

# The Vanderbilt Hustler

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**SPECIAL ISSUE**



An in-depth look at Vandy's reputed work hard, party hard culture.

## WORK HARD

**71.2%** of undergraduates stayed in to study on a weekend night one or more times in the past two weeks

“Weekdays are measured in coffee cups and all nighters. Sleep is optional.” — Kara Boldt, 2013

**33.8%** of undergraduates pulled one or more all-nighters in the past two weeks

“Failure to spend enough time focusing on class work often leads to many students — including myself — scrambling to cram and learn weeks of material days before a large exam, which doesn't always work.” — Victoria Wright, 2013

**3%** said they pulled five or more all-nighters in the past two weeks

**9.5%** said they do not drink alcohol

**12.9%** of men said they do not drink

**6.5%** of women said they do not drink



photo illustration by CHRISTOPHER HONIBALL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

This special issue features stories and data examining the work-hard, play-hard image of the student body and investigates possible perceptions that the stereotype has changed over time, most noticeably over the last four years. Look to future issues of The Hustler and online at InsideVandy.com for more in this series.

## PARTY HARD

**57%** have done at least one shot in the last two weeks

“Seeing people in class still drunk is funny but not surprising.” — Kara Boldt, 2013

**60.6%** have gone to a frat party in the last two weeks

**57.7%** have four or more drinks at least once a week

“It would be physically impossible for me to still party as much as I did freshman year and have a liver left.” — Stephen Arndt, 2010

**39.9%** have played beer pong this year

**51.4%** of upperclassmen said the on-campus party scene is larger than it was their freshman year

The data come from a poll conducted by The Vanderbilt Hustler from Oct. 20 through Oct. 25. 500 undergraduates were e-mailed a survey, with 202 completing the form.

## Work hard, play hard tradition remains strong

by SAMANTHA SMITH  
Asst News Editor

The headline on the Greek Life Web site seems to typify the Vanderbilt experience: “We study. We serve. We play. We support.” But as Vanderbilt continues to bring in increasingly smarter students with each new academic year, is its “work hard, play hard” image still as true as ever for Greek life and undergraduates?

Over the last four years, Panhellenic recruitment has seen a consistent interest. According to the Office of Greek Life, the number of females registered for Panhellenic recruitment only dropped by 10 people from 2009 to 2010 with 526 registered so far for the upcoming spring.

“As a first-year student, I know that about 50 percent of Vanderbilt students participate in the Greek system. It seems like most upperclass students I have met participate in Greek life,” said Christine Gerwin. “Compared to other universities, it feels like our school has more students involved in Greek life.”

Even so, to some students the social scene at Vanderbilt may be very different than it

was four years ago.

“My freshman year it wasn't uncommon to see nearly 10 fraternity parties on a Friday or Saturday night,” said Jason Horowitz, senior and president of the Sigma Nu fraternity, “whereas now there are almost always fewer than five.”

This trend may be a result of the unprecedented number of fraternities that have been on probation recently. According to the Office of Greek Life, 15 of the 17 Interfraternity Council chapters were on probation in the 2008-2009 school year, although that number is now down to one.

But any perceived changes in the social scene may not be a result of any particular efforts by administration.

According to the Office of Academic Affairs and Student Conduct, the university's alcohol policy has remained relatively unchanged since 1995. The most notable alterations regarded clarification of the immunity rule and the ban of liquor at social functions in 2006.

“If there has in fact been a change in the social scene, it is not because of a change in policy from the administration,” Torrey wrote in an e-mail. “Now, more than

ever, the leaders in the Greek community understand the importance of properly managing their social events and the potential consequences for failing to do so. The leaders know that our community cannot afford another year like last year and they have made some changes internally to their chapters and to the social scene that students may likely see.”

But according to Daniel Swinton, assistant dean of student conduct and academic integrity, alcohol use has been as prevalent as ever.

“We still continue to receive a lot of reports,” Swinton said. “From a disciplinary standpoint, our caseload has increased over the last four years, starting probably around 2005.”

However, the reasons behind the trend are unclear.

“I don't know if I could point to any causal factor,” Swinton said. “I think VPD (Vanderbilt Police Department) is more present on campus. I don't know if there's been a concerted effort to crack down, but it seems to me as if students are drinking as much as they ever did.”

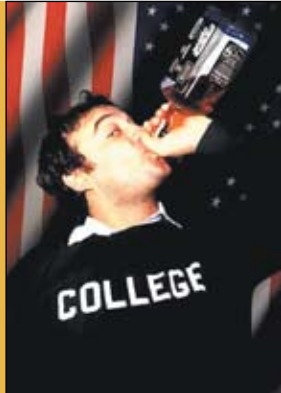
Please see GREEK LIFE, page 3



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The members of Alpha Omicron Pi cheered for the potential new members during sorority recruitment last spring. The numbers of women going through recruitment have held steady each year.

**NEWS:**  
Is Vandy a party school?  
It's your call.  
See page 3



**OPINION:**  
Frannie Boyle doesn't want us to become Duke.  
See page 4



**NEWS:**  
According to old yearbooks, Vanderbilt alums knew how to rage.  
See page 3



**SPORTS:**  
Vanderbilt squanders late lead in 14-10 loss.  
See page 6



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# Page Two


compiled by LAURA DOLBOW

## WEATHER


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**TODAY**  
  
**HIGH 72, LOW 50**  
 Partly Cloudy

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**TUESDAY**  
  
**HIGH 66, LOW 53**  
 Showers

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**WEDNESDAY**  
  
**HIGH 66, LOW 51**  
 Mostly Cloudy

## SERVICE GUIDE

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday 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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## BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

## AROUND THE LOOP

### Do you party more or less than you did freshman year?

"More because I live in Branscomb."  
 — Meredith Gruhn, 2012

"I'd say about the same."  
 — Brenden Oliver, 2012

"Less. Now we realize there are actually books involved and have more of a focus on schoolwork. We still put in the party, though."  
 — Jayma Holt, 2011

"Less, because you figure out there's more to school than the party scene."  
 — Gigi Kellum, 2011

