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THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010

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122ND YEAR, No. 68

■ **SPEAKER**



MURPHY BYRNE/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Amy-Jill Levine, professor of Jewish studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Science, discusses what the Bible actually says about homosexuality last night in Furman Hall. The event was held in response to the recent allegations of discrimination towards gay members of Beta Upsilon Chi.

Vanderbilt community discusses homosexuality and the Bible in open forum

LIZ FURLOW
Staff Writer

In an event held last night, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine argued that Christianity and homosexuality are compatible.

Levine, Vanderbilt University professor of New Testament and Jewish studies, raised the point that simply because the Bible may not condone something does not mean that we should not accept it.

"Slavery was accepted in the Bible, but we do not accept it in modern society. Most arguments with biblical support use the method of lifting up different scripture to support their points," Levine said.

The event, hosted by the Lambda Association, Hillel and the Wesley/Canterbury Fellowship, featured a screening of the documentary "Fish Out of Water" and a discussion led by Levine.

The documentary, produced by Vanderbilt Class of 2000 alumnus Ky Dickens, examined the seven Bible passages

used to reject homosexuality, refuting the condemnation of each of the quotations with alternative perspectives from expert theologians.

Dickens, who narrated the film, came out as a lesbian late in her senior year and faced condemnation from her sorority sisters and the religious community at Vanderbilt.

After the film, Levine led a discussion focusing on interpretation of the Bible in modern times.

"Biblical study is a matter of forming your own interpretation," Levine said. "The Bible gives enough leeway for interpretation that allows me not to take it literally all the time."

Laura Rossbert, co-chair of GABLE, the Vanderbilt Divinity School's Office of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, was one of the prime organizers of the event.

"As students, we are supposed to be living in community with one another," Rossbert said. "This event allows us to hear about each others' experiences and learn

from them. It's disheartening to hear Christianity used to condemn homosexuality. My goal is to allow people to be accepted for who they are. God has called me to a life of service to work for freedom."

Over 100 people attended the event, including junior Molly Landholt.

"I thought the discussion was encouraging. I'm glad that Vanderbilt opened a dialogue like this that really represented both sides," Landholt said.

After her lecture, Levine commented on her decision to speak at the event.

"I've seen too much hate," Levine said. "I don't want to see anyone demonized for upholding their own beliefs, Christian or not. I want to be a voice for the Christian perspective and also be a help to those people who are gay and struggling under this pressure. I want to help homosexuals to not feel demonized, to not feel that they are going to hell for their sexual orientation. The Bible should be a rock that one stands on and not a rock which one hurls." ■

■ **CAMPUS NEWS**

Dismal job market for class of 2011

LUCAS LOFFREDO
Staff Writer

Throughout the year, the seniors slated to receive their degrees in the spring of 2011 that will not attend graduate or professional school continue to look for jobs in a bad economy. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. unemployment rate is still high at 9.3 percent, and economic experts have predicted that this graduating class will face the toughest job market in the past 20 years.

"It's been a little slow," said senior Bram Chisolm, a classics and economics double major. "... slower than I would've liked but not necessarily than I would've expected. ... If you look at the number of jobs you can get every month in the U.S., it's not where we would like it to be."

Germain Boer is a professor of accounting at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management and director of the Owen Entrepreneurship Center.

"Right now, with the market the way it is, you probably will have to take a job that doesn't pay as well as you would like," Boer said.

Between 2007 and 2008, there was an eight percent increase in the hiring of college graduates, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Hiring for the class of 2009 dropped 21.6 percent from the 2008 statistics. The same statistic rose 5.3 percent in 2010, yet the effects of The Great Recession of 2008 are still being felt in the college job market. This is reflected in the increased unemployment rate for college graduates 16 to 24 years of age, from 3.1 percent in April 2008 to eight percent in April 2010, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Compounding the problem, the amount of degrees Vanderbilt confers increases every year, jumping by 114 degrees from 2009 to 2010, according to data released by the university. An increased amount of college graduates will be competing for a smaller amount of jobs in the coming year.

Although the statistics do not bode well for graduating seniors, according to Boer, a combination of hard work, perseverance and the right attitude about the less-than-ideal situation can still allow graduates to make the most of the lesser-paying jobs they may have to take.

"You make the job what it is," Boer said. "If you take a job that's not what you wanted, but you do it better than anybody else, the company's probably going to notice and start moving you up. So you can make a job into a good opportunity, even though it's not what you wanted."

Work experience in internships or lower-paying jobs can also help graduates move up the ladder to better career options, Boer said.

"You can take any job and turn it into a valuable learning experience, which enhances your value for whatever comes along next," Boer said.

"(Prior work experience) has been pretty helpful," Chisolm said. "When the interviewer asks me, for



www.sxc.hu

example, 'Give me an example of when you've dealt with a problem,' ... I have the stories all backed up."

According to Boer, Vanderbilt graduating seniors have a competitive advantage over students graduating from other universities.

"What having a degree from Vanderbilt does for you is it lets you connect with other Vandy grads," Boer said. "That gives you an advantage. ... If you just go to somebody who's never heard of Vanderbilt, it doesn't make any difference."

Chisolm said he doesn't put too much weight on the name attached to his degree.

"I think (a Vanderbilt degree) gives you a leg up, but that's about it; it's not going to be a game changer," Chisolm said. "... It's definitely not something to be complacent about."

Many seniors choose to hold off on jumping into the dismal job search environment by going to graduate school, a strategy that led to the amount of graduate school applications in the U.S. to increase 8.3 percent from 2008 to 2009, according to a 2010 study by the Council of Graduate Schools. Previously, there had been an increase of less than one percent for each year from 2003 to 2008.

According to Boer, this choice is a gamble.

"Folks who take off two years to go to graduate school, that means you delay entry into the market for two years," Boer said. "You're just betting that (the economy) is going to get better." ■

■ **CAMPUS NEWS**

STUDY: Alcohol consumption has an impact on final grades

KATHERINE KING
Staff Writer

Final exams are less than a week away, and students will be confronted with choices that will have an impact on their academic performance. A recent study conducted at the U.S. Air Force Academy found that alcohol consumption before and during final

exam period is detrimental to students' performance.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, about 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers and receiving lower grades overall.

