

Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

APRIL 1—APRIL 6, 2009 VOL. 47, No. 11



Whigging Out

Parker Gispert of the Whigs tells Versus about wild moments on tour, liquid courage and pterodactyls. Check out the interview on page 9.

Spotted: A Vandy girl with style to spare shares her trendy tips on page 3.

This weekend, we found out that T.I. was going places. One of them is Rites of Spring. Don't believe us? Educate yourself on page 4.

Here's one frat pack you'll find on the silver screen rather than the porches of Kensington. Flip to page 7.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Dark Meat — The End

Releasing their debut album two short years ago, Dark Meat busted out of Athens, Ga., with the enthusiasm of a baseball fresh off of Barry Bonds' bat. A mix of guitar, vocals, percussion, fiddle, harmonies and bass, this collective will surely entertain you into the wee hours of the morn'. (\$10, 10 p.m., 2219 Elliston Place)

Telephant, Charlie Hardin and Mikky Echo — The Basement

A mixture of telephone (or televangelist?) and elephant, Telephant will bring their A-game to The Basement Thursday night, ready to rock your socks off. Seasoned openers Charlie Hardin and Mikky Echo will bring you up to speed and get you in the groove for the headliner. (\$5, 9 p.m.)

Singarama — Lipscomb University's Collins Auditorium

Support other local college kids by attending Lipscomb's annual variety show, Singarama. Sure to be a blast and a half, this year's Singarama, "Branded," features a slew of mini-musicals put on by students just like you! The performances include well-known advertising jingles. (\$15, 7 p.m., 3901 Granny White Pike)

Lounge: Ike Rich Writers Mixx Presents — 12th and Porter

Featuring a talented surplus of Nashville natives, the Ike Rich Writers Mixx will blow you away. Lost in back alleys, hidden between the cracks and wandering in the shadows of Nashville, these songwriters have jumped into the limelight for one night only. Don't miss it! (Free, 7 p.m.)

Cory Morrow and Roger Creager — Exit/In

Having sold over 200,000 albums independently, Cory Morrow is an aural force to be reckoned with. His rough country sound is just what you need to jumpstart the weekend. With Roger Creager, a worn and torn Texas veteran, opening, it's sure to be a great night. (\$12, 9 p.m.)

Open Mic Night — Cafe Coco

Are you brave? Do you have the courage to barge your way into unfamiliar territory, ready for whatever comes next? If you answered yes, then check out Open Mic Night at hotspot eatery, Cafe Coco. Who knows, you might just witness the debut of the next big thing. (Free, 8 p.m.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Country Music Dinner Show with Irlene Mandrell — Nashville Palace

Irlene Mandrell, famous for her role on the popular country comedy show "Hee Haw" as well as NBC's "Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell Sisters," comes to the Nashville Palace for dinner and a show. The performance is just one of many celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Nashville Palace. (\$40, 3:45 p.m., 2611 McGavock Pike)

The Whigs — Exit/In

Athens, Ga., garage-rock band The Whigs brings its critically acclaimed sound to Exit/In. Their sophomore album, "Mission Control," was released in January of last year and has brought them recognition nationwide. (\$10 advance/\$12 day of show, 9 p.m.)

Sankofa — Blair School of Music

Vanderbilt's African Drumming and Dance Ensemble puts on a performance representing cultural unity and diversity at our own Ingram Hall. The ensemble's name, "Sankofa," means "return and retrieve," symbolizing the need to return to one's roots in order to progress forward. (Free, 8 p.m.)

MACH 73 — Dan McGuinness Irish Pub

Local Nashville power rockers MACH 73 bring their hard and gritty sound to Vanderbilt favorite Dan McGuinness. The group has played venues ranging from intimate clubs to the Grand Ole Opry and has appeared on "The Tonight Show" and the CMA Awards, showing that the band is on the rise. (Free, 7 p.m., 1538 Demonbreun St.)

Mid-South Jazz Festival Featuring The John Proulx Trio — Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts

John Proulx is a Grammy-winning composer and well-known pianist, vocalist and recording artist. He performs in the Mike Barone, Randy Aldcroft and Kim Richmond big bands and released his debut album in summer 2006. Proulx's performance will conclude the 2008-2009 concert series at Clarksville's Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts. (\$25 adults/\$12 students; 7:30 p.m.; 601 College St., Clarksville)

Tin Pan South featuring Gary Burr, Hanson, Mark Hudson and Victoria Shaw — Mercy Lounge/Cannery Ballroom

Tin Pan South is America's largest music festival dedicated to songs and songwriters. The festival runs for five days and nights and raises money for the Nashville Songwriters Association International in addition to promoting local singers and songwriters. In this particular installment, Gary Burr, Hanson, Mark Hudson and Victoria Shaw will be performing at Nashville's historic Mercy Lounge. (\$15/ticket, \$90/festival pass, 8 p.m.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Nappy Roots — Exit/In

I don't know how much you know about Nappy Roots, but they're pretty good. If you don't remember their biggest hit "Po' Folks," perhaps you should refresh your memory. This hip-hop group has Southern roots, as indicated by their album names of "Country Fried Cess," "Watermelon, Chicken & Gritz" and "The Kentucky Kolonels." Oh, they're also performing with DJ Wick-It and Biscuits & Gravy. All this may make you kind of hungry, so grab a snack and then go see this show. (\$12, 9 p.m.)

Del McCoury and Hal Ketchum — Grand Ole Opry

They say that legends never die, but we all know this isn't true. Not to be morbid, but if you want to see the original legends of country music and bluegrass, now is the time. The Grand Ole Opry is the best place to get a good mix of country music, classic feel and a Nashville experience. Come see these brilliant country music artists before you head home for the summer. (\$38, 7 p.m., 2804 Opryland Drive)

Karen Staley and Ricky Ray — Country Music Hall of Fame

These two songwriters will be performing their original hits composed for major artists like Faith Hill, Dolly Parton, Terri Clark, Reba McEntire and Tracy Byrd. You get double the value with two brilliant musical minds playing at the same show — AND you get to poke around the museum afterwards, too. How can you beat that? (\$18, 11:30 a.m., 222 Fifth Ave. South)

