

HOW ARE THIS YEAR'S RITES ARTISTS CONNECTED?

See page 4 for the Hustler's six degrees of separation between Rites artists

vanderbilt hustler

THURSDAY APRIL 18, 2013

VOL. 125, ISS. 27

WWW.INSIDEVANDY.COM

PREPARED AND NOT SCARED

VANDY COMMUNITY TOUCHED BY BLASTS

Owen grad injured in Boston Marathon bombing

One of the explosions at the 2013 Boston Marathon caused serious injuries to a Vanderbilt Owen School of Management graduate Kevin White ('10) and his parents, William and Mary Jo, who were in close proximity to one of the devices when it detonated.

Allison Wasserman, current resident at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, is a friend of the White family and has known Kevin White since elementary school. She graduated from medical school the same year that White graduated from Owen.

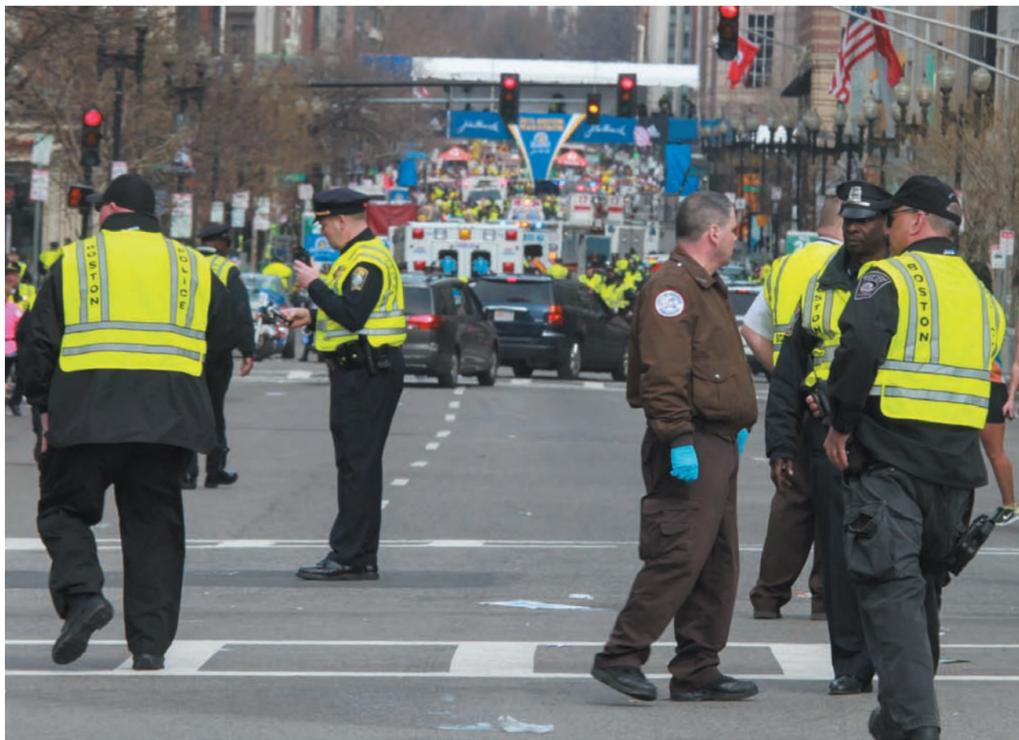
She said that her families celebrated their graduations together in Centennial Park — the starting line of the Music City Marathon. Below is her statement to The Hustler.

"Please keep your thoughts and prayers with Kevin White (Owen School of Management, Class of 2010) and his parents, Bill and Mary Jo, who were seriously injured in the Boston explosions on Monday. All three are improving after multiple surgeries, and Kevin and Mary Jo are expected to go home soon. Unfortunately, Bill's injuries were so extensive as to require his leg to be amputated.

"When my mother told me the news, I just couldn't believe that someone I was so close to could have been affected by this attack. If they were not directly affected by this tragedy, I know the White family would be the first to help out others in this time of need. Even through this terrible time, they have kept others' spirits up, cracking occasional jokes. Please visit the website below for more information on the family, their medical situation, and to make a donation."

Friends of the White family created an account on YouCaring.com, an online fundraising platform, to help the family recover. The site can be found at <http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/help-the-white-family-recover-from-the-boston-marathon-explosions/53637>.

As the country tries to process the **tragic events** of Monday's bombings at the Boston Marathon, Nashville readies itself for a **downtown road race of its own** next weekend



Local, state and federal agencies respond to a blast at the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Monday in Boston.

By TYLER BISHOP
News editor

In the wake of the Monday bombings at the Boston Marathon finish line, which killed three and injured more than 170 people, security officials for the Country Music Marathon said they are increasing safety measures for the race, which will take place on April 27.

"What we're going to do with the tragedy in Boston is we're going to learn from it, and we're going to increase, certainly in the near term and probably permanently, the number of security personnel, both private and public, at our start lines and finish lines," said Scott Dickey, CEO of Competitor Group Inc., which manages the Country Music Marathon. "We are currently reviewing all of the protocol and procedures that are in place and will work to enhance and improve them so that we're in a better position to prevent these types of tragedies from taking place."

Nashville Metropolitan Police Chief Steve Anderson said the Metro Police Department is working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the FBI along with law enforcement in Boston to adjust and finalize strategies for the

event.

"The Nashville Police Department is absolutely committed to the safety and enjoyment of this event by runners, their families and race enthusiasts," Anderson said in a press conference Monday afternoon.

Officials from the Metro Police Department are also meeting with race organizers to ensure that their strategies are viable and to ensure that safety is of utmost importance.

"At every event, we deploy a disciplined protocol with government agencies and local law enforcement which includes a unified command center on race day for immediate and coordinated response to any emergency," said Dan Cruz, a media contact for the Country Music Marathon.

The collaboration among Metro Police, the FBI and ATF, however, is not a new partnership according to Michael Knight, special agent and public information officer for ATF.

"This group has handled numerous cases and investigations in the past and is not a new relationship," he said. "We handle special events at the state and local levels and ongoing issues."

Knight said that he is confident that the security procedures, which are largely being followed as planned but with greater detail and preparedness, will ensure that the event goes

smoothly.

"We are not scrambling to put any major new measures in place," Knight said. "We are following natural protocol and making sure that the measures in place will be effective."

In response to the apprehension that many racegoers have expressed following the incident in Boston, Knight said, "We don't want this event to go unattended. We want everyone — whether traveling or local — to enjoy their time."

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean said that the hearts of Nashvillians should be with the Boston victims and that he is confident about race day.

"I will be at the starting line of the Country Music Marathon to cheer runners on, as I have the past several years," he said in a prepared statement on Tuesday. "I am fully confident in the safety precautions being put in place by marathon organizers, the Metro Police Department and our federal partners."

An Vanderbilt University Police Department official said that VUPD will not directly be involved in race security but will be cognizant of the situation on race day.

The Country Music Marathon is set to begin the morning of April 27 in Centennial Park. The finish line for the marathon is at LP Field.

VANDY COUNTRY MUSIC MARATHON RUNNERS REACT TO BOMBINGS

HALEY ANDREADES, SOPHOMORE (HALF MARATHON)



"My initial reaction was a little bit of fear, but then I started thinking about it and that banding together with other marathon runners would be a better response than walking away out of fear ... If we refuse to run the marathon and support such a good cause, then that kind of accomplishes what the bomber had intended."

KATIE GREAVES, FRESHMAN (HALF MARATHON)



"I'm still going to run because they're increasing security, so I doubt that there will be bombings, and I'll definitely be thinking of the victims of the Boston bombings while I'm running."

WILL TAYLOR, SENIOR (MARATHON)



"It's scary what happened in Boston, but I didn't really consider dropping out of the Country Music Marathon because of it. I don't think marathon runners are being targeted. I'm still very excited for the race next weekend."

TRACEY HONG, SENIOR (HALF MARATHON)



"It was actually this feeling first of disgust and then relief that the casualties were relatively small. My brother was actually training to qualify (for the Boston Marathon) until he hurt his knee ... Because I was sick for a month, I was considering not running (the Country Music Marathon), but because this is the first race after Boston and I am still able to run, it would be a great opportunity to show my support."

— Compiled by Charlotte Gill

STATEMENT FROM METRO NASHVILLE POLICE CHIEF

"The Nashville Police Department is now and has been in the security planning process for the April 27 Country Music Marathon. Today's explosions in Boston will factor into that planning as we meet in the coming days with marathon organizers. We will be in contact with law enforcement in Boston and our federal partners with the FBI and ATF prior to finalizing our strategies. The Nashville Police Department is absolutely committed to the safety and enjoyment of this event by runners, their families and race enthusiasts."

GAY MARRIAGE NOT ENOUGH

Despite her confidence that gay marriage will be recognized within the next year, Vanderbilt Mellon Assistant Professor of English (NTT) and LBGQTQI activist Emily King said that recognition of same-sex marriage is "not radical enough."

"We are being told gay marriage is the antidote to all sorts of problems: healthcare, immigration, child custody and, of course, equality," King, who identifies as queer, said. "But if it addresses those issues, it only does so for a small minority. That is to say, it does nothing, really nothing for those issues on a structural level."

She explained her stance that legalization of same-sex marriage offers only "symbolic equality" and does not address the vast inequalities suffered by individuals of the LBGQTQI community.

"Frankly, gay marriage isn't radical enough. The problems facing us concerning healthcare, immigration, child custody and equality will persist long after same-sex marriage goes forward — and it will," King added.

Last month, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding two laws opposing same-sex marriage — the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California's Proposition 8.

