



With Vandy out, see what team our sports staff picks to win it all...
For more, see **Sports**, page 8

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The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2007 • 119TH YEAR, NO. 30

THE WALL
compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

TODAY
Indian comedian to perform
Vijai Nathan, rated one of New York's top stand-up comics by Back Stage in 2003, will perform in Wilson Hall, Room 126 today from 7 to 8 p.m. Admission is free. The event is being held by Masala-SACE.

TODAY
Vanderbilt University Orchestra to perform
The event features performances by the winners of the Student Concerto Competition with conductor Robin Fountain and will be in Ingram Hall from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Locks of Love Hair Drive haircuts
Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to children suffering from diseases that result in chronic hair loss. Any students who have 10 inches of unbleached hair and are interested in a free haircut should call Jennifer Vacha at (615) 460-7002 to set up an appointment.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Sean Carroll to speak as part of Chancellor's Lecture Series
Sean Carroll, professor of genetics and molecular biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will give a lecture titled "Making of the Fittest." The lecture will be at 6 p.m. in Ingram Hall, following a reception at 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Writer's Night
A live reading of original works by Vanderbilt's creative writing community will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Room 117. An all-poetry panel will feature Rick Hilles, assistant professor of English; Andrea Gibson, coordinator of Vanderbilt's faculty senate; and Vanderbilt student authors.

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

Annual Derby Days liven Greek Row



photo provided by BRIAN RUE

Sororities participate in field games held Tuesday afternoon on the Sigma Chi lawn from 4 to 6 p.m. as a part of Derby Days, the fraternity's weeklong annual philanthropy event that started Sunday with a 5K run and will continue through this weekend.

Students for Kenya to hold inaugural LWALA benefit

by ALLISON SMITH
News Editor

Students for Kenya had just \$18 in its bank account when it began planning the LWALA Benefit Gala. Some \$10,000 later, program director, senior Danielle Snyder, said they are ready to earn even more Thursday night.

Snyder said the inaugural benefit aims to raise awareness and money to support the completion of the first health clinic to be built in Lwala, Kenya. The benefit will feature a 20-minute documentary, fashion show, silent auction and live band.

"We hope in the future this event will become as big as Rites of Spring, something that kids will look forward to every year," she said.

"Right now people have no idea what Students for Kenya is and what LWALA is, but once people hear their stories they will want to get involved," said senior Britanni Hale.

Former Sen. Bill Frist will deliver the keynote address at the gala, which will take place from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at the Student Life Center. Tickets to the event cost \$16 at the Sarratt Box Office and \$20 at the door.

Frist said his son, sophomore Jonathan Frist, brought the idea of participating in the benefit to him, pointing out that it benefits a clinic similar to the ones he worked with in southern Sudan.

"The incidence of HIV and tuberculosis is higher (in Lwala) than the African average," Bill Frist said. "We have the opportunity of replicating what I have helped to do personally in Sudan and Kenya."

Snyder said Students for Kenya asked Frist to be the keynote speaker because of his "extensive" involvement in Africa.

"(Frist) is totally relevant," Snyder said. "He really feels strongly about AIDS efforts and connecting with our generation and giving us a venue.

He wants us to feel like we can make a difference, we can help."

Snyder visited Lwala this summer as a part of her internship with 85 Broads, a company that provides networking opportunities for women of all ages, and brought the idea of hosting an event to Students for Kenya. She is featured in the documentary that will be shown at the gala.

"It really was a life-changing experience," Snyder said of her trip to Lwala. "We were living in the mud huts, and there were three funerals while we were there. You experience the full range of emotions every day."

She said the benefit will closely resemble the documentary premiere, which took place in New York last November.

Students for Kenya is an undergraduate student organization founded in 2005 devoted to the promotion of community development in Lwala. ■

NPHC moves into Kappa Sigma house

Residence to be used primarily for programs, small gatherings until eviction in 2010.

by NICOLE FLOYD
Staff Reporter

The National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities have a new place to call home. Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi and Phi Beta Sigma finalized the details of the offer from the Office of Greek Life to occupy the former Kappa Sigma house last week.

Kappa Sigma lost the house after its charter was revoked in December due to a violation of the fraternity's code of conduct.

NPHC President Steven Harris said the council is excited about moving into the house.

"We are definitely grateful for the opportunity to use the house as a residence for the NPHC men," he said.

Despite their enthusiasm, members of the NPHC are mindful that their occupation of the Kappa Sigma house will be short-lived. Kappa Sigma is expected to return to campus in 2010.

"We still realize this is a temporary residence," Harris said. "Upon Kappa Sigma's return we will be in the same situation we were in with the Sigma Nu house. So we have to keep that in mind."

According to Director of Greek Life Kristen Torrey, the house will be used primarily for programs and small gatherings. Many of the details, including which fraternity members will live in the house, must still be worked out.

Harris noted there will be some stipulations on the size of parties that can be held at the house. This decision came about as a result of dialogues between the NPHC and Torrey.

"The type of parties seen at the Sigma Nu house, referring to the size of the party, may not be seen at the Kappa Sigma house for various reasons, including security," Harris said.

Sophomore Rebekah Nwangwa said she is happy the NPHC finally has a new house.

"The whole first semester, the only place to have parties and events was the Student Life Center," Nwangwa said. "So now they can switch it up a little bit."

"I think everyone is looking forward to attending the first party once they get it fixed up," she said. ■

Zeta serves up waffles in Towers



MARK BENEKE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Sophomores Whitney Hubbard and Abigail Richards and seniors Vanessa Egerton-Shelton and Keshia Cook (left to right) prepare waffles in Towers East as a part of Zeta Phi Beta's Finer Womanhood Week 2007.

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WEATHER
compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY
TODAY



Scattered T-storms, 78/57

THURSDAY



Isolated T-storms, 84/56

FRIDAY



Mostly Cloudy, 80/59

SATURDAY



Mostly Sunny, 71/52

VUPD CRIME LOG
compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

There is no crime to report.

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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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

IN THE KNOW
The news you need — in brief
compiled by HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY

CAMPUS

Organizational behavior expert to work with Vanderbilt provost's office

Vanderbilt University has named Clinical Professor of Management David Owens to assist to the provost for strategic process innovation.

Owens, a specialist in organizational behavior and current professor at the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, will work with the university's academic leadership, faculty and staff to develop a holistic and innovative approach to Vanderbilt's strategic plans.

"There are so many exciting and important innovations in how we conduct research, teach, learn and live on campus. We must find innovative ways to create and execute our plans for Vanderbilt. David will bring to the provost's office unique expertise in innovation, planning and process design along with a deep commitment to teaching," said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nicholas Zeppos. "David will help ensure that we are always effective, creative and transparent in our communication, planning, processes and execution."

Along with his new role in the provost's office, Owens will continue to teach at Owen.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT NEWS SERVICE

DuBois chosen to lead America's largest cancer research organization

Raymond N. DuBois, senior researcher for the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, has been nominated president-elect of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

"The AACR is at a critical stage in its evolution as it prepares to celebrate 100 years of progress in the fight against cancer," DuBois said. "By supporting cancer research from the basic science laboratory all the way to late-phase clinical trials, the AACR has taken on the crucial mission of supporting work that will ultimately decrease morbidity and mortality from cancer."

DuBois, the B.F. Byrd Jr. Professor of Molecular Oncology at Vanderbilt, recently stepped down as director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center in anticipation of his new role as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas' M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. DuBois is a Texas native and received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas.

DuBois' role in the AACR marks the third time a Vanderbilt-Ingram leader has served as president of the organization. Lynn Matrisian, director of cancer biology, and Harold L. Moses, director emeritus of Vanderbilt-Ingram, were both elected AACR president in recent years.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT REGISTER

LWALA Benefit Gala to be held in Student Life Center Thursday night

Students for Kenya will host the LWALA Benefit Gala from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Student Life Center to benefit the first health clinic in Lwala, a small village in rural Kenya.

The gala will include the premiere screening of the documentary film "Journey to Lwala" and a fashion show featuring Vanderbilt students. Students will model T.S. Dixon, a New York-based clothing line, and Sam Edelman shoes, and gala attendees will be able to purchase any piece from these collections. The gala also will feature a silent auction, date auction, live music and a speaker.

Students for Kenya is a Vanderbilt undergraduate student organization founded in 2005 with a commitment to promote community development in Lwala.

"We need to come together as a community to show our support for fellow Vanderbilt students and Lwala natives Milton and Frederick Ochieng, so that their dream of providing their homeland with access to health care can come to fruition," said Danielle Snyder, a Vanderbilt senior who traveled to Lwala in 2006 and is part of the "Journey to Lwala" project. "The time to make a difference is now. I believe in the power of the Vanderbilt community, which is why I have selected 'Living With A Lifelong Ambition to make a difference' as the acronym and slogan for the upcoming LWALA gala."

SOURCE: VANDERBILT REGISTER

Group of Nashville volunteers seeks input from Vanderbilt on city's future

A nonpartisan group of Nashville volunteers has launched a follow-up to the 1993 citywide goal-setting project known as Nashville's Agenda to gauge again what Nashvillians think is needed to "make Nashville the best it can be." Members of the Vanderbilt community are encouraged to participate.

"Nashville has changed in so many ways since 1993, and Vanderbilt has been a big part of that," said Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Mike Schoenfeld. "This is a great opportunity for all of us to help shape a vision for the city and the region."