Dorothy Gager is an alcohol and drug counselor at Vanderbilt's student health center.

"I think students tend to drink less during the week or so leading up to finals, but then there's more drinking right after finals," Gager said. "Vanderbilt students are so performance oriented. The selection

Please see **ALCOHOL**, page 2



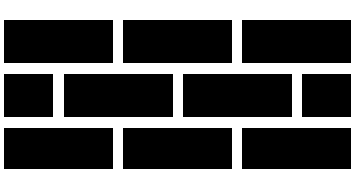
MARGARET FENTON/ VSC Media Services

Alcohol consumption among undergraduate students decreases during the week of finals, according to Dorothy Gager, an alcohol and drug counselor at Vanderbilt's student health center.



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ON THE WALL



MONDAY, DEC. 6

- 10:30 a.m. in the Commons Center multi-purpose room: David Weinberger, expert on business of technology
- From 4:10 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., in Sarratt Student Center rooms 216/220: Professor Cynthia Radding: "Imperial Boundaries and the Creation of Desert Landscapes in Northern Mexico"

TUESDAY, DEC. 7

- 8:00 p.m. in the Schulman Center: Vanderbilt Variations Winter Concert
- From 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Ingram Hall: Vanderbilt Steel Drum Bands — Mat Britain

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

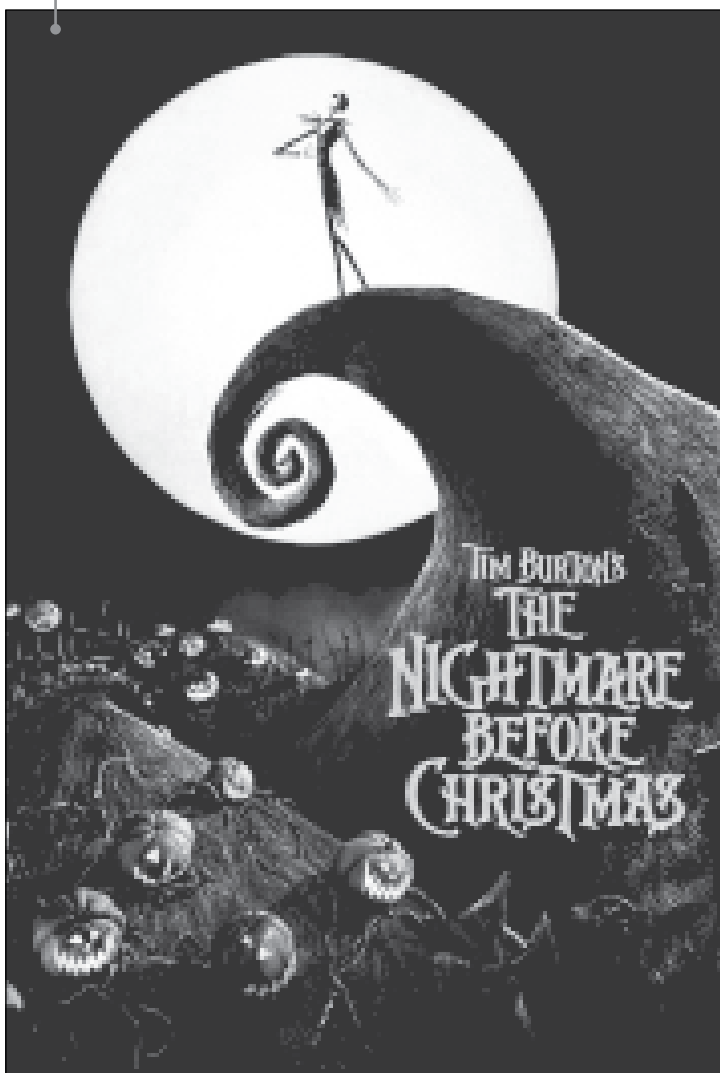
- From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Ingram Hall: Sankofa — Vanderbilt's African Drumming and Dance Ensemble
- 7:00 p.m. and 9 p.m. in Sarratt Cinema: Film: The Nightmare Before Christmas

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

- From 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Buttrick Hall room 103: Film Studies End-of-Semester Screenings
- 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Gymnasium: Women's basketball vs. Tennessee-Martin

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

- From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall: Blair Harp Ensemble — Marian Shaffer, director



SERVICE GUIDE

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STUDENT LIFE

Hanukkah celebrations bring light into otherwise dim finals week

GRACE AVILES
Staff Writer

This year, from Dec. 1 to Dec. 9, Jewish students at Vanderbilt celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah.

"Hanukkah falls at different times during the year on the solar calendar, but is always the same on the lunar calendar," said Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein of Vanderbilt Chabad. "The holiday always falls on the 25th day of Kislev, but given the variation of the solar calendar, this can translate into a great variation on the actual days celebration occurs."

The story of Hanukkah is fundamentally one of strength and faith. While the story is rich and detailed, the cause for celebration lies in the miracle of finding a small flask

of pure olive oil that allowed Judah and his army to light a candelabra (today's menorah) for eight days and eight nights.

"Hanukkah is a holiday of celebration and togetherness," Rothstein said, "so we definitely encourage students to come and celebrate with us. It can be hard finding time with finals, but there will always be something going on. Taking a few minutes from studying and the stressors of life to celebrate can be a great study break. It's all about finding a little bit of light, a little bit of hope."

Both centers for Jewish life at Vanderbilt Chabad, which focuses on the orthodox community, and Hillel (reform and conservative) host a number of events throughout the Hanukkah season. Menorah candle lightings occur every

evening, and both centers will be hosting end of Hanukkah parties on Wednesday.

The issue of Jewish students celebrating Hanukkah on campus is further complicated by the university's safety policy of not lighting candles in dorms. As Chabad's website notes, the policy is place "because (Vanderbilt) doesn't want (students) to burn the dorms down."

As for the reason for the season, it's about finding a little bit of light in the darkness.

"Every human being possess a little flask of oil, and it is our privilege and duty to find it and illuminate ourselves, and the world around us, by performing acts of goodness and kindness to make ourselves, society and the world a better place, thereby hastening the coming of the Messiah," Rothstein said. ■

ALCOHOL: finals defined by time crunch, not alcohol binge

From ALCOHOL, page 1

process would weed out people who do inappropriate things during exams."

