

OPINION: Miller solves all dating problems with five words: 'Pay up or put out.' SEE PAGE 4

SPORTS: Vanderbilt squash team finishes stellar season with strong performance at Nationals. SEE PAGES

VSG members elected on similar platforms

by CHELSEY FELDMAN

News Reporter

After weeks of public campaigning and months of planning platforms and making posters, the 2009-2010 school year's senate and class council hopefuls finally heard the election results. Online voting began Wednesday at 8 a.m. and closed Thursday at noon. The candidates were informed of the results shortly after.

The following students will serve in Vanderbilt Student Government's senate and class councils for the upcoming academic year:

A&S Council Attorney General Ning Foncham

A&S Senators

Maria Crist **Tommy Obenchain** Josh Sirchio

A&S Council President John Gaffney

A&S Council Vice President Jeremy Strickland

A&S Council Representatives

Matthew DeNuzzo Robert Munro Lucas Scholl Amit Shintre Sabrina Smith

Melodee Toles **Blair Senator**

Thomas Crespo **Blair Council President**

Jordan Holland **Engineering Senator**

Engineering Council President

percent turnout in the primaries.

accessible to all Vanderbilt students.

Andrew Morse

Engineering Council Vice President

Engineering Council Secretary

Bruce Spencer Engineering Council Treasurer

Jason Ogg

Engineering Council Representatives Dylan Bunch

Andre Stevenson Nicholas Vass

Melanie Gault

Peabody Senator Kate Goudge

Peabody Council President

Jane Slatton **Peabody Council Vice President**

Naveed Nanjee **Peabody Council Secretary**

Jalencia Burchett

Peabody Council Treasurer Tim Gilbert

Peabody Council Representative

Judy Lewis

The election had a 44 percent voter turnout, up from a 42

Popular issues in the election this year are evidenced by many

similarities in the winners' platforms. The majority of elected

candidates promised such changes as improved academic

advising, upgrading OASIS, expanding the meal plan with Chick-

fil-A and more Taste of Nashville options, and making VSG more

First-year student and newly elected Arts and Science senator

"I am so excited to have the opportunity to better serve the

student body and address students' concerns," Crist said. "I'll

be accessible and open to suggestions to better help everyone,

but I really want to get started on implementing the Commodore

Card discount plan. It's important we get everything done in the

The official student government turnover dinner will take place

on March 18. At this time, newly elected candidates, including

senators, class council members, cabinet members, President-

elect Wyatt Smith and Vice President-elect Lori Murphy will

spring, and I think it could be really useful for students."

officially assume their respective positions.

Maria Crist said she would like to see changes take place immediately, starting with a student discount plan at local stores

at restaurants with the use of a Commodore Card.

Music Group announces

Rites lineup

Wayne Coyne, lead singer of The Flaming Lips, who is part of the lineup for this year for Rites of Spring, performs during the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami, Aug. 29, 2004.

by SYDNEY WILMER

Editor-in-Chief

EVE ATTERMANN Managing Editor

The Flaming Lips, N.E.R.D and Santigold will be among the acts performing at this year's Rites of Spring, according to the Music Group.

The headlining act has yet to be released, as well as some of the smaller opening acts. Okkervil, Black Joe Louis and the Honeybears, and Grand Ole Party will also be performing.

"We try to provide what students want, and I think we have done that," said Dwayne Elliot, director of Student Campus Events. "We are trying to keep it more upbeat (than last year)."

The Flaming Lips are known for wild performances, many of which include space ships, confetti and balloons.

"We will be getting everything (in their set) that is feasible for the location," Elliot said.

Elliot said this year's selection process was slightly different as the group took student

See Editorial for more information about this year's Rites lineup.

See page 4

responses to its fall survey very seriously while compiling the

"The most requested artist this year was Taylor Swift, but she is not within our budget,"

According to Elliot, this year's booking process was especially difficult as many of the more Please see **RITES**, page 3

Honor Council announces 28 new members

by HANNAH TWILLMAN

News Editor

Concluding an application process that began at the beginning of the semester, the 28 newest members of the Honor Council were named after elections closed on Tuesday. Students could vote for candidates in their school and year.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE First-year students

Zack An **Brandon Bell** Jeff Derbyshire Matt Glassanos Megan Gornet Tom Hardy Andres Hernandez Zye Hooks David Lee Michelle Leung Tim Xu

Sophomores Jason Anderson

Joe Anderson Sahi Denduluri Zoe Matthew **Bailey Murdock Patrick Seamens**

PEABODY COLLEGE First-year students Austin Elder

Margaret Liddon Cara Cogburn

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING First-year students

Brian Lesniak **Zach Diggins** Ayeeshik Kole lan King Sophomores Eppa Rixey

BLAIR SCHOOL OF MUSIC First-year students Tiffany Tieu

Tom Mulder

Sophomores Michelle Godbee

ASB site canceled in wake of gang violence in Mexico

by HANNAH TWILLMAN News Editor

The packing lists are out, the final meetings have been held and midterms are almost over. Essentially, everything is set for the beginning of the 22nd

The participants of one of the 36 groups will not be going to their original destination, however. Due to a sudden escalation in

Alternative Spring Break.

gang and drug cartel violence along the U.S.-Mexico border, the "A Dios Le Pido" site in was basically a place we wanted Monterrey, Mexico, had to be canceled 10 days before the 11 participating students were supposed to leave to go work with Caritas de Monterrey to aid the impoverished community.

"Monterrey, Mexico, was actually a site we were really excited about," said ASB Co-Chair and senior Mike Putnam, who was disappointed in having to cancel the site. "... The service there was very good historically and we'd had a couple successful trips, and it

to continue working with."

