



**LEADERSHIP:** English classes for international students help translate success. SEE PAGE 3

**VERSUS:** O.A.R. tells all about their new album and upcoming show. COMPLETE SECTION INSIDE

## New first-year meal plan confuses students

by ETHEL MICKEY  
News Contributor

Much has been said over the past few years about creating and preparing the Commons experience, and Vanderbilt Dining has worked hard to make this talk a reality with its new freshman meal plan.

The new plan, which includes up to four meals a day and \$200 of meal money per semester, was designed to work in tandem with the Commons. Director of Dining Camp Howard calls the plan "flexible" and "user-friendly." Special events such as house dinners and cookouts, which will occur later this year, are also included in the plan and are unique to the Commons.

Last year the freshman meal plan consisted of \$150 of meal money per semester and only 19 meals a week with a three-dollar rollover for missed meals. Now that the current plan offers more meals, rollover has been discontinued. While first-year student Kristen McCabe thinks the new plan offers "a lot of good choices," when it comes to both the variety and timing of the meals, she feels rollover would be a bonus.

"If I don't get a meal, I feel bad. It's like I'm wasting money," said McCabe.

A common misconception about the plan, however, is that students must eat all of the 28 meals to get their money's



First-year student Mallette Asmuth purchases a meal from cashier Alisha Sharp at The Food Gallery in the Commons Center on Sept. 8.

CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

worth. Howard calls the fourth meal a "huge benefit" considering the overall cost of the plan.

"The way that (the first-year meal plan) is priced is that we are giving students the ability to use one meal during a meal period," said Howard. "It's not priced for you to actually take

each of those meals."

Howard, who was at first confused by the mad rush for the fourth meal at midnight, realizes much of the blame for this misconception falls on Dining and himself. He wished a better explanation was given to freshmen during orientation week, but they were consumed

by the preparation of plan and assumed its details would be clear.

"The functionality of the plan is really good, but we weren't out in front explaining how it works," Howard said.

With this in mind, Dining has been working tirelessly the past couple of weeks to work

out the kinks of the plan. They modified their website, <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/dining>, which now includes detailed overviews of each of the meal plans. There will also be an informational booth in the Commons Center Thursday, Sept. 11, to answer any questions about the plan. ■

### GREEK SCENE

## NPHC Week: Fostering unity within the Greek population at Vanderbilt

by LINDSAY ABRAMS  
News Contributor

The seven historically black fraternities and sororities that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council at Vanderbilt are hosting a week of events to celebrate community and promote active service.

"Being that we are such a small council, it gives us a chance to give ourselves exposure to the campus and introduce who we are and what we are about," said Charles Stanley Jr., senior and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Whitney Hubbard, senior and president of Zeta Phi Beta, also stressed the importance of having NPHC Week and said it "fosters unity and makes us really focus on doing events together rather than just working with our own respective organizations."

Since organizations within the NPHC vary in size, it is important for them to be able to work on events together. "(It's a great) opportunity for everyone to come together and collaborate to organize events that everybody can be apart of."

Aldense Ewing, NPHC vice president

and member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, discussed the range of events happening throughout the week from a carnival to a shadow day for elementary school students, saying they would all primarily be inspirational and community-oriented.

Another highlight of NPHC Week is the highly acclaimed influential speaker, Steve Birdine, a member of Iota Phi Theta fraternity who many current members heard speak in Chicago at the National Black Greek Leaders conference.

"He inspires and motivates you to be the very best person that you can be and to not make exceptions in your life for unexceptional things. Whenever you want something done, (he suggests) for you to act and be affirmative," Hubbard said.

Birdine's speech, titled "Affirmation in Action," will take place on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Life Center and is open to the public free of charge.

"He is so dynamic and will leave you wanting to do better, wanting to be better and it is just excellent," Hubbard said. ■



Steven Townsend checks out the Phi Beta Sigma display at the NPHC Fair on Sept. 8.

BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

### COMMODORE QUAKE TICKETS ON SALE THIS FRIDAY

**What:** Ticket sale for Commodore Quake 2009 featuring Lil' Wayne, Lupe Fiasco and Free Sol  
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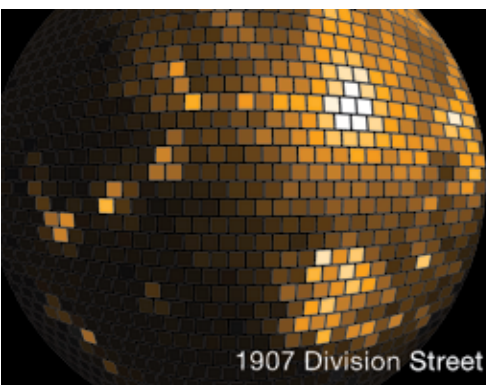
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**SPORTS:** New turf field provides club teams with updated amenities. PLUS: SEC power rankings. SEE PAGE 6



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# SNAPSHOTS

compiled by KELLY SWOPE

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Partly cloudy

### THURSDAY



HIGH **81**, LOW **70**  
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**BACK ISSUES**  
Back issues are available in Sarratt 120 during business hours.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Obama: Bush plan for Afghanistan still comes up short

**RIVERSIDE, Ohio (AP)**—Barack Obama said President Bush isn't acting quickly or forcefully enough to get more U.S. forces into Afghanistan and out of Iraq.

Bush "is tinkering around the edges and kicking the can down the road to the next president" with his decision Tuesday to bring home only 8,000 combat and support troops from Iraq by February, said Obama, who hopes to be that next president.

Bush said a Marine battalion scheduled to be sent to Iraq in November will instead be deployed to Afghanistan, followed by an Army combat brigade early next year. In all, that would add 4,500 to 4,700 combat troops in Afghanistan.

Less than two hours later, Obama went before reporters during a campaign stop in this Midwestern battleground to respond.

"His plan comes up short — it is not enough troops, not enough resources, with not enough urgency," Obama said. "The next president will inherit a status quo that is still unstable."

### No questions, please; Palin will stick to her script until late this week

**LEBANON, Ohio (AP)**—John McCain took a risk in picking little-known Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as a running mate, but now the campaign's playing it safer. She's sticking to a greatest hits version of her convention speech on the campaign trail and steering clear of questions until she's comfortable enough for a hand-picked interviewer later this week.

More than 40 million people tuned in last week to listen to the speech from Palin, the 44-year-old first-term governor whom McCain announced as his surprise vice presidential pick just days before. Since then, that basic script is all anyone has heard from her publicly, and her only interaction with the media was a brief conversation with a small group of reporters on her plane Monday — off the record at her handlers' insistence.

Associated Press reporters were not on the plane, but an aide told the journalists on board that all Palin flights would be off the record unless the media were told otherwise. At least one reporter objected. Two people on the flight said the Palins greeted the media and they chatted about who had been to Alaska, but little else was said.

### Armstrong coming out of retirement for eighth Tour de France

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)**—Lance Armstrong is getting back on his bike, determined to win an eighth Tour de France.

Armstrong's return from cancer to win the Tour a record seven consecutive times made him a hero to cancer patients worldwide and elevated cycling to an unprecedented level in America.

The 36-year-old Armstrong told Vanity Fair in an exclusive interview posted on its Web site Tuesday that he was inspired to return after finishing second last month in the Leadville 100, a lung-searing 100-mile mountain bike race through the Colorado Rockies.

"This kind of obscure bike race, totally kick-started my engine," he told the magazine. "I'm going to try and win an eighth Tour de France."

The sport and particularly the Tour have missed his star power, even though he has been a controversial figure at times.

The 2009 Tour "is the intention," Armstrong's spokesman Mark Higgins told The Associated Press, "but we've got some homework to do over there."

Tour director Christophe Prudhomme did not return messages seeking comment on Armstrong's decision. His staff said he would not comment before Wednesday morning, if at all.

### Lieberman skipping Democratic policy lunches after McCain endorsement

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Democrat-turned-independent Joe Lieberman skipped Senate Democrats' weekly caucus luncheon Tuesday and will not attend them for a while after angering many Democrats by criticizing their presidential nominee, Sen. Barack Obama.

The Connecticut senator was Democrat Al Gore's vice presidential running mate in 2000, but he endorsed Republican John McCain in this year's contest. Lieberman said through a spokesman that he has an informal policy of skipping the lunches when presidential politics or the Iraq war will be discussed.

"September is likely a month where presidential politics will be discussed, so it's likely he won't be attending," spokesman Marshall Wittmann said.

Democrats last week hinted that payback could be in store for Lieberman, who in a prime-time address last week at the Republican National Convention called Obama an untested candidate beholden to Democratic interest groups.

Tuesday's luncheon was the first for Senate Democrats since their party's convention in late August.

### Police: Former professional wrestler Ric Flair roughed up outside ring

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)**—Most of former professional wrestler Ric Flair's fights were scripted.

But Chapel Hill, N.C., police didn't find anything fake about the blood and bruises on the Nature Boy after a fight with his daughter's 22-year-old boyfriend.

