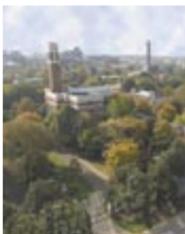


The Hustler introduces its Focus section this issue, taking a closer look at Vanderbilt stereotypes...

For more, see Focus, page 8



The Hustler Editorial Board explains its decision to expand news coverage in Wednesday issues...

For more, see 'Our View' Opinion, page 5



WHAT'S NEW ON

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The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 10

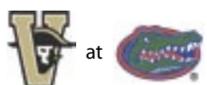
THE WALL

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

TODAY Fulbright information session

All students interested in applying for the Fulbright Grant Program for study, research or teaching grants, should attend an information session in Sarratt 189 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

TODAY Vanderbilt vs. Florida viewing party



Come watch the Commodore men's basketball team play in Gainesville against the No. 1 Florida Gators in the Student Life Center Ballroom tonight. There will be free food, prizes and a live feed of the game.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1 Celebrate the start of Black History Month

Come to Ballroom C of the Student Life Center on Thursday to celebrate "A Moment in History" to kick off Black History Month. The program begins at 1 p.m. and readings begin at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1 McGill Hour on Energy Conservation

Beth Conklin, an anthropology and religious studies professor; Jonathan Gilligan, an earth and environmental sciences professor; and Doug Wood, a philosophy professor, will speak on an Energy Conservation and Global Warming panel moderated by Doug Fischer. Refreshments will be provided, and the event will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. in the McGill Hall TV Lounge.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2 Civil rights leader to speak at Vanderbilt's Benton Chapel

Civil rights pioneer and Vanderbilt Distinguished University Professor James Lawson will lecture at the Benton Chapel on Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. A reception will immediately follow at the Owen Graduate School of Management.

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

Bilotta and Gragg win VSG election

Ticket to lead first Vanderbilt Student Government with 66 percent of vote.

by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI
Asst News Editor

Cara Bilotta and Perry Gragg won the first Vanderbilt Student Government general election yesterday with 66.4 percent of the vote.

In all, 2,425 votes were cast. Krish Vigneswaran and Ashley Holmes received 29.9 percent of the votes and the write-in candidates Kevin McNish and Joe Hills received 2.6 percent of the votes. Students and friends of the candidates gathered in Sarratt Promenade to await the results at 8 p.m.

Student Government Association Attorney General Elizabeth Scott was very pleased with the response to the election.

"It was a clean election and lots of people came out to vote," said Interhall Attorney General Chris Skene.

Newly elected Vanderbilt Student Government President Cara Bilotta found the whole experience exciting and surreal.

"As the first VSG president there is a lot of pressure and a lot of precedents to be set," Bilotta said.

Until turnover March 21, Bilotta and Gragg plan to work with various student organizations, talking to people and putting together their cabinet.

Vigneswaran said he and Holmes campaigned as much as they could.

"We gave students a lot to ask for," he said.

He also spoke previously with Cara and discussed the various concurrent points within each of their platforms that will be addressed in the new VSG organization.

He does not plan on running for another elected position within VSG, but will definitely apply for other positions in

Please see **VSG ELECTION**, page 2



Supporters of Cara Bilotta and Perry Gragg congratulate the team on their win Tuesday night in Sarratt.

KELLY HOCUTT / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Reporter Judith Miller contradicts Libby over leak of CIA operative's identity

Journalist testifies for prosecutor who jailed her.

by MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reporter Judith Miller testified Tuesday that former vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby identified a CIA operative to her on two occasions on dates earlier than he has told investigators he first heard the information from another reporter.

Miller, the former New York Times reporter who spent 85 days in jail trying to avoid revealing these conversations, said Libby identified the wife of a prominent Iraq war critic as a CIA employee in face-to-face meetings on June 23 and July 8, 2003.

Libby, then Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, told the FBI and a grand jury that he thought he was hearing Valerie Plame's CIA job for the first time from NBC's Tim Russert on July 10, 2003.

Five government officials, including ex-White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, also have testified that they discussed Plame and her CIA job with Libby before July 10.

Earlier Tuesday, the jury saw notes Libby took on or about June 12 indicating that Cheney



MILLER

himself told Libby the war critic's wife worked at the CIA.

The discrepancy over when Libby learned about Plame is a major element in the charges on which he is being tried. He is not accused of leaking her name but rather of perjury and obstruction of the investigation into how her name leaked. Libby now says his memory failed him when he spoke with Russert and other reporters.

Miller became a heroine to many press groups when she went to jail rather than discuss conversations with a source whose identity she had agreed not to reveal. She since left the Times for freelancing amid a

controversy over her reporting techniques. Her appearance at the trial filled the courtroom seats for the first time and drew several retired reporters.

Accompanied to court by her defense attorney, Bob Bennett, Miller answered Fitzgerald's questions in a calm, clear voice while never taking her gaze from him. She seemed less calm when questioned by defense attorney William Jeffress; her eyes darted occasionally to the jury, and she cleared her nose into a handkerchief.

Anticipating a defense attack on her memory, Fitzgerald brought out that Miller did not mention the June 23 meeting in Libby's office during her first grand jury testimony — after she finally decided Libby had freed her from a promise not to discuss their conversations. Miller testified that, at Fitzgerald's request she went back and found notes of the June 23 meeting and then described it in a later grand jury appearance.

Libby's attorney did come back at Miller again and again over her memory of the June 23 meeting and her memory in general. Their exchanges occasionally became testy. ■

Lawmakers hear of interference in global warming science

by H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal scientists have been pressured to play down global warming, advocacy groups testified Tuesday at the Democrats' first investigative hearing since taking control of Congress.

The hearing focused on allegations that, for years, the White House has micromanaged the government's climate programs and has closely controlled what scientists have been allowed to tell the public.

"It appears there may have been an orchestrated campaign to mislead the public about climate change," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. Waxman is chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and a critic of the Bush administration's environmental policies, including its views on climate.

Climate change also was a leading topic in the Senate, where presidential contenders for 2008 lined up at a hearing called by Sen. Barbara Boxer. They expounded — and at times tried to outdo each other — on why they believed Congress must act to reduce heat-trapping "greenhouse" gases.

"This is a problem whose time has come," Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., proclaimed.

"This is an issue over the years whose time has come," echoed Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

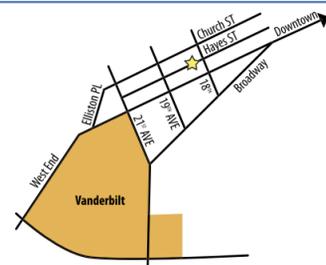
Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., said that "for decades far too many have ignored the warning" about climate change. "Will we look back at today and say this was the moment we took a stand?" ■

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Monday-Thursday 5-10
Friday-Saturday 5-11
Bar opens for dinner at 4:30



WEATHER

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

TODAY



Partly Cloudy, 36/30

THURSDAY



Rain/Snow, 40/32

FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy, 42/19

VUPD CRIME LOG

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

Jan. 24, 2007, 2:09 a.m. — An arrest was made at the Mapco on 21st Avenue for simple assault on a police officer, drunkenness, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Jan. 25, 2007, 6:02 p.m. — An arrest was made for trespassing at the Vanderbilt Clinic.

Jan. 26, 2007, 1:25 a.m. — A theft from a motor vehicle occurred at the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Church Street. The suspect is unknown.

Jan. 26, 2007, 3:51 a.m. — A male was arrested for drug violations at 25th Avenue South, and an accompanying female charged with disorderly conduct and trespass of real property is still at large.

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.

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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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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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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One semester's delivery via U.S. Postal Service is available for \$125 or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW

The news you need — in brief

compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

CAMPUS

Vanderbilt gains ground in national competition for federal research dollars

Vanderbilt University has advanced in one of the principal national rankings of the value of federal research grants awarded to faculty members, according to an annual report compiled by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Published last November and formally called "Federal Obligations for Science & Engineering Research & Development," the ranking places Vanderbilt at No. 23 in the nation. Last year, the university posted a similar gain to No. 24 from No. 25, after breaking into the top tier of the nation's research universities two years ago by jumping from No. 31 to No. 25.

"We're in a great position for an institution of our size," Dennis said.

G. Hall, associate provost for research and graduate education. "At this level, moving higher becomes increasingly competitive. We should feel great about how far we've come: Vanderbilt was at No. 38 only six short years ago."

Source: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

Federal officials sign immigration enforcement contract

The Nashville City Paper reported that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Davidson County Sheriff's Office both signed off on the Memorandum of Understanding, which grants the sheriff's office personnel the authority to immediately check the immigration status of every person booked into the Davidson County jail.

Now the Department of Homeland Security will train selected sheriff's deputies how to navigate the new system that assists in the instant immigration checks.

The Memorandum of Understanding will govern the Sheriff's new 278(g) immigration enforcement program. The signing of the memorandum presented the last major obstacle faced by the sheriff's office, who had strenuously lobbied officials in Washington for permission to participate in the program.

Source: NASHVILLE CITY PAPER

C-SPAN bus makes stop at Vanderbilt



SETH HARKINS / The Vanderbilt Hustler

C-SPAN's Campaign 2008 Bus stopped at Vanderbilt on Tuesday on its "Road to the White House" tour to educate students about the political network and its presidential election coverage.

Visitors climbed aboard the bus, which was parked between Sarratt Student Center and Branscomb Quad from about 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., where they could view C-SPAN footage and ask representatives questions about the network, which provides live coverage of government and public affairs.

