

# HE'S A POET AND WE KNOW IT

Sophomore Jeff Ryan, a published poet, tells his story. See **page 6** for more.

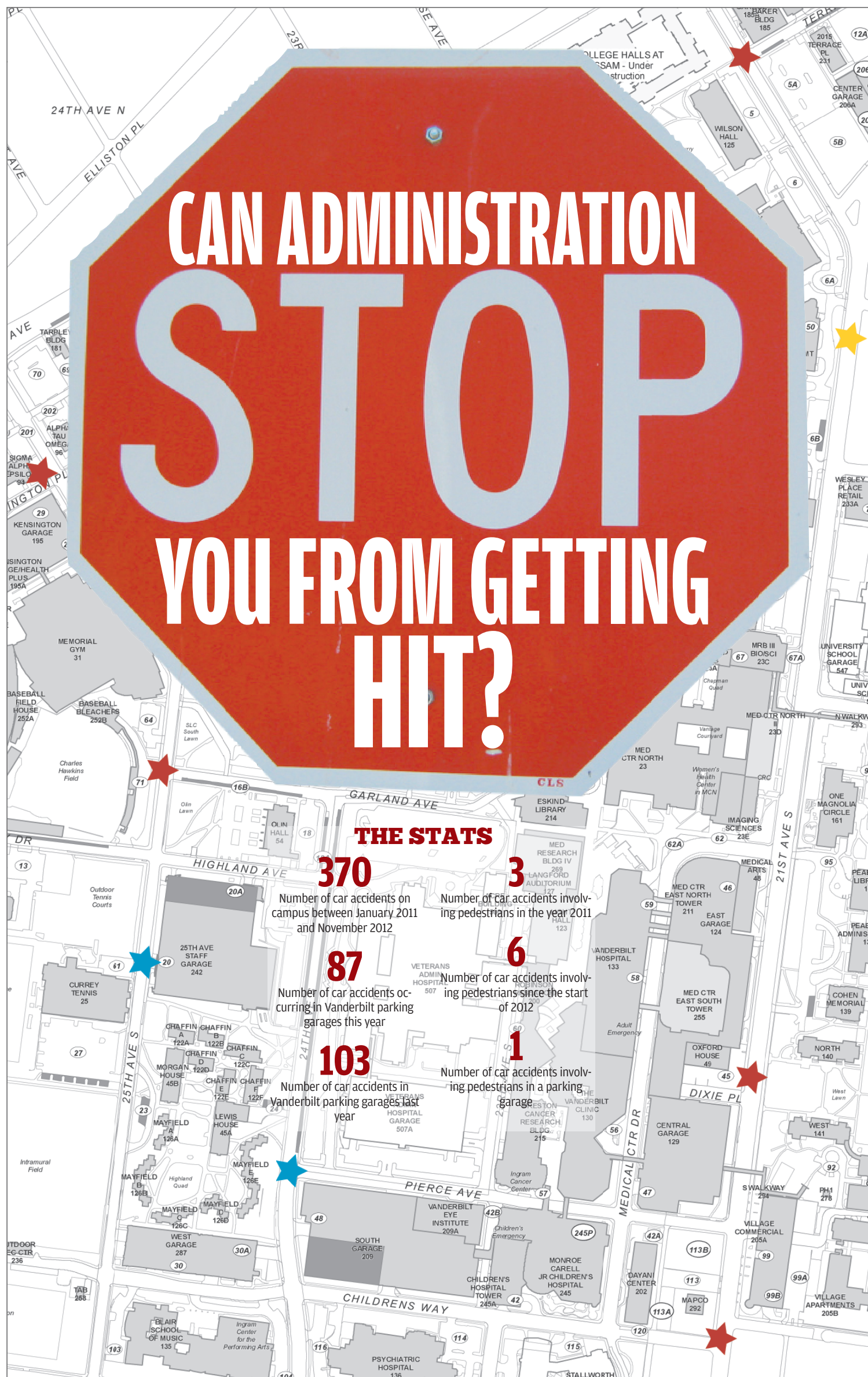


# vanderbilt hustler

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The blue and red stars to the left denote **pedestrians and cyclists hit by cars on campus** in the past year. One of those, a current student, tells his story on Page 2. **Here's what Vanderbilt has been doing about it.**

By **LAWRENCE WALLER**  
News staff reporter

Two years ago, Associate Professor of Economics Malcolm Getz was struck by a car while crossing the street at the corner of 21st and Grand, behind the Law School. In that same 12-month period, two students from the Owen Graduate School of Management were also hit by cars, according to a university news article.

Since these accidents, VUPD and Vanderbilt have worked to get several new traffic signs and pedestrian safety measures installed around main campus. But how much safer are Vanderbilt pedestrians today?

#### DANGER ZONES ON CAMPUS

In 2011, there were three accidents involving pedestrians on campus. So far this calendar year, there have been six accidents involving pedestrians, according to Captain Corwin Thomas of VUPD. The numbers do not include cases of pedestrians injured on the campus of the Medical Center or cases handled by the Metropolitan Nashville Police.

A number of places around campus have become notorious for being dangerous to cross.

"I have experienced multiple times cars passing through the crosswalk on Children's Way between the West Garage and Blair while I was in the middle of crossing the street," said Professor Joe Rea Phillips, senior artist teacher of guitar at the Blair School of Music. "I have also seen this happen to students as they use this crosswalk, which is a real safety concern."

Accidents in Vanderbilt parking garages also pose a threat to those students who park on campus, but their pace has slowed this year. A total of 87 car accidents have occurred in Vanderbilt parking garages so far, compared

with 103 last year. One pedestrian was struck this year by a car inside the Kensington Garage.

#### WHAT'S BEING DONE

A set of warning signs was installed this past January at the crosswalk between Highland Quad and the Student Rec Center on 25th Street. Similar signs were also installed in the 21st Street crosswalk behind the law school and elsewhere on campus.

"We have found that the in-ground pedestrian signs are very effective in that most vehicles and drivers will respect (them) and stop," said Mary Pat Barrett-Teague, associate director of Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations. "We are constantly assessing what needs to be done and looking for ways to make it safer for pedestrians."

VUPD works with the Nashville Metro government to have traffic-calming and pedestrian safety measures installed on the streets around Vanderbilt, which the city has jurisdiction over. "We work with metro government ... they're very good about this," said Barrett-Teague.

A private developer is also looking to put a light at the intersection of 21st Street and Broadway, she said.

A pedestrian does not have the right-of-way to step out in front of a vehicle at the last minute, said Barrett-Teague. "I always try to make eye contact ... with the driver," she said.

Professor Getz feels the signs and warnings have made campus a safer place to walk.

"The crosswalks with the signs bolted to the street ... on 21st near the Baker Building are a significant improvement," he said. "Cars do in fact stop."

Overall, a total of 370 car accidents occurred on campus from January 2011 through November 2012, according to VUPD.

#### MAP KEY

**BLUE STARS:** Locations where a bicyclist has been struck by a moving vehicle  
**RED STARS:** Locations where a pedestrian has been struck by a moving vehicle  
**YELLOW STAR:** Location where Professor Malcolm Getz was struck by a moving vehicle

## Too party for Bahrain

Andrew W.K. won't be taking his party to Bahrain after all.

The American performer announced on his website that he had been named a cultural ambassador to Bahrain, where he would promote "partying and world peace."

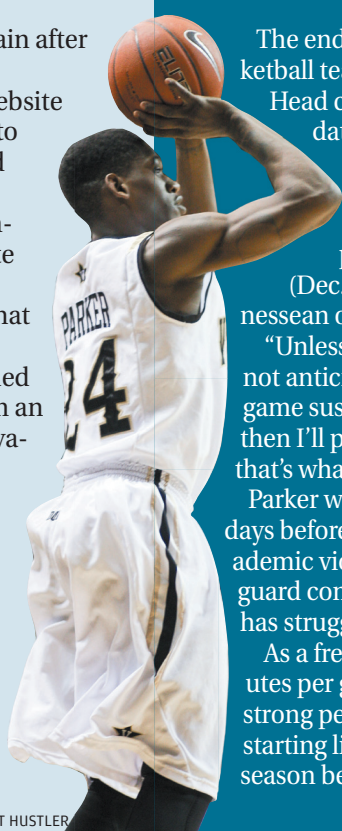
He had been tentatively invited by the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain to visit the country, but the State Department had second thoughts.

Spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Monday that the invitation to the 33-year-old singer of songs including "Party 'Til You Puke" had been rescinded by senior U.S. officials because they deemed him an inappropriate choice for outreach in the conservative Muslim kingdom.

Andrew W.K. describes himself as a singer-songwriter and motivational speaker, among other things. Despite the setback, he vowed on his website not to stop partying.

"Despite all these challenges, I still would love to go and I vow to continue partying and working everyday to unite our human race through the power of positive partying," W.K. said.

— Sam McBride, news manager (Associated Press contributed to this report)



CHRIS HONIBALL / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

## Waiting for Dai-Jon

The end of Dai-Jon Parker's suspension from the basketball team is in sight, according to The Tennessean.

Head coach Kevin Stallings set the expected return date for the sophomore guard for Dec. 17, when the Commodores take on Cornell at home.

"I would think that we'll be getting Dai-Jon back ... I'm going to say at this point it will probably be after the Alabama A&M game (Dec. 15)," head coach Kevin Stallings told The Tennessean on Wednesday.

"Unless we have some other setbacks — which I'm not anticipating — I think we'll end up at about a 10-game suspension including the exhibition games, and then I'll probably reinstate him at that point. I just think that's what we needed and what he deserved."

Parker was suspended indefinitely on Oct. 30, just a few days before the team's first exhibition game, for a non-academic violation of team rules. The return of the athletic guard comes as good news for a Commodore team that has struggled to a 2-3 record so far.

As a freshman, Parker averaged 1.7 points in 11.1 minutes per game. Used in late-game situations due to his strong perimeter defense, Parker was slated to join the starting lineup as a shooting guard for the 2012-2013 season before the suspension.

## Upgrading Palestine

The United Nations General Assembly is expected to vote Thursday afternoon on a resolution raising Palestine's status at the U.N. from an observer to a nonmember observer state — a move Palestinians believe is an important step toward a two-state solution with Israel.

Unlike the Security Council, there are no vetoes in the General Assembly and the resolution is virtually certain of approval. The world body is dominated by countries sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and the resolution only requires a majority vote for approval. To date, 132 countries — over two-thirds of the U.N. member states — have recognized the state of Palestine.

The Palestinians believe their upgraded status would add weight to their claims for a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005.

The Palestinians also hope to use their upgraded status to join additional U.N. bodies, such as the International Criminal Court, where they could attempt to prosecute Israel.

The Palestinians have expressed fear over the threat of financial and diplomatic retribution. Israel, however, has backed off its previous threats of drastic measures if the U.N. approves the measure, with officials suggesting the government would take steps only if the Palestinians use their new status to act against Israel.

