

Versus

Entertainment & Culture at Vanderbilt

OCTOBER 1—OCTOBER 7, 2008 No. 18



CHRIS WALLA

THIS DEATH CAB ROCKER WANTS YOU TO REGISTER TO VOTE!

page 7

Your not-so-ordinary popsicles are on page 3.

Find some on-campus fashionistas (on page 6).

Looking to make it big at Lonnie's? Check out page 5.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Lonesome River Band — Station Inn

This Virginia-based band has been one of the biggest names in Bluegrass for the past 25 years since their 1991 release of "Carrying The Tradition." Come check out their twangy, country-rock sound. (\$15, 9 p.m.)

Clayton Risner — 3rd and Lindsley

Nashville native and 22-year-old Clayton Risner may be the next big thing to happen to the pop-rock community. With a smooth and soulful voice and a collection of feel-good songs, Risner is sure to be making a lot of noise in the near future. (\$7, 9:30 p.m.)

Chiodos with Motion City Soundtrack and Hit the Lights — Rocketown

These hardcore rockers hailing from Davidson, Mich., are bringing their bone-chilling, creepy-cool emo goodness to Nashville, promoting their latest release "Bone Palace Ballet." (\$20 at the door, 6 p.m., 401 Sixth Ave. South)

Chris Gelbuda — Cafe Coco

Chris Gelbuda describes his music to be "acoustic/thrash/jungle" on his Myspace page, but a quick listen to his sound will tell you that he is simply soulful and definitely worth a trip to Cafe Coco. (Free, 7 p.m.)

Mock Orange and Eureka Gold with And Relatives — Mercy Lounge

Indie rockers Mock Orange come to Nashville to promote their latest release "Captain Love," which boasts some of the coolest lyrics and interesting instrumentals the indie community has seen in a while. (\$8 at the door, 9 p.m.)

Beegie Adair — F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar

Jazz pianist Beegie Adair has been called "elegant" by the Los Angeles Times and "one of the finest piano players in the world" by Entertainment News. Need another reason to check out this performance? It's free! (Free, 7 p.m.)

Vanderbilt String Orchestra Concert — Blair School of Music

Get out there and support Vandy musicians at Blair tonight as the Vanderbilt String Orchestra performs Benjamin Britten's "Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge." The Vanderbilt Wind Symphony will also perform. (Free, 8 p.m., 2400 Blakemore Ave.)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

ZZ Top — Ryman Auditorium

The classic rockers, who hail from Texas, are coming back to their Southern roots and will perform some of the hits that earned them a spot in the Hall of Fame. (\$33, 8 p.m.)

Wrong Way: A Sublime Tribute — Exit/In

You won't be going the wrong way if you come to see this tribute to the ska-punk, reggae band Sublime. This band will play all the classics, and it might be the next best thing to seeing one of the greats from the '90s. (\$8, 9 p.m.)

Bluegrass Fan Fest — Nashville Convention Center

This indoor festival is bringing 60 of the best bluegrass groups that the nation has to offer. With featured performances from The Grascals and Bradley Walker, it will be a day to remember. (\$30, 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m., 601 Commerce St.)

The Levees — Douglas Corner Cafe

This group is bringing their unique style of music, commonly called Swamp Rock, to Nashville, and it is sure to be a soulful experience. The band, originally from Louisiana, combines blues, Southern gospel, zydeco and bluegrass music. (STBA, 8 p.m., 2016A Eighth Ave. South)

Feedback Revival — Cafe Coco

Pop-rockers Feedback Revival will bring their energy-filled show to Cafe Coco. Get up and moving! (Free, 8 p.m.)

Jeff Hall — F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar

Hall's crooning voice and smooth jazz is a combination that will soothe your soul. If you want to hear a man who has mastered the jazz standards of the past, then this is the show for you. (Free, 7 p.m.)

The Revival Tour — Mercy Lounge

The Revival Tour is bringing Chuck Ragan, Ben Nichols and Tim Barry to the stage to share their acoustic-based music. (\$12, 9:30 p.m.)

Super T and the Tyrone Smith Revue with Crazy Face — 3rd and Lindsley

When was the last time that you saw a tribute band to Van Morrison whose lead singer wears a superhero costume? If you have never seen that, then this is your chance. Super T is bringing back the classics in a brand new flavor. (\$10, 7 p.m.)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Branded Sons, Ricky Young and Red White Blue — Mercy Lounge and Cannery Ballroom

Local Nashvillians The Branded Sons bring their Southern-influenced classic rock to Mercy Lounge. Folk Rockers Ricky Young are opening, preceded by local act Red White Blue. (\$5 advance/\$8 day of show, 9 p.m.)

Bodhitta Belly Dance Troupe featuring Gabrielle Welch, Butterfly Boucher, and Tommy and the Whale — Exit/In

Modern dancer Gabrielle Welch heads to the Exit/In with the Bodhitta Belly Dance Troupe for a night of dancing and music. Also featured are Nashville pop-rockers Butterfly Boucher and Tommy and the Whale. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

Larry Stephenson Band — Station Inn

Time-tested bluegrass group Larry Stephenson Band have produced 16 albums and a DVD in its 19 years together. For a unique evening of relaxing acoustic music, check them out at the Station Inn. (\$12, 9 p.m.)

Glenda Montgomery Band — Douglas Corner Cafe

Nashvillian blues/R&B rocker Glenda Montgomery sings with a spirit that will take you back — way back. She'll get you tapping your toes if you turn out at this Eighth Avenue spot. (\$5, 9 p.m., 2016A Eighth Ave. South)

Bible of the Devil with Imperial Battlesnake and Destroy by Design — The End

Chicago natives Bible of the Devil are bringing their garage-band sound to town with fellow Chicago metal band Imperial Battlesnake and local jammers Destroy By Design. Get ready to bang your head. (\$5, time TBA, 2219 Elliston Place)

Zac Harmon — Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar

Traditional blues artist Zac Harmon makes a stop in Nashville on his fall tour. Raised in Jackson, Miss., Harmon has toured across the nation peddling his brand of classic blues. (\$10, 9 p.m., 220 Printers Alley)

Joey Nardone Trio — F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar

Jazz fans on campus should be sure to check out the Joey Nardone Trio this Saturday at F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar. Equally at home playing pop, jazz or rock, Nardone has become a staple on the local scene. (Free, 7:30 p.m.)