"Definitely less; probably because frats are dominated by freshmen, and by senior year you have so much on your mind, like getting a job after you graduate."  
 — Maggie Pearson, 2010

## CRIME LOG

**Saturday, Oct. 17, 2:30 a.m.** — A golf cart was stolen from Alumni Lawn and returned damaged.

**Monday, Oct. 19, 7:20 p.m.** — A guitar was stolen from the Blair School of Music.

**Tuesday, Oct. 20, 4:40 p.m.** — A person holding beer admitted she was underage at 2408 Kensington Place.

**Thursday, Oct. 22, 9:30 a.m.** — A bike was stolen from bike rack on 23rd Avenue South.

**Thursday, Oct. 22, noon** — A cell phone was stolen from the clinic exam room at 1301 Medical Center Drive.

## PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT



SUBMITTED BY LESLIE SMITH

### Leslie Smith

Psychology department  
 18 years at Vanderbilt

Professor Leslie Smith says her biggest hero is her son, who had a brain tumor. "He has shown so much courage and no self-pity. He only has a positive outlook on life. He conquered such adversity with positivity," she said.

- 1. What classes do you teach?**  
 Human Sexuality, Neuroscience and Biological Basis of Mental Disorders
- 2. What's your favorite place in Nashville?**  
 My house. It's in the woods on top of a hill. I love being home because I can observe nature, garden and swim in my pool. Also, my house has a very contemporary design that is different from the typical Nashville house. We've had music videos filmed there with Bon Jovi and some country music stars.
- 3. What do you like to do in your free time?**  
 I love spending time with my grandchildren. I have five who live here in Nashville. I sing in the Nashville Belles, an a cappella group. Also, my husband and I are ocean sailors.
- 4. Where did you go to undergraduate and graduate school?**  
 Brown University. I'm a product of Brown through and through.
- 5. What did you research for your Ph.D.?**  
 The capability of a simple brain (the turtle brain) to respond to injury and reorganize itself
- 6. If you were stranded on a deserted island, what would you bring with you?**  
 A computer to stay intellectually alive, good snorkeling gear to observe wildlife, some matches to stay warm and my husband to help me survive
- 7. What was your first job?**  
 My father had a lot of business interests, and I worked in one of his stores as a teenager. I did various jobs, including driving a delivery truck and making paper hangers.
- 8. If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be?**  
 Probably Barack Obama. I'm a real fan.
- 9. Why did you decide to become a professor?**  
 It was just easy. I was married to a professor, so I was able to take classes for free. I had children, but I could be a part-time student and take as long as I needed to finish. It kept me intellectually alive while my babies were little.
- 10. What advice would you give students to make the most of their four years at Vanderbilt?**  
 Keep their eye on the ball. This isn't a country club. They're here to get an education; it will open doors for them for the rest of their lives if they do well here. They can get the best education in the country if they take advantage of what's offered here. Also, take advantage of the deep pockets of help offered here.
- 11. What's something that your students don't know about you?**  
 I had a very, very strict religious upbringing. I had to do a lot of thinking and analysis to release myself of beliefs that were instilled upon me very early in life, such as homophobia.
- 12. What's the biggest challenge you've faced in your teaching career?**  
 It varies with my classes because they are so different. In Human Sexuality, the biggest challenge is not to offend students, yet tell them the truth in a way that respects people's differences. Science will cut across some of their belief systems, and it can challenge them to think about their belief systems and why they hold. ... In Neuroscience, the biggest challenge is to make it relevant and exciting so the students want to learn the material.

## CALENDAR

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### TODAY

• **CTP public lecture: "Shifts in the Landscape of American Religion"**  
 The Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions and the Divinity School are sponsoring a public lecture by Barry Kosmin on "Shifts in the Landscape of American Religion" in the Divinity School Art Room from 4:10-5:20 p.m.

#### TUESDAY OCT. 27

• **IMAGE presents "America the Beautiful" documentary film**  
 IMAGE presents a documentary film that investigates the ways that body image, beauty and perfectionism define American culture and the consequences for society at 7 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema. Tickets are \$3.50 for students in advance (\$5 at the door).

#### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28

• **Commodore Trot 5K**  
 This 5K run/walk is Vanderbilt Habitat for Humanity's annual fundraiser and will be held from 6-7 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center. All proceeds go towards a house to build next fall. Sales are on the card at Sarratt Box Office (\$10), at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) (\$15) and on the Wall (\$10).

## SNAPSHOT

### Got water?



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior Eric Lieberman attempts to distinguish between bottled, tap and filtered water at a tasting contest held by Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling during Sustainability Day last Tuesday. The event promoted the elimination of plastic water bottles. Check [InsideVandy.com](http://InsideVandy.com) for the story.

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# GREEK LIFE: System reflects community

## Academic demographics at Vanderbilt

### CLASS OF 2010

Middle 50% SAT score: 1300-1470  
Middle 50% ACT composite: 29-32  
National Merit Scholars: 149

### CLASS OF 2013

Middle 50% SAT score: 1350-1520  
Middle 50% ACT composite: 30-34  
National Merit Scholars: 187

Source: Office of Undergraduate Admissions Financial Aid Fast Facts Web site, Office of Undergraduate Admissions online brochure

From GREEK LIFE, page 1

According to Vanderbilt Student Government President Wyatt Smith, the Greek system will remain an integral part of Vanderbilt's social life.

"From my perspective, the Greek community has always been and will continue to be a major social scene on campus," Smith said. "... I have more fun my senior year in a fraternity than I did as a freshman."

But as the students enrolling at Vanderbilt become increasingly diverse, so too does the makeup of the Greek community.

"I think the most noticeable difference in recruitment is the one we see at Vanderbilt in general: The average student concentrates more on academics, is less likely to be from the South, and is more likely to be from a diverse background than three years ago," Horowitz said.

And Greek Life agrees.

"The students are changing, which is translating into membership make up,"

said Tanner Marcantel, assistant director of Greek life. "The Greek community is more representative of students coming here."

