

## Presidential hopefuls head into primaries



**McArthur Gill**

*Commons debate raises issues in 2012 election*



**KYLE BLAINE**  
SENIOR REPORTER

The three Vanderbilt Student Government presidential primary candidates Tuesday night faced off in an hour-long debate, answering questions about the university's all-comers policy, investment strategy and their respective platforms.

The controversy surrounding the university's all-comers policy evoked the evening's most intensive line of questioning, as two of the three candidates declined to publicly agree or disagree with the position taken by Vanderbilt's administration.

The policy has drawn scrutiny from religious groups on campus and national conservative organizations that believe the university's actions are threatening religious identity on campus.

While sophomore Kenny Tan took a stance against the current enforcement of the all-comers policy and said he would encourage continued dialogue on the issue, juniors McArthur Gill and Maryclaire Manard avoided taking a position on either side.

"It doesn't matter if I agree with (the all-comers policy)," Gill said. "It's not about me, it's not about what I think, it's about what the students think."



**Maryclaire Manard**

Manard said she agreed with Gill but added she would like VSG to host all future town hall events to discuss and debate contentious issues on campus.

"I don't think VSG should take a stance on such a divisive issue," Manard said. "People have their personal views, but in this case, as student body president, your personal view doesn't matter because you are representing so many views, and that's your responsibility."

On the question of the university's investment strategies in Africa, Manard continued to apply her view of student government as a facilitating organization rather than a group that takes positions on issues that concern the student body.

"If this is an issue that is important to the students, when it came up, if I was in the position of student body president, I would have made sure VSG was facilitating a sort of town-hall-esque type meeting," Manard said.

While Gill said the issue was above the reach of VSG, Tan said he pushed student government to take a stand on the issue.

"I feel like VSG is a place where student's opinions should be reflected," Tan said.

The debate questions also honed in on individual points from each candidates platform.

Gill, whose platform consists primarily of mission statements with little to no substantive policy initiatives, said he is not



**Kenny Tan**

in the business of making promises.

"I'm not going to come out and promise you HDTVs in your rooms, because its probably not going to happen," Gill said.

Manard, whose platform offers a HDTV initiative, said there was nothing on her platform that wasn't feasible.

"I didn't just come up with these (initiatives) in my sleep," Manard said. "The technology to achieve HDTV on campus is close to happening."

Tan took a question on his view on transparency in VSG, answering that he introduced and passed a bill to increase the timeliness of meeting minutes and passed resolutions.

Gill, who voted against the bill, said he believed that transparency was not a bill, but a mindset.

"Transparency is more than just passing a resolution, passing a bill, its going out and speaking with the different people, letting them know what you're doing," Gill said.

Primary elections will be held between 8 a.m. Thursday, March 15 and 12 p.m. Friday, March 16. The two tickets with the most votes will compete in the general election, to be held between 8 a.m. Tuesday, March 20 and 12 p.m. Wednesday, March 21.

A general election debate will be aired live on VTV at 6 p.m. this Friday. ★

*For a look at the candidates' platforms, see page 3.*

### COLUMN

## Great expectations



**CHRIS HONIBALL / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER**  
Vanderbilt defeated Florida 77-67 on Senior Night in Memorial Gym Tuesday, Feb. 28 in the last home game of the season.

*Commodores look for NCAA success as they face off against Harvard Thursday*

**REID HARRIS**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Before the regular season started just over four months ago, the 2011-2012 Vanderbilt basketball team appeared to be poised for a historic season. Ranked No. 7 nationally in preseason polls, many expected Vanderbilt to contend for a conference championship and make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament. Everything never quite came together for the Commodores during the regular season. After disappointing early-season losses to Cleveland State and Indiana State, Vanderbilt spent most of 2012 outside of the spotlight, unranked in the AP Top 25 poll for most of the season and finishing the conference slate in a three-way tie for second place in the conference, six games behind first-place Kentucky.

And now, as the team travels to Albuquerque for its NCAA Tournament matchup against Harvard, high expectations have again been placed on this Vanderbilt basketball team. After defeating the No. 1 Kentucky Wildcats to claim the SEC Tournament Championship, expectations now are higher than ever. Looking at the postseason, will the Commodores be able to live up to the high expectations that they struggled with during the regular season?

After the team completed its final practice in Memorial Gym before boarding a plane for New Mexico, Kevin Stallings spoke with the media and addressed the high expectations for his team.

"There's someone out there picking us to lose in the first round, too. All that matters is what you do" Stallings said. "You either deal in truth and reality, or you deal with perception and prediction. We choose to deal in truth and reality."

### A closer look at Harvard

By all accounts, Harvard is a very talented team. In fact, the Crimson spent more time in the top 25 than Vanderbilt did this season. Their resume is impressive: The Crimson defeated two NCAA Tournament teams in Florida State and Vermont on the way to a 26-4 overall record. Harvard achieved that success by employing a slow offensive tempo, ranking at 229th nationally in scoring offense and averaging just over 53 points per game in three match-

### ROUND 1 GAME



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ups against current NCAA Tournament teams. Additionally, the Crimson ranked 338th nationally with just 61 possessions per game.

What does this mean for the Commodores? Vanderbilt will likely try to push the tempo to force the Crimson out of their element. Although Harvard ranks among the elites nationally while allowing their opponents to score under 55 points per game, the statistic is deceptive; it is more an indication of their slow tempo than a powerful defense. In conference play, the Crimson allowed opponents to shoot over 34 percent from three-point range. With shooters such as John Jenkins, Jeff Taylor and Brad Tinsley, Vanderbilt will likely try to take advantage of this defensive liability.

Offensively, Harvard generally likes to work the ball inside with a scheme that emphasizes many passes per possession, with more than 57 percent of Harvard's made shots coming off of assists. Forwards Kyle Casey and Keith Wright are the only two Harvard players averaging more than 10 points per game, so shutting down their offensive production will be critical to Vanderbilt's defensive strategy.

Casey, the Crimson's leading scorer, was at one time recruited by Vanderbilt, so Stallings is very familiar with his ability. When asked about Casey, Stallings avoided discussing his ability, instead emphasizing Harvard's ability to play defense and work as a team.

"He's a good player. He's been a good player for them, but they've got a lot of good players," Stallings said. "They play good team defense. I believe that's the strength of their team — their effort defensively."

### Getting over the hump

It's no secret that Vanderbilt has struggled in the NCAA Tournament in years past, most recently in last season's opening round loss against Richmond.

see **HARVARD PREVIEW** page 9

## Students set to Occupy Vanderbilt

**SAM MCBRIDE**  
STAFF REPORTER

Students are set to "Occupy Vanderbilt" this coming Monday in solidarity with Occupy movements all over the world.

After a rally at 5 p.m. Monday in front of Kirkland Hall, some students plan to set up tents for an indefinite occupation. In addition to showing solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement, they hope to draw attention to three specific issues related to administrative policy: ethical investment, fair wages to Vanderbilt employees and communication with Vanderbilt students.

see **OCCUPY** page 3



**CHRIS HONIBALL / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER**  
A 'teach-in' led by Vanderbilt students occurs in Kirkland Hall regarding Vanderbilt's involvement in land grab activities on Feb. 8.

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**CURTIS COMPTON/MCT CAMPUS**  
Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney speaks to supporters during a campaign stop at Brookwood High School in Snellville, Ga. on Sunday, March 4, 2012.

# Young Alumni Trustee candidates announced

The Young Alumni Trustee is a graduating member of the Class of 2012 who is elected by the Classes of 2011, 2012 and 2013 to serve on the Vanderbilt Board of Trust for a full board commitment of four years. Voting for the Young Alumni Trustee is open from March 15 to March 29 at 4 p.m. To vote, log on to <https://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/elections>.



**Chandler Anthony**

Chandler Anthony is a senior in the College of Arts and Science majoring in Economics with a double minor in Corporate Strategy and Financial Economics. As an Ingram Scholar, Chandler is currently spending his final semester through an independent study developing a rehabilitation home for street boys in Kenya. Throughout his undergraduate career, he has helped coordinate 31 Manna Project International spring break trips, led seven mission trips to Honduras, and organized legislative initiatives for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Chandler has served as the AcFee Service Committee co-chair and is a former member of the club baseball and tennis teams. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and served as its philanthropy chair, leading the 2010 Kickoff Cookoff charity tailgate, which raised over \$30,000 for Fannie Battle Day Home.

