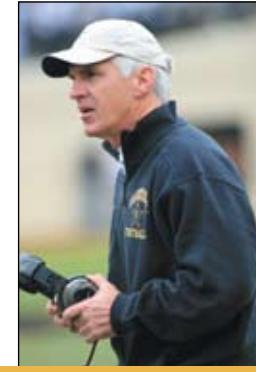


The Vanderbilt Hustler

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009 • 121ST YEAR, NO. 51 • THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

www.InsideVandy.com



SPORTS
We have a new kind of SEC rankings this week.
See page 6

Senioritis? More like stressed out



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Beth Sherman, an assistant director in the Career Center, helps senior Mateo Perez-Rodriguez with his resume Thursday afternoon. Many seniors are finding it increasingly difficult to balance school, fun and the search for jobs in an unfortunate economy.



SENIOR SIDE EFFECTS

A series of ongoing articles, videos and podcasts where students and advisers discuss the pressures of senior year.

by SYDNEY WILMER
Multimedia Editor

What actually hangs in the balance senior year varies for students. Friendships, relationships, professional success and even a sense of purpose make the list.

But of all the characteristics that define the year, one side effect seems to mark the experience: stress.

Assistant Professor Michael Vollman, who specializes in the subject at the School of Nursing, explains, "Seniors are at a transitional point in their lives. They are leaving the built-in infrastructure of college and moving on to something unknown." Compounded with a sense of uncertainty that follows them over the course of the

year, it can be a difficult experience.

So to get a better understanding of how and why students react the way they do to the strain, The Hustler and InsideVandy.com approached the issue by interviewing campus professionals who are experts in the area.

Online in a special projects page dedicated to the subject are video and podcast interviews with a Career Center adviser, a professional counselor and most importantly, students. Our goal is to look beyond issues like an intimidating economy and changing workforce and take a closer look at some of the overlooked stressors in seniors' lives. On Monday, expect to see a longer piece on the subject, too. ■

Go online to watch videos and listen to podcasts of students thoughts on their senior year and experts' suggestions for handling plans for their post-graduate life.

VSG Senate approves resolution affirming students' right to smoke

by HAYLEY KARLAN
Asst News Editor

The Vanderbilt Student Government Senate unanimously passed a resolution regarding smoking regulations on campus Wednesday night in response to recent actions taken to make Vanderbilt smoke free.

Executive Adviser Theo Samets, along with Senator Andrew Morse and Council President John Gaffney, decided to propose the resolution about two weeks ago, after the Dean of Students Office informed VSG's Executive Board that a decision to move to a smoke-free campus

Go online to read VSG's resolution on the smoking issue.

with designated smoking areas was in the process of being approved.

The resolution states that "a smoking ban with designated smoking areas on campus is not in the interest of the student body."

Samets said the talk of banning smoking worried him.

"Immediately I became concerned, and realized that we needed to mobilize on this issue. I was concerned that this

Please see VSG, page 3



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

NEWS:
VSC board limits number of community staff at WRVU.
See page 3

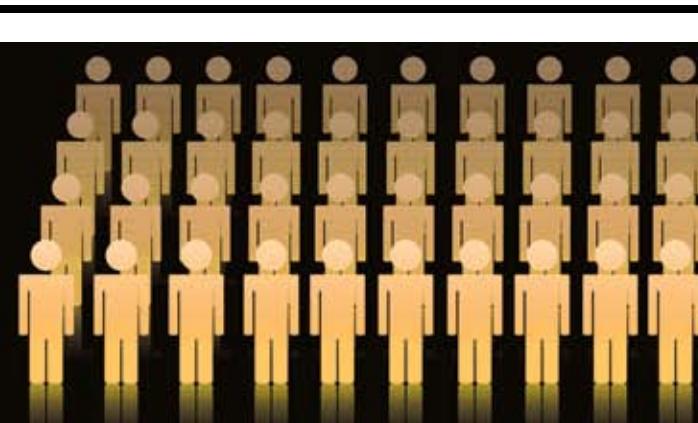
OPINION:
The Obama administration needs to open its eyes and call the Fort Hood shooting what it was.
See page 4



OPINION:
Thomas Shattuck wonders why are Americans so arrogant.
See page 5

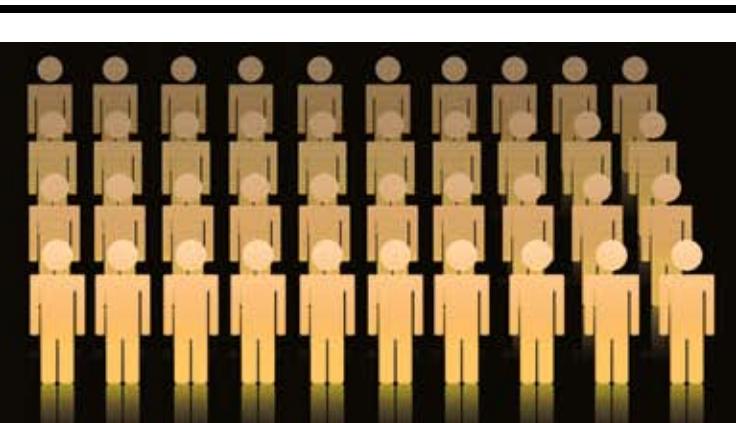


SPORTS:
Check out a preview of the women's basketball season.
See pages 8-9



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SPORTS
We have a new kind of SEC rankings this week.
See page 6



JAY-Z

Jay-Z runs this town tonight

by FRANCESCA AMIKER
Contributing Reporter

and JOSLIN WOODS
Asst News Editor

Jay-Z is coming to Vanderbilt tonight, but he won't have a full house.

Dwayne Elliott, director of student campus events, said he is a little surprised that the concert hasn't sold out, considering the popularity of urban and rap artists on campus. According to a Hustler article published last fall, last year's Quake homecoming concert featuring Lil' Wayne sold out about a week before the event, while Kanye West's 2007 concert sold out at 3:20 p.m. on the day of the concert.

One reason tickets have been slower to sell, in comparison to previous years, may be the increase in tickets available for purchase.

"In the past the crowd would scrunch together in certain areas, leaving sections open, so we decided to open up more seats in the third level," Elliott said.

In previous years, the Music Group only made 9,200 tickets available. According to Elliott, an additional 2,300 seats have been added to the arena to accommodate the expected crowd, including an additional 800 student tickets, for the total 11,500 Jay-Z concert tickets. However, there are still 2,300 seats open in the third level of the gym.

Already, Jay-Z has sold nearly as many tickets as the concerts of Lil' Wayne and Kanye West, the Music Group reports.

The Music Group is not sure if a profit has been made from ticket sales, but they are still working toward that goal. Elliott said the main purpose of the concert is not to gain a profit,

JAY-Z CONCERT TONIGHT

Doors open at 6 p.m. The show will start at 8 p.m. and last until around 11:45 p.m.

Go online to read a review of the concert after the show.

but to provide the students with something that they would not be able to get at other schools.

Elliott said he believes another reason why there are still tickets available is because of rumors about the Jay-Z concert already being sold out.

"I have been receiving up to three calls a day from people asking if the 'sell out' rumor is true," Elliott said.

Some students have said they aren't buying tickets because they do not regularly listen to Jay-Z and are not familiar with his songs.

"I think the only reason people are going is because of peer pressure and hype. How often do you hear someone wanting to bump some 'good ole' Jay-Z, really," said freshman Graci Jones.

The long line that started forming hours before tickets went on sale deterred some students, as well.

"I don't know enough of his songs to go and enjoy myself. I didn't want to stand in that long line to have seats with my friends. I didn't want to have to fight the lines to actually have a good floor seat," sophomore Sharda Fields said.

Other students cited ticket prices as a reason to not attend Jay-Z's show.

"I'm not going because I'm

Please see JAY-Z, page 3

Page Two

WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

TODAY

HIGH 63, LOW 37
Mostly Sunny

SATURDAY

HIGH 69, LOW 43
Partly Cloudy

SUNDAY

HIGH 69, LOW 49
Sunny

SERVICE GUIDE

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

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$5.00 each.

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LOCATION

The Hustler offices are in 130 Sarratt Student Center on the Vanderbilt University Campus. Address postal mail to 2301 Vanderbilt Place, VU Station B 351504, Nashville, Tenn. 37235-1504.

AFFILIATIONS

The Hustler is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers, Southern University Newspapers and the Southeastern Journalism Conference and is an associate member of the Associated Press.

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PRINTER

The Hustler is printed at Franklin Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions are available for \$125 per semester or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler. A pdf subscription order form is available at <http://www.vscmedia.org/hustler.html>

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

compiled by LAURA DOLBOW

AROUND THE LOOP

Do you feel safe on campus at night?

"It's a little sketch. I think there needs to be more lighting. I walk from Branscomb to Towers, but I walk quickly and prefer to take a VandyVan, especially since Towers is on West End."

— Lonyae Thomas, 2012

"I feel safe. I walk back from the library and frat row and I don't feel scared."

— Anna Domning, 2011

"Yeah, I feel safe, though I think walking back from Stevenson Library at night can be a little scary alone. I'd rather walk back with someone else."

— Lizzy Blum, 2011

"I feel more safe here than anywhere because of the Vanderbilt Police."

— Dustin Wilson, VU Dining

"I haven't used the VandyVans yet. They're for safety, but I feel fine walking."

— Jared Mathis, 2012

CRIME LOG

Friday, Nov. 6, 4:30 p.m. — Graffiti tag was on loading dock door at Library Annex.

