

# THE WANDERLIT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 ★ 124<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 8 ★ THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888



JOHN RUSSELL / VU MEDIA RELATIONS

Bird dispersal efforts ended early after the crows left campus.

## Crow dispersal efforts successful for now, project suspended

KENNY TAN  
STAFF REPORTER

Plant Operations has suspended crow dispersal efforts after successfully deterring the birds away from campus, according to Plant Operations Auxiliary Services Manager Don Hughes. The last shots of the sound cannons were fired on the evening of Jan. 31.

The end of the active dispersal marks a week's effort to address the crow infestation around West End Avenue and 21st Avenue South and the corner of 21st Avenue South and Wesley Place. Most of the crow population seems to have dispersed, with some of them having moved north to Charlotte Pike. In total, eight staff members were involved in the project.

Members of the pest control team are see **CROWS** page 2

## Ex-law school worker pleads not guilty in embezzlement

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former employee of the Vanderbilt University law school has pleaded not guilty to stealing more than \$600,000 from the school.

Jason Hunt appeared in Davidson County Criminal Court on Wednesday and told the judge he could not afford an attorney. The court appointed counsel for Hunt, but prosecutors will be allowed to review claims that he has no income and an underwater mortgage, according to The Tennessean.

It isn't clear how much money was stolen from the law school. Hunt's duties as an administrative services manager included processing the school's financial transactions. ★



JENNY MANDEVILLE / VU MEDIA RELATIONS

Admissions officers and workers prepare envelopes containing acceptance packets on March 26, 2010.

## Busted

Vanderbilt student arrested Friday after attempting to enter Phi Kappa Psi house

CHRIS HONIBALL  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Vanderbilt senior Thomas Smallhouse was arrested on charges of vandalism, evading arrest, public intoxication, unlawful use of drug paraphernalia and aggravated criminal trespassing Friday morning.

According to the arrest affidavits, another student woke up when he heard someone break a window attempting to enter a bedroom in the Phi Kappa Psi house at approximately 5:25 a.m. The witness yelled at the intruder, who fled the area. The student then called Vanderbilt Police Department.

After VUPD arrived, the suspect was seen on 24th Avenue. Following a short foot chase, VUPD officers took the suspect into custody.

According to the affidavits, Smallhouse smelled of alcohol and admitted to drinking, and officers found a glass marijuana pipe in his pocket. Dried blood covered Smallhouse's clothes and hands, and his right hand was swollen.

Earlier that morning, 22 cars in parking lot 22 and five cars in parking lot 27 near the Student Recreation Center were vandalized. Most of the cars had their back windshields shattered, although a few had damage to side mirrors.

It appears nothing was stolen from the vehicles.

At least one of the vandalized vehicles, owned by Alex Hudgens, was smeared with blood. Police told her they took a blood sample from her vehicle to assist in the investigation.

FOX 17 reported Friday night that Smallhouse was involved in both the Phi Kappa Psi incident and the car vandalism. The university declined to confirm any connection between the two incidents. VUPD acknowledged on Friday they had someone in custody, but would not release a name pending a completed investigation.

As of Sunday night, the incident at the Phi Kappa Psi house is recorded on the VUPD crime log, but the car vandalism is not. No charges concerning the car vandalism have been filed.

Smallhouse was previously arrested Oct. 21, 2009 on charges of leaving the scene of a personal injury accident, criminal impersonation, resisting arrest and driving under the influence. ★



BECK FRIEDMAN AND TINA TIAN / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

On Friday, 27 cars had their windows smashed in parking lots 22 and 27 by the Student Recreation Center.

## Vanderbilt applications up from all regions for fall 2012

VU NEWS SERVICE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Vanderbilt University has received a record 28,306 undergraduate applications for the fall 2012 semester, 3,658 (15 percent) more than at the same time last year.

Applications are up across all geographic regions and ethnic groups, said Douglas Christiansen, vice provost for enrollment and dean of admissions. All four undergraduate schools — the College of Arts and Science, Peabody School

of education and human development, Blair School of Music and the School of Engineering — have received a record amount of applications this year.

"Vanderbilt is clearly fulfilling its promise as a national and world university," Christiansen said. "We're still processing the applications, but it appears that all the quality factors such as class rank, rigor of course work, leadership, extracurricular activities and test scores will all increase as well."

Applications from international stu-

dents increased 32 percent, as did those from every national region including the West (29 percent) Southwest (13.5 percent), South (14.6 percent) and the New York area (10 percent). The increases were across all racial categories.

On the graduate level, applications were up 12 percent, with 7,855 received as of Jan. 15, said Dennis G. Hall, vice provost for research and dean of the graduate school. Some graduate schools continue to accept applications after that deadline. ★



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# Zeta Tau Alpha invites founding class, begins moving toward charter

EMILY TORRES  
STAFF REPORTER

Zeta Tau Alpha extended official invitations to their founding members last Wednesday, marking one more milestone towards receiving their charter and officially joining the Vanderbilt Greek community.

At Zeta Tau Alpha's invite-only preference party, girls were surprised when they discovered formal invitations under their chairs in the SLC Board of Trust room. Another cut was supposed to occur the following day.

"They were supposed to make one more round of cuts, but at the end of the night they said, 'We had to make some really hard decisions last night (referring to deciding who to cut), but we're really confident in our decisions. In fact, we're so confident that if you look under your chairs right now, you'll all have invitations to become charter members of Zeta Tau Alpha.' Everybody screamed and laughed and wasn't really sure what to do," said

first-year Melina Prentakis, a founding member. "The woman presenting said, 'Now I know how Oprah feels when she gives everyone in the audience a car!' After we got over the shock we signed our preference cards and took our first picture as a chapter."

The following day, Zeta Tau Alpha held a bid day celebration in the Vanderbilt Marriott hotel's ballroom, where they celebrated with food, cake and Zeta Tau Alpha merchandise. Girls were taught Zeta Tau Alpha's cheers and chants, and local alumnae, national officers and advisors celebrated with the girls.

The newest chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha is comparable in size to existing sorority chapters on campus. The majority of girls are freshmen and sophomores, but there are a large amount of juniors and seniors as well.

"Our new members are extremely excited and proud to be Zeta Tau Alphas, and we couldn't more thrilled to get involved on campus and establish this chapter at Vanderbilt," said Liz Austin, traveling lead-

ership consultant for Zeta Tau Alpha. "ZTA will bring new campus leaders, and the influence of a strong national organization."

Similar to other Greek organizations, new members will go through a period of orientation and programming prior to initiation in March. The national president will come to officially install this chapter into the national chain of chapters and Vanderbilt Zeta Tau Alpha will receive its official charter.

Zeta Tau Alpha will have an executive council and programming council, offering 20 positions of leadership to the new members. The leaders of Zeta Tau Alpha will be selected by the end of February and begin programming events for the new chapter.

"I'm really excited to get the ball rolling for Zeta. Our traveling leadership consultants, the Zeta women who are going to stay with us and help us get off the ground, have a ton of great ideas for us. We have a lot of cool philanthropy events in the works. I also am just really excited to get



PHOTO PROVIDED

to know all the girls, and really start becoming a sisterhood," Prentakis said.

Traveling leadership consultants will stay to oversee the development and success of the new chapter. They have already helped schedule a variety of philanthropic and sisterhood-based events over the course of the next semester.

"We are excited to finally have the first new member

class of ZTA at Vanderbilt. They have selected quality women to engineer the legacy of one of the strongest fraternities for women in the country on Vanderbilt's campus," said Krystal Clark, associate director of Greek Life. "ZTA is bringing a new and fresh energy to sorority life at Vanderbilt and we look forward to the full integration of the chapter into our community." ★

**Zeta Tau Alpha extended official invitations to the inaugural class of their Vanderbilt chapter last Wednesday. The new members will go through a period of initiation between now and March, at which point Zeta Tau Alpha will receive its official charter.**

## VUPD CRIME LOG

COMPILED BY GEOFFREY KING

### JAN. 29, 3 A.M.

A person was arrested for leaving the scene and underage drinking at Parking Lot 4 on 21st Avenue South.

### JAN. 31, 4:53 P.M.

Simple assault charges were issued after a person became agitated in the ED at Vanderbilt University Hospital. The culprit was taken into custody.

### FEB. 3, 5:25 A.M.

Evading, destruction/damage/vandalism on property, drunkenness, trespass of real property and drug equipment violations citations were issued after a person was arrested for breaking a window at Phi Kappa Psi.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SLAVE RECORDS ARE TOPIC OF CONFERENCE IN NASHVILLE

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — A conference underway at Vanderbilt University in Nashville concerns preserving endangered slave records.