After graduation, Chandler will join Bain & Company in Dallas, Texas as a management consultant. In the future, Chandler plans to pursue a master's degree in Business Administration and a career in economic development through social enterprises in East Africa and Latin America. ★



**Zye Hooks**

Zye Hooks is a senior in the College of Arts and Science double-majoring in History and Latin American Studies. During his time at Vanderbilt, Zye has had the opportunity to be a part of many organizations on campus. As Speaker of the Senate, Zye has served as a member of the Executive Board for Vanderbilt Student Government. During his time as Security Co-Chair for Vanderbilt Student Government, Zye worked to implement the Vandy Van GPS system, and as a senator worked for the expansion of the student discount program, Dorebusters. Zye also represented Vanderbilt University at the 2011 Education Without Borders Conference, where he worked with other college students from around the world to highlight issues of education inequality in varying parts of the globe.

Zye has also participated in Alternative Spring Break and other community service activities on campus. He is the former risk manager for Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and is an attendee of Reformed University Fellowship.

After serving in Teach For America, Zye plans to attend law school. ★



**Sloane Speakman**

Sloane Speakman is a senior in the College of Arts and Science majoring in Political Science and minoring in Islamic Studies. Sloane serves as the chair of the Senior Class Fund, coordinating the senior giving campaign.

Through roles in VSG, Sloane helped drive improvements to student life, including making portable card readers accessible to student organizations, expanding Taste of Nashville and creating the DoreBusters Student Discount Program. Additionally, Sloane served as co-director of philanthropy for Model United Nations and worked in Residence Life and Admissions.

Sloane's commitment to service is exemplified as an Ingram Scholar, through which she is currently developing a health education program for Nashville refugees. She was awarded a Nichols Humanitarian Fund grant to work as a medical intern in Ghana. In spring 2011, Sloane was the first student to study abroad in an Arabic-language program in Cairo, Egypt. Because of her extensive campus involvement and impact, Sloane was named one of Vanderbilt's Top 10 Outstanding Seniors. ★

# Romney pulls ahead after Super Tuesday

**LESLIE SCHICHEL**  
STAFF REPORTER

Mitt Romney was declared winner of Super Tuesday at the conclusion of March 6. With wins in Ohio, Massachusetts, Virginia, Idaho, Alaska and Vermont and a cumulative-to-date delegate count of 465, he is the frontrunner in the race for the GOP presidential nomination.

To win the GOP presidential nomination, a candidate must secure 1,144 delegates. However, concerns have surfaced that none of the current candidates may acquire this number, leading to rumors that a new GOP frontrunner may appear before the Republican National Convention in August, according to Fox and ABC News.

During his victory speech in his home state of Massachusetts, Romney concluded that President Obama's actions fall short when it comes to the rising unemployment rate.

"To the millions of Americans who look around and can only see jobs they can't get and bills that they — that they can't pay, I have a message: You have not failed. You have a president that's failed you, and that's going to change."

After a close call in Ohio, Rick Santorum won Oklahoma, Tennessee and North Dakota. He now has 234 delegates.

Newt Gingrich won his

home state of Georgia, bringing him up to 125 delegates. His Georgia win is considered to be a comeback after nearly dropping out of the race days before Super Tuesday due to lack of funding.

"There are lots of bunny rabbits that run through. I'm the tortoise, I just take one step at a time," Gingrich proclaimed.

Ron Paul earned delegates in Alaska, North Dakota, Vermont and Virginia, yet fell short of winning in any of the states.

The Washington caucus, which took place on March 3, the Saturday before Super Tuesday, became another win for Romney. Of the 40 delegates at stake, Romney was awarded 30, Santorum five and Paul five.

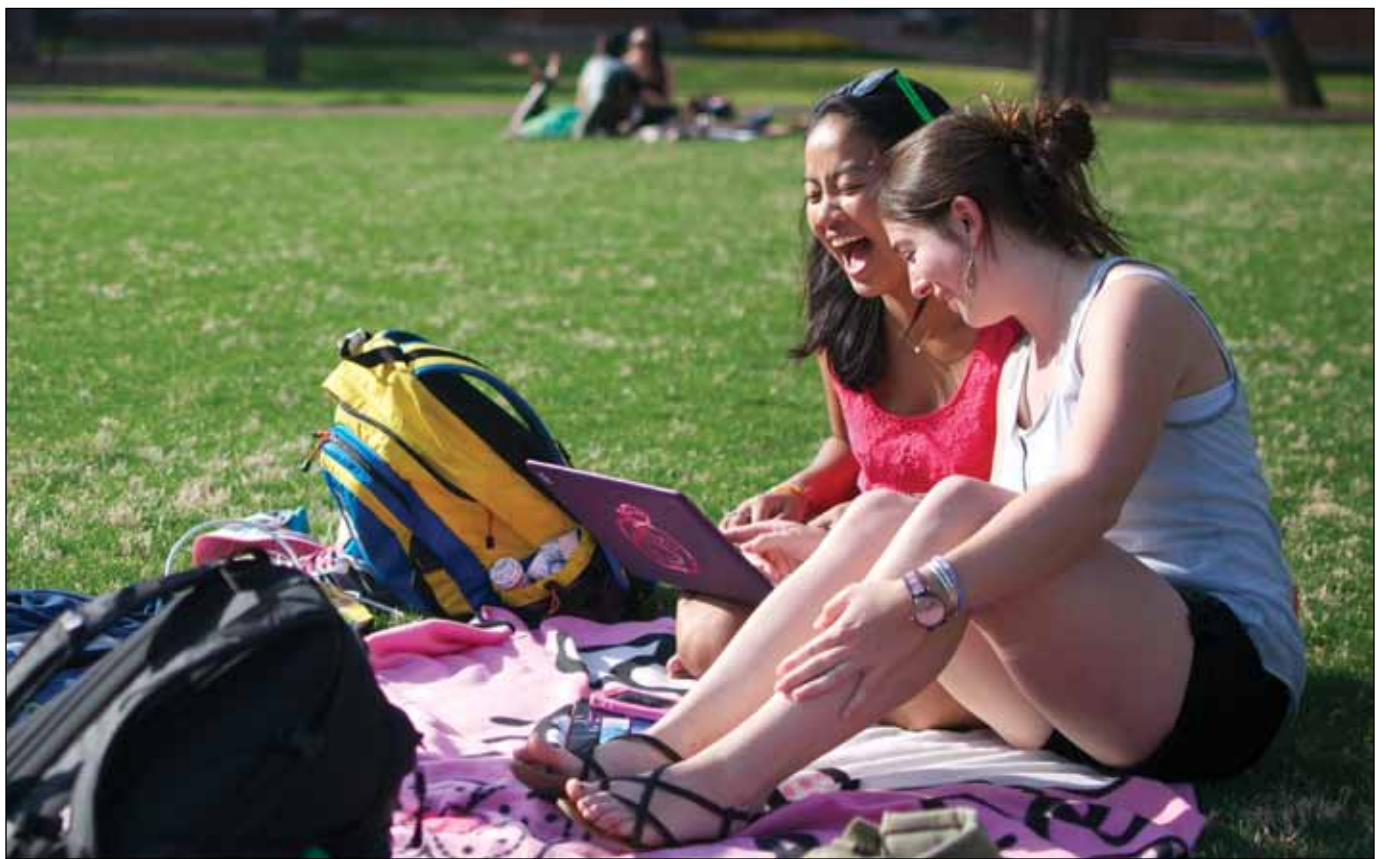
Last Saturday, March 10, four more states and territories held primaries and caucuses: Wyoming (11 delegates), Kansas (40 delegates), Northern Mariana Islands (9 delegates), the U.S. Virgin Islands (6 delegates) and Guam (9 delegates). Santorum took Kansas, and Romney took Wyoming, Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands and Guam. According to the Associated Press, Romney had not campaigned in Kansas.