The Regulars

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251-3020

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EXIT/IN
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321-3340

STATION INN
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255-3307

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

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

OCTOBER 1—OCTOBER 7, 2008 N° 18

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FROM THE EDITOR



It's hard to be snarky and sarcastic when Vandy life is so idyllic. (If Maryland DOES football and crab cakes, then I would venture to say that Versus DOES snark and sarcasm. Yes, "Wedding Crashers" reference. No, snark is not a real word.) But really! A quick trip to Weather.com informs me that it will be 75 and sunny every day this week, including Saturday, which will provide us some nice weather while we take down those clowns from Auburn. If you haven't heard, we're kicking ass this year. Yet another reason to rejoice. And, in other news, The Slant's heart, which was previously grinch-like and three sizes too small, has seemed to swell to accept all Vandy publications as equals. Would you look at that.

Yeah, Sister Hazel's lead singer Ken Block had laryngitis; no, it didn't really sound like Sister Hazel at all. You can't blame the guy for having the black lung, and he gave as valiant an effort as I've ever seen to make "Your Winter" sound as normal as possible.

And yes, midterms are already upon us, forcing us inside when we'd prefer to be lounging on the lawn, sitting on the deck of SatCo, chanting frat anthems on Kensington Avenue on Thursday afternoons. But as you curse your English teacher for demanding you read Shakespeare at unthinkable speeds, or your mechanical engineering professor for making you ... do things with numbers and shapes (what is it that you guys do anyway?) I bid you to remember all that is going well in the Vandy world. This too shall pass. In the meantime, we interviewed Death Cab for Cutie. Check that out.

Reading is good; let's start the story now.¹

Darcy Newell

¹ From "Billy Madison." Duh.

FICTION

**"SUCCESS USUALLY COMES TO THOSE WHO ARE TOO BUSY TO BE LOOKING FOR IT."
— HENRY DAVID THOREAU**



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 giving you twice the bang for your buck with two songs from Death Cab for Cutie.

CHARLIE ARUTT
Contributor

"No joy in Mudville!" They are going to take it all away; step-by-step, knee deep. This is our fun. This is our life. There was no more mud to hold our deep roots. Our history was washing away. The grinding gears of our fathers from long ago made their decision. We were nobody's pride and joy. We have been sentenced to be the oxen plowing the field all because we were following our dreams. The dark gray clouds in the sky are no match for the fluorescent lights above us now. The rigidity of the floor is punishing compared to the pillowed heaven of the mud.

They try to suffocate us with their blankets of silence, but I know that we won't go down without kicking and screaming. They say this is how it needs to be. They tell us that it is here that our imaginations can truly run wild. Maybe we'll see a unicorn or a dragon, but all I ever saw was black. We're forced into darkness at such a young age. You'd be surprised at what they teach us these days. They want us to confirm: to be the most normal human beings we can be. We're told to suppress our thoughts.

I kick one of them in the shin and she tells me to be sorry for what I have done. They shouldn't expect us to thank or forgive them for taking away our dreams. ☹

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PIC OF THE WEEK



GENEVIEVE GALE / VERSUS MAGAZINE

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

So, should there not be
Six thousand mug shots for our
Underage drinkers?

Live it up this week
Our undefeated season
May end Saturday

Versus Mad Libs

It is so _____ that College GameDay is coming to Vandy for the Auburn game. I am going to show my _____ by wearing my _____ and _____ -ing with my my might. If Vandy loses to those _____ Tigers, I am going to _____.

MATT POPKIN
Contributor

"Different names for the same thing" include: let's do it tomorrow and never gonna happen, driving the 405 and a waste of time, chicken-fried steaks and father-son bonding.

It includes air rifles and breaking the law, back rows of movie theaters and sticky seats, biking under the influence and a very bad idea.

It includes holding hands and sweaty palms, condescending people and practiced smiles, ice cream trucks and screaming kids, public pools and faking you're drowning.

It includes long hugs and awkwardness, cheek pinching and that one aunt you never see, garbage disposal and the dog.

It includes games of tag and head colds, snow days and untapped potential, driving the 405 and adventure, permanent and a pen.

It includes love letters and a good idea at the time, 32-cent stamps and nostalgia, no response and a failing on the part of the postal service.

It includes kidding around and hurting feelings, regrets and that one time, memories and remember when.

It includes getting older.

What's a good synonym for that? ☹

ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIES

'Nick and Norah' hits a comedic high note

ALEXANDRA HELLMAN
Staff Writer

Looking for a movie to see this weekend? "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" isn't just the same song and dance.

The film follows the eventful New York City evening of two music-loving teenagers. Nick, played by Michael Cera of

and even a secret, holiday-themed drag show. The duo are also pursued relentlessly by their respective exes, making for some awkward and unfavorable moments that only seem to remind us that Nick and Norah are perfect for each other.

This is by no means your usual boy-meets-girl, lovey-dovey chick flick. Each character is funny in his or her own way; Cera plays his usual awkward, lovable, comical character and Caroline's drunken exploits are particularly amusing (and sometimes disturbing).

Be on the lookout for her ubiquitous pink chewing gum, which encounters some interesting things



"Superbad" and "Juno" fame, is still aching from a breakup with his disloyal girlfriend, Tris (Alexis Dziena of "Fool's Gold").

When Tris shows up at Nick's band's gig, he immediately falls back under her spell. His bandmates have to restrain him from begging her to take him back and in comes Norah (Kat Dennings), a quirky, rebellious classmate of Tris, to help him forget her. Before even introducing herself, Norah makes a first impression by kissing Nick to convince people that he's her boyfriend. And with that, their adventure begins.

Highlights of their evening include a search for a band that plays late at night in secret locations and a never-ending hunt for Caroline, Norah's friend who has too much to drink and escapes from the car when Nick's friends are taking her home. Their search takes them across New York to music clubs, bus stations

throughout the movie.

