

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE US

James Franklin has been **courted by numerous football programs** since late September. Anticipation is running increasingly high as details begin to surface regarding **his potential interest in leaving Vanderbilt** for a big name program

By Allison Mast, sports editor

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JAMES TATUM / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

CAMPUS

The scoop on the HOD major

The history, popularity and stereotypes of one of Vanderbilt's most unique programs

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OPINION

An open letter to Chancellor Zeppos

One student voices his concerns over the chancellor's recent statement on behalf of the university on the ASA-Israeli academic boycott

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SPORTS

Vanderbilt wins BBVA Compass Bowl

The Commodores capped off their second consecutive 9-win season with a 41-24 victory over the Houston Cougars in Birmingham, Ala.

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campus

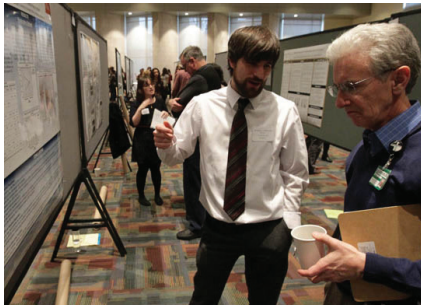
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The University's investment in this expansion is not related to staffing reductions that occurred within the Medical Center last year."

JOHN HOWSER, ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR OF MEDICAL CENTER NEWS AND COMMUNICATIONS

VANDERBITS

2014 Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day set for Jan. 14



STEVE GREEN/VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Timothy Hohman (left), Ph.D., discusses his research with Paul Newhouse, M.D., during the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's 2013 Science Day.

The 2014 Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 14, from 1-5 p.m. in the Student Life Center.

More than 100 presenters – from undergraduate students to post-doctoral fellows – have submitted posters of recent research to be viewed by their peers, faculty and the public. In addition, many of these presenters will show their work to faculty judges, who will give travel awards to the top presenters in each of the three theme areas: systems neuroscience, cellular and molecular neuroscience, and clinical, behavioral and intervention research.

Winners of the travel awards will be announced on Wednesday, Jan. 15, on the VKC website as well as in Jan. 20's Monday Morning Message, the VKC's weekly e-newsletter.

The 2014 VKC Science Day is free and open to the public. To register or to view the schedule, visit the VKC Events Calendar page.

From a Vanderbilt University press release.



COURTESY OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

This rendering depicts the planned construction of the Children's Hospital, which will add approximately 160,000 square feet to the current structure.

Children's Hospital to expand in 2015

By **CHARLOTTE GILL**
Senior news reporter

Vanderbilt plans to add four additional floors to the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital next year. Hospital officials announced on Dec. 31, 2013 that construction of the new tower, located at the corner of Children's Way and Medical Center Drive, will begin in 2015, according to a Vanderbilt University Medical Center press release.

The new tower will add approximately 160,000 square feet to the current structure, according to John Howser, assistant vice chancellor of Medical Center News and Communications. The first phase of the construction will be a new inpatient floor that will have 36 intensive care beds for premature babies and young children with life-threatening illnesses, bringing the total number of inpatient beds from 271 to more than 300.

"As we recognize the seismic economic forces impacting hospitals and health systems across the nation, we have chosen to make a strategic investment to increase Vanderbilt's support for the unique healthcare needs of children throughout the region," said Jeff Balser, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the Vanderbilt

University School of Medicine, in a statement. "The space and programs created in this expansion will allow Children's Hospital to catapult forward as a national leader in health care, research and clinical training."

Vanderbilt's construction plans began before the recent economic recession, but they have since been adjusted to meet more current needs.

"The request submitted by Vanderbilt to the Tennessee Health Services Development Agency (HSDA) is for a modification to the original certificate of need (CON) granted to Vanderbilt by the HSDA in 2008," Howser wrote to The Hustler. "The request to modify the original CON is necessary because the space we need to construct through this expansion is different than what we originally were granted permission to build."

Howser said Vanderbilt is undertaking the construction in phases as opposed to a single, large-scale project to account for evolving health care practices and technology. For instance, in May 2012, a construction project at the Children's Hospital increased capacity for acute care and surgical and neonatal intensive care services with a 30,000-square-foot, 33-bed expansion, according to a press release. This \$30 million investment enabled the hospital

to expand both its Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation Program and its Cardiac Surgical Intensive Care and Congenital Heart Disease program — programs only offered in Middle Tennessee by the Children's Hospital.

"Being able to construct new space in increments has proven to be an ideal methodology to create the best use of new space to fit current and future needs," Howser said regarding the construction strategy.

The plans for construction come in the wake of layoffs at the Medical Center, as Vanderbilt cut 400 jobs between July and January as part of the "Evolve to Excel" plan in response to financial pressure. But according to Howser, undertaking a major construction project in the near future is not as incongruous with the hospital's widely publicized financial woes as it may seem at first.

"The University's investment in this expansion is not related to staffing reductions that occurred within the Medical Center last year," Howser said. "Funds that are used to construct new space and facilities (capital expenses) are separate within the University's budget from funds that support salaries."

vanderbilthustler

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SOPHIE TO

ASA's Israel boycott: What you need to know

Over winter break, members of the Vanderbilt community entered into a controversy regarding an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions by the American Studies Association

By **André Rouillard**, editor-in-chief

The Story

On Dec. 16, the American Studies Association announced it was undertaking an academic boycott of Israeli universities. The announcement came after an unprecedented organization-wide vote in which 66.05 percent of members voted to endorse the boycott, with 30.05 percent voting against it. The boycott is in response to alleged violations of international law and academic freedom committed by Israel and its scholarly institutions, mostly against Palestinian students and scholars. The boycott announcement also cites Israeli academic institutions as party to state policies and agencies committing humanitarian violations. However, the boycott states it “does not apply to individual Israeli scholars engaged in ordinary forms of academic exchange.”

The boycott has affected Vanderbilt especially and divided other schools along similar political and professional lines. Following the boycott, at least four institutions have withdrawn their membership from the Association, and even more have spoken out publicly against it.



The American Studies Association

The American Studies Association is, according to its website, “the nation’s oldest and largest association devoted to the interdisciplinary study of American culture and history.” The organization, which was founded in 1951, claims a membership of more than 5,000 academics, researchers and public officials and more than 2,000 institutional members. The group publishes the “The Encyclopedia of American Studies” and the American Quarterly, a journal containing essays and reviews concerning American politics, culture, arts, and history. The New York Times describes the group as “small.”



STEVE GREEN / VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



ZACHARY HARDY / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Professor Colin Dayan

On Dec. 22, Vanderbilt professor Colin Dayan published a widely publicized op-ed in Al Jazeera in support of the boycott. Professor Dayan expanded upon the ASA’s accusations of violations of academic freedom, citing the closing of Palestinian universities and the inability of Palestinian scholars and academics to travel out of or Palestine as a result of the Israeli occupation. Dayan said the continuously deteriorating situation for Palestinians made it clear that she needed to speak out. However, Dayan, who is Jewish, did tell The New York Times that this puts her “in a difficult position vis-a-vis family and friends.”

Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

On New Year’s Eve, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos issued a statement opposing the boycott on behalf of the university. Zeppos referred to the agreement reached by Vanderbilt’s fellow members of the prestigious Association of American Universities in his statement. He cited the university’s “unwavering commitment to academic freedom and the open exchange of ideas” as rationale for Vanderbilt’s opposition and made an oblique reference to unnamed Vanderbilt faculty who have taken their own positions on the issue. Zeppos joined a host of other university leaders, including those at the University of Pennsylvania, Tulane, Pittsburgh, Northwestern, Michigan State, Harvard and Cornell in denouncing the ASA boycott.

