

Whiting out Tennessee isn't going to do anything for Vandy spirit.

See The Rant, page 5



It's not quite summertime yet, but the Top 10 provides some ways to spend the longed-for break.

See Opinion, page 4

Why should Commodore fans pull for the Vols this weekend? Aleksey Dubrovensky has 'The Answer.'

See Sports, 6

TODAY'S WEATHER



Morning Rain, 51/35  
Extended forecast, page 2

# The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2008 • 120<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 20

## THE WALL

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

**TODAY**  
**Phi Beta Kappa applications due**  
Applications from prospective members for Vanderbilt's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and largest academic honor society, are due. More information can be found on their Web site at [www.vanderbilt.edu/pbk](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/pbk)

**TODAY**  
**Vanderbilt String Orchestra and Symphony performance**  
The Vanderbilt String Orchestra and Symphony will perform from 8 to 10 p.m. at Ingram Hall in the Blair School of Music.

**TODAY**  
**'N\*C\*W\*': The Race Show'**  
The Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs and Project Dialogue will sponsor "N\*GGER WETB\*CK CH\*NK: The Race Show," a play about racial discrimination. The play begins at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center Ballroom.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 23**  
**'Biggest Loser' auditions**  
The reality TV show is coming to Nashville in search of teams of two to become the next "biggest loser" — and win \$250,000. Open auditions for the sixth season will be at the Wildhorse Saloon from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information can be found at [InsideVandy.com](http://InsideVandy.com)

**SUNDAY, FEB. 24**  
**Fashion for a Cause open call**  
The organization is teaming up with AMAX modeling agency to hold an open call for models who are interested in modeling (for a career and/or for Fashion for a Cause's show on March 27) from 3 to 5 p.m. in Sarratt 116.

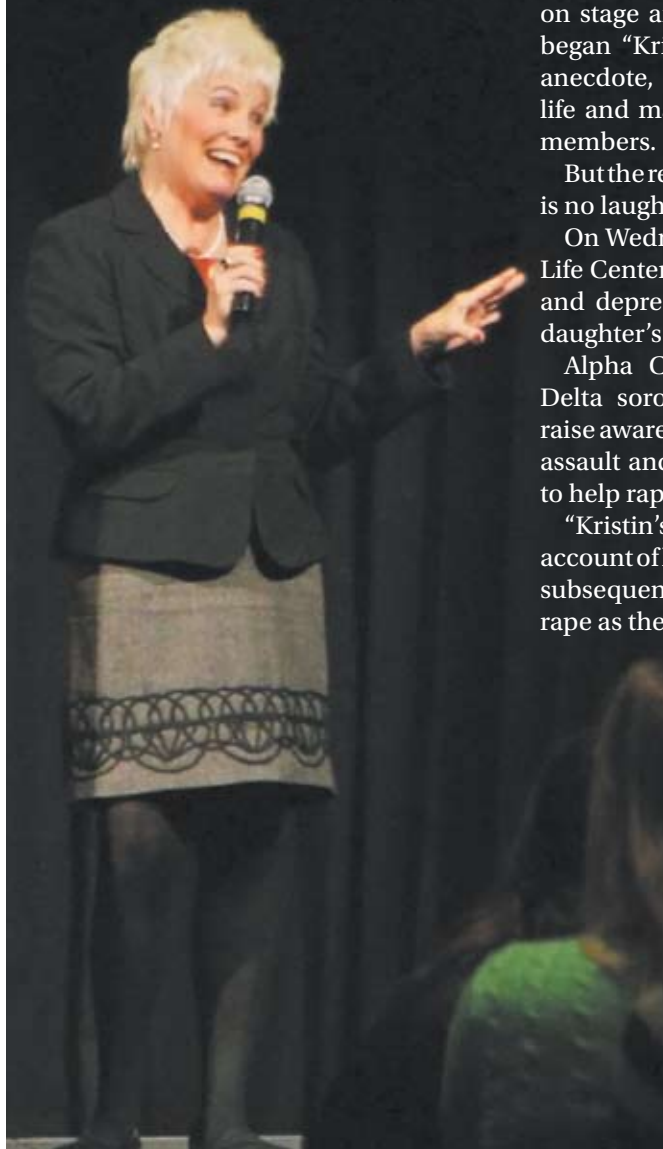
**THIS WEEKEND**  
**E-week events**  
The finals for the Fastest Geek competition are from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. today in Adams Atrium in Featheringill Hall, and tonight over 400 students are expected to show up at a gaming competition at 7 p.m. in Jacobs Auditorium. Saturday, students will build potato guns and compete from noon to 3 p.m. on the soccer field next to the Rec.

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

## Telling 'Kristin's Story'

Mother raises awareness about depression and rape as she shares her daughter's story.

by SIMON HIRSCH  
Contributing Reporter



Andrea Cooper cheerfully walked on stage and spoke with charisma. She began "Kristin's Story" with a personal anecdote, made jokes about sorority life and made fun of herself and family members.

But the reason for Cooper's appearance is no laughing matter.

On Wednesday evening in the Student Life Center, Cooper shared a tale of rape and depression that culminated in her daughter's suicide.

Alpha Chi Omega and Delta Delta Delta sororities sponsored the talk to raise awareness about depression, sexual assault and suicide and to present ways to help rape victims.

"Kristin's Story" is a mother's personal account of her daughter's suicide, and the subsequent discovery of her daughter's rape as the reason for her suicide.

Please see COOPER, page 3

### BY THE NUMBERS

25  
percentage of women who are victims of rape

84  
percentage of rape victims who know their assailant

5  
percentage of rape victims who report the crime to the police

30  
percentage of rape victims who contemplate suicide

SIMON HIRSCH / The Vanderbilt Hustler

## Engineering the competition



BRYAN CANDELARIO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Engineering students participate in the iCreate Robots competition Wednesday in Featheringill Hall. The competition was part of the annual Engineering Week. For a slideshow of photos from the event, visit [InsideVandy.com](http://InsideVandy.com)

## Teach for America provides opportunity for leadership

by ELISE MICHAEL  
Contributing Reporter

"Of the 13 million children growing up in poverty, about half will graduate from high school. Those that do graduate will perform, on average, at an eighth grade level."

Even though this kind of world often seems removed from Vanderbilt's, seniors here are reaching out to try to make an impact on the nation's struggling youth through Teach for America.

Senior Taylor Imboden will join Teach for America's efforts this fall, spending two years as a middle school math teacher in St. Louis, Mo.

Teach for America recruits accomplished college students from around the nation to serve a two-year term as a classroom teacher in one of 26 cities.

A communications major from North Carolina, Imboden is involved in a number of student organizations and credits Vanderbilt with helping develop her leadership skills. She is a member of Chi Omega sorority, is an Alternative Spring Break site leader, was the vice president of Interhall last year and was just slated as a Young Alumni Trustee finalist.

Please see TEACH FOR AMERICA, page 3

### Opening Doors

A series of profiles on seniors and recent alumni who are preparing for — or experiencing — life beyond the bubble.

## CAMPUS NEWS BRIEF

### VSG house passes restructure proposal to become more efficient, effective, empowering

After debate on both its new structure and name, the Vanderbilt Student Government house has taken a step to becoming more "efficient and empowering," said VSG President-Elect Joseph Williams.

The house and senate unanimously passed a proposal to restructure the house in a special joint session Wednesday evening. Students will vote to approve the referendum in the general election on Tuesday.

"The name of the game is efficiency and empowerment," Williams said, "and this proposal empowers students to make real changes to the university while also making VSG as a structure more effective and efficient."

"Currently, the House of Representatives has 40 members, which is so large that the body wasn't very effective in its first year," said Speaker of the House-Elect Lauren Ross. "The resolution and accompanying constitutional changes are basically intended to empower the house by giving each member more responsibilities and making the body more coherent and streamlining many of its functions."

Please see VSG, page 3

## Students, leaders express concern about effects of JuicyCampus

by NIKKI BOGOPOLSKAYA  
Staff Reporter

"C'mon. Give us the juice. Posts are totally, 100 percent anonymous."

This is the tagline of JuicyCampus.com, a Web site which only a few weeks ago was an obscure link advertised on Facebook but has exploded into a nationwide phenomenon.

