



# Versus

SEPTEMBER 17—SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 No. 16

## Versus Magazine

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## FROM THE EDITOR



Let me take you back in time. It was the spring of 2003. Sister Hazel concert. Hammerstein Ballroom. New York City. The venue was small and intimate; after a good fight, my girlfriends and I ended up only about 20 feet away from the front. Sister Hazel took the stage; it was magic. We knew every word to every song from the band's album "Chasing Daylight"; in fact, Sister Hazel was one of a few bands that provided the soundtrack to my high school experience. "Nobody understands me like you do, Sister Hazel!" As I belted out the words to one of my favorites, "Champagne High," (one of the lesser-known Sister Hazel power ballads) lead guitarist Ryan Newell (hey, look at that!) made eye contact with me. I must have been singing with a noticeable, albeit embarrassing amount of ferocity. He smiled, and pointed his finger right at me.

I. Died. Right. There.

Fast-forward five years to today. I'd like to think my music tastes have evolved, expanded and matured, due likely to my time spent in Nashville, the Blair music history classes I have taken and the time I spend at BET.com. And yet, when it comes to Sister Hazel, I'm still right there with my 17-year-old self.

The Gainesville, Fla., natives are still recording their warm and soulful brand of pop and southern rock. Their new stuff is as good, if not better, than the songs that made them famous years ago. And though hearing some of those classics like "Hard to Say" and "Your Winter" immediately bring me back to who and where I was when I first heard them, I nevertheless play them often and enjoy them.

Long story short, I chatted with Mark Trojanowski, the band's drummer, over the weekend, and it was everything I had hoped for and more. I know I'm going to be at Greek Week, front row, shouting the lyrics to "Champagne High" with all my might. Will you?

Darcy Newell

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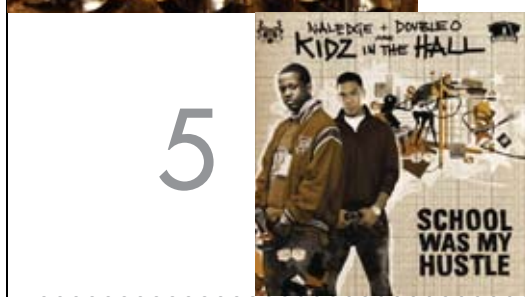
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## PIC OF THE WEEK



ZACHARY HARDY/VERSUS MAGAZINE

## FICTION

"LIFE IS FAR TOO IMPORTANT A THING EVER TO TALK SERIOUSLY ABOUT."  
— OSCAR WILDE



## Songs of Entitlement

One of the great things about the arts is when you can find a way to synergistically combine different avenues of expression. Here at Versus, we're trying something new: Every week, we're going to take the name of a song by a featured artist and have one of our writers turn it into a short story. This week we're starting it off with "Everything Else Disappears" by Sister Hazel.

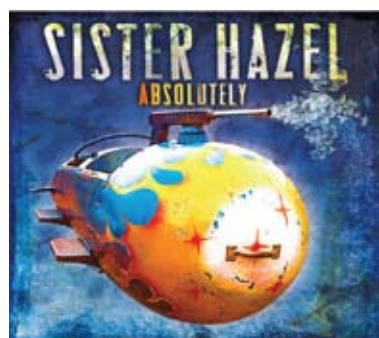
CHRIS GEARING  
Features Editor

"Everything else disappears" was scrawled in black sharpie on the stall next to me. What the hell? Who was writing drivel like that in the bathroom stall at the quaint dive bar on the corner? My bar. What a dick. As the booze surged through my veins, it must have jarred a random memory from my college philosophy class on Descartes. The odd relationship between being and experiencing, between reality and perception. I hated that class, but still. I couldn't help but remember one of professor's favorite lines: "Atoms are 80 percent space, so you're currently sitting mostly on space."

Now, I don't know why I had decided to finish off that "special brownie" Gabe had made before class, but somehow everything began to make sense. Maybe we are all sitting on space. Maybe I am nothing but a collection of protons and electrodes. Maybe reality is a myth, and intellect is all we have. Maybe it's just

"DUDE, John! Get your ass back out here for shots."

I zipped up and skipped out the door.



### HAIKUS

## Words to live by in seventeen syllables

Did you know Lil' Wayne  
Really used to be Big Wayne?  
Yeah. Liposuction.

Missing Quake for chem.?  
The sacrifices start now.  
Welcome to pre-med.

