

Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

DECEMBER 2—DECEMBER 8, 2009 VOL. 47, N° 27

Versus editors came up with their holiday wish lists. Flip to page 9 for everything from Kindle to the Beatles.

Who knew Kevin McCallister could cause so much trouble? Check out page 4 for a holiday movie debate.

Matt Shelton dishes out a celeb style report card. Turn to page 8 to see who made the grade.



PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Cheap Trick – Ryman Auditorium

Surrender... to the sweet music of Cheap Trick as they triumphantly return to Nashville this Thursday night for a concert at the world-famous Ryman Auditorium. This rock/power pop band has been rocking the stage since 1974 and have churned out several huge hits such as "I Want You To Want Me," "Surrender," and "Dream Police." Often described as the American Beatles (playing an Americanized form of what was British rock and pop), Cheap Trick has retained the same line-up since their inception, a feat not many other bands of their age can boast. Tickets are a bit expensive but well worth the price to see legends.

(\$29.50-\$49.50, 7:30 p.m., 116 5th Ave. N.)

The Coolin' System – The Basement

Nashville's favorite funk band takes the stage at The Basement for an evening of grooving tunes. While they are not quite as popular as some of Nashville's other residents, The Coolin' System is fast becoming one of the city's most talked about bands. As the Nashville Scene described in a recent article, "The Coolin' System might just be one of our favorite new bands in the whole city. Their tight, instrumental funk workouts were so good... it's pretty obvious that this band thinks solely about the tunes." And people, it's the last Thursday night before exams. What better way to get prepped by getting down with some funk?

(\$5, 9:00 p.m., 1604 8th Ave. S.)

The Dave Rawlings Machine & Carl Broemel – Exit/In

While best known for his work with Gillian Welch and Old Crow Medicine Show, Dave Rawlings has assembled a band of friends to play his own solo compositions and songs. As a guitarist, singer, producer, and songwriter, Rawlings has quite the musical background, a strength that shines through on his recent debut release, "Friend of a Friend." Though he had written several songs over the last several years, it was not until 2007 that he began playing with the notion of assembling a full band and recording full versions of the songs. The music on the album is "cousin to the deftly modern and haunting music that [he] is known for, but it has here been expanded; the crowd is larger, the party more robust, but the room is the same room."

Opening for The Dave Rawlings Machine is guitarist Carl Broemel. While best known for his work as a member of My Morning Jacket as well as his earlier work with the bands Old Pike and Planet Earth, Broemel is an incredible musician in his own right. Having recently released a solo record, "Lose What's Left," Broemel has truly grown as a solo artist and now resides in Nashville, TN. No, it won't be like seeing My Morning Jacket, but instead this is a chance for a much more intimate experience with one of the biggest forces in the band.

(\$20, 9:00 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Mark Wehner Cd Release Party with Stephen Simmons – The Basement

Mark Wehner appears to be releasing a CD but doing a poor job marketing it as information about him, his music, and what is coming out is hard to find. Wehner is a country singer with a sound sometimes described like that of Steve Earle. Opening for Wehner is the Americana singer songwriter Stephen Simmons who features songs like "Devil's Work Is Never Done" and "County Lines." Simmons has a simple voice with simple acoustic guitar to go along. Probably the best part about this one it is free.

(FREE, 6:30 p.m.)

EOTO/Phutureprimitive – Exit/In

Recently featuring the duo Pretty Lights (electronica/hip-hop) the Exit/In seems to be taking full advantage of the trendy music scene that packs in sweaty fans who just want to find that transcendental feeling. The electro-house "all improvised, nothing pre-recorded" group Eoto will make its way to the Exit/In this Friday. The group is composed of Jason Hann and Michael Travis formerly of the String Cheese Incident. Eoto has recently gotten some solid positive press.

Opening for EOTO will be the electronica act known as Phutureprimitive. Phutureprimitive mixes basic bongo drum with sounds found in nature (like rain) and actually come up with something fairly interesting. In a music world inundated with unoriginal losers with a Mac, this act stands out as unique and if you're in the right state of mind could provide quite a cool live experience. (\$12 advance, \$15 DOS, 9 p.m.)

Richie McDonald – Country Music Hall of Fame, Ford Theater

Country singer Richie McDonald has a new single "Six-Foot Teddybear" and will perform this and other acoustic driven country tunes at the Country Music Hall at Ford Theater. McDonald is regarded as one of the better voices in Country Music today (Hence the Friday night spot at the big venue) and this single marks the beginning of his solo career. Richie is quite the performer and is apparently very much looking forward to his new gig as a solo act. (Price not listed, 8 p.m.)

Sones de Mexico Ensemble – Tennessee Performing Arts Center

This Chicago based folk ensemble is also a non-profit organization that is "committed to teaching young and old with many of its educational programs nationwide." The band plays music rooted in the Mexican "son" style with ever changing instrumentation and pretty harmonizing vocals. (Price not listed, 2 p.m.)

"Radio City Christmas Spectacular" – Grand Ole Opry

The high-kicking Rockettes and company continue their series in Nashville this Friday evening at the Grand Old Opry. Easily one of the most memorable events of Christmas time both in and out of New York City, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular is a show that you absolutely must see at least once in your life. Bring a date, go with friends, or take your family. Regardless of who you go with, you are sure to leave smiling.

(Tickets start at \$35, 8:00 p.m., 2802 Opryland Dr.)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

107.5 The River Acoustic Christmas – War Memorial Auditorium

Nashville's top 40 radio station 107.5 The River will sponsor the 2009 Acoustic Christmas at the War Memorial Auditorium. This year's lineup features the following artists and more. Unfortunately the only way to get tickets is to register and win. The station will give away tickets every other hour starting at 6 a.m. on weekdays and every ten minutes on the hours of 8 a.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m. this Thursday. Good luck!

Owl City

Owl City, the synth-pop project of Adam Young, take the stage at the War Memorial Auditorium in downtown Nashville this evening. While Young created Owl City in 2007, it was not until 2009 that he reached a major level of success. With the major label debut, "Ocean Eyes," Owl City exploded in popularity, even reaching #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 with the single "Fireflies," a track that went on to become the fastest-selling electronic/alternative track in history. If nothing else, it should be extremely interesting and entertaining to see these heavily produced tracks played live.

The Fray

Alternative rock band The Fray return to Nashville tonight, bringing their piano-fueled pop rock to War Memorial Auditorium alongside Owl City. Perhaps best described as an Americanized, less epic sounding Coldplay, The Fray is best known for writing emotionally charged ballads and power pop songs such as "Over My Head," "How to Save a Life," and "Never Say Never." Even if this kind of music isn't really your thing, guys, there will be a million attractive, screaming girls at this show. Do you really need another reason to go?

Uncle Kracker

Follow Uncle Kracker to the War Memorial this Saturday where he'll bring with him the hits he's best known for like "Follow Me," "Smile," and a re-recording of the Doobie Brothers' "Drift Away." Singer Matthew Shafer's unique country/rock voice has kept him on the radio since the turn of the millennium. He has recently been getting more attention in the Country Scene than previously before, so he should be perfectly comfortable playing to a Nashville crowd. Don't be surprised if Uncle Kracker looks a little older than you expected – the last few years may have added some wear and tear – but the singer's voice should still be in fine form.

Boys Like Girls

The Massachusetts natives make their way down to the Music City to be part of this Christmas spectacular. Best known for their self-titled album released in 2006, Boys Like Girls features an alternative rock sound that has been paired as openers for hit bands like Good Charlotte. Their latest album, the eleven track "Love Drunk," was recently released this September with success. The band has been touring it since October of this year. With the pop-punk sound that lends itself to energetic live performances, this band should do just fine along side the long list of noteworthy acts at the show.

The Regulars

THE RUTLEDGE
410 Fourth Ave. South 37201
782-6858

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

BLUEBIRD CAFE
4104 Hillsboro Road 37215
383-1461

EXIT/IN
2208 Elliston Place 37203
321-3340

STATION INN
402 12th Ave. 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
1 Symphony Place 37201
687-6500

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

CAFE COCO
210 Louise Ave. 37203
321-2626



FRUITIONsalon.com
STYLING . CUT . COLOR

615.298.7771
ONLINE BOOKING AVAILABLE
2700 belmont boulevard

SHU UEMURA Bebe and bumble GOLDWELL

Versus

DECEMBER 2—DECEMBER 8, 2009 VOL. 47, No. 27

Versus Magazine

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Courtney Rogers

Opinion Editor
Ryan Sullivan

Life Editor
Avery Spofford

Culture Editor
Holly Meehl

Entertainment Editor
Charlie Kesslering

Music Editors
Zac Hunter
Chris McDonald

Fashion Editor
Nikky Okoro

Art Director
Matt Radford

Designers
Irene Hukkelhoven
Kat Miller

Marketing Director
George Fischer

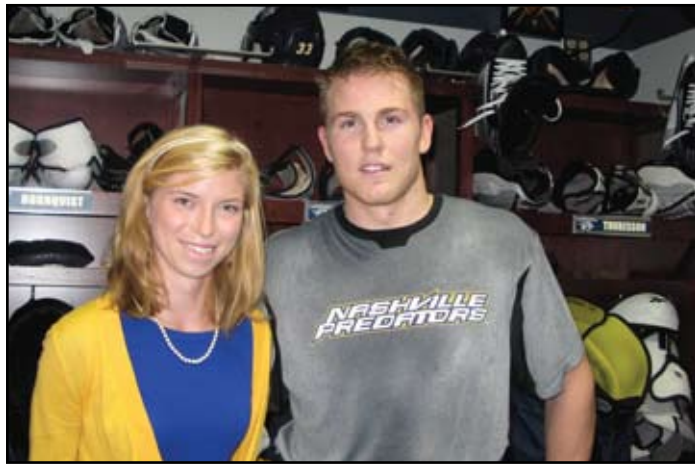
Advertising Manager
Carolyn Fisher

VSC Director
Chris Carroll

Assistant VSC
Directors
Jeff Breaux
Paige Clancy

Journalism Fellow
Erin Prah

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! OK, so maybe right now is not so wonderful because we're gearing up for finals. All I want to do is enjoy the delicious Starbucks holiday drinks, bake Christmas cookies and blast *NSYNC's holiday CD throughout my suite, but sadly these things will have to wait. Instead, I am up to my ears in work and my to-do lists only seem to be growing as days march onward.

