

Entertainment Culture at Vanderbilt

## SPOON

Rites of Spring's Friday-headliner Spoon chats with Versus about life on tour and the band's new album.

Peter Guralnick tells us about Elvis, Muddy Waters and rocking like a hurricane.

Going to a formal this weekend? What not to do on page 8.

Find out where fashionistas get their trendy, scenester clothes on page 7.

## PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

### THURSDAY, APRIL 3

#### Jeff Alfiero — *Maggiano's*

Appearing countrywide as a soap opera actor and a jazz pianist, Alfiero possesses a varied repertoire ranging from classical masterpieces to modern hits. (No cover, 6 p.m., 3106 West End Ave., 574-0270)

#### Bury Your Dead — *Rocketown*

These Ozzfest alums from Boston name fun as their highest priority, all while producing a high-energy metal sound that's sure to rock the house. (\$15, 6:30 p.m., 401 6th Ave. South, 843-4001)

#### Tin Pan South Festival — *3rd & Lindsley*

See a variety of songwriting talent from around the nation during this weeklong music festival. Other venues include the Douglas Corner Cafe, Edgehill Studios and Station Inn. (\$10, 6:30 p.m.)

#### The Deepest Desire — *Blair School of Music*

The Blair faculty discusses and performs a handful of favorites by acclaimed modern composer Jake Heggie, who wrote the operas "Dead Man Walking" and "The End of the Affair." (Free, 7 p.m., 2400 Blakemore Ave., 322-7651)

#### The Nobility — *Exit/In*

This folk trio draws heavy influences from the likes of Paul McCartney and Simon and Garfunkel, infusing their music with quirky and thoughtful lyrics. (8 p.m., \$6)

#### Bitch — *The End*

Commencing her first-ever solo tour and enjoying international acclaim for her role in the Cannes favorite "Shortbus," Bitch will impress you with the pathos of her Ani DiFranco-inspired compositions. (\$8, 9 p.m., 2219 Elliston Place, 321-4457)

#### Street Corner Champs — *Five Spot*

Take a look at this local quartet, which combines no-frills alternative rock with unique and refreshing lyrics. (\$5, 9 p.m., 1006 Forrest Ave., 650-9333)

#### Justin Townes Earle — *Mercy Lounge*

Being the son of country legend Steve Earle, Justin Townes Earle has some big shoes to fill; he does it admirably well, though, producing a fine blend of country-folk that will get your foot tapping. (\$8, 9 p.m.)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 4

#### Shooter Jennings — *City Hall*

Southern rocker Shooter Jennings' gravelly, saturated in rock 'n' roll voice is sure to get you on your feet, chanting along with his story-telling lyrics. (\$15, 8 p.m., 405 12th Ave. South)

#### An Evening with Marvin Hamlisch — *Schermerhorn Symphony Center*

Think you have an impressive resume? American composer Hamlisch is one of two people in the world to win an Emmy, a Grammy, a Tony, an Oscar and a Pulitzer Prize. (\$36-126, 8 p.m.)

#### Music in the Grand Lobby: Paula Chavis — *Frist Center for the Visual Arts*

Celebrate the weekend by spending Friday afternoon enjoying cocktails and light dining while listening to the relaxing music of jazz vocalist and pianist Paula Chavez. (Free, 6 p.m.) 919 Broadway

#### San Rafael Trio: Live Jazz Music — *F. Scott's*

Nashville resident and musical chameleon, Rafael Vasquez is known in the music community both for his songwriting and his ability to play everything from classical to rock to blues. (Free, 7 p.m.)

#### B.B. King's All Star Band — *B.B. King's Blues Club and Restaurant*

In the mood for some great, casual dining and a night of funk, blues and R&B? B.B. King's is just the place for you — arrive before 9:30 p.m. and skip the cover charge. (\$5-10, 7 p.m.)

#### Benefit for Tony Higbee featuring Ligion, Deadsun and Former — *Exit/In*

Nashville-based indie rockers Ligion headline this special and musically diverse night at Exit/In, followed by a performance by metal rockers Deadsun and self-proclaimed "powerpop" Former. (\$10, 8 p.m.)

#### Blair Signature Series: BMI Composer in Residence: Ingram Hall (Blair)

Enjoy the music of Pulitzer Prize winning composers Yehudi Wyner and Judith Slatin, two BMI composers spending a three-day residency at Blair. (Free, 8 p.m.) 2400 Blakemore Avenue

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

#### The Blair Student Showcase — *Ingram Hall*

Blair's best and brightest will be performing this Friday to showcase what they've learned this past year. Trust us, you don't want to miss this. (Free, 2 p.m.)

#### Biscuits and Gravy — *Cafe Coco*

This band can best be described as "musical soul food" with a blend of jazz beats, rap rhymes and funky soul that will have you asking for seconds. (\$2, 8 p.m.)

#### Mellow Down Easy & The Loft — *Exit/In*

Mellow Down Easy is the modern hybrid of jam bands and heavy rock with some interesting consequences while The Loft is just straight modern Southern rock. Both are worth your time and money. (\$8-10, 9 p.m.)

#### Grand Ole Opry — *Grand Ole Opry House*

The great country tradition continues this week with Mark Wills, The Del McCoury Band and Terri Clark heading the lineup. (\$34-49, 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.)

#### Tin Pan South — *This 16-year-old songwriter's festival*

This festival showcases some of the best talent in country, pop and rock writing talent in the country. The festival is spread out over five days, but the best are saved for last tonight around Nashville. Make sure to roll into one of these venues and hear some of the songs that will be on the radio in a couple months.

#### Keith Follese, Annie Tate, Sam Tate and Adam Gregory — *The Rutledge*

(\$10, 7 p.m.)

#### South with Kim McLean, Lisa Brokop, Paul Jefferson, Mark Elliot and Devon O'Day — *Douglas Corner Cafe*

(\$7, 7 p.m.) 2106-A Eighth Ave. S.

#### Mike Younger, Ben Cyllus, Tori Sparks and Cindy Bullens — *3rd & Lindsley*

(\$10, 7 p.m.)

#### Jim Peterik, Kip Winger, Kelly Keagy and Henry Paul — *Mercy Lounge*

(\$15, 7 p.m.)

#### Lisa Aschmann, Paul Nielsen, Don Henry and Karen Taylor-Good — *The Station Inn*

(\$8, 7 p.m.)

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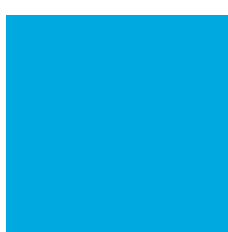
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# Versus

APRIL 3—APRIL 9, 2008 N° 11

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## FROM THE EDITOR



Ever since our Lil Jon interview, you wouldn't BELIEVE how popular we've become. Everybody wants to talk to Versus these days; I tell you we are movin' on up. This week, we're talking to Rites headliner Spoon, and look out for interviews with Colbie Caillat and progressive rock band moe in the near, near future. In fact, I just turned down Jamie Lynn Spears and Obama. Too mainstream. Oh, you know.

So how's life? It's April, which is cool. Managing Editor Chris Gearing got majorly punked on April Fool's Day by Gmail, when the e-mail service released a new feature in which users can change the date or time they send an e-mail 10 times a year, virtually messing with the element of time and with a sense of moral propriety. Imagine having a paper due at midnight, sending it in at 5 a.m., and then changing the timestamp. You should have SEEN it; Chris was up in arms for hours.

I feel like this might possibly be the worst week in the history of the world, for all involved parties. The weather is crappy, "The Hills" return to MTV was lackluster at best (Spencer's sister is a conniving wench, in my opinion), and teachers are inclined to think we are taking their class only and assign heaps of meaningless assignments like counting the syllables in Spanish poetry. Actually, no, I take that last one back. That exercise was both informative and entertaining. Please, for the love of God, give me an A.