Friday, Nov. 6, 10:20 p.m. — Person had drugs and equipment in his room in Carmichael Towers East II.

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2:23 a.m. — Person was in possession of a fake ID on 21st Avenue at University School of Nashville. Person was cited for public intoxication and underage consumption.

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2:45 a.m. — Person was reported as attempting to break into vehicles at Sam's Sports Bar and Grill.

Saturday, Nov. 7, 3:01 a.m. — Person cited for public intoxication and underage consumption of alcohol at Divinity School.

Saturday, Nov. 7, 7:50 a.m. — Graffiti tag was on the exterior wall of Buttrick Hall.

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2:30 a.m. — People were warned of noise violations on 3201 Orleans Drive.

Monday, Nov. 9, 1:53 p.m. — A person's wallet was stolen from his dorm room in Kissam.

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1:45 a.m. — An intoxicated person attempted to drive a vehicle on 19th and West End avenues.

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 11 p.m. — The rear window of a vehicle was broken out in Lot 75A.

VSG STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



Wyatt Smith

Vanderbilt Student Government
Student Body President
Senior

1. What's your major?

Double major in HOD and Political Science with a minor in Economics

2. What's your favorite place in Nashville?

I really enjoy Hillsboro Village with its diversity of places from Sam's to Jackson's to Fido. I also think downtown is a lot of fun.

3. What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time I seek out having a balanced college experience. I spend time with friends from my fraternity, my first-year friend group and organizations. I try to do things away from VSG and academics to have a well-rounded college experience.

4. What are your plans for after graduation?

I'm considering options in consulting and Teach for America. In two years, I will be starting at Harvard Business School, and I have the opportunity to explore some other life experiences for the two years in between.

5. If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three things would you bring with you?

A copy of "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin, a hammock and someone to talk to

6. What was your first job?

Working on my family's farm. I baled hay, drove fence posts, fed chickens and vaccinated cattle.

7. What advice would you give students to make the most of their four years at Vanderbilt?

The quality of your experience here is proportional to the amount of your investment. By seeking out opportunities that allow you to connect with a perspective you haven't seen before, you grow as a person and mature into someone who is more thoughtful and better prepared for adulthood.

8. What's the biggest challenge you've faced at Vanderbilt?

Acclimating to a school in which I knew absolutely no one entering, but using that opportunity to build friendships across a wide range of people.

9. Of what accomplishment are you most proud?

Having been one of the people driving the idea of and helping to create the Global Summer Fellows Program, which is a scholarship program for summer study abroad.

10. Where is your favorite place to study?

Sarratt third floor

11. If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be?

I would include St. Francis of Assisi, Bear Bryant, Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King. Our conversation would range from a college football playoff to religion and democracies.

12. What is your favorite restaurant on the Commodore Card?

Sam's Sports Bar and Grill

CALENDAR

THE WEEK AHEAD

FRIDAY, NOV. 13

• Jay-Z concert

Rapper Jay-Z will perform from 8-11 p.m. in Memorial Gymnasium. Tickets are available at Sarratt Box Office and Ticketmaster locations. Student tickets are priced at \$40.

• "The Marriage of Figaro" performance at Blair

The Vanderbilt Opera Theatre and Vanderbilt University Orchestra present "The Marriage of Figaro" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in Ingram Hall at 8 p.m. This event is free, but you must have a ticket to enter. Remainder tickets will be available at the door.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

• VU football vs. Kentucky

Come support the Dores in the last home football game of the season. Kickoff is at 11:20 a.m. at Vanderbilt Stadium.

SUNDAY, NOV. 15

• ANYF 2010 kickoff: Dancer recruitment

Come to the general body meeting from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Sarratt 189 to hear about the Asian American Student Association's yearly dinner and show: the Asian New Year Festival. Show off your talents with dancing, singing, acting, emceeing and juggling. No prior experience needed.

• VU women's basketball vs. Lehigh

Come watch the Commodores at 2 p.m. in Memorial Gymnasium. Tickets are free for undergraduates.

SNAPSHOT

Chipotle sneak peek



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshmen Chris Fruci, Matthew Thompson, Emma Rogers, Taylor Schomp, Cozy Ruan, Willdoba Timbers, Jonathan Beltran, Rebecca Reed and Jordan Reeve, wait in line to receive free food from Chipotle's first store in Nashville at the grand opening preview on Wednesday. The official grand opening is today.

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JAY-Z: \$40 student tickets still available

From JAY-Z, page 1

not a big enough fan to justify sleeping outside in line for tickets, nor paying \$40 of my own money for them," sophomore Candace Barbour said. Junior Brittany Powell agreed: "I paid \$20 for Lil' Wayne and Kanye West. Why would I pay \$40 for Jay-Z?" she said.

Local radio stations are advertising the concert and giving away tickets. Elliott said he has heard talk of radio stations from Detroit, Memphis and St. Louis providing buses and even limos for their members to attend Vanderbilt's concert.

Though the concert has not

yet sold out, Elliott expects that they will be close to reaching that point today.

"Hurry up and buy them because I want this to sell out," Elliott said in a Hustler interview from last month. "I don't want them (students) to miss out on a great show."

Elliott said Wednesday there are 154 student tickets available at the discounted price of \$40, and these seats will be located in the second level. When the 154 students' tickets sell out, students will have to purchase tickets at the regular price of \$55 to \$65. ■

wanted to study abroad since his freshman year and this price increase would not have deterred him from applying.

"I would assume that the price changes are in part due to the weakened dollar as well as the general condition of the world economy," he wrote, "and I would not want these factors to greatly influence my decision to study abroad."

While the price of the London program has increased, GEO was able to lower the prices of nine other programs significantly, ranging in reductions of \$250 to \$1500. Applicants for the Sydney, Australia, program for example, will pay anywhere from \$250 to \$750 less in fees, depending on their program. Study abroad options in Italy, Japan, Czech Republic and Ireland also have lowered their fees. These program fees cover housing, on-site support, meals, course related excursions, local transportation and sometimes even textbooks.

Beyond price changes, program quotas have also been a concern for Vanderbilt students. While the GEO does not set a specific number of students allowed to attend each location, they are limited because of restrictions set by the providing schools.

"With some programs being more popular than others, we

VSG: Smoking ban impossible to enforce, representatives argue

From VSG, page 1

would be like the Medical Center all over again, where you need to cross over to the other side of 21st Avenue to avoid the smoke," Samets said. "I got in touch with Andrew Morse and John Gaffney, and we got together and wrote the resolution."

One of VSG's concerns with a smoke-free campus with designated smoking areas is the practical enforcement of such a rule.

"It will be impossible to enforce, and that will create more tension," said Deputy Chief of Staff Adam Meyer.

VSG also emphasized the importance of this issue in the context of student's rights.

"If the university administration says

you can't smoke on campus, what's next? This is a bigger issue," Samets said. "This is bigger than just smoking, and that's why it's really important. It's about students being included in discussions about legal rights."

Gaffney agrees that this issue is about student restrictions, not just smoking.

Part of the resolution states: "Vanderbilt Student Government requests that the administration include student leaders in all discussions involving potential further restrictions on students' rights to partake in legal activities on Vanderbilt's campus."

VSG President Wyatt Smith urged the Senate to consider the implications of a smoke-free campus with designated smoking areas.

"We have to think about how this will affect student spaces, like Kensington, Vanderbilt Place and Greek Row," Smith said.

VSG is willing to consider smoking halo rules relating to building entrances. The resolution reads: "Be it further resolved that Vanderbilt Student Government supports alternative considerations to reduce secondhand smoke inhalation across campus, specifically the installation of no-smoking halos around entrances to buildings similar to the policies in place at Northwestern, Harvard, Stanford, University of Chicago and other peer institutions."

The House will vote on the resolution next week. ■

Study abroad prices fluctuate

by KELLY JONES
Staff Reporter

Although prices have risen for the London study abroad program, students continue to flock to England despite the change in price. In fact, a record number of applicants applied for the spring 2010 semester study abroad programs.

The fees for London rose by \$750, and much of the cost increase is attributed to the spring semester for the London program being two months longer than the fall semester, said director of the Global Education Office, Ara Pachmayer. Some of the providers also raised fees, which is a cost passed onto the students who participate.

Students were told that costs rose, but they had minimal advance notice. Despite that, everyone interested in the London trip was able to commit to the increased price. Micaela England, a junior and public policy major, chose to study abroad in London despite the higher costs.

"London is the most expensive program, but while I saw the price had increased, it didn't hinder my reasons to go," she said. "It's a great program, especially for my major."

George Bohgos, a junior, wrote in an e-mail that he has



JUSTIN MENESTRINA / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Harry Lopez talks to assistant theater professor David Muller and expresses his excitement about the department's Maymester program that studies contemporary theater in London.

cannot guarantee a placement at the student's first choice, though we make every effort to make that happen," Pachmayer said. "All our programs are competitive, and placements are based on academic merit, faculty recommendations and

a personal statement."

