

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Current SGA not responsible for contract

Division of Student Life signed with the Marriot.

BY BEN SWEET
HUSTLER NEWS EDITOR

Though the Vanderbilt Student Government Association has recently come under scrutiny for its loss of \$9,000 for a failed conference, it was in fact the Division of Student Life that signed the contract holding the SGA liable.

According to Steve Caldwell, then associ-

ate vice chancellor of Student Life and signer of the contract for Vanderbilt, it is not uncommon to have the Division of Student Life sign on behalf of organizations.

"If a student group needs to have a contract signed, we use our legal office for help, but we have a very small number of people sign those things so it doesn't get out of control," Caldwell said.

However, this practice has raised some questions, specifically what role the Division of Student Life should play in seeing that student organizations then carry out the contractual obligations to which they were committed.

"Does that mean that Student Life has to pay the money?" asked SGA president Kate Morgan. "That's a conversation I want to have, but it just hasn't happened yet."

According to Mona Hicks, Vice Chancel-

lor for Student Activities, almost all activity fee-funded student organizations have counsel when it comes to contracts.

"Significantly funded groups are advised by a paid professional," Hicks said. "That's the accountability. Everyone that could get into a significant agreement is advised by someone in Student Life."

When asked why Student Life did not shoulder the financial burden of the contract, Hicks explained that it doesn't work that way.

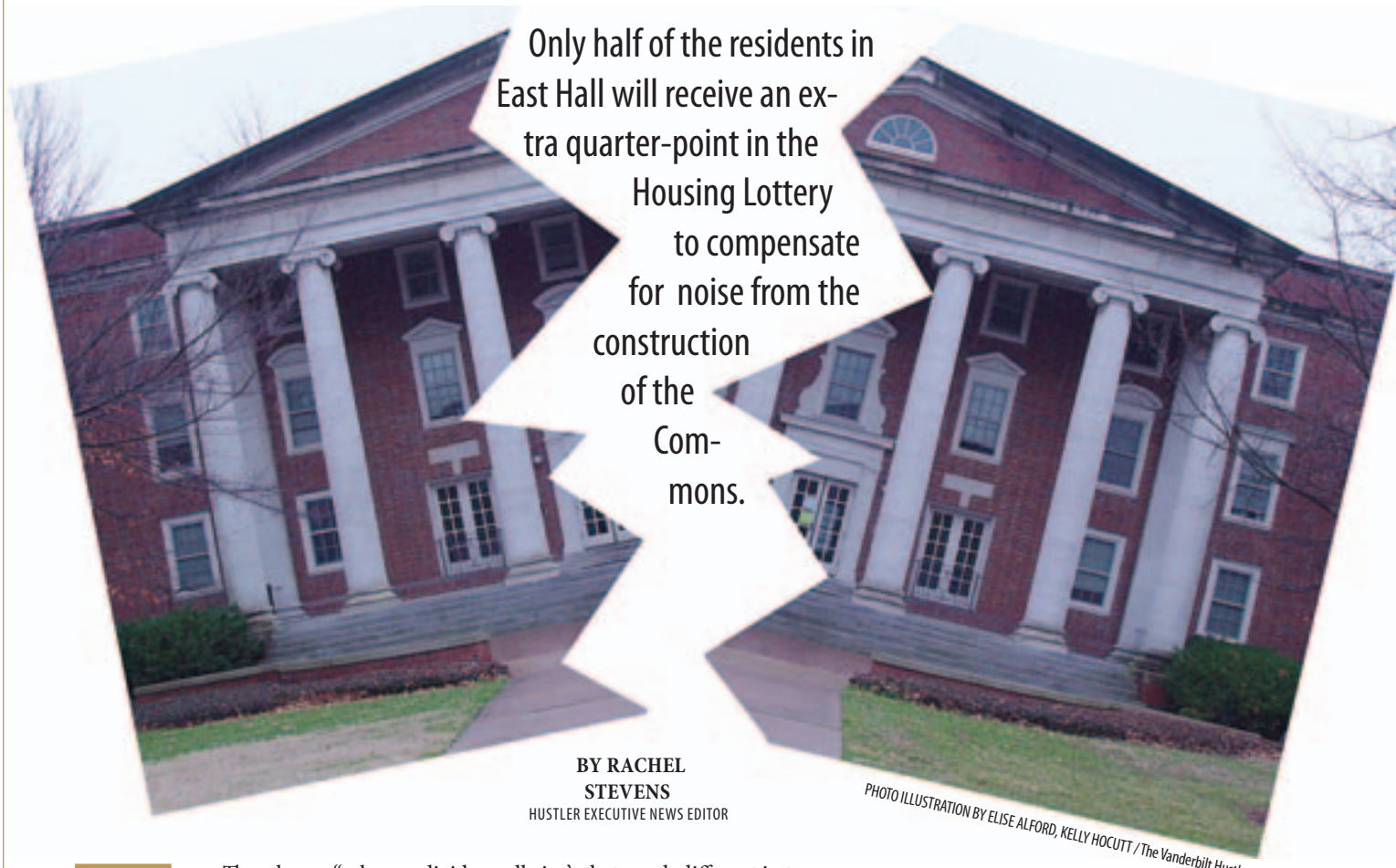
"I consider the Student Government Association a responsible organization. If we had just swooped in to save them—we would be like helicopter parents," Hicks said. "But we have helped them as a result of this, and I respect that they took responsibility and made their financial adjustments."

The contract does not allow for Vanderbilt to cancel at any time, meaning that once the contract was signed, the Division of Student

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HOUSING

A House Divided



Only half of the residents in East Hall will receive an extra quarter-point in the Housing Lottery to compensate for noise from the construction of the Commons.

BY RACHEL STEVENS
HUSTLER EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ELISE ALFORD, KELLY HOCUTT / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The phrase "a house divided" has taken on new meaning in East Hall, as half of its residents will be compensated with an additional quarter point in the housing lottery for next year while the other half will not.

Half of East residents as well as all Memorial Hall residents are being awarded an additional quarter point due to extensive noise resulting from Commons construction on the Peabody campus this year.

Many East residents, however, claim that it is unfair to award only half of their dorm, and that the "quiet side" of East doesn't really exist.

"It's really arbitrarily divided," said sophomore resident Aleza Remis. "The noise re-

ally isn't that much different in two rooms separated by a few feet."

"We all have had to live in the same place," said sophomore resident Erin Mutispaugh. "We should be given the same benefits."

The plan to award all of Memorial residents and only half of East residents with the additional quarter point was a result of an Interhall resolution. The Office of Housing and Residential Education recently approved and finalized the details for the plan.

Interhall spokesperson Will Hubbard said that the decision to only compensate half of East residents was in an attempt to help the residents who had experienced the most discomfort due to construction noise.

"If you look at the layout of East there's definitely a side that in direct proximity to

the construction," Hubbard said. "There has to be a cutoff somewhere or the extra quarter point becomes meaningless."

Many East residents, however, claim that construction noise bounces off the building, thus affecting all residents.

Remis also noted that how much the noise bothers residents does not depend on where they live in the building, but how sensitive they are to the disturbance.

Jim Kramka, director of housing assignments, said that OHARE has no plans to revisit the issue, since compensation for Memorial and East residents has already under-

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Frazier not running for SGA president

Current executive vice president will now focus on his campus ministry program.

BY RACHEL STEVENS
HUSTLER EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR

As candidates declared their intention to run for Student Government Association president this Tuesday, one prominent name was absent.

Jamie Frazier, current executive vice president and former senator for SGA, has chosen not to campaign for the presidency.



Frazier

Frazier said that the loss of a close family member during the fall semester challenged him to re-think how he was living his life and to evaluate to which organizations he should be committing his time.

In the end, he decided to make the transition from student government leader to campus ministry leader.

"After a lot of thought and prayer I thought it was in my own best interest and in the best interest of the students of this campus whom I love and admire to continue fighting for them in a different capacity and with a different method," Frazier said.

Frazier founded the Jeremiah Generation in 2005, a non-demominational

Please see FRAZIER, page 2

After a lot of thought and prayer I thought it was in my own best interest and in the best interest of the students of this campus whom I love and admire to continue fighting for them in a different capacity and with a different method.

ATHLETICS

Coach Johnson dismisses Zach Logan

Sophomore full back arrested for DUI last week.

BY GLENNA DERROY
HUSTLER MANAGING EDITOR

Sophomore Zachary Logan has been permanently dismissed from the football team for violating team rules.

According to Rod Williamson, director of media relations, Logan's removal from the team was the decision of Bobby Johnson, head coach of the Vanderbilt football team.

"Who is on or who is off the football team, or any team, is ultimately



Logan

the head coach's decision," he said.

The decision comes following Logan's arrest for driving under the influence early last Friday morning. According to the Metro Police report of the incident, Logan registered a blood alcohol level of approximately 0.11,

» **INSIDE:** Read about Zach Logan's thoughts on his past and his future plans in Managing Editor Jordan Mamorsky's article on page 8.

which is above the legal limit of 0.02 for those under age 21. Logan is 20.

Immediately after his arrest, Logan was suspended from the team indefinitely.

Abi Ramsey and Ryan Mullins, two Vanderbilt athletes of the class of 2005, have also previously been arrested for DUIs. However, nei-

ther of these athletes was removed from their teams as a result of their crimes. Mullins was suspended from the baseball team for six games and Ramsey was suspended from the women's basketball team for nine games.

In order to protect the privacy rights of individual students, however, Williamson could not comment on the differences in the punishments of Logan, Mullins and Ramsey.

Logan plans to transfer schools at the end of this year. ■

Adams, Tolos withdraw from SGA presidential race

Junior Boyce Adams withdrew Student Government presidential race along with his running-mate junior Stacy Tolos.

Adams said that while he and Tolos felt they had a strong campaign platform, they would be better off focusing on their existing commitments.

"Stacy and I share a deep commitment and passion for this university and we wanted to carry that out through SGA," Adams said. "However, at this time we feel that our agenda for this university will be best carried out through the capacities which we already serve it in. We both are very involved in different parts of the university and we did not want to stretch ourselves to thin because when we approach a commitment we honor it and give it our full support and dedication."