Nick's bandmates provide comic relief with their antics as well as their myriad ideas for new names for the band. Watch out for some unexpected cameos in the film. Andy Samberg and Seth Meyers, both from "Saturday Night Live," make appearances in the adventure, as does Kevin Corrigan from "Pineapple Express."

This love story doesn't have any shocking twists (it would not be complete without the boy getting the girl in end) but their road to togetherness provides more than enough entertainment. ☼

MOVIES

LaBeouf's thriller has less than meets the 'Eye'

HOLLY MEEHL
Staff Writer

I was looking forward to seeing Shia LaBeouf's new movie "Eagle Eye." Smitten with the budding mega-star and relatively pleased with his last slew of entertaining movies like "Transformers" and "Indiana Jones," I looked forward to a thrilling film with LaBeouf at its forefront. But when I left the theater, I found myself with a mild headache rather than another reason to love LaBeouf.

"Eagle Eye," directed by D.J. Caruso, tells the story of Jerry Shaw (LaBeouf) and Rachel Holloman (Michelle Monaghan), two strangers who become partners after a call they both receive. The caller gives them life-threatening instructions they must follow and uses technology to constantly track them. In interacting with this mysterious caller, FBI agents (Billy Bob Thornton and Rosario Dawson) begin to chase Rachel and Jerry, believing they are some kind of terrorists.

"Eagle Eye" is action packed and fast-paced, but needs some major editing. There are overly long car chase scenes, which made me feel like I was in the car receiving whiplash rather than observing a craftily shot action sequence. The fact that Monaghan and LaBeouf live through several

explosions is pretty unbelievable, but this is expected for an action movie. What is more far-fetched is the power technology appears to have in present-day America. It seems the mysterious caller can control anything with a battery.

Along with the theme of rapidly progressing technology, "Eagle Eye" is also politically charged. The film tackles the themes of the Patriot Act and government surveillance of citizens' everyday interactions. Many films in the past several years have picked up on this topic due to its existence in our government today: Even "The Dark Knight" plays on the idea when Bruce Wayne's Batman uses technology to listen to others' cell phone conversations to find the Joker. But few films center their entire story on it. In doing so, "Eagle Eye" seems to force its political ideology.

Yet the film was not a complete disaster. LaBeouf and Monaghan interact well together. There are also plenty of close-ups of LaBeouf, which will please his female fans. There was little the two actors could do, however, in terms of performance, and even Thornton simply appears to be running or shouting throughout half the film.

"Eagle Eye" kept me awake, but if you are looking for a healthy dose of LaBeouf and action, wait for "Transformers 2." ☼



EAGLEEYEMOVIE.COM

FOOD

Las Paletas serves up frozen sweet treats

JOE HOGAN
Staff Writer

What's sweet, cool and comes in hibiscus and tamarind? If you answered popsicles, then you've already earned your prize because you've been to the trendiest popsicle place in Music City: Las Paletas.

This tiny store, run by two sisters from Mexico, specializes in paletas (Spanish for "popsicles") and uses original techniques and homemade recipes. They emphasize fresh, high-quality ingredients, and sure enough you can see the chunks of rose petal or raspberry suspended in the sweet ice.

Traditional flavors are another staple, and some of them are well out of the ordinary; you've already heard of rose petal, hibiscus and tamarind, but how about cucumber-chili and peanut butter? Don't worry about being adventurous; everything is delicious, so go ahead and get that cherry-chili fruit pop. If you're looking for a safe place to start, try one of their creamy paletas in flavors ranging from orthodox (coffee) to absurd (corn).

Las Paletas only sells popsicles, and every flavor is \$2.50. Some of the more popular flavors tend to run out, so you probably want to get there early. The fact that they do sell out is amazing considering that they provide no advertising of



any kind — in fact, there isn't even a sign outside the store (their Web site is wheresthesign.com). Aside from the T-shirts, they have no merchandise, so don't expect to be seeing Las Paletas in your supermarket's freezer aisle anytime soon. They do sell small quantities to independent restaurants in the area (like Baja Burrito and Fido), but in general the owners are against commercial expansion.

The attitude of preserving their low-key traditions makes the place even more charming — the prices are written in chalk, and the ladies behind the counter greet you with a smile. If you're looking for a place to enjoy your paletas, you can try Granny White Park across the street, or the balcony situated on top of their heavily art deco-influenced outlet. This Nashville tradition is best enjoyed while the weather is warm, so next time you're overheated and sweaty, grab a friend and go cool off with paletas.

Las Paletas is located in the Cypress building on the corner of Kirkwood and 12th Avenue. Their hours are 12 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Sundays, and they're closed on Mondays. ☼

"Best New Restaurant"

- Nashville Scene 2007 Best of Nashville

"Best New Concept"

- Nashville Scene 2007 Editorial Pick

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MUSIC

"There's two kinds of music: the good and the bad. I play the good kind."
— Louis Armstrong

SETLIST

TODAY

Do you like Americana, swamp rock, R&B and surf rock? If you like any of these types of music you will enjoy **Southern Culture on the Skids**. This group has been playing their hybrid music for years and is bringing it to Mercy Lounge for an epic show. Tickets are \$15, and the show starts at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

If you have been needing a soul-filled experience, then you should come out and hear **Clayton Risner** at 3rd and Lindsley. His smooth voice and enthusiastic piano playing have acquired him an avid fan base, and his heartfelt music is definitely worth your time. The show starts at 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Want a blast from the past and a chance to yell the quality lyrics of "MWMBop"? Then come out to Wild-horse Saloon and see **Hanson**. The tickets are \$30 and the show starts at 6 p.m.

Sister Hazel — a group 'All for You'?

NATALIE FRITZ
Staff Writer

Last Friday night, students assembled on Alumni Lawn to jam to one of their favorite '90s bands — Sister Hazel — and wrap up Greek Week.