Tuesday's contests declared Santorum the winner of Alabama and Mississippi and Romney the winner of Hawaii and American Samoa. ★

## REPUBLICAN SUPER TUESDAY RESULTS (NUMBER OF DELEGATES WON BY STATE)

	Gingrich	Paul	Romney	Santorum
Alaska	3	6	8	7
Georgia	47		15	3
Idaho			32	
Massachusetts			38	
North Dakota	2	8	7	11
Ohio			35	21
Oklahoma	13		13	14
Tennessee	9		12	26
Vermont		4	9	4
Virginia		3	43	

# Spring has sprung



**TINA TIAN/ THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER**

Students Erica Mamaug and Jill Dona enjoy the warm weather on Alumni Lawn Wednesday afternoon.

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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 \$.50 each.

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### AFFILIATIONS

The Hustler is a member of the

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The staff of The Vanderbilt Hustler is committed to ensuring our work is

fair and accurate.

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

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at [editor@insidevandy.com](mailto:editor@insidevandy.com).

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

### PRINTER

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### 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>

# VSG candidate platforms

Platforms have been cut for space. For the complete platforms, go to [InsideVandy.com](http://InsideVandy.com)

**Kenny Tan and David Moore**  
*"A Brighter Future, A Better Vanderbilt"*

### DINING

- Create a more efficient tray disposal system in Rand and Commons
- Add more Asian cuisine options on main campus
- Survey students about vending machine options
- Additional recycling at tray disposal area in Rand
- Improve Nutritional Calculator with more accurate information

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Promote the use of resources to help students' physical and mental health
- Address binge drinking as a serious health issue
- Change restroom culture
- Assess the feasibility of creating a 24-hour urgent care facility on campus

### TECHNOLOGY

- Install a new cellular tower on campus
- Publish statistics about VU students caught violating copyright
- Complete the online syllabi database on YES
- Upgrade wireless internet coverage on campus

### SECURITY

- Obtain student input during installation of new security cameras
- Promote a "Resisting Aggression with Defense" course for both men and women by VUPD

### STUDENT LIFE

- Provide optional trained student advisers for conduct council cases
- Increase Commodore Express service to Green Hills
- Student rights committee in VSG

**Maryclaire Manard and Mark Cherry**  
*"Driven to Make a Difference"*

### DRIVEN FOR THE VANDERBILT DEGREE IN THE CLASSROOM

- External Academic Consulting for students looking to enhance their degree
- Permit waitlisting for multiple class sections
- Centralized undergraduate research website with applications and availability
- Lecture streaming for lecture hall classes

### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- Pre-professional week, bringing together the Business, Law and Medical schools for a university-wide fair
- Working with the career center to bring more businesses recruiting interns and hiring to campus
- Creating interfolio.com profiles for Vanderbilt students as a dossier service for academic and career goals

### DRIVEN FOR THE VANDERBILT STUDENT LIFE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- VSG hosting all future town hall meetings regarding popular student issues instead of the administration in order to equally represent students
- Funding for more merit-based scholarships for upper-classmen students
- VSG Online Outreach where organizations can register to have VSG Exec members and administrators sit in on their meetings for feedback
- Bring back Vandy Find-A-Ride

### SCHOOL SPIRIT

- "Bold in Gold" a new school spirit initiative
- Student section upgrades in Memorial Gym

**Gill McArthur and William Schreiber**  
*"We Believe in Vandy"*

### WE BELIEVE IN IMPLEMENTING THE BEST IDEAS REGARDLESS OF THEIR ORIGIN

- We believe in not promising things we cannot deliver on
- We believe in building our platform based on a vision for Vanderbilt
- We will try our hardest to accomplish as much as we can to improve student life at Vanderbilt

### WE BELIEVE IN A BETTER VANDERBILT POWERED BY A MORE ENGAGED STUDENT BODY

- We believe in a student body with a voice, a strong voice
- We believe all student opinions, priorities and organizations deserve a seat at the table
- We believe students have a duty to preserve what they love about Vanderbilt
- We believe in a unified student body that supports and encourages all parts of campus

### WE BELIEVE IN ADDRESSING CONCERNS OF THE STUDENT BODY ACADEMICS

- We believe in continuing to improve the course evaluation system so that students know the performance of their professors
- We believe in having greater academic transparency. For example, publishing whether a class is curved and showing the grade distribution of a given class

### RELIGIOUS

- In the future, we believe in voicing the concerns of the religious and LGBTQI communities to the Vanderbilt administration in order to be a voice and an advocate for the student body

# OCCUPY: Looking for transparency, ethical investment, fair wages

from **OCCUPY** page 1

"There is a lack of communication between the student body and the administration," said Victoria Clodfelter, media contact for Occupy Vanderbilt.

The Occupy Vanderbilt movement comes on the heels of several student protests over similar issues. Most recently, the Responsible Endowment Coalition staged a teach-in in Kirkland Hall to protest Vanderbilt's investment in EmVest, a company accused of unethical land grabs in Africa, and HEI Hotels, a company accused of unfair labor practices. Meanwhile, the Vanderbilt Living Wage Campaign has long been

fighting for higher wages for Vanderbilt employees.

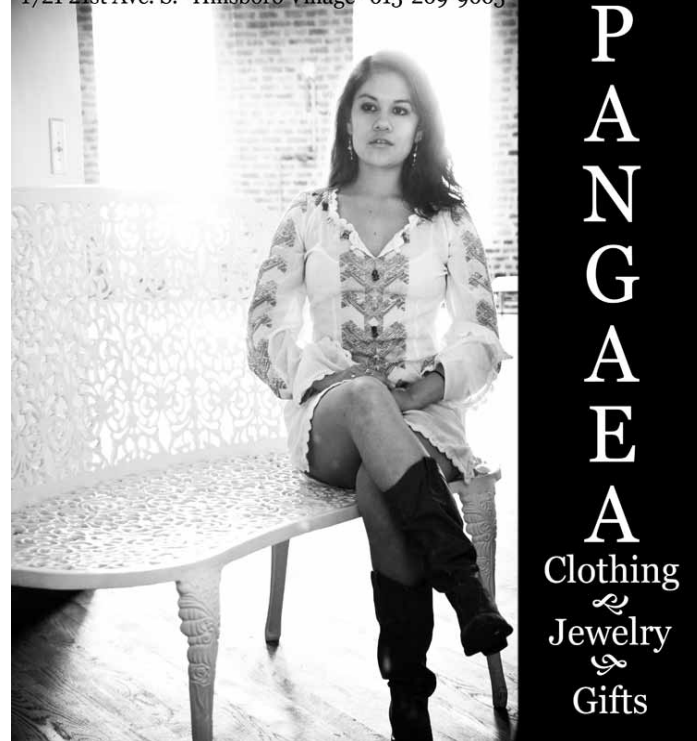
The lack of action in response to these campaigns has played a role in the formation of the Occupy Vanderbilt movement.

"We occupy when we see that the 1 percent is not only unwilling to talk to us but unwilling to change practices that benefit them but hurt the rest of us," Clodfelter said.

However, she added that Vanderbilt has the potential to be a positive agent of change.

"We think that there are ways Vanderbilt can use its prominence to make the world a better place," Clodfelter said. ★

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Applications are due by noon on March 23.

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## OPINION

COLUMN

# The great debaters

A recap of Monday's VSG and VSC Presidential Debate



MATT SCARANO  
OPINION EDITOR

VSG's three presidential hopefuls convened at The Commons Monday night to vie for the hearts, minds and votes of all those intrepid enough to attend Vanderbilt Student Communication's annual VSG and VSC presidential debate.

The tone was respectful but contentious as moderator and VTV Station Manager Andrew Kirkman started the candidates off with several softballs. A sizeable cheering section on stage right got loud for even the most trivial of McArthur Gill's responses, however, which prompted incumbent Maryclaire Manard's equally spirited supporters to do the same from the left side of the room. Tension between the two camps was palpable. Kenny Tan, the dark horse sophomore candidate, received smatterings of applause from the center.

If cheering is any indicator, the room was roughly split into clusters of Manard and Gill groupies on opposite sides of the room, with a mixture of Tan supporters, disinterested dinner-goers and me in the center.

Manard, who serves as vice president in Adam Meyer's current administration, is the obvious favorite: No vice president in VSG history has ever run for president and lost. This may be a testament to the excellence with which VSG leaders fulfill their responsibilities, or, more cynically, evidence that dynastic inertia and Greek support has always been enough to catapult VP's into office.