Vanderbilt's increasingly competitive admissions standards may be directly changing the types of students enrolling in the university. If the university is truly losing its "work hard, play hard" image, it may due to a more academically driven student body.

According to the Vanderbilt admissions office, the admission rate has decreased from 23 percent for the Class of 2012 to about 20 percent for the Class of 2013. The 50 percent SAT score range was 1350 to 1520, up from the previous class's range of 1330 to 1500.

"As Vanderbilt gets smarter, they may not choose to spend as much time with extra-curricular activities and more time focusing on academics," Torrey said. "Our community is what students make it." ■

—Matthew Taylor and Sara Gast contributed reporting to this article.

# Freshmen vs. seniors: Different perspectives on the social scene



**KARA BOLDT, freshman**

- Conversations about how "hard" someone went or how much they "raged" the previous night pepper the daily chatter.
- Class is always optional on Fridays. And usually Monday through Thursday, too.
- Homework is done 10 minutes in advance; night plans are made multiple hours ahead of time and rarely ever start before 11:30.
- Multiple fraternities a night will have live bands, and half the time they're even ones people have heard of.



**DIANE FLOYD, senior**

- I'm not sure if Vanderbilt has toned down since 2006, but I know that I certainly have. Maybe I just got it all out of my system freshman year.
- I hardly ever felt a desire to go downtown (freshman year). In my mind there was no need; frat row was much more exciting! Besides, my cave-woman costume was totally acceptable on Kensington. Downtown, not so much.
- (I remember when I was a freshman) looking out for Chancellor (Gordon) Gee and his bow ties in the dining halls, at sporting events and on Saturday nights on Greek Row.



**SCOTT MARQUART, freshman**

- With only a few exceptions, I've been out every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night of the school year and have had a great time every night.
- Initially, my schoolwork fell by the wayside, but I've started to discover that partying can be motivation for working. Nowadays, I come back from class and work hard for a few hours so that I can go out and have a good time at night.
- Now, I think I've at last come to learn the true Vanderbilt spirit: balance.

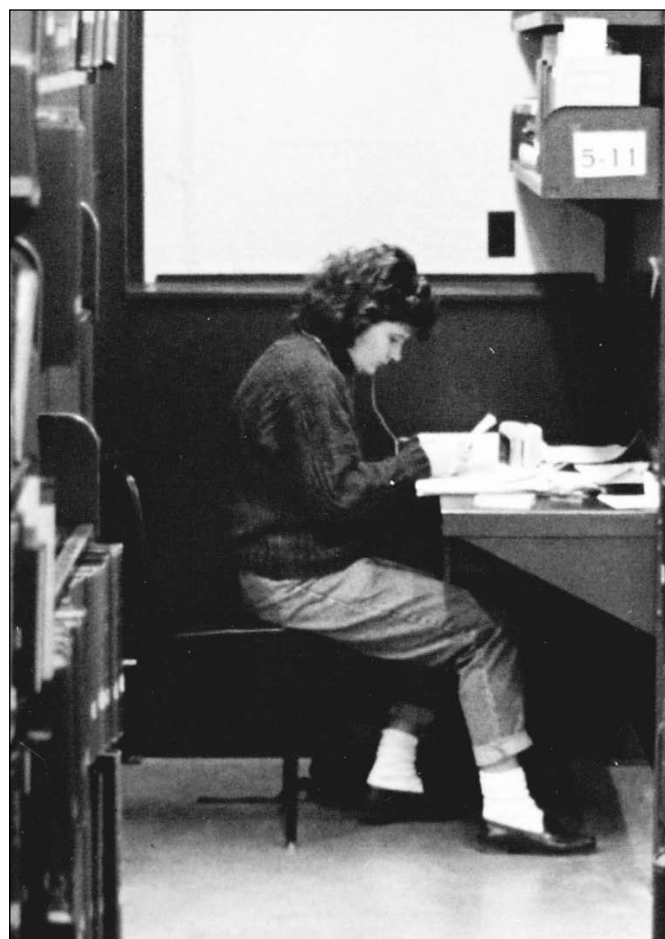


**MATTHEW CLARK, senior**

- As the years roll by and fraternities come and go, it seems that, in terms of numbers, the amount of partying going on at Greek Row is around the norm this year, in comparison to the past three years. However, it seems that many more are taking this opportunity to drink to excess than in years past.
- Students are certainly apt to take advantage of a light academic start to the term, and this seems to have been a regular trend from my first to now senior year. Many see this as the "honeymoon" phase of the college year, a time ripe for reacquainting with friends and partying as hard as they can any and every night of the week.

## Work hard

## Party hard



THE COMMODORE YEARBOOK, 1990

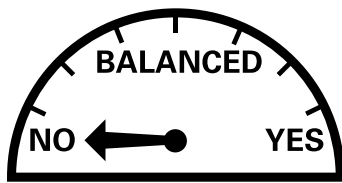


THE COMMODORE YEARBOOK, 1989

Even Vanderbilt students from decades ago were trying to master the balance of work and play. "Some years I worked harder and some years I played harder," said Nancy Moeller, Class of 1990. "My first years, I probably played harder."

# Student Soundoff: Do you think Vandy is a party school?

by LAURA DOLBOW  
Asst News Editor



"I'd say Vandy isn't a party school. We do work hard/play hard, but I know other schools do a lot more."  
—Dustin Temple, 2010



"Yes it is. There's both, though. The party and non-party scenes are prevalent, which is why Vanderbilt doesn't get as much of a party reputation as some other schools."  
—Elizabeth Landers, 2013



"Yes. There's parties everywhere."  
—Tommy Griffith, 2011



"The social life is definitely centered around Greek Life. People will occasionally put socializing before academics, but it's definitely a balance."  
—Luke Bajana, 2012



"Yeah. We have to blow off steam because it's Vandy."  
—Jayma Holt, 2011



"If you want it to be a party school, it is."  
—Ben Hodges, 2013



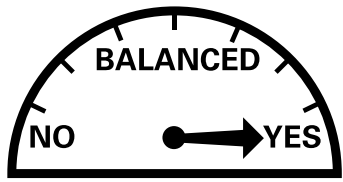
"Yes, because there are so many crazy themed and costume parties. Plus there's a huge drinking scene."  
—Tracy Branding, 2010