Adams still plans to run for SGA Senior College of Arts and Science senator. He is currently the co-chair of the SGA Development Committee. ■



BASEBALL
It's spring time. Baseball season is back so check out the sports team's preview of the 2006 season. See Page 7



OUR VIEW
Read why we feel that SGA and Kate Morgan should not be blamed for the \$9,000 loss due to the cancellation of an SEC conference. See Page 4

2006 WINTER GAMES

Medal count

The top-10 medal-winning countries as of Feb. 23; totals include 70 of 84 medal events

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Germany	9	10	5	24
United States	7	8	5	20
Austria	8	6	5	19
Canada	5	8	6	19
Russia	8	3	8	19
Norway	2	8	8	18
Switzerland	5	4	4	13
Sweden	5	2	4	11
Italy	4	0	6	10
France	3	2	4	9

OPINION
Read why guest columnist Alexis Yee-Garcia believes the debate over the Danish cartoon teaches all of us the importance of standing up to defend a point. See Page 4

POLL
66%
Percentage of Americans who are not confident that money appropriated for Katrina recovery is being used wisely.

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Today is Friday, February 24, 2006

IT IS THE	THERE ARE		
33rd	43	6	77
day of classes	class days until exams	class days until Spring Break	calendar days to commencement

WORD OF THE DAY

QUI-ES-CENT

- n. 1. in a state of repose
2. at rest
3. still
4. inactive

Source: Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1821 Mexico declared its independence from Spain.
- 1903 The United States signed an agreement acquiring a naval station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.
- 1920 A fledgling German political party held its first meeting of importance in Munich; it became known as the Nazi Party, and its chief spokesman was Adolf Hitler.
- 1945 American soldiers liberated the Philippine capital of Manila from Japanese control during World War II.
- 1981 Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Britain's Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer.

Compiled by the Associated Press

FORECAST

SATURDAY
Showers
High: 55
Low: 29

SUNDAY
Sunny
High: 44
Low: 29

MONDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 49
Low: 32

TODAY IN THE BUBBLE

Compiled by Rachel Stevens

Asian New Year Festival tomorrow

The Asian American Student Association will present "Asian New Year Festival 2006: The Year of the Dog" this Saturday beginning at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center. The festival will feature dance, music, skits and other acts that will showcase Asian and Asian Pacific-American culture. Audience members will also receive admission to the ANYF after party in downtown Nashville (free with an ANYF program). Tickets may be purchased for \$5 each at the Rand Dining Hall wall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., or at the Sarratt box office. For more information, contact dave.zhou@vanderbilt.edu.

Scholar Bowl to be held tonight

The final round of ScholarBowl, a quiz bowl and charity event, will take place tonight at 7 p.m. at the Student Life Center. The eight final teams competing on behalf of charities are Alternative Spring Break, the Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic Students, Lambda Chi Alpha, Vanderbilt University Theater, Kappa Sigma, Manna Project International, Ingram Scholars and Vanderbilt Inner City Programs. Tickets for the event — which includes Vanderbilt trivia, performances by the Dodecs, the Vanderbilt Danceline and the Asian American Student Association, dessert, prizes and more — are \$5 and may be purchased at the Sarratt box office or at the door. All proceeds will go to charity.

Register for Housing

The deadline to register for housing and to submit requests for off-campus housing authorization is this Sunday. All returning undergraduate students currently enrolled at Vanderbilt must apply for housing on-line at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd>.

Potato gun competition Saturday

A potato competition will be held tomorrow from 12 to 3 p.m. in Lot 54, next to the Natchez Trace Recreation Field. Teams will be given materials to construct their own potato gun and then the team's gun that shoots the farthest will be named the winner. The event is sponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers.

Ingram Scholarship now accepting applications

The Ingram Scholarship Program is now accepting applications from freshmen and sophomores. This scholarship provides half-tuition, stipends of \$5,000 for summer projects, seminars regarding the implications and effects of community service, workshops providing practical knowledge applicable to academic as well as to service work and facilitation groups led by a community service advisor providing a supportive environment for reflection and feedback. The application deadline is March 20, 2006. For more information and to download the application visit our Web site: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ingram>.

The Jeremiah Generation worships Sunday

The Jeremiah Generation, a nondenominational Christian campus ministry headed by Jamie Frazier, will sponsor an Hour of Power worship experience Sunday, Feb. 26, 2006 in Furman 114 at 7 p.m. Frazier will be teaching listeners "How to Win the Dating Game." The scripture for the evening will be Judges 16:1-21. The gathering will include spirited dancing, upbeat singing and a motivational message offered by Frazier. All are invited to attend.

Compiled by staff from various sources. Check out <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

VUPD CRIME LOG

Compiled by Rachel Stevens

There is no crime to report.

For complete listings visit <http://police.vanderbilt.edu>.

SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

ACADEMICS

Standardized testing proposed for universities

BY NICOLE FLOYD
HUSTLER ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

If the chairman of the recently established Commission on the Future of Higher Education, Charles Miller, has his way, Vanderbilt students and college students across the country may have one more test about which to worry.

In an attempt to create an accountability system for higher education institutions, Miller believes that a method of testing what students learn while in college must be implemented.

In a memo that was sent out to the commission members last month, Miller said, "We need to assure that the American public understand through access to sufficient information, particularly in the area of student learning, what they are getting for their investment in a college education."

There are many questions surrounding the proposal of standardized testing at the college level that have yet to be discussed by the commission. Concerns include whether or not the testing would take place at the state or federal government level, how and when the testing would take place and whether or not the testing will resemble the Bush Administration's No Child Left Behind program that exists at the level of elementary and secondary education.

In an article on <http://insidehighered.com>, David L. Warren, president of the Na-

tional Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, warns against the consequences of testing at the national level.

"Trying to create an über-instrument where we simply draw the line and say, 'This is the measurement,' will be a grave disservice to the individuals, the institutions and the country," Warren said. "We will get a meaningless outcome at a great cost."

Dean Richard McCarty of the College of Arts and Sciences also fears the consequences standardized testing could have, especially at an elite university such as Vanderbilt.

"There are many different kinds of institutions with different constituencies," McCarty said. "At an elite university like Vanderbilt, (testing) could result in a regression to the mean in terms of expectations of students."

Vice Chancellor and Provost of Academic Affairs Nicholas Zeppos agrees that given the wide diversity of educational institutions it would be impossible to come up with national tests with national standards.

"In general, accountability to students, faculty, and alumni is important," Zeppos said, but he does not think that writing standardized tests is the answer, especially not for Vanderbilt. "I am pleased and content with our graduates and what they do in the world. Testing would be of no value to Vanderbilt students." ■

WHAT'S YOUR GOVERNMENT DOING?

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Resolution	Vote
SGA will endorse a proposal by Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling (SPEAR) that calls for administrators to improve campus recycling.	Passed unanimously
Yea and nay votes during SGA meetings will be posted on the SGA website independently of the minutes.	Passed unanimously
SGA will donate \$200 to the Asian American Student Association in conjunction with Saturday's New Year's Festival.	Passed unanimously
The name of the Student, Services and Technology Committee to the Services, Security and Technology Committee in order to clarify the committee's role.	Passed unanimously
In a clarification to an amendment to the Election Statutes, any elections violation will require an immediate meeting with the Attorney General to determine a candidate's role in the violation.	Passed unanimously

Check back often for a review of what happened during SGA and Interhall meetings.

Frazier: Former vice president praises SGA, Morgan

From FRAZIER, page 1

Christian ministry that sponsors campus worship experiences, Bible studies and community service experiences.

Jeremiah Foundation will hold an Hour of Power worship experience this Sunday at 7 p.m. in Furman 114 and all students are invited to attend.

Frazier praised students across campus who have supported him in SGA and said he hopes they will continue to support him in his ministry role.

Frazier also spoke fondly of working with current SGA president Kate Morgan.

"The best decision I have ever made was to

run and serve with Kate Morgan. She is thoughtful, dedicated and brilliant."


Several students have expressed their support in Jamie's decision.

Zakiya Smith, president of the Black Student Alliance, said, "Jamie is a great guy and he will surely succeed at whatever he chooses to do." ■



The Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley is recruiting for seasonal resident camp positions at Camp Sycamore Hills near Ashland City, TN, and Camp Holloway, near White House, TN. We are looking for highly motivated people to join our team. Salary includes room/board with training. Must love working in the out-of-doors and with children.

For more information visit our website www.girlscoutsofvc.org, email ljohnson@girlscoutsofvc.org or call 800-395-5318.



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EVENTS

Charity quiz bowl to take place tonight

BY MINNIE MILLER
HUSTLER REPORTER

What is the smartest student organization on campus? Students can find out at tonight's ScholarBowl event, where eight teams will compete to be the 2006 ScholarBowl champions.

In a private competition that took place on Feb. 11, 64 student organizations were reduced to these top eight who will compete this evening in the Student Life Center ballroom at 7 p.m.

The ScholarBowl is a charity event in which teams compete to win a cash prize to be donated to their charity of choice. The event is open to students; tickets are \$5 can be bought at the Sarratt Box Office or

at the door. In addition to the actual competition, audience members will be entertained by the Dodecs, Danceline and the Asian American Student Association.

Each attendee will be automatically entered into a raffle with prizes such as restaurant and bookstore gift certificates and symphony and comedy show tickets. There will be a section of trivia directed at the audience and correct answers will earn additional entries into the raffle.

All of the proceeds of this event will be donated to the charity of the winning team. Teams who solicit supporters for their team will be able to earn extra money for their charity. The top eight teams to be competing for the grand prize tonight are Alternative Spring Break, Lambda Chi

Alpha, Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic Students, Vanderbilt University Theatre, Vanderbilt Inner-City Programs, the Manna Project, Kappa Sigma and Ingram Scholars.

Regardless of the winner, all donations will be going to reputable charities.

J.J. Alexander of Vanderbilt Inner City Programs explains that his group plans to donate any donations or winnings to Project Hope, an organization that builds children's hospitals in Iraq and other underdeveloped countries.

"Our team feels honored to help their effort in any way we can," Alexander said, adding, "especially through a program like the Scholar Bowl."

Other charities include the Manna Proj-

ect International (sponsored by the Manna Project), the Muscle Dystrophy Association (sponsored by Kappa Sigma), the Women's Domestic Violence Center (sponsored by Ingram Scholars), the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (sponsored by Vanderbilt University Theatre), Connection America/Tennessee Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (sponsored by Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic Students) and the Vanderbilt's Children's Hospital (sponsored by Lambda Chi Alpha). Alternative Spring Break plans to split their earnings among the three contestants, who will then donate their shares to the community that they will be visiting this spring break.

