



**OPINION:** Hanson disses Bill O'Reilly and laments MSNBC's 'liberal slump.' SEE PAGE 4

**SPORTS:** Sophomore Casey Hayward is ready to step into D.J. Moore's shoes at cornerback. SEE PAGE 8

## Bridging the gap



JUSTIN MENESTRINA / The Vanderbilt Hustler

First-year students will be officially crossing the bridge from Peabody to main campus next year as they make way for the second class of The Commons Experience.

### Students assess the success of the first year of The Commons.

by MADELEINE ENGLISH  
News Reporter

As the inaugural year of The Commons comes to a close, many first-year students say they feel the mission statement of the program has been fulfilled.

"I definitely think The Commons achieved its mission," said first-year student Alex Booth. "It's really a community."

The Class of 2012 has been the first class to ever experience The Commons, a community of first-year students, residential faculty and professional staff, which Dean of the Commons Frank Wcislo calls "a crossroads where students meet, study, interact with faculty and staff, and dine."

"I think we've gotten to know each other a lot better than other classes," said first-year student Rachel Haltiwanger. "I mean, we eat together all the time."

Booth said that fourth meal, which is currently unique to the Class of 2012, is a time when first-years can interact with other students in their class.

Relationships among faculty, resident advisers, Heads of Houses and students were a key focus of the program when it was first announced. While some first-years say they have found an increased opportunity to interact with faculty, others have not taken advantage of the option.

"Our Head of House knows all of us, he knows our interests and what we're like, he sometimes throws a baseball around with us," said first-year student Hillis Emanuelson.

"I had dinner with the Dean of The Commons and he recognizes me from that dinner, which is pretty cool," Booth said.

Haltiwanger and first-year student Alex Meryll said that although they had the opportunity to meet their Heads of Houses, they have not taken up the offer.

"I've never been to any of the dinners with faculty or with the dean. Our Head of House does hold weekly get-togethers, but he doesn't really mentor me," Meryll

said.

"I know who my Head of House is, but that's about it," Haltiwanger said.

While a community may have been forged at The Commons, some first-years said they feel cut off from main campus.

"I definitely see a disjoint between Peabody and main campus. We don't know anything about main campus events that are going on (around) campus," Emanuelson said.

"If I weren't in a fraternity, I wouldn't have any association with the rest of campus," Booth said.

"I think the administration should hold more student group fairs in The Commons — it would be helpful to get the word out," Emanuelson said.

Not all students feel the separation, however.

"I don't feel like we're really cut off from main campus at all," Haltiwanger said. "I definitely don't think (the location of The Commons) is a bad thing... but then again, I'm in Arts and Science, ... so I see the signs all over main campus. ... I could see how if you were a Peabody student that would be different." ■

## Phi Delta Theta colony closed by nationals due to hazing, alcohol

by HANNAH TWILLMAN  
News Editor

Phi Delta Theta colony was closed by the national fraternity Sunday evening after two investigations into charges of hazing and alcohol policy violations.

The initial allegations were made during the colony's initiation week, according to the colony's president junior Yong Kim, when an anonymous report of hazing was put in to the Office of Greek Life.

"We were investigated for a hazing charge for lineups over a two-day period as well as asking them to sleep at the house. Later on, there were additional hazing charges that weren't investigated by the national fraternity. There was also evidence of a few people drinking alcohol in the house," Kim said.

Phi Delta Theta fraternity has a strict dry housing policy, so any presence of alcohol in the house would be a violation.

When the initial hazing investigation occurred, the members of the pledge class decided as a group to deny the hazing allegations, without the knowledge of the pledge educator or any of the brothers.

Kim said he thinks the new members likely decided to lie in order to protect the fraternity since the colony was supposed to be installed as an official chapter the weekend of April 17-18. He also said the new members reported never feeling like they were being hazed or put under undue emotional or physical stress.

Kim said evidence of alcohol, as well as of further hazing allegations, was provided to nationals by an anonymous

source after the initial investigation. Once this information was furnished to the national organization, a representative came to the house Sunday night and made the announcement that the decision had been made to close the colony.

"The final decision from our General Council was to close Phi Delta Theta colony at Vanderbilt (due to) repeated risk management violations," said Dustin Struble, director of expansion of Phi Delta Theta headquarters.

Phi Delta Theta is the second Vanderbilt fraternity to face such disciplinary action this semester. Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey said she is disappointed such a situation occurred, but she hopes the rest of the community and the members can learn from the events that

Please see **PHI DELTA THETA**, page 5

## Delta Force proposes change for IFC

by HANNAH TWILLMAN  
News Editor

For a group of organizations centered on tradition, change could be coming.

The Delta Force, a task force of 10 Interfraternity Council men, presented a proposal to the IFC presidents Sunday night after more than a month of research and preparation. Their mission was to address aspects of the recruitment process that have come under increased scrutiny, most notably the strong presence of alcohol and the current practices of

the semester-long informal recruitment system.

"The whole purpose of the Delta Force is to rope in the guys that we were losing because they only saw the social aspect by highlighting the philanthropic and brotherhood aspects of rush," said IFC Recruitment Chair Patrick Seamens, a sophomore.

Currently, men who wish to join an IFC organization participate in a deferred joining system. During the fall semester of their first year, potential new members participate in

Please see **DELTA FORCE**, page 4

### The Delta Force's proposal suggests changes to the IFC recruitment process including:

- GPA recruitment requirement would increase from 2.3 to 2.5.
- IFC recruitment registration fair on The Commons.
- "Open Dores on Greek Row" — Afternoon on Greek Row for first-year students to learn about opportunities for Greek life in alcohol-free setting.
- Creation of a Greek Legacy Fund that would reduce financial burden and make participation more accessible.
- There would be a \$5 increase in IFC semester dues for each active Greek man to help fund the Greek Legacy Fund.
- Formal recruitment process lasting four days following Winter Break to "level the playing field" by allowing for a multiple bid process.
- Recruitment Chairs submit a "no bid" list prior to the beginning of this process, indicating potential new members not under consideration for membership. This list is not to exceed 20 percent of the total number of registered potential new members.
- Each fraternity must engage in a minimum of three community service events in the fall semester (with at least six brothers in attendance) that potential members are invited to and encouraged to attend.
- Institute a two event or three service hour minimum requirement with an IFC chapter for a potential new members to be eligible to participate in formal rush and receive a bid.
- No potential new members at winter semi-formal.
- Institute serious financial penalties (minimum of \$5,000 fines in addition to other sanctions mandated by the IFC Judicial Team or Formal Conduct Board) for violations of IFC policy that threaten community.

## Fashion for a Cause



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students modeled in the Fashion for a Cause show Tuesday night. This year's profits went towards Nashville CARES.

**NEWS INSIDE:** Class speaker Doris Kearns Goodwin incites controversy over past plagiarism accusations. SEE PAGE 5

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# SNAPSHOTS

compiled by CHELSEY FELDMAN

## WEATHER

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### TODAY



HIGH **63**, LOW **38**  
Partly cloudy / wind

### SATURDAY



HIGH **72**, LOW **50**  
Sunny

### SUNDAY



HIGH **74**, LOW **39**  
Scattered t-storms

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## SERVICE GUIDE

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

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### BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## CORRECTION

In the April 1 edition of Versus wrote wrote that T.I. would be the Saturday night headliner of Rites of Spring. T.I. will actually headline Friday night. Versus regrets this error.

## FRIDAY SPICE

### Domino's dishes out 11,000 free pizzas after Internet code mistake

**CINCINNATI (AP)**—"Bailout" was the magic word as Domino's had to give away thousands of free pizzas because someone stumbled on an online promotion the company scrapped.

Domino's Pizza Inc. spokesman Tim McIntyre said Wednesday that the company prepared an Internet coupon for an ad campaign that was considered in December but not approved.