It will travel to party conventions, candidate announcements and speeches, where it will be used to cover key events of the 2008 campaign.

Vanderbilt is one of the first universities on the "Road to the White House" tour, named after C-SPAN's political program.

Source: INSIDEVANDY

Vanderbilt Model United Nations delegation earns five awards at McMUN

The Vanderbilt Model United Nations delegation traveled to Montreal, Canada for the McGill Model United Nations Conference (McMUN), and took home five awards at the third largest Model United Nations conference in North America.

Matthew Bernstein and Jambu Palaniappan were awarded Honorable Mentions in their respective committees, while Galaal Elsamadicy, Anna Elliott, and the co-delegation of Dan DeWit and Betsy Ankney received Verbal Commendations. Head delegates Karim Al Sayeh and Galaal Elsamadicy led the team representing the nations of Afghanistan and Switzerland as well as committee-specific positions.

Not only do prestigious U.S. universities, such as Harvard, Princeton and Georgetown, attend McMUN, but international universities, such as the University of Edinburgh and the University of Ghana, attend as well.

Source: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

Vanderbilt study shows lighter and taller equals a bigger paycheck for immigrants

A new study by a Vanderbilt University professor of law and economics found legal immigrants in the United States with a lighter skin tone made more money than those with darker skin.

Joni Hersch used data from 2,084 men and women who participated in the 2003 New Immigrant Survey. An interviewer reported the person's skin color using an 11-point scale where "0" represented the absence of color and "10" represented the darkest possible skin color.

Even when taking into consideration characteristics that might affect wages, such as English language proficiency, work experience and education, Hersch found immigrants with the lightest skin color earned, on average, 8 percent to 15 percent more than immigrants with the darkest skin tone.

Hersch said the effect of skin color even persisted among workers with the same ethnicity, race and country of origin. Hersch's research also found height played a part in salary. Taller immigrants earned more, with every inch adding an additional 1 percent to wages.

After ruling out various explanations, Hersch concluded that discrimination is the strongest explanation for why lighter and taller immigrants make more money.

Source: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

VSG ELECTIONS: Turnover to occur March 21



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Krish Vigneswaran and Ashley Holmes received 29.9 percent of the vote, behind Bilotta and Gragg, who received 66.4 percent.

From VSG ELECTIONS, page 1

the cabinet such as chief of staff, which he currently holds.

SGA President Boone Lancaster said the election was a good race between qualified candidates that addressed some very important issues within the student body.

Interhall President Devin Donovan said she is also happy with the results.

"Cara had been so dedicated to SGA and Perry to Interhall — they represent a merger between the two organizations of Interhall and SGA," Donovan said.

Voting for the election lasted from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Lancaster sent a campus-wide e-mail reminding students to vote.

Sophomore Kimi DeMent voted after she

received the e-mail in the morning. "The e-mail provided a link to the student voting webpage which made it easy to vote," she said. "In all, it took about one minute," she said.

Freshman Ali Trecker decided to cast a vote after listening to Gragg at her sorority chapter meeting.

"I found that I agreed with everything he was saying. It really motivated me to vote the next day," she said.

Many students who failed to vote preferred to remain anonymous. Reasons for the lack of participation included lack of interest, scarcity of time and failure to check the e-mail message.

The official VSG turnover will occur March 21. Further elections for the VSG cabinet will ensue in the coming weeks. ■

A Career in Chiropractic?



If you have ever wondered what it takes to become a doctor of chiropractic, don't miss this opportunity to talk with representatives from Cleveland Chiropractic College's Kansas City and Los Angeles campuses.

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Contractor takes heat for slow pace of post-Katrina program in Louisiana

by MELINDA DESLATTE
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Nearly eight months after it was hired by the state, a consulting company in charge of dispensing billions in federal aid to people whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has received 103,000 applications but handed out fewer than 400 grants.

And now the company is getting much of the blame for the overall slow recovery of New Orleans and the rest of the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

Frustrated homeowners are bitterly criticizing Fairfax, Va.-based ICF International Inc., and state lawmakers are demanding Gov. Kathleen Blanco fire the company. But ICF is defending its handling of

the aid program, saying it is a task of unprecedented proportions.

In June, ICF was awarded a contract valued at up to \$756 million to run the Road Home program, a \$7.5 billion federally funded, state-administered program to compensate property owners whose houses were damaged or destroyed by the 2005 hurricanes. For ICF, the contract amounts to a potential 10 percent commission.

"ICF should be ashamed of themselves. They should never have even attempted to take on a project like this. They were obviously not equipped to do it," said New Orleans homeowner Mark Samuels, who lives with his three children upstairs while he rebuilds his gutted home. ■



Mark Samuels, who runs a business from his home, points to his inventory on temporary shelves in his office in New Orleans this summer. Samuels, president and founder of New Orleans-based Basin Street Records, thinks the blame for the ICF/Road Home morass rests with Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

BILL HABER / AP Photo

Clemson students accused of mocking black stereotypes

by SUSANNE M. SCHAFFER
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — On Tuesday, Clemson University President James Barker decried a party where white students mocked black stereotypes by drinking malt liquor and at least one student dressed in black face.

Barker said in a letter to students and faculty the university was investigating the situation. The NAACP also confirmed it was looking into the Clemson party and at least three other similar events held at universities throughout the country.

"I was appalled, angered and disappointed when I learned that a group of Clemson students

participated in activities at an off-campus party that appeared to mock and disparage African Americans," Barker said. "Many people have been offended and deeply hurt."

Later in the day, about 50 students and local residents gathered about 20 miles from campus at a library where students said they would plan a demonstration at the school and suggested apologies were needed from the party's planners as well as university officials.

"Yes, it may have been free speech but it was disrespectful and that's why we're mad," said Ranniese McDonald, 20, a junior engineering student. "We need to come together to say, 'Racism is alive, and this will not be tolerated.'"

School officials said they became aware of the party over the weekend and have met with some of the offended students. The party, which students said had a "gangsta" theme, was held the day before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Pictures from the party were posted on the social networking Web site Facebook.com.

Following uproar from the photos, party planners issued an unsigned apology letter through the school for "any disrespect (they) have caused."

"We invited all races and types of people and never meant any racial harm," according to the letter, which was provided to The Associated Press by school officials.

"We want everyone to know how sorry we are, and that we are willing to do anything to make things right," the letter said.

Lonnie Randolph, president of the South Carolina chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the party wasn't "just harmless fun."

"We once lynched African-Americans as good fun and humor," Randolph said. "We also execute them at a real high rate for fun and humor. We also don't educate them or pay them like we pay others in the community and that's fun and humorous to a lot of people."

Harold Hughes of the black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha said he

had spoken with fellow members who went to the party and met with angry students on Monday.

His impression was the party organizers were "naive" and those who posted pictures on the Internet didn't realize it was offensive.

"People put pictures of themselves drinking on the Internet and then go to a job interview and wonder why they didn't get a job," said Hughes, 21, of Columbia.

Hughes said his fraternity spent the King holiday doing community service. The school doesn't hold classes to observe the holiday.

"It's a big thing on campus to work on something to remember the slain civil rights leader," he said. ■

Knoxville moving ahead with plans to reopen SunSphere



The SunSphere is located in World's Fair Park in Knoxville, Tenn. It was built as the centerpiece of the 1982 World's Fair but is now vacant and closed to the public. City officials announced plans Tuesday to renovate the SunSphere with hopes of opening it later this year.

ELIZABETH DAVIS / AP Photo

Renovations to cost city \$1 million.

by ELIZABETH A. DAVIS
Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The city of Knoxville is hoping to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1982 World's Fair by reopening two of its signature buildings — the SunSphere and canopy-roofed Tennessee Amphitheater.

The SunSphere, with its gold globe atop a steel tower visible from Interstate 40, has been vacant and in disrepair for several years while the closed amphitheater was recently saved from demolition.

Mayor Bill Haslam announced plans Tuesday to spend \$1 million to renovate the SunSphere and \$850,000 to restore the amphitheater. City council must approve the plan, and a vote was planned for later in the day.

Haslam said the goal is to have the structures open by this fall.

"This is the 25th anniversary of the World's Fair opening. We think it's particularly fitting that we announce what we're working on today," Haslam said, to start a press conference on a lower

level of the SunSphere overlooking the amphitheater.

The ball stands 266 feet in the air and contains five floors that included observation levels, a restaurant and kitchen. Restaurant patrons could once peer down through the glass panels as they sat at tables.

"We're really wanting to get it open because it should be open; because it's kind of crazy to have the icon of the city not have people able to utilize it," he said. "It makes it a little more special to do it in the 25th year."

The money for both renovations will come from the proceeds of the sale of other buildings at the World's Fair site downtown to a Chattanooga-based developer and a nearby parking lot to another company.

When the SunSphere reopens, it will include an observation deck, a food service area and office space. The city owns the structure but has worked out a 20-year lease agreement with the firm Kinsey Probasco Hays of Chattanooga to develop and operate it. ■

College student jailed for two days after reporting rape

Police found old theft arrest warrant.

by PHIL DAVIS
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A woman who told police she had been raped was jailed for two days after officers found an old warrant accusing her of failing to pay restitution for a 2003 theft arrest.

While she was behind bars, according to the college student's attorney, a jail worker refused to give her a second dose of the morning-after contraceptive pill because of the worker's religious convictions.

The 21-year-old woman was released Monday only after attorney Vic Moore reported her plight to the local media.

"Shocked. Stunned. Outraged. I don't have words to describe it," Moore said.