This focus on performance is reflected in the lack of registered Greek parties with alcohol at the end of the semester.

"It's more of a time thing than an alcohol issue," said President of Kappa Alpha Henry Caplan. "During finals, a much greater percentage of people are studying on Friday and Saturday nights than during the normal school year." Alexandria Shirley, president

of Sigma Gamma Rho, said the focus of her organization is academic excellence.

"We are concerned with academic excellence, especially during finals time, so even if we did have an event, it would be a study break during a reasonable hour with a relaxing activity," Shirley said. Everette Brewster, the president of Kappa Alpha Psi, said that his chapter hosts an alcohol awareness event that discusses the safe consumption of alcohol. Gager said that although she believes students do not drink

alcohol as much during finals, she is still concerned about how students deal with the stress of exams.

"The thing that happens more around exams that concerns me is Adderall," Gager said, "People don't think of that as a drug but as more of a performance enhancer."

Gager shared some ways students can deal with stress without turning to drugs or alcohol use during exam time.

"Nutrition and rest really are important," Gager said. "Also, budget your time. Work in some time for recreation

or exercise. Walk around the campus."

Alternative methods of stress relief may have a significant impact on students outside of exam time as well.

According to the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC), adolescents with histories of binge drinking have a lower coherence of white matter fibers.

"By definition, Vanderbilt students are so bright that they have a few brain cells to spare," Gager said, "but just think what would happen if they had all their brain cells working." ■

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PM	12	12	12	12	12	12	
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OPINION

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■ COLUMN

Wikileaks comes to Vandy



MATT POPKIN
Columnist

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange must be proud. Not only has he uncovered American diplomatic cables discussing a Libyan leader's busty Ukraine nurse, but he also has obtained a plethora of documents dealing with the goings-on at our own Vanderbilt University.

Those include close to 50 flyers urging us to vote for one of our dance line members in a sports website's "spirit contest," a competition that is as much about school pride as the Miss USA pageant is about the ability to bake a soufflé.

Dynamic. That's the one word our school's representative would choose to describe herself. The same may be said for Auburn star quarterback Cam Newton, whose father shopped him around to SEC schools at the asking price of \$180,000. Vanderbilt, ever ethical, spent that money instead putting 24-inch spinners and sick decals on each and every Vandy Van.

No, seriously. According to the documents available from my WikiLeaks sources, which look surprisingly like The Hustler archives, we spent \$14,000 on infrared technology for our campus transport, and another \$10,860 on GPS

tracking systems, not to mention the \$150,000 pledged to replace the three smallest Vandy Vans with bigger shuttles.

I think we all know what that means if we do the math. \$174,860 can't buy you love or a future Heisman winner, but it can purchase a shuttle service that is only fully used two nights a week for about six hours total.

But at least those changes are proof VSG gets things done. Last month, in response to the controversy over tabling the DREAM Act indefinitely and not being able to coherently read Robert's Rules of Order, our student body representatives forwent ordering Hooked on Phonics and instead created the Strategic Planning Committee, which, according to the VSG resolution, would "conduct oversight into the organization."

Recent uncovered memos show that the biggest issue in forming the committee was not if they would actually be held accountable for their actions by the student body, but if the phrase "Strategic Planning Committee" would look better in Courier or Times New Roman font when put on their resumes, and whether or not it should come before or after the hot dog eating contest they won in ninth grade.

Documents show there are plans to create a new watchdog group on campus under the VSG umbrella — The Executive

Clean Mechanical Energy Task Force to the Chancellor, which will be responsible for maintaining all relationships between Vanderbilt students and administrators that involve internal combustion engines. Not only will this committee be responsible for washing Chancellor Zeppos' car, but they also will take care of vacuuming the inside as well.

Speaking of Chancellor Zeppos, an article in Chronicle of Higher Education claims he was the second highest-paid current college president in the 2008-2009 fiscal year, earning \$2,407,588. Yet, according to U.S. News & World Report, Vanderbilt is only the 17th best school in the United States. You might ask if that means Zeppos is being overpaid. You might ask if we recently fired our football coach for underachieving. But then you might shut up because you still want to graduate in May.

And that's the price one has to pay for such vigilance. Remember, just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they aren't after you. It just means that if they are, no one will believe you. May VandyLeaks protect us all.

— Matt Popkin is a senior in the College of Arts & Science. He can be reached at matthew.d.popkin@vanderbilt.edu.

■ LETTER

Marijuana: No Joke

To the editor:

In Frannie Boyle's piece in Friday's issue of The Hustler, "Legalized Marijuana? You must be high," she makes several outlandish claims with little to no evidence to back them up. After reading it, I felt obliged to respond to several of these claims and refute those which are false, or at the very least uninformed.

Boyle first mentions that marijuana is addictive. However, while it is true that people can develop a dependency to it, according to a comparative chart created by Dr. Henningfield of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Dr. Benowitz of the University of California at San Francisco, marijuana is less addictive and has less withdrawal symptoms than caffeine, while legal drugs such as nicotine and alcohol rival cocaine and heroin in these fields.

In addition, marijuana is much safer than alcohol. Alcohol can be fatal at just 10 times the amount one would use to get drunk, while marijuana is one of the least toxic drugs. One would need to smoke 1,500 pounds of cannabis in 15 minutes in order to overdose. Of course, this number is just theoretical because there has never been a fatal marijuana overdose in human history.

The argument that weed would never boost the economy is another that can be refuted quite easily. The most important aspect of this argument is that the tax revenue that would be brought in by this would be staggering. According to a report by Dr. Jeffrey Miron, a professor of economics at Harvard University — which was endorsed by more than 530 other economists, including three Nobel Laureates — marijuana legalization would save approximately \$7.7 billion in government expenditures while bringing in \$6.2 billion in tax revenue if it were taxed like alcohol or tobacco.

Boyle writes, "In areas of the world where the drug is decriminalized, there are still high rates of violence and crime as a result of trafficking." This is not true. In Portugal, where marijuana, along with all other drugs, was decriminalized in 2001, there is lower overall use of drugs, and just as importantly, lower teen drug use now than before decriminalization. In addition, in the Netherlands, well known for their lax drug laws, only 20 percent of the population has tried marijuana, while in the United States, the figure is 42 percent.

