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#15 DELAWARE STATE
vs #2 VANDERBILT
Sunday, March 18
11 a.m. CDT

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 about The Roots before
 Rites of Spring?

see Life, page 9



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The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 25

THE WALL

compiled by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI

TODAY Founder's Day celebration

A ceremony will place wreaths at the statue of Cornelius Vanderbilt and the gravesites of Holland and Amelia McTyeire in celebration of the 134th anniversary of the university's founding.

TODAY 'Are We Really Made of Quarks?' lecture

Jerome Friedman, the 1990 Nobel Prize laureate in physics, will give the annual Francis G. Slack Lecture about the history behind the acceptance of the quark theory. The lecture will take place at 4 p.m. in the Stevenson Science Center, Room 4327.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17 'Electric Purgatory: the fate of the black rocker' screening

Open to the public, a film screening exploring the other side of the music industry and examining the history and progression of black rock will be held at 4 p.m. in Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17 NPHC Step Show

The National Pan-Hellenic Council will host a step show during MOSAIC Weekend at 7 p.m. in Memorial Gym. Tickets are available at the Sarratt Box Office or at the door with cash.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18 Sacred and Sephardic concert

In conjunction with the "On the Lip(s) of Miriam's Well: Jews/Women/Cultures" conference at Vanderbilt, three artists from the New York area, musicians Galeet Dardashti and Lila Sklar and visual artist Siona Benjamin, will debut performances featuring original works celebrating women of the Bible. The event is open to the public and begins at 7 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema.

Check out
<http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu>
 for more events.

VANDY GAMEDAY: VANDERBILT 77 GEORGE WASHINGTON 44

Dores dance circles around GW

by JARRED AMATO
 Sports Editor

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — With 12.2 seconds remaining and the starters resting comfortably on the bench, Vanderbilt walk-on David Rodriguez stepped to the foul line. After his first attempt rattled in and out, Rodriguez calmly sunk the second one, sending fans and teammates into a frenzy.

Rodriguez's first point of the season provided a fitting end to a near-perfect afternoon as the sixth-seeded Commodores (21-11) trounced 11th-seeded George Washington 77-44 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. After registering the most lopsided tournament win in school history, they will face Washington State on Saturday at 4:55 p.m. CDT.

"It was a huge rush," said Rodriguez, who this time last season was playing in the fraternity league playoffs. "I actually wasn't that nervous, surprisingly, because it didn't really matter. If I scored, that'd be great, but I was just excited to play."

The entire team seemed excited to play Thursday, as it jumped out to 13-2 lead and never looked back. Shan Foster, who missed a possible game-winner against Arkansas in the SEC Tournament last week, hit two quick 3-pointers, as did redshirt freshman George Drake.

"(Drake's) not particularly known for his perimeter shooting, but he stepped up a whole bunch," said senior Derrick Byars, who scored a modest 12 points to go along with seven rebounds and five assists.

While most players were playing in the Big Dance for the first time, they hardly looked nervous. In the first half, the Commodores

connected on 10 of 18 3-pointers and held a commanding 45-20 lead. As junior Ross Neltner said, "Shooting's kind of contagious, especially on our team."

"We had 15 field goals on 15 assists at halftime," Byars said. "That just speaks to the unselfishness of our guys, and we pride on ourselves on that."

There was much talk about George Washington's pressure defense coming into the contest, and coach Kevin Stallings said his players took it personally.

"I think our players felt like all they had heard about was their defensive pressure," Stallings said. "I think it was important for them to try to play a good defensive game themselves."

And that they did. George Washington shot 27 percent for the game and had just six assists compared to 20 turnovers. From taking charges to blocking shots and getting steals, the Commodores were able to get the Colonials out of sync.

Still, players said they are far from satisfied.

"We're not content with just being here," Byars said. "Our goal is to advance as far as we can and to keep playing the basketball that's gotten us to this point."

But, that did not mean that Byars and company were not allowed to sit back and smile as they watched Rodriguez and fellow walk-on Aubrey Hammond close out the game.

"It was nice to be able sit at the end of the bench after a 30-point game and see those guys get in there and play well," Neltner said.

Actually, it was 33. ■

—Read why the Dores came into Thursday's game with something to prove on:

InsideVandy.com



RICH PEDRONCELLI / AP Photo

Vanderbilt junior Alex Gordon goes up to the basket against George Washington's Regis Koundjia in the second half of Vanderbilt's win in the first round of the NCAA tournament at Arco Arena in Sacramento, Calif., Thursday. The Dores won 77-44.

Chemistry classes find formulas



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshman Yanglin Guo mixes chemicals in his Thursday afternoon Chemistry 104B lab class in order to discover formulas of unknown chemicals.

Vandy Vans to contain cameras

by CHRISTINE BROWN
 Staff Reporter

The university has announced security cameras will be installed on Vandy Vans within the next few weeks. The cameras were deemed a necessary safety precaution by the administration after several incidents of misconduct last fall.

"We had a couple of vandalism incidents, several incidents where students were rocking the inside of the van almost causing it to tip over and also some physical altercations in the vans in which VUPD was called," said Police Chief Marlon Lynch.

The administration appealed to Interhall and the Student Government Association to make students aware of these issues and attempt to prevent student misconduct.

"The incidents that have happened on the vans have always been an issue, although they have been highlighted this past fall," said Cara Bilotta, Vanderbilt Student Government president. "Unfortunately, when you get more riders there are more security concerns. As we talk about expanding the service, it is really

important that we keep in mind what the service was for in the first place."

The security cameras installed will hold audio and infrared technology that the administration hopes will prevent potentially dangerous behavior by students and drivers. If an incident of misconduct is reported, the Vanderbilt University Police Department and the Office of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity have the ability to find the recorded footage and follow up on the incident.

"Our experience with surveillance cameras at entry points in the residence halls has been positive," said Dean of Students Mark Bandas. "After their installation, we saw significant drops in problems with strangers in the residence halls and with vandalism. We anticipate that the installation of cameras on the vans will have similar effects. It's a way to enhance safety without adversely affecting convenience."

According to Bilotta, installing security measures is the first step in ensuring the safety of students as the popularity of Vandy Vans continues to increase. However, if

the administration feels that these cameras are not sufficient to prevent future incidents, more drastic measures may be taken, such as ID checks or rider logs.

"Those options really limit the convenience for the Vandy Vans' students, which we don't want to do," Bilotta said. "The security cameras seemed the best option that would not interrupt the convenience of the riders but would allow the administration to be able to monitor future incidents."

Signs will be posted on the Vandy Vans to notify passengers of the security camera installation, which the administration said should further deter students from inappropriate behavior.

"The awareness of the cameras themselves will cause whoever is riding the Vandy Vans to think twice about their actions," Bilotta said.

Not all students are pleased with the addition of the cameras, however.

"Instead of allocating funds to security cameras, the administration should be spending the money on newer, bigger Vandy Vans so that more students can access this service," said sophomore Clay Jameson.

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WEATHER

compiled by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI

TODAY



Partly Cloudy, 58/34

SATURDAY



Mostly Sunny, 56/32

SUNDAY



Mostly Cloudy, 57/48

MONDAY



Showers, 68/54

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI

Mar. 12, 2007, 5:14 a.m. — An arrest was made at 21st Avenue South and Garland Avenue after a suspect was stopped for running a red light and did not have a valid license.

Mar. 12, 2007, 11:21 a.m. — A weapons law violation and aggravated self-assault occurred when a person walked into the main entrance of the ER and shot himself in the back.

Mar. 12, 2007, 12:44 p.m. — A fire ensued after a gas line was punctured at 3004 Vanderbilt Place by a construction crew.

Check out <http://police.vanderbilt.edu/crimelog.htm> for complete listings.

SERVICE GUIDE

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

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CORRECTIONS

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

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW

The news you need — in brief

compiled by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI

WORLD

Sectarian suicide bombings in Shiite, Sunni neighborhoods continue to claim Iraqi lives

A suicide car bomber attempting to target a senior city official accidentally struck an Iraqi military checkpoint in a Shiite neighborhood Thursday, killing eight people.

The same day, another car bomber struck another army checkpoint in a volatile Sunni district in Baghdad, killing two people.

Thirty miles outside Baghdad, in Iskandariyah, a bomb exploded in a car as a bus packed with workers drove by, killing four and wounding 24, police said. Iskandariyah is located in an area dubbed the "Triangle of Death" because of relentless attacks by Sunni insurgents.

Elsewhere in Baghdad, the top official in the main Shiite district of Sadr was seriously wounded when gunmen ambushed his convoy, killing two of his bodyguards.

The attacks occurred after U.S. and Iraqi officials issued cautiously optimistic reports on the security clampdown in Baghdad on Wednesday.

Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell, the U.S. military spokesman, said the level of sectarian killings had dropped significantly since the operation began, but he expressed concern about a spike last week in the number of what he called "high-profile" car bombings.

Brig. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, spokesman for the Baghdad security operation, said Wednesday the number of civilians killed had plunged to 265 since the operation started on Feb. 14, compared with 1,440 during the preceding month-long period, due to a sharp reduction in murders, kidnappings and bombings.

"If the high-profile car bombs can be stopped or brought down to a much lower level, we'll just see an incredible difference in the city overall," Caldwell said.

SOURCE: AP

Iran vows to appeal Interpol request to arrest six in 1994 Argentina bombing

Iran will appeal Interpol's requests for the arrest of five prominent Iranians and a Lebanese militant sought in connection with the 1994 bombing of a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, an Iranian official said Thursday.

The July 18, 1994, attack killed 85 people and wounded over 200.

Interpol said Thursday it would help Argentina seek arrests for its worst terrorist attack internationally, although previously it turned down the country's request for the arrests of three other former top Iranians.

Mohsen Baharvand, the top Iranian diplomat in Argentina as its business attache, said Iran would appeal to Interpol, arguing that political pressure had been applied by the United States. He said Argentinean officials had no evidence to back warrants for the Iranians.

Interpol said Thursday that it would issue "red notices," or demands for extradition, for the Iranians on March 31, unless either Iran or Argentina appeals the decision. If Iran goes forward with an appeal, none will be issued and the matter could go before Interpol's general assembly in November.

The six people that Interpol said it planned to issue red notices for include former Iranian intelligence chief Ali Fallahian and Lebanese militant Imad Moughnieh.

SOURCE: AP

NATION

Senate panel issues subpoenas Thursday in probe of U.S. attorney firings

The Senate Judiciary Committee Thursday cleared the way for subpoenas compelling five Justice Department officials and six of the U.S. attorneys they fired to relate the story of the purge that has prompted demands for the ouster of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

"Eight U.S. attorneys who did not play ball with the political agenda of this administration were dropped from the team," said Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois.

The committee also postponed for a week a vote on whether to subpoena top aides to the president, including political adviser Karl Rove, former White House Counsel Harriet Miers and deputy White House Counsel William Kelley.

Gonzales said he would allow the aides still at the Justice Department to testify voluntarily. Yet, some senators have called for days for Bush to fire Gonzales.

Ranking Republican Arlen Specter said he would do the same thing if he were still chairman, but he cautioned against passing judgment on Gonzales and the aides before the facts are fully known.

Still, many republicans remain tepid in their support for the attorney general.

President Bush continues to express confidence in Gonzales and defends the firings. "What Al did and what the Justice Department did was appropriate," the president said.

SOURCE: AP

CAMPUS

Anja Becker to speak at Founder's Day

Anja Becker, visiting post-doctoral fellow at the Center for the Americas at Vanderbilt, will deliver the Founder's Day Lecture at 4 p.m. on March 15 in the Bennett-Miller Room at Vanderbilt Law School.

The speech is titled "As a Man Thinketh in His Heart So He Is: The Educational Values of Vanderbilt Chancellor James H. Kirkland (1893-1937) as Expressed in his Letters and Speeches."

Becker has researched the history of Vanderbilt, Kirkland and the influence of German educators on education in the South through her position as scholar with the German Academic Exchange Service.

Vanderbilt will celebrate the 134th anniversary of its founding on March 16 with a 10 a.m. ceremony at the statue of Cornelius Vanderbilt. All events are free and open to the public.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

Students cheer on Dores



ADAM SETREN / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students react after Ted Skuchas' dunk early in the second half of Vanderbilt's 77-44 win over the George Washington Colonials. Students gathered in the Student Life Center Thursday to watch the first-round NCAA tournament game.

Minority students experience Vanderbilt

by JANELLE STOKES

Contributing Reporter

Some 200 prospectives will simulate life as a minority student this weekend as a part of the minority recruitment program MOSAIC.

This year Vanderbilt ranked fourth in the recruitment of African-Americans according to the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

"We have a bad reputation for not being diverse, but we certainly in this office are trying to go against that, and it's nice to get recognition of our efforts," said admissions counselor Nick J. Accrocco. "Everyone in this office is committed to what is attempting to be accomplished."

MOSAIC is a four-day program designed to introduce accepted prospective students to life at Vanderbilt as a minority student.

"If they decide to enroll here after MOSAIC, they have a good idea as to what they want to study or major in; they also have a friend base," Accrocco said. "MOSAIC is a nice foray into life at Vanderbilt."

During their stay, prospective students will stay with current minority students and attend a series of academic and social events. These events include meetings with current professors about academics, internship and career opportunities, dinner with Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen, a Spring Fling carnival, and performances by multicultural groups.

Freshman Valerie Vara attended MOSAIC last year and is hosting a student this year. She credits her decision to choose Vanderbilt to the experiences she had at MOSAIC.

"When I first applied to Vanderbilt, I applied because it was a good school, but I didn't know that much about it," Vara said. "It always seemed like there wasn't a shortage of events for me to do. I met people and talked to them and had a really good time at the events. I actually met some people at MOSAIC that I keep in contact with today. We're almost at a year of friendship, and we're going to go out and celebrate it."

The movie "Electric Purgatory: the fate of the black rocker" will be shown on Saturday at 4 p.m. in the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center. This movie is designed to introduce prospective students to what it's like to be in a Vanderbilt classroom.

"What we want to do is show them this film and have a discussion about it," Accrocco said. "We have professor Paul Young and the filmmaker Raymond Gale. We are hoping to show this film and generate discussion. It's a way to show them what its like and to give them a chance to hear what a teacher is going to say. It gets them thinking about what to expect in the college classroom. High school is more 'read this and regurgitate it' whereas college is 'read this and analyze what you think about it.'" ■



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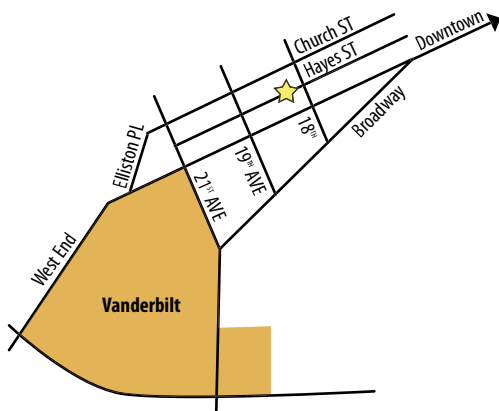
Dinner

Monday–Thursday 5–10
Friday–Saturday 5–11
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Directions from Vandy:

Travel heading toward downtown, go to 19th Avenue and take a left, take a right on Hayes Street and Mambu is on the left between 18th and 19th Avenue.



NPHC to host annual step show

by JANELLE STOKES
Contributing Reporter

The historically black sororities and fraternities will compete for bragging rights among their peers Saturday night as the National Pan-Hellenic Council puts on its annual step show.

Each NPHC fraternity and sorority will perform a 13-minute step routine, featuring an original theme and performing a form of dance that relies heavily on the use of rhythm.

This year, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternities Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta Sororities Inc. will each showcase their rehearsed routines.

In addition to the pieces by NPHC fraternities and sororities, VIBE and Voices of Praise will perform.

"We've spent all of our resources and time in making this a very big show," said senior Kortne Edogun of Alpha Kappa Alpha. "We are trying to appeal to a larger audience to promote tri-council unity with the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils as well as other schools around the Nashville community."

NPHC alumni will judge each organization's performance. Scores will be based on originality, precision/coordination, set and costume design, difficulty, and professionalism.

"It's not just stepping," said junior Chukwudi Onyemekwu, a Phi Beta Sigma member. "In a competition, the more you put on and the more elaborate your show is the better. There are probably going to be videos being shown, PowerPoint presentations that might be about the history of the organization or the theme they are portraying in the show."

Members of the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities and prospective students visiting for MOSAIC Weekend are expected to attend.

"The step show is hosted every year during the student recruitment weekend, MOSAIC," said senior and Omega Psi Phi member Daryl Grayer. "Essentially the step show appeals to the community, not only to the Greek community, but to the growing diverse community at Vanderbilt. It is another cultural outlet, another cultural expression on campus, and NPHC is glad to sponsor this event during such a high-profile weekend."

The step show also features a philanthropy incentive for IFC and Panhellenic members who are encouraged to donate books and sell the highest percentage of tickets within their chapters. The sorority or fraternity with the highest attendance and donation receives a portion of the proceeds for the philanthropy of their choice.

"This will definitely be the biggest step show in Nashville. You don't want to miss it!" Edogun said.