— Katie Darby, news reporter
For The Hustler's full correspondence with Professor King, visit InsideVandy.com



RALPH LAUER / FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM. (NOT A REAL SUSTAINABEAR)

Vanderbilt venture recognized

The Resolution Project on April 6 announced the winners of the Social Venture Challenge, four of whom are Vanderbilt students — Maryli Cheng, Jim Jin, Shilpa Mokshagundam and Michael O'Connor. The students created Sustainabears, a venture aimed at repurposing packaging foam as filling for teddy bears.

This year marked the first time The Resolution Project, a national non-profit dedicated to leadership development and social entrepreneurship, partnered with the Clinton Global Initiative University to host the Social Venture Challenge. Seventeen winning teams were selected out of a pool of over 300 applicants.

Chelsea Clinton hosted the announcement celebration, where a total of \$100,000 was awarded to selected ventures.

"The Resolution Project has shown that socially responsible young entrepreneurs who want to create a positive change no longer have to wait for tomorrow but are capable of leading today," Clinton said at the ceremony.

Each "Sustainabear" created through the venture will be accompanied by a storybook featuring lessons on sustainability. Sustainabears will be a revenue-generating social business that aims to provide environmental and educational benefits.

— Tyler Bishop, news editor

Vandy is (still) green

Vanderbilt has been included in the Princeton Review's "Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2013 Edition." The Princeton Review chose schools according to their course offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation to measure their commitments to the environment and to sustainability.

Vanderbilt's multiple sustainability initiatives and programs are highlighted, including the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office, environmental student groups such as SPEAR and the Alternative Energy Club, the range of environmental studies and sustainability course offerings, the school's commitment to LEED-certified new construction and a variety of recycling and clean commute initiatives.

"Vanderbilt's inclusion in the Princeton Review's 'Guide to Green Colleges' is the result of the attention and hard work of the many students, staff and faculty involved in various sustainability initiatives throughout campus," said Andrea George, director of Vanderbilt's Sustainability and Environmental Management Office. "Hundreds of people involved in all different facets of the university are making small changes in how they operate and do business. Those small changes are adding up to big improvements in our environmental impact."

The Princeton Review created its "Guide to 322 Green Colleges" in partnership with the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council, with support from United Technologies Corporation.

— From a Vanderbilt University press release

campus

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It tends to be a little scary because you don't know what you're getting yourself into. But for us, spending time on making Everly was incredibly important."

CHRIS COLE, EVERLY CO-FOUNDER



VANDERBITS

ENGINEERING DESIGN DAY

Projects that improve the airflow in a next-generation, bagless upright vacuum cleaner and develop a "smart" car seat that alerts parents who leave their babies in the car when the temperature inside the vehicle becomes hazardous are among the 60 student projects being featured this year at the Vanderbilt School of Engineering's Senior Design Day.

The engineering majors will exhibit their solutions to real-life engineering challenges proposed by clients with real design needs. Corporate sponsors this year include the Oreck Corporation, Nissan North America, Northrop Grumman and the Trane Corporation. Other sponsors include NASA, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and a number of Vanderbilt University Medical Center departments.

Other projects include a hand hygiene monitor, a system that uses a mobile phone to detect neonatal jaundice and a master plan for revitalizing the water landscaping in Centennial Park. The event will be held from 3-5 p.m. on Friday, April 18 in Featheringill Hall.

— From a Vanderbilt University press release

POPPING the VANDERBUBBLE

Miss. man accused of sending letters with ricin

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) — A Mississippi man was arrested Wednesday, accused of sending letters to President Barack Obama and a senator that tested positive for poisonous ricin and set the nation's capital on edge a day after the Boston Marathon bombings.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel McMullen said Paul Kevin Curtis, 45, was arrested at 5:15 p.m. at his apartment in Corinth, near the Tennessee state line about 100 miles east of Memphis. It wasn't immediately known where he was being held.

Authorities still waited for definitive tests on the letters to Obama and Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., which had raised concern Wednesday at a time when many people were jittery after the Boston bombings.

An FBI intelligence bulletin obtained by The Associated Press said those two letters were postmarked Memphis, Tenn. Both letters said: "To see a wrong and not expose it, is to become a silent partner to its continuance." Both were signed, "I am KC and I approve this message."

The letters were intercepted before reaching the White House and Senate. The FBI said Wednesday that more testing was underway. Preliminary field tests can often show false positives for ricin.

As authorities scurried to investigate three questionable packages discovered in Senate office buildings, reports of suspicious items also came in from at least three senators' offices in their home states.

Sen. Carl Levin said a staff member at his Saginaw, Mich., office would spend the night in a hospital as a precaution after discovering a suspicious letter. The staff member had no symptoms, Levin said in a statement. He expected to learn preliminary results of tests on the letter by Thursday.

All the activity came as tensions were high in Washington and across the country following Monday's bombings at the Boston Marathon that killed three people and injured more than 170. The FBI said there was no indication of a connection between the letters and the bombing. The letters to Obama and Wicker were postmarked April 8, before the marathon.

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Faculty Senate task force investigates stimulant abuse

Last December, The Hustler took a look at the growing **Adderall use** on campus. The administration recently examined the issue, tasking the **Faculty Senate** to focus on stimulants in a report presented last week.

TINA TIAN / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

By HANNAH SILLS
Senior news reporter

In the spring 2011, the Vanderbilt Faculty Senate formed a task force charged with making recommendations for creating a culture of safety with respect to drug and alcohol consumption on campus, according to the task force's final report. These recommendations primarily focused on student alcohol abuse, considering other drug use more broadly.

In 2013, however, the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force has focused on students' abuse of stimulant drugs such as Adderall, according to Dr. Mary Yarbrough, chair of the task force. While the group's recommendations await final approval by the Faculty Senate as a whole, Yarbrough spoke with The Hustler about the task force's challenges and goals in addressing this issue.

Although Vanderbilt-specific statistics on stimulant abuse are currently unavailable, the task force postulates that the abuse levels at Vanderbilt are on par with national levels, according to Yarbrough. One product of its investigation is the initiative to gather more data on stimulant abuse in future institutional surveys.

Abuse of substances such as Adderall appears to be on the rise nationally, Yarbrough said. Twenty years ago, the subject was practically a non-issue, but is now drawing national attention.

According to Yarbrough, the task force's primary goal is starting a conversation about shaping Vanderbilt's response. For example, the group asks questions like, "What would we want the culture at Vanderbilt to look like?" with regard to stimulant abuse.

Yarbrough noted that stimulant abuse differs in many ways from traditional abuse of alcohol and other drugs. In those cases, recreational use generally drives consumption. Stimulant abuse, however, is often motivated by the short-term goal of performance enhancement — popping an Adderall to finish a big paper, for instance. But Yarbrough explained that this short-term goal does not preclude potential long-term consequences and negative side effects. She also noted that illegal distribution of prescription drugs is a felony.

The ethical questions posed by stimulant abuse present another important distinction, Yarbrough said. Is it wrong to artificially enhance natural ability, or is stimulant use simply a logical evolution of technology? Yarbrough noted that these questions have larger repercussions for the competitive academic culture at a school like Vanderbilt.

"As a campus at Vanderbilt, is it that we just want knowledge?" she asked. "Is it just that we want to pass a test ... (or) are there other things — professionalism, life skills — that we want people to develop?" Questions like these complicate the task force's job of creating recommendations to address stimulant abuse.

A final, complex dimension of the group's consideration is the fact that some students are prescribed stimulants to address an actual medical need. Yarbrough said that one of the task force's goals in making recommendations is to protect the students who actually need these drugs.

Adoption of the task force's 2012-13 recommendations regarding stimulant abuse awaits the approval of the full Faculty Senate. The task force's 2011-12 report can be found online at <http://vanderbilt.edu/faculty-senate>.

HYDRATE & DONATE

By EMILY TORRES
Senior news reporter

Taking the entrepreneurial postgraduate path, 2011 Vanderbilt graduates Chris Cole and Kyle McCollum established Everly, a company that launched last week out of Nashville. Everly is a powdered packet drink mix "made right," containing no calories and no artificial ingredients.

"Everly is made with the best ingredients. The packets are convenient and create less waste. There isn't anything that has this combo of natural ingredients, nutrient enhancers and no calories," Cole said. "We saw the opportunity to fill this space. It's like a powdered version of Vitamin Water Zero."

Cole said the packaging was also created with the earth and convenience in mind.

"Outside of that, the design is really fresh and waste-effective. We've added in features like a hole punch for a packet. You can clip packets on to canteens with a carabiner. It makes it easier to have it on you and breaks away from bottled beverages that create waste."

According to Cole, the company focuses on the principles of "product, people and planet."

"For every packet we sell, we donate the equivalent of powdered rehydration salts to those with waterborne diseases. That's not something we want to flaunt. First and foremost, we are a drink mix made right," Cole said. "We found creative ways to help planet and people."

The graduates began the project the summer following their Vanderbilt graduation; it came out of two separate journeys taken by Cole and McCollum.

One thing that Cole and McCollum had in common was that they were not new to the pro-

cess of starting a business. During their senior year at Vanderbilt, the two co-founded Triple Thread, a non-profit business that employs residents of the Dismas House, a halfway home in Nashville for former prisoners. Triple Thread produces custom T-shirts and was recognized as part of the Clinton Global Initiative in 2011.

"We worked together on Triple Thread, and after graduation, we had talked about ideas for the future and knew we wanted to collaborate again," Cole said. "We jumped right in after college. We didn't have time in another working environment."

In order to fund their project, Cole and McCollum used Kickstarter as an online crowdfunding. Everly had a goal of \$18,000 in one month, but that goal was exceeded just two days into the launch. Currently, Everly's funding is over \$30,000, and the page remains active until May 9.

"This is a not a typical way to launch a beverage company. We don't see it as a typical company. We knew how to get people online. We had to harness that. We knew how to tell a story and paint the picture of an experience, not just a product," Cole said. "In addition to that, it's a great way to test out if people are interested. It's a presale."