# campus

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The clothes got ripped off in the accident, weird, I still have the bag with them, it's scary."

CHRIS AMMERMAN, VANDERBILT JUNIOR



## VANDERBITS

## CRIME CORNER

From banging shovels on light poles to drug and alcohol arrests, these are the latest crime reports pertaining to Vanderbilt students.

### Friday, Nov. 16

**Memorial Circle/Stambaugh House, 1:05 a.m.** — A student who was observed being carried across campus was given a disciplinary referral.

**Morgan and Lewis Houses, 4-7 p.m.** — Drug paraphernalia was found in two separate students' dorm rooms.

### Saturday, Nov. 17

**Carmichael Towers, 9:25 a.m.** — Marijuana and drug paraphernalia was found in a dorm common room.

**Branscomb Quad, 10 a.m.** — Drug paraphernalia was found in a student's dorm room.

**Kirkland Hall, 6:18 p.m.** — Individuals were caught banging shovels against a light pole and attempted to evade arrest. The individuals were also charged with liquor law violations.

**Dudley Stadium, 6-7 p.m.** — Three individuals were charged with liquor law violations.

### Monday, Nov. 26

**1211 Medical Center Drive, 11:35 a.m.** — Two individuals were involved in a physical altercation resulting in simple assault charges.

## vanderbilthustler

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# Hit and run: one year later

A Vanderbilt student who was hit and seriously injured by an SUV shares how the accident has changed his perspectives on safety in his own words. **By Tyler Bishop, news manager**

**A year and two days ago, Chris Ammerman, now a junior, was struck by a car just off campus on his way back to his room after returning from Thanksgiving break. Here is Ammerman's account of what happened that day.**

I parked off campus sophomore year near the naked statues by Demonbreun, and I was walking back to Branscomb where I was living. The following is from eyewitness accounts because I lost memory of the accident itself, two weeks after the event and one week before — I went to the UT game in Knoxville and can't even remember it. So as people have told me:

I looked both ways and seemed to think the path was either clear or that the car that eventually hit me had seen me and would stop, considering I was in a crosswalk with the right of way. It was the crosswalk at the intersection of Broadway and Division near Ken's Sushi, the one that's a bit different because traffic can't ever have a red light, just those flashing yellow lights that alert them that they have to stop for the pedestrian, which was me.

Nevertheless, she was traveling 35-40 mph in a Lexus SUV, and she failed to slow down at all. She hit me after I had crossed 75 percent of the street already — I was a couple of steps from having made it all the way across, so she should have had plenty of time to see me — I didn't, like, jump into traffic; I had already been there for several seconds. The collision immediately broke my femur entirely in half, lacerated my spleen and bruised my lung. I then flipped over the top of the car and landed on the asphalt on my head, thus requiring 21 metal staples and getting a concussion that kept me from being able to read for six weeks.

Luckily, there were two witnesses. One jumped out of his car, called the police and put his jacket over my naked body — the clothes got ripped off in the accident, weird, I still have the bag with them, it's scary — to keep me from going into shock. The other witness followed the driver because he realized she was not stopping. She then proceeded to claim that she had no idea she had hit anything, despite the fact that I had cracked her windshield and would have easily garnered her attention. She seems to be lying about that to cover her attempt to perform a hit-and-run.

Most guesses are that she had been texting while hitting me. Luckily for me, I was very close to the Vanderbilt Medical Center, and they are lifesavers. My heart stopped beating on its own for six hours — they had to manually keep it going until I was stable enough to go on a machine — and I was given a very tiny chance to live. I also lost 30 pounds between the accident and going into surgery. Take that, "South Beach Diet."

They then hollowed out the entirety of my right femur and inserted a titanium rod from the top of my hip down the entire leg. This piece of hardware is a permanent part of my composition from here on out. The driver ended up never being prosecuted due to not having any personal assets, and she received no legal ramifications. Perhaps a raised insurance premium, but that is all.



## Walking strong: Ammerman speaks out about pedestrian safety on campus

**The Vanderbilt Hustler:** Do you think Vanderbilt's streets and crosswalks are safe?

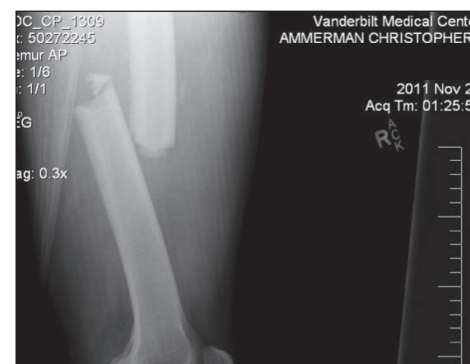
**Chris Ammerman:** I do not think that Vanderbilt sidewalks, crosswalks are safe. Just the other day while skateboarding down the sidewalk down 25th Avenue, a car tried to cut me off to enter the garage before I passed the entrance, which was impossible. I therefore smashed into the side of their car and dented the bed of their truck. Maybe it's nothing against Vanderbilt, but rather drivers in Nashville I would say are idiotic.

**VH:** How did the accident change how you approach moving around campus?

**CA:** I now move around campus more carefully, and I never go anywhere near that crosswalk. In fact, just being within, like, 500 feet makes my body cringe, it's a really weird feeling that I can't even come close to explaining. But I still skateboard around, just carefully of course.

**VH:** What else do you have to say about the accident?

**CA:** Common misconceptions about my accident: I was not under the influence of anything. I was not listening to music. I was not driving. I was walking. I was not skateboarding. I was walking. Had I been skateboarding I might have beat the car and never had to deal with any of this. I would have taken finals at



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS AMMERMAN  
**TOP:** Chris Ammerman resting in a hospital bed shortly after his accident last year. He sustained injuries including a broken femur, a lacerated spleen and a concussion.

**BOTTOM:** An x-ray representation of Ammerman's broken femur. The bone was later replaced with a titanium rod.

regular times and continued my studies without having to complete 30 hours the following semester (15 hours for the previous semester's finals and papers, tests, etc.) or had to use a cane until May. Or spent countless hours in physical therapy or have to eat nothing but lukewarm eggs for three weeks due to being intubated.

Above all, this experience has made me better appreciate life and everything that entails. Due to the accident — where life was almost stripped from me — I saw what was important, which for me was the complexity of the world and how being a citizen of the world is a million times more important than any one nationality. I have since studied abroad in France and leave to study abroad in Brazil in January. Sometimes it takes being hit by a car to realize God's beauty, power, grace and plan for you. Granted, I can always get better at it, but I feel pretty strongly that life is a gift that should never be wasted.

# A chance to give back

Vanderbilt's 'Alternative Gift Fair' gives students and others the chance to give a non-traditional gift: food, shelter or other necessities for someone in need.

**By TYLER BISHOP**  
*News staff reporter*

Vanderbilt students and members of the Nashville community will gather today to participate in Vanderbilt's fifth annual "Alternative Gift Fair." The event is aimed at providing aid to those in need: Participants will have the opportunity to spend money on necessities for others rather than on traditional holiday gift-giving.

"It promotes this idea of 'intangible' gift giving," said Elizabeth Gunckle, sophomore and co-chair of the Alternative Gift Fair. "So, instead of spending money on random gifts for my friends and family, I'll instead be spending the money that I would have spent otherwise at the fair."

Approximately 25 nonprofit organizations will be represented at the fair. The nonprofits will be providing opportunities to purchase non-traditional "gifts," such as a meal for someone in need, books for underprivileged children, or a sponsorship for someone's stay at the Ronald McDonald House.

Costs of the available gifts will range from \$1 to \$100. They can be paid for by cash, check, or credit card. The Alternative Gift Fair

will also provide entertainment for those who attend.

"There will be lots of free food and live music," Gunckle said.

The fair will also offer an opportunity for the organizations to educate the community about their missions.

"It's a unique opportunity to personally hear about some of the awesome things people are doing in Nashville to help others," Gunckle said.

The Alternative Gift Fair is sponsored by Vanderbilt Student Government, the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, the Vanderbilt Panhellenic Council, and the Vanderbilt Interfaith Council. Gunckle said the event does not have a specific religious affiliation.

The event will take place today from 3-7 p.m. at St. Augustine's chapel, located on 24th Avenue on Greek row. Students and members of the Nashville community are encouraged to attend. Anyone can come and go as they please.

Gunckle said she is hoping for a big turnout at the event.

"I'm also anxious and excited to see the turnout of the event," she said. "It'd be really great to see the Vanderbilt community to come together during the holiday season."

# Blogging for grades

**By CHARLOTTE GILL**  
*News staff reporter*

According to Vanderbilt News, professors are harnessing a new platform for discussion: the blog.

Assistant Professor of English Humberto Garcia has taken advantage of this tool for his honors course, called The Romantic Period: Romanticism and Apocalypse, as well as another course, Restoration and the Eighteenth Century.

"I have found a system that works, and the students are more verbal and engaged overall," Garcia said. "However, there are certain aspects of traditional teaching that cannot, and should not, be replaced by digital media."

An assistant professor of Jewish Studies and English is also using blogs for her Literature, Photography, and Memory course. The Center for Teaching provides guidance to professors for the use of blogs, including an online guide to teaching with blogs.

Professors are allowed to use any blogging platform they prefer, including the WordPress-supported my.vanderbilt.edu.

# THE DISH ON DINING

The Hustler gets you the scoop on a few ways that Vanderbilt Dining gives back to both students and the larger Nashville community.



## TID 10 BITS ABOUT VANDERBILT DINING

No school's meal plan is perfect, but Camp Howard, director of Vanderbilt Dining, says "ours is pretty close." Vanderbilt Dining stresses that feedback from the students is what drives most changes to be made in the system. So if you have a request or complaint, speak up!  
**By Maddie Hughes, news staff reporter**

- 1 Vanderbilt was one of the first universities to put convenience stores on campus, and the "Munchie Marts" are very unusual in that students are allowed to use meals there, as opposed to only Meal Money.
- 2 Vanderbilt is also one of the only schools to provide rollover money for missing a meal. The \$3.15 was determined by Vanderbilt Dining as equivalent to just the cost of the food for one person per meal.
- 3 Freshmen don't get rollovers because they are encouraged to dine on The Commons to support community building. Also, the First Year Meal Plan helps fund the extra effort that goes into programming at the Commons Center.
- 4 The money students pay for the meal plan at the beginning of the semester is split among costs for food, salaries, rent, utilities, equipment and utensils. (Contrary to one campus rumor, no money is specifically set aside to compensate for stolen goods).
- 5 Vanderbilt Dining is not profit-driven, but is rather a self-supporting organization. "It is run with the undergrad as the focus," said Mr. Howard.
- 6 The meal plan is required for first-, second- and third-year students in order to support functionality (Dining employs over 275 workers). Though the meal plan is optional for seniors, Dining estimates that over 50 percent of seniors are on the meal plan.
- 7 At this point in time, Vanderbilt Dining doesn't foresee adding more restaurants to the Taste of Nashville program, because for the dining system to continue working as it does, students must continue to eat some meals at the on-campus restaurants.
- 8 Vanderbilt Dining uses a retail-based system because they say it allows for higher-quality food and experience.
- 9 Meal periods are necessary because the system is retail-based, which means Dining must have a way to quantify the number of meals used per period. The times were picked based on student input, looking at the times most students want to have meals, and factoring in time for switching over between menus through the day.
- 10 The meal plan is designed with the idea in mind that students will not eat all meals on campus. "The meal plan would be a lot more expensive if the plan was priced to be 100 percent used," said Campus Dining Director of Communications Julie Cryder.

