



MANDI WRIGHT/MCT CAMPUS

Republican Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney works the crowd after his victory speech to his supporters after the results to Michigan's Republican Primary at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Mich., Tuesday.

Romney takes Arizona, Michigan

LESLIE SCHICHEL
STAFF REPORTER

Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney took Tuesday's Arizona and Michigan primaries in a close race with Rick Santorum. Winning 29 delegates in winner-take-all Arizona and 15 of 30 delegates in Michigan, Romney sets himself up for future success come Super Tuesday on March 6.

Santorum, who came in a close second in Michigan, won 15 delegates in Tuesday's primary. Though Romney won the popular vote in Michigan, he and Santorum split the delegates.

In lieu of the two primaries Tuesday night, Newt Gingrich campaigned in the South, focusing on Tennessee, Oklahoma and his home state of Georgia, and Ron Paul campaigned in Virginia.

Romney leads the Republican primaries race in terms of delegates with 167, Santorum 87, Gingrich 32 and Paul 19. Though Romney's lead is an indicator to some degree, Super Tuesday will be a determining factor as to whom the Republicans will choose as their presidential candidate in November. In the Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses, 437 delegates are at stake.

Forty-three more delegates will be decided before Super Tuesday in the Washington caucus this Saturday.

Melanie Spector, a senior Political Science major, views Romney's Arizona and Michigan wins as reflective of what Republicans look for in a candidate.

"What the swing voters and independents want is a moderate candidate who doesn't waste the public's time with social issues like abortion and religion, and focuses on the biggest problem in America which is the state of the economy. Santorum and Gingrich are playing to the conservative base that will get them votes in the primary but will not help them at all during the general election," Spector said. "Ron Paul has some good ideas, but is not electable. So Romney is the only candidate that comes even close to moderate. That being said, I don't think

see **ROMNEY** page 2

VSG DEBATE

Vanderbilt Student Communications will hold a debate between the VSG presidential candidates Tuesday, March 13 in the Martha Rivers Ingram Commons Center at 6 p.m.

**VSG
ELECTION
2012**

If you have questions for the candidates, tweet them to @InsideVandy over the break.

New real estate developments sprout around Elliston Place

KION SAWNEY
STAFF REPORTER

Three construction projects, including two residential projects and one hotel, will begin construction around Elliston Place in the coming years.

Few places in Nashville have the unique neighborhood dynamics of Elliston Place. The neighborhood has the privilege to call itself home to the nation-

al headquarters of HCA healthcare and Caterpillar financial, Centennial Park, the Nashville landmark Elliston Soda Shop and a top 20 university.

Michael McNally of Southern Land Company, developers of the Elliston 23 project, stated that the area "has a strong urban identity, a great location, and access to job and healthcare companies." The

see **ELLISTON** page 3

REAL ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS

Square Footage

- E23 - 348,000
- Homewood - 173,985
- Park 25 - 153,000

Unit Amount

- E23 - 331
- Homewood - 192
- Park 25 - 200

Site Size (in acres)

- E23 - 2.7
- Homewood - 1.36
- Park 25 - about 1

Cost

- E23 - \$30,000,000
- Park 25 - \$21,000,000

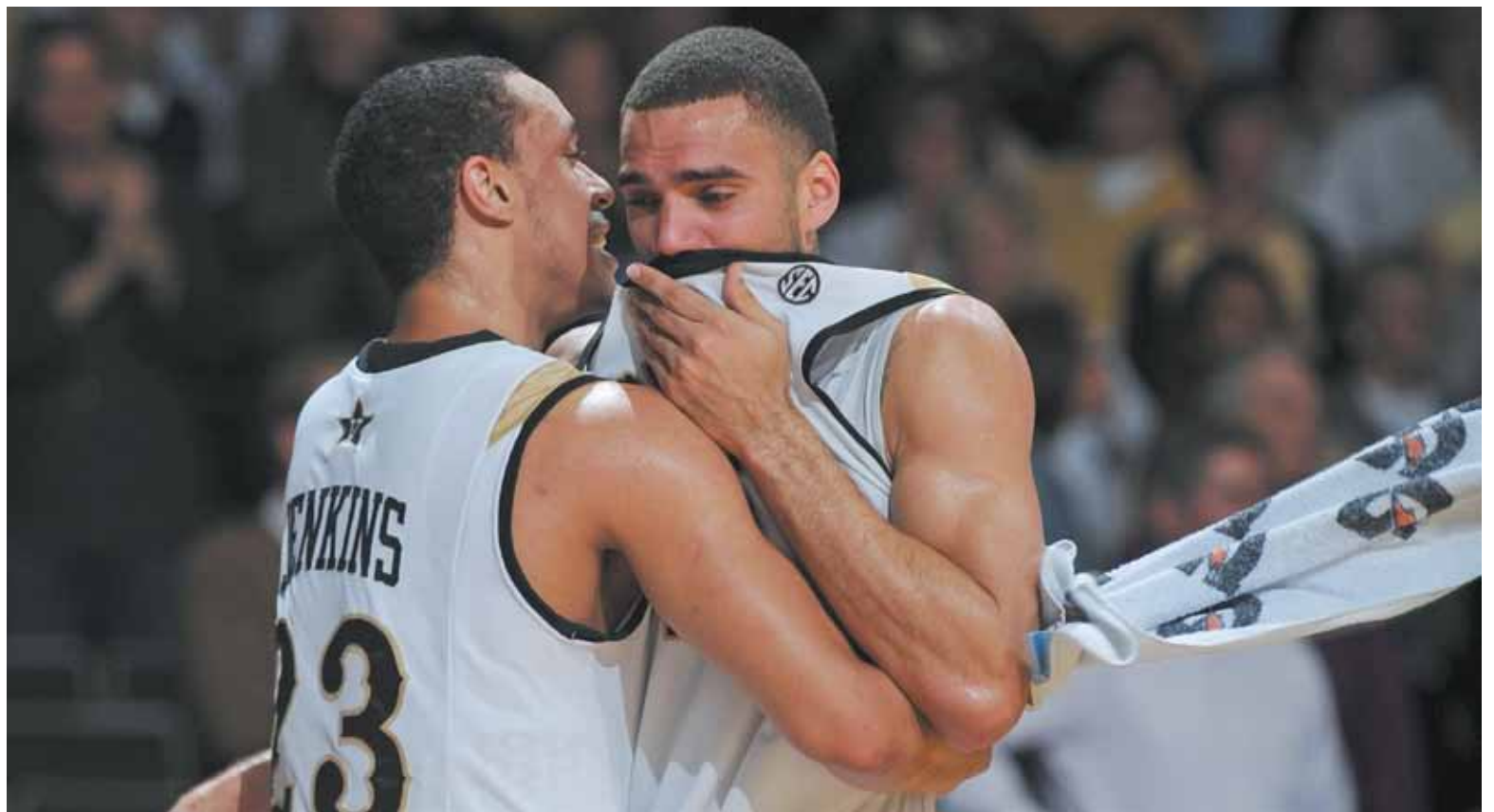
Thanks for the memories



VANDERBILT 77



No. 13 FLORIDA 67



JOE HOWELL/VU MEDIA RELATIONS

Emotions ran high Tuesday night as the Commodores both honored their senior players and defeated the Florida Gators 77-67 in their final home game of the season. See page 9 for more on the game.

Professor David Owen talks innovation

KION SAWNEY
STAFF REPORTER

The Vanderbilt Library Lecture Series on Wednesday afternoon welcomed David Owens to talk on why innovation fails. Drawing on years of experience in the corporate world and academia, Owens led a discussion on the six major types of constraints that hinder innovation.

Most people associate innovation with the slogan of "thinking out of the box." Owens argues that the only way to create innovation is to understand the constraints facing the problem. Thinking outside of the box can only go so far if the questions aren't properly understood. Through communication of constraints innovators can create the proper conditions to foster innovation instead of stopping it.