Manard and running mate Mark Cherry undoubtedly bring the most experience to the table. All three candidates discounted this as a factor, however, with unanimous agreement that "qualifications" trump experience. Manard, of course, contends that with her experience she is the most qualified candidate. Her service to VSG this year and in the past is indeed compelling. Cherry seems to hold universal likeability, which may sway additional votes to the Manard-Cherry camp.

Kenny Tan and David Moore are the youngest ticket, and with significantly fewer "likes" on their Facebook page than the others, they appear to be the underdogs. Tan, however, does have a unique platform and history of service to VSG. For instance, his "Accountability and Transparency bill" of Fall 2011 codified VSG's obligation to release meeting minutes and budgets within 24 hours of their conception. It was passed with all but one — McArthur Gill's, interestingly enough — vote in the Senate.

Also to his credit, Tan was the only candidate to straightforwardly answer Kirkman's question about the candidates' opinions on Vanderbilt's "all-comers policy"; Tan made it patently clear

that he opposes it. Gill and Manard subsequently took turns emphatically declaring — perhaps accurately — that their opinions on the matter are not relevant. Leave it to Vanderbilt student leaders to take such passionate positions about not taking a position. When Kirkman pursued the question further, Gill informed the audience that, if elected president, he would simply talk to students to discover their opinions before taking action. No matter that student opinions are split down the center.

Kidding aside, Gill and his campaign may represent the most interesting ticket in the current race. Their platform consists almost entirely of governmental philosophies rather than action items, which, depending how you interpret it, indicates any number of traits, from realism to idealism, intelligence to laziness. It is certainly creative. The theory is that VSG will better serve its purpose as — this is how Gill put it in Monday's debate — "a bottom-up organization (rather) than a top-down organization." Today's primary will be the first test of this approach's appeal to voters.

Primary voting to trim the candidate pool down to two opens today at 8 a.m. and will remain open until 12 p.m. Friday. Candidate platforms can be found online at [studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg](http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg). The Hustler encourages you to examine them carefully and rock the vote.

— Matt Scarano is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [matthew.s.scarano@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:matthew.s.scarano@vanderbilt.edu).

COLUMN

# Points of VU: Why Obama's budget doesn't really matter



RACHEL ABESHOUSE  
COLUMNIST

On Feb. 13, President Obama and his staff released the \$3.7 billion proposal for 2013 by the budget process that controls discretionary spending. This is one of the last pieces of legislation Obama will submit before the November election, so Democrats may look to this as tangible evidence of his goals and achievements, while Republicans tend to regard it as a campaign document. Given the media frenzy around the document, most people wouldn't know that the overall worth and influence of the document is not special.

There are two main types of government spending — mandatory and discretionary. Mandatory spending encompasses 70 percent of the federal budget, and does not have to be approved by Congress, as it controlled by laws that are already in place. Good examples of mandatory spending are Medicare and Medicaid (government funded social programs that provide health coverage to the elderly and people with certain disabilities, and to people with limited income and resources respectively). Medicare and Medicaid are also classic examples of entitlement spending, which is a subset of mandatory spending, in contrast to interest payments on the federal debt, which are mandatory but not entitlements.

The budget process really focuses on discretionary spending, or the 30 percent of the budget that only goes through should Congress pass it. The influence of the president's budget proposal on actual discretionary spending is limited — some say it doesn't even matter at all. In Forbes, Bruce Bartlett pointed out that yearly budgets only came into play starting in 1974, meaning that the U.S. existed for 198 years without passing a single budget. Also, the amount controlled by the budget process has declined by 25 percent of the total budget since 1970, so there's less of a possible impact to make. Bartlett says that unless real changes are made to our social mandatory spending (like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security), both Congress and the president will continue to have less control over government spending due to excessive waste and continuing the practice of throwing money into poorly operated programs. Finally, once the president proposes his budget, Congress passes their own, which often does not make use of the president's guidelines. The actual money is put into place by House and Senate appropriators who don't follow congressional guidelines very strictly either.

That being said, voters can use the president's proposal as a barometer for what he values and how he intends to plan for the future, which explains the media blitz at the proposal's release.

The White House and Congress agreed to a discretionary spending cap as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 passed in August, so Obama said he was forced to make cuts he otherwise wouldn't have called for. Obama's known for being diplomatic and even tempered, but as campaign season sets in more rigorously, he seems to be overtly trying to distance himself from the Republicans, saying his approach "rejects the 'you're on your own' economics that have led to a widening gap between the richest and poorest Americans."

For a breakdown of the budget proposal numbers and to hear Vanderbilt student political leaders weigh in with their opinions on the budget, be sure to watch the Feb. 24 episode of "Points of VU" on [vanderbilttelevision.com](http://vanderbilttelevision.com)!

—Rachel Abeshouse is a junior in the College of Arts and Science and the producer of VTV's "Points of VU," which can be viewed on Vanderbilt Television every day at 6:30 p.m. Rachel can be reached at [rachel.l.abeshouse@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:rachel.l.abeshouse@vanderbilt.edu).

LETTER

## IMPACT lineup is worth your time

Re: "Brain Impact," by Hudson Todd, 1 March 2012

To the editor:

I'm one of a handful of undergraduate Mormon students here at Vandy, and reading the "Brain Impact" article was a rather uncomfortable experience.

See, I went to a high school where although my religion was a minority, everyone who knew me considered me a Christian. Then, I came to Vanderbilt and discovered that the South has a far stricter concept of Christianity, and a more generous idea of a cult than where I grew up. It was difficult to come to terms with.

Vanderbilt students are fantastic though; most reconsider the erroneous "cult" label and see us in a more Christian sense once they actually get to know a Latter-Day Saint. Others do not, and that's fine with me. I don't agree with their perspective and I think they're being illogical. All the same, they're intelligent and often very nice individuals. They're still worth my time.

To me, that's what the author of "Brain Impact" was missing when he criticized the selection of Mormon (or more accurately, Latter-Day Saint) speakers. Sure, Jon Huntsman's religion includes some beliefs that you don't agree with, maybe even ones you think are illogical. Let's focus, here. This time last year, the man was the United States ambassador to China. Regardless of where he goes to church, the man is incontrovertibly worth your time. In my opinion, the whole IMPACT lineup is worth your time. Yes, I'm a political science major and thus geekily biased, but still. You don't get

to be in the same room as major political figures every day.

I'd like to mention that none of the students on the Speakers Committee are Latter-Day Saints. I find the article's suggestion of some kind of Mormon conspiracy to be something to chuckle at. It's preposterous. Yet I hate to think that if and of my fellow LDS students or I were on the Speakers Committee, we would be accused of picking speakers based on religious affiliation. Are the speakers male because there are men on the committee? The former president of Mexico was selected; should we start a hunt for committee members of Mexican descent? Of course not. The speakers are selected by merit.

**I hate to think that if and of my fellow LDS students or I were on the Speaker Committee, we would be accused of picking speakers based on religious affiliation.**

We live in a society where false accusations and entrenched prejudices based on race and sex are sincerely frowned upon. I'm optimistic that we are moving towards the same level of abhorrence for senseless aspersions based on religion, and that the "Brain Impact" opinion was a meaningless hitch in the progression.

Samantha Cubbage  
Peabody College, 2014

LETTER

## Support Vandy Baseball

To the editor:

Anyone at Hawkins Field two weeks ago who expected to see the highly-praised team from last June's College World Series probably came away acutely disillusioned. Unfamiliar faces and disappointing outcomes have unfortunately been steady fare for the first games of a season featuring a team saddled with the daunting loss of 13 players (including over half the bullpen and the entire starting rotation). With conference play in one of the nation's toughest baseball conferences just starting, many veteran fans have already written the season off as a rebuilding year.

Given the team's losses to professional baseball, the number of freshmen given regular playing time is noticeably high. These opening games represent their first direct exposure to college ball. Returners are adjusting to a very different team dynamic with conspicuous and impactful missing faces. To add to the challenges, Vanderbilt's season opener matched a visiting team against top-ranked Stanford, a team that in many ways resembles the 2011 Commodores.

No matter what path the season takes (although we should absolutely hope for brighter days ahead), I would encourage students to continue to support the team. Having survived the days before Coach Franklin's "New Era," the student body should have no qualms about rallying behind a program, team and coaching staff that for years has represented our school with athletic and academic excellence on a national level.