The BoatDrunks — Wildhorse Saloon

Billed as the 2008 Trop Rock Band of the Year, the BoatDrunks will be playing a sweet concert at the Wildhorse. It's a relatively cheap ticket for what will surely be a great concert, AND the proceeds are benefiting a national nonprofit volunteer organization called Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic. By attending this concert, you can further your own cultural education while making sure students with disabilities can access their own education. It's a win-win, people. (\$15, 8 p.m., 120 Second Ave. North)

Carl Stewart and the All Stars — BB King's Blues Club and Restaurant

Honestly, there's not a ton going on Saturday night in the music world. If you're making alternative formal weekend plans (whatever that means), maybe it's time to check out BB King's. The three-piece blues band is apparently designed to relax you while you eat, which sounds wonderful. If you like blues, or want to claim you do, or need something else to add to your senior bucket list and subsequently check off, come see this show Saturday. (\$5, 7 p.m., 152 Second Ave. North)

The Regulars

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251-3020

BLUEBIRD CAFE
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383-1461

EXIT/IN
2208 Elliston Place 37203
321-3340

STATION INN
402 12th Ave. South 37203
255-3307

THE BASEMENT
1604 Eighth Ave. South 37203
254-1604

F. SCOTT'S RESTAURANT AND JAZZ BAR
2210 Crestmoor Road 37215
269-5861

SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER
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Versus

APRIL 1 – APRIL 6, 2009 VOL. 47, No. 11

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FROM THE EDITOR



If you read our issue last week, you may have seen our fantastic “Internet Procrastination” page. Among all of the gold, there was a small piece on the wonder of Twitter:

I got curious, so I checked it out. And let me tell you, what I found was amazing. I can throw little posts up about whatever I want. I can follow the likes of John Mayer, John McCain and Shaq (yes, the real Shaq — and it’s hilarious). Jim Gaffigan did a live twitter cast while his new special was playing on Comedy Central this past Sunday. Hilarious. Beyond that, there’s pictures and direct messaging.

John Mayer chats about his days and his material for his new album. Shaq offered free tickets to games to anyone who found him in a specific cafe and touched him. John McCain wrote posts on his March Madness pics, where he’ll be appearing and what he’s out doing. Pretty cool, right?

Here’s the point, dear reader — Twitter is the next thing in government transparency. Senators were posting about the bail out deals, Secretary Hillary Clinton wrote about her trips all over the world and Karl Rove posts about how to meddle in government (he’s kind of evil). It’s a brand new day in American politics. Plus, Shaq is hilarious.

Now that you know about Twitter, you can write some posts on the issue this week. We dish on what we think of the rest of the Rites of Spring lineup. We’ve got a head-to-head matchup (in true Versus style — get it?) of the Frat Pack against the new Apatow gang. And then we wrap it all up with an interview with the Whigs.

In a side note (and in the Twitter spirit), let us know how we’re doing at VersusVU@gmail.com. Seriously, anything you want — comments, suggestions, tips or even hate mail. This is the last chance to get it right, Vanderbilt. Or at least for all of us seniors.

Stay Legendary,
Chris Gearing

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PIC OF THE WEEK



NICOLE MANDEL / VERSUS MAGAZINE

BITS & PIECES

“I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SWITCHED FROM SCOTCH TO MARTINIS.”

— **HUMPHREY BOGART**
(last words)



HOROSCOPES



ARIES 3/21-4/19: The stars suggest staying away from people with curvy beards and angular features, as they usually turn out to be evil.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20: With the year ending, you should consider settling. Let’s be honest, you’re not getting any younger.



GEMINI 5/21-6/21: When you’re drunk this week, avoid the tractor beam that is Wendy’s/Quiznos/Qdoba/other food that will make you pay tomorrow.



CANCER 6/22-7/22: Super Mario World proves that life was better in simpler times. Too bad you can’t go back.



LEO 7/23-8/22: Your closed profile can stop me from stalking you on Facebook, but you’ll have to get a restraining order if you want it to stop in the real world, too.



VIRGO 8/23-9/22: If you strive to become an amateur magician, at least you can make your friends disappear.



LIBRA 9/23-10/22: Seniors — next year, you will be dating women instead of girls. Weird, right?



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21: Nothing you say makes any sense. Consider becoming a sports commentator.



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21: While it may seem like a good idea, I’m pretty sure it’s illegal to monogram a squirrel to show your ownership. Maybe try a collar instead.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19: If you haven’t made it onto Overheard yet, this is your week. You say plenty of stupid things, so speak up.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18: Writing horoscopes is kind of like being paparazzi, what with the star-stalking and all. You, however, will probably have a boring job when you grow up.



PISCES 2/19-3/20: All decisions regarding your formal weekend should be LEGENDARY. But also practical.

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

One last stop at Rites,
T.I., and then you can just
Live your life ... in jail.

Once the summer comes,
Then we will all start our next
Countdown ‘til school starts.

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”

Girl: “Well sure she’s bulimic, but that doesn’t mean she’s a good person.”

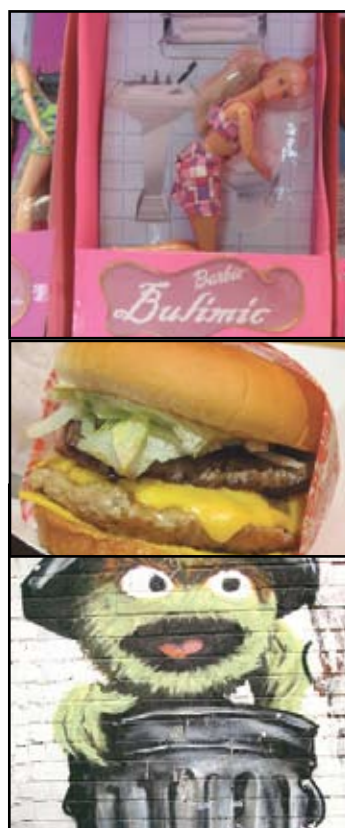
Rando: “Yeah man, I hear STDs suck. They’re God’s way of player hating.”

Rando: “Does my head look like a sandwich?”

Guy: “Dude, I can’t believe you tried to have sex with a trashcan!”

Rando: “I don’t think it’s illegal unless you have sex.”

Girl: “I told you, my friends are easy to hook up with!”