"You get an individual perspective from each chapter that is performing," Grayer said. "You get some understanding of that specific fraternity or sorority that's performing and what their traditional steps and dance moves may be."

This year's step show will be held Saturday at 7 p.m. in Memorial Gymnasium. Tickets are \$15 at the Sarratt Box Office, or they can be purchased at the door with cash only. ■

Kurdistani government representative speaks



TYLER HAGEN / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Qubad Talabani, son of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, spoke in Featheringill Hall Wednesday night about the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY
Asst News Editor

Qubad Talabani, son of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and representative to the United States for the Kurdistan Regional Government, spoke in Featheringill Hall Wednesday about the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

Sponsored by the Mason Foundation and hosted by the School of Engineering, Talabani explained the Iraqi government's actions in helping rebuild the country after the United States-led invasion in 2003.

"I'm not here to spin or tell you we're pleased about the situation," said Talabani, who helped write the transitional law in the new Iraqi government. "(Kurdistan) appreciates America's sacrifice, but all is not lost. We have managed to rise up out of the ashes through America's help."

Talabani said he believes the tremendous focus on the military aspect of Iraq is misplaced, and instead America should pursue a combination of other strategies.

"Initially we've seen sectarian violence decrease in the capital but increase in other areas," Talabani

said. "It cannot be solved by military alone."

Talabani proposed a comprehensive political and economic strategy, which included health care and education for the Iraqi people but warned it must be imposed by the Iraqi government, not the United States.

"There is an Iraqi government that is sovereign but far from effective," Talabani said. "It is now up to the United States to nurture discussion to allow the compromises that need to be made."

"We have a problem with the Baath party members prohibited from the government, which is alienating millions of people. There has to be some leniency in the so called de-Baathification of the government," he said, criticizing the U.S. policy that bans former members of Saddam Hussein's party from participation in the new coalition government.

Talabani also stressed the economic problems that plague the country and proposed a solution that he said would also cut down on sectarian violence.

"You cannot give security unless you have economic development," Talabani said. "When you put (people) to work, you take them out of the

sectarian violence."

"Our policy is wrong in that we focus only on the trouble spots," he said. "We should isolate the trouble spots and use the success stories to influence the trouble spots. You can look at the Kurdistan government as a success story."

The speech drew a full auditorium, including many students and alumni, as well as members of the Kurdistan population of Nashville, the highest in the United States.

"I thought it was really passionate," said senior Jonathan Daberkow. "It made me feel more strongly about Iraq."

Daberkow was most impressed with how Talabani's accounts of Iraq differed from his own perspective.

"His view on how the media represents the war definitely made me feel the same way," Daberkow said.

Senior Tara Snell said she was impressed with Talabani's ability to look beyond the war aspect of Iraq.

"The fact that he stressed so much more than just military development and actually pushed for economic development was impressive," she said. "I just thought that it was a great speech and really candid." ■



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Heather Brandon
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The Office of Student Organizations and Governance announces the new

Spring Student Organization Registration Process



Renew your organization's registration for the 2007-08 Academic Year between March 1 and April 1 at

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentorganizations>

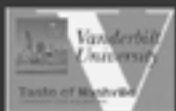
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OPINION

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OUR VIEW

Vanderbilt provides your asylum for March Madness

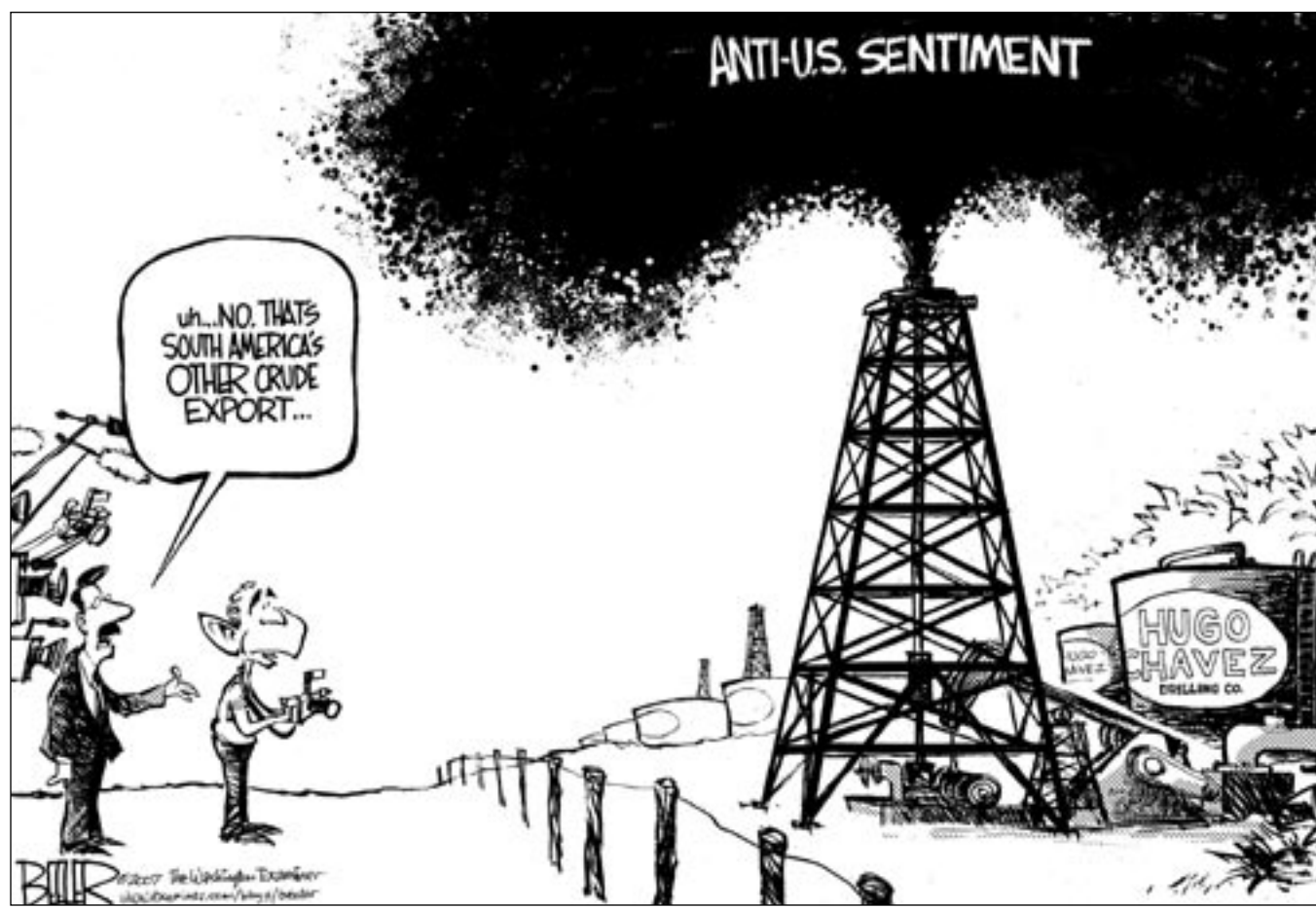
Like the plague, March Madness has swept the region and taken many of our best and brightest. Every year, this event brings to mind the events of 2003, when Johnny Cash died and absolutely everyone, even people who had never once expressed an interest in country music, gushed about how they always liked the Man in Black and appreciated his contributions to music. People who have not watched a basketball game in years spend hours on brackets. Facebook news feeds are overwhelmed with pool announcement upon pool announcement.

The damage March Madness causes to our economy must be tremendous; an entire Thursday and Friday have been lost entirely as far as the United States' gross domestic product is concerned. Classes have been let out early or cancelled entirely. Harsh words were exchanged in the Hustler office regarding a conflict between basketball and "Grey's Anatomy." March Madness has temporarily rent the very fabric of our society.

March Madness has disrupted quite a bit, and our teams are working hard to ensure that the disruption is worth it. The Commodores stepped

on the Colonials' toes at the Big Dance on March 15 with a final score of 77-44, so "stomped" might be a more accurate description. Vanderbilt will go on to play Washington State on Saturday. The No. 2-seeded women's basketball team plays Delaware State on Sunday. While both games will be played far from Memorial, our teams deserve our support.

The following are ways in which you, too, may support the fantastic Commodore basketball machine. Skipping classes to watch games is always a Vanderbilt favorite, while the wealthier students among us may wish to send our teams gift baskets full of delicious mini-muffins. With just the tiniest amount of effort and some black-and-gold streamers, St. Patrick's Day parties easily can become St. Vanderbilt's Day parties. Also, painting up and streaking across Alumni Lawn would be an excellent way to demonstrate your support. The beauty of this plan is the resulting media coverage will still be here when our teams return. Our players would see the partially blurred photos and say, "Now that is a dedicated fan." March Madness comes once a year; we would be remiss if we didn't go a little crazy.