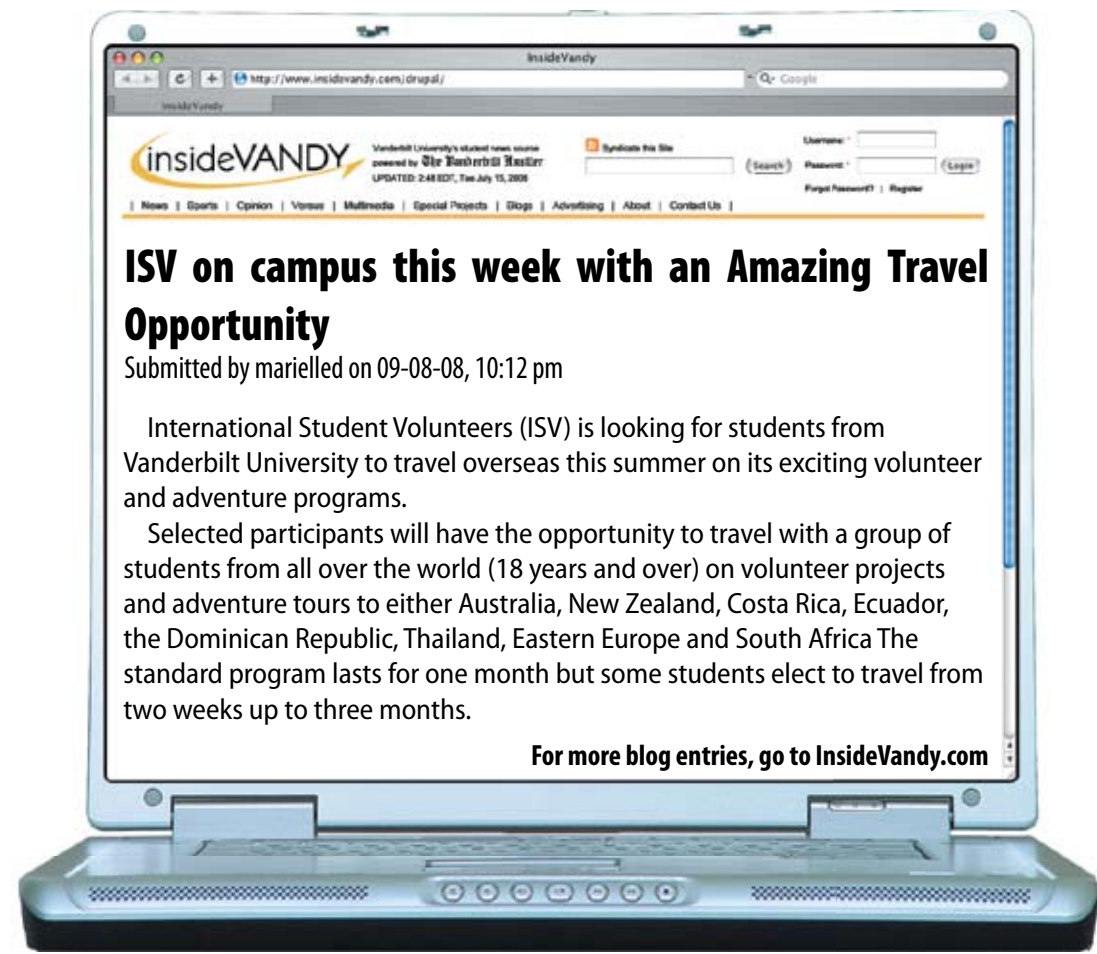
Neither man was charged, but Flair's daughter, Ashley Elizabeth Fliehr, was charged for resisting police after the 22-year-old became belligerent and kicked an officer, Chapel Hill police Lt. Kevin Gunter said Tuesday.

Neighbors called police about 2:30 a.m. Friday about a fight at an apartment in the city about 30 miles northwest of Raleigh. The fight was over, but officers followed a trail of blood to Fliehr's apartment.

She told police the men had fought but it was over and things were fine. Officers found the 59-year-old Flair, whose real name is Richard Fliehr, on a bed in the back room. The boyfriend was in another part of the apartment.

Flair admitted fighting with the boyfriend but he didn't want to press charges, Gunter said. Gunter refused to give the boyfriend's name because he was not charged.

## FROM THE BLOG



## SNAPSHOT

### A 'HOLE' NEW HIGHLAND QUAD



Construction for the new parking garage at Highland Quad, September 8, 2008.

NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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**LEADERSHIP**

# Language Partners program helps international TAs adjust

by LILY CHEN

Leadership Specialist

A program at Vanderbilt's English Language Center is recruiting the efforts of undergraduates to help international TAs adjust to American culture.

"The broader goal of the Language Partners Program is to help ITAs blend into Vanderbilt's academic community," said Language Partners Coordinator Bosun Jang. "This way they can contribute to their discipline without having to worry about the language barrier."

Most ITAs come to Vanderbilt to pursue a PhD, and in order to do so they are required to participate in research, to teach a course, to hold office hours or some other academic activity. If they are required to teach a course, at the end of the year they must do a 15-minute presentation where their language efficiency level is judged.

"Not only do ITAs face a language barrier, but they also face cultural barriers and that's where LPs come into play," said ITA Coordinator Jim Cracraft.

According to Jang, the center uses Inner VU to send out job postings to recruit students to be language partners. Then, undergraduate students are paired off with ITAs. They then meet weekly and engage in social and academic activities to help improve the ITA's speaking skills and knowledge of American college life.

"Where we can only help the ITAs in the classroom, LPs can help ITAs get assimilated to American culture so that ultimately they are prepared to teach in a Vanderbilt classroom," Cracraft said.

Cracraft's primary role in the classroom is coming up with assignments for LPs and ITAs to work on as well as keeping track and making sure things are going well. Assignments are usually focused on pronunciation, improving fluency and practicing presentations.

"I teach two sections of pronunciation and one section of academic speaking," Cracraft said. "Teaching is challenging but a lot of fun because the ITAs are pretty motivated and they have such a high level of knowledge about their field. It's also a

really rewarding process because we are able to see their progress."

First-year student Cole Garrett is one of the undergraduates participating in this program.

"I always wanted to tutor and I thought it would be good to have some cultural exchange," said Garrett. "I can tell that the two ITAs that I'll be working with are on different levels but I think it will be fun to expose them to different things in our culture."

Sophomore Jenny Qi, who participated in the program last year, believes that this year will be more successful.

"The teachers are more involved and everyone's really enthusiastic. I had a lot of fun with the program last year just showing my ITA around campus and learning about differences in culture," said Qi. "This year I have two ITAs and I'm looking forward to working with them."

The English Language Center and the Language Partners Program is sponsored through Vanderbilt International Office. ■

**SCIENCE & MEDICINE**

# New MRI technology relocates Institute of Imaging Science

by ALLIE MORRIS and BRIAN LOVE

News Contributors

Though construction has finally finished on the enormous glass building that towers above 21st Avenue on the south end of Medical Center North, the Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science (IIS) has called the first three floors home since November of 2006. The building, which will now hold IIS in addition to two floors of animal care facilities, a floor for the medical school's gross anatomy class and two floors still up for grabs, was initially built to house a 7 Tesla MRI machine bought by IIS.

"The main reason we moved

was because the human 7 Tesla is a gargantuan structure, and there was no place to put it before," said Mark Does, the director of the Center for Small Animal Imaging, located on the third floor of the building. "It is located on the basement level because it is so large that the first floor is really only a half floor because the area above it is unusable."

Does said the move was also necessary to increase the lab and office space of IIS and to bring the faculty under one roof. "Our faculty was spread out over a lot of different locations. The move has localized the faculty and made it a very collaborative environment ... it's very convenient now our offices are right about where the lab is," he said.

The move concentrated all the imaging technology into one place. "We are not developing any new technology; we buy and use state of the art technology to conduct research use the science to answer biological questions," Does said.

Does said the biggest user of the imaging facilities is the Ingram Cancer Center, though other research fields include bone biology, cardio imaging and neuroscience.

"You can go to other places and find the cancer piece, but you won't find the 7 Tesla brain stuff. Or you can go and find the brain stuff, but you won't find the cancer piece," said John Gore, who serves as director of the IIS. "We actually are the

most integrated comprehensive program in the country."

The 7 Tesla MRI machine, which uses a magnet to produce high-resolution images, is one of a handful in the world, Does said. An MRI found in a doctor's clinic is typically 1.5 to 3 Tesla. The machine, which cost \$7 million, is used in human imaging research and is housed in a 400-ton steel box to shield the magnet. The magnetic pull is so strong a circumference of yellow tape warning visitors of the magnetic line surrounds the door leading to the MRI.

"I think everyone in this building has erased an ID card or a credit card," said Ken Williams, an engineer at the IIS, "So far I have only erased one ID." ■

**GREEK SCENE**

# Fraternities and sororities pair up for philanthropy

by HILARY ROCKS

News Contributor

Recently, fraternities and sororities have been hosting philanthropy events together, resulting in many benefits for the Greek organizations and their charities alike.

"Guys have more connections with other guys, both Greek and non-Greek, through sports and other campus activities and organizations that women might not necessarily be involved with," said senior Laura Calabrese, philanthropy chair for Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. "We believe that by pairing up, we can increase participation because we will be able to draw from both genders."

Senior Conyers Poole, president of Delta Kappa Epsilon, said he and his brothers are happy about sharing the event with Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, as well as the opportunity to become more involved with the local community and the university itself.

"We want to present a more unified front within the Greek community. Collaboration brings in more people, and events with both sororities and fraternities involved tend to be more successful, as well as more fun and exciting."

By pairing up, the fraternities and sororities hope to see more participants at their events, which would ultimately result in raising more money for their philanthropies. ■

## Teaming up to support Salama

by HILARY ROCKS

News Contributor

Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and Chi Omega sorority are teaming up this Friday to hold a car wash to raise money for the Salama Institute. Salama, the Swahili word for peace, is a program that helps pre-K through 12th grade students from public schools in the Metro Nashville area.

George Crooke, a representative from Salama, considers Salama to be an alternative to public school. "The program focuses on skill development in the areas of academics, the arts and leadership all from a faith-based perspective," said Crooke.

The car wash will be at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house and will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Friday. The money Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Chi Omega earn from the carwash will be donated to help the institute and its students.

Members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Chi Omega are also thrilled about being able to give

back to the Nashville community. They believe it is important to help the local area as well as be involved in their national philanthropies.

Sophomore Carver Morgan, service and philanthropy chair of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, thinks exploring alternative forms of service is important. "It's a good opportunity to get out of the Vandy bubble and start a new relationship in the community," said Morgan.

"This is a good way to show what the Greek scene has to offer," said senior Chi Omega President Danielle Hatem.

Both Chi Omega and Sigma Alpha Epsilon think there will be a good turn out on Friday because of increased publicity due to their partnership.

"As for why Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Chi Omega joined forces, I think we have a lot of strong friendships between the two houses but haven't acted on them very often in the past," Hatem said. "A car wash seemed like the perfect opportunity to be social with one another, and yet still be working to raise money for a worthy cause." ■

## Greeks promote scholarship through carnival

by HOLLY MEEHL

News Contributor

On Thursday, Sept. 11 Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority will benefit the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund, a Sept. 11 charity that provides secondary education scholarships, by throwing a carnival. The carnival, held from 4 to 7 p.m., will feature

such events as "Pie a Kappa" and "Dunk a DKE," which will cost \$1 per pie or dunk, along with food and live music from the El Dorados.

The carnival will feature a Wiffle ball tournament with teams of nine, mostly made up of fraternity and sorority groups, who must be registered by 10 a.m. on Thursday and pay a \$27 fee.