He says someone apparently typed "bailout" into a Domino's promo code window and found it was good for a free medium pizza.

Word about the code spread quickly Monday night on the Web and 11,000 free pizzas were delivered before it was deactivated Tuesday morning.

Cincinnati-area franchise owner John Glass says his 14 stores gave away more than 600 pies, but that Domino's promised to reimburse him.

### Spilled milk prompts assault at Pa. school for troubled youths

**FAIRCHANCE, Pa. (AP)**—A 16-year-old girl is charged with assaulting the principal of a western Pennsylvania school for troubled youths because the girl was upset about spilling milk on her pants.

State police say the girl faces aggravated assault and other charges in Fayette County Juvenile Court for the assault Tuesday at the Adelphi Village alternative school in Fairchance. That's about 45 miles south of Pittsburgh.

Police say the girl became enraged after spilling the milk and began screaming, swearing and running through the school. The principal, 39-year-old Tracy Kuchar, of Scottsdale, chased the girl, who allegedly pushed the principal and tried to punch her in the face.

### Cat on NY TV news truck's rooftop satellite dish becomes the story

**MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)**—A stray cat seeking a warm spot to nap made headlines when Long Island police rescued it from a television news truck's rooftop satellite dish.

WCBS-TV reporter Jennifer McLogan says drivers were honking their horns and waving as her truck traveled Wednesday along a parkway to a Mineola (mi-nee-OH'-luh) press conference about an arrest in a string of burglaries. She waved back.

A motorist finally called to McLogan that a cat was on the truck's roof.

Nassau County police Detective Sgt. Anthony Repalone says he thought it was "an April Fools' joke" when the TV crew interrupted his press conference to report a feline in need of assistance.

Officers freed the black-and-white cat by dismantling a panel of the satellite dish.

### Ark. man accused of drunken joy ride in stolen school bus

**EL DORADO, Ark. (AP)**—Police in Arkansas say a drunken man stole a parked school bus and then asked a woman if she wanted to go for a ride.

Police say 44-year-old Joseph P. Fannin faces theft and driving while intoxicated charges for the incident Friday night. He remains held on \$5,000 bond.

Police say Fannin took an El Dorado School District bus parked near a bar and left it in a motel driveway. They say a woman called them after Fannin asked if she wanted a ride.

Police say Fannin told them he'd been kicked out of the bar and got into the bus because it was "a warm, dry place."

The school district says the driver was out of town and that the keys must've been left behind.

### Twin twitchers: Conn. pet shop has 2-nosed baby bunny

**MILFORD, Conn. (AP)**—It's no April Fools joke. The baby bunny really does have two noses.

A Connecticut pet shop worker found the nosey bunny in a delivery of 6-week-old dwarf rabbits that arrived at the Milford store last week. Both noses have two nostrils.

The owner of the Purr-Fect Pets shop says he's never seen anything like it in 25 years in the business. He says the bunny eats, drinks and hops around like the rest of the litter.

Beardsley Zoo director Gregg Dancho says the deformity could be the result of too much inbreeding or the parents' exposure to pesticides or poisons.

Store workers have begun a naming contest with Cyrano de Bergerac and Deuce among the contenders so far.

### Police: Tow truck driver hauls away car on highway, sells it

**JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (AP)**—Police in Johnson City say a tow truck driver snatched a car he saw sitting along a highway and sold it to someone else.

The owner of the car ran out of gasoline while driving on Interstate 26 in November and returned to find his vehicle gone.

The Johnson City Press reported police found it Monday in a restaurant parking lot. William D. Jackson was sitting in the car and told police he bought it from Bill Charles McDaniel, who police said towed it unlawfully.

Officers charged each man with theft over \$1,000 and took them to jail.

### NY family survives with minor cuts deer's scary trip into SUV

**COEYMANS, N.Y. (AP)**—Five people in an SUV south of Albany escaped with minor cuts and scratches when a deer hurtled through their windshield and landed in the back of the vehicle.

Heather Sherman says she, her boyfriend, her two daughters and her mother were driving Saturday night in the town of Coeymans (KWEE'-mihnz) when an oncoming car hit the deer, sending it into their windshield.

## CALENDAR

### THIS WEEKEND

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 3

##### • Don't Hate, Appreciate Week keynote speaker

Professor Griff will be speaking in Wilson Hall 103 at 4 p.m. about his experiences with the hip-hop group Public Enemy and the role of hip-hop in today's world.

##### • Not Just a F.A.D. art exhibit and fundraiser

Hip-Hop Week will sponsor an Art Exhibit at B.B. King's at 8 p.m. to raise money for the Hip-Hop Union Youth Scholarship Fund. The event will feature hip-hop-inspired artwork and models showing a range of hip-hop looks through history. The event costs \$5.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 3-SATURDAY, APRIL 4

##### • 'Brighton Beach Memoirs'

Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs" will be shown at Neely Auditorium Theatre at 8 p.m. both nights. The play is Simon's semi-autobiographical account of New York during the Great Depression.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 4

##### • UNITY Block Party

Hip-Hop Week's Black Party will be from noon to 5 p.m. in the Student Life Center courtyard. The event will feature break dancers, DJ's, performing artists and various competitions.

##### • 'Slumdog Millionaire'

VSG and VPB present "Slumdog Millionaire" at Sarratt Cinema at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. The showings are free to the Vanderbilt community and students need only bring their Commodore Card to gain access. Popcorn, drinks and candy will be provided at the door.

## SNAPSHOT

### 'BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS'



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The cast of Vanderbilt University Theater will premiere its production of Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs" Friday at 8 p.m.

## 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. Check here next Friday to see another standout student photo.



Students performing in Blair VORTEX, a percussion concert at Ingram Hall.



**OLIVER WOLFE** used a very slow shutter speed - about 1.6 seconds of open shutter - to capture the drummers' movements as a blur. He said, "I wanted to make sure you could tell not only what was going on, but also the overall movement of the three drummers."

**Student photographers interested in joining the staff are invited to the next meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, in Sarratt 130.**

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# DELTA FORCE: Student-led dialouge for change has begun

From DELTA FORCE, page 1  
the semester-long informal rush process before potentially receiving a bid to a chapter in January.

Junior Jesse DeOms, the chair of the Delta Force, said the current recruitment process has given the fraternity community a bad reputation in the eyes of parents, alumni, faculty and administration, as well as allowed potential members who were not as focused on the social aspect of fraternity life to fall through the cracks.

"We need to focus on the things that we do well as a community and stop behaving so publicly in ways that reflect poorly on the community," DeOms said. "... There have just been so many issues that have become public this year. The traditions and the way things have been done in the past, our community will no longer stand for. The Vanderbilt community is improving and progressing in many ways and the Greek community needs to acknowledge that and change the way they recruit according

to that."

DeOms stressed the need for the changes to come from the Greek community itself, saying the proposed changes were more meaningful and more likely to be effective because they came from within.

**“We realized that change is something our community needs, and if we don’t take the initiative to improve our own process and community, then we give the administration and those who care about the process no choice but to implement the change themselves.”**

—Jesse DeOms, junior, Delta Force chair

"We realized that change is something our community needs, and if we don't take the initiative to improve our own process and community, then we give the administration and those who care about the process no choice but to implement the change themselves," he said.

The proposal was presented to the IFC chapters by their presidents Monday night. The main theme of the proposed changes was a focus on encouraging different types of

recruitment, including more alcohol-free rush events and a focus on community service. The most notable changes are the move to a formal recruitment process during the first week after winter break, no longer allowing first-year students at

contributing positively to the community. We don't want to lose that," he said, also adding that the new process would allow first-year students to be able to keep their options open throughout first semester and to not be penalized for

"It's a recruitment event with alcohol that forces the freshmen to choose the fraternity before the fraternity chooses them, which is a bad situation for everybody," DeOms said.