## Only in Dreams



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: So I was running around this place with a giant golden sword, and I was chopping people up. They were dying left and right, man. Blood EVERYWHERE. They kept trying to chop me back, and it hurt but I never died. Then I woke up. Help!

### Why you're crazy:

This is just excessively violent. I mean, I don't think we really need to get into symbolism here. Pretty straight up what was going on. That's right, murder. How about a few more trips to the gym this week? Buy a punching bag? Study for that test? See a movie? For real, bro. You need a vacation.

Best,  
Dream Doctor

## yo whassup?

Do you have prose in different area codes? Want your own 35 seconds of fame? Submit your poetry, prose, haikus and photography to appear on the fiction page! Send submissions to the fiction editor at

VersusVU@gmail.com





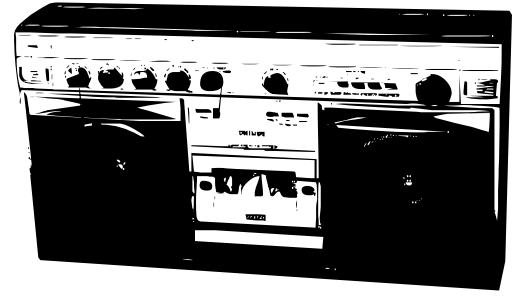
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
Self-taught musicians always have a personal flair to their music, and **Nicholas Megalis** is no exception. This self-taught pianist and guitarist is playing his brooding music at Exit/In at 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
It's time for a battle. Jam Solid Productions is bringing some of the best local musicians to an epic battle of the bands at The End. The show starts at 4 p.m., and tickets are \$10.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**  
Have you ever been listening to The Beatles and come to the sad realization that you will never be able to see them perform? Well never fear, the **WannaBeatles** are here. The Beatles cover band will be playing The Beatles greatest hits at Sambuca at 7 p.m. — and it's free!

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**  
Come out to the Bluebird Cafe and check out the NSAI Songposium if you want to experience the acoustic jams of the **Rodney Crowell Trio**. After years performing and more than one Grammy, Crowell is still playing beautiful music. The show starts at 9 p.m., and tickets are \$20.

## SOUNDTRACK TO THE ISSUE



*We at Versus have excellent taste in music. Below, the editors share what tracks we've been spinning as we create the glory you're holding in your hands.*

1. "SHAME" Sister Hazel
2. "MY LIFE" The Game featuring Lil' Wayne
3. "LUPE BROWN" The Fratellis
4. "LAST NAME" Carrie Underwood
5. "THE SEED 2.0" The Roots
6. "AMERICAN BOY" Estelle featuring Kanye West
7. "HURRICANE JANE" Black Kids
8. "SLEEPYHEAD" Passion Pit
9. "ELECTRIC FEEL (JUSTICE REMIX)" MGMT
10. "COOKIE JAR" Gym Class Heroes