According to Putman, the area had become too dangerous for students to go to. There has been general unrest in the area a couple years, but Putman said when the site was planned in May 2008, the region was no more dangerous than locations frequented by other service

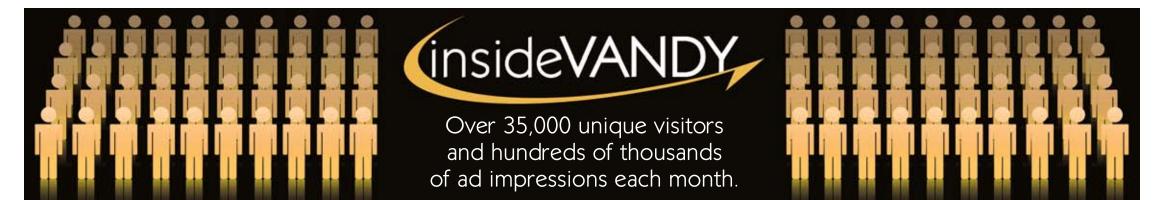
The weekend of Feb. 14-15, however, the violence sharply increased as the drug cartels Please see ASB, page 3

Drug violence peaks along U.S. border



SOURCE: Reforma newspaper via University of San Diego Trans-Border Institute

NEWS INSIDE: Vanderbilt Medical Center stands out among competitors for nurse retention rate. SEE PAGE 3





HIGH **58**, LOW **40** A.M. showers / wind

SATURDAY



HIGH 40, LOW 27Light rain / wind

SUNDAY



HIGH **42**, LOW **21** Partly cloudy

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SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 20 edition of The Vanderbilt Hustler, the caption for the iEngineer photo on page 3 incorrectly stated that the students built their own robots and that Heather Stone won the competition. Students actually used the iCreate robots to play capture the flag and Stone was a participant. The Hustler regrets this error.

FRIDAY SPICE

Suspect in southern NJ bank robberies lives next door to local police station

BARRINGTON, N.J. (AP)—Police didn't have to travel far to find a man accused of robbing three banks in southern New Jersey.

That's because 61-year-old Lawrence Dove Sr. lives next door to a

Dove was arrested Wednesday near his Barrington home and charged with robbing banks in Haddon Township, Haddonfield and Lawnside this month.

Authorities have not said how much Dove, who is unemployed, may have taken from the banks.

Dove is being held on \$225,000 bail. He could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted.

Injured good Samaritan ticketed for jaywalking while saving elderly women

DENVER (AP)—A good Samaritan who helped push three people out of the path of a pickup truck before being struck and injured has gotten a strange reward for his good deed: A jaywalking ticket.

Family members said 58-year-old bus driver Jim Moffett and another man were helping two elderly women cross a busy Denver street in a snowstorm when he was hit Friday.

Moffett suffered bleeding in the brain, broken bones, a dislocated shoulder and a possible ruptured spleen. He was in serious but stable condition Wednesday.

Colorado State Trooper Ryan Sullivan said that despite Moffett's ntentions, jaywalking contributed to the accident. Moffett had been driving his bus when the two women got off.

In the interest of safety, he got out and, together with another passenger, helped the ladies cross. Moffett's stepson said the driver of the pickup plowed into his stepfather, but not before Moffett pushed the two women out of

Court rejects NY doctor's bid over the kidney he donated to his ex-wife

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—A court has rejected a New York surgeon's claim that he should get \$1.5 million in his divorce settlement because he donated a kidney to his wife.

Dr. Richard Batista has said he's entitled to the kidney compensation because Dawnell Batista was denying him visits with their three children.

In a ruling Tuesday, matrimonial referee Jeffrey Grob (Grahb) says the kidney was a gift. It was donated in 2001, during happier times

in the marriage. Grob says a wide range of items are considered marital property

- but donated organs would not be among them. The doctor's attorney, Dominic Barbara, says he considers the ruling a victory for his client because the donation will be onsidered as a factor in the overall distribution of marital assets

Dean resigns over spray paint incident on neighboring school's campus

NORTH CANTON, Ohio (AP)—A college dean has resigned, saying she spray-painted a traffic sign on a neighboring campus.

Kent State University cited personal reasons for Betsy Boze's departure Friday as dean of the branch campus in Stark.

A police report says security officials saw a woman defacing the sign at Stark State College of Technology on Feb. 15. No charges have been filed.

Boze told The Canton Repository newspaper that she painted a sign to remove an arrow that was pointing to an incorrect parking lot. The schools share some parking.

Boze said the paint job wasn't graffiti and declined further

A Kent branch campus spokeswoman says the school doesn't condone such behavior. Boze had been dean since July 2005.

Police: Mystery object tears through Dallas roof, no theory yet plausible

DALLAS (AP)—Police say an unidentified falling object dropped out of the sky with enough velocity to tear a hole through the roof and the second floor of a Dallas home.

Senior Cpl. Kevin Janse said Wednesday the six-pound piece of metal with two drill holes in it fell Tuesday evening when the person who reported the incident wasn't home. Janse said there

were no injuries. Officers couldn't determine the source of the debris. Janse said radioactive tests on the metal were negative. Several state agencies were notified of the incident, but Janse said none offered a theory about what happened.

Janse said there were no reports of similar incidents in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Suspicious Fish/206 Wisconsin ice fishing contest ends with big switch **SOMERSET, Wis. (AP)**—Lee Shehow had a whopper of a fish tale.

Shehow, of New Richmond, claimed to have won Saturday's ice fishing contest on Bass Lake in Somerset after pulling up a northern pike weighing 2.42 pounds. TV cameras were rolling when he was asked what he would do

with the grand prize, a \$27,000 Dodge pickup truck. He replied: "Drive it like it's stolen." But private investigators working for the tournament suspected

the winning fish was smuggled in.

