



The Dores defeat the Dawgs in their rematch...

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# The Vanderbilt Hustler

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007 • 119<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, NO. 12

## THE WALL

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

### TODAY Mandatory candidates meeting

Any student interested in running for VSG Senator of School Council President must attend the Mandatory Candidates meeting in Sarratt 363 at 6 p.m.

### TODAY GLBT staff mixer

The Vanderbilt Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Office will be hosting a wine and cheese reception for faculty and staff and their guests. The event will be held at the GLBT office, attached to the Community Partnership House, from 5 to 7 p.m.

### TODAY History department lecture series

As a part of the history department lecture series, Professor Robert Norrell of the University of Tennessee will be speaking at a lecture titled "The Media and the Movement: The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow in 20th Century America." It is open only to the Vanderbilt community and will take place from 4:10 to 7 p.m. in Calhoun Hall, room 109.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 6 Showing of 'Tupac: Resurrection'

The Bishop Johnson Black Cultural Center will show "Tupac: Resurrection" at noon in the BCC as a part of the Civil Rights Film Series. The showing is open to the public.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 6 Afeni Shakur to speak at Black Cultural Center

Afeni Shakur, mother of the late rapper Tupac Shakur and former member of the Black Panther Party, will speak at the Black Cultural Center from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 6 Learn about personal finance from two professors

The Arts and Science Council is sponsoring a Personal Finance Boot Camp, led by professors Steve Buckles and Malcolm Getz. The event will be held in Furman 132.

Compiled by staff from various sources. Check out <http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu> for more events.

# Snow covers campus twice over weekend



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Freshmen Nate Luibrand and Mlean House roll snow in front of Vanderbilt Hall for the base of a snowman. Students took advantage of the rare wintery precipitation by building snowmen and throwing snowballs after it snowed Thursday and Saturday nights.

# Freedom Riders inspire students to create center, club

## Initiatives to focus on nonviolent protest.

by ALLISON SMITH  
News Editor

For sophomore Wil Keenan, Freedom Ride 2007 was more than just a rolling history tour down Interstate 65 with six of the 1961 Freedom Riders.

For Keenan, the Freedom Ride on Jan. 27 and 28 provided him with the inspiration needed to institutionalize the Freedom Riders' idea of nonviolence at Vanderbilt.

"When you hear (the Rev. James) Lawson and all these other people talk, you hear all the possibilities for conflict resolution without violence," Keenan said. "We can hear about it and study it all we want, but if no one is practicing it, nothing will change."

Freedom Ride 2007 was a positive experience for many students, according to a survey done by

the Office of Active Citizenship and Service and the Office of Student Life. Of the 126 evaluations completed, 108 participants gave the program the highest rating possible.

While OACS Director Mark Dalhouse said all the feedback he has received has been very positive, he thinks students such as Keenan left the program dissatisfied.

"They came away thinking, 'It was a wonderful program, but now what?'" he said.

But just a week after the program, Dalhouse said he has already seen students respond.

"The fact that they have ideas — I think that the Freedom Ride crystallized a lot of this for them," he said. "We have to expect that students will be more assertive and more challenging of the status quo,

Please see **FREEDOM RIDERS**, page 2

## Q & A

with  
Cara Bilotta



**Vanderbilt Student Government President-elect responds to questions from The Vanderbilt Hustler regarding her candidacy, office and plans for the semester.**

**THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER:** How did campaigning this year differ from your approach with Boone Lancaster last year?

**CARA BILOTTA:** For me, the campaign was pretty much similar in that the main goal was to get our platform out to the student body and get the word out there about the election. What was different this year since there were only two tickets running was that campaigning only lasted one and a half weeks, which unfortunately limited our ability to speak with student organizations that meet bi-weekly. Another aspect of this year's campaign was that students are still grasping the concept of Vanderbilt Student Government, so before we started talking about aspects of our platform, we reviewed very briefly the general structure of VSG as well.

**VH:** How did you decide to choose Gragg as your running mate?

**CB:** It was very important to me to have somebody who was involved with Interhall and possessed knowledge of the inner workings of that organization. That was my main focus in choosing a running mate because it was probably my area of weakness. Working with Perry on the Security Committee, I've also been very impressed by his work ethic. When he has an idea or he wants to start something, he gets it done and sees it through.

**VH:** What kind of work and how much time does this office demand?

**CB:** It's certainly a full-time job, and sometimes doing work for student government is more exciting and does distract me from my classes. The bulk of the job is making sure there are open lines of collaboration, making sure everyone is in the loop. To get any project accomplished, whether at Vanderbilt or in the real world, it takes weeks and months of discussion, policy research, writing and feedback.

**VH:** Which initiatives off your platform will you pursue first?

**CB:** Well, we've already started the ball rolling on some of them. Something that I think is a big issue, especially as students become more aware of it, is the academic calendar. If it stands, we will have just one and a half weeks of Winter Break. I have spoken with various administrators already, and unfortunately there are some obstacles to the change. But that does not mean discussions will end. I'm working very hard on this issue right now, and if we cannot change the calendar for 2007-2008, we will look at ways to ensure that this does not happen again.

Vandy Vans is also something that I want to start working on immediately. I've had some open discussions with VUPD and Vice chancellor for Academic and Administrative Affairs Nim Chinniah, and they know that a proposal for Vandy Vans is in the works. I've also spoken with (Dean of The Commons) Frank Wcislo about this because I really see Vandy Vans becoming the link between The Commons and main campus.

**VH:** Any aspects of VSG's structure you would like to change?

**CB:** One of the first things our executive board will discuss is the mandate that candidates for president and vice president must have experience within SGA, Interhall or VSG. I believe it was especially necessary this year since VSG is an entirely new organization, but that is one of the first things we will look at. We'll make sure to have a strong Constitution Committee and a strong attorney general so we can continue to evaluate our constitution and make sure it's effective.