# 'Tis the season to 'Share-a-Side'

**By COLLIER BOWLING**  
*News reporter*

Vanderbilt University's Share-A-Side program, a student-initiated program that started last year, is once again under way. The program, which opened this year on Nov. 5, allows students to "donate a side" from their meal plan to Second Harvest Food Bank. When students donate a side, Vanderbilt gives a monetary donation to Second Harvest. This year the program has been particularly successful with total donations expected to double those of last year, to almost \$3,000.

Camp Howard, director of Campus Dining, said he feels strongly about the program. "My department is responsible for student having good, wholesome food," Howard said. "As a result, I like how the program is not taking complete meals away from the students, but rather just a portion of the meal."

Howard went on to describe his positive feelings towards the program and how he feels it has a moral significance for students. "Students make a conscious decision in their choosing to

participate in this," he said. "I like how students have skin in the game."

This program is not the first attempt by the Vanderbilt student body to donate food to the Nashville community. A collection barrel program outside Common Grounds existed before. However, Howard stated he did not like how the program was "not designed for donating sides."

"We have to regulate students blatantly purchasing something and donating it," Howard said. "We do not want our students to go hungry."

As a result, Howard said he prefers the current Share-A-Side program, as students only donate a portion, rather than a whole meal.

Vanderbilt University also participates in food donation programs besides Share-a-Side. Every Friday, the university donates leftover food to the Dismas House of Nashville and Nashville Rescue Mission.

Howard said he likes these programs too. "We have more food than we know what to do with," Howard said.

Share-A-Side will run this semester until Dec. 15.

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# opinion



## TWO CENTS

### THE QUESTION:

**What will you be doing over Christmas break this year?**



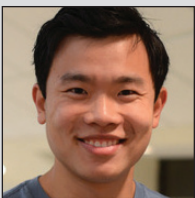
**MATT COLLUM**  
Class of 2015

"I'm going to go home to Chattanooga and spend time with my family. I always like going home, and it will be nice to not have any work to worry about for once."



**CHELSEA STOWELL**  
Class of 2013

"I'm going home with my family in Atlanta and not doing anything. It will be wonderful."



**WU YIN**  
Class of 2013

"I am going to Iowa to see my mom and sister. It's going to be crazy in Des Moines."



**ANKITA KHANDAI**  
Class of 2014

"I'm just going home to Aurora, Ill., and hanging out with my family. And sleeping in and eating a lot."



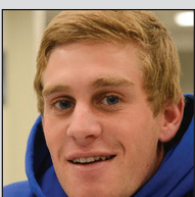
**KARL GRESSLY**  
Class of 2014

"I've got family coming in from Chicago and Vermont. Our house can only hold six people, but it's going to be holding 20. We're also having our annual family beer pong tournament and talent show."



**KIRSTEN DELAY**  
Class of 2013

"I'll be going back home to Shawnee, Kan., and finishing up my medical school applications."



**MICHAEL ABRAHAM**  
Class of 2013

"I'm going home to Los Angeles. Probably going to go to the beach a lot, and hopefully I'll get a chance to go skiing."

## 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.

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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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# The alcohol debate:

The Hustler recently investigated the **social drinking habits** of Vanderbilt undergraduates. Now, Vanderbilt students share their opinions on the matter.

## Nothing wrong with beer pong

The university's increasingly restrictive policies on alcohol encourage risky behavior

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This letter to the editor was submitted to The Hustler anonymously via email.

I am a senior, I am in a fraternity and since freshman year I have been scratching my head over this school's complete misunderstanding of undergraduate student alcohol consumption. It is evident to me and most likely every member of the Greek community (especially fraternity men) that the Greek Life office and school administration has no real understanding of what goes on in fraternities.

Raise your hand if you have ever played beer pong on campus. Keep your hand up if you enjoy doing so. I don't need statistics to illustrate the overwhelming majority of Greek students that have at one point or regularly do play beer pong. However, for some reason this dangerous act of binge drinking is strictly forbidden on campus. Binge drinking is bad, sure. But does beer pong really equal binge drinking? Let's break it down. A standard beer pong game involves a "rack" of 10 cups on either side of the table consisting of two beers each, split between two people, aka one beer per game. A normal game takes about 15-20 minutes each, and only the losing team has to suffer drinking through those two whole beers. So let's say you play beer pong for an hour and miraculously win four straight games, to the dismay of your opponents and to the arousal of women watching your beautiful stroke. How many beers is that? Less than four. But let's just say you are a champ and finish all four beers. If you are an average male of 165 lbs and consumed four beers in one hour, your BAC is a whopping .05 (bloodalcohol-calculator.org). That is assuming you won all four games and drank all of the beer every game (which wouldn't happen if you won). After an hour of beer pong the average male's BAC would be at most .05. That means after an hour of beer pong I could legally get in my car and go buy some more beer (I do not advise doing so regardless).

What am I getting at here? At least to me it seems beer pong may just be the safest of the other alternatives in

which normal fraternity men would partake in on a given night. The first alternative would be flip cup, a far more dangerous (but also fun) game in which a beer is finished every eight or so minutes (.25 beers per cup every two minutes). Compared to beer pong, flip cup would have your BAC doubled in that same hour time period. Well, let's say our risk manager actually showed up tonight and didn't let us play flip cup, what else would we do? Shotgun beers of course. For those non-students reading, shotgunning beers does not involve any sort of firearm, but rather chugging a beer in less than 10 seconds. I don't need to provide BAC statistics for that one — you get the point. But now it's midnight and we already gave all our beer away and there is nothing left to shotgun. I guess we can grab some girls and take Taaka shots in the back, that'll do the trick. We could at least pour a stiff cocktail for the cab ride since the drivers usually don't care. To Kristen Shorter and Dean Bandas this is an unthinkable nightmare. To thousands of Vanderbilt undergrads, this is standard procedure.

Earlier this month Dean Bandas as well as several other high-level administrators met to discuss the increased number of alcohol incidents on campus. In a letter summarizing the findings of the meetings Dean Bandas published the following: "One could speculate that first year students who drink to get drunk are less able to obtain alcohol at fraternity parties and, as a consequence, engage in pre-gaming, drinking large quantities of alcohol in a short time frame prior to going out for the evening. Pre-gaming is a very high-risk form of drinking ... Is this hypothesis true? I don't know. Students tell me that it is."

News flash, Mr. Bandas: Those students you were talking to were spot-on. By not allowing first-year students to drink at fraternities due to the new third-party bartender system, you are not preventing them from drinking alcohol in the slightest. In fact,

the outcome ends up being quite the opposite. When I was a freshman you could walk up to the bar and grab a beer from a brother. You would have a few beers per night because of the long lines and limited supply, but you could get beer. What happens now? Freshmen rip shots in their Stambaugh doubles and sneak the rest into the party in a water bottle in their pants or purses. Does that sound safe? Well, at least the school has successfully mandated that only 21-year-olds can drink at fraternity parties. Dean Bandas, Kristen Shorter, you should keep listening to your students and not the insurance companies or 65 administrators who think they know how to keep us safe.

This issue reminds me of a friend who went to a private boarding school in New England. In the early 2000s the school had a party reputation and wanted to improve its academic prestige and shake their undesirable image. So they cracked down on drinking and smoking in the dormitories and around campus. Alcohol was nearly impossible to acquire and not worth the risk to possess. Did these new alcohol rules reduce on campus drinking? Sure. But the alcohol and marijuana use was replaced with Adderall, Ritalin, cocaine and prescription painkiller abuse.

So yes, perhaps banning beer pong and underage drinking in fraternities will reduce beer consumption across campus. But if administration is really "committed to promoting responsible drinking and reducing extreme drinking on campus" then they are certainly exacerbating the problem. If you prevent a student from drinking beer, they will drink liquor; if you prevent someone from drinking on campus, they will drink off campus. Plain and simple. I don't have the answers, but I know what the problems are. The adults on this campus need a reality check before their rules and restrictions get somebody hurt.

Anchor Down.

— Anonymous

## Stir the drink, Vanderbilt

Vanderbilt's administration is inadvertently stifling part of the school's distinct character

### GUEST COLUMN

**JESSE GOLOMB** is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at jesse.m.golomb@vanderbilt.edu.

Dear Hustler Staff, Vanderbilt students and their administrative overlords:

There's another side to this alcohol and Greek Life debate. All around Vanderbilt's campus, students rant over lunch with friends and behind the closed doors of their dorm rooms. They go on and on, expressing dissatisfaction with new university policies regulating alcohol consumption and Greek Life, worried the policies are suffocating a social scene that helps to make us not Duke, and not the Harvard of the South.

And yet, we are not heard. Why would we be? After all, five more freshmen found themselves in the emergency room this year than last. So the real concern — as The Hustler posited two Mondays ago — must be whether or not Vanderbilt students "have a drinking problem," or if we are all "just pre-gaming the hospital."

Over the last year, the administration has alchemized BYOB wristbands, benevolent university police officers and — incredibly — beer pong into precious commodities. Never mind that for many, the most pressing question has become whether hospital waiting rooms will soon become more reliably entertaining than Vanderbilt fraternity parties; our student media — and the administration they are tasked with covering — feels the need to explore the possibility that we're all really just a bunch of immature drunkards incapable of carrying ourselves responsibly.

Sure, Vanderbilt's traditionally top-notch social scene, facilitated largely by alcohol consumption and almost entirely through Greek Life, is this school's true strength and cash cow, as well as what differentiates it from the Ivies many of us turned down.

But because, as The Hustler reported, an innocent little freshman at a big, scary fraternity party accidentally chugged

a Natty Light mixed with dip spit, got sick and passed out on alumni lawn — yes, this actually happened, and yes, I laughed too — drinking must be evil, and fraternities even more so.

Because that same freshman wasn't politely asked to please stop puking on our chapter room floor, and was instead "physically thrown out of the party," (gasp!) the brothers and sisters of Greek Life must be the villains here — rather than the victims we actually are.