The school is launching a digital archive and website, Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources for Slave Societies. Experts on preserving slave records are attending the conference through Saturday.

Jane Landers of Vanderbilt said baptismal records became the best information available for the history of Africans in the Americas. She said the Catholic Church required the baptism of African slaves across the Catholic Americas during the 15th century, but these records have been at risk due to climate, bug infestation and other damage.

She said secular records found in the city and provincial archives of Cuba, Brazil and Colombia also are important. ★

### HOUSING APPLICATION PROCESS BEGINS THIS WEEK

All students, except for those graduating, must apply for the housing assignment process between Feb. 6 and Feb. 12 online at [www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd). The deadline for application is 6 p.m. Sunday. Students apply by logging into the housing application site and submitting their applications. ★

### PROFESSOR PROMOTES SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — A professor at Vanderbilt University says many people are unaware or afraid of surgical weight loss.

Dr. Ronald Clements, director of the Vanderbilt Center for Surgical Weight Loss, said numerous studies show the safety and effectiveness of bariatric surgery as a solution to morbid obesity.

The center is developing an online education seminar for prospective patients to take privately at home. The seminar expedites consultation between patient and doctor. ★



## Fulbright U.S. Student Program Competition International Study, Research, and Teaching

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### SPRING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monday, February 6	4:30 p.m.	Wilson 103*
Tuesday, February 21	4:30 p.m.	Sarratt 363
Wednesday, April 4	4:30 p.m.	Sarratt 363

\*NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

Email the Office of Honor Scholarships at [ohs@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ohs@vanderbilt.edu) to register for a session or schedule an individual appointment. For more information on Fulbright, go to [us.fulbrightonline.org](http://us.fulbrightonline.org). To learn more about other opportunities for study, research and travel, go to [ohs.vanderbilt.edu](http://ohs.vanderbilt.edu).

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The staff of The Vanderbilt Hustler is committed to ensuring our work is

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Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

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You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

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### BACK ISSUES

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# CROWS: Costs minimal due to previous dispersal

from **CROWS** page 1  
 certified by the State of Tennessee Department of Agriculture in bird control and include an on-staff entomologist. According to Plant Operations' website, the team places an emphasis on humane methods of dispersal, generally using "a combination of mechanical, sanitation and exclusion methods to alter habitat and remove things in the environment that would propagate a pest population." Chemical applications are only saved as a last resort.

This latest operation concentrated on the north and

central campus, including Kissam Quadrangle, Vanderbilt Law School, Curry Field and the Owen Graduate School of Management, where an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 crows had gathered. The crows are attracted by the magnolia trees, which keep their leaves and berries throughout the winter, creating an inviting roosting area for starlings, blackbirds and crows.

To remove the crows, a two-step process was used to disrupt their normal roosting patterns. Noise-makers and pyrotechnics were used between 5:30

and 7 a.m., when the birds typically leave their roosts, and between 4:30 and 6 p.m., when the birds normally return. The process involved the use of propane percussion cannons on the roof of Wilson Hall, digital recordings of bird-in-distress calls played on top of pick-up trucks and golf carts driving around campus and bottle rocket-type fireworks, launched using 15 mm pistol launchers in various locations around 21st Avenue, West End and Kirkland Hall.

Almost 12 years ago, Vanderbilt was under siege by more than half a million

birds. That was the first time the noise war against the birds was conducted. According to Hughes, the propane cannons, launching pistols and shotgun launchers were purchased at that time. Most of the ordinance used in the recent operation was acquired in 2008. Most of the cost of the project consisted of labor costs and overtime.

Mark Petty, assistant vice chancellor for Plant Operations, first became aware of the most recent infestation in December when faculty and staff parking their cars near the corner of West End Avenue and 21st Avenue

South began complaining about an increase in droppings deposited on cars — and pedestrians.

According to Louise Hanson, medical director and physician at the Vanderbilt Student Health Center, the crows' droppings can cause histoplasmosis infections in humans.

"When the bird droppings below the roost mix with the soil and then turn to dust, people walking in the area can breathe in the particles and potentially become infected. Most people will clear the infection and not even have symptoms, but some will have

symptoms that can range from a mild, flu-like illness to severe lung disease."

According to Hughes, there have been no recorded incidents of histoplasmosis caused by the crows' droppings at Vanderbilt.

After active dispersal efforts ceased, Petty said that those people concerned about the operation would have their fears alleviated.

"We're trying to do what's best for the overall community, and the birds took to it pretty well; they got out of here pretty quickly," Petty said. Plant Operations is continuing to monitor the situation. ★

**COLUMN**

## Unintended consequences of an all-comers policy carried to its logical conclusion



**STEPHEN SIAO**  
 COLUMNIST

Compounding the confusion surrounding Vanderbilt's new nondiscrimination policy, the administration insisted at last Tuesday's town hall meeting that we now purportedly have an "all-comers" policy. After months of meetings with the administration, religious groups heard the administration use the term "all-comers policy," instead of "nondiscrimination policy," for

the first time. This significantly complicates the issue.

The Supreme Court upheld an "all-comers" policy as constitutional for public universities in 2010, which the administration referenced numerous times. As Justin Gunter, president of CLS, emphasized at the town hall, the Court deemed it legal if and only if such policy was applied to all student organizations, without exception. Per the Supreme Court's ruling, an "all-comers" policy would have to apply equally to honor societies, sport teams, fraternities and sororities.

One can easily and rightfully point out that the school involved in the CLS v. Martinez case was public and that the ruling therefore has no implications for Vanderbilt. Nevertheless, in the town hall meeting, Vice Chancellor Williams repeatedly used the Martinez case as justification for the new policy and said Vanderbilt aspired to have a true all-comers policy, as deemed constitutional by the Supreme Court. He even went as far to say that the members of Vanderbilt's administration "don't want to carve out exceptions."

see **ALL-COMERS** page 5

## Former football player arrested

**MEGAN ROSE**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

Former Vanderbilt football player and current student Blake Gowder was arrested early Friday morning after engaging in a physical and verbal altercation with Metro Nashville police.

Gowder, 20, was kicked out of Rippy's on Broadway, and according to a series of affidavits, charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and underage consumption of alcohol when he refused to leave the property.

Police asked Gowder to get in a cab around 1 a.m. after he was kicked out of Rippy's by security. Around 1:30 a.m., an employee asked a plain clothes officer to tell Gowder to stop leaning on his truck, according

to the police report.

Gowder was asked to leave the property once again by Metro police, and he was reported as being verbally abusive multiple times when officers requested for him to get in a taxi for the second time.

When Metro police attempted to place Gowder under arrest, he tried to strike the officers while refusing to comply with any verbal commands. Gowder continued to physically resist arrest when he was ordered to the ground. Police claimed that they detected a strong odor of alcohol on Gowder, and according to the affidavit, two IDs were found on him — one used to gain entry to Rippy's, and another showing he was under the age of 21.