**VH:** Have you always had your sights set on the student government presidency?

**CB:** If you had asked me that freshman year, I would have said I don't see myself in this position. An escalating level of involvement within student government has naturally led me to this point. I found that this was the most effective way to give back to the university that had given me so much.

**VH:** Will you carry your interest in politics beyond Vanderbilt?

**CB:** It's interesting because I've never had a desire to pursue a career in politics; I've wanted to go into medicine probably ever since middle school. But health care policy has always intrigued me, and I think I will always stay abreast of those issues.

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**WEATHER**  
compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

**TODAY**



Mostly Sunny, 28/18

**TUESDAY**



Few Snow Showers, 43/26

**WEDNESDAY**



Partly Cloudy, 39/24

**THURSDAY**



Partly Cloudy, 42/21

**VUPD CRIME LOG**

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

There is no crime to report.

Check out <http://police.vanderbilt.edu/crimelog.htm> for complete listings.

**SERVICE GUIDE**

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the academic year except for during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break.

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each.

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The Hustler strives for accuracy and fairness and will correct errors of substance. See our correction policy on the Opinion page for information about notifying us.

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**BACK ISSUES**

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

**IN THE KNOW**

*The news you need — in brief*

compiled by EVE ATTERMANN

**WORLD**

**U.S. general says four helicopter downings likely the work of insurgent gunners**

The four U.S. helicopters that have crashed in Iraq since Jan. 20 were apparently shot down, the chief American military spokesman said Sunday. This is the first time the U.S. command has publicly acknowledged the aircraft were lost to enemy fire.

Maj. Gen. William Caldwell told reporters the investigations into the crashes of three Army and one private helicopters are incomplete, but "it does appear (the crashes) were all the result of some kind of anti-Iraqi ground fire that did bring those helicopters down."

"There's been an ongoing effort since we've been here to target our helicopters," Caldwell said. "Based on what we have seen, we're already making adjustments in our tactics and techniques and procedures as to how we employ our helicopters."

**Rival Palestinian gunmen ignore truce, continue to battle in Gaza**

Hamas gunmen attacked bases of Fatah-allied troops with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades early Sunday, part of a four-day campaign by the Islamic militants to weaken the security forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

In the West Bank, a strategy session by Fatah leaders ended in a shouting match, with some participants demanding Abbas' party take a tougher stand against Hamas and others pushing to give a mediation effort by Saudi Arabia a chance.

In one particularly angry exchange, participants threw an empty cup and a shoe at each other, witnesses said.

Abbas and Khaled Mashaal, Hamas' supreme leader in exile, are to meet in Islam's holy city of Mecca on Tuesday for reconciliation talks hosted by Saudi King Abdullah in the highest-profile mediation effort in several weeks of fighting. Abbas aides and Hamas officials said they expect the talks to last for several days.

**NATION**

**Victims from Florida tornadoes pause for service at site of church destroyed in storms**

Tornado victims and their supporters turned out for a Sunday service at a church that was demolished in the killer storms that waylaid central Florida, trying to stay optimistic about the long recovery ahead.

The cleanup that began not long after Friday's destruction took a brief pause as the faithful and others gathered under bright sun and clear skies at what was the Lady Lake Church of God. Its splintered remains have become a rallying point in this rural area hit hard by the three tornadoes that killed 20 people and destroyed hundreds of homes.

A gospel choir sang and clapped on a makeshift stage where the church's broken cross was propped up next to an American flag.

"It's sad, because you know, you think, 'Next Sunday, I'm going to go to church, but it's not there any more.' But the building can be replaced. We still have the family of people," said Joy Newton, 53, whose home in The Villages retirement community nearby had no damage.

Gov. Charlie Crist, handling his first natural disaster since taking office last month, attended Sunday's service, having canceled plans to attend the Super Bowl on Sunday night in Miami. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league planned an observance for the victims during pre-game ceremonies.

**Parents charged in child's death go on trial**

The trial of a man and woman accused of killing their 8-year-old son, in a case that led authorities to look into the practices of a Tennessee church, is expected to begin Monday in a suburban Atlanta courtroom.

Joseph and Sonya Smith have been charged with murder in the October 2003 death of their son, Josef. They are accused of confining him and fatally beating him, according to a Cobb County Superior Court indictment.

The Mableton, Ga., couple has been charged with four counts of murder, five counts of first-degree cruelty to children, three counts of aggravated assault and two counts of false imprisonment, according to a 14-count indictment issued in June.

The Smiths are members of the Franklin, Tenn.-based Remnant Fellowship Church, which grew out of church leader Gwen Shamblin's Weigh Down Workshop, a Christian diet program she created in 1986. Authorities raised the church in June 2004 as part of the investigation of Josef Smith's death.

Investigators in the warrant said the child had been struck with a glue stick "causing blood to show through the 8-year-old's underwear" and that he had been locked in a closet and made to pray to a picture of Jesus on the closet's ceiling. They said in the warrant that despite acknowledging the bloodied underwear, the Smiths had deprived the child of medical care.

**CAMPUS**

**Graduate student wins international internship with United Nations organization**

Monica Gibson, a Vanderbilt graduate student working on her master's degree in public policy at Peabody College, has been offered an internship at the U.S. mission to UNESCO in Paris. She will be one of two American interns serving this spring.

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, promotes international cooperation among the United Nations member states in the fields of education, science, culture and communication.

Gibson, who plans to apply to law school after receiving her master's degree, became interested in international relations after working with the Vanderbilt School of Medicine's Institute for Global Health.

"If people know about other cultures, then they'll learn to appreciate and value the people. Tribal and religious conflicts would dissipate," Gibson said. "It's a message that we need to embrace here in the U.S. as well — that if we learn to celebrate diversity, then we can see the humanity in others."