Owens outlined the six major

constraints of innovation and applied them to cases in the past. He referenced the story of the Post-it note originally developed by Art Fry of 3M. Fry's invention of an adhesive that could re-stick to any surface was at first ridiculed for being a waste of time. It wouldn't be until 13 years after the idea was conceived that it would become what it is today known as. Owens argues that if Fry understood the constraints of his company, he could properly present his idea and find success in the constraints.

David A. Owens is professor of the practice of management at Vanderbilt's Graduate School of Management where he also directs the Executive Development Institute. Prior to being with Vanderbilt, Owens was, among other things, the CEO of Griffin Technology, the global accessory company which makes product for



MICHAEL FRASCCELLA/ THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

iPhones, iPods, iPads and other smart devices.

Owens discusses the topic further in his book, "Creative People Must Be Stopped! Six Ways We Stop Innovation Without Even Trying," which is available at the Vanderbilt bookstore. ★

Owen Graduate School of Management professor David Owen gives his talk, "Creative People Must Be Stopped: Six Ways We Kill Innovation," at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Central Library Community Room.



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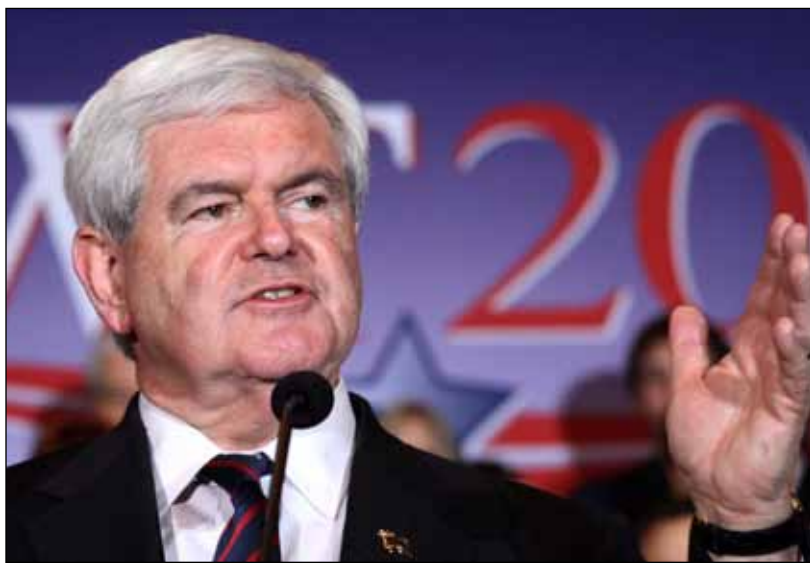
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JOE BURBANK/MCT CAMPUS

Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich addresses supporters in Orlando, Fla., after finishing a distant second to challenger Mitt Romney in the Florida Republican Primary, Tuesday night, January 31, 2012.

Gingrich fans hope Tenn. visit boosts prospects

ERIK SCHELZIG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich hope a day of campaigning in Nashville will help boost the candidate's prospects in Tennessee.

State Rep. Tony Shipley, who is leading the former U.S. House speaker's state campaign, said Gingrich's appearances Monday should appeal to conservative voters in advance of the state's March 6 primary.

"Now whether we can gain the momentum through the press and this wonderful outpouring of support today before Super Tuesday?" said Shipley, R-Kingsport. "It truly is in God's hands, our country is in God's hands."

Gingrich faces a tough path in Tennessee, where former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum is popular with social conservatives and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney has drawn the support of the Gov. Bill Haslam, state House Speaker Beth Harwell and much of the GOP establishment.

Shipley acknowledged that Haslam and Harwell's support of Romney has caused many Republicans "to take pause," but said the race remains open.

"I don't take offense what the governor or anyone else does," he said. "I think it's an opportunity for us all to speak on what we believe."

Rep. Joe Carr, R-Lascasas, said Gingrich presents an alternative to Romney.

"I can't speak for the governor or even the establishment," he said. "But the people who make up the rank and file of the party are conservative and they have questions about Gov. Romney's pedigree in that regard."

Gingrich began his day with coffee with state lawmakers and religious leaders at the legislative office complex, followed by speech-

es to Republican groups and a rally on the steps of the state Capitol. He also met privately with GOP members of both chambers of the General Assembly.

Former U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., introduced Gingrich at the rally and was scheduled to attend an evening fundraiser.

Gingrich noted a historical tie-in just yards away from the rally.

"You have over here the burial place of President James K. Polk, who is the only speaker of the House to become president," he said. "So I have this sort of identity with this space."

State Sen. Jim Tracy, R-Shelbyville, attended Gingrich's lunchtime speech to a monthly gathering of Nashville-area Republicans, but later Monday confirmed his endorsement of Romney. He said there things he likes about each of the candidates.

"I like the idea of Romney being a governor and CEO type, I like that Newt has great big ideas and I like Santorum's passion," she said. "If they could only morph into one."

Former state Republican Party Chairwoman Robin Smith said she won't endorse in the primary race, but noted that Gingrich was instrumental in helping raise money for the Tennessee GOP when the party was trying to win control of the state House.

She said it's too early to count anyone out of the race.

"This has been the craziest election cycle," she said. "I don't know that the polls are accurately reflecting the sentiments."

Smith said she's pleased that the primary election is being held a month later than in 2008.

"I think it's a blessing that we have a little bit later time to vote," she said. "It will help people become educated." ★

ROMNEY: Super Tuesday next week

from ROMNEY page 1

that any of the GOP candidates stand a chance against Obama. Romney just doesn't connect with voters, and that is an area that Obama excels in."

Though Spector believes that Romney stands the best chance against Obama, she hopes that Santorum wins the Republican nomination.

"I want Obama to have the best chance possible to be reelected and Santorum would be crushed in the general electorate. Again, I am confident that Obama will be re-elected, but Romney would put up a fight, while Santorum would not stand a chance."

Raquel Zemtsov, a senior majoring in Neuroscience and minoring in MHS and Acting/Directing, agrees with Spector that Romney has the best chance of challenging Obama's re-election due to his "clean personal record, decent policies, and because he is winning most of the primaries."

Zemtsov explains that Paul's ideas may make him unelectable.

"I think Ron Paul has the craziest ideas. I used to be a big fan actually; I really like his domestic views. But his isolationism stance for foreign policy really frightens me. It was this mindset that got us attacked in WWII and prevented immediate protection of our country and our allies."

What to expect on Super Tuesday:

Closing in on the week before Super Tuesday, the Republican candidates have been heavily campaigning across the following 10 states: Ohio, Idaho, Virginia, Georgia,

RESULTS FOR ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY Feb. 28, 2012 (100 percent of precincts reporting)

Mitt Romney	216,805	47.3 %
Rick Santorum	122,088	26.6 %
Newt Gingrich	74,110	16.2 %
Ron Paul	38,753	8.4 %
Other	6,875	1.5 %

RESULTS FOR MICHIGAN REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY Feb. 28, 2012 (>99 percent of precincts reporting)

Mitt Romney	410,517	41.1 %
Rick Santorum	378,124	37.9 %
Ron Paul	115,956	11.6 %
Newt Gingrich	65,093	6.5 %
Other	29,152	2.9 %

Tennessee, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Vermont, Alaska and North Dakota.

In the past, Super Tuesday's contests have been winner-take-all; however, congressional districts can now divide delegates among the candidates. This strategy shifts the candidates' priorities, as the "winner" of Super Tuesday may not necessarily be the winner of the most states.

In Ohio (worth 66 delegates), Santorum currently leads in the polls by 8.3 percentage points above Romney, according to National Public Radio.

Idaho (worth 32 delegates) is Ron Paul's best bet for gaining delegates, though he most likely will not be in first.

After failing to submit the required 10,000 signatures for the Virginia primary (worth 49 delegates) by Dec. 23, neither Santorum nor Gingrich will be on the ballot. The contest will be between

Paul and Romney. Though Paul has campaigned in Virginia, expect another Romney win.