However, Pachmayer said because GEO offers more than 70 opportunities to study abroad, students can find another great option if their first choice falls through. ■

WINNERS FROM THE 2009 COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

ROB HILL / Special to The Hustler



TAYLOR SWIFT

Entertainer of the Year

BRAD PAISLEY

Male Vocalist of the Year

TAYLOR SWIFT

Female Vocalist of the Year

LADY ANTEBELLUM

Vocal Group of the Year

DARIUS RUCKER

New Artist of the Year

MAC MCANALLY

Musician of the Year

TAYLOR SWIFT, "FEARLESS"

Album of the Year

LADY ANTEBELLUM, "I RUN TO YOU"

Single of the Year

"IN COLOR," WRITTEN BY JAMEY JOHNSON, LEE THOMAS MILLER AND JAMES OTTO

Song of the Year

TAYLOR SWIFT, "LOVE STORY"

Video of the Year

BRAD PAISLEY AND KEITH URBAN, "START A BAND"

Musical event of the year

Community DJs have new limits at WRVU

by HANNAH TWILLMAN
Editor-in-Chief

The Vanderbilt Student Communications Inc. Board of Directors voted on Tuesday to cap the number of community (non-Vanderbilt-affiliated) DJs on WRVU to 25, half of the current number.

Senior Brendan Alviani, one of five student members on the board, said the decision was made in response to concerns about the increasing number of community DJs on staff of Vanderbilt's student-run radio station.

The station's lineup includes approximately 100 shows, said junior Mikil Taylor, general manager of WRVU, one of the student media outlets at Vanderbilt fully funded by VSC. Of those shows, 28 are student-run, while community DJs run about 50. Graduate students, staff or others affiliated with Vanderbilt handle the rest.

Taylor said due to the greater proportion of community DJs and scheduling limitations, community members often receive better time slots for their shows, despite attempts to give students first priority. Of the 78 available primetime hours on weeknights and weekends, only eight are student-run shows, he said.

"One of the primary missions of the station is to provide an opportunity for Vanderbilt students to train and get some experience being DJs," said English professor Mark Wollaeger, one of three faculty board members. "It seemed to me that there was a real need to take some steps to ensure that Vanderbilt students

would be able to get airtime and train to be on the radio."

VSC Director Chris Carroll said VSC's bylaws state all divisions of VSC are specifically for students and Vanderbilt affiliates only. However, the board can make exceptions when it deems necessary, as it has for WRVU in the past. The board also has the power to set a limit on the number of non-affiliates allowed, according to policy passed at the beginning of the semester.

Carroll, who is not a voting member of the board, said a second concern was one of risk management. Previously, there had not been an application process or a way to gather the contact information of the non-affiliate DJs, even though VSC had to assume liability for the DJs when they were in the studio located in Sarratt Student Center and when they were on the air.

A 7-1 vote set the limit at 25 non-affiliates for WRVU, a number Taylor requested so 75 percent of the available spots would be reserved for students and Vanderbilt affiliates. To determine who would fill these 25 spots, community members must submit an application to the VSC board once a year. The general manager will be able to provide input, but the board will ultimately decide who will be the final 25.

Taylor said with fewer community members, students will have more opportunity to learn and branch out.

"It's terrible for the community members, a lot of whom have put in a lot of time. But we're not taking everyone out by far. This new thing is just allowing students more to expand," Taylor said. "Our goal is to educate

students as well as to play great music."

Associate Professor of Education Kevin Leander, another faculty board member, said he thought the main focus of the board's discussions was to set in place more of an accountability structure for the non-affiliate DJs and to realign the purpose of WRVU rather than to address a current staffing issue at the station.

"I never heard there was a current problem of students not having enough space for student involvement," Leander said. "I didn't hear information presented about cutting non-affiliate shows that indicated to me that there was a current problem to warrant doing that — neither a current need nor a current problem."

He added that in his opinion there is more conversation that could be had about the goals and future of WRVU.

Not all of the Nashville community has been receptive to the change. A post on Nashville Cream, Nashville Scene's music blog, has attracted response from numerous community members, some criticizing Taylor, Carroll and the VSC board and some calling for a station boycott.

Taylor said he recognizes the value community DJs bring to the station, but WRVU's purpose has to focus on students.

"(Community DJs) definitely give us a huge amount of diversity in terms of what music we play. They bring stuff to the station that no student could," Taylor said. "It's a tough but kind of necessary decision. It had to be done in one way or another if the station was going to grow and better fulfill its mission to educate students." ■

'Marriage of Figaro'



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Katie Heaton (left) sings with Blair professor Jonathan Retzlaff. The Blair Opera will perform an English translation of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" this Friday and Sunday.

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PAIGE CLANCY

How to get health care reform passed



ALLENA BERRY
Columnist

Wait, so that was it? I expected fireworks, a parade, something to mark the occasion; but in an unceremonious act, the House of Representatives passed its version of the Health Care Reform Bill Saturday night, sans pomp or circumstance.

I blame my professors for the fact that this momentous event slipped right under my nose. In trying to equip me for the real world, I have become so bogged down with schoolwork that I missed one of the biggest context-changing events in our world. Apparently, I wasn't the only one. I performed an unofficial survey on Monday, asking students around campus what they thought of the health care bill passing and was generally met with comments like, "It passed what?" Ouch. I doubt that was the response President O was looking for.

Barely slipping by in the House with a 220-215 passing vote, I questioned whether or not the bill has enough momentum to make it through the Senate. //

Barely slipping by in the House with a 220-215 passing vote, I questioned whether or not the bill has enough momentum to make it through the Senate. However, with celebrities — er, politicians — such as former President Bill Clinton singing to the tune of quick action, it seems as though the altruistic camp has a decent chance of beating out the big, bad, fiscally stingy conservatives

(or was it the big, bad fiscally reckless liberals)? It's hard to follow who the villains are in this made-for-TV production of Politics 101: Passing a Bill. The Democrats are certainly counting on their use of star power, and perhaps, a sense of moral obligation, to sway votes in their direction.

As the bill makes its way to the Senate, I have one little tip for the Dems. It is something I have learned after attending countless Organization Fairs, interest meetings and charity events: People will care about what you care about IF you give them something. In my case, it's generally food. You want me to sign a petition? Let me see some Chick-fil-A. You have a life-changing meeting you want me to attend? Not without some hors-d'oeuvres, my friend. The real issue on whether or not Harry Reid, Senate majority leader, can make good on his promise of a health care bill on President Obama's desk by Christmas morn is less about the public option included in the bill and more about what tasty treat the conservatives prefer. Another tip for the liberals: Nothing too spicy. Most conservative WASPs were raised on a diet devoid of flavor. If the conservatives are anything like college students, and I suspect that they are with all their melodramatic outbursts (hello, Joe Wilson of South Carolina), all they need is a full stomach to be appeased. If the liberals provide the means to that end, well, sir, I think we have ourselves some life-changing policy in the works.

The breaking of bread around the legislative table may be the only cure for this ailment of the reform debate. Throw in a few fireworks and we might just have utopia on our hands. I mean, who doesn't love fireworks?

—Allena Berry is a sophomore in Peabody College. She can be reached at allena.g.berry@vanderbilt.edu.

this week in Quotes

1. “[SILENCE]”

John A. Muhammad, the man who killed 10 in the infamous 2002 Washington sniper shootings, maintained his silence when asked if he had any last words before his execution. He was executed at 9:11 p.m. on Nov. 10.

2. “THE QUESTIONS OF LIFE’S ORIGINS AND OF WHETHER LIFE EXISTS ELSEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE ARE VERY SUITABLE AND DESERVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION,”

Rev. Jose Gabriel Funes, a Jesuit priest and astronomer of the Vatican observatory, who represents the Vatican’s effort to consider the possibility of alien life and what it may mean to the Catholic Church.

3. “I THINK THIS CASE IS THE CASE OF THE CENTURY FOR PATENT LAW … IT’S NOT VERY OFTEN THAT SOME OBSCURE ISSUE OF PATENT LAW CAN EXCITE SO MUCH ATTENTION.”

John F. Duff, professor at George Washington University, commenting on a Supreme Court case in which a patent for a business model may not be a patent because it is too broad. This business model would benefit large companies such as Google, Microsoft, Bank of America and others in keeping their energy costs more consistent.

4. “IT’S ALL BEEN PRETTY SURREAL … I SUSPECT IT WILL BE PRETTY CRAZY AND I’LL BE PRETTY BUSY FOR THE NEXT YEAR.”

Joe Cada, the winner of the 2009 World Series of Poker in which he won \$8.5 million.

Compiled by David Lee

At a Glance: InsideVandy Blogs

QUICK SHOTS
{pop culture & politics}



San Antonio: Riverwalk feels like Epcot?
BY KATHERINE MILLER

Hey hey, Pat McBride and I returned from San Antonio this afternoon — the site of the Collegiate Network Editors Conference. Above, they're selling Dos Equis 10 yards from the San Fernando Cathedral for the Latino music festival happening across the plaza. Also, Mass was going on, so maybe it is like that always in Texas. I don't know their lives ...

Wilderness Princess

Rock climbing weekend recap: Part 2

BY COURTNEY ROGERS

So today was such a beautiful day. Sunny, no clouds, pretty much ideal weather for backpacking. And I spent almost 12 hours doing homework today. I know, rough situation for sure. I literally wrote my short story for four hours straight. It is now done minus final edits; it is indeed about rock climbing and takes place in Miguel's, though it is extremely fictionalized.

VANDY ABROAD

Biggest threat to drunk Irish student: No TV, US visa!

BY MIKE WARREN

So I got an e-mail from the president of NUIG, addressed to the whole student body, to talk about “anti-social behavior.” While that term usually means some sort of loner behavior, here it mainly means drunken debauchery and vandalism. This is not that uncommon at an Irish university, and Galway is no different, hence the e-mail. The Garda Síochána, Ireland’s police force, is pretty ticked off, I suppose.