As much as I don't enjoy making lists of paper deadlines, one list that has been keeping my holiday spirit afloat is my holiday wish list. True, a lot of it is the fun I've had assembling a list of things that I'm hoping will appear under the tree, but it hasn't been a totally selfish enterprise. In my "study breaks" which are procrastination at its finest, I've also been investigating some presents for the difficult people on my list, namely my twin brother who ardently refuses to give me any clues about his list.

So what do you get for those who are nearly impossible to buy for? It's a question for the ages and something we've been pondering at Versus even before the dawn of Black Friday. To help you on your quest, our editors have submitted their wishlists, copied and pasted from their letters to Santa. From technology to music and fashion to the outdoors, we hope some of our ideas might inspire you before you opt to wander the mall aimlessly this holiday season.

For more doses of holiday cheer, check out our quiz on what to buy that someone special and festive drink recipes on page 3. If you need a good way to continue procrastinating, flip to page 4 for our dueling review of "Home Alone" and a tribute to holiday classic, "It's a Wonderful Life." And if you need some jolly jams to drown out the looming silence of the Baseball Glove Lounge, check out our top 10 seasonal songs on page 7.

Later Alligator,
Courtney Rogers

IN THIS ISSUE

Bits & Pieces

- Stars shining right above you, 2
- Overheard at Vanderbilt, 2
- Words to live by in 17 syllables, 2

Entertainment

- "Home Alone" is polarizing, 4
- A holiday classic, 4
- Best Picture preview, 4

Music

- Vandy's music scene, 6
- John Mayer is still pop, but it's cool, we're down with that, 6
- Rocking around the Christmas tree, 7

Culture, Fashion

- Gift giving quiz, 3
- Celeb fashion report card, 8
- Double dose of style spotter, 8

Feature

- All we want for Christmas, 9

3



9



PIC OF THE WEEK



Donna Rogers/Darien, CT

BITS & PIECES



I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.

—Linus Van Pelt

HOROSCOPES



VIRGO 8/23-9/22: Please go to the gym. You shouldn't have helped yourself to that extra serving of stuffing.



LIBRA 9/23-10/22: It is finally acceptable to publicly play those Christmas carols you've been secretly listening to for the past month.



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21: Seize the day, order a different salad at Ro-Tiki.



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21: Please note that mistletoe and holly are two separate plants. Before surprising someone with a big wet one, make sure you've got the right shrub.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19: You better not pout.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18: So sorry Aquarius, but it's far past the dawning of your age. Get over it.



PISCES 2/19-3/20: Just because your zodiac sign is a fish does not mean you are allowed to smell like one. Please shower.



ARIES 3/21-4/19: It seems likely you will perform "Jingle Bell Rock" in pleather this week. Just a heads up.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20: Thinking of ways to boost your grade before finals? Sleeping with a TA is never a good idea. Or is it?



GEMINI 5/21-6/21: Tap into your creative side this week. Write a poem, draw picture or sing a song. Actually, scratch that last one. No one wants to hear you sing.



CANCER 6/22-7/22: Before or after (but not during) finals, get drunk before noon and sing Eartha Kitt's "Santa Baby."



LEO 7/23-8/22: I'd download "Blue Christmas" now. Maybe buy some chocolate.

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

Who brought death upon
The first Thanksgiving turkey?
The Pilgrim Reaper.

How would you know how
Smooth a baby's bottom is?
What a sick cliché.

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 at the Pub: You know what I hate about jackets? You have to take them off and put them back on. It's really a hassle.



Girl: No, I only do my steroids alone. Well, sometimes with whoever's in the basement. Well, in the bathroom that time.

Guy: Someone needs to invent fashionable leggings for men.

Girl walking past Towers 3 & 4: Oh my gosh, look at these bikes! They're so skinny! Even the bicycles are anorexic here.

Guy: No, I'm locked out of my room and I'm pantsless. Well, I guess I'm always pantsless.

PHOTOS: flickr.com

HOLIDAY CULTURE

Not quite the Hanukkah magic I had in mind

GRANT DARWIN
Staff Writer

In reflecting over Hanukkahs past, I realized I had a bit of grievance with a particular tradition in my family. While some families may have a "Secret Santa," in ours we have the infamous "Hanukkah Person." Every year at the end of our Hanukkah festivities, once all the latkes and matzo balls have been consumed, Grandma comes round with a hat in hand. Inside are all the names of the first cousins in our family. We each pull one out in preparation for the following year. While the maximum amount allowed to be spent has changed as we have all gotten older, the basic process has remained the same. Keep the secret, and be sure to get something the other person wants.

However, it seems that this rule was not as simple as it appears. For a series

of consecutive years the same cousin drew my name. This cousin, while always sincere in his gift giving, has a well-known penchant for adopting different hobbies. For this three-year period, magic tricks were his vice. I myself had no interest in them, and yet during that time I received a multitude of magic paraphernalia: Fake fingers, exploding powder, card and coin trick books, invisible ink. By the looks of my presents you would have thought I was on my way to being David Blaine. That is not to say I was not appreciative, the obligatory thank you note was always written.

While other cousins got the DVDs, CDs and sports equipment they wanted, I could take solace knowing I at least had the tools to make my pinkie disappear. I would open these presents with my "Hanukkah Person" gleefully at my side

willingly offering play-by-play commentary on "how cool" the magic tricks he had gotten me were. I was surprised at how this wonderful tradition had rapidly transformed into a cruel joke. Providing me not with the newest Dave Matthews album (as I had appropriately gotten my person), but rather a means to develop the lamest of all party talents. Let's just say I used the magic of the company return policy to make these gifts disappear into thin air and return in the form of store credit. ☞



Thaw out with a wintry drink

AVERY SPOFFORD
Life Editor

Hot Spiced Cider

- 6 cups fresh apple cider
- 1/4 cup pure maple syrup (more or less, to taste)
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 6 whole cloves
- 6 whole allspice berries
- 6 strips orange peel
- 6 strips lemon peel



Pour the apple cider and maple syrup into a large stainless steel saucepan. Place the cinnamon sticks, cloves, allspice berries, orange peel and lemon peel in the center of a washed square of cheesecloth; fold up the sides of the cheesecloth to enclose the bundle, then tie it up with kitchen string. Drop the spice bundle into the cider mixture. Place the saucepan over moderate heat for five to 10 minutes, or until the cider is very hot but not boiling. Remove cider from heat. Discard the spice bundle. Ladle the cider into big cups or mugs, adding a fresh cinnamon stick to each serving.

Christmas Eggnog

- 12 egg yolks
- 5 cloves, whole
- 4 cups milk
- 4 cups cream
- 3 cups light rum
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon, ground
- 3/4 teaspoon nutmeg, ground



In a saucepan over low heat, blend milk, cinnamon, cloves and half a teaspoon of vanilla extract. Stir while mixture heats and remove from heat just before boiling point. In a bowl, mix together the sugar with egg yolks. Whisk well so they're light and fluffy. Gently and a little at a time, pour in milk mixture while continuing to whisk. Transfer back into saucepan over a medium heat while continuing to stir. Keep stirring until mixture starts to resemble custard. Never let the mixture reach boiling point. Strain the mixture into a jug and remove the cloves. Place jug in the fridge for an hour or two. Gently stir in the cream, rum, remaining vanilla and ground nutmeg. Put back into fridge overnight. Serve in cups with extra ground nutmeg, cinnamon or baking cocoa sprinkled lightly on top.

Holiday Quiz: What to get that special someone

HOLLY MEEHL
Culture Editor

So you've been dating all semester, or maybe just a month, or maybe you've spent one weekend together and think you've met someone special; regardless, you have the ultimate challenge ahead of you — finding the perfect gift. But do you even get your significant other a perfectly wrapped token of your affection or do you just get

them a chocolate Santa? A sprig of mistletoe? A quick text saying "Have a great break! See you back at Vandy"? Gift giving, despite all its yuletide joy and glory, is often a predicament. Here at Versus, we've tried to make this experience a little less painful by creating a Gift Guide Quiz to find out, depending on your stage in a relationship, just how you should show your love.

1. How often do you see them during the week, outside of a social setting?

- A. Do awkward run-ins at the mailroom count?
- B. Maybe once or twice, for lunch or coffee
- C. Every day, you make time to see each other

2. On a dinner date with this person, where would you go?

- A. Quiznos/C.T. West (or pretty much any on-campus dining)
- B. Cafe Coco
- C. Sambuca



3. What does a text on a Saturday night look like if you haven't seen each other yet?

- A. (sometime after 2 a.m.) "yoouooo where you at?"
- B. "Hey, sorry I didn't see you earlier, got dragged to Wendy's, are you still up?"
- C. This question doesn't apply; you're always together on Saturdays

4. When talking about this person, what do you call them?

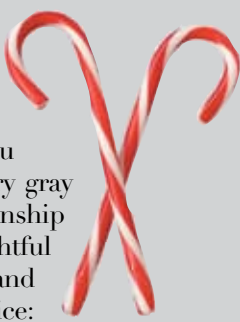
- A. Hmm, well you don't actually call them anything, in fact, you don't talk about them much at all
- B. This girl/guy I'm seeing
- C. My girlfriend or boyfriend

5. What's their favorite holiday Starbucks drink?

- A. No idea
- B. I think he/she likes peppermint hot chocolate
- C. Pumpkin spice latte, no questions asked (it's both our favorite)

Mostly A's:

To say you're in a "relationship" would be a stretch. But there's some type of connection, whether it just be physical or ... well, there's something you like about the person. However, this very gray stage of "hooking up" does not a relationship make by getting them some overly thoughtful gift. In fact, it could possibly backfire and really freak them out. My words of advice: No gift. But if you just love Christmas that much and feel the need to give, perhaps something simple, like a box of chocolates (not from the bookstore, we can tell), or a candy cane with a cute note attached. Give at your own risk, though; this type of relationship functions on the non-committal. Too much could ruin it.