"She is not a victim of any one person. She is a victim of the system. There's just got to be some humanity involved when it's a victim of rape."

Moore said the woman was not allowed to take the second emergency contraceptive pill until Monday afternoon, a day late, after reporters called police and jail officials.

Tampa Police Chief Steve Hogue said the arrest led to a new policy Tuesday that tells officers not to arrest a crime victim who has suffered injury or mental trauma whenever "reasonably possible." The agency also apologized to the student.

"Obviously, any policy that allows a sexual battery victim to spend a night in jail is a flawed policy," police spokeswoman Laura McElroy said. ■

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THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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OUR VIEW

Campus stereotypes substitute poorly for normal interaction

Every Vanderbilt student is aware of the stereotypes surrounding our university. Rich “Vandy girls” with bleached blonde hair and dressed in UGG boots and miniskirts vie for attention with the wealthy frat guys with popped collars and dirty hats emblazoned with the logos of other schools’ athletic teams. International students only leave their rooms in McTyeire to visit the library, while the Greek community performs bizarre rituals and sees little beyond the manicured lawns of filthy houses.

Very occasionally, such as when choosing a brand of ketchup, stereotypes and prior judgments can prove useful. However, none of the above stereotypes, which still choke the public perception of our campus, appear to serve any positive function. Like it or not, a great percentage of our interactions continue to be governed by the same tired stereotypes, even as reality moves beyond the homogeneity that used to define Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt used to be a haven of southern aristocracy. This is a reputation the university is not just trying to shake, but one it must

shake if the school is to realize its full potential. Insularity, in other words, is not a recipe for success on the national level, and now that Vanderbilt has broadened its horizons, its reputation has grown immensely. Vanderbilt’s surge in recognition leads to better job prospects for its alumni and paves the way for even more growth in the future.

The quest for greater diversity by a number of metrics is far from complete; indeed, there is no magical level of difference, no Holy Grail we can find and declare, “Our job is done.” It is difficult to imagine a limit to the benefits cultural, ethnic, and ideological diversities bring us on a daily basis and will bring us in the future. Yet diversity does us little good if we remain Balkanized into our own communities. The stereotype that contains more truth than any other is that there is little interaction between the various and sundry groups composing “The Vanderbilt Community.” If this is to be the best university it can be, this is the first unfortunate fact we must work to change.

OUR VIEW

The Hustler begins to cover events beyond the bubble on weekly basis

It has been a common criticism of The Hustler that it focuses primarily on events of interest to the Vanderbilt community and less on state, national and international affairs. Proposed solutions have ranged from the Collegiate Readership Program, which would bring national newspapers to campus, to podcasts covering a wide variety of topics. The only refrain uniting these diverse ideas and initiatives is “The Hustler is not doing all it can to inform the Vanderbilt community!”

We agree completely. As Vanderbilt’s student newspaper, we must serve the interests of our readers, and our readers have again and again expressed a desire to be well informed of the events that affect our society and our civilization. Our world does not end at West End Avenue, and our news coverage must reflect this.

This is not to say The Hustler will cease coverage of Vanderbilt events and affairs. We will continue to uphold that mandate as we have since 1888. However, starting with today’s issue, our rich mix of content will be different. Wednesday’s news coverage will now focus on events

beyond our traditional Nashville scope, and in following semesters every issue will feature national and world news. One may notice, for example, that Knoxville is renovating its SunSphere. In a figurative sense, The Hustler is adjusting its journalistic sphere accordingly in order to serve its community more effectively and completely.

The Hustler is “The Voice of Vanderbilt,” and as such, the publication prides itself on its accessibility as well as its responsiveness to student concerns. This coverage expansion focusing on topics of compelling community interest provides an elegant and easily achievable solution to our campus news gap that a flood of widely circulated publications bereft of Vanderbilt news would not.

We live in a rapidly shrinking world and student news coverage must reflect this. Vanderbilt must have a news source tailored to its interests and only student media can fulfill such a demand. The Hustler will do all that is possible to ensure that Vanderbilt student media remains relevant to Vanderbilt students as long as the university endures.



Wayne Stayskal—MCT

LETTER

SGA senator calls for more activism in student politics

To the Editor:

It occurs to me that, by the time these words can be printed, it will be alongside the news of our new student body president and executive vice president, and the Vanderbilt Student Government we’ve discussed will have taken its next step toward tangible existence.

In reading the columns and letters that have appeared in The Hustler over the last several days the strong opinions students hold about VSG and about student government in general have struck me. Even more striking is the strong language used to state these opinions, my favorite being the phrase “tyrannical student government.” As an incumbent senator in the Student Government Association, I am not certain whether I should

feel exceedingly insulted, strangely powerful or simply entertained.

The bulk of my experience as a senator has involved passing resolutions that allocate portions of SGA’s budget to organizations seeking co-sponsorship for major events. This is worthy and important work; however, there are more pressing issues facing this campus I would have loved to address. I attribute this glut of budgetary concerns less to SGA’s fat wallet and more to the lack of interest I sense from my constituents. To put it bluntly, I have rarely, if ever, been approached by a student with a concern to bring before SGA. It may seem that members of student government should take the initiative to go out, find the problems, and fix them, but that is not truly our job. Our real charge is to articulate and fight for

the desires and hopes of the student body, and we can’t read your minds.

In the end, the strong sentiments expressed in the last few days are, for me, an encouraging reminder that there are students with real strongly held convictions on this campus. Whatever the outcome of Tuesday’s election, I hope students will take advantage of what is, even for all its faults, a better system for representing the student voice on this campus. Most things in life are, after all, only temporary: constitutions can be amended and rules can be revised, but only when individuals with concerns approach their representatives and demand positive change. Speak up! We’re listening.

Stuart Hill
Junior Blair Senator

COLUMN

America cannot justify or afford Westcott’s foreign policy

TIM BOYD
Columnist

The ability to write an opinion column that is both refreshingly honest yet also painfully wrongheaded is a rare talent indeed. Such was the achievement, however, of Chart Westcott’s recent red-blooded defense of the need for American “hegemony” (“Global governance threatens national security,” Jan. 22). Westcott deserves credit for at least being open about his belief that naked self-interest should drive American foreign policy, but one nonetheless cannot escape the sense that he has drawn much of the intellectual reasoning for his position from “Dr. Strangelove.” Perhaps he thought the movie was a documentary, rather than a satire.

Westcott’s argument appears to be that America’s self-interest is threatened by outside restraints, that this is best corrected by America granting itself the right to do what it wants when it wants; and that other countries should be bound by the very set of rules that Westcott rejects for the United States. While following his logic for why this should be so, I had a mental image of Westcott as an exasperated school bully patiently explaining to the teachers, who just don’t seem to get it, that they should have no right to tell him he can’t beat the living crap out of all the other kids, but that the teachers should damn well make sure none of those other kids bother him.

Leaving aside for a moment the question of whether America’s adoption of this attitude toward foreign affairs would actually be in the nation’s self-interest, it should be immediately clear that such a policy is morally indefensible. Westcott is apparently nervous that the U.N. only allows the use of force by one state against another in the case of “self-

Please see **BOYD**, page 5

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 issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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BOYD: Naked force not an acceptable substitute for rule of law

From **BOYD**, page 4
defense" (or to come to the defense of another nation under attack).

Now, one could make an argument for saying horrific human rights abuses might also justify a military intervention, but this is not Westcott's point. Rather, he seems to suggest there might be other circumstances, outside of "self-defense," when the U.S. should attack another nation. Like what? The sheer desire to control other people? The need for certain resources? Because it would be a shame to have a top-of-the-range Army and never put it to use? Even the Bush doctrine of a "pre-emptive strike" in the case of Iraq at least claimed "self-defense" as a motivation. It is disturbing indeed to think that "because we want to" is a justifiable defense for a nation's activities.

The broader problem, however, is one that even Dr. Strangelove might have recognized. How on earth is a system such as the one Westcott desires supposed to function? Does he believe that such nations as China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, South Africa and Russia — all major regional powers — are going to agree to such a set of rules? If the U.S. declares itself to be above the rules, how exactly do we explain to India why it shouldn't simply annex Kashmir? How do we tell sundry nations throughout the world that they don't have the right to develop nuclear programs? What reason does the U.S. have for being exempt from the rules? Perhaps Westcott would like to revive "Manifest Destiny" once more.

It is, of course, also a very dangerous policy to adopt with regard to the future. Right now, the U.S. is indeed the world's

only hyper-power. Westcott believes this position should be exploited to make sure that a "unipolar" world with the U.S. at the top remains in place. Unfortunately for him, and perhaps for the rest of us, it is hard to see how naked force will preserve this position. Are we going to invade China if they ever get too uppity? Perhaps we could carpet-bomb New Delhi if India won't agree to a favorable trade deal.

The kind of attitude Westcott suggests is one the U.S. cannot afford to adopt. It would be far better if the U.S. used its status as a superpower to establish a suitable geopolitical structure under which nations do only resort to force as a means of defense.

The kind of attitude Westcott suggests is one the U.S. cannot afford to adopt. It would be far better if the U.S. used its status as a superpower to establish a suitable geopolitical structure under which nations do only resort to force as a means of defense. Now is not the time to selfishly declare oneself above the rules, but to shape those rules in such a way that they will still be in place when the day comes that the U.S. is not a seemingly omnipotent "hyper-power."