The new initiative is meant to update the city's goals for the next 10 years, according to community leader Tom Sherrard, founding partner of Sherrard & Roe PLC and chair of the volunteer planning committee. "The original Nashville's Agenda process was extremely successful in identifying what people thought was most important for our city," he said. "We want to involve Nashvillians from every part of the city and all walks of life. Our goal is maximum participation across Davidson County."

The new Nashville's Agenda 2007 project is supported by a \$50,000 grant from The Frist Foundation. The planning committee is working with Perdue Research Group for the initial phase of the project, which involves a telephone survey of 300 households as well as an online survey March 12 through April 21. To participate in the survey, all Davidson County residents are encouraged to visit the Web site at www.nashvillesagenda.org and link to the survey.

SOURCE: VANDERBILT REGISTER

InVUsion continues first Multicultural Awareness Week

by KRISTEN CHMIELEWSKI
Asst News Editor

The first Multicultural Awareness Week will culminate Saturday with InVUsion, a presentation designed to showcase different aspects of each multicultural group.

InVUsion, which will take place at 8 p.m. on Alumni Lawn, will feature some of the most popular performances from events such as Diwali, Asian New Year, Cafe Con Leche and MESA Night.

Vandy Taal, VIBE and Momentum will also perform at the event.

Krishanthan Vigneswaran, former Student Government Association Multicultural Affairs Committee co-chair, said students who have not gotten a chance to attend the featured events earlier in the year should make an effort to come out to InVUsion.

"Honestly, (Multicultural Committee) students have already seen many of these shows," he said. "The purpose of the week is to get to those who are not yet involved in the cultural aspects of campus. Those are the students who would really benefit."

In an effort to reach out to the Greek community, the Greek organization that purchases the most

tickets will receive a donation of half of all Greek ticket sales to its philanthropy.

Because the MCC functions similarly to Greek organizations, Vigneswaran said he created Multicultural Awareness Week with the format of Greekfest in mind.

Vigneswaran said he hopes to establish the weeklong activity as an institutionalized event students can expect every year.

"How Far Have We Come V.3," featuring comedian Vijai Nathan, will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Room 126.

Her comedy tells of her experience of growing up as a "foreigner" in America, despite being born and raised in a Washington, D.C., suburb.

As a part of the week, the Interfaith Council will host a "Chocolate Seder" at the Schulman Center for Jewish Life on Thursday at 7 p.m., and The Vanderbilt Lambda Association will present its annual Drag Show on Friday at 8 p.m. on Alumni Lawn.

Multicultural Awareness Week kicked off last Friday with Masala-SACE's presentation of Garba, the Hawaii Club's luau Saturday and the Cricket Club's viewing of the Cricket World Cup on Tuesday. ■

Warm spring weather draws students outdoors



KELLY HOCUTT / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshman Cresson Haugland takes an afternoon nap on Peabody Lawn. The high temperatures felt early on in the week will drop slightly to the low 70s by Saturday.

RIAA letters sent to 20 students

by **EVE ATTERMANN**
Asst News Editor

The Collegiate Presswire reported Feb. 21 that 20 Vanderbilt students suspected of illegally sharing music online were being sent pre-litigation letters from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

The RIAA sent letters offering discounted settlements to 400 computer users at 13 universities in late February, and so far 116 settlements have been reached, according to RIAA spokesman Jonathan Lamy.

F. Clark Williams, director of IT support for the Dean of Students office, said only three of the 20 letters have been delivered to the students because they were the only students that lived in single-room dormitories.

"The university expends resources to track students down,"

Williams said. "To track students we have to hire a relatively high-end individual, and pay him a salary...and buy him a computer and software."

Students who receive the letter will also receive a conduct violation, including a meeting with a conduct officer who will deliver the letter and answer questions the student might have.

"The conduct violation is not insignificant," Williams said. "It goes on a student's record just like any other conduct violation."

Williams explained the ITS office does not enforce RIAA policy, rather it seeks action against a student only after receiving a complaint from the RIAA. Once a complaint is received, Internet access for that student is temporarily blocked.

About 350 Internet ports have been blocked, according to the

ITS office.

One student, freshman Brendan Alvani, said his Internet connection has been taken away twice, once for downloading at too high a bandwidth, and once for illegally downloading a movie.

"I had to call up ITS the second time, and it took me three weeks to get a hold of them," Alvani said. "Luckily it was over Thanksgiving break. It was for downloading 'Nacho Libre,' which I never even watched."

Alvani said that after his second violation he pledged to make a greater effort to download music legally, but added that as a disk jockey for WRVU, it is sometimes helpful to illegally download music leaked to the Internet early.

"There are really cool alternatives to downloading illegally," Alvani said. ■

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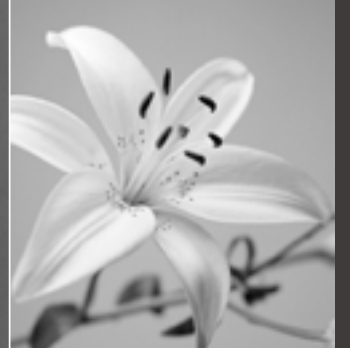
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HOD students visit local mosque Sunday



Students in HOD 2770: Executive Leadership visited a mosque in Nashville on Sunday to learn about Islam and inter-religious relations from Dr. Abu Wahid of Tennessee State University. LAUREN FONDRIEST / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Battle of the Bands to accept applications for right to open at Rites

by **HARISH KRISHNAMOORTHY**
Asst News Editor

Applications for the annual Battle of the Bands, students' chance to kick off Rites of Spring, are now available in Sarratt 207.

The application requires a written component and an audio sample, and each band must contain at least one Vanderbilt student to qualify.

"That way we can cater to the student

body and let them be a part of the festival," said Dunc Fulton, co-chair of The Music Group, which organizes Rites of Spring.

Students are allowed to play covers of songs but are encouraged to play their own music as well.

Applications are due Thursday, April 12. The Music Group will then select 10 bands to perform at Battle of the Bands and compete for the opening slots.

Battle of the Bands will take place in Sarratt Cinema on Thursday, April 19.

Fulton said the judges for the competition have not been decided yet but may include Blair professors.

Previous winners include now well-known bands such as The Bluff.

"They were at the Battle of the Bands last year, and since then, they've played in Nashville at Exit/In and played at various fraternity parties and Bar Car," Fulton said. ■

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Derby Days 2007

Student media to host first online college journalism workshop

Almost 30 university staffs set to participate this weekend in retreat at First Amendment Center.

by KATIE DePAOLA
Contributing Reporter

More than 50 student journalists and 34 media advisers will meet at the First Amendment Center on Peabody campus Thursday to discuss the future of media.

This is the first ever college journalism workshop dedicated solely to new media, according to The Center for Innovation in College Media, the nonprofit think tank organizing the event. Attendees represent 29 colleges and universities in 16 states, coming from as far as Arizona and New York.

The workshop will guide attendees in creating multimedia projects and will feature keynote speaker Jennifer Carroll, vice president of new media content at Gannett Co., the news company with the largest circulation in the country, news company. Other speakers will include representatives from BIG Media, Adobe, College Publisher and Atlas Media Corp.

A handful of Vanderbilt students involved with The Vanderbilt Hustler and InsideVandy.com, the university's online student community, will attend the workshop.

Director of Student Media Chris Carroll, one of three co-founders of The Center for Innovation in College Media, said the workshop's on-campus location puts Vanderbilt students at an advantage.

"This workshop is great because it provides our students with easier access to networking and information about new media," Chris Carroll said. "I think that it is going to reflect very well on Vanderbilt."

Plans for the event began two years ago when Chris Carroll started talking with other advisers about reinventing college media.

"We realized that there was such a void in college media that we needed to do something about it," he said.

To fill this void, Chris Carroll teamed

up with Ralph Braseth, student media director at University of Mississippi, and Brian Murley, online news adviser for Emory and Henry College, to form The Center for Innovation in College Media. The center is a division of Vanderbilt Student Communications Inc. that aims to provide students with training and consulting about new media.

According to Chris Carroll, the organization's philosophy is that training needs to be hands-on. He said journalists can talk about moving media online, but until they actually do it — with cameras, recorders and computers — it's just talk.

Freshman Gaby Roman, who received a journalism internship this summer with the help of a self-recorded, edited and produced video resume, will attend the conference this weekend.

"There is not a lot on campus that has to do specifically with new media, and this is such a big deal because it's an entire conference dedicated to exactly

what I'm interested in," she said.

Roman said she hopes to "network, meet people and make some contacts in the field during the conference."

According to conference participant Rob Pongsajapan, a graduate student at Georgetown University, "New media is journalism occurring online, usually with some degree of interactivity, the ability for the reader to respond."

In anticipation of the event, Pongsajapan created a Facebook group named "The Future of Journalism," for workshop participants.

Pongsajapan is in charge of handling "all things Web before, during and after the workshop."

"I'm hoping that people will meet at the Nashville workshop and then go home and stay in touch via the Facebook group," Pongsajapan said.