And while many students use the Web site for gossip, an equally large number finds the site detrimental and hurtful to their peers.

Directly above a Feb. 15 post titled "Hook-ups" runs a thread called "Think before you type." Right beside a Feb. 20 thread announcing "The biggest slut at Vandy" runs a header saying, "This website is LIBEL!"

Students seem to agree with that last post.

"As we promote civility as a core value of our community, we must realize that the destructive material posted on JuicyCampus is malicious and cruel, permanently harming our community internally and externally," said Vanderbilt Student Government President-Elect Joseph Williams.

Please see JUICY CAMPUS, page 3



SARA GAST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Student leaders gathered on Feb. 12 to discuss JuicyCampus.com and the effects the Web site may have on students and the community. The leaders ultimately encouraged students to avoid the site.

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# Odds & Ends

**WEATHER**  
compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

**SATURDAY**



Mostly Cloudy, 44/35

**SUNDAY**



Few Snow Showers, 44/35

**MONDAY**



Sunny, 58/39

**VUPD CRIME LOG**  
compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

**Feb. 17, 5:05 a.m.** — A bike was stolen from a rack at Curry Hall.

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

**SERVICE GUIDE**

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

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each.

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**CORRECTIONS**

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

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

**BACK ISSUES**

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## THE 123456789 STARTING 9

compiled by LAKENDRA SCOTT

### 1 Protesters break into US Embassy in Belgrade, set fire to office

**BELGRADE, Serbia** — Serb rioters set fire to an office inside the U.S. Embassy on Thursday, and police clashed with protesters outside other embassy buildings after a large demonstration against Kosovo's declaration of independence, The Associated Press reported.

Masked attackers broke into the U.S. compound, which has been closed this week, and tried to throw furniture from an office, to which they then set fire.

### 2 Obama wins Democrats Abroad global primary, his 11th straight victory

**WASHINGTON** — Barack Obama won the Democrats Abroad global primary in results announced on Thursday, The Associated Press reported, giving him 11 straight victories in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The Illinois senator won the primary in which Democrats living in other countries voted by Internet, mail and in person, according to results released by the Democrats Abroad, an organization sanctioned by the national party.

### 3 Pakistan opposition parties agree to form a government together

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** — Pakistan's two main opposition parties announced Thursday they would form a new government together after their victory over President Pervez Musharraf's allies in elections this week, according to The Associated Press.

The two leaders of the Pakistan People's Party of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League-N led by Nawaz Sharif made the announcement at a joint news conference after meeting in Islamabad.

### 4 Feds: Gray wolves in Northern Rockies coming off endangered list

**BILLINGS, Mont.** — Gray wolves in the Northern Rockies are being removed from the endangered species list, The Associated Press reported. The move follows a 13-year restoration effort that led the animal's population to soar.

The removal from the endangered list was announced Thursday by the U.S. Department of Interior.

An estimated 1,500 wolves now roam Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. This is a dramatic turnaround for a predator that had nearly vanished from the U.S. in the early 20th century.

### 5 Union University to break ground on new dorms for fall semester

**JACKSON, Tenn.** — Union University will break ground on new student dorms tomorrow after two residential buildings were completely destroyed in the Feb. 5 tornado, The Tennessean reported.

The university will hold a 10 a.m. ceremony on the campus to celebrate plans for a new residential complex. The building, which is not yet named, will replace the Watters and Hurt complexes that were completely destroyed in the storms. The new complex will house more than 700 students at its completion and is expected to start housing students by Sept. 1.

### 6 Kidnapped girl recovered in Rutherford County, father taken into custody

**NASHVILLE** — A 4-year-old girl who was abducted by her father has been safely located by the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

Madison Kerr, who lives with her mother in Commerce, Ga., was taken by her father, Jerry John Jones, on Feb. 15, The Associated Press reported.

Jones, a schoolteacher, faces four counts of child molestation, which do not involve his daughter. His bail was revoked when a judge learned Jones had been having unsupervised visits with the girl.

### 7 McCain says report suggesting inappropriate relationship 'not true'

**TOLEDO, Ohio** — John McCain emphatically denied a romantic relationship with a female telecommunications lobbyist on Thursday and said a report by The New York Times suggesting favoritism for her clients is "not true," according to The Associated Press.

"I'm very disappointed in the article. It's not true," the likely Republican presidential nominee said as his wife, Cindy, stood beside him during a news conference called to address the matter.

### 8 Trial to decide fate of art collection wraps; judgment later

**NASHVILLE** — The trial to decide if Fisk University can keep its prized art collection donated by painter Georgia O'Keeffe has ended and the judge will rule later, The Tennessean reported.

In closing arguments, lawyers for the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum argued the school lost the right to the artwork when it tried to sell the collection and took it off display.

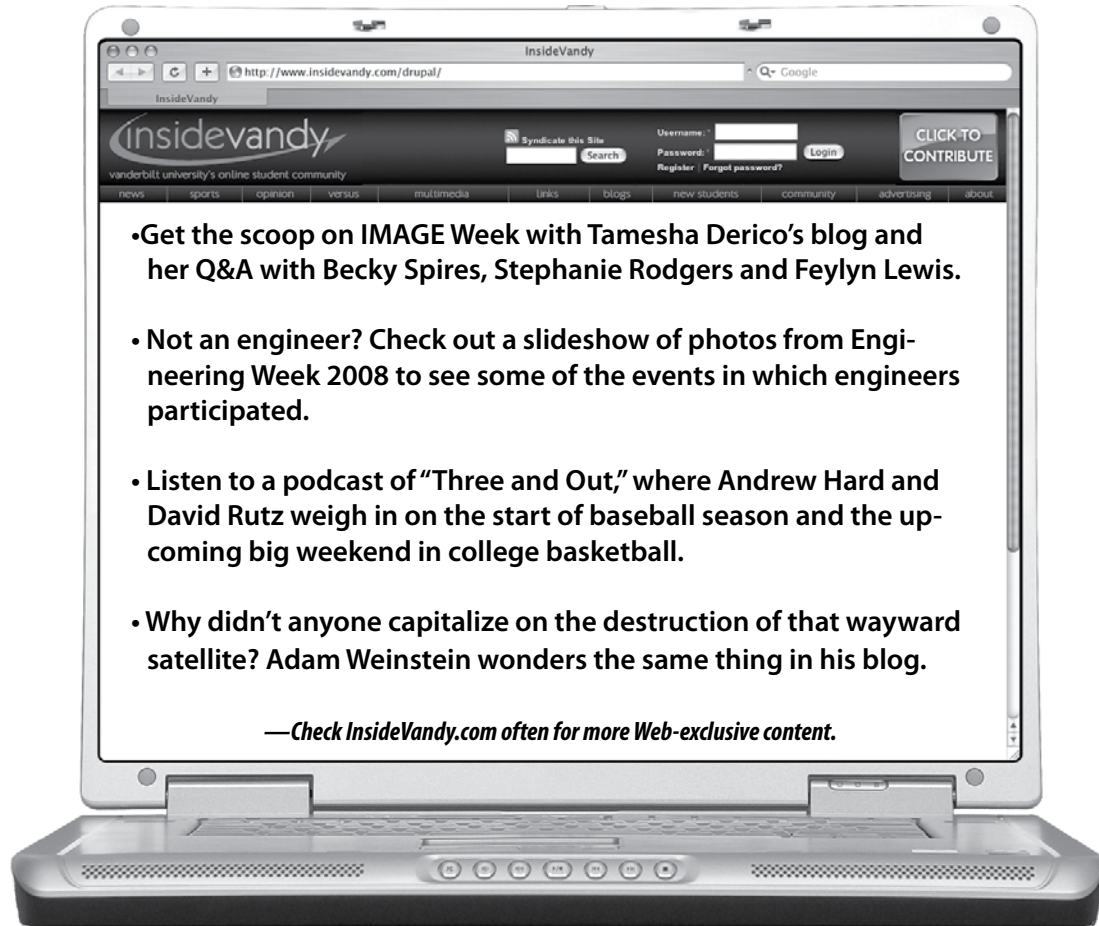
Museum lawyer Bill Harbison told a Nashville judge the historically black school has held the 101-piece collection "hostage in an effort to monetize it."