Read blogs and more on InsideVandy.com

Obama's response to Fort Hood: Political correctness goes too far



JORDAN FIXLER

Guest Columnist

Let's be clear: Last Thursday's massacre at the U.S. Army base in Fort Hood, Texas, was a terrorist attack by Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, an American-born Muslim of Palestinian descent. The facts have all been reported at one time or another: Hasan shouted “Allahu Akbar” (“God is great” in Arabic) while murdering soldiers, he attended the Virginia mosque led by Imam Anwar al-Aulaqi (an al-Qaeda supporter, now in Yemen, who counseled two 9/11 hijackers), he believed “non-believers (in Islam) should be beheaded and have boiling oil poured down their throats”, he identified as a “Muslim first and American second,” and that he had at least attempted to directly contact al-Qaeda.

Seems pretty obvious that Hasan's Islamic background had something to do with his rampage, right? Well, the media and the White House wouldn't agree. The New York Times' next day headline read, “Told of War Horror, Gunman Feared Deployment,” citing Hasan's cousin as a source. President Barack Obama, in his speech at a memorial service at Fort Hood, refused to utter any of the following words: “terror,” “Muslim,” or “Islam,” not once addressing the motive for the murders that he was supposed to be memorializing. His one mention of the word “extremist” only came in reference to the war in Afghanistan.

Besides being a distortion of the truth, a dishonor

to the victims of the attack and an annoyance to the American public, which is being treated as utterly naive, this type of political correctness may have been a direct factor in allowing such terrorism to occur. Hasan was promoted to the rank of major, despite extremely poor performance reviews in addition to his outspoken fundamentalist beliefs. In a military that uses affirmative action, it's difficult not to promote a Muslim, no matter how poor a serviceman or disturbed they are. When hearing of this, it brings to mind all of those who observed the Sept. 11 hijackers acting suspiciously, but who did nothing as not to risk being labeled a bigot.



There is a war going on and Americans ought to act as such. //

There is a war going on and Americans ought to act as such. Clearly the United States is not at war with Islam and clearly many more Muslims are peaceful than not. Yet a pragmatic policy would be to recognize dangerous patterns of behavior and not ignore them in the name of political correctness.

—Jordan Fixler is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at j.fixler@vanderbilt.edu.

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@insidevandy.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.news@insidevandy.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

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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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Rep. Brenda Gilmore

Tenn. District 54

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Nashville, TN 37228

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Abortion is legal, right?



HUDSON TODD
Columnist

The Stupak-Pitts Amendment states that government-run health care plans cannot cover abortions, and that subsidies may not be used to purchase insurance plans that cover abortions. This amendment was incorporated into the Democrat's health care bill Saturday because the Democrats could not muster up enough votes for their bill without making concession to the "pro-life" Democrats. This amendment is problematic, because abortion should be legal, and it should be treated like any other medical procedure.

Consider the amount of pain a fetus is able to feel in an abortion procedure. Approximately 98 percent of abortions occur before the fetus develops a cerebral cortex, which means the fetus cannot be described as being conscious or capable of feeling pain. Even in certain circumstances where fetuses do feel pain, it is minuscule. If the pain inflicted on the fetus is the reason why some oppose abortion, then for them to be morally consistent, they should also oppose playfully pinching other people, which is roughly comparable.

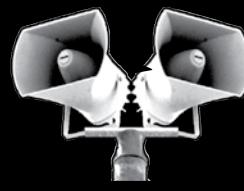
Those who are pro-life often argue that while it is indeed true that aborted fetuses feel little or no pain, committing an abortion is stealing a life. This faulty logic suffices in making many people oppose abortion. However, they fail to consider all of the circumstances when a life is stolen. Every

time two humans use contraceptives, they are in effect potentially stealing a life. Should they be looked upon as murderers for not desiring to create a potential life? Furthermore, by the "logic" of those who claim to be pro-life, even resisting rape is essentially stealing a potential life. One must reproduce whenever possible, or someone who could potentially exist will not.

Those who are pro-life will often fall back on the argument that abortion is wrong because human beings are infused with a soul the second they are conceived. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence, and the burden of proof falls on them to prove the existence of souls, especially if they want to pass legislation based off this concept. Yet even if human beings do have souls as they claim, according to their religious lore, would not aborting humans before they are born present them a straight path to heaven? Would not aborting them save their souls from the possibility of sinning on Earth and going to hell?

It amazes me how some people can choose to eat animals, which often live terrible lives of solitude and suffering in factory farms, simply because they cannot give up eating meat. At the same time, these people oppose allowing a woman to abort a fetus for much better reasons, such as the possibility that she cannot afford the child, or she is not ready for a child, etc. It would be more appropriate to rename the "pro-life movement," the "pro-human life movement,"

THE RANT



What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. To submit to The Rant, e-mail opinion@insidevandy.com or go to the opinion page on InsideVandy.com.

Compiled by Ryan Sullivan

"PSA: Leggings are not pants unless your butt is covered!"

"Why does the Verdict make no sense anymore?"

"You should really streamline the Ranting. I don't want to have to click back before ranting again."

"If someone doesn't call or text you, that should be your hint you are not important to them."

"If I see Elmo, Big Bird, Oscar the Grouch or anyone else from 'Sesame Street' on my Google homepage, I'm kicking PBS's ass!"

"Why don't any of my professors actually teach?"

"When is anyone going to point out that Greek test banks are completely against the Honor Code? Someone needs to fix this."

"Greek test banks aren't against the Honor Code. If they were, they would have been taken out a long time ago. Get over yourself."

American superiority: What makes US so special?



THOMAS SHATTUCK

Columnist

I like being American—most U.S. citizens tend to agree. It's neither a contentious nor controversial statement. I'm quite content at leaving my opinion at that, but there are those who feel they must validate their preference beyond the fact that America is where they currently reside.

In other words, Americans, like all people, constantly have to define themselves in relation to the outside world. This search of identity plays out in everyday life even in the farthest reaches of government. If being American is important to you, there must be a legitimate reason for it. This is felt throughout the people and their government.

American foreign policy hinges on the belief that we do exist (obvious), that we matter (questionable) and that the U.S. is superior to everyone else (doubtful). I mean, I like the place; the weather's nice and I have a car and moving violations are only loosely enforced. The U.S. has a lot of things going for it. I just don't know why anyone would call it objectively and definitively superior to other countries. What makes one place better than another anyway?

If you ask some people, however, one country can be better than the rest, and more importantly, that one country just happens to be the U.S. Admittedly, it's a little delusional but normally these sorts of sentiments are harmless. Manifest Destiny wasn't the best idea, but people like William Kristol would argue that this new

as clearly other animals and their suffering are not taken into account by these people. In truth, they aren't really even pro-human. A Pew Research poll found that frequent church-goers are more likely to support torture than the rest of Americans.

Finally, they argue, regardless of whether or not abortion should be legal, people should not have to pay tax dollars for something they personally

think is immoral. By this logic, people could simply opt out of paying taxes claiming that everything the government does is immoral. Over half of Americans thought the Iraqi war was immoral, but they still had to fund it, did they not?

—Hudson Todd is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at hudson.o.todd@vanderbilt.edu.

Exceptionalism is different. In the past, the U.S. was just another developed country, but in the modern age; we've become the sole recognized "superpower."

So in a sense, perhaps American Exceptionalism is rooted firmly in the empirical world. It's easy to see why an American would see the U.S. as superior — in many ways we are presented in such a manner. This, however, is hardly a justification. While the American economy remains stronger relative to many other country's despite the current financial abnormalities. The U.S. does devote a larger portion of its GDP to military spending and does maintain a larger, better-equipped army, air force and navy because of these expenditures.

Even if this is true, it is important to remember

money and military strength make a powerful country, but using the word "best" confuses the argument. When you start classifying the U.S. as a superior country (for economic, cultural or religious reasons), you enter into dangerous territory.

When American interests become the greater good by default, many unthinkable actions can be justified. First Afghanistan and Iraq, then what next? Arguments of superiority can be justified so long as it appears to protect America's future/potential welfare. In many cases the actions may be legitimate, but it won't always be so.

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

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Sports

COLUMN

Hawkins battles through difficult season

by DAVID SHOCHAT

Asst Sports Editor

Last year against Tennessee, he stretched out the ligaments in the top of his foot in the Louis Frank joint. He fought through the pain of the injury to help Vanderbilt win its first bowl game since 1955. He had to play in that game; he deserved to play; his five touchdowns and team-high 593 rushing yards were a big reason why Vanderbilt played in the Music City Bowl.

After the season, he had surgery and had a screw placed in the top of his foot to try to immobilize the joint and allow the ligaments to heal. Doctors took the screw out in May and told him that the injury would need eight to 12 months to fully heal. He didn't have that amount of time; he only had four months and he wanted to be back for his senior season to help his team get back to another bowl game.

Jared Hawkins came back to practice in August. The foot felt fine. He thought he was about to embark on another tough but fun SEC football season. It would be his last, and like any athlete, he wanted his final season to be a memorable one. Unfortunately, it was memorable for all the wrong reasons.

During preseason camp in August, Hawkins made a cut during practice and re-injured the ligaments. He rehabbed the foot and was given medicine to alleviate the pain, but he still was not able to play until Vanderbilt's game against Rice, which was a homecoming for the running back from Spring, Texas, a suburb of Houston. In that game, Hawkins rushed for 66 yards on 11 carries.

Captain, friend and fellow redshirt senior Bradley Vierling can attest to the struggles that Hawkins has faced this season.