**FREEDOM RIDERS:  
Trip provokes action**



Students heard John Seigenthaler speak on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol as a part of Freedom Ride 2007. ALLISON SMITH / The Vanderbilt Hustler

From **FREEDOM RIDERS**, page 1 and that's a good thing."

Keenan said he also saw students beginning to question how they could bring the messages they heard about nonviolence to campus.

"All the questions that people were asking were aimed at, 'What can we do now?'" Keenan said. "My main concern was how are you going to build social movement when effects aren't as explicit as civil rights. People wanted to go home and start doing something, but they didn't know what to do."

Keenan, along with a few other participants from the trip, has proposed to create either an interdisciplinary major or a Center for Nonviolence at Vanderbilt.

"This has huge implications," Keenan said. "It would institutionalize the study and practice of nonviolence at Vanderbilt to honor and continue the legacy of nonviolent, social justice struggle in Nashville, the cradle of one of the most successful nonviolent movements in the world."

Senior Stacy Tolos, who participated in the Freedom Rides trip, is helping Keenan form the proposal.

"We looked at the other top-20 schools, because you know Vandy is really concerned with its ranking, and at least 10 (universities) have some kind of conflict center or program, so we are kind of behind on the times," Tolos said. "And you know Nashville is the cradle of the civil rights movement, so it would be really appropriate to have this sort of nonviolent program here."

In addition to Keenan's efforts, sophomore Elias Feghali said he is in the process of starting a new organization, Vanderbilt Students for Nonviolence, which aims to be both educational and communitarian.

"I want to teach and learn about nonviolence while simultaneously looking for opportunities to apply nonviolence as a means for social change in Nashville," Feghali said in an e-mail to Keenan.

Junior Corey Sullivan, another participant in the program, was motivated and encouraged by the Freedom Riders' stories and is excited about the prospect of a center on campus to promote the principles of nonviolence.

"I have been discouraged by the current state of world affairs, and hearing the Freedom Riders' stories renewed my belief in people's ability to make change," Sullivan said. "I would love for Vanderbilt to open a center on campus to promote nonviolent protest. A lot of students feel strongly about social and global issues, and the principles of nonviolence give us an outlet to make our voices heard."

Dalhouse said he is very excited about the kind of initiative students are taking in response to their Freedom Ride 2007 experience.

"I hope that the Freedom Rides will continue to act as a catalyst in individuals' lives for people to reflect and think about their own lives and the legacy we've been left with, and how best to be active citizens and active learners," he said. ■

—Christina England contributed reporting for this article.

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# Students' housing concerns to be addressed by panel

SGA senator organizes Common Ground discussion.

by CHRISTINE BROWN  
Contributing Reporter

Students concerned about housing options after the opening of The Commons will have an opportunity to discuss their views with administrators during a panel discussion.

Organized by sophomore Student Government Association Senator Leigh Taylor, the Common Ground panel will be held Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103.

Taylor said that as a sophomore class representative, she felt responsible for bringing administrators and students together to discuss these issues.

"I wanted to create an event that would hopefully open up some meaningful dialogue between the student body and the administration regarding this issue," she said.

In creating the panel, Taylor said she aimed to bring together administrators and students who could bring valuable information and diverse perspectives to the table.

Sophomore Rebecca Kastan said she appreciates Taylor's efforts to alleviate sophomores' concerns.

"I think it is smart to take into consideration the student body's opinion, when they are the people who are truly affected by this," she said.

Faculty panelists include: Dean of Students Mark Bandas; Assistant Provost of Special Projects Howard Sandler; Senior Director of Housing Facilities, Operations and Management Jim Kramka; Associate Director of Dining Camp Howard; rising Chief of Police Marlon Lynch and Dean of The Commons Frank Weislo.

"Every single one of the administrators were honored to be asked and have been very enthusiastic about any information I have sent," Taylor said. "I was impressed with their openness to student questions and pleased with their willingness to reach out to the student body."

Two student panelists will also participate: SGA President Boone Lancaster and rising Panhellenic President Ashley Holmes. ■

# Alumni focus on developing students as future graduates

by EVE ATTERMANN  
Asst News Editor

The Vanderbilt Alumni Association is focused on roping current students in to its association.

The association has announced plans to increase alumni involvement with students and the university as one of its key focuses in the next several years.

"This initiative seeks to understand the needs of the undergraduate students from the time a student applies to VU, through their collegiate years and postgraduation," said Karen Fesmire, president of the Alumni Association, in a recent report.

The new focus includes the "Students as Future Alumni" initiative, which seeks to make the association more accessible to Vanderbilt students.

To achieve this, the association has partnered with departments on campus, among them the Office of Student Affairs, the Career Center, College Halls and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

The association also seeks to provide opportunities for recent Vanderbilt alumni to participate in the admissions process from recruitment to enrollment. Through the Alumni Recruitment Committee, the alumni are able to interview prospective students, attend local college fairs, call admitted students and attend send-off parties.

The alumni interviewing program in particular has achieved relative success. In the past year, 955 volunteers, an increase of 38 percent from 2005, participated in the program.

1,025 interviews have been given, an increase of 53 percent from 2004.

The association's goal is to continue to increase the number of graduates of the last decade who participate in alumni events, primarily through local chapters.

"Being involved in my local chapter offers me the opportunity to give back to the Vanderbilt community," said recent alumna Shellie Leder in the report.

Developing students as future alumni is especially important with regards to alumni donations. Vanderbilt currently ranks 15th in the U.S. News and World Report in terms of alumni giving, whereas Princeton University ranks first. Princeton's strong alumni support contributed to the university's decision not to raise tuition next year. ■

# The Rev. Lawson speaks on civil rights movement



TYLER HAGEN / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
The Rev. James Lawson speaks about his unique experiences, perspectives and sacrifices as a leader of the civil rights movement at the Owen Black Students Association Annual Black History Month/MLK Program Friday afternoon.