The charges of disorderly



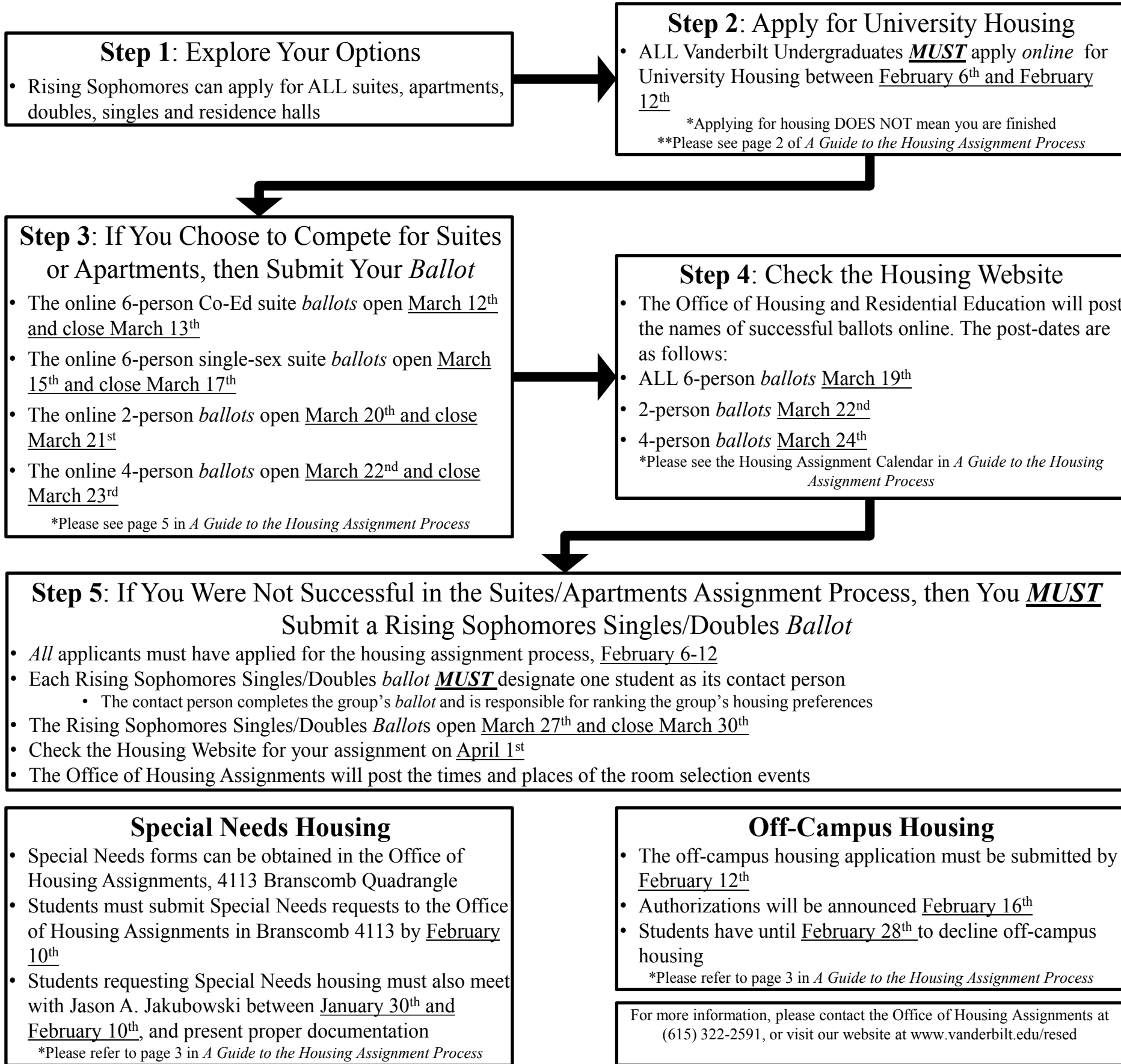
**BLAKE GOWDER**

conduct and underage consumption were dismissed on Friday morning, however, Gowder's resisting arrest charge remains open pending a court appearance in March.

Gowder was released from the Vanderbilt football team prior to the start of the 2011 season for a violation of team rules. ★

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## OPINION

## LETTERS

**Nondiscrimination and the law****Legal arguments against policy don't hold water****To the editor:**

I am writing today to oppose and add clarity to a legal argument made by several students at last Tuesday's town hall meeting. These students relied on a recent Supreme Court case, *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. E.E.O.C.*, as support for the idea that a religious student group's rights to choose a leader "trump" a nondiscrimination policy. Reliance on this case for such a proposition is incorrect. The *Hosanna-Tabor* case addresses a federal employment nondiscrimination law and involves a "ministerial" exception to employment discrimination law, neither of which is at issue in the debate over Vanderbilt's nondiscrimination policy.

While students and Vanderbilt community members may have concerns over the wisdom of Vanderbilt's nondiscrimination policy, these concerns are not legally supported by the case law cited at the town hall meeting. In fact, as Vanderbilt administrators pointed out last Tuesday, there is legal support for the university policy in *C.L.S. v. Martinez*, in which the Supreme Court upheld a similar nondiscrimination policy at a public law school. While I respect the viewpoints of all university students, I cannot be silent when incorrect legal arguments are being made against the nondiscrimination policy. Vanderbilt's nondiscrimination policy may be subject to differing opinions, but it is not illegal.

**Mary Alexander Myers**  
Vanderbilt Law School, Class of 2012

**Choice is no tragedy****To the editor:**

In his article "The greatest human rights tragedy ..." Siao's argument represents a shallow understanding of the abortion debate currently underway in the United States as well as of the history surrounding the Supreme Court decision.

Before *Roe v. Wade*, it was not uncommon for a woman to have a self-induced abortion, usually placing the woman in critical condition and sometimes ending in death. Half of these women were (and still are) mothers who understood the responsibility of motherhood because they already had at least one child. If *Roe v. Wade* were overturned, it would not necessarily mean an increase in childbirth; it would mean an increase in self-induced abortions and an increase in women dying. The access to safe care is critically important if indeed anyone is "pro-life." It is wrong to assume on behalf of the mother that she didn't use birth control, that she doesn't understand the implications of abortion and that she wants to end the pregnancy on the chance the child may have a disability.

One-and-a-half-million women exercise this choice every year, yet it is rarely discussed in conversation because our society has placed a certain amount of shame on these women. By the age of 45, more than half of American women will experience an unintended pregnancy. These women should not be shamed for making a responsible choice. Mr. Siao's argument works to further shame these women — these mothers, sisters, aunts, daughters and professors. The fact of the matter is that making abortion less available doesn't stop it from happening. If the goal is to reduce unintended pregnancies, the most effective use of resources begins with comprehensive sex education and birth control. The right to choose is not a tragedy.

**Lauren Huddleston**  
Graduate Student, Peabody College

## COLUMN

**Education for all! (and other American 'traditions')**

**ALLENA BERRY**  
COLUMNIST

It is truly amazing how history repeats itself.

As an undergraduate senior, I am finding myself in an eerily similar position to the one I was in some four years ago. I, like many of my classmates, am going to graduate school. It's a fairly big deal with which I have become obsessed, much like how my undergraduate decision consumed my conscious thoughts. The parallels are stunning.

These parallels include the exorbitant (some might even call it grotesque) price tag this education accompanies. Getting smart sure ain't cheap, I've noticed. And increasingly, students are incurring colossal amounts of debt in order to "get smart": According to an article from NPR, that figure is, on average, over \$25,000. It seems like something has to be done to curtail this crippling debt. And President Obama believes he has the plan to do it. The president alluded to his plan in his State of the Union address on Tuesday night with an ominous warning: "Let me put colleges and universities on notice," Mr. Obama stated. "If you can't stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down."

**So why, when the structure of our school systems is founded on the idea that not everyone will get a college education, do we now believe that if we keep the system as it is, we can make a college education "prerequisite" for everyone?**

It was enough to send chills through any chancellor's spine.

He went into more specifics Friday morning at the University of Michigan. The showstopper of said plan was tying a college's eligibility for federal financial aid programs to its ability to keep tuition costs down.

The economic foundation of this argument could be debated all day; I have limited print space, and therefore, won't go into that. At least not today. What did in-

terest me was how the president spoke about this potential policy. You can tell it's election season when the president uses phrases like "keeping the American promise alive," rallying Congress to ensure, as a "renewal of American values," that a college education is a "prerequisite for all." These phrases are lined throughout the presidential publications regarding this new policy. There is something truly American, the White House is arguing, about the availability of education for all.

And while I don't disagree with the sentiment, the speech, and the phrases used therein, it did make me wonder: If the foundation of American education was so great, why is it so hard to live up to it?

I turned to the beginnings of American education. I went straight to the big guy himself, Mr. Thomas Jefferson, the man with whom we associate the common school and its ideals of a meritocracy. (Although American exceptionalists beware: Confucius was the first to think up a meritocratic system.) What did Jefferson have to say about how Americans should be educated? Surely, if we're talking about embodying something truly American, as all politicians are doing nowadays, his philosophy would be an excellent place to start.

Wait, hold the phone. I don't see an "education for all" written into the American educational DNA. Jefferson's common school model was envisioned as a way to separate the workers from the leaders, the governed from the governors. A meritocracy was never intended for everyone to reach college — not even high school, even.

So why, when the structure of our school systems is founded on the idea that not everyone will get a college education, do we now believe that if we keep the system as it is, we can make a college education "prerequisite" for everyone? It seems like we're operating with two different handbooks here.

Perhaps President Obama's plan seeks to consolidate the two conflicting philosophies of education to which we have grown accustomed. However, instead of drawing upon an American "tradition" of equal access to a college education that never truly existed, we should look for ways to change a system that didn't have everyone in mind in the first place.

After all, what's so wrong with updating the handbook?

—Allena Berry is a senior in Peabody College. She can be reached at [allena.g.berry@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:allena.g.berry@vanderbilt.edu).

## COLUMN

**'The Silent Crowlocaust'**

**JESSE JONES**  
COLUMNIST

"First, they come for the 'enemy.' Then, they come for your neighbor. Then, they come for you." —A really smart guy

In the recent uproar over the administration's nondiscrimination policy, a very important message has been lost. And that message is simply this: Crows are Vanderbilt too.