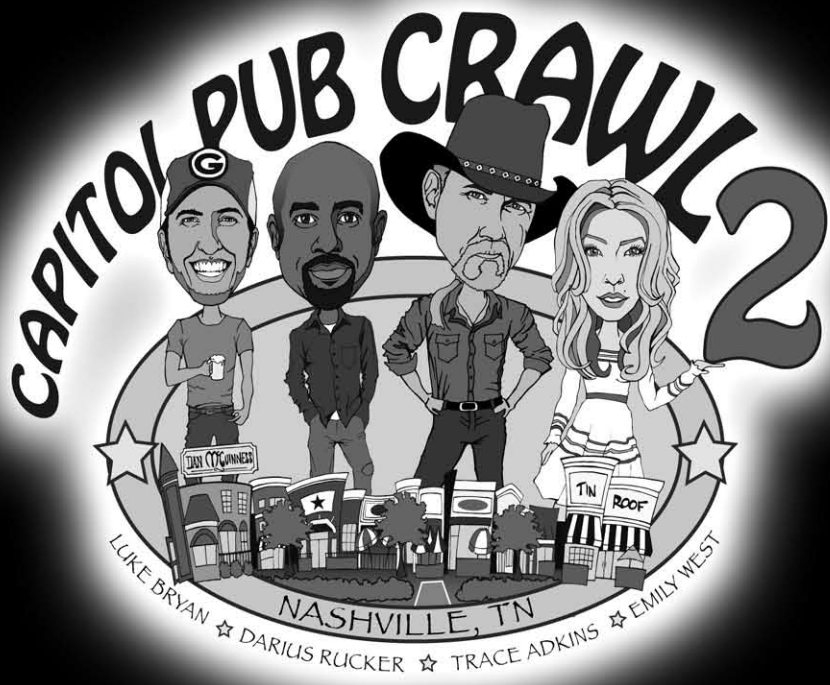
## Versus' top 10 breakup songs

TRIP COTHREN  
Staff Writer

10. "She Hates Me" Puddle of Mudd  
From Puddle of Mudd's debut album, "Come Clean," we have this vulgar expression of heartbreak. This song starts off the list with angry lyrics and a monstrous guitar riff.
9. "I Will Survive" Gloria Gaynor  
If you've seen "The Replacements," then you agree with me on this one; if you haven't, sorry. Gaynor explores the ultimate women-have-the-power idea.
8. "Heartbreak Hotel" Elvis Presley  
Any list of this magnitude that does not include The King is a sham. "Heartbreak Hotel" is the primo '50s/'60s "I'm down in the dumps, and I hate life" song.
7. "I Heard it Through the Grapevine" Marvin Gaye  
Essentially, Marvin Gaye is telling his woman, "Yo, I got eyes on you!" Why cheat? You are going to get caught.
6. "Go Your Own Way" Fleetwood Mac  
After handmates Lindsey Buckingham (man) and Stevie Nicks (woman) called it quits, Lindsey wrote a little ditty for Stevie. A line about "shacking up" pissed off Stevie and she insisted the line be removed. Lindsey said no. What a guy.
5. "Song for the Dumped" Ben Folds  
In the familiar Ben Folds style, he basically tells some girl he wants his stuff back. He expresses his contempt for women in general, and he really just wants to be reimbursed for expenditures. Sounds reasonable to me!
4. "No Woman No Cry" Bob Marley  
The live version of this track is probably the most familiar to us, as frat-hopping all-stars. This quintessential last-call song is one that tells us that leaving at the end of the night — but "No Woman" really should not lead to crying.
3. "Dammit" Blink-182  
The track is a 16-year-old's remarkable soliloquy to his lost girlfriend. Mark Hoppus basically whines the whole way through and explains how stupid it is that his ex-girlfriend is already with another dude. So eighth grade, but so good!
2. "Ain't No Sunshine" Bill Withers  
I may or may not have listened to this song more than a few hundred times. Albeit very short, this song really hits the spot for any broken heart.
1. "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" Hank Williams  
So, here we are: the cream of the crop. I feel the pain when I hear this one. Listen to this one, and you will begin to question your own emotions.



## FREE PARTY IN THE STREET!



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with Todd Snider



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# ART

FASHION

## The fashionable life

OLIVIA KUPFER  
Staff Writer

“Work hard, play hard” is Vandy’s mantra, but after graduation the reality sets in: In the real world, it’s all about work. Which got me thinking: There must be a career in which one can work and play at the same time.

Well, I’ve found just the career. If you are fortunate enough to work in fashion then you get to spend one week a year being paid to party with rock stars, gossip with famous models and drink cocktails with fashion’s elite. But it’s not just any week of the year, it’s the biggest week in fashion — New York Fall Fashion Week.

“If your name isn’t on the list, you can’t be admitted to the after-party.” That was my mantra last week when I worked the fashion week after-parties. Yes, I did wear a headset (a la Lauren Conrad on “The Hills”), but my job was real. I was fortunate to have interned during fashion week for the production company Radar Entertainment.



Flickr.com

really imagine attending a party where the music sucks and the liquor runs out?

This year Radar produced the after-parties at an event space at 10th Avenue and 34th Street, making certain that celebrities and the “right people” were in attendance. One night it was an MGMT concert on the roof, overlooking the Hudson River, attended by Mary-Kate Olsen and the “Gossip Girl” cast; another night, the party honored the iconic ’60s fashion model Veruschka, complete with fashion editors, the legendary Diane

Von Furstenberg and Agyness Deyn, today’s hottest model and the face of the Burberry campaign. Of course, I have to mention the Rock & Republic and Prada parties that Radar produced, which were two of the most important events of the week.

For those of you who missed it, I’ll summarize the spring 2009 collection at the Rock & Republic show. For this spring hemlines are very short, the palette is strictly the classic black and white, and in true Rock & Republic style, the clothing is all

sophisticated but revealing.