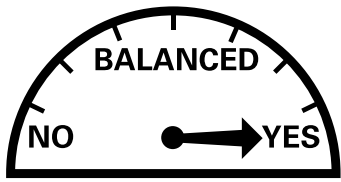
"Yes. I visited friends at Emory and Johns Hopkins, and it wasn't even close. They were boring."  
—Chris Bonaventura, 2013



"Yes, we're definitely a party school. But at the same time we have our priorities in academics."  
—Ryan Smith, 2013



"Yes it is, because our Asian roommate always shows up trashed."  
—Todd Lewis and Clayton Patrick, 2013



"Yes. There's a very big social scene. There are a lot of organized parties."  
—Zach Gillece, 2010



"Sure. I don't really 'party,' but I go to concerts and hang out with my friends."  
—Brenden Oliver, 2012

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PM	12	12	12	12	12	12	
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# Opinion

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# We came for more than academics



**FRANNIE BOYLE**  
Columnist

The pre-2008 “Top Colleges” books described a different Vanderbilt. They described a university still wrapped in Southern tradition with a chancellor that hit up frat row and distributed bow-tie cookies. They described a school known for being a challenge but also full of students who liked to have a little fun. Just like Cornelius Vanderbilt, their founder, the majority of its students had a “work hard, play hard” mentality.

Parts of the Vanderbilt they described still exist. Rand still sells sweet tea and grits in the morning, country music still blares from Greek row at 5 p.m. on Fridays, and some guys still wear button downs to class while girls sport the sundresses with cowboy boots. Of course, they are joined by many more for

the Saturday football games. Despite these small remnants, things here at Vandy are changing, and The Commons deserves most of the blame.

When upperclassmen were college-searching, The Commons wasn’t really a part of the mix. Now it’s everything. It’s constantly showcased to prospective students. It’s all over the Web site, and now, campus tours spend a good amount of time on Peabody campus and skip other parts, like frat row.

The Commons has also become a way of life for new students. Rather than becoming immersed in Vanderbilt culture right off the bat (like the minute they step out of Branscomb their first Friday night), they get a year to develop relationships with their classmates and develop their new college identities that might not end up being too different from what they were in high school.

Well, it’s working. With this huge

undertaking, Vanderbilt has been able to offer prospective students something more. As a result, Vandy has attracted the cream of the crop that has our academic reputation climbing up in the rankings. Classes have become more challenging, Rand is full of late night studiers, and thoughtful student organizations have become louder.

The Vanderbilt community has also become more diverse — economically, geographically and culturally. The long shirt and leggings with Tory Burch shoes has become a more popular style than the sundress with boots. There are just as many stereotypically northeastern Greek houses as there are Southern. Everywhere you turn, there is another student that is receiving some sort of financial aid (perhaps the coolest thing about Vandy). The wall is laden with different cultural groups making a name for themselves, and the group that juggles on alumni

lawn every Friday afternoon gets bigger and bigger every week.

Vanderbilt is opening up in so many ways, and it’s also becoming tougher. Professors are beginning to expect more because standards are set higher. This is wonderful, because in the end, we all look good. Our experience will become more valuable and our degree something to brag about. It doesn’t hurt that the job market will be easier on us. But let’s proceed with caution.

If we lose everything — the Southern appeal, the fratty Fridays, the whole “work hard, play hard” mentality — we will become Duke. Competition and constant work will become the new undergraduate experience. That’s not what we signed up for.

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## EDITORIAL CARTOON



# Vanderbilt moves in a positive direction



**THOMAS SHATTUCK**  
Columnist

Everything changes eventually. It’s said all the time, believed almost as often and might even be a bit cliché. At some point in our collective lives, most people go ahead and accept change. Despite its omnipresent nature, few treat dramatic change with less than some form of jaded affront. We may know change, we might accept it, but we’ll always be uncomfortable.

This being said, people are not the only ones who change — institutions do as well. It may be accurate to claim that Vanderbilt has diverged from the original vision and over the past few decades has changed to the point that it is unrecognizable from the original. This isn’t a bad thing. The freshmen certainly seem to like The Commons and its quirks and few complain of improved academic standards. In the end, however, it isn’t Vanderbilt that has changed, but the students.

Sure, the campus is more diverse, many organizations express sentiments that used to be unvoiced, but each individual student has changed in their own right. Take me for example; when I came on campus for the first time as a student, I was probably a pompous jerk who needed to be taken down a notch. Thanks to southern hospitality and courtesy, I’m still a pompous jerk and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

While there might be no moral to my story,

I did change in other ways. My tolerance for alcohol has increased, I rarely sleep anymore and I learned it is possible to become a workaholic without actually intending to do any work. I no longer get lost in Nashville and I know a little bit about country music and college football. Some things are small, few are actually big, but they all constitute change.

When I go home, I rarely worry about the parking decks or if the new medical research labs will be done by the end of the break. Admittedly,

I don’t fret particularly often about the student body either, but they rank higher than the furniture in the Branscomb lobby. It’s the people, not the place. I don’t think you can talk about how Vanderbilt has changed without talking about how the student body has changed and those

changes are merely resultant of thousands of minor shifts in the various individuals that make up this school.

I’m sure I’m not alone. It’s true Vanderbilt has changed over the years. The school has made great strides in an unambiguously positive direction. The story of the school can be interesting to hear about, but all people like to hear their own story first. These stories are frequently left out or remain undocumented. However, as the years go by, these stories will be all that remain in the minds of far off alumni.

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“It’s true that Vandy has changed over the years.”

# Puff, puff, pass the legislation



**SCOTT MARQUART**  
Guest Columnist

After months of mixed messages from the Obama White House, Attorney General Eric Holder recently announced that the federal government will not prosecute medical marijuana users and responsible suppliers in the 14 states that allow for some kind of medical marijuana use. This move is seen as a step in the right direction by many Americans who were surprised by the president’s statements in March that stated legalizing marijuana would not be a prudent means of aiding the slumping economy.

