

# SAFETY IN NUMBERS



AlliedBarton and the Office of Housing and Residential Education have **beefed up security presence** in residence halls across campus this fall. **Despite rumors to the contrary**, these changes were not made in response to this summer's high-profile sexual assault in Gillette Hall

By **TYLER BISHOP**  
*InsideVandy director*

**P**rior to students' arrival back at Vanderbilt, the Office of Housing and Residential Education (OHARE) informed campus residents that additional security measures in dorms would be in place this year. Despite speculation among some students that the changes were a direct result of the alleged June incident connected to the indictment of four former Vanderbilt football players, Assistant Dean of Students Steve Caldwell said the changes had already been in the works beforehand.

"We are continually reviewing our residence hall security."

Last spring we enhanced the security at Branscomb by developing a single point of entry with AlliedBarton personnel checking Vandy IDs after midnight. This was well-received by the residents," Caldwell said. "We developed a plan to expand this approach to throughout the residence hall system, except in Chaffin and Mayfield, which have outside entrances for each unit."

In an email to campus residents, the OHARE stated that students will now be required to show their Commodore Cards in every residence hall — except for Chaffin and Mayfield — from midnight to 8 a.m., in addition to 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights in Branscomb, Carmichael Towers, Morgan and Lewis.

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# campus

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We were afraid they were going to get into the embassy itself, so we had to shred all the documents and disable all the sensitive machines you use for decoding diplomatic messages."

**JAMES SASSER**, FORMER U.S. SENATOR AND AMBASSADOR TO CHINA

## VANDER BITS

### Dining surveys explained



CHRIS HONIBALL / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

By **MADDIE HUGHES**  
News staff reporter

Curious as to how decisions are made regarding changes to Vanderbilt Campus Dining? The answer: the annual Campus Dining survey, sent out every fall to the Vanderbilt student body, via email.

These student response surveys are what help Campus Dining assess, evaluate and modify its operations on campus. The fall 2012 survey included questions about menu options, speed of service and how often locations were visited per week for all Campus Dining establishments.

According to Julie Crider, communications manager for Campus Dining, last year 2,337 students responded to the online survey. If you did not complete the survey, but still have an opinion to share with Campus Dining, go to [campusdining.vanderbilt.edu](http://campusdining.vanderbilt.edu) and fill out a virtual comment card with any suggestions, complaints, ideas or questions.

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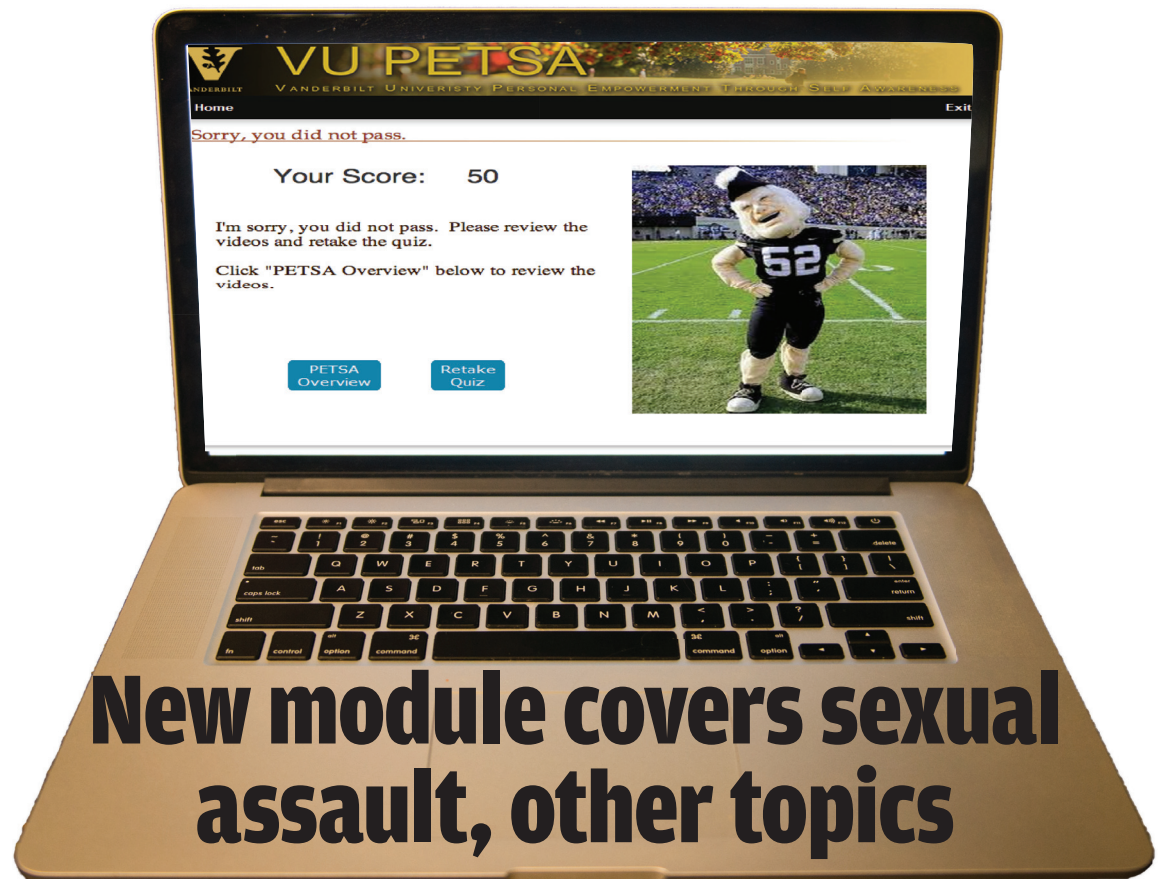
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## New module covers sexual assault, other topics

By **MICHELLE PHAN**  
News reporter

Prior to arriving on campus, all incoming freshmen and transfer students this year were required to complete a new module called VU PETS A (Vanderbilt University Personal Empowerment Through Self Awareness). The program consists of seven videos designed to educate students on topics ranging from Tennessee state law to Vanderbilt policies about power-based personal violence, including sexual assault. To successfully complete the module, a brief, comprehensive quiz must be passed with 100 percent accuracy following the video presentations.

Although some students have attributed the new requirement to the alleged June sexual assault in Gillette Hall, Wanda Swan, co-coordinator of the program, confirmed to The Hustler that this was not the case.

"The result of this widespread educational outreach to our community — known as VU PETS A — was a collaborative effort that had been in the making for quite some time," Swan wrote in an email. "Work around this actually began January 2013."

Swan explained that VU PETS A is actually the result of updates to federal laws and mandates on educating the campus about sexual violence. Specifically, Vanderbilt is complying with the Campus Sexual Violence Act, a provision of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which President Barack Obama signed on March 7.

"From that, we were asked to insure that all incoming students were educated around these topics before coming to Vanderbilt," Swan said. "We are also required to track and see that these students have received and been tested on this information."

Incoming students were first notified in July via email that they would have to complete the module, according to Swan. A follow-up reminder card was included in their housing packets.

Students were required to complete VU PETS A by Aug. 16, and those who failed to comply were documented and

transferred to the Office of Student Accountability, Community Standards and Academic Integrity, Swan said. Students received two reminder emails prior to their names being sent.

Although VU PETS A is only mandatory for students new to campus, anyone in the Vanderbilt community can access the program. All of the videos can be viewed online at [vanderbilt.edu/personalempowerment](http://vanderbilt.edu/personalempowerment). To access the quiz, students can visit OAK for an open version of VU PETS A and register for the program.

As of press time, Swan reported that nearly 100 percent of freshmen and transfer students had completed the module. Additionally, 350 returning members of the Vanderbilt community have voluntarily completed VU PETS A.

To upperclassmen, VU PETS A may sound similar to the AlcoholEdu program, which educates students on alcohol and drinking behavior. However, VU PETS A is a much shorter program, intended to take between 20 and 30 minutes to complete as opposed to the extensive, two-part AlcoholEdu course.

Regarding VU PETS A's length, Swan said, "We have found that with a topic as sensitive as this, having an interactive, short, sweet and to-the-point module is best for keeping student attention."

Additionally, multiple freshmen and transfer sources confirmed to The Hustler that the video portion of VU PETS A can be skipped, allowing students to advance directly to the quiz portion of the module. This is in contrast to the AlcoholEdu videos, which cannot be skipped. In response, Swan stated that it was her understanding that the module was created so that all incoming students had to go through the videos sequentially to complete the quiz.

"If this is not the case," she said, "we hope that information will be included in the post-survey in OAK or the follow-up assessment so that we can change it."

Swan also explained that VU PETS A was based primarily on a similar program that was successful at the University of Montana and modified to fit Vanderbilt's needs. She said any changes made to the module for next year would be based on assessments of this year's program.

— Hannah Sills contributed to this report.

# Lost and found

## HOD group project saves lost students in Stevenson

By **KARA SHERRER**  
News reporter

Students navigating the winding halls of the Stevenson Center during the first weeks of classes may have noticed the helpful new maps giving directions to different classrooms and buildings in the complex.

These signs were installed over the summer as the result of a Human and Organizational Development (HOD) 1100 project from the 2013 spring semester. Each group in the class was tasked with identifying a problem on campus and creating a solution for it. The Stevenson sign project group included eight students: Will Ashton, Carolyn Buys, Morgan Clark, Justin Liao, Kelly Salina, Jeremy Tarica and team leader Allanah Jackson.

While their eventual project was successful, the team initially spent two weeks developing a different idea. Originally, they wanted to create a way for students in large lecture classes to find friends that they already knew. However, after two weeks it became apparent that they could not complete such a project in just one semester.

At this critical moment, Tarica shared a story with the team that changed the project's direction.

"My motivation for making this change was rooted in the traumatic experience I had searching for my calculus class in Stevenson as a first-semester freshman," he wrote in an email to *The Hustler*. "The confusing layout of SC made me 10 minutes late to class and subsequently led me to drop the class that same day. I told myself, 'Until this building gets a system of signs, I'm not taking a class in it.'"

The team was initially hesitant about choosing such a seemingly mundane topic. However, they were inspired to continue by the success of the lock instructions located in the Station B post office. The signs explain how the locks on students' mailboxes open by turning left-right-left (as opposed to the traditional right-left-right) and were the result of a previous HOD project in spring 2012.

After deciding to make Stevenson Center their new focus, the team ran tests to see if other students were experiencing a similar problem with navigating the complex of buildings. To measure this, they gave trial participants a list of six rooms to find in Stevenson and timed how long each person took to complete the "scavenger



BOSLEY JARRETT / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

hunt." To the team's surprise, several people took more than 30 minutes to find the six rooms.

"We literally got responses (to our time-trial request) that were like, 'I would never go into that building for voluntary reasons. I'm going to get lost and you'll have to send in a search team,'" Jackson said.

"We had to cut people off because they were taking too long to find the room," Clark said.

However, the team quickly realized completing the project would not be as easy as they had thought. Despite their extensive research, it took weeks to find the right officials to help with the project. Eventually, they connected with George Sweeney, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science and associate professor of economics.

"We talked to so many people at Campus Planning (and Construction), and they just didn't know who was in charge (of Stevenson)," Jackson said. "Finally, we made it to Professor Sweeney."

Sweeney worked closely with the team throughout the rest of the project, helping them obtain the necessary blueprints and connecting them with other officials.

Beyond using the blueprints, the team also spent many hours wandering around Stevenson on their own. Based on this firsthand experience, the team created prototypes for each type of sign — transitional, directional, elevator and stairwell — and temporarily posted them in Stevenson.

To test their prototypes, the team put several focus groups through a second time trial. Using the signs, the average time it took to find the six rooms was reduced by 10 minutes and 15 seconds.

Even though the team had proven their concept, they still weren't finished. While they made their final in-class presentation at the end of the semester, the team actually continued to work on the project over the summer, double-checking locations and finalizing colors and fonts. They received \$6,000 from the university to manufacture the completed signs, which were installed before students moved onto campus for the new academic year.

As rewarding as it was to receive support and funding, the team is most proud of finding a solution that has truly helped their fellow students — and themselves.

"I am now enrolled in that calculus class," Tarica said, "and have no trouble finding it."

— Continued from **PAGE 1**

## Increased security in residence halls

Caldwell said the new plan will increase consistency in dorms across campus.

"This security plan gives us continuity across our residence halls with security personnel checking Vandy IDs from midnight to 8 a.m. throughout," he said.

Additionally, two barrier walls have been installed in the lobbies of Carmichael Towers, shrinking the available entry space just inside the doors. A front desk officer of Carmichael Towers East confirmed that the walls were added to assist security officers reviewing the Commodore Cards of students entering the building.

"The reactions have been positive," Caldwell said. "Students have seen security personnel at other locations on campus, so it was not a surprise. As a general rule, parents are always pleased with enhancements to security."

The security staff is hired through AlliedBarton Security Services in cooperation with the Vanderbilt University Police Department (VUPD) and the OHARE. Each officer goes through training by AlliedBarton in addition to on-site training at Vanderbilt.