The Southern states of Georgia (76 delegates), Tennessee (58 delegates) and Oklahoma (43 delegates) will likely be split among Romney, Santorum and Gingrich. These states are Gingrich's best chance of winning any delegates on Tuesday. Romney supporters held rallies and strategy meetings in three cities across Tennessee on Monday, including a meeting at Red Rooster Music Hall in Nashville.

Romney's influence in the New England region, as a former Massachusetts governor and as a current resident, position him for easy wins in Massachusetts (41 delegates) and Vermont (17 delegates).

Paul and Santorum look for wins in both Alaska (27 delegates) and North Dakota (28 delegates), though both states remain in the grab bag for all four candidates. ★

Santorum downplays dearth of Tennessee endorsements

ERIK SCHELZIG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

POWELL, Tenn. — Presidential candidate Rick Santorum said Wednesday that he is undaunted that Tennessee Republican leaders haven't endorsed him, saying that his conservative credentials will help him carry the state on Super Tuesday.

"I'm a conservative and they know it," the former Pennsylvania senator told reporters after an hour-long speech at the Temple Baptist Church outside Knoxville. "This is a state that we fit into very, very well, and I'm very confident."

Santorum pointed to his record on government spending, national security and health care. "And I've led the charge on moral-cultural issues," he said.

Santorum said he wasn't surprised to hear that Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam was among a large number of state Republicans endorsing former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for the GOP presidential nomination.

"Every endorsement there is it seems like is going for Mitt Romney," Santorum said. "This is the establishment — that's just what happens."

"You know what, we're the insurgent candidate here," he said.



ERIC SEALS/MCT CAMPUS

"We're the ones going out scrapping and clawing, and you know what? We're doing all right."

A recent Vanderbilt University poll showed Santorum with 33 percent support, followed Romney with 17 percent and former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich with 10 percent.

The poll of 767 likely Republican primary voters was conducted Feb. 16-22 and had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

Haslam in a statement praised Romney's wins in Michigan and Arizona on Tuesday.

Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum talks to his supporters in the Ambassador Ballroom of the Amway Grand Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids, Mich., on Tuesday.

"He has the kind of common-sense approach this country needs to turn the economy around and put people back to work," Haslam said. "I encourage Tennesseans to join me in casting their vote for Gov. Mitt Romney in Tuesday's election." ★

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Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

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ELLISTON: Hotel construction begins in March

from **ELLISTON** page 1

distinctive composition of the neighborhood has resulted in a series of construction projects that will alter the community for the coming years.

23 Elliston

Gaining its name from its location, 2300 Elliston Place is being constructed on the 2.7 acre parcel formerly home to the Father Ryan High School. The new six-story multifamily and retail development will be the newest edition to the Elliston community. The development, which is referred to as E23 for short, will feature 331 rental units, green technologies, and 15,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space. The project's developer Southern Land Properties of Franklin, Tenn. is expected to open the building in early 2013.

The \$50 million project will be pursuing a Silver LEED status. LEED is the co-friendly building designation based on carbon footprint. If the project gains the Silver status it will be the first multifamily project in the state to gain the title. Southern Land Properties VP for Mixed Use Development, Michael McNally, stated that, "Today's generation is more in

tune to the environment and their conscience." The project will feature a reflective roof, bike racks, energy star appliances and a storm water treatment system. In the construction of the property, the company used recycled and low VOC materials which decrease the project's carbon footprint.

E23's retail and restaurant component will be geared towards upscale local and regional restaurants and boutiques. A 500-space parking structure will also be built on-site to accommodate residents, diners and shoppers. A distinct feature of the project will be its South Beach-inspired saltwater-heated pool. The 2,000 square foot pool will feature sun decks, outdoor cabanas, flat screen televisions, grills and a hot tub.

Homewood Suites Hotel at Vanderbilt

Construction is set to begin in March on a new hotel situated at West End Avenue and 24th Avenue. The 1.36 acre site, formerly the home of FYE record store and the Carmichael Place Shopping Center, will feature a 192-room Homewood Suites. The design of the hotel by Bounds and Gillespie of Memphis is meant to reflect the architectural

style of Vanderbilt University campus. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2013.

Homewood Suites by Hilton is a growing brand of upscale all-suite hotels that offer high quality residential-style lodging for extended stay travelers who stay five or more nights. The new Homewood Suites will have 192 suites, an indoor pool, 176 underground parking spaces, a meeting room seating 200 people and a boardroom.

The project is being developed by RMR Investment Company and Vista Host. Owner of RMR, Robert M. Rogers and his wife, attorney Carolyn Thomas Rogers, both graduated from Vanderbilt in 1975 and are supporters of the university. In the company's press release for the project Rogers discussed the importance of Vanderbilt to the project. "We want to develop a property that fits into the character of the area and integrates well with the campus," notes Rogers, owner of Robert M. Rogers Investments and RMR Investment Company, LLC of Memphis, Tenn.

Park 25

Located on the east side of Centennial Park, two



RENDERINGS PROVIDED
Renderings of 23 Elliston (right) and the Homewood Suites Hotel at Vanderbilt (top). These two properties, in addition to Park 25, will begin construction around Vanderbilt within the next year.



blocks north of West End; North American Properties is planning a multifamily development. The 153,000 square foot project is expected to have 200 units of luxury apartments. The 8-story building will feature one and two bedroom units overlooking the park

Originally, the project

called Park 25 was a partnership between North American Properties and Giarratana Associates LLC. North American has since purchased Giarratana's interest in the development. Richard Munger, vice president of development at North American Properties, stated that the company is pursuing the

project to "address the demand for upscale rental housing by the high concentration of medical, academic and numerous other professional jobs in the immediate area." The site still remains in the planning phase and more details of the project will be announced in the coming weeks. ★

Bill targeting Occupy Nashville will hit homeless

TRAVIS LOLLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The House will take up a bill on Monday that is designed to evict Occupy Nashville but could also be used to jail homeless people around the state.

The "Equal Access to Public Property Act of 2012" makes it a crime to camp on any state-owned land that is not specifically designated for camping — not just the War Memorial Plaza near the Capitol where Occupy Nashville protesters have set up tents.

And the definition of camping is very broad. It includes "storing personal belongings, making any fire, doing any digging or earth breaking or carrying on cooking activities."

Those violating the proposed law could have their belongings seized and be charged with a Class A misdemeanor — the most serious type of misdemeanor, punishable by nearly a year in jail or a fine of up to \$2,500 or both.

"This will adversely affect the homeless, because it is too broad," said Bob Tuke, an advocate for homeless veterans with the char-

ity Operation Stand Down Nashville and a former chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party.

"Any veteran who happens to be on state-owned property and is arrested because of this, I can't tell you how deeply that idea offends me as a veteran," he said.

Sen. Dolores Gresham, who also is a veteran, said in a Monday interview that the purpose of the bill she co-sponsored was to make the grounds around the Capitol available to everyone by clearing out the permanent encampment of Occupy Nashville protesters.

"Certainly that was never the intent that the homeless would be in any way impacted by this bill," the Somerville Republican said.

"People who want to protest can protest all day long. You just can't camp on places that are not designated for that."

The Senate passed the bill on Thursday by a vote of 20-10. The House already approved a version of the bill earlier this month on a 70-26 vote. On Monday, it will vote on the new version.

The bill comes at the same time Gov. Bill Haslam's administration is seeking to

break up the Occupy Nashville encampment by establishing rules for the use of the War Memorial Plaza. A draft of those rules was released on Friday and a public hearing is scheduled for April 16.

House sponsor Eric Watson, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, would like to see the tents gone sooner than that. In an earlier interview, Watson said he would like to have the encampment cleared before the spring, when school groups from around the state start to come visit the Capitol.

Watson said in the previ-

ous interview that he did not believe the bill would have any unintended consequences. He did not indicate at the time whether he meant the bill to affect homeless people camped on state-owned land far from the War Memorial Plaza. He declined to be interviewed for this story.

The one House Republican who did not vote for the earlier version of the bill was Rep. Frank Niceley of Strawberry Plains.

Niceley said after the vote that he was concerned the bill was too broad.