Still, keep your heads up. As Frank Sinatra likes to say, "It's a real good bet, the best is yet to come." For those of you going away this weekend on formals, peruse Amy Johnston's tips on how to emerge from the weekend morally unscathed and with all your belongings. Maybe even cut out the article, stick it in your bag. Above all things, Versus supports fun. And survival. Enjoy.

Darcy Newell

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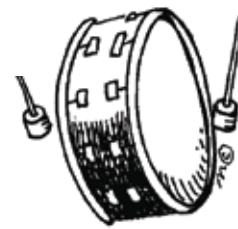
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## PIC OF THE WEEK



LAUREN FONDRIEST/Versus

andrewjenks  
ROOM 335



### THE VANDERBILT OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Invites you to attend a Special Screening. Meet one of the Filmmakers: Jonah Quickmire Pettigrew. Take part in a special Q & A Session.

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For more information contact: Ariel Astrachan at [ariel.astrachan@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ariel.astrachan@vanderbilt.edu)

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**THURSDAY - SHOT NIGHT**  
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**FRIDAY - LIVE MUSIC WEEKENDS**  
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All Appetizers Half Price  
9 p.m. - Midnight

**SATURDAY - LIVE MUSIC WEEKENDS**  
BRITT STOKES & BOBBY THOMLINSON  
All Appetizers Half Price  
9 p.m. - Midnight

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**GET SAUCED!**



## POETRY

Ways to Survive the Irish Government's  
Immigration OfficeDAVE SILVERSTEIN  
Contributor

These people need their immigration visas.  
5:20 AM and still the morning sun  
Enjoys last minutes of rest.  
Galway Immigration Office opens doors at eight.  
That *is* the rumor.

A dark man waits outside, first in line.  
He sits against damp bricks, eyes shut.  
His wife sleeps in a parked, rusted Peugeot.  
A noble husband, really, that's some good love.  
I sit next to him; bundled, taller, with broad shoulders.  
I am *quite* American. When I breathe, I exhale stars and stripes.  
I seep a patriotic fog into Ireland.

I learn he breathes out Sudan.  
He exhales an African mist. We talk.  
I learn he is a surgeon, he has seen the insides.  
He needs a work visa. He could be a patients' solution.  
I'm only on line for the student visa,  
My intellect as sharp as my pencil.  
A darker man, charcoal now, comes on line, 5:30 AM.  
He coughs a little, sputtering out the wind of Sri Lanka.  
He wears a dirty denim jacket,  
And clutches "Mobile Driver in County Clare."  
Road test is in five days I learn.  
His taxi is a "step in the right direction."

We compare his Tidal Wave to my Katrina,  
Genocide in Darfur to my Holocaust.  
Mr. Sri Lanka says, "It's all relative."  
Sudan shakes his head and lights an ivory pipe.

The line forms, much longer, sixty, seventy, one hundred.  
I sit, fingernail tapping a beat alongside thumping, numb hearts.

A Thai couple console their crying baby.

Overweight, stout Russians snag gulps from a flask.  
It looked sterling and engraved, probably an heirloom.  
One wears the sickle and hammer on a tattered red sweater.  
The other sports a T proclaiming "Jefferson Airplane Loves You!"  
Impressive, Woodstock reached Kiev.

A Scotsman nearby peels oranges. He sneers at the produce quality.  
Deeply wafting the orange's aroma, he proceeds to chew the rind.

6:40 AM, light kisses its way over dirt roads and lots.  
We take turns going to the bathroom behind the building.  
We become friendly, a makeshift fraternal order of The Daybreak Men,  
Arriving at these foreign shores to study, to heal and to drive.

Mr. Sri Lanka lends out his camels.  
Sudan ditches his pipe. We share a smoke.  
I seldom light up but, "Why not?" I say (when in Galway).  
We inhale differently. I try to take it in at once,  
And cough slightly ashamed.  
Mr. Sri Lanka puffs daintily and peers upward  
Admiring chaotic smoke rings.  
Sudan exhales smoke through his nose; truly, truly cowboy.

Other American students breathe out the breezes of Texas,  
Oklahoma, and some Delaware (one from Nebraska).

A priest on a mission reads the Good Book.  
I agree, please let us beat our swords into plowshares,  
Our spears into pruning hooks.  
Let us build and be built by our land,  
Instead of crudely carving holes in our spirit.

They see my books as I rummage through my bag,  
One on Renaissance thought, the other on Middle Eastern politics.  
Sudan and Mr. Sri Lanka start talking Petrarch.  
It's too early for humanism, but not too late for harmony.

Mr. Sri Lanka shrugs off the lost argument and  
Peruses the section on "Right of Way."

The priest finishes a prayer, kisses the leather binding.

The Thai, nearly Irish baby, stops crying,  
And grabs for mother's milk.

French ladies wearing thick pink blush and fishnet stockings  
Laugh gloriously over a night spent hopping pub to pub,  
They never rested, never slept.

The American students whisper about longing for home,  
For expensive coffee, and meal plans, and name brands,  
And having their parents "take care of the administrative formalities."  
Lights flicker inside, movement, coffee drip drops into a pot.  
Sudan wakes his wife, asleep in the back seat, shotgun side.  
Immigration is alive and well. The gate opens. Flood.

I look back, just a glance.  
There is a United Nations of Breathing.  
A smoky fog meant to be exhaled elsewhere.  
But we wait together as one,  
And we form the line for our separate purposes.  
It *is* a pity though  
Immigration only services the first sixty to arrive.  
I am legal though. I got the stamp.

## FICTION

Writing has laws of perspective, of light and shade just  
as painting does, or music. If you are born knowing  
them, fine. If not, learn them. Then rearrange the  
rules to suit yourself.

— TRUMAN CAPOTE



## HAIKUS

Words to live by  
in seventeen syllables

Alas, C.T. West  
I knew not of your glory  
You've shown me the light.

Oh, fortune cookies  
You pack so much truth into  
Such a small package.

Only in  
Dreams

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

## In my dream:

"Have you ever seen that movie "The Game"? I was the subject of life-threatening pranks that were meant to teach me something, but along the way I ended up meeting and then running away from aliens in a disco. There were a bunch of white walls and staircases and aliens that looked like sea anemones. It was weird — what do you think?"

## Why you're crazy:

I think we can attribute 70 percent of your dream's freakiness to your choice of cough suppressant — I don't even have normal dreams after a Natty Light. So don't get fitted for a straitjacket just yet. Still, your dream does, in fact, suggest a lack of social skills; your inability to fraternize with the aliens shows you don't like to make new friendships and aren't open to making new and different friends. So try new things, try a new restaurant, go scuba diving and see some real sea anemones — or if that doesn't shake out, then just stop taking Nyquil before bed. Bad things happen to good people.

## PHOTOGRAPHY



AMELIA SPINNEY/Versus

## Versus MadLibs: My Formal

When I was on formal, I got really \_\_\_\_\_, so i found  
myself a \_\_\_\_\_ to help me \_\_\_\_\_. Then I met a  
\_\_\_\_\_, who told me that the only way to \_\_\_\_\_  
is to drink a lot of \_\_\_\_\_. My weekend was great,  
but I realized i lost my \_\_\_\_\_. Oh well.

# MUSIC

*"Rock's so good to me.  
Rock is my child  
and my grandfather."  
— CHUCK BERRY*



## SETLIST

### THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Combining the raw Americana spirit of the Catskill Mountains with roving-gambler adventurousness, the **Felice Brothers** have come a long way from living in a school bus. After touring with Bright Eyes and signing with a label, they have finally stopped in Nashville to play the Mercy Lounge. The show starts at 9 p.m., advance tickets \$8.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Having stood in for Axl Rose multiple times while on tour with Guns N' Roses, **Shooter Jennings** is no stranger to rocking hard — being the son of country legend Waylon Jennings doesn't hurt either. See him live at City Hall at 8 p.m., tickets \$15.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

The members of the local five-man outfit **The Loft** have been making music together since childhood, finally forming a band in high school a decade ago. Check out their sound (influenced by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Black Crowes) at Exit/In at 7 p.m., tickets \$8.