Everly has future goals beyond the launch of its drink mixes. Everly hopes to eventually incorporate even more "green" efforts.

"We're working towards the day when our packets can be made from plant-based materials and may even be biodegradable, when we're able to source our ingredients from farmers we've met and build even more ethical and sustainable practices into our supply chains," Cole said. "We dream of that day, and we know that this is the just beginning."

The Everly co-founders advise students to pursue the entrepreneurial path even if it

Two Vanderbilt graduates last week launched **Everly**, a company aimed at providing an all-natural, calorie-free powdered **drink mix** with 'product, people and planet' in mind

seems daunting. According to Cole, it is a very rewarding path.

"Looking back to my senior year, it wasn't until November that this was something I wanted to do. Everly came after my senior year — not that long ago. If some people are asking if it is too late to be something different, it is absolutely not. I didn't have a plan after graduation," Cole said. "It tends to be a little scary because you don't know what you're getting yourself into. But for us, spending time on making Everly was incredibly important. We had really good people come to teach us and to support us."



PROVIDED BY EVERLY

Everly was inspired by two journeys:

Kyle's journey took him to Minnesota on a canoe trip. He brought these big-brand drink mixes to help him stay hydrated. While on the trip, he noticed they were filled with artificial ingredients and tasted like chalk. He thought there had to be something that was natural and tastes good, something like a Clif bar. When he came back he looked around and didn't find anything. He started working through this concept of "drink mix made right." My journey took me to Bangladesh, working at a microfinance bank and working at a rural clinic. Cholera and E. coli affect so many children a day. While I was there, I discovered oral rehydration salts. You mix them in to water to rehydrate kids with diseases. Those two journeys came out in perfect alignment. Drink mix made right with purpose.

—Chris Cole, Everly co-founder

sports

THE BIG STAT

Number of women's tennis players with at least 20 singles victories this season: Marie Casares, Ashleigh Antal, Frances Altick, Courtney Colton and Georgina Selly

5



MINUTE DRILL

TRACK AND FIELD HOSTS VANDERBILT INVITATIONAL

By ALLISON MAST
Sports reporter

After a split-squad weekend, the women's track and field team will be back in town to host the Vanderbilt Invitational on April 19-20. The event will feature mainly field and short distance competitions, while Vanderbilt distance runners Liz Anderson, Allie Scaif and Grace Orders will travel to California for the Mt. SAC Relays.

Last year's Vanderbilt Invitational featured low temperatures and mediocre results from the host team, who claimed second and third place in the high jump with Ellie Tildman and Brionne Williams posting 1.70 and 1.65 meters, respectively. Commodores head Coach Steve Keith was slightly disappointed by the results of the field events, but the track yielded a more satisfying outcome. On day one of the meet, Kristen Findley set a school record in the 1,500-meters with a time of 4:17.45. She followed that up with a personal record in the 800. Her time of 2:08.30 lifted her from eighth to fourth in program history.

Looking forward, the 2013 rendition of the Vanderbilt Invitational should feature warmer weather and better results from the Commodores. Last weekend at the Specs Town National Team Invitational in Georgia, freshman Jennifer Cannon competed in her first collegiate heptathlon and recorded the fifth-best score in Vanderbilt's outdoor history: She placed first in the 100-meter hurdles and 200-meters, second in the 800-meters, third in the javelin and high jump and fifth in the long jump and shot put.

Another freshman put on a breakout performance in Georgia. Faith Washington won the 400 hurdles with a time of 59.00 seconds. It was her personal best and the third-best time in school history.

While most of the team was in Georgia, Kristen Findley, Hannah Jumper and Sara Barron visited the University of Tennessee for the Sea Ray Relays. Findley and Jumper finished second and third, respectively, in the 1,500-meters, while Barron earned fifth place in the 800.

The Vanderbilt Invitational will mark the first time the Commodores have competed at home since March 23, the second day of the Black & Gold meet.



BECK FRIEDMAN / FILE PHOTO

This weekend's Vanderbilt Invitational gets underway on Friday afternoon with a handful of field events, led off by the men's and women's long jump. The Commodores are returning home after a productive weekend of action in Athens, Ga.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 19

Field events

3 p.m. Men's long jump, followed by women's long jump
Women's javelin, followed by men's javelin
Men's shot put, followed by women's shot put
Men's pole vault

Running events

5 p.m. Women's 200-m
5:30 p.m. Men's 200-m
6 p.m. Men's 1,500-m
6:30 p.m. Women's 1,500-m
7 p.m. Men's 3,000-m Steeple
7:15 p.m. Women's 3,000-m Steeple
7:30 p.m. Men's 5,000-m
8:10 p.m. Women's 5,000-m

Saturday, April 20

Field events

10 a.m. Women's hammer, followed by men's hammer
12 p.m. Women's pole vault
Women's triple jump, followed by men's triple jump
Men's high jump, followed by women's high jump
1 p.m. Women's discus, followed by men's discus

Running events

12 p.m. Women's 4x100-m relay
12:15 p.m. Men's 4x100-m relay
12:25 p.m. Women's 800-m
12:55 p.m. Women's 100-m hurdles
1:15 p.m. Men's 110-m hurdles
1:30 p.m. Women's 400-m
1:50 p.m. Men's 400-m
2:10 p.m. Women's 100-m
2:30 p.m. Men's 100-m
2:50 p.m. Women's 400-m hurdles
3:10 p.m. Men's 400-m hurdles
3:30 p.m. Men's 800-m
3:50 p.m. Women's 4x400-m relay
4:10 p.m. Men's 4x400-m relay

Tourney time for tennis, golf

Baseball may hold the spotlight well into June, but the rest of the 2012-13 athletic season is winding down, with Vanderbilt's tennis and golf teams in action at their respective conference tournaments this weekend. Read on for a primer on all four.

By ALLISON MAST
Sports reporter

WOMEN'S TENNIS

WHEN AND WHERE:

April 17-21, Starkville, Miss.

FORMAT:

Single-elimination bracket with five rounds of team matches. All 14 SEC programs are placed according to seed. The top four seeds in the tournament — Georgia, Texas A&M, Florida and Alabama — all have byes until the third round. Fifth- through 10th-seeded teams have first-round byes, and the bottom four seeds — Kentucky, Mississippi State, Missouri and LSU — got tournament play started on Wednesday with a pair of first-round matches.

WHO'S THE FAVORITE:

After clinching its 15th SEC regular season championship this season, Georgia is the clear favorite as the No. 1 seed. The Bulldogs, ranked No. 3 nationally, have won nine matches in a row this season, with their last loss coming on March 15 at Florida.

HOW VANDERBILT HAS LOOKED:

With a lot of young talent, the Commodores were able to secure a No. 6 seed for this year's tournament. In its most recent match, Vanderbilt fell to Florida 4-1. The Gators have the No. 3 seed in the tournament.

COMMODORE TO WATCH:

Sophomore Ashleigh Antal is 22-8 overall this season and an impressive 10-2 from the No. 5 singles spot, but she and doubles partner Marie Casares have lost their last six doubles matches as a pair.

VANDERBILT'S FIRST MATCH:

Vanderbilt will take on No. 14 seed LSU on Thursday at 5 p.m. The Tigers ousted Kentucky 4-2 on Wednesday afternoon. If they find a way to advance, the Commodores would take on Florida in the third round on Friday evening.



ALEC MYZKA / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Freshman Kris Yee has been a standout in singles play throughout Vanderbilt's conference slate.

MEN'S TENNIS

WHEN AND WHERE:

April 17-21, Oxford, Miss.

FORMAT:

All 13 men's programs have been seeded into a single-elimination bracket. Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and Texas A&M have double-byes as the tournament's top four seeds. On Wednesday, Alabama knocked off Arkansas in the lone match of the first round.

WHO'S THE FAVORITE:

Top-seeded in both tournaments this weekend, Georgia will be tough to beat. The Bulldogs have won 10 straight SEC matches with their last loss on March 8 against Ole Miss.

HOW VANDERBILT HAS LOOKED:

Heading into tournament play, the seventh-seeded Commodores have dropped their last two matches. The losses came on April 12 against Alabama, where Vanderbilt fell 4-0, and on April 14, where Kentucky got past the black and gold 4-1.

COMMODORE TO WATCH:

Freshman Kris Yee has made a smooth transition to SEC tennis in his first season in Nashville. Yee is 23-5 overall and 18-2 in dual play.

VANDERBILT'S FIRST MATCH:

Vanderbilt takes on No. 10 Auburn on Thursday at 12 p.m. CST, with the winner advancing to play No. 2 seed Tennessee in the third round on Friday afternoon.

Golf

By JESSE GOLOMB
Asst. sports editor

WOMEN'S

WHEN AND WHERE:

April 19-21, Greystone Golf and Country Club, Birmingham, Ala.

FORMAT:

For team competition, each school's top four rounds are counted for each of the three days.

WHO'S THE FAVORITE:

Alabama, No. 4 in the country and best in the SEC, received four first-place votes in the national rankings.

HOW VANDERBILT HAS LOOKED:

The women are ranked No. 10 in the country, ahead of all but three SEC teams.

COMMODORE TO WATCH:

Sophomore Kendall Martindale, who finished seventh overall in the Bryan National Collegiate a few weeks ago, her fifth top-10 finish of the year.

VANDERBILT'S FIRST ROUND:

Play begins on April 19 and will last throughout the day.

MEN'S

WHEN AND WHERE:

April 19-21, Seaside Golf Club, St. Simons Island, Ga.

FORMAT:

For team competition, each school's top four rounds are counted for each of the three days.

WHO'S THE FAVORITE:

Alabama is not just the top team in the SEC — it's ranked second overall in the country. The Tide will enter the weekend expecting to roll to both golf titles.