The need for such a widely accepted set of rules was, in fact, arguably part of America's motivation in founding the U.N. (which, contrary to Westcott's insinuations, was an organization, like the World Trade Organization, the U.S. voluntarily joined). Today's U.N. may indeed be out-dated in the current world, but it would be a far greater guarantee of America's national interest to build a U.N. more suitable to the 21st century rather than strike out by itself on a dangerously isolated path.

—Tim Boyd is a graduate student in the history department.

THE VERDICT

Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff!

Daniel Radcliffe		The "Harry Potter" star appears naked astride a horse in an upcoming London stage production like some sort of hideous centaur. Seriously, nobody wants to see that.
The Police		The 1980s rock group is reuniting for the Grammys, thrilling a lot of middle-aged housewives in the process.
Hubble space telescope		The Hubble's main camera is broken due to a short circuit. Is it a mere technological failure, or are intergalactic punks vandalizing our neighborhood?
Emma Tillman		The world's oldest known person died just five days after the death of the previous world's oldest known person. Our world's oldest known people are dropping like flies and something needs to be done.
Fraternity hazing		Two Florida A&M students were convicted following an attack on a fraternity pledge. In other news, "beat them until they like you" continues to be an ineffective philosophy.
Federal Aviation Administration		Proposed rules would allow pilots to fly until the age of 65, rather than the current limit of 60. A surge of geriatric pilots is surely what the airline industry needs to boost consumer confidence.
Cynthia Sommer		Sommer poisoned her husband, a Marine sergeant, in order to collect \$250,000 in life insurance. She spent the money on breast implants. Studied with rubies.
Stephen Green		The New York realty mogul has agreed to purchase the ailing left-wing Air America radio network. This will surely fix AM radio's lack of poorly thought out commentary and pointless rage.
WildTangent		The company's CEO has blasted Windows Vista for breaking 90 percent of casual computer games. WildTangent, however, uses spyware-like tactics to distribute its software, so they aren't exactly the chivalric defenders of the masses here.
New York		New York City will soon house a robotic parking garage. Once that goes horribly awry, it will make for a humdinger of a "Twilight Zone" revival.
Snakes		Certain non-venomous Asian snakes eat poison toads as a means of defense against predators. This time, nature has gone too far.
Reality programming		Sure, the shows ceased to be entertaining years ago, but you have to admire their perseverance.
Highway exhaust		Studies suggest that exposure to highway exhaust stunts lung development in children. So, when you take your children camping, don't pitch your tents in the median.

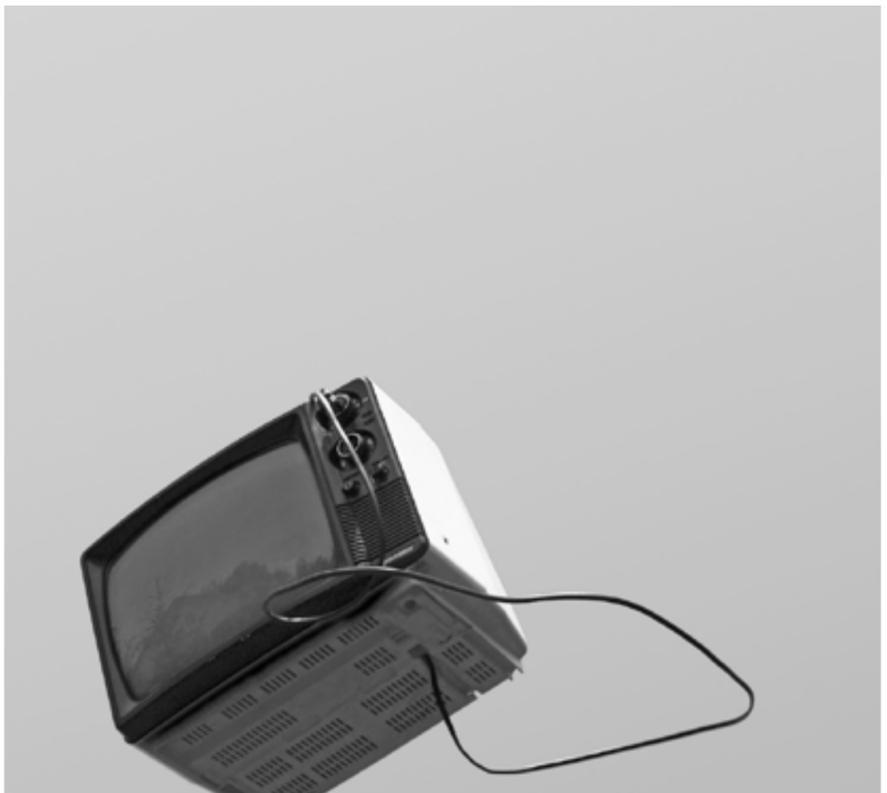
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SPORTS

WHAT 2
WATCH 4

Upcoming Events

**Men's Basketball
No. 24 Vanderbilt at
No. 1 Florida
Tonight**

**6 p.m. CT
Lincoln Financial**
Vanderbilt's first test as a member of the top 25 will be a steep one, as it travels to Gainesville to play the No. 1 team in the country. The Commodores will need to shoot lights out and find a way to contain Florida's fearsome frontline of Corey Brewer, Al Horford and Joakim Noah. Since everyone is expecting Florida to win, coach Kevin Stallings' club should be relaxed, making an upset just a little more likely.

Prediction: Vandy 83, Florida 81

**Men's Basketball
No. 2 Wisconsin at
No. 25 Indiana
Tonight**

6 p.m. CT
Led by Alando Tucker, the Badgers have lost just once all season and will contend for the Big 10 title with Ohio State. Meanwhile, Indiana is looking to establish itself as the league's third best team. This should be a close one, but expect Wisconsin to pull it out.

Prediction: Wisconsin 74, Indiana 68

**Men's Basketball
No. 20 Alabama at
Louisiana State
Tonight**

8 p.m. CT
This is a big game for both underachieving teams. Alabama (How in the world are they still ranked?) has lost three of four, while LSU has dropped three straight. Both SEC West squads need to get on a roll to stay in the Tourney picture. No West team has won a conference road game yet so expect the Tigers to win this one.

Prediction: LSU 66, Alabama 62

**Men's Basketball
No. 9 Oregon at No. 5 UCLA
Thursday**

9:30 p.m. CT
This should be one of the best games of the season as the Ducks and Bruins are tied for first place in the nation's best conference. With Aaron Brooks back in action, Oregon just won at Washington State, while UCLA is coming off a loss at Stanford.

Prediction: Oregon 76, UCLA 70

**Women's Basketball
No. 15 Vanderbilt at
Kentucky
Thursday**

6 p.m. CT
The Commodores are coming off one of their best victories of the season, while Kentucky has lost two straight. Expect Vandy to win, especially if it plays defense like it did Sunday at Arkansas.

Prediction: Vanderbilt 75, Kentucky 66

OVERALL RECORD: 26-19

Bears will win Super Bowl XLI



GROSSMAN

MORRY GASH / AP Photo

GOOD CALL

by MICHAEL POMERANTZ
Sports Reporter

While Peyton Manning has finally made it to the Super Bowl, the Bears will do everything they can to prove it is defense that wins championships, not quarterbacks who spend more time filming advertisements than watching game tape.

There are several things Chicago can and will do to keep the Indianapolis adaptation of the Baltimore Colts from hoisting the Lombardi trophy above their heads.

10. Defense wins championships. Indy's defense has looked pathetic all season, and, even with Bob Sanders back in the fold, both Baltimore and New England averaged more yards per carry against Indianapolis in the playoffs than they averaged during the regular season, meaning Thomas Jones and Cedric Benson should have no problem running the football.

9. Quarterback Rex Grossman isn't as bad as people think. While he has been Chicago's only major weakness this season, with three interceptions in each of his team's losses, Grossman also deserves praise. Believe it or not, he has a higher passer rating than Manning this postseason.

8. The Colts have struggled to put pressure on the quarterback this season, producing only 25 sacks, which is good for 31st. Indianapolis is not likely to put pressure on Grossman, which will give him time to make good decisions and avoid interceptions. Besides, Grossman doesn't have to carry the Bears for them to be successful.

7. The two teams shared four common opponents this season: the Patriots, Giants, Jets and Bills. The Bears outscored them by 48, while Indianapolis outscored them by just 15, with close calls against each of the four teams. Chicago also out-gained the common opponents by more yards than Indianapolis did.

6. Manning has tossed six interceptions and just two touchdown passes in his three playoff games. Chicago's ball-hawking defense, which had 24 interceptions this season, should be able to take advantage of his big game weaknesses, while also shutting down the run with their stellar front seven.

5. There's a Commodore connection as former Vanderbilt linebacker Hunter Hillenmeyer is a key part of the Bears' success on defense.