## Address challenged audience to rise above societal problems.

by KELSEY PENDLETON  
Contributing Reporter

In celebration of Black History Month, the Owen School of Management Black Students Association invited the Rev. James Lawson to lecture on Friday.

During his lecture, Lawson challenged the audience to rise against problems prevalent in society today such as poor education, poverty, racism, materialism and violence.

In his lecture, Lawson said it is the responsibility of both the government and society to let a new world arise, "a world of equality."

"Too many (of us) go along with (inequalities) without lifting our voices," Lawson said.

Ravyn Miller, a student at the Owen School of Management, introduced Lawson by saying, "Welcome my superhero, James Lawson."

Students Sherie Byrd and Natalie Daniel, both freshmen in the College of Arts and Science, were also present at the lecture. Having participated in the Freedom Ride in January, both were drawn to hear more from the reverend.

"I hope people do listen to his message and take an act when they see injustice in the world and make a difference," Byrd said.

Lawson was a prominent figure in the non-violent movement to end segregation. Starting in the late 1950s as a Vanderbilt divinity student, he first organized lunch counter sit-ins. After being expelled from Vanderbilt, he went on to help lead the Freedom Rides and the march on Washington. After being awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005, Lawson returned to Vanderbilt as a visiting professor.

The lecture was held at 1 p.m. in Benton Chapel. ■

# Students gather to watch the Colts win Super Bowl XLI



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
First-year students came together in the Branscomb lobby to watch as the Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI Sunday night. In a sloppy game full of turnovers, quarterback Peyton Manning committed fewer errors than his counterpart Rex Grossman to win the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player award.

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# OPINION

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### OUR VIEW

## Torch feature does not represent Vanderbilt

The February issue of The Vanderbilt Torch, Vanderbilt's conservative and libertarian commentary magazine, looks much the same as every other issue for the past several years, with articles complaining about the lack of American history requirements and quite a bit of yellow ink. The back page, however, eschews crossword puzzles and cartoons in favor of an advertisement proclaiming the "First Annual Candlelight Vigil for the Abolition of the Minimum Wage." First of all, "first annual" makes no sense, as annual implies a separation of a year between events, and if this is the first vigil, a year cannot have passed. Leaving semantic problems aside, the advertisement is completely tasteless.

The feature continues to

promise "free mocktails," an "iPod Nano giveaway," "skill-retraining booths" and a "guest appearance by Foodguy." The feature mocks almost every Vanderbilt event and the ubiquitous mocktails, but it also mocks the controversy over the living wage at Vanderbilt. Nowhere is this marked as a satirical piece, and The Torch is not The Slant, so one would be within his rights if he were to visit Library Lawn on the listed date (Feb. 16) and demand to enter the iPod Nano contest.

Unfortunately, the real issue here is much more disturbing than The Torch's blatant false advertising. For years Torch staffers have claimed their publication has the best writing of any publication on campus, and yet, when a controversy comes directly to their

doorstep in the form of the living wage movement, they produce no convincing arguments against it. They choose instead to troll people who have invested much more time and effort in attracting supporters than The Torch has. This feature broaches no new issues and makes no new viewpoints heard, and the feature's "comedy" is far too minimal to make up for the sheer crassness involved. The Hustler has been criticized for its lukewarm editorial treatment of the living wage issue, but in this particular case we support LIVE and its supporters over their libertarian detractors.

The feature closes with the caption, "Market forces are part of reality." Surely this is a lesson The Torch is about to learn.

### LETTER

## SGA and Interhall seek students' Vandy Vans feedback

### To the Editor:

The Vanderbilt Student Government elections sparked a great deal of controversy over the effectiveness of our student government to represent the concerns of students on this campus. Today I would like to extend an opportunity to each of you individually to articulate your concerns with regards to one of the most successful and popular services on our campus, Vandy Vans.

While Vandy Vans has experienced unprecedented numbers in ridership, I know the service is not without flaws. In order to expand and improve Vandy Vans, I need your feedback. This morning, Student Government Association President Boone Lancaster sent an e-mail to the student body that contained a link to a survey evaluating Vandy Vans. The survey will take under two minutes to complete, but the information it will provide is invaluable. The results will be the criteria for deciding the future of Vandy Vans.

Please take the time to complete the survey before this Friday, Feb. 9. It can also be found at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sga> or <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/interhall>. With The Commons rapidly approaching, it is critical that Vandy Vans remain an innovative service to ensure that the Class of 2012, the first class to live on The Commons, remains connected to the Vanderbilt community, and your input is critical to ensuring a smooth transition.

**Cara Bilotta**  
SGA Executive Vice President  
VSG President-Elect



Wayne Stayskal—MCT

### COLUMN

## U.S. citizens must eschew government encroachment

**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**

Columnist

I am noticing a disturbing trend in our political attitude as American citizens. This attitude is one of more and more reliance on the government. Before I go any further, I want to be clear that I am not a hard-line Republican who opposes any government program simply because it piles onto the tax bill. I am a Libertarian, and I simply believe that we as Americans need to consider very carefully the economic and social road leading to our potential dependency on government. However, on this particular issue, I believe the overall Republican sentiment against universal health care is well founded.

It is important to realize that every time we look to the government to solve another social or economic woe in our country, we are in a sense betraying democracy. We are saying the citizens themselves cannot handle these issues. Maybe our country has become too large. Maybe people have too many other things to worry about. Maybe handing responsibility to the government means a more efficient system.

These are exactly the same arguments that were used to plant communism in the Soviet Union. Fortunately, we are still far from that situation, but I advise exercising caution before we just throw up our hands in failure and turn a problem over to the government.