"I'd rather limit it to the plaza out here," he said. ★

SEEKING: LEADERS

Student Media at Vanderbilt offers students unique opportunities to develop leadership skills.

The Vanderbilt Student Communications Board of Directors is seeking applications for the following leadership positions for the 2012-13 academic year:

CONTENT EDITORS

Applications are due at noon on April 3

- News Editor
- Sports Editor
- Opinion Editor
- Life Editor
- Photo Editor
- Social Media Director
- Chief Copy Editor
- WRVU Program Director
- VTV Program Director

MEDIA LEADERS

Applications are due at noon on March 20

- InsideVandy Director
- The Vanderbilt Hustler Editor-in-Chief
- Vanderbilt Television Station Manager
- WRVU General Manager

Information and applications will be available beginning at noon today at www.vandymedia.org

Please contact Student Media adviser Paige Clancy at paige.clancy@vanderbilt.edu if you plan to apply or for more information about job expectations and responsibilities of these leadership positions.

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OPINION

COLUMN

Brain impact

This year's IMPACT lineup, once again, disappointing

HUDSON TODD
COLUMNIST

I should not be surprised by the IMPACT lineup this year after the abysmal selections of the last two years, but I am. Who made the selections, Terri Schiavo? Apparently providing Mitt Romney a platform to misconstrue reality unimpeded for two hours was not enough. Now Lamar Alexander gets to do the same in Benton Chapel. The ridiculous Central Library display of Alexander has evidently just left the student body hungry for more.

Why does the Speaker's Committee take such a promising event and completely botch their duty each year by squandering our dollars on simpletons? They chose Jon Huntsman, a man who debated on television every other day for the last year, and Bill Richardson and Lamar Alexander, two other presidential candidates of years past who have had more than enough exposure. It would be fantastic to hear a conversation among adults who are more interested in teaching the audience than regurgitating cheap zingers. This symposium is titled "The Rise of the Rest," and, oddly, they invited a general. Perhaps our astute selectors sense a war brewing. I can just envision these egomaniacal students sitting around a table, thinking

they know what they are talking about, selecting horrible speakers. It makes my blood boil, and it should make you outraged as well.

I do not assault these selections because of my politics; I attack them because they are objectively poor. Conservatives have a place in IMPACT (albeit not the center spotlight they have received), but they should be selected from the tiny pool of sincere, thoughtful conservatives. Considering the committee's inability to select such individuals, there are two possibilities: either the concept of a thoughtful conservative is an oxymoron (highly probable), or the selectors are simply unaware of their options (100 percent probability).

That is just disappointing when there are some intellectual powerhouse conservatives who could have been invited instead. Try Niall Ferguson, Charles Murray, David Brooks, Gregory Mankiw... the list goes on. It makes me cry that this committee confines their understanding of policy to CNN and Fox News, and thinks that petty talking points are educational. Why not invite someone who isn't on TV for free at all times? In the last three years, out of 12 speakers, we have had six presidential candidates. These people have said quite enough, and anyone who has been paying attention does not need to hear more. Clearly such people are not IMPACT's intended audience.

When the committee accidentally makes a good selection,

they pair that person up with a know-nothing. The Speaker's Committee actually pitted a pandering politician against an accomplished Berkeley economist last year. Whoever thought that debate was a good idea knows absolutely nothing about the world. We heard economic data and logic from one side and anecdotal good ole' boy tales of days gone by from the other side.

And what is up with having two Mormons in the last two years? Aside from the fact that they believe they will rule over planets after their deaths (disqualifying them from serious intellectual discourse), I suspect there is some type of Mormon presence in the Speaker's Committee attempting to push through their agenda. No doubt they will gain traction with the "trendy" student body. Haven't you heard? Being Mormon is now in vogue.

The point is, the power to select IMPACT speakers should be placed in the hands of professors, not students. Give the power to those who did not whine about malevolent anti-Christian forces infiltrating Christian organizations and dissolving them, to those who understand that there are more important things than who is secretary of the Christian Brotherhood. That is all.

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

COLUMN

Reverend Gomes and religious freedom

TISH HARRISON WARREN
GUEST COLUMNIST

This year, every incoming freshman read a work by Rev. Dr. Peter Gomes, which is ironic given the current debate about Vanderbilt's policy forbidding campus religious organizations from ensuring that student leaders share the group's creedal commitments. Gomes, Harvard's long-time Plummer professor of Christian morals and the Pusey minister of Memorial Church, was an openly gay, black Baptist preacher who, upon his death last year, The New York Times called "one of America's most prominent spiritual voices against intolerance." His work against intolerance included powerfully condemning a stance at Harvard that was identical to Vanderbilt's current policy, stating that it "is not tolerant, neither is it pluralistic, nor inclusive. Let us call it what it is: hostile, rampantly secular and overtly anti-Christian."

In 2003, Harvard-Radcliffe Christian Fellowship, an evangelical group at Harvard (which is affiliated with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship), was accused of violating the university's nondiscrimination policy because they required student leaders to affirm basic Christian doctrine and were threatened with losing their status as a registered student organization unless they dropped this requirement. Unlike Vanderbilt's administration, Harvard soon reconsidered. Recognizing the inherent importance of self-governance in religious communities for the preservation of religious identity, Harvard's Committee on College Life voted to allow campus religious groups to retain belief-based requirements for leaders. Thereafter, a student-run paper, The Harvard Crimson, published an editorial accusing the religious group of intolerance and condemning Harvard's new policy.

Gomes replied with strong rebuke in a letter to the editors, writing that the argument that "an organization based upon religious beliefs should not be able to discriminate on the basis of those same religious beliefs in its leadership suggests either a fundamental ignorance of the nature of religious belief, or a determination in the name of 'nondiscrimination' to discriminate against a Christian student group which takes its Christian identity and principles seriously."

The Crimson's argument was essentially that of Vanderbilt's administration: All students, regardless of personal beliefs, should have access to leadership in any campus group. Gomes brilliantly articulated what religious groups at Vanderbilt have been advocating when he stated that belief in, for instance, the resurrection of Jesus is irrevocably essential for leadership in a community

who finds its entire identity and purpose in the proclamation of Christ's resurrection. Gomes continues, "If there is any discrimination going on in this debate, it is the unseemly discrimination ... against an explicitly Christian student group, and the particulars of the faith which provides the basis of its identity." In a subsequent interview with Christianity Today, Gomes condemned heavy-handed control of campus religious groups saying, "Religious communities have to come to their own decisions, as opposed to being coerced by the civil liberty establishment."

Rev. Gomes continued to defend religious pluralism and evangelical groups at Harvard until his death. When Gomes died, my InterVarsity colleague at Harvard Graduate School Christian Fellowship published a tribute expressing the profound support and honest friendship he and Gomes shared across differences in race, sexuality and theology, the kind of friendship that the robust pluralism Gomes sought makes possible.

It is worth noting that the top Vanderbilt administrators promoting this policy are lay people who, despite whatever personal religious commitments they hold, have admitted that they do not think faith should guide one's public, daily life. At the recent town hall meeting, Provost McCarty argued vehemently that it would be wrong for students to "have personal religious views intrude on good decision-making on this campus."

Gomes, who saw religious expression as an essential part of university life, would not have endorsed this privatization of faith. He supported creedal distinctiveness and religious liberty, despite knowing these commitments would allow the existence of campus religious communities where he might not be entirely accepted or understood. His was and is a profoundly mature, thoughtful and humane way to approach diversity and non-privatized devotional communities at a university.

I assume Vanderbilt chose Gomes' book as required reading hoping that incoming students would be challenged by Gomes' legacy and thought. I hope top university officials will do the same.

Rev. Gomes ends his condemnation of a stance identical to Vanderbilt's current policy, saying, "Such an attitude toward Christian groups, the fundamentals of the Christian faith and the student leadership of a Christian community of faith is ... unacceptable at Harvard."

Why then ought we accept it here at Vanderbilt?

—Tish Harrison Warren is a Campus Minister at Vanderbilt's InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship. She can be reached at tishharrison@yahoo.com.