Since the early 2000’s, a majority of Americans have favored allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes. In 2002, when the marijuana lobby had barely gotten off its feet, a Time magazine poll showed 80 percent of Americans favored the legalization of marijuana for medical purposes. Now, support for marijuana is even higher. Not only does the majority favor medical marijuana, but also a recent Gallup poll showed that 44 percent of Americans favored the legalization of marijuana for all purposes. The support in all demographics has been increasing rapidly in the past several years, and some expect that a majority will support the legalization of marijuana for all purposes in less than four years.

The arguments are numerous and well known. Many point out that cannabis can be used to aid those who suffer from glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, Tourette’s syndrome, obsessive compulsive disorder, Huntington’s disease, epilepsy and over 250 other documented conditions. Some argue that legalizing marijuana would allow the government to collect much needed taxes on its trade. Others say it would stop marijuana from funding violent drug cartels and street gangs, effectively taking money out of the hands of criminals and giving it instead to American businesses and farmers. Still others say it would provide a safer, legal alternative to alcohol, which, at an average of 75,000 deaths per year, is the third leading cause of preventable death in America.

Although the recent move to not prosecute medical users that obey their states’ laws is a far cry from legalization legislation, it is, if nothing more, an act of sanity that shows that the government is still somewhat in touch with its citizens. This move alludes to the end of the unsupported bias against marijuana, which led to the federal government defining it as a Schedule I drug which has “a high potential for abuse, no accepted medical use in the U.S., and (is) unsafe for use even under medical supervision,” grouping it with LSD, PCP, and heroin.

The reason for this bias is multifaceted. The first powerful anti-marijuana movement occurred in the 1930’s, at the same time as the anti-Chicano movement that oppressed Mexican immigrants. Marijuana was associated with these immigrants and was subsequently opposed as a means of discouraging Mexican-American subcultures. Early anti-drug laws were created specifically to regulate narcotics, however, marijuana was included as a result of the groundwork laid by the 1930’s racially based anti-marijuana movement. As a result, marijuana has long been associated with more harmful drugs and has been unfairly discriminated against. But the people are tired of maintaining a status quo based upon cultural oppression and misinformation from the past, and Americans everywhere are waking up to the realities of marijuana.

The times are a-changin’ and the American people have been waiting for the White House to keep up. Finally it seems that President Obama, after watching millions hop on his bandwagon of ‘Change’ in November, has decided to offer a little solidarity by hopping on the bandwagon of the American people, who have been busy changing without him.

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## OPINION POLICY

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

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

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on 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.

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## 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 [hustler.news@insidevandy.com](mailto:hustler.news@insidevandy.com). You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

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# Excess on wheels



**HUDSON TODD**  
Columnist

Common sense would dictate that the finite supply of oil and its impending exhaustion would deter people (Americans specifically) from using it inefficiently, but unfortunately that is not the case. There are a variety of ways in which Americans are wasting oil, but perhaps the most conspicuous is through our use of oversized vehicles.

There is no greater symbol of American excess than the SUV. Consider that the Toyota Highlander (SUV) uses around twice as much fuel as a Toyota Corolla (passenger car), and over three times as much fuel as a Toyota Prius (hybrid). Basically, driving a single SUV is equivalent to putting two to three efficient cars on the road. Inefficient oil use will cause price increases, which could seriously damage the American economy, and it also causes larger amounts of carbon dioxide to be released into the atmosphere. Surprisingly, the truth has not functioned well as an incentive to buy more fuel-efficient vehicles. Instead, the only time there is a real decline in SUV sales is when gasoline prices rise. Because Americans are so inept at responding to large-scale problems, a higher gasoline tax would be appropriate to function as a deterrent for wasting huge quantities of oil.

It is worth pondering what makes SUVs appealing to people when they are so wasteful. Some psychologists have argued that people drive SUVs because they create a sense of superiority and safety due to their size and height. SUVs are often even viewed by many as a status symbol. On the contrary, these gas-guzzlers are not cool. The only people who think SUVs are cool are those who are ignorant about the adverse consequences of wasting oil. SUVs are undesirable for a number of reasons other than those previously stated. They are on average louder than passenger cars, as if to intentionally make the driver come off as tough or menacing (or perhaps to run their engine, which must make loud sounds to move such a massive object). The size of SUVs also works wonders at obscuring other drivers' vision on the road. They are also extraordinarily dangerous.

Buying an SUV for safety is counterproductive because it further endangers the lives of everyone else. SUVs are three times more likely than passenger cars to cause a fatality in an accident with an average sized car. SUVs aren't even that protective of their own drivers anyway. SUVs

have a uniquely high tendency to roll over, and in 2002 alone, more than 10,000 people died in rollover crashes. Rollovers are involved in only 3 percent of all crashes, but account for over one third of total fatalities in accidents. According to the NHTSA, SUVs are at an increased risk in single vehicular accidents, in which there is double the chance of a rollover. Not only that, the drivers of SUVs perceive themselves as safer, and are thus less likely to wear their seatbelts, show a tendency to drive more recklessly, and one 1996 study showed that they were even more likely to drive drunk.

People can either deny oil depletion and climate change are problems and continue to gleefully drive ridiculously large vehicles, or acknowledge that SUVs are hazardous, inefficient, dangerous, and ultimately just unnecessary. Certainly, no SUV drivers have malicious intentions, but their vehicles are nevertheless endangering the well-being of American, the planet and other drivers.

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# New definition of hate



**AIMEE SOBHANI**  
Columnist

Last Thursday, the Senate passed a bill that will make assaulting someone based on their sexual orientation or gender identity a federal crime. When Obama signs the bill, he will finally begin making good on his promise to ensure equal rights for gays and lesbians and his promise to the American people as a whole for change.

The bill, officially known as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act, expands the scope of the 1969 federal hate-crime law, which currently characterizes hate crimes as crimes based on race, religion, national origin and color. The bill gets its name from the victims of two nationally publicized hate crimes: Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, died after being tortured because of his sexual orientation, and three white Texas men lynched James Byrd, who was African-American.