Nate Beeler—MCT

LETTER

Advertising policies do not imply The Hustler's endorsement

To the Editor:

Since the fall of 2006, the structure of student media at Vanderbilt has been dramatically altered due to the convergence of some of our media groups, including The Vanderbilt Hustler. This process has also affected advertising. The former Hustler Advertising Office is now Student Media Advertising, an office independent of The Hustler charged with selling and administering ad placements for The Hustler, Versus Magazine, VTV and InsideVandy.com divisions. The advertising manager no longer sits on The Hustler's editorial board, as was previously the case, and has final decision-making power over which placements are allowed into the products of our divisions and which are not. Individual division's policies concerning their editorial content do not apply to advertising sold by my office. Likewise, The Hustler's editorial or opinion policies do not govern insert or display advertising.

All ad placements must meet a series of guidelines for inclusion. For example, potential placements for products, services or promotions that are illegal in the state of Tennessee or that violate

U.S. Postal Service regulations will be rejected. A full list of criteria can be found at www.vscmedia.org/advertising and is printed on the backs of all of our advertising contracts. The advertising manager is granted the discretion to interpret and apply these criteria. After a comprehensive review, the advertising material submitted by Playboy Enterprises met all of the criteria for inclusion.

My office is not in the position to hinder an advertiser's right to free expression so long as they meet each of our advertising criteria and deadlines for payment, etc. Furthermore, neither Student Media Advertising nor the divisions for which we sell specifically endorse the products, services or ideas included within advertising placements.

Our policy is to let our readers make decisions for themselves and not to decide subjectively which viewpoints they will see and which they will not.

David Fotouhi
Senior, College of Arts and Science
Advertising Manager
Student Media Advertising
Vanderbilt Student Communications Inc.

LETTER

The Hustler does not possess the right to judge the decisions of others

To the Editor:

In response to the column in the March 14 Hustler regarding Playboy's approaching casting call, we have no choice but to vehemently disagree with almost every claim presented.

Firstly, how can Alison Waite's experience of appearing on the cover of Playboy, self-proclaimed "one of the best" of her life, be qualified by those who do not know anything about her, with questions pertaining to her morals, her future and her reputation? Who are we to say that her life will be negatively affected by her decision? Remember, "negatively affected" is a relative term. To some, appearing nude in an internationally acclaimed magazine may seem like a nightmare, but to some, it may be a prestigious honor. We believe that for Waite, or anyone in her position, to face judgment from those who do not know anything about her, who have never met her, who are completely unaware of her morals, her reputation and the way in which she makes her personal decisions, is much more unfair than the repercussions that may or may not occur as a result of her decision.

You say we should not "allow" our peers to "debase" themselves and their fellow classmates (clearly no one would do it if they considered it "debasement"), but we then ask you, what is college, and life after college, if not a period and process of becoming an individual, an adult who has the undeniable right to make her own decisions according to her own beliefs, without first having to consider what her anonymous peers may think and whether or not she has their moral permission to do anything.

If a woman who has posed in Playboy will be faced with the challenges of employer discrimination and having to explain to her children, assuming she chooses to have children, the decisions of her past, which were ridiculously referred to as the "selling of her dignity" in your column, that is her business and no one else's. It is no concern of ours what effects the experience may or may not have on her personal life, and in Waite's case, we have no reason not to believe these effects have been anything but positive.

While you may consider the decision to "bare all" in Playboy immoral, others may find it empowering, courageous, brave and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Frankly, no one has the right to judge anyone else's personal decisions, and if it isn't affecting your life, which in this case, I can almost guarantee it is not, then you should not feel the need to pass public judgment on anyone.

If appearing in Playboy is something you disagree with, or are offended by, let's be thankful that no one will be forcing you to attend the auditions.

Stephany Lawrence
Danielle Borrer
Sophomores, College of Arts and Science

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section 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 our website.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to The Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion@vanderbilthustler.com. Letters via e-mail must either come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editor-in-chief. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

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

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

CORRECTION POLICY

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

Bring corrections to The Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at 615-322-2424 or the editor-in-chief at 615-322-3757.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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

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U.S. Sen. Bob Corker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4311
(615) 250-8160

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(615) 736-5295

Rep. Brenda Gilmore
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Nashville, TN 37243-0154
(615) 741-1997

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Tenn. District 21
11 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243-0021
(615) 741-3291

Councilor Ginger Hausser
Metro District 18
521 Chesterfield Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 783-0106

LETTER

Playboy advertisement suggests absence of editorial discretion

To the Editor:
 There is no question that many will agree with The Hustler editorial board's strong stand against the gratuitous objectification of women in its strongly worded denunciation of Playboy's attempts to recruit "Vandygirls" to bare all for its "Girls of the SEC" edition ("Vanderbilt women should not bare all for temporary fame," March 14).
 I am troubled, however, by the exceptionally flexible approach to integrity that allowed The Hustler to take money for an ad it considered liable to "debase" the women of Vanderbilt. One might be forgiven for assuming that such a stance was little more than an example of self-righteous posturing, whereby The Hustler could both pocket the money

for running the advertisement and simultaneously claim the moral high ground by denouncing the ad as socially destructive.
 Whether Playboy, or pornography in general, is a dangerous or a harmless thing is a matter on which intelligent individuals can and do differ. If The Hustler is serious about taking a stand against pornography, however, perhaps it would like to donate the money it received for running the ad to a suitably charitable cause? That way, any suspicion of self-promoting hypocrisy can be laid to rest.

Tim Boyd
 Graduate student,
 Department of History

THE RANT



What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. Send in your rants with the subject "Rant" to: opinion@vanderbilthustler.com

Compiled by Ceaf Lewis

"Each year the talent pool for Rites of Spring gets progressively worse. Therefore, by the year 2010, I expect the lineup to consist entirely of local jam groups and MySpace bands."

"Why has The Slant become the McGill newsletter?"

"Just as constructing replicas of current enormous Peabody dormitories and putting one faculty member in each does not make Vanderbilt a true residential campus, neither does changing the designation of these buildings to 'houses' instead of 'halls.' Every day I find new reasons to question our university's motivations for the College Halls initiative."

"Currently, two people on campus disgust me: an HR and an AD."

"I think it would have been better for everyone if The Hustler had subjected Justin Poythress to a long and painful hazing process before initiating him as a columnist."

"How base does the Vanderbilt community think its female population is that a war was started against Playboy, especially when we reveled in the fact we were on their top party schools list. Face it: it's not our fault the ladies of Vanderbilt are sexy."

COLUMN

Commodores should support baseball team

SCOTT GREER
 Columnist

With March Madness underway, many people seem oblivious to the Vanderbilt baseball team's phenomenal start. After defeating Belmont University on Wednesday, the No. 1 Commodores improved their record to an unprecedented 19-0. As students and fans, we need to start filling up the stands at Hawkins Field.

In any level of baseball, winning 19 consecutive games is extremely rare. After a handful of wins, it seems as though a loss is eventually inevitable. Vanderbilt's longest winning streak last season was just six games, but now the team has solidified itself as the best in the nation. However, I have been disappointed by the home game attendance.

Whenever someone talks about baseball, it seems like another person nearby always starts complaining about how it's such a "boring" sport. First of all, baseball is an American tradition. Secondly, if you think it's boring, you could go to the game and at least enjoy the weather. In fact, you could even read a book as long as you cheer for the team every now and then. No one should give up an opportunity to support the school and see some of the most talented players in the nation. Baseball fan or not,

everyone should attend at least one game. Including tonight's match-up against the Ole Miss Rebels, there are 20 more home games this season.

The Hustler sports writers have to be tired of reporting every baseball victory; it's kind of like repeatedly informing the community that Alumni Lawn is green. I wrote the first paragraph of this article before the first pitch of the Belmont game. Though I obviously checked to make sure we won, I was pretty much willing to bet anything on Vanderbilt destroying the Bruins.

If we can fill up Memorial Gym, then Hawkins Field shouldn't be a problem. Also, when students heckle opposing players during the basketball games, there is no way of knowing whether they always hear it. In college baseball, however, everyone in the stadium will know when you insult the third baseman for the entire game. And what better time to talk trash than when your team is 19-0?

Southeastern Conference play starts tonight, and I encourage everyone to make an appearance and support the team. After all, the weather is nice, it's Friday, they are undefeated and you can heckle the Rebels all night long.

By the way, the third baseman for Ole Miss is No. 13 Devin Hicks.