Team member Sarah Deery said, "We are all really excited about possibly win-

ning money to give to the people we are spending a week with. It would be a really nice surprise for them."

Sophomore Natalia Sanchez, creator of the ScholarBowl, said that her idea for a quiz bowl event stemmed from a desire to add to the life of the University. She is excited about the teams' enthusiasm regarding the competition and their charities.

When asked about his thoughts on the ScholarBowl, participant Erik Linsalata of Kappa Sigma quoted Mark Twain by saying, "Never let school get in the way of your education," and he summed up his trivia talents with, "I wouldn't know so much trivia if I didn't watch so much TV." ■

ORIENTATION

Changes in store for next year's VUcept

Freshmen to take extra one-hour class.

BY RACHEL FETRIDGE
HUSTLER REPORTER

VUcept, the traditional freshman orientation program, is currently undergoing an extreme makeover.

Fall orientation is making the transformation into DoreSTEPS, Students Transitioning in their Educational and Personal Success. Instead of one week of freshmen orientation, the class of 2010 will be first-time participants in a year-long seminar-based program designed to facilitate freshmen's acclimation to college life.

The new seminar program will include a one-hour pass/fail orientation course that will be mandatory for all freshmen, according to Mark Bandas, associate vice chancellor of housing and residential education.

"The seminar is intended to be a general orientation to the intellectual mission of the university, the purposes and possibilities of higher education, and the responsibilities of students as members of a scholarly community," Bandas said.

Although VUcept has been orienting freshmen since 1963, the changes are in response to Vanderbilt University's Task Force on Security and Safety. The Task Force is working along with the Vanderbilt Orientation Committee and the Orientation to Vanderbilt's Norms and Values Committee to revitalize the entire orientation program and provide students with a better first year experience.

According to a VUcept press release, DoreSTEPS will include a year long freshman seminar, encompassing many of the topics previously covered in the first week of orientation. The seminars, of approximately 20 students, will be co-taught by a faculty advisor and a VUceptor and all freshmen will be required to enroll.

"I think the new program will have a greater impact on the freshmen because they will not be as rushed to attend all the events that have traditionally been crammed into the first week, while simultaneously trying to make the transition to life at Vanderbilt," said junior Alexis Bashinski, a former VUcept leader.

By extending the orientation program, freshmen can initially concentrate on settling in, learning their way around campus and making new friends, instead of immediately being bombarded with information. The overall purpose of the program is to ease new student transitions and help them become familiar with and educated about Vandy's campus and college life.

Furthermore, as planners emphasize, these changes will allow VUceptors to forge stronger relationships with their VUceptees, uniting upperclassmen with new students and extending and strengthening the VUcept relationship. The term "VUcept" originates from Vanderbilt University (VU) and the Latin word "preceptor," meaning leader, and

although the program has always encompassed the philosophy of leadership, these changes will allow VUceptors to strengthen their leadership and learning opportunities and roles.

"I think it will be valuable for a freshmen to have an upper-class student as a friend and guide from day one. It will hopefully give new students more resources and better tie the campus together," said junior Erin Feeney, a former VUcept leader who is interested in participating in the new program.

VUceptors will retain their customary roles as leaders during the first week of school, but will also serve as a mentor and as a co-facilitator during the year long orientation seminar. VUceptors must have a minimum 2.7 GPA and will receive monetary compensation, to be determined by the university, for their services. Approximately 80 students will be selected as VUceptors for the 2006-2007 academic year.

DoreSTEPS is also recruiting an additional group of about 20 students to help with the new program's logistics. This group will primarily provide assistance during the first week, although occasionally may be asked to help with the freshman seminar program. Applications came out Wednesday, February 22, and are available at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vucept/>. The application deadline is Monday, March 13, and information sessions on the new program will be held Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7 to 8 p.m. in Wilson 126 and Thursday, March 2, 5 to 6 p.m. in Wilson 103. ■

Scouting out the college campus



ELISE ALFORD / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Girl Scouts from various Nashville high schools sell cookies to the Vanderbilt campus Thursday in Sarratt after touring with representatives from Kappa Delta and the Women's Center. Younger scouts, Brownies, will be on campus Tuesday with samples and more opportunities to buy.

Engineering Geek Week: a battle of skills



JOHN BREINIG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Sophomore Clark Bledsoe (ABOVE) and Freshman Chris Campis (LEFT) compete in the Fastest Geek competition Thursday as part of Engineering's Geek Week 2006. Competitors in this preliminary round were given the disassembled parts of a computer and challenged to put them back together as quickly as possible. The two fastest geeks will move on to compete in a championship round Friday, where the winner's computer will activate the display on a big screen monitor when he or she has finished the assembly.

SGA: No canceling allowed

From SGA, page 1

Life (or the SGA, as it turned out) was obligated to pay for the rooms.

According to Vanderbilt General Counsel, contracts of this type usually contain attrition clauses, agreements that allow either party to renege on their contractual obligations given enough notice.

However, though this contract contains such a clause, it is not time sensitive. It allows for Vanderbilt to use less than the contracted number of rooms for a fine, but does not allow for Vanderbilt to completely cancel the contract, as it eventually did.

Though Charles Nicholas, associate director of purchasing, says that such a contract without a time sensitive attrition clause is unusual, it is up to the parties themselves to determine what the contract should say.

"Usually they (contract writers such as hotels) try to give you a sliding scale based on some date, but with contracts, there is no issue of legality," Nicholas said. "It's a matter of what the parties are willing to do."

"I know this isn't a great contract, but the advice I was getting from Student Life is that a contract with the Marriott is alright because of our good relationship with them," Morgan said.

As previously reported, the hotel rooms were reserved for the SEC-SGA Exchange conference that 2005 SGA president Andrew Maxwell volunteered Vanderbilt to host this year.

According to Morgan, Maxwell asked neither current SGA members nor the advisers for permission to volunteer to host such a conference. Morgan said she would have chosen not to host it at all, if she could have.

"I personally would have never signed us up for this conference because we don't look like any other schools in the SEC," she said.

Many students have asked why, if the rooms were already paid for, were they not raffled off to the student body or used for some other function that weekend.

According to Morgan, there was not enough time. After returning from semester break on Jan. 11, the SGA decided to give the would-be conference attendees a little more time to commit.

"We were just hoping against hope that people would still register for the conference," she said. "We wanted to give them the benefit of the doubt."

Morgan said the decision to cancel the conference came just one week before the rooms were to be used, and after talking with the Marriott and Vanderbilt General Counsel on the next course of action, only two days remained.

"At that point, we were just running out of time," Morgan said.

While Morgan admits that she wishes something had been done with the rooms, she says she feels that there was no satisfactory option at that point.

"We had to ask ourselves, 'does Student Life want to be promoting the idea of students going to hotel rooms and whatever that might entail?'" she said. ■

Housing: Points can combine

From HOUSING, page 1

gone extensive debate by Interhall.

Kramka outlined exactly how the quarter point will affect the lottery for next year.

To receive the additional quarter point, Memorial and East residents must have resided in their rooms for the entire fall 2005 semester. The quarter point can be used only in the housing lottery for the 2006-07 academic year. Up to three students on any housing ballot may include their extra quarter points. If a student is away from campus for the fall, they may apply the compensation to their housing request for the spring.

Kramka noted that because off-campus authorization is granted

through a separate seniority-driven system not affected by points, the plan will have no effect on off-campus housing requests.

Besides compensation for Memorial and East residents, no other changes are being made to the housing lottery process for next year, according to Mark Bandas, associate vice chancellor for OHARE.

New housing programs, however, are being offered. A Leadership Lodge program, sponsored through the Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs, will now be offered in Towers East.

Lori Groves-White, director of leadership development and intercultural affairs, said that the program

will focus on a different topic of leadership each month, from political to global to team building to women in leadership and will include lectures, field trips and conferences.

"Hopefully, through this experience the participant will gain greater insights to help them

develop their personal leadership style," Groves-White said.

While the program has previously been located in the Mayfields, moving the location to Towers will allow the group to be made up of both men and women, Groves-White said. All students are encouraged to apply and applications can be found on the Vanderbilt University Web site, using the keywords "leadership lodge." ■

OPINION

SEAN SEELINGER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GLENNa DERoy, MANAGING EDITOR

JORDAN MAMORSKY, MANAGING EDITOR

RACHEL STEVENS, EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR

DAN ROSS, ADVERTISING MANAGER

OUR VIEW

Student Life to blame for \$9,000 loss

Recently, the Student Government Association has come under fire for being irresponsible with their funding.

Having obtained the contract that forced SGA to pay out the \$9,000, *The Vanderbilt Hustler* feels that the blame in no way lies with the SGA, especially Kate Morgan.

The contract is signed by Steve Caldwell and is between the Marriott and the Division of Student Life, not the SGA.

Though the Division of Student Life certainly should be responsible for signing contracts on the behalf of student organizations, the responsibility in no way stops there. We feel that the Division of Student Life did not do its job in this most recent debacle.

First, in speaking with Vanderbilt General Counsel, we have learned that this contract is less than equitable to both parties. There is no allowance for Vanderbilt to withdraw from the contract at any time without paying the full penalty.

This is not only unusual, but also grounds for the Division of Student Life to refuse to sign a contract. Part of the reason student groups go through Student Life is so that they will not enter into legally binding arrangements that are less than equitable.

That process seems to have failed here.

Furthermore, if the Division of Student Life is signing these contracts for the student body, it should have some responsibility to see that the students then fulfill their contractual obligations. If a contract is not fulfilled, Student Life should not be allowed to simply sit back and make the student organization (SGA in this case) pay for a contract it did not sign.

Finally, *The Hustler* still cannot understand why the Division of Student Life left these rooms, already paid for, go unused. Surely there was some student group or organization that could have used the pre-paid space, the banquet reception or the numerous rooms.

In conclusion, we feel that SGA made every effort to fulfill its duty to the student body and the contract. The SGA should not be held accountable for something it could not change and could not control.

We once screamed 'no taxation without representation' from the top of our lungs. What is this, if not a subtler, crueler form of that?

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 or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in *The Hustler* and will not be published. *The Vanderbilt 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 editor@vanderbilthustler.com. Let-

ters 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 Vanderbilt 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.