# Q & A WITH PETER GURALNICK



Editor in Chief Darcy Newell chats with Peter Guralnick, famed Elvis biographer, blues connoisseur and fiction writer. Oh yeah, he also teaches the Advanced Nonfiction workshop at Vanderbilt each spring. Guralnick chats about his first interview (Howlin' Wolf) why he chose Elvis and how he fell in love with the blues.



**Versus Magazine:** Take us back to when you were 20 or 21 years old. Did you know this is what you wanted to do?

**Peter Guralnick:** What I wanted to do was be a writer. I started writing about music when I was probably about 20, and I started writing purely to tell — I was writing fiction, short stories novels, I still write fiction — but the nonfiction, I just wrote solely to tell people about this music that I thought was so great, it was almost entirely the blues, and I did it at a time when there were almost no outlets where you could even put down the name Muddy Waters or Howlin' Wolf, Lightnin' Hopkins, **JAMES BROWN**, it was such a thrill. I wrote these things telling people how great they were. It wasn't for money, there was no money; it was just to tell people.

**VM:** How did you get acquainted with the blues? Was that a childhood thing or did you sort of stumble into it?

**PG:** I just kind of fell into it when I was about 15, a brother of a friend of mine went to the **NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL** and came back with a bunch of records, you know, it could have been Pete Seeger, John Jacob Niles and among them were a couple of blues records, and we started listening to them. And I just never heard anything like it, it just hit me, and I can't tell you why, it just totally grabbed me, and from that point on there was no turning around. I was totally into the blues, and it led me to every other kind of music, gospel to country, etc.

**VM:** Did you have a big break moment? How did you get your foot in the door?

**PG:** A kid I knew a few years younger than me started a magazine, the first rock 'n' roll magazine, *Crawdaddy*, on campus. I think he went to Swarthmore, he was actually going to interview Howlin' Wolf, and he didn't know anything about Wolf or the blues and he says, "How would you like to go with me?" and I'm thinkin', "Wow, sure, yeah," and so we interviewed Howlin' Wolf, and then he asked me to write for *Crawdaddy*, and I said yeah, but, *Crawdaddy* was all about the psychedelic stuff, which was fine but I had no interest in it... I wanted to write about is Robert Pete Williams and Buddy Guy and Skip James.

**VM:** How did you decide to spend so much time and energy on Elvis? Do you like him as a musician or was it just that he lived an interesting life?

**PG:** I've never written a single piece about anybody or anything that I haven't chosen myself and hasn't been out of my admiration for their work. It would be inconceivable for me to write something about a subject that I wasn't totally invested in. I just saw Elvis as a continuum of this great music, which included **HOWLIN' WOLF**, Hank Williams, T.Bone Walker, but what led me to write the biography was two things — one was, I worked on a documentary in 1986 which I removed my name from... but while I was doing it, people that were making it got me all these interviews with Elvis that he had done in '55 and '56. I'd written about him, but I'd written all I had to say from the outside, celebrations of his music. They were theoretical, in the sense that it's always theoretical from the outside. I thought, man, **ELVIS** could speak for himself, he's articulate, he's intelligent, he has a lot to say, he knows what he's doing. Then I was driving in Memphis with Rose Clayton, a woman I know, and as we were driving towards Stax Records there was a boarded-up drug store, and Rose said, "That's where Elvis' cousin Jean used to work, and Elvis would sit at the counter and wait for her to get off work, and tap his fingers with nervous energy like this (taps finger on table)," and all of a sudden I had this vision, this picture of this 16- or 17-year-old kid, not Elvis Presley, And it crystallized something for me.

**VM:** What has been the most fun project that you've done?

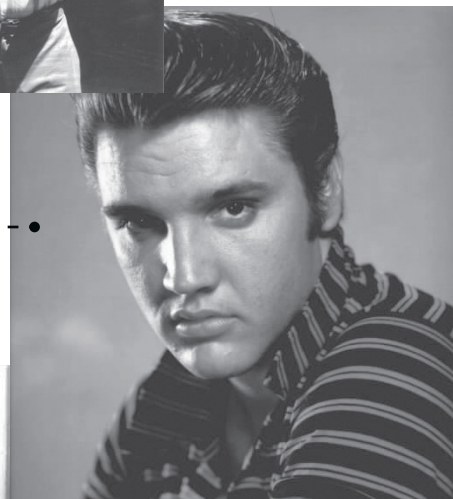
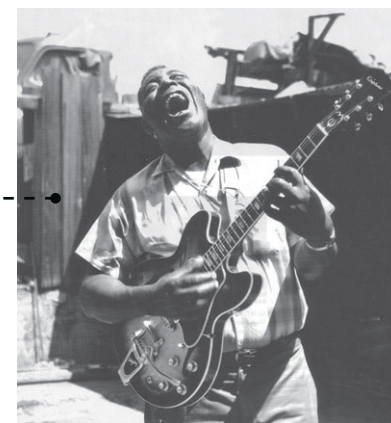
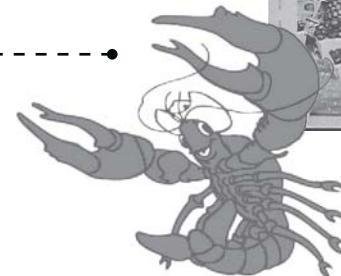
**PG:** They've all been fun. It's like saying, what age did you enjoy most with your kids? I've enjoyed every moment up to the present time. When I say it's all been fun, I have a very bleak view of life, so it's not that it's an optimistic statement or a statement of belief and purpose, but in terms of process, it's been totally fun. The Sam Cooke was just something from 1982 on, I knew I wanted to do a book on **SAM COOKE**... I'm working on a book about Sam Phillips (founder of Sun Records) and for me Sam Phillips was this inspirational figure, and I've written about him before, and he's someone that had a great deal of influence over my life, and I loved, I always loved spending time with him. I wanted to work on a biographical portrait that incorporates some of the insights that I gained when I was with him.

**VM:** What are some of the memorable interviews you've had?

**PG:** Every interview I've ever gone into, I try to go into as a blank slate. I'm excited about it beforehand, and it's never exactly what you think it's going to be, and sometimes I'm disappointed in myself that I didn't get all that I thought I'd get. They're all good; they depend on people having the kindness, giving you the opportunity to talk to them. I've met an astonishing array of people ... it would be impossible for me to single out just one. And a lot of them have become friends; I stay in touch with a great number of people that I've interviewed.

**VM:** What do you find about your students? What surprises you most about teaching your nonfiction class?

**PG:** It's not a question of surprise, to me, the challenge, I'm not saying I meet the challenge, but the challenge is to bring the class together so by the end of the semester there is some sort of identification as a group. Each class is a different challenge; it's a different combination of people. The message that I preach, that **SAM PHILLIPS** preached to me, is freedom. Dare to be yourself, don't worry about what I say to you, what anybody else says to you. Believe in what you believe in. I don't think a lot of people are inclined to embrace that, but to me it's the sense that there are no rules that fit everybody, and the class is not just the easiest class, it's a gift. The intention is to give everybody a chance at self-expression; at some level, from my point of view as a kid, this was incredible. You get credit for something you'd do anyway.



**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**

Ever wanted to see two essential components of country and folk music? Take advantage of your day off and take a look at the fiddle and guitar demonstration with **Carco Clave and Renae Truex** at the Country Music Hall of Fame, beginning at 1 p.m. Access to the event is included in the \$17 admission ticket.

**MONDAY, APRIL 7**

Join Nashville natives **The Luxury Liners** for a night of '80s flair at 3rd & Lindsley. The trio has been performing since the late '90s and boasts a catchy guitar-driven pop sound very reminiscent of R.E.M. The show kicks off at 9 p.m., no cover.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8**

A prominent country fixture since 1977, local quartet **Riders In The Sky** has delighted audiences with old favorites and new compositions that show their prowess on the guitar, fiddle and upright bass. They play live at 7 p.m. at the Grand Ole Opry, balcony tickets \$34.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

Check out the independent punk group **The Carry-Ons** at The End tonight, beginning at 9 p.m. While featuring a fairly traditional punk sound, they do so with noticeable musical skill and an energy that will awake even the most sedentary of fans. Get there by 9 p.m., cover TBA.