Finally, Boyle states that there are no known health benefits of marijuana. Again, this fact has little support in the medical community. Marijuana has been more effective in slowing the spread of Alzheimer's plaque than commercially marketed drugs. In addition, it is effective at slowing the spread of brain cancer, breast cancer and, surprisingly, lung cancer. Of course, in order to receive the full benefits against lung cancer, it would be advisable not to smoke the cannabis. Also, marijuana has been shown to reduce nausea, encourage appetite and relieve pain of cancer patients going through chemotherapy. Even if the FDA has not acknowledged the health benefits of marijuana, the American Medical Association and several university studies have.

Even if Boyle doesn't believe it, society will not crumble if marijuana is legalized. It is time to end a prohibition that was founded on racism and progress into an age more reliant on actual facts rather than on prejudice.

Michael Altman-Lupu
Junior
College of Arts & Science



NATE BEELER / MCT Campus

■ COLUMN

The audacity of arrogance



JESSE JONES
Asst. Opinion Editor

Last week, I examined the timeline of bias, concluding somewhat pessimistically that every piece of writing is shot through with the author's own self-concern. This week, as Vanderbilt collectively pregames our final papers by chugging inordinate amounts of coffee, I thought I might continue to hold forth as a writer writing about writing.

It's not easy, but take heart. Your 20-page analysis of Franco-Prussian relations may not win you the Nobel Prize, but we can all improve our writing level by paying just a little more attention. Never is there one "best" way to spell out an idea, and the outcome of a writer's deliberation — the word you get to read — belies the multitude of choices she could have made. And the possibilities are as infinite as they are indefinite, because language is a veritable universe branching out through marginally different, though often contradictory, cognitive associations.

But don't take it from me. When you reach a good stopping place (read: procrastination break), pick out an online "graphical dictionary" like Visuwords or any run-of-the-mill thesaurus. Find a

word that's giving you trouble, observe the arising cluster of synonyms and choose a better-sounding word. I don't say this to be flippant; that A+ feeling you get more than likely actually reflects a meaningful change. For a bit of fun, let's look at what you can do with a blatantly loaded adjective that disgruntled conservatives often attach to President Obama: "arrogant."

But to convey a noble, tragic kind of arrogance, you'd write "hubris," a synonym with Greek roots harkening back to the days of Aeschylean theater. If you wanted to give the President a "hood pass," you'd write "swagger." If you wanted to highlight his rhetorical pretensions, you'd choose "loftiness" or even "high-handedness," and if you thought him an unvarnished egotist, "self-importance," "smugness" or simply "pride" would fit the bill.

Of course, you could just as easily spin Obama's "arrogance" positively. If you saw him as a daring champion of the oppressed and wanted to appeal to those with Jewish roots, you'd write "chutzpah." To play the heartstrings of Joe six-pack, you'd opt for the simple but effective "cojones." To give him a military sheen, you'd pick "brass," and for universal appeal, you could do much worse than "bold."

And there's always "audacity," the word Obama took for himself in his latest

memoir, "The Audacity of Hope."

What you absolutely could not do is give him all these words and dissect them in turn, because then your political argument would be lost, your column over half finished and your readers scratching their heads, wondering "Yeah, but what's your point?"

Not that Obama is an indescribable enigma, but that closer to home, our lives are full of people on whom we inevitably — intentionally or inadvertently — pass judgment in every word we use to describe them.

That shy guy in your social circle: Demur? Grounded? Mysterious? That cute girl in your Poli Sci class: Darling? Foxy? Elegant? Or "Blonde" with a capital B and all its latent associations? Already, we can begin to see that language identifies the speaker as much as it describes the object.

Life would be a lot less stimulating if language lost its slippery spirit. But words aren't only entertainers; they're also builders and destroyers, and we bear the responsibility for their effect on others, not to mention our term paper grades. As Obama once — arrogantly? boldly? — stated, "Don't tell me words don't matter."

— Jesse Jones is a junior in the College of Arts & Science. He can be reached at jesse.g.jones@vanderbilt.edu.

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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.

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Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

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LIFE

■ COLLEGE CULTURE

Weekend Snapshot:
Feelin' the VIBE

CHRIS HONIBALL/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Nick Wells channels his inner Michael Jackson while performing with the Melodores at VIBE's "Back in the Day: The Evolution of a Hip-Hop Generation" in the Student Life Center Saturday night. The event featured performances by many Vanderbilt student groups.

■ FASHION

'Tis the Season for
Holiday Cocktail AttireCAROLINE ALTSHULER
Staff Writer

The return of Starbucks' Peppermint Mocha, passing of Black Friday and twinkling Christmas lights are all signs of the holiday season.

Exams, term papers and immense stress may be imminent, but that also means holiday party fun, chipper spirits and tasty treats are around the corner. With holiday parties on the agenda — you may be attending a fraternity or sorority formal, family holiday party or upcoming New Year's Eve bash — the perfect holiday dress is December's primary concern.

I've compiled my favorite dress-up looks below so you'll be set for the season.

Winter White

A little white dress (LWD) is the perfect ensemble when worn against an idyllic, snowy backdrop. Crisp and fresh, the winter white holiday dress is a sure-fire way to stand out and embrace the snowy season; choose a fabric like wool to avoid looking out of season. Tip: If your summer tan has faded and you're looking pale, a white dress with a touch of metallic will balance porcelain skin. A good place to start looking is BCBG in the Mall at Green Hills; they are offering 30 percent off on cocktail dress, including the pictured "Tiered-Petal" dress in white.

Sequins

Take a style tip from holiday ornaments and add a little sparkle to outshine everyone else. The sequined mini-dress is subtly sexy and an attention-grabber. Go the extra mile and pair with a sequined clutch or sequined heels to really stand out. Where to find it? Forever 21 offers sparkly mini-dresses with great price points, like the "Shimmering One Shoulder Dress" for \$28. Head to Opry Mills Shopping Center or order online.

Lace

Lace accents decadence, just like the holiday season, and right on trend. Try a nude or champagne dress with black lace accents for a demure party dress. To complete this holiday look, don lace tights or patent shoes.