PHOTOS: flickr.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Style Spotter: Kelley Smith



NIKKY OKORO/VERSUS MAGAZINE

SHEMSI FREZEL
NIKKY OKORO

Staff Writers

Sometimes rules are meant to be broken — especially those rules which attempt to govern the way we dress. This week, Style Spotter chose to feature someone who finds old fashion ideas (like black and brown or black and navy not going together) outdated. Our pick this week, Kelley Smith, describes her personal style as feminine, casual and eclectic and insists that all neutral colors do go together. As a college student having a limited budget for clothes, she garners inspiration from street looks and various fashion blogs. We asked Kelley some questions to further understand her style:

Who are your favorite designers?

Phillip Lim, Alexander Wang, and Dries Van Noten.

Who are your style icons?

Kate Moss and Rachel Bilson.



NIKKY OKORO

If your closet was burning and you could only save one item, what would that be?

A Trina Turk retro mini-shift dress that's yellow with two white stripes down the front.

What's a trend at Vanderbilt that you try to avoid?

Brand obsession. I'm not a fan of head-to-toe label dressing.

What was the last clothing item you purchased?

A white lace mini-shift dress from ASOS.

And most importantly, what are you wearing now?

Colin Stewart boots, knee socks that I scrunched down for the boots, leggings, a vintage shirt and belt, a bag from H&M, and jewelry that was mostly given to me as gifts. ☼



NIKKY OKORO/VERSUS MAGAZINE

Mafiaoza's serves up hearty Italian cuisine

HOLLY MEEHL

Culture Editor

When someone asks me what is great about food in Nashville, I often think of grits, fried catfish, pulled barbecue pork and sweet potato biscuits. My mind does not turn to Italian. Having been spoiled by authentic Italian in New York City and having had terrible experiences at Tangredi's, I have stayed away from pasta in Nashville. But after my trip to Mafiaoza's, my faith was restored in delectable Italian cuisine in the South.

Although Mafiaoza's decor is simple and not exactly romantic with its atmosphere of large families and rowdy children, the food makes every baby's cry worth it. Its pasta is cooked perfectly and complete with intense flavor, spices and savory sauces. "The Mark," a pasta with chicken, mushrooms, sundried tomatoes and pesto cream sauce, was the perfect combination. They have many other pasta selections each with a creative name, like "The Tuscan Kiss," which is hearty lasagna with chicken and several different cheeses.

If you're not in the mood for pasta, Mafiaoza's serves up some of the best pizza in Nashville. This is no



content5.videojog.com

Papa John's but rather thin crust, fresh ingredient-laden deliciousness. The best part about their pizza is that you can actually create your own slices with an array

of different toppings like fresh basil, sausage, scallops, portobello mushrooms, peppers, and more vegetables and cheeses than I can list.

Even the side salads at Mafiaoza's are delicious. I never expect much of a salad at an Italian restaurant — it's basically my way of saying I ate something green before indulging in cheesy pizza or pasta. But at this restaurant, you get leafy greens alongside a large selection of delicious dressings like strawberry vinaigrette.

So when you're craving Italian and it's not Tortellini



maona.net/img/food

Tuesday, head down to 12th street and check out Mafiaoza's mouthwatering selections of pizzas and pastas. Don't forget your mints — you'll be licking the garlic off your plate. ☼

VERSUS RESTAURANT RATING: ★★☆☆★



dineoutthere.com

Ellendale's does brunch right, but for a price

CHRIS GEARING

Editor in Chief

Looking for a solid brunch adventure that's outside the Vanderbubble? Expect this unexpected treat to delight your palette every Saturday and Sunday. Ellendale's is just out past the Nashville airport, and it is literally an old house on top of a hill. But it's rather bland exterior hides a lavish interior with living and dining rooms converted into a veritable restaurant. You can see the converted fireplaces and living spaces as you wait in the entrance hall to be seated.

Make sure you go for weekend brunch. The buffet is absolutely spectacular. An omelette and fresh pasta bar (think Tortellini Tuesday but with more options) only kicks off the smorgasbord



loveveggies.files.wordpress.com

of options — look for the cold pasta salad table with fresh pita and hummus options, a dessert bar filled with treats that definitely qualify as decadent and the amazing hot bar. Fried chicken, pulled pork, bacon and sausage are paired with fresh French toast, waffles and (at least on the occasional Sunday) fresh sweet potato pancakes. Amazing. And since it is a

buffet, you certainly won't be leaving this gem hungry.

Brunch is executed perfectly at Ellendale's. However, it may be a little pricey (with the buffet running at about \$16 per person, and drinks on top of that) but the quality and variety are unbeatable. Make sure to take mom and dad over to this treasure for a truly memorable (and delicious) memory! ☼

We're a lot of fun!! Come see for yourself!! E-mail VersusVU@gmail.com for information on meeting times.

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12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	
4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
6:15	6:15	6:15	6:15			6:15
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MUSIC



"You're trying to get the lyrics and melody to coexist. And sometimes you're trying to fit a square peg into a round hole."

—Andrew Bird

5000 WORDS

If a picture's worth what they say it is, here's five times that amount. We hope you enjoy these snapshots, which were submitted online by your fellow students.

Want to see your photo here next week? Visit VanderbiltCommodore.com and click "Submit Your Pics" to add your favorite photos from 2008-09 to the growing scrapbook that will be published in the 2009 Commodore Yearbook. We'll pick some of our favorites to publish here.



Submitted by Brittany Hoag

More RITES OF SPRING

T.I. to headline Saturday night with solid performance

CHARLES KESSLERING
Music Editor

On Friday, Vanderbilt Programming Board's Music Group broke the news that Wayne Coyne and his bandmates won't be the only flaming lips at Rites of Spring this year. T.I., too, will be spitting fire.

Continuing the tradition of inviting talented criminals to entertain our campus - like Lil' Wayne and Ben and Jerry's ("Cherry Garcia" was most definitely stolen from heaven) - VPB's Music Group has booked acclaimed wordsmith and rapstar Clifford Harris Jr. to headline Saturday's Rites performances. Recently sentenced to a year in the federal pen for gun possession (apparently, parole prevents you from having "Whatever You Like"), T.I. will likely bring a heavy heart and anxious charisma to Alumni Lawn, providing Vanderbilt

with a rare look behind the swagger of a Southern boy.

