

## PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

## Kristi Neumann with 10 Tall and Natalie Warner

— 12th and Porter

Kalispell, Mont., native and singer-songwriter Kristi Neumann lights up the stage tonight with tracks from "Capacity for Change," her debut album of folk and indie tracks. (\$5, 8 p.m.)

## The Shoals — Douglas Corner Cafe

Warm southern rockers The Shoals have shared the stage with some of country's greatest (including Gretchen Wilson, Emerson Drive and Alabama) as they gear up for the release of their own debut album in spring 2008. (Cover TBA, 8:30 p.m., 2106-A Eighth Ave. South)

## The Greencards — The Station Inn

In the six years since their inception, acoustic country crooners The Greencards have earned themselves a Grammy nod, headlined numerous prestigious musical festivals, and jammed alongside Willie Nelson and Bob Dylan. (\$15, 9 p.m.)

### Terri Brinegar — F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar

Blues vocalist Terri Brinegar has an impressive resume, including attending The Juilliard School for vocal studies and performing at the Monterey Bay Blues Festival and the Catalina Island Blues Festival. (Free, 7 p.m.)

## Tea Leaf Green — Mercy Lounge

Hailing from San Francisco, psychedelic rockers Tea Leaf Green are the proud owners of the Jammy Award for song of the year for the track "Taught to Be Proud" and have shared the stage with Trey Anastasio and Gov't Mule. (\$14, 9 p.m.)

## Charlie Cushman and Friends — Station Inn

Renowned banjo player and Nashville resident Charlie Cushman is one of the most well-known musicians in Nashville, having played with Vince Gill, Merle Haggard, James Monroe and Jimmy Martin. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

### Debbie Ritter — Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar

Memphis, Tenn., native Debbie Ritter is no stranger to the stage — she's been performing jazz and blues since she was 9 years old. Catch Ritter's unique breed of soulful blues when she performs with her energetic band, 4-40. (\$5, 9 p.m., 220 Printers Alley)

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Ludo with Murdock — Exit/In

Rockers Ludo have been featured on Fuse TV's "No. 1 Countdown" and were guest performers on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." (Cover TBA, 9 p.m.)

## The SteelDrivers — Station Inn

Local band The SteelDrivers were nominated for album of the year at the International Bluegrass Music Awards. The native Nashvillians blend country, soul and other influences to create their own unique brand of bluegrass. (\$15, 9 p.m.)

## The Dynamites featuring Charles Walker — The Mercy

Ten-piece funk and soul band The Dynamites team up with the legendary Charles Walker to deliver a night of authentic, old-school soul benefiting The Community Foundation's Tomorrow Fund. (\$25 day of show, 9 p.m.)

## Sweet Eastern Saint and HoneyLamb — The Basement

Members of prolific indie pop group Sweet Eastern Saint have shared the stage with a number of national touring acts, including Jewel and country artist Lee Brice. Joining them at The Basement is Franklin jam band HoneyLamb. (Cover TBA, 9 p.m.)

## The Lasting with Ghost Runner on Third and Cactus's — 12th and Porter

Nashville band The Lasting team up with up-tempo alternative rockers Ghost Runner on Third for a night of sincere contemporary rock at an affordable price (SS 9 p.m.)

## The Royce, Beautifully Crude and Blue Vega — The Rutledge

Lauded by both local and national media, epic modern rockers The Royce join Beautifully Crude at The Rutledge. Opening with a kickoff for their fall tour are Franklin rockers Blue Vega. (\$5 over 21, \$7 under, 8 p.m.)

## Jedd Hughes with Eric Wilson — 3rd and Lindsley

Australian bluegrass/country artist Jedd Hughes has played at some of the genre's most respected venues and festivals, including the Grand Ole Opry and the MerleFest bluegrass festival. Eric Wilson will join him in a night of authentic country. (\$12 day of show, 8 p.m.)

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

### Jessica Simpson, Loretta Lynn, Patty Loveless and more — Grand Ole Opry

It's Jessica Simpson's debut at the show that made country music famous. Some of the best acts of today and yesterday will also play on one of music's most renowned stages. (\$34-\$51, 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., 2802 Opryland Drive)

## Pat Green — City Hall

The Texas native will play his personal style of country-rock for likely his last time at this Nashville location. (\$20, 8 p.m., 405 12th Ave. South)

## Hype presents The Loft, The Last Straw, Leslie and The Steepwater Band — Exit/In

Come out this evening as Hype Promotions presents another great round of Nashville's finest artists. (\$7, 10 p.m.)

### Kevin Denney with Brandon Rickman, Aubrey Haynie, and Andy Ball — Station Inn

One of those serendipitous lineups that's as easy to find in Nashville as it is rare anywhere else, this combination grew out of songwriting collaborations between Kevin Denney and Brandon Rickman. (\$12, 9 p.m.)

## Guilty Pleasures — Mercy Lounge

This cover band plays songs from every decade ranging from the '50s to the '80s. (\$10, 10 p.m.)

## Jonell Mosser — 3rd and Lindsley

This Kentucky native has been on the Nashville scene for a while now, and she's still grooving to her indie Americana tunes. (\$10, 7 p.m.)

## In the Round — Bluebird Cafe

The Bluebird special will feature Erin Ashleigh, Dan Demay, Daryl Burgess and Tonja Rose. They may not have hits yet, but it will be a great show. (Free, 6:30 p.m.)

## The Regulars

**THE RUTLEDGE**410 Fourth Ave. S. 37201
782-6858

MERCY LOUNGE/CANNERY BALLROOM 1 Cannery Row 37203 251-3020

BLUEBIRD CAFE 4104 Hillsboro Road 37215 383-1461

**EXIT/IN**2208 Elliston Place 37203
321-3340

**STATION INN** 402 12th Ave. S. 37203 255-3307

THE BASEMENT 1604 Eighth Ave. S. 37203 254-1604

269-5861

F. SCOTT'S RESTAURANT AND JAZZ BAR 2210 Crestmoor Road 37215

SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER 1 Symphony Place 37201 687-6500

**3RD AND LINDSLEY** 818 Third Ave. S. 37210 259-9891

**CAFE COCO**210 Louise Ave. 37203
321-2626



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SEPTEMBER 3—SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 No. 14

## Versus Magazine

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## FROM THE EDITOR



I heard you were looking for me.