The Little Navy Dress

A little black dress is the perfect cocktail attire, but what about navy, which is sure to highlight any color skin, eye or hair? Navy is often overlooked, but the midnight blue is figure flattering — it is a dark color — and slightly different than everyone else dressed in holiday black. Shop it at local boutiques Bella Boutique or UAL for stores that are close to campus and high on style. ■



Courtesy of bcbg.com



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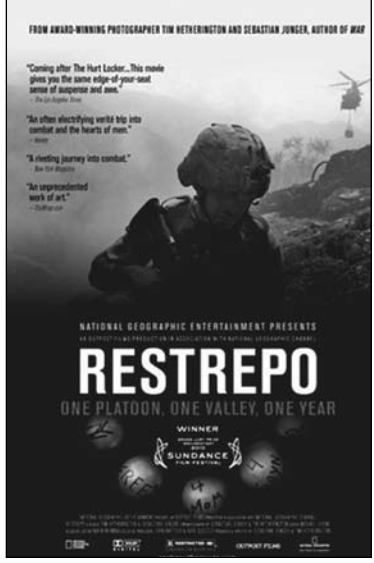
We helped Vanderbilt University students **save** more than **\$242,000** this fall through Rent-A-Text!

ENTERTAINMENT

Give the gift of film this holiday season

BEN RIES
Staff Writer

This holiday season, as usual, will see the home video release of all sorts of past and present blockbusters. Here are my picks for some of the best:



Dec. 7
Restrepo (2010), \$14.99 (DVD) and \$19.99 (Blu-ray)

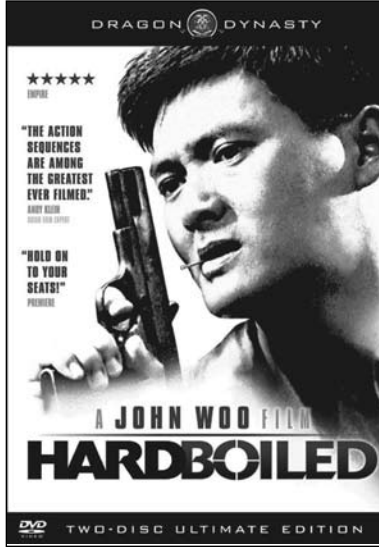
Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, "Restrepo" follows one year in the lives of the members of an American infantry platoon assigned to defend a dangerous outpost in the Korangal Valley. This experiential documentary immerses the viewer in the everyday lives of our soldiers, illuminating both their immense bravery and the fragility of the American mission.

Inception (2010), \$17.99 (Three-Disc Blu-ray/DVD Combo)

Many audience members, baffled by the Byzantine plot and ambiguous ending of Christopher Nolan's mind-blowing thriller, rushed back to theaters for a second viewing, but this December's home release is perfect for those of you who haven't watched "Inception" enough times (I'm at three). Tellingly, a special version that comes in a sleek silver briefcase quickly sold out, but the DVD/Blu-ray combo release still has a myriad of special features including a prequel cartoon and several featurettes on dream theories and the film's production.

Videodrome (1983), \$22.49 (DVD) and \$29.49 (Blu-ray)

Perhaps the best of the early 'body horror' films of director David Cronenberg ("A History of Violence," "Eastern Promises"), "Videodrome" presents a hallucinatory journey that often resembles a twisted version of the dream worlds in "Inception." James Woods plays Max Renn, an executive of a low-brow television station who becomes transfixed by a sadistic show called "Videodrome." The show and the concept of television itself quickly exert a terrifying power that infringes on Renn's reality. The Criterion Collection's newest release is a classic erotic thriller rife with social commentary on the power of the media.

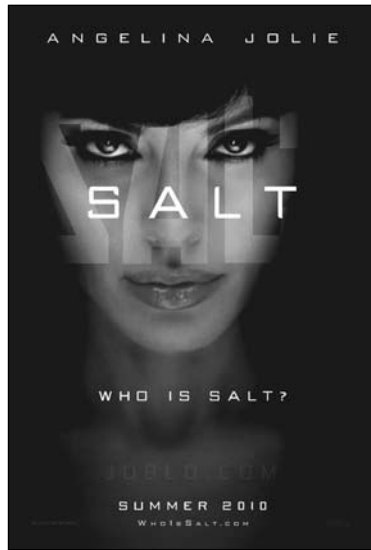


Hard Boiled (1992), \$11.99 (DVD) and \$17.99 (Blu-ray)

"Hard Boiled," doubtless one of the two or three best films by Hong Kong director John Woo, contains arguably the most intense and exhilarating action scenes in film history. Inspector 'Tequila' Yuen (Chow Yun-Fat) teams up with undercover cop Tony Leung (Chiu Wai) to battle a ruthless band of mafia gunrunners. Their confrontations escalate to a massive shootout at a hospital that contains a legendary two-minute long take as the camera travels across two floors. "Hard Boiled" has held its own in the 18 years since its release and will likely look terrific in its upcoming Blu-ray release.

Dec. 21
Salt: Deluxe Unrated Edition (2010), \$16.99 (DVD) and \$20.99 (Blu-ray)

The late December release of this summer's blockbuster is perfect for adventure fans that missed it in theaters. CIA agent Evelyn Salt (Angelina Jolie) is accused of being a Russian mole — a timely premise given recent the arrest of a Russian spy ring — forcing her to go on the run from her employers, who are led by agent Peabody (Chiwetel Ejiofor, in a near-repeat of his role in 2005's "Serenity"). The action scenes — highly praised for their clear editing and tight choreography — are paralleled by the mystery of Salt's identity. Is she being set up or is she an Anna Chapman-like spy? The DVD and Blu-ray releases promise a commentary by the filmmakers, extended scenes and several featurettes.



LIFE

Around the Loop: What was the highlight of your weekend?