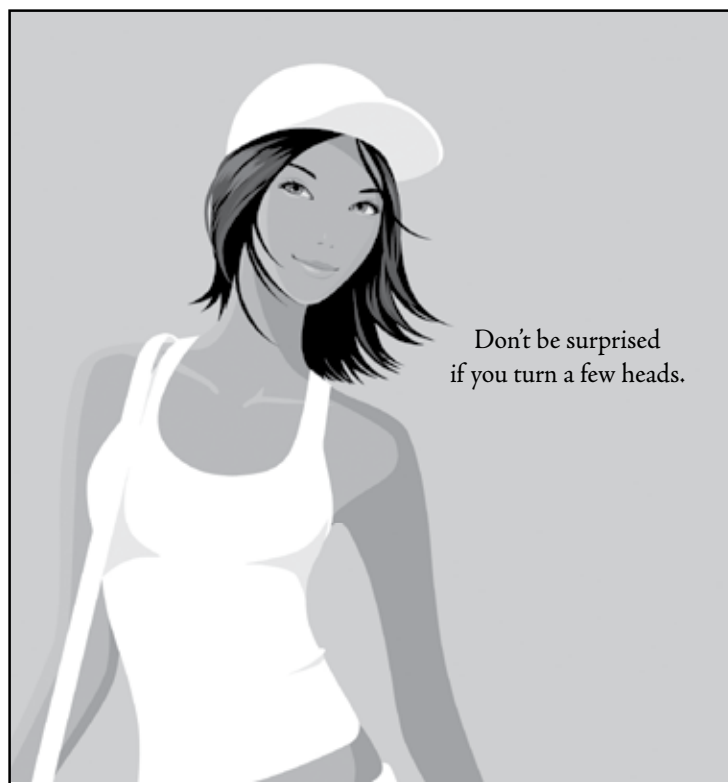
Tickets are on sale in Sarratt and outside of Rand for \$5 on the card. ■

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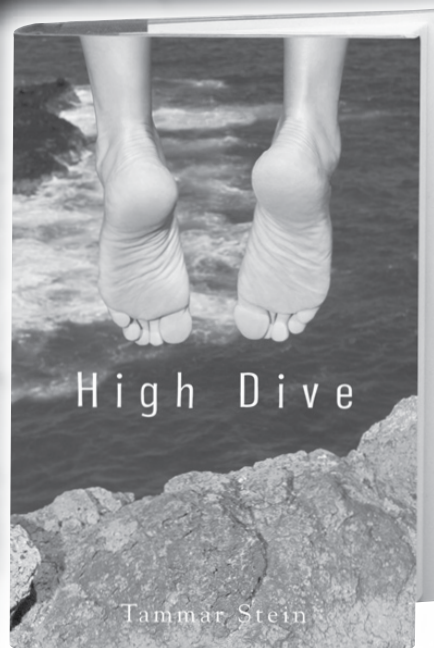
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# OPINION

## Why do fraternities go on probation?



**JUSTIN POYTHRESS**  
Columnist

After these first couple weeks of wild, aimless, drunken debauchery, freshmen are now beginning to figure out which house is owned by which Greek organization, and so should now be aware that the large building with a steeple usually does not host large keg parties (I'm steering clear of the cheap communion jokes). This is also about the time fraternities start going on probation, many already having suffered disciplinary action of some sort.

There is really one surefire way this happens. Next time you hear of a house put on probation, this is how it occurred: emergency room visits. They all start out innocently enough, with two freshmen who never drank in high school challenging each other to see who can finish their handle of Smirnoff Lime first. Following this, the two celebrate their achievement by shotgunning some Natty Light. At this point, the lucky one spends the remainder of the night consulting the nearest toilet bowl while hallmates alternately try to encourage the victim with water or Sharpie him with lewd drawings. This still leaves our other heroic partier, who is now off to a wild night on the frats, most likely wandering by himself for half an hour before arriving at another party.

The freshman is then distractedly served a Solo cup of beer by a frat brother who is eager to return to impressing that giggly and slightly awkward-looking group of freshmen girls. From this stage, it is merely a question of when and where the collapse occurs. What is not unknown is the admirably prompt response of Vanderbilt staff and rent-a-cops and the line of questioning beamed at the half-conscious freshmen who then reveals that he has been drinking at said fraternity. After a night in the emergency room and a number of awkward conversations with their parents, who must pay the bill, the freshman returns to the same fraternity next week only to find to his shock and dismay that the organization is on probation!

Incidentally, this coincides with an incredulous level of arbitrary and unwise school policy. No matter how many hours VUceptees spend hearing about school policy or alcohol statistics and being bullied into signing pledges, freshmen are still going to drink. It's what they do. It's like trying to stop Oprah from being a pretentious, self-appointed, global savior who spouts a meaningless stream of political correctness.

I don't blame the Vanderbilt welcoming crew for warning freshmen to be safe, exercise discretion and understand the rules and individual responsibility. I do blame them for trying to extend their "support" of the underclassmen by bringing down the hammer on the fraternities drunken and incoherent freshmen happen to stumble into. It is not the fault of the fraternity that these foolish young students have no self-control or discretion. On top of that, if you've ever been to a fraternity party, you know that there is no possible way to intake enough alcohol solely at one location to warrant a hospital visit. It is usually a compilation of an early start and party hopping. In conclusion, my advice is as follows: If you are ever intensively questioned, rely on your memory loss, or at least claim you received all alcohol from Habitat for Humanity or the BCM.

— Justin Poythress is a senior in Peabody College. He can be reached at [j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu).

### EDITORIAL

## VSG election does not count

This school year's first installment of what should prove to be a long string of meaningless Vanderbilt Student Government elections hit most undergraduate students unknowingly on Tuesday.

The election of the VSG House of Commons house vice-presidents and secretaries, and upperclassman area representatives and hall presidents seemed to come from nowhere. After the undergraduate community received an e-mail from VSG President Joseph Williams, most students probably did what is normally done in these situations: toss the e-mail in the trash can.

Granted, the new freshmen voted at 54 percent, but the apathy is apparent in the upperclassmen trends, where 27 percent of sophomores, 21 percent of juniors and 18 percent of seniors voted. The percentages for national elections are worse, but there's a clear indication here that voter turnout is getting worse each year.

Those who did follow through with their democratic duty joined a minority of students who find it necessary to vote for their representative. These elected officials are supposed to represent based on the partially arbitrary student distribution in residence halls.

The duties of House members, as outlined in Section III of Article VI of the VSG Constitution, are to "represent the interests of the student body," and to "voice student concerns regarding residence life," (not exactly the most quantifiable of duties). Most important, however, is the duty that the House must "vote on all resolutions" presented to it.

What sort of resolutions has the House voted on in the past? Last year, the House voted on resolutions on everything from ending the highly unsuccessful Dorewalks program to approving the \$100,000 budget. Since that budget is funded by student fees, the sorts of issues that pass through this body are of high importance to students at Vanderbilt.

Or are they? Voting for VSG representatives is not a high priority for students, perhaps because most students don't see a need to vote for an inconsequential organization. There's no sense of urgency among the student body about voting, and based on the efforts (or lack thereof) to promote this election, there seems to be no sense of urgency among VSG either.

The campaign season was brief, stretching from Friday afternoon to Tuesday's election, when candidates were permitted to campaign. Additional publicizing of the election was done via the perfunctory e-mail sent out by Williams.

Did VSG want students to vote in this election? Either the sparse participation indicates that students do not believe voting is worth their time, or VSG did not publicize this assumedly important election enough. Either way, VSG is not meeting the organization's objective to "empower the undergraduate student body."

Rather than present themselves as a representative organization with a need to have sham elections, perhaps VSG should streamline the process by allowing a smaller group of elected officials appoint their staff. Disinterested students would probably not know the difference.

## A Quake ticket fiasco

To the Editor:

I don't fancy myself a complainer, I really don't. However, a certain repeated action by the Vanderbilt Programming Board, as well as by the Music Group, has befuddled me a bit.

Let me begin by saying I am a huge Lupe Fiasco fan. Huge. Really. And when it was announced he would be opening for Lil' Wayne (who I was already quite excited to see) it pretty much settled what I would be doing on Oct. 23: getting to Memorial early so that I could catch, back-to-back, a pair of the best lyricists alive. What I didn't think was that I would also be setting aside another time: this coming Friday morning to wait for tickets.

Now I am not above waiting for tickets to see an artist I particularly enjoy; in fact, I think it's quite fun. Waiting in line with a group of equally excited strangers for something (be it concert tickets or an iPhone) is an experience all people should enjoy.

Rather, my question is this: If the intended market for these seats is comprised of students, why would they go on sale during a time most students have class? Now I am sure there are a million reasons VPB could give as to why (Ticketmaster restrictions, when they could get the staff); however, it still is beyond me why they

would place it at such a time.

I do recognize there is no time that will work for all students. There are too many clubs, jobs and personal commitments in all of our lives. Also, the argument could be made that the tickets go on sale at 10 a.m., and people will be out and on their way to class; however, as many people may recall from last year's ticket line, the promise of a certain starting time by no means indicates when the tickets will actually make it into the hands of the people in line.

Maybe I am just too cynical about the whole thing, and maybe my not wanting to miss a class is not a common feeling among my fellow students. Even so, it seems more than counterintuitive for an entity of the university not only to endorse, but to promote ("Ticket Sale Event") missing class, the very reason we pay to come here.

I am sure it is too late for this year's plans to be changed, but maybe in upcoming years, members of VBP will remember that we all did not come to Vanderbilt so we would have to choose between an getting an education and having a good time. I think we should keep it that way.

**Michael Accavitti**  
Arts and Science, junior

## An end to tailgating

To the Editor:

Remember the celebrated music and football-filled days of tailgating in the fields and parking lots right next to the football stadium? On a Saturday fall afternoon, Commodore students, fans and alumni would share in this longstanding tradition and show their support for the black and gold. Long before the football players stepped foot on to Dudley Field, the festivities of game day would be in full force. Vanderbilt students would pack the various lots behind the stadium waiting for kick off. As the opposing team supporters drove by, we showed them that Vanderbilt's school spirit can and does shadow larger Southeastern Conference schools.

Now students are not allowed in these memory-filled fields. Only parents, alumni and "older" fans are permitted there. Vandy students have been sent to their respective domains, speakers, beverages and grills in hand. The small area that

comprises Greek Row is the only place where tailgating can now take place. Essentially, the school's own students have to cut back on pre-game activities that support our Dores. Doesn't something seem wrong here? On Sept. 4, as I drove down Blakemore, I thought I was at the University of South Carolina. USC tailgaters lined the streets that were previously dominated by Vandy fanatics. Vanderbilt students could be seen sporadically scattered across campus. The black and gold camaraderie was not in full force as in previous years. Why hinder fun and school spirit just to get rid of open drinking, only to have it relocated to areas farther away from the stadium? This issue seemed to be handled in such an abrupt fashion, without student input. Tailgating is a staple on Vanderbilt's campus; we should not be denied this notable tradition.