There aren't many outside of Kirkland, let alone Kensington, who are asking the questions the Hustler posed. There are even fewer who believe that the administration is anything but misguided in their continued assault on alcohol consumption and Greek Life. Vanderbilt never misses an opportunity to tout itself as a top educator of young minds, or its newest bunch of saps as the best, brightest — and you'd better believe it! — most beautiful group of students in school history. But, if we're all so prodigious, why is our frustration neglected? Why is the unpopular argument treated as the righteous one? Why is the one thing — other than a degree — that interests more than forty percent of us (as well as the one thing that motivates freshmen to slog through months of rush and pledging) marginalized?

Why does Vanderbilt seem so eager to abandon half of what makes it whole, as well as a significant part of what made it the school we all chose over so many others?

As far as we're concerned — and maybe this makes us naive — any institution asking its members to fork over \$60,000 annually (and quite a few more shekels in Greek Life dues for some) should give a damn what the willful saps think of what they're paying for.

And right now, we're unhappy. We wonder why Vanderbilt seems intent on moving the party to the pregame. Our frustration mounts when we hear

university administrators say things like, "The pre-gaming issue must be and will be addressed." Pretty soon, we think, there might not be any party at all.

We find ourselves perplexed why, all of a sudden, these same administrators (as well as a stable of rookie Vanderbilt police officers) seem like they're out to get us.

We can't understand why the status quo from a few years back — 17th in the nation academically, first in Greek Life — required tinkering, or how a student body once almost uniformly content became anything but.

We're also increasingly under the impression that this university is much more concerned with the bottom line than with the undergraduate experience. And we believe that a lot of what makes Vanderbilt great is being pushed aside, only so the school can remain unsued and off the front page of the New York Times.

Ultimately, we wonder if our opinion really does count. We're already here, after all. The most recent tuition payments have already been made, and — no matter how much dissatisfaction swells — the next ones will be, too. So, it doesn't much matter if we're upset. It doesn't much matter if an administrative tsunami of reform and regulation has receded with much of what we know and love about our school in tow, or if it will eventually return to wreak even more destruction.

Because, in the end, there will always be countless others eager to buy what Vanderbilt is selling, a never-ending line of students happy to help the university creep up the rankings and rake in the dough.

Still, we continue to worry that, even as our school improves on paper, it threatens to become something much less in reality.

— Jesse Golomb

## A chance to join the fight

Vanderbilt should help lead the way in Nashville's new clean air initiative

### GUEST COLUMN

#### SOMMERS KLINE

is a junior in the College of Arts and Science and co-president of Vanderbilt SPEAR. She can be reached at sommers.s.kline@vanderbilt.edu.

Two weeks ago on Tuesday, Nov. 13, the Metro Council voted to pass a resolution, led by Councilman Jason Holleman, expressing support for the EPA using the Clean Air Act to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide. Over 40 cities have already signed on, and Nashville joins the ranks as one of the only cities in the Southeast region to become a "Clean Air City." Nashville has asserted itself as a leader in the fight against climate change, passing this memorializing resolution; the only question is what will come of it.

The Metro Council passed many memorializing resolutions that same night, including a resolution memorializing the anniversary of a local church, and most passed with great ease. The Clean Air Resolution felt like a small piece of the agenda that night, and it very well could be; its significance will be determined by what comes after.

The Clean Air Resolution aligns with the goals already set out by Nashville, but we can do more. Nashville is a leader in environmental initiatives in the Southeast. Mayor Dean created an Office of Environment and Sustainability in 2010, with the explicit goal of making Nashville "the greenest city in the Southeast." Cities are opportunities for the greatest change, accounting for about 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Nashville needs to make deep and ambitious changes; striving to become the greenest city, and not just in the Southeast region.

Vanderbilt University can also play an important role. As the largest private employer in Middle Tennessee and a central member of the larger Nashville community, Vanderbilt University has the opportunity to lead the fight. Vanderbilt University must align itself with Nashville's goals and students' concerns for the future. The university can invest in more sustainably focused academics, divest from fossil fuel interests and make real cuts to its own energy usage. We have the power to encourage these changes and make changes in our own lives as well.

The Clean Air Resolution presents us with an opportunity; it could fall flat, inspiring no real change and disappearing from our memory, or it could represent a turning point for Nashville and Vanderbilt. The choice is ours. Join the fight. Make the resolution a reality.

— Sommers Kline

## America must stand together with its allies

The recent conflict has made the United States' support for Israel more necessary than ever

### GUEST COLUMN

#### JACOB GROSSMAN

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#### JEREMY BLOOMSTONE

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The election has come and gone. As our national focus shifts from the hyper-partisanship of the election season, we hope that our leaders will stand together to make America stronger. They have already shown such bipartisanship in expressing their support for our ally Israel in its time of need.

Over the past decade, more than 10,000 rocket attacks were launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Hamas, the terrorist group that governs Gaza, recently escalated what had been mostly low-level violence, launching more than 900 rockets attacks in the past month, targeting Tel Aviv, Israel's largest metropolitan area, and Jerusalem, a holy city to Christians, Muslims and Jews alike.

Israel responded to these attacks in the way that any country would if put in a similar situation, launching targeted attacks on terrorist leaders and weapon stockpiles that threaten Israeli civilians. In addition to using pinpoint targeting in its military operations, Israel dropped thousands of leaflets advising Gaza residents to avoid areas being used by Hamas and made thousands of phone calls to civilians prior to attacks to warn them to evacuate the area. Of course, no operation is perfect. Civilian casualties did occur, despite Israel's immense effort to minimize civilian collateral damage; we remember and respect the innocent lives lost in Gaza and in Israel.

In the past week, a ceasefire agreement was reached with backing from Egypt and the United States. Palestinian and Israeli civilians are out of danger for the time being, and Hamas and Israeli officials are working out the terms of a truce. A truce must recognize Israel's right to defend itself from the constant barrage of rockets it has faced over the past several years and must put an end to arms smuggling into Gaza.

Even if such a truce holds, Israel still faces a mounting storm. To the south, Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza remain committed to destroying Israel and are rearming to do so. To the north, the terrorist group Hezbollah has a stronghold on power in Lebanon and shares the same goals as Hamas, with a much greater arsenal. The increasingly unstable situation in Syria also puts Israel at risk. Syria is



Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike Monday, Nov. 19, 2012, in Rafah in southern Gaza Strip.

home to one of the largest stockpiles of chemical weapons in the world. Should these fall into the wrong hands during the chaos of civil war, it could spell disaster for Israel. Looming largest in the background is the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran is committed to attaining nuclear weapons and threatens to destroy the State of Israel. Needless to say, at this grave hour, Israel needs American support more than ever.

But we need Israel too. Israel is a beacon of freedom and democracy in a part of the world that is not known for being very free or democratic. It is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East, and it shares fundamental American values.

More importantly, however, Israel is America's greatest ally in a dangerous part of the world. Israel's enemies are America's enemies. While Iran refers to Israel as the "Little Satan," we must not forget that America is the "Great Satan." Israel and the United States regularly share intelligence and military technology that have saved American and Israeli lives at home and abroad. The American and Israeli militaries conduct joint exercises frequently to develop cooperative strategies to defend our shared interests. Foreign aid, a pillar of American foreign policy, helps Israel to develop technologies like the "Iron Dome" missile defense system, which in the past month alone has intercepted over 400 rockets on their way to harming innocent Israelis. It is important

to point out that almost every dollar the U.S. spends to protect Israel is reinvested in American industries. The return on investment however, is more than monetary: It is our joint security.

For all of these reasons, our leaders in the national government stand with Israel. Our own senator from Tennessee, Bob Corker, has said that he "supports Israel's) enduring right to defend their sovereign territory." Both houses of Congress unanimously passed resolutions echoing this sentiment, supporting Israel's "inherent right to act in self-defense to protect its citizens against acts of terrorism" and expressing "unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel." President Obama noted that "no country on Earth would tolerate missiles raining down on its citizens from outside its borders" and expressed his administration's support for Israel's right to self-defense.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our congressmen, our senators and the administration for their unwavering support of America's most important ally in the Middle East. We would like to thank them for ensuring that no matter how polarized Washington becomes, the issue of supporting Israel unites rather than divides our politicians: their support protects our national security as much as it protects Israel's.

— Jacob Grossman and Jeremy Bloomstone

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# Life

## CELEBSTATUS

On Nov. 26, TVLine reported that both Ben Savage and Danielle Fishel have officially signed on to continue their roles as Cory Matthews and Topanga Lawrence in the new Disney Channel pilot "Girl Meets World." This prospective sequel series is set to follow Cory and Topanga's 13-year-old daughter, Riley. While the pilot is still in its earliest stages of development and few details are known, children of the '90s are awaiting more information with bated breath.



**GO DO THIS!**

## A GUIDE TO YOUR WEEKEND

If you're looking to **travel off campus**, here's a guide to movies, concerts and other events around town. Read on to find out the **hottest things to do in Nashville this weekend**.

### IN THEATRES

#### 'Killing Them Softly'

Opening Nov. 30

This new thriller stars Brad Pitt as Jackie Cogan, an enforcer hired to restore order after a few idiots rob a mob-protected card game. After Cogan sets out to punish the men for their deeds, his involvement eventually leads to the collapse of the criminal economy.

### CONCERTS THIS WEEKEND

#### The Faint

Cannery Ballroom  
Nov. 30

With the band taking some time apart at the end of 2010, fans will be happy to see this indie-dance group return to Cannery this Friday. Known for their 80's inspired jams, the band is playing songs off of their most celebrated album, "Danse Macabre," as it was recently re-released on Oct. 30 2012. For ticket information, visit [www.mercylounge.com](http://www.mercylounge.com).

#### Eric Hutchinson

3rd and Lindsley  
Dec. 2

Eric Hutchinson, known for his bluesy singer-songwriter sound, will be in Nashville this Sunday. Hutchinson, having toured with artists such as Jason Mraz and OneRepublic, is sure to give a memorable performance, especially in the intimate setting of 3rd and Lindsley. For ticket information, visit [www.3rdandlindsley.com](http://www.3rdandlindsley.com)

#### Carolina Chocolate Drops

Marathon Music Works  
Dec. 2

The Carolina Chocolate Drops, a band that provides both modern and traditional sounds with their old-time string band instrumentation, seems to be garnering more and more fame in Music City with their charming folk music. Having performed at the Grand Ole Opry on multiple occasions, this band is no stranger to Nashville. The show is sure to showcase its newest album, "Leaving Eden." For ticket information, visit [www.marathonmusicworks.com](http://www.marathonmusicworks.com).

#### The Who

Bridgestone Arena  
Dec. 2

Bridgestone Arena will be housing the classic rock of the 1960s and 1970s with The Who this Sunday. While these guys are definitely showing their age, they continue to rock with everything they have, evidenced by their 2010 Super Bowl performance. For ticket information, visit [www.bridgestonearena.com](http://www.bridgestonearena.com).