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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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EDITORIAL CARTOON

LOOK, I'VE GOT CRACK, SMACK, PCP, METH, COCAINE, LUDAS, HASH, SPEED OR ACAPULCO RED, BUT NO WAY ARE THE FEDS GOING TO LET ME GET YOUR HEART MEDICINE FROM CANADA!



“
Having obtained the contract that forced SGA to pay out the \$9,000, *The Vanderbilt Hustler* feels that the blame in no way lies with the SGA.

COLUMN

Burchard's column is a poor reflection of the history of the American civil rights movement

Chad Burchard's article from the Monday *Hustler* entitled "America is Not an Abstraction" was not only irrational, it was also highly of-

GUEST COLUMNIST

PAUL FISHER

fensive. His collage of right-winged clichés and what I like to refer to as "Fox News sound bites" played homage to American ideals in order to maintain some semblance of political correctness while masking contempt for diversity and fear of change. In addition to my obvious political and social opposition to his views, I also believe it is essential to understand the danger of the misinformation he and many other conservatives proselytize.

To casually refer to the movement for civil rights by African-Americans in this country as part of a "long and complicated history" as he does is an insult to all those who experienced the struggle and all those who continue to fight for the issue. It is more than a long and complicated history; it is a history of domination and oppression. To declare that whites might well be persuaded to consent to Affirmative Action out of guilt over slavery is unfair to those of us who choose to support such legislation for reasons of equality and fairness. In addition, his declaration that you cannot base our national identity on universal principles flies in the face of not only my own but many other people's understanding of exactly what this country is all about: universal principles such as equality, representation and freedom.

The issue I have with Burchard's argument

and similar conservative opinions like his is that either out of ignorance, arrogance or perhaps both, they choose to construct a false narrative of the American experience. The United States is an amazing country full of opportunities and freedoms; however, to downplay our historical and contemporary fallacies and to defend some idea that the original citizens are any more American than recent immigrants is both irresponsible and offensive. Ask African-Americans, Native Americans, or today ask Mexican-Americans or Arab-Americans and they will surely lament on the powers that be and the status quo. If not for universal principles, what could possibly hold this country together while still being true to its founding ideals? ■
—Paul Fisher is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

COLUMN

Danish cartoon debate proves importance of speaking up to defend a point

Like Tanya Alvarez, I attended the panel discussion "Forbidden Images and Free Press?" held by the Interfaith Council on Mon-

GUEST COLUMNIST

ALEXIS YEE-GARCIA

day night. I agree with her entire recap of the discussion, which generally went very well, but Ms. Alvarez failed to mention one of the more interesting exchanges of the evening: Toward the end of the presentation we had one question from a man, who I can only assume was a general member of the Nashville community, that caused perhaps slightly more of a stir than the facilitators might have hoped. I will not make an attempt at the exact wording, but essentially he cited his own studies of various texts within the Islamic faith (though the Muslim students behind me seemed justifiably skeptical at which texts these might have been), gave a "Catholic's honor" oath that his facts and readings were accurate and suggested that Islam is simply a violent religion. Dr. Awadh Binhazim, the representative from the Islamic Center of Nashville, had already stated emphatically that "99 percent of Muslims" are just as appalled by the violence of the riots as any other outside observer. I think the other presenters and facilitators were so taken aback at the nature of his statement that they sort of floundered a bit for the first and only time all evening.

Unfortunately, in that floundering the man's question was basically swept to the side. It was declared irrelevant to the discussion at hand — probably rightly so, given the focus on free speech vs. hate speech — and the official presentation was over. The regrettable side effect of this entire exchange was that we sort of reinforced the stereotype about academics and the ease with which we dismiss views like this. On

the eve of Lawrence Summer's resignation as president of Harvard, it seems almost prescient.

As irrelevant as this man's question may have been, it was an opportunity to address what seems to be a widely maintained but unspoken assumption: that Islam is a violent religion. As someone who did not grow up in a religious household and who still has no personally accepted religion, I find this kind of debate fascinating. I do not pretend to be a religious scholar, no matter how much reading I may have done independently, but it seems to me that most religions have some kind of violent history or include some acts of violence in their stories. What I wanted to say, as the man became louder and more agitated (eventually prompting the security guard to follow him around for the rest of the night), and perhaps what I should have said was, "What about the crusades? A violent campaign done in the name of Christianity. What about the Spanish inquisition? That was pretty violent and I bet they all had 'Catholic's honor,' too. And it seemed like there was a fair share of smiting the last time I read parts of the Bible."

But I am not a religious person. So it is sometimes harder for me to ask these questions or make these statements and, in doing so, risk looking like an idiot or offending someone. Unfortunately that fear of offending or fear of castigating keeps many of us silent, unlike this brave — though perhaps misguided — soul on Monday night. In the open-minded atmosphere of a University, I wish we were able both to let go of those fears and to let go of those first-reaction impulses to be offended and to leap to avenge the offense.

As difficult as it sometimes is to take a deep breath, step back and think critically about an action or statement that offends us, insults us or completely maligns what we are all about, isn't it better to suffer a momentary indignance in favor

of changing the mind of the person who committed the offense? Watching the man from Monday night walk away alone, mumbling to himself, I couldn't help but think that if he came to any conclusion, it was probably, "Well, I'm obviously right. They couldn't even address my issue."

There is so much to learn in the world; I increasingly believe that academic freedom means the freedom to ask the really stupid questions and to question the really entrenched assumptions — politically, theoretically, culturally or otherwise. As we become more intellectually curious about all of the new things around us, the logical counterpart to all of that questioning seems to be allowing it and taking the time to reply, refute or rethink.

I write this as much to 'screw my own courage to the sticking point' as anything else. These things are never easy to do (clearly, as I failed to do anything on Monday), but someone has to do them. We are all in the happy position of being educated and free. Perhaps those things alone obligate us to learn how to suffer through our own difficulty and discomfort to truly "foster bridges of understanding." ■

—Alexis Yee-Garcia is the Assistant Director of Intercultural Affairs.

“
There is so much to learn in the world; I increasingly believe that academic freedom means the freedom to ask the really stupid questions and to question the really entrenched assumptions — politically, theoretically, culturally or otherwise.

COLUMN

Author believes his opinion of the Bush administration is valid

Often, my views can create a rift with people when sensitive issues are discussed, but I try to avoid making opinion itself an issue. I am a firm believer that everyone



THE DISSENTING VU

CHRISTOPHER MCGEEDY

is entitled to their opinion, but as Douglas Adams said, "All opinions are not equal. Some are a very great more robust, sophisticated and well supported in logic and argument than others."

Do I therefore think I am better than someone else for thinking what I think? No. I believe every person is equal. But, do I think I am more correct? Absolutely; otherwise I would change my opinion.

Marty Pendleton insults my integrity when he says that I make "loose usage of the facts" in saying that those who have spoken out against the Iraq war have been "silenced, criticized, slamed, dishonored and disgraced."

I have two cases where there is more than reasonable evidence to suggest that this has happened: First, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson's wife, CIA operative Valerie Plame, was exposed as an agent shortly after Wilson submitted a report saying that one of the Bush administration's primary reasons for going to war — that Iraq was purchasing yellow-cake uranium from Nigeria — was completely false, and yet still pushed as fact.

The man most suspected of leaking the name to columnist Robert Novak, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, said he was acting on the authority of his superiors — in this case, his boss, Vice President Dick Cheney.

The other incident is the case of John Kerry. When running for president he was painted as a pacifist flip-flopper who didn't know his right from his left, a man who bailed out of the Vietnam War and who didn't rightfully earn his medals from the war.

Even if some of that is true, it has nothing to do with his stance on the issues or his ability to govern the country. But hey, it helped Bush win the election. John Kerry voted for the Iraq war when he was given misleading information, and changed his mind after finding out the truth — I did the exact same thing after I found out that most of the information Colin Powell gave to the United Nations was complete bull.

This is not flip-flopping; it's called "learning." You have an opinion, new information presents itself and then you change your opinion.

The biggest problem I have with Mr. Pendleton's accusations against me is his assumption that I had planned on offering constructive advice instead of a rant. Sorry to

disappoint, but the entire piece was a rant and I wrote it as such. If I wanted to declare my platform for the presidency, I would have written it as a message of where I stand on the issues, but instead I decided that I'd rather talk about why Bush is a bad president. Call me Socrates, but I honestly can't suggest that I could run the country any better: I don't even have a college education. But you know what I can say? Bush is doing a crappy job, and for some reason there are people who don't see it. Hence my rant. The same way sportscasters can say that LeBron played a bad game, so I can criticize the administration without having to prove that I can do better.

But Mr. Pendleton was not the last to personally insult me. David Ellison decided to question my credibility when I said that the National Security Administration wiretapping program is illegal and the detainment of enemy combatants is not within the president's power.

First, let us please remember that legality is itself an opinion. Otherwise, Bush would have been impeached for violating the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. It would seem that the strict constitutionalists, who don't see a right to privacy in the Constitution since it's not explicit, would side against Bush when he says he can circumvent the Fourth Amendment and FISA so as to spy on American citizens without a warrant and give no rights to POWs — sorry, "enemy combatants."

And, please remind me, Mr. Ellison, when did I say that enemy combatants had Constitutional rights? I said that their detainment is not an inherent power of the president in the Constitution and that these combatants have internationally recognized rights under provisions of the UN General Charter and the Geneva Conventions — both of which the United States is bound to uphold.

And one more thing: if you want to live in a country that is safe from outside attack, but is nothing more than cloak-and-dagger espionage from within, be my guest. I do not trust the current president to act responsibly, and as such I will not stand silent while I witness the rape of my country's most sacred values for the prize of temporary "safety." To quote Emiliano Zapata, "Better to die on your feet than live on your knees."

Now, if anyone sees fit to insult me because of how I think, do it to my face or write to me personally — my e-mail's on "People Finder" just like everyone else's is.

But if someone wants to criticize my opinions, he or she is more than welcome to suggest reasons why they are wrong, and I will argue why I am right until I am "blue in the face" or they convince me that I am wrong, whichever comes first. ■

—Christopher McGeedy is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science.

AROUND THE LOOP

If you could have a person other than Ja Rule shoot a movie on campus who would it be and why?



"Jessica Simpson... or Jesus. They are both out of this world."