The bill removes the prerequisite that the attacked person must be engaged in a federally-protected activity, giving federal and state authorities more power to pursue hate crime

investigations. The bill also requires the FBI to keep statistics on hate crimes against transgendered individuals.

The senseless murder of any innocent person is a horrible tragedy, but when attackers target someone because of specific, unchangeable traits, the crime becomes even more terrible in my eyes. As I mentioned in a previous article, hate crimes are still a problem in the U.S. and have the power to divide people of different groups, fostering even more hatred and misunderstanding.

Adding attacks based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of federally prosecuted hate crimes is a big step in the right direction. Even though it is becoming more common for people with alternative lifestyles to come out publicly, homophobia is still a problem in several parts of the U.S. It is important to protect non-heterosexuals from any hate-based violence they might encounter and prove that our country takes crimes against them seriously.

Opponents of the bill worry it could be used to criminalize conservative speech that condemns homosexuality. This concern seems to overlook the First Amendment, which protects free speech, even hate speech. Hate speech does not equal hate-based violence so conservatives should rest assured: They can still safely criticize "sinful" ways of life without punishment.

When Obama signs the bill into law, he will be doing more than fulfilling a campaign promise; he will finally begin using his power as president to make meaningful social change. Though Obama may not be able to unite his party on economics and health care, social issues are probably less divisive as far as Democrats are concerned so he should use the Democratic majority in Congress to his advantage while he still can.

Obama will actually start keeping his promises to the gay community. Many people hoped Obama would expand gay rights dramatically, but so far that hasn't been the case since he put this issue on the backburner in favor of health care. Obviously, this made proponents of gay rights doubt he would really stand up for the cause, but expanding the hate-crime law signals Obama still remembers his promises and will act on them.

Signing the Matthew Shepard Act not only protects minorities from hate crimes; it also honors those whose lives were lost as a result of hate-based violence and shows Obama's commitment to the extension of civil rights.

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THE VERDICT		
Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff! Compiled by Peter Nygaard		
Pilots		A Northwest Airlines flight overshot the Minnesota Airport by 150 miles because the pilots were allegedly locked in argument. Passengers were obviously furious as they not only had to turn around but then also had to actually go to Minnesota.
Ice-skating bears		A bear that was supposed to be part of the Russian state circus' "Bears on Ice" program attacked two stage hands, killing one. Sources say they cannot figure out why the bear became enraged. I would have to say the ... uh ... you know ... ice skates.
Fred Durst		A British couple has lost all seven of their children to child services over concerns that the children would eventually become clinically obese. All attempts made by the couple to appeal the case to the Children's Panel have been blocked ... by the front door.
Swine Flu		Bravo, H1N1. You've finally made it to "National Emergency" status. Give yourself a round of applause ... er ... a high five ... um ... a congratulatory elbow-touching?
Steve Phillips		Arguably the saddest story of the week belongs to the ESPN baseball analyst and former GM of the New York Mets. Not only was he busted on having an extra-marital affair, but are you kidding me? He was one drink away from finding out why Roger Podacter died.
Falcon Heene		Let me preface this by saying I didn't care about this last week. I didn't care when they found the kid. I didn't care when the mom said they were in on it the whole time. That having been said, the kid's name is FALCON. How can you hate on that?
Cell phones		The WHO recently concluded a decade-long, \$30 million study to find a link between cell phone use and brain tumors. This, on the heels of their high-profile investigations of cigarettes as a cause of lung cancer and water as a cause of wetness.

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# Sports

## COLUMN

# Just doesn't have that winning feeling

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Editor

With six losses through eight games this year, and 12 losses in its last 16 overall, Vanderbilt has made an unwelcome return to the Southeastern Conference basement.

Once again, the Commodores are finding ways to lose games. That winning attitude permeating the squad last year just doesn't exist anymore.

Take Saturday night for example.

Vanderbilt looked solid, for the most part, at No. 23 South Carolina in a 14-10 loss.

It got steady by redshirt sophomore quarterback Larry Smith, another dazzling kickoff return for a touchdown by super freshman Warren Norman, a terrific day of punting by senior Brett Upson and a defense that allowed just two touchdowns.

It was a gutsy performance by a team in hostile territory, against a squad that was smacking their lips for revenge after the Commodores punched them in the mouth two years in a row.

But it still wasn't enough.

The Commodores (2-6, 0-5) are just about dead in the water this season after a tough defeat that stung due to its closeness.

Smith drove Vanderbilt down to the South Carolina 25-yard line in the closing minutes before an intentional grounding penalty forced a 4th and 32 that he didn't come close to converting.

"We had a chance to win the ball game in the fourth quarter," said Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson. "We just didn't make it happen right there in that last drive."

This was the best they had played in weeks. Smith looked good early, and he finished with the best passing numbers of his SEC career against a very good South Carolina defense.

The offense still only put up a grand total of three points, despite two trips inside the Gamecock 10-yard line.

One trip ended with a dropped pass in the end zone and a missed 26-yard field

made the Commodores pay for their red zone struggles at the beginning of the fourth quarter, when the normally surefire Vanderbilt secondary faltered on a critical drive.

Backed up on their 1-yard line after a terrific Vandy special teams play, the Gamecocks came out firing and found the end zone in just over two minutes.

Garcia went deep and found Tori Gurley for a highlight-worthy one-handed catch over senior cornerback Myron Lewis for 43 yards. Then, on third-and-20, Alshon Jeffery got open on a post and Garcia hit him in stride for a 43-yard touchdown and the winning points.

"We had them pinned, we had them right where we wanted them," said redshirt senior defensive end Broderick Stewart. "Give credit to the South Carolina wide receiver, he made a good play on the ball, but we know better than that as a defense. We gave up too many big plays."

The Commodores went three-and-out twice after that before their last-ditch drive came up a little short.

"We've got to eliminate the big plays," said senior Brent Trice. "That's what hurt us, the big play."

And the inability to make some big plays of their own when it counted.

It always seems to be something this season.