Above, I share with you Lil Wayne's immortal words on his latest track with Jay Z: "Mr. Carter." It's clear to me that Weezy was writing about Versus' first return to the racks, or at the very least, would be very pleased that we are expressing our return to greatness through his rhymes. *In case you were wonder-ering.* 

We know, we look a little different than we did last semester, namely because we are now printing side-byside with The Hustler on Wednesdays. The truth of the matter is, The Hustler and Versus have been an item for quite some time now. It's getting serious; we think we're in love. And Wednesday just seems to be a better day for all parties involved. Now we're giving you even more time to plan what bars you'll hit, what movies you'll see, what new restaurants you'll try. Fill your Vandy planners accordingly,

Wait, let's back track. For those new to the Vandy campus, or perhaps new to reading ("I" before "E"? What is this crap?), we are Versus Magazine, THE authority on entertainment and culture on the Vandy campus, downtown Nashville and beyond. To infinity and beyond, maybe. We cover everything from fashion to film, from art and theater to dating advice, and of course, from live music to live music to live music. And because we have several leather bound books and an office that smells of rich mahogany, it's only natural that we talk to some big names in the biz. Just this past week we talked to southern rocker Pat Green. You'll find his ingenious answers to our ingenious questions as you continue to peruse our levely

We're still up to our old tricks, but we got some new kids, some new ideas and a new look. In fact, new badassery abounds.

What can we say? We feel big. Colossal.

Darcy Newell

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## PIC OF THE WEEK



CHRIS GEARING/VERSUS MAGAZINE

# **FICTION**

IF YOU WOULD BE A REAL SEEKER AFTER TRUTH, IT IS NECESSARY THAT AT LEAST ONCE IN YOUR LIFE YOU DOUBT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, ALL THINGS.

-RENE DESCARTES



POETRY

## Sturm und Drang Subway

Watching another minute tick by on her cracked leather watch, she decides that the only way to absorb New York is to stand beside the subway tracks, waiting for the loud shriek of the train. Underground, the air hangs like a soggy towel after a day at the beach: heavy, wet and musty. She remembers all of those times that people told her heat rises, that dusty attics in mid-July and Technicolor hot air balloons are supposed to set an example. But today, the heat is trapped in the pressure cooker of a Times Square tunnel, forcing the leaden air of the city into every pore and strand of hair.

Taking a short breath, a quick look down confirms her position on the platform. Through her faded, worn sandals she had sensed that she was on uneven ground. One glance showed a flash of yellow that had only been bright for three days before the barnacles of urban grime had latched on to slowly leech away the severity of the message. Her big toes aligned forming the apex of a perfect arc that was only inches away from the edge. The bumpy whimsy of the defeated yellow stripe awakened an instinct that she would later hate herself for even considering. It began as an itching twinge in her calves and migrated electrically into her knees and thighs. Before her mind could catch up, her body seemed poised to do it, to jump directly into the path of the unsuspecting shuttle. Her mind raced through a labyrinth of questions: Why am I thinking this? I would never do this! Do you think it would hurt? Would they think it was an accident or will someone else spend the rest of their days searching for the reason I jumped?

Knees still bent but heart racing, she shakes her head until her halo of overgrown bangs flops haphazardly into her eyes. After three deep breaths, the wind picks up and she feels every hair on her body elevate as the S pulls in. She wonders what to make him for dinner tonight.

**HAIKUS** 

# Words to live by in seventeen syllables

If I hear one more Bad pun on "Commons" or "Dore" My head may explode.

To two-thousand twelve: Welcome! And class of oh-nine: You are obsolete.

Tormented by confusing dreams? Wondering what it all means? Send your most puzzling dreams in to our extremely qualified, expert dream technicians at VersusVU@gmail.com

**In my dream:** I had a dream where my dorm room transformed into an art museum with a dance party. One of my girlfriends came over to dance with me, and she was not only drunk — but also Egyptian. I wasn't even mad, I was just impressed. Thoughts? Sincerely, Dreamer in Da-Nile

Why you're crazy:

Whoa. Where to begin. I'm just gonna go ahead and step over the giant sexual elephant in the room with you dreaming about your drunk friend coming over to sloppily dance on ... I mean, WITH you. I think that this dream is simply a cry for more fun. The art museum is most likely some representation of your schoolwork or academic life, and the drunk sloppy girl is a symbol for ... something else. I think you can figure that one out. Sincerely, Dream Doctor

## Versus Madlibs

| · ·            |                  | The first week of |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| classes was so | , but this weeke | nd! I went to     |
| and got tota   | ally! I woke     | e up next to a    |
| in myTher      | n I totally!     |                   |

## ENTERTA

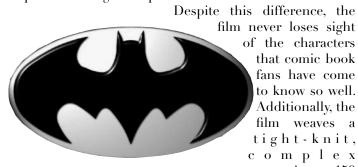
**MOVIES** 

## 'The Dark Knight' scores as a summer smash at the box office

BEN GRIMWOOD

Staff Writer

The sequel to the celebrated revamping of the Batman franchise, "Batman Begins," is Christopher Nolan's equally brilliant, "The Dark Knight," which turns the disrespected superhero film genre upside down.



of the characters that comic book fans have come to know so well. Additionally, the film weaves a tight-knit, c o m p l e x  ${\it The Dark Knight. Warner Brothers.com\ story \quad into} \quad 150$ 

minutes adrenaline and dark psychology. "The Dark Knight" may have become one of the best superhero films of all-time. In the film, the Joker (Heath Ledger) targets a bank in Gotham, where he manages to steal a tidy sum from a group of mobster and gangster investors who want to take him out. The Joker has other plans, as he becomes directly involved with them and offers to help them take out their collective enemy – Batman (Christian Bale). As Batman begins to capture them all, the Joker's plan turns to killing. As the Joker's plan becomes more dangerous and hits closer to home with Batman, he must work to take out the crazed killer clown before he takes out all of Gotham.

Written, directed and produced by Christopher Nolan, "The Dark Knight" is a work of genius. Nolan's script, written with his brother, is brilliant. The Joker presents several ethical dilemmas that force good guys and bad guys alike to make a choice, usually on who should live or die. It is clever that his presentation of choice rivals his protege Harvey Two-Face's style of using chance. I am certain Nolan considered this when he wrote "The Dark Knight," because every character from the Batman comic books is ingeniously adapted here. Because Nolan is consistent and has a clear vision for this film, his screenplay and direction are mature and flawless.