"AlliedBarton Security Services carefully recruits, screens and hires security officers," AlliedBarton wrote in a statement to *The Hustler*. "All candidates complete a thorough interview process and a background check, and must have a Tennessee security officer license."

"Those selected to provide security for Vanderbilt are also required to complete AlliedBarton's School of Higher Education security training, as well as on-the-job training designed specifically for Vanderbilt and must be sensitive to the need for customer service and suited for the unique higher education environment."

### WHEN TO SHOW YOUR CARD

**All Dorms:** Midnight - 8 a.m. daily  
**Towers, Morgan, Lewis & Branscomb:**  
Midnight to 8 a.m. daily  
8 p.m. to 8 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

# An interview with Sen. James Sasser

## Former U.S. Senator and Ambassador to China James

Sasser recently donated papers and artifacts from his career in public service to Vanderbilt. Sasser talked with *The Hustler* about **his time as a Commodore**, highlights from his career and his favorite items in the new collection.

By **HANNAH SILLS**  
News editor

Although he was last a student at Vanderbilt in 1961, and subsequently spent 18 years in the United States Senate and three years in China as the U.S. ambassador, James Sasser still remembers the name of one of his favorite professors from school.

Sasser described Professor D.F. Fleming, who taught a political science course on current politics, as having had a “profound influence” on him and others that he knew. When asked about his favorite experiences from his time at Vanderbilt, Sasser named his courses in political science and history among the contenders.

“These professors had a really profound effect on my outlook and my perceptions of the world in which I moved out into when I graduated,” Sasser said.

He elaborated further on how his education at Vanderbilt influenced his career in public service, explaining that it led him to look at the world from a more global perspective.

“Vanderbilt, I think, expanded my interest in current events and how they impacted the people of the United States and from around the world,” Sasser said. “I think one of the values of a Vanderbilt education is that it broadens your horizons and broadens your interests and stimulates your intellectual curiosity to know more about the world outside of your immediate environment and also to try to influence that environment outside of your immediate day-to-day life.”

Sasser noted that beyond academics, he always enjoyed athletic events as a student, particularly football games — his tenure at the university saw the 1955 Commodore squad win the Gator Bowl. He applauded, however, the fact that Vanderbilt “puts a higher premium on academic accomplishment than their athletic program.”

Sasser also met his wife of more than 50 years, Mary, when both were undergraduate students at the university.

### A career in public service

Sasser served as a U.S. senator, representing Tennessee as a Democrat from 1977 to 1995. He was the state’s senior senator starting in 1985, and was chairman of the Committee on the Budget from 1989 to 1993. In 1995, Sasser was appointed as the U.S. ambassador to the People’s Republic of China by President Bill Clinton. He served in that position until July 1999.

Asked what he counts as some of the most memorable moments of his career in public service, Sasser highlighted the passage of the Budget Resolution in 1993 by a single-vote margin. As the close vote suggests, there was uncertainty as to whether or not the resolution would pass.

“Vice President Gore was sitting in the chair to cast the deciding vote that we needed to pass it,” Sasser said. “It was very difficult and there was a lot of controversy around it and a lot of resistance, but we passed it and it worked to the benefit of the country.”

From his time as an ambassador, Sasser particularly remembers President Clinton’s 1998 visit to China.

“One of the most rewarding moments in my career was when the president of the United States paid a visit to Beijing when I was ambassador, and I saw the American flag flying over Tiananmen Square and heard the People’s Liberation Army band playing the national anthem of the United States,” Sasser said. “That was a thrilling moment, and to know that I had some influence in arranging for that visit and helping shape the policy vis-a-vis China that permitted the president’s visit to Beijing.”

### Giving back to Vanderbilt

Sasser decided to donate the papers and other items from his collection to the university so they could serve as academic resources.

“I felt that those papers and the artifacts that I’d collected over almost a quarter of a century would be valuable to scholars and to students at Vanderbilt who were interested in the current affairs and political affairs of my time,” Sasser said, “and also to those who are interested in the formulation of foreign policy, particularly as it affects the U.S. relationship with China.”

“Vanderbilt, my old alma mater, had given me so much, and my wife so much, in our formative years — I felt that this was something that I could give back to Vanderbilt.”

Sasser named photographs from his career featuring various U.S. and international political figures as some of the items that might interest students most in the collection. He also noted that the gavel with which he chaired the Budget Committee in the Senate, “in the years in which we laid the foundation for a balanced budget and even the resulting budget surpluses of the mid and late ‘90s,” is included in the donation.

The collection also includes several rocks that protestors used to attack the embassy



COURTESY OF VU NEWS & COMMUNICATION

**Clockwise, from top:** Sasser converses with President Bill Clinton; Sasser speaks on the floor of the U.S. Senate; from left, Connie Dowell, dean of Vanderbilt libraries, Sasser and his wife, Mary, pose for a portrait.

in China after NATO mistakenly bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1999, resulting in the deaths of several Chinese diplomats.

“That occasioned riots in Beijing and around the country of students attacking the American embassy and the consulates in the various cities as well,” Sasser said.

“They pretty well destroyed the embassy in the sense that all the windows were broken; all the vehicles were damaged,” he said. “There were thousands of them, and they were throwing rocks — taking part of the cobblestone from the streets and breaking them up — and throwing rocks in the embassy and in our residence as well.”

Protestors also threw inkwells and paint balls, resulting in large splotches of color all over the buildings. Shoes were also hurled at the embassy as a sign of disrespect. Mary Sasser added that firebombs were also thrown.

Asked if he was scared during the protests, Sasser responded “not really,” but he did note that serious precautionary measures had to be taken in response to the unrest.

“We were afraid they were going to get into the embassy itself, so we had to shred all the documents and disable all the sensitive

machines you use for decoding diplomatic messages,” Sasser said. “That’s pretty serious business.”

### Advice to students interested in a public-service career

For students interested in pursuing careers in public service, Sasser recommended developing a strong background in both U.S. and world history to gain a framework with which to make good decisions.

He also offered advice specifically to students thinking about careers in politics.

“If they’re going to get into a political career, I would urge them first and foremost to form a basis in private life that they can come back to if their political career doesn’t work out, because a political career is very insecure in some ways,” Sasser said. “You need to have a private career to come back to.”

Overall, Sasser was supportive of those interested in seeking careers in public service.

“I would encourage students to pursue a career in the public service because I think that’s one of the most rewarding careers possible,” he said.

# Q&A

## RESIDENT ADVISERS

By **CHRISTIE BOK**  
News reporter

**The Vanderbilt Hustler: What is the best part of being an RA?**

**Richard Collins:** I would have to say that the best part of being an RA is the power and potential I have to make a meaningful impact on someone's life. There have been countless interactions and incidents which, if those relationships and systems of care had not been implemented, would have been drastically worse in their outcomes. Instead, I see students who are now thriving as student leaders on campus because an RA was able to create a relationship, identify a problem and promote a solution.

**Sid Sapru:** Despite the stereotypical image of an RA as a power-loving policy enforcer, I think the most rewarding part of the job is having the opportunity to help residents out with some very real issues going on in their lives — whether difficulties with classes, problems with friendships and relationships or stuff going on back home. These kind of opportunities probably arise more on The Commons since residents are new to college and don't necessarily have as strong of a support network yet, but it does happen with some frequency on main campus as well, especially when something is going on with close friends or when an area has a good number of transfer students.

**VH: What is one thing people may not know about being an RA?**

**RC:** One of the things people don't necessarily understand about being an RA is the level of commitment and work we put into the position. RAs undergo weeks of training both at the beginning and the middle of the school year as well as professional development sessions every month. On top of being students and leaders in organizations, we must also be role models to the residents we advise, which means hours of follow-up, days of planning and the ability to react to a situation at a moment's notice. Being an RA is very much a 24/7 way of life.

**SS:** The vast majority of RAs I've met at Vanderbilt over the last three years are not ridiculous power mongers that actively seek out opportunities to get students in trouble. There are certain things RAs have to do when we know about a policy violation, but at the end of the day, most RAs are pretty fun, friendly, down-to-earth people that want their residents to enjoy the college experience as much as possible.

As students get settled into the fall semester, they may have already signed room condition reports, locked themselves out of their rooms or had another interaction with their RAs. Beyond these superficial interactions, what's life at Vanderbilt like from an RA's perspective? Longtime RAs Richard Collins and Sid Sapru share their personal experiences from the job.



LUIS MUNOZ / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

**VH: What do you think about the fact that some residents may see an RA as an enemy?**

**RC:** It's understandable. People tend to label or view things in a negative context when they don't necessarily understand the purpose or see it as a threat to their way of life. The RA position is very much a role that falls within both categories. The only thing I say to that is that the more a resident seeks to know his or her RA, the less they will tend to view them as an enemy.

**VH: What can residents do to be good residents for their RAs?**

**RC:** Residents can aid in their own residential experience, as well as the experience of their RA, by being respectful of the RA as both a university official and a student. At the end of the day, we do have a job to do, but, like the residents, we greatly value our college experience as students and seek to have that communication and connection that creates effective relationships.

**SS:** Don't forget or lose your keys. (Although, to be fair, it's not like anyone intentionally does this, so perhaps this is a dumb request on my part.) There's nothing worse than getting called at 5 a.m. to groggily walk over to a key closet and let somebody into their room, which happens its fair share of times to most RAs.

**VH: Walk us through a day in the life of an RA.**

**RC:** Unfortunately, a day in the life of an RA is never typical nor is it ever the same. Days can be as simple as going to class and watching television without the slightest mention of a resident or interaction with a staff member. Or, days can be completely dedicated to a resident emergency that

requires 10 hours of response in addition to class and course work for the day. It all depends on the situation or lack thereof, but either way, an RA is always prepared for both.

**SS:** I don't think my everyday life is that different from an average student's, so I guess I'll walk through a day on duty. Typically on Highland Quad, there are two RAs on duty on every given night, so one person will usually hold the RA duty phone from 5-11 p.m. or so, and the other person will hold the phone from 11 p.m. until 8 a.m. the next morning. On average, I'd say I probably get called two to three times to help locked-out residents get into their rooms and maybe once more because of a noise complaint. Slightly less common situations might be a fire alarm getting set off or somebody's AC leaking.

**VH: How have you learned or grown as a result of your years as an RA?**

**SS:** I would say the most valuable thing I've learned is figuring out how to be in a position of authority over someone while still being their friend. It's a challenge, for sure, but a challenge that is bound to come up again later on down the road in a professional setting. My sophomore year, I was an RA in Kissam, and there was a group of nine to 10 of us on my floor that ended up getting really close by the end of first semester. Even if they might have initially seen me, their RA, as only an authority figure, I made an effort to get to know them and spend time with them and made some really great friends in the process. As an added bonus, I felt like when I asked people on my floor to do something — for example, to stop dumping personal trash in the bathroom trash cans — they were significantly more inclined to listen than if some random authority figure was asking them to.

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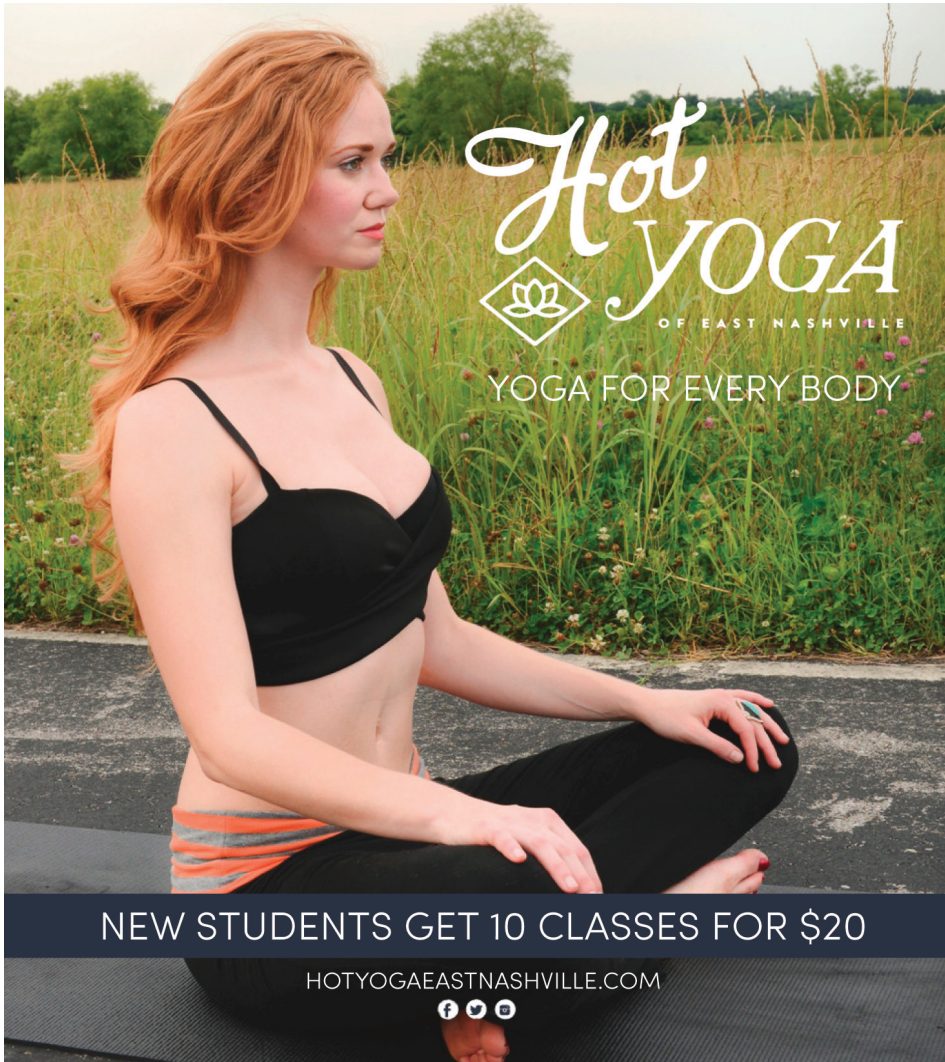
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
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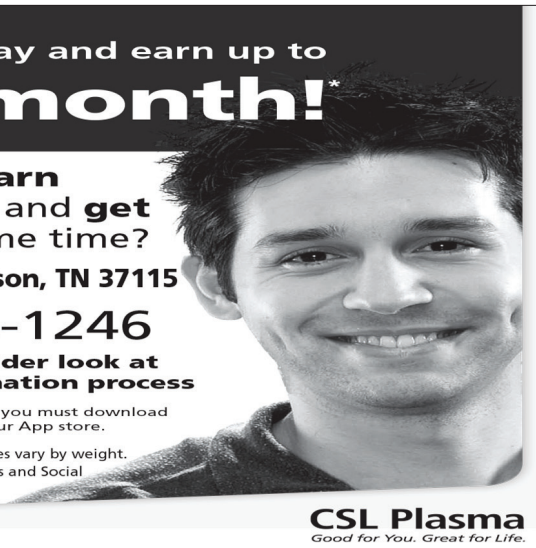
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-The Vanderbilt Commodores