**Dixon McDonald**  
Arts and Science, sophomore

## We need Obama



**SOO-RYUM YANG**  
Columnist

We get it, Sarah Palin. You like to eat the moose you wrestled with your bare hands. You have a lifetime NRA membership that won't expire until the Second Amendment is nullified. You have been an active mayor of Wasilla, the capital of small town America, and you served as a governor for a state with population of metro Nashville. You refuse to be politically correct about evolution or global warming. You have children, nephews and neighbors, and even maybe distant friends who will enlist in the military. (USA! USA! USA!)

Without a doubt, she is a good ole' bluish-collar, working-class, American patriot and she should be proud of her humble, small-town narrative. However, there is no need to accuse Barack Obama of elitism in order to appear as the more gun-loving, God-loving candidate. Yet, ever since his "religions and guns" faux pas, Palin and the rest of the Republican spin machine have been tirelessly polishing Obama's image as the disengaged, anti-American socialite.

Calling Obama an elitist is like calling George W. Bush your ordinary, average-Joe from Texas. Both could not be farther from the truth. Most know about Obama's underprivileged upbringing, how his struggling family had to resort to food stamps to endure rising food costs, how his single mother would tutor him at four in the morning so he could compete with more privileged students, how he, against all statistical probability, received a merit scholarship to attend a top-notch private school. After graduating from Columbia, he placed country above himself by working as a community organizer in the Chicago's South Side to fix an impoverished neighborhood for an annual salary of \$13,000. Unlike what Palin recently claimed about how community service has no true responsibilities, Obama had to make sure the government provided low-income residents with asbestos-free public housing. He also worked to unionize a group of workers whose careers have been lost after local steel plants were closed. He was involved in the day-to-day tasks of organizing demonstrations and rallies, holding conferences in local churches and schools, recruiting more workers and volunteers, planning for future initiatives and existing projects, etc. If those are not real responsibilities, then I want to know what they are.

Yes, in Obama's narrative, you don't hear stories of Vietnam War camps or the Alaskan wilderness, but those of Indonesia and Hawaii. You hear about his ascent through hard work and personality, his search for self-identity and belonging in a changing world, his experience working for those in the South Side, and his sick mother with inadequate healthcare. It is true he attended Harvard Law School, that he taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago and that celebrities as well as Europeans love him for his new vision for America. But, why should we frown upon that and call him elitist for having those admirable assets and experiences? We want a president who is highly educated, who truly understands our Constitution and who can build a working coalition at home and abroad. But in these difficult times, we also need a president who has struggled with student loans and healthcare. We need someone who fought in the frontlines for the jobless and homeless. We need a leader who values faith of inclusion and peace, and who loves his family at home and the larger family that is America. We need Obama. We need Barry.

— SooYang is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at [soo.ryang@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:soo.ryang@vanderbilt.edu).

### OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments, arguments in bad faith or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in the Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to [opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com](mailto:opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com). Letters via e-mail must come from

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of the Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which the Hustler is a division.

### CORRECTION POLICY

Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at [editor@vanderbilthustler.com](mailto:editor@vanderbilthustler.com). You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Your voice doesn't stop here. The Vanderbilt Hustler encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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09/8/08 SOLUTIONS

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## VANDERBILT POLITICAL REVIEW

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**THEME:**  
**ELECTION 2008**

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### CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Kind of hog or block
  - Coop calls
  - Operatic voice
  - Hybrid fruit
  - Temporary money
  - Make a lasting impression?
  - Dog's bane
  - More chilly
  - Expensive
  - Senses
  - Fill with delight
  - Famed British school
  - Like a zebra
  - School kids
  - Coll. period
  - Roller coaster unit
  - Earn
  - Bosc and Anjou
  - Like the Sahara
  - Tendon
  - Winter coat?
  - Mooring area
  - Made well
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  - Bones in forearms
  - Unit of mass, briefly
  - Swiss painter Paul
  - Course taken
  - Eye diaphragm
  - TV units
  - Cromwell's earldom
  - Relaxation
- DOWN**
- Use a trump
  - Lecher's look
  - Sheltered
  - Touch-toned?
  - Trident-shaped letter
  - Quirky
  - Actress Gray
  - Boardwalk extensions
  - Jack and his spouse
  - When tots are tucked in
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  - Put to flight
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9/10/08

9/8/08 SOLUTIONS

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OHM	SAGE	DEEPEN	
LOAFERS	VANE		
ELDEST	CERAMICS		
DYERS	POT	SADLY	
	NOMINEE	NEON	
LEI	RATT	TRAP	AGE
AMOS	THEATRE		
SITUP	INN	ELLIS	
STAGESET	BASEST		
	GEAR	DECEASE	
LABELS	DASH	SUE	
ABUSES	RITE	EEL	
SENTRY	USSR	SDS	

- Magazine displays
- Pierre's school
- Two quartets combined
- Farm outbuildings
- Fateful burden
- Former Italian bread
- Yale grads
- Apothecary measure
- Male or female

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- Tuesday, September 23, 5 p.m.**  
Sarratt Student Center, Room 325
- Wednesday, September 24, 7 p.m.**  
Sarratt Student Center, Room 363

You can also sign up on our Web site: [www.vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund). Sign-up deadline is September 30.

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# SPORTS

# USC will beat Ohio State

## GOOD CALL

## BAD CALL



USC Sports Information

USC quarterback Mark Sanchez assuaged any doubts that his August knee injury would affect his play against Virginia, throwing for 338 yards and three touchdowns. Sanchez faces a sterner test this week in Ohio State.

by DAVID SHOCHAT  
Sports Contributor

While the University of Southern California started the season as the third-best team in the nation behind Georgia and Ohio State, their complete dominance of a University of Virginia team that won nine games last season left little doubt in anyone's mind that the Trojans are the team to beat for the national title this year.

The No. 1 Trojans will face their toughest test of the season this weekend when No. 5 Ohio State visits the Coliseum. While many have deemed this game as the regular season game of the year, Ohio State's performance last weekend against a below-average Ohio team left a lot to be desired. Thus, it is safe to say USC will have little trouble beating an overrated Ohio State team.

While star running back Beanie Wells will be ready to play this weekend after being out last weekend with a foot injury, it will not make much of a difference. While having Wells in the game makes Ohio State a noticeably better team, USC's defense and especially its front seven are arguably the best in the nation, anchored by 6-foot-2-inch, 260-pound linebacker Rey Mauluga, 6-foot-3-inch, 255-pound linebacker Ryan Cushing and 6-foot-5-inch, 295-pound defensive tackle Fili Moala. The Trojans' strong defense is experienced and extremely fast for its size. Look for Ohio State's quarterback Todd Boeckman to be running for his life, as USC Coach Pete Carroll routinely blitzes with his big, fast linebackers.

On offense, the big question mark going into the season was how would

Mark Sanchez handle being the starting quarterback? Even with an injured knee, Sanchez put on a brilliant showing against Virginia as he passed for 338 yards and three touchdowns. Also, USC is so loaded at wide receiver and running back that Sanchez does not have to win the game by himself. The Trojans go at least four deep with little drop-off at the running back position with C.J. Gable, Joe McKnight, Stafon Johnson and Allen Bradford. At receiver, the Trojans are led by Patrick Turner, Damien Williams, speedster Ronald Johnson and Vidal Hazelton.

Besides USC's great talent, there are a few other greater factors that will help them win on Saturday, since Ohio State does have a good deal of talent itself.

The Trojans play at home where they have only lost once in the past seven years under Pete Carroll. Furthermore, USC had last week off to rest for Ohio State, which should not be understated in a game that is sure to be physical. This extra preparation exaggerates the coaching advantage USC has over Ohio State. Jim Tressel is a phenomenal coach, but the Trojans' Carroll is the best college football coach in the nation. Carroll is 77-14 at USC, the best winning percentage in college football for a coach with at least five years experience. Carroll also led USC to a national record of 33 straight weeks as AP's No. 1 ranked team and USC became the first college football team to achieve six straight 11-win seasons.

Ohio State has too many chips stacked against them to pull off the victory, and USC will be rolling through the Pac-10 after they win this weekend on their road to the national championship. ■



JIM DAVIDSON / the-Ozone.net

Running back Beanie Wells, who injured his foot in week one, will play against the Trojans. The Buckeyes are counting on the junior to power an offense that struggled without him in a lackluster 26-14 win over Ohio.

by PETER LETARTE  
Sports Contributor

The Buckeyes come into Saturday's match up with a definite chip on their shoulders. Despite being ranked fifth this week in the AP Top 25, Ohio State has scores of doubters across the nation. Ohio State will use the words of these doubters to motivate them this week as they look forward to Saturday's game in Los Angeles. Ohio University used this very same motivation this past weekend when they gave the Buckeyes a run for their money in a game many critics pointed to as a sign of the Buckeyes' weaknesses, but it was merely a reminder of the power emotions and drive can have in affecting the outcome of a game. Ohio State will look for those very factors to come into play this Saturday against USC.

Crucial to Ohio State's drive to win this Saturday will be their defense. USC quarterback Mark Sanchez has already expressed his concern about the fierce Ohio State defense led by Butkus Award hopeful James Laurinaitis. The entire defense will be playing the disrespect card in getting revved up for the game this weekend, and as a result their play will be nasty and tenacious against Sanchez and company. In all likelihood, this barrage will catch the Trojan offense off-guard. To date, USC has only been pitted up against an unproven Virginia team, and are rusty coming off of a bye week. Their offensive line specifically has not yet seen talent anywhere near the caliber that Ohio State will bring to the table on Saturday.

Similarly, USC boasts that its defensive prowess will tip the boat in their favor this weekend. Ohio State, however, will bring its three-headed monster into Los Angeles this weekend to combat the ravaging Trojan defense. Three crucial players will need to perform for the Buckeyes to prevail. Beanie Wells — that's right, he's back — will lead the charge for the Buckeyes. The Heisman hopeful had 111 yards and a touchdown in week one before going down with a foot injury but will be back in full force for this Saturday's game.

The final two components the Buckeyes will be relying on heavily will be quarterbacks Todd Boeckman and Terrelle Pryor. Boeckman is a solid quarterback that will lead Ohio State's potent passing attack, but it is the added threat, Pryor, who could be the X-factor. Running quarterbacks have historically given USC defenses problems. Dennis Dixon of Oregon orchestrated an upset victory over the Trojans last year with his fleet feet, and we all remember several years ago when Vince Young made the Trojans look pedestrian as he ran all over them in the National Championship game. While Pryor is not yet at the level of those two, depending on how Coach Jim Tressel uses him, he could give USC's defense fits.