"(Jared's) the kind of guy who does everything, anything he can for this team. He's gotten shot up, he's taken meds, he's rehabbed," Vierling said. "He got to play in his home state when we beat Rice. He's been battling. You feel for a guy like that. Best thing about Jared is he hasn't been a ghost. He's been a voice on the team which is a big help for us."

As the season has progressed, Hawkins' injury has continued to give him trouble, as the medicine has been less and less successful. He would be forced to sit out two weeks before returning one last time against South Carolina on Oct. 24.

"It's been really frustrating because it seems like some weeks he was feeling pretty good," said Vanderbilt head coach Bobby Johnson. "The stuff we were doing medically for him was working. He actually had a couple good games, and it looked like he was going to come out of it and really help our offense, and he would have been a big help for our offense this year. It's not only frustrating to him but it's frustrating for the coaches."

Hawkins' career as a Commodore is over. He is highly doubtful to play against Kentucky or Tennessee, but for those of you who only see the incredible duo of Zac Stacy and Warren Norman running around on game day, know that Hawkins is a large reason for their success as freshmen.

"I go to all the meetings," Hawkins said, "and I try to make sure I know the game plan for each week, and if I see (the freshmen) forget to do something or miss a line, then I just make sure that (Coach) Kitchens corrects it, or I just follow up and let them know where they're supposed to be at or what guy they have on a certain pass protection, and all those type of things."

Hawkins will be missed because he is the type of student-athlete that only comes along every once in a while. He put his health on the line for our school and our football program, but that is the type of guy Hawkins is. He and the other seniors have set the groundwork for Vanderbilt to turn the corner from perennial doormat to yearly competitors in the Southeastern Conference East. While this season has largely been one to forget, recruiting continues to improve thanks to this senior class, and hopefully, it is a matter of time until these players' hard work pays off.

As for Hawkins, the season has not gone as he envisioned back in August, but he is in good spirits and is preparing for life after football.

"I'm probably going to work project controls for an engineering company," Hawkins said. ■



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Jared Hawkins runs during drills in August at the Vanderbilt practice field. The leading rusher for the Commodores in 2008, Hawkins has been limited to just three games of action in 2009 with a foot injury.

Lewis focused on the here and now

by PETER NYGAARD

Sports Reporter

Myron Lewis is likely to be selected in the 2010 NFL Draft. Trying to talk to him about the NFL when there are still games yet to be played, though, is like trying to beat a garage door at tennis.

Asthesunsetsontheesteemed cornerbacks Vanderbilt career, he remains focused only on this week's opponent, Kentucky.

"I've just got to finish these last two games out," Lewis said. "Wherever I land, I land ... I'm not really worried about that."

This season has been anything but kind to the Commodores, but Lewis plans on sending the rest of the seniors out on the right note with these last two games, especially against Tennessee. No members of the senior class have been on the field for a win over the Vols. Wins over Kentucky and Tennessee would go a long way in salvaging the season and instilling hope for 2010, as well as giving the senior class a proper sendoff.

"We've got to go out with a bang," Lewis said. "The season's been kind of rocky ... We just have to stick it out together and be prepared to take this game to the best of our abilities and try to win."

For Lewis, it would be

Kentucky (5-4, 1-4 SEC) at Vanderbilt (2-8, 0-6 SEC)

Saturday, Nov. 14
Kickoff is at 11:20 a.m. CDT
TV: SEC Network

24 Commodore seniors will play their last home game at Vanderbilt when the Commodores do battle with the East division rival Wildcats. Senior Day festivities will take place before the game.

Vanderbilt won the last time the teams met, 31-24 in Lexington a year ago, clinching bowl eligibility for the first time since 1982.

an ideal ending to a highly productive four-year stretch at Vanderbilt. As a three-year starter, Lewis has amassed nine interceptions and broken up 25 passes, playing a major role in a Vanderbilt pass defense that has been one of the team's major strengths in recent years.

Lewis remains humble, attributing a good portion of his success to the coaching staff.

"(Vanderbilt's) been amazing," Lewis said. "I had an opportunity to come here and play as a freshman. I've been starting at cornerback for three years, and Coach (Jamie) Bryant gave me the best opportunity to make it to the next level and make it on the college level."

Lewis will have plenty of guidance as he prepares for that next level. Two of Lewis's brothers, Hamin Milligan and Hanik Milligan, have played professional football. At the very least, the Draft represents an opportunity for Lewis to follow in his brothers' footsteps.

"(It helps) just having four older brothers there to support me," Lewis said. "They've been the struggles I've been through and I can see where they've been at and learn from what they did, so it's pretty exciting."

Even though Lewis's focus remains on the season at hand, a new chapter in his life beckons, and Lewis is ready to answer the call.

"As it comes down to my last two games, and this is my last year playing college football, I'm kind of excited," Lewis said. "I'm looking forward to the opportunities ahead of me. I can't wait." ■



JUSTIN MENESTRINA / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Myron Lewis (5) returns an interception of Ole Miss quarterback Jevan Snead on Oct. 3 for 29 yards, one of three he has this season. Lewis hopes to follow in the footsteps of his older brothers and play in the pros.

COLUMN

A new kind of ranking in the SEC: Douchiness

by DANIEL MARKS

Sports Reporter

The Southeastern Conference has a well-earned reputation as college football's toughest conference, and much of this has to do with its motley crew of high-paid, high-powered head coaches. In some of their cases, their knowledge of the game is exceeded only by their arrogance, conceit and rule-bending. Others conduct themselves with respect and integrity, while others fall somewhere in between.

So in lieu of the normal SEC Power Rankings, we decided we'd take a look at the array of personalities that make up the 12 Heads of the conference, and rank them in order of a nebulous yet common phrase imbedded in our daily lexicon: douchiness.

Remember, this is a staff's opinion and we're just having a little fun at the expense of these guys. Agree? Disagree? E-mail sports@insidevandy.com.



TENNESSEE JOURNALIST / Flickr.com

Lane Kiffin has improved the talent of Tennessee football but he has dented its reputation with recruiting violations and false accusations.

guess he didn't have time to speak to the players before catching his flight to Arkansas where his emphatic Hog chant a mere two days after leaving the Falcons was the climax of his douchiness.

4. Nick Saban (Alabama): Nick Saban, like Petrino, has a knack for leaving jobs in the douchiest manner possible. It was most evident when he was at Michigan State, where he resigned before his team's bowl game, and with the Miami Dolphins where his proclamation of "I won't be Alabama football coach" rang hollow, as ten days later he held a press conference announcing his hiring at Alabama.

5. Steve Spurrier (South Carolina): As arrogant as they come, nobody likes the Ole Ball Coach too much, especially Washington Redskins fans, whose team he could not handle. Before Vanderbilt beat him twice in a row, Spurrier made it clear he thought very little of the program in Nashville.

6. Houston Nutt (Ole Miss): Nutt resigned from Arkansas amidst a series of controversies and allegations that plagued him in his final season with the Hogs in 2007. To add fuel to the fire, Nutt went to coach at Ole Miss one of Arkansas' biggest rivals, cementing his place in the minds of Hog fans.

7. Les Miles (LSU): Les Miles isn't really douchey; he's more of an idiot, as evidenced by his strange decision-making and press conferences. He gets credit for sticking with LSU though and not bolting for his alma mater, Michigan, which some of the above coaches would have likely done in a heartbeat.

8. Gene Chizik (Auburn): Nobody really knows anything about Chizik. He came out of nowhere to land an Auburn job he didn't deserve which makes him kind of a d-bag, but that wasn't really his fault, we suppose. At least he didn't try implementing the spread.

Please see COACHES, page 7

COACHES: Kiffin leading the way

From COACHES, page 6

9. Mark Richt (Georgia): Richt is renowned for his humanitarianism. He adopted two children from the Ukraine, including one with proteus syndrome, a disease that can cause tumors to develop all over the body. However, Richt's actions against our beloved Commodores (calling a play with one second left in the game up 34-10) were utterly uncalled for, and prevent him from being lower on the list.

10. Dan Mullen (Mississippi State): Apparently Mullen only inherited Urban Meyer's offense from his time at Florida and not his douchiness. Mullen has done a solid job at State and has done it in a way that allows his team to do the talking, not his mouth, earning him high points, especially considering he coached under Meyer, No. 2 on this list.

11. Rich Brooks (Kentucky): Brooks is kind of like your lovable grandfather. He's a big, old man who you can't help but like. He never says much despite the fact that he has led Kentucky to three straight winning seasons. Also when you compare him to Kentucky's basketball coaches (Billy Gillispie of the 4-DUI variety and John Calipari of the cheating variety), he looks like a saint.

12. Bobby Johnson (Vanderbilt): Johnson is the classiest coach in the SEC. He has stayed loyal to Vanderbilt, has embraced the university's academic standards and never used them as a crutch. He is probably the most well respected coach by other SEC coaches for his classiness and coaching ability. While maligned by some for it, he also gets some credit for his boundless loyalty to the rest of his staff. ■

Walker learns from ACL tear

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

Most players who have suffered a dreaded knee injury like an ACL tear discuss the frustration of being sidelined and the fear of not making a full recovery.

So Vanderbilt redshirt sophomore forward Andre Walker's response about having to miss all of last season with a torn ACL in his right knee was surprising.

"It was very educational," he said. "I got to see it more from the coach's point of view. I got to understand the game a lot better."

Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings has come to expect the unexpected from the versatile Walker. He started in Vanderbilt's exhibition win over Alabama-Huntsville, grabbing nine boards and adding two assists, one steal and two blocked shots.

"He's a very good post-feeder and a very good passer," Stallings said. "This is his first game in (about) a year...he's a real important guy on our team right now because he's that guy up front that kind of glues it all together."