# opinion

*"At Vanderbilt, we have an established playbook for changing an entrenched losing culture, and it's happening through the efforts and passion of our coaches, players, assistants, fans, administration, alumni, and donors."*

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**ROBERT FUNKE**

# Green Dot: More than a sticker

Alumnus Robert Funke, author of 'An Open Letter to Kirkland Hall' on Anchor of Gold, responds to the recent VSG initiative.

**ROBERT FUNKE**

is a 2009 graduate of Vanderbilt who recently received his MFA from the University of Southern California.

**GUEST COLUMN**

I have this memory from my time in Nashville of driving by the Wendy's on West End and seeing a cluster of people on the side of the road holding cardstock signs that said, "HONK TO END DOMESTIC ABUSE!" I honked, but it sounded like a really sarcastic honk, almost as if my car made a fart noise and the hood opened up for a cartoony, retractable gloved hand to pop out and give them the bird.

That's the thing about token displays of support. They don't really seem to do much, and they're easy to be cynical about. I'm sure there was a fair amount of eye rolls when "stickers!" became the university's answer to "rape?"

But optics matter. Symbols matter. And nowhere is that more clear than Vanderbilt football.

There was a time, not too long ago, when I really wanted to change the Vanderbilt mascot from the Commodores to the Blacksmiths. Our mascot would be a giant, leather-hided man of indecipherable origin, donning a welding mask, relentlessly hammering away at an anvil on the sidelines while cheerleaders and local children fed his fire, careful not to get too close, as he was mute and possibly deranged and certainly quite dangerous. I had a whole mythology set up where he strapped

Mr. Commodore to a stick of dynamite and killed him on the Jumbotron at halftime of a Tennessee game, ushering in a new era of Vanderbilt athletics wherein we become the most terrifying, bewildering, unpredictable team in the country.

I was pretty sure this overhaul in public presentation would solve at least some of our

problems. No one ever took me up on it.

The point, though, was that the culture of Vanderbilt football had become so tolerant of losing that, no matter how we recruited or trained, we had lost that energy that propels teams beyond their means.

Vanderbilt didn't become the Blacksmiths after I graduated. Better: They hired James Franklin. Franklin came in with charisma and personality and deep, unwavering belief that this team would—not "could"—be great. And then we started winning games. The practices got harder, yes, and the facilities got better, sure, and the coaching got ballsier — thank God — but in my mind, everything Vanderbilt did suddenly meant more because this team had an identity and a mission that they were fighting for.

And the markers of that mission were — like Green Dots — purely optical. Consider the off-the-field things that helped get us here:

- New traditions: "Anchor Down" is new. The carrying of an anchor onto the field is not new, but it suddenly feels way more badass than it used to. "We're 1-0 this week" is new. "Six seconds" is new.
- Passionate, rabid fans: Back in the day, there was only one Insane Vanderbilt Fan (shout out to OG Vandy Lance), but now the Rivals.com message board is a veritable Arkham Asylum.
- Incredible PR moments: Remember that video of the coaches playing dodgeball against the players, before Franklin had ever coached a game? Maybe it was before your time. But it's great; Bing it. Or remember when Brian Kimbrow challenged Chris Johnson to a footrace? That was awesome too.
- Feats of courage: A couple seasons ago, Coach Franklin nearly incinerated deserving Georgia defensive coordinator Todd Grantham with hot, lacerating terror. It was that cathartic scene in every comic book when the superhero punches his former bully through a wall, and it was significant for this football program.
- Seeing that the status quo is caught and compromised to a permanent end, there was this moment, in Franklin's second game as coach: UConn picked up a fumble, returned it for a touchdown and Vanderbilt fell behind. A fan yelled out, with a hopelessness known by few sports fans more than us, "Same Old Vanderbilt!" Franklin heard the naysayer, gathered the team, and shouted, loud enough for the naysaying fan to hear,

"You are not the same old Vanderbilt." And then, legend has it, just in case the naysayer hadn't heard him, Franklin turned to the stands and screamed directly at the naysaying fan to shut up or get out. Then there was a pick 6 (Casey Hayward), Vanderbilt came back and won and outcomes on the field continued to improve.

This is why I like Vanderbilt football. The story, today, is of a system that wasn't nearly as beyond repair as decades of people assumed.

Surely you see where I'm going with this.

Rape culture is not imaginary, not some feminist fiction. If you disagree, you are wrong, and you would be wise to find someone who understands these issues more clearly than you and have him or her explain them to you. Rape culture is not simple. It is not "pro-rape" rallies. It is not secret meetings of shadowy figures in alleyways, plotting their next moves.

Rape culture is casually remarking that rape is a crime perpetrated mostly by strangers in alleyways.

Rape culture is excessive reliance on euphemisms when discussing sexual violence. (Just a peeve here, but don't water down the language to the point that something horrific sounds like something vaguely impolite.)

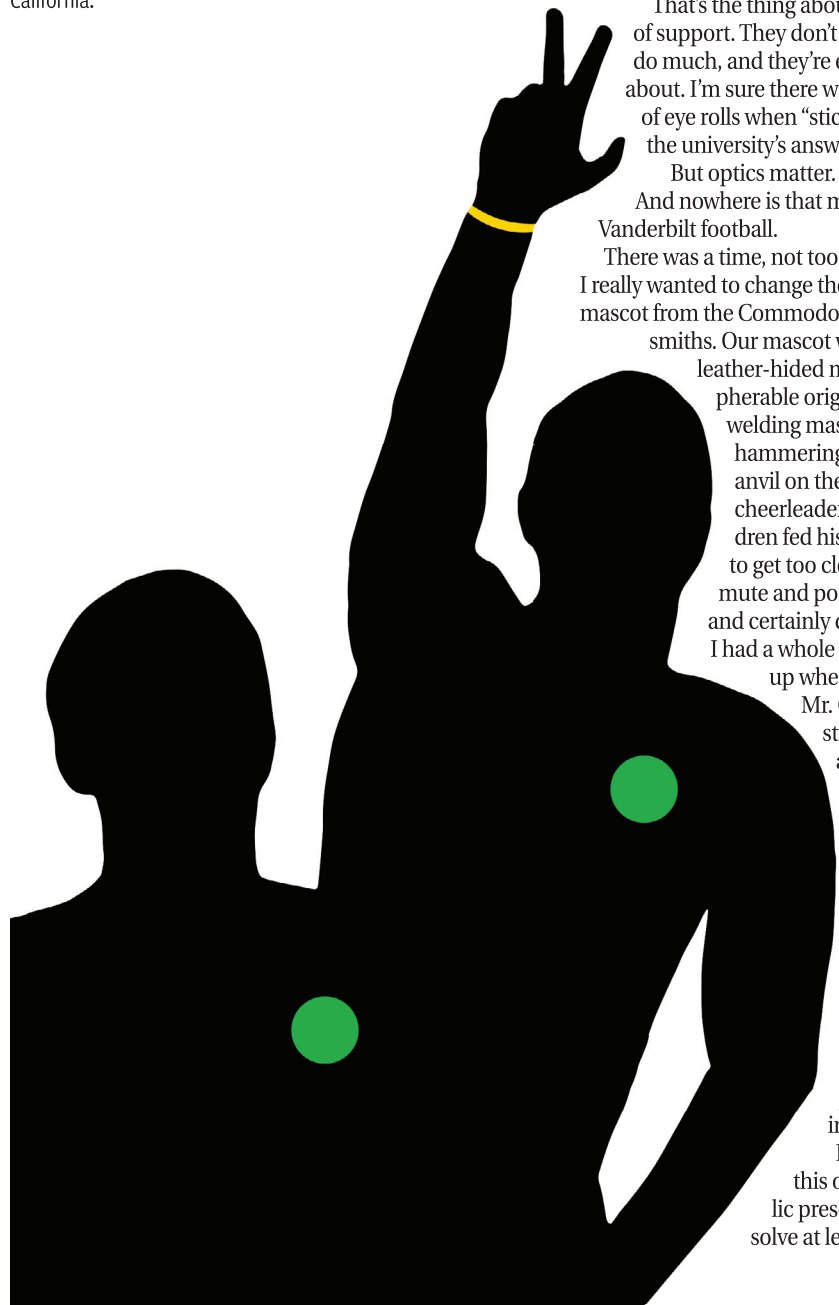
Rape culture is speculating on a victim's dress or level of intoxication, as if variables there make for more or less understandable rape situations. Such questioning assumes rape as the constant and a woman's protective actions as the variable. This attitude decreases the likelihood that rapes go reported and is generally shitty.

Rape culture is treating an occurrence as an outlier, rather than acknowledging its place in a broader narrative.

Rape culture is marginalizing the fight as somehow incompatible with masculinity, conservative politics, sports fandom or a non-activist mindset.

At Vanderbilt, we have an established playbook for changing an entrenched losing culture, and it's happening through the efforts and passion of our coaches, players, assistants, fans, administration, alumni and donors. Keep going to the games. Bring friends. Be loud. Convert strangers. Wear stickers. It helps.

— Robert Funke





# Not in our best interests

A case for non-intervention in Syria



## ERIK WEINBERG

is a junior in the College of Arts and Science and director of media and public relations for the Vanderbilt College Republicans. He can be reached at erik.a.weinberg@vanderbilt.edu.

As of late, support for military action in Syria is growing among the ranks of Washington political elites. Bashar al-Assad's brutal crack-down on political dissent, followed by civil war, has resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 Syrians. In the early hours of Aug. 21, the Syrian government killed more than 1,400 civilians in chemical weapons attacks on the suburbs of Damascus, crossing President Obama's "red line" for U.S. intervention in the conflict. Syria now faces a serious humanitarian crisis, and it seems clear to many political actors that the United States should "do something" about it, beyond the humanitarian and military aid that we are sending to refugees and rebel groups. This weekend, Obama announced his plan to attack Syria; at the moment, the president's proposal awaits congressional approval, with a vote likely to be scheduled once Congress reconvenes on Sept. 9.

To be certain, Assad is a vicious tyrant who has shown that he will use any means necessary to stay in power, but that is not a justification to pull the United States into a foreign war. As we consider which actions we ought to take or avoid, we must not limit our focus to the cruelties of the Assad regime. The rebels opposing Assad are nowhere near homogeneous. The Obama administration considers the Free Syrian Army, composed of military defectors and volunteers, to be the leaders of the rebellion, but the FSA repre-

sents only one of many different anti-Assad factions. Al-Nusra Front, another major rebel group, has been responsible for more than 600 attacks against the Syrian government. Al-Nusra is an affiliate of al-Qaeda in Iraq and has been bolstered by an influx of foreign fighters and material support seeking to turn Syria into an Islamic religious state. In June, CNN reported that al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate had become "the best-equipped arm of the terror group in existence today." Putting the Syrian rebels in power is not necessarily a better option for the United States. The uncertainty as to what factions within Syria will eventually control the nation's power structures means that any broad intervention against Assad by the U.S. could end very poorly.