### EVENTS AROUND TOWN

#### ICE! Featuring DreamWorks' Shrek the Halls

Gaylord Opryland  
Nov. 16-Jan. 1

Before the stress of finals overwhelms you, head to Gaylord Opryland, as it recreates DreamWorks Animation's "Shrek the Halls," with two million pounds of colorful ice sculptures. Not only are their beautiful ice scenes to admire, but you can also enjoy the 20-foot tall ice slides throughout the exhibit. To enjoy the exhibit, adult tickets are \$24.95. For more information on times and tickets, visit [www.gaylordhotels.com](http://www.gaylordhotels.com).

#### Porter Flea's Holiday Market

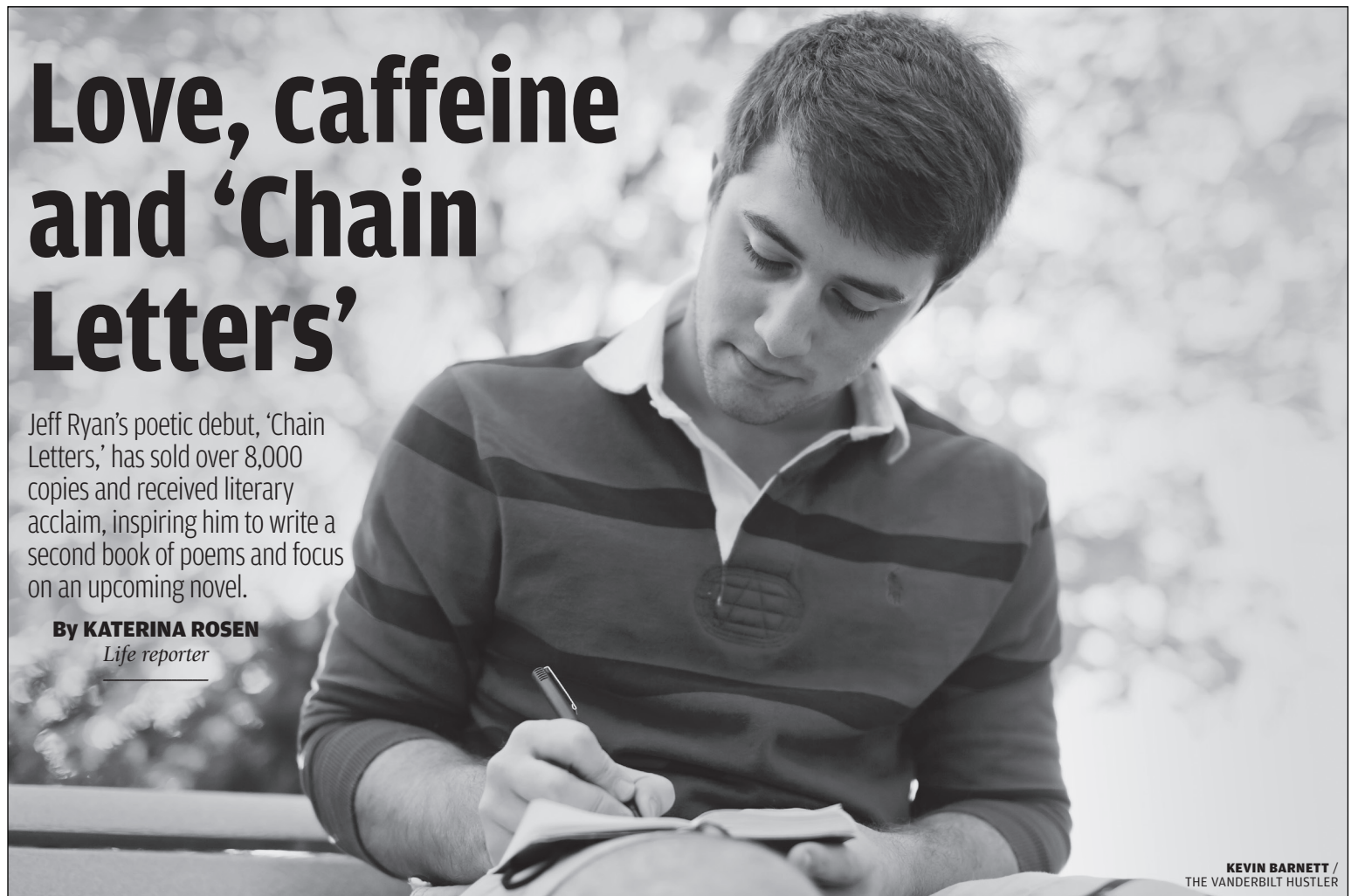
Marathon Music Works  
Dec. 1

The Porter Flea team will be hosting a Holiday Market on Dec. 1, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The market will showcase an array of modern homemade goods and vintage finds, offering unique selections of paper goods, apparel, artwork, posters, furniture, home goods and jewelry. If you are looking to give a loved one a one-of-a-kind Christmas present, this is the perfect place to do it. Even if you don't want to buy any goods, you can still enjoy the event and grab a meal, as many of Nashville's delicious food vendors will be present.

## Love, caffeine and 'Chain Letters'

Jeff Ryan's poetic debut, 'Chain Letters,' has sold over 8,000 copies and received literary acclaim, inspiring him to write a second book of poems and focus on an upcoming novel.

By **KATERINA ROSEN**  
Life reporter



KEVIN BARNETT / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

"I always knew I wanted to be a writer, so I decided to stop wishing and get something off the ground," said sophomore Jeff Ryan about his decision to write his first book of poetry.

"Chain Letters," Ryan's poetic debut, has sold a whopping 8,000 copies on Amazon so far. That said, the average book released on Amazon sells only a hundred copies in the same time span. Not only is the book being bought at an impressive rate, but "Chain Letters" also opened to stellar reviews from various readers. The University of Colorado even invited Ryan to speak at their arts festival and awarded him for his poems "November" and "Dragonfly."

Ryan compared his poems to tweets: succinct and easy to read. The whole book takes only thirty minutes to read, and each poem takes a couple of minutes.

"It's poetry for people who do not like poetry," explains Ryan. "There are no glistening meadows in here."

With his blunt truths and charming phrases, Ryan writes of his experiences growing up at college, making his work especially relatable for many students on campus. Many of his poems

focus on the impossibility of a college romance.

"In college, there's a sense that no love is that pure." Some of his poems suggest that students give up on love during their time in college. One poem, appropriately titled "Blackout Poetry" — after his state while writing — features the line, "We all fall in love And fail in love ...". Other poems suggest that we idolize romance and love as children; in college, these dreams break down when we realize that perfect love and perfect people do not exist.

As for balancing the workload at Vanderbilt with writing, Ryan said, "It's tough!" He mentioned that he lives his life on a "drug-induced haze of caffeine and 5-hour Energy."

Despite the challenges, he promises he will never quit, and he is grateful for the wealth of support from his brothers in Alpha Tau Omega.

Ryan's second collection of poetry, "To Sleep or Die in Nashville: Writings from a College Alcoholic," is set to release Jan. 25, 2013.

Currently, Ryan is taking a departure from poetry and is busy working on a young adult novel.

### 'Back to Nashville'

We were a hundred miles  
Into Pennsylvania  
With the wind whipping  
Through the car windows,  
Crawling our way past  
Cows and Farm country  
That hadn't moved in  
100 years  
When I pulled over  
Saying something about how  
We needed gasoline.

I wanna be in this  
I told you.  
Here's this place you might  
Never see again  
These tiny houses  
With pastel sidings  
And thin streets  
With neighbors that know  
Neighbors  
Who never leave.

You started bitching  
In that way you do  
About how you wanted to  
Get to Nashville so that  
We could get some rest.  
The way where you're bitching  
But don't really mean it.

You scoffed.  
Christ  
I hate traveling  
Anywhere except New York.  
At least there's stuff  
In New York.  
Out here,  
There's nothing.  
Nothing but hicks and idiots  
And probably liberals, too.

I ignored it anyway and  
Put the pump in the tank  
And let it fill, then  
Sat on a bench in the  
Middle of Harrisburg  
While you went inside the  
Building to  
Piss.

I shook my head  
And started the car  
Though I made damn sure to  
Take the long way  
Back to the highway

# DON'T FORGET

Original Cast stages  
'Memory in Retreat' this  
weekend

By **ALEXIS MEYERS**  
Life reporter

While in the past, Original Cast often wrote original storylines and furnished them with songs from pre-existing musicals, this semester, the group wants to have a production more focused on the music. Aidan Carr, director of the Original Cast, said, "We've dispensed almost entirely with dialogue — there are no 'scenes,' only songs."

Carr hopes that the new format will help audience members connect more meaningfully with the show. According to Carr, if the plot is toned down to a minimum, the audience does not have to concentrate on following it, but can instead pay more attention to the performances.

"Moreover, it forces them to ask the question 'why these songs are in this order,' which is the kind of question that I think makes them engage more deeply with the songs themselves," Carr said.

Not only does the show format seek to enhance the audience's experience, but Carr also notes that it is refreshing for the group members as well.

"I think the new format and material is artistically satisfying for the performers — uninhibited by characters and setting, they get to focus entirely on the central project of performing in a musical, which is bringing a song to life," he said.

The show "Memory in Retreat" aims to expose a more central thematic idea rather than a production driven by plot. Exploring various aspects of

memory, the show description notes, "... our memories inform who we think we are; who we think other people are. They make the past a wonderful and a dangerous place to spend time." Within the show, the Original Cast will musically move to the "present" while thinking about these concepts of memory.

The Original Cast will also be performing a much wider range of material, with songs from 1926 all the way to 2011, and selections from ABBA to "Spring Awakening."

A great distraction from finals, "Memory in Retreat" will be performed Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. in Ingram Hall. Tickets are \$10 for students, faculty and staff, and \$12 for the general public; these can be purchased at the Sarratt Box Office or at the door.



MURPHY BYRNE / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER



WRVU DJ of  
the month:

# Zach Blumenfeld

BOSLEY JARRETT / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Zach Blumenfeld hosts *The VU Backstage Live* in Rand Lounge on Wednesday. Guests on the show included Patrick Thomas, Keith Berquist, Eli Sones, John Sims-Jones, Sebastian Lonza, Kristyn Fratus and Lockwood Barr.

By ANGELICA LASALA  
Chief copy editor

Every Sunday from 8-9 p.m., WRVU show "The VU Backstage" features Vanderbilt's own as musical guests. Through the station's online frequency, these performances are broadcast to a potentially global audience. For host and sophomore Zach Blumenfeld, the opportunity to showcase and interview student talent was a vision two years in the making.

During his first semester as a WRVU DJ, Blumenfeld hosted a show called "Cold Fusion" that played a combination of classic rock music and the station's rotation requirements. Moving forward, however, Blumenfeld decided that taking a local focus would ultimately provide a more engaging experience for WRVU's listeners.