Here at Vanderbilt Student Communications Inc., we believe in sharing ideas between publications. That's why we got **Sean Tierney**, editor-in-chief of The Slant and resident goofball, to share with you all the songs he's been jamming to. In other news? Versus rules, The Slant drools.

# Drummers: Integral yet unappreciated

JORDAN BOND  
Staff Writer

Imagine listening to a band live and what you remember hearing. Was it the shredding of your favorite electric guitarist? Was it the serene vocals of an idol of yours, American or otherwise? Maybe one of these was your answer. However, more people might admit that it was the drummer and his percussive elements connecting the rest of the band together. The drummer is the backbone of the band, yet seems to be constantly overshadowed by other band members like guitarists and singers. For many, if it were not for the drummer, the band would not have made music in the first place. That being said, drummers can also cause the demise of bands for a number of reasons, from quitting to dying of various rock 'n' roll causes.

As a meal before his last recording session, John Bonham had four quadruple vodkas and a ham roll. He explained to his driver for the session, "Breakfast." Bonham, the drummer for Led Zeppelin, played with a ferocious edge that has been the model for many a heavy metal drummer since. Bonham went to sleep after the alcohol-laden session and did not wake up the next day, the cause of death deemed to be asphyxiation from vomit. After Bonham's death, the legendary

band cumulatively decided to stop making the music that has permeated radio airways since 1968.

Ironically, guitarist Jimmy Page wanted a different drummer for Led Zeppelin. That man was Cream drummer Ginger Baker. Baker had been in a few bands before joining Eric Clapton and Jack Bruce in Cream. The reason for the band's success, aside from the promising Clapton, was that Cream was considered to be rock's first super group, a power trio that would soon create hits such as "Sunshine of Your Love," "White Room" and "Badge." Baker would later join Clapton in another band, perhaps one of the most underrated bands in rock and roll history despite making only one album, *Blind Faith*.

Going with the same British blues-rock theme is Charlie Watts of the Rolling Stones. When talking about the Rolling Stones, Watts is not the first person that comes to mind. Lead singer Mick Jagger and guitarist Keith Richards are synonymous with the Rolling Stones and all that the band represents. However, without Watts on drums, the band may still be doing Chuck Berry and Muddy Waters covers. With Watts, a rhythm and blues dynamic was added to the band, and the face of what we know as rock 'n' roll was changed forever.

Even with Watts seemingly evading the limelight, some drummers did all that they could to shake up the media and general public. One of those was Keith Moon of The Who. Moon was notorious for his offstage antics, blowing up the plumbing in his home with fireworks, taking animal tranquilizers before shows and passing out during performances and even driving a Rolls-Royce into the pool of a Holiday Inn in Flint, Mich., on his 21st birthday. Moon was exciting and energetic, but he could never seem to quell his addictions to substances, and he overdosed on medications for his alcoholism in 1978.

Moon and the aforementioned drummers were all members of bands who truly became bigger than their egos. Soon, all of them were almost minor footnotes in rock 'n' roll history, taking back seats to Who frontman Pete Dinklage or Led Zeppelin lead singer Robert Plant. This reinforces the notion that drummers are taken for granted and generally considered disposable. That being said, never question the role a drummer plays. From class clown to pacesetter, drummers have been everything but ordinary in music. So the next time you decide to form a band, be aware that a drummer might be your most valuable asset or future downfall, even if hidden behind a drum kit. ☼



BAKER



WATTS



MOON



BONHAM

1. "USE IT"  
**The New Pornographers**
2. "I'M ALWAYS IN LOVE (SOLO ACOUSTIC)"  
**Wilco**
3. "GRAVITY RIDES EVERYTHING"  
**Modest Mouse**
4. "BURN THAT BROKEN BED"  
**Iron & Wine with Calexico**
5. "OCEAN"  
**The John Butler Trio**
6. "PRIMITIVE (THE WAY I TREAT YOU)"  
**Ambulance Ltd.**
7. "JOLENE"  
**The Weepies**
8. "LAKE MICHIGAN"  
**Rogue Wave**
9. "DOCTOR MY EYES"  
**Jackson Browne**
10. "SHE DON'T COME AROUND HERE ANYMORE"  
**Bill Ricchini**

# The verdict is in on four new albums

The Counting Crows have been in hiding. The band has tantalized fans with songs like "Accidentally In Love" and greatest hits collections like "Films About Ghosts" (which is in my own personal collection and has been heavily worn down). They haven't released a studio album of new material in six years and have been hiding on the road slowly fine-tuning a collection of songs that was worth studio time. After countless days of touring, they finally released "Saturday Nights & Sunday Mornings" with blended sounds and mixed results.

It's an interesting idea that the album is actually two distinct sounds on one CD, and it's definitely a departure for the band. The "Saturday Nights" half has loud, raucous songs with distorted guitars and screaming vocals, while the softer "Sunday Mornings" returns to their more traditional roots of soft rock with melodious tracks and meaningful lyrics. Now one thing that the Counting Crows

are known for is that they're just absolutely easy to listen to. Honestly, any time is a good time for their music — from doing homework to spending quality time with a sweetheart. However, this newest effort (and I hate to say this) just isn't good. Like I said before, it's an interesting idea to have such a juxtaposed album but the execution was sloppy and the new songs are not the best of the Counting Crows. Especially the "Saturday Nights" side; most of the songs had my friends covering their ears. Now that's not to say that there's nothing good here. You should definitely download "Hanging Tree" and "When I Dream of Michelangelo."

As a big Counting Crows fan, I was disappointed with the album. My recommendation is to download the individual tracks on iTunes, Ruckus or whatever you may happen to use. Sadly, the Counting Crows' newest effort just gives me a case of the Mondays.

## Crows disappoint with latest effort

CHRIS GEARING  
Managing Editor



## Things shaping up to be 'Pretty Odd'

AVERY SPOFFORD  
Staff Writer



"Things have changed for me, and that's okay," croons Panic At The Disco frontman and emo kingpin Brendon Urie.

Although the aptly titled "Pretty. Odd." is a far cry from the frenetically digitalized instrumentation and dark, complex lyrics of 2006's "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out," the change may be for the better.

With visible influences ranging from the Beatles to ragtime to the baroque, "Pretty. Odd." is just as slapdash as "Fever," but in a very different way. "Fever"'s ambitiously dance-driven beats have been replaced by a host of surprisingly calm and mature songs, most of which are strongly reminiscent of tracks from the Beatles' "Abbey Road" and "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

The album features few outstandingly weak songs, but also very few

outstandingly strong songs. Aside from the single, "Nine In The Afternoon," the album seems to blend together in perfectly acceptable and forgettable mediocrity. This blandness, however, may be a positive step in the career of the band — it is doubtful that even Panic's hyperactive teenage audience would have stomached another album as manic as "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out."

The album is a mature if surprising progression for the band, who are seeking to shake their vaudeville act in favor of a less novel image. This experimentation could spell disaster for the emo darlings, but it seems more likely that their slavishly devoted fans will follow them faithfully into this new territory, and maybe even discover the Beatles along the way.

Over the course of its nearly three-decade-long career, REM has produced a very solid catalogue of radio and Billboard hits. However, albums have never been the band's strong point. Most of the group's work seems to follow the same pattern: one or two classic songs packaged alongside 10 or more inessential pieces. The band's 14th album, "Accelerate," is no exception; it is a fun, easy listen from start to finish but fails to distinguish itself from the rest of REM's work.

"Accelerate" features the same jangly guitars and folksy crooning found in REM's best work. The first three songs on the album come close to classics like "Losing My Religion," none more so than "Supernatural/

Superserious," which has been making the rounds on alternative radio. Then the CD gets political, and REM gets in over its head. The next few songs blend together, as the band sings about the death of America and how the state is out to get Michael Stipe. REM cannot quite handle subjects this heavy, and most of the songs are more ridiculous than anything else.