Islamist factions in Syria pose a serious national security risk for the United States and its regional allies, as an Iran-style regime in Syria would compromise the security of the secularist and democratic governments in Israel and Turkey, as well as provide a safe haven for Iraqi and international terrorist groups. As evil as the Assad regime is, it poses no direct threat to our national security. At worst, toppling Assad would lead to infighting between rebel groups for control over Syria; at best, it will contribute to significant political fracturing in the country. The situation in Egypt is a good example of how quickly even a largely nonviolent political transition can devolve into general instability.

Whoever inherits political control over war-torn Syria would have little ability to maintain order outside of the centers of political support. Already, there have been reports of attacks against religious and ethnic minorities by anti-Assad forces.

Our best option in Syria is not to pick a side. Any direct military action could force the United States into greater involvement in the conflict to try to place the FSA or a coalition of secularist groups as the de facto head of the Syrian opposition. The use of chemical weapons is abhorrent, but to endanger American lives over an action that is responsible for only about one to two percent of deaths in the conflict would be unwise. The risk of a group like al-Nusra coming into power in Syria is not worth overthrowing even Bashar al-Assad. Indirect support, such as feeding arms to rebel groups, could have the side effect of empowering al-Qaeda affiliated groups. The significance of this risk grows as such groups continue to take a greater role in the front line combat against the Syrian government. Even with the consideration of humanitarian concerns, military intervention in Syria would still prove detrimental to the United States' national security interests.

— Erik Weinberg

# A responsible commitment

The critical next step in Syria



## JEREMY BLOOMSTONE

is a senior in the College of Arts and Science and the vice president of Dores for Israel. You can reach him at jeremy.o.bloomstone@vanderbilt.edu.

In the aftermath of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's heinous chemical weapons attack against the citizens he claims to represent, the world is watching to see what America will do. Last year, President Barack Obama stated that any systematic deployment of unconventional weapons, including chemical weapons, would be the impetus for American military intervention in Syria. This past week, Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry reiterated this claim, vowing that the U.S. would no longer stand idly by while Assad wages war against his own people. Each day's inaction is now a test of America's geopolitical standing, and unless the president follows through with some form of intervention in the coming days, America's moral credibility and strategic interests will suffer.

Over the past week, the U.S. has positioned military assets in preparation for limited military engagement with Syria. Experts expect that an American intervention would consist of air strikes aimed at military installations that Assad has used or could use to perpetrate atrocities against Syrian civilians.

But instead of asserting his presidential authority and ordering a restrained attack, Obama has proceeded to fecklessly seek authorization from Congress, which is currently on recess and will not even begin deliberating until Sept. 9. There is precedent for the executive branch to order limited military action without congressional approval, and Obama's decision to turn to Congress has not only made America look weak before our enemies; it has also shaken our allies' confidence. Iran, Hezbollah and Assad's Syria have

claimed this delay as positive reinforcement for their continued defiance of the international community, while Israel — America's strongest ally in the Middle East — perceives daylight between itself and the U.S., especially in dealing with its most critical security concern: Iran's illicit drive to achieving nuclear weapons capability. Our other Arab allies, including Saudi Arabia and others in the Arab League, have already voiced support for a strike against the Assad regime. Given the delay in American action, a series of surgical strikes has already lost some of its resonance in the region, but America can still take sufficient action to demonstrate its strength and leadership and to prove that we have a clear vision for the Middle East as well as of our role in the region.

A strategic and punitive strike against the Assad regime has the potential to demonstrate that the U.S. will enforce its moral red lines and will not tolerate egregious violations of human rights. More importantly, it may save Syrian lives by setting back Assad's military capabilities.

In addition, military action in Syria will reassure our allies that America will continue to stand with them as they face the violent transitions that persist in the region. Specifically, a strike will lend coherence to Obama's stated policy of preventing the Iranian regime from developing a nuclear weapon and thereby asserting itself as a regional hegemon. Continued inaction on our part will lead to continued defiance of American policies that are designed to bring stability and security to the region and to protect U.S. interests.

Many argue that military action towards Syria will

lead to outcomes similar to those of our adventures in Afghanistan and Iraq, with U.S. forces bogged down in the region for years. What we must remember, however, is that American interests and policies are already entangled in the Middle East, and we cannot irresponsibly sever our ties to a region that is so vital to national and global security. America leads the non-proliferation regime globally and has taken further steps this summer to isolate and condemn Iran for its continued development of a nuclear weapons program, through the passage of sanctions legislation approved unanimously in the Senate and 400 to 20 in the House. Additionally, Secretary of State Kerry has invested hundreds of hours in kick-starting direct peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, while also fostering support from the Arab world for Palestinian economic development and state-building. America is not in a position to retreat; we must continue to lead in the region.

But America's habit of barreling ahead without a coherent policy strategy and vision cannot continue. We must take concerted and calculated actions that restore our credibility and enable us the flexibility to continue to pursue our policy goals in the region in line with our national interest. I will be calling my representatives and senators to voice my opinion when the authorization vote occurs, and I urge my fellow students, whatever their opinions, to do the same.

— Jeremy Bloomstone

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Anchor down and go away

Vanderbilt's failure to make room for students kills hype for the first game of the season



## HUNTER BARRIER

is a 1979 graduate of Vanderbilt and currently resides in Austin, Texas. You can reach him at hunter.barrier@ryancompanies.com.

What a great college football game and an exciting time for the Commodores. Despite the heartbreaking loss to Ole Miss last Thursday, I am a proud alumnus who endured absolutely miserable seasons in my time, with only two SEC wins during my entire four years at Vandy and none during my last three, from '75 to '79.

After the game, Coach Franklin told the news, "The losses hurt bad. I hate the losses more than you could possibly imagine." But what disappointed me Thursday night was not the loss itself; it was seeing more Rebel Red than Black and Gold in the stands on ESPN. I texted my niece, a Vandy sophomore, to see how she was enjoying all the excitement. Nope — she and her friends had been turned away since the "student ticket allotment" was gone. (Yes, they were warned that there would be limited tickets.) My niece and too many other students had to watch the game from local restaurants and bars.

What a shame. Coach Franklin has done such a great job building enthusiasm amongst the student body and alumni, but seeing an almost red stadium with Vandy students blocked out feels like a major setback, much more disheartening than a hard-fought, tough loss.

— Hunter Barrier

# Legal plunder

Taxes allow Uncle Sam to put his hand in your pocket



## KENNY TAN

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

As socialism threatened to overrun France in 1848, Frederic Bastiat wrote: "The state is that great fiction by which everyone tries to live at the expense of everyone else." These words are as true today as when Bastiat wrote them 165 years ago. Bastiat, a political economist, understood that it is human nature to maximize individual profit while minimizing individual labor. So when a political system develops, and the state is given a monopoly on the use of force, it's no wonder that lobbyists flood the legislatures to loot their fellow man.

Bastiat created a term to describe the use of the law to take from some persons that which belongs to them and give it to other persons to whom it does not belong; he called it "legal plunder." Examples of legal plunder today include corporate bailouts, farm subsidies, inflation via excessive monetary expansion, and the progressive income tax.

When the power to tax and spend is left in the hands of legislators, it leads to abuse and creates a system of concentrated benefits and dispersed costs. This is one of the key concepts of public choice theory. Politicians respond to incentives, reelection in particular. In order to get enough votes, politicians promise to provide all sorts of "free" goodies to their constituents. Consider a policy that takes a penny from every American to give 3.2 million dollars to a single corporation. The chances of such a policy being enacted are actually rather high. That's because the voters have virtually no incentive to get informed and protest such a policy, but the corporation has a 3.2 million dollar incentive to ensure the policy is enacted and will spend up to that amount on campaign donations and lobbyists. In addition,

the chances of your one vote swinging a major national election are smaller than your chances of getting hit by a car on the way to the voting booth. Thus, it makes sense that many eligible voters would be rationally ignorant about most of the policies supported by their local representatives and will not even bother voting.

The rise of legal plunder in the United States has been a gradual development. The federal income tax came into existence in 1913, barely a hundred years ago. Prior to the ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment that year, the federal government subsisted on low tariffs, postage receipts, sales of federal land, excise taxes, and — during times of war — temporary direct taxes apportioned among the states. But the national debt remained negligible during most of that period, and few people ever encountered a federal tax collector. This was possible because lawmakers strictly limited the role of the federal government to its enumerated powers and did not count the redistribution of wealth among their goals.

However, politicians are known for never letting a good emergency go to waste. Through both World Wars and the Great Depression, "soak-the-rich" policies became more popular, and politicians were eager to enact them. What started off as a three percent income tax on the top three percent quickly evolved into a 74,000 page tax code affecting almost every worker. Today, an average of 29.4 percent of income is collected in taxes by federal, state and local governments, which means the average American spends 108 days out of the year working for the government.

This taxation in itself does not benefit society. The vast majority

of taxes is used to commit legal plunder. Sure, a portion of taxes is used to pay for necessary infrastructure, such as fire and police departments, sanitation facilities and interstate highways. These services are nice to have, but one would be mistaken to presume that taxation is the only way to pay for them. In fact, the vast majority of such services could be privatized. Considering that the government is notoriously inefficient at spending our tax dollars, privatization would likely reduce the waste of resources. In general, taxation only reduces the overall wealth in society by diminishing the incentive to work while rewarding corporations and groups which lobby for special privileges.

A closing thought: Is there a difference between taxation and robbery? Black's Law Dictionary describes a tax as "not a voluntary payment or donation, but an enforced contribution, exacted pursuant to legislative authority." Meanwhile, Black's defines robbery as the "felonious taking of personal property in the possession of another, from his person or immediate presence, and against his will, accomplished by means of force or fear." Most Americans willingly pay their taxes, but the government imprisons those who refuse; there seems to be little difference between the two. At best, taxation is a necessary evil.

As our founders proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Governments don't have any special powers that individuals lack. If you and I don't have the right to steal, neither does the government.

— Kenny Tan

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# No cards left to play in Syria

Assad's actions have forced our hand to act

## MANAV NANDA

is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at manav.a.nanda@vanderbilt.edu.

### GUEST COLUMN

Conflicts 6,000 miles away can no longer be overridden by the comforting but false impression they will have no impact at home. Syrian president Bashar al-Assad has crossed a line that even other tyrants have shied away from, and he must pay the price.

This rhetoric has burned us before: Our time in Iraq demonstrated the consequences of putting action ahead of intelligence, intervening without being prepared for the consequences. But Syria is not Iraq. There's no claim of secret WMDs, no suppression of free press and no president singlehandedly riding off to war. The Syrian threat is far more terrifying; it is the culmination of our worst fears of the Iraq War brought to life. Here, the chemical weapons are real — not hidden away in warehouses, but deployed in the streets for the world to see.

There is a reason we fear weapons like sarin, the nerve agent the Syrian government employed in the Aug. 21 attacks. They serve no purpose but to induce terror, using nightmarish methods to indiscriminately kill civilians. Countless op-eds and petitions published over the past few days have made it clear that we will turn a blind eye so long as the victims die beyond the horizon. Will we be so willing when small, unmarked canisters become the new weapon of choice around the Middle East? What about when they begin spreading to Europe, onto California-bound cargo ships or airplanes destined for JFK?

We cannot comfortably protect against biochemical weapons. They are too easy to produce and too hard to detect. Our strongest defense against weapons of this sort is not monitoring or restricting scientific knowledge, but rather the taboo associated with their use, backed by the promise of being met with force.

Unfortunately, recent history and global politics limit our options. We have no appetite to send an American ground force, nor would Russia or China authorize such an action. Remote strikes will not be enough to overthrow Assad, either. Ultimately, the deposal of his regime is the responsibility of rebel forces. What we can do is ease their way, making it



PHOTO COURTESY OF FREEDOM HOUSE

clear that Assad's actions have compromised global security and forced our hand.

The philosophy of "not my problem" cost us when Congress dragged its feet entering World War II, it cost us when Congress abandoned Afghanistan after the Cold War and it will come back to haunt us if we follow the same school of thought today. Syria has grown bolder in our inaction. Sitting on our hands is no longer prudence but cowardice. Though House and Senate leaders agree, there is little confidence in rank-and-file members to do what is necessary in this crisis. The President must be prepared to act even in the face of political opposition.

I hope — daresay, even pray — that I am wrong and that the situation will quickly resolve itself without our interference. My head, however, disagrees. Bashar al-Assad is not a stupid man. A physician, he has an intimate understanding of how his victims suffer before dying yet appears to have found a level of comfort with it. Assad is a grave threat to his neighbors and our allies. Left to his own devices, he will become a long-term menace to the world.

— Manav Nanda



## THE RANT

Something got you peeved? Irked? Honked off? The Rant is your place to anonymously vent your spleen on any issue you want. To get your rant on: tweet @VandyRant, email us at opinion@insidevandy.com, or visit the InsideVandy.com opinion page.