Katie Walden  
Blair School of Music, 2014

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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](http://InsideVandy.com).

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via

e-mail to [opinion@insidevandy.com](mailto: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

# My open relationship



**ANDRÉ ROUILLARD**  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

**Sports are fun to watch, but people should focus more on their own lives and less on larger-than-life athletes.**

If I could categorize my connection with professional sports à la Facebook, I'd have to select the "In an Open Relationship" option. I do enjoy attending Vanderbilt sporting events to sit and cheer my school and fellow students on. I wish them good things, as I do every other student here. I can appreciate the beauty in a well-thrown spiral, the wooden crack of bat-on-baseball, or a perfectly-placed forehead that grazes the baseline and bounces out of an opponent's reach. I can talk football, basketball or any number of other sports, and I can name a handful of the most prominent or irritating ESPN analysts. However, one thing that I have not been able to understand is the obsession that many of my friends and indeed most Americans have with professional sports.

Each professional sports team is at its core a business, and its objective is to make a profit. I know it's hard to believe, but the Celtics don't really care about the fact that you're sporting the green and white around the grocery store. They might appreciate it a little (they are human after all), but what the Celtics owners really care about is that you spent a solid chunk of change on that t-shirt, and all that leprechaun gold is clinking right into their already heavy pockets via licensing agreements. They are a company, and you're buying their products: the tickets, the shirts and the like. I just can't buy into the mushy marketing, all the talk of things like "Steeler Nation" or "representing" or making a city proud. Just because the Bengals carry the name of the city I live in, that doesn't mean they represent me, or anything that I stand for. They're a bunch of guys who aren't even from

Cincinnati. They're being paid to be there, and I'm sure they'd all leave if someone else paid them a little more. They do a good job with that marketing stuff, and people buy into it. But to boil it down to its simplest, they're providing and promoting a product, just like Mars might do with their latest bizarre (but probably delicious) iteration of the M&M. It's simply very hard for me to feel any kind of loyalty to people who are really only interested in my money, and haven't done anything for me other than suck up a few hours of my Monday evening. That Colts shirt you're wearing? Not a person in Lucas Oil Stadium even knows you exist.

**Each professional sports team is at its core a business, and its objective is to make a profit.**

The players on the field are people just like you and me, and the basketball court is Derrick Rose's office; it's just that his job is a little more fun to watch than mine might be. Don't get me wrong, some of these players are incredibly talented. The limits of human physical ability are visible when we see a LeBron dunk on the highlight reel, and it's cool to watch, but some of these players are positively deified because they can put a rubber ball into a metal hoop better than I can. But you know what? I bet Kobe can't do calculus like I can. The point is that I really think it's weird to heap praise and fame on a person because they happen to be incredibly wealthy (due to

our money, by the way) and can throw a ball much farther than you and I can. Why don't we make Peyton Manning famous for all of the incredible and world-changing things he's done off the field instead of for how many units of distance his football has traveled into the arms of his receivers? Yes, they might be great people, and yes, they might give many thousands of dollars to charity, but you won't catch me dead wearing a jersey with another man's name on the back of it. That's weird. I'm not Drew Brees and nor am I his friend or family, so why on earth would I wear his name around? I'm André Rouillard, and I've accomplished things too.

I'm in an open relationship with professional sports because yes, I think she's fun to spend time with, but I also think other girls would be more fun to date. I like watching games every now and then, but more often than not I'd rather spend my money on doing something new or interesting with people I like than on supporting other people do things better than we can. Throwing a football with my friends in the great fall weather seems more appealing than wearing the same color t-shirts and sitting on a couch and watching two other guys have that fun every single week. I have my own life to live, and I'm going to devote my time and money to putting my name on things that I've done rather than broadcasting someone else's achievements or the name of their company whose marketing department knows how to pull at the heartstrings of bored people.

—André Rouillard is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [andre.p.rouillard@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:andre.p.rouillard@vanderbilt.edu).



## DEAR CHARLIE

Hey! Need advice? Have a problem? Go ahead and ask Charlie about it! Charlie Schwartz is here to give his advice and insight to all who seek it.

Please submit your anonymous question to the form at [InsideVandy.com/Opinion](http://InsideVandy.com/Opinion).

## 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](mailto:opinion@insidevandy.com) or go to the opinion page on [InsideVandy.com](http://InsideVandy.com).

What's up with the Occupy Vanderbilt posters? Vandy probably pays for half those hipsters' educations; for God's sake be grateful!

When you walk around Sarratt ... please wear shoes.

This weather's so nice homework should be canceled!

I just can't focus on my classes now that all the girls are wearing less clothes.

Dear Hustler, start covering VSG elections!



Vanderbilt University Dance Marathon would like to thank our generous sponsors:

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To all of the participants, dancers, fundraisers, performers, and individuals who helped make VUDM 2012 a success: thank you for your support!



## Vanderbilt to host a cappella competition



### International a cappella contest to take place in Blair's Ingram Hall

KRISTEN WEBB  
LIFE EDITOR

With singing contests capturing the attention of audiences across America, Vanderbilt students will have the unique opportunity to witness their very own sing-off this weekend. Vandy will host Varsity Vocals' International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella South Semifinals this Saturday, at 7 p.m. in Ingram Hall, featuring Vanderbilt's own Vanderbilt Melodores.

Former Melodore and Vanderbilt alumnus John Baunach has worked diligently with Varsity Vocals and Vanderbilt Performing Arts Council members to bring this year's ICCA semifinals to Vanderbilt.

"Varsity Vocals works hard to find venues with a central location for their semifinal, and also one with above average sound equipment and technical support," Baunach said. "The Ingram staff has the technical knowledge to pull a show like this off, and Nashville is a centralized city in the South, so it just seemed to be a natural fit."

Saturday's contest will pit eight groups from across the South against each other, including the Melodores, University of Georgia's Accidentals and the Octopodes of Johns Hopkins University. Each group coming to the semifinals

placed either first or second in their respective quarterfinal competition, with the Melodores coming in second against UGA. Out of a possible 465 points for each group, five of the eight competitors in the South semifinals — including the Melodores — finished quarterfinals with over 400 points, increasing the level of competition for semifinals.

"I believe this is going to be the most hotly contested semifinal in the country," Baunach said. "(With so many high-scoring groups), there is literally no show in the country that will be better this year, and that's including the final round."

Baunach is not the only one with high expectations for the South semifinals either. The A Cappella Blog, a cappella's unofficial hub of information, recently released their ICCA power rankings, with four of their top 10 picks hailing from the South semifinal region, and the Melodores falling at number two.

The Melodores are no strangers to the stage. At the 2011 ICCA competition, Vanderbilt placed third overall in the final round of the competition, as well as winning Outstanding Choreography awards in all four of the last ICCA competitions, including the 2011 finals.

"We understand this year, more than last, how to better mentally prepare ourselves for competition," junior and Melodores Vice President Turi Clausell said. "You can learn music and choreography and

CHRIS HONIBALL/FILE PHOTO  
Turi Clausell performs with the Melodores at their winter concert last December.

it sounds nice, but if you aren't mentally 'there,' if you can't rein in nervous energy that surrounds performing, then your work has been in vain."

In order to advance to the final round of the competition, groups need to place first in their semifinal competition, with the option for first and second runners-up to earn a position via online submissions in a "wild card" round. The Melodores hope to use their home advantage in their favor this year — in 2011 they placed second in their semifinal and fought their way to nationals through a wild card submission.

"Having the semifinals on campus is not only a home court advantage in our minds, but also a great way to unite our campus by sharing music with people we already know well," junior and Melodores Music Director Seth Johnson said. "In my mind, that lessens pressure because we have 'support system' to lean on; the performance will seem more like a concert than a competition."

Tickets can be purchased for \$15 on the Card from the Sarratt box office. If tickets are not sold out by the day of the show, they can also be purchased on the Card at the door. The competition will take place in Blair's Ingram Hall on Saturday at 7 p.m. ★

## AROUND THE LOOP

With VSG presidential primaries beginning today and final elections taking place next Tuesday and Wednesday, campus is abuzz with talk of the three candidates and their positions on hot topics.