Like most of REM's work, "Accelerate" is generally forgettable and difficult to listen to in one sitting. "Living Well is The Best Revenge" and "Supernatural/Superserious" are worth picking up on iTunes, but the rest probably aren't worth more than the thirty-second samples.

## 'Accelerate' stuck at a red light

DAVIS MACMILLAN  
Staff Writer



## The Switches 'Lay Down The Law'

CHRIS GEARING  
Managing Editor



London's newest power rock quartet is led by front man Matt Bishop, who has been making music since he was four (he was unsigned, but showed a lot of potential). His experience definitely shines through; The Switches have an extremely robust sound that is reminiscent of Franz Ferdinand mixed with a dash of the golden boys of pop punk (i.e., Green Day, Blink-182 and the like). Their debut album "Lay Down The Law" is packed with fist-pumping rock that really meshes well with the cover art of the album, which depicts a fight in a club. These anthems will have you dancing till you drop, if not jumping along in irreverent euphoria.

The album is trying to evoke the euphoria and possibly substance enhanced

experience of London's underground music scene, the place of Switches' initial limelight. The band's sound and lyrics match perfectly with its mission and really draw you in to the energy and pulsing beats of really any nightclub. Indeed, the music is truly a breath of fresh for American rock, which has become stale as of late. There isn't a single gripe or pitiful line in the album, and the band focuses on having fun with its music and its message. On most songs, fiery riffs are complemented perfectly by a titillating high-hat line that keeps things fresh and fun, as the record takes you on an adventurous night in the London underground rock club scene.

**THEATER**

# RENT showcases talent, passion with urban flair

**COURTNEY ROGERS**  
Culture Editor

It wasn't your typical musical theater experience. While settling into a seat in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, a look at the stage and you may have thought that the performance was over. The curtain was drawn to reveal a skeletal series of platforms and bars decorated with what appeared to be Christmas lights and wires. Without warning, the stage was suddenly filled with various actors who launched into the performance in full force and vibrant enthusiasm. From the opening number to the final curtain call, the cast's electrifying dancing and unforgettable vocals kept the audience mesmerized by a story that has its share of sadness and disappointments.

For those unfamiliar with the plot of "RENT," the story is set in New York City's bohemian neighborhood, Alphabet City. Here we meet Mark and Roger, roommates who are both trying to cope with struggles that include having your girlfriend leave you for another woman and having your girlfriend commit suicide after realizing that both of you are HIV-positive. Cameraman Mark, along with his and Roger's mutual friends of various ethnicities, professions and sexual orientations, tells the story of a tumultuous "year in the life of friends." Roger, an ex-musician who has let his girlfriend's suicide and his HIV diagnosis trap him inside of his apartment, meets 19-year-old wild child Mimi, an exotic dancer plagued by HIV and a drug addiction who still maintains faith in love and in Roger. Mark continues to help his flaky but manipulative ex-girlfriend Maureen protest the eviction of the homeless in the "tent city," all the while dealing with Maureen's rollercoaster romance

with lawyer Joanne. Tom Collins, a professor at NYU who is also HIV-positive, begins a relationship with Angel, a drag queen with personality and fashion sense to spare, and he witnesses firsthand the devastation of watching someone you love suffer from the advanced stages of AIDS. Though the challenges that these characters face are real and raw, the dialogue and musical numbers are a great foil to keep up the energy and humor in spite of the difficult subject matter.

The minimalist set that seemed so out of place walking into the theater worked beautifully with the bright costumes and energetic dancing. In the song "Out Tonight," Christine Dwyer as Mimi used the different levels of the set to dance into Roger's apartment in an attempt to charm him out of his secluded life. The song "La Vie Boheme" was another number where the ensemble made great use of the set. How anyone can jump onto a table in platform heels and then proceed to leap into high kicks, I have yet to discover. Needless to say, the cast was thrilling to watch. Though it is hard to pinpoint the highlight of the show, the most vocally impressive song was Maureen and Joanne's spirited "Take Me or Leave Me," which showcased the difficulty of compromising in a relationship where opposites attract.

One aspect of the show that was somewhat bothersome, however, was the acoustics. Though the actors did a good job projecting, especially while dancing, there were points in the show where it was difficult to discern the lyrics of a song, particularly

when more than one person was singing at once. Apart from this more technical note, however, there are few complaints that can be made of Saturday's performance.

The national tour of "RENT" only had a short stay at TPAC, but for those who reside in the South, you can still catch performances in Florida, Georgia and Alabama in the coming weeks. ☘



TPAC.ORG / photo provided



TPAC.ORG / photo provided

### RENT Upcoming Dates

- April 18: Sarasota, Fla., Van Wezel Hall
- April 25: Atlanta, Ga., Fox Theatre
- April 28: Huntsville, Ala., Von Braun Center
- May 13: Anaheim, Calif., Grove Theatre
- June 24: Stamford, Conn., Stamford Center for the Arts

**FASHION**

## UAL: a chic-for-cheap gem

**TAWNEY MILAM**  
Staff Writer

The three letters U-A-L will soon be rolling off the tongues of fashionistas across Nashville if they haven't already. United Apparel Liquidators is the newest shop filling a void in the Nashville shopping and fashion scene. The premise: high-end fashion at the lowest of prices.

What makes UAL different from other boutiques is the presence of big-brand labels at prices 70 to 90 percent off suggested retail. Prices are kept this low through a no-frills, low-overhead mentality. Brands like Stella McCartney, Jimmy Choo and Marc Jacobs leave their homes of elegant and sophisticated boutiques and department

stores to find themselves in the barest of warehouses. Cement floors and visible duct work make for a remarkable contrast to the beauty of the clothing.

Visiting on a Saturday I found the environment to be chaotically busy and aesthetically unappealing, but these are

minor downfalls in the scheme of things since you can save so much money and look chic doing it.

UAL is a great place to shop for your next date, trip to the Derby or average day of classes at Vandy.

Clothing is available for women sizes 0 to 12 and slimmer men, as well as children. In addition to clothing there are shoes, jewelry and accessories.

Located at 2819 West End Ave., in the old Vandyland storefront, UAL is a brand expansion by owners Melody and Bill Cohen who are building upon their prosperous approach to fashion retail. Other locations can be found in Hattiesburg, Miss., as well as New Orleans,

La., and Covington, Ky. Though there is not a Web site for the store, you can find more information through its MySpace page, [www.myspace.com/ualfashion](http://www.myspace.com/ualfashion). Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays, 12 to 6 p.m. UAL's phone number is 340-9999. ☘



Myspace.com/ualfashion

**FASHION**

## Rain, rain don't go away!

**MURIELLE WYMAN**  
Staff Writer

"April showers bring May flowers," as the old proverb says, and today has certainly proved it true. It's the first of April, and the rain has been steadily coming down all day as if to say "Happy April Fool's!" But stop! Before you drag out your comfy clothes, or pile on that utilitarian parka, think twice.

Today's rain gear trends make it easy to get ready in a jiffy, despite the gloomy weather. The easiest solution to protect yourself against what could potentially become drizzly weather is to pack along a cute — and functional — umbrella.

The Web site Umbrellas.com has got tons of fun options that will be sure to add a cheery outlook to any bad weather — and they're fairly inexpensive too! My favorite was the "Big Flower Folding Deluxe" at a great deal of \$27.95. Or, if money isn't a concern, Coach.com also has some fun, bright options that will surely make heads turn.