Born into the thorns of a rough Atlanta neighborhood, the 29-year-old has ridden a fortunate wave of success out of Bankhead straight to the bank. With six studio albums in his wake, the man formerly known as "Tip" has, to quote fellow dealer-turned-superstar Jay-Z, "gone from bricks to billboards, grams to Grammys." In fact, T.I. has earned himself three Grammys, five platinum discs and three Billboard No. 1 singles. Slowly evolving over a decade from split-eighth-in-the-drop music to inspirational pop music, his extensive catalog contains ghetto anthems, club favorites and heartfelt requiems - all exhibiting unabashed lyrical prowess and an ear for quality production.

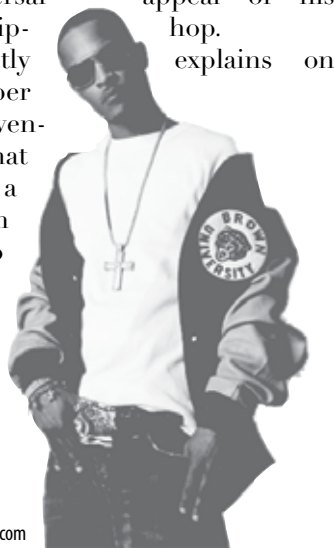
Whether you enjoy slinging yay, cruising in your tricked out whip or looking up these words on urbandictionary.com, T.I.'s catalog

includes a track for every taste. Hard-hitting songs "U Don't Know Me" and "What You Know" provide memorable insights into the idol's essence and adolescence, including lines like, "My (friends) hangin' out the window, mouth fulla gold teeth/ When the guns start poppin' wonder when it's gon' cease." Whether solo or teaming up with hit-mongers like Rihanna and Eminem, T.I. has produced a plethora of light, likable tunes such as "Life My Life," "Touchdown" and "Why You Wanna." "My Type" and "Dead and Gone" employ sentiment-soaked beats and bars to evoke unavoidable empathy for one of hip-hop's proudest yet most tragic figures.

An aural epidemic, T.I.'s music acts as an unbiased force of infection, creating and unifying a widely diverse fan base. This summer I traveled to Detroit, Mich., to catch T.I. live and alive (a feat after years of

living dangerously). One of five caucasians (I counted) in the ocean of concertgoers, I never felt uncomfortable - I was too busy rejoicing in the universal appeal of his Atlanta-based hip-hop.

As T.I. eloquently explains on the classic "Rubber Band Man": "Seventime felon, what I care about a case man? I'm campaigning to bury the hate." A bittersweet privilege, Vanderbilt will host T.I.'s final campaign stop for a while. ☼



iikepsych.blogspot.com

Rites of Spring adds more than just T.I. to lineup

MATT SHELTON
Staff Writer

Though most students looked only as far as T.I. when The Music Group finally announced the rest of their Rites of Spring lineup (or saw it inundated on their Facebook feed), there was more than just a rapper from Atlanta announced that day. Smack-talking Somalian slumlord K'naan, Erick Baker, Run with Bulls, Sara Watkins (of Nickel Creek fame), girl group Elektrik Red, Blueskyreality, local act Pico vs. Island Trees and the ambitiously named Stardeath and the White Dwarves were announced to perform at Rites and are up-and-coming names to be watched.

K'naan first made a splash in America when he called out the "real" rappers of the U.S. He expresses a different side of Africa. Youthful, aggressive and hopeful, his content may find a way to reverberate with American college culture. His coherent, relatively slow-flow rap style makes him easy to listen to, and his mix of bawdy, pompous lyrics with uplifting



giant.blackplanet.com



Carrie Thompson

opens make listening enjoyable. But his strength also seems to be his flaw: his songs bounce all over the place like a sorority girl sipping on five-hour energy drinks. I expect his live performance to be much better than his all-over-the-place reviews. He may approach college-indie fame if he stops spanning the gambit of cliché pop culture metaphors littered in his LP.

Erick Baker's unique voice seems to tweak a poppy Ryan Cabrera sound into something more soulful and raw. His slow melody gives a head-bobbing satisfaction and places him in a worthy "chill" band status.

My favorite off-the-radar Rites band has to be Run With Bulls. Their music gives a nod to guitar-laden '80s rock without the over the top vocals associated with it. They effectively blend blues lyrics with heavier guitar to create a sound that will surely catch on soon.

Though most of Vanderbilt may only show up for T.I., I applaud Vanderbilt's Music Group for giving them something great to listen to while they wait in line. ☼

Keeping it real with up-and-comers Dem Young Boyz

ANA ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

They're not your typical kids from the hood. From the first, their trendy appearance and spunk were a sure sign Dem Young Boyz knew where they were going and how they were going to get there. All three were prepped to perform at Relay for Life, an event sponsored by the American Cancer Society and co-organized by Vanderbilt students. Last Friday, the boys were delighted to play their music on-stage for the runners and coordinators at the Student Recreation Center.

Lead singer Haston Myers wore a beige leather jacket with what looked like a Jackson 5 T-shirt underneath. Rappers Andre Mayberry and Gayland Thompson wore Ed Hardy-esque shirts and caps. An "Interstate 66" pendant hung from Thompson's neck. Though they're not related to each other, Myers firmly stated before the show, "We're like blood." Ever since they started producing music back in 2007 at the ages of 12 and 13,

Myers, Mayberry and Thompson have formed a bond between each other as friends.

If you ask, they can give a quick response as to what they have to offer to themselves and other people through their music. While Thompson brings an explosive animation to



myspace.com

the group, Mayberry provides a "laid back, Southern style to the music." During the interview Myers sat between the two rappers, the same way he stands between them in their photo shoots and music videos. It's his melodious, R&B "swag" that ties the knot between the two extremes. This is how they work together.

From a young age, the three were exposed to music and aspired to be something great. Three main influences in their lives are God, their families and school. And, according to Mayberry, you could add a fourth to that: Ludacris. "He's my type," he said. "His style inspired me and that's what I bring." While Mayberry spoke, he sat and leaned on his elbow in a lax manner. His cap was pushed sideways and his shades lightly held on to his nose - Myers and Thompson simply laughed at their nonchalant friend.

So far, Dem Young Boyz has written and produced an album through Hicks Entertainment, a Nashville-based record agency. Their favorite songs include "Shawty

Wanna Dance" and "My City (Cashville)." Even though the group writes about what is most important to them, Myers describes their lyrics as, "Teenage stuff. ... Since we're teenagers we like to sing about having fun, dancing, something to give people our age hype. ... Our kind of music is the kind that can be played forever."