And for the no-nonsense Johnson, it hasn't been a case of not getting lucky.

Winning teams don't get lucky. "You make your own breaks," Johnson said. "You got 1st and 10 at the 25, you go ahead and score. You make those breaks. They don't just happen." ■



CHRIS KEOHANE / The Daily Gamecock

Vanderbilt's Alex Washington (4) tries to elude Patrick DiMarco (47) during a punt return Saturday in Columbia. The Commodores led South Carolina in the fourth quarter but let it slip away in a 14-10 loss.

goal by redshirt freshman Ryan Fowler, and another in the third quarter netted just a 21-yard field goal after Vanderbilt froze up by the goal line.

"We were pleased to move (the football well) but we wanted to get it in the end zone," Johnson said. "That was disappointing. That would have been a very big psychological lift for us."

Instead, the Gamecocks (6-2, 3-2) scored a small victory there, and they

# Around the SEC: Tide remains perfect

by GEOFF HUTCHINSON  
Sports Reporter

With one swipe of the arm, Alabama's perfect season remained intact for at least another week, as the Tide barely defeated the Tennessee Volunteers 12-10 in Tuscaloosa on Saturday. Senior nose tackle Terrance Cody blocked two Tennessee field goal attempts in the fourth quarter, one of which would have won the game by kicker Daniel Lincoln with four seconds left in regulation.

Tennessee's much-maligned senior quarterback Jonathan Crompton led the Volunteer attack with 265 yards of passing on the day, along with a passing touchdown. Alabama's offensive output came from four field goals from kicker Leigh Tiffin, and 99 yards on the ground from sophomore sensation running back Mark Ingram. This narrow victory for the Tide makes it the 20th straight regular season victory for Alabama.

## One for the record books

Saturday night was a reunion of sorts in Starkville for new Mississippi State coach and former Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen and Florida coach Urban Meyer and quarterback Tim Tebow. For two coaches known for their offensive exploits, this game was anything but that. There were three turnovers returned for touchdowns, including two Tebow interceptions being returned by Mississippi State's freshman safety Johnthan Banks.

In the end, however, the Gators were just too much for the young Bulldogs, as Tim Tebow added his 50th career rushing touchdown, which tied him with former Georgia running back Herschel Walker as the leader for all SEC players. With the 29-19 win over the Bulldogs, the Gators regained the No. 1 spot in the polls, after losing it momentarily to Alabama.

## LSU turns reeling Auburn tiger bait

After starting the season as one of the hottest teams in the nation, the wheels have started to come off for the Auburn



CHRIS KEOHANE / The Daily Gamecock

Warren Norman set a Vanderbilt record with his second kickoff touchdown return of the season, a 99-yarder, against South Carolina. He took back another for 76 yards at Army.

Tigers. Saturday night marked the third consecutive loss for the Tigers, this time coming at the hands of No. 9 LSU, 31-10. LSU sophomore quarterback Jordan Jefferson passed for a career-high 242 yards, along with two touchdown passes and a rushing touchdown.

The LSU defense stifled the high-powered Auburn offense, holding them to only one touchdown on the game. This game was a good warm-up for the Tigers, who will be traveling to Tuscaloosa in two weeks to face the unbeaten Crimson Tide for the SEC West crown.

## Did You Know?

Warren Norman is the first Commodore to record two kick return touchdowns in their career, and he's done this all in his freshman year over the last three games. He also is leading the SEC in all-purpose yards this season.

With a win over Georgia next week, Florida can clinch at least a share of the SEC East title.

With his 99 yards rushing against Tennessee, Mark Ingram has now surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for the season. ■

# WEEKLY REPORT CARD

by David Rutz

## QUARTERBACK: B

Larry Smith finished 17-34 passing for 132 yards and also rushed for 54 yards in his steadiest performance in weeks. His receivers and tight ends didn't give him much help in this one, dropping several passes including a sure touchdown.

## RUNNING BACKS: B+

Warren Norman was impressive, gaining 96 yards on just 16 carries. Jared Hawkins returned to action but was mostly ineffective, rushing for just nine yards and catching three check-down passes from Smith for 11 yards.

## WIDE RECEIVERS: D

Iron hands and nothing going downfield told the story for the Commodores. The normally sure-handed Brandon Barden had three drops, including one in the end zone, but he led the unit with two catches for 52 yards. John Cole was the best receiver with four catches for 39 yards, including a critical third-down conversion on Vanderbilt's last-ditch drive.

## OFFENSIVE LINE: B-

The line did decently for the most part in the running game and Smith was not nearly as harassed as last week, but the line folded at the critical moment at the end of the game, allowing South Carolina to force Smith into an intentional grounding and force a near-impossible fourth-down conversion to seal the defeat.

## DEFENSIVE LINE: B+

Welcoming back Steven Stone for the first time from injury, the line got generally good penetration until South Carolina's big scoring drive in the fourth quarter. Greg Billinger continued his fine senior season, getting a sack for the second straight game to give him the team lead with 3.5, and Adam Smotherman also came through with some big plays of his own. Pass-rushing specialist Broderick Stewart had three quarterback hurries.

## LINEBACKERS: A-

Patrick Benoist had seven tackles, including a huge sack of Stephen Garcia on fourth down to give the Commodores a lift near the end of the fourth quarter. This unit tackled well the whole game and never let South Carolina's running game really get going.

## SECONDARY: D

Garcia slang the ball all day against the normally stout Vanderbilt secondary, passing for 312 yards (a season-high allowed by the unit) and two touchdowns. Backed up on his 1-yard line in the fourth quarter, Garcia completed a 43-yarder over Myron Lewis' head, who got burned several times on the day, and then converted on third-and-20 for the game-winning touchdown to Alshon Jeffery. Just before the big score, Joel Caldwell let a pass that Garcia threw up for grabs for an easy interception go right through his hands.

## SPECIAL TEAMS: A-

Norman's sweet 99-yard kickoff return was Vanderbilt's sole touchdown, and Alex Washington had several solid punt returns of his own. Brett Upson and the coverage units had a huge day, averaging nearly 49 yards per punt, including a 64-yarder and two others that pinned the Gamecocks at their 1-yard line. Ryan Fowler's missed 26-yard field goal came back to haunt the Commodores, however, as they would have needed only three points at game's end to win had he connected on that chip shot.