Sister Hazel, comprised of members and old time friends Ken Block, Drew Copeland, Ryan Newell, Jett Beres and Mark Trojanowski, belted out classic tunes "Your Winter," "Change Your Mind," "Champagne High" and the favorite "All for You," as Vandy students



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

sang and danced along. Although any die-hard "Hazelnut" (aka Sister Hazel groupie) would have enjoyed the concert, those of us who really only know their most popular songs probably had to strain our ears to make out the lyrics — Block's vocals were compromised by an unfortunately timed episode of laryngitis. The lead singer's voice (or lack thereof) required the other musicians in the group to tone it down — which made Sister Hazel's sound slightly weaker than it usually is when they perform live.

When the concert first started, the audience was pretty fired up. But as the concert progressed, the excitement faded; after the opener, the non-Hazelnuts knew fewer and fewer of the songs being performed. Sister Hazel tried to hold the audience's attention by playing a few covers — such as Smokey Robinson's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" but as the end of the concert drew near, the crowd was clearly losing interest. As most bands do, Sister Hazel held off playing "All for You,"



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

without a doubt the group's most popular song, until the very end of the concert. This was a wise choice, as half of the crowd probably would

have left the concert early if this song hadn't been played at the end.

If I had to give this concert a rating on a scale of one to 10,

Sister Hazel would probably earn a 6.5. Although some of the lackluster of the concert can be accredited to Block's lack of vocal strength, the

concert was still just barely entertaining — and not quite as fabulous as I had hoped. ☹

'Look Out Sunshine': The Fratellis fly into Exit/In



zimbio.com

threeimaginarygirls.com

GRANT DARWIN
Staff Writer

The Fratellis didn't fail to rock Exit/In last week.

Although it was the second time I had seen the band live, it was the first time since the release of their second album, "Here We Stand." Strolling onto stage, the band appeared to be in a sullen and gloomy trance, like they had just abruptly woken up from a long nap. That changed quickly.

From the first chord they were entirely consumed in the moment, blasting the sleep out of their eyes on "Shameless." The venue was the perfect setting for a group of committed fans who

seemed to know every word to every song, doing their best Scottish accent while singing along. A combination of titles from the first and second albums met the shouting demands of the crowd. Catchy tunes and lyrics laid the groundwork for some fresh and unique improvisation.

It seemed that a full two years of touring experience elevated the confidence of the members. While performing "Lupe Brown," Mince Fratelli attacked his drums like they had just made a rude comment about his mother, yielding an energetic and blaring solo.

From a showmanship standpoint, the band as a whole was not as animated as they

were the first time I saw them. Nonetheless, what they were lacking in explosiveness they made up for with talent and a newfound comfort on stage. Well-positioned guitar solos elevated "Acid Jazz Singer" and "Everybody Knows." Artistic growth, evident in their second album, made a solid transition into their show. While sucking on a cigarette mid-song, bassist Barry Fratelli rocked hard on the aptly titled "Cigarette." After finishing the set with a strong rendition of "Flathead," the band returned for an encore consisting of fan favorites: "Mistress Mable," "Doginabag," and "Baby Fratelli." A fabulous night, indeed. ☹

Old Crow's 'Tennessee Pusher' is a pushover

ZACH HUNTER
Staff Writer

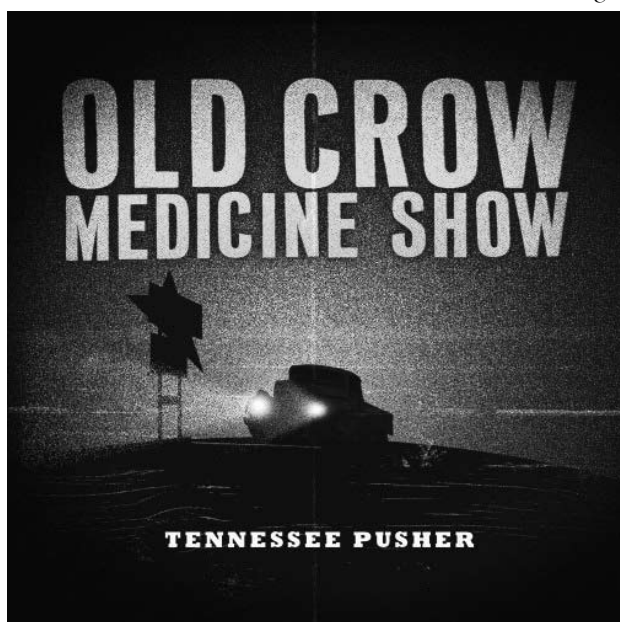
When you download the new Old Crow album, "Tennessee Pusher," the genre that pops up on iTunes is folk. I dig that: a real attempt to make a kind of old school country/folk album in 2008.

But it's questionable how much of an effort went into the actual music.

The guys' lack of desire to hit the pop charts is respectable in an age where artists seem to be sacrificing musical integrity to compete with the downward spiral in album sales. The band has a brave record label. But that doesn't excuse the seemingly little effort put into actually making the music. It sounds like they recorded this album on

someone's front porch, passing a joint around, with an occasional laugh and zero revisions or attempts to perfect their sound. The songs also keep making blatant references to drug use with no effort to find a

"Wine, whiskey, women and guns/how can you afford not to have any fun?" Hmm. Seems like someone's said that one before. And then in the second verse comes the blatant "we do drugs" line again.



amazon.com

This doesn't mean there aren't a few hidden gems on the album. There's track No. 7, "Crazy Eyes," a sweet, melodic tune with direction and substance. It keeps the weird lyrics, but puts it in a musical context. The title song "Tennessee Pusher" is also worth listening to.

Unlike the hit song "Wagon Wheel," off the album "O.C.M.S.," there isn't a track on this CD that you could crank loud enough for people to enjoy at a party. Overall, it's a disappointing performance. ☹

metaphor: it's kinda weird and childish.

"Humdinger" is like a bad mockery of a country song. It's unclear whether the band is for real or not. The beginning of the chorus goes,

'Only By The Night' is stuck in the darkness

HANNAH FASICK
Staff Writer

Poe's still inspiring. Kings of Leon released their fourth studio album last week, titled "Only By The Night," in reference

to the grim Edgar Allan Poe poem "Eleonora." The much-anticipated record from the Nashville natives has a more sophisticated sound than their first two studio albums, "Youth & Young Manhood," and the highly acclaimed "Aha Shake Heartbreak."