Thompson added, "We keep it at our age. ... Since we're kids, we don't take it too far."

When asked if their career ever got in the way of school, Mayberry kept it simple: "There are three rules: First you've got to keep your grades up. Then the second rule is never disobey the parents. Then the third rule is music." With their families and friends as critics and supporters, the boys never lose sight of what's important. They're aware that for younger audiences, like Myers' nephew, the group has to serve as a role model. Myers also makes it clear that they know they've got plenty of time ahead to change and build their experience as singers - so far, Dem Young Boyz has paved the right track. ☼

Lessons from a Tuesday night at The Station Inn

ZAC HUNTER
Staff Writer

I've never really been a fan of country music. However, one of the purposes of college is to broaden your horizons, so in that spirit, I enrolled in the popular History of Country Music class this spring. And as if this weren't enough, the class (by way of assignment) pointed me in the direction of The Station Inn, located on 12th Avenue South, last Tuesday night for an evening with the "Mashville Brigade." It was exceptional.

The Station Inn is a building that stands alone, literally and figuratively. The simple exterior is indicative of the simplicity inside. On Tuesday nights, the \$10 cover at the door grants access to a real part of our Music City: two hours of really great bluegrass jam from an alternating group of local studio and touring musicians who come together every week just to play music.

There is no big screen, no fireworks or any other unnecessary panache like that of a Kenny Chesney concert. Accompanying the music is just cold beer, popcorn if you'd

like, and the whistling and foot stomping of Nashville locals who appreciate what they're seeing. At the Station Inn, you'll learn that no one yells "Yee haw" at the end of a solo, just "YEEEE" (though definitely with the same loud, Southern-accented voice that you'd imagine).

Centered around a modest 25- or 30-foot stage, with the sound board in the back just behind the tables and chairs for listeners, The Station Inn give its audience intimacy with artists that is rare and valuable. In few other venues will the fiddle player run off stage to the ladies' room in between songs while the guitarist calls the bartender for another beer because his "guitar's gettin' thirsty" and then asks the crowd if there are any requests. No one in the establishment, from the musicians to the bartenders to the owners, seems to be interested in turning much profit. But places like this preserve the culture that has brought and continues to bring so many talented artists to Music City.

So next Tuesday, I recommend that you head down to the Station Inn around 9:30 p.m. and take advantage of what native Nashville has to offer - I promise you'll still make it back in time for Sportsman's. ☼



darinschnabel.com



Submitted by David Clay



Submitted by Laura Calabrese



Submitted by Laura Calabrese



Submitted by Cara Cogburn

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 REELING"**
Passion Pit
2. **"SHIRT OFF (FEAT. K-LAZY)"**
Young Ivy
3. **"RELAX, TAKE IT EASY"**
Mika
4. **"ANTONIO (DESIGNER DRUGS REMIX)"**
Annie
5. **"WARNING SIGN"**
Coldplay
6. **"DANCING IN CIRCLES"**
Love and Theft
7. **"LIKE A BOSS"**
The Lonely Island
8. **"HEY LEONARDO"**
Blessid Union of Souls
9. **"FORT KNOX"**
Goldfish
10. **"IT DON'T MATTER"**
Donavan Frankenreiter

Novick shows little brilliance on EP

ZAC HUNTER
Staff Writer

For those who never got enough of the '90s pop-rock era, Daniel Novick's five track EP "Souls" may be a treat. However, while I personally am appreciative of everything Blink 182, Hootie and the Blowfish, and Matchbox Twenty gave us, I don't particularly want to hear another artist go down that road.

"Souls" leads off with the probable first single "Crazy," a song about a girl who's bad for a guy but he's crazy about her anyway. ... Yeah, I thought I'd heard that one before too. "Crazy," is well produced, well sung and has the sound of something you would hear on the radio. It isn't a bad song — but if I'm in the mood for that, I'll just put on "Hold My Hand" or something of that nature.

Novick definitely shows potential as a songwriter in the third track, "Ball and Chain," a semi-country ballad with the simplicity in music that matches the



myspace.com

simplicity in his voice. It fits better than the complex instrumentation in most of the other songs. And it starts to do what music is supposed to — make you feel something.

The only thing "Ball and Chain" is missing is some heart-chilling belting from Novick, who clearly has the voice to do it. Let it out, kid.

While perhaps I shouldn't be questioning the advice of Grammy-winning producer David Kershenbaum (Tracy Chapman, Janet Jackson, Duran Duran), who is directing Novick, I'm not sure they are heading in the right direction. Novick has the talent, but his EP shows a lack of originality and a struggle to find his own sound. Something more raw, less studio, less produced would fit that simple and positively unique voice of his. He needs to get his vocals out from behind the overpowering electric guitar and let it loose on the world. The lyrics, with a few exceptions, could use a jolt of creativity as well.

"Souls" shows sporadic flashes of brilliance, but as a showcase of an upcoming artist intended to catch your ear, it fails. Hopefully Novick can steer those positives in a different direction with his next production. ☞

What's happening in music news ...



The guys from Wilco.

bham.fm

- Tony-award winning director will adapt Green Day's seminal disc, "American Idiot," for a fall run schedule at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

- Before embarking on her spring tour (and visiting Vanderbilt), Santigold has been hard at work in the studio, collaborating with such powerhouses as Beastie Boys, David Byrne and Pharrell (another Rites performer).

- Legendary, Oscar-winning composer Maurice Jarre, famous for his work in films like "Doctor Zhivago" and "Lawrence of Arabia," died at age 84.

- Wilco has announced that Feist will contribute vocals to their upcoming album, scheduled for a June release. Feist will sing on the tune "You and I."

- Both Chris Brown and Rihanna skipped out on Saturday's Kids' Choice Awards, only adding more confusion to the media frenzy over the two talented dancers (among other descriptive qualities).

- Ben Harper will drop his latest effort, "White Lies," on May 5. The first album from his new group, Relentless7, many anticipate greatness.

Source: Billboard.com

The Decemberists weather 'The Hazards of Love'

CHRIS MCDONALD
Staff Writer

Originally conceived as a musical, The Decemberists' newest album, "The Hazards of Love," is by far their most interesting (albeit at times strange given their usually traditional sound) and theatrical album yet. Though the concept of the musical was eventually scrapped in favor of producing a rock record, the drama remains.