COLUMN

Religion and government

Contrary to Rick Santorum's assertions, faith should not dictate American law.

SKYLAR HUTTO
COLUMNIST

In recent weeks, Rick Santorum has rekindled an old controversy about the role of faith in American law. Although he has not proposed a law banning contraception, he has made it clear he believes such a rule would be constitutional and viable. Santorum has stated that freely-occurring sexual acts betray God's plan, so contraception is ultimately not of value to people. Banning contraception is obviously not a plan that resonates well with most Americans, which is why he has stated that he would not put it forward himself. The larger issue at hand is not the presidential election — it is the role of religion in defining our laws. There is an easy line for us to draw about the incorporation of faith into government, but there is no simple delineation. There are two forces at work: the separation of church and state as well as the influence of religion on political beliefs.

There are several issues that one could use as an exemplar of this principle. One of the most straightforward is the concern over abortion. A candidate can easily claim that they are pro-life without claiming that their religion is intruding into his or her political influence. This omission, however, comes into question when the only basis for his or her pro-life stance is religion. Does this pressure on candidates to reveal

their religious identities constitute an intrusion of specific beliefs from specific churches into the sphere of government, and if so, is that excusable or even commendable?

A referendum from the mid-'90s in Ireland perfectly explains the strange influence religion can have on politics. In 1995, a vote was set to take place on whether or not divorce should be legalized. This country is primarily Catholic, and most people of this faith do not believe in divorce. For this reason, divorce had been illegal for centuries. The problem was multifaceted, however, in that at least 10 percent of the people who could vote in Ireland at the time were not Catholic and thus did not have a religious prohibition against getting divorces. In the year building up to the election, the Pope and Mother Teresa repeatedly emphasized that they would like for Catholics to vote to keep divorce illegal, even though that would prevent the divorce of non-Catholics in Ireland. For me, the real question is: Why is this an issue at all? Of course divorce should be legal, but if Catholics don't believe in marital separation then they're not obligated to participate in it. Who is the majority to impose their religious laws on the minority? Can't the majority obey their doctrine without incorporating it into their country's constitution?

We find the same problem in American politics. Every one of us believes in the principle of freedom,

yet our politicians still try to push their singular morality onto the entire population. The most crisp and contemporary example of this is the debate over same-sex marriage. I think, in principle, if we are going to maximize freedom, then any person should be able to marry any other consenting person (of appropriate age). This is ultimately the option that offers citizens the most freedom of choice. Still, most states have refused to allow same-sex marriage on religious grounds. It may be true that states have a majority of people that are uncomfortable with gay marriage, but should that majority be able to restrict the freedoms of the minority? I don't think so.

In the end, enough Catholics stood up to their religious leaders in Ireland to pass the divorce referendum by half of a percent. Ireland still has a strong Catholic majority, and although a majority of Ireland's citizens do not believe that divorce is morally acceptable, they are willing to recognize that they should not force their doctrine onto others who may not share their convictions. America could benefit from a similar mentality — a mentality that would allow us to stop worrying about social concerns and focus on real domestic and foreign policy issues.

—Skylar Hutto is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at skylar.b.hutto@vanderbilt.edu.

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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 Sunday or Wednesday.

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 may 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.

COLUMN

Saving mountains saves jobs, too



MICHAEL DIAMOND
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

Tennessee's State Legislature has the opportunity to make environmental and social history. The Scenic Vistas Protection Act (HB0291/SB0577), as originally written, would have banned surface mining that "alters or disturbs any ridgeline that is above two thousand feet" — in other words, mountaintop removal mining. This morning, the Senate passed a watered-down version of the bill that merely reinforces existing legislation. Although some are disappointed with this result, today's events mean that mountaintop removal will be debated by the full legislative body for the first time.

Mountaintop removal mining is a common practice in Tennessee's Appalachian neighbors Kentucky and West Virginia, although Tennessee has luckily remained largely unscathed. Luckily, that is, because the consequences of this type of strip mining can be downright scary. The negative health effects of living around mountaintop removal mining, from exposure to toxins such as selenium, mercury, arsenic, lead, copper and chromium to the increased incidence of birth defects, pulmonary disorders and hypertension in communities around mine sites, are serious and well documented. In addition, both workers and innocent bystanders (even those seemingly far enough away) must watch out for flyrock, which is the term used for all the dust and rock stirred up while blasting through mountains. Oftentimes this flyrock can crack and damage homes and property, and occasionally the impact of such debris can be fatal. And, of course, despite what industry representatives may say about "reclamation," mountaintop removal mining leaves behind barren, irreparably scarred landscapes where there were once thriving communities and ecosystems.

Proponents of the practice, meanwhile, say this is a necessary price to pay for the jobs that mountaintop removal can bring.

In today's committee, Sen. Mike Faulk, R-Kingsport, justified the amendment weakening Scenic Vistas by claiming he could not "look those miners in the eye who lose their jobs because of this bill." What tradeoffs we are willing to make between growing the economy and preserving the environment is certainly a question worthy of debate. However, a better question in this instance would be: What "lost jobs" is he talking about?

The fact is that mountaintop removal mining is a net job-killer, even without taking environmental considerations into account. Basically, strip mining practices replace actual, human miners with machines and TNT. Thus, the industry in Tennessee has shed 85 percent of its own workforce since 1985 at the same time that strip mining has expanded by 44 percent, according to the Tennessee Conservation Voters. This calculus holds true in all areas affected by strip mining and mountaintop removal: West Virginia similarly lost more than 40,000 mining jobs since 1980, while coal production still grew by 140 percent. Experiences in Central Appalachia show that to create jobs, states should limit and prohibit, not encourage and expand, mountaintop removal mining.

Perhaps even more important, economically speaking, is the impact mountaintop removal would have on Tennessee's tourism industry. Tennessee's Great Smokey Mountains National Park is the most-visited park in North America. The big cities, Nashville and Memphis, certainly contribute to the \$14 billion annual tourism market in our state, but our pristine wilderness areas, especially our mountains, play a huge role as well.

These reasons and more explain why such a bipartisan consensus has arisen in Tennessee to become the first state to put some form of ban on mountaintop removal mining. Groups and individuals as diverse as the Tennessee Conservation Voters, the Christian group Lindquist Environmental Appalachian Fellowship which led 40 Days of Prayer in support of Scenic Vistas, and even Governor Bill Haslam have voiced opposition to the



MICHAEL DIAMOND / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Heavy machinery at an active mountaintop removal mine site in Hazard, Ky. This mountain used to be part of one of the most biologically diverse forest systems in North America. Tennessee's legislature is considering banning this type of mining.

destructive practice.

So, who exactly benefits from mountaintop removal mining? Why has action on this issue been so halting? The answer to those questions is simple: mountaintop removal mining is profitable for the coal industry — not the miners, as we've seen above, but for the corporations. And those corporations, many of which are based out-of-state, are some of the prime donors in Tennessee politics.


Mountaintop removal mining is basically cheating. Rather than mining in a traditional manner, the coal companies are taking the easy way out, with dramatic consequences. In economic terms, mountaintop removal has significant externalities negatively affecting the surrounding areas and the state as a whole. In the Biblical view (according to LEAF), it violates the commandment "You shall not defile the land in which you live, and in which I also dwell" (Numbers 35:34). In Vandy parlance, blowing the tops off mountains to make extracting coal a bit cheaper is a violation of our Honor Code with Mother Earth.

Now that mountaintop removal mining will be debated by the entire Tennessee State Senate, this issue will finally get the attention it deserves. Even though the current version of the bill leaves much

to be desired, any senator has the opportunity to amend and strengthen the Scenic Vistas Protection Act. For the sake of Tennessee's economy and environment, the legislature should take advantage of this opportunity.

Miners do not benefit from mountaintop removal. Communities do not benefit from mountaintop removal. Even the state economy would not benefit from mountaintop removal. The only people who would have something to lose in a ban are the industry executives whose profits may go down a hair. Tennessee is better than blowing the tops off of our mountains. Which is why, sooner or later, a version of the Scenic Vistas Protection Act, with actual teeth, is bound to become law.