It is obvious the talent for both teams is there, but when Buckeyes come rumbling into Los Angeles this weekend with an attitude and intensity that USC has not seen in a while, the Trojans will be taken completely off guard. ■

### SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by Eric Silver

	<b>1. Florida</b> <b>2-0 (0-0 SEC)</b> Miami who? Tim Tebow and the Gators defeated the 'Canes for the first time in 23 years to claim the top spot in our power rankings over the (relatively) struggling ...
	<b>2. Georgia</b> <b>2-0 (0-0)</b> OK, struggling may be an exaggeration, especially when the Dawgs have arguably the best rusher in the country, Knowshon Moreno., who tore up Central Michigan for 168 yards and three touchdowns.
	<b>3. LSU</b> <b>1-0 (0-0)</b> After a drubbing of giant-killer Appalachian State and a week off due to Hurricane Gustav, the Tigers shift their focus to the winless Mean Green of North Texas. Bet on the spread only if it is over 70.
	<b>4. Auburn</b> <b>2-0 (0-0)</b> While many Tiger fans may want standout sophomore Kodi Burns to play QB, starter Chris Todd hasn't been too shabby, having passed for 318 yards and completing 61 percent of his passes in his first two games.
	<b>5. Alabama</b> <b>2-0 (0-0)</b> Maybe a \$4 million a year coach does pay off. Bama is ranked No. 11 in the country and playing Western Kentucky this week. If only this were basketball, Hilltopper fans.
	<b>6. Vanderbilt</b> <b>2-0 (1-0)</b> First place in the SEC! Say what you want, but the 2008 version of the Commodores is legit. Last Thursday's win over South Carolina was no fluke.
	<b>7. Ole Miss</b> <b>1-1 (0-0)</b> Close, but no cigar. The Rebels have to put their heartbreaking last-second loss at Wake Forest behind them and focus on Samford.
	<b>8. Kentucky</b> <b>2-0 (0-0)</b> Ever heard of Derrick Locke? Yeah, he's the guy who carried 96 yards on five carries last week. We'll see if he can even come close to repeating that beastly performance against MTSU on Saturday.
	<b>9. South Carolina</b> <b>1-1 (0-1)</b> Losing to Vandy for the second straight time may have shut their fans up. A drubbing at the hands of Georgia on Saturday may render them mute.
	<b>10. Tennessee</b> <b>0-1 (0-0)</b> A bye week has given the Vols plenty of time to stew over their ugly loss to UCLA. UAB, their next opponent, better watch out.
	<b>11. Mississippi State</b> <b>1-1 (0-0)</b> Well, at least Sly Croom and company can say their only loss of the season to date was against the second best football team in Louisiana. It's doubtful their next opponent, Auburn, particularly cares.
	<b>12. Arkansas</b> <b>2-0 (0-0)</b> How do you go 2-0 and still get ranked last in a conference? Beat Western Illinois and Louisiana-Monroe by a combined 5 points, that's how!

# New turf field for club sports to debut next week

by DAVID RUTZ  
Sports Specialist

The Vanderbilt Office of Campus Recreation has announced its new state-of-the-art field, called Natchez Trace Turf Field, will begin to be used by Vanderbilt's club teams starting late next week.

Vanderbilt Director of Campus Recreation Sam Hirt, who has been with the school for 45 years, is excited about the possibilities that the new turf field presents for Vanderbilt's students.

"There's not too many fields in America where you can go and find the quality of lighting that we have, the security that

we have," said Hirt. "I think you could close your eyes, walk onto the field and then go down and walk on (Capers Field West), and it'd be hard to tell which was which."

The field is an enormous 108,000 square feet, making it one of the largest of its kind in the country, and will be used by Aussie football, field hockey, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's ultimate Frisbee, rugby and men's and women's soccer club teams.

The field uses a type of AstroTurf called GameDay Grass XPe, a natural-looking turf that can withstand the wear-and-tear the other grass fields Vanderbilt

uses for its club sports cannot handle. The turf has tufted construction that enhances its durability.

"The turf's going to help us in bad weather," Hirt said. "We know we can play, we don't have to worry about destroying the field. One rugby game in bad weather can destroy the (old) field."

Along with the new turf, the field features advanced lighting, a pavilion, a new shed and bleachers. All told, the cost of the field was a little over a million dollars.

Although other universities have similar athletic fields, Natchez Trace Turf Field is

unique in that it is reserved for Vanderbilt's non-varsity athletes when other schools give priority for such a facility to its varsity teams.

The Sport Club Field by 25th Avenue will now be a "catch-all" field all students will be able to use at their leisure, and its neighbor, Capers Field West, will now be used by some sports clubs and the Spirit of Gold band for practice.

With the growth in sports clubs at Vanderbilt, the original fields designated for their use were being overused.

"Over the years, we were just wearing those (fields) to death," Hirt said. "Then it becomes a

liability, dangerous, and we can't repair them in the summer because of the time frame needed and some of the clubs now stay all year long."

Since 1988, when Vanderbilt students passed the largest referendum in America for an expansion in school recreational facilities, the student activity fees have paved the way for 2,000 square feet to be added to the weight room, a new \$800,000 outdoor recreation center, new lights and now the new turf field.

"This is for the students," Hirt said. "I'm going to do all I can to protect it for the students. This will be a wonderful addition." ■



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# Versus

Entertainment & Culture at Vanderbilt

SEPTEMBER 10—SEPTEMBER 16, 2008 № 15



## Beegie Adair

The rock band is bringing its college-inspired tunes to Nashville. Maybe the guys will make some 'Love and Memories' while they're here ...

Quake's artists are shaking things up, and we've got some music you should be listening to on pages 4 and 5.

Are bikes on campus pissing you off, too? Your champion is on page 7.

Do you like haiku? So do we; they're on page 3. Get your fill, homies.

## PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

**Galway's Magic Flute — Nashville Symphony**  
James Galway is showcasing two French masterpieces (Jacques Ibert's "Concerto" and Georges Bizet's "Carmen Fantasy") for your listening or dancing pleasure — no judgments. If you can afford the admission, you should check out this fantastic flute. (\$35, 7 p.m.)

**Eric Wilson and The Empty Hearts — 3rd and Lindsley**  
As part of the Next BIG Nashville 2008 festival, 3rd and Lindsley is hosting Eric Wilson and the Empty Hearts, Wess Floyd and the Daisycutters. If you want to catch the up-and-coming artists of the Nashville area, you can't miss this. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at door, 8 p.m.)

**Beegie Adair — F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar**  
F. Scott's has always been THE place to catch jazz in Nashville, but it hasn't seen an act like Beegie Adair in a while. She's a virtuosic musician who's bringing her own brand of jazz. (Free, 7 p.m.)

**Charlie Cushman and Friends — Station Inn**  
Who doesn't like banjo music? Charlie Cushman is one of the best in the business (he's played with Vince Gill, Merle Haggard, Bill Monroe, etc.) and he and his friends are putting on a little shindig to play some music. You need to go to this. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

**November — The Mercy Lounge**  
A continuation of the Next BIG Nashville festival, The Mercy Lounge is hosting acts like Gone City, Parachute Musical, Mother Father and November. Hear today what will be on the radio tomorrow. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door, 8 p.m.)

**Lylas and Quote — Douglas Corner Cafe**  
Next BIG Nashville is kind of a big deal, if you haven't figured that out so far. Douglas Corner Cafe will be hosting Levi Weaver, Aron Wright, Emily DeLoach, Lylas and Quote. (\$35 advance, \$45 at the door, 8 p.m.)

**Good Souls — Sambuca**  
This band has made quite a name for themselves in just one year of gigging around Nashville. They're about to release their debut album and are hitting it big on the stations in town. Come check out the new kids on the Americana block. (Free, 7 p.m., 601 12th Ave. South)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

**AutoVaughn and Superdrag — The Cannery Ballroom**  
SXSW performers AutoVaughn are known for their lively, crowd-pleasing shows. They are joined by refreshingly retro '90s favorites Superdrag, who recently reunited to tour after a four-year hiatus. Show openers include Paper Route, Magic Wands and Cortney Tidwell. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door, 8 p.m.)

**Space Capone and Jeremy Lister — Mercy Lounge**  
Former Rites of Spring performer Jeremy Lister, recently featured on MTV's "The Hills," opens for soulful R&B crooner Space Capone as a part of BMI's Next BIG Nashville music festival weekend. Other performers include Ricky Young, The Bridges and The Lonely Hearts. (\$35 advance, \$45 at the door, 8 p.m.)

**The Mother Truckers — Douglas Corner Cafe**  
Americana rockers The Mother Truckers hit the Douglas Corner Cafe for a night of raucous rock 'n' roll. The Austin, Texas, band bring together the best of classic rock, country and blues to form an unforgettable sound and show. (Cover TBA, 9 p.m.)

**Stephaniesid, Biscuits N' Gravy, H-Beam and The Running — Limelight Nashville**  
A host of indie and rock artists (including former Rites of Spring performer H-Beam) come together at Limelight Nashville for another part of the Next BIG Nashville. Headliner Stephaniesid, who performed at this year's Bonnaroo music festival, cites diverse influences, including Radiohead and Bjork. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door, 8:45 p.m.)

**Dixie Whiskey, Roman Candle, and Neva Geoffrey — The Basement**  
Local country/rock band Dixie Whiskey are joined by the ethereal indie artist Neva Geoffrey and Pitchfork Media-acclaimed Roman Candle at The Basement. Another segment of this weekend's Next BIG Nashville. The Basement also features up-and-comers The Champion and His Burning Flame and Sara Siskind. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door, times TBA)

**Umbrella Tree, Heypenny, Tallest Trees and more — The Rutledge**  
Next BIG Nashville takes over The Rutledge to bring in up-and-coming artists Umbrella Tree, Heypenny and Tallest Trees. Progressive indie headliners Umbrella Tree will also be performing at Cincinnati's famous Midpoint music festival. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door, 8 p.m.)

**Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers with the Gabe Dixon Band — The Belcourt Theatre**  
Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers are joined by special guests The Gabe Dixon Band for an Outback Concerts-presented performance at Nashville's historic Belcourt Theatre. The authentic and honest American rock sound offered by both artists is sure to please any rock fan. (\$16.50, doors open at 8 p.m.)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

**JBuzzfest — Downtown Nashville**  
The Buzz 102.9 is at it again with their annual Buzzfest. This year this concert includes Seether, Shinedown, Saving Abel, 10 years, Lovers + Liars, After Elvis, American Bang and Black Stone Cherry. (\$29, 1 p.m.)