### 9 Clinton rallies college crowd on the border after recent defeats

**BROWNSVILLE, Texas** — Coming off another round of stinging primary defeats, Hillary Clinton returned to South Texas on Wednesday to show that her opponent is not the only one who can draw big college crowds.

On the University of Texas at Brownsville campus less than a mile from the Mexican border, Clinton promised to improve education for Hispanics, make college affordable for every American and develop a better illegal immigration plan than the one that threatens to divide this campus with a border fence, The Associated Press reported.

## WHAT'S NEW ON INSIDEVANDY.COM



- Get the scoop on IMAGE Week with Tamesha Derico's blog and her Q&A with Becky Spires, Stephanie Rodgers and Feylyn Lewis.
- Not an engineer? Check out a slideshow of photos from Engineering Week 2008 to see some of the events in which engineers participated.
- Listen to a podcast of "Three and Out," where Andrew Hard and David Rutz weigh in on the start of baseball season and the upcoming big weekend in college basketball.
- Why didn't anyone capitalize on the destruction of that wayward satellite? Adam Weinstein wonders the same thing in his blog.

—Check InsideVandy.com often for more Web-exclusive content.

**SNAPSHOT**

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students gathered for dinner Wednesday night at "Food and Nutrition 101" as part of IMAGE Week. IMAGE hosted Reba Sloan from the Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee to discuss the importance of proper nutrition and eating habits.

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# COOPER: Resources available for victims

From **COOPER**, page 1

Kristin, a then-20-year-old student at Baker College in Kansas, was raped by a friend in 1995, then committed suicide on New Year's Eve of that same year. Since 1998, Kristin's mother has traveled to college communities across the country, sharing her daughter's story of rape and suicide.

Cooper also shared statistics

about sexual assault on college campuses: 25 percent of women are victims of rape. Of these women, 84 percent know their assailant, 5 percent report the crime to police and 30 percent contemplate suicide.

According to Kacy Silverstein, co-director of Project Safe at Vanderbilt, date rape is a problem on all college campuses and rape is still one of the most

underreported crimes.

She also said that in an effort to aid students who are victims of sexual assault, the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center offers counseling, crisis intervention and legal and medical advocacy, and Project Safe provides education, prevention and response services to victims in the Vanderbilt community.

Silverstein said Project Safe focuses on changing the culture so both men and women are held responsible for preventing sexual assault, especially in cases where the victim knows her assailant.

Cooper said a change of culture is necessary to prevent tragedies like her daughter's, and support for victims can save lives.

"Rape is a crime of the heart for the victim, and a crime of convenience for the perpetrator," she said. ■

—Simon Hirsch can be reached at [simon.c.hirsch@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:simon.c.hirsch@vanderbilt.edu)

—For the Hustler editorial board's take on "Kristin's Story," see *Our View*, page 4

HOW WOMEN CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES
Walk or jog in groups of three or more.
Avoid isolated or dark areas.
Travel with confidence and purpose.
Do not wear earphones while walking or jogging.
Know the locations of emergency phones.
Do not use ATMs at night.
Stay alert, and plan ahead for "What if...?"

# JUICY CAMPUS: Students encouraged to avoid libelous site

From **JUICY CAMPUS**, page 1

And it's that external harm that could come back to hurt the university in a big way, several campus leaders have said, as prospective students and job recruiters may find their way to the Web site.

"Members of our community who are posting on this site, viewing the site and spreading the hurtful gossip on this site are to blame for the harm being done to Vanderbilt's reputation, as individuals and as an institution," Williams said.

Under U.S. law, sites like JuicyCampus do not bear responsibility for the content posted by their users, and JuicyCampus blocks its discussion boards from search engines like Google.

But while JuicyCampus' terms and conditions ensure privacy for those making libelous claims against their classmates, it does not offer the protection of anonymity to someone posting dangerous statements.

"If your school calls upset

about some girl being called a slut, we're not handing over access to our server data," the site's companion blog reads. "If the (police) call telling us there is a shooting threat, you better believe we're gonna help them."

Because this alleviates part of JuicyCampus' threat, campus leaders are unsure how to address the site.

Although Vanderbilt does not block any Web site from its network, some student leaders want to ban JuicyCampus — but most recognize the problem in setting that precedent.

"Vanderbilt's policy against banning sites is the correct one," Williams said, "as the slope is quite slippery once you start blocking (any site)."

Last week, student leaders met and initiated an effort to boycott the site.

"JuicyCampus is driven by students, and it is in the hands of students to stop it," said VSG Vice President-Elect Wyatt Smith. "Visiting the site is the same as promoting the hurtful

comments found there, and the site will continue until students decide that they are not going to promote it any longer."

Greek organizations are also encouraging their members to simply avoid the Web site.

"The opportunity such a Web site gives for free speech is admirable," said Jessica Demorest, public relations delegate for Kappa Delta sorority, "but the way that it has been abused has simply made it hurtful, demeaning and, in my opinion, unacceptable."

Most student leaders maintain their anti-JuicyCampus stance, expressing faith the community will cease communications through the site.

"I believe that this will pass," Smith said, "but it is a shame to see the mean-spiritedness on such full display to the Internet community." ■

— Nikki Bogopolskaya can be reached at [veronika.bogopolskaya@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:veronika.bogopolskaya@vanderbilt.edu)

# IMAGE Week headline goes here, please



BRYAN CANDELARIO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

One student tells her story of surviving an eating disorder at a panel discussion on Thursday as part of IMAGE Week. A student panel of eating-disorder survivors gathered to share their experiences, and a therapist from the Psychological and Counseling Center presented a clinical perspective on eating disorders.

# BSA will 'revive the greats'

by **TAMESHA DERICO**  
Senior Reporter

The Black Student Alliance's Black History Committee will host "Reviving the Greats" on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center auditorium.

According to Black History Committee Chair Angela Moore, the event will "honor the greatest African Americans who have ever lived and their contributions to American society."

The program will feature students performing songs, monologues, skits and other acts as they "revive" a figure in American history. The show is interactive as well; there will be trivia for the audience between performances.

Moore encourages all students, not just blacks, to attend the program.

"Black history is a part of American history; therefore, this program is open to every race and ethnicity (and all BSA events are open to the Vanderbilt campus community)," she said. "Reviving the Greats" is a chance to learn new things about black history in a creative way, and if that's not enough, there will be free food and prizes."

Moore said she hopes students will have fun, but she wants them to learn something as well.

"At the end of the event, many will learn at least one more thing about the contributions of blacks in American history and take pride in the progress blacks have made," she said. ■

# VSG: Proposal to allow for more 'legitimate representatives'

From **VSG**, page 1

Williams said the average attendance usually was between 26 and 32 student members. With the proposal, which would redistribute the housing representatives across campus, 24 area representatives would make up the house's voting and legislative arena.

"These representatives will draft legislation and work on various unofficial 'task force' committees with senators, cabinet members, executive members

and committee members to work on issues," Williams said. "It's meant to empower the house in every sense of the word, to work on policy with administrators, to draft legislation, to debate it more effectively and to be more legitimate representatives."

Additionally, area programmers would change to programming directors and decrease in number from their current six to three, most likely, Williams said. Each residence hall on campus would

also have a house president. However, unlike the current system, house presidents would not also sit on the house of representatives.

"(It is an) executive rather than legislative role," Ross said.

"(The house president) will deal with residence hall specific things, such as dorm autonomy decisions, capital improvements within dorm, programming in area and Residential Conduct Board," Williams said. "This ensures each

residence hall has a point person, a representative to go to for these things. These presidents will meet with area representatives weekly to discuss local and campus-wide issues, working as a team on programming and representation through policies and legislation."

The exception is The Commons, where "the 10 house presidents of The Commons will also serve as members of the house of representatives and on The Commons Council," Ross said.

Ross also said there was no plan to fit the structure of the house in with The Commons.

"This ensures a link between VSG and The Commons," Williams said, "essential for both structures to be as strong as possible and ensure that The Commons is linked back into the entire community. But there's still some autonomy left in The Commons to elect hall representatives and other offices if they wish and use those as they see fit." ■

# TEACH FOR AMERICA: Organization offers chance for recent grads to make impact on community

From **TEACH FOR AMERICA**, page 1

Originally thinking she would go directly to law school, Imboden interned with an attorney who was the corporate compliance officer and general counsel to the healthcare system this past summer.