ALDEN CONWAY
Freshman



"Chuck Norris... cause it's frickin' Chuck Norris."

CLINT STEPHENS
Sophomore



"Johnny Depp because he's H-O-T-T."

MELISSA SALDIVAR
Freshman



"Jamie Foxx, because I've been a fan since Def Comedy Jam."

DRAKE MCCRARY
Senior



"I wouldn't mind seeing Seth Cohen walking around campus."

RACHEL STERNSTEIN
Junior

Compiled by Sean Hymowitz

COLUMN

Talking to strangers should not be taboo in today's society

I love to talk to random people. If I'm in line at the grocery store, I'll talk to the person behind me to pass the time. If I see someone on campus whose jeans I



CASUAL

TAYLOR SEWELL

like, I'll ask him where he got them. If I see someone cute at a club, I won't hesitate to say hello. I've always been this way, and I never really thought twice about it until I got to Vanderbilt.

Here, my friends informed me that my habit of making small-talk with strangers made me creepy. What I always viewed as friendly normalcy was perceived — at least by some — as creepiness. Awesome. Now I'm not completely dim; I do realize that I probably catch people off-guard, but still, to go so far as to label me creepy? Seems a bit much.

But perhaps I make people wonder if I'm after something sinister and am approaching them with ulterior motives. Perhaps I give off threatening vibe—because everyone knows a skinny guy in tight jeans definitely signals danger. Or maybe they just think the act of talking to strangers is intrinsically bizarre.

I wouldn't think that ulterior motives would be immediately suspected by the stranger I talk to in the check-out line at the grocery store. What am I going to do? Ask her where to find the tomato sauce? If I see you on campus and ask you where you got your pants, chances are I simply like the style and wouldn't

mind buying a pair myself. If you get all dolled up to go to the club, why wouldn't you expect (and want) people to comment on your appearance? Oh, and if my form-fitting jeans make me look threatening, well, you clearly are not very perceptive.

This leaves only one reason — in my mind anyway — as to why my friendliness with strangers could be perceived as creepy: People think such random gregariousness is fundamentally weird because it strays from social norms. That's sad. To think that we, as a society, have created a culture where people can't make conversation, can't ask a simple question or can't compliment a stranger without being viewed as sketchy is pitiful. Granted we're all taught as children not to talk to strangers, but as adults, surely we have the ability to discern what is and is not dangerous. If I start to hustle you, ramble on about the end of the world or ask you to take a ride in my car, then sure, you can think I'm bizarre. But simply because I think it's nice to be friendly? That's dumb.

I promise I don't have a mental disorder. I promise I'm not going to steal your wallet. And I promise I'm not going to try to seduce you by batting my eyelashes. I simply enjoy the small things in life, and for me, that includes the random interactions I have with random people. So the next time someone approaches you for no apparent reason, give him the benefit of the doubt: Maybe he simply enjoys interaction with new and different people. I know I do. ■

—Taylor Sewell is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

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COLUMN

Bethlehem loses its light, suffocated by Israel's wall

Six thousand miles away from us, a little town is dying. Most of us know of this town because of its place in a Christmas

GUEST COLUMNIST

**LAURA
BRESLIN**

carol, yet the quaint village where Jesus was said to have been born in a manger is slowly being cut off from the rest of the world; as a result, its light of life is fading.

Bethlehem today is hardly the Bethlehem holiday cards portray. Surrounded by 63 kilometers of concrete wall that averages in height between 25 and 30 feet, this town, once so full of life, has come to resemble a prison. When you stand beside a wall of this height, you are no longer able to see the sky; it is as if the wall has been built not only around you, but above you,

sealing you in.

Although other Palestinian towns have suffered such suffocation as a result of the wall Israel has constructed illegally, Bethlehem—or Beit Lehem as it is known in Arabic—is among the cities most negatively impacted.

Located just south of Jerusalem on some of the most valuable, arable and aesthetically beautiful land in the West Bank, Bethlehem and the three Palestinian refugee camps located in the vicinity are surrounded on all sides by illegal, and illegally expanding, Israeli settlements. As these nine settlements expand, Palestinian land is expropriated. This is basically stealing their livelihood away from the Palestinians, since for many farming is the only means of income.

Although the growth of the settlements has dramatically redrawn the borders of

Bethlehem, the most painful development in recent years has been the Wall, which cuts through Palestinian land, separates families and mandates the demolition of all homes which stand in its path. Because it is in such close proximity to Jerusalem, many of the residents of Bethlehem once found employment in bustling Jerusalem; however, since the construction of the Wall began, the freedom of movement between Jerusalem and Bethlehem has been restricted to such an extent that many of the Palestinians in Bethlehem have not left the city for over five years.

Because of its religio-historical significance for Christians, Muslims and Jews alike, Bethlehem's economy is dependant on tourism.

In 2000, the average number of tourists was 92,000. In six years, that number has fallen to only 7,000 a month, meaning that

this tourist site, home to around 61,000 people, has been turned into a modern-day ghetto dying of economic asphyxiation.

Over the summer, I met a Christian Palestinian woman from Bethlehem who told the tragic story of how she watched her father turn blue in the face and die after having a heart attack.

Despite being American citizens with American passports, the woman and her father sat at a checkpoint for hours while his condition worsened, prevented from leaving Bethlehem to go to Jerusalem where his life could have been saved at a hospital.

Israel has constructed this massive concrete wall and set up checkpoints for "security purposes," to prevent terrorist attacks in Israel. What threat did this dying man pose to the state security of Israel? His is the tale of so many other Palestinians,

many from Bethlehem, detained and dying at checkpoints when their lives could have been saved had they been allowed to go to medical facilities.

For people seeking to harm Israel, there is always a way around a wall, but for innocent men and women, the wall is all around them.

If this town, which gave birth to Jesus, is allowed to slowly die while the rest of the world watches silently, what does that say for those of the faith that was born there, or any other faith for that matter? We cannot watch while a town — a people — dies before our eyes. Open Bethlehem and allow its people to breathe, to move and to live again.

—Laura Breslin is a senior in the College of Arts and Science; Breslin is the co-president and founder of 'Dores for Palestine.'

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SPORTS



2006 BASEBALL PREVIEW

Senior trio seeks season to remember

BY JARRED AMATO
HUSTLER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

For Vanderbilt baseball's three seniors – pitcher Matt Buschmann, catcher Brian Hernandez and infielder Rucker Taylor – there's no more “next year.”

Knowing that this season marks the end of their college baseball careers, the trio plans to take advantage of every remaining game and practice.

“Minor leaguers come back here and tell us that we'll miss the college experience, which is why I'm trying to get the most out of my teammates and every day I have left,” Taylor said. “Just enjoy it.”

Along with the satisfaction of making lifelong friends and the sense of camaraderie that the players have, there are also moments on the diamond that will be impossible to forget.

“I enjoy being in the batter's box and having a one-on-one confrontation with the pitcher,” Taylor said. “That sense of competition is what I love about baseball.”

For Hernandez, the thrill comes from walking out to the mound to settle down a rattled pitcher.

“When we've got a freshman pitcher on the mound and I'm behind the plate, instead

of (Coach Tim Corbin) having to come out and take a trip, I can understand the situation and go out and talk to him,” Hernandez, a Duke transfer, said.

With all of the hype surrounding this year's talented freshman class, one cannot overlook the role that the three seniors play in leading the youngsters. After all, they understand what it was like to be a freshman.

“I really wanted to come back and have that chance to be an older guy on the team and take some of the younger guys under my wing,” Buschmann said. “Sometimes when (advice) comes from a player rather than Coach, maybe they pay attention a little more.”

The rookies are learning what Vanderbilt baseball is all about: practicing hard, getting stronger, playing aggressively, being self-confident and learning how to study the game. While this may be natural for the three seniors, they understand that it wasn't always the case.

“It's being almost like another coach,” Hernandez said. “When you're on the field, coach is in the dugout so when something happens, you need to talk to them and tell them that mistakes are part of the game.”

Both Buschmann and Taylor described

how their games have developed from freshman year to now.

“When you come in as a freshman, you just go out there and pitch,” Buschmann said. “Now, you understand the smaller intricacies of the game and realize there's a purpose to everything you do.”

For Taylor, it's been about confidence.

“As a freshman, the speed of the game is a lot different and coaches' expectations are a lot different,” Taylor said. “Senior year you know what to expect baseball wise and even simple things like how to study. It's definitely more relaxed.”

Even though senior year is more relaxed, there is also a sense of urgency, and this trio does not want to wonder what might have been.

“You want to have fun and enjoy it so when you leave, you can say ‘I did everything I could.’ I don't want to leave here with any regrets,” Buschmann said. “I don't want to leave here thinking I could've done more to make it a better season.”

Whether it is moving a runner over with a sacrifice bunt or driving in a guy from second base, Hernandez said he will help the team win in any way he can.



Neil Brake / VU Media Relations

Rucker Taylor, one of Vanderbilt's three seniors, will be counted on heavily for his leadership. Brian Hernandez and Matt Buschmann will also provide senior guidance for an inexperienced Commodore squad.

“I definitely want to leave my mark and do the best that I can,” Hernandez said. “That way I can look back and say I tried my hardest, and whatever the outcome is, it won't

matter as long as I know I did my best.”

While there may not be a “next year,” the trio seems set on making this year one to remember. ■

Corbin helps propel Commodores into spotlight

BY ANDY LUTZKY
HUSTLER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Just as flipping the calendar to March brings spring weather and sunshine, the smell of freshly cut grass and the unmistakable “ping” of the aluminum bat send college baseball fans into a salivating frenzy.

Even with the season already underway, a cool breeze along the infield sings a wonderful reminder that the 2006 baseball season is only just beginning.

Before practice, some players, still in long-sleeves, jog along the pristine outfield grass and field some grounders. Next to them, a bunch of young-looking guys in uniform stand by the dugout recapping yesterday's events, and a steady stream of laughter emanates from a jersey that reads “T. CORBIN.”

You'd never know that Tim Corbin was the head coach of the Vanderbilt baseball team from that very shot, and not only because he still looks young. Corbin was right in the middle of them, enjoying himself and his team.

After all, what's not to enjoy? In just three years, Corbin has led the Commodores to a 106-68 record, and elevated them to the national scene.