Recorded distress calls. Searchlights. Chemical frightening agents. Cannon-fire. While everyone knows what is going on, few understand why. Why here? Why now? In fact, the forcible removal of crows from Vanderbilt's campus is justified under the interests of public safety. Under this argument, large flocks of crows increase the risk of transmitting diseases such as histoplasmosis, so therefore they must be removed. But this logic is clearly fallacious. Does Vanderbilt ban fraternity parties from campus simply because they increase the risk for transmission of mono? We would rightly regard such a ban as punitive, but for some reason we turn a blind eye when such policies are targeted toward our feathered friends.

This administration has clear-

ly chosen to launch their controversial anti-nondiscrimination policy exactly at this time, to distract attention away from the silent Crowlocaust underway just above our heads. I call it a "silent Crowlocaust" because even though the cannon-fire and distress cries may be audible to all, we collectively choose to just tune them out and carry on with our lives as if nothing happened. And while the shadowy Board of Trust may be the instigator of this horrific policy, as parts of a campus each of us bears a share of the responsibility when we fail to speak out in defense of our crow brothers and sisters.

The administration's cynical ploy, I'm sad to say, is working, judging by the lack of town hall meetings and open debate on this subject. Even Fox News, normally the media's greatest champion of diversity, tolerance and inclusiveness is being tacitly complicit in this media blackout.

Before the Crowlocaust is allowed to continue one more day, we need to look ourselves in the mirror and ask: Have we lost our humanity?

The administration's recent actions have greatly increased the level of anti-crow prejudice on this campus. Using social media like Facebook and Twitter, Vanderbilt students have been spreading false "scientific" reports on how crows, despite their outward appearances, are secretly intelligent, conniv-

ing and dangerous. Although students claim to be doing this in the spirit of fun and games, the same misinformation campaigns were practiced by members of the Nazi Party against the Jews in the years leading up to World War II. The result? The Beer Hall Putsch. The Reichstag fire. Krystallnacht. Yes, history shows that when a minority group stokes a society's latent prejudices, horrific outcomes can result.

If this is the environment to which our campus has descended, then God help us all.

And what next? Will the administration attack our beloved squirrel, our most venerated small and furry campus symbol? Squirrels, too, are associated with transmitting diseases such as rabies. And squirrels may seem menacing the moment they leap out of a garbage can, but having had many squirrel friends, I can assure you, squirrels are defenseless and their intentions are pure. They're just trying to get a nut.

So while it may be too late to save the crows, I write this column as a sober warning to all squirrels on campus. You're next. Members of the genus *Sciuridae*, it's time to start educating yourselves, organizing yourselves and arming yourselves, before it's too late.

—Jesse Jones is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [jesse.g.jones@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jesse.g.jones@vanderbilt.edu).

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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](http://InsideVandy.com).

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via

e-mail to [opinion@insidevandy.com](mailto:opinion@insidevandy.com). Letters via e-mail must come from a Vanderbilt e-mail 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.



# ALL-COMERS: New university policy's unintended effects

from **ALL-COMERS** page 3

Furthermore, in his response to a question on the legal necessity of such policy, Vice Chancellor Williams stated: "If you're saying, could we make an exception and still be within the law? Sure, but we have an all-comers policy that we would then be violating if we made an exception." Williams not only admitted there is no federal or state law requiring such a policy — he made clear that allowing fraternities, sororities and sports teams to discriminate based on sex, regardless of what Title IX allows, would be nothing short of a direct violation of the university's new purported "all-comers" policy.

Later in the meeting, Vice Chancellor Williams hesitantly admitted that the new policy would affect fraternities and sororities and their fate is tied directly to the that of religious organizations: "I think to the fact that Greek organizations who will not allow people to join, for whatever reasons, runs afoul of a true all-comers policy. And then I think that the other side of that is, in fact, we take the choice as a university to create that exception, then we are duty bound to look at other exceptions."

This new purported "all-comers" policy has implications far beyond its intentions. If implemented, it would fundamentally alter Vanderbilt as we all know it. Greek life would be destroyed. Honor societies would no longer be able to accept the most qualified applicants. And, our football team would be required to accept the first 98 people who

walk through the door. Adios, SEC.

As Justice Ginsberg wrote for the majority in the Martinez decision, "the advisability of Hastings' policy does not control its permissibility." What may be legal, according to the high court, is not necessarily what they would advise. In addition to undermining the goals of all religious organizations on campus, an all-comers policy would effectively undermine the purpose of nondiscrimination policies, which are aimed at protecting minorities. As admitted by Hastings officials in the Martinez case, an African-American organization would be forced to admit a white supremacist, and Orthodox Jewish and Muslim groups could be banned if their practices were deemed "discriminatory."

We appreciate the attention this important issue is receiving — not just on campus, but also across this country. The outcome of this present struggle has national implications. If the policy stands, universities across the country may follow suit. If there is enough opposition and alumni and donors speak with their money — as many are now doing — other universities will think twice. I encourage all to visit [www.VanderbiltReligiousFreedom.com](http://www.VanderbiltReligiousFreedom.com) in unity to join the fight in preserving our campus.

—Stephen Siao is a junior in the College of Arts and Science and President of the Vanderbilt College Republicans. He can be reached at [stephen.h.siao@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stephen.h.siao@vanderbilt.edu).



## DEAR CHARLIE

Need advice? Have a problem? Go ahead and ask Charlie about it! Charlie Schwartz is here to offer his expert advice to all who seek it.

Please submit your anonymous question to the form at [InsideVandy.com/Opinion](http://InsideVandy.com/Opinion).

**FONDEST CHARLES,**

*I'm asking this on behalf of all the fine ladies out there who seem perpetually stuck in the friend zone — how does one get out? How does one strike the delicate balance between being the calm, collected go-to friend-who-happens-to-be-a-girl and attempting to transcend the Platonism?*

**REGARDS, BRO-GAL**

**Dearest Bro-gal,**

From the number of romantic comedies and other similar plotlines I've seen both on the big screen and on my laptop as I lie alone in my bed, a question like this makes me turn to one of my life philosophies when dealing with such a matter: When in doubt, look to movies. Yes, Hollywood fiction is not always a depiction of truth, but it gives us the chance to observe situations that we can't always watch play out in real life.

When I first read your submission, my mind immediately jumped to the 2000 Nickelodeon movie "Snow Day," in which children in an upstate New York town are given a day off of school, fate gives the main character Hal a chance at meeting the popular pretty girl and other neighborhood kids team up against the evil Snowplow Man to keep him from ruining their snow day.

For the sake of helping you, I'm going to focus on the former plotline. Hal is constantly going to "friendzoned" pal Lane for her advice on how to woo pretty-girl

Claire, and even though Lane drops hints of interest, Hal is still too lovestruck by Claire to notice.

Before getting into my advice, Bro-gal, I would like to admire your boldness in using the term "friendzone" as a woman. In most pop culture references, the term is used in the context of a guy who is trying to get lucky but strikes out when his "target" thinks of him as too good of a friend to pursue a sexual relationship with.

That being said, the difference here is that while guys tend to look for action, girls, in this case, are most likely looking for relationships. So that's what I'm going to try to help with.

Let me start off by saying that the main idea with getting through to your "friend" is knowing yourself better than you know him. I've seen and been close to girls who are convinced that they're in love with guys. In many cases, it only takes any third party in the world to tell that the girl in question is just going after a looker/egomaniac, and that she hasn't dug deep enough to try to figure out if he's really worth it.

What I mean by that is if he's the guy that you truly want a relationship with, then it should mean you know there's a connection. And if you are certain, then he will likely feel the connection back, even if he doesn't show it. To know for sure if he is feeling that there's something special there, pay attention to little, seemingly insignificant jokes he makes about you and him being more than friends. For example, if you text-ask, "Where do you want to study?" and he responds with something like, "my bedroom :-)," then that's something worth thinking twice about. It

may seem a bit immature, but in my experience, that's how the male mind works.

If you start to notice that mutual connection, then start spending more one-on-one time with each other, like studying or eating meals together. Then keep gradually inching toward more "romantic" things, like watching a movie or going out to a restaurant to eat instead of just hitting The Commons or Rand. You need to stay persistent in doing that until you can feel yourself getting closer because, if you feel it, chances are he will too: When you spend that much time with someone, vibes tend to flow back and forth.

My biggest warning: Don't go for a "hookup" too early, especially if either of you have been drinking. If you haven't established a close enough relationship, he might write it off as a one-time thing, or in your case, even worse: friends with benefits.