The experience helped her decide she wanted to work in the public service realm.

"I realized that what I enjoyed most about the summer was interacting with people, and working on the projects that directly impacted the most number of people," Imboden said. "The experience confirmed for me that I needed to pursue a career that, at some level, would allow me to contribute directly to the public good."

When Imboden met with a Teach for America recruiter, she said she knew the organization was right for her and applied in the first round.

She cited the organization's effectiveness, its proven results and the social responsibility among her reasons for applying.

"I liked the organization's enthusiasm, admired (its) theory of change, and respected corps members' proven efficacy in addressing disparities in education," Imboden said. "Ultimately, I was attracted to the opportunity to become a part of a peer group that was dedicated to contributing to the greater community and giving all students the opportunity they deserve."

As she delved further into the application and preparation processes, Imboden said she fell more in love with what Teach for America was doing and its mission.

She said she feels Vanderbilt has prepared her well for the position through her experiences both in and out of the classroom by honing her communication skills and developing her leadership abilities.

"(By) studying public speaking in both theory and practice, I was able to develop the ability and the confidence to communicate my own ideas in front of groups of people," she said. "Further, my leadership experiences on campus have definitely helped me to build on many of the skills acquired in the classroom."

"Providing me with opportunities to learn from both my successes and failures, these experiences have allowed me to continue to develop, and hopefully improve, my own leadership style."

Although she said she looks forward to her two years in the Teach for America corps, she said her future holds a lot of possibilities.

"At the end of my Teach for America commitment, I hope to have earned a master's in secondary education and will have undoubtedly gained many invaluable experiences — in both leadership and in life," she said. "In the future, I hope to see myself continuing to challenge many of the issues that face our society today. In terms of the nature or degree of that involvement, I'm keeping an open mind." ■

—Elise Michael can be reached at [elise.a.michael@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:elise.a.michael@vanderbilt.edu)



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# OPINION

## THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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### OUR VIEW

## 'Kristin's Story' inspires compassion

Sadly, Kristin Cooper's family and friends lost someone they loved dearly after a terrible, terrible event. The sheer wrongness and violation of rape, and particularly date rape, can be said in so many ways and yet it continues.

The way in which rape can damage an individual strikes at the heart of the foundation this country and institutions like universities were built on: equality and human liberty. But "Kristin's Story" implores us to consider the far more personal aspect of the care and consideration we must bring to our relationships with friends and family.

Certainly, the friends and family of Kristin Cooper are not to blame for her death, and yet they must deal

with an immeasurable void in their lives. In speaking with students as she did Wednesday evening and many other evenings all over this country, Andrea Cooper embodies the kind of extraordinary courage and kindness worth emulating. Her message of compassionate awareness is one that should be taken to heart.

Vanderbilt's campus, like many others, is comprised of an incredibly capable, independent group of people who have shown again and again what they can achieve. This strength and success, however, can be both a blessing and a curse. Sometimes that robust confidence, both in the classroom and on a Saturday night, can mask long-

silenced struggles. For many of us, the most difficult of personal exchanges is asking for help.

At the same time, too often we overlook the signs of distress in those for whom we care, fearing the confrontation of asking a friend if they need help.

"Kristin's Story" demonstrates the most frightening potential danger in that. This is not to say all situations are comparable, because that's not the case. A genuine concern for a friend, however, should never be undermined by the assumption that vocalizing it will inevitably ruin a relationship. If anything, it may provide the strength someone needs to face the struggle.

### COLUMN

## Where has the wild Friday night gone?



**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

The Friday night frat party has become an elusive entity, a bit of an urban legend: much like the talented Grammy winner, supporters of Rudy Giuliani or the fun sorority party.

My memories of the abundance of Friday night parties is now little more than a piece of my hazy freshman blur of the Anchorman craze, videogames, skipped classes and RoTiki.

Now the campus options on your typical Friday night have become scarce and depressing. In desperation, some students have now taken to using this time to study or to party with freshmen girls at Beta. Increasingly resigned to the Friday night vacancy, there is now a surging popularity of weekday events.

Drinking games and random hook ups on Sunday and Monday nights are now fair game, no longer reserved for first month freshmen and visiting younger siblings. Some students, with no actual work to do, go out every night during the week, but as far as the Friday night itself is concerned, they are left clueless and dangerously bored.

For these Peabody majors, all sorts of tactics and strategies have been employed, even including attendance of school sponsored events, such as Casino Night and Dance Marathon. Whereas before these functions were laughable outlets for Blair students and Star Trek enthusiasts, now attendance can run upwards of 40 people at any given time who are not actually involved in running the event.

Other bold students have risked long walks across campus or to nearby off campus locations after nightfall, braving the ever-present danger of being approached by a perpetually drunken Andrew Solomon.

Many will search for hours in pursuit of rumored Towers or Chaffin parties, creeping through campus, listening for sounds of merriment. So the questions that arise to be answered by any virtuous investigative reporter are, 'Who is to blame for dead Friday nights?' or, "What locations will still allow me to be surrounded by a large collection of drunken strangers and undiscerning women?"

Well, first things first. Obviously this grave issue of Friday night lameness is the fault of the Vanderbilt executive leaders, and probably the Bush administration.

Slowly but surely, Vanderbilt is squeezing the vice on the Greek scene. Under the current model, 'how to be a second-rate, Ivy League clone; some sharp heads at the top of the ladder observed other Ivy League schools do not have fraternities and sororities.

Therefore, if we ever want to knock out Duke in the U.S. News top 20, frat parties have to go. The administration has cleverly approached this, typically charging fraternities around \$63,800 to register a party.

How can we respond to the situation? Well, for one, there's no party registration fee for "an orderly book club meeting with beverages provided?" (new party theme?). Also, if you're a frat groupie, there's good news: Often there's low-key drinking and upstairs sex that may not be officially announced.

If none of these fits your needs and personality, create a drinking game with some friends based on the Lifetime network: Just take a drink every time you're bored or when someone is crying.

—Justin Poythress is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu)

## Top 10 Ways to Spend Your Summer Vacation

**REBECCA REICHARDT**  
Columnist

With midterms over, it's time to move on to the next challenge of spring semester: figuring out how to spend your precious summer.

10.

**Bartend:** Between attending the required "mixology" class for licensing and the countless hours you will spend in a bar, it will be like you never had to leave your beloved Vanderbilt.

9.

**Alternative Summer Break:** Making the world a better place and 11 new best friends! Clearly, it is a great combination. Grad schools and employers alike love the socially minded, so don't let the lack of paycheck dissuade you, future value could be off the charts.

8 & 7.

**Life Guarding & Camp Counseling:** The high school favorites are back, but for a limited time only. Why take a boring office job when you can work outside, playing, swimming and having fun with kids? Take advantage of the last time in your life in which you don't have to get a real job.

6.

**Country Clubbing:** Swimming, tennis, golf and unlimited amounts of food on your parents' account all make for a fabulous time. Worried about your resume? You can always list the experience as a position with the Bank of D-A-D-D-Y.

5.

**Start your own business:** Nothing is more lucrative than 100 percent of the profits. Set your hours around your yoga classes, only take on as much stress as you can handle and get the title of CEO at the tender age of twenty.

4.

**Absolutely Nothing:** After the stresses of school, who needs to be tied down being "productive" for the summer? Spend your days on the beach, shopping, lunching . . . the possibilities are endless.

3.

**Intense Corporate Internship:** Money, money, money. What college student doesn't love it and/or need it? You will be promised valuable work experience, exposure to an industry to which you may dedicate your life and a lucrative paycheck. However, be prepared for endless hours of Facebook and reading the Economist online.

2.

**Study Abroad:** Egypt, Denmark, Ireland ... the options are endless. Travel the world, get some easy credit and learn that there is indeed life outside of the bubble.

1.

**Campaigning:** With one of the most intense presidential races right around the corner, what better way to spend your time than working for your favorite candidate's victory in November? You might never have the flexibility to dedicate all your waking time to campaigning again, so take the opportunity to become more civically involved when you have it.