Mostly B's:

So you've been hanging out for awhile, maybe a month or so, though you've yet to DTR. But you clearly enjoy each other's company as you've managed to hang out while sober. Giving a gift could show how much you like the other person and that perhaps you want to take the relationship to the next step. Still, I wouldn't go overboard; nothing too expensive, but perhaps something more personal, like a mix CD of music you both enjoy. Or maybe a cute card with a promise of a "more romantic than Cafe Coco" dinner once you both get back to campus. Keep it simple, but thoughtful.



Mostly C's:

This relationship is for reals; you two love each other, or are pretty damn close. You want to get them something no one else has ever thought of, something that says "you are amazing" and break is going to be painful without you. You do have the option to spend a bit more here, but if you're on a budget there are other ways to show you care. Like in the mostly B's category, you could make a mix CD, but also throw in a scrapbook of pictures and moments you've shared together. If you're willing to throw down some dough, jewelry is always a good option for girls (but get advice from her friends on what she'd like). For a guy, maybe some tickets to his favorite band or sports team. But even if the gift isn't perfect, your significant other shouldn't mind too much, because in words of Mariah Carey, "All (they) want for Christmas is you!"

MADNESS

12.02.09

500 #0 Jerseys
3 - \$10,000 Half Court Shots
Free Semester's Textbooks for Best Sign

Doors Open: 6:30PM
Memorial Gymnasium

ENTERTAINMENT

Love It!

“HOME ALONE”?

Hate It!

CHRIS MCDONALD
Music Editor

Year in and year out, the winter season is defined in part by an ever-increasing number of mediocre movies hoping to capitalize on the holiday spirit. And year in and year out, the movies continue to get worse and worse. One, however, has stood above the rest and become one of the most treasured holiday films of all time. “Miracle on 24th Street”? Nope. “It’s A Wonderful Life”? Not Quite. My friends, I am referring to the John Hughes classic “Home Alone.”

So just what is it about this movie that makes it so fantastic? After spending a week at home thinking about this question, I can’t pinpoint just one thing. But far from being a problem, that in itself is what makes the movie great. It’s a complete amalgam of greatness — the quotable lines, the slapstick humor,



the traps, the pranks, the downright violence delivered by a little kid.

Of all these facets, however, the memorable nature of the movie is what sticks out the most. It’s the smartass lines delivered by Culkin in his career-defining role. From poignant commentary on his brother’s girlfriend (“Buzz, your girlfriend ... Woof.”) to his taunts (“You guys give up yet? Or are you thirsty for more?”), Culkin is a comic genius. But the buck doesn’t just stop with Culkin. In fact, the entire cast comes together to define the film as one of the most quotable of a generation. From the sister (“The dope was whining about a suit case. What was I supposed to do? Shake his hand and say, ‘Congratulations, you’re an idiot?’”) to the crazy uncle (“Look what you did you little jerk”), from the

Bandits to the pizza delivery boy, every character delivers a slew of memorable lines.

Without a doubt, “Home Alone” is my favorite movie of the holidays. Despite my having seen it literally dozens of times since its release in 1990 (yeah, it’s almost 20 years old), it never gets old and never feels stale. In its truest sense, it has become a timeless comedy of the holiday season. ☼

STUART BRYAN
Staff Writer

Word of advice: Never utter any malicious words about “Home Alone” unless you wish to risk losing all your friends. I discovered a few weeks ago that apparently many Vanderbilt students are secretly diehard “Home

Alone” fans that will bring an avalanche of hatred down upon you if you insult their prized movie.

Being the open-minded fellow I am, I decided to do some detective work to discover the reason behind this passion. First I analyzed the plot. An eight-year-old child is accidentally forgotten and left behind by his family on a Christmas vacation and then fights off two burglars by himself to protect his house. Well, obviously that can’t be the reason, seeing as Macaulay Culkin could have thought of that stellar plot himself. Actually, he may have.

Next, I analyzed the actors and their characters’ contributions to the film. First up, Macaulay Culkin. As I watched Culkin’s character, Kevin, put his hands to his cheeks and scream in the least believable way in the detective business possible, I realized that or the film is an eight-year-old kids simply cannot act. He never actually becomes scared that

burglars may break into his house and steal all his possessions and possibly kill him. Honestly, does this kid know something we don’t? The answer is yes; he knows that cute eight-year-olds get away with murder, including murder of the movie industry.

Refusing to accept the mounting evidence, I hoped that maybe the other actors in the movie picked up Culkin’s slack. False. Devin Ratray somehow manages to outdo Culkin’s atrocious acting with his memorably terrible portrayal of Buzz, Kevin’s brother. Honestly, with a name like Buzz, he was doomed from the start.

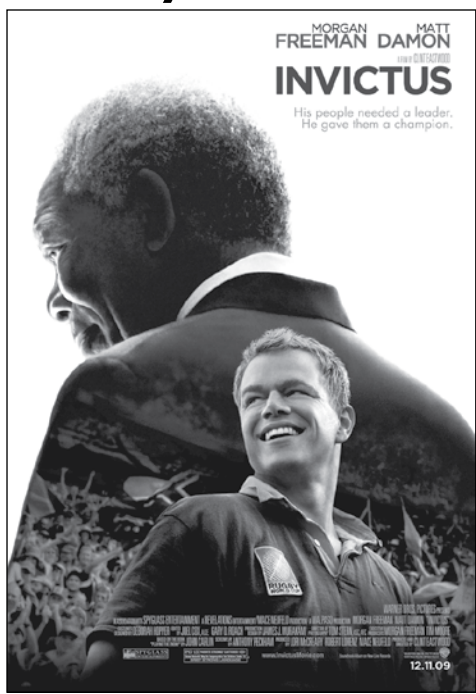
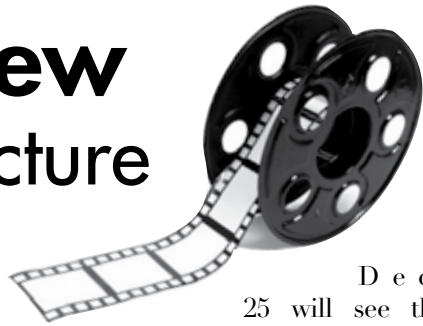
Well, my sleuthing has led me to a dead end. I cannot explain society’s undying love for “Home Alone.” I can only conclude that either I have no future in the detective business or the film is an anomaly that inspires devotion and respect despite its obvious shortcomings. ☼



fanpop.com

December Movie Preview

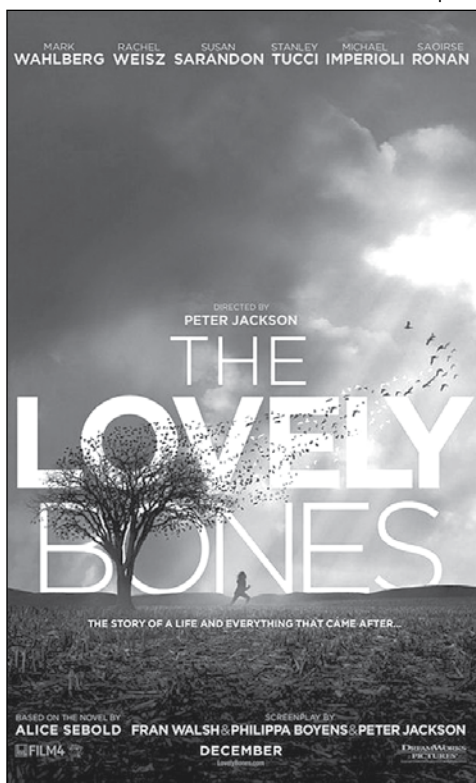
Many films contend for best picture



smartcine.com



scifiscoop.com



awardsdaily.com

BENJAMIN RIES
Staff Writer

The holiday season is awards season: Most films that win “Best Picture” at the Academy Awards premiere between November and January. Take “A Beautiful Mind” (2001), “Chicago” (2002), “No Country for Old Men” (2007), “Slumdog Millionaire” (2008) — the list goes on.

Back in June, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that 10 films, as opposed to the usual five, will contend at the March 7 (the ceremony was pushed back from its usual spot in February to avoid competition with the Olympics) Academy Awards for the title of “Best Picture.” The motivation for this move likely stems from the recent exclusion of popular films, like 2009’s “The Dark Knight,” from “Best Picture” nominations in favor of independent, art-house films (three of the five nominees that year earned under \$25 million domestically).

With twice as many candidates, the upcoming “Best Picture” competition will be more exciting than ever. 2009 has seen a fair share of renowned films so far, like “The Hurt Locker,” about an American Explosive Ordnance Disposal in Iraq, and the recently-released “The Road,” based on Cormac McCarthy’s bestselling book.