So take it slow and look for that mutual connection to keep growing. Even if you slightly feel the vibes, then that should be enough to never give up on. In fact, a romantic relationship with a best friend has the potential to be one of the most special and valuable things that will ever happen to either of you.

Take it from "Snow Day": At one point, Lane tells Hal, "True love is all about finding someone you can stand to be around for 10 minutes." And, if you need a line, take it from Hal at the end of the movie, when, alone with Lane just before kissing her, he asks, "You got 10 minutes?"

**Best of Luck, Charlie**



# VANDERBILT PORTRAIT TIME



**SENIOR PORTRAIT APPOINTMENTS: [VanderbiltCommodore.com](http://VanderbiltCommodore.com).**

**JUNIORS, SOPHOMORES and FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS:**  
Sarratt 110, Today through Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Just walk in!

**[VanderbiltCommodore.com](http://VanderbiltCommodore.com)**





# LIFE

## Rusko brings rave to Cannery Ballroom

No-frills dubstep at intimate venue proves refreshing for electronic music fans

ANGELICA LASALA  
STAFF REPORTER

Saturday night, the atmosphere at Cannery Ballroom was more reminiscent of thunder than of lightning.

Rusko's sold-out performance proved that good dubstep doesn't need embellishment, that house beats done right can hold their own without an extravagant lights show. And English DJ Christopher Mercer, better known as Rusko, would have it no other way. Rusko is a Leeds College of Music graduate who has been surrounded by banjos and saxophones since childhood, so it only makes sense that he'd put the music first.

Before Rusko set foot on Cannery's stage, opening act and Nashville native Hands Off Sam played an unremarkable set. Hands Off Sam's bass drops were predictable enough to be mistaken for frat party fare, and his unrecognizable sampling and generic synthesizer passages demonstrated that Nashville hasn't quite mastered the art of the rave.

Luckily, Rusko more than compensated.

It seemed as though Cannery's small, non-elevated audience pit grew twice as crowded as the spunky Brit greeted his fans with appropriately hearty screaming. Whether anyone actually understood what Rusko was saying is debatable, given the deafening speaker system. No matter. The point is that Rusko tried to send his love to everyone present, however muffled the attempt was; the point is that he's the sort of performer who en-



PHOTO PROVIDED

gages with his fans fully and is willing to step away from his turntables every so often to enjoy the party alongside his audience.

Rusko's set included some really clever sampling. Remixes of DMX's "Lose My Mind" and Beyonce's "Who Run The World" were definite highlights. Audience members sang along to these familiar tracks until the bass dropped. As per rave decorum, all present — from the guy wearing a screen-printed t-shirt of The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air's Carlton Banks to the girl who decided to crack her glow bracelets open and splatter the liquid contents on anyone within a three-foot radius — threw down. And, as per rave tradition, "throw down" was subjectively defined by each concertgoer, from the eyes-closed dancer to the one with the propen-

sity for grinding on strangers.

Perhaps the most impressive pieces of Rusko's show, however, were his original works, namely "Somebody to Love," "Woo Boost" and "Hold On" from Rusko's most recent album, "O.M.G.!" These mixes in particular have gained critical praise, described by Pitchfork as having some "moving, visceral moments" — moments that were all the more compelling live.

The Cannery isn't a fancy venue. It's a fairly small space with local charm, enclosed by brick walls. Rusko isn't sold by the theatrics so characteristic of the electronic music genre. The right artist performed in the right space on Saturday night, giving fans their \$30 worth of unpretentious, pure revelry and unpretentious, pure music. ★

## Music of the month

FEBRUARY						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

KRISTEN WEBB  
LIFE EDITOR

### MONDAY, 2/6, 7 P.M.

#### All-American Rejects

Location: Exit/In

\$20

Six years after the band's second studio album *Move Along* topped Billboard charts and tweens everywhere were singing about their "Dirty Little Secret," the All-American Rejects are touring again to promote their newest LP, *Kids in the Street*. For a preview of the group's newest work, check out "Beekeeper's Daughter," released in late January.

### TUESDAY, 2/7, 9 P.M.

#### Matt Flinger Trio

Location: Station Inn

\$12

Matt Flinger Trio, notorious for their "music du jour" concept in which each of the three band members writes a new composition the day of the show and premieres the piece daily, will bring unique bluegrass sounds to the Station Inn this week. Their second album, "Winter Harvest," was released on Jan. 31 and can be purchased via [mattflinger.com](http://mattflinger.com).

### FRIDAY, 2/10, 7 P.M.

#### Josh Turner

Location: Grand Ole Opry

\$34 and up

### FRIDAY, 2/17, 9 P.M.

#### O.A.R. with Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers

Location: Marathon Music Works

\$29.50

### MONDAY, 2/20, 9 P.M.

#### Dark Star Orchestra

Location: Cannery Ballroom

\$22 advance, \$25 day of show

### THURSDAY 2/23, 7:30 P.M.

### FRIDAY 2/24, 7:30 P.M.

#### Needtobreathe featuring Ben Rector

Location: The Ryman

\$29.50

Needtobreathe has taken the music scene by storm, with their latest album "The Reckoning" peaking at No. 6 on Billboard Top 200 albums chart, with further success on Christian rock charts. The band will be accompanied by Nashville-based Ben Rector, who has toured with fellow Music City musicians Steve Moakler, Matt Wertz and Dave Barnes and whose album "Something Like This" became the No. 1 Singer/Songwriter album on iTunes five minutes after its official release.

## Best of Super Bowl commercials 2012

After watching the Super Bowl, *The Hustler* ranks which commercials are truly worthy of the ad world's most desired time slot.

BRITTANY MATTHEWS  
STAFF REPORTER

### Volkswagen: 10/10

Volkswagen uses the commercial-within-the-commercial feel. Ostensibly, it stars a dog trimming up to fit through the dog flap, so that he can chase after the newest Volkswagen. Then it pans out to show patrons of a bar debating whether this year's or 2011's Volkswagen com-

mercial was better. Darth Vader enters to defend his honor. Star Wars reference defeats all competition.

### The Voice: 10/10

Advertisements for The Voice feature Voice judges, among them halftime star Cee-Lo Green, battling it out "Kill Bill" style in an effort to claim the Voice. Betty White is the Voice and makes classic White quips like "It's about time someone appreciated me for my voice and not my body," and, "My eyes are up here."

### Doritos: 9/10

The Doritos commercial stars thuggish dogs and flying babies, and surprisingly ends up being humorous and adorable at

the same time.

### Chevrolet: 9/10

Taking place in a post-apocalyptic world, Chevrolet makes a dig at Ford, claiming that the competing company couldn't survive the apocalypse. Very classy, Chevy.

### H&M: 9/10

H&M and David Beckham are simply a match made in heaven.

### Skechers: 7.5/10

The Skechers commercials have a dog moon-walking across the finish line. Makes us wish we watched the Puppy Bowl.

### Dannon: 7/10

John, you should know better than to keep a wom-

an away from her Dannon Greek Yogurt.

### Audi: 7/10

Audi plays on the vampire craze and starts a Twitter trend at the same time. That's multitasking. #solongvampires

### Teleflora.com: 5/10

Teleflora.com appeals to men preparing for Valentine's Day by using the beautiful Victoria Secret model Adriana Lima to their advantage. Too bad we can't understand a word she said.

### Godaddy.com: 1/10

Godaddy.com takes female exploitation to another level. And I'm still not sure what Go Daddy even is. ★



### TOP ALBUMS OF THE WEEK

Check out which albums have been hitting the airwaves most often this week on [WRVU.org](http://WRVU.org).

1. The Civil Wars  
"Barton Hollow"

2. M83

"Hurry Up, We're Dreaming"

3. Beirut  
"The Rip Tide"

4. Wilco  
"The Whole Love"

5. Awolnation  
"Megalithic Symphony"

6. Bjork  
"Biophilia"

7. Washed Out  
"Within and Without"

8. St. Vincent  
"Strange Mercy"

9. Atlas Sound  
"Parallax"

10. Black Market Research  
"Insult to Injury"

11. Gravy and the Biscuits  
"Gravy & the Biscuits"

12. Justice  
"Audio, Video, Disco"

13. Fruit Bats  
"Tripper"

14. Youth Lagoon  
"The Year of Hibernation"

15. Arctic Monkeys  
"Suck It And See"

16. Feist  
"Metals"

17. I Break Horses  
"Hearts"

18. The Bo Keys  
"Got to Get Back!"



# Sharon Van Etten returns with 'Tramp'

Van Etten's new release a solid reflection of her latest work

NEAL COTTER  
STAFF REPORTER

After a two-year gap since the release of the critically acclaimed "Epic," Sharon Van Etten is back with "Tramp," an album very much in the vein of the work she's been producing since her 2009 debut. On her newest release, the MTSU alum has enlisted the help of some respected names in the indie music scene, including Zach Condon of Beirut, Julianna Barwick and members of The National and the Walkmen, but the album's style remains distinctly her own.