### AFTER WATCHING THE VSG CANDIDATE DEBATE, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR PLATFORMS?

KELLY HALOM  
STAFF REPORTER

"I just think McArthur and Schreiber are really passionate about the Vanderbilt community. Despite the fact that they are both Greek, I think they know what it takes to connect with different communities in Vanderbilt. I think Vanderbilt is very much on the rise. I think a lot of exciting things are happening on campus. I think they grasp that and are going to channel their passion to ensure that the student body has a voice in ensuring that momentum and that growth."

—Edin Trto, senior

"I'm really looking for a candidate who is really looking to work with the students and who is really looking to implement our ideas and what we want to see in Vanderbilt. As of right now, I really like Maryclaire because of what she's already done with VSG. I really like the Commodore Card being accepted in taxis and all of the things she and Adam have done, so I'd like to see that continued. I like the way that's going, so I am kind of leaning towards that. But I'm here to listen and see what they all have to say."

—Vivian McBride, freshman

"Honestly, I have not been on campus long enough to get involved with what's going on that much. I'm most familiar with McArthur's campaign just because he's put the things all over trees and I've seen his videos online. That was effective. I've met him before. He's out and about. He seems like a really nice guy. The other candidates I haven't seen as much of anywhere, so I don't know them at all."

—David Rochelle, freshman

"I'm supporting McArthur Gill and William Schreiber, because I believe VSG has become a very self-serving organization and we really want to work towards making VSG sort of an avenue to help other student organizations instead of having other organizations sort of serve our purposes. We really want to go out there and make sure we are doing our job as student representatives, and we are actually out there helping other organizations, promoting their events, helping people at Vanderbilt and the students to support them in what they're doing instead of focusing on VSG and focusing on fixing our organization, because that's not what we're about. We're about helping the student body, not looking inwards towards us."

—Michael Floyd, sophomore

"I guess right now I don't really know a lot of the candidates. At least, I haven't seen them at work, I guess. I know Maryclaire because she is the vice president this year, but otherwise I have never heard of the other two. I read Kenny Tan's platform because it was in an email and I thought there were a lot of interesting points to it. I don't know. I'm withholding my judgment until after the debate and until I learn a bit more about everybody."

—Kate Koschewa, sophomore

"I'm supporting Maryclaire because I think she has great experience and has proven herself as a leader but I'm excited to be at the debate tonight because I think this is a great opportunity for students to get to hear what they stand for, not just who they are on campus, what leadership positions they have, but what they actually want to do with this position."

—Anna Watt, freshman

## Spread the word to end the word



KEVIN BARNETT/ THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Members of the Original Cast perform with Next Steps students at "Spread the Word to End the Word" on Wednesday evening. The event was hosted by Best Buddies in an effort to decrease use of the word "retarded" on campus.

# Spotlight: VTV's 'Kitchenventions'



**NEAL COTTER**  
STAFF REPORTER

If you have ever walked through Sar-ratt and noticed food being prepared on the screens by the VTV studio, you have seen footage of "Kitchenventions," Vanderbilt Television's very own cooking show, which debuted this fall.

Each month, the chefs on "Kitchenventions" take on a new theme and show you four dishes that can be made in any dorm's kitchen. Their focus is on making college students' favorite food in simple ways, and past themes have included desserts, fusion food and healthy substitutes. When planning their dishes, the chefs keep in mind the typical college student's budget — the show operates on just \$50 an episode, with some dishes costing under \$5 to make.

Currently, the crew of "Kitchenventions" is gearing up for the show's biggest event of the year. On March 31, Kitchenventions will film its season finale: an episode called "The FEAST," in which Vanderbilt students can submit recipes to be made on the show and

win the chance to eat all the food cooked in the episode. Once a recipe is submitted, a photo is added to VTV's Facebook page (facebook.com/vandytv), and viewers can vote by liking the photo. The four photos with the most likes by March 25 will be made into dishes for "The FEAST," and the people who submitted them will be invited to bring a guest and sample the food on camera.

If you'd like to taste some delicious food and appear on a VTV show, "The FEAST" is your chance. Submissions are open now through March 20, and all you need to do is send a recipe to kitchenventions@gmail.com. You can send in any kind of dish you want — desserts, main courses, appetizers and drinks are all fine, and the recipe can come from anywhere. Voting for "The FEAST" ends March 25, and the episode should be released in mid-April.

Tune in next Wednesday to channel 6 or to vanderbilttelevision.com for "Kitchenventions" newest episode, "Restaurant Recreations," which shows you how to make some of your favorite restaurant dishes at home, including P.F. Chang's lettuce wraps and Panera's Cinnamon Crunch bagels. ★

# Weekend preview

**KRISTEN WEBB**  
LIFE EDITOR

## Friday

**VPB presents: A Conversation with John Legend**  
8 p.m., SLC Ballroom

Nine-time Grammy winner John Legend will be speaking about his philanthropic events and his musical career this Friday as a part of MOSAIC this weekend, which promotes cultural diversity on campus to prospective students. Legend will also perform several of his songs for the audience.

Tickets for the event are currently sold out, but check @InsideVandy for Twitter updates during the event.

## Saturday

**AXO presents: Volley Against Violence**  
12-2 p.m., Alumni Lawn

This Saturday, the members of Alpha Chi Omega will be hosting their spring philanthropy Volley Against Violence from 12:00-2:00pm on Alumni Lawn. Tournament play will consist of five-on-five play in mixed and single gender brackets. Tickets will be on sale on the wall all week and cost \$25 for teams of six. All tickets include free food and drink.

Proceeds go to Alpha Chi Omega — Zeta Omicron chapter's local philanthropy: the YWCA of Middle Tennessee, an organization that helps victims of domestic violence.

**BYX presents: Green Rave 2012**  
10 p.m.-2 a.m., 208 24th Avenue (Old Phi Kap house)

Beta Upsilon Chi will present their annual Green Rave this weekend, fittingly falling on St. Patrick's Day. The event boasts "glow sticks, pumping bass, screaming synths and of course Capri Suns," with no alcohol being served for the party.

Green Rave will be DJed by BYX member Brandon Goodman, and is open to all Vanderbilt students.



**NICOLE MANDEL / FILE PHOTO**  
**Jacob Boshart challenges his opposing fraternity at the net during the 2011 Alpha Chi Omega Volley Against Violence.**

## Sunday

**ATO presents: Puppies in the Park**  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Alumni Lawn

This Sunday, the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega will host Puppies in the Park, their first annual philanthropy event to help the animal rescue mission in Nashville. Volunteers from the shelters will be present to answer any questions visitors may have about their own pets or the adoption process. There will also be refreshments and music.

Tickets are \$5 each, and they can be purchased on the wall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. throughout the week. Vandy cards will be accepted during lunch on Thursday. Tickets can also be purchased at the event.

All funds raised will be donated to participating shelters to help them find homes for abandoned dogs that would otherwise be put down. Those with their own dogs are also welcome. ★



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# SPORTS

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COLUMN

# Let the MADNESS begin

**JACKSON MARTIN**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

This is it. This is the team Vanderbilt fans have been waiting for since the Elite Eight team of 1965.

The road back to “New Doreleans” looks menacing at first glance, but upon further review sets up quite nicely for the Commodores to make their first ever Final Four.

A game against a strong mid-major team in the first round, especially given the Commodores’ recent history, has Vanderbilt fans already looking for reasons to fire Kevin Stallings other than that he looks just like Kevin from “The Office.”

All of your fears about the opening round game are completely unsubstantiated and unreasonable. Harvard is not the type of team that upsets Vanderbilt. There is a formula for mid-major teams to upend the Commodores, and Harvard is essentially the opposite of all of these things. The Crimson play a phenomenally slow pace of offense, don’t press, have no athletic guards who create shots, rely on a patient offensive philosophy to get outside looks and don’t crash the boards particularly well.

Despite getting a team much better than its 12-seed would indicate (The Crimson did spend more time in this year’s AP Top 25 than Vanderbilt), this is actually a very favor-

able matchup for Kevin Stallings’ team.

If the Commodores meet Wisconsin in the second round, you can basically just copy and paste that entire last paragraph here, though Wisconsin is certainly more talented than the Crimson.

The one concerning factor is senior Jordan Taylor, who is one of the premier guards in all of college basketball. Taylor is exactly the kind of guy who could carry the Badgers all the way to the Final Four, but he won’t even be the best Taylor on the floor in this game. That title belongs to the Commodores’ own senior, Jeffery Taylor, who has the perfect skill set to guard and neutralize Jordan Taylor. In the battle of senior JTs, Vanderbilt wins this one.