Seamens said the \$5,000 penalties were proposed in order to best encourage fraternities to follow the key rules of the proposal. These penalties would go to the IFC Greek Legacy Fund, which will serve as a trust fund to provide scholarships to IFC men to pay their dues.

The IFC leadership will vote on each aspect of the proposal Monday. Presidents will be able to vote to accept, deny or amend each concept.

"If any portion of the proposal is accepted by the group, then everyone will be held to that. I would anticipate that there will be some amendments that people will want to make to portions to it," said Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey. "... The proposal offered has some wonderful aspects to it that would enhance the fraternity experience. I'm hopeful that

the changes the proposal has offered will be accepted by the IFC community at large because the buy-in of everyone is imperative."

DeOms agreed, saying it would be imperative for the upperclassmen of the fraternity community to agree to the proposal.

"The way to change recruitment is through changing the upperclassmen perspective on recruitment. We need to get all the upperclassmen on board if there's actually going to be a change," he said.

While DeOms said he is proud of the work the Delta Force has done, what is most important about the task force and the proposal is that a conversation about the problems facing the Greek community and how to address these has begun among its members.

"Should it all go through or should none of it go through, at the very least it's opened up a discussion and we will see significant change next year — change that's come from within our community," he said. ■

# Playground Project breaks ground at Murrell School

by ALLISON MORRIS  
Senior Reporter

Two tons of playground equipment, 260 volunteers and a year's worth of planning and fundraising will finally come together this Sunday when the Playground Project begins construction on a new playground at the Murrell School.

Playground Project, established in September by senior Jess Demorest, is a community development project with a goal to clean up the unusable playground at the Murrell School, which serves behaviorally disabled children.

"I wanted to help improve Nashville with a community project," Demorest said. "I ended up at the Murrell School (because) ... the current outside space is sending a message that we didn't want it to send them."

The Murrell School's current playground is unsafe and inadequate, according to the Playground Project's Web site.

"The playground had no drainage system, three huge puddles covered the whole area, the climbing equipment

was rusted, the fences around the perimeter were smashed in and bent," said sophomore Ashley Simakas, Playground Project committee member. "Many times teachers had to come in before school started and they would find alcohol bottles ... occasionally there are homeless people sleeping there in the morning."

The goal of the Playground Project is to rebuild the playground in hopes of creating a safe space for the students at the Murrell School to play and learn in.

"We are creating a place where they can expend some of their excess energy, learn from each other and know each other's bounds, so they can have a better work atmosphere inside," Simakas said.

Demorest was inspired to create the Playground Project after she completed a Human and Organizational Development class that explored the relationship between physical space and its effect on community. "In the beginning of the year I pulled some friends together. ... I had a group of people who were willing to adopt my

project, and we had our first meeting in December," Demorest said.

The group has spent the entire academic year designing the playground with input from Murrell School teachers and students and have raised over \$19,000 to cover the playgrounds costs.

One committee member's job was to coordinate design ideas with the Murrell School. The kids at the school were asked to write essays and draw pictures of what they wanted in a playground.

"The students were enthralled (when we asked them for their ideas), even the teachers were standing up and raising their hands offering ideas," Simakas said.

The hardest part of planning the playground, Demorest said, was a lack of general playground knowledge.

"The price has been the most shocking part," Demorest said. "I had no idea that a fence could cost \$12,000 or that mulching the whole playground would cost \$4,000."

The initial cost of the project, when calculated in November, was estimated



photo courtesy of JESSICA DEMOREST

Students in the Playground Project have been working since December to build a new playground and replace the playground equipment for the Murrell School to replace the one above.

at \$40,000. Since then the cost of the project has been more than halved. "We have gotten more personal contractors. ... now it's only going to cost \$19,000," Simakas said.

Pre-construction for the playground

will take place on Friday and Saturday. The big renovation day will be on Sunday when 260 volunteers will construct the playground. Demorest plans to have the playground open for students on the following Monday. ■

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insideVANDY

# PHI DELTA THETA: Fraternity caught off-guard

From **PHI DELTA THETA**, page 1 transpired.

"It is unfortunate to lose another group this year, but we hope that some learning within the community can take place about the importance of being committed to fraternal values and acting with integrity by always telling the truth," Torrey said.

While she is unsure what will happen to the colony's house, Torrey said Vanderbilt will work with the national organization to create a reinstatement agreement that would address the fraternity's potential for return to campus after a certain period of time and the use of the facility.

Struble said he believes Phi Delta Theta will eventually be able to return to campus.

"The potential (future for the organization at Vanderbilt) is very high. This is a very storied chapter of Phi Delta Theta going back a very long time. Our hope in time is to re-colonize and restart our Tennessee Alpha chapter," he said.

Kim said the members of the colony did not have much warning before this announcement and that no investigation had been made into the secondary report. He said he is especially disappointed because the decision to close the colony came only three weeks before the group would have received its charter.

"We're all sort of surprised and shocked by there not being an investigation led by the national fraternity into whatever charges there were," he said. "We're unsure what the next step is." ■

# Senior Class Day speaker stirs up controversy

by **LAUREN KOENIG**  
Senior Reporter

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty maintains his support for Vanderbilt's decision to honor historian Doris Kearns Goodwin in spite of criticism from students.

Goodwin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and well-known historian, is the recipient of the 2009 Nichols-Chancellor's Medal and will be the keynote speaker on Senior Class Day. Goodwin was also the center of a plagiarism scandal.

"I have looked into this very carefully and I've spoken to several colleagues about this on our faculty, and I will tell you that I am personally thrilled to have her here," McCarty said.

In 2002, Goodwin was accused of plagiarism in two news articles. Goodwin addressed the accusations in Time Magazine, asserting the errors were unintentional. Although Goodwin provided footnotes for her sources, she attributed her failure to "provide quotation marks for phrases I had taken verbatim" to mislabeling in her notes due to the large-scale nature of her research. She also confessed to having previously reached a "private settlement" with an author of one of her sources.



photo courtesy of JESSICA DEMOREST

Senior Meghana Bhatta, an investigative member of the honor council, said Goodwin provided a "feeble excuse that would not even stand up in a high school classroom, much less in the world of academia."

"Vanderbilt is sending a flawed and hypocritical message to its students and to other institutions by hosting an admitted plagiarist," Bhatta said. "I hope that the administration realizes that we risk losing credibility in the eyes

of the public by demonstrating support for a woman who does not stand for the ideals of our school."

The allegations resulted in her resignation from several positions, but she still retained the support of many scholars and readers.

"I think she has answered those accusations and she gave ample credit to a source that she used," McCarty said. "She worked out an arrangement with that author, but she in no way attempted to present that work as her own."

Goodwin was primarily asked to speak at Vanderbilt because of her expertise on the life of Abraham Lincoln. This year marks the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

"We thought it would be great for seniors to hear from someone who has the ability to connect the challenges faced by President (Barack) Obama by those faced by President Lincoln," McCarty said.

Some seniors expressed disappointment that Goodwin was chosen to speak for Senior Class Day.

Senior Katherine Tennis, chair of the Senior Class Fund, is disappointed in the choice of speaker primarily because she disagrees with McCarty's statement that Goodwin's appearance is timely.

"We are living through such a historic

time, yet Vanderbilt doesn't choose someone who can adequately reflect on the changes our country has undergone in the last four years," said Tennis. "Notre Dame has Barack Obama and New York University has Hillary Clinton, yet we have someone completely rooted in the past who isn't even integral to today's issues and concerns."

"I find it odd that Vanderbilt, a university that makes every freshman sign the Honor Code, would reward her for work that was admittedly taken without notation from other sources," Tennis said in regard to Goodwin's past.