Compiled by **COURTNEY KISSACK**
Staff Writer



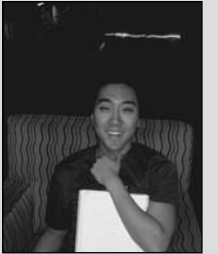
"Formals were so fun this weekend, but I have so much work until I go home."
— **Christa Szabo, junior**



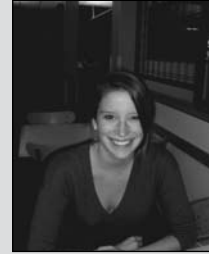
"I went to the Tri Delt/Chi O formal."
— **Andrew Maroda, sophomore**



"I got to go to the Rudolph's Red Nose 5K Run and the Christmas Day Parade with Channel 5."
— **Francesca Amiker, junior**



"I did homework and wrote papers."
— **Bowei Han, sophomore**



"It was a great weekend. Two formals back to back were awesome."
— **Betsy Brandt, sophomore**



"I worked on a short story and went to the Vanderbilt Concert Choir's Holiday Concert."
— **Wolf Clifton, sophomore**

Dec. 14

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SPORTS

■ FOOTBALL

Ga. Tech AD: Option more than a quirk

ERIC SINGLE
Asst. Sports Editor

After the 2007 college football season, Georgia Tech had lost to its archrival Georgia seven years in a row and had finished with seven wins in five of Chan Gailey's six seasons as head coach in Atlanta. Athletic Director Dan Radakovich saw his program reaching a dangerous plateau of achievements and expectations, and so he fired Gailey and bought out his contract.

Less than two weeks later, Radakovich hired Paul Johnson away from Navy, where he had led the Midshipmen to unprecedented modern success and the nation's top rushing offense in three of the last four years as a direct result of the uncommon triple option flexbone offense he employed there.

In three years as the head football coach at Georgia Tech, Paul Johnson has raised the program's expectations from always good, never great also-rans in the Atlantic Coast Conference race to championship contenders. His run-dominant option offense, which demands quick decision-makers more urgently than exceptional athletes, has flourished despite the recruiting challenges of an institution with Georgia Tech's lofty academic standards.

The Yellow Jackets snapped their losing streak to Georgia in 2008, Johnson's first year, and won the ACC Championship the next year. Tech finished its 2010 regular season with an average of 327 rushing yards per game, the highest in the country, despite losing starting quarterback Joshua Nesbitt to

injury in November.

Radakovich believes the success of his decision to bring Johnson and the option offense to a school that plays in one of the nation's most powerful conferences came as the result of a perfect fit between coach and program. With the names of option-minded coaches such as Navy Offensive Coordinator Ivin Jasper and Air Force Head Coach Troy Calhoun being raised around Vanderbilt's first search for a new head football coach in just under a decade, the Georgia Tech athletic director offers up the rise of his program under Johnson's triple option as a source of hope for skeptical Commodore fans.

"When we hired Coach Johnson, there was a couple of criteria that we looked at," Radakovich said in an interview with *The Hustler* by phone

on Friday. "One, we wanted someone who was a proven winner, and certainly Paul fit that category. He's been successful at every stop along his career.

"We also looked at Georgia Tech as a place where, as we try to say, we're good and we're different. We're not only good academically and athletically, and sometimes that's a very different concept as it relates to collegiate athletics. So with Vanderbilt being in somewhat of the same circumstance, I can see why people are looking at (running the option) as a possible scenario for them."

Once the hiring of Johnson was announced, the Yellow Jackets struggled to retain its recruits and returning skill players once they realized the shift in their offensive roles that was set to occur with the installation of the option attack. Projected starting quarterback Taylor Bennett transferred to Louisiana Tech in the spring, leaving the starting job open for Nesbitt. Radakovich said that Georgia Tech urges recruits, especially wide receivers facing reduced looks in the passing game of an option offense, to take a deeper look at the numbers before writing off their value within the option attack completely.

"We had a wide receiver (Demaryius Thomas) here that was in our program, and when Paul came, he worked himself into being a number one draft pick in the NFL," he said. "And I think one of the things that the NFL places a premium on that isn't one of the more glamorous things receivers do (is) the ability to block. So you get that training and you get that opportunity here.

"Also, a lot of times you find yourself matched up in man-to-man coverage. Most schools don't play zone defense against

us because they can't commit that many people to areas because they have to cover the option. So when you do throw, you're going to get that kind of coverage that allows you to make big plays. So in many ways, being a wide receiver in this offense, although you may not catch 100 balls like you would in a Mike Leach offense, you might catch 35 or 40 and your yards per catch are going to be pretty big.

"We're playing college football. And what my job is, is to get the best coach to win at Georgia Tech or the best coach to win at Vanderbilt. Certainly if you have the potential and ability to play at the next level, they're going to find you."

If Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs David Williams decides that the best coach to win at Vanderbilt is one who plans to bring the option to Nashville, Radakovich says that Georgia Tech will be far from pleased with the affirmation of the success of its unique offense as more than a fluke.

"To be quite honest, I hope nobody else runs it, because I think that's a unique edge for Georgia Tech, and I'd like to keep it that way," he said. "There are tens of thousands of high school football players that play. Not all of them are 6-5, 330 pounds, and a lot of them are 6-foot-3, 290 pounds and are quick as a cat. And that works, and that's good. So I think that we've proven that you can be incredibly competitive in this area at this level in this offense."

Radakovich's words are something to think about for a Vanderbilt program for whom becoming even credibly competitive in the most powerful conference in the country would be a step forward. ■

Georgia Tech's triple option

Georgia Tech runs several formations of the option out of its flexbone formation. Here's an example of the progression of events during one of the Jackets' more common option plays:

The triple option play out of the flexbone formation forces defenses to take responsibility for three different potential ballcarriers on each play: the quarterback, who takes the snap from the center; the A-back, who lines up on the edge of the offensive line; and the B-back, who lines up behind the quarterback in the backfield.

The quarterback takes the snap from the center and, depending on which hole the interior defensive lineman commits to covering, chooses to either hand the ball off to the B-back running up the middle or fake the handoff and keep the ball for himself.

If he chooses to keep the ball, the quarterback then runs around the end of his offensive line, with the A-back following to his outside. The quarterback then reads the defensive end and determines whether he has committed to covering the A-back or the quarterback. If the end chooses to make a play on the quarterback, he pitches the ball out to the A-back on the outside. If he chooses to cover the pitch, the quarterback keeps the ball himself and turns upfield.



ZAC HARDY/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Running back Zac Stacy's physical running style would fit in the B-back role of a triple option offense.