Under contest rules, the winner was offered the chance Sunday to take a lie detector test and refused, organizer John Montpetit said, and that meant the prize had to go Tuesday to the runnerup, Monica Slimmer, of La Crosse, who caught a northern pike weighing 1.72 pounds.

EXTRA CROSSWORD

Crossword

- **ACROSS**
- 1 Little devil 4 Emerge from a
- shell 9 Bit of parsley
- 14 Unknown John
- 15 Florida city
- 16 Vowels 17 Conclusion
- 18 "Slave Ship"
- author Jones 19 Started
- 20 Ansel or Samuel 22 "Silkwood" star
- Nabokov title
- character
- 26 Most meager
- 30 Singer Horne
- 32 April 15 org. 33 Two-finger sign
- 34 Didn't miss a
- beat
- 38 Solid
- 39 Man-made fiber 40 Muscle spasm
- 41 Costume 42 Reservoir filler
- 43 Fantastic
- aspirations 45 Noshed
- 46 Canine
- 47 Spoke 48 Biting midges
- 51 Common insect 55 Fasten
- Toy-car sound effect 58 Quite chubby
- 61 Mock playfully 63 Actor Curry
- 64 Snoots

65 Kind of circle or

- 66 Period
- 67 Glorify
- 68 Surrenders by treaty __ Moines, IA
 - DOWN 1 Paradigm
 - Cane' 3 Foot control 4 Black-and-white
 - cow 5 Unreturnable
 - serve 6 Old sailors

7 Coagulates

46 Abhor 49 Stand in the studio

Solutions

D E 8

A A B

8 Toupees

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- 9 Cavalry swords 10 Hatchery chatter
- 11 Put in the fix 12 Promissory note
- 13 Firearm 21 "Paradise Lost" poet
- 23 Wyatt of the Old West 25 Cape ___, MA
- 27 Madonna title role 28 Blood part 29 Short-term
- workers 31 Of an eye defect 34 Islamic text
- 35 Poetic Muse 36 Works at 37 Gratuity
- 38 Tributary stream 41 Funeral group 43 Act petulant
- 44 Pat gently
- K E b T I N S T E B B T F F B W ∃∀

CEDES

T E A S E

NOSEENWS BEELLE

ORLONTIC

A T E D O G B A I D

M O O A V H D A T T A

P I P E D R E A M S

- 50 Act division 52 Carried
- 53 Longest French river
- 54 Samms and Lazarus

56 Ranch worker

- 58 Washington's bill
- 59 Swap punches 60 NASA's ISS partner

62 Observe

PHOTO of the WEEK

The photographers who cover campus for student media are working hard to capture images of life at Vanderbilt. This image was selected as the Photo of the Week.



Alyson Jones sings at Kissam After Hours, an event organized by Kissam residents to collect donations for the Dismas House of Nashville and to promote the quad to rising students.



CHRIS PHARE took this photo of a singer at Kissam After Hours by adding an off-camera flash to brighten the extremely dark room.

Student photographers interested in joining the staff are invited to the next meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, in Sarratt 130.

Brought to you by the Commodore Yearbook. Order your yearbook at VanderbiltCommodore.com From **RITES**, page 1

popular acts were not touring this year. The group also had to compete with many larger festivals, such as Coachella and Country Music Association's Music Fest.

"It was hard. They have the CMA — it is every major label act, sells out Titan's stadium. It's hard to compete," Elliot

Tickets go on sale Monday, though Vanderbilt students will be on spring break. Elliot said buying tickets ahead of time does not offer students any real advantage, however. He went on to say 20 percent of our ticket sales happen the day

of the show. Ticket prices will \$20 for students for a weekend pass; each student can only purchase one ticket at this price. Public tickets will be \$45 in advance for the weekend and \$55 if purchased on the day of the event for a weekend pass. A one-day ticket will be \$40 for the general public. There will be a six-pack limit for those over 21 years of age who decide to bring beer to the event.

As for those acts requested by students that didn't make the bill, Eliott said there might be hope to see them in the future.

"We might do one for Quake next year," he said. ■

ASB: Site cancellation ends well

From ASB, page 1

paid townspeople to protest against the police force and the Mexican national army that was brought in response to the cartels' takeover of the town. The confrontation resulted in the assassination of the police officer in charge of the investigation and his family.

After parents of site participants and one of the site leaders expressed concern over the safety of the site location at the beginning of the semester, Putman said the organization brought the situation to the attention of the administration. Up until that weekend in mid-February, he said both ASB and the administration thought the group would still be able to

go to Monterrey. Once they heard of the sharp increase in violence, however, it was decided in conjunction with the Vanderbilt International Office that it was in the participants' best interest not to travel to the area.

Putnam said within an hour of making the decision, an emergency meeting was called to explain the situation to the group members and efforts to replace them on different sites were underway. Of the 11 participants, nine were replaced within a few days. The other two elected not to participate this spring break.

Putman said the group members were very flexible during the replacement process, and he thinks most were pleased with the result.

"We were able to offer them almost half of the sites, and some of the best ones, too ... Almost all of them got their first choice, which is really exciting," he said. "... I was glad we could accommodate them as close as possible."