The administration has focused instead on Goodwin's many academic achievements, holding them as more relevant than the past damages to her character.

"Goodwin, through her keen appreciation of the lessons of history and their relevance in today's world, is a most worthy recipient of this year's award," said Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos in an e-mail to students.

"Tell me a Senior Day speaker where there isn't some element of controversy," McCarty said. "I really regret that anyone would try to disparage her reputation and we want to make students happy that she is here." ■

# Another record year for admissions

by **TAYLOR DAVIS**  
News Reporter

Last Thursday, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions mailed out decision letters to 17,512 regular decision applicants from across the world.

The total number of applicants jumped from last year's 16,944 to an all-time high of 19,350. With only 1,585 spots for the class of 2013, the overall admissions rate shrunk from 25.3 percent to 18.9 percent.

"The value of a Vanderbilt degree is growing exponentially. Vanderbilt is now one of the top-15 most selective schools in the country. This is fabulous news for current students who will be positioned in a better situation in the job search and when applying to graduate school,"

said Associate Provost for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen.

Students are excited about the improvements in Vanderbilt's ranking.

"It's inevitable that each year will be more selective," said first-year student Carly Prentice. "It doesn't bother me because it will make our degree look better when we graduate."

"I'm excited that Vanderbilt is getting a better and better reputation. It will help me when I'm applying to medical school," said senior Bailey Roberts.

According to Christiansen, the Office of Admissions is projecting the yield to go up from 37 percent to 39 percent due to an increase in early decision applicants. This projected yield factored into the

number of acceptances offered.

While waitlist numbers are kept private, it is still competitive.

"The waitlist is robust and has great depth. The students on it are simply phenomenal," Christiansen said.

Admissions officers looked at applications holistically, taking in consideration several variables including the level of rigor in classes, extra-curricular activities and leadership roles, the application essay and academic letters of recommendation.

The middle 50 percent SAT score range for the class of 2013 is projected to be 1340-1510, up from last year's 1330-1500. Also, the Office of Admissions predicts the percentage of students in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes will

rise from 84 percent to 86 percent.

All 50 states and 13 U.S. territories and military bases were represented in this year's applicant pool.

The number of foreign countries represented has increased by 20 in just the past two years, rising from 77 to 97. In addition to international students, the applicant pool also saw an increase in percentages of blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asian Americans.

"There is a lot of excitement and anticipation for a class that statistically promises to keep up the tradition of the Vanderbilt first year class. We're doing well over here and we're looking for next year's (Commons experience) to be even better," said Dean of the Commons Frank Wcislo. ■

# lead.

As media continues to change nationally, Student Media at Vanderbilt is also making some changes to our structure to allow for more in-depth news gathering and improved content streams.

**We invite you to consider applying to lead our efforts into the future of Student Media at Vandy.**

The Vanderbilt Student Communications Board of Directors is seeking applications for the following leadership positions for the 2009-10 academic year:

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Commodore Editor-in-Chief  
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Orbis Editor-in-Chief  
Talented Tenth Editor-in-Chief  
Vanderbilt Political Review Editor-in-Chief  
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Student Media News Editor  
Student Media Sports Editor  
Student Media Opinion Editor  
Student Media Features Editor  
Student Media Multimedia Editor

Applications are available at [www.vscmedia.org](http://www.vscmedia.org)

#### APPLICATION DEADLINES

GROUP 2 Applications are due on **Friday, April 10 at noon.**

For more information about the job descriptions and responsibilities of the above leadership positions, please contact **Paige Clancy** at [paige.clancy@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:paige.clancy@vanderbilt.edu)

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# Failed efficacy



**THOMAS SHATTUCK**  
Opinion Editor

Cultural diversity has been a recent topic of concern after Bay Buchanan's recent lecture. The Youth for Western Civilization's agenda does not concern me. I'm interested in something closer to home: affirmative action.

Some students may not realize it, but Vanderbilt Undergraduate Admissions does factor in ethnic origin into its determination of acceptances, wait lists and rejections.

Affirmative action was initially conceived to help out intelligent but disadvantaged youth gain acceptance to a college within their abilities. While a noble ideal, it has been hijacked to promote political and cultural agendas instead of promoting higher education.

Friedrich Huebler produced a study of educational life expectancy (i.e. time spent in an educational institution) versus the per capita GDP of various countries. He compiled data from UNESCO, the World Bank and the U.N. Population Division, which lead to a rather unsurprising conclusion: Affluence played a significant role in the education levels of populations. There were, however, some aberrations in Western Asia and Latin America, both of which had a lower educational life expectancy despite having a higher GDP.

While this data merely compared separate countries, the conclusions would be equally applicable to different socioeconomic levels within a state (in this case, the U.S.). Growing up in poverty has a negative effect on both the duration and quality of an individual's education. Affirmative action focuses on race, providing support on an inaccurate basis.

Schools are supported heavily by property taxes — taxes that are levied based on the value of the land. In poorer regions, the value of the tax is low. This provides less money to support schools that are in dire need of financial help. This leaves students in certain sections of the country essentially left behind. If undergraduate universities were actually interested in equality or fairness of educational standards, admissions would be based on financial, not racial background.

So why isn't this so? The simplest answer is that universities are attempting to foist a political agenda in the name of good will. Admissions officers at many institutions will be quick to cite diversity as the benefit of the educational experience. While diversity does broaden the campus experience, it has become synonymous with prestige — a comparison that lacks credibility. Diversity is a political statement, not an educational one.

Furthermore, targeting race instead of relative affluence prevents the admissions office from putting more strain on an already heavily taxed student aid initiative. As far as institutions are concerned, affirmative action produces positive externalities in the form of popular perception, minimizing the costs in the long run.

Of course, there are those who claim it allows underqualified candidates to go to elite universities, theoretically devaluing the degree. This is a rather moot point. Being accepted does not ensure graduation. If you manage to graduate from a four-year institution like Vanderbilt, you've taken the same courses and received comparable grades. There's no question, you've earned your degree. Affirmative action does not affect the value of the degree — that relies on the quality of facilities and administration.

I'm not saying affirmative action is ethically wrong, it's just inert. It doesn't achieve its goals and might disadvantage those who are already in fact disadvantaged. Don't pat yourself on the back — it accomplishes nothing. You want to improve education in America? Hire more qualified teachers, pay them more and provide new technology and facilities to underperforming school systems.

—Thomas Shattuck is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [thomas.u.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:thomas.u.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu).

## EDITORIAL

# The Commons achieves goals, room to improve

The question in administrator's minds as the year winds down is whether or not The Commons was worth it. Did it manage to achieve its goals? First-year student Alex Booth said, "I definitely think The Commons achieved its mission."

To succeed, however, you have to meet rearranged, identifiable goals. The Commons is supposed to provide a safe environment for first-year students to develop a sense of community and to meet upperclassmen and graduate students. Ideally, it would allow its residents to develop their individuality and sense of self before being flung into main campus with the majority of students.

The idea of community is powerful; however, in creating such an organizational structure, you limit the interaction between separate groupings. The first-year students do meet fellow classmates, but unless the student is proactive, assimilation into campus organizations can be difficult.

Furthermore, if the first-year is a Blair or Peabody student, he or she rarely spends

significant time on main campus. This should not be a barrier to integration — student organizations generally understand that recruiting on The Commons should be a high priority. Not to mention sorority recruitment was up this year despite the distance.

The Heads of Houses have helped first-years adjust. First-year Hillis Emanuelson said, "Our Head of House knows all of us, he knows our interests and what we're like." While faculty advisers are not substitutes for other students, having a mentor is indispensable in new students' first few months.

So perhaps The Commons was successful, but there is always room for improvement. Increasing the number of organizational fairs held at The Commons Center and programs that bring students to main campus and vice versa, would hardly be amiss. Student reception of the new living structure will shape the future of The Commons, hopefully developing it into the premier orientation program in the nation.