Steady drum beats, acoustic guitars and Van Etten's ultra-emotive voice characterize the tracks on "Tramp," whose highlights range from the somber yet peaceful "Kevin's" to the rollicking "Serpents."



PHOTO PROVIDED

The latter track speaks to the album's appeal as a whole: while its charm may not reveal itself on first listen, "Serpents" grows to reveal its subtle hooks, many of which are due to the dynamic inflection in Van Etten's vocals. It's her delivery that makes "well, well, I am bad" a compelling chorus in "Leonard," whereas the same words sung by another artist would come off as trite and one-dimensional.

Generally, the subject matter on "Tramp" is solemn and touches on difficult subjects like abusive relationships and self-doubt. While the album does reward repeated listens, its mood begins to wear on the listener by its latter half. The varied tempos and the introduction of Zach Condon's vocals in "We Are Fine" lessen this effect somewhat, but the similar-sounding final few

tracks bleed together indistinctly and fail to make a strong impression.

Van Etten's latest album doesn't quite reach the heights of "Epic," which gave us classics like "One Day" and "Love More." Nevertheless, she has produced a solid release that will likely continue to reveal its more nuanced aspects in time, and her upcoming performance at the Mercy Lounge in April is sure to breathe even more life into these songs. "Tramp," which hits stores tomorrow, is worth a listen for any fan of folksy, emotive and sparsely instrumented music. ★

**GRADE: B+**

## FOR A FURTHER LISTEN

Although "Tramp" does not quite reach the level of Van Etten's previous album, it does provide several solid tracks. To hear more, catch the following songs before you buy the album:

"SERPENTS"

"KEVIN'S"

"LEONARD"

### IN CONCERT:

Sharon Van Etten will play at Mercy Lounge with opener Flock of Dimes on Thursday, April 26 at 9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 in advance or \$12 the day of the show.

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	M	T	W	TH	F	S	SUN
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	9:30 <sup>90</sup>	9:30 <sup>90</sup>	9:30 <sup>90</sup>	9:30 <sup>90</sup>	9:30 <sup>90</sup>	9:30 <sup>90</sup>	9:30 <sup>90</sup>
	12 <sup>60</sup>	12 <sup>60</sup>	12 <sup>60</sup>	12 <sup>60</sup>	12 <sup>60</sup>	12 <sup>60</sup>	12:30 <sup>60</sup>
PM	—	—	—	—	3:00 <sup>60</sup>	—	—
	4:30 <sup>75</sup>	4:30 <sup>75</sup>	4:30 <sup>75</sup>	4:30 <sup>75</sup>	4:30 <sup>90</sup>	4:30 <sup>90</sup>	4:30 <sup>90</sup>
	6:00 <sup>90</sup>	6:00 <sup>90</sup>	6:00 <sup>90</sup>	6:00 <sup>90</sup>	—	—	6:15 <sup>75</sup>
	7:45 <sup>60</sup>	7:45 <sup>60</sup>	7:45 <sup>60</sup>	7:45 <sup>60</sup>	—	—	—

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# Iri Delta Loves

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Mally Burton  
Emma Catlett  
Kate Cavanaugh  
Katie Cook  
Amanda Crown  
Pere' Cvitanovic  
Shannon Dawson  
Camille DeNardo  
Jessica Dowling  
Chloe Duvall  
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Taylor Hartline  
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# Our New Members!





# SPORTS

@IVSports

## IN HIS SHOES



**KEVIN ZIOMEK**  
#35, SOPHOMORE PITCHER

REID HARRIS  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

After pitching in the College World Series as a freshman a year ago, starting pitcher Kevin Ziomek returns for his sophomore season as the only healthy pitcher with starting experience for the Commodores. With just two weeks until the start of the 2012 season against the Stanford Cardinal, *The Hustler* caught up with Ziomek to discuss his experience in Omaha and his expectations for the pitching staff this season.

**Playing in front of that many fans in Omaha,** playing with all the guys for that long a period of time was a great time to bond with the teammates and coaches and everything. We're a lot more comfortable after that experience.

**After our experience last year, we're going to be just fine.** Even though we're young, I feel like we've got a lot of experience from the older guys who have been there and experienced everything. They'll be there to show the way to the younger guys.

**Hopefully I'll take on a big role with the team this year.** I'm excited that there's a great group of guys around us to get ready and get out there and participate for us.

**We've had a lot of guys really step up.** They're going to have to play a big role for us this year. I think they're excited to fill that role and step up for us this year.

**We've got great weather here and we're just ready to get going.** ★



KEVIN BARNETT / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

## Breaking down the enemy: LSU Tigers

After two tough road losses, Commodores return to Memorial for matchup against Tigers

DANNY NOLAN  
SPORTS REPORTER

After a tough week on the road with losses to Arkansas and No. 12 Florida, the Commodores return to Memorial for a Wednesday night matchup against LSU. The Tigers — losers of five of their last seven — are looking to pile on more wins in order to get out of the bottom half of the Southeastern Conference standings.

Vanderbilt (16-7, 5-3 SEC) played close basketball against Florida on Saturday, using a 9-0 run early in the second half to take a 49-46 lead, but Florida answered with a 10-0 run that Vanderbilt could not recover from.

The Gators forced 17 Vanderbilt turnovers and limited the Commodores' shooting to 32 percent from long range, helping them extend their home winning streak to 19 games.

"We didn't do a very good job of attacking (the press)," said head coach Kevin Stallings. "It was disruptive and we did a poor job with our spacing. It caused problems."

Despite having been able to overcome turn-

over issues on the road in recent weeks — with wins at Marquette, South Carolina and Alabama, where the Commodores committed at least 17 turnovers in each contest — Vanderbilt was not able to get the road win. Even with three of Florida's starters sidelined, the Commodores found no luck in Gainesville and lost consecutive games for the second time this season, which will likely drop them out of the AP poll again.

Now Vanderbilt must turn its attention to LSU (13-9, 3-5 SEC), who is coming off a home win against Arkansas on Saturday. Vanderbilt's focus will be on LSU's 6-foot-11-inch senior center Justin Hamilton, who leads the team in both scoring and rebounding. The Commodores will count on Festus Ezeli — coming off a strong defensive game where he limited Florida's Patrick Young to just two points on three attempts — to slow down Hamilton.

LSU's strengths fall in rebounding, where they rank 53rd in the nation, compared to Vanderbilt's 157th ranked unit.

Look for LSU to show some press, as Vanderbilt has struggled with the press break all year, especially against Florida on Saturday.

"We did a really poor job at handling the pressure," said senior guard Jeff Taylor. "We had a lot of turnovers that resulted in easy points for them."

With Saturday's GameDay matchup against



NELSON HUA / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER  
Redshirt senior Festus Ezeli will play an instrumental role in containing LSU center Josh Hamilton when Vanderbilt hosts the Tigers Wednesday.

No. 1 Kentucky looming, Vanderbilt must be careful to not look ahead. As the Commodores' losses begin to accumulate, these home games against bottom-half SEC teams become more important, so expect Vanderbilt to come out hungry for a win.

Wednesday's game tips off in Memorial Gym at 8 p.m. CT. ★

### NEXT GAME:



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8  
8 P.M. CT  
MEMORIAL GYM  
NASHVILLE, TENN.  
WATCH: CSS  
LISTEN: 97.1 FM

## Southeastern Conference Power Rankings: Men's Basketball

BY JACKSON MARTIN  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

**1. No. 1 KENTUCKY (23-1, 9-0)**  
The Wildcats continue to roll through conference play with blowout wins over Tennessee and South Carolina this past week. This will be the most difficult week of their schedule, however, with a home game against Florida followed by a matchup this Saturday in Nashville, which will be the College GameDay broadcast of the week. Winning both games will almost ensure John Calipari's team a second straight SEC regular season title.

**2. No. 11 FLORIDA (19-4, 7-1)**  
Saturday's win over Vanderbilt clearly established the Gators as the biggest threat to Kentucky for the regular season championship. However, Florida is already a game and a half behind the Wildcats, and a loss in Rupp Arena on Tuesday will put the Gators in a deep hole.

**3. No. 19 MISS. STATE (18-5, 5-3)**  
The Bulldogs are a very consistent team. They don't appear to have the ability to beat the top two teams in the conference, though they have beaten the two teams directly below them in the rankings. With no difficult games until Feb. 21 when Kentucky comes to Starkville, the Bulldogs should occupy this spot in the rankings for at least a few more weeks.