HOW VANDERBILT HAS LOOKED:

Vanderbilt closed out the season at the Jim West Intercollegiate tournament by capturing its third team championship of the year, a program record.

COMMODORE TO WATCH:

Sophomore Hunter Stewart, who finished third at the Jim West Intercollegiate and won the Samford Intercollegiate in March.

VANDERBILT'S FIRST ROUND:

Play begins on April 19 and will last all day.

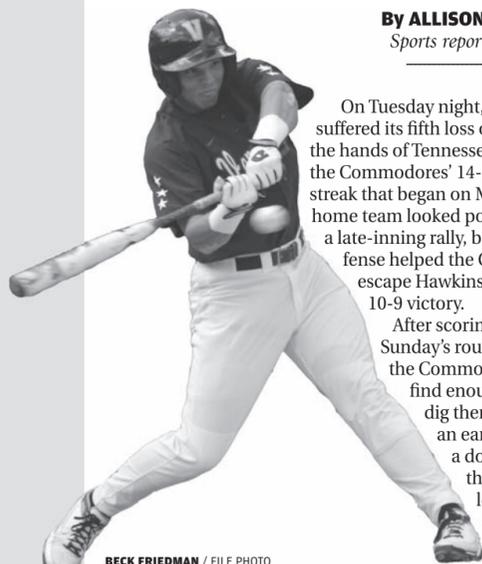


JOHN RUSSELL / VU MEDIA RELATIONS

Sophomore Kendall Martindale, who leads the women's golf team with five top 10 finishes this year, tees off at the Mason Rudolph Tournament in September.

Baseball doubled up as Tech douses rally, 10-9

By ALLISON MAST
Sports reporter



BECK FRIEDMAN / FILE PHOTO

On Tuesday night, Vanderbilt suffered its fifth loss of the season at the hands of Tennessee Tech, ending the Commodores' 14-game winning streak that began on March 23. The home team looked poised to pull off a late-inning rally, but timely defense helped the Golden Eagles escape Hawkins Field with a 10-9 victory.

After scoring 16 runs in Sunday's rout of Missouri, the Commodores could not find enough offense to dig themselves out of an early 5-0 hole, as a double play with the bases loaded left the comeback one run short.

The Vanderbilt pitchers failed to consistently find the strike zone in the early going. Starter Tyler Ferguson hit the first batter he faced, setting the tone for the rest of the game. A stand-up double and a base hit plated two runs in the top of the first inning, and Ferguson's night ended in the second when he loaded the bases with one out.

Reliever Steven Rice lasted for only 1 1/3 innings out of the bullpen and was charged with three runs after surrendering two hits and three walks. Right-hander Adam Ravenelle and lefty Jared Miller could not do much better, as the Golden Eagles responded to the Commodores' first signs of offensive life with two runs in the sixth inning to give the visitors an 8-5 lead.

Carson Fulmer continued the trend of poor control, walking three and giving up two more runs. The only solid performance out of the Vanderbilt bullpen came from closer Brian Miller, who recorded the final four outs.

Although the Commodores found

themselves in a hole early, an offensive surge helped reel the deficit back in. Designated hitter Rhett Wiseman hit a solo home run into the right-field bleachers in the third inning. In the following inning, he followed that up with a two-run blast that hit off the scoreboard over the left-field wall. Connor Harrell added a solo homer of his own in the eighth.

Brian Miller pitched a perfect ninth inning to send Vanderbilt to the plate with Tennessee Tech leading 10-8. Xavier Turner and Conrad Gregor drew one-out walks to start the rally, putting runners on first and second. Harrell laced a single up the middle to score Turner from second and cut the lead to one. Mike Yastrzemski was hit by a pitch, loading the bases, but Vince Conde grounded into a double play to end the game.

Vanderbilt will look to erase the memory of the midweek loss as the team heads to Athens to take on last-place Georgia this weekend. The first game will start at 6 p.m. on Friday.

Life



GO DO THIS!

PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

IN THEATERS

'OBLIVION'

Opens Friday, April 19
Tom Cruise stars as Jack Harper in this science-fiction film about the years following an alien invasion that destroyed the moon and devastated the Earth. As a veteran assigned to extract Earth's remaining resources, Jack begins to question his mission and himself.

IN CONCERT

'AN EVENING WITH WEIRD AL YANKOVIC'

Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Thursday, April 18
"Weird Al" Yankovic, the best-selling comedy recording artist of all time, has returned with his twice-Grammy-nominated 13th album "Alpocalypse," released in 2011. Known for his parody songs such as "White & Nerdy," "Amish Paradise" and "Fat," Weird Al will also perform some of his newer material, including parodies of Miley Cyrus ("Party in the CIA") and Taylor Swift ("TMZ"). The concert starts at 8 p.m. Find out more at <http://tpac.org>.

THE BLACK CROWES

Ryman Auditorium
Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21
The Black Crowes return to the road for their "Lay Down With Number 13" world tour. The band is becoming known for their live performances, recently announcing the release of their live record collection, "Wiser for the Time." The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Find out more at <http://ryman.com>.

ON CAMPUS

TNC IMPROV COMEDY PRESENTS 'THE BIG GRASS SHOW'

Sarratt Cinema
Thursday, April 18
In honor of Rites of Spring, Tongue-N-Cheek has changed its bi-annual "Big Ass Show" to the "Big Grass Show." In addition to providing sketch comedy, Tongue-N-Cheek will also be providing free pizza. Admission is free, and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

VPAC PRESENTS ENCORE: THE PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS SHOWCASE

Student Life Center Ballroom
Sunday, April 21
Vanderbilt Performing Arts Council will spend the night honoring all of the great performing arts groups on campus and their shows this past year. In addition to the awards, there will be select groups will perform at the show to relive some of the best moments from this year. Admission is free, and the show begins at 6:30 p.m.

THE NASHVILLE FILM FESTIVAL

By **ETHAN DIXIUS**
Life reporter

For students at Vanderbilt who mark the Oscars on their calendars, love the cinema or just need a break from finals, the Nashville Film Festival (NaFF) has much to offer. This year's festival starts Thursday and runs through April 25, screening more than 200 movies over the course of its eight days. Established in 1969, the Nashville Film Festival views almost 3,000 films of all different types each year and narrows them down to around 200 to present at the Regal Green Hills Cinema to people from and outside of the Nashville community.

Brian Owens, the artistic director for the festival and founder of the Indianapolis Film Festival, has worked with the festival for five years. As artistic director, he narrows down the list of selected movies, creates the festival schedule and manages the entry process. Meanwhile, executive director Ted Crockett and development director Debra Pinger secure sponsorship and grants.

"Our mission is to educate, entertain and inspire the community through the art of cinema," Owens said. "Through our community partnerships, we share films that encourage people to expand their boundaries and reach across aisles."

The festival brings in a number of famous viewers every year. Owens recounted a screening of "Garbage Dreams," an Egyptian film about boys raised as garbage collectors in Cairo.

"Al Gore caught the screening of it, and through that, the film made its way to Bill and Melinda Gates, who – to the surprise of the filmmakers and the subjects – appeared at the Cairo premiere of the film to donate \$1 million to the cause of the garbage workers and the school that educates the boys," Owens said. "It was just a beautiful way of showing how a film can actually instigate change for the better."

NaFF uses film to better the community in many ways. Since 2004, the festival has run a program called Livin' Reel, which works with teens living in poverty to create their own films, participate in a documentary about the process and screen it for at the festival. NaFF also supports various film screenings in Nashville throughout the year to promote film education and provide encouragement to adult long-term hospital patients through the Hope Tour, which screens hopeful films to the patients.

Owens noted that Nashville has screened some great music-related films this year, dealing with different cultural approaches to music, from a German boys' choir (in "Die Thomaner: A Year in the Life of the St. Thomas Boys Choir Leipzig) to rap in Cuba (in "Viva Cuba Libre: Rap is War").

As far as must-see films go, Owens pointed out the Special Presentations program. "These are films that will be released theatrically at some point, but the festival offers Nashvillians their first chance to see them," Owens said.

For those who want to get involved with the festival, Owens said, "Coming to the festival is the easiest, but one can also volunteer. For college students, we have summer, fall and spring internships available."

Tickets are available at the NaFF website or at the on-site box office on the lower level of the Regal Green Hills Cinema. Free tickets are offered daily at <http://nowplayingnashville.com>.