It wasn’t all glamour and glitz; I did have to work standing for eight hours every night. But I also had elite access to one of the year’s best weeks of fashion. My advice is that if you too want to go to the fashion week after-parties (the best part of fashion week itself), you better get your name on a guest list, preferably as a VIP. As we all know, it’s all about the party. ☘

ART

## Fall at the Frist features diverse displays

STEPHANIE BAEZA  
Staff Writer

If you’re feeling a little culturally deprived as tailgating season kicks into gear, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts is offering plenty of exhibits this fall to satisfy a wide range of artistic tastes, from the abstract to the classical, from painting to sculpture to photography.

“Color as Field: American Painting 1950-1975,” on display until Sept. 21, features “color field” paintings, an abstract style originating in the 1950s and characterized by solid areas of color across the entire canvas. It’s aimed at eliciting deep emotional responses in the viewer. The Frist is featuring 41 works by big names in color field painting, such as Mark Rothko, Helen Frankenthaler, Morris Louis, Kenneth Noland, Jules Olitski, Larry Poons and Frank Stella.

To contrast the bursting color palette of “Color as Field,” the Frist is also exhibiting “Shades of Gray: Four Artists of the Southeast,” a muted collection of art in black, white and gray by four artists of the Southeastern College Art Conference. It’s on display until Sept. 21.

Those with more classical tastes will enjoy “Rodin: A Magnificent Obsession,”

Sculpture from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation,” on display until Jan. 4. The exhibit features 60 sculptures spanning the prolific artist’s career, including “The Thinker” and “The Kiss.” It also includes paper works, photographs and a demonstration of Rodin’s preferred sculptural reproduction method.

On Oct. 10, the Frist is opening two photography exhibits that will be on display until Jan. 25: “The Best of Photography and



About.com

“Flood” by Helen Frankenthaler. This painting is a part of the “Color as a Field” exhibit on display until Sept. 21.



Film from George Eastman House Collection” will feature iconic works in photography and film including Matthew Brady’s portrait of Abraham Lincoln and works by Ansel Adams, while “Indelible: The Photographs of Lalla Essaydi” will feature the Moroccan artist’s photographs of women in traditional Islamic attire, covered in writing that depicts the repressive silence often imposed on these women and expresses the artist’s struggle with her dual East-West identity.

Experiencing these exhibits doesn’t even have to cost you a thing. Every Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. the Frist offers free admission to college students, so you can wander the exhibits, listen to the live music in the lobby and not feel too guilty when you enjoy the cafe or wine bar. ☘

## Who are you wearing?

HOLLY MEEHL  
Staff Writer

**Ryan Fusella**  
(Freshman)

Who are you wearing?

The top is from H&M and the shoes are from Urban Outfitters.

Favorite brands or stores?

Free People, Nordstrom, Madewell.



**Mills Weinmann**  
(Sophomore)

Who are you wearing?

The coat is “burberry” but not the actual label; I got it from a silk market in Beijing. The boots are Burberry.

Favorite brands or stores?

Burberry, Anthropologie, J. Crew.



**Vanessa Newton**  
(Senior)

Who are you wearing?

It’s a dress from a boutique next to Calypso. A Belgian lady owns it (the boutique).

Favorite brands or stores?

Just clothes from the Belgian lady. I’ve been shopping there since I was a freshman.



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All Photos by Holly Meehl

# SISTER HAZEL

As revered pop/Southern rockers Sister Hazel gear up for their performance at next weekend's Greek Week finale, drummer Mark Trojanowski takes time out to chat with Editor in Chief Darcy Newell. Read on to find out what the name Sister Hazel actually means, how he feels about online music sharing and what exactly is a "Hazelnut."

**VERSUS MAGAZINE:** I read that the band is named after Sister Hazel Williams, a nun who ran a homeless shelter in Gainesville in the '70s and '80s. Can you talk a little bit about why you chose this name and why she was significant to you?

**MARK TROJANOWSKI:** Our lead singer, Ken, grew up in Gainesville and still lives there, and back in the '70s he used to see commercials for her mission that she used to run; she thought everyone needed a good place to stay and a meal, so she would give them that. A lot of the positive messages she was portraying had a lot of similarities with the early songs Ken was writing, so when he was putting the band together he kind of thought that her message stood for the things he was trying to convey, so he named the band after her.

**VM:** Charity seems to be at the core of what Sister Hazel is about. Can you talk a little bit about your commitment to helping others and how you go about it?