Alternatively, the Commodores could face No. 14 seed Montana, but for brevity’s sake we’re going to go ahead and say we’d stomp the Grizzlies all the way back to wherever Montana is.

With that victory, we’re on to the Sweet Sixteen in Boston to likely face No. 1 seed Syracuse. The Orange suffered a big loss when star center Fab Melo was ruled academically ineligible for the entirety of the tournament.

Jim Boeheim’s team is probably still good enough to handle Kansas State or Southern Miss in the second round, so it makes sense to pencil them

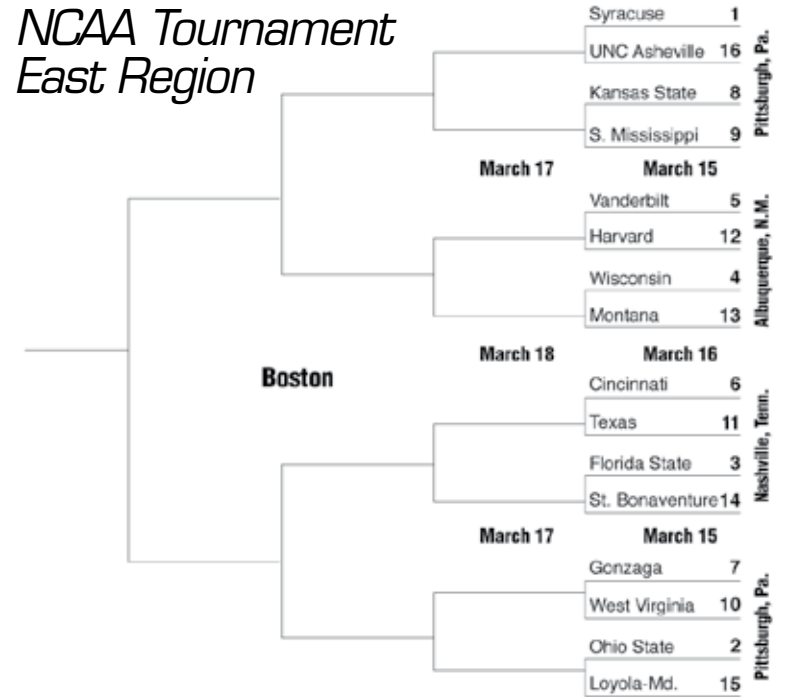
in here. The Orange play a 2-3 zone defense susceptible to teams who shoot from outside at a high percentage and crash the boards well (read: Vanderbilt). The anchor of that zone was the dominating interior defensive presence that Melo provided, as he averaged 2.9 blocks per game — good for 12th best in the country. With Melo gone, the Commodores have a much easier path to the Elite Eight than previously imagined.

There are two teams the Commodores could feasibly play in the Elite Eight: ACC tournament champs Florida State and No. 2 seed Ohio State. Neither team is a great matchup for the Commodores, but neither has a sizable advantage either.

While Florida State has a high upside, owning two wins each over North Carolina and Duke, the Seminoles have the remarkable ability to go completely cold at any moment and could easily get knocked out before they even face the Buckeyes. Take the safer bet of putting Ohio State into the Elite Eight against the Commodores. Fortunately, the Buckeyes’ best player is Jared Sullinger, who is the softest big-name center in the country.

And the guy he is going against is Festus Ezeli, who once told ESPN’s Andy Katz, “My first name is Ifeanyi, and that means ‘nothing is impossible with God.’ That sets the

## NCAA Tournament East Region



tone for my journey while I’m alive.”

Yeah, I like our chances there.

The big win over Ohio State puts the Commodores into the Final Four for the first time in school history. Unfortunately, the most likely opponent is North Carolina, the only team in the country with enough talent to rival that of Kentucky.

Whatever, if we’re going to objectively put Vanderbilt into the Final Four, then we can subjectively put them into the national title game. If the Commodores can go toe to toe with Kentucky, they can run with anyone. On to the National Title Game we go!

The only possible situation here is a rematch of the SEC title game against John Calipari’s Kentucky Wildcats. Anthony Davis looked scared playing against Festus Ezeli in the last game. However, Kentucky’s overwhelming talent will keep them in the game despite John Jenkins scoring 32 points in a redux of last year’s performance in Nashville. Ultimately a perfectly drawn up inbounds play will get a buzzer-beating three pointer from Steve Tchiengang to pull out the victory.

Count it, because that’s exactly how your Vanderbilt Commodores will be the 2012 NCAA Tournament Champions. Conquer and Prevail. ★



DONN JONES / VU MEDIA RELATIONS

## Sweet Sixteen sleepers

The Hustler sports staff makes its bold predictions for teams that could bust your bracket by sneaking into the Sweet Sixteen over the weekend.

### BELMONT

**JACKSON MARTIN**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Want to learn about this team that’s really obscure and you’ve probably never even heard of? You can totally pick them before everyone else and then claim you liked their regular season better when they sell out and make the Sweet Sixteen?



I’m talking about our fellow Nashvillians, the Belmont Bruins, up to this point more widely known by Vanderbilt students as those hipsters who go to the music school down the street. But this year you should pay attention to these woolen-capped, non-prescription glasses wearing Bruins, and not even ironically.

Ken Pomeroy, who knows more about college basketball than anyone, rates the Bruins as the 23rd best team in the country and the 12th best offensive unit. They shoot the three like no one’s business, have an extremely experienced roster, a favorable draw and a ton of white guys who are going to go nuts when they bust your bracket for being too mainstream. ★

### LONG BEACH STATE

**REID HARRIS**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

After playing the likes of Pittsburgh, Kansas State, Kansas, North Carolina and Xavier during the regular season, Long Beach State has plenty of experience against high-major talent and won’t be intimidated by opponents in the West bracket. If Long Beach State can get past its opening round matchup against New Mexico, the 49ers would likely play Louisville in the round of 32, a team Long Beach State played tough in November.

Senior guard Casper Ware leads the 49ers in scoring at 17.4 points per game and shoots 36 percent from behind the three-point line. Ware is coming off a 33-point performance in the Big West Tournament Championship against UC Santa Barbara. His stellar offensive production combined with Long Beach State’s tough defense will cause problems for any team in the West bracket. Look for Ware to make the most of his senior season and carry the 49ers to the Sweet Sixteen in Phoenix. ★



### MURRAY STATE

**ERIC SINGLE**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Respect Isaiah Canaan for what he is: an All-American guard with four 30-point games and countless more ceiling-scraping threes to his credit over the course of Murray State’s 30-1 regular season campaign.

And respect the Racers for what they are: the underrated-because-they’re-overrated-because-they’re-underrated six-seed that is all too prepared to fight chaos with chaos against the fellow freewheeling teams such as Marquette, Florida and Missouri that they might meet deeper in the tournament after taking care of business against Colorado State on Thursday.

They did not stumble into 30 wins — check out the nation’s 11th-best scoring margin and quality showings against Memphis and St. Mary’s for evidence — but they could very well be the beneficiaries of some helpful upsets elsewhere in a West Region filled with land mines for the top seeds, and become the top story of the tournament’s second weekend. ★



## Harvard preview

from HARVARD PREVIEW, page 1

This season however, the Commodores enter the tournament riding a wave of momentum, with a team laden with experienced upperclassmen looking to make their mark as the best Vanderbilt basketball team of all time. The players addressed their past struggles in the postseason before making the trip to New Mexico.

“We feel a lot more confident about our abilities. Our defense is a lot stronger than it was last year,” said redshirt senior Festus Ezeli. “It’s a different year.”

Junior John Jenkins experienced the same loss a year ago, but feels different heading into the matchup against the Crimson.

“We’re so poised right now, on the court and off the court. We’re staying very positive,” Jenkins said. “We’re playing good basketball and we want to keep it up.”