Rain boots have made quite an appearance on campus as a footwear must-have, and once you own a pair, it's hard to understand how you ever made it without them! If you are interested in buying a pair, or are looking to build up your rain wear collection — there are plenty of choices out there from which to make

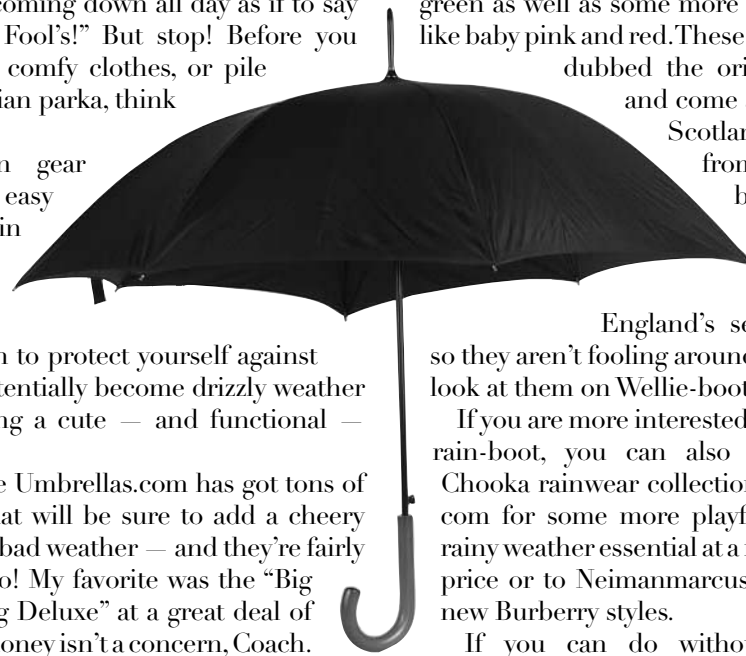
your selection.

Hunter Wellington boots are a great option if you are into classics. Hunter Wellies are made in a durable rubber and they come in great solid colors such as classic navy, black, forest green as well as some more exciting options like baby pink and red. These boots have been dubbed the original rain boot and come all the way from Scotland, and aside from this, they have both the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen of England's seal of approval, so they aren't fooling around! You can take a look at them on Wellie-boots.com.

If you are more interested in a less serious rain-boot, you can also check out the Chooka rainwear collection on Whatapair.com for some more playful takes on the rainy weather essential at a fairly reasonable price or to Neimanmarcus.com to see the new Burberry styles.

If you can do without any of the aforementioned items, but you absolutely cannot live without your raincoat — have no fear! There are plenty of great parkas out there to choose from such as the ones found at North Face, which come with a guarantee of durability, or the Marc by Marc Jacobs bright red patent leather pea coat at eLUXURY.com.

With all of these wonderful finds, you're going to be wishing for a rainy day! ☘



# WHY DON'T YOU...

Ditch your signature hide and go seek sunglasses for wire rimmed aviators.

Head to Las Paletas the next time the sun is shining.

Give gladiator sandals a try instead of grabbing your Rainbows.

Bring iPod speakers outside for a sunny jam session.

Guys: Put down the crookies and give a new, trendy pair of sunglasses a try.



SOCIAL

# It's that time of year...a Versus guide to formal affairs

AMY JOHNSTON  
Staff Writer

The 'Don'ts' of attending fraternity weekend formals.

**DON'T:**

- Wake up in someone else's bed ... or a holding tank.
- Forget that you are leaving Vandyland and entering the real world where they have stuff like police and felonies and stuff.
- Talk to anyone in a Speedo (note to men: Speedos = celibacy).
- Forget your swimsuit ... in the ocean.
- Fall asleep in the sun around your artistic friends who get creative and lewd with sunscreen.
- Think what happens in Florida stays in Florida.
- Assume that you definitely won't hook up with your date — your bffl platonic fratboy guy friend may look pretty spicy after a couple mojitos.
- Hook up on the beach at night. Sand ... enough said.
- Hook up with any locals or anyone who claims to be an "alumni member" of the frat.
- Drown.
- Come home with anything that itches or burns as a souvenir.
- Forget your frat gear, i.e. seersucker shorts, Polo shirts in a fluorescent rainbow and Rainbow sandals.
- Take up any new sport (surfing, jet skiing, etc.). You will become convinced you are amazing at it ... and die.
- Bet anything that involves stripping or making out with a member of the same sex (unless you really want to have a "this one time in college" experience or are previously inclined).
- Give yourself a clever new nickname and refuse to respond to anything other than DJ Drunkface or the Colonel of Corona for the rest of the weekend.
- Hook up with someone else's boyfriend or girlfriend. Sorority rush may be over, but a slap in the face hurts just as much in Panama as it does here, and these actions could conflict with the aforementioned "Don't drown" rule.
- Call your parents, ex-boyfriend, relatives of any variety or the police (Officer Panama City will not think that your prank call about a thief "stealing" your boyfriend is very funny — guaranteed).
- Think that you can't exercise your frat-hopping muscles during the weekend. (Chances are that brethren of another fraternal organization will be partaking in some broponding at the same hotel.)
- Leave the hotel room not in shambles. It is incumbent upon you to break a lamp, towel rack or bed at some point during this sojourn.
- Lament choosing one formal over another. Some of you have three more years to experience this debauchery. Besides, Sophie had to choose between her children; you can choose between frats.
- Mix alcohols. This is a worse idea than pairing a scrunchie with MC Hammer parachute pants.

Happy fratting! ☺



FASHION

# Versus asks around Vandy: who are you wearing?

REANNE ZHENG  
Staff Writer

**Giorgio Berry**

Something Designer:  
Jeans. Sevens.  
Something Vintage:  
My vintage Dior aviators.  
Where do you like to shop?  
TwoElle. Posh, for shoes.  
Who is your favorite designer?  
Tom Ford, Unis.  
Do you have any style icons?  
Humphrey Bogart, and northern Italian men — like Gianni Agnelli.



It's no secret that Vandy's got style. Here are a few all-stars whose fabulous fashions caught our attention this week. With a variety of looks and a knack for looking sharp, we asked them about everything fashion. Check back next week and who knows, you could be next! As always, stay classy (and chic) Vandy!

**BichLien Nguyen**

Something Designer:  
Bag. Bottega Veneta  
Something Vintage:  
My earrings and my cardigan  
Where do you shop?  
Banana Republic, where I got these pants and this camisole.  
Who is your favorite designer?  
Chloé.  
Do you have any style icons?  
Chloe Sevigny and maybe Kate Bosworth.



**Yuri Gandy**

Something Handmade:  
My necklack.  
Something Vintage:  
My roommate's belt.  
Where do you like to shop?  
I got most of this outfit from a boutique back home called Warehouse, but I also like all the boutiques along 21<sup>st</sup>, like Pangaea.  
What are your staples for spring?  
Just lots of bright colors.



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MOVIES

# '21' takes all at the box office

COURTNEY ROGERS  
Culture Editor

It seems to be the recipe for the perfect movie. A dash of adorably nerdy protagonist, two pinches of an underdog story and schemes of dangerous, borderline legality and a teaspoon of romantic interest. Simmer with a soundtrack full of rock jams over the sinfully hedonistic Las Vegas and cool over chilly Boston, and voila! For "21" this was perfect formula to give the film top billing in terms of box office success in its opening weekend.

The movie centers on Ben, an MIT student whose lifelong dream is to attend Harvard Medical School. With a 4.0 and an early acceptance to his dream school, it seems as though Ben has it made. Of course, there is a small catch (one that many of our parents are familiar with), and that is the cost. Ben knows he needs \$300,000 to attend Harvard Med, and after his interview for a full scholarship is less than promising, he is desperately in need of a plan. Impressing a professor with his calm, rational thinking as well as his knowledge, Ben becomes entangled in a club that jets off to Las Vegas each weekend to make hundreds of thousands of dollars by counting cards in blackjack. What ensues includes Ben's journey to find happiness and wealth despite a web of tangled lies and secrecy. In addition to the shady underworld of casinos, this film also centers on Ben's personal growth

into a more confident individual, especially prominent in his relationship with teammate Jill (Kate Bosworth).