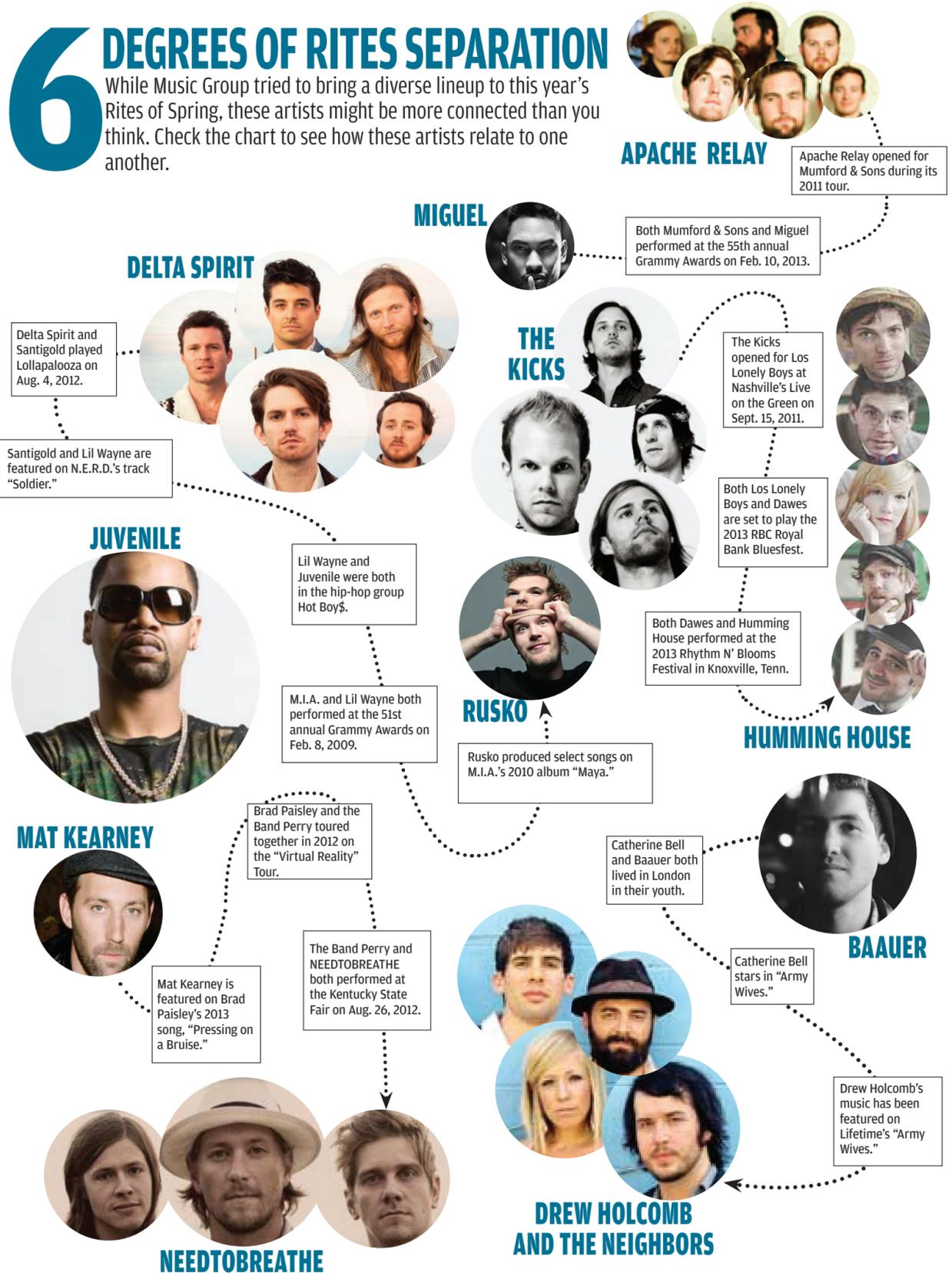
For a complete schedule of screenings and more information on how to get involved, visit <http://www.nashvillefilmfestival.org/>

CELEBSTATUS

Ke\$ha's new reality TV show, "Ke\$ha: My Crazy Beautiful Life" will premiere on MTV Tuesday, April 23, at 11 p.m. CST. If you want a hint of what's to come, Ke\$ha released a preview wherein she feeds her friends "baby-bird" style.

6 DEGREES OF RITES SEPARATION

While Music Group tried to bring a diverse lineup to this year's Rites of Spring, these artists might be more connected than you think. Check the chart to see how these artists relate to one another.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ARTISTS

VOHRA! AT THE (SILENT) DISCO

Freshman Kern Vohra, also known as DJ V, will be the DJ for this year's Silent Disco. Vohra discusses his career as a DJ, as well as why he is looking forward to making music in silence.

By **MATT LIEBERSON**
Life reporter

The Rites of Spring Music Festival may begin on Friday, but the real fun starts the day before with Silent Disco. Following Battle of the Bands, Silent Disco is free with a Rites ticket. This year's DJ for the event, Vanderbilt freshman Kern Vohra, also known as DJ V, couldn't be more thrilled.

"This will probably be the biggest gig I've done so far on campus," Vohra said. "I've never done anything like a silent disco, but that doesn't make me any less passionate about doing it."

In a silent disco, the music doesn't blast over speakers. It is instead transmitted to wireless headphones that everyone gets before the disco. For those without their headphones on, it will appear as if the audience is dancing to silence. For Vohra, this kind of event changes the focus of deejaying.

"Usually, I have to focus on making sure everything is working as far as mechanics go, and with each song I have to make sure everything is balanced and equalized coming out of the speak-

ers," Vohra said. "Here, with everything being transmitted to the headphones, I can just focus on the music, which is really refreshing."

Vohra has been deejaying since the beginning of his senior year in high school.

"I was inspired by some friends who started doing scratch-deejaying, so more hip hop," Vohra said. "When I started, though, I got into more electronic music, and since then I really have loved it."

Vohra was inspired to try Electronic Dance Music (EDM) by the concerts that he had seen and heard about.

"I went to a Bassnectar concert during my senior fall of high school, and it blew my mind with how much fun the concert was, but also how much fun the DJs had," he said. "Since then I've gone to Identity Festival, I've seen Kaskade, and I've fallen in love with EDM."

The first gigs that Vohra did were in his hometown of Carmel, Ind. "I started by doing small house parties with my friends, and then I started to get some bigger gigs," Vohra said.

Those bigger gigs included his own senior prom, one of Vohra's fondest moments as a DJ.

"Spinning at my school's senior prom was so much fun," he said. "I went to a pretty big school, so we had about 1,000 people there. With all of my friends packing the dance floor, that was probably the most fun I've had deejaying so far."

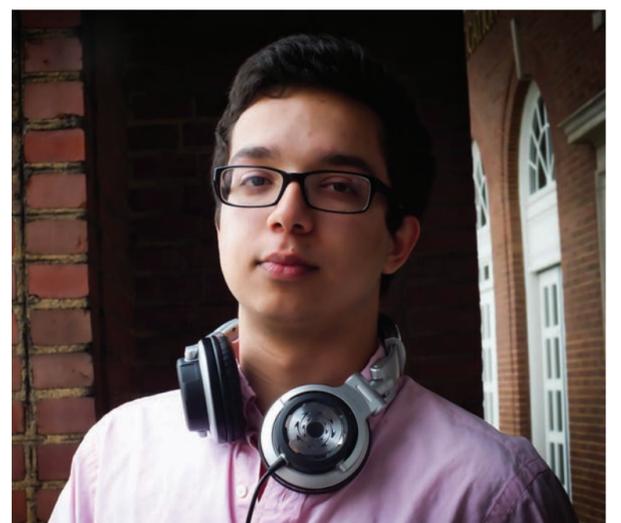
On campus, Vohra has been trying to make more of a name for himself. "I've done a couple of campus-related things, but I still want to do more," he said.

Vohra performed at Dance Marathon and the Asian New Year Festival after-party downtown, but he hopes to continue developing a presence on campus through the Silent Disco.

"Just making Silent Disco a success would be great for me, not only for the event itself but for building a reputation on campus as a good DJ," Vohra said.

Vohra hopes that in its fifth year at Vanderbilt, there will be a good turnout for the event.

"I really hope people come out to this," Vohra said. "It's free with a Rites ticket, and it should be a great time for everyone who comes. It's such a unique concept that should be experienced," he said.



VIBHUTI KRISHNA / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

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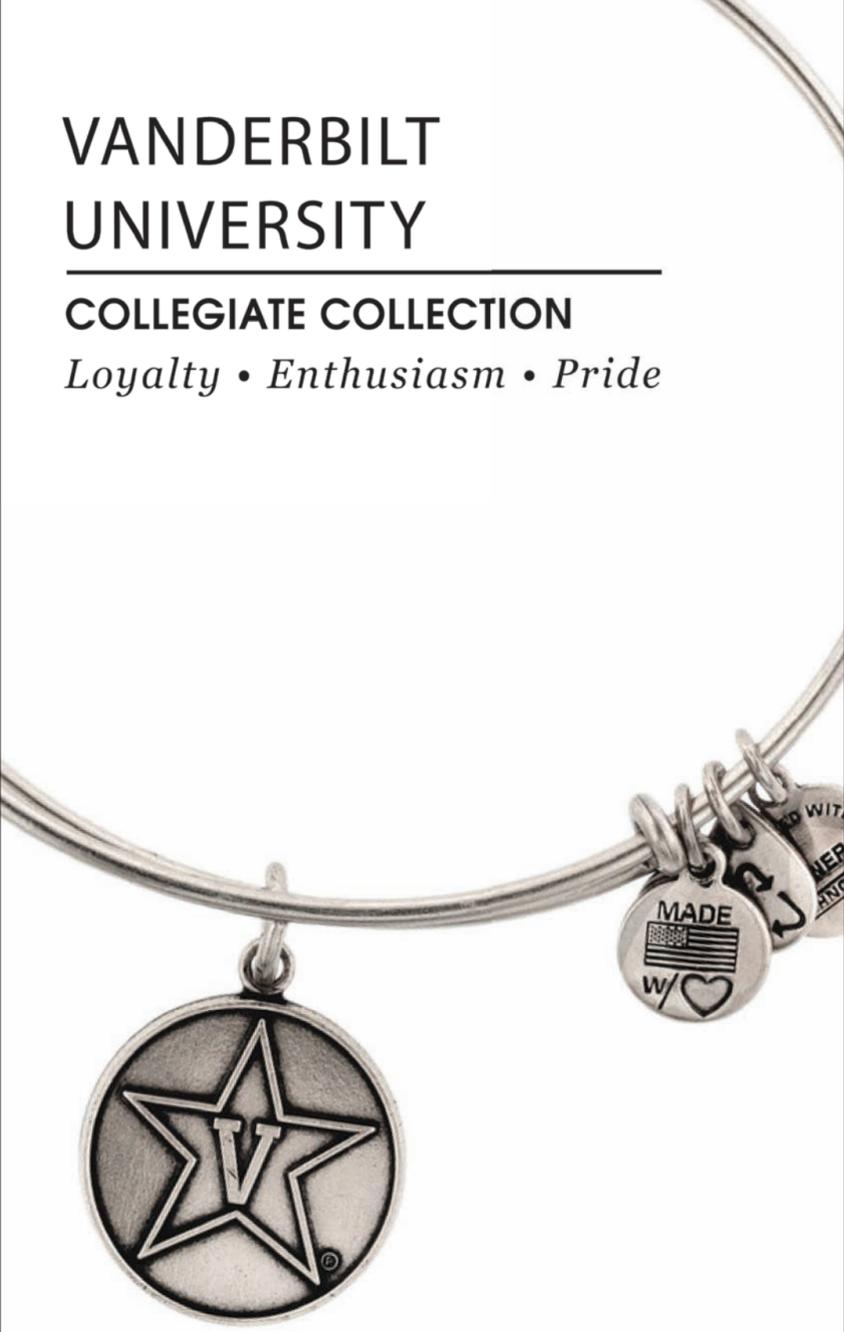




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opinion



THE RANT

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1. The number of likes Vandy has on Facebook is almost the number of dollars it costs to attend.