Plenty of possible nominees are scheduled for December release. Premiering on Dec. 4 is “Brothers,” starring Jake Gyllenhaal as a drifter who cares for the family of his brother Sam (Tobey Maguire), a captain in the army who is presumed dead in Iraq. He and Sam’s wife, Grace (Natalie Portman) slowly grow close, only to have their relationship interrupted when Sam miraculously returns. The film boasts an excellent, all-star cast and a strong present-day relevancy.

Also coming Dec. 4 is “Invictus,” which, from the previews, looks like another inspirational-based-on-a-true-story sports movie elevated by an unusually interesting background — Nelson Mandela’s efforts to use South Africa’s underdog rugby team to help unite the torn post-apartheid country — and the presence of Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman (as Mandela). Furthermore, the film was directed by the always-dependable Clint Eastwood, whose “Gran Torino” (2008) was controversially snubbed of any Oscar nominations last year — a mistake the Academy may be looking to remedy.

James Cameron’s ultra-hyped sci-fi adventure “Avatar” will be released on Dec. 18 and had better be an Oscar contender if it hopes to earn back its budget, reported to be near \$500 million. Cameron did it before with “Titanic” (1999), taking in 11 Oscars and close to \$2 billion in international gross.

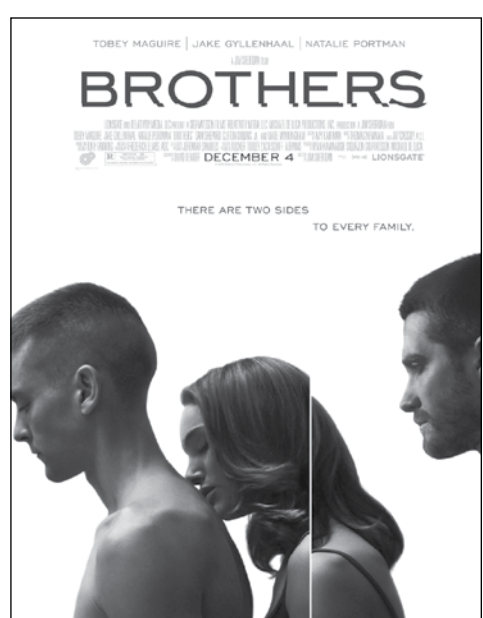
Dec. 25 will see the premiere of “The Lovely Bones,” directed by Peter Jackson. The story, based on the 2002 book by Alice Sebold, focuses a murdered girl’s observations of her family and her killer from heaven. After “The Lord of the Rings” (2001-2003) and “King Kong” (2005), one can only have high expectations for Jackson’s next movie.

Already the winner of numerous awards including the 2009 Palme d’Or, the highest prize at the Cannes Film Festival, “The White Ribbon” is a strong contender for the “Best Foreign Language Film” award. The movie, primarily in German with English subtitles, tells the story of a pre-WWI village stricken by a series of mysterious accidents. Director Michael Haneke has quite a track-record — his 2005 film “Cache” was recently named the best film of the decade by “The Times of London.” “The White Ribbon” is set for limited U.S. release on Dec. 30.

We’ll all find out for sure when the Academy Award nominees are announced Feb. 2, 2010. For now, enjoy the holidays and see some good movies. ☼



filmofilia.com



filmofilia.com

HOLIDAY CLASSIC

Movie inspires writer to reflect upon her own “Wonderful Life”



posterwire.com

ALEXIS TABAK
Staff Writer

“It’s a Wonderful Life,” starring Donna Reed and James Capra, is one of my favorite classic holiday films. The film is one of the many Christmas staples of good holiday movies.

The story is uplifting, sentimental and highly self-indulgent. The film begs the question: What would the world be like if you were never born? After watching this I always ask other people around me how I have impacted their lives. I usually get some interesting answers and I assume you will as well.

The film is about George Bailey (Capra) and his family. He is the ideal family man: good-looking, hardworking, devoted father and loving husband.

But when his bank experiences severe money troubles, he contemplates ending his life and wishes that he were never born. A guardian angel, Clarence, then comes to his rescue and shows him what an impact he has made on not just his family’s life but everyone else’s around him.

From saving his brother from drowning in the ice to preventing the pharmacist from accidentally giving a child the wrong medicine, George is able to see that

despite tough times he truly does have a wonderful life. In the end, because he has done such a good job proving to George how wonderful he is, Clarence gets his wings.

My favorite scene in the film is a flashback scene of George and his wife when they were children and they enter a dance contest. As a prank, one of the boys opens the dance floor to the pool. They fall in, of course, but all of the other children and the principal jump in after them, turning what could have been a humiliating memory into the beginning of their lovely relationship.

Even though the film is just as good in June as it is in December, there’s something fun and traditional about watching this holiday movie during Christmas time that allows you to reflect on what makes you, you yourself, so special.

Christmas is normally about giving to others and spending time with your family, but “It’s A Wonderful Life” gives the audience permission to give to themselves and reflect on what an impact they have made on the world and on their good friends and family.

Be sure to celebrate yourself this season. ☼

You Could Win \$100 in Textbook Relief from the Vanderbilt Bookstore!

The Vanderbilt Bookstore recognizes that course materials are a significant investment.

Students who place online orders by Dec. 30 may enter a random drawing to be one of 95 winners who receive **\$100** off of their textbook purchase.

For more information and to order your textbooks, visit www.vanderbiltbookstore.com

Grand Opening

Taste of Italy

Italian Restaurant & Pizza

615.732.2000

208 4th Ave. N. Nashville, TN 37219

We Deliver to Vanderbilt!

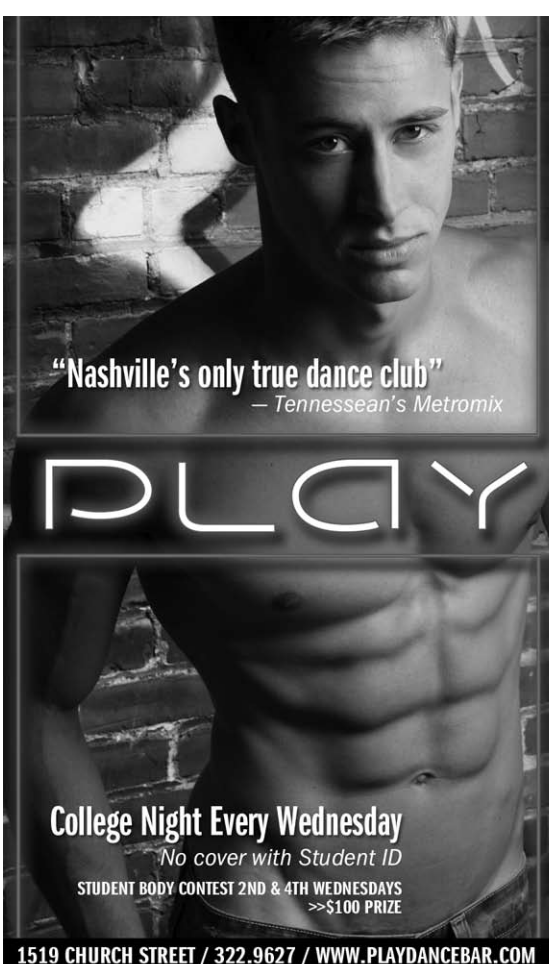


DINE IN SPECIAL
20% Off
With Vandy ID

Taste of Italy limited time offer. Not valid with any other offer.

STUDENT SPECIAL
\$8.99
Large 1 Topping

Taste of Italy limited time offer. Delivery charges apply.




"Nashville's only true dance club"
— Tennessean's Metromix

PLAY

College Night Every Wednesday
No cover with Student ID
STUDENT BODY CONTEST 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS
>>>\$100 PRIZE


1519 CHURCH STREET / 322.9627 / WWW.PLAYDANCEBAR.COM



SUZU WONG'S
-HOUSE OF YUM-

Now Serving
Lunch
11am - 2:30 pm Mon-Fri

Lunch | Dinner | Late Night | Take Out
5pm - 4am Wed-Sun | 5pm - 11pm Mon-Tues
1515 Church Street | Nashville, Tennessee
615.329.2913 | www.suzywongsnashville.com



Gianikas Property Management



Featuring many properties just minutes from campus!

- Blythewood Apts.,
- Westwood II Apts.,
- Avalon Condos,
- Acklen Park Condos,
- Parkridge Apts.,
- Stonehenge Apts.,
- Park Place & Poston West

Call or email us to set up an appointment!
615-353-5852
309 White Bridge Rd.
gianikas.properties@comcast.net

Sophomore Slam Dunk Tailgate

Vandy vs. Mizzon

Who: Sophomores!