Though I wasn't positive this would be my kind of movie (the plan had been to see "Horton Hears a Who"), it was a fun, fast-paced ride the entire way. With the exception of the violent "Loss Prevention" men and the fact that counting cards requires rapid-fire concentration and math skills combined with a cool, confident demeanor, this movie even made me want to beat the dealer at his own game. Combine the thrill of winning with the fun scenes of the team gallivanting through Las Vegas's high-end boutiques with their winnings, and who wouldn't want to take on the double life of a full-time student and a part-time card shark? The girls shop for expensive underpinnings and handbags while the guys also indulge their inner fashionistas, and a transformation ensues. Whereas back at MIT, Ben had felt like a social misfit with a small, claustrophobic group of friends, the club opens up a new world. As Jill points out, "In Vegas, you can be anybody," and Ben takes this to heart when he reinvents his nerdy look to an edgier, confident style and a personality to match. One funny scene shows Ben trying to order room service, only to find out that he is actually back at MIT. Somehow I don't think that Vandy is going to add room service as a feature for next year.

With a soundtrack full of MGMT and Peter Bjorn and John, well-executed cinematography and direction and captivating performances, "21" is not a film to be missed. Plus let's be honest, what girl really minds watching a movie full of Jim Sturgess?

"21" is playing at the Regal Green Hills 16 and is rated PG-13. ☼

**RATING:**  
★★★★☆



SONY PICTURES / photo provided

MOVIES

# There's nothing funny about 'Funny Games'

CHRIS GEARING  
Managing Editor

Don't let the title fool you — there is nothing funny about this movie. You may hear some of that awkward laughter people do when they're really uncomfortable, but no one will be busting up at this British import that is literally a shot-by-shot remake of Mr. Haneke's controversial film from the '90s. For real, both films are literally the exact same shots with an updated screenplay and new players. However, nothing else needed to be changed to keep you on the edge of your seat for this terrifying remake. It's still a perfect movie of "what could happen" happening.

The film begins with a happy family driving to their home out in the country and looking happily at one another and laughing. They arrive and are unpacking when a young man named Peter (Brady Corbet) knocks on the door and asks Ann (Naomi Watts) for a few eggs. Without giving too much away, the young man is joined by his friend Paul (Michael Pitt) and both take the family hostage for the night and make a simple bet with them — they will all be dead in 12 hours. However to make time fly, they have some games planned to keep things spicy and "fun."

It's too easy to call these miscreants psychotic or sociopathic since (as a psychology major) I could write an entire term paper on the psychopathy of both of these two monsters. The original film was famous for its amazing social commentary on violence in the media and the desensitization of the consumer public to brutality and cruelty. Indeed, Paul often breaks the "fourth wall" and talks to the audience, sometimes asking their opinion and at other times reminding them they are still watching the film. What results is an exercise in psychological terror that's horrifying because it could happen and because people like Paul and Peter do exist. See this movie one time for two reasons. One: You won't soon forget the plot. Two: You won't ever want to see it again. Remember kids: Don't talk to strangers. ☼

**RATING:** ★★★★★

# VER

Email us at :  
**VersusVU@gmail.com**

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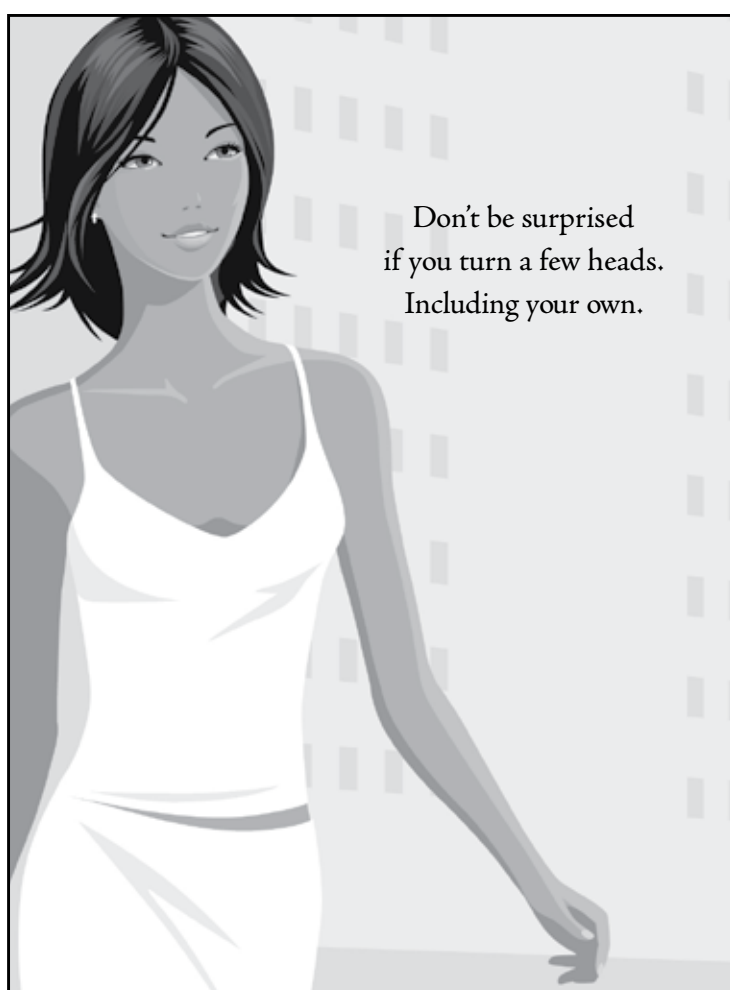
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# Versus!

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**Staff Meeting: Thursday,**  
**5:30, Sarratt 130**

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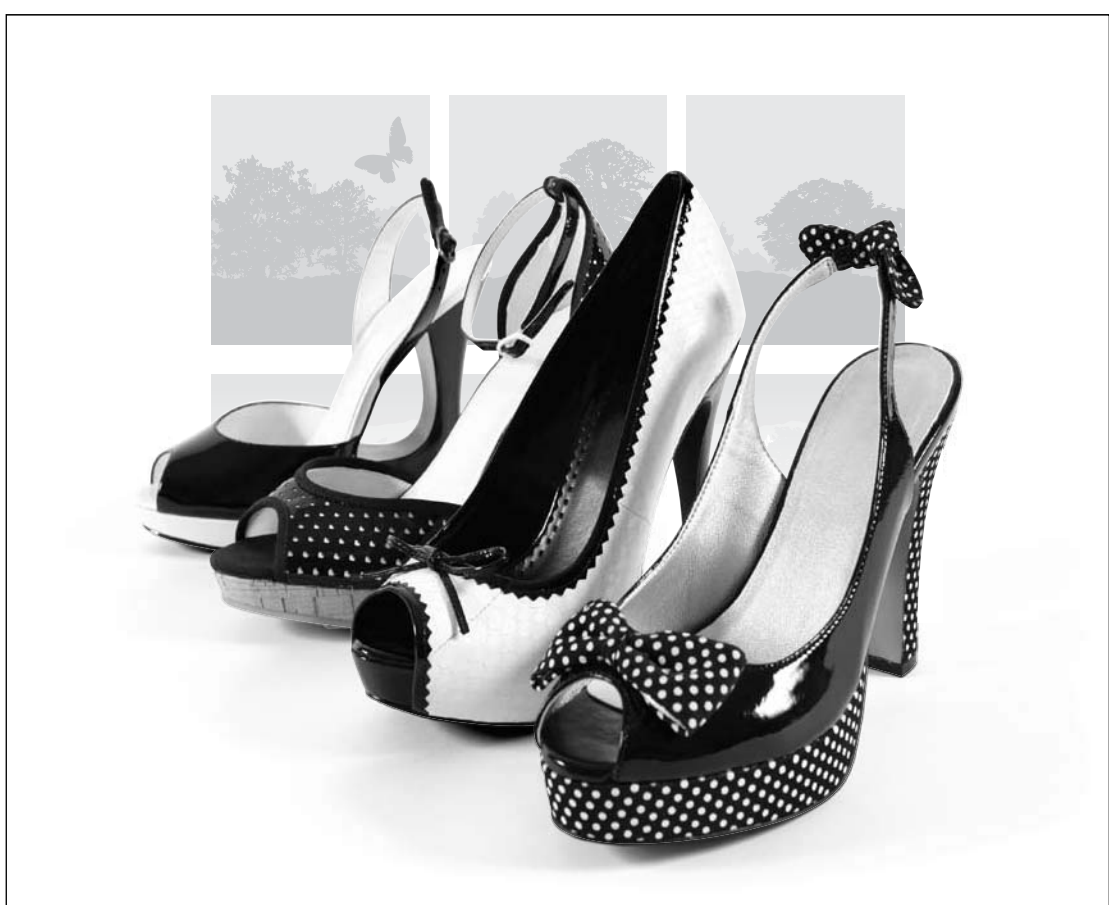
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# Q&A WITH JIM ENO OF Spoon