—Michael Diamond is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at michael.s.diamond@vanderbilt.edu.



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Travel writer to visit Vandy

BEN RIES
SENIOR REPORTER

Famed travel writer Rick Steves will be speaking at Vanderbilt next month as part of “Rick’s Road Trip USA,” a cross-country tour that will take him to 20 cities in 20 days. Steves is the author of over 50 European travel guidebooks, the host of the public television series “Rick Steves’ Europe” and the host of the public radio show “Travel With Rick Steves.” Steves will be speaking on his book “Travel as a Political Act” at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 19 at the Student Life Center. Free tickets will be available from the Sarratt Student Center Box Office starting Thursday, March 1. Excerpts from a phone interview between The Hustler and Steves are below. The full interview can be found online on insidevandy.com.

Vanderbilt Hustler: You are no stranger to connecting politics to your experiences traveling, but your book “Travel As a Political Act” puts politics and the benefits of understanding America’s place in a shrinking world uniquely in the forefront. What motivated you to change your approach in this way?

Rick Steves: Well, I’ve been teaching for 30 years ... My teaching has had a natural sort of evolution from the first decade of my teaching in the ‘80s when it was all about, you know, a bunch of tricks and tips and it was “Europe Through the Back Door” — that was my first book. In the ‘90s, I wrote a book called “Europe 101” and that was enthusiastic about assuming people have caught the train and they’re healthy and they know how to pack light and kind of go to a good restaurant and they’re then

going to want to know about how to understand and enjoy the sightseeing, the culture, the art, cuisine, the wine and all the history. So that was my theme in the ‘90s. Didn’t have a big plan. But now, in my third decade of teaching, I find that I’m really enthusiastic about challenging people and hopefully inspiring people to broaden their perspectives through travel to gain empathy and better understanding for the other 96 percent of humanity.

VH: You’ll be speaking at Vanderbilt on March 19 as part of the “Rick’s Road Trip USA,” a transcontinental trip that will take you to 20 cities in 20 days. What are your goals in speaking to so many audiences in so many places?

Steves: Well, it’s just kind of a fun personal thing for me. I’ve spent all of my adult life going to Europe for months out of the year. Then I come home and I teach people how great Europe is and a lot of people say, “Why don’t you see your own country?” ... So, with my assistants, we, you know, looked at a big map of the United States from Seattle to Florida and we just said, “Okay, lets take 20 days” — and that had a good ring to it, 20 cities in 20 days — we’ll go diagonally across the United States from Seattle to Florida and I’ll give talks all along the way. So that’s what we’re going to do. And Vanderbilt was on the line, so I was very happy.

VH: In an excerpt of “Travel as a Political Act,” you mentioned when you were in Iran filming a prayer service in a mosque how you could have chosen to edit it to be menacing or heartwarming



PHOTO PROVIDED

Travel writer Rick Steves will speak on March 19 at 7 p.m. in the SLC.

but you wanted to incorporate the positive and negative elements to make a fair impression of what you witnessed. Do you think that American political culture is uncomfortable with these sorts of nuanced approaches to other nations, and do you think that traveling is a way of addressing that?

Steves: I think American political culture does not want to get into the time-consuming, attention-span-requiring nuances. It’s much more convenient if you can distill it down to a 30 second negative ad or a bumper sticker — either you’re with us or you’re against us. Are you hard on drugs or are you soft on drugs, you know? It’s not hard on drugs or soft on drugs, you can actually be smart on drugs but that takes too long to explain, so they get right back onto “I’m hard on drugs,” you know, so I just think the challenges are more com-

plicated that a lot of people let them be and I think it’s very healthy to have an arena where you can actually talk about these things in a way that gets us out of our comfort zone. I’m a big fan of public broadcasting — radio and TV — because it’s the one place on the dial where you can assume the attention span, respect the viewers’ intelligence and produce programming not shaped by corporate advertiser interest but just shaped by a passion for better understanding the world. You know, you should ask yourself, “What motivates this? Why are they telling us this? Everybody dispenses to move information around — what’s motivating it?” And, as consumers and people who let information shape our worldview, we need to ask that a little bit more.

VH: At Vanderbilt, more than 40 percent of students in the College of Arts & Science study

abroad. How do you feel about studying abroad during college, and do you think that it should be more common?

Steves: Oh, I’m a big supporter of study abroad. I just had an editorial in USA Today about the value of foreign study for college students ... I speak in favor of NAFSA, the National Association of Foreign Study Abroad. In fact, my son actually runs a tour program in Europe designing three-day weekends for kids who are on foreign study time in Europe and it’s just exciting, the value of foreign study.

VH: Thank you very much for your time.

Steves: Thank you for calling attention to my visit and I’m really looking forward to my time there at Vanderbilt. ★

THAWING OUT... OR SONGS TO LISTEN TO OVER SPRING BREAK

BRITTANY MATTHEWS
STAFF REPORTER

It’s spring break, a time to be care-free in the last of our younger years. With the hope of springtime weather to counter the dreary days of winter, here’s a list of 10 songs to raise your spirits this break. Some are over-played radio songs, some feel good classics and some dance jams, all of them combining to tailor perfectly to every spring break.

1. “Alright”
by Supergrass
2. “We Are Young”
by fun. feat Janelle Monae
3. “Comeback Kid”
by Sleigh Bells
4. “Suntan City”
by Luke Bryan
5. “Young, Wild & Free”
by Snoop Dogg & Wiz Khalifa
feat. Bruno Mars
6. “Shake it Out”
by Florence + The Machine
7. “We Found Love”
by Rihanna feat. Calvin Harris
8. “Walkin’ on the Sun”
by Smash Mouth
9. “Good Feeling”
by Flo Rida
10. “Wouldn’t It Be Nice”
by The Beach Boys

Anti-Oscars: Films for the brain-weary

KELLY HALOM
STAFF REPORTER

After a week of sleepless nights studying for midterms, it is enticing to spend spring break lying on the couch watching movies. If you are looking to completely turn off your brain, the recent Oscar winners might be too mentally stimulating. While these movies will never win Oscars, they are still awesome and thankfully, require no brainpower. Luckily, you can stream all of them on Netflix right from the comfort of your couch.

“Killer Klowns From Outer Space”

Considering that the basic plot premise of this cult classic centers on clowns descending from outer space to kill off helpless victims, you probably will not be bored. To top it off, the “killer klowns” shoot cotton candy out of their guns to trap their victims to eat later. Warning: If you have a clown phobia, this might not be for you.



PHOTO PROVIDED

“Tucker and Dale Vs. Evil”

This movie acts as a satire on the typical horror movie set in a cabin in the woods. Tucker and Dale are just looking for a relaxing weekend in the woods when neighboring high school kids accuse them of being psychotic killers. As both gory and hilarious, this movie has something for everyone.



PHOTO PROVIDED

“Mega Shark vs. Crocosaurus”

The name of this movie says it all. A huge shark battling a mutant crocodile dinosaur? Isn’t that what we’ve all always wanted? For lovers of poorly made sci-fi films, this is the one for you.



PHOTO PROVIDED

“ThanksKilling”

Though this movie might not be seasonally appropriate, something remains universally acceptable about vengeful turkeys. When returning home for Thanksgiving, five college kids run into a homicidal turkey that wants them all dead. This might just be the best killer turkey movie of all time.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nashville's best kept secrets

BRITTANY MATTHEWS
STAFF REPORTER

We may not be New York, but Nashville has more to it than just Green Hills. Here are some of the best fashion haunts Nashville has to offer.

Local Honey

Local Honey has been featured in magazines like Nylon and Lucky, and has yet to be picked up by Vanderbilt students. They are a boutique specializing in local designers and vintage clothing. Go there and expect to find something original.

2009 Belmont Blvd
Nashville, TN 37212
615-915-1354

Pangea

Pangea offers clothing from designers like Free People and BB Dakota, but also eclectic jewelry and other accessories. You might even find something kitschy to dress up your room.