"The Hazards of Love" follows the story of two lovers, William and Margaret, chronicling their affection for one another as well as the trials and troubles the two endure. Right after the two are introduced, naturally, the listener discovers that their love cannot exist in the context of their society. Instead, the songs describe rather stereotypical ailments besetting the young lovers — Margaret discovers she is pregnant, an evil Queen stands in the way, Margaret is abducted, Margaret sings in captivity, etc.

Though Colin Meloy (songwriter, singer and guitarist) is arguably one of the most talented songwriters of our day, the story here is not extraordinarily well put together.

Although the listener is actively aware that there are multiple characters, it is at times rather difficult to actually follow the plot. This is in large part due to Meloy's decision to sing multiple parts, including the main character, William, although he does at time relinquish vocal duties (in a particularly moving moment My Brightest Diamond's Shara Worden takes over). Becky Stark (of Lavender Diamond) also makes a fantastic addition as the character Margaret.

What defines this album, however, is not the unusual structure of the album (with multiple versions and reprises of the same songs) or the plot. What truly stands out is the unusual sound the band brings to the record. Gone is the full-on indie/folksy feel that The Decemberists brought to their earlier albums (even their last record, "The Crane Wife"). Instead, in addition to the more traditional acoustic guitar driven songs is a whole slew of newer, harder-driven songs with raw, forceful guitars that bring to mind more classic rock, progressive rock and metal than folk. Songs like "The Wanting Comes in Waves/Repaid" and "The Queen's Rebuke/Crossing" opt for fuzzed out riffs that are strikingly similar to bands like Led Zeppelin. Other songs like "Margaret in Captivity" and "The Hazards of Love 3" sound like they were cut from a Yes album, incorporating metal with sweeping classical music.

It is this unique sound and further exploration of different genres that truly won me over as a listener. Certainly, this album is a bit odd and was not at all what I expected it to be. Maybe it was the metal riffs, the children's choruses or the extensive theatrics of it all — I don't know. But one thing is for certain — The Decemberists have put something together that is interesting, enjoyable and very refreshing. If anything else, "The Hazards of Love" is an album that will catch you off guard but become better (and more appreciated) with each and every listen. ☞



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read. watch. listen.

NEW WAVE OF COMEDY

Apatow Universe ushers in a new era of comedy

TRIP COTHREN
Culture Editor

In the recent years, there have been a few really good comedies, along with a few shoddy ones. "Knocked Up," "40-year-old Virgin" and "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" are some of the best, in my opinion. These movies all have something in common: Seth Rogen, Paul Rudd, Jonah Hill and Jason Segel are the main actors that director/producer Judd Apatow uses. This so-called Apatow Universe has taken its rightful place in the comedy kingdom above the fizzled-out Frat Pack.

I have been an avid orator of Frat Pack lines since my sophomore year of high school. However, this new breed of comedy has found a place in my heart, and the recent so-called movies that Will Ferrell has put out have put a very awful, bitter, gross, terrible taste



Showtime-Press.com

in my mouth.

Apatow himself does not make exceptional movies or write exceptional scripts; he just happens to have some really great friends that are the most hilarious guys in the business right now. These actors have provided my buddies and me with some quotable lines that can make any moment infinitely better.

Maybe the Apatow Universe is not Mr. Right

but just Mr. Right Now. I do not think this is the case, but we will see with the upcoming "Funny People" starring Adam Sandler and Rogen and directed by Apatow. This one could be the defining movie for this crew, and by defining I mean the movie that determines if they will keep up with the awesome jokes or go the way of Will Ferrell and drop off the proverbial cliff of comedy. ☼

Frat Pack trumps all

KRIS STENSLAND
Head Writer

Back in the eighties, Coke made a terrible marketing decision in going with "New Coke." Nobody liked it and it failed miserably, and everyone went back to the much better Coke Classic. I posit, good readers, that the Judd Apatow crew is like New Coke. Perhaps entertaining as a venture for now, but soon Hollywood will realize its folly and return to the Classic ingredients of Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson, Will Ferrell, Ben Stiller and the like, referred to as the "Frat Pack."

Consider the following: How many quotes do you know from a recent film with Jonah Hill, Paul Rudd or the other Judd Apatow folks? Perhaps one or two from "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and maybe a line from "Knocked Up." But what do you say when it's really, really hot outside? If it's "milk was a bad choice," you need not read any further. What do you say to a compliment? If it's



Static4.filefront.com

"I'm kind of a big deal," you're already sold. THE quotable lines of our generation come from Frat Pack movies.

What are your favorite comedy movies? Most likely, one of them will be "Dodgeball," "Anchorman," "Wedding Crashers," "Zoolander" or "Old School." The same cannot be said of the Judd Apatow ventures. The Frat Pack films are the classics, the go-tos, the "oh, THAT'S where that came

from" movies. It's not about what sells movie tickets, who the "hot" actors are now or any of that business. It's about how they make you feel. And nothing feels better than a "we get it, you're a man" moment.

Nothing can top what the Frat Pack has done for our generation and the future of comedy. To any who would claim differently, I would appropriate a quote from Apatow and respond "bo-sh**, bo-sh**, bo-sh**." ☼

Girls can be funny, too. Doubtful? Think again.

HOLLY MEEHL
Culture Editor

Although when you think of the new faces of comedy amongst Apatow's crew you primarily picture the male faces of Seth Rogen or Paul Rudd, make sure not to forget the women who offer up just as many laughs.

One of the funniest women around at the moment is closer to Apatow than all his hilarious friends because she is his wife. Leslie Mann has not only married a very funny man, she is a successful comedic actor. You probably remember her from her role in "Knocked Up" as Debbie, the wife of Paul Rudd. A nagging, demanding wife who you wanted to slap at some moments and hug the next, I found myself laughing uncontrollably at



Bilder.swp.de



Wikimedia.org



iesb.net

Debbie's lengthy rants. Due to her resilience at the door to a club, I will never be able to look at a doorman the same way again.

Next on the list of comedic girls showing up in film after funny film is Elizabeth Banks. She

has starred next to many of the familiar faces of Apatow's Universe. In "Role Models" she played Paul Rudd's girlfriend Beth. She also starred alongside Seth Rogen in the crude but outrageously hilarious "Zack and Miri

Make a Porno." This film didn't get as much publicity as some of the other big comedies that hit theaters last year, but Banks' and Rogen's performance together is unforgettable and unique as they team up to make a porno to help pay their rent.