“Vanderbilt is much like an Ivy League school, which happens to be playing in the SEC, which is the best of both worlds, in my mind,” Corbin said. “Vanderbilt's always had good players that have played here. We've been fortunate, because things have clicked at the right time.”

Surely, things seem to be clicking now more than ever before. Over the off-season, Corbin was named the head coach of the 2006 USA Baseball National Team. And, on the heels of their second-consecutive 30-win season, Corbin reeled in the nation's top recruiting class, as ranked by “Baseball America.”

While there is no sure-fire way to bring in the



Neil Brake / VU Media Relations

With Tim Corbin at the helm, the Vanderbilt baseball program has made strides towards national prominence. Corbin's impressive recruiting abilities and his overall vision for the program have helped the Commodores win over thirty games the past two seasons.

top prep players, Corbin obviously understands the advantages of playing to the team's identity while recruiting.

“You recruit to your situation,” Corbin said. “We've got a great private school in a great city, in a new facility, new grounds, and young coaches. You don't really worry about the competition you recruit against, and don't speak to it; speak to your positives.”

Of course, when arriving to Vanderbilt, the first

step is building upon those positives. That proved a bit more difficult in Corbin's first year, when the Commodores went 27-28.

“The first year was a little more difficult,” Corbin said. “We had little pitching, we had 25 guys, and it was a bit more difficult.”

One of the keys to building those positives—and building better ballplayers in the process—lies with the renovation of Vanderbilt's baseball facilities. Proj-

ects like Hawkins Field, one of the finest new ballparks in all of college baseball, go a long way in luring the nation's best players to Nashville.

“When you're in our conference, it's very important, because every school has top-notch facilities,” Corbin said. “The kids see the commitments from the grounds, facilities, the locker rooms.”

The seeds of Corbin's overall approach were firmly planted at Clemson, where he coached for nine years as an assistant before coming to Vanderbilt. The Tigers were a national powerhouse while Corbin was there, playing in four College World Series and finished in the nation's top-ten six times. He was promoted to Clemson's recruiting coordinator in 2001, after earning a reputation as one of the country's top recruiters.

One of the biggest perspectives Corbin gained on coaching, however, was an attitude he noticed in Clemson head coach Jack Leggett: enjoy it.

“I think his energy for practice is something that I picked up upon,” Corbin said. “I saw how important it was for him to show it every single day, because it made practices fun and it made the kids want to go out there and work. He treated college baseball like it was college football, in the sense that it was fun.” And what's more fun than winning?

For a school that never played in a Regional tournament before the Corbin era, Vanderbilt's potential gives the team and fans plenty of reasons to smile. With the administration's full support and attendance at the gorgeous ballpark on the rise, Corbin is preparing to cement Vanderbilt into the national scene.

“We need to be fortunate for what we have, and we need to let those people know that we appreciate it,” Corbin said. “I think the best way to show your appreciation is to go out there and get some wins for your school.” ■

Newcomers central to '06 success

BY WILL GIBBONS
HUSTLER SPORTS EDITOR

A disappointing end to last season left a bitter feeling for the Vanderbilt baseball team, but with a new season there is a chance to capitalize on the lessons learned in 2005.

A season ending sweep at the hands of Florida kept the Commodores out of the SEC Tournament and also crushed any chances they had at making the NCAA Tournament.

This came after starting the season No.17 nationally, and followed an appearance in the NCAA Super Regional the year prior. It's these memories that have stuck with the team as they prepare for a new season with new opportunities.

“I thought we had a really good team and if we had gotten into the postseason we would have been able to do some damage,” catcher Brian Hernandez said, who hit .342 with 42 RBIs last year. “Unfortunately, we didn't and it hurt, but we have to use it as a positive for this year.”

This year's roster has seen a youth movement of sorts, as pitchers like Ryan Mullins, Jensen Lewis, and Jeff Sues have all departed.

In the batting order, the Commodores will have to replace Warner Jones, Mike Baxter, and

Tony Mansonilo, among others.

The pitching staff will lead the way for this year's squad, which features Preseason All-American David Price, named top sophomore in the country by “Baseball America,” as well as tested veteran Matt Buschmann in the starting rotation. Junior Ty Davis will likely be the team's third starter.

The bullpen also looks solid. Cody Crowell, who sported a 1.12 earned run average last year, as well as Stephen Shao, who pitched 39 solid innings in 2005, look like the most experienced returnees to the team.

“I think we still have a long way to go,” Corbin said. “I like what we bring to the table on weekends. I think we've got good starting pitching.”

Last year's offense struggled at times. While the team's pitching ranked among the SEC's best in almost every statistical category, they finished eleventh in the SEC in RBIs, runs scored, hits and homeruns.

“As a team we're going to be more consistent (hitters) than last year,” Hernandez said. “I think as the season goes on we're going to be a major force.”

This year's recruiting class, ranked first by

“Baseball America,” is expected to bring some pop to the lineup. Transfers Matt Meingasser from Broward Junior College and Parker Hanks from UCLA, are also expected to be strong contributors. Infielders Pedro Alvarez and Ryan Flaherty, as well as outfielder Diallo Fon, headline the freshmen. They will be expected to make an immediate impact in order for the Commodores' goals to be reached.

“They need game experience more than anything else,” Corbin said.

While last season's postseason miss remains a source of motivation this season, Vanderbilt is counting on untested players to carry a lot of weight.

It is the impact of these inexperienced players, and the ability of veterans and coaches to foster their growth, that will make or break the 2006 version of Commodore baseball.

“I've been around the block a few times, and Buschmann and Rucker [Taylor] have too,” Hernandez said. “I'm ready to give advice and help the youngsters in any way I can.”

Helping the talented, yet inexperienced players get around the block faster will help this team reach its full potential. ■



As a team we're going to be more consistent [hitters] than last year. I think as the season goes on we're going to be a major force.

—Vanderbilt catcher Brian Hernandez

2006 SCHEDULE

Feb. 24: Pittsburgh
Feb. 25: Kent State
Feb. 26: Kansas
Feb. 28: Murray State
Mar. 3-5: Ball State
Mar. 10-12: Brown
Mar. 14-15: Butler
Mar. 17-19: @ Mississippi
Mar. 21: Belmont
Mar. 24-26: Auburn
Mar. 28: Western Kentucky
Mar. 31-April 2: @ Florida
Apr. 5: @ Austin Peay
Apr. 7-9: Arkansas
Apr. 11: Western Kentucky
Apr. 12: @ Lipscomb
Apr. 14-16: Georgia
Apr. 18: @ Middle Tennessee
Apr. 21-23: @ Alabama
Apr. 25: Austin Peay
Apr. 28-30: Kentucky
May 5-7: @ Tennessee
May 10: Lipscomb
May 12-14: @ LSU
May 16: Middle Tennessee
May 18-20: South Carolina
May 24-28: SEC Tournament (Birmingham, AL)
June 2-5: NCAA Regional
June 9-12: NCAA Super Regional
June 16-26: College World Series

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Davis, Thomas muscle their way past Commodores

Tournament hopes blurry after team drops fourth home SEC loss on Wednesday night.

BY ANDY LUTZKY
HUSTLER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Vanderbilt thought they would have their hands full in the paint against LSU's athletic big men. They were remarkably on-target with that guess, as the Tigers inside players frustrated the Commodores on both sides of the floor en route to a 77-66 victory in Nashville on Wednesday night.

After trailing for the entire second half, the Commodores pulled within two with almost three minutes remaining. They could not get closer, however, and the Tigers expanded their lead beyond the Commodores' reach.

"At the start of the second half they were hitting some shots, and we spent the rest of the game trying to recover from that run," said Vanderbilt head coach Kevin Stallings. "I thought it was within reach there, but we were just unable to catch up."

Due to LSU's (19-7, 11-2 SEC) two forceful inside players—Tyrus Thomas and 300-pounder Glen Davis—Vanderbilt (14-10, 5-8 SEC) was forced to rely on most of their scoring from the outside. They shot 9-for-25 from the three-point line, and only 36.5% from the field.

"We knew coming into the game that we would have to make threes," Stallings said. "It's very difficult to score on them around the basket. We had some inside looks sent back at us, and some we just missed."

Davis and Thomas combined for 31 points and 25 of LSU's 46 rebounds. The Tigers simply overmatched the Commodores inside at times, grabbing 17 more rebounds and making it difficult to score.

"They're a very athletic team," said forward Shan Foster. "Tyrus Thomas is one of the most athletic players in the league, and Glen Davis is one of the strongest. You won't win a jumping contest against them."

The Commodores kept pace with the Tigers for a good portion of the first half. Shan Foster hit two three-pointers to set the record for most three-pointers made in a player's first two seasons at Vanderbilt, a record previously held by Billy McCaffrey with 142. He added two more of his 15 points on a tough running jump-shot to give Vanderbilt a 21-16 lead midway through the half.

But after Darrel Mitchell hit a three-pointer at the first half buzzer, Vanderbilt would never lead again. The Tigers opened the second half on an 11-2 run, aided by three pointers from Davis and Mitchell, who led LSU with 21 points. The Commodores spent the rest of the game behind.

"We like to emphasize taking advantage of the last four minutes of the first half and the first four minutes of the second half," guard Derrick Byars said. "Those are pivotal points during the game. LSU took advantage at the start of the second half."

Byars led Vanderbilt in scoring with 18 points. Julian Terrell posted a double-double, tallying 10 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. He fouled out, however, late in the game.

Vanderbilt, now needs to win their three remaining games to break even in SEC wins and losses. They are faced with a difficult road to gain entry into the NCAA Tournament, possibly requiring a strong show in the SEC Tournament.