For more information about The Center for Innovation in College Media or The Future of Journalism workshop, visit <http://collegemediainnovation.org>. ■

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OUR VIEW

Public involvement would have been key to military success

The war in Iraq began in spring 2003. Current Vanderbilt seniors were high school seniors, mere tyros as far as education is concerned. Now the war enters its fifth year, and very little has changed except we are all older and what we were told was an inevitable victory has become a hard slog with no end in sight.

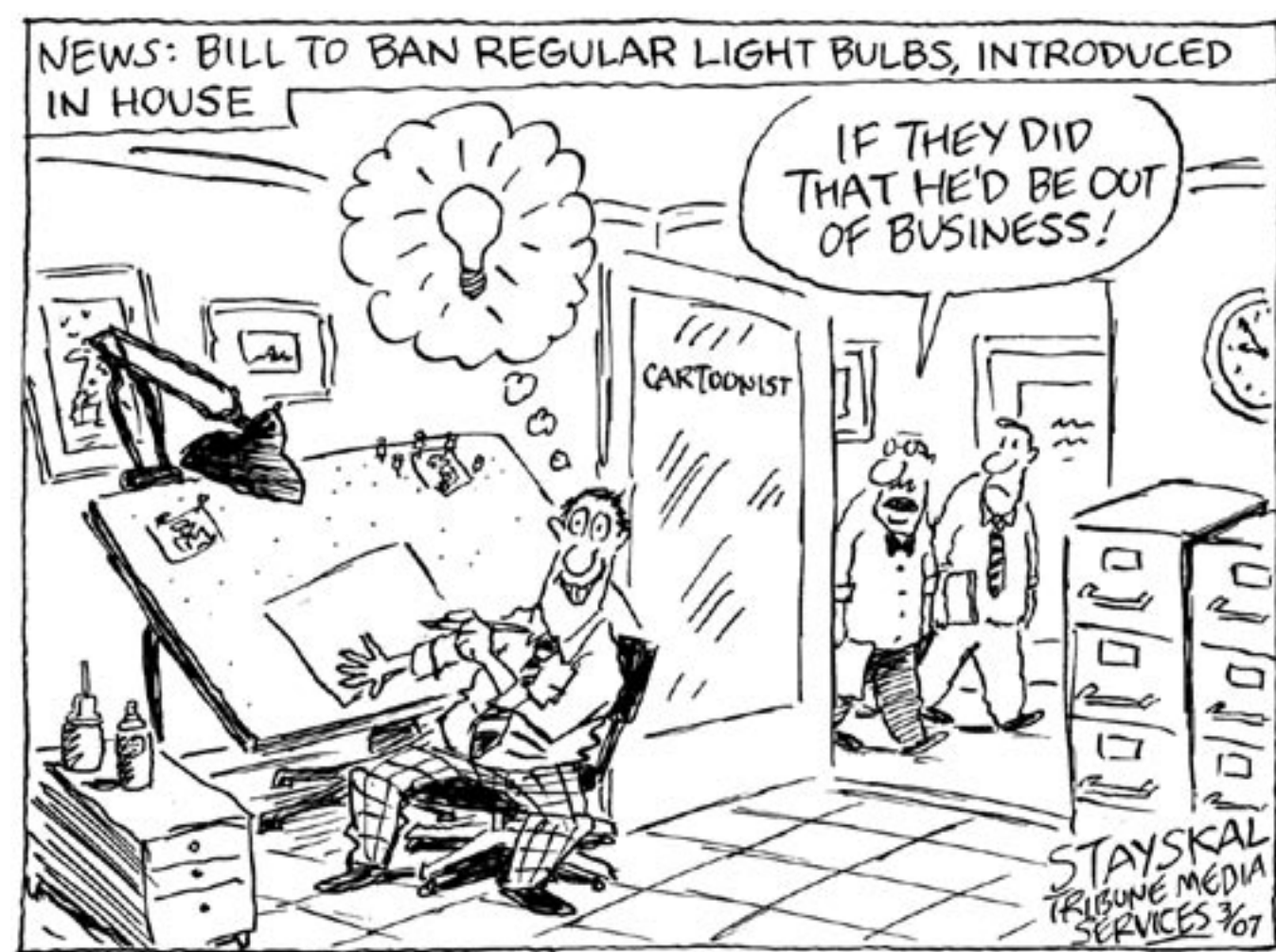
One thing that has not changed is that the public finds itself insulated from the actions and consequences of war. World War II was a high point in American history, in part because everyone from the mightiest government official to the smallest child engaged in the war effort and knew the consequences of defeat. People spent money on war bonds and rationed their daily necessities because they were an integral part of the war effort and were treated as such.

Our current war, however, sees no similar public involvement. When asked about the war, a Vanderbilt freshman replied, "I feel like college is a full-time job for me. I don't have enough time to sit and watch my favorite shows much less listen to the news." If we may understate mildly, this is not a healthy attitude in a democratic society; however, this attitude exists primarily because the government has done very little to discourage it. Information is downplayed, and we are assured everything is under control if we only stick it out a few more years; is it any wonder "House, M.D." seems like a more productive use of time?

There has not been a great push by our leaders to involve the American public; indeed, the opposite has been true. For example, wars cost quite a

bit of money, but tax cuts continued and this "penny wise, pound foolish" attitude has left American troops unable to complete their mission. This and other means of insulating the public from the war effort have made this war all but completely non-winnable, both because it kept away the surplus of resources any military needs to be successful as well as made steady and growing political opposition at home inevitable.

In a modern age of warfare complete with a vigilant media, the public must be both well informed and well involved for success against all but the smallest and weakest of militaries in a protracted conflict. A war in which the public is not encouraged to involve themselves is swiftly becoming a war that cannot be won.



Wayne Stayskal—MCT

COLUMN

On-campus housing mandate denies personal choice

JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

I've been trying to consider what issues other than Playboy have a significant impact on our student body. Unlike Andrew Solomon, I don't believe this includes my spring break stories or personal struggle with binge drinking. However, the administrative decisions that take away student choice or freedom are pressing issues to me. The most looming problem here is off-campus housing. It still seems a little murky exactly what the housing situation is and who will get to live off campus and for how long. However, it certainly appears that Vanderbilt is trying to put all of its students into on-campus housing. It upsets me how little serious distress I hear. This may be due to apathy or the fact that there is little the student body can do to change the mandate.

I have yet to hear a solid justification for why it is okay for the school to do this. Don't get me wrong; I understand the reasons: this will create a more "united" campus and a more closely knit community, and it will mean more money for Vanderbilt — yet this doesn't justify the action. What is being lost is much more valuable. Students are losing their ability to choose, their ability to be free and independent. What right does the school have to force their view of a student's "best interests"? There are plenty of reasons to live off

campus: to escape the campus mentality and pesky campus security, to attain a better living situation, and to prepare for life after college. If anything, keeping all the students on campus for all four years makes for a much more difficult adjustment for future living situations, a transition for which college is supposed to prepare you. The fundamental issue is that a college should do everything to encourage rather than restrict freedom and personal responsibility. And through all of this, how much are students' voices being recognized? I know very few students who would support this program or other Vanderbilt initiatives that merely attempt to imitate those of Ivy League schools.

Whether or not a four-year, on-campus living situation would be better individually or for the general school environment is not the question; it's a matter of allowing students, particularly juniors and seniors, the option of living how they please. Beneath all of this is a deeper-seated issue of the Vanderbilt administration enforcing various regulations under the delusion that they know what is best and students need to follow their plan. This has led to various programs and rules, including the mandatory extended VUcept program from which absence is now punishable and has created an over-involved parental figure doing little to foster independence.

—Justin Poythress is a sophomore in Peabody College.

COLUMN

ABC must fire Rosie O'Donnell

MICHAEL WILT
Columnist

All Americans should be concerned about the insidious and despicable bile that has emerged from Rosie O'Donnell over the past two weeks and should work to remove her from the airwaves. Over the course of her time on ABC's hit morning show "The View," O'Donnell has managed to ignite the flames of controversy from her spat with Donald Trump to her allegations of racism and "weightism" against "American Idol." But it is not these views that are troubling if you are not an American who is concerned about the effect of pop-culture on our society. It is her most recent comments regarding Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the attacks on Sept. 11 that should disturb you, if not move you to action.

Let's pause for a moment and remember several key facts about that day and Mohammed's involvement. Two airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center, with the amount of fuel that would have given them the ability to get to Los Angeles, their intended destination. That's a lot of fuel. So much fuel, in fact, that it ignited massive fires, enough to cause severe structural damage to the buildings. But don't take my word for it. Just listen to Osama bin Laden, who said in a December 2001 audiotape, "We calculated that the floors that would be hit would be three or four floors. I was the most optimistic of them all. Due to my experience in this field, I was thinking that the fire from the gas in the plane would melt the iron structure of the building and collapse the area where the plane hit and all the floors above it only. This is all that we had hoped for."

Mohammed was arrested in 2003 in Pakistan on suspicion of his involvement in the Sept. 11 attacks, his known role as a senior leader in al-Qaida and his connection to other terrorists such as his nephew Ramzi Yousef, who has been convicted of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. According to the 9/11 Commission, Mohammed was the "principal architect of the Sept. 11 attacks." Mohammed has confessed to this, among many other things such as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 2002 Bali nightclub bombing and the 2001 murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. All told, he is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Americans.

