

# THE WANDERER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011 ★ 123<sup>RD</sup> YEAR, NO. 56 ★ THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

## Late comeback bid falls short against Georgia

★ VANDERBILT 28 G GEORGIA 33



Junior quarterback Jordan Rodgers (11) and Vanderbilt nearly erased a 23-7 second-half deficit Saturday. But after a blocked punt gave the Commodores two final shots at the end zone, Georgia's defense shut the door. Story on Page 9.

## China learns from Vandy

Chinese and American educators share educational methods to improve schools

CAMILLE PARKER  
STAFF REPORTER

A delegation of Chinese educators will be visiting Vanderbilt University from Oct. 24 until Nov. 4 as part of the Education Leadership Learning Exchange program to learn about American education systems and techniques firsthand.

The program, which is in its seventh year, brings together educational leaders from Nashville schools, Peabody College, South China Normal University in Guangzhou, China and Guangzhou metro area schools to discuss education policy and techniques, as well as foster intercultural dialogue.

"The overall goal of the program is to create a rich context for people from different cultures to talk about the same goal: the education of children," said Tom Ward, ELLE director.

Visiting educators will attend seminars, shadow teachers at local schools and participate in a leadership symposium with Nashville Public School's Teacher Leadership Institute. Additionally, several visiting educators will be hosted by local educators in Nashville, allowing for a far deeper level of cultural exchange.

"(Through the ELLE program), we've developed some very rich and deep friendships, and we've learned a

lot about ourselves as human beings," Ward said. "By doing that, you take it to a level that goes beyond planned packaged educational tourism. You create a level of understanding between people of different cultures."

Several Vanderbilt educators have participated in the program, traveling to China to observe universities and schools there.

"It was really terrific to meet educators from the other side of the planet because we really shared a number of concerns, and we really shared a lot of values as educators," said Dr. Steven Baum, a professor at Peabody College who has traveled to China through ELLE twice in 2007 and 2008.

"What we've learned is that the goals of educating children are pretty similar," Ward said. "If that's the goal, and we all agree upon the goal, what are the things we need to do to achieve that goal?"

Indeed, while ELLE does highlight the similarities between American and Chinese education systems, educators in the program emphasize the lessons that can be learned from the differences on both sides.

"For me, the biggest insight was I believe they've nailed rote learning," Baum said. "I think one of the reasons they're coming to the US is they want to see how schools promote creativity."

So, while there are clear differences in Chinese and American approaches to education, most agree that the dialogue fostered through ELLE allows for improvements to both.★

## College students localize 'Occupy Wall Street'

LAUREN KOENIG  
STAFF REPORTER

Students from almost 150 college campuses across the nation protested in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street last Thursday afternoon. The protest was facilitated by Occupy Colleges, a Los Angeles-based, student-led grassroots group that also staged a walkout from classes the previous week.

While Occupy Colleges' ideals stem from the grievances voiced by Occupy Wall Street protesters, the organization specifically focuses on problems affecting students: increasing student loan debt, the rising cost of tuition and a lack of jobs and social mobility for recent graduates.

"Around the country, more and more high school students are foregoing a college education because their families can no longer afford it. So many more are graduating with inconceivable amounts of debt and stepping into the worse job market in decades," a statement on Occupy Colleges' website reads. "They take unpaid internships that go nowhere and soon can't pay college loans. We represent students who share these fears and support Occupy Wall Street."

The student protests were organized on short notice, mainly through Facebook and Twitter. Students then registered their schools on the Occupy Colleges website. The website itself was only formed two weeks ago.



DAVID KARP / AP PHOTOS

Occupy Wall Street protester Ashlie-Lauren Smith, a music student from Cincinnati, Ohio screams about the \$90,000 she owes in student loans as she arrives at Times Square for a rally Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011.

"We're planning to do these walkouts and shows of solidarity every two weeks until these issues are resolved," said Natalia Abrams, a coordinator representing Occupy Colleges, in a public statement. "If Occupy Wall Street is indefinite,

we're indefinite as well. We plan to keep the solidarity protest going for as long as it takes."

Vanderbilt University was not one of the participating schools in last week's protest.