# MSNBC falls into a liberal slump

**ABRAHAM HANSON**  
Guest Columnist

In the past week, MSNBC hotshot Keith Olbermann reengaged with the often misguided, apologetic Bill O'Reilly. His polemic, a mixture of solid criticism and playful jibe, caricatured O'Reilly as a prisoner of his own imagination and megalomania. Like a Dan Brown novel, O'Reilly managed to connect thinkprogress.org with heads of NBC and President Barack Obama within a national conspiracy to squelch conservative voices in media.

Admittedly, this latest episode of O'Reilly paranoia is pretty provocative stuff and worthy of a good dousing of reason. Olbermann, however, mixed reason with immature, unfair rhetoric. Instead of evaluating the validity of his claims, Olbermann referenced the plummeting fortune of Rupert Murdoch, media mogul and FOX news owner, to argue O'Reilly's waning political sanity and relevance. He proceeded to assert the financial solvency of NBC and the cushy disposition of his 8 p.m. spot.

First, Murdoch's 57 percent decline in personal wealth is more indicative of the nosedive ravaging print media and the universality of market woes than the ranting of an old man. Second, why the hell does it matter anyways? (Cue the strings.) In the marketplace of ideas, truth and incisive argumentation are the only acceptable currency. Popularity and personal fortune, on the other hand, are duds. It amounts to schoolyard flexing, a vicious and tired "my dad makes more money than you."

Unfortunately, Olbermann's disturbing obsession with O'Reilly constitutes a general

unraveling of MSNBC as a cable news source. Granted, I'm hopelessly liberal. I relished the departure of conservative Tucker Carlson from the nightly lineup. His frequent, indignant agitation was that of a pimply, junior high forensic student. I loved the infectious Obama-love (post Hillary, of course) and the blue election fanfare. I even indulged in the chest pumping that carried through January's inauguration (my backpack still sports an Obama pin).

But it's been 60 days. Permanently bitter Chris Matthews still burns a daily Bush effigy and might as well cast Obama in gold. Olbermann still counts the days since the declaration of mission accomplished while leveling his critique just above the current president's expansionary plans for Afghanistan. Rachel Maddow — whose green, snarky chatter and socially progressive advocacy, I love — gleefully (and rightfully) derides the GOP's latest train wreck but only with stale, Bush-like self-satisfaction.

In many ways, MSNBC is an answer to FOX News. It gives liberals and moderates a palatable offering of news commentary. Slack political analysis, unconditional Obama love and cheap, rhetorical barbs, however, confuse that distinction. While the mistakes of the past administration are still vivid and deserve redress, the fresh paint being laid by the Obama administration demands scrutiny. As for the inter-cable news network banter, leave O'Reilly to his senility and eventually (and hopefully) someone will direct him to the nearest Shady Pines.

—Abraham Hanson is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [abraham.c.hanson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:abraham.c.hanson@vanderbilt.edu).

# Pope preaches love

**CRISTINA VILLARREAL**  
Guest Columnist

This past month, Pope Benedict XVI made his first papal visit to Africa, highlighting the message of "Christ and the good news of his Cross, the mystery of supreme love" in the continent where HIV/AIDS has hit the hardest. His reiteration of the church's opposition to condom use as a method of prevention of the transmission of HIV has sparked controversy but also provides a good opportunity for us to look at the facts surrounding the issue.

The church does not support condoms because it does not support the destruction of the act of spousal love, a love characterized by permanence, fidelity and fruitfulness. The church teaches that human sexuality is a precious gift that should be reserved for marriage. This teaching doesn't exist to restrict or place burdens on people but to protect and keep sacred this act of self-giving love. The above is a brief summary of a profound and important teaching, discussed more extensively in Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body," and Pope Paul VI's encyclical "On Human Life."

The scourge of HIV is not new, and neither is the Catholic church's stance renouncing condom use to combat its spread. Moreover, condom distribution and promotion has been at the forefront of international efforts for decades. It is time to ask the question, have condoms been effective in helping to eradicate HIV in Africa?

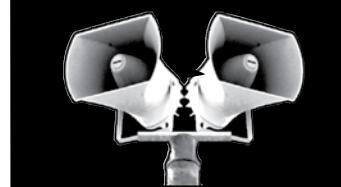
According to an article published in The Washington Post on March 29, Dr. Edward C. Green, senior research scientist and director of the AIDS Prevention Research Project at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, commented that several major studies "have confirmed that condoms have not worked as a primary intervention in the population-wide epidemics of Africa." Moreover, an article published in Science in May 2008, titled "Reassessing HIV Prevention" mentions that "consistent condom use has not reached a sufficiently high level, even after many years of widespread and often aggressive promotion, to produce a measurable slowing of new infections in the generalized epidemics of Sub-Saharan Africa." So what has worked? Studies have shown programs emphasizing the reduction of sexual partners and the encouragement of fidelity have had significant success. In the Science article, the authors go on to explain that programs of this nature have succeeded in several African countries, including Uganda and Kenya.

The church has always been active in caring for the sick, especially for those suffering from HIV/AIDS. Catholic organizations such as Catholic Relief Services and Caritas Internationalis provide care for people suffering from HIV/AIDS, addressing not only the physical toll this disease takes on a person, but also the social, psychological and spiritual wounds as well. In helping to educate those in vulnerable populations about the disease, Catholic organizations have helped to reduce the stigma of HIV/AIDS and to foster respect for all of those affected by it.

The Catholic church teaches a message of love. As Pope Benedict XVI said of this message two days before he left for Africa, "This is the grace of the gospel that is capable of transforming the world; this is the grace that can also renew Africa because it generates an irresistible force of peace and of profound and radical reconciliation. The Church does not pursue economic, social, and political objectives; the church proclaims Christ, certain that the Gospel can touch to hearts of all and transform them, thus renewing persons and societies."

—Cristina Villarreal is a junior in Peabody College. She can be reached at [cristina.a.villarreal@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:cristina.a.villarreal@vanderbilt.edu).

## THE RANT



What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. Send in your rants with the subject "Rant" to: [opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com](mailto:opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com).

Compiled by Thomas Shattuck

Why are the people in Monday's picture about the tornado warning "seeking shelter" next to two glass doors?

The Music Group might as well be spending AcFee on bail bondsmen. I can't believe we have another rapper headlining Rites.

Will somebody please tell me why the library courtyard looks like that of a Detroit public high school? Please spend less of my tuition money on affirmative action scholarships and more on an actual lawn.

Something really needs to be done about the garbage that piles up at the Branscomb dumpster over the weekend. It is just plain disgusting.

### 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](mailto: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 as clarity.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of the Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which the Hustler is a division.

### CORRECTION POLICY

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

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at [hustler.newseditor@gmail.com](mailto:hustler.newseditor@gmail.com). You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Your voice doesn't stop here. The Vanderbilt Hustler encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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**U.S. Sen. Bob Corker**  
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**Sen. Douglas Henry Jr.**  
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(615) 741-2380

**Councilmember Keith Durbin**  
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(615) 673-4210

# In defense of Youth for Western Civilization

**DEVIN SAUCIER**  
Guest Columnist

While it pains me to have to write a response to justify Youth for Western Civilization's beliefs against numerous false accusations that could be cleared by basic levels of reading and understanding, I think now is an appropriate occasion to do so, as the claims have gotten rather out of hand.

Some of the misunderstandings are based on false facts (we have 13 very active members, not two or three, and Marcus Epstein is not a founder of the group), but most of it seems related to our opposition to radical multiculturalism.