Evidently, he is a bit shy about another one of his attributes.

"(Andre) doesn't like for people to know this, but he is extremely intelligent," Stallings said. "He's got really, really high IQ and high basketball instinct. I think that situation where he sat out and watched, he took full advantage of, because he's a smart guy that learns in almost every situation he's in."

After a freshman season where he saw limited action in all 34 games, Walker was looked at as someone who would contribute on a more consistent basis in 2008-09. But the injury occurred three games in, on Nov. 24 against Middle Tennessee State, ending his season as soon as it had started.

Rather than being dejected, Walker seized the opportunity to learn more about the game while getting his knee better enough to be a mainstay on this year's roster. Stallings took notice.

"He's come back a more knowledgeable player, a smarter player and I think he understood what the coaches were looking for sitting over there by us and seeing the things we were asking of players," Stallings said. "You get a little more of a coach's view when you're removed from the uniform and I think that happened with him, and I think he got better because of it."

Along with that newfound knowledge of the game, Walker comes back with a healthy knee. He saw some action during Vanderbilt's trip to Australia in August where the Commodores played five games over ten days.

"I'm just competing and trying to get as much time as I can," Walker said. "I don't think (the knee) will have anything to do with it. I can play fully. There's no problems with it."

That's to the great relief of the Commodores.

"He's showing no lingering effects whatsoever of the injury," Stallings said. "It's nice to have depth any time, but it's also nice to have your best players available to you, and Andre's proving right now to be one of our best players." ■



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Andre Walker looks for a teammate during practice at Memorial Gym, as he continues to recover from a torn ACL suffered last November.

COLUMN

Turn-around season for Vanderbilt soccer

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

Vanderbilt soccer saw its season come to a close on Monday when the team did not receive an all-large bid to the 64-team NCAA Tournament, leaving its final record at 11-8-1.

While disappointing, it doesn't erase the achievement of reaching the Southeastern Conference Tournament for the first time since 2006 in the highly competitive SEC. It was all the more impressive given the rough start the Commodores had, losing six of their first seven SEC games after going 6-1-1 in non-conference.

But Vanderbilt turned it around starting with a 1-0 overtime win over Alabama on Oct. 18. That started a four-game winning streak to end the regular season. They capped it with a 2-0 victory on a rain-soaked Senior Night over Kentucky on Oct. 30 and clinched the No. 7 seed in the SEC tournament in Orange Beach,

Ala.

The Commodores realized they were thinking too much about the future and not on the games right in front of them. That change in focus, and a re-vamping of the defensive backlines, made Vanderbilt unbeatable over the final weeks of the regular season.

"So many great things can happen if you keep working on it and keep working day by day and focusing on (the) task at hand," said Vanderbilt head coach Ronnie Woodard. "Good things will happen."

Second-seeded LSU was a little too much for Vanderbilt in the first round, jumping out to two goals in the first 20 minutes to snap over six hours of shutout defense by the Commodores over the preceding games. From there, the Tigers controlled the contest en route to a 4-2 win, and Vanderbilt's last game of the year.

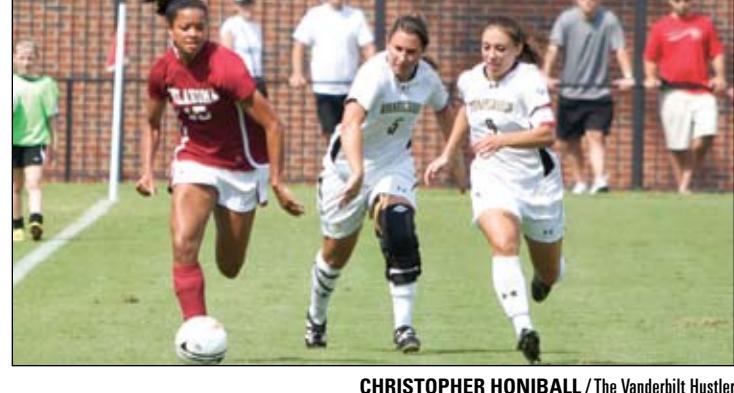
The Commodores lose two seniors to graduation in Megan Forester and Lindsay Ratterman. However, junior forward Molly

Kinsella returns after once again leading the team in scoring with 7 goals and 9 assists, and so does her twin sister Megan Kinsella, a stalwart on defense who battled back from a mid-season injury to play in 17 games and make 13 starts. Redshirt junior Nicole Lukens tied for the team lead with seven goals and has a year of eligibility remaining.

Junior goalkeeper Rachel Bachtel made great strides during the season and became the wall

in net. Woodard envisioned she would be before the season, recording nine regular season shutouts, including four in a row to propel the Commodores into the SEC Tournament.

Most importantly this year, Vanderbilt didn't fold, even when the season appeared dead in the water. With that kind of grit and determination on a team returning so many players for next year, 2010 looks to be a very big season for the program. ■



CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Kate Goldin (5) will be one among many Commodores to return for next season, while Megan Forester (9) has played her last game for Vandy.



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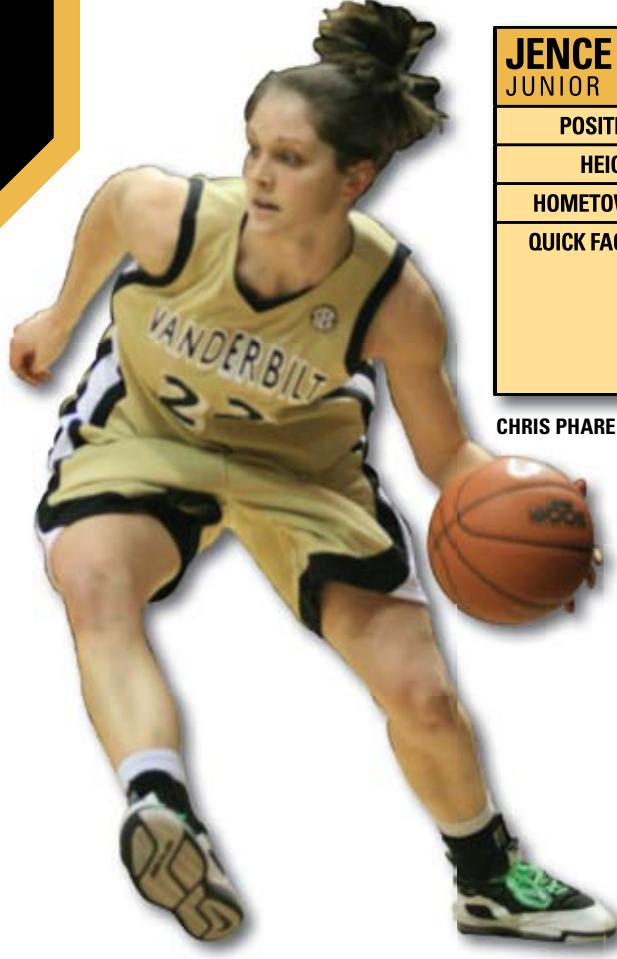
MELANIE BALCOMB HEAD COACH	
YEARS IN NASHVILLE	Seven
CAREER RECORD	335-165 (.670)
QUICK FACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won three SEC championships in the past six seasons Has reached five Sweet 16s and one Elite 8 in her head coaching career Led Commodores to NCAA Tournament every season she's coached in Nashville Renowned for high-scoring offensive schemes Member of the Greater Cincinnati Basketball Hall of Fame

ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

With three SEC Tournament championships in the last six seasons as well as 10 consecutive NCAA Tournament bids, the Vanderbilt women's basketball team has cemented itself among the elite of not just the Southeastern Conference, but the entire nation.

Although the loss of stars Christina Wirth and Jennifer Risper to graduation is significant, the 20th-ranked Commodores return the bulk of the line-up that went 26-9 and reached the Sweet 16 before falling in a heartbreaker to top-seeded Maryland.

Here's a glance at head coach Melanie Balcomb and the starting five who are looking to make it an 11th straight trip to the Big Dance in 2009-2010.



JENCE RHOADS, #22
JUNIOR

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	5' 11"
HOMETOWN	Slippery Rock, Penn.
QUICK FACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand-out point guard with great ball-handling skills Third in the nation in 2008-09 with a 2.49 assist-to-turnover ratio Good jumper and ability to drive to the basket makes her one of the most accurate shooters Vanderbilt has Expected to carry more of the scoring load this season Scored career-high 16 points in upset of then-No. 3 Auburn last February

CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler



JORDAN COLEMAN, #12
SOPHOMORE

POSITION	Forward
HEIGHT	5' 11"
HOMETOWN	Orlando, Fla.
QUICK FACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talented and versatile, she saw her stock rise over last season Possesses savvy court sense and a high basketball IQ. Started both exhibition games and gave Commodores quality minutes Played a season-high 14 minutes in first-round NCAA Tournament victory last year over Western Carolina Best game came with five points and six rebounds in just nine minutes against UT-Martin

JUSTIN MENESTRINA / The Vanderbilt Hustler



HANNAH TUOMI, #15
JUNIOR

POSITION	Forward-Center
HEIGHT	6' 1"
HOMETOWN	Thornton, Colo.
QUICK FACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical post presence and team's best rebounder Was sorely missed throughout postseason play with an ankle injury Pre-season Second Team All-SEC pick Led Commodores last year in field goal percentage (.565) and is the leading returning scorer (11.4) Scored career-high 20 points on 9-13 shooting in narrow loss to Notre Dame last season

FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler



JESSICA MOONEY, #20
SENIOR

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	5' 8"
HOMETOWN	Nashville, Tenn.
QUICK FACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agile guard who can drive to the basket and shoot from the outside Named co-SEC sixth woman of the season her sophomore year Averaged 7.1 points, 2.3 rebounds and 2.4 assists in 30 games last season, starting 20 Has scored in double digits 28 times in her career Scored team-high 15 points in Vanderbilt's upset of then-No. 7 Tennessee in January

FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

FULL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position	Height	Year
11	Ashlee Bridge	G/F	5' 11"	SR
30	Elan Brown	G	6'	FR
34	Tiffany Clarke	F	6'	FR
12	Jordan Coleman	F	5' 11"	SO
21	Stephanie Holzer	C	6' 4"	FR
5	Lauren Lueders	G	5' 8"	SR
23	Merideth Marsh	G	5' 6"	SR
20	Jessica Mooney	G	5' 8"	SR
4	Angela Puleo	G	5' 9"	JR
22	Jence Rhoads	G	5' 11"	JR
33	Rebecca Silinski	F	6' 3"	JR
32	Gabby Smith	G	5' 10"	FR
15	Hannah Tuomi	F	6' 1"	JR

MERIDETH MARSH, #23
SENIOR

POSITION	Guard
HEIGHT	5' 6"
HOMETOWN	Louisville, Kent.
QUICK FACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent 3-point shooter who averaged 13.9 points in conference play and started all 35 games Pre-season Second Team All-SEC pick this year Team's best free throw shooter last season with a 90 percent clip from the line Vocal leader and a great competitor Scored career-high 26 points and tied Commodore record with 8 3-pointers in 84-88 win over then-No. 9 Florida in February

SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler



SEASON PREVIEW 2009-2010



Commodores do not expect anything less



MIKE WINTROATH / AP

Christina Wirth and the Commodores celebrate winning the SEC Tournament after defeating Auburn in the final on March 8, 2009. Wirth, along with National Defensive Player of the Year Jennifer Risper, graduated after the season, but Vanderbilt still fully expects to contend for another SEC title.

by MEGHAN ROSE
Asst Sports Editor

The Commodores ended last season with a Southeastern Conference Championship title and the program's 14th trip to the Sweet 16 in the 2009 NCAA Women's Division I Basketball Tournament.

Despite graduating the squad's leading scorer in Christina Wirth and defensive spark plug in Jen Risper, Vanderbilt has not lowered its expectations for this season.

"We continue to expect to win and we continue to hold each other accountable to a high level," said head coach Melanie Balcomb, whose '08-'09 squad went 26-9. "Our players know

that, from the top down, it's not OK to have a down year, so they're pushing themselves to never let that happen."

This season, senior guard Merideth Marsh, who averaged 10.7 points a game last season, will assume leadership duties, alongside fellow senior Jessica Mooney. The backcourt duo will help orchestrate Vanderbilt's offense by spreading the floor and being vocal with the rest of the squad.

"(Marsh and Mooney) are more vocal," Balcomb said. "They're pushing everybody but they're also getting better every day in practice as well."

The Commodores also return center Hannah Tuomi, as the junior will lead the team's

rebounding game under the boards. With a devastating ankle injury sidelining her at the end of last season, Tuomi was unable to play in either the SEC Tournament or the NCAA Tournament for Vanderbilt.

This fall, however, the 6-foot-1-inch Tuomi has recovered and is ready for action.

"It was a long, long road of recovery," said Tuomi, last season's leading rebounder. "It just took a while, but I'm just glad to be back."

With Marsh, Mooney and Tuomi leading Vanderbilt on the court, all 13 members of the team are adjusting their play to fit the new dynamics of the squad.

"It's different. It's not like

we're trying to replace Jen (Risper) and Tina (Wirth) and the things that they brought to this team," Marsh said. "Everyone's just trying to find her role."

This year, Vanderbilt will look to return to their dynamic offense, displayed in full force last season against opponents. With shooters comfortable inside the paint, as well as outside the arc, the Commodores look for an eased transition between offensive and defensive play on the court.

"We've got some great 3-point shooters and a good post," Tuomi said. "Even though we're little, we still can make a big impact getting down low, and

our technique is great."

With four fresh faces on the squad, the Commodores will use youth to their advantage this year as the freshmen add height to Balcomb's roster.

Beginning the exhibition season on a high note, Vanderbilt defeated Union, 68-47, and Drury, 79-54. Together, the freshmen contributed 26 points against Union, and junior guard Jence Rhoads and freshman forward Tiffany Clarke scored 15 points apiece.

"They didn't look nervous at all," Balcomb said of her freshman players. "We made a good run when they got in the game, and I was excited about what they showed in that first game."

The Commodores used a team approach on both offense and defense to knock off Drury. Seniors Ashlee Bridge and Lauren Lueders led the squad with 11 points each, while Rhoads scored 10. The freshmen stepped up once again, as Clarke and Gabby Smith put nine points apiece up on the scoreboard.

With enthusiasm and a positive outlook on the season, the Commodores will face Lehigh at 2 p.m. on Sunday at Memorial Gymnasium to open the regular season.

"I think people see we lost two starters last year so they won't be expecting a lot out of us," Rhoads said, "but we know differently." ■

Freshmen already producing

by DAVID NAMM
Sports Reporter

On a team that lost two stars (Christina Wirth and Jennifer Risper) to the WNBA following their outstanding senior campaigns, the Commodores are counting not only on the play of their veterans, but also on a class of freshmen who bring diverse skill sets to a program that sees them as its future.

So far, so good for a talented group that has made significant strides since arriving in Nashville.

"I thought the freshmen were ready to play," said Vanderbilt head coach Melanie Balcomb after the Commodores' 69-48 exhibition victory over Union. "I thought they came in and gave us energy when they got in the game. They looked excited and ready to go."

Particularly impressive for the freshmen in the first game was Tiffany Clarke, a forward who shared the team lead with 15 points against Union. In the backcourt, freshman guard Elan Brown put up eight points in 12 minutes.

According to Brown, the buildup for their much-anticipated debut was equal parts exciting and tense.

"We were anxious the whole day," Brown said. "It was kind of nerve-wracking when you get on the floor. I was probably most nervous when I was subbing in and sitting on the floor. My nerves were going crazy, but



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshman Gabby Smith (32) defends Union's Kayla Hudson (20) during Vanderbilt's 68-47 exhibition victory at Memorial Gym on Oct. 30.

getting loose in warm-ups helped out with the nerves."

The nerves were not an unexpected commodity, however, as the upperclassmen tried to prepare the girls for their first game jitters.

"They definitely told us we would be a little bit anxious, and we were," said freshman guard Gabby Smith. "I think it's something you have to experience for yourself to truly understand."

Though much of the collegiate adjustment, according to Smith, is only grasped by experience, the veterans on the team — especially the seniors — have been helping the team's new additions adapt to Vanderbilt life on and off the court.

"I think it's been pretty good so far," Smith said. "I think that's because the upperclassmen have been so welcoming. They

have shared a lot of their own stories and struggles with us, so we've just been listening to (them) and trying to figure it out based on what they tell us."

At the very least, the freshmen seem to be transitioning their way onto the court, with their improvement on display in their 79-54 victory over Drury in their second exhibition game. Hence, in spite of the difficulties that come with SEC basketball and the academic rigor of Vanderbilt, the freshmen seem to be adapting better than even they expected.

"I thought I would be more nervous than I was," Smith said. "I think the other freshmen would say the same thing. Once we got in there, we've been working so hard in practice and we realize that we know what we're doing."

"It was a pleasant surprise." ■

Rhoads looking to score more

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Editor

Junior Jence Rhoads has proven to Vanderbilt she's the consummate point guard already.

Look no further than her 2.49 assist-to-turnover ratio last season for the Commodores, third-best in that category in the nation.

But now Rhoads will be looking to expand her role on the offense.

That transition from her usual controlled style of play could be difficult in the early going.

"Coach (Melanie Balcomb) wants me to take more risks," Rhoads said. "I'm going to try to be more aggressive this year and see how it works for me. It's always been part of my game to take care of the ball; I don't like to turn it over. It makes me nervous to do things like that."

She didn't show signs of anxiety during last year's Sweet 16 run.

Vanderbilt got a glimpse of Rhoads' scoring abilities when she led the team in a 73-70 upset of then-No. 3 Auburn on Feb. 19, pouring in 16 points. She added 15 in an SEC Tournament victory over LSU, and 14 in a close loss to Maryland in the NCAA regional semifinal.

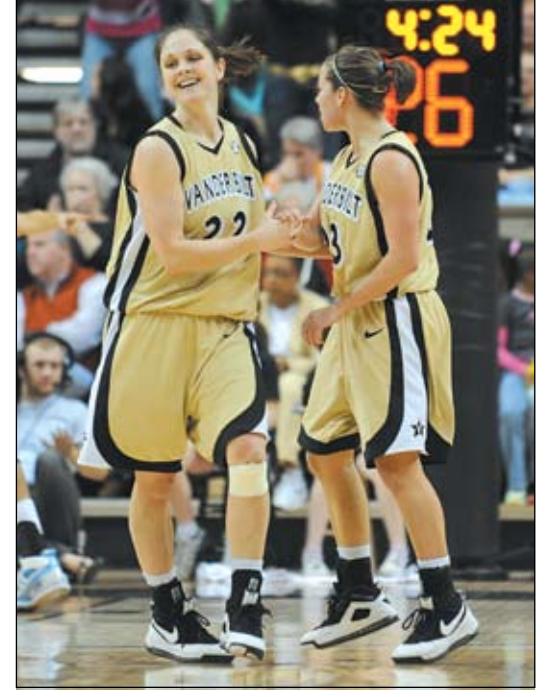
As the games got more significant, Rhoads' production got steadily better. After reaching double digits in just three of Vanderbilt's first 26 games last season, she scored at least 13 points in four of the last nine.