"Over the course of the semester, I kind of realized that my show, and for that matter a lot of the other shows, were providing things that students can get at other locations online," Blumenfeld said. "Pandora, Lastfm, Spotify — they're all great providers of music, and you have a lot more control over what you're listening to. So, with that in mind I kind of realized that I wanted to provide something that students wouldn't be able to get anywhere else."

Such novelties have included breaking down

the Melodores' complex harmonies by voice part and a conversation with artist John Sims-Jones about zombie apocalypses as songwriting inspiration.

Just the same, Blumenfeld endeavors to provide the guests he features on his show the opportunity to build their fan base and possibly break into the music enterprise. "I want to just do my small part and help people who are a little bit further along the track than I am and perhaps give them that little bit of exposure that'll perhaps introduce them to the chance producer that happens to be tuning in to the show," Blumenfeld said. "And even if that doesn't happen, coming on my show is a chance for these musicians to hone the performance and interview skills they'll need, should they enter the industry."

The DJ's interest in local music isn't an arbitrary one. For Blumenfeld, music has been a lifelong passion. "I've played piano since age four, picked up the guitar and bass in high school, bought a ukulele just for the fun of it — I have it here on campus with me," Blumenfeld said. "But, while I do love to play music, I also love to talk to people. That's part of why I came to the radio station in the first place. I'm just doing what I can to support something I love."

And Blumenfeld's efforts to promote Vanderbilt musicians don't stop when he leaves the station. In line with WRVU's initiatives to gain a

larger online presence, Blumenfeld paid for the web domain [thevubackstage.com](http://thevubackstage.com) to archive his show and also uses Facebook and SoundCloud to disseminate his featured musicians' work.

"Especially with WRVU losing the frequency — and there is a legal battle to get that back — but with that in mind, it's very important to show our strength on the Internet. It's just vital for us to use the Internet to its fullest capabilities," Blumenfeld said. "There's a lot of ways that you can get the music out to people without using conventional FM, and while it may be much easier to reach the Nashville area as a whole using that (FM), we have to think of ourselves now as a global commodity. And we have the potential to reach 7 billion people."

Beyond the music, Blumenfeld attributes much of the fulfillment he's felt hosting "The VU Backstage" to the stories artists tell on the air — in his own words, "bringing a more human element to the radio."

When asked, as per his show name, what the view's like from backstage, Blumenfeld said, "It's incredible. You should get the chance to hear the Melodores perform from four feet away sometime. It's a great joy to not only hear so many great styles of music from so many different talented people, but also to hear their stories. When I'm talking to them, it's like we're having a personal conversation that the world happens to be able to hear."

## An Oscar winner in the making

'*Silver Linings Playbook*' is the must-see release of Thanksgiving Break. This dark comedy is driven by the performances of stars **Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence.**



Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence star in "Silver Linings Playbook." Their chemistry drives the movie, as they play two damaged young adults that fall in love.

By ETHAN DIXIUS  
Life reporter

If "Silver Linings Playbook" gets the Oscar nod that people are saying it might, it will be well-deserved. In fact it might be a crime if it does not. The film, directed by David O. Russell and based on the novel by Matthew Quick, finds its strength in its relatable, human characters, as well as their fantastic portrayals, led by Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. The film follows Pat (Cooper), who finds himself living with his parents after his release from a mental hospital, where he was sent after an incident that cost him his wife, job and home. Pat tries to regain his life — and his wife — while dealing with his Philadelphia Eagles-obsessed father (Robert De Niro) and his newfound friend Tiffany (Lawrence).

Without a doubt, it is the characters that make this movie. Cooper and Lawrence are brilliant together as slightly crazed, damaged individuals. The supporting cast members are able to disappear into the quirks of the scenes, making them real and relatable. Though it has a serious message, and is ultimately uplifting, "Silver Linings Playbook" specializes in subtle, often dark humor. Though the ending may not be a total surprise, it remains simple and sweet, completing the movie nicely.

The bottom line is that "Silver Linings Playbook" is a great film, a must-see for any true movie buff, and anyone else who enjoys a little unorthodoxy in their lives. It is not flashy or overly dramatic, but is instead a simple, plain-old character-driven movie. The movie's simplicity is one of its biggest strengths, as it makes the tale so relatable and enjoyable. If further convincing is required, keep an eye out for Oscar nominations.

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# sports

## THE BIG STAT

Tickets allotted to each team invited to the TaxSlayer.com Gator Bowl, one of four bowls considering extending an invitation to Vanderbilt. The game's official Twitter account (@Gator\_Bowl) engaged Vanderbilt players and fans alike on Wednesday, stressing that its selection committee makes decisions based in part on the number of tickets requested by each fan base in advance. For this reason, Vanderbilt has strongly encouraged fans to request tickets directly through the school's ticket office, at [www.vanderbilt.edu/bowl/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/bowl/).

# 15,000



### THANKSGIVING BREAK RECAP

## Around Vandy sports

By KRISTEN SHEFT  
Sports reporter

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STRUGGLES IN SAN JUAN

After falling 71-66 to the No. 23 Dayton Flyers on Nov. 18 on the road, Vanderbilt suffered two additional losses against Virginia and Florida State at the San Juan Shootout in Puerto Rico last weekend. During their three-game skid, the Commodores (3-3) have shot just 65-for-188, or 35 percent, from the field and 31 percent behind the arc. They have additionally been outscored 217-191 and outrebounded by a 121-106 margin. Melanie Balcomb's squad looks to rectify this string of early losses Thursday at home against Austin Peay. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m. CT.

#### BOWLING TAKES THIRD AT HAWK CLASSIC

Although plagued by numerous unforced errors during a pivotal semifinal bout against tournament host University of Maryland Eastern Shore at the Hawk Classic last weekend in Delaware, head coach John Williamson stated his team was "moving in the right direction." After stomaching a 4-3 loss to the Hawks, Vanderbilt quickly rebounded in the consolation finals, defeating Fairleigh Dickinson by a 4-2 margin — good for a third-place finish. This weekend, the bowlers will travel to Sam Houston State this weekend for the Track Kat Clash.

#### SWIMMING SECOND AT WKU INVITE

In its final meet of the 2012 calendar year, Vanderbilt secured a second-place finish at the Western Kentucky invite with 783.5 points, toppling Sewanee and University of the Cumberlands in the process. Freshmen Hannah Martin and Jenn Mann recorded first-place finishes on the final day of competition in the 100 freestyle and 200 breaststroke respectively as the Commodores rolled to seven total wins over the 3-day stretch.

#### CROSS COUNTRY FINISHES 27<sup>TH</sup> AT NCAA

On Nov. 17, the Vanderbilt women's cross country team capped its 2012 season with a 27th-place finish at the NCAA Championships in Louisville, Kentucky. Senior Kristen Findley paced the Commodores in her final collegiate race, finishing 87th overall after crossing the line in 20:40:7. Liz Anderson and Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year Hannah Jumper also placed in the top-150 after finishing within two seconds of one another. Allie Scaff (201st place, 21:31:8) and Kristen Smith (211th, 21:36:4) rounded out the scoring for Vanderbilt.

#### NEXT FOR WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



MURPHY BYRNE / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

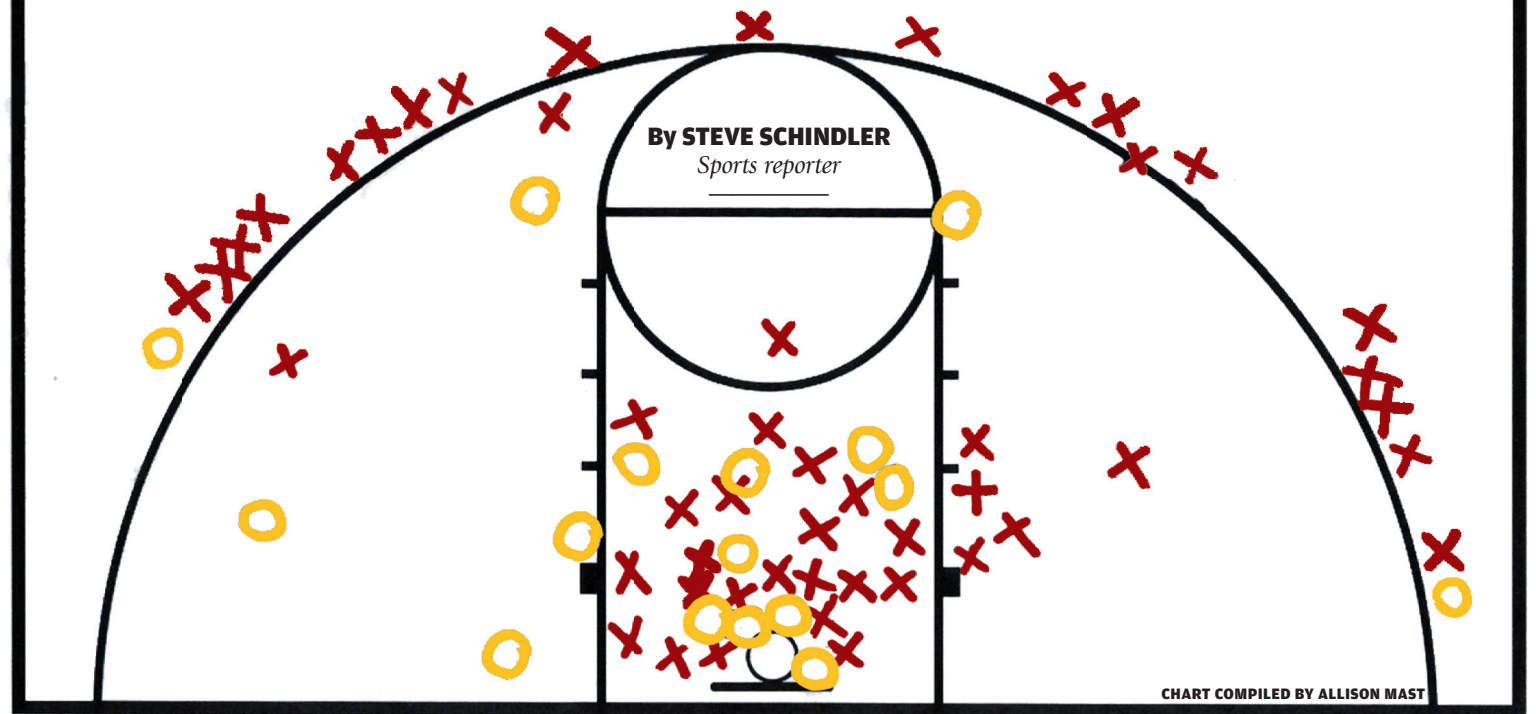
**VANDERBILT (4-3) VS. TENNESSEE TECH (3-3)**

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 12:30 p.m. CT  
Memorial Gymnasium — Nashville, Tenn.