First of all, multicultural is not the same thing as multiracial. We don't care if you are red, yellow, black or white, if you love the West and appreciate the culture America as we know it was founded on (not the Native Indian one),

you are a friend of ours. One of our 13 current members is racially Arabic, yet embraces America since she was born here.

If anything, we are far more inclusive than race-based groups like African Students Union, National Society of Black Engineers, the Black Cultural Center, "historically" Black and Latino fraternities, much less the Vanderbilt administration with its racial preference system euphemistically referred to as "affirmative action," which denies qualified students entry based on the color of their skin. We see these groups as divisive. They seek to balkanize the campus; we seek to unite it behind the civilization that provided most everything we cherish (democracy, human rights, the notion of higher education, the majority of our curriculum, etc.).

As far as illegal immigration goes, our

views are basic: Enforce the current laws we have, don't reinforce the behavior of those who broke our nation's laws and focus on the assimilation into society of those already legally here.

When we speak against radical multiculturalism and illegal immigration, we are truly speaking against radical people who want to displace this country's dominant culture and heritage. For instance, Juan Hernandez, John McCain's "Hispanic Outreach Director" said, "I want the third generation, the seventh generation, I want them all to think 'Mexico first.'" This is radical. Mario Obledo, founder of Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said "California is going to be a Hispanic state. Anyone who doesn't like it should leave. Every constitutional office in California is going to be held by Hispanics in the next 20 years." People who don't like

such demographic changes "should go back to Europe." Again, radical.

Laura Garcia, in her recent Hustler opinion column, believes Bay Buchanan misrepresented the Founding Fathers by stating they were opposed to radical multiculturalism. I disagree, citing Alexander Hamilton as evidence: "The safety of a republic depends essentially on the energy of a common national sentiment; on a uniformity of principles and habits; on the exemption of the citizens from foreign bias and prejudice and on that love of country which will almost invariably be found to be closely connected with birth, education and family."

"This nation is a nation of immigrants." True, great, wonderful. However, it is a nation of immigrants who assimilated well because they believed in the need to do so. We are not claiming the current immigrants are incapable of assimilating;

rather, we are opposing an ideology that promotes non-assimilation and teaches us to focus on our differences, rather than trying to unite behind "a common national sentiment" and a "uniformity of principles and habits."

The sheer number of illegal immigrants coming in (close to 3 million annually), most of whom are uneducated and unskilled, poses a threat to our nation's ability to assimilate these individuals. We have the most generous legal immigration policy of any country in the world: 1.2 million immigrants per year. We owe these legal immigrants the resources necessary to assimilate and, as such, cannot afford the burden of 12 to 20 million illegal immigrants who desire amnesty.

— Devin Saucier is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [devin.r.saucier@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:devin.r.saucier@vanderbilt.edu)

## YWC founder comments on Yang

To the Editor:

Soo Yang's column "Youth for Western Civilization misses the point" states that I am a "white nationalist" and a founder of Youth for Western Civilization. Neither is true. In fact, it would be quite difficult for me to be a "white nationalist" as my mother is Asian.

As the group has repeatedly said, members of any race can and should promote the values of the Western Civilization. Similarly, contrary to Yang's assertion "godlessness, socialism, reproductive rights and gay equality" are not part of "traditional European culture" simply because many whites who live in Europe promote them.

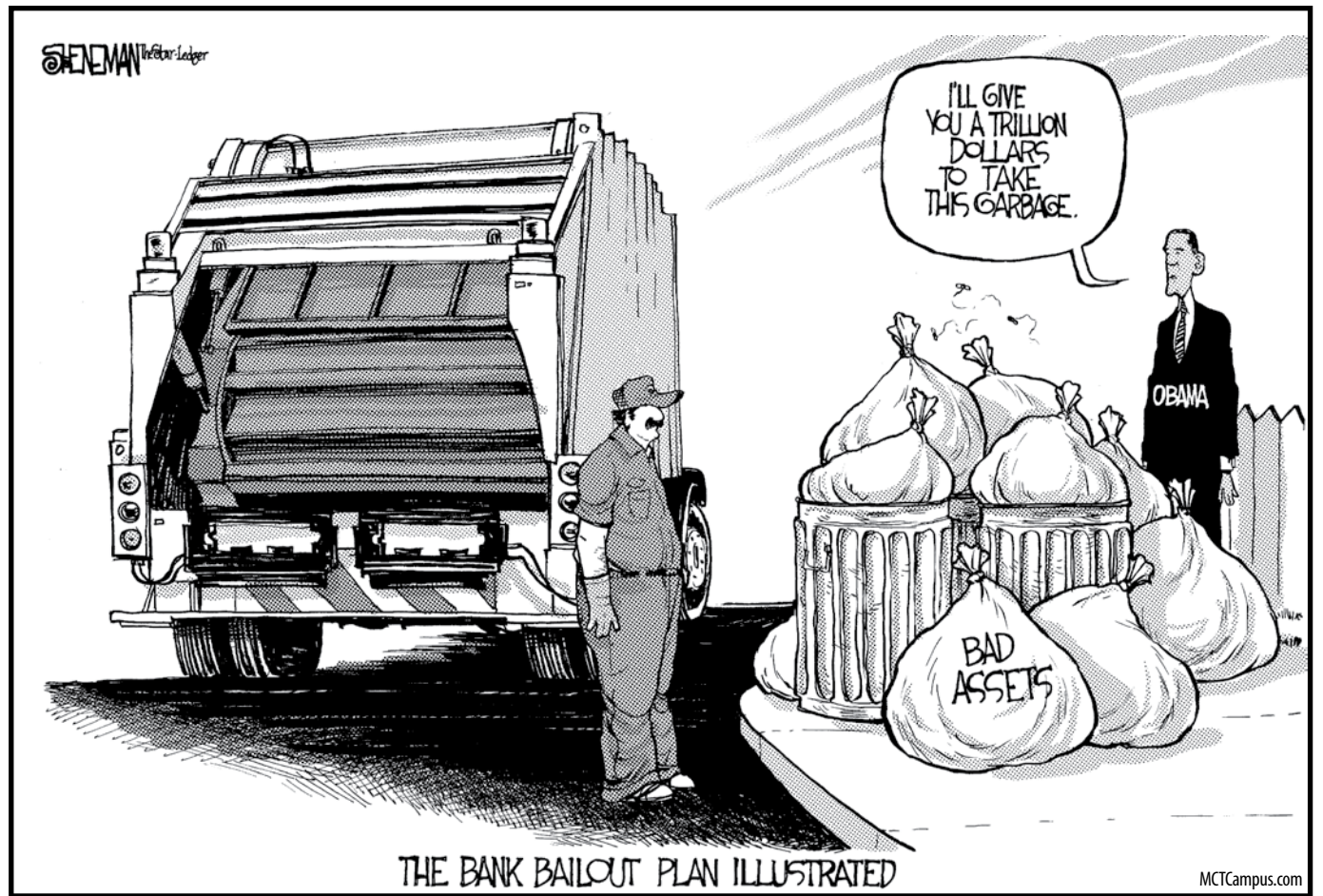
It is this fundamental misunderstanding that makes Yang see a contradiction between holding socially conservative

attitudes while also exalting the culture of Europe. It may be cliché for a conservative to quote Burke but his lamentation that "the age of chivalry is gone. That of sophisters, economists, and calculators has succeeded; and the glory of Europe is extinguished forever" is particularly germane.

A godless, feminist and egalitarian Europe that loathes its history and the values that sustained its civilization for centuries as sexist, homophobic, and racist is simply unwilling to defend itself against a culture — such as Islam — that has a strong sense of its own identity and purpose.

**Marcus Epstein**  
Executive Director  
Team America PAC  
The American Cause

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



### Thrifting

1) n. a philosophy that celebrates the recycling of formerly-owned items;

2) adj. finding new use and new love for vintage material goods which have been donated;

3) n. the thrill of finding a whole, new outfit for only \$15, allowing Vanderbilt students to have more money in their pockets.