The character of the Joker is well-developed, and when played by a talented actor like the late Ledger, he becomes perfect. Ledger modifies the Joker from the killer clown we all know so well to make him less of a laughing madman and more of an unrelenting evildoer. (Take that, Jack Nicholson!) His darting eyes and the occasional flick of his tongue over his gooey red lips establish recognizably serpentine (read: evil) qualities for the Joker. In this way, Ledger transforms one of the most brilliantly-written characters in comic book history and offers him tangibly realistic qualities. Ledger's Joker is the Joker that diehard Batman fans will adore, as his complex psychology, killer instinct and creepy laugh prove unchanging in this film.

Meanwhile, Aaron Eckhart steps out as the other great actor in "The Dark Knight." Though I am wholly unfamiliar with his work, he strongly proves himself as brave Harvey Dent, a respectable district attorney, and later, Harvey Two-Face, a vengeful villain with a story that flows right into the film (and

what makeup!). His performance is more subtle than that of Ledger, but he still surprises me with the vigor of his acting. Supporting actors like Michael Caine (Alfred) and Morgan Freeman (Lucius Fox) are evergreen, while Batman newcomer (and Katie Holmes' replacement) Maggie Gyllenhaal proves herself equally formidable. Bale is still great here in "The Dark Knight," although I have to assert the same

complaint some film critics make against the Tim Burton "Batman" films — Batman takes too much of a supporting role. For a movie about the Dark Knight, it could have been re-titled "Harvey Dent and the Joker, featuring Batman."

Though runtime is my complaint against the film (a whopping 150 minutes), it is still tolerable, as the film grabs viewers and never lets go on one pulsepounding, action-packed thrill ride. It climaxes over and over and does not finally release until the last second of the film. And when it does release, viewers discover that it has totally been worth the ride. The tried and true blockbuster of the summer, "The Dark Knight" is still playing in theaters.₩



MOVIES

## Haiku Review

Here at Versus, we know that not every movie you see is going to be a good one. Over the summer, many of our writers wasted hours watching regretable cinematic endeavors. To spare our readers the same fate, the writers will not only tell you what films are missable, they've condensed the reviews into our favorite, brief poetic form:

"Disaster Movie"

Disaster Movie.

Really? REALLY? REALLY DUDES?? Eponymous much?

> "Step Brothers" Lazy guys are stars Sure I guess it's alright, but It's no "Anchorman"

"X-Files: I Want To Believe" It's hard to recall The days when "X-Files" was good I WANT to believe ...

> "Get smart" It is ironic That a movie called "Get Smart" Made me feel so dumb

**VERSUS MOVIE RATING:** 



# Take a ride on the 'Pineapple Express'

CHRIS GEARING

Features Editor

There are a few films every generation that really encapsulate

the feelings of the time.

"The Graduate" was one for our parents, while "The Breakfast Club" helped define the John Hughes generation. Their films spoke with such breadth and vernacular so as to capture the minds of everyone who saw them. I just want to be perfectly clear when I say that "Pineapple Express" will most likely not make such lists. It's more of the "Cheech & Chong" of Generation Me. However, it's most definitely one of the best movies of the summer.

Our story begins with slacker process server Dale Denton (Seth Rogen) buying some of the rarest grass in town from his dealer Saul (James Franco). When Dale accidentally witnesses a murder, he scurries from the scene and tosses his roach out of his car window.

What's the catch? Remember how rare that grass was? The murderers are able to trace the "J" back to Saul and Dale and begin to hunt them to the ends of the Earth. What ensues is one of the funniest and drug-infested comedy romps we've seen in years dealing with manhood, friendship and the occasional slow-motion dance scene.

Where to begin with this dope opus, this chronic classic, this wacky weed wonderland? All marijuana puns aside, this

movie is absolutely Franco play together on very odd hard to believe also want to add to keep an eye on who plays a diedealer named Red. in last month's and seems to be on Hollywood's

I find it anything in it's simply a fun crazy characters drugs. Rogen is fence

between acting (like he was "Knocked Up" but still had great moments. Just like that).

He also appeared "Tropic Thunder" on the up-and-up "funny guy" list. hard to hate on this movie since romp with some and a LOT of still sitting on the funny and dramatic kind of serious in

hilarious. Rogen and

screen and have

until you see it. I

that everyone needs

Danny McBride,

hard, cake-baking

that's

incredibly

chemistry

However, the real highlight here is Franco. What a dramatic

shift from "Spiderman" and the laughably bad "Flyboys." He is almost making fun of his suave, polished image by dressing in pajamas with grimy teeth, shaggy hair and a disgusting beard. It's like how some actors decide to "get ugly" for films to win Oscars (Nicole Kidman in "The Hours," etc.). This movie is just great all around. Its portrayal of the drug world is hilarious (if a tad bit unrealistic), and the oddly touching friendship of Dale and Saul really hits modern male friendships on the nose. Plus, the diner scene at the end is one of the funniest conversations ever in a movie.

It is safe to say that this was one of the summer's funniest movies and still gets me every time I see it (I'm up to five now). So when it comes to whether or not you should see this — just say, "Yes." #

**VERSUS MOVIE RATING:** \*\*\*

Rated R

**Now Playing** 

NIGHTLIFE

## The Villager Tavern: A snapshot of Nashville

BEN HARTWELL

Staff Writer

The first week of school is always my favorite. No one is too busy to go out on a Sunday, Monday

or a Tuesday. At other points during the school year this lifestyle may necessitate an appointment at the Student Health Center, but not today.

Last Tuesday, after becoming frustrated while waiting in line for Sportsman's upstairs pool room, my friends and I decided to cut our losses and head into the abyss. Unbeknownst to me, there is a small dive bar nestled between Sam's Sports Bar and Grill and Bookman on 21st Avenue South. The Villager Tavern, a quaint, smoke-filled, hole-in-the-wall provided a welcome haven from the havor that is a Sportsman's Tuesday.