This album is more comparable to their third studio album, "Because of the Times." British critics are eating it up; the BBC gushed, "Never overstaying its welcome, 'Only By The Night' is the album that the world's been waiting for the Kings Of

Leon to make."

The band of brothers (and a cousin) is continuing its transition from simplistic Southern rock into mellower experimental grooves. The songs "Crawl," "Notion"



amazon.com

away from loose women and youth as the men grapple with their emotions. The solemnity is reflected in the final line of the album, in which lead singer Caleb Followill quotes Johnny Cash's "Long Black Veil," proclaiming: "Nobody knows, nobody sees, nobody knows but me."

Although beautiful and minimalistic, this album is only appropriate for a melancholy mood and lacks the comprehensive brilliance of the ensemble's earlier releases. ☹

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Head to the historic Grand Ole Opry to see popular country artist **Josh Turner** crank out some classic tunes with **Wynonna** and other performers to be announced. Tickets for adults range from \$34–\$51, and shows begin at both 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Do you want to combine your passion for politics with your love of music? Then **Rock the Vote** is for you. Exit/In is bringing Jimmy Gnecco, Brett Manning, Pilot's Wish and Ligion to remind people of the importance of voting. The show starts at 8 p.m., and it's free!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Today is the day you should bring some funk into your life. And lucky for you, **Snarky Puppy** is rolling into town. Snarky Puppy is playing at 3rd and Lindsley and combines funk and indie to make unique type of dance music. Tickets are \$5, and the show starts at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Come out to Cafe Coco to experience dinner and a show. The band **North Ampton** will be playing its signature songs, and the show is free. The music starts at 8 p.m.

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. **"THE BOMB"**
New Young Pony Club
2. **"TRUE LOVE WAY"**
Kings of Leon
3. **"GHETTO P.S.A."**
Ying Yang Twins
4. **"SYMPHONY FOR THE DEVIL"**
The Rolling Stones
5. **"LONG DIVISON"**
Death Cab For Cutie
6. **"THE FUNERAL"**
Band of Horses
7. **"ROLL TO ME"**
Del Amitri
8. **"WON'T STOP"**
One Republic
9. **"THE END"**
The Doors
10. **"GOOD MORNING"**
John Legend

Top 10 drunken karaoke songs

TRIP COTHREN
Staff Writer

10. "Paradise City" — Guns N' Roses

Axl Rose delivers his best wailings in this mega-hit, and "that guy" at the bar tries his best to reach that falsetto. This is one of the songs on the list that typically ends a bit early.

9. "Livin' on a Prayer" — Bon Jovi

Possibly their biggest hit, yet it's been ruined by one too many frat-tastic adventures. Not too sure about the lyrics, but apparently a half-case of PBR gets me thinking your way!

8. "Summer Girl" — LFO

Now, this is a hit. We all know/have known the words to this little ditty. The guy calls out Abercrombie & Fitch, a brand we were all too familiar with for many years. This isn't the fashion section, so I won't go down that road.

7. "Carry on Wayward Son" — Kansas

This one is special to many of you, I'm sure. We all remember sitting out in the parking lot of our favorite high school belting out good ole Kansas lyrics ... or was that our parents? Either way, this song is timeless.

6. "Low" — Flo Rida

It's the song of the summer, if there ever was one. Last summer, all we knew about Shorty was that she "wore them apple bottom jeans; boots with the fur." That's really all we need to know about Shorty.

5. "Don't Stop Believin'" — Journey

Say what you want; Steve Perry knows how to freaking wail! This song can be found at any bar, any night, any time. Those are just facts. Wikipedia for reference.

4. "Country Boy Can Survive" — Hank Williams Jr.

Since we all live in the South now, we have heard this song slurred once or twice per night since we discovered the nightlife past the Vandy-bubble. Everyone thinks that this song just flows right out of their mouths like they're Hank himself. News flash: They aren't.

3. "Rocky Top" — Tennessee Marching Band

Sadly, I am forced to put this on the list. Because this list is DRUNKEN Karaoke, "Rocky Top" is included. Any other college fight song would be on the Sober Karaoke list. Poor taste? I think not. Orange uniforms, however, are.

2. "Sweet Home Alabama" — Lynard Skynard

Here's one for all of us. We all know the words ... unless you're one of the 60 percent of the students at this school not from the South, in which case you don't. Oh well, I promise this song will be sure to be stuck in your head after a night at Lonnie's.

1. "Higher" — Creed

Scott Stapp. I really do not see a need for further explanation on why this is the best drunken karaoke song of all time.



A melodious malady

ALLENA BERRY
Staff Writer

"Yeah, I'm into the Flaming Monkeys and Exist right now."

"Who?"

"The Flaming Monkeys and Exist. They're really underground and new."

"Oh, you said the Flaming Monkeys. Yeah, I know them. They're amazing!"

All lies. Substitute the fictional "Flaming Monkeys" for any completely obscure, underground, fresh artist and I'm sure you've heard this conversation going on somewhere around campus. Perhaps it's even happened to you. It's the curse of the Music Elitist.

You know the people to whom I'm referring. They seem to know every cool band under the sun before they even realized they were cool; the people who you hide your iPod from so they won't mock your selection of Kelly Clarkson's "Breakaway" (which was an excellent album — even Kelly Osbourne thought

so) and the Billboard top 40. Music Snobs. They tote around their music collection like a badge of honor while the rest of us sing show tunes (with choreography) at the top of our lungs in the privacy of our locked rooms with the curtains closed (everyone



does that ... right?!). It gets to the point where you feel like a second-class listener if more than three people like your favorite band.

It's time we unite. Anyone who's ever felt like his or her taste was subpar, anyone who doesn't have time to research who everyone is "into," anyone

who just likes what they like and doesn't feel the need to make any excuses for anything — band together (pun intended). Blast your Beastie Boys proudly. Don't be ashamed of your absurdly large collection of Yanni. Britney? XXXtina? Any other seemingly sweet-turned-media-train-wreck? Pump up the proverbial jams.