Whether or not the Commodores can continue their success remains to be seen, but the pieces are in place. The team has the talent and experience to make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament, and Thursday’s contest against Harvard will show whether or not this team is prepared to finally live up to its high potential. ★

**COMMODORE BUZZ:** While addressing the media on Wednesday, head coach James Franklin announced that spring football practices will be open to the public, with the first practice taking place this Friday at 4:15 p.m. GT. Franklin noted that former quarterbacks Kris Kentera and Josh Grady are moving to H-back and wide receiver, respectively. ★



# Women's basketball earns 10th consecutive tournament bid

**KRISTEN SHEFT**  
SPORTS REPORTER

When head coach Melanie Balcomb stepped foot on the Vanderbilt campus in 2002, she knew that there were high expectations for the women's basketball program. Prior to her arrival, the New Jersey native had spent the previous seven years developing a struggling program at Xavier, ultimately steering them to a 31-3 record and an Elite Eight appearance during the 2000-2001 season.

Once she was hired at Vanderbilt, fans hoped that Balcomb would take the Commodores to new heights just as she did with the Musketeers in Ohio.

They asked. She delivered. With Monday's announcement that Vanderbilt received one of the 32 at-large bids to the NCAA Tournament, Balcomb is now a perfect 10 for 10 in leading her teams to the postseason.

The Commodores (22-9, 9-7 SEC) received the No. 7 seed in the Fresno Region and will host their in-state rivals, 10-seed MTSU, Sunday afternoon at 4:10 p.m. CT in Memorial Gymnasium. Duke and Samford play afterward, with the winner of the two contests set for tip-off on Tuesday, March 20 at 8 p.m. CT.

Although Vanderbilt has not played Middle Tennessee since welcoming them to Nashville during the 1991-1992 season,

the team expects a great physical matchup.

"(Middle Tennessee) is relentless," said SEC scoring champion and sophomore guard Christina Foggie. "They beat Kentucky during the regular season, which shows they come hard and ready to play. It doesn't matter what the ranking is, they're ready."

Although MTSU will be a tough opponent, Vanderbilt will have Memorial Magic on its side.

This year alone they were a near-perfect 16-1 on their own court, with key victories against SEC powerhouses Tennessee and Georgia, as well as the No. 12 Oklahoma Sooners.

The Commodores have also been extremely successful at home during the NCAA Tournament. They own a 14-1 record during postseason play at Memorial and have advanced to the next round of play in eight of nine appearances.

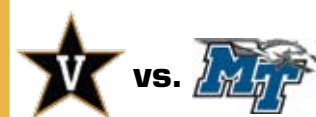
"You've seen our record at home," Balcomb said. "We're comfortable and confident here, so I'm thrilled about hosting. I think the atmosphere should be good since Middle Tennessee is close by. Hopefully a lot of people should show up for both sides."

Foggie is also excited about playing in Nashville.

"Being at home at Memorial is great," Foggie said. "Obviously we played really well at home this year, and we love this place. That gives us that much more confidence and we



**ROUND 1 GAME**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 18**

**4:10 P.M. CT**

**MEMORIAL GYM**

**NASHVILLE, TENN.**

**WATCH: ESPN2**

**LISTEN: 560 AM**

NICOLE MANDEL/FILE PHOTO

**Jasmine Lister and the Commodores will host MTSU in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament in Memorial Gym on Sunday.**

know it'll be a really great crowd and we're ready to go."

Although Vanderbilt has been so successful at home, both during the regular season and NCAA Tournament, Balcomb does not want her team to become complacent and overlook MTSU.

"It's NCAA time now," Balcomb said. "Anyone can win on any given day. We want to win

our first round and move on. That's why you play the game, to move on."

The game will air live on ESPN2 with radio coverage on 97.1 FM. ★

# Baseball opens SEC play on road

**GEORGE BARCLAY**  
SPORTS REPORTER

This weekend, the Commodores will begin conference play as they head down to Gainesville, Fla. to take on the top-ranked Gators.

Lately, the Commodores (6-10 overall) have struggled to find consistency, going 7-7 in the last 14 games. So far this season, the Commodores have committed 30 errors, walked 61 hitters and are batting just .268 as a team, three unfortunate statistics that demonstrate their poor execution.

While the Commodores have suffered from a lack of overall experience coupled with fielding, pitching and hitting woes, the Gators' season has gone in the opposite direction. Possessing a veteran-laden team loaded with power hitters and efficient pitchers, Florida has dominated opponents this season. A major indicator of the Gators' prowess this season has been the fact that they've scored 130 runs this season while giving up just 51.

On Friday, sophomore Kevin Ziomek (2-1, 3.09 ERA) will take the mound for Vanderbilt. The Commodores' lefty ace will look to build momentum off his last start against San Diego where he pitched eight innings, allowed three hits and struck out eight hitters.

In Saturday's game, junior Drew VerHagen (2-1, 3.93 ERA) will likely get the ball for Vanderbilt. VerHagen yielded just two runs over 4.2 innings in his last start.

To close out the series on Sunday, junior Sam Selman (0-3, 10.12 ERA) will start for the Commodores. Following a rough outing last weekend where he gave up seven runs in only 2.1 innings, the lefty will pursue his first win of the season.

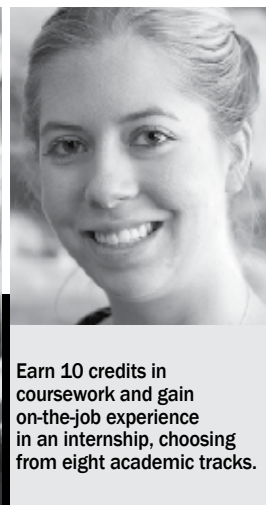
In order to win any games in this series, Vanderbilt's pitchers must shut down a red-hot Gator lineup that is hitting .312, and the Commodore offense must produce against a pitching staff with a 2.89 team ERA. Regardless of the outcome, a matchup with Florida will provide a great learning opportunity for a team still trying to find itself. ★



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## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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Level:

- 1 2  
3 4

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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

3/1 Solutions

9	8	5	2	4	3	7	6	1
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1/9/12

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## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**  
 1 "The Fiddler" painter Chagall  
 5 Brooch part  
 10 Scraped (out)  
 14 Miami River locale  
 15 Postal scale unit  
 16 Ristorante bottle  
 17 Capital of 62-Across  
 19 Victorious cry  
 20 Refines, in a way  
 21 List-ending abbr.  
 22 Coffee bar stack  
 23 Biol. branch  
 25 Too pooped to pop  
 27 First ones to spot the king's ghost, in "Hamlet"  
 31 "Stop bugging me!"  
 34 Eight, in Essen  
 35 Bellyache  
 37 Yo-Yo's strings  
 38 Pronoun on the briny  
 39 Mark Twain, e.g.  
 41 Overly permissive  
 42 Insanely cold  
 44 Icelandic work that influenced Tolkien  
 45 Swelter  
 46 In any way  
 48 Closed, as a sleeping bag  
 50 Sealing aids  
 52 Greenish-blue  
 53 "Bad Reputation" singer  
 55 "\_\_\_ only money!"  
 57 Mental grasp
- DOWN**  
 1 Levels the playing field?  
 2 Cutting-in word  
 3 Grate  
 4 Amass  
 5 Simple soup  
 6 Tote with difficulty  
 7 Starting money of a sort  
 8 Dilbert creator Adams  
 9 One may be seen behind an ear  
 10 Sinister stare  
 11 Capital of 62-Across  
 12 Sooner State city  
 13 Puts on  
 18 Strong urge  
 24 Italian director Sergio  
 26 TV's "The Amazing \_\_\_"  
 27 Scary nestful  
 28 Allergic reaction  
 29 With 30-Down, capitals of 62-Across?  
 30 See 29-Down  
 32 Oddball
- 61 Clueless  
 62 Where "The Lord of the Rings" movies were filmed  
 64 Actress Teri  
 65 Bridge call  
 66 Activist Brockovich  
 67 Dope (out)  
 68 Bother a lot  
 69 Stiff hair
- 33 Deceived  
 36 1976 Olympics headlines name  
 39 Coach  
 40 Reference site for travelers  
 43 Images used by Wii players  
 45 With "the," band with the 2006 remix album "Love"  
 47 Keep under control  
 49 Metamorphosis stage
- 51 Instructions opener  
 53 Crying spells  
 54 Old Testament twin  
 56 Party loot  
 58 Flower in Bern? say  
 59 Make a wool cap, say  
 60 "Mother Ireland" writer O'Brien  
 63 When repeated, a Gabor

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3/15/12

3/1/12 Solutions

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