**Can we please stop calling the rape case that happened during the summer the "Vanderbilt Rape Case" like it's the only one. There are many, many rapes that happen on campus every year. Stop acting like this case is unusual for any other reason than the university is actually doing something about it.**

**Because limiting the number of student tickets will totally keep up the positive culture change in the football program.**

**If Kedren Johnson's basketball game is on par with his rapping, perhaps it's best that he's not playing this season.**

**Why do I respect people not in Greek Life more and more every year?**

**Kevin Stallings has a better chance of growing his hair back than he does recruiting a winning basketball team.**

**The walk between main campus and Peabody is too long. If the engineers at this school were actually as smart as they say they are, they would be able to make me a portal gun to use on campus.**

**Wow, the laundry service is a rip-off. My clothes smell dirty and have more wrinkles now than they did when I sent them off.**

**I guess the football team banquet dinner will not be held at Tin Roof this year.**

**Derby Days should become a sorority-led search for outlets in Rand... Because I'm convinced they're hidden.**

## vanderbilthustler

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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.

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

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

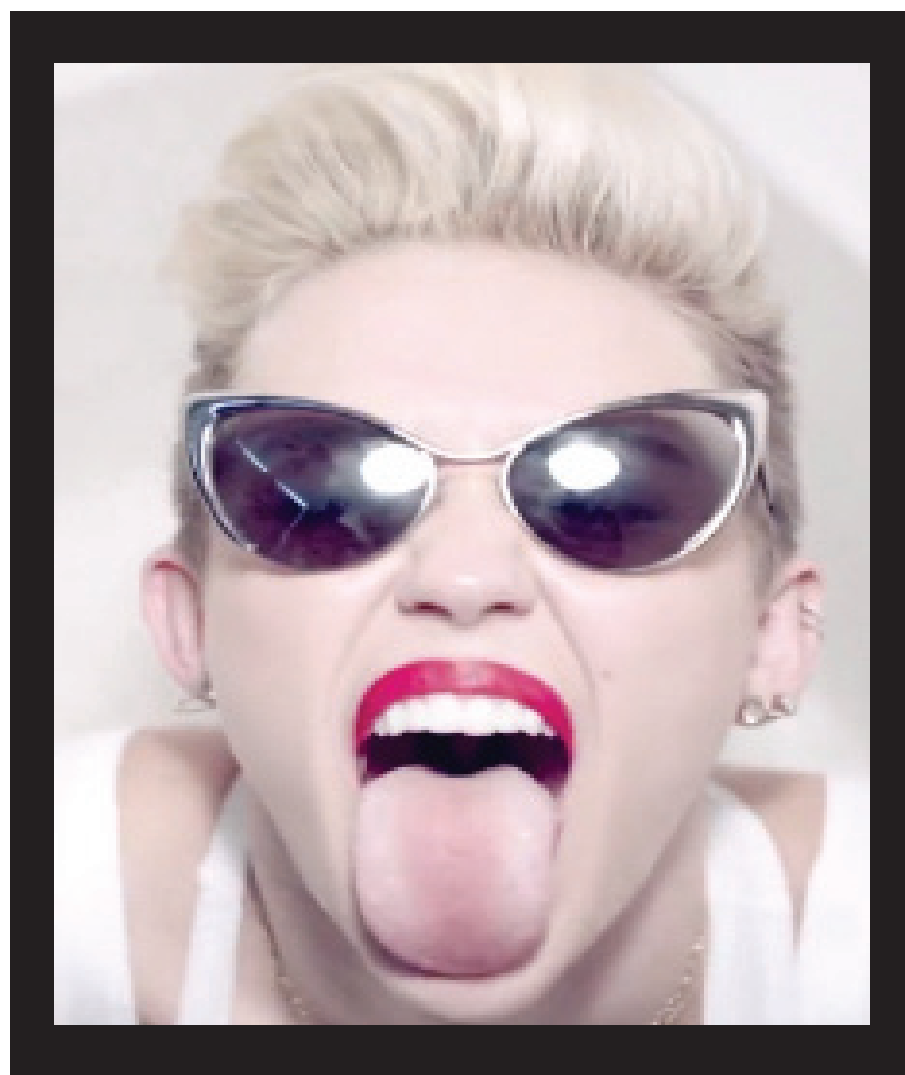
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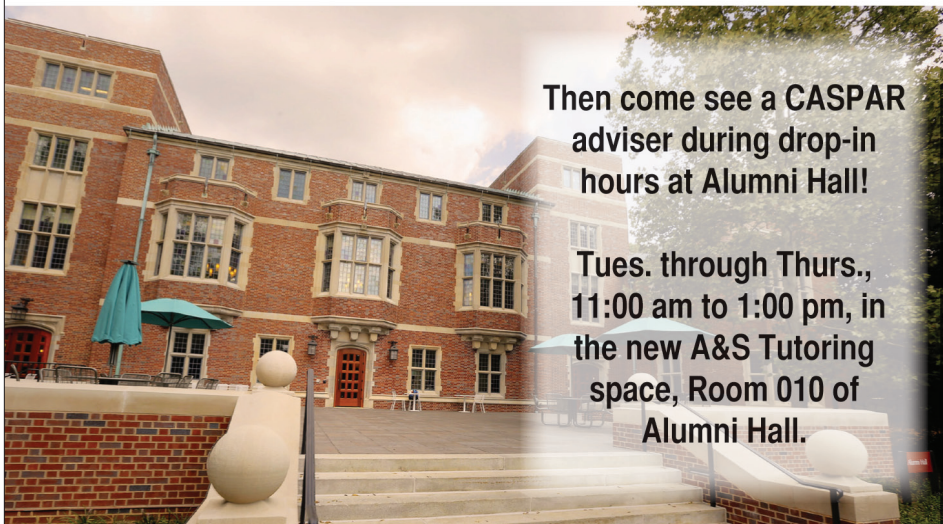


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# life

## LOCAL NASHVILLE NATIVES



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### Q&A WITH LULU MAE

Self-described ‘family-style, folk-rock’ band Lulu Mae talks Nashville talent pool, Vanderbilt, redheaded quasi-relatives, Live on the Green, thank-you’s and spider bites

By **ANGELICA LASALA**  
Life editor

**The Vanderbilt Hustler:** So, you’re opening for Local Natives, which is funny because you guys are, in fact, local natives of Nashville. How has being a Nashville-based band influenced your work?

**Joel Finley (lead singer):** Being in Nashville means we get to play with and play around a lot of other really great musicians. It pushes me to be at the very top of my game. It’s really easy to be a Nashville band that’s just a drop in the bucket. Being in Nashville exposes you to a much deeper pool of musicians, writers and creative folks ... there’s a huge creative community.

**VH:** You describe your music as “folk-rock, family-style” on your website. Care to elaborate on that?

**JF:** We are all family in one way or another. My wife and I

sing, and Adam and his wife Jen both play, and Ben is Adam’s brother, and he plays the bass, and then Anthony and David, who play the guitar and drums respectively, are all roommates with Ben. So they’re kind of like the redheaded stepchildren of the band.

I think that if we’re going to talk about what it means to be a family-style folk-rock band ... I think that the world of folk is really built out of being able to tell a story — and I think that if you really want to find a good story, look no further than the walls of your own home. So building the band out of the family just makes sense for the writing.

**VH:** Speaking of your connections to Nashville, a few of you guys have direct connections to the university — Joel works at the Medical Center, and Sarah, Ben and Jen have all studied here. Have any relevant Vanderbilt experiences translated over into what you all do as a band?

**Adam Smith (keys, trumpet):** One time I got treated for a spider bite at the emergency room there ...

**JF:** (laughter) Well first off, and not specific to me, we all have full-time jobs. And I think that seeing where we are as a band, and being in a place where we’re working and playing — y’know, working at Vanderbilt, studying at Vanderbilt, before and while we’re making all this music — makes that reality even more real.

**Ben Smith (bass guitar):** I just graduated back in spring 2012, so my time in grad school at Vanderbilt was equally consumed with studying and, well, doing this music thing, which led to some interesting internal monologue, as I’m trying to figure out, y’know, ‘Why am I getting a master’s degree if music is my thing?’ but we all believe that we have opportunities to

do all different things. I think that influences our writing to some degree.

**VH:** What are you most looking forward to about performing at Live on the Green?

**BS:** We’re all really excited for that — I mean, just thinking about how many people are going to be there. We’ve never played to an audience that size, so that’s going to be really exciting.

**Jen Smith (singer):** I think it’s exciting to play in our own city. We’re not just traveling to some place across the country to someplace we’ve never been and people that we don’t know. We’re playing to our family and our friends here in Nashville. And this is just a huge event, so we’re all really pumped for the energy of that.

**JF:** Live on the Green being in Nashville, it feels like we’re playing this show as a huge thank you to our fans ... We want to show them how big a part of our success they really are. Without them, we wouldn’t have gotten here, we wouldn’t have been able to do our new record. (To the rest of the band) How about you guys? (pause) Make sure you put down that Adam, Anthony and David are not excited to play at Live on the Green (laughter) ... Just kidding, they are.

**VH:** Anything else you want us to know?

**AS:** We are going to play as many shows as we possibly can. This summer has been lax, so we’re returning with a triumphant showing. This fall is throwing us around the South.

**JF:** Yeah, go ahead and tell Vanderbilt — if you want us for Rites of Spring, we will go.

# AT LOCAL NATIVES THIS THURSDAY



PROVIDED BY LEAGUES

## Q&A WITH LEAGUES

Guitarist Tyler Burkum from LEAGUES, a Nashville-based outfit opening for L.A.'s Local Natives, weighs in on songwriting in Music City and the unpredictable journey that comes with being a band

By **TIMOUR KAMRAN**  
*Life reporter*

**The Vanderbilt Hustler:** So, you and Lulu Mae, two Nashville bands are opening for the Local Natives, who are from Los Angeles. Did you move to Nashville to play in this band, or how does that work?

**Tyler Burkum:** Well, I still live in Minneapolis, but I lived in Nashville for like 10 years, I moved there when I was seventeen. I basically feel like I grew up and Nashville, and have never left in the sense that I've been working there, and touring out of there. Nashville is a huge part of my life and my story, so I really do feel in a lot of ways like a local. Even though I grew up in Minnesota, my first two kids were born in Nashville, it's very near and dear to my heart, and it's a city that's played a huge role in my life. When we talk to people, the only reason I'm connected with these guys is through Nashville, and so

we just go, "We're from Nashville." I mean, we're based out of Nashville, and everything starts there.

**VH: So what's it like to be a part of the music scene here, and how does it compare to playing in other cities?**

**TB:** For one thing, a big thing about Nashville, and really the strongest thing about Nashville, is that it's a song town. Nashville is all about the song. That's why I believe that Nashville is still kind of a gold mine of creativity with good music coming out of it. I really do believe its because it's about the song. It's not that it isn't that way other places, but Nashville has gotten that right so much that when a song is so good, it kind of just connects.

Even with our best songs, it's going to be tough, because Nashville is a town full of amazing songs. Not in a competitive way, but more like "Hey, we can do better, we can do better, we can do better." It's a very sharpening thing. You go out and hear your friend playing a song that blows your mind, and you go home and write a song not to compete, but just because you're so inspired. I want to write a song that makes others feel the way I feel when I heard that song. That is one of the things that I've noticed a lot about this music scene, and that has impacted our band a lot. It's in the marrow; it's in the DNA of the creation of this band. It also just goes without saying that the amount of talent and history musically speaking in Nashville is just unbelievable. It's so cool to get to be a part of it at all. It's special to be a part of it when you're from there. It's not lost on us, what a special place it is.

**VH: You guys went from not having played shows at all, from being in that whole process of writing music, to playing pretty big rooms right away. What has that been like?**

**TB:** Statistically speaking, starting a band is a really, really rebellious thing to do right now. For us to go, "Let's start a band," it's crazy.

Our 10th show ever, we were opening up for somebody at the Ryman. I say that humbly — we laugh about that right now. It doesn't make any sense; it's just so hilarious and so amazing. It's just really cool. The whole story of this band has been weird, and really kind of a beautifully unfolding story. Every day, we're turning the page, wondering what's next. But we're just having fun and trying to write better songs and become better friends. We want to make music that moves people, moves us.

**VH: Well thanks so much, it's been great talking to you.**

**TB:** Hey, I'm glad that you even want to know anything about our band. We're thankful for that. I know so many people complain about interviews, but I'm just like, "Maybe that's why no one wants to interview you anymore."

**VH: As a last question, is there anything else you'd like to ask, or anything you'd like to say?**

**TB:** Well yes, about Live on the Green, I didn't answer that. I'm really excited. I have only been to Live on the Green back when it was really small, and so we're absolutely excited to play Live on the Green. Also, Lightning 100, it's so cool to be doing something with a local radio station that we've all listened to so much. Pretty simple, but yeah we're doing this, and coming back and playing the Cannery Ballroom on Oct. 4. I wanted to mention that because we're really excited, and we haven't played Nashville for a while so it's kind of a reintroduction and we're excited to get to play our own show again, in Nashville.

# LOVE THIS,

## WATCH THAT

By **QUINCIE LI**  
Life reporter

**If you love ABC's 'Scandal,' watch CBS' 'The Good Wife' (Sunday 8 p.m. CST, CBS, Sept. 29)**

Can't get enough of political drama, forbidden romances and kick-ass leading ladies on television? Add "The Good Wife" to the list of must-watch television right under "Scandal." Maybe if Olivia Pope were there to help Julianna Margulies's character Alicia Florrick through her politician husband's cheating scandal, Alicia wouldn't have needed to go back to work as a lawyer. Lucky for the viewers, though, she did return, because each week audiences get to experience great acting, constant ethical and moral dilemmas and numerous reoccurring guest stars, including Matthew Perry, Michael J. Fox and Martha Plimpton.