And the next time someone criticizes your music taste or looks down on you for not knowing the next big up-and-comer, you can hold your head up high because you know that you carry just as much weight as they do in the world.

Or just take comfort in the fact that you have enough '80s pop music stored away somewhere to dull the pain of inferiority. ☘



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ART

FASHION

Five essentials for the Vandy co-ed

OLIVIA KUPFER
Staff Writer

With new fall fashions in the stores, there's pressure to buy a new autumn wardrobe. But, considering our unstable economy and that our school books set us back hundreds, a new fall wardrobe may not be in the budget. Rather than buying an entirely new set of clothes for fall, try investing in a few timeless pieces of clothing, in order to build a wardrobe that will transcend the new seasons and trends.

So take a break from Greek tees and running shorts to look at five pieces of clothing and accessories that every sophisticated and stylish Vandy girl must have. And, in case you were wondering, leggings aren't one of them.

1 A great pair of jeans. This selection is not as obvious as it seems. Great jeans are a pair that you can wear in the fall, winter, spring and even summer — no cropped or shredded styles or Daisy Duke jean shorts. Every Vandy girl needs a pair of dark-wash, boot-cut jeans with a medium-rise waist. I know that skinny jeans have been in style the past couple of seasons, but they are a trendier look that may go out of style in the coming years. Boot-cut jeans are a classic, more figure-forgiving style. A dark-wash will give any figure a slimmer look, slenderizing, and a medium-rise waist ensures that you can sit down without us seeing your Hanky Panky's. This style of jean can be dressed up or down, and investing in a pair (though it may seem like a hefty investment) is a smart decision when their versatility and staying power is factored in to the price tag.



2 A classic blazer. Every fall, fashion magazines highlight the season's hottest trends and they often recycle the fashion trends of the previous fall. That means that collegiate preppy look is in style every fall; even if you're not all about everything pink and green, a tailored blazer is a wonderful piece to consider. Wool or corduroy is substantial enough to be worn as a coat when the weather turns chilly, and even if you're failing economics, you'll look classically academic as you walk around campus.

3 A crisp, tailored, white Oxford shirt. A white button-down shirt is a perfect investment piece. I guarantee that its clean simplicity will come in handy if you have a job interview and nothing to wear, and it can even double as part of a Halloween school-girl costume. But seriously, a classic white button-down looks sophisticated and effortless. It can be worn with black pants, jeans or a skirt. Buy a fitted style, but make sure it isn't too tight or too short: the idea of the white button-down Oxford is to look sophisticated, not to show midriff. In the summer, you can even wear the shirt to the beach over your bathing suit.

5 Round-framed, oversized shades. Jackie Kennedy Onassis popularized this look, which has become iconic. If you choose black of tortoise shell frames, this style has no expiration date and creates instant glamour the moment you put them on. Whether you're trying to create intrigue or are covering up a late night studying (or partying), this style of shade compliments nearly every shape of face shape and is great for any season. ☼



4 The LBD. In case you haven't been hit over the head with this enough times, allow me to advise you. Every Vandy girl needs a little black dress. This season, more feminine touches like ruffles, bows and lace, are in style; a black dress with this detailing should be appropriate. Even a Holly Golightly "Breakfast at Tiffany's" imitation with a boat neck and a slightly longer hemline is a good option. The LBD lives in the fashion hall of fame because it is a timeless, classic dress. Black is a color that never goes out of style, and a LBD is a safe choice when you're unsure of the dress code.

BOOK

Plants with ulterior motives

COURTNEY ROGERS
Culture Editor

It's kind of easy to forget about plants.

Unless you're a gardener, botanist or a florist, you probably go about your daily routine without giving the plants you pass by a second thought. We all know that they're important; after all without plants we wouldn't have those necessary commodities such as clean air and food. But plants aren't exactly the best self-promoters; they're more of the strong, silent type, and as a result we brush them aside and like to think that we have total control over their cultivation.

Michael Pollan, author of "The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World" with the ironically plant-themed name to match, doesn't buy the plant apathy view and suggests that the plants have evolved to make us want them in order to survive and, literally, flourish.

Upon first reading the book's description, my mind immediately conjured up wild images of all the plants meeting in secret to discuss their plans to ensnare humans and, unsurprisingly, my vision was completely wrong. A work of non-fiction, "The Botany of Desire" does not suggest a subversive plant mafia, rather it focuses in on four plants that have become popular staples throughout history for different reasons. He looks at the apple for its sweetness, the tulip for its beauty, the cannabis for its intoxicating properties and the potato for the control that we feel over it, especially in the case of genetically modified varieties.

Though I began this book as an intrigued skeptic, I soon reveled in the wild assortment of random facts that Pollan had woven into the story that seemed to beg me to throw them into everyday conversation. For example, everyone likes to think of Johnny Appleseed as a benevolent character who brought the nutrition of apples to the wild frontier; but almost all varieties of wild apples are completely unpalatable and were primarily used to make a potent form of alcohol called applejack. Also, if it struck your fancy to plant the seeds found in an apple you picked up at Rand, the fruit from the resulting tree would bare little to no resemblance to the original apple in taste or appearance.

The story of tulips was equally interesting, especially the history of tulipomania in the Netherlands, where rare bulbs would sell for astronomical sums and speculation was rampant. The premise of the tulip section is to suggest that beauty has an important function for Darwinian theory: that we and other species are drawn to flowers (which brightly indicate that fruit is ripening) as a co-evolutionary relationship. We get food or just something beautiful to admire and in return the plants succeed genetically.

In the section on cannabis, it was pretty wild to learn the lengths to which marijuana growers will go to reach the ultimate in growing conditions. Pollan visited some very serious marijuana cultivators in Amsterdam and by the way in which they talked about the exact amounts of light exposure and carbon dioxide balance that the plants needed, you really wonder what they could have accomplished for science if they weren't devoting all of their time and energy to marijuana.