"A Dios Le Pido" was one of two international ASB sites this year, in addition to one in Xela, Guatemala. Putnam said despite the issues that arose with the site in Mexico this year, ASB's policy about international sites has not been affected. In fact, he said he hopes the organization will expand its out-of-country service options in the future.

personally "I'll be recommending that they go back to Primeros Pasos (the site in Guatemala) for sure. There are sites in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic in particular that I think would be

worthy places to go," he said. Putnam said although the cancellation of the site in Monterrey was unfortunate, he is happy with how the situation

was handled. "It was a very unfortunate circumstance, but it ended up working out very well. A lot of the people who ended up going other places got the site that was in their top couple the first time around, and they all got sites that they're very excited about. ... All of ASB is a bit stronger now because of (the Monterrey participants) going to sites that had one missing or so. It's great; it feels good to have every site full," he

Nursing program strong despite shortage

by ALLIE MORRIS Senior Reporter

In the face of a nationwide nurse shortage, Vanderbilt Medical Center has the highest nurse retention rate of any of its competitors, according to John Howser, deputy director of news and public affairs.

In an article published by redOrbit last week, it was reported that the nation's nursing shortage is expected to steadily grow in the coming

"Generally speaking, when the nursing shortage is being discussed, this is more of a looming national crisis," Howser said. "The worry is more about what's on the horizon as the baby boomers begin to get old and need health care in greater numbers.... The nation's nursing workforce is aging, and many senior nurses will be retiring at the same time their services will be in the greatest demand by society."

In order to maintain nurse retention rates, the Vanderbilt Medical Center has established a variety of nursing support programs

and competitive salaries and

"Our nursing workforce is given a voice within the institution and are treated as the highly valuable professionals they are," Howser said.

According to the redOrbit article, one in five new nurses quit their job during the first

"I think the transition would be difficult," said sophomore Sarah Quirk, an ENGAGE Scholar who will attend the Vanderbilt School of Nursing. "No matter how book smart you are, actually working in a hospital setting is different."

The Vanderbilt Medical Center has developed a Nurse Residency

Program that supports the new nurse's transition from student to professional.

"It takes a minimum of 18 months to 24 months for the new graduate to transition into the professional nurse role and feel confident and competent," said Director of Nursing Education and Development Debianne Peterman. have designed the NRP with that in mind offering a robust orientation and facilitated educational and support sessions that the nurse resident attends every six weeks during that first year."

Among other programs, the Vanderbilt Medical Center provides roughly 300 continuing education programs each year for practicing nurses and offers a Nurse Wellness program that helps nurses improve their

"(Nurses) will be able to 'replenish their cup' to be able to better care providers for our patients," Peterman said. ■

Vanderbilt researchers discover new memory processes by 'reading minds'

by MORGAN SMITH-WILLIAMS News Reporter

A team of Vanderbilt researchers has made great strides in discovering how and where what we see is processed and stored in the brain.

Through using functional magnetic resonance imaging, lead researcher and graduate student Stephenie Harrison and Associate Professor of Psychology Frank Tong were able to conclude that the visual cortex — the part of the brain that processes visual stimuli — has a large part in retaining short-term memory. Previously, it was accepted that the visual cortex, which is located at the back of the brain, did not have the capacity to stay active and store memory after the image was removed from in front of

"What we wanted to focus on in our research was if the brain can still pull information out of its visual areas when the stimuli is no longer present. Proving that the visual cortex stays active after the stimuli is removed is a breakthrough," Harrison said.

The study consisted of first showing subjects a grating image, which is a series of lines in a circle or a square, while being monitored by the fMRI. Then the researchers would show a horizontal or vertical rotation of the image, and then tell the subject which of the previous images to remember. After an 11-second delay in time, the researchers would then show a slight rotation of the image they were supposed to remember and ask them how the image was modified.

The fMRI device, which essentially is a large, powerful magnet, monitors the blood flow to each part of the brain through the magnetic properties of the hemoglobin in blood. Researchers can determine which parts of the brain are active and for how long by monitoring where the blood is going in the brain. Analyzing brain stimulation activity during the 11-second remembering period allowed Harrison and Tong to determine which grating image and orientation the subject had in mind.

"The capacity of fMRI to reproduce very complex images in the future is very possible, but needs the right kind of focused research," Harrison said.

Both researchers members of the Vanderbilt Vision Research Center, and were supported with funds from the National Eye Institute, the National Institutes of Health and the Natural Sciences and **Engineering Research Council** of Canada. ■

Early decision class of 2013 most competitive ever

by SARAH BILSKY

News Reporter

Vanderbilt has just admitted one of the most competitive early decision classes in the school's history.

Vanderbilt received 19,300 student applications for only 1,585 spots in the class of 2013. Of the total number of applicants, 1,838 of them applied early decision, a 24 percent increase from last year. About one-third of the Class of 2013 has already been admitted through the early decision process, according to Associate Provost for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen.

Emily Hobbs from Georgia, one of the newly accepted high school seniors, said Vanderbilt's national reputation appealed to her.

"I was drawn to Vanderbilt because of its dedication to academics ... and its reputation in the professional world. I know a degree from Vanderbilt will be a real asset to me in my future career search." Hobbs said.

Christiansen said this pool of applicants represents one of the most ambitious and diverse collections of students the university has seen yet.

According to Christiansen, the average student admitted early decision ranked in the top 5.5 percent of their high school class, which is up from the average of top 6.4 percent for last year's class. In addition to the strong academic qualities of applicants, Christiansen also said this is one of the most ethnically diverse groups of applicants Vanderbilt has seen in recent years.

"We are seeing huge increases in the quality, diversity, geographic diversity, ethnic diversity (of applicants). ... If we look at total ethnic diversity for early decision admits, we are up 61 percent or 41 students — from last year," he said.

While there could be several reasons for the increase in the number of applications, Christiansen said a big

reason for the increase is the experience Vanderbilt has to offer its students and

the reputation of Vanderbilt's faculty. "Cleary one of the main reasons in my mind why more students are applying is because of the experience here at Vanderbilt. It's hard to market and recruit if you don't have a good educational product," Christiansen said. "With the name recognition and what a degree from Vanderbilt means, especially in this economy, it is going to be very beneficial ... to list graduation from such a quality school."