All of these facts don't seem to phase O'Donnell, however. She questioned the authenticity of Mohammed's confession because she claims it was induced through means of torture. Perhaps he was tortured — he claims he was. But he also claims he is telling the truth, and we also have a lot of evidence to support his claims and the claims of many others who verify that evidence. To Rosie O'Donnell none of this matters — it is worth more to her to attack the United States government, the CIA and members of the U.S. military as torturers and liars, rather than to bring justice to a self-described enemy of the people of this country. Makes you wonder on whose side she wants to be.

While O'Donnell's outlandish comments about Mohammed should make your blood boil, the even more recent postings on her blog about what actually happened on Sept. 11 should break the straw on the camel's back. She

Please see **WILT**, page 7

OPINION POLICY

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

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

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

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

CORRECTION POLICY

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

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

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Metro District 18
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Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 783-0106

THE VERDICT

Stand and be judged by the Hustler opinion staff!

Cable news		They've ferreted out the cause of Anna Nicole Smith's death. Good work, Nancy Grace! You've cracked The Case of the Washed-up Porn Star!
Sarratt bathrooms		When the automatic flushing devices don't work, there's a button to force them. This isn't rocket science, people!
Castle doctrine		The state of Texas has legalized the use of deadly force in self-defense outside of the home. There has never been a more stereotypically Texan law than this.
Cane toads		Australians have captured a poisonous toad. The size of a small dog. In the middle of a "breeding frenzy." This story has nowhere to go but up!
IBM		Researchers have produced a chipset that promises to transfer high-definition movies in a second or less. Time to put in new wiring — there's piracy to commit!
Michael Jackson		The pop singer has expressed a desire to build a 50-foot robot replica of himself that shoots laser beams in Las Vegas. This sounds like a bad idea of "Jurassic Park" proportions.
LEGOs		The success of the LEGO "Star Wars" games led Warner Bros. to negotiate a deal for a LEGO Batman title. As always, LEGOs are totally sweet.
Myanmar (Burma)		The ruling military junta has unveiled a huge pointless new capital city. For a similar situation, imagine closing down Washington, D.C., and setting up shop somewhere in rural Nebraska.
Phillip Thompson		The senator's aide stupidly wandered into a federal building with a gun. We can all safely say this guy is going places (after prison and all that).
San Francisco		The city has banned plastic bags in an effort to promote recycling. Our nation's forests thank you, JERKS.
Hillary Clinton		Clinton has promised that, if elected, she will end the conflict in Iraq. What a bold decision, taken without consideration of political expediency.

WILT: O'Donnell sows lunacy, not truth

From WILT, page 6

has joined the ranks of the conspiracy who actually believe the World Trade Center was deliberately blown up by the government or something like that. She doesn't really know, of course, but it sure looks suspicious! Why would they want to do this? To cover up corporate scandals that were being investigated in those buildings, of course!

The absurdity of the argument behind the conspiracy doesn't make much sense; the corporate scandals were far and wide beyond New York City and the World Trade Center. Of course, the actual dynamics of the conspiracy theory don't hold much water either. As multiple governmental agencies and independent engineers who have studied the tragic events that happened at the World Trade Center have concluded, the reason for the collapse is as we all suspect: fires caused the building to collapse top-down. But O'Donnell won't let fact get in the way of her conspiracy theory — apparently, attacking the government is more important. This woman actually believes

that the government hired 19 Muslim men to hijack airplanes and fly them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania just to cover up chief executives and chief financial officers who were potentially dipping their hands into the cookie jar! What's next, a claim that we started the Iraq War to divert attention from the Martha Stewart case?

Enough is enough. The fact that millions of people watch her show and actually listen to her and possibly believe what she says is alarming to me. As an American, a patriot and someone who believes truth rather than lunacy should rule the day, I believe we have an obligation to stand against such influences on our society. This is not just a case of a person at whom we should laugh or ignore. Her attacks on America and decency itself have crossed a line no person on a major national television channel should cross. ABC and Barbara Walters need to fire Rosie O'Donnell.

—Michael Wilt is a senior in the College of Arts and Science.

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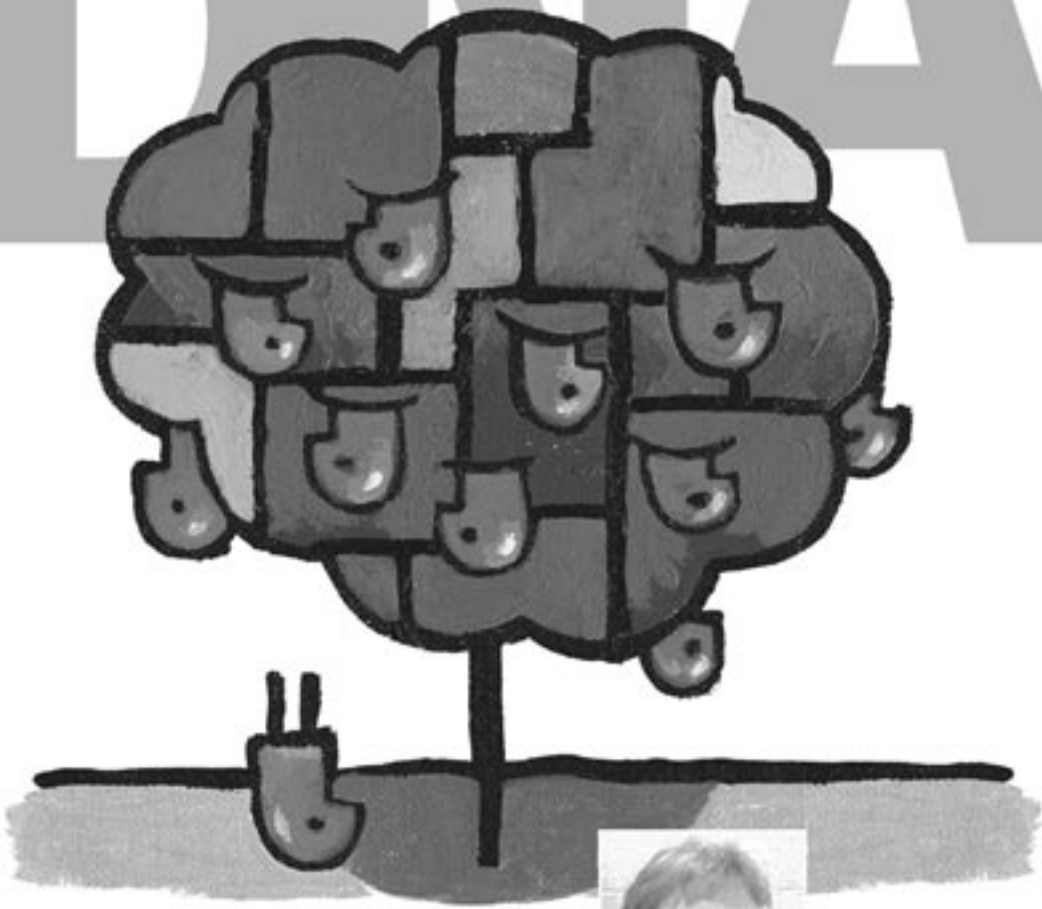


The Center for Latin American & Iberian Studies is looking for a student with experience in web design to assist in designing and maintaining its website.

For more information or to apply for this part-time position, contact Sarah Birdwell at 343-1837 or sarah.b.birdwell@vanderbilt.edu.

Have something to say?
E-mail opinion@vanderbilthustler.com to submit letters, columns and rants.

Spring 2007 Chancellor's Lecture Series



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The Making of the Fittest

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This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required, but seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-seated basis.

For more information, please visit www.vanderbilt.edu/lectureseries, email cl@vanderbilt.edu, or call 352-327576.



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SPORTS

FOUR OF A KIND

Who has what it takes to win the National Title?



JEFF ROBERSON / AP Photo
Corey Brewer and the rest of the Gators have the talent and experience needed to repeat as national champions.

Florida

by CHIP ROBIE
Sports Reporter

Most people expected Florida, who returned all five starters from its national championship squad a year ago, to be back in the Final Four, and despite facing impossible expectations, these Gators (33-5) have done just that.

After capturing both the Southeastern Conference regular season and tournament crowns, they have just more one goal left to accomplish.

Florida's edge over the opposition is two-fold — experience and talent. While UCLA made an impressive run to the Final Four last year, Florida remains the only other team to have advanced past the Sweet 16. Even when the game is close, no one doubts that Florida will win, given its ability to raise their game to a level no other team can match. When the Gators want to score, they score, and when they need to get a stop, they get it.

A major reason for that is the play of juniors Corey Brewer, Joakim Noah and Al Horford, who could all be making millions in the NBA right now. Instead, they're having the time of their lives in Gainesville while toying with the opposition. Noah and Horford complement each other well in the low post, and Brewer can break down defenses at will.

And we haven't discussed point guard Taurean Green or sharpshooter Lee Humphrey, who would be stars on most teams, or bench players Walter Hodge and Chris Richard.

The only ones who can stop the Gators are themselves, but considering how badly they all want to repeat, losing in Atlanta isn't likely. Be prepared to watch Noah celebrate once again. ■



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ / AP Photo
Aaron Afflalo and the Bruins are the best defensive team and very well could be cutting down the nets in Atlanta.

UCLA

by JAMBU PALANIAPPAN
Sports Reporter

UCLA will win the national championship because it has nothing to lose. No one even gave the Bruins a chance to get by Kansas in the Elite Eight, let alone win two more games. And besides, they already lost to Florida in last year's title game.