**4. VANDERBILT (16-7, 5-3)**  
For as much as Vanderbilt students have been complaining about the loss to Florida this weekend, that was a road game that the Commodores were never expected to win, even in the preseason. Kevin Stallings' team has a chance to redeem itself on College GameDay against Kentucky.

**5. ALABAMA (15-7, 4-4)**  
Only the Jan. 28 win against Arkansas is keeping the Tide in this No. 5 spot. While Arkansas has steadily been getting better this year, the Tide have slowly faded from a preseason top 25 team into a program that is on the bubble to qualify for the NCAA tournament.

**6. ARKANSAS (16-7, 4-4)**  
The Hogs followed up an impressive home win over Vanderbilt with a bad road loss to LSU. It followed the Razorback's trends this season, as they have won all 16 games in Fayetteville and all seven losses have come away from Bud Walton Arena.

**7. LSU (13-9, 3-5)**  
The Tigers may be just 3-5 in conference play, but those five losses have come to Kentucky, Florida, Mississippi State, Alabama and Arkansas. If the Tigers lose to Vanderbilt on Wednesday, it will solidify their place as the clear-cut seventh best team in the conference. A win, and everything just gets more confusing than it already is.

**8. OLE MISS (14-8, 4-4)**  
Nick Williams nearly led the Rebels to a win over his home state Alabama Crimson Tide this week, but Ole Miss fell in double overtime. The Rebels still have a chance to sweep in-state rival Mississippi State on Thursday in Starkville. A win might move them off the NIT bubble and into the "Less Big Dance" once and for all.

**9. TENNESSEE (11-12, 3-5)**  
I can't figure out Tennessee, and I don't think anyone else can either. For now, let's just go with this: There's one thing Vanderbilt always does, and it's kick the S#!t out of Tennessee.

**10. GEORGIA (10-12, 1-7)**  
The Bulldogs are on a four-game losing streak, which can only mean one thing: even in this bad conference, the Bulldogs are really, really bad.

**11. SOUTH CAROLINA (9-13, 1-7)**  
As bad as Georgia is, the Gamecocks are even worse. Though the two teams haven't played, South Carolina's loss to Auburn moves them below the Classic City Canines.

**12. AUBURN (13-10, 3-6)**  
The basketball team might be bad, but at least that on-campus Chick-fil-A is bringing in the football recruits. ★

## COMMODORE BUZZ:

Senior Brittni Hamilton made Vanderbilt bowling history on Saturday when she bowled the Commodores' first-ever perfect game to lead the team into the championship bracket at the Prairie View Invitational. Vanderbilt claimed the tournament title on Sunday, beating Arkansas State, University of Maryland - Eastern Shore and Nebraska. ★



# Future bright as young Commodore team adds six recruits for 2012 season

**Women's basketball team lands highest ranked recruiting class in program history with six signees**

**KRISTEN SHEFT**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Since taking over the head coaching position in 2002, Melanie Balcomb has taken tremendous strides to elevate the Vanderbilt women's basketball program to greater heights.

In her nine seasons with the Commodores she has amassed a 215-84 record, averaging 23.8 wins per season. She has never failed to reach the NCAA postseason tournament, leading the team to four Sweet 16 appearances. Just last year, she became the fastest Vanderbilt head coach to reach 200 wins.

From an academic perspective, Balcomb's track record is equally impressive. She has graduated 100 percent of her players in nine seasons at Vanderbilt, an incredible accomplishment. Each year, members of the women's basketball team are featured on the SEC Honor Roll and two of her players have even been named SEC Scholar-Athletes of the Year.

After all that Balcomb has done for the Commodore program, it should come as no surprise that many of the nation's best high school

basketball players relish the opportunity to play at Vanderbilt. For many, the combination of academic excellence and rich athletic tradition is hard to turn down.

Just ask Morgan Batey, the top-ranked player in the 2012 recruiting class. When deciding between the Commodores, Kansas and Miami, Batey cited Vanderbilt's unwavering commitment to developing talented student-athletes as the school's biggest selling feature.

"I want to major in pre-medicine," Batey, who set the Georgia single-season rebounding record in 2011, told Atlanta's WXIA Channel 11. "Vanderbilt allows me to play in a competitive environment and start medical school after my junior year. I can't really turn those things down."

Batey, ranked No. 54 in the Hoopgurlz Top-100, is just one of six incredible athletes that coach Balcomb and her staff were able to secure during national signing period back in November 2011.

Also headlining the list are the nation's No. 13 point guard in Jasmine Jenkins, 6-foot-4-inch center Kendall Shaw, Wisconsin's top-ranked player Heather Bowe, two-time North Carolina All-State selection Kristen Gaffney and physical power-forward Rayte'a Long.

Between them, Vanderbilt's signees have won countless state champion-

ships, scored over 8000 points, earned Player of the Year titles and garnered All-State recognition.

This six person recruiting class, tabbed No. 17 by ESPN Hoopgurlz and No. 11 by Collegiate Basketball Report, is the most highly touted group Vanderbilt has signed since the rankings began in 2008. Additionally, four of the six players are ranked in the top-25 at their positions, including post players Shaw and Bowe.

"We filled a number of needs with this class," Balcomb said. "I like the balance of athleticism, skill and size we will be adding to our team. We will return a talented and veteran group next season, and I expect this class to play a significant role in our future success."

The new crop of talent is expected to add much-needed depth to the Commodore roster next season. Currently, there are only 10 scholarship players on the team, well below the NCAA-mandated limit. With the addition of six new players, Vanderbilt will be on par with current SEC powerhouse Kentucky, whose roster features fifteen athletes.

"I am excited about all six of these young women, not only as players, but as people," Balcomb said. "They all possess great talent, but their character, work ethic and commitment are what I think can make them a special class." ★

## COMMODORES' 2012 SIGNING CLASS

NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	HIGH SCHOOL
<b>Morgan Batey</b>	Guard	5'10"	Pace Academy (Atlanta, Ga.)
<b>Heather Bowe</b>	Forward	6'0"	Regis High School (Eau Claire, Wis.)
<b>Kristen Gaffney</b>	Guard	6'1"	Green Hope High School (Cary, NC)
<b>Jasmine Jenkins</b>	Point Guard	5'8"	East Hall High School (Gainesville, Ga.)
<b>Rayte'a Long</b>	Forward	6'0"	Dayton Chaminade Julianne (Dayton, Ohio)
<b>Kendall Shaw</b>	Center	6'4"	Barbers Hill High School (Mont Belvieu, Texas)