Last game: Vanderbilt defeated Austin Peay on Wednesday, 67-36;  
Tennessee Tech defeated Alcorn State on Tuesday, 74-57

# STOP THE RIDE

Basketball's long weekend at Disney World was lowlighted by a nightmarish 23 percent (14 of 61) shooting effort from the field in a 50-33 loss to Marist on Friday.



The Commodores set the **wrong kind of record** against Marist, finishing with lowest single-game point total since the introduction of the shot clock, and left Orlando with more questions than answers after a **1-2 record** and a **7th-place finish at the Old Spice Classic**. A game-by-game recap of Vandy's tournament:

### A LOSS, THANKS TO DAVIDSON

A superb offensive performance from sophomore guard Kedren Johnson was not enough to lift Vanderbilt to victory on Thanksgiving Day, as the Commodores fell to Davidson, 75-62. Johnson was 11-of-17 from the floor, hitting four of six 3-pointers to score a career-high 28 points. While the Commodores got 14 bench points, they had two starters in Kevin Bright and Shelby Moats who failed to score a single point. Forward Rod Odom shot just 1-of-7 and finished with 6 points. Vanderbilt was sloppy all day, turning the ball over 12 times while recording only six assists, and Vanderbilt's defense didn't fare any better, allowing the Wildcats to shoot 50% from the field and 43% from long range. Davidson had three players finish in double digits. Guard Nik Cochran caused the Commodores headaches, knocking down all four three pointers he attempted. Forward De'Mon Brooks led the way, going for 19 points and 6 rebounds.

### MARIST MAKES IT LOOK EASY

A miserable 23 percent shooting effort from 3-point range doomed the Commodores in a 50-33 loss to Marist on Friday. Kevin Stallings' young squad only scored 14 points in the first half as the Red Foxes rebounded from a blowout loss to West Virginia the day before. Vanderbilt's leading scorer was forward James Siakam, who came off the bench to score eight points and grab eight rebounds. Vanderbilt's scoring leaders Rod Odom (2-of-10), Kyle Fuller (2-of-12), and Kedren Johnson (2-of-11) struggled mightily from the field, and many shots weren't even close. A day after Johnson scored a career-high 28 points, he put up just four points.

### VANDY BEATS UTEP GOING AWAY

Vanderbilt righted the ship on Sunday with a 73-49 win over UTEP to finish 7th and avoid going a winless 0-3 in the tournament. The scoring was well balanced, as three Commodores were in double figures. Kedren Johnson led the way scoring 17 points, while Rod Odom put in a season high 16 points and added 7 rebounds. Junior point guard Kyle Fuller also played a nice game scoring 14 points, recording five assists, and only turning the ball over once. Vanderbilt shot lights-out, connecting on 51 percent of its field goal attempts and 47 percent from three-point range, while the defense forced the Miners into 19 turnovers.

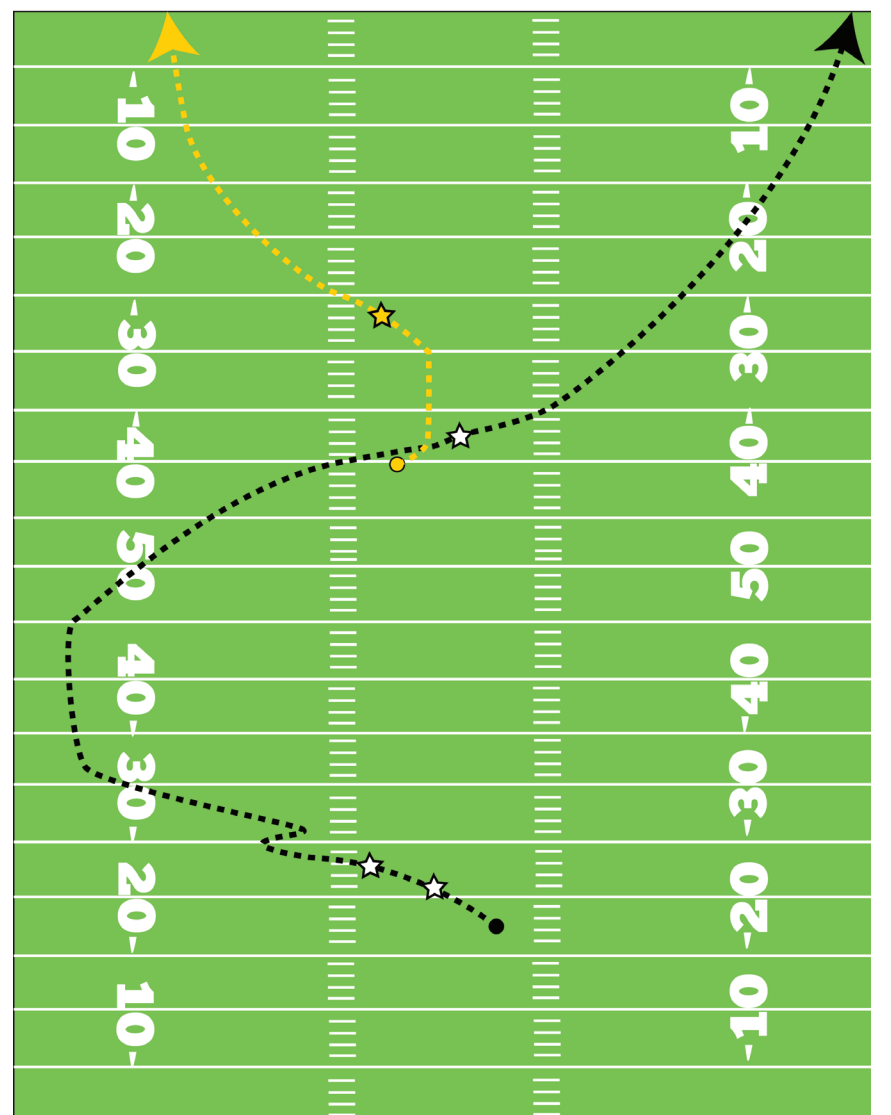
# Blowouts before the bowl game

Punctuated by late big plays from wide receivers **Jonathan Krause** and **Jordan Matthews (see below)**, the Commodores ended the regular season in style with **back-to-back runaway victories**. Was it enough to impress the high-profile bowls? We'll find out at Vanderbilt's Bowl Announcement Celebration at **7 p.m. on Sunday in the Student Life Center**.



JAMES TATUM / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Junior wide receiver Jordan Matthews had plenty of time to take it all in at the end of his 71-yard touchdown off a screen pass in the fourth quarter of Vanderbilt's 41-18 win over Tennessee on Nov. 17. Matthews finished with seven catches for 115 yards and also added a 47-yard touchdown run.



**GRAPHIC AT RIGHT:** It's safe to say junior wide receiver Jonathan Krause has reclaimed his punt returning responsibilities for good after a vicious hit in last season's loss to Arkansas knocked him out of the game and relieved him of those duties. The Hustler examined the two punts Krause has returned for touchdowns during Vanderbilt's six-game winning streak this season, side by side. Krause's first score came on a 40-yard return, the path of which is illustrated in gold in the diagram above, late in the third quarter of the Commodores' 49-7 blowout victory over UMass. Last Saturday, Krause took 18 seconds of game time to weave his way through tacklers on an 83-yard return last weekend, shown above in black, that included four separate broken tackles and extended Vanderbilt's lead to 34 points in a 55-21 win over Wake Forest. The stars along each path denote missed or broken tackles.



# FREE FALLING



Vanderbilt isn't the only big name looking to rebound from a shaky start. Before the Commodores host Villanova this Saturday, they can learn from how other teams have exposed the Wildcats early on..

By **BEN WEINRIB**  
Sports reporter

Vanderbilt has made the NCAA Tournament in five of the last six years. Seven of the past eight years, Villanova has danced in March. Less than a month into the college basketball season, it doesn't look like either of these streaks will be continuing.

Both Vanderbilt and Villanova are, to be kind, in rebuilding years. Villanova hasn't quite been the same since All-American guard Scottie Reynolds graduated three years ago; the team is 37-34 since his departure. Vanderbilt graduated six seniors and saw John Jenkins leave early for the NBA Draft, joining Festus Ezeli and Jeff Taylor as top-31 selections. The Commodores aren't faring much better this year.

Villanova opened the season with three straight wins against District of Columbia, Marshall and Purdue. Then they ran into basketball powerhouses Alabama and Columbia, losing by 22 and 18 points before falling to La Salle in overtime.

The Wildcats are still searching for an identity, along with a go-to scorer. They do have four players averaging double digits, but they're all perimeter players — the lone big man, Mouphtaou Yarou, is averaging 7.8 points per game. And despite the fact that the scoring is led by perimeter shooters, Villanova is only shooting 41.6 percent from the field on the year.

Then again, the early returns on Vanderbilt's offense are equally discouraging. At 8.6 points per game, Rod Odom is the team's only inside presence who can be consistently relied upon to score, although most of his points have come off of

jump shots in the team's first games. The Commodores look to their perimeter players for scoring and have so far found mixed results, as they, like Villanova, have shot around 40 percent from the field as a team.

After Vanderbilt's 2-3 start, Saturday's game against Villanova arrives as an opportunity to put a shaky showing at the Old Spice Classic over Thanksgiving in the past. The Hustler reviewed the tape from Villanova's own slice of early-season tournament humiliation, a blowout loss to Alabama in the finals of the 2K Sports Classic at Madison Square Garden, to break down what has sent the Wildcats into a tailspin over the past two weeks.

Three coachable moments from Villanova's 77-55 loss to Alabama on Nov. 16:

## 1 THE CATS' LACK OF SIZE HURTS THEIR DEFENSE

Villanova is not a particularly big team, which has exposed the Wildcats on the defensive end. This was particularly evident in terms of perimeter defense, where the Wildcats got torched by the

Crimson Tide, who connected on nine of their 15 3-pointers. Of course, Trevor Releford hitting a career high five shots from beyond the arch had a little something to do with that rate, but Villanova was sloppy on defensive rotations.

The Wildcats start four players who are 6-foot-6 or shorter, which hurts them on the glass. Alabama is a much smaller squad, yet they out-rebounded Villanova 31-25, including a 6-5 advantage on offensive rebounds. Vanderbilt isn't a particularly big team, either, but this is one of the few teams the Commodores should be able to out-rebound.

## 2 CONTROL THE GAME BY SLOWING DOWN THE PACE

Alabama was able to control the pace of the game and slow down Villanova by implementing a matchup zone on defense. This hybrid zone allowed Bama to protect the paint and led the Wildcats to shoot more jump shots, where they could not connect. The zone stagnated Villanova's offense to the point where the Wildcats spent most possessions making five to six perimeter passes before forcing up a jump shot. Villanova shot just 31.9 percent from the field, including 31.3 percent from 3-point range, and drew less foul shots than Alabama did because of their less aggressive offense. In fact, the Wildcats didn't draw a free throw in the second half until there was 7:28 left.