"I'm not sure why see WALL STREET page 2

## BlackBoard Learn's security breach resolved

EMILY TORRES  
STAFF REPORTER

BlackBoard Learn, the course management system used at Vanderbilt and many other universities, has been found to have security flaws and vulnerabilities that could give hackers access to grades, exams and faculty and student information.

The report, published by the Australian computer security publication SC Magazine, claimed

the holes may allow students to change grades and download unpublished exams. The glitches would also give criminals access to personal information.

The holes were discovered when an anonymous Australian university recruited the penetration testing company, Securus Global, to ethically hack the software to test for vulnerabilities.

BlackBoard customers were notified of the flaws, and the company immediately began to resolve the

security gaps.

"BlackBoard is committed to resolving security vulnerabilities quickly and carefully," the company said in a statement.

Students and faculty at Vanderbilt will not be affected by any of the security vulnerabilities. Student passwords are not stored on the system, and the university employs industry-standard security procedures.

"Vanderbilt takes all security vulnerabilities seriously. When the referenced article was pub-

lished, BlackBoard had already contacted its clients and provided safety measures "self-hosted" clients were to deploy. We immediately reviewed the list, as well as our system settings, and we determined that Vanderbilt was not affected," said Cindy Franco, OAK manager. "We understand that our faculty and students depend on a safe and secure environment to support their classes."

October is National Computer Security Month.★

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**GOTTA GO** VU NEWS SERVICE

**HELP PLANT 5,000 HYACINTHS**

Artist Maria Magdalena Compositions, in collaboration with the Vanderbilt senior art majors, will participate in a campus art project Monday Oct. 17 in which 5,000 blue hyacinths will be planted in a shape mapping out the Cuban hometown of the artist.

All are welcome to help. Interested volunteers should meet at 4:30 p.m. at the northeast corner of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (near University School).

**GREEN COLLAR ECONOMY SPEAKER**

Van Jones, a pioneering leader in the clean-energy movement and author of "The Green Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems," will speak at Vanderbilt University's Sarrett Cinema on Oct. 19 at 4:10 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Jones' talk, "Rebuild the American Dream: Green Jobs and Beyond," is the 2011 Harry C. Howard Jr. Lecture presented by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities at Vanderbilt.

Jones is a longtime advocate for hu-

man rights and the environment. More recently, he started Green for All, a national initiative committed to turning around the economy through the creation of more "green-collar" jobs.

He was named one of the "Heroes of the Environment" by Time Magazine in 2008. The next year, he served as an environmental adviser to the Obama administration.

The lecture will be videostreamed live at [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw\\_center/live-video.php](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw_center/live-video.php).

**IN GOOD HEALTH** BY STACEY OSWALD

**COFFEE PROVIDES BENEFITS, DESPITE CRITICISM**

Coffee is often condemned as an unnatural, unhealthy source of temporary energy — but in reality, the caffeinated concoction is a hot source of health benefits.

Evidence shows that coffee drinkers are less likely to develop type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, dementia and certain types of cancers. The health benefits may result from the presence of antioxidants in coffee, the same stuff found in

blueberries and dark chocolate and praised constantly for their ability to cleanse the body of toxins and improve overall health. Drinking coffee may cause a spike in metabolism, too, causing increased calorie burn and, you guessed it, looser jeans.

In fact, many of the negative side effects associated with coffee only arise from over-consumption. If you drink three cups of coffee during the evening hours and expect to sleep

normally, you probably won't. This would be true for any beverage with caffeine. When consumed in small doses, caffeine can provide a helpful jolt to a person's day. But when caffeine is consumed in high volumes, whether that be in several cups of coffee or a few too many Red Bulls, it can be dangerous, even toxic.

If you want the caffeinated convenience of a cup of joe, but don't like the taste, try adding

Truvia (a natural alternative to Splenda) or a splash of creamer to mellow the taste without adding excessive calories. A cup or two of coffee every day will not cause insomnia, addiction, unnatural energy or bad breath. Instead, that morning jolt can reduce the symptoms of last sleep, lower your risk for contracting health problems, and even make you thinner.

So remember, coffee = good. Too much of anything = bad. ★

**Former national debate champions battle opponents**

**JESSICA PAWLARCZYK**  
STAFF REPORTER

Vanderbilt University debate squad faced off against the University of Georgia during The Great Debaters Series this past Friday, on Oct. 14. Sophomores Karl Gressly and Saad Rehman, last year's American Debate Association's national champions in novice debate, represented Vanderbilt University during the tournament, which was hosted by Vanderbilt University. Participating in the debate were 16 universities from across the Midwest and Eastern United States.