—Scott Greer is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

If we can fill up Memorial Gym, then Hawkins Field shouldn't be a problem. Also, when students heckle opposing players during the basketball games, there is no way of knowing whether they always hear it. In college baseball, however, everyone in the stadium will know when you insult the third baseman for the entire game. And what better time to talk trash than when your team is 19-0? "

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SPORTS

WHAT 2 WATCH 4

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY
Men's Basketball
No. 3 Washington State vs. No. 6 Vanderbilt
4:55 p.m. CDT

The Dores take on the Washington State Cougars on Saturday in hopes of reaching the Sweet 16 for the first time in three years. While Vanderbilt would love to shoot as well as it did in the first half against George Washington, doing so will be much more difficult. The Cougars are great defensively, although the Commodores proved to be pretty good themselves on Thursday.

Prediction: Vanderbilt 71, Washington State 66

SATURDAY
No. 3 Texas A&M vs. No. 6 Louisville
2:40 p.m. CDT

In order to make a Final Four run, often a team has to pull out a close win or two. With Louisville's campus just 45 minutes from Lexington's Rupp Arena, this could very well be one of those close calls the Aggies have to survive in order to preserve their status as a popular Final Four pick in office bracket pools. Texas A&M has Acie Law, however, who averages more points than opposing teams do in the final five minutes of Aggie contests.

Prediction: Texas A&M 77, Louisville 72

SUNDAY
Women's Basketball
No. 2 Vanderbilt vs. No. 15 Delaware State
11 a.m. CDT

After capturing the SEC Tournament title, the Commodores hope to cut down another net come April. Their first test will be Delaware State. The No. 2 Commodores should have little difficulty with 15th-seeded Delaware. There are more important things ahead.

Prediction: Vanderbilt 80, Delaware State 55

FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Baseball
No. 1 Vanderbilt vs. Ole Miss
Hawkins Field

The Dores look to build on their 19-game winning streak as they start SEC play against Ole Miss. Junior All-American David Price is on the hill for Friday's game, which starts at 7 p.m. Nick Christiani will pitch for the Dores at 2 p.m. on Saturday, with Bret Jacobson starting the finale on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Prediction: Vandy sweep

SUNDAY
Women's Lacrosse
No. 16 Vanderbilt vs. Hofstra
Noon
Soccer Complex

The women's lacrosse team will look rebound from its recent loss against Duke as it takes on Hofstra this Sunday. Junior Margie Curran leads the team with 23 points on the season.

Prediction: Vanderbilt 12, Hofstra 7

Discipline pivotal to Cougars' turnaround

Dores to face Cinderella-like Washington State.

by WILL GIBBONS
Senior Sports Reporter

For Oral Roberts, the glass slipper didn't fit. Yet, Vanderbilt faces a Cinderella of sorts in Washington State on Saturday. Historically doormats of the Pacific-10 Conference, the Cougars' 70-54 win over Oral Roberts marked their first NCAA Tournament victory since 1980.



A lot of us came here because we wanted to turn this program around and be a part of something special, and to finally do something special, like getting invited to the NCAA Tournament, is an amazing feeling of accomplishment.

—Derrick Low, George Washington junior

Washington State's past struggles are something to which Vanderbilt football fans could possibly relate. Thursday's game was their first in the postseason since 1994. They were picked to finish dead last in their conference prior to the season. In his first season after inheriting the program from his father, however, coach Tony Bennett has led the Cougars to the nation's No. 12 ranking and second place in the Pac-10.

"A lot of us came here because we wanted to turn this program around and be a part of something special, and to finally do something special, like getting invited to the NCAA Tournament, is an amazing feeling of accomplishment," leading scorer Derrick Low said.

So, how have the Cougars turned their program around?

If one word describes Washington State's style, it's disciplined. The Cougars take very few bad shots, hitting 46.5 percent on average, but they average just 66.5 points per game. They only allow 58.8 points per game, and they turn the ball over just 10.4 times per game. For this, Bennett has earned recognition as national



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations
Derrick Byars, Jermaine Beal and the rest of Vanderbilt's team will have their hands full Saturday against Washington State.

coach of the year from several media outlets.

Still, with the Cougars' lack of tournament experience, some may have seen them as a potential upset victim.

"They can say what they want to say" center Robbie Cowgill said. "We'll continue to do what we do. We can compete with anyone no matter who we go against."

For Vanderbilt, controlling the tempo will be key. While George Washington tried to trap Vanderbilt, Washington State prefers a compact defense that allows few easy buckets. It was the Commodores' patience that helped them to 22 assists in their 77-44 win Thursday. On

Saturday, they may want to up the pace and perhaps wear the Cougars down.

On defense, the Commodores will need to focus on Low. Vanderbilt has had trouble with penetrating guards, and Low presents a similar challenge. Rebounding against a hard-nosed front line will also be key. But if the Commodores replicate Thursday's performance, the opponent matters little. Washington State assistant coach Ron Sanchez hopes this isn't the case.

"They're going to run their stuff right, and they're going to play good defense," he said. "We just hope they don't shoot as well as they did today." ■

Vanderbilt digs in on defense against GW

by ANDREW BARGE
Sports Reporter

George Washington's stingy defense was all Vanderbilt players heard about entering Thursday's game. The 1-3-1 press, the chemistry, the energy — this unparalleled defense was going to be the remedy for Commodores' streaky outside shooting.

The Colonials were a trendy underdog and the Commodores did not understand it.

"Our players heard a lot this week about how we'd never seen pressure, we'd get shocked and there'd be lots of turnovers," said coach Kevin Stallings. "We were a little surprised, because I'm pretty sure Florida can apply good pressure and we handled that."

The excessive talk about Vandy's offense versus GW's defense diverted everyone from an important fact: Vandy has a pretty good defense too. If only the critics had known.

While the Commodores shot 43 percent from the field, their defense shined brighter than the impressive outside shooting. Holding the Colonials to just 27 percent shooting and forcing 20 turnovers should garner some overdue credit for the defense.

The Colonials made just five shots in the entire first half, zero of which came from beyond the arc. Each of the Colonials' 20 first-half shots were contested as GW managed just one assist in the first half.

In addition to holding GW to 20 first-half points, the stingy defense played an integral role in Vandy's hot offensive start. Each of Vanderbilt's 15 first-half baskets was assisted, with many coming off a Colonial turnover or missed shot.

"Especially in the first half, I thought our defense was as intent and aware as it has ever been," Stallings said. "We definitely showed a lot of focus and energy on the other end."

Senior guard Derrick Byars agreed, attributing the blowout win to a solid defensive effort.

"As well as we shot the ball tonight, I thought the key to the game was defense. They're a very athletic team, so it was important for us to defend their shots and penetration. Defensive was definitely the key tonight."

As Vandy contested shot after shot, GW was not able to get into any kind of rhythm. Most of the second half consisted of frustrated Colonials abandoning their offensive system, throwing up ill-advised shots. On the day, no GW player reached double-digit scoring as the Commodores had arguably its best defensive performance of the season.

The shot blocking of Ted Skuchas and Shan Foster helped scare the Colonials out of the paint, but the perimeter defense answered in a bigger way. Maureece Rice, GW's leading scorer, did not have a basket until the second half and was held well under his season average of 16 points per game. Byars gave credit to both Foster and point guard Alex Gordon for effectively covering Rice.

"I have to give a lot of props to Alex Gordon, as well as Shan Foster. He's a great player and a great scorer, so I have to compliment our guys for the job they did on defense."

Byars also performed well on Carl Elliott, GW's second leading scorer. Elliott managed just eight points for the Colonials.

The all-around defensive effort left the Stallings pleased as the team prepares for Washington State, who is also known for their effective defense.

"Their defense is unusually good. It's good every night, and Tony Bennett does a great job of coaching it."

After watching Vandy's game on Thursday, Bennett would probably say the same thing about Stallings. ■

WHO'S GOT THE EDGE? How do the Dores stack up?

	Vanderbilt (21-11)	WSU (26-7)	Edge
Best player	Derrick Byars	Derrick Low	VU
Best win	Florida	USC	VU
Momentum	Won one straight	Won one straight	Tie
Conference	10-6 SEC	13-5 Pac-10	WSU
Coach	Kevin Stallings	Tony Bennett	WSU
Experience	First trip since '04	First trip since 1994	VU
Depth	9-man rotation	8-man rotation	VU
RPI	47	26	WSU
Strengths	Shooting	Ballhandling	Tie
Nickname	Commodores	Cougars	VU

“ **friday conversation**

CARLA THOMAS

After winning the title at the Southeastern Conference Tournament, first team All-SEC senior Carla Thomas sat down with The Vanderbilt Hustler to talk about the season, the boys and how excited she is about dancing.

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: The women's basketball team had a strong end of the season and won the SEC tournament, earning a No. 2 seed in the NCAA Tournament. What are your expectations for the tournament?

CARLA THOMAS: We're looking at it one weekend at a time. Just win the first two games and then start looking at the next weekend. We've been practicing for two weeks; we're ready to go out and play.