Jarrett Wadler, a new admit from Houston, Texas, said Vanderbilt appealed to him on a number of levels.

"I decided to apply to Vanderbilt because I wanted to go to a school in the South with top academics and still a great social scene," Wadler

Some early decision applicants, like high school senior Justin Langford from Indiana, applied early simply because



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustle

Until high school seniors began to apply for a spot in the Class of 2013, the Class of 2012 — the first to live on The Commons — was considered to be the most talented and diverse of any class to come to Vanderbilt.

they knew Vanderbilt was where they it was my top choice. ... I was more wanted to attend college and could not wait until April to find out if they had been accepted.

"I decided to apply early because

than anxious to hear back the results of admissions. I could not have waited till the regular deadline and kept my sanity," Langford said. ■

Robot to aid autism



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Professor Nilanjan Sarkar of the Mechanical Engineering Department created an innovative robot that can work closely with autistic children by measuring specific physiological functions.

NROTC drill team takes second at Tulane meet

by CALLIE JONES

News Reporter

The Vanderbilt Navy ROTC drill team placed second in the Platoon Basic, the main competition of the annual Tulane Drill Meet held in Baton Rouge, La., this past weekend.

"Compared to other units, Vanderbilt focuses much more on academics, so we aren't necessarily known for our military prowess" said Public

Affairs Officer Matthew Fillmore,

against people with much more time to devote to military aptitude."

About 40 different units were represented at the meet, including well-recognized units from places like Texas A&M, Vanderbilt Military Institute and the military academies. The drill team has been practicing since September, and this semester they have been working very hard, Fillmore said. Practices began as early as 6 a.m. and

a junior. "We were competing were held four to five times per

"All the practices definitely paid off," Fillmore said of the second-place finish. "We did

The meet was scheduled so it would coincide with Mardi Gras weekend since Baton Rouge is only a short distance from New Orleans.

"Win or lose, this meet is always a good time and provides some celebratory fun," Fillmore

OPINION

Online Editor

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How to manage a long road trip



JUSTIN POYTHRESES Columnist

Some of you may have just returned from a road trip down to Mardi Gras or elsewhere last weekend. Others are planning some road trip mania for the upcoming spring break. Whether it's heading somewhere in Mexico where people won't immediately be able to upload videos of you onto the Internet or trying to feel good about having fun on Alternative Spring Break, everyone wants to have a pleasant road trip.

There's no way around it really; spending eight or more hours in the car will most likely not be the best times of your trip, but there's some methods to make it a little more tolerable.

Tip #1: Designate two drivers. If there's just one driver, he will simply get grumpy. (Both drivers should certainly be male — if you're on an all-female road trip, recruit a strange man at a rest stop or at least have one of your friends dress up as a guy to put other drivers at ease.) Have the drivers alternate, with one always sleeping. If you ride shotgun, you don't sleep. This sometimes gets overlooked because the driver doesn't want to seem like a selfish, lonely jerk begging for your company. Forget that. Crank the music really loud for a second, or get in a small wreck to teach the passenger a lesson.

Tip #2: Designate specific bathroom times, like once every three hours or so. Nothing saps the life out of a road trip worse than stopping every 10 miles. We all have that friend who seems to have the bladder control of a second grader and insists on pulling over two to three times an hour, claiming an emergency. I know because I am that friend. Two tactics here: Don't allow this person a beverage of any sort. Hopefully he or she will pass out from dehydration and remain unconscious until you arrive at the destination. Or consider equipping your weak link with adult diapers: They're more dignified than they sound when you're trying to shave off two hours of your trip by

Tip #3: Do the cruise control game. Dangerous at first, then it slowly grows on you, then you realize again how dangerous it is. This is where the driver sets a cruise control and sees how long he or she can maintain that speed. All tactics, including driving on the median or shoulder, tailgating or taking the wrong exit, are permissible.

Tip #4: Designate a road trip drunkard. If possible, try to make this selection coincide with your weak bladder member. It's not a good idea for any more than one person to do this, because problems overlap with Tips No. 1 and No. 2. On the plus side, this vital crew member will provide endless entertainment and foolish antics until he or she collapses or vomits all over the car.

Tip #5: Play music. Bring whatever you can in the way of CDs, iPods, etc. Eventually you will run out of anything remotely interesting to do or say. Control over selection of the next song will become the sole focus of car interactions. Each member wishes to prove he will be able to select a forgotten but wellloved gem of a song everyone will enjoy. To avoid dispute, radio control should default to shotgun passenger, with an open driver veto.

College. He can be reached at j.poythress@ vanderbilt.edu.

Rites of Spring promises to surprise and entertain

As of this morning, the Music Group has announced the primary lineup for Rites of Spring. The Music Group claims the lineup is representative of students' requests; however, there were some constraints. The most popular selection was Taylor Swift, but she was deemed too expensive and there was a question of her availability. Swift was not the only popular candidate who couldn't be booked.

Admittedly it is difficult to please all segments of such a sonically diverse campus as Vanderbilt. The Music Group, as usual, used surveys to get the consensus. Of course, the process isn't perfect — it is possible to vote more than once and it's difficult to fit everyone's taste in between pricing, availability and stage

space. So while students might be a little letdown, the Flaming Lips are sure to impress.

The Flaming Lips, troubadours with a penchant for the overtly dramatic, have played recently all over the country including Bonnaroo and Birmingham City Stages in sequential years. Their most recent album, "At War with the Mystics," released by Warner in 2006, won a Grammy in the same year for Best Rock Instrumental Performance. Recently, the Lips released a movie titled "Christmas on Mars," whose subject is fairly self-evident.