### LETTER

## Singh's argument offends

To the Editor:

Ravi Singh's article on Monday made me laugh so hard I almost soiled myself. Seriously, it was bad. I don't think I've come that close to having a no-no since I was 6 months old, all thanks to Ravi Singh's woefully ignorant and hypocritical article this past Monday on frat diversity.

As I've firmly established myself as the only contributor to The Hustler to use bodily functions as a lead-in to an otherwise serious story, I'll move on. The sheer self-centered thick-headedness of the article was not Singh's fault. He was probably so caught up with his own sense of sheer brilliance he forgot to step outside of the situation and take a look at it from a detached perspective. Had he done this, he would have realized he cannot possibly have any real understanding of Greek Life. As a freshman independent his (almost) semester-and-a-half long tenure at this school make him the last person who should be pretending he can analyze Greek life in all of its complexities and caveats.

Now let's move from the wider implications of the piece to its actual message. Singh essentially suggests we, as frat boys, are guilty of "making a minimal effort to even attempt to diversify."

Apparently this is the reason why, according to him, "the perception of many students, especially of minorities, is that a lot of Greek organizations only accept a certain 'kind' of people." How is your inability to see past your own misconceptions our responsibility? What "kind of people" are you referring to? White people? Because this is what it sounds like, and between me and the two brothers I'm sitting with (one black/Asian, the other Hispanic), we think you're hysterical. A laugh riot, even. One thinks you should be on Leno, and the half-black president of my fraternity laughed so hard when he saw your article he slipped and broke his arm.

This is exactly the kind of ignorant, condescending position somebody with such limited college exposure would level on a fraternity. You're right; we don't care about race during rush. Rush is an intense, emotional process that goes deeper than just pumping beer into your liver. We're evaluating you as a man. We're looking for the perfect group of guys who fit into our house. We're looking for lifelong friends and *brothers* to initiate into our society forever. This kind of criteria is dependent on three things and three things only: personality, character and guts.

A bid means a kid has proven himself to us he's capable of surviving pledging and becoming a man. It means he has virtue. It means he has honor. Under your system, it sullies this time-honored and highly complicated process by introducing useless and trivial details like the melanin content of a person's skin into the equation. It simplifies and cheapens my frat and my virtues, and throws a wrench into a system that is already naturally transforming itself at its own pace.

The bonds that tie us together transcend race, religion and skin color, and frankly (here's the kicker), your belief that I should "aggressively pursue the students ... who would be considered a minority" is more racist and detrimental to Vanderbilt than any current trend on Greek Row today. What you're suggesting is nothing less than a mini-quota system, a kind of affirmative action that has no place on this campus. So we should battle racism by, um, targeting people based on their racial background? Giving special attention to minorities? Letting somebody stay on the rush list because we don't have enough of "them" on the composite? You're right; that's totally not racist. Not at all.

If the Greek system dropped

Please see **LETTER**, page 5

### OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments, arguments in bad faith or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in The Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on our Web site.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to [opinion@vanderbilthustler.com](mailto:opinion@vanderbilthustler.com). Letters via e-mail must either come

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

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

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

### CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

### ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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

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COLUMN

# Michelle Obama's words reflect liberal mindset



**MIKE WARREN**  
Columnist

On Monday, during a speech to supporters in Milwaukee that addressed the progress of her husband's campaign, Michelle Obama said, "for the first time in my adult life, I am proud of my country." Later that day, in Madison, she repeated her sentiments, saying in a speech broadcast on C-SPAN, "for the first time in my adult lifetime, I'm really proud of my country."

Naturally, commentators on the right were appalled that the wife of a presidential candidate would suggest nothing America has done in the last 26 years has made her proud of her country. Most were quick to highlight a lengthy list of proud American moments since 1982, including victory in the Cold War and the positive emergency and charity response of Americans in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Barack Obama campaign issued a statement which said his wife was speaking about American politics, not America as a country, a dubious claim considering she never articulated that she was speaking about American politics in particular in the context of either speech. Even if she meant to speak in terms of race and politics, for instance, surely the election of black mayors, congressmen, senators and governors over the last 26 years would give her reason to be proud, bloggers and analysts have argued.

Because Michelle Obama spoke the line in scripted speeches and repeated it at least twice, there is little doubt that she did not say what she meant. This admission of a lack of pride in America until American voters seemingly get behind her candidate husband illuminates a philosophical view many of the far left in this country hold. The left sees America as the ultimate project of social justice. To them, the United States and Americans have committed more wrong than right; from stealing land from Native Americans to slavery to the Vietnam War, the U.S. has represented the rich, bigoted, capitalist, war-mongering white man. This is a source of unbearable shame for the liberal, who, in the last century or so, has taken it upon himself to "progress" beyond the evils of our sordid past.

Contrast this with the general view of a

conservative or, I hope, any average American. The founding of the United States and its subsequent history are sources of deep pride because of the foundations on which our government was formed.

The ideas of limited government, free markets, and freedom of speech, religion, and press were, up to that point, merely ideas. Powerful documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution reaffirm what Americans recognize as truths about the proper relationship between the government and the individual, and they made these ideas a reality. Conservatives honor and respect these American values.

One would be remiss not to acknowledge that America's history is imperfect. Conservatives recognize the dark moments in our history — slavery, racial segregation, the Carter administration — as failures to live up to a standard of which we should be proud.

Our friends on the left, however, see these as instances of how we are a backward people, unwilling and perhaps unready to progress to an undefined state of true social justice. The conduit through which liberals can achieve this state is, of course, the federal government. The aforementioned American values conservatives hold dear impede the progress of the Left.

This brings me back to Michelle Obama's gaffe. She certainly does not hate America, and her husband's campaign has stated that only in this country could a story like the Obamas' occur. Nevertheless, her words reveal the liberals' deep-seated sentiment that what constitutes America's greatness is its willingness to vote for liberal policies and politicians.

Of course, what Michelle Obama said boils down to her belief that only by electing Barack Obama can America save itself from itself. Unfortunately, for the strict adherents to Obamamania, his election cannot bring about all the promised "hope" and "change;" the limited power of the president and the government slows the momentum of drastic reforms in either direction, left or right. If Obama wins in November, this is an aspect of American government we should all be proud of.

— Mike Warren is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at michael.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu

## LETTER: Singh misses the point

From **LETTER**, page 4  
everything and just decided to take Singh's advice, we would essentially cheapen the multitude of minority students in IFC frats and Pan-Hel sororities and simply disregard them as anomalies. We would only be paying lip service to true integration by making a joke of diversity. This is at the very least laughable, and at the very most a disgusting slap in the face to every civil rights movement that ever has had the courage to throw down with the status quo.

I'm not a racist; I'm just so sick and tired of hearing I'm part of a broken system from ignorant outsiders who think they know what they're talking about because they don't have enough homework to occupy their time. This goes for parents, politicians, teachers and independent students. Please stop looking at Greek life and telling me it's a racist tradition that requires outside intervention. My older brother is Hispanic, I'm Jewish and my little brother is Indian; if anything, this should be proof enough Singh either hasn't done thorough enough research or is (most likely) making this up. I will concede the IFC/Pan-Hel system is mostly white, but then again so is the school. Imagine that.

Don't get me wrong: There are legitimate problems on this campus. I have a friend in one of the NPHC sororities who walked past a

particular frat house one day and had to deal with a brother on the porch calling her a nigger. That's wrong, really wrong. I hate hearing stuff like this, but I'm not about to blame "society" or "Greek segregation" for the behavior of one drunken idiot; I blame the drunken idiot. This kid is a racist because he was raised a racist, not because he forgot to go to Stompfest and now he hates black people. As long as racism exists in America it will permeate every part of our society.

I'm not about to tell you how to end segregation, but I know enough to tell you, the person who got stuck on the way to the sudoku on the back page, this kind of ignorant racist is not going to disappear and be replaced with someone of character because Singh thinks I should chase after people who look different. I have yet to be shown definitive proof there is indeed an actual problem here, but if one presents itself there is no question change and reform must come from within the system, not from small-minded simpletons like Ravi Singh.

Sean Hymowitz  
Junior, A&S




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### THE RANT



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

"To the skinny dude who ran over 14 miles at 8.3 miles per hour: Get off the treadmill; the rest of us need it way more than you. Stop burning calories; you need to build muscle!"

