



OPINION: Poythress acts as decorator and offers tips on how to liven up dorm rooms. [SEE PAGE 4](#)

SPORTS: Vanderbilt women's basketball beats Arkansas in overtime, tied for first in SEC. [SEE PAGE 7](#)

Record turnout for Smith VSG victory



ZAC HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Wyatt Smith is congratulated by the large crowd that filled the promenade in Sarratt Student Center Thursday afternoon to hear the announcement of the winner of the "historic" election.

by LILLY CHEN
Senior Reporter

by SAMANTHA SMITH
Senior Reporter

Wyatt Smith and running mate Lori Murphy were announced the winners of the Vanderbilt Student Government presidential election Thursday afternoon.

Roars of handclaps and cheering filled the packed Sarratt Promenade following Attorney General Jared Anderson's announcement of the results of what current VSG president Joseph Williams called a "historic election" in an e-mail to the student body earlier that day.

The voter turnout for the election certainly made it historic — 70 percent of the student body voted in the third VSG presidential election, compared to only 36 percent last year. A majority of each class voted, most

VSG ELECTION TURNOUT BY THE NUMBERS

4,496

Total number of votes

70%

Percentage of student body

86%

Percentage of seniors

71%

Percentage of juniors

58%

Percentage of sophomores

66%

Percentage of first-year students

notably the 86 percent of seniors who participated in the election.

Please see [VSG ELECTION](#), page 3

Peanut recall pulls jars out of markets

by ALLIE MORRIS
Senior Reporter

The nationwide peanut recall has caused all peanut products to be removed from dining facilities and Varsity Markets.

The Food and Drug Administration announced the peanut recall Jan. 23 after confirmation that a number of peanut products produced from a plant in Georgia, run by the Peanut Corporation of America, had been contaminated with salmonella. Quickly after the recall, Dining Services began to remove recalled peanut items from Varsity Market shelves and peanut ingredients from dining recipes.

"What we do is we buy a majority of our food from three or four vendors," said

Camp Howard, director of Dining Services. "Initially, all vendors sent a list of items they were recalling, and we were able to rapidly pull the same items from our shelves."

Some of the contaminated products removed from Vanderbilt shelves include peanut butter crackers, peanut butter cookies and a few

Please see [PEANUT BUTTER](#), page 3



NICKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

McCarty clarifies 'endowment' situation

Provost says 'nightmare' overstated

by NORAH SCANLAN
News Editor

SYDNEY WILMER
Editor-in-Chief



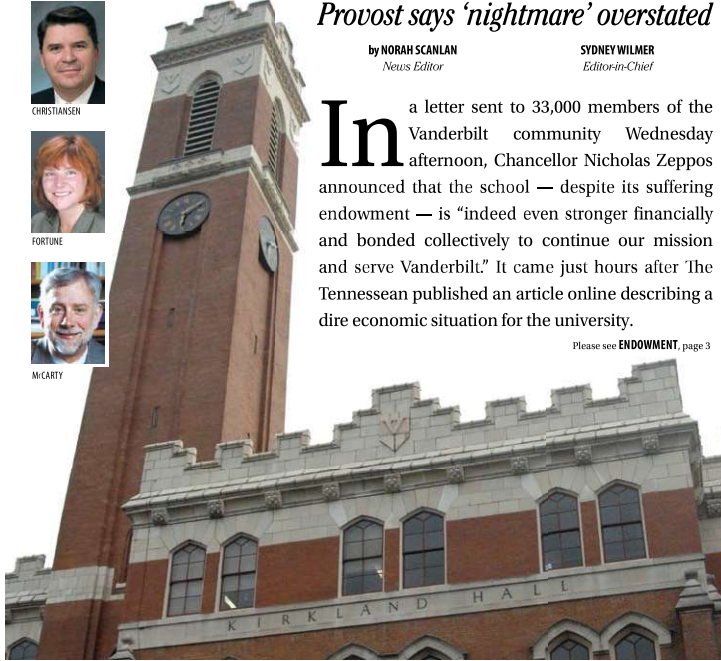
CHRISTIANSEN



FORTUNE



MCCARTY



In a letter sent to 33,000 members of the Vanderbilt community Wednesday afternoon, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos announced that the school — despite its suffering endowment — is "indeed even stronger financially and bonded collectively to continue our mission and serve Vanderbilt." It came just hours after The Tennessean published an article online describing a dire economic situation for the university.

Please see [ENDOWMENT](#), page 3

Barrett trial update

by LAUREN KOENIG
Senior Reporter

Testimony concluded on Thursday in the trial of Jerome Barrett, 61, for the alleged murder of 19-year-old Vanderbilt student Sarah Des Prez almost 34 years ago. Closing arguments are scheduled to begin today, according to WKRN.

Des Prez was found dead in her off-campus apartment in February 1975. The trial is scheduled to last through Saturday at Davidson County Criminal Court.

On Thursday morning, a DNA expert with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Chad Johnson testified that several items on Des Prez's bed, including Des Prez's blouse, matched Barrett's DNA, according to WKRN Nashville.

"I came up with a complete profile matching Jerome Barrett. What's the chance someone else on the planet has the same DNA? It exceeds the world population. I would not expect anyone else to have that same profile," said Johnson.

The TV station also reported that jurors heard a phone call Barrett had made from jail in November 2007, shortly after

he was charged with Des Prez's death, in which he claims he did not know Des Prez and he had been charged with the murder by mistake.

Barrett is charged separately with the murder of 9-year-old Girl Scout Marcia Trimble, who went missing from her Green Hills home the same month Des Prez was killed. He will face trial in July for this charge.

Barrett was indicted on charges of premeditated murder and felony murder in the Des Prez case. The felony murder charge was dropped during a pretrial hearing on Friday because the prosecutors said they didn't have enough evidence to prove Des Prez was raped at the time of her murder.

Barrett went to prison in 1976 after being convicted for rape in 1975. He was also convicted on sexual assault in 1974. After serving a little over 25 years, Barrett was released in 2002.

Police arrested Barrett last year after they said his DNA matched evidence from the Des Prez and Trimble cases.

The DNA evidence is the oldest Nashville prosecutors have ever attempted to use, according to The Tennessean.



SANFORD MYERS / AP Photo

Jerome Barrett listens to testimony during his trial in the courtroom of Judge Steve Dooler at the A.A. Birch Building on Wednesday in Nashville, Tenn. Barrett is on trial for charges of premeditated murder for the death of 19-year-old Vanderbilt student Sarah Des Prez, who was found suffocated in her Nashville apartment in February 1975.

Barrett will be tried under 1975 statutes, the year in which the crimes were committed. According to these guidelines, Barrett is ineligible for the death penalty.

Unlike modern trials in which a jury reaches a verdict and the judge decides the sentence

(except in capital cases), the jury will decide innocence or guilt, as well as how much time Barrett should serve in prison if convicted. ■

The Tennessean, WKRN and WSMV Nashville contributed reporting to this article.

INSIDEVANDY: Listen to a podcast of the full exclusive interview with Provost Richard McCarty. [GO TO INSIDEVANDY.COM](#)

Over 35,000 unique visitors and hundreds of thousands of ad impressions each month.