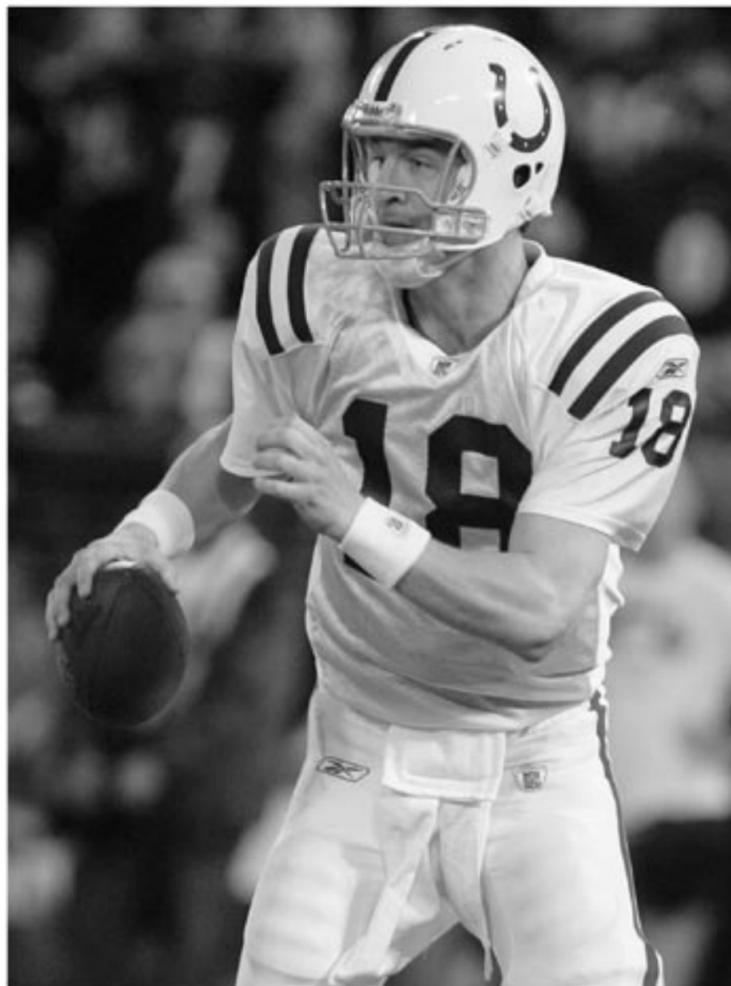
4. Manning always finds a way to choke. Don't let the victory over New England fool you.

3. Bears fans are more dedicated and deserve a championship.

2. Lovie Smith is a better coach than Tony Dungy.

1. The Colts have not won a Super Bowl since leaving Baltimore unannounced at 3 a.m. on March 29, 1984, and as long as the Bears play like they should, there is little reason to expect that they will this year.

Perhaps there is a new curse in sports: one on teams that leave their faithful fans without telling them first and steal their history. ■



MANNING

GENE J. PUSKAR / AP Photo

BAD CALL

by ANDREW HARD
Sports Reporter

Below are the top 10 reasons the Colts will beat the Bears in Super Bowl XLI:

10. Marvin Harrison. Reggie Wayne. Dallas Clark. Brian Fletcher. Ben Utecht. The Bears don't have enough defensive backs to cover Peyton's many targets, and that was true even before the season-ending injury to safety Mike Brown.

9. Peyton Manning has more commercials than Tank Johnson has arrests. This fact alone will make Tank feel so inferior that his pass-rushing abilities will plummet.

8. The Colts' run defense was a laughingstock during the regular season. But with Bob Sanders' return, Indy has allowed only 73.3 rush yards per game in the playoffs. And with the futile Rex Grossman at the helm, the Colts can gear their game specifically toward Chicago backs Thomas Jones and Cedric Benson.

7. Remember last time the Super Bowl was in Miami? Atlanta Falcons safety Eugene Robinson was arrested the night before the game for soliciting a prostitute and then was burned for an 80-yard touchdown in the actual game. You don't think Bears defensive tackle Tank Johnson will find himself in some kind of trouble by week's end?

6. Dwight Freeney still believes the Colts' defense has been disrespected all year. Uh-oh.

5. Everyone makes a big deal about warm-weather teams playing in a cold environment, but nobody ever analyzes it the other way around. How will the Bears adapt to not having to bundle up under four layers of long johns and heated jock straps?

4. Kicker Adam Vinatieri has already won three Super Bowls with his leg. The Colts' acquisition of Vinatieri was hands down the best off-season move in the NFL this year. Count on him to win a fourth on Sunday.

3. Rex Grossman admitted after the regular-season finale against Green Bay that he didn't prepare properly because he was "distracted by New Year's Eve." Let's hope Miami doesn't get to him. Oh, by the way, he's not the best quarterback either (five three-plus interception games this year and two games with a quarterback rating of 1.3 or below).

2. Peyton Manning has already gotten over that hump. He beat the Patriots and finally made the Super Bowl. Let's just say the confidence level is sky-high for the best quarterback of our generation.

1. The Colts have shed their label as choke artists this playoffs. They've been to the postseason every year and they're experienced on both sides of the ball. It's Peyton's time to leave Dan Marino behind as the Best Quarterback Who Never Won the Big One.

Prediction: Colts 31, Bears 20. ■

Fourth and inches: A narrow view on steroids

ALEX BARD
Sports Columnist

Mark McGwire, seventh on the all-time home run list and owner of a 70 home run season, was left out of the Baseball Hall of Fame due to suspicion of steroid use throughout his career.

While his "I'm not here to talk about the past" speech in front of Congress in March 2005 will not soon be forgotten, I must ask (because no one else dares to): Was Big Mac really given a fair trial?

The steroid scandal has tainted many careers in Major League Baseball, if not the entire league in the 21st century. What must be remembered, however, is the likes of McGwire, Sosa and others have not tested positive nor been found with illegal supplements (barring the testimony of a past "Surreal Life" cast member).

What about those who have tested positive and been proven guilty by scientists rather than journalists? This elite club counts handfuls of players including San Diego Charger and Pro Bowler Shawn Merriman, New Orleans Saint Hollis Thomas and roughly half of the Carolina

Panthers offensive line.

American sportswriters have undergone a transformation likened to the Gold Rushers of the 1850s (complete with countless trips to San Francisco), trashing baseball players left and right, all while turning a blind eye on other professional athletes.

I'm pretty sure their code of "ethics" demands they criticize all athletes equally, as least that's what I get from listening to Mike Lupica. Cheaters, and yes, that word is appropriate, like Merriman sat out four games, only to return to the gridiron to lead his team to a 14-2 record and a Pro Bowl nod.

Should we be shocked he was third in Defensive Player of the Year voting, especially with a steroid-enhanced body? Sounds about as "fair and balanced" as Fox News.

The NFL has the weakest drug policy in major sports, and one of the dumbest to boot. Julius Peppers was suspended for taking a cold medicine containing a banned substance, and served the same amount of time as players like Merriman, who was straight up doping.

Please see **STERIODS**, page 7



DENIS POROY / AP Photo

Why have sportswriters given Shawn Merriman, who has tested positive for steroids, a free pass?

No. 24 Commodores seek to knock off Gators

by CHIP ROBIE
Sports Reporter

The No. 24 Commodores are off to their best league start in the Kevin Stallings era. Vanderbilt has won four straight Southeastern Conference games for the first time since 1997 and has won five in a row against ranked opponents. As a result, it finds itself in a three-way tie for second place in the SEC.

"I'm happy for the players," Stallings said. "They've fought through a lot of adversity this season and have focused on getting better every day. I'm happy people are noticing their success."

The Commodores' top-25 ranking ends a three-year hiatus from the AP poll when they started the 2003-2004 season 13-2.

"The last few weeks have been great, but we've got to keep it going," said junior forward Ross Neltner. "It's not about being ranked in the top 25, it's about getting to the NCAA Tournament."

Vanderbilt (15-6, 5-2 SEC) looks to prove it deserves to be in the top 25 when it travels to Gainesville, Fla. tonight to play the No. 1 Florida Gators (19-2, 6-0 SEC), who have won their last 12 games, including a 92-66 rout of Arkansas last Saturday.

"Sometimes teams are ranked No. 1 because someone else lost or some other reason, rather than really deserving," said coach Kevin Stallings. "I think Florida is truly the best team in the country. They're extremely talented, they have no weaknesses, and they're



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Derrick Byars looks to lead the Commodores to a victory in Gainesville tonight.

well-coached."

Florida returns all five starters from last season's National Championship squad. Guard Lee Humphrey has connected on 71.9 percent of his 3-point attempts in SEC play, while point guard Taurean Green leads the team in scoring (13.7 points per game) and assists (3.9 assists per game). And then there's the nation's best frontcourt, which features Corey Brewer, Al Horford and Joakim Noah.

A big part of Vanderbilt's recent success can be attributed to its tremendous job of containing some of the SEC's premier big men, including Kentucky's Randolph Morris and Louisiana State's Glen Davis. Florida's trio will present the Commodores with their most formidable challenge to date.

Coming off his best game as a Commodore against

Ole Miss, Neltner will have a tall task tonight. Noah is averaging 12.7 points and 8.4 rebounds, while Horford is averaging 12.1 points and 8.5 rebounds.

Much of the defensive responsibility will also fall on senior SEC Player of the Year candidate Derrick Byars, who has led the Commodores in scoring in five of the last six games, and classmate Dan Cage, who has scored in double figures in 12 consecutive games.

Offensively, Vanderbilt has been firing on all cylinders.

"They just beat Ole Miss, they're defending very well and they're making more than nine 3-point shots per game," said Florida coach Billy Donovan. "They're an experienced, older team and right now they're probably playing their best basketball of the year." ■

Stamper granted fifth year of eligibility

HUSTLER STAFF REPORT

The Vanderbilt football team received great news last week when it learned offensive tackle Brian Stamper was granted a fifth year of eligibility.

The NCAA granted a waiver authorizing a medical redshirt to Stamper, who was a 2006 co-captain for the Commodores and former All-Southeastern Conference recipient.

He opened the 2006 campaign as a starter only to undergo season-ending back surgery. The upcoming season will be the fifth in a Vanderbilt uniform for Stamper, who earned a starting role at right tackle as a true freshman in 2003.

Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson said he was pleased with the NCAA ruling.

"I'm very happy with the decision, both for Brian and his family, and also for our program," he said.

The ruling offers the possibility that Vanderbilt could return all five starters from the offensive line. The other returnees include senior left tackle Chris Williams, who earned All-SEC recognition from the coaches last year.

The Commodores will begin the 2007 season with four consecutive home games and will play eight of their 12 games at Dudley Field.

The schedule is challenging, with eight opponents having appeared in bowl games last year, including the

national champion (Florida), Cotton Bowl winner (Auburn) and Orange Bowl invitee and ACC champion Wake Forest. Other recent bowl-bound teams on the schedule include Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee.

"It's quite a football schedule, but it's always that way in the Southeastern Conference. It's a schedule our fans, players and coaches should be excited about," Johnson said. "It will be a great challenge for our team, but we're excited about that challenge. As a team, we are back at work getting ready for the season."

The season opener is against the Richmond Spiders, a squad Vanderbilt has defeated twice in the last six years.

Alabama will be Vanderbilt's first SEC game on campus Sept. 8. The Tide will be directed for the first time under former LSU and Miami Dolphin head coach Nick Saban.

The Commodores return 16 starters from the 2006 squad that went 4-8. Several of the SEC's top returnees are back for the Commodores, including three all-conference players — linebacker Jonathan Goff, wide receiver Earl Bennett and Williams.

Other standouts returning are junior quarterback Chris Nickson, senior defensive tackle Theo Horrocks, senior defensive end Curtis Gatewood and junior safety Reshard Langford. ■

STEROIDS: A closer look

From BARD, page 6

The commissioner just stepped up the policy to test 10 (it used to be seven) random players each week on a roster of around 65.

Admirable? Yes, but more must be done to punish offenders, much like baseball's public condemnation and harsher penalties.

The truth is, much of this inconsistency lies with the media. These "watchdogs" have cornered baseball and its offenders while ignoring, or, worse, awarding NFL's bad apples, and this is the heart of the problem.

Do I think Big Mac cheated? Probably. But I do know, for sure, Shawn Merriman did and his Pro Bowl selection wasn't even in question. What was questioned was why he didn't win the Defensive Player of the Year award.

That's almost as funny as watching Canseco in drag on VH1. ■

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FOCUS

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

What stereotype do you feel is most prevalent on campus?

"I'd have to say the Vandy girl is the most prominent stereotype on campus. They are girls that are overly conscious of their appearance and have a lot of connections on campus; they seem to know a lot of people." "I think the stereotype is true to an extent. That's how it starts."
—**Laura Gonzalez**
Sophomore

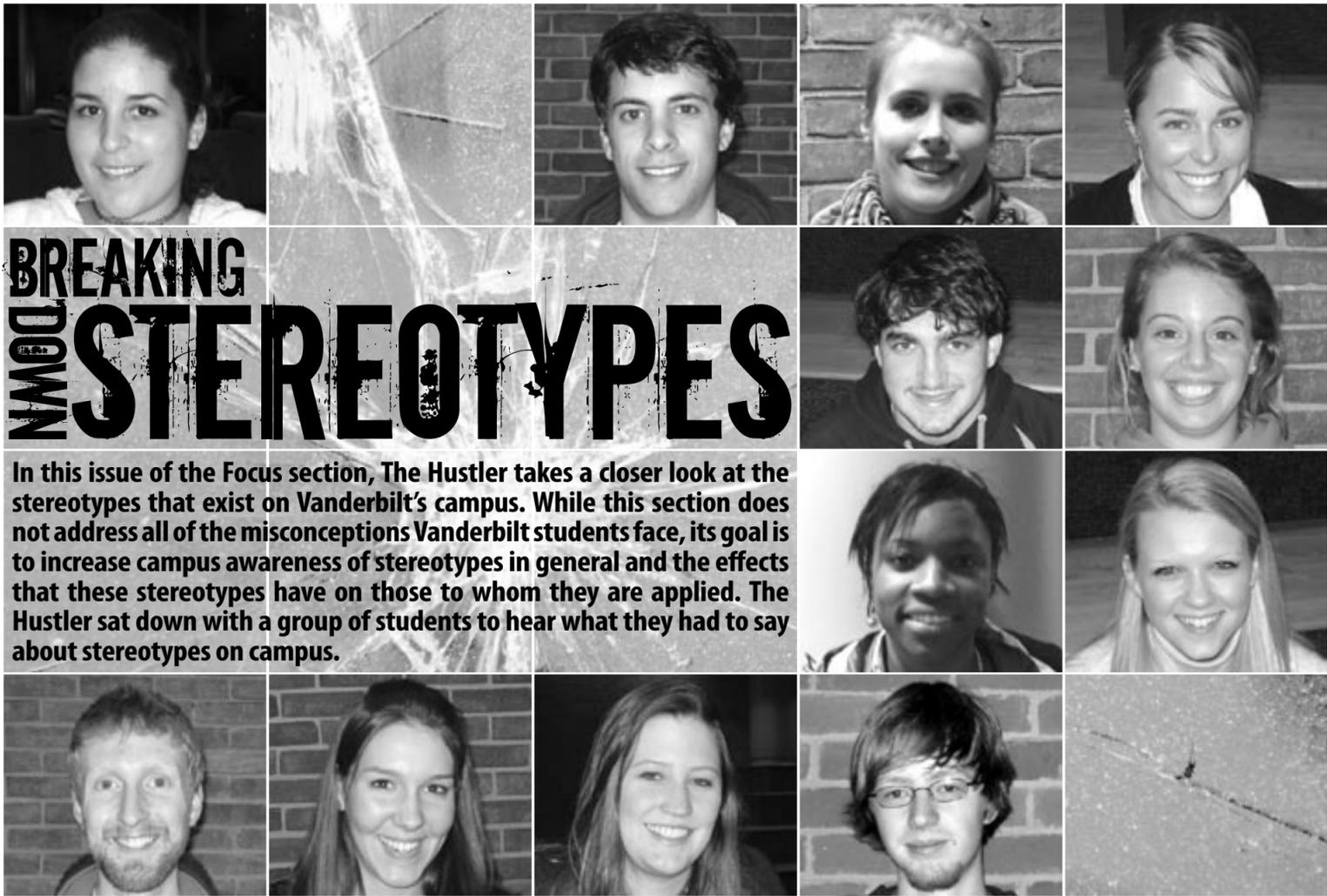
"I would say the stereotype of being Southern. Outside of Vanderbilt, people look in and see the school as Southern. When you get here, though, you see it isn't as prevalent as people on the outside think it is."
—**Paige Weaver**
Senior

"The stereotype I see the most is the idea of the frat guy — the guy that wears penny loafers and collared shirts and talks about beer pong a lot. The stereotype is that they care more about socializing than their schoolwork, but you know they are smart. They got into Vanderbilt."
—**Wade Wheatley**
Freshman

"A lot of people see Vanderbilt students as rich snobs and preps. Generally, I think it is true because there is a lot of money here, and the Greek scene is pretty prevalent as well."
—**JD Jacobson**
Freshman

"The rich Vandy girl stereotype is probably the most prevalent. It's just the one I feel like I hear about the most. When I think of a stereotypical Vandy girl, I think of wardrobes that reflect a very luxurious lifestyle, accompanied by an automobile and other expensive accessories (that also reflect that lifestyle)."
—**Jessie Tidyman**
Senior

"I've seen a lot of different people with a lot of different experiences. I think we are becoming more culturally and ethnically diverse, but I would like to see more diversity here on campus. I can be in a classroom of 100 people, and everyone looks like me."
—**Katie Jacobson**
Junior



In this issue of the Focus section, The Hustler takes a closer look at the stereotypes that exist on Vanderbilt's campus. While this section does not address all of the misconceptions Vanderbilt students face, its goal is to increase campus awareness of stereotypes in general and the effects that these stereotypes have on those to whom they are applied. The Hustler sat down with a group of students to hear what they had to say about stereotypes on campus.

by **SYDNEY WILMER**
Asst Focus Editor

Informally congregated around a table in the lobby outside Rand, a group mostly composed of freshmen and sophomores sit discussing Vanderbilt stereotypes. As the conversation escalates, passers-by stop and contribute. Though it is 8:30 p.m., textbooks and laptops sit either unopened on the table or in bags propped against the chairs.

While students like sophomore Alali Dagago-Jack touch on what she sees as the misconception that "engineers are socially awkward and Human Organization and Development students are stupid," the conversation continues, almost cyclically, to revisit the concepts of

the "Vandy girl" and "Vandy boy." However, no consensus is reached as to what exactly these concepts mean.

"I feel like people think girls come to Vanderbilt to get their MRS degree," said freshman Gabrielle Levine. "There is this idea that girls here focus on finding a husband and academics come second."

Freshman Trish Tumlinson said she heard a broader stereotype prior to her arrival on campus.

"I had heard that girls here are just really, really good-looking. There are a lot of beauty queens here," Tumlinson said.

Freshman Alex Litt said he heard similar accounts.

"You hear that the girls here are beautiful, and the girls come here to get with the smarter guys," Litt said.

As a student, Tumlinson said she has a new perception of what it means to be a "Vandy girl."

"My idea of a 'Vandy girl' is full hair, full makeup and then designer sweatpants," Tumlinson said. "It's like girls here put a lot effort into their hair and makeup but try to make it look like they don't by wearing sweats."

"When I think of the 'Vandy girl,' I think of a girl whose wardrobe reflects a very luxurious lifestyle, accompanied by nice automobiles and accessories," said senior Jesse Tidyman.