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## SPORTS

# Cornerback Hayward ready for the big stage

by GEOFF HUTCHINSON  
Sports Reporter

Replacing an All-American player is never an easy task, especially when that player contributes to so many facets of the game for a team. For the Commodores, the loss of D.J. Moore will be something that cannot be filled by just one person.

However, the one person that will shoulder most of the burden is sophomore cornerback Casey Hayward. Last season, Hayward was one of four true freshmen to play for the 7-6 Commodores and did a fantastic job filling in for Moore during the 2008 Music City Bowl after the junior went down with an injury. Coming into spring practice, Hayward was atop the depth chart for the cornerbacks and has proven so far that he belongs in the starting lineup with his play in practice and scrimmages.

"There are a lot of expectations on whoever has to replace D.J., but you can't replace someone like D.J. I can only go out there and play to the best of my abilities," Hayward said. "There is a lot of pressure on all the cornerbacks to play well because of all D.J. did for the program."

Last season, Hayward spent most of his time on special teams and dime packages, as the Commodores' secondary was the most experienced unit on the team. However, with the loss of corners Moore, Jared Fagan, Josh Allen and Darlron Spead, that depth no longer exists, and there are plenty of opportunities for young players such as Hayward to step in and show their skills. Hayward had a chance to show these skills during the bowl game against Boston College and played brilliantly as he helped shut down Eagle receivers late in the game as they tried to stage a comeback against the Commodores.

"I knew that I would have to play if someone got hurt during the game, but I never expected D.J. to get hurt," Hayward said. "At the same time, I couldn't worry about that, I had to go out there and play my game."

Hayward is used to the expectations,



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Casey Hayward (19) and D.J. Moore (17) bring down a Boston College receiver during the Music City Bowl on Dec. 31. Hayward was one of four true freshmen to see playing time in 2008 and looks to be ready to step into Moore's shoes at cornerback.

as he was the offensive player of the year in 2007 for his region in Georgia. In high school, Hayward played quarterback, and naturally he is fond of the offensive side of the ball. However, he is more concerned with the good of the team.

"Yes, I would love to play a little offense, but right now I'm concerned with being the best I can be at cornerback, but if the

coaches need me on offense, I'm ready," Hayward said. "I'll do just about anything, except return punts. The ball comes at you a little too fast for my liking."

When asked if there was anyone that he looks forward to cover this season, Hayward replied, "I'd love to play against A.J. Green from Georgia, he's a real good player, and I like to play against the best competition." ■

# No surprises, no pressure for No. 1 bowling team

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Editor

Being the best isn't always easy, but Vanderbilt's No. 1 ranked bowlers have found a way to cope.

Crowned the nation's best team nearly the entire season and winners of a school-record five tournaments, the Commodores will enter the NCAA Championships beginning April 9 as the team to beat.

But, said senior Michelle Peloquin, there's no pressure defending that top ranking.

"Whenever I am asked about this, or even think about it, what I remind myself is that for the past two years the team ranked No. 1 going into the tournament did not win the National Championship, so it really is not a good indication of what will happen," Peloquin said. "I think that if you let being ranked No. 1 enter into your mentality it can

be harmful."

Indeed, last season seventh-seeded Maryland-Eastern Shore shocked the second-seeded Commodores in the semifinals of the NCAAs and then went on to defeat Arkansas State University for the national title. This came one year after Vanderbilt claimed the school's first-ever national title despite being the No. 3 seed in the tournament.

So a No. 1 ranking is a nice compliment to the Commodores and their head coach John Williamson, but it remains just a compliment. Going out and performing well remains their focus.

"We go out there and give it our best every shot," said senior Karen Grygiel. "We do not feel like we have to defend anything. It is more that we want to be the best we can be."

Senior Tara Kane added that the team's

focus helps them combat any externalities that could distract them from not performing their best.

"I think that there will always be feelings of pressure, but it all depends on how you deal with and interpret those feelings," Kane said. "For much of this year, we have worked really hard to focus on us and ignore everything else going on to try and suppress the feeling of pressure. I think the key is 'defense' in the sense that we just need to stay composed and take care of what we have in our control."

Vanderbilt enjoys the luxury of a wealth of experience on its roster as well. Having competed for three straight national championships, the seniors on the team aren't in for any surprises.

"We have a good idea of what to expect and the things we need to be able to do," Grygiel said. ■

## COLUMN



SUE OGROCKI / AP

John Calipari left Memphis to coach Kentucky, college basketball's winningest program. However, the Wildcats have been a mediocre team for much of the past decade, and David Shochat writes that Kentucky's so-called tradition is drastically overplayed in the media.

# Tradition is overrated

by DAVID SHOCHAT  
Sports Reporter

Tradition. It is one of the most overrated terms in college sports. Who speaks about tradition? The media and delusional fans, that's who.

With John Calipari taking the head coaching job at Kentucky earlier this week, it got me thinking how overrated a team's tradition is. Who cares about what your school did in the 1940s? It is an excuse by fans when their team's average.

If I were a recruit, tradition would be the last thing I would care about. I would want a school who is winning now, a school who has a great coach, a place where I feel comfortable with the school and the current players, a place that has nice facilities, how early I will be able to play, and then I might consider the tradition. It is this so-called tradition that fuels my hate for Kentucky basketball and Notre Dame football. Ask either teams' fan base to talk about their programs, and I guarantee that tradition will come up.

While neither program has had success in the past decade, both programs are still loved by the media. Why? Tradition. This tradition is a self-fulfilling prophecy the media has created.

How else do you explain the four days of news coverage when Coach Cal was considering the Kentucky job? Did you know Virginia has a new basketball coach too? By continuing to talk about the great tradition and prestige of programs like Notre Dame football or Kentucky basketball, the media just continues to reemphasize their tradition.

Would Calipari have left Memphis if Kentucky didn't have its great "tradition"?

Doubtful. Calipari had a great situation in Memphis. The city loved him, he would have consistently won 30 games every season and he would have made more money at Memphis. So why did he leave? Calipari wanted the tradition, the brand name that is Kentucky because he knew that with the media exposure it gets, he would be considered the best ever if he could create a new dynasty there.

Now let's get one thing straight. I am not saying Notre Dame or Kentucky fans don't have a right to be proud of their past. What those schools have accomplished is great, but when your tradition comes from winning four of your seven national titles in the 1940-50s like it does with Kentucky basketball ... Well, that was a long time ago. In this day in age, it is all about what have you done for me lately.

The greatest part is the irony of it all. The same people who love to talk about their great past and tradition are the same people who can't stop complaining about their lack of recent national titles; the same people who force out a national championship-winning coach two years after he got to an Elite Eight.

If these fans want championships, they need to wake up and give coaches a chance. Kevin Stallings came to Nashville in 1999 and, given time, look what he has done for Vanderbilt basketball. There is so much parity in college sports nowadays that the days of the Woodens and Rupp are gone, and until these delusional fans realize this, stop calling for a new coach every two or three years, and allow a coach to actually build a program, there will be more of the same at Kentucky and Notre Dame: mediocrity. ■

# Cutler traded to Chicago, joins Vandy teammates

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Editor

The Windy City has taken a liking to players from Music City.

Former Vanderbilt quarterback Jay Cutler was traded Thursday to the Chicago Bears by the Denver Broncos, joining former Commodores in receiver Earl Bennett, offensive lineman Chris Williams and linebacker Hunter Hillenmeyer on the roster.