## 3 VERY STREAKY TEAM

What really did the Wildcats in was their lack of consistency. Six minutes into the game, Alabama went on a 10-0 run, and the Crimson Tide pulled away in the second half thanks to 10-0, 9-2 and 8-0 runs. Most of these lopsided streaks were caused by Alabama pressing the ball handler and forcing turnovers defensively. Offensively, Alabama was most effective when they drove the ball, then either kicked it out to an open shooter or took it to the rim, drawing a foul. Creating penetration may be the key offensively for Vanderbilt in Saturday's matchup, playing into the hands of slashing guards Kedren Johnson and Kyle Fuller.



**VANDERBILT (2-3) VS. VILLANOVA (3-3)**

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 4:00 p.m. CT  
Memorial Gymnasium - Nashville, Tenn.

All-time series: Villanova leads, 1-0  
(80-73 victory in the 1994 NIT)  
Vanderbilt's last game: Defeated UTEP, 73-49  
Villanova's last game: Lost to LaSalle in OT, 77-74

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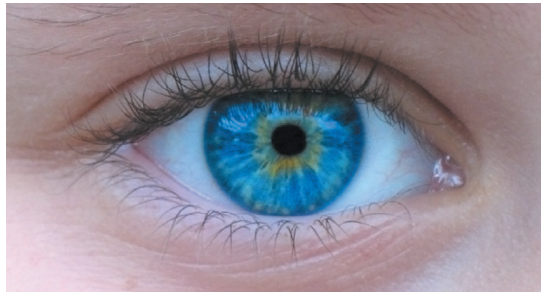


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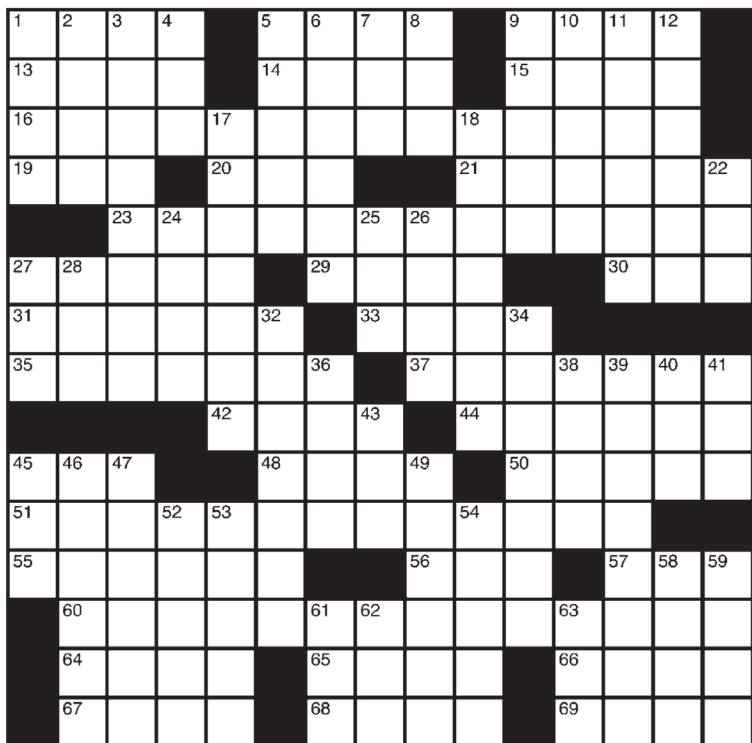
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## TODAY'S CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Early sunscreen ingredient
  - 5 "Let's get goin'!"
  - 9 Put \_\_\_ act
  - 13 Tater
  - 14 Hard to believe
  - 15 Wine quality
  - 16 Campground sound #1
  - 19 Devilish toon
  - 20 Maine-et-Loire mate
  - 21 In-crowds
  - 23 Campground sound #2
  - 27 Curt refusal
  - 29 Hot time in Maine-et-Loire
  - 30 Renaissance painter \_\_\_ Angelico
  - 31 Like a spot in "Macbeth"
  - 33 Pac-12 team
  - 35 "Pretty Woman" co-songwriter
  - 37 Some comedy sketches
  - 42 Nov. voting time
  - 44 Streaker in a shower
  - 45 Remote power sources
  - 48 City near Yorba Linda
  - 50 Track contests
  - 51 Campground sound #3
  - 55 "Honor Thy Father" author
  - 56 Sargasso Sea spawner
  - 57 Forest's 2006 Oscar-winning role
  - 60 Campground sound #4
  - 64 "\_\_\_ baby!"
  - 65 Swimmer with pups
  - 66 POTUS backup
  - 67 Hightail it
  - 68 Pays (for)
  - 69 West Point team



By James Sajdak

11/29/12

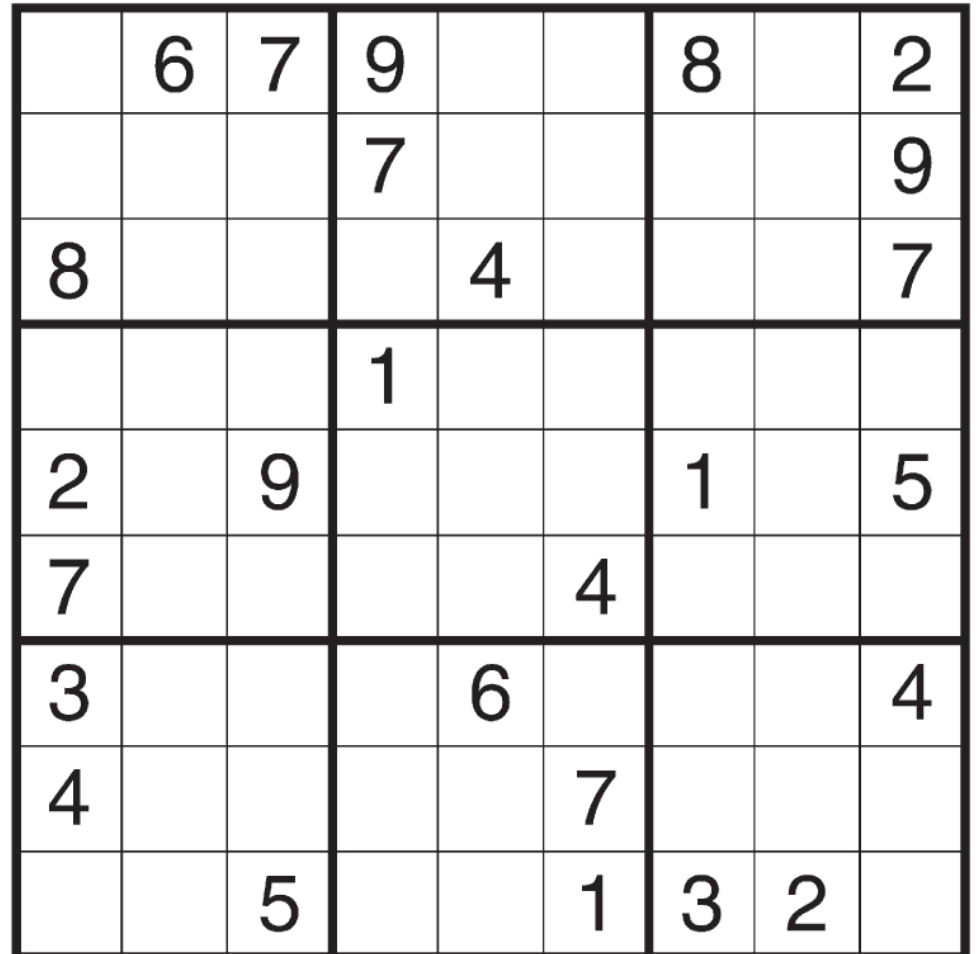
- DOWN**
- 1 Subtle "Over here ..."
  - 2 Polynesian capital
  - 3 WWII German missile nickname
  - 4 Log shaper
  - 5 Mount Everest?
  - 6 Capital on the island of Luzon
  - 7 Texter's "Holy cow!"
  - 8 Mario Brothers console
  - 9 16 oz.
  - 10 Jordin Sparks/Chris Brown song covered on "Glee"
  - 11 Desires from
  - 12 "Iliad" wise man
  - 17 Blood typing, e.g.
  - 18 Wrestling pair
  - 22 Calypso offshoot
  - 24 Years in old Rome
  - 25 Chit
  - 26 Crunch source
  - 27 Promise before a parson
  - 28 Hawk's cause
  - 32 British travel feature, in the past?
  - 34 Clean and then some
  - 36 Philip \_\_\_: 16th-century Italian saint
  - 38 \_\_\_-Tass
  - 39 Pass target
  - 40 Fair-hiring abbr.
  - 41 Many AARP mems.
  - 43 Rep. counterpart
  - 45 Play a part, or play part
  - 46 Genesis mountain
  - 47 Heel-click follower
  - 49 Dating stumbling block, perhaps
  - 52 Jai alai basket
  - 53 Pollux or Arcturus, to an astronomer
  - 54 Brings down
  - 58 Judge
  - 59 Cosby/Culp TV series
  - 61 www access
  - 62 Revivalist's prefix
  - 63 Actress Gardner

### Answers to Thurs. Nov. 15's puzzle

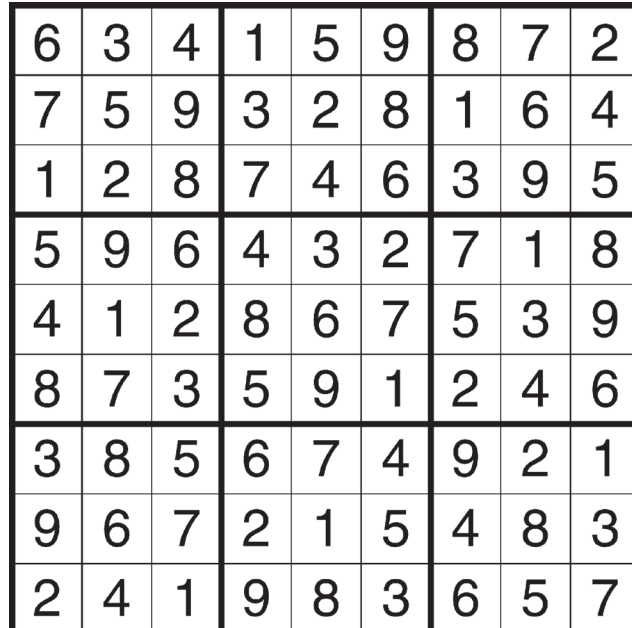


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## TODAY'S SUDOKU



### Answers to Thurs. Nov. 15's puzzle



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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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Kyle Woestman and Johnell Thomas wave the Vanderbilt flag in celebration after defeating the Tennessee Volunteers on Saturday, Nov. 16 at Vanderbilt Stadium.

JAMES TATUM / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER



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