Besides the Flaming Lips, the Music Group promises N.E.R.D., Santigold, Q. Tip and Okkervil River. All things considered, Rites will be exciting.

Spring break guide



THOMAS SHATTUCK **Opinion Editor**

As you might have noticed, spring break is now upon us. I'm sure some students will go off with Alternative Spring Break and help out needy communities. A few more might stay on campus or go home. There might even be a small minority going off to Tijuana or the Yucatan to discover how Mexico got its reputation. Of course, there's Florida, Jamaica and the Bahamas — a little more on "the relaxing/drink until your heart rate slows alarmingly" side. No matter what, the theory of spring break is that it is in fact a vacation; however, the practicalities can become a little complicated.

For those of you who have professors who thought it was reasonable to assign homework due the Monday after the break — I'd say I feel sorry for you, but I'm in the same position myself. I'll probably be the one awkwardly trying to carry a thermodynamics book and a calculator along with my luggage in the Nashville International Airport terminal. Look on the bright side: You'll have nine days to procrastinate instead of a couple. It's a poor tradeoff, but liquor pong and homework are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

As I mentioned earlier, a few of you might be staying on campus or going home, which is essentially the same thing. Thanks to our early break, none of your friends from high school will be at home, and no one will be on campus. You'll effectively be isolated, unable to do much. Assuming you don't live

EDITORIAL CARTOON

taceboo

we are watching you.

in the hinterlands of Nebraska, there are always bars to visit (same with Nashville if you stay at school). For those of you who do live in the hinterlands, I'm deeply and truly sorry. There's always next year, and more importantly, there's always moonshine (available at your nearest illegal distillery).

Now, I've been to Mexico before, but not for spring break. I was just relaxing on/near the beach in the early fall in Cancun. I wasn't trying to buy a half-ounce of heroin in Tijuana or trying to avoid getting murdered in Juarez. Hell, I wasn't even in the sketchy part of Cancun. I must've been at least three miles from Senor Frogs, and no one even tried to proposition me (that did happen in Key West once, but that's a different story).

The Bahamas are always nice but expensive. Jamaica might be cheaper; unfortunately, the country seems to lack a coherent legal structure, and you might want to bring your own security guard. As for Florida — well it's in the U.S., which means it's actually frowned upon if you get wildly intoxicated in public, not to mention it's technically illegal (but only technically).

In the end, it hardly matters where you go. One way or another, you'll get a week off from any serious work and perhaps you'll even find something that's somewhat entertaining. So go forth and prosper, the next week is already

— Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the School of Engineering. He can be reached at thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu.

The grand theory of pay up or put out



<u>KATHERINE MILLER</u> Columnist

Raise your hand if you know a girl who pretends a guy who buys her John Mayer tickets and takes her out to dinner didn't just take her on a date.

Now, raise your hand if you've listened to some boy get borderline weepy because the Serena Van Der Woodsen of your group of friends can't decide if she likes him or not.

I have a theory that will solve this problem: Pay Up or Put Out. Let's derive it.

So, say it's 1952, and you are a girl.

You're out on a date, and Society requests several things from you: demure flirtatiousness, an acute attention to your looks and nothing resembling pants after the hour of never. Like, sure, nobody cares what you think about McCarthyism (unless you're on a black list, in which case nobody wants to date you anyway), but rules and intentions are known.

Now, we — girls, that is — have since collectively bargained with Society. In exchange for not forcing us to descend from some staircase at Twelve Oaks Plantation pretty, witty and bright and in a dress stolen from Betty Draper every time we deign to eat outside of the home, Society told us, "I need some kind of compensation."

And girls mulled that one over during drinks one night and were like, "What if we pay our way?"

"Kthx."

Thus, "The Theory of Pay Up or Put Out." A working definition: If a guy buys, it's a date. And if it's a date, a girl has the option of either accepting the terms or offering to pay. And if a girl accepts the terms, she cannot jaunt off at the end with a clipped farewell and then act astonished when friends or family assume it was a date. The college version of "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie."

Don't misunderstand me, this is not titled "The Case for Prostitution: Don't Sell Yourself Short" — I'm not advocating casual sex for dinner rolls. If anything, I just like the symmetry of "pay up or put out." This is about recognizing when a date's a date and behaving accordingly. Agency, here, belongs to the girl; the option of calling out "Separate checks!" like dying words always exists or, God forbid, actually announcing, "This was

Seriously, every girl has at least one friend who constantly and tirelessly twirls around gracefully, dropping vague fragments like, "I didn't know it was a date" or "It was just a friends thing" — to which he drove her and then paid for dinner and drinks. Let's not be so willfully naive.

Of course, we cannot forget the accompanying "Just because You Paid Doesn't Mean She Likes You Corollary," also known as "The Andy Bernard Corollary." While the nexus of datehood still rests on the lady's shoulders, dates fail sometimes.

Nevertheless, put all of this into effect over spring break. After all, fraternity formals approach and no better application of "Pay Up or Put Out" exists. Trust me, this will work. Just lure people places where they must buy things — stimulate the economy! Among other things! And really, failing all that, be honest and, despite awkwardness and ill will, make intentions clear to the other party.

Basically: Sack up, ho, and tell the truth.

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-Justin Poythress is a senior in Peabody

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page 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, arguments in bad faith 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 InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com. Letters via e-mail must come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. 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

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

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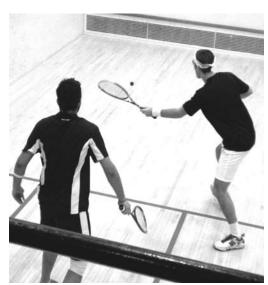
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SPORTS

REPORT FROM THE TEAM

Vanderbilt squash a national force



Freshman Tyler Kopp keeps his opponent guessing whether he is going to hit a drop, rail or cross-court during the team's final match at Nationals. Kopp fought back to win his match, 3-2.