Another scoring specialist on the team, senior Merideth Marsh, says Rhoads has the ability to consistently be that kind of scoring threat.

"I'm not saying she's going to be a complete scoring point guard, but people don't respect her outside shooting," Marsh said. "I think this year she's going to step up and maybe show people off guard that she can shoot and they're going to have to respect that."

In high school, Rhoads was the only player in her home Butler County in Pennsylvania to score more than 2,000 points in her career.

She made the transition into a pass-first guard at Vanderbilt, but her accurate jumper and ability



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt's Jence Rhoads (left) and Merideth Marsh promise to be one of the conference's most dynamic backcourt duos this season.

to drive to the hole for lay-ups have always been there when the Commodores needed a score.

"I think I made a lot of strides from the beginning of the season until the end, especially scoring-wise, so hopefully I can carry my play in the tournament on into the season and continue to improve," Rhoads said.

The new approach has already paid dividends in Vanderbilt's 68-47 exhibition win over Union on Oct. 30, as Rhoads tied for the team lead with 15 points. She added 10 in a 79-54 victory over Drury in another exhibition on Nov. 7.

"She kind of hung back the last couple of years and let other people do a lot of the scoring and was willing to distribute it," Balcomb said. "But this year, she's got to be able to score more and I think she knows she can do it. She's doing it in practice and it just carried over to the game." ■

2009-2010 SCHEDULE

11/15/09	LEHIGH
11/18/09	at Southern Illinois
11/20/09	UC RIVERSIDE
11/24/09	at Saint Joseph's
11/27/09	AUSTIN PEAY (THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT) N.C. STATE VS. NORTHWESTERN (TMNT.)
11/28/09	CONSOLATION GAME (TMNT.) CHAMPIONSHIP GAME (TMNT.)
12/02/09	WRIGHT STATE
12/04/09	BOWLING GREEN
12/06/09	WESTERN KENTUCKY
12/10/09	at Quinnipiac
12/20/09	TENNESSEE STATE
12/28/09	EAST TENNESSEE STATE
12/31/09	at Notre Dame
01/03/10	MISSISSIPPI
01/07/10	at Mississippi State
01/10/10	at Kentucky
01/14/10	GEORGIA
01/17/10	at Tennessee
01/21/10	at Auburn
01/24/10	MISSISSIPPI STATE
01/28/10	ALABAMA
01/31/10	at Arkansas
02/04/10	at Florida
02/08/10	TENNESSEE
02/14/10	KENTUCKY
02/18/10	at LSU
02/21/10	at Mississippi
02/24/10	FLORIDA
02/28/10	SOUTH CAROLINA

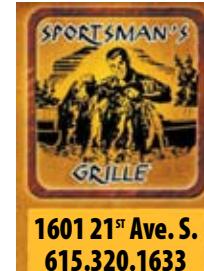
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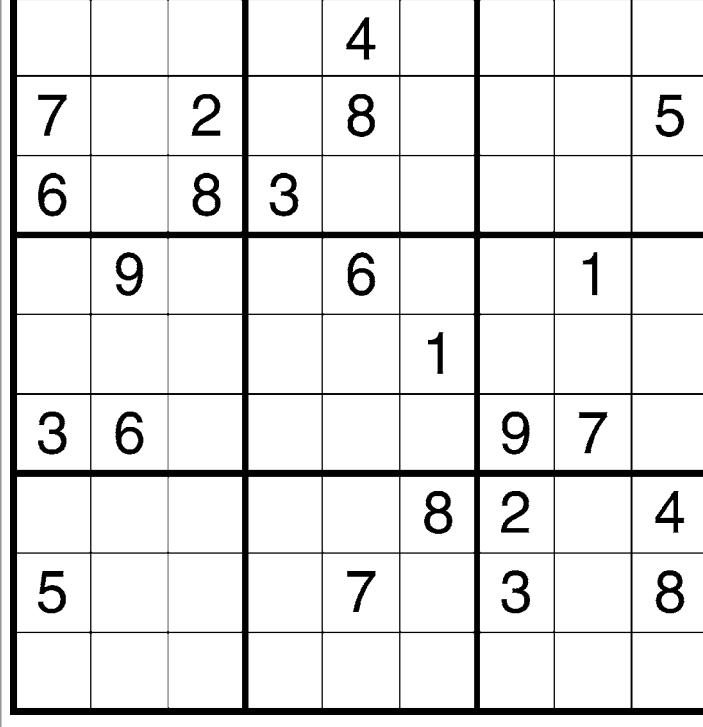


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5	3	6	1	9	8	4	2	7
4	1	8	2	7	6	3	9	5
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1	6	2	8	4	7	9	5	3
9	4	7	3	1	5	8	6	2
3	8	5	6	2	9	1	7	4
7	9	1	4	6	2	5	3	8
8	2	4	9	5	3	7	1	6
6	5	3	7	8	1	2	4	9

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Apply lightly
- 4 Alice doesn't work there anymore
- 8 Spring
- 12 Oft-named time
- 13 Some trick-or-treaters
- 15 Annual spring race, for short
- 16 "Smoking or ___?"
- 17 Park official who tickets speeding bears?
- 19 More than upset
- 21 Dickinson output
- 22 Smallest allowable bet?
- 26 Pinnacle
- 27 It'll grow on you
- 28 Tennis court play
- 31 Like some stockings
- 33 Drop the ball, e.g.
- 34 Course-plottng
- 35 Steals a plumbing supply?
- 39 Cubist Juan
- 40 Provide support for
- 41 Columnist Noonan
- 42 Tax form ID
- 43 Parsley relative
- 44 Field of study
- 45 San Fernando creator of fake van Goghs?
- 49 Zeal
- 52 They help get the lead out
- 53 Burrowing critter cited for excellence?
- 57 "Mazel ___!"
- 58 Big picture
- 59 Pictures on a screen
- 60 Nile snake
- 61 "Forget it!"
- 62 Low islands
- 63 Some appliances
- 65 Hoodoo
- 66 Hoods with safe jobs?
- 67 Irregularly notched
- 68 Much of a bride-to-be's mail, for short
- 69 "Right on!"
- 70 Seized wheels
- 71 Crashing bore
- 72 Pen name
- 73 Scurvy
- 74 Seniors' D.C. lobby
- 75 Miss
- 76 Identifier seen on a carousel
- 77 Jackie's designer
- 78 Hide, dog-style
- 79 PDA entries
- 80 "I'm all ___."
- 81 Derisive looks
- 82 Suspect's concern
- 83 Declare as fact
- 84 "Forever" our girl
- 85 Robo-glaze
- 86 Terrible
- 87 Osteolea
- 88 Foreveryourgirl
- 89 Roeland
- 90 Onairdeanterr
- 91 Mandela
- 92 Legatee
- 93 External flame
- 94 Stratagem
- 95 Lillas
- 96 Awolsumoafire
- 97 Dabsenospeaks

DOWN

1 Casual fabric

2 Commercial suffix suggesting pasta

3 Stereotypical pratfall cause

4 Web surfing tool

5 Pablo's "that"

6 USPS delivery

7 Turkmenistan, once: Abbr.

8 Eyelid application

9 Certain Caltech grad: Abbr.

10 Citrus drinks

11 Combustible heap

12 They're scheduled to be awarded at the Staples Center on 1/31/2010

13 International Court of Justice site, with "The"

14 Declare as fact

15 "Forever" our girl

16 "Right on!"

17 Seized wheels

18 Crashingly bore

19 Pen name

20 Doc bloc

21 Edmund Burke

22 Identifier seen on a carousel

23 Jackie's designer

24 Hide, dog-style

25 PDA entries

26 "I'm all ___."

27 Derisive looks

28 Suspect's concern

29 Declare as fact

30 "Forever" our girl

31 Robo-glaze

32 Terrible

33 Osteolea

34 Foreveryourgirl

35 Roeland

36 Onairdeanterr

37 Mandela

38 Legatee

39 External flame

40 Stratagem

41 Lillas

42 Awolsumoafire

43 Dabsenospeaks

11/13/09

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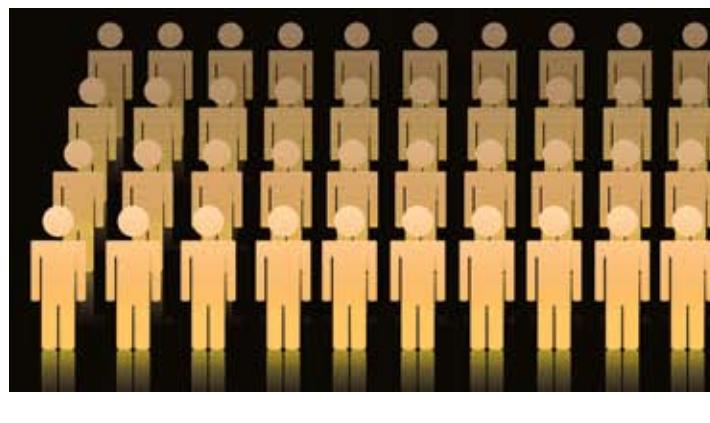
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