The ideas at which we now scoff are the ideas upon which this country was founded: individual responsibility, wise decisions and the free market economy. These founding principles advocate the privatization of hundreds

of current government programs, including Social Security, welfare and health care.

Let's take a look at these problems from a strictly economic point of view. Why is America in such a dilemma when it comes to health care? Why are we throwing so much money away when we still have worse coverage on average than most European countries do? The reason is because we've tried a halfway approach. We neither left health care to competitive private businesses, nor have we taken the entire issue under government control. So we are stuck in the middle with a system that costs double in order to deliver half.

If you believe, as many liberal citizens do, that it is our role as the wealthiest country in the world to enforce morality on our citizens and require them to support the less fortunate financially, I feel that this belief is misguided, but that is another issue entirely. What I don't understand is how one can advocate putting power in the hands of our citizens and then make an exception to this when it comes to health care.

So what is the solution here? It's quite simple: take the government out of the picture. Various private companies will emerge, offering health care plans in a similar fashion to the way auto insurance is handled today. Whether a corporation wants to offer a generous health care plan to their employees or to require said employees to find their own private company would be up to that corporation. So in that way, we remove health care as a mandatory taxation issue and people pay exactly as much as they wish for the health care plan they want.

—Justin Poythress is a sophomore in Peabody College.

**It is important to realize that every time we look to the government to solve another social or economic woe in our country, we are in a sense betraying democracy.**

### OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion section 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 our website.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to The Hustler office or via e-mail to [opinion@vanderbilthustler.com](mailto:opinion@vanderbilthustler.com). Letters via e-mail must either come from a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear or be accompanied with a phone call to the editor-in-chief. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. 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 might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

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COLUMN

# Israeli-Palestinian conflict riddled with doublethink

**CHRISTOPHER McGEADY**  
Columnist

Since before I came to Vanderbilt, I've only just begun to make dents in my mother's firm wall of opposition to the idea of me studying abroad in Israel, which would be a huge boon to my prospective Middle East studies major. Naturally her concern is safety, and this being a time of war I cannot help but make comparisons for the sake of my argument:

"I will admit there are risks; I know this isn't Wichita, Kan., but it's not Baghdad either."

I think there may be just enough truth for that to work. And then, Monday morning, I wake up to read that three people have been killed in a suicide bombing in the quiet Israeli resort town of Eilat. At a bakery, of all places. My case has suffered a setback, to say the least.

Then I read something else. A truce. It is not a truce between Hamas, the radical terrorist organization the Palestinians voted into power last year, and Israel, as many might have hoped, but it is instead a cease-fire between Hamas and Fatah, the party of relatively peaceful Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. I can't help but think all this has directly precipitated from the intentional desire to shift focus, internally and externally, away from important issues standing in the way of peace, so that the indiscriminate murder of innocent civilians can resume. Even the perpetrators of the bombing admitted this. At least we know something: terrorism works.

But how does it work? Is it truly the result of oppression — apartheid, I believe, is the term Jimmy Carter falsely yet deliberately attached to it — or is it something else? Other oppressed and occupied peoples have not taken to suicide bombing. I imagine it takes a certain degree of intent to set up an

infrastructure that is able to base much of its support on hateful indoctrination and a twisted interpretation of an otherwise noble belief system. It's like something out of "1984."

I recently read a book I was given a couple years ago called "The Case for Israel" by Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz. No matter what one thinks of Dershowitz's overall interpretation of the Arab-Israeli conflict, I find it impossible to deny at least one point: the hinge of the moral argument against terrorism, and against the people who support it, rests with intent. Going back to the moral bedrock that is the great teachings of Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Christians and Muslims, the one defining characteristic of a moral action is intent, and it cannot be ignored in the arguments surrounding this conflict that the justifications for the actions of both sides vary greatly.

Ignoring for the sake of brevity the issue of Zionism itself, we have today a situation in which Israel, a sovereign nation recognized as legitimate and independent by much more than a majority of other nations, is under constant threat of attack, allegedly because of the actions it took in self-defense of its people on three separate occasions: 1948, 1967 and 1973. No other nation has ever been told by the rest of the world that territory it acquired in defensive wars against huge armies bent on its total destruction must be given back as a condition for peace with those same aggressors, and even though Israel has shown a willingness to do just that on multiple occasions, supposedly this "occupation" is the oppressive basis for the Palestinian "resistance."

As this bombing pointedly makes clear, this resistance truly has no moral backbone if the only way they can stop fighting is to start killing innocent Israelis. Any complaint of oppression I would meet with the retort

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com

"ZBT's 'Nothing is Frattier than America' party might be the single lamest themed party I've seen in my time at Vanderbilt. You've managed to encapsulate everything I dislike about this school into one banner; bravo. I'd like to paraphrase the cinematic landmark 'Happy Gilmore' when I say we are all dumber for having been exposed to your monstrosity of a banner. I'm ashamed for you. Good luck in the real world!"

"Last time I checked we were a top-20 university; why the heck did we have a review about 'Cinderella III'? Give me a break!!!"

"Why do I still have classes from first semester freshman year on OAK?"

"Why is there always a pile of Coke and water bottles at the bottom of the vending machines when they are broken? Who are these people who pay money for something they will never get?"

"People who don't understand grammar make me sad."

"How many student organizations do we need on this campus, anyway?"

that on multiple occasions the prospect of a just and lasting peace was rejected in favor of more murder, most recently, for example, when Yasser Arafat walked away from Camp David in 2001 and when terror resumed in full force after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005.

This is not a noble cause. It's not even justifiable. It is the deliberate expression of a raw and seething hatred cooked up, focused and sharpened in order to distract people from their real problems. It is no different than any other struggle for dominion: the Crusades, the religious wars in Europe, World War II and now the advent of global Islamic terrorism, the same formula repeated over and over with different variables.