■ FOOTBALL

2010: Season in Review

Injuries do Vanderbilt no favors

ERIC SINGLE
Asst. Sports Editor

After running back Zac Stacy and tight end Austin Monahan each went down with injuries on consecutive plays of a preseason practice on Aug. 12, Head Coach Robbie Caldwell told the media that a team in Vanderbilt's situation "can't afford to lose anybody" to injury.

In what would become one of the cruelest twists in the story of Vanderbilt's second straight 2-10 regular season, the Commodores lost just about everybody.

Injuries plagued the team's most important assets on both sides of the ball, from as early as spring practice, when defensive tackle Adam Smotherman sustained a knee injury that caused him to miss the start of the season, to as late as the season's final week, when quarterback Larry Smith's sprained elbow and knee inflammation kept him out and forced Jared Funk into action against Wake Forest.

Every running back on scholarship dealt with injury troubles. Projected starter Warren Norman's knee was scoped during the preseason, limiting his playing time in the opening weeks. Then he dislocated his wrist late in the loss to Arkansas and

was ruled out for the rest of the season.

Stacy sprained his knee in the preseason and then suffered a concussion on a brutal hit in the game against Florida. The sophomore was carted off the field on a stretcher after a long stoppage and was subsequently shut down for the season by the coaching staff.

Redshirt freshman Wesley Tate entered 2010 with a lingering foot injury and was further limited by an ankle injury sustained against the Gators, although he did see action in all 12 games this season.

Redshirt senior Kennard Reeves recovered from early hamstring troubles to carry the load for the Vanderbilt running game in the final three games against Kentucky, Tennessee and Wake Forest. Reeves's strong play was a pleasant revelation on an undermanned offense that averaged just over 11 points per game during the seven-game losing streak that closed out the season.

Each injury at each position put an increased strain on the depth of a team already strapped for experience and big-play talent. Vanderbilt will need every day of the long nine months it has to recover before it tries its luck once again against the injury bug in the 2011 season opener against Elon. ■



CHRIS PHARE/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Running back Warren Norman was shut down for the year after dislocating his wrist against Arkansas.

Commodore passing attack cannot get off the ground

BRUCE SPENCER
Staff Writer

Just looking at the statistics behind Vanderbilt's 104th-ranked passing offense is enough to make one shake his head. The Commodores only managed to gain 159.42 yards per game through the air. Quarterback Larry Smith had a passer rating of 96.45 this year, making him, statistically speaking, the worst starting quarterback in the SEC. Vanderbilt's passers only completed 46.94 percent of their passes, putting them third to last in the FBS. Whether it was bad quarterback play, offensive line miscues or dropped passes, the Vanderbilt passing attack always managed to find a way to stay grounded.

When evaluating any passing attack, one must first look at the quarterback's performance, and it's pretty safe to say that neither Larry Smith nor Jared Funk were too awe-inspiring. Quarterback Larry Smith started the first 11 games for the Commodores with his best game of the year being a 253-yard, two-touchdown performance against the 73rd-ranked passing defense of Eastern Michigan. Overall, Larry Smith threw for only 1,262 yards and six touchdowns this year. Being sacked 29 times sure didn't help, either.

Having only one returning starter on the offensive line this year meant the Commodores' offensive line was likely to commit some errors. However, allowing multiple sacks to opponents like Kentucky, Tennessee and Wake Forest put Vanderbilt in a huge hole against unspectacular opponents in its efforts to turn things around late in the year. In fact, the Commodores were last in the SEC and 111th in the nation in sacks allowed. But even with a poor offensive line performance, a passing attack can possibly save a little face with a good receiving corps.

Too bad Vanderbilt's receivers struggled just as much as the rest of the offense did. Tight end Brandon Barden was Vanderbilt's leading receiver this year, finishing with only 425 receiving yards

and three touchdowns. The Commodores' young receiving corps left a lot of passing yards on the field through all of the dropped passes, missed routes and mental errors it committed this season.

However, things are looking up for the Commodores passing offense for next year. Quarterback Larry Smith, his top four receivers and all of the offensive line will return next season with an extra year of experience underneath their belts. The Commodores have a long offseason to shake the nightmares of this season and dream up new ways to connect through the air for the 2011 season. ■



CHRIS PHARE/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Quarterback Larry Smith (10) was unable to lead consistent passing offense to take pressure off of Vanderbilt's stable of running backs.

■ GOLF

Q & A with Marina Alex

PETER NYGAARD
Asst. Sports Editor

VANDERBILT HUSTLER: So, you're done with the fall. Overall, how did the tournaments go?

MARINA ALEX: As a team, there's some stuff we can improve on in the spring. I don't think (our performance) was as good as we would have liked it to have been. But ... it was an OK starting point. The spring is more important because of SECs and NCAAs. So, I think we're in a good spot where we can make some improvements and do better for the next semester.

VH: What about from an individual standpoint?

MA: I was a little disappointed. I mean, the first tournament, I played well. Then, I had a small injury; my back

was bothering me for our home tournament at the Mason (Rudolph Women's Championship), and that kind of segued into the third tournament that we played at North Carolina because they were kind of close in succession. So, I didn't do all that great. And then, I played really well the first two rounds at the SEC-Pac 10 (Challenge), but the last round was very disappointing.

VH: The SEC-Pac 10 Challenge was the last tournament you played in this fall. Does that final round stay with you at all through the winter?

MA: No ... those days are going to happen, and everybody goes through it at some point or another, so you just kind of have to learn from it and move on and just be more present-minded than that.



Vanderbilt Athletics

Junior golfer Marina Alex was named first team All-American and SEC Player of the Year after her first-place finish at the SEC individual championships in the spring of 2010.

VH: You have a layoff until late February. How do you stay focused?

MA: I'm actually playing in a tournament outside of Vanderbilt over the Christmas break in Florida, so that'll keep me a little bit focused and give me some competitive time in between so that I'm not just taking off and not really doing anything.

VH: When you're playing in tournaments, you have the individual leaderboard and then the team leaderboard. How do you kind of balance the two?

MA: It's difficult. ... When we're all doing well, it's fine. But when we're kind of scattered, it's tough. ... You want to play well for the team, but you know, you need to focus on yourself. So, it's a tough balance that I think everybody deals with.