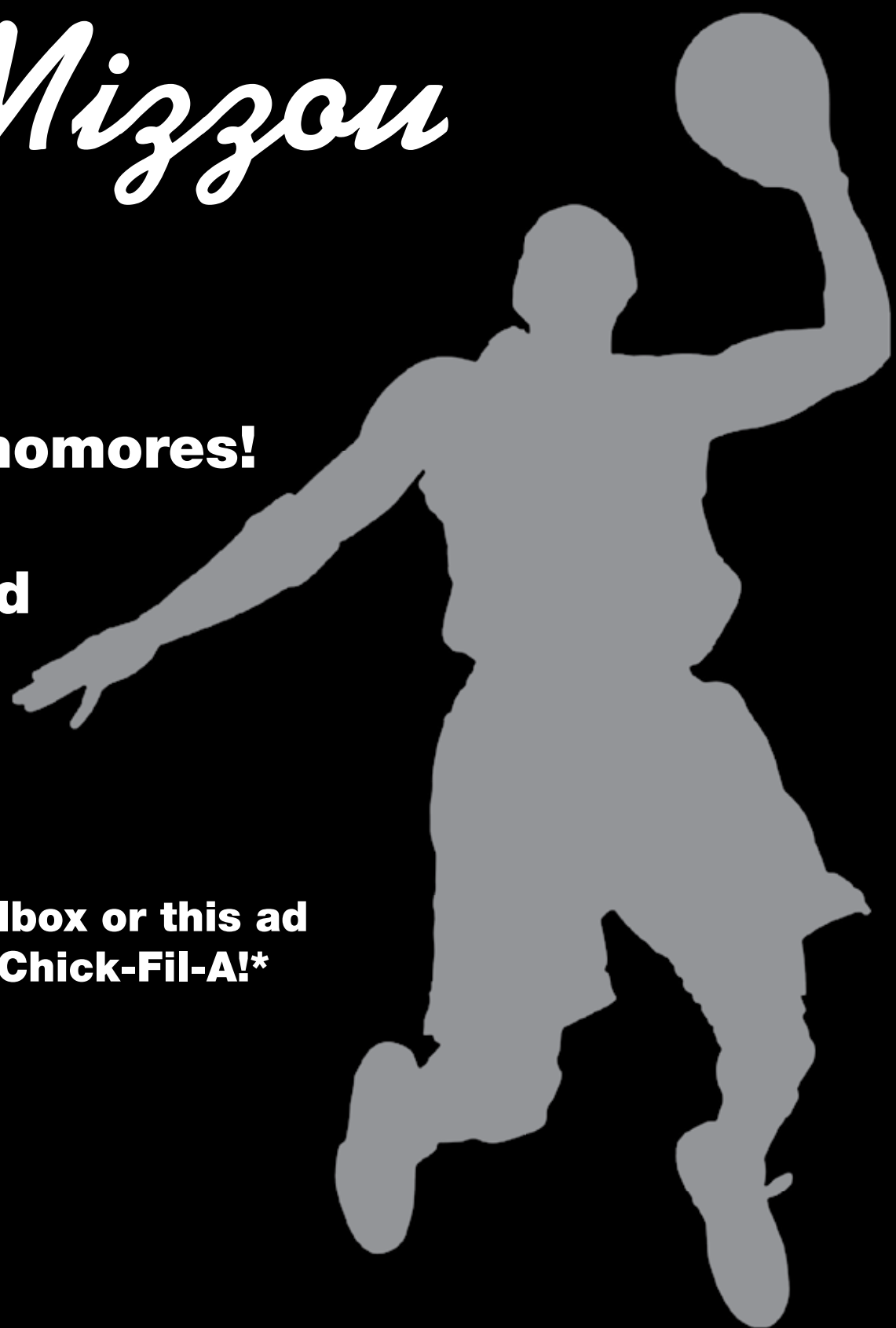
What: FREE Chick-Fil-A & FREE t-shirts to the first 100 Sophomores!

When: TODAY! Wednesday, Dec. 2nd 5:45-6:45pm

Where: Admiral's Room in Memorial Gym

Bring the event postcard in your mailbox or this ad as your ticket to come get your free Chick-Fil-A!*

Sponsored by your Class of 2012 Student Alumni Board and the Vanderbilt Alumni Association



Alumni Association



MUSIC

"Might I be ridiculous? Might my career in music be laughable? Yeah, that's possible, but that's certainly not my intention."
—Joaquin Phoenix on his rap career

SETLIST

TODAY

Music? Not today. How about a basketball game instead? Join the **Commodores** as they return home to the floor of Memorial Gym after their tournament in Maui. They may have dropped out of the top 25, but the Doers aren't planning on dropping out of your minds. Join them this Wednesday night as they take on Mizzou at 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3

American powerpop and rock band **Cheap Trick** return to Nashville this Friday night for a concert at the Ryman Auditorium. Cheap Trick, who have had such hits as "Surrender," "I Want You To Want Me," and "Dream Police," have been touring together for over three decades with the same line-up. Tickets start at \$29.50.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

Grab a date tonight and make your way over to the Grand Ole Opry for one of the most famous and popular holiday spectacles of all time: **The Radio City Christmas Spectacular**. Featuring the world-famous, high-kicking Rockettes, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular has been amusing audiences for decades. Join them as they bring the show to Nashville.

PLUG YOUR SCENE

VANDERBILT

JOE AGUIRRE
Staff Writer

Today Plug Your Scene once again brings you something close to home - A Vandy student himself. Houston Golden, the former frontman of The Neon Eon, is no stranger to Versus. Interviewed by Entertainment Editor Charlie Kesslering last year, he's now recording as a solo artist. He has seen greater exposure this year with his music available on iTunes and his debut EP selling through the Vanderbilt Bookstore.



ALBUMS

Houston Golden and the Neon Eon

KEY TRACKS

Pretty Lies
Romeo & Juliet

Houston Golden

Indie/Acoustic/Rock

With a greater knowledge of musical theory and improved technique gained over the past year, Golden's musicianship reflects a new confidence and originality. His new EP, recorded both in Dallas and Nashville, is an eclectic blend of sonic textures. Parts of it, such as the "Standing in the Crowd" or "Pretty Lies," have mellow, jazzy elements that remind me of the Dave Matthews Band or other improvisational artists. The choruses are uplifting and soaring like a one-man Polyphonic Spree. "The Beach Song" gives Golden a chance to flex his upper range and use a clear falsetto that meshes with the backing flute.

From a brief foray into electronica with the upbeat track "Samsara," available on his Facebook page, we've seen that Golden can cover more musical territory than the more standard ballads. His debut EP showcases his talent without feeling overproduced, but Golden says he plans to record an upcoming album with an even more visceral feel and sparser backing instrumentation. "The songs are good enough at this point to stand on their own," Golden told me. "They don't need anything to boost their ego".

For Golden, the songs don't need to be overly complex or heavily produced. They don't need anything extra. Such an approach would only weaken the song. Instead, Golden focuses on the actual soul of the song. With this more simplistic approach to writing and recording, Golden is avoiding much of the current trends of music.

Be on the lookout for more releases, and give this Vanderbilt artist a listen. His upbeat, catchy tunes are a part of our own scene that you can't afford to pass up.

Latest New Releases

John Mayer stays true to pop

ZAC HUNTER

Music Editor

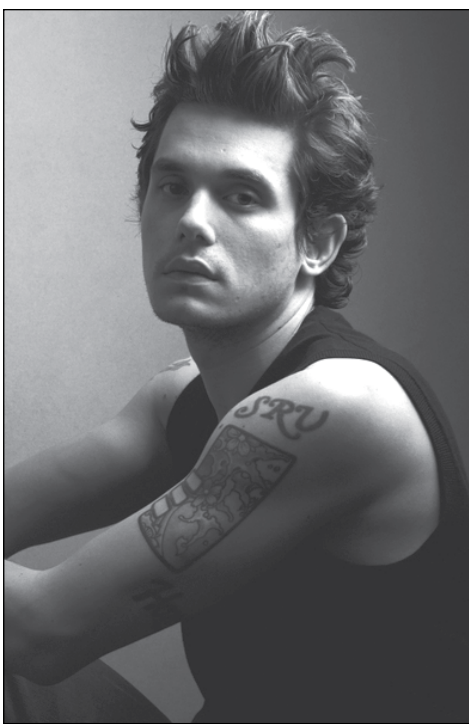
Those of us who hoped that John Mayer's last two releases (the phenomenal pop-blues compilation "Continuum" and the hard edged electric blues live album with his trio, "Try!") were foreshadowing the shedding of yet another, perhaps final, layer of his pop skin on "Battle Studies" should go ahead and toss that hope aside. Mayer has said, "As a pop musician, I want to be the prism for taking what I know is a very powerful style of music (blues) and somehow crystallizing it into something that is identifiable as being now." If this is his goal on "Battle Studies," unfortunately he is no closer than with his last attempt on "Continuum." In this respect, "Continuum" was no failure — it took steps few others have attempted, like a perfect cover of Hendrix's "Bold As Love", and "Battle Studies" only falls short in its inability to top its predecessor.

With this in mind, the new album is a strong pop performance and Mayer's musicianship and guitar virtuosity do not fall between the cracks. The pop star's very public love life and breakups shine throughout the whole album, but especially on the first three tracks, "Heartbreak Warfare", "All We Ever Do Is Say Goodbye" and "Half Of My Heart (with Taylor Swift)." The three are throwbacks to the John Mayer of "Room for Squares," full of multilayered harmonies, soft acoustic guitar and somewhat lame lyrics about love.

Any musician will tell you that that order of songs on an album plays an important role, and what the opening three on this record scream is soft-rock, acoustic-pop. Bizarrely enough, as soon as Swift whispers her final line, Mayer throws in "Who Says," with the simple and funny line "Who says I can't get stoned?" This helps shift the whole tone of "Battle Studies." On "Perfectly Lonely," complete with the raw guitar and passionate vocals Trio fans yearn for, subtle vocal harmonies from drummer Steve Jordan in just the right spots and simple instrumentation give it the understated feel of the blues-rock Mayer is so good at, and it leaves him room to explore.

A la "Continuum"'s "Bold As Love," Mayer covers a blues classic with Robert Johnson's "Crossroads." He takes the tune in a different direction, and certainly has the chops to pull it off, but it seems unnecessary. A superb finale, the opposite is true with "I'm On Fire" (Bruce Springsteen), as the slow acoustic ballad finds Mayer at his best vocally.