**If you love Marvel's 'The Avengers,' watch ABC's 'Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.' (Tuesday 7 p.m. CST, ABC, Sept. 24)**

Phil Coulson lives! For the 99.9 percent of people who enjoyed last summer's blockbuster hit, "The Avengers," be sure to watch the debut of Marvel's first venture into television this fall. Created by the writer and producer of "The Avengers," Joss Whedon, and featuring Clark Gregg reprising his role as Agent Phil Coulson, "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." has already become one of the most talked-about new television series. Hopefully the show lives up to expectations because Robert Downey Jr. has already stated that he is open to appearing on "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." in the future. Who wouldn't want to see Iron Man on the small screen?

**If you love CBS' 'How I Met Your Mother,' watch the final season (Monday 7 p.m. CST, CBS, Sept. 23)**

The final season of "How I Met Your Mother" is going to be legen — wait for it — dary! Besides finally meeting "The Mother" (Cristin Milioti) and watching Barney and Robin get married, viewers will want to tune in this fall to say goodbye to everyone's favorite group of friends. Viewers should also relish this last season because selecting a replacement will be difficult. With the success of ABC's "Modern Family," most of the new comedies that debut this fall feature a similar dysfunctional and quirky family dynamic. This fact, combined with the cancellation of ABC's underappreciated "Happy Endings," will most likely result in a void of laugh-out-loud comedies about friends once "How I Met Your Mother" ends.

# ANCHOR DOWN THE RIGHT WAY



JAMES TATUM / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

After Thursday's season opener, it's clear that James Franklin and the boys are ready for an exciting football season. Now it's our job to make sure we're on the same page as fans. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of Vanderbilt football. **By Priyanka Aribindi, Life reporter**

## DO'S

# 1

### DO make it to the game.

Whether your pregame ritual is grabbing a bite to eat or downing a few beers at a tailgate, keeping the game on your mind is never a bad call. With our top-20 recruiting class and Coach Franklin on the sidelines, watching games from our student section never disappoints.

# 2

### DO make it to the game early.

If last week's game was any indicator, attendance numbers at Vanderbilt Stadium aren't going down anytime soon. However tempting an off-campus dinner or that last tailgate song may be, you'll be kicking yourself in the foot if you get turned away at the gate.

# 3

### DO wear your stickers loud and proud.

If there's one thing every Commodore can agree on — aside from hating every post by freshmen in the Overheard at Vanderbilt Facebook group — it's most definitely loving tailgate stickers. They're a fun way to show your and your organization's school spirit and to get a look at the cool things everyone around you does when they're not shotgunning Nattys on a frat porch. Be sure to bring some extras with you too — they make great icebreakers for you and the cute guys who oh-so-conveniently don't have any yet.

# 4

### DO check the weather.

Contrary to popular belief, the weather in Nashville isn't always sunny and scorching. It doesn't matter how cute your outfit is — if you're cold, or worse, sweating, when you don't have to be, it's not worth it.

# 5

### DO stick it out until the end.

As we learned on Thursday night, the game ain't over 'til it's over. The Commodores know how to keep us on our toes, and no matter the outcome, they're always putting on a show. Sticking around for the end is definitely worth it.

## DON'TS

# 1

### DON'T lose things.

Whether it's your Ray-Bans or your Commodore Card, nothing's a bigger buzzkill than losing something at a tailgate and being that person who won't shut up about it for the rest of the night. Wear croakies and bring a small bag — you're doing yourself a favor here.

# 2

### DON'T get smashed.

Given the crowds in the student section, expect the smashing of black and gold-painted bodies — that is, literal smashing. Ease off on getting smashed, figuratively, though. Tailgates are fun and crazy, but that doesn't mean it's the place to test your limits. It's not safe, it's not fun, it's not cool ... refer to No. 1 on the list of do's if you need more convincing.

# 3

### DON'T snag a spot you don't deserve.

There are people who deserve to sit in the front row — people who spend their afternoon in the sun painted up in black, people who spend hours making signs and banners, people who seriously heart our Commodores. They're of that certain breed of super fan whose eyes light up with our scoreboard and whose nails get chomped on whenever the other team gets within 30 yards of the end zone. If you and your friends want to use game time to tweet your tailgate pictures to Vandy Makeouts, there is not a person in the world who will agree that you deserve the sacred space that is the front row. Move it along.

# 4

### DON'T bail without a buddy.

It doesn't matter if it's for nachos or the bathroom — leaving the game to stand in a line will be miserable, will take half an hour and will not be something you want to stick out alone. Considering the shoddy cell service in Vanderbilt Stadium, bringing a buddy isn't a bad call anytime you need to leave the pack.

# 5

### DON'T be rude.

Vanderbilt is a fantastic institution. You know it. I know it. I'm pretty sure every fan from the other school knows it too, so there's really no need to add insult to injury here. I'm all for the witty chants, but lets at least try to keep it sportsmanlike. Stay classy, Commodores.



# A midsummer night's dream come true



CHARLOTTE HOW / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Combining quintessential Nashville charm and a well-cast, modernized rendition of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' the Nashville Shakespeare Festival puts an unconventional spin on English theatre

By **SAARA ASIKAINEN**  
*Life reporter*

In allowing its audience members to sit on weatherworn wooden benches in the back or bring their own blankets on which to have picnics in the "Blankets Only Beyond This Point" zone, the 26th annual Nashville Shakespeare Festival achieves a comfortable, folksy atmosphere before the show even starts. This already-olfactory landscape is then completed by the presence of food trucks serving Thai food and barbecue classics.

On Friday night, the play's preshow entertainment consisted of a cheery cover band and young children playing on the side of the stage. The artistic director Denice Hicks occasionally made her way to the stage to make announcements and to thank the audience for coming. Energetic and unpretentious, her enthusiasm was emblematic of the entire play.

For those of you not required to take Shakespeare: Representative Selections to fulfill the English major requirements, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" features complex, interconnecting plots united under the theme of misaligned love interests.

Half the cast consists of young actors who, according to Hicks, went through 50 hours of intensive training in preparation

for rehearsals with the full cast. The other half is made up of veteran actors, many of whom have moved to the area within the past year. "Because we're the Nashville Shakespeare company, we hire Nashvillians," said the three-time director. "I like to keep Nashvillians working."

The scenes with the incongruous characters and well-matched actors are the scenes which seem to turn out especially well, such as the serious, intimidating fairy king Oberon paired with Puck, the court jester or the gang of youngsters.

Then there is the modernization. Nobody is putting on his or her version of an English accent. Rather, the play clearly locates itself in this Athens of the South and not in Shakespeare's ancient Greece. Accordingly, the most outlandish characters have the most exaggerated southern accents. Nick Bottom, the comic relief of the play, especially works his for laughs.

Costumes follow suit. Elle Woods-esque Hermia would not look out of place in a sorority chapter meeting and dotes on a preppy Lysander who naturally sports a yellow polo, green pastel shorts and boat shoes. The fairies move among the crowd, decked out in wings kindergartners would be proud of, accompanied by percussion instruments played by a guy in face paint who engages the audience in a clap-along to start off the play.

The setting provided by the Centennial Park Bandshell, replete with string lights and lightning bugs, anchors the play in Nashville and fills out the scene laid out on stage. "Some of the experience is just coming out here and sitting in this beautiful park," Hicks said. "I feel like the park is really an essential element in this experience."

The intimate setting, combined with the obvious passion of everyone involved, manages to relay the company's philosophy to the audience. "We have a culture in this company of just the sort of kindness and nurturing and support," Hicks said.

Committed to supporting the community as well as its actors, the company works year-round to bring Shakespeare to schools. The company asks each audience member to donate \$10 and receives almost a third of the donations. "It goes primarily toward paying these actors and technicians," Hicks said, also mentioning the equipment rental, costumes and the custom-built set.

If this is the result, it's well worth it.

*Aug. 15 through Sept. 15, Thursday through Sunday. Preshow entertainment begins at 6.30 p.m. Performance begins at 7.30 p.m. For more information, check out <http://nashvilleshakes.org>.*

## DINNER AND A MOVIE

By **TIMOUR KAMRAN**  
*Life reporter*

### 'Drinking Buddies' and Blackstone Restaurant and Brewery

"Drinking Buddies" is the tale of Kate (Olivia Wilde) and Luke (Jake Johnson), two workers at a craft brewpub who, despite their perfect chemistry, are "just friends" and are dating other people. Plenty of Vanderbilt students are familiar with the chaotic combination of mutual attraction, convoluted relationships and beer. This movie explores — and aestheticizes — that recipe. Afterward, instead of living vicariously through Kate and Luke, enjoy your own good eats and good company by heading down to Blackstone Restaurant and Brewery. This local spot is also a great place for those who are of age to try some local craft beer for themselves.

### 'One Direction: This is Us' and San Antonio Taco Company

"One Direction: This is Us" is the fascinating story of Zayn, Niall, Liam, Louis and Harry's ascension to international pop stardom. Whether or not you agree that the five-piece British outfit is the greatest band of all time, this inspiring documentary about their lives is worth watching. It's a classic underdog story, following the boys from their humble beginnings all the way through their historic performance at London's famous The O2 Arena. Tons of exclusive interviews and backstage footage also make the film a must-see for any One Direction fanatic. After the movie, grab a quick bite to eat at San Antonio Taco Company, the only restaurant in Nashville with the same unique combination of mainstream appeal and high-quality ingredients that defines the music of One Direction.

### 'Short Term 12' and Monell's

Director Destin Daniel Cretton has extended his award-winning short film into a feature-length picture. The indie hit, a favorite of the Sundance and SXSW film festivals, is "coming soon" at the Belcourt Theatre. It follows the lives of a young foster care worker and the unfortunate children she tries to help. Warning — this one is a tearjerker, so harden your hearts, Commodores. If the movie's too much of a bummer, head over to Monell's afterwards for some mood-boosting soul food.



## 'Living Before Dying' panel discussion

In conjunction with its "Before I Die" exhibit, The Kefi Project presents "Living Before Dying," a cross-disciplinary panel discussion. Featured on the panel are Associate Professor of Composition Michael Rose, Centennial Professor of Philosophy John Lachs, Associate Professor of Anthropology Norbert Ross and Professor of Art Michael Aurbach. The conversation will be moderated by Reverend Mark Forrester and will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, in Alumni Hall Lounge.

# 'Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action' provides just that for listeners

By EMMETT MCKINNEY

*Life reporter*

After a four-year hiatus since its last album, the band Franz Ferdinand has not missed a beat — its fusion dance-rock still energizes and lead singer Alex Kapranos' self-deprecating lyrics still endear the music to listeners.

A hybrid work of alt-pop and indie-rock, the newest album is pretty hard not to rock to, featuring off-the-wall vocals sometimes reminiscent of Muse, the Killers and even Oingo Boingo.

The lyrics continue to aim at a young audience with spunky complaints of romantic shortcomings. However, the band's musical style is far from amateur — "Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action" boasts an eclectic mix of sounds, from bluesy guitar riffs to driving funk beats to electronic synth, creating a blended style that holds something for everyone.

The title track, "Right Action," shows flashes of classic Franz Ferdinand, but departs from the Killers-like sound and hard-hitting kick-beat seen in the band's past hit "Take Me Out" of its eponymous debut album.

A marriage of disco beats and Ratatat-esque synths, the second track "Evil Eye" blends funky kick-drum snare combinations with synth riffs to create vibrant energy. The music struts across straightforward kick-snare combinations that

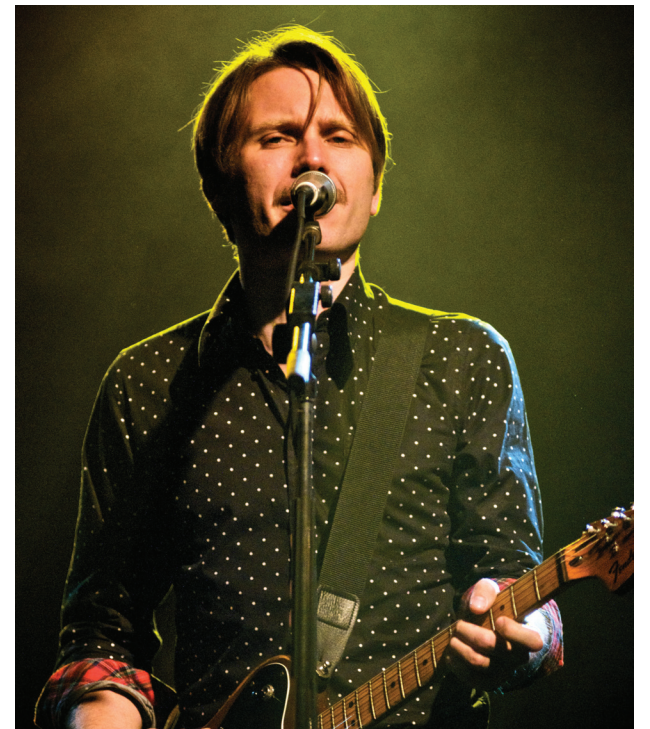
make the track an excellent morning jam to jump-start your day.