Terrell, playing in his second-to-last regular season

LSU 77, Vanderbilt 66							
LSU	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS
G. Davis	32	5-10	1-1	5-9	4-7-11	2	16
T. Mitchell	32	4-8	0-2	1-2	3-2-5	1	9
T. Thomas	27	3-8	0-0	9-10	7-7-14	0	15
G. Temple	34	1-4	1-4	0-0	0-2-2	4	3
D. Mitchell	39	6-14	3-7	6-8	1-4-5	5	21
M. Rolle	9	3-4	0-0	2-2	2-0-2	0	8
D. Lazare	11	2-4	0-0	1-4	1-2-3	0	5
B. Voogd	16	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0
TEAM					2-2-4		
Totals	200	24-52	5-14	24-35	20-26-46	13	77
Turnovers: 18 (Davis, Thomas 5; T. Mitchell 3; D. Mitchell, Temple 2; Voogd 1)							
Steals: 5 (Davis 3; T. Mitchell, Thomas 1)							
Blocks: 4 (Thomas 2; Davis, T. Mitchell 1)							

Vanderbilt	Min	FG-FGA	3P-3PA	FT-FTA	O-D-R	A	PTS
D. Carroll	29	2-9	0-1	1-2	3-3-6	0	5
S. Foster	35	6-14	2-7	1-2	1-3-4	0	15
J. Terrell	33	5-13	0-0	0-0	6-5-11	1	10
A. Gordon	32	2-7	2-5	2-2	0-0-0	3	8
D. Byars	32	5-13	4-9	4-4	0-0-0	0	18
A. Metcalfe	16	2-2	0-0	0-0	2-1-3	0	4
D. Cage	18	1-5	1-3	3-3	0-3-3	2	6
D. Nwankwo	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0
T. Skuchas	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0
TEAM					2-0-2		
Totals	200	23-63	9-25	11-13	14-15-29	7	66
Turnovers: 11 (Foster, Gordon 3; Byars, Terrell 2; Carroll 1)							
Steals: 4 (Carroll, Foster 2)							
Blocks: 1 (Terrell)							

	1st	2nd	Total
LSU Tigers	31	46	77
Vanderbilt Commodores	30	36	66

Feb. 22, 2006
 Technicals: none
 Ejections: none
 Attendance: 13,122
 Officials: T. Eades, M. Eades, A. Petty

home game, isn't worrying about where the Commodores will end up after the season.

"I'm not too concerned over the NCAA Tournament," Terrell said. "Whatever comes will come. We still have a few games left to play and we'll worry about the tournament when it's time."

Despite the loss, Stallings installed two new wrinkles in the Commodores' attack: a full-court pressure defense and Alan Metcalfe. Metcalfe, the little-used sophomore forward from England played 16 minutes, almost doubling his previous season high. He posted four points and three rebounds.

In the second half, Vanderbilt began playing full-court press defense, frustrating LSU's offense and in-bound passing.

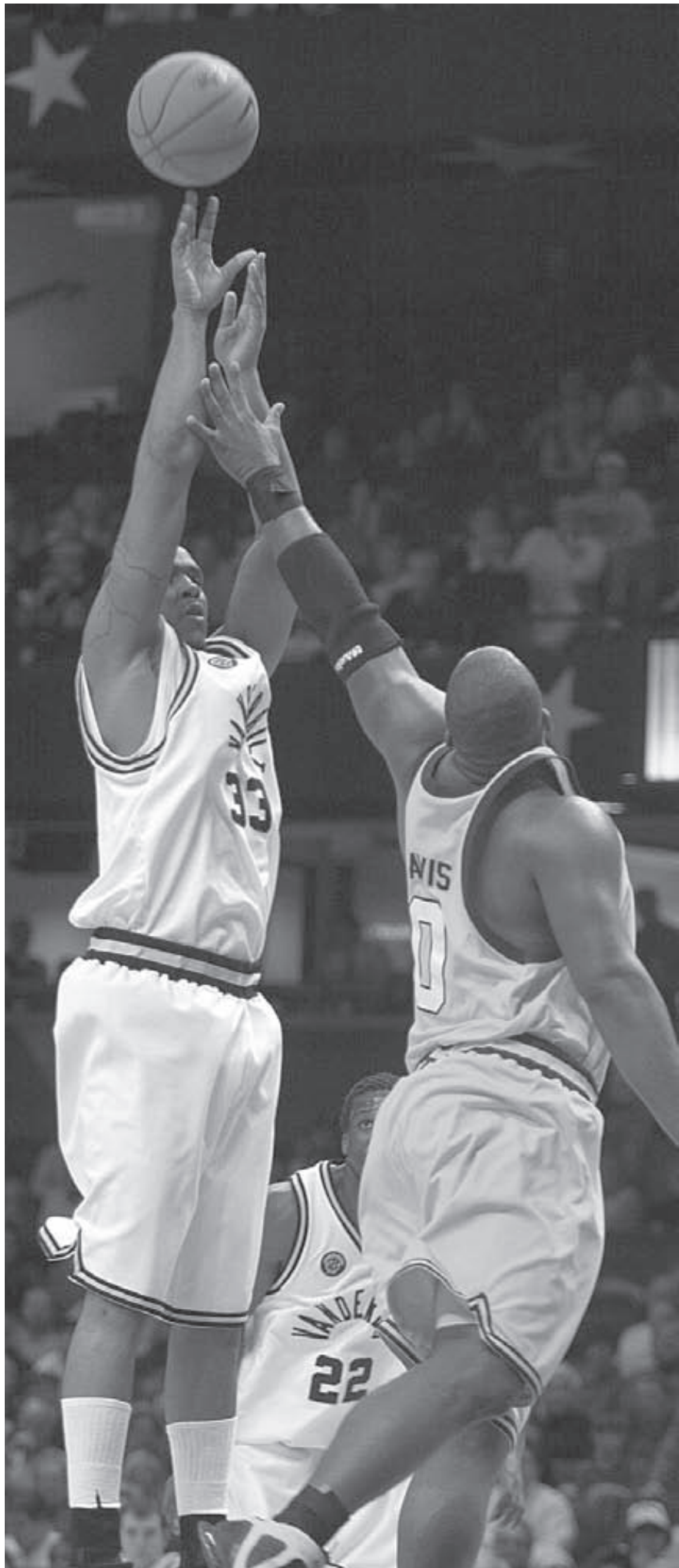
"I think that helped us get back in the game," Stallings said. "That is probably the best way to play against them, because they're not comfortable. They started the second half quickly, and we changed defenses to try and scramble the game. It worked for us, just not well enough."

Senior guard Mario Moore officially rejoined the team earlier in the week after taking a temporary leave of absence for medical reasons. While this was his first game back, he did not play.

"He just needs a little more practice time," Stallings said. "He's been out for two weeks. We need to get him back in the flow."

Vanderbilt's next two games are on the road. On Saturday, they play at South Carolina at noon.

Next Wednesday, they take on Ole Miss at 7 p.m. in a non-televised game. They play Tennessee in their regular-season finale on Mar. 4 at 3 p.m. at Memorial Gymnasium. ■



Neil Brake / VU Media Relations

Senior forward Julian Terrell finished with a double-double, combining for 11 rebounds and 10 points. Terrell fouled out late in the contest as the Commodores fell to LSU 77-66. It was the first time LSU has defeated Vanderbilt in Nashville since 1996.

FOOTBALL

Zach Logan hopes for a second chance

BY JORDAN MAMORSKY
HUSTLER MANAGING EDITOR

Being misunderstood has never been easy for fullback Zach Logan. Since joining the Commodore football program in 2004, Logan has had all but one carry. Yet, in his two seasons at Vanderbilt the fullback has solely made the headlines off the field.

Recently dismissed from the football team for violating team rules, Logan has seen a promising football career at Vanderbilt go awry with a series of off-the-field incidents.

However, things were quite different for the sophomore two years ago. The quiet, self-proclaimed, country boy from the sleepy town of Wilson, Arkansas had just been accepted to Vanderbilt University, fulfilling his wildest dreams. The first of his family to attend college, Logan, a high school honors student with a 3.7 GPA had worked hard to reach the magnolia trees of Vanderbilt.

Raised without a father in the economic backwater of rural Arkansas, Logan used grit and determination to reach his goals.

"Where I am from the economy is not great," Logan said. "Growing up I didn't have a father figure. I was raised by my grandma and two of my uncles, my mom wasn't around much. I felt like I was a grown up before I really was supposed to be. I did most things on my own and made it through with what I had."

Certainly, the opportunity Vanderbilt presented for

Logan was immense. The two-time all-state running back now found himself playing football for a SEC school while receiving a top-flight education.

Indeed, Vanderbilt was equally excited about having Logan. A highly regarded recruit for the program, Logan was envisioned as the bruising fullback that would take the Commodore's running game to the next level.

Yet, the fullback was never quite able to fulfill his football and academic goals as he struggled to adapt to Vanderbilt culture and city life.

"I come from a small little town," Logan said. "A lot of stuff goes on and it's not a big issue. Here at Vanderbilt I learned I had to adapt a lot more, it was hard to fit in."

Mostly, Logan struggled to deal with what he saw as a racially divided campus that created barriers between himself and other Vanderbilt students---something he was not accustomed to in his hometown.

"I went to a small high school, there was probably more blacks than whites, but everyone got along," Logan said. "Everybody in the community knew each other, everyone was different yet still got along. Where I am from, it doesn't matter what you are, who you are, everybody gets along. When I got here it was just strange because everybody didn't."

These campus divisions proved startling for Logan. Despite his difficulty adjusting to Vanderbilt campus life, Logan refuses to blame anyone but himself for his off field

incidents.

Perhaps Logan's most glaring altercation was with a Vanderbilt student who muttered a racial slur at a campus party last year. While some would claim they were justified in defending themselves against such verbal abuse, Logan sees the altercation as his fault entirely.

"You know it wasn't anybody's fault but mine," Logan said. "I take responsibility like a man for it I am not blaming anyone. I shouldn't have been intoxicated and fighting, he shouldn't have done what he did. Things happen for a reason, two wrongs don't make a right so it won't justify anything. We're all human beings, we're supposed to be grownups, I wasn't that."

After the incident, Logan sought to escape the off-the-field headlines and in turn, devoted himself to football and his classes. Yet, Logan was never quite able to escape the off-the-field headlines in Nashville. Recently dismissed from the football team, Logan assumes full responsibility for his DUI and only seeks to learn from his mistakes.

"What happened, happened. I was over the legal limit and I deserve whatever punishment is required under the law," Logan said. "I'll be here till May and I want to improve myself, not just in school, but improve myself as a person. I feel like I am going to do that."

It has been tough for Logan to come to grips losing his spot on the Vanderbilt football team. The fullback will look to transfer next year, and hopes that another university will

give him a second chance to excel on the football field and in the classroom.

In Nashville, however, Logan will leave behind close relationships with coaches and teammates that have guided him through his most difficult times.