But the fact is that UCLA manhandled the Jayhawks, the most lauded team going into the tournament, because the Bruins can flat-out defend. Ben Howland, who has returned UCLA from a jumbled mess four years ago into a national power, has proven why he is one of the best coaches around.

Furthermore, Darren Collison is the best point guard left in the tournament. He's quicker than Florida's Taurean Green, more athletic than Ohio State's Mike Conley and more physical than Georgetown's Jesse Sapp. Collison runs the Bruins more efficiently than current Los Angeles Lakers' guard Jordan Farmar did a year ago.

Aaron Afflalo is the best player left in the tournament. Greg Oden is an unseasoned brute, Jeff Green is erratic, and Joakim Noah has dropped off in production since his epic season last year. If UCLA can utilize Afflalo's lethal combination of athleticism and size, they can trample Florida and whomever they face after that.

And I didn't even mention Luc Richard Mbah a Moute's ability to control the tempo of the game from the shooting guard position.

So, if a team has the best coach, best single player, most electric player and best point guard in the Final Four, combined with a great defense, tournament experience and a history of success, then the Bruins are sure to mess up a few brackets and cut down the nets in Atlanta on Monday night. ■



DAVID J. PHILLIP / AP Photo
Ron Lewis may not receive as much hype as Buckeye teammate Greg Oden, but he's as clutch as they come.

Ohio State

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

With the best defensive player, the most clutch shooter and a big-time point guard, Ohio State has all the ingredients to win its first national championship since 1960.

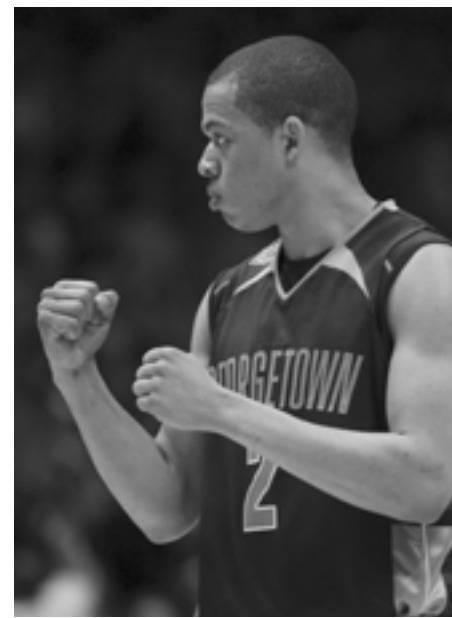
Let's start with first-team All-American center Greg Oden, who scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds in just 24 minutes in the Buckeyes' 92-76 victory over Memphis on Saturday.

The potential No. 1 pick in this year's draft is still raw on the offensive end, which is understandable since he spent much of this season playing with his non-dominant left hand. However, as his game-saving block against Tennessee proved, Oden is on a different level than most defensively.

Then you have Ron Lewis, the silent assassin who's leading all remaining NCAA Tournament players with 21.8 points per game. The senior calmly buried a 3-pointer in the waning seconds to help the Buckeyes come back to beat Xavier in the second round and scored 25 points against Bruce Pearl's Volunteers.

Finally, there's Mike Conley Jr., who has established himself as one of the top point guards in the nation, if not the best. The freshman has proven to be even more valuable than Oden, his high school teammate. He earned Regional MVP honors after averaging 18 points, 5.5 rebounds and four assists in victories over Memphis and Tennessee.

The Buckeyes, 34-3 and winners of 21 consecutive games, have developed the championship instinct, especially after surviving two close scares already. While Florida looks to defend its title, and UCLA and Georgetown seek to regain their past glory, expect Ohio State to be the team cutting down the nets on Monday night. ■



WINSLOW TOWNSON / AP Photo
After surviving two close calls, Jonathan Wallace and the Hoyas seem to be a team of destiny.

Georgetown

by ANDREW HARD
Sports Reporter

Even though I picked Florida to win my bracket, after watching the way Georgetown won its last two tournament games, I believe they are a team of destiny and will win it all in 2007.

First, let's talk about adversity. When you think back to the true champions in some of the great NCAA tournaments, inevitably there was a near-miss along the way, a miracle victory in a game they had no business winning.

While Jeff Green's controversial winner on Friday against our beloved Commodores wasn't quite as acrobatic and spectacular as shots from the likes of Christian Laettner or Tyus Edney, it gave the Hoyas the momentum they needed on Sunday to knock off a clearly deeper and more talented Tar Heels squad in the regional final.

For a well-coached, disciplined squad like Georgetown, winners in 19 of their last 20 games, that's the type of victory that propels a team to greatness.

However, this is arguably the deepest, most talented Final Four in history, and the Hoyas will need more than luck to win it all. Roy Hibbert may be foul prone, but at 7-foot-2, he is arguably the most difficult player Greg Oden has ever faced.

The offense will be focused around the versatile Jeff Green, who at 6-foot-8 can score from anywhere on the court. The supporting cast is solid too, with Jonathan Wallace, DaJuan Summers and Patrick Ewing Jr. On the sidelines, the Hoyas also have one of the best in John Thompson III.

Call them a team of destiny, perhaps even a Cinderella. Regardless, the Hoyas have both the talent and momentum to finish this great run. ■

—Listen to Vanderbilt Hustler sports reporters discuss this weekend's Final Four on:

InsideVandy.com

Spring practice underway for Dores

by ANDREW BARGE
Sports Reporter

While Commodore fans are still reeling over the basketball team's Sweet 16 loss, they should recover by Saturday when the Vanderbilt football team competes in the annual "Black & Gold" scrimmage, the highlight of spring practice.

"We get 15 practices so we're going to try to get something accomplished besides coming and waving at everybody and showing up," said coach Bobby Johnson.

The Commodores are looking to replace just five starters from last year's squad that finished 4-8.

Last weekend, Johnson held a private 65-play, 15-possession scrimmage at Vanderbilt Stadium to get a better look at his younger players. The results left him excited for spring football's featured event.

"We achieved our goal of getting good quality repetitions for our younger players, and I thought a lot of those guys stepped up and took advantage of the opportunity," he said.

Johnson also expects these inexperienced Dores to hold their own against the starters, who seemed rusty during the scrimmage.

"I thought our veterans were making some uncharacteristic mistakes, so that will also give us plenty to work on," Johnson said.

Several players have made strong cases to be on the field next fall. Johnson said he was impressed with cornerbacks Myron Lewis, who only played in 10 games last season, and D.J. Moore, who contributed significantly as a freshman.

Lewis, along with offensive tackle Chris Williams, received the team's first "Gold Jerseys."

"He's one of the very best," Johnson said of Williams, an All-Southeastern

Conference selection. "He's got the size, the mobility and the savvy."

With the departure of Kevin Joyce, the third linebacker appears to be Brandon Bryant, who Johnson said has had a great camp. Patrick Benoit should compete for the job as well.

The defensive line raises questions as well. With tackle Ray Brown gone, Theo Horrocks needs someone to play alongside him. Gabe Hall looks like a viable option, registering two sacks during last weekend's scrimmage, along with Greg Billinger. On the outside, Vanderbilt will most likely turn to Broderick Stewart and Steven Stone to line up opposite Curtis Gatewood.

While the offensive line should be a strength, the departure of starting tackle Elliott Hood and a recent injury to senior Brian Stamper allows the Commodores to get a look at some of the younger players.

After moving from tight end to tackle last season, Thomas Welch has put on weight in the off-season and will likely compete for more playing time. At tight end, look for Jake Bradford to compete with starter Brad Allen. Bradford made a strong case for himself this past Saturday, hauling in 53 receiving yards.

Starting quarterback Chris Nickson will be looked at to improve after his first season as the starter. Not only will Saturday be a good way to gauge Nickson's progress over the off-season, but it will give fans a better idea of his competition at the position, which includes Mackenzi Adams, Jared Funk and Richard Kovalcheck.

Finally, fans will have a chance to see tailback Jeff Jennings, who is fully recovered after suffering a devastating knee injury in 2005. Last year's starter Cassen Jackson-Garrison and back-ups Jared Hawkins, Gaston Miller and Kinnard Reeves should also receive reps.