1721 21st Ave S.
Nashville, TN 37212
615-269-9665

Peter Nappi Leather Goods

Gorgeous handmade leather goods made in Italy. You'll find everything from boots to bags. It's definitely worth the prices and the trek across town.

1308 Adams St.
Nashville, TN 37208
615-248-3310

Nashville Farmer's Market - Flea Market

The Flea Market has everything from jewelry to fabrics and everything in between.

You'll find a wide range of handmade, one of a kind wonders. You can also use the time to stock up on locally grown food. It's a win-win.

900 Rosa Parks Blvd
Nashville, TN 37208
615-880-2001

Flavour

Flavour is located on Music Row and offers brands like True Religion, Hugo Boss and 7 for All Mankind. A great place to get jeans.

1522 Demonbraun St. #B
Nashville, TN 37203
615-254-2064

Old Made Good

Old Made Good is one of those tucked away places that seem too ideal to be true. Located in a small house in East Nashville, they provide vintage clothing and furniture at reasonable prices.

1304 McGavock Pike
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Study: Facebook profile beats IQ test in predicting job performance

DEBORAH NETBURN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Can a person's Facebook profile reveal what kind of employee he or she might be?

The answer is yes, and with unerring accuracy, according to a new paper published in the Journal of Applied Social Psychology.

And if you are smugly thinking to yourself, "I've carefully wiped my Facebook page of any incriminating photos, comments and wall posts," — well, it turns out you may still not have hidden your true nature from future employers: On a rating scale that examines key personality attributes that indicate future job success, you might get rated high in conscientiousness and possibly low on extroversion.

And if you are smugly thinking to yourself, "I've carefully wiped my Facebook page of any incriminating photos, comments and wall posts," — well, it turns out you may still not have hidden your true nature from future employers.

Other things a prospective employer might be able to glean from your Facebook profile is openness to new experiences (vacation pictures from a glacier off New Zealand), emotional stability (are your friends constantly offering you words of comfort?) and agreeableness (are you constantly ar-

guing with "friends?").

In a series of two studies conducted by researchers at Northern Illinois University, the University of Evansville and Auburn University, six people with experience in human resources were asked to rate a sample of 500 people in terms of key personality traits using only the sample group's Facebook pages as a guideline.

The raters were told to spend roughly five to 10 minutes with each person's Facebook page, and work on the project for no longer than one and a half hours per day to avoid fatigue. They were asked to rate members of the sample group on what is known as the "Big Five" personality traits, which includes extroversion, conscientiousness, emotional stability, agreeableness and openness to new experiences. High scores on these traits are generally accepted by human resources managers as an indication of future good job performance.

Members of the sample group were asked to give a self-evaluation and took an IQ test. In one study, researchers followed up with the employers of people in the sample group six months after their personality traits were rated, to ask questions about job performance.

The researchers found that the raters were generally in agreement about the personality traits expressed in the sample group's Facebook page, and that their ratings correlated strongly with self-rated personality traits. More importantly, they also found that the Facebook ratings were a more accurate way of predicting a person's job perfor-

mance than an IQ test.

Although the study does suggest that looking at a job applicant's Facebook page can prove useful for employers, Donald Kluemper, the lead researcher on the study, said employers need to tread carefully here.

A Facebook page can provide a lot of information that it would be illegal for an employer to ask of a candidate in a phone interview. For instance, a person's gender, race, age and whether they have a disability might all be visible on that person's Facebook page.

Still, a 2011 study conducted by the social media service Reppel found that 90 percent of recruiters and hiring managers look at an applicant's Facebook page whether they should or not.

Still, a 2011 study conducted by the social media service Reppel found that 90 percent of recruiters and hiring managers look at an applicant's Facebook page whether they should or not.

"This was an effort to provide some evidence that checking on a person's Facebook page might be valuable and might be useful," Kluemper said. "But I wouldn't go so far as to say that one study should be used as a reason to start using Facebook in hiring."

"Any other selection tool that is out there has been studied hundreds of thousands of times. Basically, there needs to be a lot more work done in this area."

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CONGRATS BEN PFLEDERER!



Ben won our Twitter contest finale, beating out finalists Caitlyn Durning, Josh Everett and Victoria Barner for an iPad 2! Look for a video of the competition on VanderbiltTelevision.com after spring break.

Thanks to all who participated and be sure to visit InsideVandy.com for all your campus news!

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SPORTS

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2012 SEC Men's Tournament predictions



BECK FRIEDMAN / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

SAUNDERS MCELROY
SPORTS REPORTER

The SEC Men's Basketball Tournament will begin play for the 53rd time in conference history in New Orleans next week, featuring the exceptional play of the Kentucky Wildcats as the all-too-familiar storyline.

The Wildcats, who have won the tournament 27 times since the team began play in 1933, are in the midst of a 20 game win streak and an unblemished run through Southeastern Conference play behind National Player of the Year candidate Anthony Davis. This week marked the 6th straight that Kentucky has spent atop both top 25 polls, and many analysts believe they have already locked up a No. 1 seed.

However, the Wildcats are sure to face tough challenges from the rest of the conference. Florida has spent much of the season cemented in the top 25 behind the star play of freshman sensation Bradley Beal and junior Kenny Boynton. With experienced head coach Billy Donovan leading the Gators' wealth of talent, Florida is looking to improve its NCAA seeding, and avenging an early-season blowout against Kentucky would be the perfect way to accomplish that.

Vanderbilt is also looking to make noise come conference tournament time. The Commodores look to be the beneficiaries of the SEC rule change that eliminated divisions from tournament seeding, receiving a first round bye this year. With the offensive firepower of the conference's two top scorers in John Jenkins and Jeff Taylor, the Commodores can never be counted out of the running in New Orleans.

While these three teams from the conference's eastern division look to be the front-runners for the conference championship, teams from the west such as Alabama and Mississippi State cannot be overlooked. At times, both teams have shown the ability to play at a high level, but several recent lapses have left them on the NCAA tournament bubble. They will be looking to record some quality wins in New Orleans to prove to the selection committee that they deserve an invite to March Madness. However, if this season's conference play has shown us anything, it is that the SEC tournament title is Kentucky's to lose, and the Wildcats are certainly the team to watch out for next week. ★

The Hustler sports staff endorses its candidate for the 2012 SEC Tournament Champion in next weekend's showdown.

NEW ORLEANS: HOME OF THE 2012 TOURNAMENT

STEVEN LEVAN
SPORTS REPORTER

The 2012 SEC Men's Basketball tournament will be held at the New Orleans Arena in New Orleans, La. Work on the arena began in 1997, and it officially opened on Oct. 19, 1999. Since its inception, the arena has been home to concerts and sporting events, and the NBA's New Orleans Hornets have called the arena home since 2002. The arena has also been a venue for high school basketball, arena league football and minor league hockey. In 2007 and 2010, the arena hosted the first and second rounds of the NCAA men's tournament, and in 2004, the arena hosted the 2004 Women's Final Four. In total the New Orleans Arena can seat about 18,500 people. ★

PREDICTED CHAMPION:

JACKSON MARTIN
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

This might be John Calipari's most talented team ever (yes, including the ones that "don't count") and this could truly be his first team to break through and win a national title. The Wildcats have rolled through SEC play thus far, with only Florida standing between them and an undefeated SEC regular season. The last team to do so? The 2003 Kentucky team that, by the way, also went on to win the SEC tournament title. ★

PREDICTED RUNNER-UP:

REID HARRIS
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

It's been a tough year for Vanderbilt. After starting the season with a No. 7 ranking, the Commodores have spent most of the season outside of the top 25 polls. As the regular season wraps up, the Commodores are playing their best basketball of the season after their win over No. 13 Florida this week. If Vanderbilt can keep up its momentum against Tennessee on Saturday, look for it to roll through the SEC tournament next weekend. ★



*ALL RECORDS THROUGH WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Women open SEC tournament play against Mississippi State

After a string of late-season losses, the Commodores look to rebound at Bridgestone Arena

KRISTEN SHEFT
SPORTS REPORTER

The Vanderbilt women's basketball team is no stranger to postseason success, particularly during the Southeastern Conference tournament. Under veteran head coach Melanie Balcomb, the Commodores have reached the semifinals in nine of 10 appearances, enjoying a 21-6 conference tournament record.