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COMMEMORATION

AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 17-20, 2014

For most up-to-date information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.vanderbilt.edu/mlk.

Friday, January 17th

Black Cultural Center MLK Kickoff Luncheon 12:00 p.m. • Black Cultural Center Auditorium

Friday – Sunday, January 17-19

MLK Weekend of Action

Monday, January 20th

11:00 a.m.
Nashville Freedom March
Leaving from The Ingram Commons at Murray Circle and Kirkland Circle (Breakfast Refreshments)

11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Nashville Freedom Ride
Leaving from Branscomb Circle

12:00 p.m.
MLK Lunchtime Symposium • Student Life Center Board of Trust Room

Afternoon Teach-Ins

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. & 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Teach In (A)

“Movie Moments” with Danny Glover • Sarratt Cinema

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Teach-In (B)

Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Freedom Riders • Black Cultural Center

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Teach In (C)

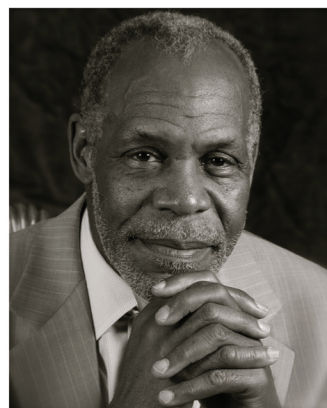
Reflections on Social Justice In a Global Context: Martin, Mandela, Means, and Their Movements

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Reflections on Service and Social Justice • OACS Lounge (305 Sarratt/Rand)

6:30 p.m.
Opening Performances • Langford Auditorium
Vanderbilt Choir, Voices of Praise, Victory A Cappella

6:45 p.m.
MLK Middle and High School Essay Contest Winners’ Recital

7:00 p.m.
Keynote Address
MLK Keynote: An Evening with Danny Glover
For info on ticket availability, call 615-322-2425.



8:10 p.m.
Candlelight Vigil (following keynote)

8:30 p.m.
Reception in Light Hall Lobby

In Conjunction Activities

Monday, January 20th

12:00 p.m.
208 Light Hall
Vanderbilt School of Nursing and School of Medicine
Dr. Courtney H. Lyder
Dean, UCLA School of Nursing
To Dream Again: Lessons From My Mentors

Thursday, January 23rd

12:00 p.m.
Vanderbilt Law School Renaissance Room (1st Floor)
Dr. Kenneth Mack
The Creation of the Civil Rights Lawyer

4:10 p.m.
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Dr. Velma McBride Murry
Re-Examining the MLK Dream: Paradoxical Life Patterns of African Americans



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Behind the acronym: The scoop on the HOD major

The story behind the origin, numbers and stereotypes of one of the most popular majors on campus

By **GLORIA ROTHENBERG**
News reporter

Even though Human and Organizational Development is one of the most popular majors at Vanderbilt University, students and professors often find it difficult to encapsulate or describe. And while many HOD graduates succeed in fields like management consulting and finance, a stereotype exists that the major is “easy” or inflates students’ grades artificially.

So what is the story behind one of the most common majors at Vanderbilt? Examining the program’s history can help answer that question.

Origins of HOD

“Following the merger between Vanderbilt and Peabody in 1979, I was asked to chair a faculty committee to develop a proposal for a new interdisciplinary undergraduate major,” said Robert Innes, professor emeritus at Peabody

College, regarding the inception of the HOD program.

As a result of its merging with Vanderbilt, Peabody College lost its music major and therefore also lost a significant percentage of its students.

“These changes made Peabody economically unviable unless it found a way to attract undergraduates beyond its majors in education and special education,” Innes said. The solution to this dilemma was the creation of the HOD program.

“I agreed to design the curriculum, guide it through the approval process and direct it for the first two years. I ended up enjoying the experience and remained as its director for the next 30,” said Innes, who remains involved with the program today.

According to Innes, the new major had to be distinct from any other program that was already offered in Vanderbilt’s College of Arts and Science. Innes had always



BOSLEY JARRETT / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

been interested in the education philosophy of John Dewey, which highlights the simulation of real-world experiences, as opposed to mundane memorization and

regurgitation of information. He decided to use Dewey’s ideology as the basis for HOD.

When asked about the intended overall goal of the HOD program,

Innes replied, “(HOD) gives students the attitudes, knowledge and skills they need to be successful and effective leaders in organizations and communities.”

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Popularity of HOD

In every incoming class, 96 freshmen are pre-enrolled as HOD majors — approximately 6 percent of the class.

“That number is set by the university,” said Paul Speer, an associate professor in the HOD department. He explained that the freshmen who apply directly to the HOD program do so because of its relative popularity compared to all majors and because of its uniqueness.

However, that number quickly changes. By sophomore year, approximately 110 additional students transfer into the program from other majors, while roughly 20 students transfer out of the program.

Vanderbilt’s Class of 2013 had 181 HOD majors in its graduating class, or approximately 11 percent of the class.

“I decided to change my major to HOD because I felt that it would be more practical and applicable to jobs after college,” said sophomore Rebecca Allums. She also noted that her GPA has not changed much since making the switch.

“It’s just a different type of work than engineering. I have much more reading and writing to do rather than problem sets,” she said.

Stereotypes of HOD

Despite the high numbers of students who choose to major in HOD, the program is sometimes criticized on campus.

“From what I have heard, people perceive HOD as the easiest major at Vanderbilt,” said Alexa Gores, a freshman majoring in HOD. “People have the unfortunate assumption that all that we do is sit around and talk about our feelings.”

Why have students’ perceptions of HOD evolved in this manner? Innes thinks the stereotypes are the result of a misconception of how Dewey’s education philosophy is applied.

“Our focus on the acquisition of useful knowledge can be misinterpreted as meaning that the program’s primary goal is to develop applied professional skills with an absence of attention to the theories and research that support the practice,” he said.

He clarified that ideally, the program should be “both ‘hands-on’ and ‘minds-on,’” which can be difficult to accomplish.

However, the HOD courses, liberal arts requirements and the capstone internship are all designed to complement each other while providing students with a unique combination of theoretical and experiential educational op-

“From what I have heard, people perceive HOD as the easiest major at Vanderbilt. People have the unfortunate assumption that all that we do is sit around and talk about our feelings.”

portunities.

Speer acknowledged the existence of the commonly referenced HOD stereotypes but questioned their validity. “Broadly, there’s not a significant difference between the workload of HOD and any other major on campus,” he said.

Speer admitted to having heard the stereotype about HOD students spending time coloring with crayons. However, he denied the existence of a valid basis for the rumor. “If there is a class where all students do is color, I want to know about it,” Speer said.

Rumors of HOD professors providing grade inflation also exist. Innes and Speer had differing opinions on the subject.

“Because many of the judgments a professor has to make to

evaluate a student in an experiential course are difficult to measure, there is a tendency for professors to give higher grades because they have a harder time defending their judgment,” said Innes, attributing this perception of grade inflation to the subjective content.

Speer, however, cited a broader trend of inflation as a possible explanation for this allegation. “Grade inflation is a concern within HOD, within Peabody College and within Vanderbilt University,” he said, also stating that grade inflation is a phenomenon in universities all over the country.

Regardless of the source of this particular rumor, the HOD major is indubitably not in any way independent from Vanderbilt in terms of its grading policy.

HOD post-graduation

HOD students pursue a broad range of careers after graduation, from positions in the health sector to positions on Wall Street. Many also choose to enroll in graduate school.

“In practice, many of our graduates work in human resources, management consulting, and in the financial industry as financial advisors,” Innes said.

