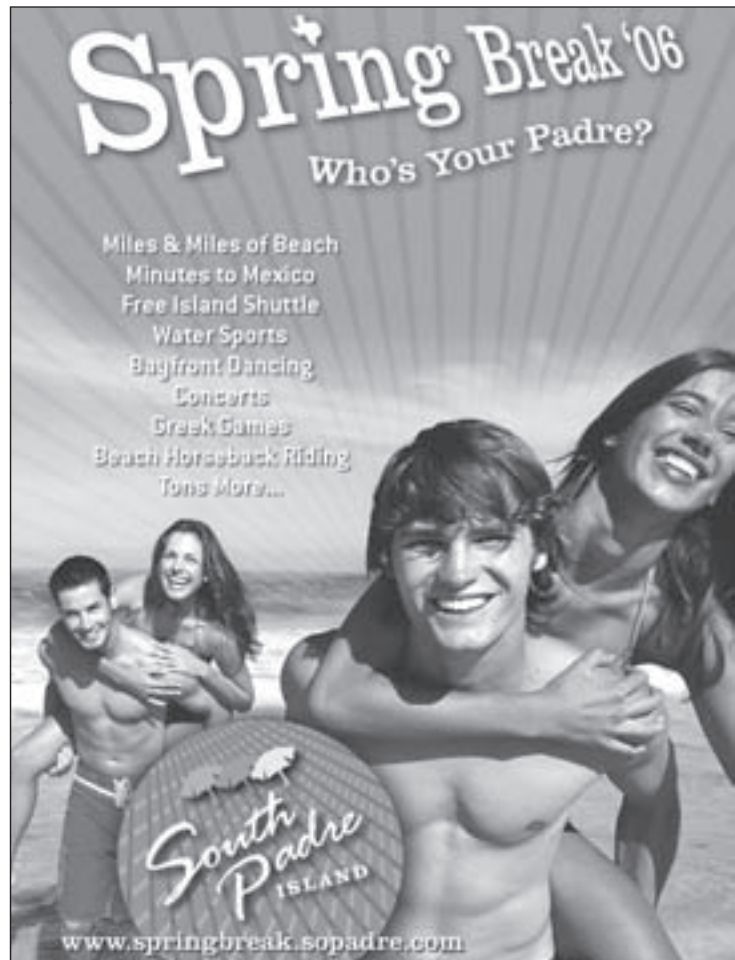
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 - Unexpected triumph
 - Bordeaux brothers
 - Dreaded fly
 - Cassowary cousin
 - Poetic contraction
 - Sizzling
 - Highlands wraparound
 - Dumbfounded
 - "Dallas" matriarch
 - actor Holbrook
 - Break off
 - Some places of learning
 - Actress Magnani
 - General Arnold
 - "__ Gang"
 - Lair
 - Charged particle
 - Chirps
 - Embankment
 - __ Antonio
 - Not in any way
 - Profusion
 - Exchange
 - Noel
 - Speaker's platform
 - Made a request
 - Proofer's save
 - __ out (withdraws)
 - Loamy deposit
- DOWN**
- Cass Elliot, for one
 - Turkish leaders
 - With gusto
 - David of CNN
 - Music player
 - Old-fashioned quartet
 - Fencers' foils
 - Latin being
 - Seine, e.g.
 - Land's end?
 - Middle section
 - Ms. de Mille
 - Midler or Davis
 - Rural
 - Actor Stephen
 - Heavy weight
 - Supplemented, the hard way
 - Uris novel, "___ 18"
 - Lack of substance
 - Seventh tones
 - Eastern way
 - Salton or Caspian
 - Deal clincher
 - Feudal serf
 - College bigwig
 - Reverberated
 - Solo in "Star Wars"
 - Take to court
 - Temporary car
 - Broadway offerings
 - Disprove
 - Botanic structure
 - Principle of faith
 - Unspoken sculpture
 - Ginger treat
 - Pindar works
 - Ties the knot
 - Brouhaha

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02-13 Solutions

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