Although freshman Lizzi McGonigle said she does not agree completely with the assumptions surrounding the "Vandy girl" image, she can see where it originates.

"You can't help but notice the presence of luxury

brands when you walk across campus," McGonigle said.

"I mean, I probably shouldn't be wearing this," she said, tussling a Burberry scarf and coat. "It does not help the stereotype."

McGonigle and others said they feel the "Vandy boy" is another stereotype Vanderbilt students encounter.

"I also see the image of a frat boy as a prevalent stereotype on campus," McGonigle said. "For me and my Vanderbilt Visions group, we think of the same thing — seersucker shorts, Rainbow flip-flops, pastel shirts and a baseball hat."

Litt explained, however, that "each frat has its own image. Some play certain sports and some have certain looks."

Nevertheless, the group agreed these stereotypes,

though founded in some truth, are not as predominant as people outside the Vanderbilt community may think.

"Vanderbilt has changed a lot recently," said Levine. "The stereotypes don't hold as much truth as they used to."

Litt agreed, saying, "I think there is this idea that all the kids here are rich and snobby, but I also think a lot of these stereotypes are changing."

Senior Emilie Carroll said, after spending time on several boards with many different types of people, she does not consider these images a part of Vanderbilt culture.

"I think there is a stronger stereotype that Vanderbilt students are highly active and involved," Carroll said. "I think people outside the community see them as intelligent and resourceful." ■

Administrators work to enhance Vanderbilt's public image

by **NICOLE FLOYD**
Focus Editor

Students are not the only ones concerned with university stereotypes. Administrators also have a vested interest in the way Vanderbilt is perceived in the minds of the general public.

Douglas Christiansen, associate provost for enrollment and dean of admissions, admits he had subscribed to some stereotypes about Vanderbilt. Before accepting his current position in the summer of 2006, Christiansen said he had heard a lot of positive things about the university, but he also found himself thinking of Vanderbilt as a bit elitist and imagined its students as privileged, highly competitive students who did not embody a great deal of diversity.

"Almost all of my prior perceptions were proved wrong," Christiansen said. "To the contrary, I have found students not self-absorbed, (but) conscious of their surroundings, concerned about diversity and concerned about access for students. People are balanced."

It is for this reason and because he feels his own prior perceptions are similar to those of most outsiders that he believes a better job must be done in marketing and describing the institution to a broader audience, especially prospective students.

"I worry that there is a student out there that we need here, but because they may have bought into that stereotype and we didn't do enough to counteract and set it straight, we lose out on them being in our class because they don't ever apply," Christiansen said.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is doing a number of things that Christiansen said he hopes will aid in breaking down the stereotypes attached to Vanderbilt and its students.

Along with instituting a more directed marketing plan, Christiansen said a revamping of the

admissions Web site will help to dispel stereotypes in the minds of potential applicants.

"The reason (we are redoing the Web site) is because the old one (we were kind of stoic)," Christiansen said. "It kind of almost gave a sense of upper-crusty."

According to Christiansen, the new Web site will be up and running sometime next month and will feature student blogs, testimonials and videos in order to give students a more focused view of life at Vanderbilt.

He also pointed to the recent increase in the

“To the contrary, I have found students not self-absorbed, (but) conscious of their surroundings, concerned about diversity and concerned about access for students.”

—**Douglas Christiansen, Dean of Admissions**

number of students on financial aid and the increase in the number of underrepresented students in this year's freshman class as facts that debunk common stereotypes people may have.

"I think that those are things that are giving us the ability to not just say that it's not true but to show that it's not true," Christiansen said. "The proof is in the pudding."

Michael Schoenfeld, vice chancellor for public affairs, also believes that the facts speak for themselves in terms of representing the university to the public.

"Vanderbilt represents Vanderbilt to the world," Schoenfeld said. "What our students, faculty and staff do reflects Vanderbilt."

While Schoenfeld said his office does try to disseminate news that highlights the positive aspects of Vanderbilt's campus, it is difficult for any office to manage the university's image.

"Most of the time (the news) is what we want

people to know and to see," Schoenfeld said. "But it would be impossible to eliminate controversial or bad news. We are a top university, which means that successes get magnified but problems and controversies get magnified beyond their importance."

Overall, Schoenfeld is pleased with the way the public views Vanderbilt.

"All of the research we've done and that I have seen shows that Vanderbilt has very high name recognition and very high positive association," Schoenfeld said.

Neil Devine, a member of the Nashville community for 32 years, validates these findings.

Devine's frequent interactions with Vanderbilt students and alumni have greatly influenced the way he perceives Vanderbilt.

"I have known a lot of Vanderbilt graduates, and they are all very intelligent and they have a vision of where they want to be," Devine said.

He readily identified Vanderbilt as an upstanding school with high ethics.

"I don't see any real egos at Vanderbilt," Devine said. "You may, but I don't."

He attributes part of Vanderbilt's current success in terms of public perception to Chancellor Gordon Gee. Devine said since Gee became chancellor his perceptions of Vanderbilt have gotten stronger.

"If any of my children were mentally able to go there and were able to get some type of financial package, I would send them there in a heartbeat," Devine said.

Shavonne Caldwell, a senior at Fisk University said her view of Vanderbilt has also been shaped by the interactions she has had with Vanderbilt students.

"Since I have gotten to know people who go there it seems like a really nice school, but if I hadn't looked beyond the surface I may have relied on my stereotypical opinion," Caldwell said. ■

New organization aims to break down stereotypes through dialogue

Group leaders encourage all students to participate; applications due today.

by NICOLE FLOYD
Focus Editor

The stereotypes dividing Vanderbilt have frustrated junior Corey Sullivan ever since she arrived on campus. This year, she decided to do something about it.

In order to confront these issues, Sullivan brought Sustained Dialogue (SD), a new student-led organization, to campus.

Program Director Tessa Garcia said SD is especially important for the Vanderbilt community because the university has worked diligently to increase diversity in recent years.

"Through SD, participants get to know who they are," she said. "It is so easy to stay with the same crowd, but there is so much richness you can learn from the other cultures you'll interact with."

Founded at Princeton University in 1999, SD brings diverse groups of students together to discuss the issues that are generally ignored on college campuses.

Discouraged by their campus climate, Princeton students began the group with the help of Dr. Harold Saunders, a U.S. diplomat who learned firsthand that consistent communication can go a long way toward fostering action.

As part of the organization's activities,

trained SD moderators lead groups through a five-step progression, emphasizing the relationships that need to be formed between participants before they start talking about particular issues.

"Relationships are important because these issues affect people on a personal level," Sullivan said. "Knowing the person before you identify the issue allows there to be a deeper conversation."

"I think one of the biggest (problems) is, at Vanderbilt, these issues are under the radar. So, simply by drawing attention to them in a creative manner, we can create opportunities for discussion where they didn't exist before."

—Corey Sullivan, Sustained Dialogue Founder

As relationships are formed and issues are brought up, groups begin to brainstorm action plans and eventually organize an event that will raise awareness on campus.

SD action plans have already had an impact on a number of colleges across the country, Sullivan said.

For example, students at the University of Virginia applied for a grant to order 1,000 t-shirts with "Stereotype Me" written across the front. Students were encouraged to wear the shirts on a particular day, and each person was asked to write a stereotype they

defied on the back, in order to demonstrate that they were not characterized as easily as some might have imagined. The event was followed by a panel discussion.

Sullivan said she believes action plans such as these can have a similar impact at Vanderbilt.

"I think one of the biggest (problems) is, at Vanderbilt, these issues are under the radar," Sullivan said. "So, simply by drawing

attention to them in a creative manner, we can create opportunities for discussion where they didn't exist before."

Christina Kelleher, associate program director of SD, said she feels one of the program's highlights is its ability to impact groups as well as individuals.

"While you are increasing the likelihood of problem solving, you are also making people more aware of each other," Kelleher said.

Sullivan said SD is not about helping a single group of people but about knocking down all stereotypes.

She envisions the SD meetings as a safe place where people can go to talk about issues and ideas that divide the community.

In fact, the power of discussion is one of the central ideas behind SD, she said.

"Talk is everything," Sullivan said. "If 20 people in a group (each) tell two of their friends what they discussed, that's already a lot of people who have been made aware."

Garcia agreed, saying the interactions that come out of SD meetings make the group's activities worthwhile.

"People are more than what they look like and more than what they stand for," she said. "You can have all the diversity you want, but it's about interactions. You have to have the conversations."

Sullivan said all students are encouraged to become participants.

"I think everyone's voice is valuable in these kinds of discussions," she said. "Vanderbilt is a diverse community, but we all should take advantage of this opportunity to learn from and teach one another."

If you want to find out more about SD, e-mail Corey Sullivan at sustaineddialogue@vanderbilt.edu. Participant applications are due today. ■

—Medora Brown contributed reporting to this article.



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Allie McMahon (right), cross country and track and field teams member, and Whitney Anderson take measurements in their Physics 111 lab.



NICOLE FLOYD / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Sean Walker (right) and Marlon White, members of the Vanderbilt football team, listen attentively during a Physics 110 class.

Student-athletes combat negative labels in the classroom

Administration contends team members feel integrated into larger community.

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

by MAX FRANKLIN
Sports Reporter

On a campus where stereotypes abound, student-athletes must constantly deal with the assumptions they feel many of their classmates and professors make about them every day.