VH: If you see your team struggling on the leaderboard, does that influence your play or make you think, "OK, I need to make a couple shots"?

MA: Yeah, sometimes. If I see that we're kind of up near the lead, that gets me fired up because I think, "Ooh, OK, we're kind of close ..." And then, if that's not the case, then I just try to keep at it and grind it away so that I'm not giving up any shots.

VH: What are your expectations, both team and individual, for the spring?

MA: I really think that we're capable of winning a tournament and being in contention at SECs and being one of the top five schools at nationals this year. So, that would be, I think, a good outcome for the spring.

VH: How do you get there?

MA: Practice hard. Stay focused. Make sure that we do the little things that we need to do as far as getting enough sleep, doing our work in on time, and all that kind of stuff because once we get out there traveling, it gets a little ridiculous. You know, you're traveling sometimes four out of five weekends in a row, and it's hard to keep up with everything. ■

■ BASKETBALL

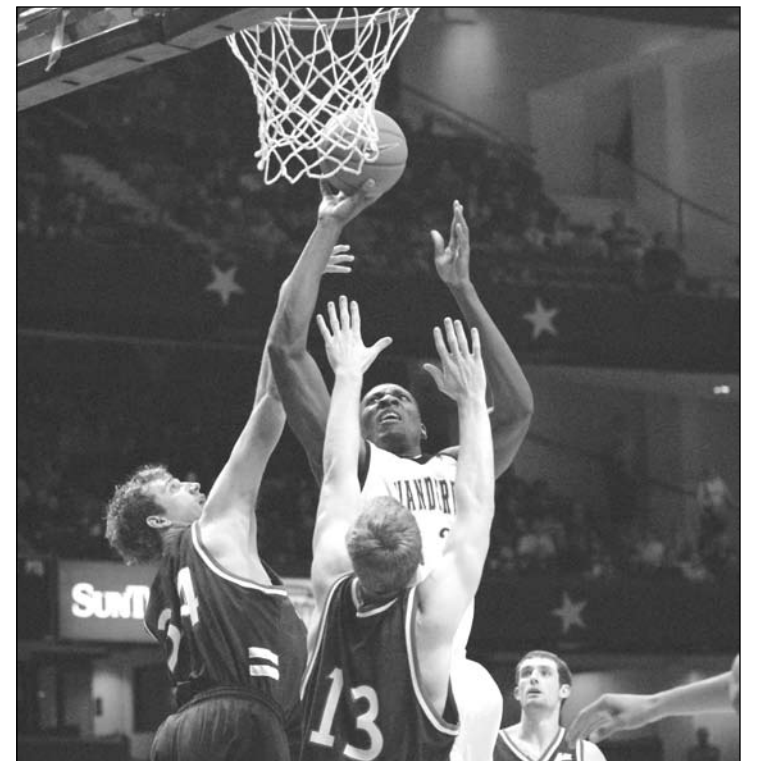
Vandy defeats neighboring rival Belmont

STEVE SCHINDLER
Staff Writer

The Belmont Bruins gave Vanderbilt a challenge Saturday, but the Commodores overcame a 35-32 halftime deficit to win 85-76. The Commodores pushed their record to 7-1, thanks to five of its players scoring double-digit points. Festus Ezeli led all scorers with a career-high 24 points and registered a game-high 10 rebounds. The Bruins were able to build as big as a seven-point lead in the first half due, in large part, to 20 turnovers by the Commodores. The offense improved markedly in the second half, as Vandy

shot 57 percent from the field.

Ezeli was a big contributor down the stretch, scoring 17 of his points in the second half. Key to the victory was the Commodores' 45 trips to the free throw line, making 35 shots; Vanderbilt also outrebounded the Bruins 49-25. Jeffery Taylor added 16 points and eight rebounds for the Commodores, while Lance Goulbourne had 15 points and Brad Tinsley added 14. The Commodores (7-1) travel to Columbia, Mo., on Wednesday to face their toughest non-conference game of the year against the No. 9 Missouri Tigers. ■



BECK FRIEDMAN/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Center Festus Ezeli turned in a career-high 24-point performance in Saturday's game against Belmont. Vandy edged the Bruins, 85-76.

May your winter break be full of family, friends, fun, relaxation, and joy!

- The Career Center Staff

Coaching Corner

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12/3 Solutions

6	2	9	5	8	7	4	8	1
5	1	8	9	8	4	6	7	2
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12/6/10

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Try to obtain sensitive info using an Internet scam
- 6 Chase down, as a fly ball
- 10 Falls behind
- 14 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- 15 Tip-top
- 16 Towards the sheltered side, at sea
- 17 Specialized jargon
- 18 "___ call us, we'll..."
- 19 Red sky, to a sailor
- 20 Sidewalk periodical vendor
- 23 ___-Locka, Florida
- 24 Gut courses
- 25 Edwards or Langley, e.g.
- 31 Political corruption
- 32 Police busts
- 33 Revolutionary statesman Franklin
- 36 Knocks on the door
- 37 Response to a fencing lunge
- 38 Nothing, in tennis
- 39 Picnic invader
- 40 Intimidated
- 41 Tendon
- 42 Court-ordered parental obligation
- 44 Show hosts
- 47 Actor Mineo
- 48 Philanthropic group chartered by auto execs
- 54 Notion
- 55 Univ. sports group

DOWN

- 1 High-tech organizer, briefly
- 2 English or French instrument
- 3 "Picnic" dramatist
- 4 Braggarts
- 5 Lively nightclub
- 6 Thompson of "Family"
- 7 Hula ___
- 8 Green Gables girl
- 9 Prepare
- 10 Taoism founder
- 11 Hypoallergenic skin care brand
- 12 Davis who played
- 13 Transmits
- 21 Bogey beater
- 22 Impertinence
- 25 Taj Mahal city
- 26 Pakistan neighbor
- 27 Engrossed
- 28 Move like a baby
- 29 Like some seals
- 30 Feathered friends
- 33 Sonny of Sonny and Cher
- 34 Happily ___ after
- 35 Eft, when mature

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12/6/10

12/3/10 Solutions

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

May your winter break be full of family, friends, fun, relaxation, and joy!

- The Career Center Staff

Coaching Corner

Happy Holidays!

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