Because the major is broad, it is up to students to narrow down what they want to pursue professionally as graduation approaches. The required internship helps students gain experience in a more specific area of interest.

“I realized that it would not be possible to offer courses that provided skill sets for entry-level positions in a broad range of fields,” Innes said. “The internship is designed to provide students with an arena for applying the theories of HOD.”

Despite any stereotypes about HOD on campus, Speer believes graduates of the program succeed professionally after college.

“HOD is perceived positively for Vanderbilt by employers, and that is really the main thing,” Speer said.

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sports

THE BIG STAT **7**

Number of men's basketball scholarship players who dressed to play Alabama on Tuesday after guard Eric McClellan didn't make the trip

SEC POWER RANKINGS: POSTSEASON

Each week I rank the teams in the SEC 1-14. This week, we OVERREACT TO THE BOWLS, and Auburn needed just one more miracle.

By **JACKSON MARTIN**
Sports writer



1. No. 2 Auburn (12-2, 7-1)

I can't be the only one who thought during the BCS National Championship Game, "Florida State is up three points with 13 seconds left? Those poor bastards, Auburn's got them right where they want them." Sadly, the SEC title streak is over at seven. Auburn doesn't owe anybody any apologies, though. The Tigers acquitted themselves well in the best BCS title game since 2005.



2. No. 5 Missouri (12-2, 7-1)

What, you were expecting Alabama? Sorry, I only put proven winners in the No. 2 spot. Missouri's win in Dallas makes it the most recent Cotton Bowl Classic champion from both the SEC and the Big 12, which is way more impressive than anything Alabama has done this decade.



3. No. 4 South Carolina (11-2, 6-2)

Let's play a fun game: At what round would you draft Jadeveon Clowney in the NFL Draft for each position? I'll say he's a first-rounder at DE, DT, LB, RB, TE and WR and a second-rounder at OT, OG, C and DB. Even at quarterback and kicker, I'd take him no later than the fourth round.



4. No. 7 Alabama (11-2, 7-1 SEC)

Remember when Alabama used to be good? A two-game losing streak is making me think that Alabama just isn't an elite program anymore. Remember when the Crimson Tide used to dominate everyone and have undefeated seasons? No, you don't because they've only had two since I've been alive (1992 and 2009).



5. No. 14 LSU (10-3, 5-3)

This was somehow the least interesting LSU team of Les Miles' career and it went 9-3 with road losses to Georgia (before the injuries), Alabama and Ole Miss. This was very nearly a BCS team, and it got almost no recognition as such for the second half of the season.



6. No. 18 Texas A&M (9-4, 4-4)

We need Johnny Football. Hell, I need Johnny Football. I'm going to miss him so damn much. I'm going to miss being with him on Saturdays. I'm going to miss being near him. I'm going to miss his laugh, his scent. I'm going to miss his musk. I think that when this all gets sorted out, Johnny Football and I should get an apartment together.

Commodores win 9 straight

Women's basketball beats ranked team for the first time since last February

By **BEN WEINRIB**
Asst. sports editor

Vanderbilt's women's basketball team came into the season with high hopes on the backs of senior guards Christina Foggie and Jasmine Lister. After a slow start, those hopes are starting to come to fruition.

The Commodores fell to Marquette and Duke in their first five games, but any questions about whether that slow start would extend far into the season have since vanished, as the Commodores have won nine of their past 10 games.

Following the loss to then-No. 2 Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium, the Commodores came home to beat Dayton and host the Vanderbilt Thanksgiving Tournament, featuring wins over Elon and Wisconsin. With a win over East Tennessee State, the Commodores rode a four-game winning streak into their two-week break for exams.

Much of the team's offensive output this season has come from Foggie and Lister, both of whom have improved their play from last year. Foggie is scoring 18.1 points per game on 43.8 percent shooting (up from 13.4 PPG on 39 percent shooting last season), and Lister is scoring 15.5 PPG on 50.9 percent shooting (up from 12.2 PPG on 36.8 percent shooting last season).

"They are our senior leaders, and we look up to them," said sophomore guard Morgan Batey. "When they hit big shots, it ignites the rest of us."

After their break, the Commodores continued their non-conference schedule, beating four weak mid-major teams with a combined 27-28 record by an average of 13 points.

But even at 11-2, Vanderbilt still lacked a signature win, mostly because the team's non-conference schedule saw no teams receiving



BOSLEY JARRETT / THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

Freshman guard Rebekah Dahlman (1) dribbles the ball past a defender during an exhibition game against North Alabama on Nov. 2. Eight Commodore players scored in double figures as Vanderbilt cruised to a 103-50 victory.

top 25 votes outside of Duke. That all changed with the start of SEC play on Jan. 2.

Vanderbilt hosted No. 19 Georgia to open their SEC schedule, and the two seniors came prepared for the Commodores. Foggie, the SEC's leading scorer, hit a key 3-pointer, and Lister fueled a 17-5 run with 3:40 left in the game to lead the Commodores to a 66-58 victory.

With their first win over a ranked team since their Feb. 24 victory over No. 10 Texas A&M last season, the Commodores are starting to receive

more national attention. In the latest AP Top 25 poll, Vanderbilt received seven votes, good for No. 34 in the nation.

Vanderbilt couldn't quite keep up with No. 10 South Carolina on Sunday, losing 76-66, but the win over Georgia has the team feeling confident.

"Building this confidence and moving forward, not getting satisfied and content will definitely help us," Lister said.

The team continues its conference schedule at Auburn on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Both tennis teams ranked 16th nationally

By **CALLIE MEISEL**
Asst. sports editor

This spring, both the men's and women's tennis teams will be starting the season ranked No. 16 in the nation, as released by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). While this is the fourth year the women's team has ranked in the top 20 in the last seven years, No. 16 is the highest preseason ranking for the men's tennis team since

2009, when it was ranked No. 27.

The SEC is always highly competitive, and this year is no exception. Eight other men's teams in the SEC are ranked in the top 20, with No. 3 Georgia as the team's toughest competition. Five other SEC women's tennis teams are ranked in the top 25, including last year's SEC champions, the Florida Gators, at No. 2.

Additionally, the spring tennis season is promising at the individual level. After finishing the fall season 64-33 in singles play

What a tangled web of coaches we weave

Head coaching vacancies have made James Franklin a hot commodity. His name has now been tossed around in every corner of the country, from California to Pennsylvania

By **ALLISON MAST**
Sports editor

In a private terminal at Los Angeles International Airport on Sept. 30, USC athletic director Pat Haden met the Trojans' football head coach Lane Kiffin as he disembarked the team plane. A long conversation ended with the termination of the coach's four-year tenure. In the ensuing months, it became clear that Kiffin was just the first domino to fall as coaches began resigning and pursuing the vacancies left behind by their fallen fellow coaches. It didn't take long for Vanderbilt head coach James Franklin's name to appear in nearly every coaching search conversation. In early December, it appeared Franklin became connected to the USC position, although it was never confirmed that the Trojans were formally interested in him. The rumors disappeared when the University of Washington's Steve Sarkisian took the job, but the rumors and speculation had only started.

The next major college program to express interest in Franklin was the University of Texas, whose football program has been falling short of expectations for a few years under longtime coach Mack Brown. Even

before Brown announced his resignation on Dec. 15, websites and blogs began to name Franklin a top candidate for the position, citing his recruiting abilities and visible passion for football. Around this time, several NFL teams also expressed interest in interviewing Franklin, and it was revealed that the Houston Texans had interviewed Franklin before hiring Penn State head coach Bill O'Brien on Jan. 3.