I found it remarkable that by walking a mere block I traveled from the over- crowded Sportsman's to its polar opposite. Firstly, The Villager Tavern's clientele all appeared to be over 40. I am fairly confident that one female was drinking from a dog bowl, and the hadn't

bathrooms appeared as if they been cleaned since the late '70s. Ironically, I felt significantly less clean after exiting the bathroom than before I entered Nevertheless, my initial apprehension to The Villager Tavern's cleanliness was eased by the cheap

beers served in chilled glasses, the episode of "M\*A\*S\*H" playing from the old television in the corner and the darts.

The Villager Tavern is, as it turns out, a Nashville dart mecca. Half of the bar is the darts fan's equivalent to a bowling alley. Six dart boards are provided with ample space, and complimentary darts are available on loan from the bartender. Dedicated individuals have the ability to hone their skills through repeated patronization, many have. Lining the walls and the ceiling are championship banners from dart competitions around the country. The Villager Tavern provides plenty of 40-somethings lying in wait to hustle both your pocketbook and pride.

I've never been one for darts - I've found that frequent dartplaying negatively affects my beer pong game. Yet after a few rounds of cheap beer I was in a very spirited match with a few friends, getting tips from an middle-aged man who could barely stay on his feet. Would I return to The

Villager Tavern? Definitely. However, I fear that routine trips to The Villager Tavern could spawn an unwelcome case of emphysema. Therefore, my return trips will likely be sporadic, inebriated decisions.#



## MUSI "And I know I'm paranoid and neurotic; I've made a career out of it." — Thom Yorke, Radiohead

**TODAY** Young country performers Jake Owen, Luke Bryan and Jedd

**Hughes** team up to support the Miller Harris Foundation through their original musical styles. If you want to hear a fresh new spin on country music, come to The Bluebird Cafe at 9 p.m. Ticket prices are

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

Try out some folk and indie music and come out to see Kristi Neumann together with 10 Tall and Natalie Warner at 12th and Porter. Tickets are only \$5.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

If you're looking for a band that mixes country and soul to make a sound that is uniquely its own, then you should go see The SteelDriv**ers** at Station Inn at 9 p.m. Tickets are only \$15.

# Best Albums of Summer

## 'Tha Carter III' Lil Wayne

CHARLIE KESSLERING Staff Writer

In today's troubled times, many have tossed the American dream into the same heap of hype as Santa Claus and Bob Dole. Some have become unsure if it ever

existed at all. Take some solace in this: In June, rapper Lil Wayne sold over 2 million copies of "Tha Carter III," an album that conveys his threat to kill a grandmother and an infant child within its first 40 seconds. Oh, the dream lives on.

In my semi-humble opinion, the sixth solo album from Lil Wayne, born Dwayne Michael

Carter Jr., towers over the other summer studio releases and deserves every accolade it has received. With the exception of a few songs ("A Milli"), the disc presents listeners with more classics than a car show. "Mr. Carter" epitomizes the perfect use of a soul sample (and guest spot, for that matter), and "Shoot Me Down" easily became my night driving track of choice. Needless to say, I had a few songs to add to my exclusive "People that Have Probably

Killed People" iTunes playlist. Unfortunately, while the album's beats

> and production proved to be the best from Weezy's camp yet, his lyrical prowess on "Tha Carter III" disappointed me. Sure, some bars are strong as the ones in prison (get it?), but most tracks fail to meet the lyrical standards set by his online leaks. For instance, lines like "I'm rare, like Mr. Clean with hair" (from "Phone Home") do not deserve

to be said out loud.

Such lyrics aside, Lil Wayne packed heat into a summer that desperately needed some extra fire and helped to rebuild the American dream from the rubble and ruin in the mind of this listener. **X** 

## 'Feed the Animals' **Girl Talk**

CHRIS GEARING

Features Editor

Girl Talk is one of THE names in dance music, and he does it by sampling, cutting and re-orchestrating classics (both old and new) to create some of the most interesting

and most danceable beats of our generation. Seriously, this stuff is good.

Girl Talk is the stage name for Pittsburgh, Penn., native Gregg Gillis, who began his music career while studying to be a biomedical engineer. He has released four albums on the record label Illegal Art, including "Night Ripper," which earned him a notable fan base and a lot of hype.

It turns out, Girl Talk has only gotten better with time, and on "Feed the Animals" he's sampling and pasting things such as Kanye West's "Flashing Lights" and Blackstreet's "No Diggity." Think that's crazy? Try a mash-

up of T-Pain and Chris Brown in "Kiss Kiss" blended with "Jessie's Girl." Yeah, that just happened. It sounds nuts, but somehow it works. in a way that's oddly fulfilling.

In a technical sense, Girl Talk also has some serious skills. The transitions are flawless and seemingly natural, and there

> are enough different feels and textures to the music that it's impossible to get bored. In fact, Girl Talk urges fans on his MySpace page to listen to the entire album consecutively, as if it were one complete song.

Yet, the best part about "Feed the Animals" is that you can download the album off of Girl Talk's MySpace in a "Pay What You Want" offer.

You can pay \$20 or nothing, totally up to you. It's undeniable that this music is interesting if not downright fantastic. Get this disc (or download) immediately. Happy dancing. #



CHRIS MCDONALD Staff Writer

Dr. Dog's summer release, "Fate," is easily one of the most impressive and captivating albums of the year. With a spectacular arsenal of styles and sounds, Dr. Dog takes

the listener on a wild journey through musical history, producing stunning, retro-sounding songs replete raw, pained vocals and driving hooks.

What makes "Fate" truly special, however, is not in its capturing a single, vintage sound, but rather in the incredible variety it offers. While songs like "Army of Ancients" immediately

bring to mind James Brown, other songs such as "The Ark" and "Hang On" sound so strikingly similar to The Beatles, The Band or Cream that they literally bring goose bumps to your skin.

Musically, "Fate" takes great leaps away from the rugged, lo-fi sound that the band

a rather raw style, the album is much more refined and smoothly produced than expected. Ragtime piano, funky bass lines, string and brass sections, driving guitars, and electric organs all come together to create wonderfully composed tracks

that denote a level of skill and maturity that belie the band's age and experience (having been together for less than a decade and really only coming into the mainstream in the last four or five years). Vocally, the band stays true to form, maintaining soulful, raw and at times pained singing split between Scott McMicken and

Toby Leaman.