Perhaps the creepiest section of the book was the section on the potato where Pollan experimented with growing a kind of potato that has been genetically modified to contain its own pesticide. As genetically sketchy as the "New Leaf" patented potatoes are, the non-organic potatoes grown out in Idaho aren't winning any prizes for safety. Like apples, potatoes require a lot of pesticides, and Pollan's description of the potato fields as dry, dusty and bleak made me want to rid my pantry of any non-organic spud that was hiding out there.

I even pondered, albeit briefly, forsaking potato chips and french fries, but that didn't stick. I know I seem to be coming down hard on the potato, but I will acknowledge that it too has many random facts and credentials, including helping eradicate scurvy. Also, mashed potatoes are what I refer to as "super-food" because with the added milk, they have all of the vitamins and nutrients that you technically need to survive.

At the risk of infringing on the Lorax's soapbox, Pollan's writing is enough to give even the biggest skeptic a healthy respect for plants and their adaptations to cater toward what we want, with a healthy dose of trivia on the side. Just so you know, Kazakhstan has purple apples. ☼

FASHION

Who are you wearing?

HOLLY MEEHL
Staff Writer

Merrill Hendrickson
(freshman)

Who are you wearing?

The top is from Urban Outfitters, the shorts are from Banana Republic.

Favorite brands or stores?

Marc Jacobs, Urban Outfitters and Free People.



Molly Levine
(sophomore)

Who are you wearing?

The top is C&C California and the skirt is from Free People.

Favorite brands or stores?

Marc Jacobs.



Norah Scanlan
(sophomore)

Who are you wearing?

The cardigan is from Nordstrom and the dress is from Urban Outfitters.

Favorite brands or stores?

Urban Outfitters, H&M, Forever 21.

All photos by Holly Meehl

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Q&A with

CHRIS WALLA of *Death Cab for Cutie*

You know him best as Death Cab for Cutie's guitarist and producer, but Chris Walla is a self-proclaimed "political junkie," and he and the guys will soon perform for the school who wins the Ultimate College Bowl, an effort by four non-partisan voter registration groups to get college students to register to vote. Last week, Walla talked to Music Editor Lakendra Scott about his hopes for the upcoming election, how his politics have affected his music and why he loves this country.

VERSUS MAGAZINE: What are you hoping to achieve by your participation in the Ultimate College Bowl?

CHRIS WALLA: The whole goal of the Ultimate College Bowl is ultimately us being involved in it. It's not necessarily about the candidates this time; it's about being involved in the process and getting people registered to vote. . . . Everybody's partisan and everybody's got a candidate, but this isn't about that; this is about getting people to register and ultimately getting people out to vote.

VM: Why do you think you have so much power as musicians to get through to young people?

CW: Honestly, I think it's probably too much to assume that we do, but I think just as concerned citizens. . . . I mean, it's nice to feel like we can do something. This seemed like the perfect fit for us. It seemed like something that was on a large scale, and it felt right — it felt like it was going to work. So, you know, it remains to be seen . . . how well it actually goes off, but I feel really positive about it.

VM: Why do you think it's important for young people to vote?

CW: Man, I don't even know where to start. In the 2004 election, it was really disheartening to me to find out that more people were voting in "American Idol" than were voting in the primaries. (I think actually in the presidential election, too, but I'm not positive on that.) Sometimes it's difficult to remember that everything that happens around us we have some control over by ticking a box on our ballots, and that any change you want to levy can start in your hometown. Like, yes this is a big presidential election year, but it's really important I think for people to get connected with the issues in their cities. Like, I grew up in a neighborhood where there were no sidewalks, and that neighborhood's been fighting for years and year to get sidewalks, and that's finally happening. It's taken a lot of years, but that's all being involved in politics at a local level. It's simple stuff like that. That's where it starts. And I hope also by registering, by being involved in the Ultimate College Bowl and trying to get people to register to vote, that we can get people to vote in some down-ballot races as well, to get people pulled away from the presidential election a little bit and into some of the smaller races and issues that are happening from town to town all over the country.

VM: Especially with students, I feel like with every year, whether it be with technology or tight communities on campus, students get separated with things that are going on outside of those communities that they develop. And (how can having) something like this, with this massive, massive registration that's going on, really facilitate all the issues that are important to students to be voiced by them?

CT: Well, I agree. The college campus can be a little bit of a bubble sometimes. If there was ever a good reason to vote, particularly for college students, I think what's happening with all these investment banks right now is as good a reason as any to decide which presidential candidate is going to be best to sort this mess out and not squander our tax dollars as we move forward so our kids can go to college and we can afford for our kids to go to college.

VM: You said that the investment situation and banking is the reason you personally want to vote. What other reasons do you have for voting?

CT: There are so many. It's been frustrating to watch . . . the way the media coverage has been so monolithic and absolute for this whole election cycle, but especially as the election heats up, especially in the last four weeks. It's been really frustrating for me to see there's been barely any mention on any of the cable and network news outlets of the war in Iraq and that we still have 150-odd-thousand of our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. . . . Sometimes it seems like there aren't a lot of ways for people to have a voice and be involved on a day-to-day basis, but voting is real; it's actually one of the things that will get things done. I think sometimes people come to believe that's not true and they end up not voting, and that sort of collective malaise keeps us from being involved in our politics and in our country more.

VM: Your solo stuff is very politically charged in some ways, and I was wondering if you considered Death Cab to be an overtly political band? Has that always been the center of conversation between you and your bandmates?

CW: Death Cab has never been a political band, certainly not with a capital "P." One of the reasons I feel that Ben (Gibbard) is such a good writer is that he has stuck to the time-honored mantra of "write what you know." And while he can talk politics and while he's involved and he loves our country — and he also comes from a military family, as does Nick (Harmer) — it's not the thing that drives him from day to day, and lyrically he tends to stay away from it. But in the 2004 election, it really felt like we really needed to get involved, and as we did we found whole communities of people. It's just like anything else. You can wonder about something sort of passively all your life and then eventually get introduced to somebody who knows something about the thing. . . . It's how I got into music as well. And over the past four years I've gotten to be a real political junkie. The rest are to a lesser degree than myself. I don't think we are a political band, but I think that we are a good, responsible, patriotic business, if that makes any sense. I feel that anything we can do to encourage participation in this democracy I'm really in favor of and is something we can all get behind.