With "Love Illumination," on the other hand, listeners might almost expect the Black Keys to make an appearance. Blues guitar riffs kick off the track, and intermittent horn riffs reveal an Oingo Boingo influence.

Another song, "Bullet," is aptly named, for it races along to an energetic beat that relays the chaos that accompanies romance. "Bullet" also shows off what makes the album shine — the endearing lyrics.

Earnest statements like "I have no control / But I try" from the song "Bullet" make Franz Ferdinand's latest work emotionally accessible and easy to listen to. Other lyrics, such as lead singer Alex Kapranos' tongue-in-cheek plea from the song "Right Action" — "Sometimes I wish you were here, weather permitting" — defines Franz Ferdinand's unique style.

Altogether, Franz Ferdinand does anything but rest on its laurels with "Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action," instead reinvigorating its trademark alternative pop. Neither the music nor the lyrics take themselves too seriously, and Franz Ferdinand's boyish enthusiasm will continue to appeal to love-drunk youths.



COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

# 'The Worse Things Get ...' one of Neko Case's best



AMANDA HATFIELD / FLICKR.COM

By NEAL COTTER

*Life reporter*

A solo artist since the '90s and a core member of the Canadian supergroup The New Pornographers, Neko Case has worn many hats throughout her career. But while her output has always been strong, her last album — "Middle Cyclone," released in 2009 — didn't do much to push the envelope of Case's sound, and it seemed as though we might have seen all she had to offer stylistically. Fortunately, 20 years into her career, Case has crafted her most innovative and engaging album yet.

Behind the Fiona Apple-esque title ("The Worse Things Get, the Harder I Fight. The Harder I Fight, the More I Love You") lies an album that remains true to Case's signature alt-country style while throwing in several genuine surprises. The most striking of these is the sparse track "Nearly Midnight, Honolulu." Featuring only Case's voice and a slight bit of reverb, it suddenly explodes with the line "Get the f--- away from me! / Why don't you ever shut up?" as Case retells

the story of a mother chastising her child. What follows is a meditation on unloving families and the importance of making one's voice heard, and the song is one of the most extraordinary, beautiful pieces Case has ever recorded.

In addition to Case's sharp songwriting, her knack for melody and unique voice make this a truly excellent record. Although her voice is just as powerful as Florence Welch's, Case wisely chooses to vary the occasions on which she hits a full belt, showcasing both her power and tenderness. Songs like "Night Still Comes" and "Ragtime" pepper the album with upbeat, catchy hooks, but it is the quieter tracks like "Where Did I leave that Fire?" that leave the strongest impression.

Both accessible and refreshingly challenging, "The Worse Things Get ..." is evidence that Neko Case's creative engine is still in full gear.



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## sports

THE BIG STAT

Total attendance at Thursday's game against Ole Miss, the first time since 1996 Vanderbilt has sold out a home opener.

40,350

## AROUND THE

By ANDREW MAH  
Sports reporterJohnny be good?  
No. 7 Texas A&M 52,  
Rice 31

With Texas A&M missing six starters, including Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Johnny Manziel, for the first half, this matchup proved to be even more intriguing than expected. Rice took advantage of the struggling Aggies defense, jumping to a surprising 14-7 lead. However, A&M quarterback Matt Joeckel turned up the heat in the second quarter, and the Aggies closed out the second quarter leading 28-21.

Any case for an Owls victory quickly vanished when Johnny Football emerged in the second half. In about 20 minutes of game time, Manziel accounted for three touchdowns on 6-for-8 passing. The dominating performance, however, was overshadowed by the controversial quarterback's antics. After making an autograph-signing gesture and rubbing his fingers together, the universal sign for money, Manziel taunted the Owls by pointing at the scoreboard in the fourth quarter. The referees penalized him for unsportsmanlike conduct, and his coach benched him for the rest of the game. Nevertheless, the Aggies cruised to a 52-31 victory.

## Not such an easy roll (tide)

## No. 1 Alabama 35, Virginia Tech 10

That last year's national champions lost nine starters to the NFL draft mattered little Saturday night, as the Crimson Tide trounced the Virginia Tech Hokies, 35-10. The real story of the game was wide receiver Christian Jones, who became the first Alabama player since 1944 to score two special-teams touchdowns in a game. His first, a 72-yard punt return, came in the first two minutes, while his second, a 94-yard kick return, happened at the end of the second quarter. To cap it all off, Jones caught a 38-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter, finishing with 256 all-purpose yards.

In an uncharacteristically lackluster performance, Alabama quarterback A.J. McCarron completed 10 of 23 passes for 110 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Some perspective: He threw three interceptions in all of 2012. The Alabama offense, held to only 206 total yards, will need to improve before Sept. 14, when they take on the Texas A&M Aggies, the team that dealt the Crimson Tide their only loss last year.

## SEC/ACC border battle

## No. 6 South Carolina 27, North Carolina 10

A stomach virus earlier in the week for South Carolina soul-devourer Jadeveon Clowney combined with his underwhelming performance — he finished the game with no sacks and only three tackles — appeared to spell trouble for the Gamecocks. However, the defense ended up holding North Carolina to just two scoring drives, besting their rivals across the border, 27-10. In a dominating first quarter, the Gamecocks collected 17 points, the most for the program in a first quarter since 1996. Another impressive showing by the Gamecocks offense will surely be a challenge for the Commodores when the teams meet up in two weeks.

## Rebels run away with the win



THOMAS GRANING / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Mississippi tailback Jeff Scott (3) runs for a touchdown past Vanderbilt defensive back Andre Hal (23) for a go-ahead touchdown during the second half of the season opener in Nashville, Tenn., on Thursday, Aug. 29. The score came with almost one minute of game time left. Ole Miss won 39-35.

Defense overwhelmed  
by read option in  
devastating 39-35 loss  
to Ole MissBy JUSTIN BOBO  
Sports reporter

After an impressive second quarter that included three touchdowns and stellar defense from the Commodores, the wheels came off for the home team. Ole Miss rallied in the final minutes of the game to beat the Commodores and end their seven-game winning streak, dating back to last season's win over Auburn on Oct. 20.

Following a go-ahead touchdown by tight end Steven Scheu with 1:30 left in the fourth quarter, Vanderbilt was in the driver's seat. Just moments later, Ole Miss running back Jeff Scott broke past the Vanderbilt defense to rush 75 yards for a score. That, coupled with an Austyn Carta-Samuels interception shortly thereafter, marked the end of a thrilling battle between two SEC teams on the rise.

Vanderbilt head coach James Franklin, visibly frustrated, told the media "the kids

deserved to win the game."

"It's on me," he said.

After blowing a 21-10 halftime lead, Franklin rightly accepted the brunt of the blame for the loss. In the second half, Ole Miss moved the ball with ease and mustered a staggering 29 points. For a defensive unit that finished the season ranked in the top 20 last year and came into the 2013 campaign with lofty expectations, this was a major disappointment.

Why did Vanderbilt concede 29 points in the second half after holding the Rebels to a paltry 10 points in the first two quarters?

Simply put, the Ole Miss coaching staff made adjustments at halftime, and the Vanderbilt coaches were unable to counter them. Ole Miss identified an opportunity against the Vanderbilt defense with the read-option game, an offense that has posed issues for the Commodores dating back to last year. Rebel quarterback Bo Wallace and Scott combined for 186 of Ole Miss' 206 rushing yards, far too many yards to allow on the ground. By establishing a successful rushing attack in the second half, the Rebels were able to open up their passing game as well. Wallace threw for 283 yards, 82 of which came from receptions by freshman phenom wide receiver Laquon Treadwell.

Following the game, fans and experts were left scratching their heads. Surely the coaching staff would have addressed the 2012 defense's Achilles heel. However,

it's evident that holes still exist, and teams will continue to exploit them until the Vanderbilt coaching staff can correct the issue.

From a spectator's point of view, the linebackers, particularly the middle linebackers, were unable to properly identify the ball carrier and often lacked the speed to make a play once they did find the ball. Is the problem personnel or the scheme? Frankly, it's difficult to make that judgment.

However, when players are continually out of position, it places doubt on the scheme. Many fans voiced frustration over the notion that Vanderbilt didn't assign a quarterback spy role to a player on the defense. Again, strictly from a spectator's point of view, it's difficult to determine whether that was the case or not.

The coaches and players can take a lot away from this game. There were certainly positives, with the defensive line consistently applying pressure on Wallace particularly in the first half and the offense moving the ball successfully in the last three quarters. However, they shouldn't have to lose to learn from their mistakes.

Football is a game of adjustments, and if the coaching staff can't make the necessary changes, whether that entails making changes to the personnel or scheme (or both), this will be a long year for Vanderbilt's defense.

# FROM NIGERIA TO NASHVILLE

## Across continents, and across sports, Caleb Azubike finds his place at Vanderbilt

By **ISIS FREEMAN**  
Sports reporter

Playing for an aggressive SEC defense is no small feat for any college player, let alone someone who picked up the game during high school.

Having grown up in Nigeria and England, Vanderbilt defensive end Caleb Azubike was, to say the least, unfamiliar with the American version of football when he came to the States.

"I came over here wanting to play soccer and had to learn a whole new word for the sport I always called 'football,'" Azubike said. "When I first got here, I thought the game of (American) football was actually a sport that wanted to be like soccer but couldn't. I didn't really know what to think; I was kind of frustrated. I was perplexed at how it was called 'football,' but people rarely kicked the ball."

After playing soccer for a season in the U.S., however, coaches at McGavock eventually convinced Azubike to give football a shot.

His love for the game came instantly.

Furthermore, the skill set that he gained from playing striker in soccer easily translated to a position on the defensive line.

"My soccer background has everything to do with football, which is one thing that I'm thankful for," Azubike said. "There aren't many different skills that you develop in soccer that aren't used in football. A lot of the footwork drills are the same. Having good footwork and playing defensive lineman — everything you do has to do with your feet, your hands and having good foot-eye coordination.

"That foot-eye coordination, knowing where your feet are and where your eyes should be in connection to whomever you're playing, whomever is in front of you and behind you, is helpful."

Azubike makes use of not only his vast array of sports knowledge but also his cultured background when playing football. His time in Nigeria developed him into a player who reaches victory on the field, fighting six seconds at a time.

"Back there (in Nigeria), things are different," he said. "You have to fight for what you get. There, the mentality is that the strongest survive. That's how I got the mentality that I have now. Everything's a fight for me. I want to be first. I want to finish first. I want to be the best at whatever I'm doing.

"Back there is the mentality that everyone fights for whatever opportunity or experience they wanted, trying to get the best out of life. There were no wasted experiences."

The defensive end has definitely fought for experience during his time at Vanderbilt.

Azubike is looking to make a big impact for the Commodores in 2013. As a true freshman last season, he saw action in all 13 games, playing more snaps than any other Vanderbilt first-year player and accounting for 15 solo tackles, four sacks and two fumble recoveries. Azubike insists that his time on the field last year has relieved any pressure that comes from high expectations.

"I had guys on the team that were helping me from a mental standpoint to get my game to the level it needed to be," he said. "Really, in that respect, it doesn't put any pressure on me. It actually relieves some. If I didn't last year and came into this season trying to play, I would be stressed out not knowing how to handle the large crowds, the noise, stuff like that.

"Last year helped me tremendously to be where I am, being able to play and not having anything of that nature holding me back. I'm free."

Azubike also attributes his freedom on the field to the fact that he does not set personal football goals. While he brings the Nigerian fight with him, he realizes that there is validity in the saying "There is no 'I' in 'team.'"

"I don't set individual goals, I set team goals," he said. "I want my team to win the SEC championship foremost, then the individual goals come after that. Right now I'm just focused on getting my team to a major stage."

His lack of individual goals stops at the football field, however. Majoring in medicine, health and society with a minor in financial accounting, Azubike hopes to take his newfound love of football professionally but would be equally satisfied with another professional route.

"Of course I want to go pro in the NFL," he said, "but if I don't, I have my powerful degree to fall back on."

Azubike wants to remind the student body that "student" comes first in "student-athlete" for a reason. Despite his nicknames — "El Diablo" and the "Nigerian Nightmare" — the fact that he sported menacing greenish-yellow contacts in Thursday's season opener, the 6-foot-4, 265-pound Azubike assures that his on-field persona is nothing like his off-field personality.

"I'm really outgoing and shy at the same time," he said. "Before anyone gets to know me, I'm really quiet a lot and fall back. I don't draw much attention. Once people get to know me, and I get to hang out a lot with people, they tend to think I'm outgoing. I'm personable. If you approach me, I'll gladly speak or talk with whomever it is."