Aptly described by the band itself as the album that they were destined to make, "Fate" is, in my opinion, the most interesting and praiseworthy album of the summer. The lyrics of the song "The Beach" describe it best: "You know fate



The multi-instrumental supergroup is back at it again.

Coldplay released their newest album this

past June. "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" is truly a work of art by any standard. The 12-track masterful mixture melodies (Ah! Alliteration!) has much more to offer than the title track, which we've all heard on those damn Apple commercials. But don't let Apple ruin this for you. The rest of the album is just as good as "Viva La Vida" was the first time you heard it.

The lyricless "Life in Technicolor" is, in my opinion, the band's greatest achievement to date. The way the notes seamlessly fit together is something that fans have been waiting for since the debut album "Parachutes.'

The inquisitive "Lost?" and exclamatory "Lost!" are an interesting pair. The two songs are not consecutive tracks but are instead

separated by a few other great head-banging epics. Okay, maybe not "head-banging" but certainly nothing to be scoffed at. "Cemeteries of London" might possibly be one of the saddest songs this summer, and "Yes" is an up-tempo, fast- paced hit for all

> ears to enjoy. Now, I cannot sit



here and tell you, with a straight face, that Coldplay is the greatest band of our time, that their lyrics are incredible or that this album is the greatest ever. What I can say is that Coldplay is an incredible band unimaginable talent and an ear for excellence. This album

is their greatest achievement to date, and I encourage all to give it a spin or two.

=If you must choose a few songs, I recommend "Cemeteries of London," "Lost!" and either "Viva La Vida" or "Violet Hill." These tracks should be sufficient reason for you to click that "Complete my Album" button on iTunes. 🕊

# has been known for. While it still maintains has a funny way of coming around." 署 Breakout Artists

## **Duffy delivers**

ALLENA BERRY Staff Writer

Is it just me or has there been an uncommonly high influx of British artists in the past few years?

We've always loved our cousins across the pond, especially as far as music is concerned, but it's as if, all of a sudden, I can't throw a rock without hitting an ultra-new, ultra-hip U.K. musician. The Brits are rapidly producing "must-hear" artists that have won the favor of some wellknown so-and-so in the music biz. However, as a savvy and skeptical American consumer, I wasn't ready to buy into the hype without testing the goods. So when I heard musical acclaim about this "Duffy" character (as in Aimee Ann Duffy), I was ready to delve deeper into the vibe of the Welsh, blue-eyed soul singer.

The catchy single "Mercy" from the album "Rockferry" was my first introduction. Its

high energy, 1960s girl group quality made it easy to sing along to in the car (oh, like you don't do it). Duffy's raspy voice is less Aretha Franklin and more Stevie Nicks, and her oldschool tracks make other soul singers, such as sometimesstable Amy Winehouse, look like the new kids on the block: Duffy is all the sound without the drama.

Except when it comes to her lyrics. Songs like "Stepping Stone" and "Warwick Avenue" are not quite "lover, ya done me wrong,"but there is an overlying theme of poor relationships and self-empowerment. The title track, "Rockferry," is what validated Duffy as a real vocal powerhouse among a wave of mediocre artists. As one of the most emotional songs on the album, it is both heart-felt and technically impressive.

Duffy's CD is a great choice for music fans who appreciate strong female vocals and have a taste for something a little less mainstream. 🕷

# She kissed a girl — and the world took notice

LAKENDRA SCOTT Music Editor

She kissed a girl and she liked it. More than likely these words have reached your ears more than once this summer, probably leading to an image of pseudo-lesbianism commonly produced after a few to many shots of Jose Cuervo. "I Kissed a Girl," the breakout hit for singer-songwriter Katy Perry, has become a summer anthem for girls regardless of sexual preference, propelling the unknown songstress to the top of the charts.

While best known for her bi-curious single, the genius of Perry's album "One of the Boys" lies in her sass-filled lyrics lamenting her less than joy-filled past relationships. Despite her upbringing as a daughter of two preachers sweet-as-apple-pie exterior, Perry's lyrics have a tendency to push people outside their comfort zone.

The song "Ur So Gay," a tribute to the metrosexual and painfully emo tendencies of Perry's ex-boyfriend, explains her disgust using colorfully stinging imagery. Perry sings, "I hope you hang yourself with your H&M scarf / While jacking off listening to Mozart," and in just two lines expresses both her frustration with the past and her obviously comedic means of expressing this annoyance.

While Perry has been producing music since 2001, it was her shift from Christian crooner to pop princess that made her a widely known artist. As Perry settles comfortably into her relationship with Gym Class Heroes frontman Travis McCoy, her innovative lyrics are sure to take a turn from boyfriend bashing, but we can only hope that they don't lose any of her signature punch. 🔀

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Head to City Hall to see **Pat Green** play his highly acclaimed version of country-rock at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Come see Nashville native **Ben Folds** perform his quirky style of music that he writes, performs and composes. He will play at the Nashville Symphony at 7 p.m., and tickets start at \$40.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMER 8

Fans of Western swing will enjoy a performance by **The Time Jumpers**, a group of 11 Nashville natives. Tickets are \$10, and the show kicks off at 9 p.m.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 Check out Ingram Hill and

**Graham Colton** at Exit/In and be ready hum along to songs that are both smooth and rough. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$13 the day of the show. The performance begins at 9 p.m.

## MYSPINS



Kelly Hughes, co-chair of The Music Group shares with Versus and the Vandy community what she's been listening to. Might we see these groups at Quake or Rites, Kelly?

- "GAMMA RAY"
  Beck
- 2 "LOOK OUT YOUNG SON" Grand Ole Party
- "SHE LOVES EVERYBODY"
  Chester French
- 4 "RECKONER"
  Radiohead
- "SEX ON FIRE"
  Kings of Leon
- The Raconteurs

"CAROLINA DRAMA"

- "JAGER YOGA"
  CSS
- "DOWNTOWN"
  Peaches
- "SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE"
  Bob Dylan
- 10. "GOLD LION"
  Yeah Yeah Yeahs

SUMMER FESTIVALS

# Peace, love and chocolate mushrooms: Bonnaroo at its best

ELIZABETH DIAZ-ESQUIVEL

Staff Writer

For many, sleeping in your car and not showering for an entire weekend might not be synonymous with "best weekend ever," but my Bonnaroo experience was exactly that.