O'Brien's move from State College to Houston once again ignited the Franklin rumor mill, making the fate of the third-year Vanderbilt coach a hot topic on Twitter and sports blogs. Sources close to Franklin believed the Pennsylvania native would return to coach in his home state if presented with the opportunity. Penn State is historically a football powerhouse and has one of the most enthusiastic fan bases in the country. Franklin is rumored to have interviewed with the program on Sunday prior to departing for Pasadena, where he appeared with ESPN analysts to discuss the BCS National Championship game on Monday.

Before Franklin boarded his flight back to Nashville on Tuesday, FootballScoop.com reported that Penn State now plans to offer James Franklin the position of head football coach. This, coupled with the Vanderbilt's

inability to confirm Franklin's plans, have Commodore fans begging their favorite coach to stick around. Vanderbilt defensive coordinator Bob Shoop and offensive coordinator John Donovan began following Penn State commitments on Twitter, sending the Vanderbilt faithful into a frenzy.

The Penn State Nittany Lions of the Big Ten Conference finished the season with a 7-5 record but were not eligible to compete in a bowl as a result of the sanctions following the Jerry Sandusky scandal. The sanctions also include a loss of scholarships and the vacation of all wins from 1998 to 2011. If Franklin were to head north, he would inherit a program crippled by years of past corruption.

Although it has not been announced whether or not Franklin plans to accept the job offer, dominos sit in front of the Commodores head coach, waiting to be knocked over. If Franklin leaves, there is a high possibility that he will take assistants and recruits with him. Franklin has brought the Vanderbilt program a long way, transforming the football culture in Nashville, earning an unprecedented three consecutive bowl bids and putting together a 24-15 record. But he also has the power to halt its progress.

lays when victory was on the line, and this was certainly the case against Houston on Saturday.

When examining this senior class, it's senseless to start anywhere other than All-American wide receiver Jordan Matthews. Although the potential first-round NFL draft pick was held without a catch in the second half, he was still able to grab the BBVA Compass Bowl MVP award with five catches for 143 yards and two touchdowns. Head Coach James Franklin raised Matthews' behind-the-scenes impact in the second half as well.

"Not once did Jordan come to the sideline and complain," said Franklin. "He was going to do whatever he had to do. We needed him to go

and block and dig out the safeties, and he did it. That's the type of guys we have here. They're going to put the team first always."

Senior middle linebacker Chase Garnham played possibly his best game of an injury-plagued season, recording five tackles and a forced fumble on a jarring hit. Carey Spear's impact was felt as well, as he nailed two important field goals and made a touchdown-saving tackle on a long Houston kick return in the second half. Cornerback Andre Hal sealed the game with a late interception. The impact of these seniors was felt both on and off the field, but their lasting legacy will be the culture of winning they instilled in this Vanderbilt

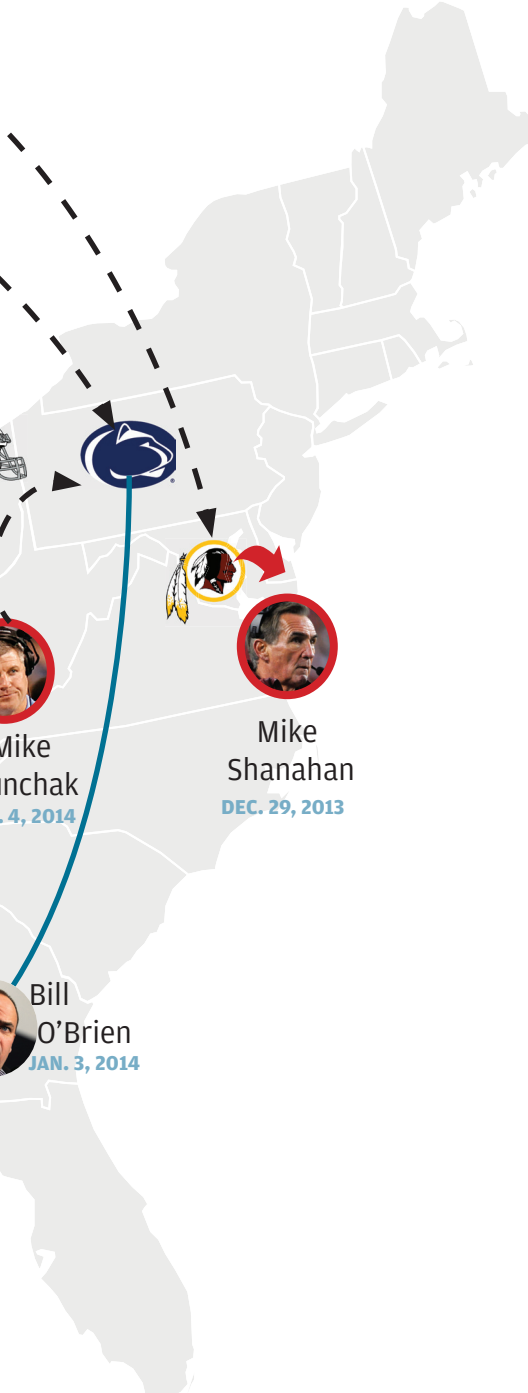
program.

Although there is no denying the integral role these seniors played, this team returns several key players to one of the best teams in Vanderbilt history. Redshirt freshman quarterback Patton Robinette had a rough game on Saturday, but he helped lead the Commodores to late wins over SEC East rivals Florida and Georgia. There is talent on the bench at that position as well, with highly-touted prospect Johnny McCrary taking a redshirt. The Commodores return the bulk of their running game as well, with both Jerron Seymour and Brian Kimbrow slated to return. While there are key losses on the

defense, several talented underclassmen will be given the opportunity to step into these roles. Franklin believes next year's team has the potential to be better than this one.

"We redshirted the most talented class in Vanderbilt history," Franklin said after listing off several key returnees. "We've got 15 guys who redshirted. We're going to be better next year because of the foundation these guys have laid."

While there is some speculation as to who might lead the Vanderbilt football program in the future, there is no question that the table has been set for years to come, and this senior class has everything to do with it.





Life

MOVIE REVIEW:



'American Hustle'



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

By **MATT LIEBERSON**
Life reporter

Despite rave reviews from critics, director David O. Russell's "American Hustle" falls flat due to its sloppy storytelling.

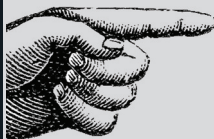
A revised retelling of the Abscam scandal from the 1970s, "American Hustle" details con artists Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale) and Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) teaming up with the FBI to catch corrupt politicians.

Though Bale is almost unrecognizable with a hideous comb-over and beer gut and Bradley Cooper's permed hair as FBI agent Richie DiMaso makes him look straight out of Studio 54, the two are easily identifiable by their superb acting. As Irving, Sydney and Richie work together to pull the biggest con of their lives on Mayor Carmine Polito (Jeremy Renner), their conniving antics soon turn against each other. Bale, Adams and Cooper steal the show with performances so large the story almost seems to take a backseat. Though her part is small, Jennifer Lawrence is also striking as she hilariously embodies Irving's delusional, manipulative wife, Rosalyn Rosenfeld. In a setting where each con is bigger than the last, the over-the-top characters perfectly define the movie, particularly when the cons become personal.

But the problem comes when the actors aren't reined in. Though Russell is known for letting his actors ad-lib to create honest performances, "American Hustle" seems to be left with honest performances underscored by a jumbled narrative. By allowing for such deviation on an already confusing real-life event, the lost details can prove somewhat problematic. Nearing the end of the movie, the plot resolution becomes unsatisfying because the plot itself has been forgotten.