One more new female face that isn't necessarily associated with Apatow's crew but should not be overlooked is Anna Farris. You've seen her in movies like "Just Friends," "Scary Movie 4" and "The House Bunny," but look for her in the new movie coming out with Seth Rogen, "Observe and Report." With looks and comedy performances a la Goldie Hawn, she is an up-and-coming actress to keep watching. ☼

Apatow Universe takes over the galaxy of comedy

ALEX GOLDBERG
Staff Writer

A new era of comedy is upon us with the Apatow Universe, a group of brilliant men who have been delivering you your favorite movies since 2005. The message of the Apatow

returns at an electronics store, trying to set up a Web site about seeing nude movie stars or writing music for a musical about Dracula, they can still go home with that hot girl on television or across the street.



Blog.Screenweek.it

Universe is simple and empowers every man: you do not have to be Brad Pitt to get the girl of your dreams. During a time when girls would decorate dorm rooms with posters of Zac Efron and Orlando Bloom, Judd Apatow stepped in to let guys know

that whether they are working returns at an electronics store, trying to set up a Web site about seeing nude movie stars or writing music for a musical about Dracula, they can still go home with that hot girl on television or across the street. Apatow spent his early years working on "The Ben Stiller Show" and "The Larry Sanders Show" while also co-producing and co-writing classic films like "Heavyweights" and "The Wedding Singer." He went on to create the television show "Freaks and Geeks," a critically acclaimed show that only lasted one season due to low ratings, and this was where the Apatow Universe was born. "Freaks and Geeks" brought together the comic geniuses of Seth Rogen, James Franco and Jason Segel.

television show "Freaks and Geeks," a critically acclaimed show that only lasted one season due to low ratings, and this was where the Apatow Universe was born. "Freaks and Geeks" brought together the comic geniuses of Seth Rogen, James Franco and Jason Segel.

After first experiencing mainstream success as an executive producer for "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," Apatow went on to direct his sleeper hit "The 40-year-old Virgin." The message of the Apatow Universe was out there, and its stars would thrive as the new comic generation.

Rogen is the most common face in Judd Apatow movies. First appearing as Cal in "The 40-year-old Virgin," Rogen took on another chain-smoking role in "Knocked Up," his first



cdn.buzznet.com

leading role. After making his name, he went on to write,

produce and star in "Superbad" and "Pineapple Express." Later this month, Rogen will venture away from the Apatow Universe in "Observe and



ScreenRant.com

Report," but he will return as Adam Sandler's opening act in "Funny People."

Paul Rudd expected a lot of success before working with Judd Apatow in "Wet Hot American Summer," but he became a household name after his role in "Knocked Up." Lately, Rudd has been having success after success with "I Love You, Man" and "Role Models," and we can expect a dramatic turn in his performances in next year's

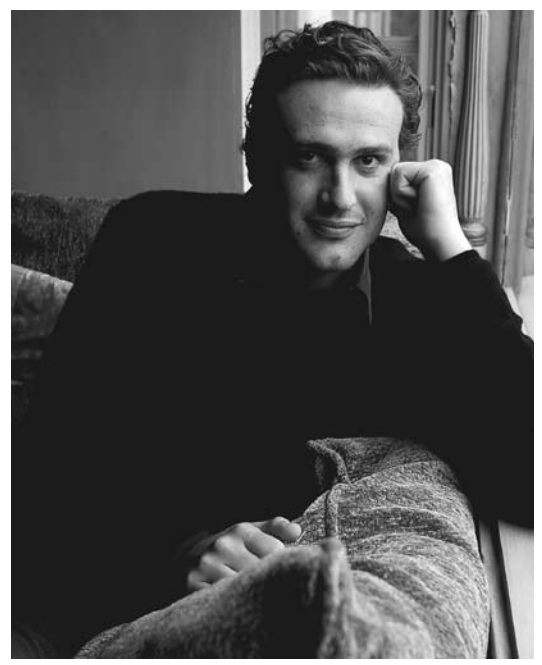
"Howl," the story about the Allen Ginsberg trial.

Segel worked with Apatow on "Freaks and Geeks" before his very minor role in "Knocked Up." "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" introduced him to the world as the next comic hero, and "How I Met Your Mother" may be the best sitcom since "Arrested Development." He starred alongside Rudd in "I Love You, Man" and will star in the satire "Gulliver's Travels" with Jack Black next year.

Jonah Hill first entered our hearts as the guy in the eBay store who wants to buy the shoes with the fish bowls in "The 40-year-old Virgin." After his breakout role in "Accepted," Apatow gave him more leading roles in "Knocked Up" and "Superbad." He made an appearance in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and will play Rogen's best friend once again in "Funny People." Hill will work with British comedian Ricky Gervais in "This Side of the

Truth," which will tell the story about a world where nobody lies except one individual, who uses the tool for personal gain.

It is obvious that the Apatow Universe is constantly rotating. Some of its stars are ready to go beyond the simple message



blog.newsok.com

of the films and work with other legendary actors and comedians. Some of its stars have just entered the spotlight. Regardless, it does not matter who is in the Apatow Universe; I know that as long as it exists, it will continue to produce another great generation of comedy. ☼

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QA WITH Parker Gispert

FROM *The Whigs*

RAQUEL ZEMTSOV
Contributing Writer

This week, Versus contributing writer Raquel Zemtsov chatted it up with Parker Gispert, lead singer of the Whigs. Like all of our interviews, we began by asking Gispert about how the band formed, challenges they've faced and were even treated to a story about how wild dancing can lead to superficial head wounds. If that wasn't enough, Versus asked the hard-hitting questions involving favorite colors and flavors of ice cream. Read on for how to cure stage fright like a rock star and why the pterodactyl is Gispert's animal of choice.

Versus Magazine: What inspired you to go into music? Did you always know you wanted to be a musician?

Parker Gispert: I was in eighth grade. There was a talent show at the junior high and I had to sing a really lame song with the chorus, but this much smarter kid who's older than me played the guitar and sang Bob Dylan songs. So I got a guitar for my birthday.

VM: What kind of music did you grow up listening to?

PG: I grew up listening to the radio, whatever was on the rock station. I got really into metal like Pantera, Sepultura, that kind of stuff and radio rock.

VM: How did the band get together?