Needless to say, plenty of questions surround the upcoming football season. At least some of the answers should be provided this Saturday at Vanderbilt Stadium at 10 a.m. ■

WHAT 2 WATCH 4

Upcoming Events

Baseball
No. 3 Vanderbilt vs. MTSU

Wednesday
Hawkins Field
6 p.m. CDT

The Commodores (23-3) lost their first series of the season, but don't panic. It was on the road against a top-10 Arkansas squad. Still, Vanderbilt looks to get things squared away tonight against MTSU as sophomore right-hander Brett Jacobson takes the mound. Coach Tim Corbin's team will need to gather some momentum as it prepares for another grueling road trip to South Carolina, who is No. 1 in some polls, this weekend. Jacobson's start tonight could mean the arrival of freshman southpaw Mike Minor into the weekend rotation.
Prediction: Vandy 9, MTSU 3

Women's Lacrosse
Vanderbilt vs. Cal
Wednesday
VU Lacrosse Complex
5 p.m. CDT

The Commodores seek to build off their dramatic 9-7 victory over No. 6 Penn State over the weekend. Senior Nicole Pugno recently earned ALC Player of the Week honors for her game-winning goal against the Nittany Lions.
Prediction: Vandy 11, Cal 6

Men's Hockey
Maine vs. Michigan State

Thursday
St. Louis, Mo.
3 p.m. CDT
ESPN2

Maine and Michigan State face off in the first of the Frozen Four contests. The Black Bears (23-14-2) defeated St. Cloud State and UMass to get here, while the Spartans (24-13-3) had to outlast Boston University and Notre Dame. This is Michigan State's first time in the Frozen Four since 2001.
Prediction: Maine 3, Michigan State 1

Men's Hockey
Boston College vs. North Dakota

Thursday
St. Louis, Mo.
7 p.m. CDT
ESPN2

This is a great matchup between two college hockey powerhouses as Boston College and North Dakota battle it out for the right to play in the National Championship. The Eagles (28-11-1) defeated St. Lawrence and Miami (Ohio) in the first two rounds, while the Fighting Sioux beat Michigan and the pesky Gophers from Minnesota to get here.
Prediction: Boston College 5, North Dakota 3

SEC NOTEBOOK

News and notes from the SEC and Vanderbilt sports

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Editor

• PUT IN PERSPECTIVE:

North Carolina student Jason Ray, who was the mascot for the Tar Heels basketball team, died Monday after being hit by a car hours before the NCAA Tournament game Friday in East Rutherford, N.J.

Ray was in critical condition since being hit from behind while walking on a highway shoulder near his Fort Lee hotel after going to a nearby convenience store. He was just 21 years old and set to graduate in May.

It's tragedies like this that remind us to put sports, and especially winning, in perspective.

• MICHIGAN OPENING:

After firing Tommy Amaker, Michigan is another team looking for a coach. One name that has surfaced on the rumor wire is Vanderbilt's Kevin Stallings, who's seen as a Big 10 guy after growing up in Illinois, playing basketball at Purdue and interviewing for the Ohio State job in 2004 (the job was ultimately given to Thad Matta).

Keep in mind this is currently all speculation.

• FAREWELL, TUBBY:

Tubby Smith recently left Kentucky, where he faced impossible expectations, for Minnesota, where he will have none.

The Gophers are thrilled to acquire such a high-caliber coach. As for the Wildcats, there are plenty of big-name replacements being tossed around, including Texas' Rick Barnes, Michigan State's Tom Izzo and even Florida's Billy Donovan, who played for former UK coach Rick Pitino at Providence and served as an assistant under Pitino in Lexington for several years.

• HEATH FIRED:

Arkansas also needs a new coach after they let go of Stan Heath after five seasons. The Razorbacks made a late run to advance to the NCAA Tourney, but it wasn't enough to save Heath's job.

• SCHEDULING NIGHTMARE:

The scheduling gods certainly didn't take it easy on the Vanderbilt baseball team, which travels to top-five opponent South Carolina (21-4) this weekend after playing No. 7 Arkansas and No. 21 Ole Miss to start Southeastern Conference play.

The Commodores (23-3, 3-3 SEC) lost their first one-run game of the season on Friday, 8-7 in 10 innings. They were 8-0 in one-run games prior. Vanderbilt has come from behind in 13 of its 23 victories this year.

Vanderbilt hosts MTSU today at 6 p.m. at Hawkins Field as Ryan Flaherty looks to extend his modest five-game hit streak.

• HIGH HONORS:

Vanderbilt senior Nicole Pugno was named Player of the Week in the American Lacrosse Conference, recording a hat trick, including the game-winner, in the Commodores' 9-7 victory over No. 6 Penn State.

"It is great to see Nicole recognized for her play this past week," said Vanderbilt coach Cathy Swezey. "To have one of our seniors come up so big in a key game like this really has to give Commodore fans yet another reason to be excited for our stretch run." ■

Vandy shines at Alabama Relays

by JARRED AMATO
Sports Reporter

The Vanderbilt women's 4 x 1,500-meter relay finished second over the weekend at the Alabama Relays.

The relay foursome of senior Erika Schneble, sophomore Carmen Mims, senior Ashleigh Wetzel and senior Brittany Sizer finished in 19:05.96, eight seconds behind a tandem from Mississippi State.

The second place finish was the top relay performance, as the distance medley relay finished third and the 1,600-meter sprint relay placed fifth.

Junior Val Kazmer sparked the third place finish in the distance medley relay by overtaking four competitors in the closing 1,500-meter leg.

She was joined on the relay by freshman Allie McMahon, junior Anjarae Washington and senior Stephanie Douglas.

In addition, Sizer topped her previous best in the 1,500-meter run, finishing

fourth overall, while sophomore Lauryn Smith notched three personal records.

Smith finished seventh in the long jump with the third longest effort in team history, then recorded all-time Commodore Top 10 marks in the 100 and 200-meter dashes.

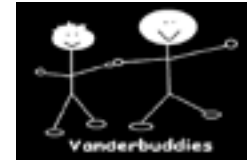
Smith showed excellent form in the first outdoor meet. Her long jump of 19'5.5" bettered her previous career best by two inches.

Only two Commodore athletes, Ryan Tolbert (19-10 1/4 in 1996) and Julie Walk (19-6 1/2 in 1999) have gone beyond Smith's performance Saturday.

The top individual finisher for the Commodores was Kazmer, who finished third in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Vanderbilt will be represented at two meets next weekend, with a small group of distance runners traveling to California for the Stanford Invitational and the rest of the squad competing in Atlanta at the Yellow Jacket Invitational. ■

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Where: Library Lawn

When: Friday, March 30th 4-6pm

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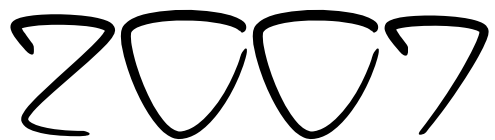
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FOCUS

THE SCOPE OF WAR

March 19, 2003, marked the anniversary of President George W. Bush's declaration of war on Iraq. As the war enters its fifth year, its effects on the lives of members of the Vanderbilt community continue to be seen. This Focus section takes a look at the state of the war today, as well as the perspectives of students, professors and alumni whose lives have been touched by it.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Do you feel connected to the events happening in Iraq right now? Why or why not?

"I know minimal amounts about the war primarily because I divert my attention from outside events."

—Bryan Edwards
Freshman

"I feel like college is a full-time job for me. I don't have enough time to sit and watch my favorite shows much less listen to the news."

—Chelsea Hulburd
Freshman

"I feel like if I actively paid more attention to what is going on right now, I would know more about the war. There is so much going on right now, unfortunately I don't have time to do that."

—Tarina Parpia
Freshman



photo provided by VANDERBILT ARMY ROTC
Vanderbilt ROTC cadets stand at attention on Peabody Lawn. Senior ROTC members will go on active duty upon graduation.

ROTC seniors prepare for four-year commitment

by ALLISON MALONE
Editor Emeritus

Vanderbilt diplomas will not fulfill the commitment made four years ago by the 30 senior members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). For them, graduation is only the beginning.

Senior Jeffrey Benedict said joining ROTC can be a difficult decision, as recipients of ROTC scholarships are expected to complete four years of military service.

Benedict, whose grandfather received a Purple Heart for his service in World War II, said he enlisted partly because of family history.

"ROTC is not like any other club where you join without any consequences," he said. "We came into the program knowing that we may commit ourselves to service in Iraq."

Lt. Col. Michael Slocum, director of Army officer education and professor of military science, said for many of the seniors, "Sept. 11 was a key factor in them coming out to join in the first place."

However, he also said most were drawn to military service before Sept. 11.

"From freshmen all the way to seniors, the overwhelming majority say they want a challenge to serve, to help others, and they have always had an interest in the military," he said.

Robert Baird, currently an infantry platoon leader in Fort Campbell, Ky., graduated from Vanderbilt just one year ago. His class was the first to decide to join the Army after Sept. 11.

"Most of us had decided to apply for the school before Sept. 11 but made the decision after it happened," Baird said.

"We all knew what we were getting into — we didn't choose to do it because of Sept. 11, but we didn't shy away."

Benedict agreed that every ROTC member makes an educated, voluntary decision to join the military.

"Every single person under me knows what they are in for when they come in so no one can say they were blindly convinced to join the military," he said. "You turn on the news and see what could very possibly be your future."

According to Slocum and Capt. Mark Laughton, commanding officer of Navy ROTC and professor of naval sciences, the war has not changed the ROTC training program.

"We have a tried-and-true curriculum where we take students and turn them into officers," Slocum said.

Slocum said all Army ROTC instructors have spent one to two years in Afghanistan or Iraq, which lends credibility to the instruction they give.

"What the war has done, really, is it has provided the cadre and instructors experience that they can lend to student cadets that will help them as they become commissioned officers," he said. "We can say, 'Here is what you hear on the news, and this is what reality is.'"

Laughton said he uses the examples his midshipmen see in the media to discuss important topics in the ethics class he teaches to seniors.

"The engagement in Iraq has allowed us to have a dialogue about the implications this may have on them and their future and on our future as a nation," Laughton said. "We talk about current sides taken in the Congress and the administration about issues that come out of Iraq."

While the conflict in Iraq has not changed the basic ROTC curriculum, some cadets and midshipmen said it has affected their attitudes toward training.