While Russell has been on a hot streak — his most recent films include 2010's "The Fighter" and 2012's "Silver Linings Playbook" — this movie leaves viewers wanting more. Though the performances dazzle, the muddled story unfortunately does not.

GO DO THIS



Coffee for a cause: Bruegger's Bottomless Mug Campaign

Until Jan. 31, Bruegger's Bagels on 21st Avenue South will be selling memberships to the Bottomless Mug Club. If you buy a membership, you receive a travel mug, wallet card or keytag and receive free refills of coffee, tea or soft drinks for the rest of 2014. This year, Bruegger's is partnering with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, so a portion of the proceeds from Nashville's Bruegger's will benefit Vanderbilt's Children Hospital. Though the mug is a little pricey at \$169, it can save you lots of morning coffee runs and it's for a good cause.

THE BEST OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN 2013

2013 had its fair share of ups and downs, but when those ups and downs happen online for the whole world to see, it's guaranteed that the highs become higher and the lows are lower. The following are some of the best of social media that 2013 had to offer

By **Priyanka Aribinidi**, life reporter

1

Best selfie:

Sasha and Malia at the 2013 Presidential Inauguration

If 2013's social media landscape could be defined by one word, it would undoubtedly be "selfie." With the rise of Snapchat and selfie's acknowledgment as Oxford Dictionaries' word of the year, the self-portrait has undergone quite the revolution since the days of Van Gogh. And for this new cultural mainstay, we have our ceaseless egotism and beacons of cultural influence (read: the Kardashians) to thank. From Pope Francis to Beyonce, everyone who's anyone had a selfie that hit it big last year, but the top spot has to go to the Obamas — Sasha and Malia, that is. The president made headlines after a picture of him posing for a selfie with British Prime Minister David Cameron and Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt at Nelson Mandela's memorial service went viral, but what's that exciting about a few world leaders flashing smiles at a funeral? The Obama girls' inaugural selfie remained the only duckfaces that didn't have us rolling our eyes this year, while also giving everyone a much needed break from debating politics and analyzing Michelle's outfits.

2

Best viral moment:

Miley Cyrus at the VMAs

From the Miami Heat's Harlem Shake to Pope Francis embracing the tumor-covered man in St. Peter's Square, there were plenty of viral moments to make us smile in 2013. But forget smiles; like many videos throughout the year proved, it's not too hard to get one of those on our face. Only one entertainer could get us to cringe for a full six minutes, 26 seconds straight, and that would be the one and only Miley Cyrus. The "We Can't Stop/Blurred Lines" medley at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards gave birth to the tongue seen 'round the world and still has us talking. Cyrus may have lost out to the pope for Time's Person of the Year, but for this Hustler category we'll let her have her hammer and lick it too.

Best tweet:

Cole Sprouse's response to his nude brother

Between everything Amanda Bynes sent and the endless corporate Twitter hacks, it seemed like no one could get their hashtags right in 2013. But we soon learned that Twitter faux pas are the best faux pas, and this year's best tweet had to arise from one of the many, many blunders that got us talking. With so many selfies entering the Twittersverse last year, the most eye-catching seemed to be the one that involved the least amount of clothes. A late entry to 2013, Dylan Sprouse's sans-clothes selfie came just in time for a tweenage Christmas and paved the way for his twin brother Cole to send the best tweet of 2013. With nearly 115,000 retweets and 155,000 favorites, Sprouse's tweet at his brother, ".@dylansprouse now they've basically seen me naked which is weird I guess," had us all laughing. Sprouse's way with words is a good match for his brother's budding photography skills.

3

Best Twitter feud:

Amanda Bynes vs. the world

Forget Manny vs. Floyd, 2013's Twitter feuds kept us more than occupied. From Perez Hilton vs. Lady Gaga to Kanye West vs. Jimmy Kimmel, celebrities were pulling out the big guns — gossip from Hilton, SpongeBob memes from West — in their Twitter wars. Only one could come out on top though, and weighing in at 107.2 pounds, according to a picture of a scale she tweeted out in July, is the child star gone so wrong, Amanda Bynes. Accounts like Bynes' were the gifts that kept on giving, until she was carted off to rehab. Remember #freemandy? But with fighting words for everyone from the media to "ugly" people to her own nose, it was Amanda Bynes vs. the world last year. Based on her Twitter absence since mid-July, the world just may have gotten the best of our beloved Amanda, but her tweets live on in equal fame and infamy.

4

THIS MONTH IN NASHVILLE

Don't just tell people you live in Nashville, go do it. From comedians to dinosaur runs, this city has a lot going on. This month, go and explore your second home

'I LOVE LUCY: LIVE ON THE STAGE'

Tennessee Performing Arts Center
"I Love Lucy" is coming to the James K. Polk Theater from Jan. 14 through Feb. 2. In this new stage show, the audience is transported to the Desilu Playhouse studio, where they get to enjoy the antics of Lucy, Ricky, Fred and Ethel. The show follows the behind-the-scenes filming process, as the famous four-some film two very familiar "I Love Lucy" episodes. For tickets, visit <http://tpac.org>.

AN EVENING WITH DANNY GLOVER

Langford Auditorium
Danny Glover will be the keynote speaker for this year's MLK Day celebration. Best known for his work in films like "The Color Purple," "Dream Girls" and the "Lethal Weapon" franchise, Glover has also become known for his philanthropic efforts. In particular, the actor is a strong advocate for access to economic justice, health care and education programs in the United States and Africa. He has served as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program, and he currently serves as a UNICEF Ambassador. Tickets are free and available to the public. They can be picked up at the Sarratt Box Office.

JANUARY 2014


| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Jeff Dunham Bridgestone | 9 | 10 Harlem Globetrotters Nashville Municipal Auditorium | 11 Ron White Andrew Jackson Hall |
| 12 | 13 | 14 'I Love Lucy: Live on the Stage' TPAC | 15 Of Montreal Mercy Lounge | 16 | 17 Jack Ryan: A Shadow Recruit Opening in theaters | 18 |
| 19 | 20 An Evening with Danny Glover Langford Auditorium | 21 | 22 New Politics Exit/In | 23 | 24 Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Bridgestone Arena | 25 Zoo Run Run The Nashville Zoo |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 The Music of Led Zeppelin Schermerhorn Symphony Center | 31 'That Awkward Moment' Opening in theaters | |

ZOO RUN RUN

Nashville Zoo
Zoo Run Run 2014 will be celebrating the return of DinoTrek, an exhibit at the zoo featuring lifelike dinosaurs spring 2014. The day will include a 5K trail throughout the zoo's property, including areas not available to the public. Participants are encouraged to dress as their favorite dinosaur or cavemen for the Bedrock Costume Contest, which will follow the race. Dinner and refreshments will also be included in the race registration. For non-zoo members 13 years old and older, tickets are \$42. For more information, visit <http://nashvillezoo.org>.

'THAT AWKWARD MOMENT'

In theaters
Zac Efron, Miles Teller and Michael B. Jordan star in this upcoming comedy about relationships. The movie chronicles three best friends as they each try to decide where their respective relationships are going.



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opinion

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I used to make fun of my younger sister for refusing to eat pork because she could only see Wilbur from 'Charlotte's Web' and Pooh's best friend when she looked down at her plate. Now I know she just had a conscience I didn't."

DAVID SHUCK



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, visit the InsideVandy.com Opinion page.

I've gotten so many recent burglary notices from VUPD that my email is starting to classify them as junk.

David Shuck, (Black Friday Bites) do you hate America?

I'm thinking about eating dinner in a few days so I ordered food at the Pub last night.