## COACHING: B

This was the best Vanderbilt had played in weeks, and kudos need to be given to Bobby Johnson, who had his battered team emotionally and physically ready for a squad licking its chops for revenge. What continues to be frustrating is the inability to finish drives by the goal line. The Commodores had the ball inside the 10-yard line twice and got three points to show for it. Vanderbilt simply does not have a "win-at-all-costs" mentality, continually going the conservative route and continually losing as a result. Even so, Vanderbilt had a shot to beat a superior team at the end and came up just short. In what has been a trying season, that's at least a small cause for hope.



CHRIS KEOHANE / The Daily Gamecock

Larry Smith looks for a pass Saturday in Columbia. He finished 17-34 passing for 132 yards, and he also had 54 yards on the ground.



## COLUMN

# The gold standard

by DAVID NAMM  
Sports Reporter

This is how it is supposed to look: With grace and greatness, they glided to victory like clockwork.

This is how it is supposed to feel: With fist-pumps and high fives, they only celebrate after their success has spoken for itself.

This is how it is supposed to be: After another weekend when Vanderbilt football was stuck in neutral, the women's bowling team was in the fast lane, striking down its competition with pins to spare.

Not that wins are a rarity for this group. The winners of the school's only national championship in its history in 2007, the bowling team and head coach John Williamson have set the bar high not for just this university's athletic program, but also for bowling programs across the nation. However, for Williamson, the All-Americans honors, the championship and the accolades are secondary to a classy culture he strives to create, a culture that—ironically enough—has earned him an accolade of his own: National Coach of the Year.

"We have a team of high achievers on multiple fronts," Williamson said to VUCommodores.com. "They are winners in every way ... This is a team of future leaders."

Personifying this winning precedent is senior Josie Earnest, two-time National

Player of the Year and MVP of the NCAA Tournament during Vanderbilt's national title run. She is in many ways like the Tim Tebow of college bowling, representing the program in such a positive light that she and her younger sister Jessica (now a Vanderbilt freshman) have been selected to lead the United States in international competition of the nation's bowling team.

It speaks volumes to Vanderbilt overall that athletes like the Earnests make the Commodores their choice program, showing that Vanderbilt sports is moving in the direction Vice Chancellor David Williams and others envisioned when Vanderbilt athletics were realigned.

"I chose (to attend) Vanderbilt because it offered the total package," Earnest said. "We get a combination of exceptional academics, homey environment and a sports program that strives to succeed. This was an opportunity that could not be passed up."

Thus, as the Commodore team looks to bring back Vanderbilt's

second national championship, they have an opportunity not only to lay a foundation, but to cement a standard.

With a myriad of Commodore sports rewriting their personal history books in recent years—football's bowl win, women's basketball's SEC Championship, men's basketball's Sweet 16 runs, baseball's No. 1 national ranking—it is the bowling team that has rolled its way to unparalleled success.

With Jay-Z soon coming to town, it is only fitting to call this group "The Blueprint." ■



JOHN RUSSELL / VU Media Relations

Josie Earnest was named the first-ever captain for the Vanderbilt bowling team. She and her teammates have set a high standard for the rest of Commodore athletics, bringing home the school's first national title in 2007.

# Vandy inches closer to SEC tourney berth

by THOMAS SAMUEL

Vanderbilt University Athletics

Freshman Kate Goldin's goal in the 71st minute propelled Vanderbilt to a 1-0 win over No. 17 Mississippi at the Ole Miss Soccer Stadium Sunday afternoon.

The Commodores continued their late push towards qualifying for the Southeastern Conference, eight-team tournament with their third straight shutout win. Vanderbilt is now 10-7-1 overall and 4-6 in SEC play and in eighth place in the league standings.

Either a win or tie at home against Kentucky on Friday will clinch a spot at next week's tournament in Orange Beach, Ala. Alabama needs to win its final two games against Auburn and Ole Miss next weekend to pass the Commodores into eighth place. A loss or tie in either game will end the Crimson Tide's postseason chances.

"Getting our tenth win was an important goal we had and getting another conference wins puts us one step closer to another goal of getting to Orange Beach," said Vanderbilt head coach Ronnie Woodard. "It was also another road win and that was something we had struggled with this year."

Goldin, inserted into the starting lineup against Alabama last Sunday, has started the last three games in the Commodores' winning streak. After Vanderbilt popped a high ball into the box, Ole Miss goalkeeper Alley Ronaldi

came off her line to punch it away, and fell to the ground in the scrum. Chelsea Stewart came up with the loose ball, which she struck toward Goldin, who flicked it into the net from about eight yards at the 71:11 minute mark.

"Kate has really come on at the end of the year," Woodard said. "She has had a challenging

start to her college career with a knee injury that kept her out last season. Kate is peaking at the right time, is a good (one-one-one) defender and is aggressive in the box."

Ole Miss finished with a decided 17-7 shot advantage, but was held at bay by junior keeper Rachel Bachtel, who notched her third consecutive solo shutout and her sixth shutout of the year. She had four saves in the game and has 10 stops in the last three contests.

Goldin had both of the team's shots on goals, while Stewart notched her first assist of the year.

The defeat snapped a six-game unbeaten streak for Ole Miss dating back to a 1-0 loss to South Carolina on Oct. 2.

The Commodores will close out the regular season against Kentucky on Friday at 7 p.m. at the VU Soccer Complex. Two seniors, Megan Forester and Lindsay Ratterman, will be recognized then in Senior Night activities.

"We proved we could win to ourselves which is important from a confidence standpoint," Woodard said. "Ole Miss is a very good team and we fought as hard as we could and I am proud of the girls' effort today." ■



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Kate Goldin's goal in the 71st minute propelled Vanderbilt to a 1-0 upset of Ole Miss on Sunday, and it pushed the 10-7-1 Commodores closer to qualifying for the SEC Tournament.

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