2. The SAE castle's looking a little sad these days. Maybe some supportive, well-meaning alumni could help the cause. Oh, wait.

3. I really don't understand how the "#fratsquirrels" comic series is actually a thing. How many puns about women "checking out my nuts" does this campus really need? (Editor's note: At least one more.)

4. Dear Eric Single, you suck at writing almost as much as you suck at editing. There is still one month left for you to quit. Consider it as an early graduation present.

5. Why is Eric Single still single?

6. There has got to be a faster and more efficient way of getting food at Grins. Maybe two or more cashiers and a digital order input machine. The lines are ridiculous. Something's got to give!

7. Thank God Vandy Dining brought back the honey wheat rolls. (Editor's note: The power of the Rant).

8. Why the hell is there 24/7 coffee available on Commons and not on main? Freshmen don't have real work.

9. The Black & Gold Spring Game reminded me how much I love football ... and how much the stadium sound system absolutely, utterly SUCKS. Can we put some renovation money towards that please?

10. The anti-slavery campaign on Library Lawn is all well and good, but filling an Easter egg with both a refreshing mint and an incredibly somber printed fact sends so many mixed messages. There are better ways to champion this cause than simply being "cute" about it.

11. There's no Ben & Jerry's in Morgan Munchie anymore. I want availability of Ben & Jerry's and Chick-Fil-a to have a 1:1 ratio.

vanderbilt hustler

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OPINION POLICY

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

The views expressed in lead editorials reflect the majority of opinion among The Hustler's editorial board and are not necessarily representative of any individual member.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via email to opinion@insidevandy.com. Letters via email must come from a Vanderbilt email address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Sunday or Wednesday. 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 may 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.

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday and Thursday during the academic year except 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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Don't hate the player, change the game

Bad incentives, not bad people, are the root of our climate crisis



MICHAEL DIAMOND

is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science and co-founder of Reinvest Vanderbilt. He can be reached at michael.s.diamond@vanderbilt.edu.

Re Tillerson, the CEO of ExxonMobil, probably does not enjoy turning on the evening news and seeing crude oil ooze down the cul-de-sacs of suburban Arkansas. Tony Hayward, BP's CEO during the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, in all likelihood took no enjoyment in the multitudes of oil-soaked pelicans featured prominently on the front pages of the nation's newspapers and magazines. John Eaves, CEO of Arch Coal, does not start each morning by asking himself how to give more children asthma most effectively today.

Yet some Mayflower, Ark., residents, more than two weeks after Exxon's pipeline ruptured on March 29, are still unable to return to their homes. And even though Hayward had no bad intentions, his company's mistakes in the Gulf led to the most costly environmental disaster in U.S. history. Despite what Eaves and other coal executives may want, the air pollution caused by the burning of their product is linked to serious health risks, not to mention climate change.

None of these fossil fuel CEOs are necessarily bad people. If I were of legal age, I'd love to grab a beer with any of the three of them. However, their businesses are killing the planet — not because they intend to, but because there are no penalties. Alone among industries, fossil fuel companies are not required to pay the full costs of their pollution, namely their carbon pollution. Until a system is in place to incentivize stewardship and penalize environmental degradation, there is no reason to believe that these companies will change their behavior. If we are to create a sustainable economy, system-wide incentives need to change.

The first step is simply to stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry — both directly and indirectly. According to a recent study by the International Monetary Fund, oil, coal and natural gas are subsidized worldwide to the tune of \$1.9 trillion, or 2.7 percent of global GDP. This is a lower estimate: The IMF explicitly excludes tax breaks for drilling and exploration in its calculations. Direct subsidies for fossil fuels mainly come in the form of subsidies for gas and electricity, which in practice tend to benefit the rich more than the poor because wealthier individuals consume more energy to begin with. In the IMF analysis, indirect subsidies come mainly in the form of unpriced externalities or, in other words, the costs of pollution that

companies do not pay themselves. So every oil-soaked pelican not covered by required clean-up funds, every child with asthma caused or aggravated by air pollution from coal plants and every ton of heat-trapping greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere for free is the equivalent of a subsidy to oil and coal. As Milton Friedman liked to say, "There is no such thing as a free lunch." Someone or something is paying these costs on these energy companies' behalf.

How can we eliminate these subsidies and make sure the price of carbon-based fuels reflects their true social costs? Government actions, or the elimination of government actions, can help. The problem of direct subsidies can be solved fairly easily: Governments can just stop providing them. Done. As the IMF recommends, those subsidies could be refunded to the public in the form of cash grants, which would benefit the poor more than the current subsidies. The issue of indirect subsidies could be solved through a carbon-pricing mechanism, as recommended by William Nordhaus, lecturer of this year's Department of Economics McGee Public Policy Lecture Series.

Government will not be the only solution, however. Private actors — especially universities and other institutions with socially responsible missions — have a role to play. If fossil fuel companies continue to spew out carbon dioxide and other agents of global warming, lobby for their special subsidies and refuse to become true-energy companies by switching to renewable technologies, we can revoke their "social licenses." Does social license — or respectability — matter? Just ask Philip Morris and other tobacco companies: Losing respectability in the eyes of the public hurts. The best way for universities and other socially responsible investors to help eliminate these fuel companies' "free ride" is through divestment.

By selling off any equities the endowment directly holds in coal and oil and by committing to not purchase any new ones, Vanderbilt could send a clear message that fossil fuel stocks are not sustainable investments. It's not because these companies set out to be evil; they're just responding rationally to the incentives they face. It is up to us to change these incentives. It is up to us to ensure that sustainability is the default policy. It is up to us to divest.

— Michael Diamond

Big oil is not ready



SKYLER HUTTO

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On March 29, a 911 call came into the emergency operator in Mayflower, Ark. As reported by Reuters, a man described a "river of oil" approaching him on the street. The ExxonMobil pipeline that generated this spill is known as Pegasus, but it is part of the larger Keystone pipeline series, the same pipeline that could eventually connect Alberta's tar sands oil (one of the dirtiest forms of crude oil) to Texas. If the pipeline is extended, it would snake through the Midwest, traversing several states, aquifers and important farmlands. Spills like the one in Mayflower are dangerous, as is the CO₂ made accessible by an expanded Keystone pipeline. James Hansen of NASA has described this project, which already seems structurally faulty, as "game-over for a stable climate." As the oil still resists containment in Arkansas, companies like Exxon and BP are cutting their investments in sustainable energy, the best alternative to sources like oil and coal.

Earlier this month, Ben Winkley of The Wall Street Journal pointed out that BP is no longer "beyond petroleum," as its tagline suggests. The company has sold its wind farms, cut its solar investments and stopped developments of ethanol refineries. Simultaneously, Exxon invests one dollar in alternative energies for every five that it has spent on Alberta's tar sands alone. That's not an impressive ratio for a company that constantly tries to brand itself as environmentally conscious. Of course, these businesses are not inherently malicious — and neither are the people that run them. Rather, these companies must meet demand with some sort of supply. However, to let sustainable options go by the wayside is not responsible, and shareholders must demand a change.

In social and political movements of past decades, universities

have taken the lead in asking for a change as investors. Each institution controls millions if not billions in capital, and more importantly, these institutions have loud voices. In the '80s, colleges divested from South African companies to oppose Apartheid. In the '90s, they divested from tobacco companies because of the irresponsible practices of those businesses. Now it is time for universities, including Vanderbilt, to divest from fossil fuel companies that refuse to seriously add green energy to their portfolio.

Last semester, Vanderbilt Student Government passed a resolution asking Vanderbilt's Office of Investments to slowly divest from hydrocarbon companies that would not transition into true energy companies. The implementation and effectiveness of this nonbinding request are up to students and university officials alike. In the coming months and years, the urgent need for an energy shift will become more evident as pipelines continue to burst and the climate continues to warm.

If Vanderbilt states that it will never directly invest in fossil fuel companies, the impact will be larger than a simple stock sale. Our school would be a leader. Not only would the university be protected from the eventual decline in fossil-fuel company value, but it would also experience a boon in favorable publicity while staying true to its environmental commitment statement: "Vanderbilt has committed to striving to achieve the highest standards of sustainability through a process of environmental responsibility and accountability at every level of university activity."

— Skyler Hutto

Legalization is the future



KENNY TAN

is a junior in the College of Arts and Science and president of Young Americans for Liberty at Vanderbilt. He can be reached at kenny.tan@vanderbilt.edu.

The war on drugs is coming to an end. A new poll released this month by the Pew Research Center revealed that for the first time, a majority of Americans favor legalizing the use of marijuana.