You would think with all of the premed students here people would understand that sticking your hands under running water for three seconds does not constitute as washing your hands!

WHERE ARE ALL THE SQUAT RACKS IN THE GYM? SMITH MACHINES ARE NOT SQUAT RACKS!

Wow, it's so warm outside. I'm sweating like it's no one's business.

Why is The Rant anonymous? I want to know who's writing this right now. Gawsh. (Oh wait, it's me)

Can I be the new face of the Rant? Pleeeeease???

(Editor's Note: Come to Sarratt 130 next Tuesday).

TELL ME WHY VANDY GETS A SNOW DAY WHEN I GO ABROAD!

Does Vandy Basketball have a beat writer? Because I'm willing to be VUBB's beat writer.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET MY KENNY TAN FIX?

Who wants boiled eggs in their edamame at lunch? Nobody. Ever. Work on that, Rand.

No to-go cups in the Commons Center?!? I'm just trying to get coffee to go sometimes and I can't.

Flu season sucks, but Student Health rocks! Thanks!

Zeppos oversteps his bounds

The Chancellor's recent statement is falsely inclusive of students and faculty

ZACH BLUME

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chancellor Zeppos,

We've only ever personally spoken briefly, but I'd like to respond to your Dec. 31 statement concerning the American Studies Association's (ASA) democratically-passed resolution to boycott Israeli academic institutions. I am a Vanderbilt undergraduate, someone you claimed to represent, who disagrees with your act of writing to the press in our name, and who believes that you do not represent our community which has not yet taken a formal position on this issue.

Growing up, my father taught me that Jewish life meant a kind of solidarity, a duty of remembering our history as an oppressed people in this country and that continuing reality around the world. I have a responsibility every day, not just during Passover, to "remember that you were a slave in Egypt and that the Lord your God redeemed you from there," and ensure justice for the oppressed: "You shall not pervert the justice due an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge."

I am not a Palestinian, nor have I lived in Israel. Yet, I do feel like I

am in a position to criticize what you did. You claimed to represent the views of an entire university community and interpreted for us a key right, academic freedom, which people like us won through struggle: struggle against the administrative bureaucracy of universities and their censorship of our scholarly activity and against governments which encouraged these kinds of censorship and restrictions. Let's not forget the university "Loyalty Oaths" taken to the "American government" and against "reds." We won these struggles against people in your position, the position of "above."

Freedom is born in struggles for rights. One does not claim a need for freedom against those below you. One claims a need for freedom against the actions of those above you, because they are failing to democratically represent you.

The Palestinians are demanding freedom from the Israeli government which has oppressed them, occupied their lands with its military forces, forced them into crowded cities rife with poverty and malnutrition. Many people have supported their call to all people of the world to engage in three tactics: Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, also known as BDS, directed against Israeli institutions. These tactics have been known by many names and in many languages as the peaceful weapons of the people. Many here in the United States—in fact, many at this university!—and even all across the world, support these tactics. The Palestinians and their Israeli allies put out a call for BDS, and many of us have mobilized by seeking to use the democratic processes of the institutions we are part of: synagogues, churches, credit unions holding investments in occupied territory, our pension funds and similarly, our workers' unions and workers' associations which make collective contracts and make transactions in our name.

Yes, some faculty pursued and participated in the democratic process within their associations. One of these was the ASA, a national organization representing 5,000 American Studies scholars.

The ASA voted overwhelmingly (66 percent in favor with 3 percent abstaining) to support the academic boycott of Israeli institutions and sever their organizational contracts. Yet, they refrained from restricting individual collaboration with Israeli academics, which they say they support in the spirit of dialogue. This all occurred after petitions were created, the resolution was crafted based off the international movements' careful phrasing, proposed, moved through a committee, disseminated, presented at conventions and finally voted upon by the full membership directly. This is what we call direct democracy. It takes a lot of work.

You state that academic freedom compels you and your administration brothers-in-arms at other universities to protect poor, defenseless faculty members and students from decisions which they have made themselves. Was academic freedom created to censure faculty members speaking up and acting in support of liberation struggles, or to defend them? Was the point of "academic freedom" to authorize university bureaucrats to be the sole arbiters of our core university values and tenets, or was its intention in fact the exact opposite?

You reference a statement released by the Association of American University (AAU) Executive Council on Dec. 20, a council of administrative representatives not elected by their university communities, which reads in part: "Academic freedom is the freedom of university faculty responsibly to produce and disseminate knowledge through research, teaching, and service, without undue constraint." However, I would like to remind you of another AAU Executive Council statement from April which reads: "Freedom of inquiry, exercised through academic freedom and supported by institutional autonomy, underpins [a university's] mission." I personally suspect that you and your colleagues are conflating "freedom of inquiry" with "academic freedom," forgetting the competing tensions within your mandate, which I believe was created and is maintained to create faculty autonomy from forces from



“ You are grandstanding with your fellow AAU administrators as a public relations tactic one which is likely a result of pressure from the many well-organized and well-funded American special interest organizations which support the Israeli government’s policies and discourage criticism and activism against it. ”

above, especially domineering and un-elected administrators with hiring and firing power. The same April 2013 statement reads, “By including multiple constituencies in decision-making processes, the university can ensure that different voices are heard and integrated into a cohesive vision. Shared governance thus provides the mechanisms to support the university’s autonomy.” Which constituencies did you include in your decision-making process in releasing your statement, Mr. Zeppos? Tell us, who did you consult with? Did your statement really aid faculty and scholarly autonomy, or subvert it?

Society is not the negation of individuals, but the highest expression of the legitimacy of individual wills. Collective action is not a violation of individual freedom; it is the highest expression of individuals forging a meaningful response at a necessary scale. The person who slams the door shut on collective action is the person who invites the violence of desperate individuals, something we’ve seen far too much of.

Chancellor Zeppos, by speaking without consulting the tens of thousands of people you claim to represent, in stark contrast to the very democratic process followed by the ASA, you are repeating the historical mistakes of previous holders of your position, the Chancellery of Vanderbilt University. These men also decided to oppose Vanderbilt students’ call for divestment of the university endowment from Apartheid-era South Africa. These men expelled James Lawson, the architect of the nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins which desegregated our city. You are following in the footsteps of those men.

You are grandstanding with your fellow

AAU administrators as a public relations tactic — the simultaneous release of all of your nearly identical statements to the press makes this obvious — one which is likely a result of pressure from the many well-organized and well-funded American special interest organizations which support the Israeli government’s policies and discourage criticism and activism against it. These organizations’ success in lobbying lead to such reprehensible actual attempts to suppress dissent in actual violation of academic freedoms, such as nine out of 12 of City Council members in New York recently sending a letter threatening to sever all funding for City University of New York (CUNY) schools when a Political Science department sponsored an event discussing the “BDS Movement in Israel.” This consistent national and institutional atmosphere of intimidation against those who encourage action is the poignant academic freedom violation of our time.

The appropriate method for our university community to speak on this issue — interpreting the application of academic freedom on boycotts and the right of faculty associations to support BDS — should be statements issued by our duly elected Faculty Senate, by our duly elected Student Government and by our duly elected Alumni Association, if each decides to do so. You are pretending you represent our community’s opinion on this issue when you have no such claim.

InsideVandy.com

Read what the
‘Dores for Israel said
about the boycott at
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Vegetarianism in Packerland

Beef: It's not what's for dinner



DAVID SHUCK

is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science and a member of the Vanderbilt debate team. He can be reached at david.j.shuck@vanderbilt.edu.