**MT:** Once we got to the situation where we were able to do these charitable things, Ken formed Lyrics for Life, which is a charity based on cancer. His little brother died when he was 18, and so we started Lyrics for Life, which generates money through artists writing lyrics on different items, whether it's a surf board or an airline propeller — you know, some people surf, some people fly airplanes — so we do that and have silent auctions to raise money that way. We also have concerts throughout the year where singer/songwriters perform their songs in a storyteller environment and use the proceeds to stop children's cancer through research, as well as providing for the families. It's something we all felt strongly about because we've all, in some way, been affected by cancer.

**VM:** You've been recording and performing for almost 15 years. Did you have a big break moment when everything changed?

**MT:** You know, I think it's kind of been the same situation for us since the beginning. We go out there and tour and record records and we've had success via radio and media in the late '90s and 2000s, but we haven't really changed the way we make our records. We left the major label back in the early 2000s because we wanted to put out more music; whenever we wanted and whatever songs we wanted. So that was a pretty big change for us, because since then we've been putting out records pretty much every year, which we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. We can control our career a little bit more now.

**VM:** Which album of yours are you most proud of or is the most meaningful to you?

**MT:** I think that in each album there is always something endearing to each person, and I think all of them are kind of like your children, there's a part of every album you're drawn to. I really like our "Fortress" album; it took the longest time to make, but I really like the songs on that record. You know, there are a bunch of them — "Chasing Daylight" is a really good record of ours — so it's hard to say. There is something on every record that's special, but "Fortress" is the record I like the most in terms of playing the songs live.

**VM:** Live music and touring are still a big part of who Sister Hazel is. What is the most rewarding part of performing live? What's the most difficult thing about being on the road?

**MT:** The coolest thing about performing live, at least over the years, is that all the people that have been with us for many years are still coming out to see shows, but we continue to play college shows every year, and there are always people 18-22 years old singing the words to "All For You" and "Come Around" and "Change Your Mind." These kids were a lot younger when these songs came out, so it's really cool that our music has bridged the gap to another generation that really wasn't around when our music was out and nationally exposed. The hardest part about it is being away from families and friends, being 3,000 miles away from our wives and kids. I have a new 5-month-old baby, first child for me, so it's very difficult to not be home.

**VM:** Your big fans call themselves Hazelnuts. Do you have any funny stories about how fans have shown their love for you and your music?

**MT:** There was one summer when about 20 fans got together and traveled to 15 shows in the middle of the summer; they took their families; it was their vacation. Another time they made this little block for our lead singer who's name was Ken Block, sent the block all around the country to all the Hazelnuts and they all signed it and then sent it to Ken. They have a fan base Web site where they communicate with each other outside even of our Sister Hazel Web site. It's something that we didn't start; they started it themselves; they call themselves that. So it's a pretty cool thing.

**VM:** What challenges do you face as a musician today? How do you stay current?

**MT:** We don't try to listen to what's on the radio and write songs like that and put that out. The way we try to stay current is trying to play as many college shows and major market shows to keep our fan base growing so that there is people listening to us, from 13 to 50 years old; there is something in our music for everyone. We are up on all the digital download sites and have embraced that since it became legal — using those as a tool, that's how bands are getting themselves out there. It's not an MTV-driven world anymore. It's all about blogs and the Internet.

**VM:** Do you feel the need to reinvent your sound as popular music changes, or do you try to stay true to the sound and the music that your fans know and love?

**MT:** I think at this point we just try to write really good songs that people can relate their lives to. We try to tell our stories and put out really good, positive messages that people can listen to and enjoy.

**VM:** We've seen a big decline in record sales and a surge of online music sharing and music communities. Do you think these trends are ultimately beneficial to musicians and to the music industry?

**MT:** Well, I think as long as it's through a legitimate Web site like iTunes and now Napster, as long as peer-to-peer sharing goes away and those people are penalized, and more sites come up that are paying the artists, it's great and protects us as artists and musicians. When Napster first came out, we were one of the bands that definitely suffered with our "Fortress" album because so many people got our record for free. The only problem I have with the digital situation is that I'm kind of an audio file snob, so when you pay 99 cents or \$9.99 for a record, you really aren't getting CD quality, you're getting MP3 quality, which people say is good, but it's really not the same. We're in a society where people want it and want it now and they don't care, so that's the only thing that's kind of sad for me.

**VM:** Tell me about "Before the Amplifiers." Was this your first live acoustic album?

**MT:** Yeah it was. People really wanted an acoustic record for us, and we have tried a couple times before to do it live. We got a recording studio where we were able to put in a live audience, and we had one night, and it was really the best of both worlds. We had really good sound because it was in a recording studio, but at the same time we had a live audience, so we're pretty excited about the record and pretty proud of it.