While federal laws still prohibit the possession, selling or harvesting of marijuana, it is clear that the federal government will soon have to concede defeat in the face of changing public opinion. Young people are increasingly adopting a libertarian stance on social issues, and according to the Pew survey, 65 percent of Americans between ages 18-32 favor legalizing the use of marijuana.

The main reason for the shift in public opinion is generational change, according to Robert Blendon, a professor of health policy and political analysis at Harvard University. While it remains true that marijuana use is considered safer than alcohol and a victimless crime and that the war on drugs is wasting too much money and sending too many innocent people to prison, the reason more people support legalization is the fact that more people have experienced or witnessed marijuana use and do not consider it a problem. According to the Pew survey, 48 percent of Americans have used marijuana in the past and 27 percent of those younger than 30 have used it in the past year.

Attitudes about the morality of marijuana use are also changing and rightly so. According to a survey in January, only 32 percent of Americans say smoking is morally wrong, down 18 points since 2006. During the same period, the percentages that say it is not a moral issue has increased from 35 to 50 percent. As a libertarian, I believe in the principle of self-ownership and the right of individuals

to make their own choices about their own bodies. More specifically, individuals have the right to consume, smoke or drink any substance as long as they do not cause unwanted harm to others. Moreover, the mere use of drugs — while it may cause harm to the user — does not cause any direct harm to others. Thus, drug use is not a moral issue. In the end, what consensual activities individuals decide to engage in within the privacy of their own residence should be none of our business.

After the success of the legalization referendums in Colorado and Washington last November, a question still unanswered is whether or not the federal government will enforce marijuana laws in states that have approved marijuana use. According to the Pew survey, 60 percent of Americans say it should not and 72 percent say that in general, government efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth. While the Obama administration has not yet signaled how it will respond to legalization in Colorado and Washington, I am hopeful that many more states will legalize marijuana in the coming years.

Show your support for an end to the drug war! Join me this Friday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Rand Wall for Vanderbilt Young Americans for Liberty's second annual "End the Drug War" Bake Sale. In addition to delicious brownies, we will be giving away free swag from the Marijuana Policy Project, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Foundation for Economic Education and Students For Liberty.

— Kenny Tan

#fratsquirrels - by Sam Wechsler



Letters to the editor

Three responses to the column from Monday's issue, "Chalk Gods," address the recent chalk drawings on the 21st Avenue walking bridge

Keep free speech free

Banjarian fails to recognize the importance of the controversial and provocative

The author of the April 15 column "Chalk Gods" means well, I'm sure. By drawing our attention to the audacity of religious student groups spreading their message in the public sphere, he has also drawn our attention to an important debate in the nation: To what extent is controversial speech protected under the First Amendment? For many, this conversation focuses on the appropriateness of religious speech in the public sphere — see Monday's article. But why stop there? Why should any provocative topic be allowed in the public sphere?

Why should any college organization — or any organization even — be allowed to place anything that might be deemed offensive in public?

What if we were to do what Rani Banjarian suggests and actually eliminate any public message that "forces people to see something they acknowledge exists but do not necessarily enjoy?" Are we actually considering preventing individuals or student groups from publicizing because their viewpoints are unpopular? Are we for a moment suggesting that a university atmosphere would be better if no one were offended, if no one were challenged to think differently or had to acknowledge viewpoints they didn't agree with?

Banjarian claims to be a staunch proponent of free speech, but continues throughout his entire piece contradicting that statement. One of my favorite suggestions was where to draw the

line: "I cannot see how these chalk drawings were any different. You are at perfect liberty to express your ideological inclinations, but I draw the line when they become accusatory, inflammatory, patronizing and exclusive."

If we are to modify the premise of free speech in this way — to exclude speech that's accusatory or inflammatory — what is left of our First Amendment right to free speech? And accusatory and inflammatory according to whom? Which groups will be deemed acceptable and inoffensive, and which groups will be stifled?

Unpopular viewpoints should not be silenced simply because they are offensive. Banjarian recalls his distaste at touring parents' obvious disapproval of the gay pride flags hanging in the windows of dorms around campus. These banners inspired the parents' apparently visible discomfort. But does that mean we're going to get rid of them?

Perhaps they don't want their children to be surrounded by that kind of message. Compared to the chalk messages, are the gay pride banners not also an "evangelism" of sorts, a promotion of another message? To different groups, each may seem acceptable or inflammatory, taboo even. Banjarian does not hesitate to apply a different standard to each, making clear which symbols he would eliminate were he in charge.

— Laura Mast is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at laura.g.mast@vanderbilt.edu.

'If you are offended, that is your problem'

While I am a frequent reader of the opinion section of The Hustler, I am rarely inspired to do anything more than read and discuss the opinions therein with my friends over lunch. A recent article, however, has brought to my attention a certain misunderstanding of a huge aspect of Vanderbilt culture: religion. Now, I realize that the previous sentence may inflame some controversy, as we are all aware that we attend a non-religiously affiliated university. However, to pretend that religion is not a large part of the culture is to deny the identities of many students here at Vanderbilt.

We as Vanderbilt students are lucky to attend a very open and accepting university where it just isn't hard to find a group that adheres (even loosely) to your personal views, be that group sanctioned by the university or just a close group of friends. Even Rani Banjarian and I, with unique religious backgrounds, can find people with whom we enjoy discussing such issues (or not) as our preferences may entail. I understand his frustration: I was born to a Jewish father and an agnostic mother of Pentecostal family origins, so growing up watching other faiths without a strong familial tie to religion is something we have in common.

However, I see that I have interpreted those observations differently from how he has over the course of my life. Perhaps I simply find chalk drawings less offensive than he does. Perhaps I have a different view on what "accusatory, inflammatory, patronizing and exclusive" remarks look like. I have been blessed throughout my life to have friends of many different religious beliefs and origins, and I have gained a unique appreciation for each as I learn from these friends. My two closest friends on campus are regular churchgoers who welcome my questions about Christianity at our weekly lunches.

I regard myself as a secular student and therefore a member of the audience that Rani Banjarian expects to share his views. I do agree that there is a fundamental misunderstanding at play here: the belief that all religious people condemn you for not sharing their beliefs. But very few religions are inherently exclusive or inflammatory. When I was exploring my Jewish heritage, I had the opportunity to learn about the Noahide laws. These laws provide for the treatment and lifestyles of Gentiles, people

who aren't Jewish. Judaism isn't the only religion that accepts that there is a place for those outside the faith, however, and many people of varying faiths are quite happy to coexist with those who hold different beliefs.

As I said, I am rarely incited to write in response to an opinion article. In fact, this is the very first time I ever have. But I am deeply disturbed by the superiority that Banjarian shows in his April 15 column "Chalk Gods," in which he asserts his belief that "with secularism comes a distinctive outlook on religion and the intrinsic propensity for conflict." Religion is not something to be shut away in a closet or hidden from public light any more than sexual orientation or marital status is something that we should be ashamed of. One of the beautiful things about this campus is how the students are encouraged to explore their own identities and be proud of them. Rather than taking them away and labeling those identities as inflammatory or noxious, students on this campus would gain from seeking out a deeper understanding of the differences that make up our student body.

Banjarian says that he only has a problem if "you overstep personal bounds and force (him) to see something (he acknowledges) exists but (does not) necessarily enjoy." I have heard similarly concerning arguments regarding many issues, but most particularly in the recent debates regarding same-sex marriage. I worry about this idea that people are responsible for hiding the things that someone might not want to see.

In truth, this whole conversation brings to mind something my agnostic (and therefore theoretically inoffensive) mother said to me when I was a child: "If you are offended, that is your problem. Find a way to not be offended."

If you take offense or insult to something as harmless as chalk on a bridge, perhaps you should examine your own motivations. Religious or not, gay or straight, black, white, brown or purple, people should not be expected to monitor their identities at all times to make sure that they don't offend your sensibilities.

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A double standard

While reading the April 15 column "Chalk Gods," I was struck by the incredible rhetoric and omnipresent irony. The author makes sweeping generalizations and grand statements while faltering on many contradictions. This isn't surprising, since the author is trying to prove that short Bible messages written on sidewalks are "accusatory, inflammatory, patronizing and exclusive."

Really? I'm not going to copy and paste the definitions of those words into my letter, but I have to start by asking: Does the Vanderbilt community find these sidewalk messages to be inflammatory? Accusatory? Patronizing? Exclusive? I can think of many unfair, accusatory and patronizing things that have nothing to do with writing. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" on a sidewalk. Similarly, in the column's fifth paragraph, the author claims, "I felt incredibly marginalized knowing that I would not 'let HIM lead,' as the chalk markings suggested." Claiming to feel "marginalized" by religious messages written in chalk in a nation that does not discriminate based on religion is baseless and loaded. The author is borderline disrespectful by using that word incorrectly when hundreds of groups are actually marginalized, such as child laborers in Indonesia, child slaves and soldiers in Africa, women in India and the LGBTQI community he references in his last paragraph.

The rhetoric continues in the third and fifth paragraphs when the author says that the sidewalk messages "overstep personal bounds ... and force me to see something I acknowledge exists but which I do not necessarily enjoy..." Again, the author claims these messages overstep personal bounds and that the messages were not protected by freedom of speech. Really? Was anyone touching the author, verbally berating the author or harassing the author in any way? The author claims he is a "staunch proponent of freedom of speech," yet it is clear he does not fully understand the concept if he thinks these chalk messages are in violation of that right. Freedom of speech protects protesters outside of Planned Parenthood clinics who call doctors "baby killers" and "murderers." It protects racial derogators and white supremacists marching outside of the White House. It even allows for anyone to stand on a street corner or any public space and spout his beliefs until his voice goes hoarse. The people exposed to this speech may not "necessarily enjoy" it, but those who are speaking (or screaming) have a right to do so. Therefore, it is incorrect to call these chalk messages a violation of the freedom of speech, being less intrusive to the author than if the aforementioned

examples. It is ironic that the messages could be simply stepped over and that they are less noticeable and easier to avoid than, say, the hellfire, damnation evangelists who sometimes visit campus (another example of the protection of the freedom of speech).

