

# THE HUSTLER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 ★ 124<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 5 ★ THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1898

## VSG platform progress report: Dining, health and wellness

KATIE KROG  
STAFF REPORTER

Student Body President Adam Meyer and Vice President Maryclaire Manard ran for office with an extensive platform, as do most VSG presidential candidates. With the

second semester now underway, The Hustler sat down with Adam Meyer to talk about his administration's accomplishments thus far. In this series of "VSG Platform Progress Reports," The Hustler examines how well the current VSG administration has accomplished

the goals stated in their platforms.

**PLATFORM GOALS:**  
• "Mobile Munchies" Food Truck on Weekends and Lunch Hour

*Not expected to happen this academic year*

Both Adam Meyer and Zye Hooks included a food truck in their presidential platforms last year, the idea being that VSG would buy a food truck for use during lunch and weekend events.

see VSG page 2

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## ZTA: Pretty in pink



Zeta Tau Alpha, founded in 1898, will colonize a chapter at Vanderbilt this semester. They will have an open house Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Center, Ballroom A. Zeta Tau Alpha will hold recruitment events until Bid Day on Thursday, Feb. 2.

KEVIN BARNETT / THE HUSTLER

## Academic blogging on the rise

LAUREN KOENIG  
STAFF REPORTER

Term papers and response essays may soon be replaced by syllabi-mandated blog posts and comments, according to a recent article in The New York Times.

Professors in universities across the country have been calling for a radical reworking of the traditional term paper and formal essay structure. In the past few years, blog writing has become a requirement in some literature, business and even engineering courses.

Vanderbilt students may also be aware of the rising trend in blogging as more and more faculty over the years have incorporated blogs or discussion boards for the purpose of posting student responses to reading assignments.

see BLOGS page 2

## 'Black Monday' raises concern over drinking, partying

EMILY TORRES  
STAFF REPORTER

A number of sorority-affiliated women — both new and active members — were hospitalized Monday, Jan. 16 due to alcohol poisoning. Various arrests, on charges of underage drinking and public intoxication, also took place both on- and off-campus. Crime logs confirm these reports.

"One of the biggest challenges was related to a party promoted on Demonbreun. We had a number of issues stemming from that event," said Kristin Shorter, director of Greek Life. On Jan. 16, at 8 p.m., Bid Day restrictions related to the consumption of alcohol officially ended for sororities. The National Panhellenic Conference standard restricts the use of alcohol in recruitment and Bid Day activities until 24 hours after Bid Day. Despite the standard, girls are strongly discouraged from celebrating new members with alcohol on what

is often dubbed "Black Monday," the day following the 24-hour non-drinking policy.

The night after the events, Vanderbilt Panhellenic held a meeting with chapter presidents and new member educators to discuss consequences, safety concerns and follow-up action. Internally, chapters are responsible for taking their own measures to deal with the issue.

"There have not been any outcomes delivered on the events of Monday because we are still in the investigative stage. Chapters have been working on internal investigations and accountability measures. The university will meet individually with any woman involved per the standard student conduct process," Shorter said.

"The university is investigating the events that occurred this past Monday night. Vanderbilt Panhellenic is working with the university and will be addressing the issues on a community wide basis," said Allie Trant,

president of Panhellenic Council.

The following Wednesday, all new Greek community members went through a "Making Greek Great" presentation given by Dr. Lori Hart, which discussed ways to make Greek experiences safe, educational and fun. Follow-up discussions to the presentation began last week and continued into this week.

"The Panhellenic presidents did speak to the new members after the meeting to present a unified front on the expectations of new members, how their individual decisions affect their organizations and our community as a whole, and how we can best move forward," Shorter said.

New Greek community members are also undergoing annual alcohol and social responsibility training. This program began this week and will continue into February. The program educates sorority women and fraternity men about alco-

hol use and abuse. A program revamp from previous years makes the event more interactive for participants.

"The behavior was not representative of our entire community, the expectations that we place on ourselves, and all of the chapters. I'm disappointed it occurred, but we are going to learn from this experience and consider what changes we make in the future," Shorter said.

"In the future, we are looking to further educate our community on alcohol awareness and encourage members of Vanderbilt Panhellenic, as well as the Vanderbilt community at large, to be accountable for one another and engage in responsible celebration," Trant said.

No sororities are currently on probation, but individual chapters have been held responsible to internally address the incidents. Panhellenic is striving to pursue measures to uphold the safety, standards and values of Greek organizations on campus. ★



JONI MUNOZ / THE HUSTLER

Women await their bids in the recreation center Sunday, Jan. 15. Several students were hospitalized for alcohol poisoning the next night.

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**CORRECTION**

Correction: In the article titled "Safety on campus," published Monday, the first sentence should have read, "After the alleged aggravated robbery and burglary..."

## BLOGS: Public feedback encourages discourse, higher quality among students

from **BLOGS** page 1  
 "Students tend to write better when they know someone might actually read what they're doing, other than their professor who has to read it," said Derek Bruff, a senior lecturer in mathematics and director of the Vanderbilt Center for Teaching. Bruff currently teaches a statistics course and uses a course blog as a medium for posting assignments, quizzes and questions to help guide students through the textbook reading. Students are able to post questions of their own.