Special Report to the Hustler

The Vanderbilt men's squash team defeated the University of Southern California and Haverford College to reach the championship of the College Squash Nationals Chaffee Division last weekend at Princeton University.

Vanderbilt ultimately fell in the finals, 6-3, to Drexel University. The Commodores (9-10), a club team started in 2006, finished the season ranked No. 34 in the nation.

Vanderbilt proved strongest in the core of its lineup, as freshman Tyler Kopp, junior Jay Rosanelli and freshman Zack Hoyt won at the No. 4, 5 and 6 positions, respectively.

"Making the finals showed great improvement by the team from last season," said junior captain Hunter Kinsella. "It speaks to a bright future for all the young players in the lineup. We earned valuable nationals match experience, especially the freshmen new to college squash."

The quarterfinal and semifinal rounds were rematches for the Commodores, first defeating Haverford, 6-3. On Saturday, the Commodores matched up with the Trojans of Southern Cal, their West Coast rival, after squeaking out a 5-4 win at a tournament at Stanford University in early February. This time around, Vanderbilt left no doubt who was the superior team, finishing with

Juniors Owen Remeika and Duncan Aronstein Kofsky, and senior captain Phillip Field finished in the country," Manice said. ■

it off with a 3-0 win at the No. 7 position. Kinsella, playing No. 2, greatly improved off his previous result, winning the first two games before losing narrowly in the fifth, and senior captain Henry Manice put on a show at No. 1 against the highranked USC captain but did not come out on top. Sophomore Fred Hudson and senior David Stringer won their exhibition matches at No. 10

"Nationals is always a good weekend to begin thinking about next season," Field said. "After playing some great matches and watching the best teams in the country go head to head, getting our group of players energized about squash was easy. The task for next year's captains will be to carry that enthusiasm over to next season."

This season was the most successful in the team's history as Vanderbilt played 19 matches, more than ever before.

"This year's team has been by far the most cohesive and committed squash team we've ever had at Vanderbilt," Field said. "We had some good teams, but they were built around the strength of a few personalities rather than around a strong, forward-thinking organization. Considering that our participation and success has been greater this season than ever before, I would say it's safe to say that squash at Vanderbilt has become a permanent fixture."

Led by captains Field, Kinsella and Manice, the team practiced three days a week at the squash courts at the Student Recreation Center.

Following the success of the men's team, the women's squash team was formed. The women's team competed in Atlanta last weekend and will play in its first intercollegiate match in the fall.

The squash program was founded in 2006 by 2007 Vanderbilt graduate Max Franklin, who now travels with and coaches the team.

"Max worked tirelessly to lay the foundation for Vanderbilt squash before graduating," Manice said. "And now he organizes tournaments, he coaches us, and he inspires and actively supports the development of both our men's and women's teams. Max Franklin is code for Vanderbilt

Franklin and the team's leaders have brought the program to an unprecedented level, and according to Manice, the next steps include raising awareness of the team on campus, creating a women's varsity team and improving Vanderbilt's squash court facility.

"We are eager to build Vanderbilt squash into a led the charge with Hoyt, Kopp and freshman force to be reckoned with amongst the best teams

Wirth leads team on and off the court



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Christina Wirth (second from right) has been a steady and successful force all four years she has played for the Commodores.

by MEGHAN ROSE

Sports Reporter

As senior Christina Wirth stepped off the court after Vanderbilt beat Auburn on Feb. 19, she described the feeling as "bittersweet." While the Commodores sent a shock through the then-nationally third-ranked Tigers with a 73-70 win, Wirth played the last home game of her collegiate career in Memorial Gymnasium.

"I knew that it had to come to an end at some point," said Wirth, one of three seniors on this year's squad. "I couldn't have asked for a better game to wrap up that part of my career. "

For Wirth, some of the best moments of her last four years have been spent in Memorial Gymnasium. Wirth has paced the Commodores (21-7, 10-3 Southeastern Conference) this season with her excellent form shooting and high basketball I.Q. She will be depended on again when the Commodores try to sweep the season series tomorrow night at 6 p.m. at Tennessee, a game that will be televised on ESPN2.

"(Wirth) does the intangibles — she hustles nonstop, is a very hard worker and is dedicated to getting better at both her strengths and weaknesses during the off-season," said junior guard Merideth Marsh. "She listens very well, she is very coachable and she leads with her words and her actions."

Both her skill on the court and her passion for the sport have earned her the respect of her teammates and coaches. Last season as a junior, Wirth averaged 13.1 points per game and five rebounds per game. Her outstanding play earned her All-SEC First Team honors.

"Her versatility causes a tough match-up for any team," said coach Melanie Balcomb. "She my experiences more than I could ever have can score inside and out, put the ball on the hoped for." ■

floor and drive and knock down the three with the best of them."

Wirth's ability to transition among a number of spots on the court poses a major threat for opponents. With consistent shooting and defense, Wirth prides herself on fundamentally sound play, allowing her to outsmart her

"She creates mismatches in the post and in the guard spot. Her ability to shoot the three helps create driving lanes for our guards," Marsh said. "On the other hand, if our opponents put a guard on her, then we can put her down low so she can post them up. She is an offensive threat no matter where she is on the floor."

Her impact on the court has not gone unnoticed. In the middle of February, Wirth was named SEC Player of the Week after averaging 20.5 points in wins over Florida and Georgia. Boasting a 3.6 grade point average as a Human and Organizational Development major, Wirth was named a 2009 Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Recently, she was named one of 10 finalists for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award for women's basketball.