VH: You were the SEC Tournament MVP your freshman year after Vandy won, and this year you won again. How does the SEC tournament success translate to NCAA Tournament success?

CT: It's really just a confidence booster. Especially for the freshmen and the younger players, they'll have confidence going into the NCAA. We beat teams in the SEC that are among the top teams in the country.

VH: Earlier this year you lost twice to Tennessee, who is a No. 1 seed, and to Duke, who is the No. 1 seed in your bracket. How do those experiences help if you get to play those teams again?

CT: I think we're a different team than when we played them earlier in the season. We're a stronger team and know what we want to do. It's really just more confidence in ourselves.

VH: Along with your great season, the men's basketball team also made the NCAA Tournament (and won their first round game). What does their success mean to you, and does it help your team at all?

CT: I'm just really excited for Vanderbilt athletics as a whole. I know the men's team has worked really hard, and we've spent lots of time with them this year — in the weight room, practicing on same court, stuff like that. There's all that excitement for them and what they're doing.

VH: The tournament projections had you playing the first weekend in Pittsburgh, close to your home in Mechanicsburg, Pa., but instead you're going to East Lansing, Mich. Were you disappointed that you couldn't play in your home state?

CT: It would have been nice to play closer to home, but my family is trying to come to as many games as they can. We know that wherever we play we need to have confidence and play with intensity. ■



Giobbi demonstrates dominance at plate

Redshirt profited from year on the bench.

by PETE MADDEN
Sports Reporter

Having led Deering High School in Portland, Maine, to two state and three league championships, the three-time all-state catcher Andrew Giobbi arrived in Nashville in the fall of 2005, eager to bring similar success to the Commodores.

Coach Tim Corbin, however, felt that Giobbi could benefit from a year to whip himself into shape, both physically and mentally, and decided to redshirt his talented recruit.

"I explained to him that I thought the biggest factor was being able to shape up his body to the point where I felt that, from an athletic standpoint, he could play," Corbin said. "I wanted to give him another year to identify with what an SEC player and an SEC team looks like and grow into that."

On the bench for the first time in his career, Giobbi could only watch as his high school teammate, Ryan Flaherty, excelled against SEC competition, leading the Commodores with a .339 batting average and earning a Freshman All-America honorable mention.

Corbin's decision to redshirt Giobbi tested the young catcher's patience.

"Especially coming from Maine, being the big fish in the small pond, not playing when I got here was frustrating," Giobbi said.

Rather than becoming discouraged, Giobbi viewed redshirting as an opportunity to make a commitment to the weight room, build muscle and enhance his skills in preparation for his return to the diamond in 2007.

His hard work and patience has paid off — in his first season with the Commodores, Giobbi has hit his way to a .364 average, knocking in 12 runs and demonstrating his ability to hit to the opposite field.

"Redshirting was definitely a good thing for me," Giobbi said. "All the

skills were there, but I had to adjust to the speed of the game. Being around the team helped me work harder and get where I wanted to be."

Giobbi's success at the plate has certainly caught the eye of Corbin, who has rewarded Giobbi with valuable at bats, usually as the designated hitter. While both Giobbi and junior catcher Shea Robin have performed very well at the plate this season, Robin has more experience behind the plate, so he will continue to receive the starting nod.

"Shea has done a little bit more defensively than Andrew," Corbin said, "but it wouldn't surprise me at all for Andrew to gain more playing time now that he has the confidence that he needs to compete at this level." ■



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Andrew Giobbi has seen much success in his redshirt freshman year, earning many productive at bats as a designated hitter.

IMPACT 2007

presents



MARCH 19

Award winning journalist

CNN's LOU DOBBS

7PM

The Political Economy

Book available; *War on the Middle Class: How the Government, Big Business, and Special Interest Groups Are Waging War on the American Dream and How to Fight Back*



MARCH 20

Former Speaker of the House

NEWT GINGRICH

7PM

A Current Political Analysis

Book available; *Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America*



MARCH 21

Former US representative and Senate candidate

HAROLD FORD, JR.

7:30PM

Our Current Political Climate

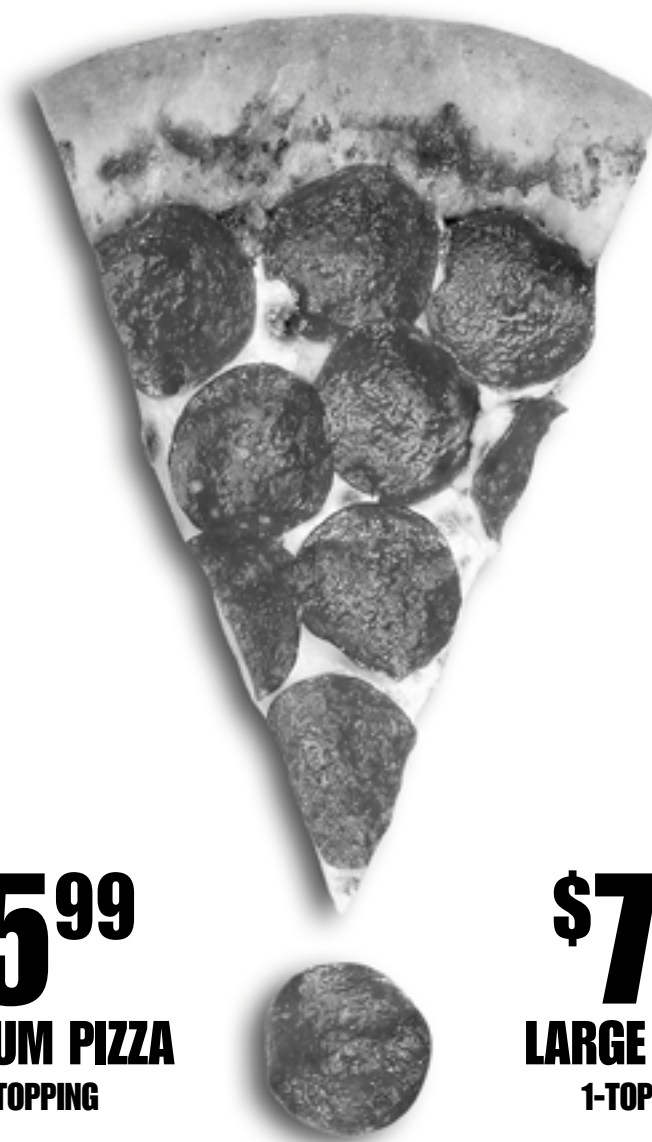
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LIFE

INDEX

The Week Ahead

As always, this is a great week for music, but movies and art will add some variety to your Nashville activities.

FRIDAY 3/16



Justin Timberlake brought sexy back, and now he's bringing it to Nashville. You can see him tonight at the Gaylord Entertainment Center. Tickets for this 7:30 p.m. show start at \$49.50. They might be a little pricey, but his performance is sure to be worth the cost.

SATURDAY 3/17

Whether you love or hate Ralph Nader, head to the Belcourt Theatre for "An Unreasonable Man," a film that traces his life and career. This documentary details the legislative record of one of the most controversial politicians of our time. Show times are 11:45 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 9:10 p.m.

SUNDAY 3/18

Rosanne Cash, Johnny's daughter, is performing her new album, "Black Cadillac," in concert tonight. The record is a musical journey that Cash calls "a personal history." Go to the Laura Turner Concert Hall at 7 p.m. to hear this critically acclaimed artist. Tickets start at \$30.

MONDAY 3/19



Start your week on a high note and go see Willie Nelson at the Opry tonight. Fellow country legend Merle Haggard also performs. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show starts at 7:30.

TUESDAY 3/20

Head to the Frist to see "Going Places Sitting Down," an exhibit by video artist Hiraki Sawa. Sawa uses household objects to create imaginative dreamscapes. Admission for college students is a mere \$6.50 with I.D.

WEDNESDAY 3/21

Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis performs tonight at the Laura Turner Concert Hall. Marsalis, who serves as artistic director of jazz at Lincoln Center in New York, has made more than 30 jazz and classical recordings. The performance begins at 8 p.m. in the Laura Turner Concert Hall.

THURSDAY 3/22

Georgia natives Perpetual Groove play tonight at Exit/In. Expect to hear tracks from their latest release, "LIVELOVEDIE." This 18+ show begins at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Q & A WITH JIM GAFFIGAN

If you don't know Jim Gaffigan's name, you surely know his face. The comedian turned actor has been in everything from 'Law and Order' to 'That '70s Show.' Perhaps you remember him as Miranda's less-than-modest boyfriend on 'Sex and the City,' or in 'Super Troopers' as State Trooper Foster's highway victim (think back to the cat game: 'Not so funny meow is it?'). These days, Gaffigan spends his time on TBS's first original-script TV show 'My Boys,' where he plays Andy, a marriage-whipped friend of the title character, PJ. He's also promoting his latest comedy album, 'Beyond the Pale,' with a nationwide tour. Yet, despite his numerous projects and busy schedule, Gaffigan made time to answer some questions for Life Editor Darcy Newell. Is he as funny being himself as he is on television? You decide.