In the predominantly Catholic Green Bay, Wisconsin, Sundays around Christmas are pretty important. Christmas, being a fairly big deal for most Christians, is a time for thankfulness, giving, family, worship (be you so religiously inclined) and of course, time off from class. In Green Bay, though, to accompany the holiday green, many opt out of red to favor gold, as the week's first day imposes an additional spiritual obligation. By congregation size, my hometown's largest competitor for the holy majority is the church of Lambeau, with just about the entirety of the city's population in regular attendance and a large following from beyond the Green and gold Bay gates.

Were one uninterested in the barbarism of fandom, growing up in Packerland would be an odd sort of thing. Neonates are promptly indoctrinated and taught the rituals of beer-ful cheering, enemy-fixating, cheese-heading, ref-shaming and picking a side on Favre, such that the adrenaline rushing inspires a camaraderie with locals you've never met but trust by uniform. I suppose it's not the kind of thing most people feel even deserves a question; the activity is, from the inside, pretty self-evidently great. The ones not swept off their Lazyboys for Hail Marys and fourth down going-for-its, understandably, seem pretty abnormal.

I never really enjoyed the craze, but for a long time it was always just the way things were; it took aging and departure for me to see the light. Now I'm a bit more vocal about my distaste, having just returned home for a break during which my family spent their time not smiling and laughing together but instead shouting at a screen in rage.

The fear-instilling brand "The Packers" contains a root verb often opaque to those who associate it only with a team. To thank the Indian Packing Company for their jersey-money donation, then-employee Curly Lambeau named his up-and-coming football team after the canned meat industry, the Packers. Still today Green Bay has its fair share of meat packing plants happy to share a title with the team of the town, and as such, every day driving to elementary, middle and high school there was a pretty darn good chance that I'd see a truck rolling down the road, metal sidings full of holes. Depending on proximity and angle, one could divine the cargo by the nervous shuffling of the pre-packed meat struggling for air.

It was a long time before I knew what a slaughterhouse was, and it took me even longer to understand them. Knowing that the food on my plate came from cows I often saw heading to JBS Packerland, 1330

Lime Kiln, and knowing that upon reaching that very plant the cows are restrained, stunned with a brain-aimed captive bolt, beheaded with the tearing of an employee's blade through the throat, bled out, skinned, dismembered, sawed up and sent to coolers were and continue to be very different things.

Like so many do, I gave up meat in 2012 after watching a documentary, "Food Inc.," only guilty that I hadn't sooner. I used to make fun of my younger sister for refusing to eat pork because she could only see Wilbur from "Charlotte's Web" and Pooh's best friend when she looked down at her plate. Now I know she just had a conscience I didn't. Tables have turned a bit since then, and I'm the odd one out at family dinners, many of which follow games of a team named after those who held the knife. Even returning home to Tiletown, USA, I can't help but recognize that the titles it's known for mean more than most people care to notice. The worst, though, is that this last break was the first time I ever really felt the horror of my town, braked at a traffic red and watching the umpteenth truck rumble by, silent and unnoticed, sending I-couldn't-count-how-many mammals to plates, to shelves, to die.

The Packers lost to the San Francisco 49ers this Sunday. The rest of the family was watching; I found out some time later. This season was a real bummer, because every player will get paid his full multi-million dollar salary and there are no permanently crippling injuries. Oh wait — that's not quite a bummer at all. I like to tell my family that, as Green Bay is the smallest city with an NFL team, there are probably more happy faces every time it loses than when their team wins. No one ever says much back.

In other news, though, for some this season is unfortunate. JBS, the company of the plant 1.5 miles and 4 minutes from my home, has a daily slaughter capacity of 86,000 head of cattle, and is the world's largest beef processor in the world. With a Packer season lasting 120 days, about 1,032,000 cows sustained irrevocable physical damage since it began. On the upside though, that's more than one per fan were Lambeau filled to capacity every one of those 120 days.

Animal cruelty lies right under our noses and chewed in our mouths, but is kept out of view. The immense system of factory farming and creature murder are not without adverse effects on our health and our environment. Maybe you won't change what you eat or how you feel about doing so, but I ask that you know what's on your plate and know it didn't start there.



Write for The Hustler!

In addition to Rants, The Hustler is accepting guest columns and letters to the editor, as well as applications to write regular columns.

Email opinion@insidevandy.com for more information.

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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.

All submissions become the property of The Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which The Hustler is a division.

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Duck debacle

Public image of reality television star is just another plotline



MOLLY CORN is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at molly.e.corn@vanderbilt.edu.

You'd have to be completely cut off from social media to have missed "Duck Dynasty" star Phil Robertson's controversial comment on homosexuality, removal from the show and subsequent reinstatement nine days later. The comment had the left screaming "bigot" and the right defending him with appeals to the First Amendment. Generally speaking, Robertson's opinion isn't that surprising, given that he is both a Southerner and an evangelical, and furthermore, according to Pew Research Center, approximately 25 percent of the country shares his views, a figure that is not insignificant.

I personally find the viewpoint abhorrent, and would argue that anyone spouting it is, in fact, a bit of a bigot. But the First Amendment does, in fact, allow people to say what they please, and a private company like A&E is, in fact, allowed to subsequently fire (and rehire) him.

If you find his comments unsavory, and think he ought to be fired, recognize that that sets a precedent that all reality TV stars should be under scrutiny for any politically controversial or religious opinion they publically state. In theory, holding people accountable for their statements is generally accepted as a positive thing. However, in the alternative universe of reality TV world, the more controversial and badly behaved a "star" is, the more media attention he or she receives. "Duck Dynasty" already had a viewership top-

ping American Idol, averaging 5.5 million people per episode. Over winter break, while waitressing in East Tennessee, I encountered many people wearing apparel emblazoned with the faces of characters from the TV show. It seems unlikely that any of the former viewers were hard left liberals who are suddenly going to boycott the television show because of Robertson's homophobic comments. A&E's original moral outrage at Robertson quickly dissipated when the corporation realized it could be losing money by taking Robertson off the air. The main objective of any corporation or TV network is to make money, and many people watch a show simply because it's popular. In fact, his remarks may even bring in more viewers.

But through all the amateur constitutional scholarship and accusations of hate speech, I wonder why this is worthy of news coverage? The short answer is that someone being famous suddenly means that his opinion holds more authority than someone who is not famous. Sometimes it even means that a duck hunter's religious opinion means more than a biblical scholar's (see Rick Lowery on "The Bible and Marriage Equality" if you're interested in a theologian's take on Christianity and homosexuality).

I'm going to sound like my mother for a moment, but the general popularity of reality TV shows like "Duck Dynasty" worries me. Any plot line needs drama to function, and in reality TV this nearly always means

glorifying petty gossip, belligerence and generally bad behavior, both on and off screen.

The glorification of bad behavior in adults is what makes most 12-year-olds so bratty; when attempting to form their identities, they see insipid adults being held up as bastions of adulthood. At an age when kids are beginning to evaluate and categorize people based on career, education and societal participation, they see people who do not exemplify good citizens getting more money and media attention than the Malala Yousafzais of the world. And it's our fault. The media market supplies what the consumer demands just as any other market would. And every episode of "Keeping up with the Kardashians" is basically a request for another episode, as well factoring into the demand for "Duck Dynasty" and any other reality TV show imaginable.

Although I know that reality TV is often a guilty pleasure, in the New Year I challenge you to turn it off, mostly to stop giving these "stars" an overinflated sense of importance, but also because I guarantee there's something better to watch on campus, whether it be Vanderbilt Off-Broadway's upcoming production of "Grease," another Tongue 'n' Cheek show or one of the many fantastic dance performances put on by student associations such as Harambee or Cafe con Leche.