**Doorpost Film Festival — The Belcourt Theatre**  
The inaugural festival ends its run tonight after a well-funded online project offered 15 aspiring filmmakers worldwide \$10,000 to create a short film with the theme of hope — no gimmicks. The winner (selected by online voters) gets \$100,000. (7:30 p.m., price TBA, 2102 Belcourt Ave.)

**Hip-Hop Night with E.T. — Cafe Coco**  
This weekly showcase of touring rappers will be a good time complete with break dancing and fresh new beats. (Free, 11 p.m.)

**Coral Castles — Exit/In**  
Next BIG Nashville Showcase is still going strong, and Exit/In is hosting a variety of artists including Coral Castles, The Privates, The Howlies, Ghostfinger, Evil Bebos and How I Became The Bomb. There are bands for every taste at this show, so come out and enjoy. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door, 7 p.m.)

**MONA — Mercy Lounge**  
Where can you find a concert that showcases a honky-tonker, indie rockers, pop sensation and a rock hybrid? Next BIG Nashville, of course. Mercy Lounge is featuring Cary Ann Hearst, Courtney Jaye, Modoc, Erin McCarley and MONA as part of the city-wide music festival. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door, 8 p.m.)

**Harley Allen Band — Station Inn**  
Come on out to see the country sensation who has influenced everyone from Garth Brooks to Don Williams. Allen will play the hits that have made him famous at this legendary concert. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

**Pico vs. Island Trees — 12th and Porter**  
What festival is bringing five up-and-comers to display their music to Nashville and has been mentioned multiple times so far? That's right, the Next BIG Nashville, and this time Alva Leight, Tommy and The Whale, Meghan Kabir, OBLO and Pico vs. Island Trees are putting a fresh new spin on the festival. (\$35 in advance, \$45 at the door, 8 p.m.)

### The Regulars

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410 Fourth Ave. S. 37201  
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**MERCY LOUNGE/CANNERY BALLROOM**  
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251-3020

**BLUEBIRD CAFE**  
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383-1461

**EXIT/IN**  
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321-3340

**STATION INN**  
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**THE BASEMENT**  
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**F. SCOTT'S RESTAURANT AND JAZZ BAR**  
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# Versus

SEPTEMBER 10—SEPTEMBER 16, 2008 N° 15

## Versus Magazine

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## FROM THE EDITOR



So they say that good things come in threes. I find myself to be an avid believer in things that “they” say (though not so much those things “that she said,” as I don’t have a great interest in sexual innuendos) and thus, I find myself anxiously anticipating our next sign of good luck.

The bouts of good fortune that we, the Vandy community, have thus far received are clearly the announcement of Lil’ Wayne as the Quake headliner and the football upset of the century against South Carolina. And while Lil’ Wayne may or may not be your ingenious-yet-vulgar cup of tea, I think we can all appreciate that The Music Group has delivered (yet again) in bringing a huge presence on the music scene to campus. And I don’t feel that I need to say anything about our victory at Dudley. Vandy, Vandy, oh hell yeah.

So what’s next for us? Fro yo on meal plan? Justice at the bookstore? A definitive answer to how many licks it takes to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop? The world may never know. We’ll wait with bated breath. In the meantime, this issue of Versus is pretty bomb. We talked to Benj from O.A.R., one of the most revered bands of our generation. Man, he coo. Musically speaking, we also spotlight Lupe Fiasco and Weezy, review some great movies (and some abysmal ones) and the new and inspiring Music on the Commons project.

And if you haven’t caught a glimpse of our back page, you may be pleased to know that the Versus staff has also been outside studying the stars for our extremely scientific and accurate horoscopes. Sorry, Scorpio. It’s just not lookin’ good.

Darcy Newell

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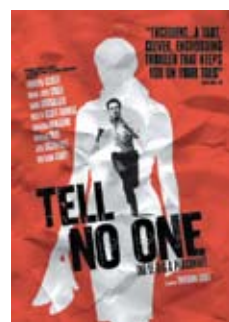
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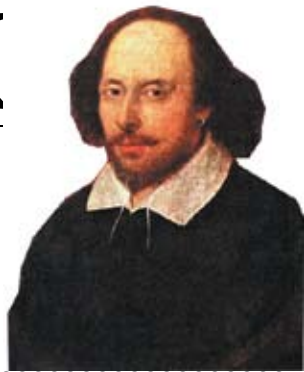
## PIC OF THE WEEK



“FOR THE LOVE OF COASTERS” AMELIA SPINNEY

## FICTION

“TO DO A GREAT RIGHT, DO A LITTLE WRONG.” — SHAKESPEARE



## Commute

DARCY NEWELL  
Editor in Chief

As I cross 10th Avenue and head back toward our apartment the thought that I am thinking is that I want to see the world with you. I don’t mean I want to go to Europe with you and carry our belongings on our backs, take photos in front of the Coliseum and get robbed on a sleeper train heading to the south of France. What I mean to say is I want you here with me, all the time. I want to solve confusing billboards with you and look at Prix Fix menus with you and point to the man next to me who is, right now, twirling his rat tail and pulling it over one of his ears with one hand while he holds a woman’s hand in the other. I want you here because you’d have something to say about it, and so would I. But I’ll tell you about it tonight, while I make our chicken.

I laugh about your weatherman joke as I wait for a bus to turn onto 49th Street. I’m laughing as I’m walking and people look at me like I’m laughing at them, but I’m not, I’m laughing at that thing you said and how perfectly you said it. And it’s been a whole week since you’ve been gone on business. I’ve missed you.

I fumble with the oblong brass key that opens the door downstairs, and I’m smoothing my hair and my skirt, even though you’ve seen me like this, Corporate Exhausted, you call it, three hundred times. But I care, so I smooth, and I smile again.

I open the door and I know. It’s nothing I expected or even suspected, but it’s a feeling, or a sense, or a lack of your smell, and it comes at me like the thickest fog. I keep going, and it’s true, because your drawers are empty and there is a note on the coffee table. And I turn to leave again, and the thought I am thinking is that I wanted to see the world with you.

### HAIKUS

## Words to live by in seventeen syllables

“Not so cocky now”  
The greatest headline ever?  
I’m impressed, Hustler.

Is it ironic  
That a campaign based on change  
Never does new things?

## 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:** I was in my dorm room, only things were a little different. It had a fireplace and my man friend and I were sitting on the hearth. My friend was trying to get us to hook up, and for some reason she tried to do it with a Clue murder mystery game. Think Agatha Christie’s “And Then There Were None,” with couples getting killed off until it was supposed to be just me and the boy. I woke up when somehow the room flooded and there were four of us left. I’m so confused.

### Why you’re crazy:

All right, a surprisingly straightforward dream. I’m thinking you’ve recently developed a crush and that you’re pumped for this relationship because you think you two would make a super couple. The fireplace is there, but you’re missing the hot fiery passion of romance. You two are surviving while others are falling by the wayside — get it? You’re surviving the mass slaughter of romantic couples due to how good a match you two are. The water — I have no idea. Maybe you needed to use the bathroom. Best, Dream Doctor

## Versus Madlibs

My first Thursday tailgate was \_\_\_\_\_. I got all dressed up in my \_\_\_\_\_, had some \_\_\_\_\_ with friends and made my way over to Dudley Field. The game was \_\_\_\_\_ because we \_\_\_\_\_ so many times. Afterwards we just had to \_\_\_\_\_, which was \_\_\_\_\_. Class on Friday was \_\_\_\_\_, but it was definitely worth it!



“OUT OF THE FRYING PAN” AMELIA SPINNEY



# ENTERTAINMENT

## MOVIES

# The sweet recipe of 'Bottle Shock'

CHRIS GEARING  
Features Editor

A movie about wine? In California? Really? I thought we covered this topic with "Sideways" a few years ago. Paul Giamatti and Thomas Hayden Church already did all they could for that idea, or so I thought. Then I went and caught "Bottle Shock," an independent gem, on the big screen.

Our tale is based on the story of the epic "Judgment of Paris" in 1976. Everybody back then knew that quality wine came from France. It had always been that way, and it always would be that way, right? "Bottle Shock" begins when a lonely American in Paris informs his connoisseur friend that California wines are starting to attract some real attention. Skeptically, this snooty wine critic (played by the legendary Alan Rickman) takes a trip to California in order to gather some competition for a blind taste-test with France's greatest wine experts. He ends up meeting the offbeat California wine makers and samples America's finest wines.

But this offbeat comedy does not focus solely on 1970s wine industry; it also references the age's counterculture and, oddly, the American Dream. A lot of American wine makers had a simple dream to make damn good wine right here in the States. Jim Barrett (Bill Pullman) quit his job as a big-time corporate lawyer to pursue his dream of making the world's best chardonnay. Jim and his son Bo Barrett (played by the electric Chris Pine) are two of these aforementioned dreamers who produce some of California's finest. I'll leave the plot at that since its intricate twists and turns are just too fun to spoil.

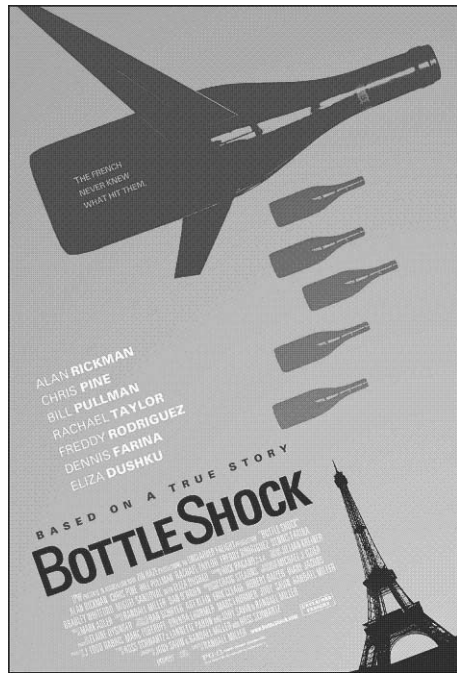
Part of an independent film's fun derives from off-beat casting and unorthodox story-telling methods. Let me first say that the cast is fantastic. Anybody worth their salt knows that Freddy Rodriguez (who plays an assistant at the Barrett winery) is a rising star in Hollywood, but let's not forget Eliza Dushku, Rachael Taylor and a brief cameo by Bradley Whitford (one of my favorite actors). All play their roles

with gravitas and a real sense of who these people were back in the late '70s.