Bonnaroo is a four-day, multi-stage, music and arts festival on a 700-acre farm in Manchester, Tenn., and it's been one of the biggest live music festivals since its inception in 2002.

In keeping with its jam-band roots, Widespread Panic headlined, while My Morning Jacket, Tiesto, Jack Johnson and Lupe Fiasco were just a few of the other artists representing a very diverse lineup. My favorite discoveries were The Avett Brothers, Mason Jennings and the Icelandic band Sigur Ros, whose ethereal brand of music (sung in Icelandic, heady to say the least) sounds like it's from another planet — in a good way.

And you can't talk about Bonnaroo without talking about Kanye, whose highly anticipated, glow-in-the-dark set left fans waiting in a field until 5 a.m. When Kanye did emerge on stage, he didn't even muster up an apology but later blamed the festival's organizers for the five-hour delay in an angry online rant. Make love, Kanye, not war.

Yet, the "experience" of Bonnaroo is as much about living in your car and meeting the random assortment of fellow attendees as it is about the vast collection of performers. The music stages are cleverly named "What Stage" and "Which Stage," while the tents go by "This

Tent," "That Tent" and "The Other Tent." Despite the hilarity of these monikers, imagine the absolute chaos this creates in conversation:

- "Which stage is M.I.A. at?"
- "What Stage."
- "Wait, Which Stage?"
- "No, What Stage."

This confusion combined with poor cell phone reception and the prevalent drug culture at a festival like Bonnaroo should



of performers. The music stages are give you a taste of the mayhem which ensues cleverly named "What Stage" and "Which Stage," while the tents go by "This countless other festival-goers who (perhaps

after one too many mushroom chocolates) somberly claimed to have been abandoned by their friends, when in actuality their tent was only a few feet away.

My favorite crazy neighbors were the two 40-something guys who liked to sit in their camp chairs and pound beers at 6 a.m. — highly typical. But what was a-typical about them was that their third chair belonged to a 3-foot-tall inflatable monkey named Montgomery, which they talked to like it was no big thing. ("Montgomery, I think you raged too hard last night, so you'll have to stay in the car for today.") Later in the weekend I saw the three of them at the Aimee Mann show with Montgomery sporting his very own Bonnaroo t-shirt. I said favorite neighbors, not sanest.

Still, the people and atmosphere of Bonnaroo are truly just as important as the music. My car door opened into what was basically my neighbor's living room. You would think that would foster frustration with 80,000 people living almost on top each other in the middle of a field, but I experienced what was as close to a functioning utopia as I will ever see. A lot of concerts I have attended have been marred by an aggressive, get-out-of-myway-I'm-getting-to-the-front attitude. I'll admit I've used the "But my boyfriend's up there!" line once or twice before at other shows, but I didn't see this occur once the entire weekend at Bonnaroo. In fact, I don't really think I ever saw anyone angry. Bonnaroo is a place where you can have a funnel cake while listening to B.B. King on your way to see Ben Folds; now that's all right with me. This peace, love and happiness business is legit. #

# Loving Lollapalooza

LAUREN RICHMAN
Staff Writer

Some people may describe their Lollapalooza 2008 experience as one of sun-slapped skin, aching backs, sweaty bodies and claustrophobia. My experience was far different.

Entering Chicago's Grant Park well into the 95-degree day on Friday, I arrived ready for a day full of today's most cutting-edge and popular artists.

First on my group's list was Cat Power, a.k.a. Chan Marshall. We followed her intimate, passionate and raw performance with Grizzly Bear, who offered a richly layered performance viewed from under the shade of some of Grant Park's only trees.

After Grizzly Bear was CSS, who completely transformed the stage. Donned in a feral costume, lead singer/wild stage spectacle Lovefoxxx unleashed an explosion of electronic energy.

performances, we walked to the massive AT&T stage to experience Radiohead (I say "experience" because "see" or "hear" could not possibly be worthy enough words to describe their performance). My anticipation for this show was like waiting to open what you know will be your favorite Christmas present after a sleepless, wide-eyed Christmas Eve. Starting just as the sun began to go down, Radiohead stepped

on stage, all English and nonchalant, racing

into "15 Step." Their set was comprised

mostly of their 2007 album, "In Rainbows,"

but also included vintage gems such as "The

Keeping in line with changing musical

Bends," "Fake Plastic Trees" and "Airbag." The stage was lit with LED light shards, comparable to icicles, just the distraction we needed from a day in the Grant Park sauna. Despite being surrounded by 75,000 plus people, Radiohead presented an intimate, life-changing show. Needless to say, I listened to solely Radiohead for three weeks straight after that.

Day two was drastically different: cooler, less dream-like and perhaps less impressive compared to the epic set the night prior. We started with MGMT, one of the few bands I was excited about. I was looking forward to an exciting, vivacious performance but instead received a tired, dull attempt at a good time. Moving on,



we completely shifted moods and lay on a grassy knoll for the latter bit of a trancelike performance by Explosions in the Sky. As the day wound down, we worked our way up front to see our favorite Chicago natives, Wilco. As always, they ruled the stage with confidence, camaraderie and the wisdom of seasoned veterans of solid live performances.

Enjoying Wilco but weary from our travels, we decided to leave a bit early to beat the colossal crowds of shirtless men, lost children and out-of-towners. The past two days had been some of the greatest of summer, filled with epic performers, radical shows and time well spent with friends. #

## MUSIC NEWS

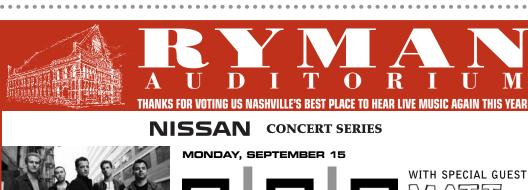
Aug. 23: Dr. Dre's son, Andre Young Jr., was found dead in his California home.

**Aug. 24:** Leona Lewis and Jimmy Page joined performers from around the world at Beijing Olympics closing ceremony.

**Aug. 26:** Britney Spears' manager announced that America's little sweetheart will not be performing at this year's MTV Video Music Awards.