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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | SAT & SUN |
|---|------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 2 for 1 Entrees Half priced Bottles of wine <small>5PM to Close</small> | Service Industry Night | 2 for 1 Tacos <small>with purchase of a beverage, 5PM to Close</small> | 5 Tacos for \$10 <small>5PM to Close</small> | Señoritas & Margaritas <small>Half Priced Pitchers of Margaritas & Sangria</small> | BRUNCH 10 AM to 4PM 2 for 1 Beers And \$15 Bottomless Mimosas |

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TODAY'S SPECIALS - NEW MENU ITEMS - EVENTS

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Amerigo | Music City Flats |
| Cantina Laredo | Rotier's |
| Corner Pub | Rumours Wine Bar |
| Dan McGuinness | Sam's Sports Grill |
| DeSano Pizza Bakery | The Slider House |
| Edge Hill Cafe | South Street |
| Exit In | Soulshine Pizza |
| Gold Rush | Tavern Mid-Town |
| Grins Vegetarian | The Row |
| Jacksons | Tin Angel |
| Pancake Pantry | Turnip Truck West |
| Provence Breads | Two Boots Pizza |



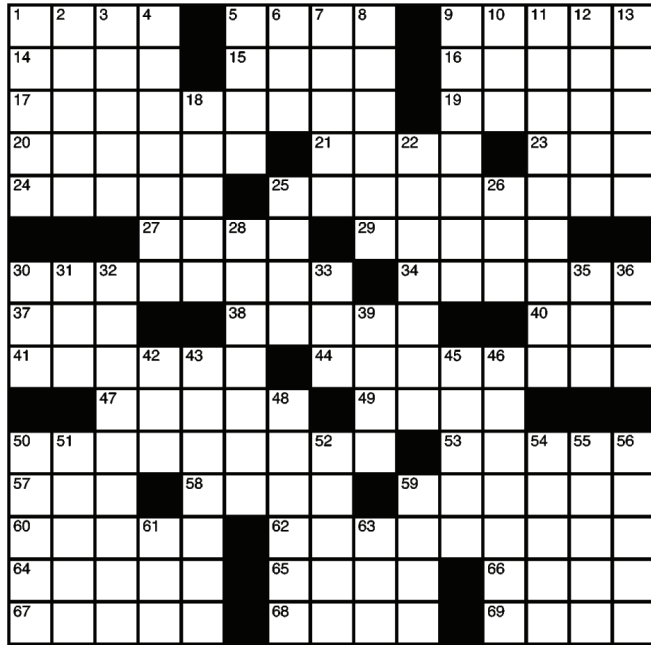
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backpage

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___-loading: endurance strategy
 - 5 Chance
 - 9 Shocking weapon
 - 14 Worker protection org.
 - 15 Singer from County Donegal
 - 16 Sky hue
 - 17 *Marlin, for one
 - 19 Prepare to make an electronic payment, say
 - 20 Halves of fifths
 - 21 Breaking wave feature
 - 23 Drink for a hot day
 - 24 Nasty expression
 - 25 *Source of endless funds
 - 27 "You're dreaming"
 - 29 Hate
 - 30 *Common Milky Way star
 - 34 Gallery baddies
 - 37 Yoko of Tokyo
 - 38 Rodeo rope
 - 40 ___-cone
 - 41 Mount McKinley's national park
 - 44 *Billiards maneuver
 - 47 Where the floor is always wet
 - 49 Banking regulatory agcy.
 - 50 *Part of a uniform
 - 53 Latish wake-up time
 - 57 Curve
 - 58 "Woe ___!"
 - 59 "Gracias" reply
 - 60 Spanish American grassland
 - 62 Family relations, and what the first words of the answers to starred clues can have
 - 64 Frequent Mastroianni co-star
 - 65 Edger's target
 - 66 Spacewalks, for short
 - 67 Range with chinchillas
 - 68 Former partners
 - 69 Take out



By Daniel Nierenberg

1/8/14

- 2 Rockies skiing destination
- 3 Avignon's river
- 4 Work at a saloon
- 5 They may cry foul
- 6 Pasta ending
- 7 Big name in food distribution
- 8 Aloha State big shot
- 9 "There's the fox!"
- 10 Nitrogenous dye
- 11 *Chocolate overdose consequence
- 12 Undermine
- 13 Actress Zellweger
- 18 Lose on purpose
- 22 Give a new commercial name to
- 25 Mademoiselle's matriarch
- 26 Dress to the nines, with "up"
- 28 Shunned ones
- 30 "Maggie May" singer Stewart
- 31 Cincinnati-to-NYC direction
- 32 *What a driver's license may serve as
- 33 "Swell!"

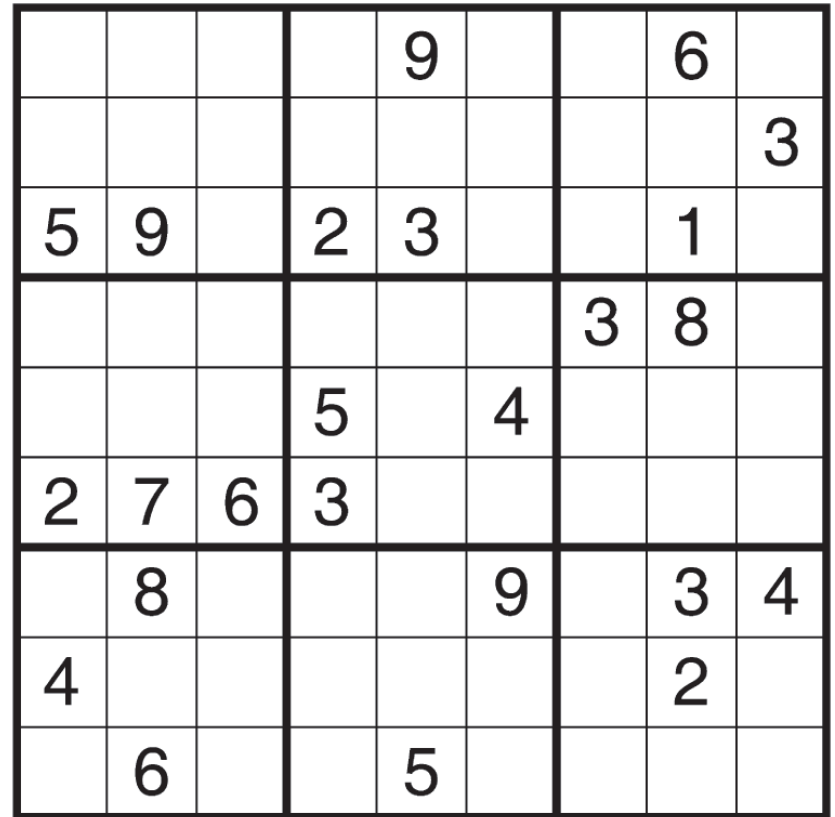
Wanna see if you got all the words right?

Check back here next week for answers.

(We promise they'll be here.)

- 35 Eclectic musician Brian
- 36 Lush
- 39 First president to throw a ceremonial opening day pitch
- 42 Cry from Cathy of comics
- 43 Skin wounds
- 45 Passed, as rubber checks
- 46 Like aromatherapy products
- 48 Quick and light
- 50 Half a Northwest city
- 51 Sock synthetic
- 52 Take a load off
- 54 Credulous
- 55 Words after cut or close
- 56 Pool stroke
- 59 Mafia bigwigs
- 61 Maiden name intro
- 63 Have to thank (for)

TODAY'S SUDOKU



1/8/14

Seriously, you'll have to wait until next week.

Bummer, we know.

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

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