They say if something isn't broken you don't fix it, and the one unbroken cause of this kind of violence is deliberate misinformation designed to stir and focus

hate. Tell a lie enough times and people begin to think it's true, and this goes double for a vicious lie spread among despondent nations. People don't continue to believe the czarist forgery "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," the legends of blood libel or any other rabidly anti-Semitic lies for no reason: hateful fanatics continue to impress these falsehoods until, as O'Brien in "1984" might say, they truly believe that two plus two makes five.

Ultimately, American supporters of the Palestinian "resistance" must wake up to the fact that there is a brutal and violent intent among much of the Palestinian leadership that goes beyond the Israeli "occupation." Israel is not the only nation in the sights of terrorists and extremists. The thought police are coming for us, too.

—Christopher McGeady is a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science.

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## SPORTS

WHAT 2  
WATCH 4

## Upcoming Events

**Men's Basketball**  
**No. 23 Texas at No. 8 Texas A&M**  
**Tonight**  
**8 p.m. CT**  
**ESPN**

The Longhorns (16-6), who are led by freshman phenom Kevin Durant, will have their hands full with Acie Law's Aggies (19-3). Texas A&M is in first place in the Big 12, but Texas, Kansas and Kansas State are just a game back. I like Durant (the first pick in next year's NBA Draft) and the Longhorns in the upset.

Prediction: Texas 78, Texas A&M 75

**Men's Basketball**  
**Syracuse at Connecticut**  
**Tonight**  
**6 p.m. CT**  
**ESPN**

The Huskies (14-8) can kiss the NCAA Tournament good-bye, and if they're not careful, they might not even make the Big East Tournament (12 of the 16 teams qualify). Meanwhile, Syracuse (16-7) is stuck in the middle of the mediocre conference and needs to make a run soon if wants to be dancing come March.

Prediction: Syracuse 73, Connecticut 65

**Men's Basketball**  
**Louisiana State at Tennessee**  
**Tuesday**  
**8 p.m. CT**  
**ESPN**

Who would have guessed that these two teams would be near the cellar in their respective divisions? Tennessee (15-8, 3-5 SEC) has struggled mightily without Chris Lofton, while LSU (13-9, 2-6 SEC) just hasn't been able to score. The Vols have a much better chance of going to the Dance than the Tigers, but a loss here could be crippling.

Prediction: Tennessee 82, LSU 70

**Men's Basketball**  
**Michigan at No. 4 Ohio State**  
**Tuesday**  
**6 p.m. CT**  
**ESPN**

The Wolverines look like they'll miss out on another tournament this year. Currently in sixth place in the top-heavy Big 10, Michigan enters its make-or-break stretch as it has to play Ohio State, Michigan State and Indiana in its next four games.

Prediction: Ohio State 75, Michigan 66

**Men's Basketball**  
**Cincinnati at Providence**  
**Tuesday**  
**6:30 PM CT**

The Friars simply have to win this one to keep their tournament hopes alive. They shouldn't have a problem doing so.

Prediction: Providence 77, Cincinnati 70

**OVERALL RECORD:**  
**32-23**

## Stallings makes all the right moves

Vandy continues to improve as season progresses.

by ANDREW HARD  
Sports Reporter

And to think that this team started the season 1-3.

All year, Vanderbilt has won with lights-out 3-point shooting and crisp offensive execution. On Saturday, the Commodores shot 39 percent from the field and Shan Foster notched only seven points. To win "ugly" as they did, by playing intense defense and taking care the basketball, is something good teams need to do in order to be successful.

It serves as a testament to the job coach Kevin Stallings has done to improve this team over the course of the season. It's hard to believe this is the same squad that gave up 85 points to Georgia less than a month ago.

Defensive intensity and crisp offense are by-products of outstanding team chemistry, which was a gigantic question mark coming into the season for these Commodores and a benchmark of great coaching.

Against a high pressure and very physical Georgia defense, Vanderbilt committed only eight turnovers. Levi Stukes, who torched the defense for 23 points in Athens, was held to only three second half 3-pointers.

"When you play Georgia, you know it's going to be hard-fought," Stallings said. "For us to only have eight turnovers against their pressure is outstanding."

Consider this: after Dan Cage's free throws gave him his stroke back, Stallings called the next play specifically for him. What

did the senior do? Reward his coach's confidence by knocking down a 3-pointer from the corner to give Vandy a 13-point lead.

Consider also that this Vanderbilt team does indeed go 10 players deep, and Stallings rotates them in and out very efficiently.

It is a great testament to Stallings' player development that guys like Jermaine Beal, JeJuan Brown and George Drake are providing outstanding minutes, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

Beal may have had his best game in a Commodore uniform on Saturday, and realizing that, Stallings left him in the game in the closing minutes, a spot normally reserved for Alex Gordon.

"Jermaine has more of a physical defensive presence than (Gordon), and we thought that would be better against (Sundiata) Gaines," Stallings said. "One of our keys was to limit Gaines offensively, and I thought Beal did a great job of that today."

After Saturday's victory, Vanderbilt is definitely looking toward that second seed and the ever-critical first-round bye in the Southeastern Conference tournament.

No one would like that Thursday off more than Stallings, but that's not what he'll be telling his players during practice today. They're just looking to be better next week than they were this week, getting ready to go against Tennessee on Saturday to play another great game.

"Getting (the bye) would mean a number of things, and it would be great for



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt freshman Jermaine Beal attacks the basket in the Commodores' 66-61 victory over Georgia Saturday at Memorial Gymnasium.

us," Stallings said. "But this week, we're just turning our attention to playing a good

game Saturday in Knoxville." With the progress Stallings has made with these players

this season, the race for second might just take care of itself. ■

Cage comes through in clutch  
Senior scores 19 second-half points.

by WILL GIBBONS  
Senior Sports Reporter

When a shooter is missing shots, the opposition should never put him on the free-throw line. This allows him to find his rhythm without anyone guarding him.