**Aug. 27:** A blogger was arrested after leaking unreleased Guns N' Roses tracks online.

**Aug. 28:** The first new AC/DC single in eight years, "Rock 'n' Roll Train," was released to the public.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER

Conor Oberst and the Mystic Valley Band

with Jenny Lewis

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8



with special guest ROYAL BANGS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

# OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW with Carolina Chocolate Drops

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

# RAY LAMONTAGNE with Leona Naess

Willi Ecolla Macs

# DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS & THE HOLD STEADY

BOBBY BARE JR.





MARC BROUSSARD and RAINING JANE



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## ART

# Snapshots of Warhol's legacy live on



MURIELLE WYMAN
Staff Writer

The Fine Arts Gallery selected a bombshell of an exhibit to introduce its 2008-2009 exhibition season. "Line Up, Strip Down, Fade Out," on display until Oct. 10, features a selection of original Polaroid photographs recently gifted to the Fine Arts Gallery by the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts. Accompanying these images are the photographic works of two contemporary artists working from New York City David Horvitz and Grant

Worth — whose images and

videos "defy and reflect one

another, much like Warhol's

### 'Line Up, Strip Down, Fade Out'

To view this exhibit, stop by the Fine Arts Gallery, located in the Old Gym at the corner of West End Avenue and 23rd Street, Monday through Friday from 12 to 4 p.m., or from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

public and private persona" said Joseph Whitt, assistant curator at the Fine Arts Gallery.

The images of Worth and Horvitz build on the lush, mythical ideologies behind Warhol's works — and even somewhat pick up where he left off — by creating art that not only contains hints at pop decadences from his era but also by elaborating on the contemplative aura that Warhol was known to have.

"Worth's photographs and kaleidoscopic videos lead the viewer into a baroque, almost occult meditation on classic pop themes of sexuality, glamour and urbanity," Whitt said, "while Horvitz's stark documentation of his own life provides a quieter and more prosaic counterpoint."

Worth, who graduated with a bachelor's of fine arts in photography and imaging from the New York University Tisch School of the Arts, may not seem a likely candidate to be shown alongside Warhol,

left off — by creating art that not only contains hints at pop decadences from his era but Whitt explains that the exhibit came together in a very natural way.

"The exhibition was organized very intuitively," he said. "Worth's photographs and videos sparkle with an innocent approach to decadence that wouldn't feel foreign in Warhol's factory of the mid-'60s."

The same can also be said of the inclusion of Horvitz's works — they reflect the quieter and more isolated aspect of Warhol's private life.

"Horvitz's self-documentations are more detached, poignant and lonely," Whitt said. "(He) speaks with the voice of a diarist." #\$

# Rocking out to ethical, eco-friendly fashion

OLIVIA KUPFER
Staff Writer

About three years ago, Bono took his passion for philanthropy and put it together with fashion. The result? Edun.

Edun's mission is to design and manufacture trendy, high-fashion clothing in an ethical environment. Conceived by rock star Bono and wife Ali Hewson, who teamed up with Irish designer Rogan Gregory, Edun is a socially conscious way to bring commerce to developing regions, especially Third-World communities in Africa, an area of Bono's focus. But it is the mantra of Edun that serves as its backbone: respect for the people who make the product, for the community where it's

If you want to check out Edun's eco-friendly fashions, check out edunonline.com or edun-live.org, Edun's sister site. Edun Live produces organic cotton t-shirts in an ethical work environment.

made, the materials used and the consumer.

I was fortunate to have interned this past summer at Edun and learned about its goal of producing ethical, sustainable clothing. Edun identifies itself as a socially conscious clothing brand with an emphasis on fostering "trade, not aid" in developing countries. "Trade, not aid" follows the concept that bringing commerce to developing nations provides a long-term solution, while giving aid only provides temporary relief.

Edun has achieved its goal of bringing trade to developing regions (such as Sub-Sahara Africa and parts of South America) by setting up its factories in these areas, paying its workers fair wages and creating communities in order to combat the most pressing issue in these nations. And industry and the creation of new jobs benefits the women of these countries who may not have other work opportunities, utilizes more of the labor force to increase a country's productivity and efficiency, and helps combat the AIDS epidemic.

The connection between the creation of new jobs and the AIDS epidemic may seem bizarre, but it is fairly simple. Many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, a part of the world most affected by the AIDS

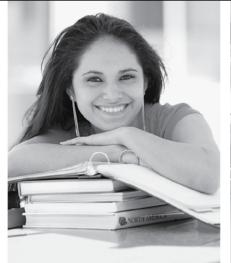
crisis, owe debts to other nations as a result of past regimes or having once been colonies. Instead of being able to use social aid granted for public health programs, countries must allocate their resources to this debt repayment, only perpetuating their problem. Through the creation of new fair wage jobs and industry, (like those made by Edun), countries affected by the AIDS epidemic have the opportunity to allocate fiscal relief to the crisis because the new profits, as a result of trade, can be used for debt repayment.

It's also no secret that the apparel industry relies on East Asia for inexpensive labor and materials. Edun rejected this business model in favor of a more ethical one. Hewson and Bono are pragmatic

businesspeople — they conceived of a way to create a competitive, edgy brand while creating industry in developing nations. Edun's factories are in countries like Madagascar and Kenya, which allows for these developing nations to regain trade lost to factories in China, where artificially low labor costs allow for inexpensive production.

Some may argue that since the owners of the company are wealthy, Edun is either a pet project or a publicity stunt. But Edun is a forprofit business whose clothes have been featured in fashion magazines such as InStyle and Vogue. As an ethical fashion brand, the Edun designers typically incorporate "green" fabric (primarily organic cotton) into each season's collection. How about that for a rock star? ##











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Each week, our resident **Angry WASP** sounds off on things that make him buzz. (see what we did there?)



### Dear Vanderbilt,

Look Vandy, we've been together for a good solid three years now. We've seen a lot together — a change of almost 5,000 people, fraternities coming and going, our abandonment by Gee – lots of things. So why must you make things so difficult in our last two semesters together?

First off, did you SERIOUSLY just put a first-year student in the same mailbox as me? I have FAR too many hours for that! Look, I could have graduated last December, but instead I continue to fill your coffers with thousands of dollars. The LEAST you could do is give me the privacy of my own mailbox. And really, didn't you think to put in some extra mailboxes when you were pouring so much into your newly beloved Commons?