"Battle Studies" shows flashes of brilliance and overall warrants a listen through several times over. The production is strong and musicianship on point. It is unclear, however, if this is the John Mayer we can continue to expect or whether the young artist is still struggling through a musical identity crisis — "Am I a pop musician, or am I a blues-guitar God?" Unfortunately, in the MTV generation of impatience (especially with music), many gems of the album that lack radio appeal will fall by the wayside. ☘



keetsa.com



musicwiremag.com

The Bravery get dark and angry

CHRIS MCDONALD

Music Editor

The Bravery's latest release, "Stir the Blood," is quite the departure from the sound the band has taken over the last few years. Starting with a very synth-heavy pop sound, The Bravery exploded in popularity in 2005 with their single "An Honest Mistake," a track that sounded like a darker version of the recently recognized superstars The Killers. On the band's debut album, "The Sun and the Moon," however, The Bravery lighted up a bit, opting instead for more driving songs that were laced with keyboards that served more of a supporting role than before. With songs

like "Time Won't Let Me Go," the synth hooks were the icing on the cake for layered guitars and driving drums.

With their third album, the band has once again taken a new direction, this time a much more drastic one. As the title suggests, it is, in a word, angry. It's dark, it's menacing, it's mean. Gone are most of the normal pop lyrical sentiments; gone is any real lightness of tone.

Sure, you can still tell it's The Bravery — their sound has certain inescapable hallmarks (the vocals, the emphasis on electronics, etc). But this time around, it's more like The Bravery crossed with Nine Inch Nails, The Cure, or The Misfits. Upon even the first listen, there is a strong attitude and feelings of resentment and rage that pervade almost each track.

From the lyrics of the lead track which reiterates that the singer truly feels he was "born to be adored", this dark tone and attitude doesn't let up. Take for example the chorus of the, well, creepily titled "Hatefuck" which repeats "there will be no tenderness / I will show no mercy for you / you have no mercy for me / the only thing that I ask, love me mercilessly." This is The Bravery pissed off at past friends, lost loves, and regrets. This is lyricist and singer Sam Endicott pissed off at the world.

But while the lyrics remain so dark and angry, the music stays extremely upbeat. This creates one of the oddest disparities in recent releases — while hearing Endicott sing of merciless love and loss, the listener is strangely compelled to dance. The lyrics may be as dark as ever but the music stays catchy as hell from start to finish.

Despite the consistency of the album's style, there are some songs that just don't fit. On "She's So Bendable," The Bravery do their best MGMT imitation, but it doesn't quite work. The strangest track, however, is the album closer, "Sugarpill," a song that sounds leftover from the Pixies' "Doolittle" sessions. With a slow tempo, airy feel, drawling, off-key vocals and subtle background singing and light, distorted yet sparkling guitars, "Sugarpill" sticks out like a sore thumb.

All in all, "Stir the Blood" is very odd yet fairly entertaining album. It's certainly darker than expected, and it undoubtedly fall short of any expectations I had after their fantastic last release. But in its own merits, "Stir the Blood" is, at best, interestingly enjoyable. ☘

The Boss connects generations and rocks in Nashville

BEN RIES
Staff Writer

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band filled the Sommet Center with three hours of booming classical rock on Wednesday, November 18. The first words out of Springsteen's mouth were "I was raised out of steel here in the swamps of Jersey, some misty years ago," a bluntly autobiographical line from the group's most recent song, "Wrecking Ball," which premiered in late September.

The college dropout from New Jersey had plenty of surprises in store for Wednesday's performance, the third-to-last in a massive two-year long tour. Springsteen, as energetic and alive onstage as ever, began with more of the group's more recent work before diving, literally, back to his oldie pop-hit roots — the audience carried him as he performed his first chart-topping single "Hungry Heart." Encore piece "Dancing in the Dark" saw one of many on-stage appearances by audience members, and Springsteen took song requests by snatching labeled signs from the nearby crowd.

One such request led to a hilarious performance of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," complete with Santa Hats and "Ho-Ho-Ho"s from saxophonist Clarence Clemmons. The group gave a shout-out to music city by playing Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire" for the first time ever, and the night closed with another cover: Jackie Wilson's "(Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher."

Springsteen's repertoire, as complex and multifaceted as its songs can be, is quite square compared to most college-age music today; the teenagers and young adults in the audience seemed dwarfed numerically by the forty-and-up crowd. Indeed, the middle-aged fans sung along the most enthusiastically, gleefully shouting the innocent key line "Everybody's got a hungry heart" during Springsteen's audience-surfing escapade.

There was a day when twenty-year-olds idolized Springsteen's ferocious charge — just watch him shout — no — roar blistering anti-war pronouncements in the video for "Born in the U.S.A." Now, Springsteen doesn't stand a

chance — rap dominates young adult's iTunes and the Boss is sixty years old. Wednesday, Springsteen resigned himself to donning a continuous smile while the mellow and caustic material was mostly dropped in favor of straightforward love fables like "Rosalita (Come Out Tonight)," still jaw-dropping live.

The centerpiece was a full-length performance of the 1975 album "Born to Run," which, as he explained to the audience, saved the ailing young group with its widespread commercial and critical success (it ranked 18th on Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time).

From the endlessly inspiring title track to the epic closing piece "Jungleland," featuring Clemmons' awing saxophone solo, the crowded audience of the Sommet Center was drawn back to the days when Springsteen was a young dreamer reaching for the stars. In a hit-driven age that often seems to have forgotten the value of a cohesive album it was refreshing, to say the least, to experience a masterwork like "Born to Run" from start to finish. And that was just a third of the concert. ☘



images.coveralia.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

On Saturday night the War Memorial Auditorium plays host to the 107.5 The River's Acoustic Christmas. This year the concert features appearances from **Owl City, The Fray, Iyaz, Sean Kingston**, and more. Great line-up, yes, but there is a catch. The only way to get tickets is by winning them from the radio station. Either call or register online.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

This Sunday, as every Sunday, the B.B. King Blues Club downtown will feature **Stacy Mitchhart**, a badass blues guitarist who plays originals and classic blues/rock covers alike. Stacy is a great performer who has been in Nashville since 1996 without looking back. Catch this routinely great show on an otherwise quiet night.

MONDAY, DEC. 7

Acoustic/soul singer **Amber Rubarth** will make her way to the Basement. The Brooklyn, New York native is making her way across the country this fall, landing gigs from her hometown to L.A. and seemingly everywhere in between. She's a bit quirky and kind of cute. We'll see you there at 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 8

Our favorite bluegrass group, the **Mashville Brigade**, continues their Tuesday night tradition at the famous Station Inn. Every week is unique and special as the group features a rotating composition of the local bluegrass scene's finest instrumentalists and singers. With a 9:00 p.m. start you can even go to Sportsman's after.

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. "MONKEY MAN" **The Rolling Stone**
2. "WHO SAYS" **John Mayer**
3. "ELECTRIC FEEL" **MGMT**
4. "SO WHAT" **Miles Davis**
5. "WHATEVER" **Awesome New Republic**
6. "#41" **Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds**
7. "UNLESS IT'S KICKS" **Okkervil River**
8. "DECEMBER 4TH (REMIX)" **Danger Mouse**
9. "SAY HEY (I LOVE YOU)" **Michael Franti & Spearhead**
10. "THE END" **The Doors**

Top 10 Holiday Hits

The playlist for your most enthusiastic mistletoeing

GRANT DARWIN

Staff Writer

10 **White Christmas**
Bing Crosby

Bing does it right on this classic tune with his melodically deep voice perfectly illustrating the most picturesque of all Christmas scenes. While we may not see a "White Christmas" in Nashville, this song adds at least a glimmer of hope for some holiday magic.

9 **Jingle Bell Rock**
Bobby Helms

As the first song to bring Rock and Roll into the Christmas season in 1957, Bobby Helms' legendary tune is a staple of elementary school holiday concerts everywhere.

8 **All I Want for Christmas is You**
Mariah Carey

It is impossible not to tap your feet to Mariah's pop hit about her very limited wish list. I don't know to whom she is singing, but I hope that guy got the message.

7 **Santa Claus is Coming to Town**
Jackson 5

Little Michael's excitement is truly palpable in this '70s classic. While perhaps it was Joe Jackson who warned Michael to watch out and not pout or cry, this song is a guaranteed head bopper.

(Bruce Springsteen's version deserves an honorable mention).

6 **Christmas Wrapping**
The Waitresses

This 1981 hit is surprisingly one of the first "rap" Christmas songs – it's a play on words (wrapping, get it?). The jazzy chorus is easily recognizable and a nice change of pace from the usual slow Christmas croons.

5 **The Most Wonderful Time of the Year**
Andy Williams

Williams is far from bashful about his favorite season. Not to mention this tune's critical addition to the English lexicon. *mis-tle-toe-ing* (v) - actively embracing the convention of mistletoes' mandatory obligations.

4 **The (Original) Chanukah Song**
Adam Sandler

While multiple later versions kind of killed the joke, the original was so popular that it filled any empty space left from an evening of Chinese food on Christmas in the hearts Jewish kids everywhere.

3 **Feliz Navidad**
Jose Feliciano

This classic is both fun and educational, providing listeners with a lesson in Christmas bilingualism. Feliz Navidad, prospero ano y felicidad! It's stuck in your head now isn't it?

2 **Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas**
Frank Sinatra

Old Blue Eyes guarantees that even the quaintest of Christmas celebrations are special with his classic heart warmer. With a voice that can soothe both young and old, Sinatra croons his way straight to the soul.

1 **I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus**
John Cougar Mellancamp

This rendition of the Jackson 5 hit is complete with slamming drums and great back up singing, topped off by a killer fiddle. Seriously, this song could rock Frosty out of his coma. ☼



zastavki.com



Ready to show us what you've got?

Congratulations! Graduation day is here. It's time...to apply your knowledge, turn theory into action, realize your potential and make a positive difference for others while achieving satisfaction for yourself. You can do it all at Youth Villages, an innovator and leader in the field of children's mental and behavioral health.