VM: How do you think your music has evolved, and has it been affected by your political involvement?

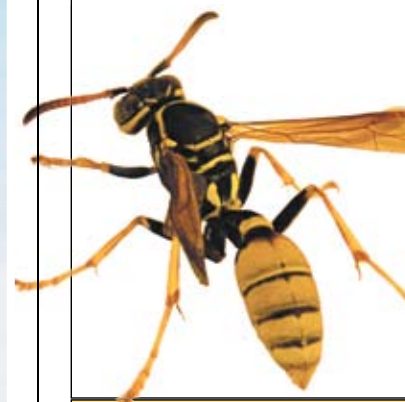
CW: I don't know if my political involvement has really changed our music or Ben's writing really much at all. I was in Denver for the (Democratic National) Convention (and I wanted to go to St. Paul as well, but it ended up not working out) . . . and I was really inspired by walking around the convention floor, and it was really interesting to see all the states with all the state banners and how the (delegation from) each state sort of a little bit represents the way that it feels when we're on tour around the country. You can sort of really get a vibe for each of the states just from the delegations on the floor. And I thought that was really interesting. None of what we've done politically has really affected the band specifically in terms of our content and development, but I do think that just driving around our country so many times — I mean, we've done like 23 or 24 national tours — and you can't help but be really changed by our country when you travel it that much. . . . I think I can safely speak for my band when I say this, but even taking policy and everything else out of it, I really love this country; I still love driving around and visiting all the little corners of our nation. There's no other place on the planet where a city like Mobile, Ala., and a city like Juno, Alaska, can vote for the same president. There are so many little countries within our country that are held together by a common belief and a common purpose. And it's really incredible. I think that that consciousness to a degree has really affected the band, and Ben's travel logs from record to record have really built on that, sort of the romance of travel and the sprawl of this country that we live in.

VM: I know some bands like Pearl Jam use the stage as their outlet for professing their beliefs politically, but other bands like Oasis think that's a horrible idea. Do you guys use the stage for that?

CW: I think that we've always felt uncomfortable (promoting) a candidate. We do a fair amount of private advocacy, but we're all really sensitive to the idea that as performers we're entertainment; that's what we do. And I've always felt like when we go to a show, like that's my Friday night, that's my antidote to my week . . . and we've always been really sensitive to that. . . . That's really important to us, and we don't want to get in the way of that. That being said, when you feel strongly about something it's hard to keep your mouth shut, and this is something I feel really strongly about. . . . We try to keep the politics to a small "p" politics and not partisan. Just turning people out to vote is the most important thing we can do.

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 Strangely Absent Squirrels,

For the first few weeks of school, I was a little puzzled at your absence. I've been so used to seeing you all over campus, I just didn't know where you'd gone. Then I moved on to sadness and depression. Now, I'm just mad.

How can you expect to remain the unofficial mascot of Vanderbilt if you just decide to take off whenever you want? We can't be the trees — look how that's worked out for Stanford.

And now, who's going to jump out of trash cans and scare the crap out of people if not you guys? I could probably get a pledge to do it, but I suspect it wouldn't have the same effect.

I mean really, how can you just pick up and go without saying goodbye? Who do you think you are, Chancellor Gee? Didn't our three-year relationship mean anything to you? You would be a convenient conversation piece for me during lulls in outdoor conversations, and I would leave a little bit of my sandwich for you. But now who's going to pick up that slack? The weather? I don't think so.

Did you leave us for warmer climates? Or better climbs, I should say? I assure you neither can be found. Did Belmont put you up to this?? Whatever they're paying you, I'll double it. They're paying you peanuts compared to what I'll pay you: cashews.

So, please — I know we've been systematically destroying your hangouts and disturbing your habitats with seemingly unnecessary construction, but campus is so much more depressing without you around. So just come on home, and let's work things out.

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"



PHOTOS: www.sk.chu, VU Media Relations

Girl on her cell phone: "I registered to vote in Tennessee." (audible discontent from other end of the phone)

Girl: "BECAUSE, Mom, Chicago doesn't need me!"

Guys in Rand playing "Guess Who?" with the front page of The Hustler:

Guy No. 1: "Does your Sigma Chi have on a white shirt?"

Guy No. 2: "No. Is your Sigma Chi over 6 feet tall?"

Girl: "My biggest dream is to hug a lion."

Girl (in a Munchie Mart): "Can I get cigarettes as my side?"

Girl: "You know, the Commodore Card doesn't work in real life."

Girl (doing homework): "Wait, Indiana's a state?"

Professor: "OK, let's go kill something."

Girl No. 1: "OMG, so you REALLY had a stripper in your room?"

Girl No. 2: "Well, it was the weekend."

Professor: "So, after the First World War, Turkey was carved up by the Allies." (Three seconds later) "And now I realize the pun that I just made."

Oblivious freshman: "Where are the Towers? ... Like those things by West End?"

HOROSCOPES



LIBRA 9/23-10/22:

"That which doesn't kill you can only make you stronger." Or hospitalized. So keep an eye out.



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21:

So, September's over, huh? When you think about it, you've got two months until exams, then two months until spring break, and then a month until you graduate. So your undergrad career is basically over.



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21:

Some believe the robot dance has gone out of style. But you and I both know this to be false.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19:

Wouldn't it be sweet if Harry Potter were real?



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18:

You don't eat enough of the Commons food. Seriously, it's delicious. Take advantage.



PISCES 2/19-3/20:

Tonight's the night.



ARIES 3/21-4/19:

Look, you should really give Cancer a call. That's just cold.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20:

You know, now that you mention it, that IS what she said!



GEMINI 5/21-6/21:

Sirius being aligned with Jupiter in the Andromeda Nebula of the outer blah blah blah says the stars have no predictive power.



CANCER 6/22-7/22:

Chill out, bro, she'll call. Trust me.



LEO 7/23-8/22:

Just because Facebook speaks in pirate doesn't mean you should, too.



VIRGO 8/23-9/22:

If you turn to page three and read every other word, there won't be a special message for you. But wouldn't it be cool if there were?

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