Gressly and Rehman argued the affirmative side of this debate season's issue, which was "Should the US increase democracy assistance to Egypt?"

Gressly said no winner of the debate was declared.

Although there was no clear winner, Rehman believes that the "affirmative side came out on top."

"To choose which side wins, you have to look at which side offers a better future," Rehman said. "In this debate, the affirmative offered a world in which relations between the US and Egypt would be remedied, stability along the Israeli-Egypt border would be increased, and democracy would suc-



KEVIN BARNETT / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

**Sophomores Saad Rehman and Karl Gressly prepare their statement against UGA in favor of increasing democracy assistance in Egypt.**

ceed in Egypt."

Rehman says that the debate was challenging due to its modified time format, which gave a "strategic advantage" to the University of Georgia's negative argument.

"There was a little extra burden on the affirmative ... but it still worked out in the grand scheme of things," Rehman said.

Rehman also notes that he and Gressly's limited experience put them at a significant disadvantage. Neither of the two had previous debate experience before coming to Vanderbilt.

"The UGA debaters were definitely formative opponents; both of them have more experience than Karl and I, but we knew our affirmative better, so it evened out," Rehman

said.

Despite these disadvantages, Vanderbilt's team was able to work together to form a successful argument.

"We have in the past worked very well together; we are generally quite effective at complementing each other's strengths," Gressly said.

"We both make up for each other's weaknesses, and we can always rely on each other to catch mistakes," Rehman added. "It took us a couple tournaments last year to iron out the kinks of our partnership, but after that we were pretty solid and won both district and national tournaments."

The team's next tournament will be Nov. 4-6 against Liberty University and West Georgia. Follow-

ing this tournament, the team will be competing in the Nov. 11-14 Wake Shirley and Mountain Debate Tournament.

The team is currently focusing on these upcoming tournaments, specifically the American Debate Association National Tournament in the spring.

"Regardless of win or loss, the next thing on my mind is the next round, and we start back from 0-0," said Rehman. "Everything before is irrelevant, and it's all about the next round." ★

**WALL STREET: Vanderbilt students apathetic to protests**

from WALL STREET page 1

Vanderbilt is not part of this movement," said Hiram Pati, a junior at Vanderbilt who was arrested during September's Occupy Wall Street protests. "But my personal experience is that I haven't seen the level of political engagement here that is present at the other Occupy Colleges, which is probably the reason you haven't seen similar activity spring up here."

Junior Stephen Siao, President of the Vanderbilt College Republicans, proposed a different reason for Vanderbilt's lack of involvement in Occupy Colleges.

"I think Vanderbilt students are smart enough to know how contradictory and counterproductive the movement is. It's not Wall Street that's perpetuating this awful economy; it's the White House," Siao said.

Siao also stated that he didn't view "the spontaneity of the movement as real," citing payment given to protestors and organization by professionals as the reasons.

Senior Matthew Taylor,

director of public relations for the Vanderbilt College Democrats, disagreed on the purpose behind Occupy Wall Street.

"Americans are beginning to realize that the multibillion dollar corporations that influence politics are the real problem," Taylor said. "They've definitely brought attention to the issue, and used nonviolent protest during most of their demonstrations."

While there are no plans for any Vanderbilt organization to join Occupy Colleges as of yet, students who sympathize with the Occupy Wall Street movement continue to rally downtown with Occupy Nashville at Legislative Plaza.

"It's definitely fascinating to watch how many people can come together in support of Occupy Wall Street," said senior Zachery McKinnon, who attended an Occupy Nashville protest over the weekend. "No matter any one person's political viewpoint, you can't deny that student debt and a scarcity of jobs are very real problems faced by students right now." ★

**The Department of Psychology at Vanderbilt University** is looking for subjects to participate in research studies. You will be compensated for your time. Studies examine aspects of cognition, emotion and brain functioning. To find out more about participating in studies, see <http://vanderbilt.sona-systems.com/>

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	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12:30-1
PM	4:30-6:00	4:30-6:00	4:30-6:00	4:30-6:00	4:30-6:00	6:00-7:45	6:15-7:45

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