The Bears traded quarterback Kyle Orton and first-round draft picks in 2009 and 2010 to acquire Cutler. Chicago released backup quarterback Rex Grossman in the offseason and

appeared set with Orton at starter after the former Purdue star had nearly led the Bears to the playoffs in 2008 but came up short. Despite a vote of confidence during the offseason from head coach Lovie Smith and offensive coordinator Ron Turner, Orton is out and Cutler is in, giving the Bears an immediate deep-passing threat.

Cutler had been in a dispute with the Broncos and new head coach Josh McDaniels when reports surfaced that McDaniels had attempted to acquire Matt Cassel from the New England Patriots. Cutler requested a trade, did not attend offseason workouts and did not respond to Denver's attempts to

contact him.

Cutler starred for four years with Vanderbilt, starting all 45 games he played and setting school records in, among others, touchdown passes, passing yards and completions. In 2005, he was named the Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Year after throwing for 21 touchdowns and 3,073 yards. In his final play at Vanderbilt, he threw the game-winning touchdown pass to Bennett to beat rival Tennessee in Knoxville, 28-24. It was the Commodores' first win over the Volunteers since 1982.

Cutler was taken by the Broncos as the 11th overall pick in the 2006 NFL

Draft. He took over the starting job later that year and nearly got the Broncos to the playoffs. In 37 games as a starter, Cutler has compiled a 17-20 record and thrown 54 touchdown passes and 37 interceptions. He led the AFC in passing yards in 2008, but the Broncos again failed to make the playoffs, blowing a three-game lead in the AFC West to the San Diego Chargers, resulting in the dismissal of long-time coach Mike Shanahan, a move with which Cutler openly disagreed.

Last year, the Bears selected Williams as the 14th overall pick in the first round and Bennett in the third round of the draft. ■



MARK HUMPHREY / AP

Jay Cutler will be reunited with several old Vanderbilt teammates after being traded to the Chicago Bears.



COLUMN

# Four players who hold the keys to a title

by DAVID NANM  
Sports Reporter

After the Madness that was March, the dust has begun to settle. Slowly but surely, determined individuals have begun to scurry through the ruins of Hurricane Bracket Buster, only to find the once-promising remains of Wake Forest and Utah left piled under more-resistant Cleveland State and Arizona clubs. Gone are title favorites Louisville and Pittsburgh, lost at sea in the wake of insurmountable defensive lapses. Other casualties include the Oklahoma Blake Griffins, the defending national champions, and my GPA.

Remaining, then, are four survivors who have withstood injuries, deficits and doubts to reach the Mecca of college basketball. Villanova, North Carolina, Michigan State and Connecticut each pushed aside the pressure of March with no shortage of excellent guard play, timely shooting, and lockdown defense. In order to rise to the top, though, the Final Four must get outstanding efforts from the following players to cut down the nets in the Motor City.

**Villanova: Dante Cunningham, senior forward**  
In a game where the Wildcats desperately need to defend the paint, Cunningham has to be the man. Going up against North Carolina's loaded

frontcourt led by All-American Tyler Hansbrough is no easy task, so Cunningham will have to use his post moves to get deep into the Tar Heels' bench. Getting Hansbrough into foul trouble either forces UNC to use a small lineup or stick a lesser-experienced post player on the blocks. This would give Cunningham a better chance to control the boards, an advantage Villanova needs to prevent junior point guard Ty "Big Toe" Lawson and the Heels from running away with this one.

**North Carolina: Wayne Ellington, junior guard**  
Lawson and Hansbrough may dominate the headlines for the Tar Heels, but the key to UNC's potent offensive attack is the 3-pointer. Not many marksmen have a shot like Ellington, who has made almost 40 percent of his attempts from three on the season and drastically improved his dribble-penetration ability. Thus, if Lawson and Hansbrough can draw the defense into the lane as effectively as usual, that leaves Ellington plenty of room to "make it Wayne" and carry the Tar Heels to another NCAA title.

**Michigan State: Goran Suton, senior center**  
Never heard of Suton? You weren't alone before the sharpshooting center took his game to a new level against Kansas and Louisville, scoring a combined 39 points in the two games while

knocking down four threes. It's no secret that UConn center Hasheem Thabeet is less effective when defending away from the basket, so Suton's ability to hit from long distance could determine the pace and outcome of this one. Hence, if Suton keeps up his unexpected pace and continues picking up the slack for AWOL forward Raymar Morgan, the Spartans may live to fight another day.

**Connecticut: Jeff Adrien, senior forward**  
With Thabeet's propensity to garner significant defensive pressure and, at times, self-induced foul trouble, Adrien can be called upon for consistent production, a trend set to continue Saturday. Averaging a double-double on the season (13.7 points, 10 rebounds), the senior will be counted on once again as an alternate to Thabeet, whose 7-foot-3-inch frame occupies most of the opposition's attention on both ends of the floor. A standout performance by Adrien would allow for open looks by senior guard A.J. Price, a must for the Huskies to advance.

**National champion: UNC**  
The Tar Heels at their best are nearly impossible to stop. Lawson and Hansbrough will end their collegiate careers on a high note, with coach Roy Williams finding a way to squeak past the field with this year's best collection of talent. ■



GERRY BROOME/AP

Wayne Ellington is one of many reasons North Carolina is closing in on its second national championship since 2005. The Tar Heels have to get past Villanova in the national semifinal first.

COLUMN

## Rays gamble in sending Price to the minors



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Former Vanderbilt pitcher and No. 1 overall draft pick David Price was optioned to AAA by the Tampa Bay Rays, despite a breakout season in the major leagues in 2008.

by DAN RYAN  
Sports Reporter

If we learned anything about David Price during his three years on West End, it's that he's a fierce competitor. Unfortunately for Price and fans of the imposing southpaw he won't be competing for the Tampa Bay Rays, at least not initially, in 2009.

This is a surprising move to most anyone who witnessed Price's post-season heroics of a season ago, when he became the embodiment of the upstart Tampa Bay Rays by earning a win in the 11th inning of Game 2 of the American League Championship Series against the Red Sox, and picking up the series clinching save in Game 7 in his first playoff appearances. After dominant performances against some of baseball's premier batters in high-pressure situations it was, for many, a foregone conclusion that Price had cemented his spot in the bullpen and eventually the starting rotation.

But when your manager is the Joe Maddon, regarded as the least conventional manager in the Major Leagues, and your team's front office watches pitch counts more intently than a couple stoned kids watching Planet Earth in HD, anything can happen. And happen it did, as the Rays decided on March 25 the best thing for Price this season was to spend time developing his changeup and gaining greater command of his fastball, which consistently hits the upper 90's on the radar guns, in Triple-A Durham.

Price didn't make the decision any easier for the Rays by going 2-0 with a 1.08 ERA in three appearances this

spring. While there are few who doubt Price lacks the maturity or the ability to succeed on baseball's biggest stage, it is the long-term planning from the Rays' front office that resulted in Price starting the season in the minors, as well as the Rays entering the 2009 season as the defending American League Champions.

The Rays know they have an absolute stud in Price and want to ensure that he will be a key contributor in their quest for a World Series title for years to come. Price threw a combined 139 1/3 innings in 2008 in the Minor Leagues and Major League playoffs, and the Rays want to ensure the young pitcher has adequate time to develop before taking on the full workload of a starter in their five-man rotation. You may not recall, but the Rays opted to start third baseman Evan Longoria, one of the best prospects at the hot corner in the MLB, in the Minor Leagues at the beginning of the 2008 season. While the move was widely criticized at the time, much like the current situation with Price, there are few who would argue it didn't pay off, as Longoria was instrumental in the Rays' march to the American League pennant a season ago.

If the Rays are able to replicate their success from 2008 there is no doubt Price will be part of their playoff roster. The Rays reason that they can both protect their asset in Price, as well as use him as a secret weapon in October, much like they did last fall. When it comes down to it, the Rays are parlaying their current success to their future returns with Price. We'll wait and see if the gamble pays off. ■

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