"I love my teammates, even the coaches," Logan said. "I know (the coaches) had to make the decision they made, but they brought me in here, and it was a decision they had to make. I am a very loving person and I can't stress enough how much my teammates mean to me. They've always been there for me, they've been like my family, even when I did that stupid stuff and messed up they were always there for me. They never turned their back to me."

While off-the-field incidents have haunted him during his tenure at Vanderbilt, Logan refuses to be daunted by the numerous obstacles he has faced and looks to create a new beginning for himself, wherever that may be.

"I just haven't made the right decisions," Logan said. "I know that life goes on and that whatever life brings for me out there I am going to take. I am not going to put my head down, I am going to take this as a positive thing, and try to better my life. I've been through a lot in my life and I can't let this get me down. I am not defeated. I am going to do something with my life." ■

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Individual accolades not Bertrand's goal

BY FRANKLIN PETR
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

In the next week most students will leave the safe haven of the Vanderbubble for relaxing respites in sunny Cancun or snowy Colorado. There is one group, however, that will choose to visit downtown Atlanta and rustic Arkansas.

So who is this group that will forsake surf and sun for collegiate campuses? None other than Taka Bertrand and her fellow women's tennis players.

"Dual matches are just as fun," Bertrand said. "Honestly, I wouldn't want to spend spring break with anyone else."

Picking out individual players in a team sport is not normally looked upon too highly. Bertrand, however, has a hard time flying under the radar.

She's nationally ranked in the top 20 for collegiate players, and one of the top players in arguably the top conference in women's tennis.

In fact, she was already garnering this attention a year ago when, as a freshman, she defeated five Top 100 opponents and was named ITA's "Freshman of the Year" for the Southeast region.

Even with all of her success, she maintains a mature nature.

"It's nice to get ranked," she said. "But since I've been in college, I've been all about helping get our team back in the top ten, where we belong."

A northern Virginia native, Bertrand is no novice when it comes to competitive tennis.

She's been playing the sport since she could swing a racket, and spent her high school years traveling the world playing in junior tournaments. She played so much that she had to register for her freshman year of high school twice.

"My school kind of kicks you out if you miss more than 15 days," she explains. "And I'd spend a month in

Asia playing these tournaments. So I'd have to come back and re-register."

But coming to Vanderbilt was the proverbial curve ball. While in high school she competed as an individual, she had to change with her relocation to Nashville.

"In international play, it was all about my ranking," Bertrand says. "That was my goal."

Bertrand came to Vanderbilt in 2004 and became an instant force on the team.

Behind the leadership of graduate Audra Falk, and with the help of her doubles partner Amanda Fish, Bertrand posted 20-6 records in doubles, and at the No. 3 singles position.

"International play taught me a lot," she says. "There is no consolation in losing a match. You lose, you go home. And home was a 24 hour plane ride away."

But at five feet and four inches, the sophomore is the shortest member of her team, and in a sport where size equals power, she is at a distinct disadvantage. How does she overcome her diminutive stature?

"I'm scrappy," she says smiling.

Head coach Geoff Macdonald phrases it a bit better for the rest of us.

"She's a fierce competitor," Macdonald said. "She doesn't waste points, and she fights for everything. She just inspires the team. She loves to play, and that's infectious."

Judging by the team's success, her fellow netters have taken notice.

Following Bertrand's undefeated record, the rest of the team has responded in kind, helping Vanderbilt post seven wins through its first eight games.

To Bertrand, the team wins are the most important.

"I'd like for when people think of Vanderbilt, not



Neil Brake / VU Media Relations

Sophomore Taka Bertrand has posted a perfect 7-0 singles record this season. She has twice been named SEC Player of the Week.

to think about me, but about how highly ranked our team is."

Though she may not be the cliché "heart and soul" of the team, Bertrand is definitely an integral part of it. Her 7-0 singles record leads the team, and she has been recognized twice as the SEC "Player of the Week," most recently following a home upset of No. 10 Baylor University.

Paired up against the No. 9 netter in the country, Bertrand never wavered in her determination. She fought back from a three-game deficit in the first set to force, and later win, a tiebreaker.

"She has a rare combination of qualities," Macdonald said. "She's just remarkable."

Bertrand could not be more pleased with the team's success.

"We're definitely a top ten team. We look forward to the tough matches," she said.

So, while the rest of us will spend this upcoming break relaxing and living it up, Bertrand will remain hard at work improving her game and pursuing her goal of an NCAA team championship.

And to her, it's a sacrifice she's happy to make. ■

BASEBALL

Rain does not dampen home opener against Tennessee Tech

BY DREW GOODWIN
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

Playing on a rain-soaked Hawkins Field Wednesday night, Vanderbilt outscored the Golden Eagles of Tennessee Tech 9-5. The victory improves Vanderbilt's record to 2-2 in the early 2006 season.

Freshman pitcher Nick Christiani started the game for the Commodores, and was followed by a predetermined rotation involving eight different pitchers. He sat down the first six Tennessee Tech batters that he faced. Christiani was then followed by Greg Moviel, Brett Jacobson, Stephen Shao, Tyler Rhoden, Josh Zeid, Ty Davis, and SEC Preseason All-American David Price respectively. Although Christiani recorded the win, both he and Price proved excellent bookends to the pitching parade. Together the dynamic duo faced nine batters in three innings and struck out five. Price single-handedly finished the ninth inning by striking out the side on ten pitches.

"I liked how Christiani and Price responded after last weekend," Vanderbilt head coach Tim Corbin said. "Both those guys struggled in California, so to get those guys back in the driver's seat was very important. From the way they responded today it looks like they're back on track."

After Christiani came out of the game in the middle of the second inning, the Commodore bats came on fire. In the bottom of the inning Vanderbilt scored seven runs, highlighted by a bases-clearing, three RBI double by senior catcher Brian Hernandez.

"We were aggressive and smart tonight," Hernandez said. "After talking about it yesterday we really focused on not being aggressive on the pitches out of the zone, and we did a great job tonight on being aggressive on

the pitches that we could hit. That was really the difference tonight, and if we do continue to do that we'll score a lot of runs and win a lot of games."

The offense totaled ten hits throughout the game, mostly coming in the second inning, and almost every starter recorded at least one hit. However, the real offensive spark came from Rucker Taylor, who did not even record an official at bat in the game. A senior second baseman and leadoff man, Taylor came up to bat five times, walking three times, getting hit by a pitch twice, and scoring a run in the process. Taylor raised his on-base percentage to a whopping .667 with his five free passes.

"I don't think I've ever seen that before, but it's pretty cool," Corbin said. "Rucker's got a bulls-eye on his shoulder and he gets hit a lot. He walks a lot because his eye at the plate is so good, and that's great. His on-base percentage is really good, and I'll take that any day from my leadoff man."

It was all smiles and sunshine in the Vanderbilt dugout, but the conditions on the field were not so pleasant. Wednesday's wet weather made the outfield grass dangerously slick, causing three fielding errors in right field - two by Tennessee Tech and one by Vanderbilt.

"The weather didn't really affect us too much out there," Hernandez said. "We've had practices in these sorts of conditions before, and whenever we do practice in the rain Coach tells us we'll have to play in the rain sometime too. I think we were extremely well prepared to play in the conditions we had today, and it really paid off."

Vanderbilt's home campaign continues this weekend as they face Pittsburgh, Kent State and Kansas, in the Music City Classic. ■

WOMEN'S GOLF

Cocolino drives her way to landmark performance

BY ALEKSEY DUBROVENSKY
HUSTLER SPORTS REPORTER

While some venturing in the desert may see things that aren't actually there, anyone watching Vanderbilt's Jacqui Cocolino on Tuesday saw a truly remarkable showing.

She capped three flawless rounds with a school-record final day en route to capturing the Arizona Wildcat Invitational, the season opening tournament for the varsity women's golf team.

"Coming out of high school as such a highly touted recruit, we expected Jacqui to play very well right from the beginning," said Vanderbilt head coach Martha Freitag. "She played three spectacular rounds and she really deserved to win this tournament."

Freitag also said that she wasn't surprised by how well Concolino, a freshman, played in her first collegiate golf event.

"A freshman in golf is expected to contribute right from the get-go," Freitag said. "Golf isn't like football or basketball where as a freshman you go up against players who are bigger, faster and stronger. Here, you are expected to play very well."

Concolino shot a five-under par 66 in the third round, which catapulted her past first round leader Sophia Sheridan of Cal to claim the tournament victory. She shot a 70 and a 68 in her first two rounds to finish at a nine-under par 204 in the 54-hole event.

"I had been working hard on my irons game and this week my irons were just fabulous," Concolino said. "I missed eight greens all week, just one today. It was a solid, ball-striking week."

Freitag agreed, praising Concolino's all around game.

game was just great," Freitag said. "Her length allowed her to put the ball where she wanted all day."

The team placed 14th in the tournament, but that was due in part to the incredible competition that participated in the event.

"This was a national championship-caliber tournament field, with 15 of the top 25 programs in the country entered," Freitag said. "It was a great experience for our team to compete against that caliber of competition."

Chris Brady, who became the first Vanderbilt freshman to ever win an event two years ago, was recovering from a weekend bout with the flu and finished nine-over par for the tournament after a final round score of 73.

Kristen Svicarovich shot a 72 in her second round, sandwiched between first- and third-round scores of 77, to finish at 13-under par.

Freshman Amber Lundskog and sophomore Helen Richards, played well in each of their first two rounds, but struggled during the final day.

Lundskog shot a 16-over 87 and Richards shot a 13-over 84 during the third round. Despite the difficult finish for some of the golfers, Freitag remained encouraged by the results.

"We had a lot of good golf shots but this tournament also pin-pointed plenty of areas for improvement," Freitag said. "Our missed shots have got to get better, and we'll continue to work on that."

The team shot an 892, on rounds of 298-293-301, 40-over par and 52 shots behind the tournament-winners, Arizona State. No. 1-ranked and heavily favored Duke finished six strokes off the pace, second in the tournament.

After finishing last season ranked in the top ten in the nation, the women's golf team looks to use the valuable experience gained by playing in the tournament.

A top-five overall finish at the end of the season, Freitag's long term goal, is still within the reach for the young club.

"I think we have what it takes to be that good," Freitag said. "In golf, it's your day and the good shots are falling for you, you never know what could happen, and Jacqui showed us how that."

The team's next tournament is in Baton Rouge for the LSU/Cleveland Golf Classic. ■



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