By the author's definition of free speech, certainly the gay pride flags he referenced sympathetically in his last paragraph would be a violation of free speech. If we were to apply his grievances about Christian messages on sidewalks to the flags, one could reason that they are no less visible, and therefore they overstep personal bounds. They are "exclusive" because they represent one community of people; they are "accusatory" because the flags represent a rebellion against a society because of oppression; they are "inflammatory" because they are politically controversial. The author would surely object to these labels, and this is where the double standard truly lies.

The author makes many incorrect assumptions in his article, claiming that a prospective Catholic student wouldn't be accommodating to "pro-Islamic messages" at Vanderbilt, a notion that is disturbing. Similarly, would the Vanderbilt community be offended after viewing a few verses from the Koran? Furthermore, the author makes unmerited generalizations about religious ideology and specifically Christianity (in the fifth paragraph): "It is the very essence of religion, the universal themes of separation and institutionalization ... why should I be subject to a specific ideology that, in its very credo, shuns all others?" And the author further claims he has a "distinctive outlook on religion and (its) intrinsic propensity for conflict." Do religious observers on campus accept this notion that their religions inherently incite conflict and shun others? It is clear that the author does not have a thorough understanding of the doctrines he is critiquing. The article continues with unjust stereotypes as the author juxtaposes religious and Christian messages with gay rights — an unfair and incorrect notion.

What is tragic is the author's noted background of experiences of religious intolerance. But instead of being open to religious expression and free speech, the author condemns it: the core piece of irony in the article. Because of the author's flawed reasoning, comparisons and definitions, the editorial "Chalk Gods" is faulty, and by the author's own definitions, it becomes accusatory, inflammatory, patronizing and exclusive.

— Perry Belcher is a freshman in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at perry.m.belcher@vanderbilt.edu.

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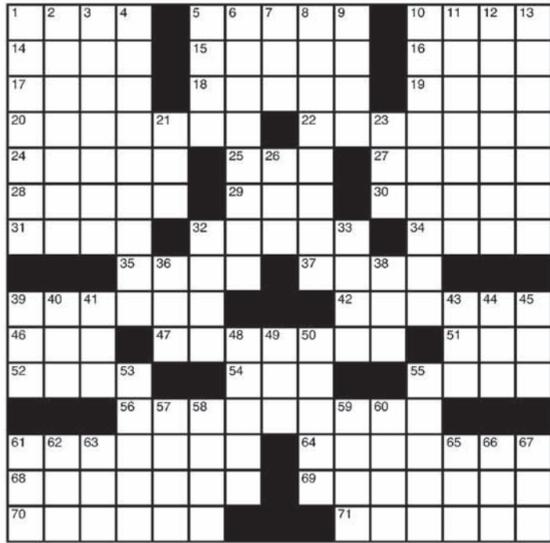
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TODAY'S CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Invitation reminder letters
 - 5 Tape player button
 - 10 '80s pop duo with an exclamation point in its name
 - 14 Renaissance painter Guido
 - 15 Indian city
 - 16 Sharpen
 - 17 #2: Abbr.
 - 18 Like some checking accounts
 - 19 Cry after being tagged
 - 20 "Web page index"
 - 22 "Keep in touch!"
 - 24 Start of a boast
 - 25 "Middle of Nowhere" director
 - 27 Prohibit
 - 28 Restaurant survey creator
 - 29 Tease
 - 30 Smacked, biblically
 - 31 Steven Chu's Cabinet dept.
 - 32 Mononymous "Rumour Has It" singer
 - 34 Used peepers on
 - 35 "Firework" singer
 - 37 Exile isle
 - 39 Debacle
 - 42 Soda buys
 - 46 Mac interface
 - 47 "Comics supervillain whose real name is Charles Brown"
 - 51 Start to push?
 - 52 Clarified butter
 - 54 "Believer": '60s hit
 - 55 Retailer T.J. ___
 - 56 Knock out of contention
 - 61 Personal partner?
 - 64 It goes around the world
 - 68 Flat container
 - 69 Ice cream treats
 - 70 With 71-Across, what the answers to starred clues contain?
 - 71 See 70-Across



By Erik Agard 4/18/13

- DOWN**
- 1 Lingerie spec
 - 2 "Absolutely!"
 - 3 Treading the boards
 - 4 "Vampire victim's souvenir"
 - 5 Flamboyant Dame
 - 6 Where to find a lot of answers?
 - 7 Impish sort
 - 8 Like some vitamins
 - 9 Cake level
 - 10 "Chicken choice"
 - 11 Inner city buddy
 - 12 Produce, as cartoons
 - 13 Like most cabs
 - 21 Was introduced to
 - 23 Passports, e.g.
 - 26 Contend
 - 32 Yours, in Tours
 - 33 Big name in scat
 - 36 Cry from Cathy of comics
 - 38 Trash repository
 - 39 Weather for low beams
 - 40 Moderating suffix
 - 41 Terminate
 - 43 Green org.
 - 44 T. ___

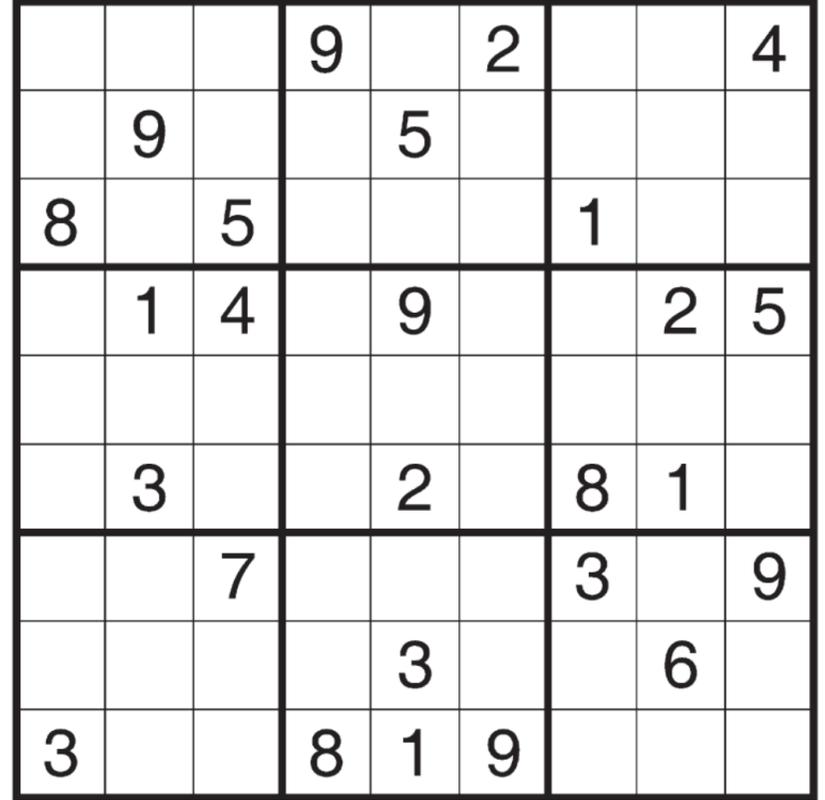
Answers to Monday's puzzle

J	U	D	D	L	A	R	A	P	D	F	S			
O	R	E	O	M	I	N	O	R	A	R	I	A		
K	I	N	G	S	I	Z	E	B	E	D	D	I	N	G
E	A	S	E	I	N	Y	E	T	I	L	E	S		
H	E	A	D	O	V	E	R	H	E	E	L	S		
R	E	L	O	T	A	T	A							
U	F	O	T	L	C	R	S	V	P	S				
M	A	J	O	R	A	T	T	R	A	C	T	I	O	N
P	R	O	M	O	S	O	L	E	E	L				
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	S	T	R	I	K	E		
E	L	L	T	O	R	O	T	E	N	U	R	E		
F	O	L	L	O	W	T	H	E	L	E	A	D	E	R
T	R	E	E	A	R	A	G	E	L	O	C	O		
S	Y	N	E	R	E	N	O	E	S	T	S			

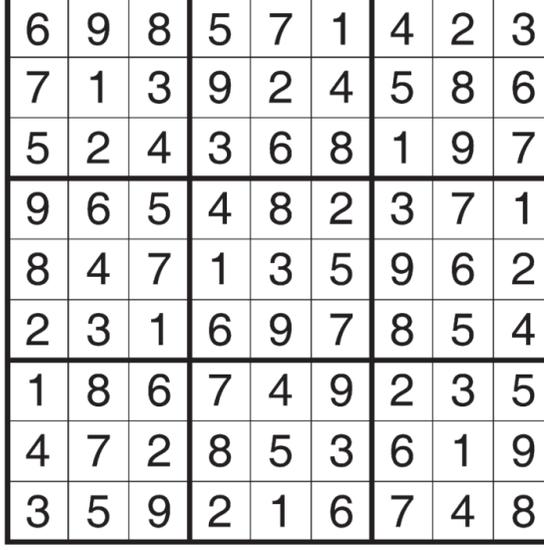
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- 45 What F or M may denote
- 48 "It takes a licking ..." watch
- 49 U.K. record label
- 50 Leonine neck features
- 53 Sought morays
- 55 Gettysburg general
- 57 Brain part
- 58 "And the race ___!"
- 59 Blue hue
- 60 Mao Tse-___
- 61 Seat, in slang
- 62 NYG NFL rival
- 63 Fish-and-chips fish
- 65 Basking goal
- 66 Where age always goes before beauty, briefly
- 67 The ANC's country

TODAY'S SUDOKU



Answers to Monday's puzzle 4/18/13



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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