For Wirth, however, it will not be the points she scored or the accolades she received over the course of the past four years that stand out

"More than any award or accomplishment, the things that stand out to me during my collegiate career are the lasting memories I have made with my teammates — we have had a lot of ups and downs throughout my four years," Wirth said. "Throughout all of these things, I have had some amazing friends that have made

Baseball team flexes its offensive muscle

by ERIC SILVER Sports Reporter

There's no place like home.

That was the feeling the Vanderbilt baseball team had on a chilly Wednesday evening after defeating the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers by a score of 10-7. Following a tough road trip in California, which saw the Commodores lose two

Vanderbilt came out firing on all cylinders in their home opener at Hawkins Field. "It feels good to get a win over a very good Western Kentucky team," said coach Tim Corbin.

of three to Stanford and another game to Cal,

After giving up a run in the top of the first, sophomore starting pitcher Chase Reid settled down and provided five innings of quality work, striking out three batters in the Hilltoppers' potent lineup.

Western Kentucky pitcher Bart Carter was able to hang on against Vanderbilt's vaunted batters for two innings before the Commodores finally overpowered him. The Commodores put two runners on in the third and scored a run after highly touted freshman Jason Esposito drove in right fielder Steven Liddle on a throwing error in

But it was the fourthinning when the floodgates opened for the Commodores. Though Vanderbilt only mustered two hits in the inning, they scored six runs, thanks to opportune base running and patience at the plate. Curt Casali provided the highlight of the game, smacking a towering double over the centerfielder's head that cleared the bases and brought three runs home.

"We had a couple of opportunities to spark the team and get the momentum back on our side," Casali said. "But I think that was a good turning point in the game."

"He's a good, mature hitter, even though he's only a sophomore," Corbin said of Casali, who has been starting at first base for the Commodores even though he played catcher last season.



Jason Esposito tied the game when a run scored after he reached on an error and Vanderbilt defeated Western Kentucky, 10-7.

A number of other young players have stepped up for Vanderbilt in this young season and were vital to the victory on Wednesday. Freshman Matt Marquis scored twice and drew three walks, while classmate Joe Loftus added a hit. Sophomore Alex McClure, who transferred to Vanderbilt this year from Walters State Community College, had a stellar game with two hits and two runs. Perhaps the best performance from a newcomer against the Hilltoppers came from freshman Sonny Gray, who closed the game out for Vanderbilt in the ninth inning on only 17 pitches, earning the first save in his promising

The win felt good for the young team and showed the rest of the baseball world that Vanderbilt boasts a scary batting lineup.

"Every time I see a hitter up there, I feel good about what's about to happen," Corbin said. "I like our offensive team, I think we're capable of scoring runs, and we're all pretty young, too." ■

Reeling Vanderbilt hosts first-place Gamecocks

by GEOFF HUTCHINSON

Sports Reporter

The Commodores will be back home this Saturday night after a two-game road trip in which the team was unable to register a victory.

On Saturday, the Commodores (16-11, 5-8 Southeastern Conference) will host the firstplace South Carolina Gamecocks (20-6, 9-4) in Memorial Gym. The game will be televised live on ESPNU at 8 p.m.

The Commodores are coming off of a tough 61-57 loss to the Georgia Bulldogs Wednesday night, in which the team struggled, shooting an abysmal 31.4 percent from the field. Sophomore A.J. Ogilvy led the Commodores with 12 points, while junior Jermaine Beal and freshman Brad Tinsley contributed 11 points apiece in the losing effort.

Unfortunately for Vanderbilt, the Gamecocks are coming to town fresh off a 77-59 win over the Kentucky Wildcats, a game in which South Carolina registered 16 blocks and forced 20 turnovers. This is the second meeting between the two teams, with the Gamecocks winning the first match-up in January 86-76 in Columbia. In that game, the Gamecocks went to the free-throw line an amazing 49 times, as three Commodores fouled out during this contest.

"I think they're playing as good basketball as anybody in the league right now," said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings of the Gamecocks. "As far as the free throw disparity, I think we just have to play better and do a better job defensively. We've been doing a good job of getting to the free throw line. Hopefully that will continue on Saturday."

The Gamecocks comes to town atop the SEC East and can clinch at least a share of the division crown with a win on Saturday, along with another Kentucky loss. South Carolina is led by 5-foot-9inch junior guard Devan Downey, who is third in the SEC in terms of scoring, averaging 20.8 points a game. He is joined on the perimeter



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustle

Coach Kevin Stallings, pictured here against Florida, said his team has to figure out what has been causing its offensive problems.

by senior guard Zam Fredrick, who is averaging 15.3 points a game.

South Carolina's perimeter play should figure to give the Commodores difficulty, as the Gamecocks are best in the SEC in terms of 3-point shooting, while the Commodores are last in the SEC in defending beyond the arc. At the same time, the Gamecocks are first in the conference in terms of forcing turnovers, a problem the Commodores have been troubled with all season long while trying to find some consistency on the offensive side of the ball.

"When you struggle to score, ultimately it starts affecting your defense, it affects your energy to play, it starts affecting everything," Stallings said. "It's important that we as best we can figure out what we can do to keep that from happening."

For Vanderbilt, this game is vital. A win here would mean the team has a chance at finishing SEC play with a .500 record and gain some confidence going into the postseason.

"Our focus has to be on what we can do to get better in our next game," Stallings said. "Not anything else." ■

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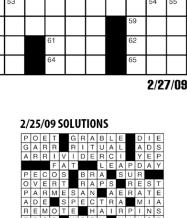
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