PG: Julian, the drummer, and I went to the same high school. Hank, our first bass player, we met at the University of Georgia. And Tim, who plays with us now, we met through Hank.

VM: Could you talk a little about your first album and how that has gotten you to where the band is today?

PG: The first record we recorded ourselves and put it out ourselves. It was people's first exposure to the band because it was the first recording that we had made, but more than that it taught us to be independent. If we wanted something to happen, we needed to not depend on anyone else or look to someone else to make it happen for you. You've just got to set up the equipment and press record.

VM: What is your favorite song from "Mission Control"?

PG: It changes a lot. I think "Already Young" is because when we recorded it, we didn't really want it on the album at first. And then it was on the album but we didn't really like how it turned out, so we played it kind of acoustic at the shows, like a country version. We just tried it a number of ways trying to play it live and like it. Now it's probably my favorite song to play, and it morphed and became a bunch of different things.

VM: What has been the biggest challenge you've faced as a band?

PG: Probably when Hank quit. He was the original third member of the band and we had been a band for four years. He left right when we were finishing writing songs for "Mission Control," which was our first album that would come out on a label. We were really excited about it and we had a lot of writing to do, so him quitting kind of threw a wrench in things. But it actually turned out really good because we got to play with a bunch of different people and it kind of breathed life in the record that I don't think would have happened if it had been the three of us. It allowed us to move on.

VM: Do you have a funniest moment from being on tour?

PG: It happened about two weeks ago. We were playing in Westchester, Penn., which is a suburb of Philadelphia. I move pretty awkward on stage — I have some weird dance moves or whatever you call it. But I have good balance and I never fall. I've only fallen once until the other night. I tripped over a light and I fell into my amp and my amp is stacked really high. It just toppled over and I got cracked in the head by the top one. I tried to play it off and pretend like nothing was wrong. I got up and tried to be all rock 'n' roll and make it into something cool, but my head just opened up. I just started bleeding everywhere on my face and on my guitar. It started out cool but then people were just looking at me like, "This is kind of gross."

VM: How would you describe your musical style?

PG: Rock band.

VM: Have you ever gotten stage fright before a performance? How did you shake the nerves?

PG: I have gotten stage fright. I'd say I probably drank some beers.

VM: Now onto the fun questions, what is your favorite color? Why?

PG: I think green is my favorite color. I don't know why, I just like the way it looks. Which is important.

VM: If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

PG: Ice cream. My favorite flavor is mint chocolate chip.

VM: If you could be any animal, what animal would you be?

PG: Some sort of fish or some sort of bird. A bird is kind of hard to be. I'm going to go with a pterodactyl.

VM: Anything else you think Vanderbilt should know about the band and your upcoming show at the Exit/In on the third?

PG: Yes. It's going to be a costume party with an outer space theme.

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 Vandy Weather Alert Service,

Wow, thank you SO MUCH for alerting me that there was a big storm coming! I definitely didn't hear the warning sirens outside at all, and I had no hints when there was hail going sideways as I looked out my window. What's that? There's a severe thunderstorm approaching? Oh, thanks buddy.

In particular, I loved getting a text, e-mail and phone call warning me of the storm and potential tornado on its way. If I were somewhere that didn't get cell service, I certainly would need to know to stay there. And what if my text message plan had been deactivated? Boy, sure would hate to miss out on the information that might save my life.

I think the best part, though, was getting all of this information 10 minutes after my resident adviser had already sent messengers to our suite telling us to go downstairs. If there actually were to be a deadly tornado, the time I'd need to know it would certainly be 20 minutes after I'd already been picked up by it.

I appreciate the effort, I really do. Attempting to save my life with ill-timed communication barrages is admirable. Plus, it's nice to get called by someone once in a while. But, I digress.

So in the future, how about a little more advance warning on it if you really think it's going to be bad? Thanks, friend.

Sincerely,
An Angry WASP



FLIP SIDE

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SUDOKU: To solve, fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

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

3/30/09 SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

- NOTE: This puzzle uses the numeral "0" several times in answers — such as "DONOR" meaning "DONATE." These are not errors.
- ACROSS**
- 1 Villain
 - 5 Latin I verb
 - 9 Map book
 - 14 Business transaction
 - 15 Bananas
 - 16 Clear a winter windshield
 - 17 Give
 - 18 Expand
 - 19 Was bold
 - 20 Containing sediment
 - 22 Divide
 - 23 ___ double take; look twice
 - 26 Teacher's group: abbr.
 - 27 Commotion
 - 28 Lack of empathy
 - 33 Weaken; impair
 - 34 "...the frost ___ the punkin..."
 - 35 ___ a Rock"; 1965 hit song
 - 38 Pain
 - 39 With 45 Across, timely greeting
 - 41 1st name in country music
 - 42 School for priests: abbr.
 - 43 "Sport of Kings"
 - 44 ___ nothing
 - 45 See 39 Across
 - 49 Don and family
 - 50 Contraction
 - 51 Nov. 1 honorees
 - 52 Finally
 - 55 Choose
- DOWN**
- 1 Strange
 - 2 Storm or Prizm
 - 3 Hightailed it
 - 4 Gladdens
 - 5 Confuses
 - 6 Fruity cocktail
 - 7 ___ in the ointment
 - 8 Declare
 - 9 Inserted
 - 10 Whistler
 - 11 Old Italian money
 - 12 Maple genus
 - 13 Put to sleep
 - 21 Natural
 - 22 French region
 - 23 Prima donnas
 - 24 In readiness
 - 25 Lung disorder
 - 29 Part of the "Old MacDonald" refrain
 - 30 ___ the iceberg; tiny evidence of a thing hidden
 - 31 AOL or Qwest
 - 32 Gives in
 - 36 "If I Had ___"; Lyle Lovett hit
 - 37 Martin and Steenburgen

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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57						58			59	60	61	62
63						64			65			
66						67			68			

3/30/09 SOLUTIONS

L	A	M	A	I	B	E	A	M	H	E	L	P			
A	P	E	D	G	U	P	P	Y	E	L	I	A			
G	O	L	D	E	N	R	E	T	R	I	E	V	E	R	
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A	G	I	L	E		A	L	E	A	C	L	U			
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O	D	D	A	Y		S	T	E	E	R		S	P	O	T

4/1/09

Why are L.C. & Heidi fighting?
What bands are heading to Nashville?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?

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