"I don't know if VSG is mandating the ambiguous campaign signs, but seeing a dozen posters with nothing more than your name and the position you are running for doesn't persuade me to vote for you. It's the worst trend in campaign posters ever. No, we don't know who you are, and no, we don't know what your platform is. I refuse to vote for you just because you plastered your name on every tree from Kissam to Rand. I would like a campaign slogan at the very minimum please."

"To whom it may concern: I should smell your perfume when I hug you, not be engulfed in a cloud of it as you walk by. This applies to you too, boys."

"With all the crucial and controversial social issues currently coming out of the woodwork on Vanderbilt's campus, I'm glad every one of our VSG candidates is so dedicated to problems like unreliable Vandy Vans and the far corners of Kissam that don't get wireless. I felt like I was voting for my sixth grade president: Vote for me, no school on Fridays and ice cream for lunch every day!"

"Really, guy sitting in front of me at the Baseball Glove Lounge? Really? You want smack your Bubblicious gum when you know you're not the only person in the room? Really?"

"I think it is ridiculously hilarious The Hustler suggests the perusal of JuicyCampus.com as a top 10 procrastination strategy immediately adjacent to the letter promoting our community creed and the avoidance of JuicyCampus.com. Let me say in a very sarcastic manner The Hustler truly promotes civility in its student readers."

"Like ... You know, like \_\_\_\_\_ 'is NOT a viable transition sentence. Please start over, and this time maybe you can try playing the role of someone who is getting something out of their education."

"To the people who take themselves too seriously, don't be idiots. You're still in college, so grab a Natty and drink up!"

"Who's the genius who came up with the idea to 'White Out' Tennessee? Congratulations, morons. Memorial Gym will now be officially full of UT white and orange. While we're at it, why don't we cheer every time the Vols score? Besides, it's a lot cooler to black out anyway."

Compiled by Katherine Miller

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

# SPORTS

## THE RUN DOWN

### W2W4

#### SATURDAY Men's Basketball vs. Georgia Memorial Gym, 3 p.m.

The soaring Commodores (22-4, 7-4 Southeastern Conference) host freefalling Georgia (12-12, 3-8 SEC) at Memorial Gym. Vanderbilt, winners of five in a row, defeated the Bulldogs 67-59 for its first SEC road win of the season on Feb. 6.

Georgia, meanwhile, has lost seven of its last eight games and has yet to win a conference road game. It has been a frustrating season for the Bulldogs, who have come very close to winning many of their games, only to fold down the stretch.

Senior guard Sundiata Gaines has been the only offensive weapon lately for Georgia. He leads the Bulldogs with 14.8 points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game.

#### SATURDAY Men's Basketball Memphis vs. Tennessee ESPN, 8 p.m.

A rare matchup of the country's top two teams happens in Memphis when the No. 1 Tigers (26-0, 12-0 Conference USA) host No. 2 Tennessee (24-2, 11-1 SEC) in a battle for state and national supremacy.

Tennessee has won eight straight and 19 of 20, while Memphis hasn't lost all season. Tennessee did beat Memphis in the teams' last meeting, however, 76-58 on Dec. 6, 2006.

A Tennessee victory in this game would give the Vols the No. 1 ranking in the country heading into next Tuesday's showdown with Vanderbilt.

#### FRIDAY- SUNDAY Women's Lacrosse

The 12th-ranked Commodore women's lacrosse team takes on a pair of non-conference opponents during a weekend road swing in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Vanderbilt will take on the UMBC Retrievers (Maryland-Baltimore County) today at 4 p.m. ET at UMBC Stadium. UMBC opened its season with a 16-7 loss at Hofstra last Saturday.

On Sunday, the Commodores will travel to Bethlehem, Pa., to face the Lehigh Mountain Hawks at 12 p.m. ET at the Ulrich Sports Complex. Lehigh is 2-0 after victories over Mount St. Mary's and St. Joseph's.

### THEY SAID IT...

"Our goals are very clear. We want to make the SEC tournament, host a regional, and make it to Omaha."

**PARKER HANKS**  
Vanderbilt Outfielder

### DAILY #

47

Number of consecutive games Memphis has won at FedExForum, its home arena.

Compiled by David Rutz

## Commodores seek ultimate prize

Vandy faces two-time defending champs to open 2008 season.

by **ANDREW HARD**  
Sports Editor

Last June, the Commodores were supposed to host Oregon State in the NCAA Super Regionals on their way to the College World Series.

A funny thing happened on the way to Omaha, though. After Michigan, not Vanderbilt, advanced to play Oregon State, the Beavers made an improbable postseason run to their second straight national title. Now, 263 days after that stunning loss in last year's regionals, Vanderbilt finally gets to take on the Beavers when they kick off the 2008 season Friday at the DeMarini Invitational in Tempe, Ariz.

"We have to start over, start from zero," said senior right fielder Dominic de la Osa. "We have to make it to Omaha, that's our goal. That's what we look forward to."

Last season, the Commodores took on national powers Rice, Arizona State and Baylor to kick off the season in Houston, Tex. An improbable series sweep set the stage for a 20-0 start and a consensus No.1 ranking for most of the season. This year's Dores look for an identical result to jumpstart their season.

"That gave us some confidence going into the season," said coach Tim Corbin. "I'm interested to see how we handle the situation; I don't think we'll be spooked. We're playing very good competition; that doesn't necessarily mean we're gonna win, but I think the kids will be fine. They're a pretty loose bunch."

The No. 3 Commodores enter the 2008 season with their highest pre-season ranking in school history. Most of last year's heralded pitching staff is gone, but sophomore Mike Minor leads a veteran starting rotation looking to back the nation's most feared lineup.

"We've got great players like Brett Jacobson and Nick Christiani starting us off," Minor said. "We have young guys, but they're catching on quick. They're going to take on other roles and



NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

The Commodores celebrated last year's SEC title but came short of the ultimate prize in Omaha. Vandy opens the 2008 season today.

take the place of other guys that got drafted last year."

Barring injury, Vanderbilt has a chance to compile one of the most impressive offensive resumes in NCAA baseball history. Junior third baseman and Player of the Year favorite Pedro Alvarez, coming off a season in which he hit .386 with 18 home runs, anchors a lineup that returns all nine starters, including seven seniors. Junior infielder Ryan Flaherty brings a 35-game hitting streak in the season, and de la Osa returns to the No. 3 spot after turning down a draft offer from the Detroit Tigers.

"I knew I wanted to come back," de la Osa said. "It's another year of college baseball, something you can't get anywhere else. I think we're going to hit pretty well because we have the same lineup coming back, except everyone's a year older."

With the departure of No. 1 overall pick David Price and closer Casey Weathers, team leadership will be on the shoulders of Alvarez and the rest of the remaining veterans.

"We returned a lot of kids, but it's always a new team with different dynamics," Corbin said. "When you lose a bright light like Price or Weathers, you need someone else to pick up that personality in the locker room."

The national spotlight is once again on Vanderbilt, which is quickly becoming one of the most prolific programs in the country. With the pressure again on the Commodores to win a national title, the focus must stay on the baseball field for every game, and Corbin is confident his players can block out the distractions.

"They're seasoned in terms of handling (pressure) because they don't," Corbin said. "It's not something that gets talked about. We've got a big tournament ahead of us, and they look at this as a great challenge at the beginning of the season."

First pitch on Friday and Saturday is scheduled for 2 p.m., with Sunday's game getting under way at noon. Games will be webcast on www.vucommodores.com ■

## friday conversation BRETT JACOBSON

Junior right-hander Brett Jacobson will open the season as the Commodores' No. 2 starter. Before leaving for Tempe for his opening start against Arizona State, he sat down to talk to the Vanderbilt Hustler.

**THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER:** Do you have a preference between starting and closing this year?

**BRETT JACOBSON:** Not really. I used to think that starting was what I always wanted to do, but I had a lot of fun doing relief last year. Either way, I'll do whatever the coaches think will help our team win.

**VH:** What are your goals for the pitching staff this year?

**BJ:** We have a young pitching staff, so it'll be good to get them some experience. I'm really confident — a lot of the younger guys look really good right now. But our goal is to be the best pitching staff in the country, and I think that is entirely possible.