# Two games to watch - Week 2

By **PATRICK GIVENS**  
Sports reporter

## NO. 6 SOUTH CAROLINA AT NO. 11 GEORGIA (SATURDAY, SEPT. 7, 3:30 P.M. CST, ESPN)

This clash between two SEC East powers could very well determine who takes the inside track to Atlanta and the SEC conference title game. Georgia, coming off a shootout loss to Clemson last week, will look to make it a Palmetto State split as they seek revenge against a South Carolina team that pummeled them 35-7 last year.

Saturday's game wasn't the only thing the Bulldogs lost, as starting wide receiver Malcolm Mitchell tore his ACL celebrating a Todd Gurley touchdown.

South Carolina brings some weapons into Athens, with a veteran warrior at quarterback in Connor Shaw, possibly the SEC's most underrated running back in Mike Davis and a vaunted defense led by Jadeveon Clowney. Still, expect Aaron Murray and Georgia's two-headed monster, running backs Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall, to bounce back in a big way, leaving Coach Steve Spurrier picking his visor up off the turf one too many times.

## NO. 14 NOTRE DAME AT NO. 17 MICHIGAN (SATURDAY, SEPT. 7, 7 P.M. CST, ABC)

In 2011, the last time these two teams played in Ann Arbor, college-football fans were treated to one of the best games of the season. They combined for 21 total points in the last 1:12 of the game, with Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson tossing the deciding touchdown pass with two seconds left on the clock in a 35-31 win.

This is the last foreseeable installment in this historic rivalry to be played in Ann Arbor, as Notre Dame has opted out of the contract from 2015-2018 as they transition into playing six ACC games a year. Michigan looks to be the best team in the non-Ohio State portion of the Big Ten, and Notre Dame comes into The Big House an inexperienced team, having lost several key pieces from last year's 12-1 team.

Do-everything quarterback/wide receiver Robinson is gone, but the Wolverines return several key pieces from last year's team, and their defense is much improved in head coach Brady Hoch's second year at the helm.

After incumbent starter Everett Golson's offseason suspension, Notre Dame's starting quarterback is none other than Tommy Rees, who started the last time these two teams met in Ann Arbor. Look for Rees to make just enough plays for the Irish to steal the road upset late.

# News and notes from Monday's football press conference

By **BEN WEINRIB**  
Sports reporter

## 1. BACKUP QUARTERBACKS

Last season, the Commodores started then-backup quarterback Austyn-Carta Samuels against their first mid-major opponent, Presbyterian, en route to a 58-0 victory. Austin Peay is not much better — they lost to Tennessee 45-0 last week — and Vanderbilt is the 46-point favorite this week. Although head coach James Franklin didn't explicitly say it, expect backup quarterbacks to get plenty of snaps Saturday.

Right now, redshirt sophomore Josh Grady is listed above redshirt freshman Patton Robinette on the depth chart, but Franklin said the battle is still up in the air. For what it's worth, Tennessee

put in backup quarterback Nathan Peterman after halftime last week. Carta-Samuels will still start the game, though. "We're not approaching this game any different," Franklin said, "whether we're playing Ole Miss, Austin Peay or the New England Patriots."

## 2. THREE BATTLES TO WIN

Franklin said the team lost three key battles that led to their 39-35 loss to Ole Miss on Thursday. They lost the turnover battle 2-0, they lost the penalty battle 5-4 and they didn't meet their goals of explosive plays. The Commodores aim for eight explosive plays on offense each game — they only got six — and they shoot for three or fewer explosive plays on defense — they gave up four.

## 3. A FAMILIAR FOE

For the second week in a row, Vanderbilt will be facing a team with a 4-2-5 defense. Starting center Joe Townsend said facing a similar defense two weeks in a row helps during preparation. "I wouldn't say it makes it any easier," he said, "but we're definitely more familiar with it. That's a plus."

## 4. FEELING FINE

Both Franklin and wide receiver Jordan Matthews made clear that Matthews did not suffer a concussion in the fourth quarter, when he threw up on the field after a tough hit. Franklin mentioned that the medical staff and not the coaches make health decisions. "I'm not going to let a little throw up keep me out of the game," he said.

## SEC POWER RANKINGS: WEEK 1

*Each week The Hustler ranks the teams in the SEC 1-14. This week, Alabama looks mortal, Georgia lost a shootout, Ole Miss takes over as king in the second tier and we try really hard to not make a "Kensucky" joke.*

By **JACKSON MARTIN**  
Sports reporter



### 1. No. 1 Alabama (1-0, 0-0 SEC)

The Crimson Tide looked downright mortal Saturday against Virginia Tech. The offensive line wasn't sharp, the defense didn't seem focused and the team as a whole didn't play to the level we're accustomed to seeing from Nick Saban's teams. Oh yeah, they did still beat a major-conference opponent by 25 points.



### 2. No. 9 LSU (1-0, 0-0)

The Tigers make the big leap in our standings this week after a solid win against TCU in Dallas. No one in the SEC beat a better team than LSU did this week, and they have been rewarded for that. And also because Zach Mettenberger played more like an SEC quarterback than his previous iteration did as a backup junior-varsity quarterback at my high school. We'll compromise and say he played like a Sun Belt quarterback against the Horned Frogs, completing 50 percent of his passes for 251 yards and one touchdown.



### 3. No. 6 South Carolina (1-0, 0-0)

ESPN strategy: Ignore a dominating win over North Carolina and a sizzling performance from sophomore halfback Mike Davis; instead, focus on Jadeveon Clowney's "lack of conditioning" in a ridiculously humid August game where he took more than one dirty hit to the knees.



### 4. No. 11 Georgia (0-1, 0-0)

Ranking teams by their respective power means looking at more than just wins and losses. As much as UGA fans are freaking out about

the loss (do yourself a favor and check out the Georgia fan crying on the radio about how Mark Richt needs to be fired), let's take a deep breath and remember that it came by three points on the road to a top-10 team with two Heisman candidates on offense. And that gets far more respect in my books than a 21-point win over Rice.



### 5. No. 7 Texas A&M (1-0, 0-0)

Did anyone else know why Johnny Football only played in the second half against Rice? Did something happen this off-season? Man, I wish the major sports networks would at least do SOME reporting on the most recent Heisman Trophy winner.



### 6. No. 12 Florida (1-0, 0-0)

Jeff Driskel was drafted this off-season by the Boston Red Sox in the 30th round of the MLB draft. I don't know why this happened, and neither do you, but I think we can all agree that Driskel would be much better off switching sports to baseball or rugby or, like, knitting or something.



### 7. Ole Miss (1-0, 1-0)

The Rebels returned the favor from last year's heartbreaking loss, as Jeff Scott's nearly last-minute touchdown run capped a late comeback in one of the most exciting games of college football's opening weekend. The Rebels face Southeast Missouri State next week before looking to enter the SEC's top tier with successive games against No. 15 Texas and No. 1 Alabama.



### 8. Vanderbilt (0-1, 0-1)

Boy, that Jordan Matthews sure has some guts, doesn't he? I mean, he left it all out on the field Thursday night. We should just throw up every pass to him. Thank you, thank you, I'll be here all week. Tip your waitresses.



### 9. Auburn (1-0, 0-0)

Auburn beat Washington State Saturday, but the Cougars won

the real battle Friday night when a group of Wazzu fans drank an Auburn bar out of beer by 10:30 pm. Washington State fans: you can come party with me anytime, but I'm not buying.



### 10. Missouri (1-0, 0-0)

James Franklin threw for 318 yards, and the Tigers scored 58 points in a rout of Murray State. The win came against poor competition, but there is no denying that Gary Pinkel's team looked better in that win than it did all last season. Missouri won't be an easy win for anyone this year.



### 11. Mississippi State (0-1, 0-0)

Holding Oklahoma State to just 21 points is really, really impressive and that's why the Bulldogs hold on to the prestigious No. 11 spot in this poll. Scoring just three points against the Cowboys, however, is awful. With four more top-10 teams still on the schedule, it's hard to see things getting much better for State.



### 12. Arkansas (1-0, 0-0)

Arkansas and Tennessee each had blowout wins Saturday, but the Razorbacks' win came against an actually decent Louisiana-Lafayette team, and so they jump the Volunteers this week for completely non-biased reasons.



### 13. Tennessee (1-0, 0-0)

Beating Austin Peay 45-0 really isn't very impressive. Unless, of course, Vanderbilt beats them by fewer points this Saturday. In that case, it's super-impressive and Tennessee should move way up the polls.



### 14. Kentucky (0-1, 0-0)

The Wildcats lost to Western Kentucky for the second-straight year. Let that sink in for a moment, and let's all be thankful that Vanderbilt doesn't pull crap like that any more.

(Weeks without a basketball joke: two.)

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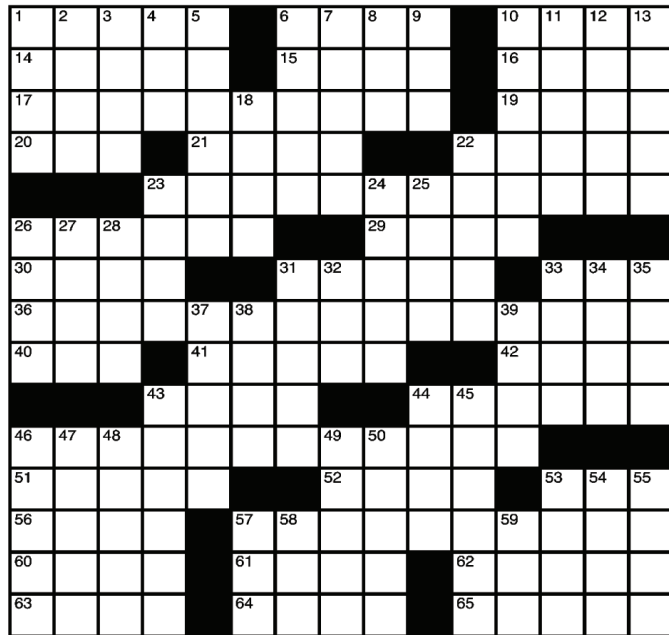
Walk to our studio at 2214 Elliston Place 3rd Floor (Next to Exit/In)



# backpage

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Saw point
  - 6 Etching fluid
  - 10 Touches affectionately
  - 14 Prenatal exam, for short
  - 15 Body part that smells
  - 16 Jump in a skater's short program
  - 17 Legend with an ax
  - 19 Actress Hayworth
  - 20 Dinner pair?
  - 21 Like cough syrup
  - 22 Indigenous New Zealander
  - 23 Legend with a clarinet
  - 26 Alcove
  - 29 Not at all well-done
  - 30 "Let's Get \_\_\_": Marvin Gaye hit
  - 31 Udder parts
  - 33 Jamaican genre
  - 36 Legend with a vine
  - 40 Animal on Michigan's state flag
  - 41 Coffee shop cupful
  - 42 Fishing tool
  - 43 "Your Majesty"
  - 44 It includes a bit of France
  - 46 Legend with a bat
  - 51 Betting every last chip
  - 52 Hat-borne parasites
  - 53 Toward the rudder
  - 56 Charlatan, e.g.
  - 57 Legend with a bathrobe
  - 60 Sour
  - 61 Actor Morales
  - 62 Dutch pianist
  - 63 Lime beverages
  - 64 Holiday song
  - 65 Important word for 17-, 23-, 36-, 46- and 57-Across



By Victor Barocas

9/4/13

- 7 How some flirt
- 8 Life-cabaret link
- 9 Place to relax
- 10 Where to see floats
- 11 Self-evident truth
- 12 Flashy tank swimmer
- 13 Like many characters in Shakespeare's dramas
- 18 Catering hall dispensers
- 22 Dashing inventor?
- 23 1885 Motorwagen maker
- 24 Reduce to small pieces
- 25 Inauguration Day pledge
- 26 Customary observance
- 27 Reference list abbr.
- 28 Bulletin board material
- 31 Icon on a pole
- 32 Immature newt
- 33 Goad
- 34 "Felicity" star
- 35 Like the Flying Dutchman

### Answers to last week's puzzle



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- DOWN**
- 1 Packer's need
  - 2 Arab League member
  - 3 Burden
  - 4 Up to, briefly
  - 5 Bindle carriers
  - 6 Former U.N. chief

- 37 "In space no one can hear you scream" film
- 38 Not, quaintly
- 39 On the safer side
- 43 Bypasses
- 44 Chickenpox symptom
- 45 Expletive replacements
- 46 Sicily neighbor
- 47 Epic that ends with Hector's funeral
- 48 County on the River Shannon
- 49 Pond plants
- 50 Zero, to Nero
- 53 Prefix with war or hero
- 54 Forest floor flora
- 55 High school math class
- 57 Feathery layer
- 58 Club for GIs
- 59 "... but \_\_\_ are chosen"

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## TODAY'S SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

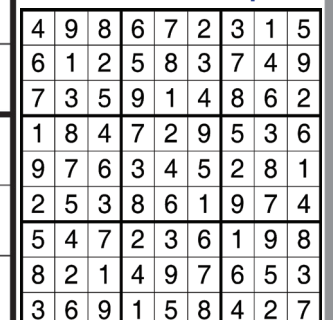
Level:

- 1  2
- 3  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)

### Answers to last week's puzzle



9/4/13

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