**VM:** What's next for Sister Hazel?

**MT:** Well after we come up there for the show in Nashville we are coming back to Nashville in October to start our next studio record, so we'll finish that this year and put it out next year. We also have about 20 of our songs charted out for a symphony orchestra; we have been playing with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for several years and hopefully we're going to find a way to make a record kind of like Metallica did with the San Francisco Symphony where we'll get a record with the symphony and Sister Hazel, and that will come out in either '09 or 2010. ☿

## LETTER FROM AN ANGRY WASP

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



### Dear Towers facilities,

Thanks for functioning perfectly. Since we have to pay well over the standard monthly rent, I really appreciate you making sure every aspect of my suite is working all the time. Oh wait — that's not true at all.

First, I bet you're really happy with all your security measures. Not only do I have to swipe my card (well, swipe it five times before it registers) just to get inside my building (which is open to everyone to buy food, by the way), but then I have to swipe my card in the elevator to get up to my floor. Or, I would if the card readers in the elevators were reliable. My favorite thing in the world is getting all the way up to my floor and then having the elevator stop and then go all the way back to the lobby. Just awesome. Or the time when it went all Tower of Terror on me and dropped multiple floors at a time. Oh, real safe, Vanderbilt.

So yeah, once I eventually get back into my room, I'm welcomed by a perfectly clean and nice apartment, right? Nope. The air conditioner's broken about 60 percent of the time (and the 40 percent it's working is the wintertime, so it's awesomely frigid), so it's about 90 degrees inside. Oh, and because it broke it's also been leaking fluid onto the floor, so it smells like a buffet dinner at the Pub. All this makes me want to take a shower — oh, but I can't because the water pressure is down today.

If only there were a more affordable option. Like if the standard rate for an apartment around Vanderbilt campus were something less than \$1,000 a month. Oh, wait ...

Sincerely,  
An Angry WASP



# 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.



Compiled from the Facebook group "Overheard at Vanderbilt"

### PUB At Overcup Oak



About the tire race during the football game:  
Guy: "Well, there are only three of them, so I had a 50/50 chance of winning with green."

Guy: "What does the Pub have going for it anymore?"  
Pub worker: "Not much, man."

Guy: "If you hook up with a blind girl, you never have to dress up!"

In a distillation lab, talking about angled receiver tubes

Guy No. 1: "Dude, why does yours hang straighter than mine?"  
Guy No. 2: "I dunno. Genetics?"

Girl: "I've been pregnant for two years now."

Professor: "Who's that rapper again? Quarter? Penny?"  
Class: "Um ... 50 Cent?"

Girl: "Ugh, I know; he's such a man-whore. Like, when we play 'never have I ever' you could say, 'Never have I ever hooked up — on a rooftop during the full moon while wearing a pink blouse,' and still, like, 12 girls will sit down."

Fratstar: "Sometimes I wish I was a virgin just for the sake of 'never have I ever.'"

Girl No. 1: "I am just having the worst day!"  
Girl No. 2: "Did you get stereotyped again?"

Girl No. 1: "Doesn't Florida have a lot of senators?"  
Girl No. 2: "I think most states have two."



PHOTOS: www.sk.hu

## HOROSCOPES



**VIRGO 8/23-9/22:**  
Check your mail this Wednesday. Trust me.



**LIBRA 9/23-10/22:**  
The power of positive thinking can't make up for that terrible smell.



**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21:**  
Wouldn't it be awesome if your sign was just "Rufio?" Think about it.



**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21:**  
Spend all day talking to hot chicks online.



**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19:**  
Find a capri-CORNucopia of love today. See what I did there?



**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18:**  
Don't look to me for help, man. You already burned that bridge. This is what happens!



**PISCES 2/19-3/20:**  
Your roommate is STILL a trifling ho.



**ARIES 3/21-4/19:**  
Start a dialogue with a stranger today. Or maybe a tri-ologue? Wait, can you have a poly-logue?



**TAURUS 4/20-5/20:**  
We don't have what you're looking for here — turn to the whoroscopes.



**GEMINI 5/21-6/21:**  
Unless you want to feel bad about yourself, don't go to the Rec. Ever.



**CANCER 6/22-7/22:**  
Do it.



**LEO 7/23-8/22:**  
Eat a balanced breakfast today. That's not a horoscope — that's just a good idea. Don't forget, rich in grains!

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