**VH:** How much more of a leadership role have you taken with David Price's departure?

**BJ:** It is important to have a good leader in the clubhouse. David Price was that guy last year, and I've kind of taken that role this year as far as the pitchers go. You just need to be there for the younger guys — teach them how to do certain things, teach them the right way to do things and just be a good teammate.

**VH:** How have you used the regional loss to Michigan as motivation?

**BJ:** We don't want to look back on that loss by any means.

We got a taste of it (winning it all), but we didn't finish the meal. We want to finish the meal this time. We're definitely coming back with a chip on our shoulder.

**VH:** You said you want to be the best pitching staff in the country. How is that defined?

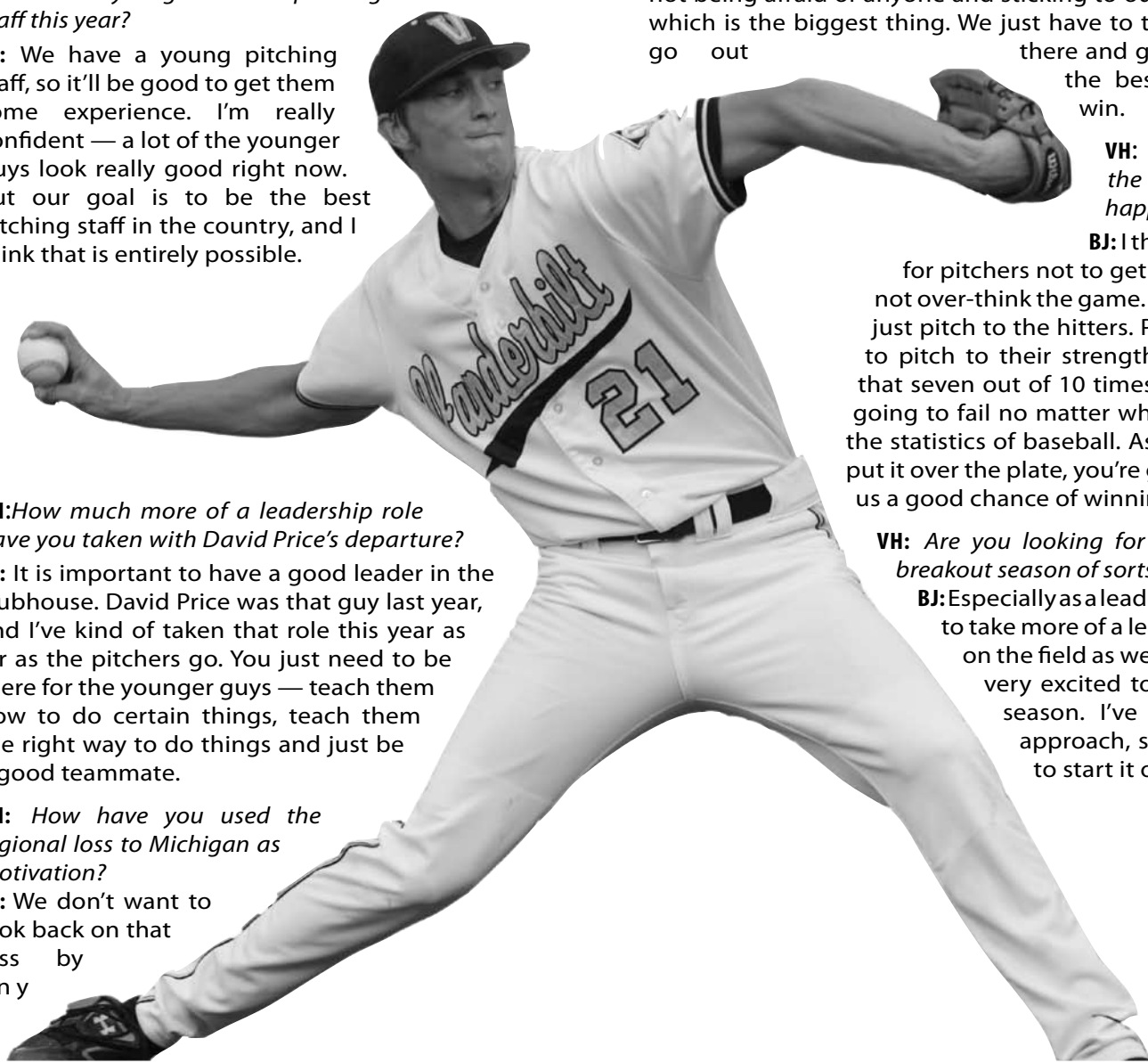
**BJ:** I think it's defined by a mentality for us. It's a mentality of not being afraid of anyone and sticking to our own game, which is the biggest thing. We just have to throw strikes, go out there and give our team the best chance to win.

**VH:** What are the keys for that happening?

**BJ:** I think the key is for pitchers not to get nervous and not over-think the game. They need to just pitch to the hitters. Pitchers need to pitch to their strengths and know that seven out of 10 times the hitter is going to fail no matter what just given the statistics of baseball. As long as you put it over the plate, you're going to give us a good chance of winning.

**VH:** Are you looking for this to be a breakout season of sorts for you?

**BJ:** Especially as a leader now, I want to take more of a leadership role on the field as well as off it. I'm very excited to go into the season. I've got a good approach, so I'm excited to start it off.



## Odds 1525925999152317417298215228941

It's a sure thing Bruce Pearl will wear his hideous orange blazer for Saturday's game, but some things are less certain...

### 10-to-1

Odds a Tennessee player gets pelted with debris during the Memphis game Saturday

### 500-to-1

Odds Shaquille O'Neal plays a full 48 minutes for the run-and-gun Phoenix Suns

### 200-to-1

Odds Detroit Tiger Gary Sheffield says nothing else controversial during the 2008 season

### 15-to-1

Odds Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson still has a job in April

### 150-to-1

Odds ESPN never again reports on Roger Clemens and his alleged steroid use

### 8-to-1

Odds Kentucky makes the NCAA tournament

### 300-to-1

Odds LSU decides to re-hire coach John Brady

### COLUMN

## For once, root for the Vols

ALEKSEY DUBROVENSKY  
The Answer

In any heated political race, most voters can find something disagreeable with either of the two major candidates running. It's rare to completely agree with all of the policies and characteristics of either of the two individuals running for an elected office. But occasionally, a voter will need to participate in a race where they like neither of the two candidates running, and can find plenty of reason not to vote for either.

That seems to be the quarrel Vanderbilt fans are facing as we head into this sports weekend, with a monumental college basketball showdown between No. 1 Memphis and No. 2 Tennessee. As die-hard supporters of the Commodores, it would be testing for us to root for Big Orange Nation under nearly any circumstances. From the revolting orange to their wimpy mascot "Smokey," the Vols and their fans are pure anathema to the Black and Gold Nation all year long.

Since the Dores beat UT in football back in 2005, the Battle of Tennessee has been re-kindled. Having watched them treat us like little brother for the last half century in nearly every sport, there is simply no love lost between these two teams. So, considering how we spend nearly every day of the year hating them (we usually take off for Christmas, Easter and Yom Kippur), we have all the more motivation to cheer on the Tigers.

However, there are two good reasons why we should root for the Vols in this titanic clash. First, we ought to support the Southeastern Conference team in this game. During conference bouts, the gloves come off and we can be as nasty as we want to be to the opposing teams' fans (especially if they're wearing that garish shade of orange to our home gym and their team isn't even playing).

But when a squad from the SEC is facing someone from another conference, especially the rather pitiful Conference USA, then we should pull for the SEC team. I clearly recall most fans from the South rooting for Vandy during our amazing NCAA tournament run last season, which shows the conference respect goes both ways.

The second reason is a bit more ethereal: we should root for UT to win so they can come into next Tuesday night's showdown with our Commodores as the top-ranked team in the country. Giddy off their victory over Memphis, UT would be liable to fall into a gigantic trap game against the No. 16 Commodores on the treacherous raised floor of Memorial Gym. Let's help the Vols fatten up for the slaughter, so to speak.

Regardless of what happens in Elvis' hometown on Saturday night, the Vols will be a huge load to handle for the Dores. But before we get a shot at them, the Tigers get to throw their punches at Tennessee.