"It gives students the opportunity to write and think about the course topics on a more regular basis in something that's not a high stakes graded essay," Bruff said. "It's more about participation and less about valuation. You also sometimes see a bit more creativity with multimedia than you normally would in a more formal medium and I think that's valuable too."

Depending on the course, professors make the blogs private (so that only the professor can view them) or visible to the other students or the entire web.

English professor Humberto Garcia also uses blogging in his courses and he is very much aware of the issue of privacy. While his first-year seminar blog on the study of Islam was available only to the other members of the class, another blog for a course that catered to older students was made visible to the public.

"I want students thinking about how they represent themselves online," Bruff said. "It's a way to help them have a positive and academic digital footprint

online. When employers Google them, they won't just find their Facebook profile, they might find something that will even help them get hired."

Bruff cited an instance in which one student was contacted by a researcher he had cited in his footnotes and offered some insightful comments. Another student was excited to find that his paper was the third hit on the Google search engine page for his topic.

"I knew that kind of thing could happen when students make their work public," Bruff said.

According to The New York Times article, while many professors cite that blog writing provides students with a sense of relevancy and instant feedback, others believe that formal papers are necessary to develop students' critical thinking and argumentation.

Nevertheless, formal papers are on the decline. The National Survey of Student Engagement found that in 2011, 82 percent of first-year college students and more than half of seniors weren't asked to do a single paper of 20 pages or more.

Blogging and social media may turn out to be the more successful alternative in the age of social media.

"Academia has always benefited from informal conversations between interested parties," wrote Sarah Russell, a staff writer for the Daily Beacon and history major at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. "It seems only fitting that it should embrace the vehicle of technology to further these conversations." ★

# VSG: Farmer's markets more accessible in March

from **VSG** page 1

Despite the popularity of the idea, Meyer said that buying a food truck is not a possibility for VSG because they cost about \$150,000 to buy.

"There's a lot of dining money going into investing right now," Meyer said.

Although VSG has not been able to purchase a food truck, Meyer said that VSG has worked with dining this year to bring the first food trucks to campus for student events.

• **Expansion of Hours in Rand/Sarratt Dining Munchie Mart Complete**

According to Meyer, the expansion of dining hours has been a huge success.

The Pub is now open on Sundays, and the Varsity Market in Sarratt has extended its hours this year.

According to Camp Howard, director of Vanderbilt Dining, the extended hours at Last Drop Coffee Shop last semester were not successful.

"We experimented with extending Last Drop hours for the fall semester as we had several students request longer hours," Howard wrote in an email. "However, customer counts at Last Drop from 9-11 p.m. were minimal so we reverted back to the original hours."

Howard also said that students are enjoying the Pub being open on Sundays, "especially during football season."

• **Bring Farmers' Markets to Vanderbilt**

In progress (Expected by Meyer to be fulfilled this academic year)

According to Meyer, the Vanderbilt Medical Center currently operates a farmers' market, and

VSG is planning to begin partnering with this program in March in order to make the program more accessible to students.

• **Expansion of Merchant Link Online Ordering Complete**

Students can now use meal money to order food online from seven Taste of Nashville restaurants through Merchant Link.

To read the entire report, visit [www.insidevandy.com](http://www.insidevandy.com).

**KEY**

**Green** = Complete  
**Yellow** = In progress (Expected by Meyer to be fulfilled this academic year)  
**Red** = Not expected to happen this academic year

## VSG revisits candidate requirements

KION SAWNEY  
 STAFF REPORTER

On the heels of last week's overhaul of the election process, the strategic planning committee re-submitted their proposal to alter the signature requirement needed to become a candidate for the office of president. As characterized by Highland Quad Area Representative Keith Neely, a member of the SPC, the goal was to "open the gates (to more students) but provide a speed bump."

After a debate over the merits and intentions of the resolution, it ultimately passed, adjusting the signatures needed to become a candidate for president from the 700 originally proposed to 500 signatures.

The SPC stated that the intent of revisiting the resolution was to bring the required number of signatures to become more in line with other comparable institutions and more representative of the student

body. Prior to the resolution's approval the required number of 200 signatures was 3 percent of the student population.

Attorney General Lucas Scholl argued that raising the number of signatures would better reflect the student body and bring it closer to the requirements of other VSG elected positions. The required number of signatures for the Blair senator position is 50 signatures from a school of 200 students.

Objections to the resolution were raised by Alumni Area Representative Kenny Tan. Rep. Tan argued that the intentions of the resolution were self-serving and politically motivated. In his prepared speech to address the joint session, he requested to know "who is pushing this and who the hell do you think you are."

After the resolution failing last week and being resubmitted with no change in his view, he saw its introduction as an action to restrict

the abilities of the student population in selecting its leader. Following the resolutions passage, Rep. Tan stated his displeasure with his fellow VSG officers in rushing the debate over the resolution.

Tan stated that he would have preferred that the required number of signatures be lowered to allow for more participation of students in the primary process and let the electorate decide who they believed was a qualified candidate.

The meeting also featured presentations by the Associate Vice Chancellor of Alumni Relations James Stofan and Zeta Tau Alpha, the newly chartered sorority on campus. The chancellor spoke about alumni relations and how a strong alumni community can build a greater school and eventually improve our ranking as an institution. Representatives of Zetas outlined the selection timeline and requested the help of VSG in forming the chapter. ★



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