Every character is very flawed but in the same respect very real. Pullman does a great job playing the down-and-out Jim Barrett and brings weight to feeling like a failure (maybe with a twinge of his own fizzled Hollywood career). Rickman is the embodiment of snooty, and unsurprisingly, he does not disappoint in "Bottle Shock." However, the real star of this flick is Pine, who's acted in "Just My Luck" with Lindsay Lohan and played a bit part in the sensational "Smokin' Aces." Pine is a great actor who finally landed a role he could really own. His depiction of the dazed and confused Bo is a real delight, and Pine depicts one of the most touching "quarter-life crises" on film.

"Bottle Shock" is a real independent film and a dark horse candidate for my favorite movie of the summer. The great story and superb casting really make it shine and bring this story of the American dream to life. My advice: decanter it, let it breathe and then drink down the perfect recipe of "Bottle Shock." ☼

"Bottle Shock" is playing at Green Hills.



VERSUS MOVIE RATING: ★★ ★

## MOVIES

# Tell everyone about 'Tell No One'

BEN GRIMWOOD  
Staff Writer

Full of artistic merit and one of the most exciting French films in quite a while, "Tell No One" is a great thrill ride, varying between being as adrenaline-charged as "Run Lola Run" in the chase sequences to being as hide-and-seek suspenseful as "North by Northwest" in others.

In the film, Alexandre Beck (Francois Cluzet) is a pediatrician who has been devastated following the murder of his wife Margot (Marie-Josée Croze) eight years prior. The mysterious circumstances surrounding his survival baffled policemen for years, so when two bodies are discovered near the former location of his wife's corpse, the policemen renew their former suspicions concerning Alex as the prime suspect.

Alex is thrown into a conspiracy involving a series of e-mails hinting at his wife's survival and an enigmatic group of assassins intent on locating her. As the suspicions of the police seem more and more founded on evidence pointing toward Alex, he must go into hiding with the help of others, including his former client, gangster Bruno (Gilles Lellouche), his lawyer, Elisabeth Feldman (Nathalie Baye), his sister, horse trainer Anne (Marina Hands), and her partner, Helene (Kristin Scott Thomas), in order to clear his name by unraveling the mystery surrounding his wife's death.

Cluzet is splendid in the role of the unwitting doctor, inviting viewers with the reality of his acting. (I am still uncertain if his onscreen appeal has anything to do with his uncanny resemblance to Dustin Hoffman.) Nevertheless, in a role such as his, he is perfectly capable in his ability to captivate audiences amidst the suspense that pervades and comprises the film.

Meanwhile, the real surprise of the film is Thomas, an English actress better known for roles in "The English Patient" and "The Horse Whisperer." Being pleasantly surprised that she speaks the French language so well, I realized the broad range of emotions she portrays seems to take little effort as well. If prior roles of hers have not captured the attention of critics already, her effortless talent in this film is arresting.

Because of its frequent, exceptional use of mobile framing, cinematography is certainly worth mentioning. The variations of close-ups and extreme long shots certainly have a modernist appeal. The

editing is also fantastic; one of the best sequences is the montage of the guests in attendance of the "wedding" and "funeral" of Margot, superimposed over each other. This montage has a strong emotional component that stands out in the way it makes happiness and sorrow indistinguishable from one another and helps to streamline the thoughts of Alex as he reflects on his pain.

The story itself is well written, presenting a familiar plot, but this film is new and fresh, touting great direction from Guillaume Canet. Tirelessly suspenseful, the story could have gone on even longer, and I still would have been as riveted as I had been through the first hour and a half or so. On the other hand, after drawing out the suspense so long, the sudden, quick debriefing that organizes the true circumstances of the film ends up being a bit of a convoluted mess in which it is easy to get lost. I recognize that the film is trying hard to remove the facts for most of the film so viewers are lured inward to decipher the film's events themselves, but that final bombardment of all of the film's answers is almost too much and would have done better in paced revelations.

Nevertheless, "Tell No One" is built on an intelligent, calculated puzzle that invites viewers to continue assembling the pieces long after they leave the theater. ☼

"Tell No One" is playing at The Belcourt Theatre.



VERSUS MOVIE RATING: ★★ ★★ ★

## MOVIES

# 'The House Bunny' is no more than a veritable flop

DARCY NEWELL  
Editor in Chief

To preface this review, it's necessary to say that I don't usually have abysmal taste in movies. In fact, I'd like to think that I gravitate toward the good ones, appreciate the "gems" in the decent ones and stay away from the truly terrible ones.

Why, then, you might ask, did I go see Anna Faris' latest, "The House Bunny," especially when there are so many good movies, infinitely better movies, in theaters right now? Hmm. I can't quite be sure. All I know is the line "you — need — a job!" in the trailer somewhat sold me and inspired curiosity and hope that "The House Bunny" could surprise everyone and actually be funny.

"The House Bunny" tells the story of Shelley, a 27-year-old Playboy bunny forced to abruptly leave the mansion and find a real job. She ends up serving as the house mother for Zeta Alpha Zeta, a sorority plagued by low membership, incessant taunting from other Greek houses and the threat of losing their charter. Using her marketable skills

in seduction and style, Shelley is able to make over both the girls and their reputation on campus, while learning a thing or two from these intelligent, albeit misguided, Zetas, who include but are not limited to a mute (who, when she does speak, turns out to have a really terrible British accent), a pregnant girl and a girl in a full-body metal brace.

The movie appeared to have some real, if goofy, comedic promise, due, most likely, to some clever trailer editing and a cast of fresh faces, including Kat Denning, Rumor Willis and Emma Stone from "Superbad." Colin Hanks of "Orange County" fame and Christopher McDonald (the infamous villain Shooter McGavin in "Happy Gilmore") even come out of the woodwork for this one, and the cast of the reality show "Girls Next Door" and Hugh Hefner make several, semi-awkward appearances.

Yet, the host of young stars does little to ameliorate the movie's one central problem; the script just isn't funny. While the movie's trailer showed some excellently timed one-liners, in the actual movie these fleeting funny moments are shrouded in

poor comedic timing and an overload of unrealistic dialogue. It is unrealistic, for example, that at a car wash, a college female would respond to a joke about a wet T-shirt contest by offering "a wet pants contest" and subsequently pour water all over her crotch.

Stone, who might be the wittiest actor in the "The House Bunny," ruins some of her would-be big laughs with excessive babbling that not only makes you embarrassed for her, but also for yourself for being there. Faris gives her role as the dim but lovable Shelley the "old college try," and while some of her lines were surprising, most of them, sadly, followed the tired, slapstick, so-stupid-it-might-be-funny mantra.

By the end of the movie I was mentally exhausted, cursing my poor choice and dying to get out of the theater. And as our movie got out next to the similarly timed "Pineapple Express" showing, whose audience members were basking in the glow of seeing a truly successful comedy, I couldn't help but hang my head in shame. Next time, hopefully, I will know better. ☼



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VERSUS MOVIE RATING: ★



# MUSIC

*"The best music is essentially there to provide you something to face the world with."*

—Bruce Springsteen



## SETLIST

**TODAY**  
**Jim Lauderdale** is bringing his signature sound to Station Inn and is sure to play songs that have made him famous. If you like country and bluegrass, this is the place to be. The show starts at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$10.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**  
**James Galway** plays a mean flute, and he's showcasing two French masterpieces (Jacques Ibert's "Concerto" and Georges Bizet's "Carmen Fantasy") for your listening or dancing pleasure — no judgments. If you can afford the admission (tickets start at \$35), you should check out this fantastic flute, which starts at 7 p.m. at the Nashville Symphony.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**  
 Next BIG Nashville is coming to Mercy Lounge, bringing six bands along for the ride. **Natalie Warner, The Lonely Hearts, The Bridges, Ricky Young, Jeremy Lister** and **Space Capone** are all sure to put on energy-filled shows. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door. The show starts at 8 p.m.

# Commodore QUAKE

## Lil' Wayne came down to Vandy; he was lookin' for a show to steal

CHARLIE KESSLERING  
 Staff Writer

On October 23, the anything-but-Lil' Wayne will headline Vanderbilt's big-time Commodore Quake, bringing with him a remarkable repertoire of sound, six solo albums and countless mixtapes in the making.

But despite his cataclysmic success, few visitors to Vandyland know him past this metaphor comparing delicious candy treats with a certain sex act. The following is for those casual listeners wondering: just who is the man they call Weezy?

Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., the 25-year-old emcee behind the sweet summer hit "Lollipop," exists as something of an enigma. A tested hip-hop veteran of 13 years, his name has only recently been added to the proverbial mainstream playlist. Before this summer, unless they had a subscription to *The Source*, most pop fans thought of Lil' Wayne as the guy who "made it rain" with Fat Joe, if they thought of him at all. However, even before copies of "Tha Carter III" made their quick stops on shelves, Lil' Wayne stood as a rapper with three platinum albums on his back and a slew of top-10 hits under his belt.

Carter spent the times and dimes of his childhood in New Orleans' 17th Ward. His home neighborhood of Hollygrove, an area he gives love to "on each and every song" (according to "Fly In" from "Tha Carter II"), provided him with the life experiences and connections crucial to his success in the hip-hop industry. According to *cashmoney-records.com*, in the mid '90s, "Wayne met Cash Money CEOs Ronald 'Suga Slim' and Bryan 'Baby' Williams (The Birdman), who

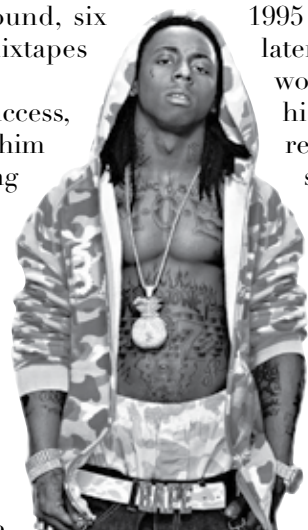
would take him under their wings."

Following this critical union, 12-year-old Lil' Wayne appeared on B.G.'s 1995 debut "True Story." Two years later, he released the first of what would be a string of albums with his group the Hot Boys, but found real success at the helm of his first solo release, 1999's "Tha Block is Hot." Riding on the wave of popularity created by its first single (also entitled "Tha Block is Hot"), the album obtained double platinum status. Although Weezy's next two discs failed to pass the million units mark, "Lights Out" (2001) and "500 Degreez" (2002) "raised his profile considerably," according to *Rolling Stone*.

After a two year hiatus from the rap arena, Lil' Wayne came out swinging with "Tha Carter" and the prolific "Tha Carter II," both of which went platinum.