Let's hope that while they land a few hard knocks, the Tigers don't do any mortal damage to the Vols. We want them sitting on top of the world before we get a chance to knock them off next week. As much as it might pain us to say this, we must: Go Vols! Beat Memphis! ■

—Aleksey Dubrovensky  
can be reached at aleksey.dubrovensky@vanderbilt.edu

# Vandy goes for Dawg sweep

After week off, Commodores fresh going into Saturday's matchup.

by **ANDREW BARGE**  
Senior Sports Reporter

Riding a five-game winning streak, the Commodores spent the week watching the rest of the Southeastern Conference beat up on each other. While taking a break during a hot streak doesn't seem like good fortune, the players are thankful for the timing.

"The week off has been good. We've been getting rested and some guys have feeling under the weather, so it's been a good time to recover," said freshman point guard Keegan Bell.

Bell also alluded to the winning streak, but believes recuperating was vital, especially at this point in the season.

"We were kind of on a roll, so to keep going would be a good thing but rest is more important," he said. "It's a long season, and this break has helped us refocus because we have some big games coming up."

For Bell, tomorrow's home against Georgia (3 p.m. tip-off) takes him back to his senior year of high school. The Alabama native initially committed to the Bulldogs out of high school before de-committing and eventually choosing Vandy. Like any recruit during the lengthy process, Bell became familiar with the coaches, players and facilities.

Still, Bell hopes to treat the game like any other league contest, regardless of any remaining personal ties.

"It was definitely weird being back there a few weeks ago, but I'll try to treat the Georgia game like any other game," Bell added. "I got to know the coaches pretty well, and they have a great program. But I'm definitely happy where I'm at;

I love being a Dore."

To beat the Bulldogs (12-12, 3-8 SEC) a second time, the Commodores (22-4, 7-4 SEC) will continue to rely on their defense, which has helped carry them during their recent hot streak.

"Defensively we're more of where I envisioned us at the beginning of the year," Stallings said. "Especially during this winning streak, teams haven't shot well against us, and hopefully we can continue that."

To maintain their defensive proficiency, Vandy will have to contain Georgia point guard Sundiata Gaines. The do-it-all senior, who is averaging 14.8 points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game, has quietly become one of the SEC's best.

"Gaines is definitely underrated, one of the best all around point guards in the country," Stallings said. "He's an excellent defender, distributor and scorer, and you're not going to find a better rebounding point guard. He's certainly in the running for first team All-SEC."

The Bulldogs' record may be somewhat misleading as they have played competitive basketball, recently dropping close games to Tennessee and Kentucky.

Bell, who played a season-high 22 minutes against Florida, expects Georgia to maintain its recent effort in hopes of finally pulling out a close game, but he knows the Commodores are excited to get back out there as well.

"Georgia's played a lot of teams close lately, so they'll be pumped up," he said. "I'll be up for it too, though. I know all of us will be after not playing for a week. I'm expecting a good, intense game." ■

—Andrew Barge can be reached at [andrew.barge@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:andrew.barge@vanderbilt.edu)



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Keegan Bell could have been on the other side of Saturday's 3 p.m. matchup with Georgia. The freshman guard originally committed to Athens before changing his mind. Vanderbilt is pleased that he did.

## Dores slaughter Hogs

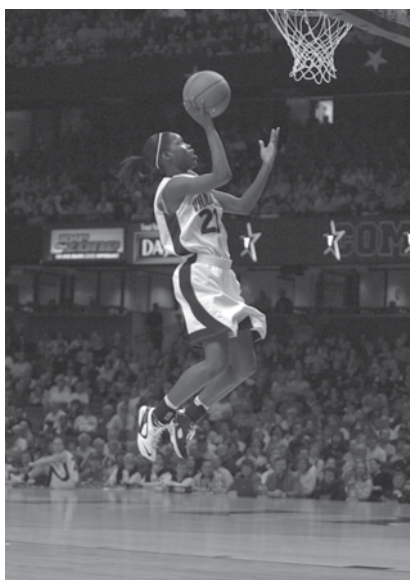
The 3-pointer was kind to the No. 25 Commodores in their 63-50 road victory over Arkansas Thursday night.

Jessica Mooney (right) scored 14 points as Vanderbilt connected on eight of 12 from long range to improve to 20-7 overall and 9-3 in the Southeastern Conference.

Three other Commodores scored in double digits as Jennifer Risper finished with 12 points while Liz Sherwood and Christina Wirth each chipped in 10. With a lay-up at the 4:27 mark of the first half, senior Liz Sherwood became the 29th member of Vanderbilt's 1,000-point club.

Meanwhile, Arkansas (19-9, 2-9) lost its fifth straight. Forward Whitney Jones led the Lady Backs with 13 points, and Sarah Pfeifer added 11.

The Commodores are off for the weekend before traveling to Auburn next Thursday.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

## Tennis sweeps MTSU

HUSTLER STAFF REPORT

The No. 13 Vanderbilt women's tennis team improved to 7-0 on the season with a 7-0 victory over Middle Tennessee State Wednesday at the Currey Tennis Center. Senior Amanda Taylor and Junior Courtney Ulery dominated the Blue Raiders, winning their doubles match 8-0 before each won singles in straight sets.

"They played really well," said coach Geoff Macdonald. "The thing you look for is improvement. There's stuff we can work on in practice to get so much better. We can work on those things, and that will make us better going into

SEC play."

The doubles victory improved the pair of Taylor and Ulery to a perfect 7-0.

Senior Taka Bertrand did not drop a single game in her 6-0, 6-0 victory, and freshman Keilly Ulery, Courtney's sister, defeated Marlene Chemin by a score of 6-1, 7-5. The loss dropped the Blue Raiders to 3-8 on the season.

The non-conference tilt was Vanderbilt's last before opening up conference play next Friday. The Commodores will travel to Gainesville, Fla., to face the No. 5 Gators. They return home on Mar. 7 to face Arkansas, the first of a five-game homestand. ■

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**2/20/08 SOLUTIONS**

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- ACROSS**
- Maxwell or Lanchester
  - Exploits
  - Leather band
  - Like a drum head
  - Church part
  - Clan
  - Provo's place
  - Tilled soil
  - Like some cereals
  - Dedicate
  - Convicted criminals' desires
  - Foes
  - Actual
  - All over
  - Go-betweens
  - Circle part
  - Spooky
  - Wipe out
  - Entrance
  - French writer
  - Cinch
  - Ed who played Lou Grant
  - Flat-top hills
  - Impressive skill
  - In tatters
  - Monica of tennis
  - Shoshones
  - Ocean motion with the wind
  - Type of phone
  - Inflationary shape
  - Indian, for one
  - Smile expansively
  - Unconscious state
  - Seething
  - Zhivago's beloved
  - Windsor, e.g.
  - Heated in the microwave
  - Utopia
  - "Auld Lang \_\_\_"

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2/22/08

**2/20/08 SOLUTIONS**

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- DOWN**
- Musical study
  - Make tardy
  - Debonair
  - Receiving callers
  - Ignored
  - \_\_\_ Paulo
  - Of all time
  - Passover feast
  - Computer capacity
  - Movie promos
  - Actress Moreno
  - First victim
  - Writing implements
  - Fork part
  - Afternoon affair
  - Medicinal fluid
  - Ten-cent pieces
  - Wendy's dog
  - Romanov title
  - Calendar abbr.
  - Hebrew month
  - Santa \_\_, CA
  - Viet \_\_\_
  - Stand for Grandma Moses
  - Adjust to specifications
  - Vendor
  - Fixed, as a piano
  - Ooze
  - Dolores \_\_\_ Rio
  - Adheres
  - Weasel-like mammal
  - Intriguing incongruity
  - Friend of Pythias
  - Make merry
  - Nickel or dime
  - Hose hue
  - Plumber's pursuit
  - Enjoy a novel
  - Will be, now

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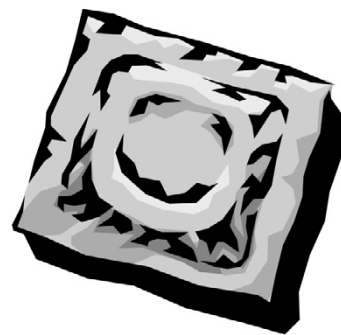
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