Another thing: doing away with Pub food. What the heck? The veggie quesadilla with added grilled chicken was one of my few comforts in this maze you call "the meal plan," and now it's gone. Gone like my ability to get ice cream using a meal at the Munchie Mart. Gone like CX2. Gone like that semi-popular gelato place in Branscomb. Gone like Stonehenge ... you bastards.

And on top of that, you make all of this in the name of "progress"? Really? You think some hiking trail indicators and a new sign on the medical center will make it better for me? You're wrong. All that's left for me to do is brood in the beautifully designed Commons Dining Center over my delicious brick-oven pizza and surround myself with the smartest incoming class ever.

Sincerely, **An Angry WASP** 

life are what translate easiest from me to the audience because you know, "Hey, that's what I'm living right now."

To listen to the Pat

Green interview, go to:

(insideVANDY

**VM:** Has being from Texas influenced your musical style? PG: Oh, certainly. I think that anywhere you come, the culture affects what it is you enjoy, and it affects everything. Growing up in Echo and going down to Austin and listening to live music down in Austin gave me an appreciation for a brand of rather free thinking and fun living.

**VM:** You have a strong cult following with the college scene. Do you think that playing for college kids is different than playing from the larger concerts?

PG: Well, what I think about that is that it certainly gave me a leg up and a great way to start a career. Coming from the indie scene and being big with the college scene was certainly a vehicle to get on radio and to get on the bigger tours with Dave Matthews and Kenny Chesney and Keith Urban and so forth and really make bigger strides toward becoming a national act.

VM: Do you play with the same musicians every time you

**PG:** Yeah, we have had almost the same band for 10 years. We had two guys come in the last three years. We are a very loyal bunch, very family-like atmosphere on our bus.

## VM: What are you listening to right now? Any new artists?

PG: I've been listening to the new Waif Owens album, which isn't out yet. I'm very excited about that one. The new Randy Newman album. I really appreciate great song writers, great songwriting, guys who know what their doing around the melody. Great melody, great lyric is kind of what I'm into. I'm not really into hip-hop or anything like that; it doesn't suit me. I'm not trying to be weird. Culture is a really big part of what hip-hop is, and you know it's just a different expression.

## **VM:** What do you like to do in your free time?

**PG:** I love to play golf. I like to go fishing and hunting with my friends and my kids. I like anything to do with mountains, the cooler temperatures. I'm melting this summer in Texas. It's the hottest thing in the world in Texas.

## **VM:** What artists have the biggest impact on your music?

**PG:** In college I started listening to Willie Nelson and his contemporaries that became the writing style that I eventually adopted as my own. ... Definitely Willie Nelson, Bruce Springsteen, Dave Matthews — I really enjoy what he has to say and how he says it. Randy Newman, just as far as crazy songwriting — its amazing stuff. Bob Schneider, he's an Austin guy, really great Austin singer-songwriter. And Robert Earl Keen, Jerry Jeff

## VM: Is there a reason that so much of your music is energetic

and uplifting?

**PG:** I think that's because that's what I want to see when I go out to a show. I don't get into a lot of negative energy kind of stuff; I keep things as lighthearted as possible. I'm not much into preaching or giving sermons or telling people about my politics. I figure that when people go to a bar to have a few drinks and listen to some music, they would feel the same way. They just want to enjoy themselves. 光

**SOUNDTRACK TO THE ISSUE: 1.** "Let the Beat Build," Lil Wayne **2.** "Get Like Me," David Banner, Young Joc and Chris Brown 3. "Always Feel This Way," Tristan Prettyman 4. "My Worst Enemy," Forever The Sickest Kids 5. "Stitched Up," Herbie Hancock feat. John Mayer 6. "Stuck In The Middle With You," Stealer's Wheel 7. "Play Your Part (Pt. 2)," Girl Talk 8. "Life In Technicolor," Coldplay 9. "Mercy," Duffy 10. "Fire and Rain," James Taylor To find in iTunes, go to iTunes Store > Music > iMix > Search for Versus Magazine "Soundtrack to the issue 9/03"

## FLIP SIDE

OVERHEARD

Some people on this campus just don't think before they speak. Sometimes we are lucky enough to overhear what they say.

PHOTOS: www.skc.hu

Compiled from the Facebook group "Overheard at Vanderbilt'



In a Visions meeting, talking about Econ 100: "So, does Buckles get hard?"

Organic Chem professor: "A rhinoceros is not a unicorn. And it's not a dinosaur."

Guy walking through Sarratt to his friends: "Dude, what we were talking about in economics today was JUST like Batman!"

Wandering Commons visitor: "I hear they modeled this place after HOGWARTS."

Girl getting off of elevator in Towers: "Do you ever look at Towers and think it looks like subsidized housing?"

Guy 1: "If you had to have sex with any animal, what would it be?"

Guy 2: "I think I'd have sex with a monkey, just to see how freaky she'd get."

At Rand brunch: Me: "What is that chicken?"

Student worker: "Who knows? It's Rand."

Girl: "Like, seriously, you don't even understand. I PUT OUT for Taco Bell!"

Guy: "Sometimes I steal trays from Bread & Co. and give them to Wendy's. I feel like Robin

# HOROSCOPES



### VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Virgo, eh? Not for long.



### LIBRA 9/23-10/22:

You broke a mirror seven years ago, so that bad luck should be ending right about now ... unless you're a loser. Sorry.



### SCORPIO 10/23-11/21:

Those green arrows around campus are actually directions to Gee's hidden treasure! Follow them!



## **SAGITTARIUS** 11/22-12/21:

Feeling lost? Got the itch to find your niche? The organization fair is over, so sucks for you.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19: Your motto for the day: Do it sexy.

**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18:** Don't go to The Pub today. Trust us, you'll thank us. (This one can be applied every day.)



## **PISCES 2/19-3/20:**

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Flip a coin and that's what today is.



### ARIES 3/21-4/19:

Born under the sign of the ram, eh? Hehe, "ram."



### **TAURUS 4/20-5/20:**

Haven't found a lady friend, yet? Looks like ya gotta grab the bull by the horns. (Get it? You're a Taurus).



### **GEMINI 5/21-6/21:**

When you really think about it, you're just pre-CANCEROUS. Better get that looked at.



## **CANCER 6/22-7/22:**

How's it feel to have your sign be a deadly disease?



### LEO 7/23-8/22:

Considering seppuku? Don't. Classes are over in three months.

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