GAFFIGAN



VH: When was your big break?

JG: Mmmm. I'd say **MY FIRST APPEARANCE ON LETTERMAN** was huge. I got my own show, "Welcome to New York," out of it.

VH: What do you find to be funny? Any favorite movies or shows?

JG: I really liked "Borat" and **"NAPOLEON DYNAMITE."**

VH: What do you find yourself dealing with in your comedy?

JG: I try to cover the hard-hitting issues of the day, like **BACON, ESCALATORS AND HOT POCKETS.**

VH: You've done so many diverse shows and movies — from "Sex and the City" to "Super Troopers" to "Three Kings." What kind of roles appeal to you?

JG: I love doing something new. I'm not really in a position to turn things down, but I'm open to anything. I loved working on "Ed" and **"THAT '70S SHOW."**

VH: How do you enjoy being on TBS's sitcom "My Boys"? How does it differ from the other things you have done?

JG: I like "My Boys" because on the show I don't play a dumb guy. It seems like I'm always cast as a dumb guy.

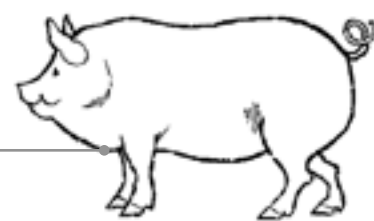
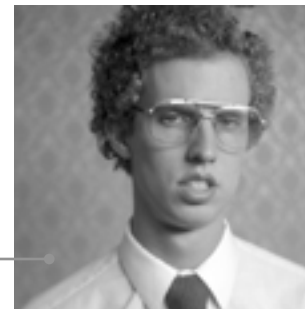
VH: On your Web site you say your two favorite things to do are to sleep and improvise in commercials. What else do you do in your free time?

JG: I like to also to nap and **EAT BACON.**

VH: What has been your favorite project to date?

JG: Besides this interview, I'd say coming up with a new joke is my favorite project. It's the best. **OVER HALF OF MY SHOW IS NEW STUFF.**

To get a firsthand idea of what Gaffigan is all about, visit his Web site at jimgaffigan.com and check out an array of his projects in commercials, television and film.



Gaffigan draws guffaws with new comedy album

'Beyond the Pale' addresses food, religion, and food as religion in fresh, funny performance.

by **CAPPI WILLIAMSON**
Asst Life Editor

I absolutely hate sketch comedy. The prospect of a comedian embarrassing himself with bad jokes embarrasses me enormously. So, with much trepidation, I popped in Jim Gaffigan's new album, "Beyond the Pale." Even in the privacy of my own room, humiliation was possible.



The sketch begins by addressing Gaffigan's striking natural paleness. This descends into a series of absurd and, yes, embarrassing bear jokes involving Asian women, pandas, polar bears and, of course, Gaffigan's pale skin tone.

Gaffigan redeems this sequence in an unexpected way — by calling out the stupidity of his own jokes. Pitching his voice about five octaves too high, he adopts the personalities of two older women ostensibly in his audience. In a

whispered tone, he makes the side comments that these two characters might make in real life, and they are hilarious. At first, "Myrtle" and "Suzanne" seem annoying, but after a few sketches, they become the funniest part of the show.

With track titles such as "Eat Like an American," "The Case aAainst Cinnabons" and "Spray Cheese," Gaffigan's main topic (and maybe the love of his life) — food — becomes obvious. Gaffigan's discussion of eating until you feel full as an American pastime elicits a hilarious "That's strangely patriotic" remark from his Midwestern commentators, and his diatribe about foods, such as Doritos, that have made "extreme" versions of their original flavors draw huge laughs.

Likewise, the almost sexually explicit discussion of food products' packaging as clothes and the undressing of foods as an erotic act was certainly a fresh take on an everyday activity. However, Gaffigan falls short when he pulls out the tried and true metaphor of the Food Network as pornography, which a hundred different comedians must have used by now.

However, for those who don't worship at the shrine of Cheetos, there are a few other topics discussed, including religion. Gaffigan complains about the length of time spent standing during church services, asking the question of many young children, "Can't I just lie down to worship?" "Suzanne" and "Myrtle" comment that the comedian might be going to hell for his treatise on Catholicism, but Gaffigan asserts that he cannot wait to see them in heaven, which he knows he will get to because "Peter loves my stuff."

He brings it back to food at the end, though, comparing the soul's flight to heaven as an escalator ride in a celestial mall — the only thing missing, of course, is an Orange Julius. ■

Having planted the seeds, The Roots take hold

As Rites of Spring weekend approaches, get to know one of the bands that will be taking over Alumni Lawn and headlining this year's concert series.

by ELISE MICHAEL
Life Staff Writer

The Roots, a Grammy-winning, rap/hip-hop group, are scheduled to headline Rites of Spring this year. With nine original albums and more than 20 years of experience, they guarantee a good show. This is a promise they make good



THE ROOTS

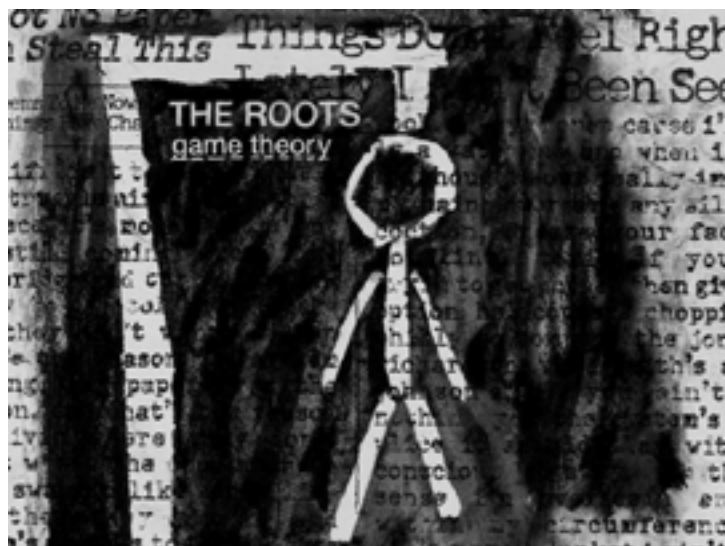
on, as they deliver brilliant performances.

Hailing from Philadelphia, The Roots are primarily a hip-hop group with a heavily jazzed-up sound and exceptional live instrumentation. While members have changed throughout the years, the current lineup consists of Traiq "Black Thought" Trotter as MC; Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, arguably one of the most influential drummers on the current music scene; Malik Abdul "Malik B" Basit-Smart, another MC; Leonard Nelson Hubbard on bass; and Kamal Gray on keyboard. Black Thought and Questlove formed the group in 1987, when they were classmates at the Philadelphia High School for Creative Performing Arts. Some of the group's former members, as well as other musicians, make countless cameos on the group's albums as well as in their live shows.

The Roots' first two CDs sold well, but it was not until they returned from a yearlong trip to Europe in 1992-93 and recorded their third album, "Illadelph Halflife," that they became bona fide stars. The 1996 release was their first album to crack the top 40 on the Billboard album chart and was also the first to contain prominent guests.

Their 1999 album, "Things Fall Apart," only added to their success; for that record, The Roots won a Grammy for Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group. The success of the album allowed them to perform an extended

set at Woodstock '99. Their 2002 release, "Phrenology," continued the Grammy tradition, with a nomination for best rap album. Then in 2003, the band backed Jay-Z for his farewell concert at Madison Square Garden and appeared in the subsequent "Fade to Black" DVD. The next year's record, "The Tipping Point," earned the group two more Grammy nominations — singles "Star" and "Don't Say Nuthin'" were nominated for best urban/alternative



performance and best rap performance by a duo or group, respectively. Their most recent album, "Game Theory," was released in late 2006 on the Def Jam label. The record has been described as "darker" than previous releases and "reflective on the political state of America." The group is currently working on a 10th studio album.

The Roots have been working hard to bring their message to audiences for 20 years; they have produced nearly one album a year — either studio or special — for the last 14 years, and they have appeared at both Woodstock and Bonnaroo. Their live shows exhibit their extensive instrumental skills, and even if you do not consider yourself a rap fan, their jazzy incorporations make their sound universally enjoyable. ■

Download The Roots:
What you probably have: "The Seed 2.0"
What you should have: "Don't Say Nuthin'"

HUSTLER PICKS

Each week the Hustler staff will weigh in on a certain subject pertaining to arts and entertainment. This week, staffers and students choose their favorite Beatles song.