"We as cadets are more inclined to take it seriously, and our leaders took it as a personal charge to get us trained better," Baird said. "They knew that, after we left, in a year we could be leading 40 guys in combat, so I think they took their job very seriously."

"(The war is) something I have always had in the back of my mind, what are we training for, where will we be implementing the stuff we're learning," Benedict said. Benedict also said the current war has impacted ROTC members' feelings about each other.

"I think there is a strong sense of respect between individual cadets when you look at the people around you and know they're in it for the long haul," he said.



They know the person on their right and the person on their left will be there, and they are all in it together.

—Lt. Col. Michael Slocum,
director of army officer education
and professor of military science

Every member of the Army and Navy ROTC's graduating senior classes will go on active duty upon graduation, but Laughton said he has not seen "one bit of regret" among his midshipmen.

This does not mean these students do not experience reservations or nervousness when thinking about their impending commission.

"I think anyone who is in the military has a little bit of nerves when they are being commissioned or going to war, but that is what we are trained to do," said senior Cole Smith, a NROTC midshipman who will be a division officer on the U.S.S. Mitscher upon graduation.

Slocum said some new cadets are nervous about joining ROTC, but often their fear is relieved when they begin the program.

"They know the person on their right and the person on their left will be there, and they are all in it together," he said. "The bonding experience takes that fear of being deployed and possibly being in harm's way and replaces it with trust and confidence."

Smith said the Navy has given him a large but rewarding responsibility.

"It is scary to think we are going from Senior Pub Crawl one night to going on a ship having responsibilities over multi-million dollar equipment as well as men whose lives are in your hands if you mess up," he said.

Yet, these Vanderbilt students like Baird, who will be deployed to Iraq in September, are fearlessly taking on the responsibility because they believe it is their duty.

"I'm of the right age, I'm able-bodied, and I have the mindset that I need to step up and do my part," Baird said. "If not me, then who?"

"No one is excited to go to war, but I think that is the place I am supposed to be right now," he said. ■

Young veteran, Owen student reflects back on experience at war

by SYDNEY WILMER
Asst Focus Editor

When Capt. Chris Clark, a student in the Owen Graduate School of Management, flew over Iraq in March 2003 as a Marine aviator, the task was, as he put it, "straightforward."

Four years later, he explained, the initial bombs he and his fellow Marines dropped to clear the way for ground troops headed to Baghdad seem far away from the reality facing troops today.

Arriving in the Middle East in January 2003, Clark's mission was to bomb artillery pieces and other ground threats. Traveling from a base in Kuwait into Iraqi airspace, Clark said the mission seemed routine.

"Our primary communications were by radio with ground troops," Clark said. "The forces moved rapidly into Baghdad."

Well-trained in compartmentalization of fear and emotion, even the danger did not consciously register for Clark.

"I remember I flew at night, and in the area (my co-pilot and me) were going into, they had antiaircraft weapons," said Clark. "It looked like the Fourth of July on steroids."

As with most missions, "focus and calm" took over, he said. "I asked Rudy, my co-pilot, 'Do you see it?' All he said was, 'Yeah, I see it.'"

Though Clark no longer serves as a Marine aviator, he remains close to the situation in Iraq through friends currently stationed there.

The mission is now more than four years old, and in his eyes, it is more complex.

"I think it is impossible to foresee how long it will take to conduct missions," Clark said. "When we were flying into Iraq, the mission seemed clear."

According to Clark, ground troops presently have less defined goals, many of which revolve around socially and culturally penetrating Iraqi communities.

"We are developing relationships with Iraqis," he said. "It takes a long time to win the hearts and minds of a culture that is so different than ours, so true cultural understanding and these one-on-one relationships improve our chances for success."

The troops' need for cultural immersion has consequently influenced training, he said.

"There is a renewed focus on

cultural skills and the ability to fight on all fronts," as part of the battle becomes the formation of friendships, Clark said.

"I think people realize that our troops are tired, but they are more motivated than ever by the relationships they've developed," he said, adding that many return for second and even third tours. "If they spend months building schools or digging a well, they want to see how things are going. They want to go back to see their buddies."

Clark said he fears this aspect of the war is underreported.

"On the human level, the forces on the ground are winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi populace, something that is hard to publicize in today's media coverage. It doesn't sell," he said.

For Iraqi civilians the relationships developed with American troops provide huge motivation for them to fight against Iraqi troops, Clark said.

"The Iraqis, too, are taking a great risk by working with us," he said. "They are endangering their families. When insurgents see them working with U.S. forces they (become) the targets."

Nevertheless, Clark admitted that the war takes a very real emotional toll on the troops.

"Even though realistic training will enhance the skill set, the emotional aspect on the ground can never be completely removed," Clark said.

Though tasks are very methodical for an aviator, he explained, ground troops face more problems because situations are more confrontational.

"It is harder to contain emotions when the enemy is 50 feet away," he said.

Understanding the complexity of the situation can be difficult, Clark said. For him, however, a slogan popularized by Commanding Gen. of the United States Marine Corps James Mattis holds true in regards to American-Iraqi relations — America will be "no better friend, but no worse enemy" to the Iraqi people.

To Clark, this statement means relations depend entirely on how the Iraqi people choose to engage the American troops — by either embracing them or working against them. ■

— To view a slideshow of Capt. Chris Clark's experiences in Iraq, check out:

InsideVandy.com



photo provided by CAPT. CHRIS CLARK
F-18 Hornets fly over Baghdad. Capt. Chris Clark served as a marine aviator whose mission was to bomb Baghdad to clear the way for ground troops in March 2003.

Professor, alumnus contemplate comparisons between Iraq, Vietnam

by NICOLE FLOYD
Focus Editor

Speaking on the comparisons between the Iraq and Vietnam Wars, reminds Professor of History Thomas Schwartz of a Mark Twain quote: "History doesn't repeat itself, but it sure does rhyme a lot."

As the war in Iraq enters its fifth year, Schwartz said the "rhymes" between the United States' involvement in Vietnam and Iraq loom heavily on the minds of many American citizens.

"I think Americans are debating the wars in much the same way," Schwartz said. "They are debating them in terms of whether the work itself is worth it, whether the sacrifice in men and treasure is worth it, and they are also debating it in terms of how to end it."

Schwartz said he believes, however, that while there are similarities, the differences must not be forgotten.

"I think there are a lot of valid comparisons, but I think it is important always to remember how important the differences are in the context and situation as well," Schwartz said.

High on Schwartz's list of differences is the disparate level of anti-war activism displayed by college students during each war.

While demonstrations and protests have been held in opposition to the war in Iraq on Vanderbilt's campus, they have been few and far between.

"My own sense is that while anti-war movement activity exists, it is not a dominant issue for students, and here I would make the simple comparison that there is no selective service," Schwartz said. "There is no draft."

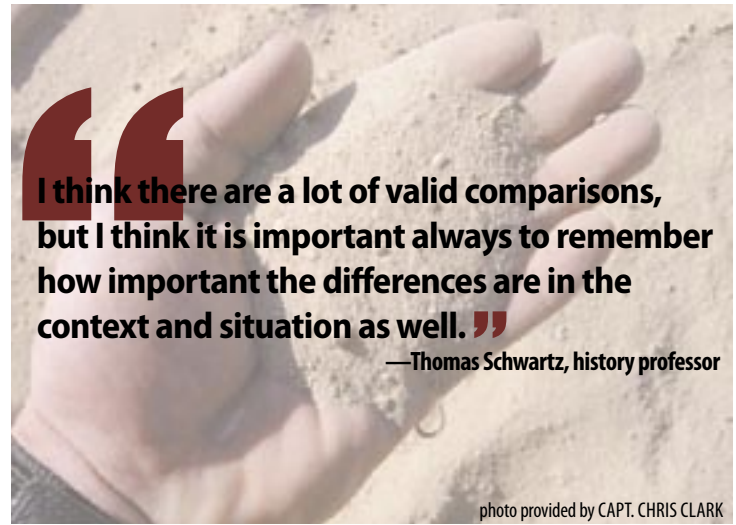
LOOKING BACK

The situation was quite different during the Vietnam era, when many college students were faced with the possibility of being drafted to serve in Vietnam.

Tom Hoy, who attended Vanderbilt from the fall of 1967 to the

spring of 1971, was one of those students, and, though he was never drafted, he found himself active in the anti-Vietnam War movement.

According to Hoy, Nashville and Vanderbilt were hardly on the cutting edge of the anti-war movement, but students were involved. He dubbed Vanderbilt "the primary sight for the anti-war movement in Nashville."



I think there are a lot of valid comparisons, but I think it is important always to remember how important the differences are in the context and situation as well."

—Thomas Schwartz, history professor

photo provided by CAPT. CHRIS CLARK

"There were a substantial number of students, including me, who thought the war was unjust, unlawful and not in anyone's best interest — Americans or Vietnamese," Hoy said.

Like Schwartz, Hoy has noticed a number of ways in which the war in Iraq compares to Vietnam.

"I think the war in Iraq has been misrepresented to the American people," he said. "I think the administration was incompetent or disingenuous in evaluating our prospects for success and defining success ... They never had a plan B and they still don't."

Hoy also agrees that the primary reason the current movement

has not had the traction movements had during the Vietnam War is because of the lack of a draft.