So, guess who called this week? Resident Spoon fanatic Sean Tierney interviewed Jim Eno, the drummer for Spoon, one of the Rites of Spring headliners. Yeah, we're getting pretty popular. Although the article may read like one of those word association things people do at the psychologist's office, we promise Eno is more of the "strong silent type." Keep reading to find out what this man of few words thinks about Spoon's new album, touring and the band's experiences in Austin.

**Versus Magazine: So I understand you're playing at Rites of Spring?**  
**Jim Eno:** So I understand you work for Versus Magazine?

**VM: What do you think of playing at Vanderbilt?**  
**JE:** I think we played (Rites of Spring) before. I'm thinking maybe 2003?

**VM: What's your favorite song from the new album?**  
**JE:** 'Black Like Me.'

**VM: How about your favorite album?**  
**JE:** This one.

**VM: How has your music evolved over the past decade?**  
**JE:** No idea. We just try to consistently put out good records.

**VM: What's next for the band?**  
**JE:** We're going to keep making records. (Lead singer Britt Daniel) is writing songs now for our next record.

**VM: What are some of your favorite artists you've toured with?**  
**JE:** GUIDED BY VOICES.

**VM: Any other performers around now that you enjoy?**  
**JE:** THE CLIENTELE.

**VM: How did the band come together?**  
**JE:** Britt and I were in another band, and he was writing songs. Sooo ...

**VM: Where's your favorite venue to play?**  
**JE:** In NEW YORK.

**VM: What's your favorite memory from being on tour?**  
**JE:** It's all one big party.

**VM: What are some of your musical influences?**  
**JE:** KING TUBBY.

**VM: What are some of the difficulties of being in a band?**  
**JE:** Time away from home.

**VM: So the band's from Austin, right?**  
**JE:** I'm from Rhode Island. Now only me and Eric live in Austin.

**VM: What the biggest concert you've played?**  
**JE:** I'm drawing a blank, but it was big. It was in that small country real close to SWITZERLAND. (Pauses) Lichtenstein.

**VM: Do you have anything to say to Vandy students in anticipation of Rites of Spring?**  
**JE:** We're really looking forward to playing there again.



## 'Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga' leaves listeners speechless

SEAN TIERNEY  
 Staff Writer

Looking at the packaging, one might think Spoon's "Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga" was haphazardly slapped together at the last minute without concern for finding a viable album title or even correctly spelling the names of its songs. Yes, tracks such as "You've Got Yr. Cherry Bomb," "Don't You Evah" and "Rhythm and Soul" must infuriate copy editors everywhere, but these titles belie the meticulous crafting of everything on the album.

Spoon once again delivers intricately measured songs that hold back when they should and let loose when they need to. The result is a sound that exudes a dark sense of confidence and that feels best when combined with dancing. (The band understands all too

well the sensual potential of carefree rock 'n' roll.)

Fans will recognize the strong beats, seductive guitar riffs, occasional piano interjections and the raspy-with-a-bit-of-phlegm (pre-smoker's cough?) distinctiveness of Britt Daniels' voice. The album continues Spoon's emphasis on upbeat tunes and fun times.

All the while, "Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga" deviates from past albums in its extensive use of horns and with the new sound of "The Ghost of You Lingers." The song (the staccato piano part of which gave birth to the album's name) creates a claustrophobic atmosphere that makes the toe-tapping release of the next several tracks all the more potent.

"Don't You Evah" is a cover of "Don't You Ever" by obscure-and-now-defunct-band

The Natural History. It is one of those songs that make the listener feel cool as soon as it hits the ears. "Don't Make Me A Target," the first track on the album, engages from the start and does not let up. The first single from the album, "The Underdog," is a ska-like tune perfect for enjoying the outdoors in warm weather. "Finer Feelings" is a romp about dreams of grandeur.

Just as the titles seem incomplete, the lyrics can also use some work. Still, they find a way to fit the mood of each song. Occasionally, they manage to summarize Spoon's philosophy as a whole. The refrain in "Cherry Bomb" encourages, "Life can be so fair / Let it go on and on." After listening to "Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga," one can only hope that Spoon will continue to go on and on producing albums, spelling quirks and all. ☞



**THE LIL JON SOUNDTRACK TO THE ISSUE: 1. "Brother Lee," Citizen Cope 2. "Billie Jean," Chris Cornell 3. "Beat It," Fall Out Boy feat. John Mayer 4. "Go Go Gadget Flow," Lupe Fiasco 5. "To Build A Home," The Cinematic Orchestra 6. "Wasted Years," Maroon 5 7. "Hanging Tree," Counting Crows 8. "Lay Down The Law," The Switches 9. "Check Yes Juliet," We The Kings 10. "Summer's End," Foo Fighters**

To find in iTunes, go to iTunes Store > Music > iMix > Search for Versus Magazine "Soundtrack to the issue 3/27"

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

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

**SOLUTIONS**

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

**CLOSING PIC**



"PARIS" LAUREN FONDRIST / Versus

## Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Wait on
- 6 Top dog
- 11 Lingerie buy
- 14 Effective use
- 15 Blood part
- 16 Corn serving
- 17 The easiest of putts
- 18 Traveling worker
- 20 Mountaineer's challenge
- 21 Allegation
- 23 Positioning maneuver
- 24 Palo \_\_, CA
- 26 Actor Knight
- 28 Bock or porter
- 29 Lemieux and Cuomo
- 31 Author Harte
- 33 Towel off
- 34 Church table
- 35 Japanese companion
- 37 Ant
- 39 Hunter's companion
- 43 Browns in butter
- 45 John Hersey's bell town
- 46 Ernie of golf
- 49 Itemized record
- 50 Napping
- 51 Rules of conduct
- 53 Final degree
- 54 Lean-to
- 55 Best players
- 57 Chico's brother
- 59 Molinaro and Michaels
- 62 Marvels
- 64 Gentleman's gentleman
- 66 Fixed
- 67 Fortune cards
- 68 Ooze
- 69 Newspaper honchos, briefly
- 70 Cads
- 71 Cut differently

**DOWN**

- 1 Long yarn
- 2 Wicked
- 3 Bulwarks
- 4 Vigor's partner
- 5 Of voting
- 6 Where China is

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
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51					52				53			
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69					70				71			

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4/3/08

**Solutions**

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

- 7 Beatles movie
- 8 Steak house order
- 9 Attila, for one
- 10 Grace closer
- 11 Formed drops
- 12 Park employee
- 13 Pulse location
- 19 Cause friction
- 22 Angeles
- 25 Neeson and O'Flaherty
- 27 Lucy's husband
- 29 Navigator's guide
- 30 Pugilist Laila
- 32 Work out, in a way
- 35 Arrives
- 36 Mix up
- 38 Destroy
- 40 Father of Icarus
- 41 Individual
- 42 Republican letters
- 44 Alternative fuel
- 46 Pass, as time
- 47 Used a machine cutter
- 48 Candies
- 50 Small snake
- 52 Miguel, CA
- 56 Nocturnal insect
- 58 Rodent pests
- 60 Mother of Castor and Pollux
- 61 Goulash or slumgullion
- 63 Daisy of Dogpatch
- 65 Woodshed item

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