COACH BALCOMB

NICOLE MANDEL/ FILE PHOTO

## NEXT GAME:



**THURSDAY, FEB. 9**

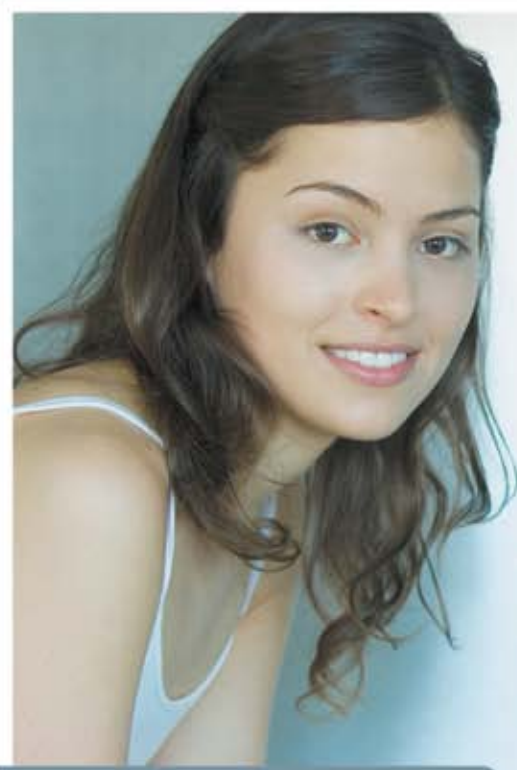
**8 P.M. CT**

**MEMORIAL GYM**

**NASHVILLE, TENN.**

**WATCH: CSS**

**LISTEN: 560 AM**



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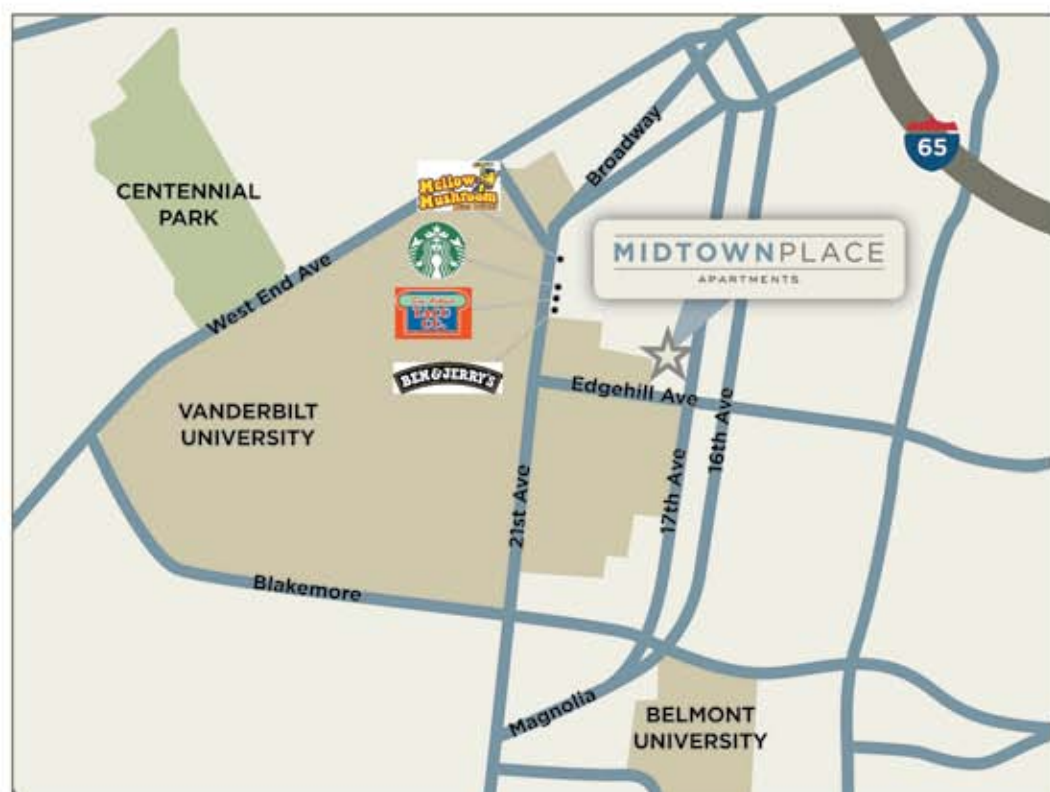
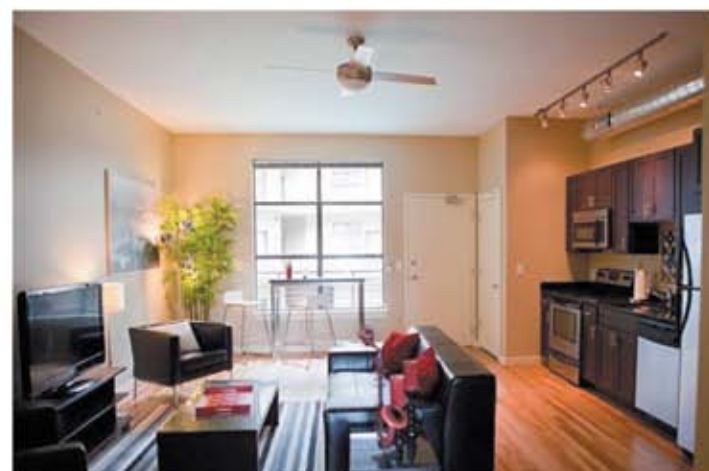
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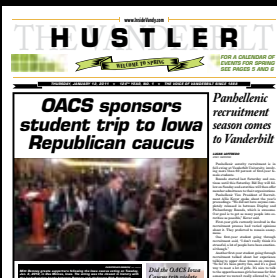


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## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:

- 1 2  
 3 4

9			1		2	8		
			2		7			5
7			8		1			
	7							
1	6		4		5			
					6			
5			9			8	6	
3			8		5			
6	9		7					4

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)

2/2 Solutions

5	1	3	9	7	6	2	8	4
7	6	4	2	5	8	9	1	3
2	8	9	4	1	3	6	7	5
1	5	2	7	3	9	8	4	6
4	7	8	6	2	1	5	3	9
3	9	6	8	4	5	7	2	1
8	3	7	5	6	4	1	9	2
9	4	5	1	8	2	3	6	7
6	2	1	3	9	7	4	5	8

2/6/12

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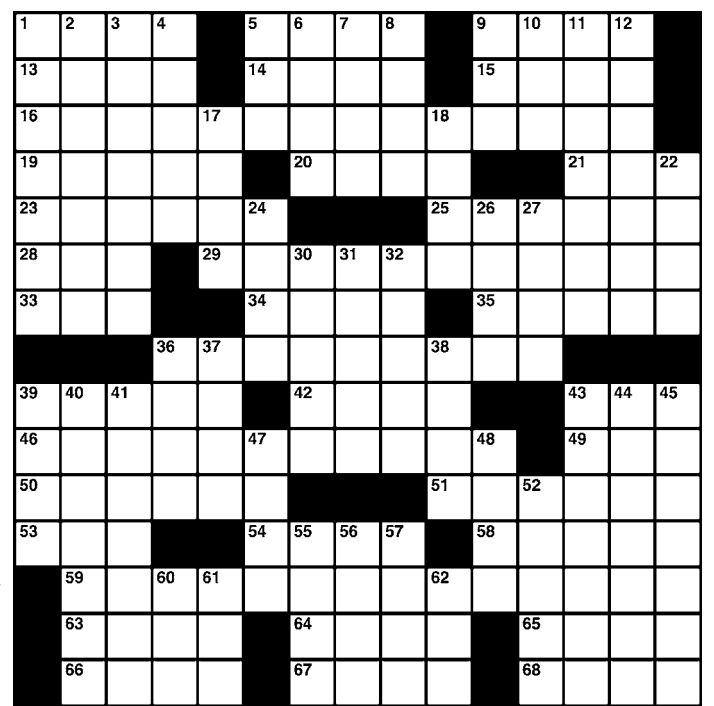
## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 PC screens
- 5 Bumbling types
- 9 Washer or dryer: Abbr.
- 13 Banister
- 14 "Deck the Halls" syllables
- 15 Cuba, to Castro
- 16 "Start of a Jackie Gleason "Honeymooners" catchphrase
- 19 Capone associate Frank
- 20 Political satirist Mort
- 21 Pale
- 23 "Be right with you!"
- 25 Moe, Curly or Larry
- 28 Space-saving abbr.
- 29 "Vivaldi classic, with "The"
- 33 Pot-scrubbing brand
- 34 Fencing sword
- 35 King with a golden touch
- 36 "Cat's blessing, so it's said
- 39 Brainstorms
- 42 Company with a "swoosh" logo
- 43 "The Racer's Edge"
- 46 "Tennessee Ernie Ford hit about coal mining
- 49 Musician's asset
- 50 Big name in tea
- 51 New Orleans university
- 53 Orch. section
- 54 Coarse file
- 58 Pantyhose that came in a shell
- 59 What the starred answers start with
- 63 Upscale hotel chain
- 64 Potatoes' partner
- 65 Post-Christmas retail event
- 66 Bog fuel
- 67 Hwy. accident respondents
- 68 Managed care gps.

### DOWN

- 1 Chums
- 2 Met by chance
- 3 Men's wear accessories
- 4 Bandits in Vegas?
- 5 More than occasionally, to a bard
- 6 Oohs' partners
- 7 Circus insect
- 8 Scout uniform component
- 9 Help
- 10 Free TV ad
- 11 Layered building material
- 12 Layered ristorante offering
- 17 Feudal estate
- 18 "Do it, or \_\_\_!"
- 22 Loch of legend
- 24 Filmmaker Ethan or Joel
- 26 Domesticated
- 27 Suffix with psych
- 30 Ivy League sch. in Philly
- 31 Got going again, as a fire
- 32 Fancy watch
- 36 NHL part: Abbr.
- 37 "Understood"
- 38 Dryer outlet
- 39 Followers: Suf.
- 40 Low-cal soda
- 41 Radical
- 43 Company associated with the alcoholic "7" in a "7 and 7"
- 44 Citrus hybrid
- 45 Gets the creases out of
- 47 Brontë's "Jane \_\_\_"
- 48 "Star Trek" helmsman
- 52 Dog restraint
- 55 Zenith
- 56 Goblet feature
- 57 Jr.'s exam
- 60 Cell "messenger," briefly
- 61 Tailor's concern
- 62 Fourths of gals.



2/6/12

2/2/12 Solutions

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

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