In Vanderbilt's key 66-61 victory over Georgia Saturday, this cardinal rule of basketball held true.

With just under 18 minutes left, Georgia coach Dennis Felton protested a foul a little too vehemently, sending the senior to the line for a pair of technical foul shots.

After missing his previous seven jump shots, the Commodores knew to look for Cage after he hit two from the line. Derrick Byars found Cage in the corner for a 3-pointer that gave Vanderbilt a 13-point lead.

"That's kind of a rule of thumb for shooters, you never want to let them see a couple go down," Cage said. "I wasn't getting my feet set, and I didn't have any rhythm. Quite frankly, I might as well have had a Georgia Bulldog uniform on because I was killing us. Then I hit a couple free throws and some shots went down there, and it helped us win."

Cage would go on to hit three more shots from beyond the arc, along with several key free throws down the stretch. He finished with 19 points, two assists and one key offensive rebound.

All of his 19 points came in the second half, and Cage has now scored in double figures in 13 of the last 14 games.

"Cage, in particular, really played like a senior," Felton said. "He's an exceptional shooter, really a machine shooting the ball. He hit four in the second half, and I'm sure that at least three were not of the easy variety and were heavily contested."

While he has been bothered by a sore back for the past week, Cage insists his shooting struggles were all mental during the first half, when he missed all four of his field goal attempts.

"The back wasn't what was causing me to play well," Cage said. "It was my brain. Luckily, my teammates stuck with me and we were able to



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

After going 22 minutes without scoring, Vanderbilt senior Dan Cage caught fire in the second half to lead Vandy to a 66-61 victory Saturday.

pull this one out."

For Cage and his teammates, 6-3 in conference play looks much better than 5-4 would have. The Commodores know they have to grind out some victories.

"There are days when you aren't shooting the ball well and you have to find ways to win," Cage said. "We'd like to think that we can earn a reputation that when it does get ugly, we can fight through it and come out with a win. (Saturday), we did that. I'm just glad we have guys on this team that are willing to get dirty, roll up their sleeves and get it done." ■

Dores bite back  
against Dawgs

by JARRED AMATO  
Sports Editor

In the days leading up to Saturday's contest with Georgia, Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings told his team that this is "a very, very big game for us." The players certainly got the message as they defeated the Bulldogs 66-61 at Memorial Gymnasium.

Despite shooting just 39.3 percent from the field, the No. 24 Commodores (16-7, 6-3 Southeastern Conference) relied on sound defense to win their 10th straight home game and take over sole possession of third place in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division.

"(The win) was huge," said senior Derrick Byars, who scored a team-high 20 points. "We've been talking about the importance of this game all week. We were tied with them in the standings, so it separates us from them a little bit."

The Commodores, who gave up 85 points to Georgia last month, have come a long way defensively and have shown that they can win, even when they don't shoot particularly well.

"We can win in a variety of ways. We can win if the score gets high and we can win if the score gets low," Stallings said. "I know we are going to compete. They scored 85 against us on us down there. The thing I take out of this game is how much progress we've made defensively. They got us a little in the second half, but they couldn't find a good shot in the first half."

On Thursday, Byars said the key to Saturday's game was to "just lock down on defense," and that's exactly what they did.

"The primary reason we lost the last time in Athens is that we didn't guard," Byars said. "I don't think there was any stretch of the game that we didn't lock down on defense."

Vanderbilt held Georgia to just 22 points in the first half as it led by 10. The Bulldogs responded with a run late in the second half to pull within three, but did not get any closer as Vanderbilt hit four of six foul shots down the stretch to seal the victory.

The Commodores enter their week off on a positive note and should be excited to prepare for the Vols next Saturday. They have won four straight conference home games for the first time in Stallings' tenure and have put themselves in thick of the SEC East race.

"We'd like to think that we can earn a reputation that when it does get ugly, we can fight through it and come out with a win," said senior Dan Cage, who scored 19 second-half points. "(Saturday), we did that." ■

# Vandy cruises past Alabama

## HUSTLER STAFF REPORT

The Vanderbilt women's basketball team is on a roll.

Caroline Williams scored 17 points as the No. 15 Commodores (20-4, 6-3 Southeastern Conference) defeated Alabama (10-14, 0-9 SEC) 91-51 at Memorial Gymnasium on Sunday to earn their third straight victory.

Williams made three 3-pointers in the first half as the Commodores raced to a 15-0 lead. Eleven players broke into the scoring column for Vanderbilt, which posted its eighth consecutive season with at least 20 victories.

Vanderbilt's single-game record for field goal percentage was shattered Sunday as the Commodores connected on 76.2 percent of their shots, including 84 percent in the second half. Thirty-two of Vanderbilt's 42

shots were good, leading the Commodores to more than 90 points for the fourth time this season.

Vanderbilt led by 20 points four times in the first half and pushed the margin to 40 in the closing minute.

Junior Liz Sherwood had 13 points and six rebounds, while Carla Thomas and Christina Wirth chipped in with 11 each. Freshman Jessica Mooney added 10 points on five-for-five shooting.

Senior point guard Dee Davis reached another milestone in her Commodore career. With a pull-up jumper at the 18:04 mark of the second half, Davis became the 27th member of Vanderbilt's 1,000-point club. Just seven days ago, the senior surpassed Ashley McElhiney in career assists to move into first place all-time at. ■



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler  
Vanderbilt freshman Jessica Mooney scored 10 points in the Commodores' 91-61 victory over Alabama Sunday at Memorial Gymnasium.

# Baseball season under way

by JARRED AMATO  
Sports Editor

A little bit of snow and cold temperatures didn't stop the Vanderbilt baseball team from playing its second annual Alumni Game Saturday afternoon at Hawkins Field.