Although Vanderbilt (21-8, 9-7 SEC) has not been to the finals since the 2008-2009 season when the team defeated Auburn 61-54, Balcomb feels that the tournament is wide open this year.

"Anybody can win this conference," Balcomb said. "We say that a lot, but I think

this year you're going to really see upsets."

If this is the year of upsets, Vanderbilt is in a perfect position to come away with the trophy.

The Commodores entered conference play with an impressive 12-1 record before dropping four of their next six games to SEC opponents. Since then, they have been troubled by inconsistency, turnovers and foul trouble.

"At times, it was difficult for us to establish a rhythm," said sophomore shooting guard Christina Foggie. "After we beat Tennessee at home earlier this month, we let some games slip away, which was discouraging."

Despite its conference struggles, Vanderbilt was able to end the season on a high note by defeating Alabama 67-54 on senior night, finishing 9-7 against SEC opponents.

"The game was important for us to win," said redshirt sophomore Stephanie Holzer. "It provided us with a lot of con-

fidence and momentum heading into the postseason."

Vanderbilt's 9-7 conference record lands them a seventh seed in this year's tournament, held from March 1-4 at Bridgestone Arena in downtown Nashville. The Commodores will face 10-seed Mississippi State (14-15, 4-12 SEC) at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday in a rematch from last year's quarterfinal game where Vanderbilt defeated the Bulldogs, 69-55. The winner of this contest will face the second seeded Lady Vols on Friday afternoon.

The road to its seventh SEC Tournament Title will be difficult for Vanderbilt. Because the Commodores did not receive a first-round bye, they will have to play three consecutive games before reaching the finals.

"I think this is a year where you could see a team win four games and win the tournament," Balcomb said. "Everybody says you can't do that, but we did that my first SEC Championship." ★



BECK FRIEDMAN / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Upperclassmen shine in Senior Night win



CHRIS HONIBALL / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER



CHRIS HONIBALL / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER



CHRIS HONIBALL / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER



CHRIS HONIBALL / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Seniors Lance Goulbourne and Jeff Taylor celebrate with the student section after the Commodores' 77-67 win over No. 13 Florida on Tuesday night in Memorial Gym. Vanderbilt held a three-point lead over the Gators at halftime and sustained a number of second-half runs to close out the upset victory in the team's final home game of the season.

Redshirt senior Festus Ezeli walks across the court during the Commodores' pregame senior celebration. Vanderbilt honored the team's seven seniors: Ezeli, Taylor, Goulbourne, Brad Tinsley, Steve Tchiengang, Aaron Noll and Jordan Smart.

Junior John Jenkins (23) led all scorers with 22 points, hitting six of 9 shots from behind the arc.

Jenkins remains the conference's top scorer heading into Saturday's regular season finale against the Tennessee Volunteers. Tipoff is scheduled for 3 p.m. CT.

Taylor paired 18 points with six rebounds to pace the Commodore offense in Tuesday's game. He is second only to Jenkins in points scored per game by Southeastern Conference players. ★

Baseball looks to build win column over break

Seven games over break provide Commodores with chance to redeem themselves from a slow beginning to the 2012 season

GEORGE BARCLAY
SPORTS REPORTER

As of now, no one in Vanderbilt Athletics is in greater need of a vacation than the men's baseball team. After heading into the season with lofty expectations, Vanderbilt has struggled mightily, holding a humbling record of just 1-7.

However, six of Vanderbilt's losses have come against highly-touted teams in No. 3 Stanford and No. 15 Oregon.

For a team looking to regain momentum, the Commodores' stretch of games over spring break presents a world of opportunity.

On Friday, Vanderbilt will begin a three-game home series against Rhode Island. While the Atlantic-10 Conference is not known for baseball, the 4-2 Rams had one impressive road win against the College of Charleston earlier this season. The key for Vanderbilt in this series will be to get to Rhode Island's pitching staff, which has registered a solid 2.91 team ERA this season.

On March 6, the Commodores will go down the road

to face the Belmont Bruins in a single-series road game. Belmont has also had its share of struggles this season, posting a 3-4 record in seven straight home games. Look for Vanderbilt's pitching staff to attack the Bruin hitters, who have a team batting average of just .159 so far this season.

To close out the break, Vanderbilt will return home on March 9 for a three-game weekend series against San Diego. Of all the opponents the Commodores will face this upcoming vacation, the Toreros will be the toughest. With a 5-2 record and a convincing 13-2 win over Oregon State, San Diego possesses a balanced team, hitting .380 as a whole and a strong pitching staff with just a 2.92 team ERA. In order to come out on top, Vanderbilt's young core will have to play at its best.

There are few second chances in a season, and early March could provide the boost the Commodores have been searching for after their first two weeks of games. For Vanderbilt, its success during this stretch will rely on the performance of its young pitching staff. The Commodores have been able to score plenty of runs this season, but a team ERA of 6.60 has cost Vanderbilt heavily so far. If the Commodores can get their young arms back into form, spring break could prove to be a serious momentum builder. ★

THE TOURNAMENT

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER'S NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT GUIDE

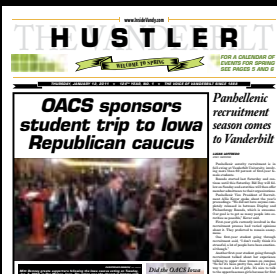
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

On Mar. 14, 2012, The Vanderbilt Hustler is publishing the Vanderbilt NCAA Basketball Tournament Guide. In addition to in-depth coverage of the teams, the players and coaches, the Vanderbilt Hustler NCAA Basketball Tournament Guide will include a full two-page bracket spread for the Men's tournament and a full two-page bracket spread for the Women's tournament. For those who like to test their skills at picking winners, the NCAA Basketball Tournament guide could give you the competitive edge.

For campus or Nashville advertising opportunities in this special issue, please contact George Fischer at 310-3336 or george.h.fischer@vanderbilt.edu

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:

- 1 2
 3 4

		5		4		7			
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

2/27 Solutions

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

3/1/12

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Huge
- 6 Capital of India
- 11 Source of some Genesis attire?
- 14 ___ flu
- 15 Aromatic compound
- 16 Wash...neighbor
- 17 "Competitive business concern
- 19 Farm butter?
- 20 Big wheel's wheels
- 21 Crunchy candy components
- 22 "Done with one's stint, maybe
- 28 Woody
- 29 Fancy cases
- 30 Circumnavigating, perhaps
- 31 Deep chasm
- 32 Bit of horseplay
- 35 "Arctic racer
- 38 "Lewis Carroll, for one
- 40 Whatever
- 41 Isolated
- 43 Ken of "thirtysomething"
- 44 Leonardo's love
- 45 Notable 2007 communications release
- 47 "Make fit
- 50 Raised
- 51 Sigh of regret
- 52 Striking scarf
- 53 Informal chat, and based on the starts of the starred answers, this puzzle's title

DOWN

- 1 Pickle
- 2 "Psych" ailer
- 3 Fallen orbiter
- 4 Layered Turkish pastries
- 5 Five Nations tribe
- 6 Patch, as a lawn
- 7 Show to a seat, slangily
- 8 Class-conscious org.?
- 9 Musket end
- 10 Poetic preposition
- 11 Discussion venue
- 12 Really mad
- 13 Masterpieces
- 18 "Untouchable" feds
- 21 Signs of resistance
- 22 Chinese green tea
- 23 Ode's counterpart
- 24 Only mo. that can begin and end on the same day
- 25 Like universal blood donors
- 26 Bait-and-switch, e.g.
- 27 Word on a boondocks towel?
- 28 Tony winner Thompson
- 31 Decorate
- 32 Double-time dance

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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3/1/12

2/27/12 Solutions

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