GLENNA DeROY
Editor-in-Chief
"Let It Be"

NICOLE FLOYD
Focus Editor
"Hey Jude"

ALLISON SMITH
News Editor
"Lady Madonna"

DARCY NEWELL
Life Editor
"Norwegian Wood"

CEAF LEWIS
Opinion Editor
"Blackbird"

ELIZABETH MIDDLEBROOKS
Supervising Copy Editor
"I'm Only Sleeping"

READER PICKS

KATHERINE BAKER
Senior
"Strawberry Fields"

TERI CAMBRIA
Sophomore
"Let It Be"

JAMIS GOUGE
Junior
"Let It Be"

CAROLINE WILSON
Senior
"Come Together"

Next week, staffers will choose the team they would like to see win March Madness. Readers are also invited to weigh in by e-mailing the Life editor at vibe@vanderbilthustler.com

Drive away from 'October Road'

by MICHAEL YOUNG
Life Staff Writer

"October Road" is a new ABC drama about a man trying to reclaim his past — and himself. The man's name is Nicholas Garrett, or at least it was before he became a famous writer. Now he goes by Nicholson because his editor thought it sounded important and "would sell more books."

Nick spends his nights at clubs, surrounded by people who admire him for his literary genius. Yet, he believes they don't like him for who he really is, and his suspicion is correct. But then again, Nick has not always lived in the city.

The pilot opens with a heartwarming scene that took place 10 years ago on the morning Nick left town for what was supposed to be a six-week adventure. He promised everyone it would be just a short trip to have a little fun. But Nick never came back.

Years later, when his editor calls him up with an offer to lecture at a college near his hometown, he accepts, hoping a return to his roots

will clear his mind and let him get on with his life. This is where the conflict starts.

If this whole scenario sounds a little boring to you, that's because it is. The premise would probably work well for a novel, meant to be read in the sunlight on lazy afternoons. But as a television program, there is not enough substance to keep you anticipating what will happen next.

What's more, the writers of the show know the plot is lacking, and the first five minutes are so jam-packed with new characters that the contrivances of everything make it impossible to become immersed in the experience. When the only idea for an opening involves a standard sex scene, that should be a red flag that the show is missing the key to drawing viewers: a hook.

Even the central theme — reconnecting with old friends believed to be lost forever — feels tired. The show's life lessons are elementary at best, and the most profound statement in the first episode comes from a character named (I kid you not) "Physical Phil":

"The quest for the holy grail is the holy grail itself," he says. "The journey is the destination."

If you have ever thought about the direction of your life, then "October Road" has nothing to offer you. Honestly, the show doesn't seem to have much of an audience at all. It's not funny enough to be mainstream, but its childish approach to mature themes will bore drama-viewers. Just check out this gem of dialogue offered by one of Nick's old acquaintances (who is 30 years old, by the way) addresses the negative aspects of his book: "I don't know why you felt the need to drop turds on your hometown." Do kids even say "turds" anymore? I doubt it.

"October Road" is scheduled to run each week after "Grey's Anatomy" but will most likely be cancelled before the season is out. With sub-par acting, dull writing and the absence of an engaging plot, there's not much reason to invest your time in this show. When it comes to "October Road," keep driving. ■

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3/14/07 SOLUTIONS

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 - 28 Petunia or Babe
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 - 34 Churn
 - 36 Lively tune
 - 40 Satisfied
 - 42 Equivalent word
 - 44 Highest male voice
 - 45 Dinghy devices
 - 47 I give up!
 - 48 Ignited
 - 50 Drum out
 - 52 Stimp's pal
 - 53 Dozen
 - 56 Small sofa
 - 58 Actor Holm
 - 59 Qualified
 - 61 Freebooter
 - 64 Electricity reductions
 - 67 Made comfortable
 - 68 Part of a foot
 - 69 Bart's bus driver
 - 70 Spirited stallion
 - 71 Covered with soot
 - 72 Perceptive
 - 73 Hot, spicy drink

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3/18/07

3/14/07 SOLUTIONS

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- DOWN**
- 1 Swabbing tools
 - 2 Monumental
 - 3 Cleaning agent
 - 4 Empty-headed
 - 5 Gather together
 - 6 Tropical cuckoo
 - 7 General notion
 - 8 Skinny or poop
 - 9 Transference
 - 10 Reverent wonder
 - 11 Bamboo lover
 - 12 Surpass others
 - 13 Colorists
 - 19 Component piece
 - 21 Fa-la connector
 - 25 Scenic overlook
 - 27 Eagle's claw
 - 28 12-point type
 - 29 Image of a deity
 - 33 Kwajalein or Eniwetok
 - 35 Put into circulation
 - 37 Became greater
 - 38 Singer Lovett
 - 39 Govt. agents
 - 41 Steno pad
 - 43 Most eccentric
 - 46 Flowerlike pattern
 - 49 Reitman or Lendl
 - 51 Gas additive letters
 - 53 Leg bone
 - 54 Tips off
 - 55 Son of Cain
 - 57 Muse of lyric poetry
 - 60 Pear-shaped instrument
 - 62 ___ off (angry)
 - 63 Whirlpool
 - 65 How come?
 - 66 Male offspring

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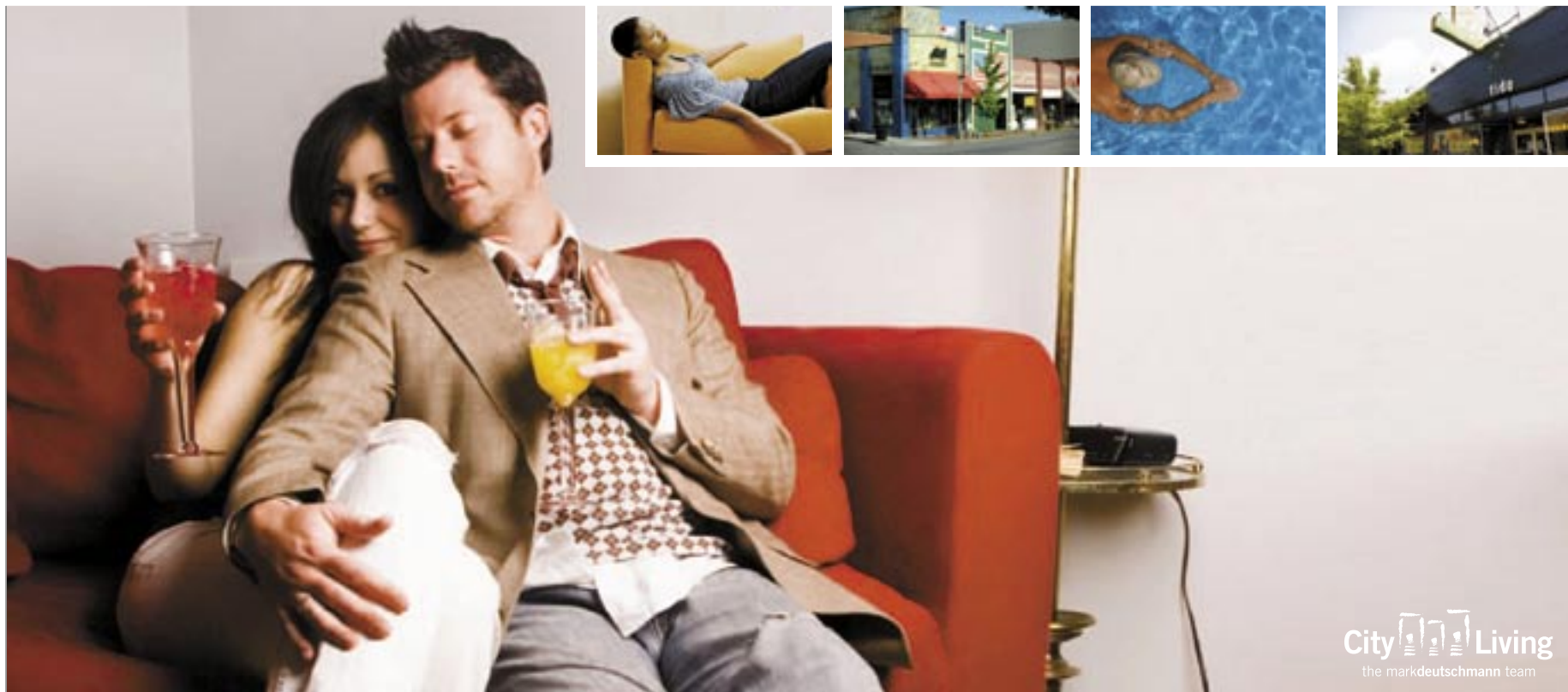


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