Full-time opportunities for:

SOCIAL SERVICES MAJORS
BA/MA level

Here, you'll be empowered through an incredibly supportive environment where your supervisors care about you as much as you care about helping others. With a modest caseload, you can engage at the deepest level with the children and families you serve – from the home environment, to schools, out into the community and even with their peer groups.

For more information, contact **Kelsie Ray** at kelsie.ray@youthvillages.com or visit our website: careers.youthvillages.org/students

We look forward to meeting you!

Challenge Yourself

YouthVILLAGES

Take the

MTA to BNA

Hourly bus service to/from the airport for just \$1.60 or less



Hourly airport trips seven days a week

FARES:

Adult	\$1.60
Youth (age 19 and under)	\$1.05
Senior (age 65 and older)	\$.80
People with Disabilities	\$.80
Youth (age 4 and under)	Free

Catch the 18 Airport/Elm Hill Pike route at the following locations:

- Music City Central – Bay 18
- Level 1 at the Nashville International Airport next to the MTA bus stop sign.

Still stuck on shopping?
Check out the
Holiday Gift Guide!

A special section in
Friday's Hustler

Visit www.nashvillemta.org for a schedule or call 862-5950.



FASHION

STYLE SPOTTER:

Eno Sekyere

NIKKY OKORO
Fashion Editor

Known for her sleek style, Eno Sekyere is an excellent pick for this week's Style Spotter. Eno keeps her look simple by wearing a few bold, key pieces that work perfectly to enhance her complete look. With her confident appeal and stance, Eno also admires a style that's both classic and clean, while still giving off a great feminine feel. Keep reading to learn more about her style and her even greater love of shoes.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING RIGHT NOW?

Express turtleneck, Rock & Republic jeans and Nine West flats.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE STORES?

I love shopping at Express, Guess, Nine West. I also really love Steve Madden shoes.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE STYLE ICONS?

I don't have anyone specific, but I really like anybody that can exude sexiness while still keeping it classy.

MOST DISLIKED VANDY TREND?

Anything too tight. Especially tights as pants is not acceptable.

IF YOUR CLOSET WAS BURNING AND YOU COULD ONLY SAVE ONE ITEM, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

I would save my BCBG pumps because they're so cute, elegant and versatile since they go with a lot of different things.

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Classy, collected and cool.

If you know of anyone you think deserves to be in "Style Spotter," nominate them by e-mailing n.okoro@gmail.com. Also be sure to check out www.insidevandy.com for more features.



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

STYLE SPOTTER:

Garrett Morgan

NIKKY OKORO
Fashion Editor

Garrett Morgan's style proves more than worthy of another great choice for this week's Style Spotter, especially in relation to his favorite stores around Nashville. He also cites old-school style as a great source of inspiration, especially when it comes to his grandfather's closet and thrifting trips. Garrett possesses a keen knowledge of the brands he buys as well as sporting the right kind and amount of accessories. Continue on to learn more about his likes, dislikes, and what's on top of his holiday wish list.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING RIGHT NOW?

BDG cardigan from Urban Outfitters, Levi's 510 skinny jeans, thrift store shirt and scarf, and Vans sneakers.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE STORES?

Urban Outfitters and Nashville thrift stores like Human kind, Hip Zipper, Clothing Xchange and also Goodwill.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE STYLE ICONS?

Ryan Gosling has great old-school style, especially with his three-piece suits. If I could wear a suit everyday, then I would.

MOST DISLIKED VANDY TREND?

Pastels and Tori Burch shoes.

IF YOUR CLOSET WAS BURNING AND YOU COULD ONLY SAVE ONE ITEM, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

My grandpa's classic, three-piece wool suit. I also wear a lot of his original Penguin clothing.

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Indie, basic and organic.

LASTLY, WHAT'S SOMETHING ON YOUR WISH LIST FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS?

I really want Clark's wing-tip, dark brown, weather boots ... and, a girlfriend who is fashionable.



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Celeb Style Report

The end of the semester, which means papers, projects and exams, eerily await us all. Yet, final grades no longer belong only to students. Celebrities and their infamous style selections deserve severe judging too, especially when it comes to dressing up. Featured this week are a couple of well-known celebrities, some more stylish than others. Known for his wit and honest eye, Matt Shelton takes on the task of revealing what everyone already has on their minds. Keep reading to learn more about his personal take on each ensemble and if each made the grade.

While **Zoe Saldana** would look good in a UPS box, this grey metallic dress acts as a perfect neutral to compliment her exotic features. The sheen has just enough luster to be noticed, but not obnoxious. She didn't get this dress at American Apparel. The cross pattern across her chest is also a nice feature, giving some texture to the piece. Extra kudos to her for matching the futuristic times of the movie, choosing a piece that looks like it could have fit into the summer blockbuster whose premiere she wore this to. **Final Grade: A**

Do not be fooled by its gossamer-like appearance. This is an actual jaguar thrown into a vat of blue dye and murdered for the specific purpose of covering **Paris Hilton's** coke-rexic body for her Thursday night out. At least the feline didn't die in vain, as the dress shows a subtle flirtiness we don't usually see from the star of "A Night in Paris." The plunging V-neckline doesn't reveal too much, nor does the above-the-knee cut of the dress. These coupled with the cuffed sleeves suggest a grown-up glam. **Final Grade: B**

Leave it to **Lauren Conrad** to make a burlap sack look sexy. She cleverly dressed it up with a well placed belt, creating a curve and adding a pop of color to highlight the dress. Her golden shoes add the wow factor to the simple-chic outfit. She seems to have graduated from her clearly scripted "reality show;" she's made it over the "Hill." **Final Grade: A-**



www.peoplestylewatch.com

MATT SHELTON
Versus Writer



www.peoplestylewatch.com

Kim Kardashian's complex quilt-like pattern tries to compensate for the wearer's deficiency in the same category. But alas, it's skin-tight, hip-hugging fit and stripper heels only reinforce her braindead, porn star appeal. Unfortunately, class isn't something you can buy at a Beverly Hills boutique. **Final grade: D**



www.peoplestylewatch.com



www.peoplestylewatch.com

HOT YOGA NASHVILLE


COOLEST THING IN FITNESS!

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
AM	6:00 w	6:00 w	6:00 w	6:00 w	6:00 w	7:30 z	
	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w
PM	‡ 12 w	‡ 12 w	‡ 12 w	‡ 12 w	‡ 12 w	‡ 12 w	
	4:30 z	4:30 z	4:30 z	4:30 z	4:30 w	4:30 w	4:30 w
	6:15 w	6:15 w	6:15 w	6:15 w			‡ 6:15 z
	‡ 7:45 z	‡ 7:45 z	‡ 7:45 z				

2214 Elliston Place (1 Block from Campus) 615.321.8828
www.HotYogaNashville.com

Write For Versus!
Weekly meeting at 6 p.m. Sarratt 130

International job opportunities immediately available for Post-doctoral, Doctoral and select Masters Candidate's.



Experience and Sub-specialties consistently in highest demand are:

- Engineering: electrical, chemical, nuclear, mechanical and aeronautical.
- Sciences: physics, biology, chemistry, toxicology, virology and veterinary science.
- Computer Science: telecommunications, shipping/logistics and procurement/acquisitions.

Our global partners include: multi-national and public entity firms focused on the most advanced engineering and scientific research projects. Competitive candidates will have native fluency in a foreign language and a demonstrated ability to live and work overseas.

Please apply by sending resume/CV and cover letter to humanresources@gradjobzone.com or mail to: Gradjobzone.com 1440 Coral Ridge Drive, Suite 338 Coral Springs, FL 33071



It's that time of year: holiday shopping season is upon us. Whether you brave the mall or go the route of online shopping, here are some ideas from our editorial staff to you.

Charlie's Wish List

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Entertainment Editor



BEATS HEADPHONES BY DRE
Crafted by the doctor himself, this set will finally leave my ears uninfected by the low-quality aural experience of other headphones. Providing a richness of sound only found in the studio, and bass to rival an SUV, these over-ear phones bump Jay-Z, Kanye and Kid Cudi with a purity the baby Jesus would endorse. \$300 - bestbuy.com



TORTOISE WAYFARERS BY RAY-BAN
Although I've managed to lose four pairs of Ray-Bans within the last year and a half (two to robber-barons, two to Davey Jones' locker), the continued brightness of the Sun and lacking stylishness of my naked face inclines me take another go at it. Do they sell insurance for sunglasses? \$109 - ray-ban.com

THREE MORE WISHES.
Do I really look that stupid?