The Commodores, who begin their regular season Friday against Rice in the Houston Astros College Classic, defeated the Alumni team 6-2.

Junior first baseman Brad French led off



MASON HENSLEY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Sophomore Nick Christiani earned the victory Saturday afternoon in the Alumni Game at Hawkins field.

the third with a single through the right side, setting up junior Ryan Davis' home run off of Alumni starter Jensen Lewis.

Back-to-back doubles by juniors David Macias and Alex Feinberg made it 3-0. Feinberg later scored on a Pedro Alvarez single and throwing error to make it 4-0.

The Alums rallied back with a two-run fifth inning to make it 4-2, but the 2007 squad added two more runs in the seventh to make it 6-2.

Sophomore Nick Christiani, projected as the No. 2 starter behind David Price, came on in relief in the fifth to pick up the win. He struck out five in three and one-third innings and did not allow a run with four walks.

Price started the game and gave up two runs on four hits with five strikeouts and three walks in four and two-thirds. Senior Casey Weathers, the team's closer, came on in the ninth and struck out the side to end the game.

Feinberg led all hitters with two hits, two RBIs and two runs scored. Klosterman, Antoan Richardson, Warner Jones and Tony Mansolino recorded a hit each for the Alums.

Jensen Lewis was tagged with the loss after giving up four runs, three earned, on six hits in two and one-third innings of work. ■

## Sports Briefs

The Vanderbilt men's tennis team (3-2) finished a five-match home stand Sunday with a 4-3 loss to Virginia Tech (4-1) at the Currey Tennis Center.

Andy Mack, Nathan Sachs and James Moyer won their matches. Moyer clinched the Commodores' 4-3 win over Florida Atlantic Friday afternoon.

The return of No. 26 senior Amanda Fish was not enough to boost the Vanderbilt women's tennis team (2-5) to victory Saturday, as No. 15 TCU (1-2) defeated the Commodores 5-2 in the final consolation round at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association tournament.

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# SEC BASKETBALL STANDINGS

MEN'S	OVERALL	CONF.	WOMEN'S	OVERALL	CONF.
<b>EAST</b>					
Florida	21-2	8-0	Tennessee	20-2	7-0
Kentucky	17-5	6-2	LSU	21-3	7-2
Vanderbilt	16-7	6-3	Ole Miss	18-6	7-2
Georgia	13-8	5-4	Georgia	19-4	6-2
Tennessee	15-8	3-5	Vanderbilt	20-4	6-3
South Carolina	12-9	2-6	Miss. State	14-9	5-4
<b>WEST</b>					
Alabama	17-5	4-4	Auburn	17-7	4-4
Ole Miss	15-8	4-5	Kentucky	15-9	4-5
Auburn	14-10	1-2	Arkansas	18-7	3-6
Arkansas	14-8	3-5	South Carolina	13-11	3-6
Miss. State	12-9	3-5	Florida	6-18	0-9
LSU	13-9	2-6	Alabama	10-14	0-9

# FUN & GAMES

## SUDOKU

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Fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

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	5						3	
9				5				
6	3	8			2			
			5	1		6	9	2

## 2/2/07 SOLUTIONS

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

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fewer
  - 5 Island near Corsica
  - 9 Deep sleeps
  - 14 \_\_\_ Royale, MI
  - 15 Bambi, for one
  - 16 One of the Astaires
  - 17 Onion covering
  - 18 Gathering of guys
  - 19 Stop
  - 20 Shy
  - 22 Busy highway business
  - 24 Western or Denver concoction
  - 26 Pass out cards
  - 27 Rhinoplasty
  - 29 Radio station employee
  - 34 Shiatsu
  - 37 Circle segments
  - 41 Sing like Bing
  - 42 Puts on years
  - 43 Myocardial infarction
  - 46 Waterborne
  - 47 "Ghostbusters" director
  - 52 Clobber
  - 55 Nod off
  - 56 Maine river
  - 61 Toy soldier
  - 62 Legal defense
  - 63 Going by yacht
  - 65 Animal fat
  - 66 Tippy vessel
  - 67 Borscht ingredient
  - 68 Uniform
  - 69 Genuflection joints
  - 70 Rational
  - 71 Trial by fire
- DOWN**
- 1 Heavyweight
  - 2 \_\_\_ Pie (frozen treat)
  - 3 Covers in goo
  - 4 Of old age
  - 5 News chiefs, for short
  - 6 Riga resident
  - 7 Stubble

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21		22				23				
24					25		26							
27						28			29		30	31	32	33
34						35	36							
37	38	39	40			41					42			
43					44					45				
46								47			48	49	50	51
52						53	54			55				
56	57	58	59					60			61			
62						63			64		65			
66						67					68			
69								70					71	

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2/5/07

## 2/2/07 SOLUTIONS

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

- 8 Bicker
- 9 Shriek
- 10 Keats specialties
- 11 Pithy part
- 12 As well
- 13 Ooze
- 21 \_\_\_ vu
- 23 Rhythms
- 25 Keyboard compositions
- 28 Actor Lancaster
- 30 ISS partner
- 31 Small pitcher
- 32 Metric measure
- 33 Affirmative answer
- 35 Flower holder
- 36 Leo's bellow
- 37 I figured it out!
- 38 Ump's relative
- 39 Infielder Ripken
- 40 No-seats-available letters
- 44 Some cats
- 45 Stephen of spine-chillers
- 48 Bathroom fixture
- 49 California desert
- 50 Islands in the Atlantic
- 51 Can skip
- 53 Wound surfaces
- 54 Book after Daniel
- 56 Load luggage
- 57 Zest
- 58 Five after four
- 59 Clarinet relative
- 60 Soon-to-be adult
- 64 Grabbed a bite

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