"People think of athletes as different," said sophomore Tyler Matthews, a member of the men's golf team. "When you say you're an athlete, it has a different connotation than when you say you're a regular student. Different things pop into (people's) heads."

"I feel that a lot of student-athletes are perceived as not being as smart," Matthews said. "Professors think that I'm just here to play sports or that I might not work as hard, which isn't true."

Junior Sarah Dennis, a double major in English and studio art, and a Southeastern Conference Honor Roll recipient last season as a member of the soccer team, constantly finds herself combating the stereotypes of Vanderbilt athletes.

"(There is a perception that) we got in here only because of sports, or that we don't have to work as hard because of people helping us," Dennis said, outlining some common misconceptions about student-athletes. "That we get a free ride just for staying in shape, or (we) don't care about our education."

While most students at Vanderbilt certainly work hard on their studies, few put in the sheer number of hours that the student-athletes log between schoolwork, practices, games and traveling.

"I feel like most people don't really understand the time and dedication it takes to be a student-athlete," said sophomore Karen Grygiel, a member of the women's bowling team. "We're basically holding two full-time jobs."

Dennis echoed the sentiment.

"Between school, work and athletics, we work just as hard if not harder than most students," she said. "When it comes down to work ethic, we definitely fit in with the rest of campus. We choose to commit to our sports and to school, while other students might put energy into fraternities or other activities."

Since the dissolution of the athletic department in 2003, the administration has made it a point to emphasize the integration of student-athletes with the rest of the student body.

"One of the questions we've asked is, 'Do you feel more connected to the rest of the students?'" said David Williams, vice chancellor for University Affairs. "We've been getting a resounding 'yes' to that."

Vanderbilt athletes as a whole are not slouches in the classroom by any means. While the student-athlete grade point average of 2.93 is still lower than the overall student body average, last year 155 student-athletes earned GPAs of 3.0 or higher, and 88 student-athletes were named to the Dean's List.

"Academically, this last semester is the best semester anybody in our area can remember," Williams said. "The student-athletes understand that academics is really the most important. Sports are also important, but academics are what you're here for."

Vanderbilt is in a unique position as it is the only private, and the most academically renowned, school in the SEC. The Commodores boast the top graduation rate in the SEC, and 164 student-athletes were named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll last year.

Vanderbilt's student-athletes must deal with the stereotypes athletes at other SEC schools have of them while also competing against those schools on their respective playing surfaces.

"I certainly think we benefit right now and later in life by attending Vanderbilt," Dennis said. "The soccer team can definitely compete with every team in the SEC, and it's only been a bonus being at an academic institution. Vanderbilt's extremely tough, and, from reputations alone, it seems that Vanderbilt surpasses the other SEC schools in workload, so we probably have more work than the other teams. Even so, I enjoy being challenged."

Vanderbilt is able to attract the caliber of student-athletes that compete here largely because of the school's academic prominence.

"I came to Vanderbilt because it obviously has both great academics and athletics," Matthews said. "I think most athletes at Vanderbilt really care about academics."

Another issue for student-athletes is feeling fully assimilated with the rest of the Vanderbilt community despite their busy schedules. Among other things, student-athletes cannot study abroad due to off-season practice commitments, and being active in additional organizations is difficult due to common meeting times.

"Athletes can be as connected as they want to be," Grygiel said. "I see a distinct separation, but it's understandable because they are the people they are with all the time. It's almost natural to tend to hang out with those people."

Dennis added that she appreciated being slightly different than the rest of the students on Vanderbilt's campus, but also valued integration.

"We definitely stick out on campus, but we pride ourselves on wearing our team gear or dressing comfortably," Dennis said. "I like being integrated with the rest of the student body. Obviously the separate cafeteria and study times separate us from the other students, but I like being able to know people outside of my athletic department friends." ■

White hip-hop sociologist overcomes criticism

Professor uses experiences to re-evaluate role as educator.

by SYDNEY WILMER
Asst Focus Editor

When Assistant Sociology Professor Jennifer Lena began teaching Sociology of Hip-Hop four years ago, she started each semester with a question.

"The first year I was teaching, I asked people what they thought of me," said Lena. "What conclusions do you draw?"

As a young white woman researching hip-hop, Lena has encountered firsthand the effects of stereotypes in the community and at Vanderbilt.

"I used to feel, during the first couple of semesters, like students were surprised by me. The reaction was clear," she explained. "Oh my God, you're a white girl!"

Lena, who found herself defending her legitimacy as a hip-hop sociologist, said she anticipated and welcomed this reaction.

"It is something I expect, something I respect and something I deserve," Lena said. "As a white person, I don't have to answer very many questions about my background, my credibility or my right to exist. African-Americans, Latinos — they get asked these questions every day."

Lena explained that she is frequently asked to assert her credibility through her biography and knowledge.

As a graduate student, Lena explained that she was challenged in ways she never expected. Giving tours to a primarily African-American audience at the Brooklyn Museum of Art during her fifth year of graduate school, Lena faced criticism for her choice in research. It made her re-evaluate her role as an educator and a person.

"The first time I did one of those tours, I was doing it for free, but I faced a lot of criticism," Lena said. "It was so frightening and humbling."

Lena said she had always thought of herself as someone who understood whiteness, but that changed.

"It was terrifying to look at myself in the mirror," she said. "I felt so ashamed that I hadn't asked myself those questions (about my legitimacy as a sociologist) before."

Lena said she had to come to terms with the fact that she had been rejoicing — though subconsciously — in her own



LENA

NICOLE FLOYD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

academic stature.

"It felt the way it always feels when you are confronted with your own prestige," she said. "At a fundamental level, you have been rejoicing in it for so long, you feel like a hypocrite."

"I had these ideas that I was reading books by the smartest people, but this scaled back my enthusiasm. I realized there were a lot of people that were just as smart that I would never get a chance to study because they would never get a chance to write," Lena said.

"I teach sociology. I don't teach hip-hop. I teach innovation, organization and deeper understanding."

—Jennifer Lena, Sociology Professor

Even after teaching for eight semesters, she continues to actively question her own expertise and sees her job as a rewarding challenge, and she said the experience has made her a better teacher.

"The experience affected me in every way," Lena said. "It isn't simple at all. It caused me to question the value of non-professional expertise in a classroom."

When parents, students and other members of the community question the validity of her research, Lena has a simple answer.

"I teach sociology. I don't teach hip-hop. I teach innovation, organization and deeper understanding."

It is for this reason that, when Lena asks her students to consider what they see in her on the first day of class, she welcomes all responses.

Lena explained that after hearing what her students had to say she would tell them a little bit about herself.

"My uncle is an African-American. He is a prominent artist that deals with African-American themes," Lena said. "I'd ask them, 'Does that change the way you see me?' Does it matter that my uncle is an African-American?"

Lena said the question has a simple answer: "Of course it does. How could it not?"

Part of her mission as a sociologist, she said, is to get students beyond the simple treatment of race in society.

Jon Cochran, a graduate student in the sociology department who served as a teaching assistant for Lena's class last semester, explained that Lena's dedication and enthusiasm in helping people learn is evident.

"I could see how much she cares," Cochran said.

For Lena, the constant self-questioning and re-evaluating is part of the package.

"I had great parents who encouraged me to believe the world wasn't easy," Lena said. "They didn't remove obstacles."

Lena feels that watching students grow intellectually is more than enough of a reward for a job she sees as a gratifying challenge. ■

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Set to rest
 - Pop, to some
 - Eyes, in poems
 - Dutch cheese
 - Skater's leap
 - Combustible material
 - Bar legally
 - Italian city
 - Hamburg wife
 - Siberian plain
 - Extinct reptile
 - "Love Me ___"
 - Lash marks
 - Radar gun's target
 - Emulate Perry White
 - Tailless amphibian
 - Dairy farm sound
 - Type of kick
 - November winners
 - Handing out gratuities
 - Loco
 - Quit working
 - Musical syllable
 - See socially
 - Speech impediment
 - Footstool
 - Domain
 - Hard hits
 - Pretentious people
 - Exclude
 - Math subj.
 - Fifty percent
 - Separate portion
 - Actor Morales
 - Between ports
 - Gain knowledge
 - Take ten
 - New Jersey five
 - Blundered

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1/31/07

- DOWN**
- Gets older
 - Found partner?
 - Pipe sealant
 - Took into the family
 - Barked like a peke
 - Tree fluid
 - Rust, for example
 - Craving
 - Arkin of Hollywood
 - Counteracts
 - Rustic
 - Humdinger
 - Disparaging remarks
 - Foes
 - In debt
 - Kind of kick
 - Slammer or clink
 - Johnnycake
 - Sunrise direction
 - Contributed
 - Choose
 - Mosque prayer leader
 - Computer fodder
 - Garden of earthly delights
 - Light haircuts
 - Fe
 - Unlawful
 - File

1/29/07 SOLUTIONS

URBAN	SUERS	TDS	
PARDO	ANNIE	ROT	
STOLE	DODGE	CITY	
WALED	GRAVEL		
BANISTERS	STILE		
USA	SNORT	SALS	
DALYS	SOIREE		
SPEECH	ALYSSA		
SHOTUP	SEWER		
READ	WAGON	EAT	
ANDES	RHEOSTATS		
BLOATS	THEIR		
BARRICADE	CASTS		
ICE	NARES	TRIES	
TED	GRABS	SANTA	

- Magic word
- Three-bagger
- Competitive runner
- Obliterate
- Mythical weightlifter
- Map dot
- Comparison word
- Teddy ___
- Field measure
- Tear apart
- Notes of scales

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