Courtney's Wish List

COURTNEY ROGERS
Editor-in-Chief



AMAZON KINDLE
I love to read a good book while I'm traveling and since I'm planning on doing a lot of that in Italy, I think a Kindle is going to be invaluable. With worldwide wireless access, a Kindle would let me download books anywhere in under sixty seconds. Added bonus: I'm hoping that some of my English classes next year will require books that are in the Kindle library. (Amazon.com)



FLIP DIGITAL CAMCORDER
This semester, I delved into blogging and gradually learned the ways of the web in terms of adding pictures and links. Next semester, I'm planning on stepping it up a notch and adding video, hopefully with a new Flip. This handheld camcorder has preloaded software to turn your videos into YouTube files and you can personalize it with one of hundreds of designs or by sending in your own image. (theflip.com)



A LEGIT BACKPACK
As much as I love both my fifth grade L.L. Bean backpack and my Vera Bradley duffel, my recent backpacking adventure taught me that more utilitarian luggage is the way to go for traveling light. I'm still figuring out which brand and style to go for, but in true wilderness princess fashion, what I'm really looking for is something pink. (sierratradingpost.com)

Avery's Wish List

AVERY SPOFFORD
Life Editor



EUROTRIP
When you're taking the "studying" out of "studying abroad" and going on a parentally-funded Eurotrip for the first month of the summer, it's sort of hard to ask your parents for much else. What I got for Christmas: London, Paris, Amsterdam, Germany, Switzerland, a week in Italy, the French Riviera, Provence, Barcelona and Madrid. Better than Tickle Me Elmo.
Where to find: www.efcollegebreak.com or go hardcore and schedule your own trip



NEW DIGITAL CAMERA
Mine is about seven years old, and while it has been a trusty companion through many tailgates, parties, road trips and family vacations, I think it's time for the ol' Nikon to retire. The blurriness and inconsistent flash it's been dishing up lately are less than ideal for documenting aforementioned Eurotrip.
Where to find: www.bestbuy.com



FOLEY AND CORINNA MINI "CITY" TOTE IN MAHOGANY
I might be the only person I know who doesn't already have this bag, or who hasn't given up the hunt. I missed the boat on the City tote when it first came out, making it now impossible to hunt the bag down in the exact size and color I want. The tote comes in four sizes and a variety of colors, but I need, need, NEED it in mini mahogany ... but at this point, I might settle for chocolate. Maybe this year Santa will end the cruel game of "City tote, mahogany - mid," "City tote, black - mini" and finally deliver the perfect combination.
Where to find: Never-Never land, Narnia, Saks circa 2008. If you find it, CALL ME.

Holly's Wish List

HOLLY MEEHL
Culture Editor



ITOUCH
My 30G ipod is now fully packed with songs and instead of getting the newer 160G classic, I've turned my attention to, as Apple calls it, "the next level of fun." The best feature of the itouch is the Internet wherever you can access free wi-fi, so if Santa complies, I will never get lost in the London tube with never-ending maps in my back pocket.



HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (THE MOVIE)
I love Rupert Grint and I figure watching this film a few more times will help me perfect my British accent before I hop across the pond.



LA CANADIENNE GALAXY BOOTS
I tried these on over Thanksgiving break, they're super stylish brown suede tall boots with stitching on the side and a comfy wedge heel. But the real reason I want these fashion savvy boots is that they're waterproof, which will be very helpful when I'm trotting through London's rainy alleyways.

Chris's Wish List

CHRIS McDONALD
Music Editor



THE BEATLES STEREO BOX SET
A collection of every Beatles album ever? Oh, and every recording has been remastered? Yes please. After the disastrous first transfers of the Beatles albums to CDs, producer George Martin and engineers Allan Rouse and Guy Massey have painstakingly worked to rectify the past. The Beatles Stereo Box Set (the Mono Box Set is also available) his shelves earlier this year featuring beautiful versions of every Beatles recording ever made in near-perfect, remastered quality. For a price between \$200 and \$300 dollars, this set doesn't come cheap, but it's a must have for any fan.



NOISE CANCELLING HEADPHONES
Sure they may be bulky and quite pricey, but for audiophiles like me there is nothing better than a set of high-quality, noise cancelling headphones. If I am truly trying to listen to music (meaning not just running it in the background or working out to it), I want to hear every minute detail, and your standard iPod ear buds etc. don't even come close to what companies like Bose put out.



HARMONICA
What's more badass than a guy with a guitar who can sing? Oh yea, how about a guy with a guitar who can also play the harmonica? And yes, I am serious. As my musical interests grow ever more broad and complex, I find myself longing for new sounds. And having become obsessed with the folksy sound present in artists or bands like A.A. Bondy, Delta Spirit, or Blitzen Trapper, I have come to learn that the harmonica is key.

Nikky's Wish List

NIKKY OKORO
Fashion Editor



WHO WHAT WEAR: CELEBRITY AND RUNWAY STYLE FOR REAL LIFE.
This book includes the best of the best when it comes to translating runway style into one's wardrobe. Written by Hillary Kerr and Katherine Power, creators of the site of the same name, the style guide features a lot of vivid imagery and examples for dressing up on any day. (www.shopbop.com)



CALVIN KLEIN 'CARLEY' SUEDE PUMPS
I first laid my eyes on these classic pair of heels when browsing through one of my favorite fashion blogs. Not only do these heels offer versatility, but also comfort, which would prove perfect for New Years Eve night. Also, though I've been advised not to bring heels when going abroad, I feel that these beauties would qualify as an excellent exception. (www.calvinklein.com)



STATEMENT NECKLACE
These bold pieces of jewelry are the perfect punch to any outfit and ensemble. They come in every shape, color, and kind and also are available at a variety of different prices and stores. Plus, they could prove to be an interesting conversation starter at upcoming holiday parties. (check out www.shopstyle.com)

Zac's Wish List

ZAC HUNTER
Music Editor



A JAMIROQUAI ALBUM
For three summers I laid tile in the hot New Orleans heat and the only thing that kept me going were tunes. My boss and I swapped CDs and whistled while we worked - he introduced me to the magic of "Virtual Insanity" and "Cosmic Girl." Few people bring the funk like Jamiroquai and no one has a voice like Jason Kay. As far as an album goes, I leave it up to you Pops. Pick me a winner.



A NEW YEAR'S EVE GALACTIC TICKET
New Year's Eve is one of, if not the biggest nights in live music, and in my hometown New Orleans one act rains supreme - Galactic. The local jazz/funk band with one-of-a-kind sound and a world-class drummer (Stanton Moore) plays the December 31st gig every year at the famous Tipitina's (look at Versus's Plug Your Scene: New Orleans, for more). Unfortunately the ticket is about \$50 and this always seems to be the reason why my friends and I pass it up. If someone will buy it maybe it'll force me to take advantage and go.



A FRAMED JAZZ-FEST POSTER
OK, technically I already got this one (I won't be in town for the holidays and my parents wanted to spoil me a bit while I was home), but it is awesome. The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival always features an artistic poster of a local musician painted by a local artist. 2009's Congo Square poster showed up-and-comer Trombone Shorty sitting on the corner of Napoleon and Tchop outside of Tip's. I'm very pleased.

FLIP SIDE

Hustler and Versus can be read online at InsideVandy.com



Click the gold Hustler/Versus button at the bottom right of the home page



1601 21st Ave. S.
615.320.1633

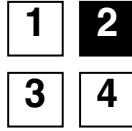
Sportsman's Grille in the Village

- \$5 Cheeseburger Monday and Sunday
- 2 for 1 Seven days a week and all day Tuesday
- NFL Sunday ticket in HD
- Book your holiday party upstairs in the private pool hall

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level:



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

11/20/09 SOLUTIONS

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

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

12/2/09

© 2009 The Mephams Group. Distributed by Tribune Media Services. All rights reserved.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Square after Connecticut Avenue
- 5 "Take a hike!"
- 10 Wax remover
- 14 Jessica of "Sin City"
- 15 Israeli seaport
- 16 Choice in a booth
- 17 "Nightly news show segment"
- 20 Match starter
- 21 Danger
- 22 Add color to
- 23 Veiled consent?
- 25 "___ Abner"
- 27 "Big Apple show"
- 36 Houston Aeros' org.
- 37 Brass or pewter
- 38 Overplay a part
- 39 Breakfast corner
- 41 Long Island ___
- 43 Poker Flat chronicler Harte
- 44 To the point, in law
- 46 Author Nin
- 48 Evian, par exemple
- 49 "1955 Disney animated film featuring Darling Dear"
- 52 ___-cone
- 53 Show about Capote
- 54 Candy in 12-piece dispensers
- 57 Pisa place
- 61 Two-time opponent of Ike

- 65 Come down in buckets; also, when applied in sequence to the answers to starred clues, this puzzle's theme
- 68 Witty Bombeck
- 69 Light refrain
- 70 Equally divided
- 71 Ginger cookie
- 72 Gobbled up
- 73 Doctor's advice

DOWN

- 1 ___ of Life
- 2 Not windward
- 3 Construction beam
- 4 Baltic country
- 5 One who'll be comin' round the mountain, in song
- 6 Bellyache
- 7 Teeming (with)
- 8 Get an ___ effort
- 9 Henner of "Taxi"
- 10 Home shopping channel
- 11 Small hopper
- 12 ___-bitsy
- 13 Folk icon Seeger
- 18 Ibsen's "___ Gabler"
- 19 Beethoven's "Für ___"
- 24 Mice catchers
- 26 Arm, e.g.
- 27 Clichéd
- 28 Neighbor of Mary
- 29 Prayer starter
- 30 Tons

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17			18					19					
20				21				22					
			23	24			25	26					
27	28	29			30	31	32			33	34	35	
36			37					38					
39		40		41				42		43			
44			45		46			47		48			
49				50						51			
				52					53				
54	55	56		57		58	59	60		61	62	63	64
65			66						67				
68				69						70			
71					72							73	

12/2/09

11/20/09 Solutions

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

Be a leader.

Student Media is seeking an editor for arts and entertainment publication Versus. Apply by noon on Monday, Dec. 7.

The position is open for the spring semester term. Versus is published and distributed weekly on Wednesdays. The Vanderbilt Student Communications board of directors will consider applications and conduct interviews as part of the hiring process.

Details and application available at www.vscmedia.org.

Interested in other opportunities in Student Media?

Current student leaders are looking for fellow leaders and students with an interest in media for various positions within Student Media, including content editors for News, Sports and Opinion. If you'd like to gain valuable experience in writing, journalism, shooting and editing video, photography, radio, multimedia, web development, advertising, reporting, television, and related areas, please contact Student Media by emailing paige.clancy@vanderbilt.edu.

StudentMedia
AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

read. watch. listen

insideVANDY

Over 35,000 unique visitors and hundreds of thousands of ad impressions each month.