"It doesn't directly affect (students). That is the unpleasant reality," Hoy said. "Also the number of deaths and the time involved in Iraq were substantially different."

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Elias Feghali strives to combat what he refers to as an apathetic university culture by taking part in Vanderbilt Students for Nonviolence, an organization he founded.

"I will do everything in my abilities in the struggle for truth and justice, and at this point this means participating in an organization I founded: Vanderbilt Students for Nonviolence ... and also helping other organizations and movements that need it," Feghali said.

He attributes much of the apathy to the fact that "many students are more concerned with partying than global issues."

"I don't blame them, although I see a major flaw in separating political involvement from social life," Feghali said. "Getting involved in issues you believe in is invigorating, and frankly a lot of students are missing out on a great opportunity."

He, too, sees the absence of a draft as a determining factor.

"I bet you if we were to have a draft you would see a lot more kids standing up in protest, mostly because a draft would affect people's lives directly," he said.

Despite the hesitancy of many Vanderbilt students to speak out against the war, Feghali said he believes there is a fair amount of people actively involved in the movement, evidenced by an anti-war protest held last month that involved more than 60 Vanderbilt students.

"There is a core group of activists on campus prepared to educate and agitate and provoke more people to join the movement for peace, truth, justice and equality," Feghali said. ■

ON THE WAR PATH

A look at the five events and trends most responsible for the current situation in Iraq, in the eyes of political science professor James Ray.

The first war against Iraq — August 1990

"I think there were a lot of neoconservatives that pushed the war. They thought taking out Saddam Hussein's regime should have moved to the top of the agenda. This started 10 years before this war even began."

The terrorists attacks on the World Trade Center — Sept. 11, 2001

"This may be an obvious one, but the terrorist attacks were the next step in the process."

The decision to expand the war on terror to include Iraq — March 2003

"I think that the decision to move to Iraq is a function of two things. I think that, of course, it is due to the fact that Hussein wasn't taken out in the Gulf War. I also think that the administration was afraid that it wouldn't seem very competent if it only stayed in Afghanistan running around in caves chasing Osama Bin-Laden."

The decision to deal with Iraq with a "quick, quite small and efficient force rather than a shock and awe force" — March 2003

"Donald Rumsfeld wouldn't even allow postwar planning for fear if they did, they wouldn't get support. They also made a huge mistake when they disbanded the Iraqi army."

2008 election pressure — present

"Republicans really want to get to the 2008 elections. They want to make sure nothing goes horribly wrong before the elections. They want to continue on the same path with more success. Democrats don't want to be blamed for the debacle that might follow if they pull out too soon. If they pull out and things turn out badly, whatever horrible things come to pass, they want to make sure it could not be pinned on them."

Republicans, Democrats await results of troop increase



Vanderbilt ROTC cadets complete an obstacle course during the Ranger Challenge. The proposed troop surge may affect senior ROTC members.

by GARRETT FAULKNER
Contributing Reporter

Political science professor James Ray still wonders whether the deployment of additional troops to Iraq will prove effective although two months have elapsed since the Bush administration announced the plan.

Whether or not the policy initially stabilizes the country, Ray said he questions the permanence of any change.

"The crucial question is not 'Will there be less violence?' but 'What happens when at long last the United States substantially reduces its military commitment to Iraq?'" Ray said.

The plan, termed "The New Way Forward" by President George W. Bush, calls for a 20,000-soldier expansion of stationed forces in Iraq, centered primarily in Baghdad.

The additional troops would work in close conjunction with the Iraqi government and police in an effort to minimize factional violence between Sunni and Shiite sects, as well as strengthen general United States peacekeeping endeavors in the war-torn country.

Ray said the U.S. does not want to leave a hostile regime in power after our troops depart Iraq and hopes to prevent such resentment with the formation of a coalition government.

"(The United States) is committed — with lots of conditions — to the development of an Iraqi state," Ray said. "It doesn't want an autonomous Iraq if it is a passionately anti-American state

dedicated to expelling all American influence from itself and the Middle Eastern region."

According to law professor Michael Newton, the short-term influx of U.S. troops makes this objective easier but will eventually require effort from Iraqis themselves.

"As (T.E. Lawrence) would say, the only lasting victory in Iraq will be won by Iraqis on behalf of Iraqis," Newton said.

The latest proposed resolution calls for a total withdrawal of U.S. forces by July 2008, just months before the presidential election.

"Will they vote to set (withdrawal) deadlines, and/or cut off funds, if they believe that such measures will pass in both the Senate and the House, and survive a president's veto?" Ray said. "I would bet that most of them won't."

Ray added that many Democratic legislators are currently reluctant to cut off funds to Iraq.

"After Congress cut off funds from South Vietnam in the 1970s ... the Democratic Party has been, in the eyes of many Americans, suspect on national security issues," Ray said.

The troop surge has received a mixed reception among some Vanderbilt students.

"I think it's too little, too late," said sophomore Sean Tierney. "It's a problem when we're still sending troops in an attempt to stabilize Iraq four years after the war."

Freshman Amanda Heinbockel said she supports the troop surge, provided it "helps us to withdraw our troops more quickly." ■

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AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS

Writers' Night

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ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND
AUTHOR OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED
POETRY COLLECTION, *Brother Salvage*

ANDREA HEWITT GIBSON
POET AND COORDINATOR OF THE VANDERBILT FACULTY SENATE

AND VANDERBILT STUDENTS
BEN CAMERON
STEPHANIE MARIENAU

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7:30 P.M. — 9:00 P.M.
117 ALUMNI HALL

FUN & GAMES

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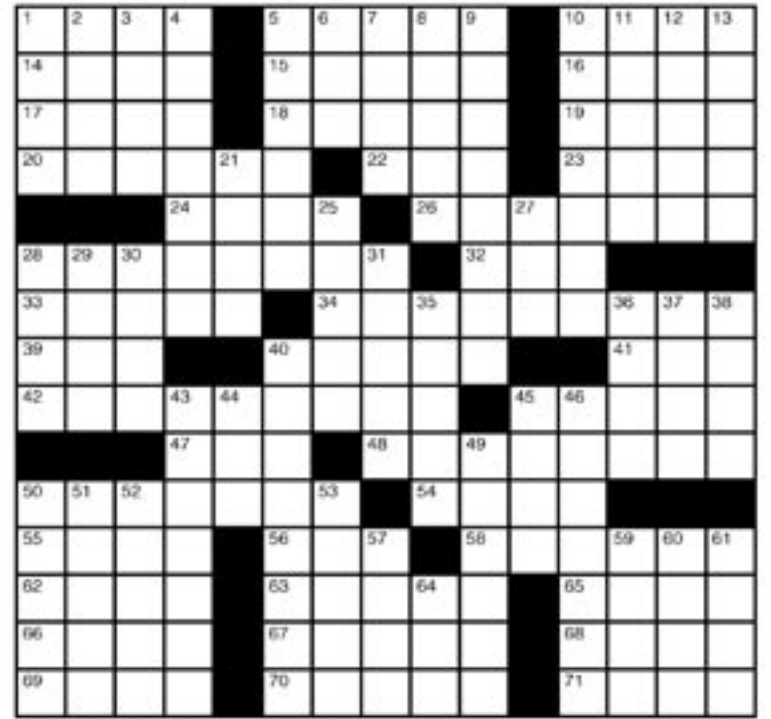
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- ACROSS**
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 - Revue part
 - Pond scum
 - Porcelain plates
 - Johnny cake
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 - Places of refuge
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 - Compass dir.
 - Stagger
 - Charged particles
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 - Financial aid recipients
 - Zedong
 - Rustic inn
 - Rivers and such
 - Pub drink
 - Hall University
 - Singer Reed
 - Climbed down
 - Bunch of bees on the go
 - Artie's Gardner
 - Some crackers
 - Croquet needs
 - Twelve months
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 - Ernesto Guevara
 - Memo takers
 - Scholarly volume
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 - Mimicked
 - Remainder
 - Family car
 - Foots the bill

- DOWN**
- Phony
 - Lena or Ken
 - Wrinkled citrus fruit
 - Varying within specified limits
 - Gas pump figure
 - Type of tuna
 - Lateral part
 - Silly
 - Peddlers
 - Small songbird
 - Chosen, now
 - Signed, as a contract
 - Inventor Nikola
 - Minute spot
 - Used a needle
 - La Brea pit fill
 - Elated
 - Part to play
 - Summer coolers
 - Fills to excess
 - The present
 - Alda of "M*A*S*H"
 - Yesteryear
 - Bottom-line numbers
 - Seizes illicitly
 - Most tranquil
 - Ms. Arden
 - RBI, e.g.
 - Bug



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3/28/07

3/26/07 SOLUTIONS

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- "A" from Aloes
- Alma
- Baked brick
- Gentle ones
- Geoffrey Rush movie
- out a living (scrapped by)
- California valley
- Comply
- Lather
- Period

YOU IN THE YEARBOOK

One of the many photos submitted for possible inclusion in the 2007 Commodore yearbook...



Submitted by Eric Einstein
Eric Einstein and Tom Soike at an ATO Disco Party at the ATO house.

It's easy to submit your favorite photos from this year at Vandy: Just visit InsideVandy.com and scroll down to the big red Commodore yearbook button that says "click here to submit your pics." Your photos will help the yearbook staff commemorate 2006-07 at Vanderbilt!

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