Following the advent of these two classics, Carter did something interesting. Apparently aware of the wholly undesired lack of buzz surrounding the prodigious Lil' Wayne, he took to cyberspace, releasing mixtape after mixtape of phenomenal, and entirely free, feats of lyricism. When units of "Tha Carter III" finally flooded stores last spring, the mixtape king had built himself an empire of fans, a fact that became immediately clear as 1 million copies walked off shelves in a single week.

Needless to say, the folks in Vanderbilt's Music Group made a prime choice in the man, the myth, the Lil' Wayne. Maybe they failed to realize just how prime.



## 'Superstar' Lupe will be anything but a fiasco

CHRIS MCDONALD  
 Staff Writer

Last Friday morning our campus was greeted with the news that not only would Lil' Wayne be headlining this year's Commodore Quake but Chicago native Lupe Fiasco would be the opening act. For those who have not yet heard of this artist, Lupe (real name Wasalu Muhammad Jaco, no joke) has been heralded as one of the brightest up-and-coming hip-hop artists. Praised by the likes of Kanye West and Pharrell Williams as a savior of the genre, Fiasco is a welcome and exciting addition to the 2008 Homecoming festivities.

Lupe rose to prominence in 2006 with his first release, "Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor," debuting at No. 8 on the Billboard 200. The album, almost universally acclaimed by such media sources as *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Pitchfork Media* and more, produced three singles, one of which ("Kick, Push") reached No. 79 on the Billboard Hot 100. Most notably, however, "Food & Liquor" earned four Grammy Nominations: best rap solo performance and best rap song for "Kick, Push," best rap album, and best urban/alternative performance for "Daydreamin'," the only win of the four nominations. If that doesn't jog your memory, remember that Kanye track "Touch the Sky?" Lupe's lines almost stole the show from the ever-inspired Kanye.

Fiasco's follow-up album, "Lupe Fiasco's The Cool," was released in December 2007, garnering similar positive reviews to "Food & Liquor." While "The Cool" was as commercially successful as Lupe's previous album, it did not fare as well on the charts, peaking at No. 14 on the Billboard 200 (though reaching No. 4 and No. 1 on the top

R&B/hip-hop albums and top rap albums, respectively).

In keeping with Lupe's ever-quickenening rise to stardom, however, the album did produce the rapper's most successful (and best-known) single to date (reaching No. 10 on the Billboard Hot 100), the aptly titled "Superstar," featuring guest vocals from Matthew Santos, a singer-songwriter recently signed to Lupe's own record label.

But we shouldn't forget a few of the other tracks on the album like "Go Go Gadget Flow" and "Hi-Definition" featuring Snoop Dogg. "Go Go" has an infectious beat that keeps your heart rate up as his rhymes are blowing your mind. What else is there to say about "Hi-Definition" other than it is just undeniably cool? Don't believe us: ask Snoop Dogg.

Another note worth mentioning: Lupe hasn't stopped working. In fact, he's garnering the attention of some of rap's heavy hitters as seen on the recently released "Superstar" remix featuring Jeezy and T.I. You can find it on his Myspace. Go ahead, you'll thank me later.

While he was chosen to open the show for Lil' Wayne, Lupe Fiasco is, in his own right, a musical powerhouse and true force to be reckoned with. With masterfully crafted lyrics, Lupe is less of a rapper and more of a storyteller, weaving his messages and narratives beneath smooth beats and hooks. Today's hip-hop and rap scene is inundated with commercial, radio-ready songs devoid of much (if any) meaning. In the face of this trend, however, Lupe really is the brightest young artist with a chance to save the genre.



## Weezy's Best Tracks

**From "Tha Carter II":**  
 "Fly In"  
 "The Best Rapper Alive"

**From "Da Drought 3":**  
 "Sky's the Limit"  
 "We Takin' Over (Remix)"

**From "Tha Carter III":**  
 "Mr. Carter"  
 "Tie My Hands"  
 "Let the Beat Build"  
 "Mrs. Officer"



## Lupe's Finest Flows

**From "Food & Liquor":**  
 "The Cool"  
 "The Instrumental"  
 "Daydreamin'"  
 "Kick, Push"

**From "The Cool":**  
 "Superstar"  
 "Paris, Tokyo"  
 "Hip-Hop Saved My Life"  
 "My Sneakers"  
 "Go-Go Gadget Flow"



# Artist you should know: The Bravery

CHRIS GEARING  
 Features Editor

There were murmurs a few years ago about their debut self-titled album.

It was a refreshing reinvention of the alternative rock genre. They had taken the recent craze of slam-bang guitars and a garage band singer and blended it with some of the most seductive and catchy keyboard and synthesizer melodies on the radio. These virtual virtuosos are known as The Bravery, and they might be one of the best bands around.

The Bravery formed up at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., when frontman Sam Endicott and keyboardist John Conway met in class. They began by playing small bars on the college scene in a ska band amusingly named Skabba the Hut. In 2000, Endicott got serious and started writing his own music that would later form the musical crux of The Bravery.

Their debut self-titled album had hits like "An Honest Mistake" and "Fearless." Both tunes contain incendiary grooves that don't ask you to bop your head — it's more

of a command. The snappy riff and oddly perfect organ arrangement really make "Fearless" hop off the record. You'll most likely be tapping your toes (or melting faces with air guitar) by the first chorus. In terms of the whole album, it was a less than stellar effort with very experimental keyboard riffs and odd instrumentation. Any songs other than the aforementioned duo will most likely have you scratching your head in confusion. It's a very odd mix of things that did not really pan out.

However, the real genius of The Bravery is their second album, "The Sun and the Moon Complete." They grew up out of their feel-good post-punk origins and really embraced their rock 'n' roll side on this two-disc epic.

Let's start with the first disc entitled "The Sun." The signature bass line and rocking percussion of "Believe" may be one of the best songs of last year, while the whistle-laced "Bad Sun" reminds listeners that The Bravery produce some of the best "dance rock" out there. However, my favorite song on the album has to be "Angelina." It's got a charming sloppiness from the ever-present piano to the chorus of

"doo-doo-doo," not to mention the banging guitar that makes the chorus soar to heights we haven't seen from a rock band in a while.

But if you don't like how they initially imagined the music for the album, then pop in the second disc, "The Moon," for a completely re-imagined and redesigned experience (same lyrics, totally different sound and feel).

Trust me, you'll be hearing a lot about this band in the next few years. They've already made some impressive strides in the rock arena, and they're only getting better with time. Go pick up "The Sun and the Moon Complete" today for some of the most experimental and interesting rock of our time.





**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
If you've been craving some hard rock lately, Buzzfest will satisfy your desires. The concert in downtown Nashville includes performances from **Seether**, **Shinedown**, **Saving Abel**, **10 years**, **Lovers+Liars**, **After Elvis**, **American Bang** and **Black Stone Cherry**. Tickets are \$29 or \$129 (if you want to be treated as a very important person). The show starts at 10 a.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**  
Come on by Exit/In and experience **Ari Hest's** new sound as he performs some of his recently crafted songs. Tickets are \$12, and the show starts at 9 p.m.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**  
**O.A.R.** is coming to Nashville and sharing their smooth style of rock to the masses — and you can be one of those lucky concertgoers. The show, which is opened by acoustic rocker **Matt Wertz**, begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$31.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
Exit/In is giving you a perfect opportunity to Rock the Block at their annual concert devoted to local rock music. **Blackwater James**, **My Beautiful Disaster**, **The Lasting** and **Circleslide** are all performing. The show starts at 8 p.m., and tickets are free (so there is no excuse).

## SOUNDTRACK TO THE ISSUE



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

1. "SHAME"  
**The Avett Brothers**
2. "TIE MY HANDS"  
**Lil' Wayne featuring Robin Thicke**
3. "WON'T STOP"  
**OneRepublic**
4. "I'M READY"  
**The Format**
5. "THE RESCUE"  
**Search the City**
6. "ONCE AGAIN"  
**Girl Talk**
7. "ANGELINA"  
**The Bravery**
8. "HIP HOP SAVED MY LIFE"  
**Lupe Fiasco featuring Nikki Jean**
9. "ROSANNA"  
**Toto**
10. "CAN'T BELIEVE IT"  
**T-Pain featuring Lil' Wayne**

# Making music on The Commons

OWEN CANAVAN  
Staff Writer

Few things are more satisfying than acting on a vision and being successful in its execution. For our university, The Commons was that vision.

In order for The Commons to reach its full potential, there was an inherent expectation that students would get involved. To that end, the university looked to how students might be able to help round out The Commons' entertainment offerings. When Blair professor and renowned ethnomusicology authority Greg Barz asked how might music be involved with the project, an entirely new idea called "Music in The Commons" was born.

In order for The Commons to provide popular music to the Peabody campus and its students, the faculty blueprinted a project that would involve student-run sub committees running a concert series in a variety of different contexts. While the "Living Room" in the building, which houses the grand piano and assortment of couches, acts as a perfect venue for acoustic trios

and singer/songwriters, it is the bustling nature of the freshman community directly outside its doors that will help these events be successful.

With four subcommittees (Nashville in Our Living Room, WRVU, New Faces, Jazz in The Commons) and what is to be



a climactic, semester-end event called The Global Stretch, Music in The Commons is set to be an opportunity for freshmen to get involved in both the school and the music industry.

With a student leader and a team of five students, each of the subcommittees has an unexpected level of autonomy — a luxury that the faculty heads insisted on being an integral part of this project. By allowing the student-run teams to book the talent for their shows and do the necessary promotion work and artist hospitality, Music in The Commons targets Vanderbilt students by using Vanderbilt students to organize the entertainment that they would like to take part in themselves.

The first event will be taking place on Thursday, Sept. 18, as a product of the Nashville in Our Living Room subcommittee. A bill of southern rock/country singer-songwriter Chris Hennessee and folk rocker Ricky Young will throw down their accessible music in two 45-minute sets.

Optimism for the project from students involved is high, and they're hopeful it will succeed in its mission: presenting popular music to the Peabody campus — an initiative that hopefully will increase the level to which the arts are represented in The Commons.

## MUSIC NEWS

**Sep. 2:** Ludacris plans a new album and two films for fall.

**Sep. 3:** Usher announces plans for a "ladies only" tour. Widespread Panic announces tour dates for fall and 2009.

**Sep. 5:** Kanye West announces plans to release new material and fourth album by the end of the year.

**Sep. 6:** Phish is reunited for the first time in four years to play at former manager Brad Sands' wedding, fueling rumors of a reunion.

**Sep. 7:** Oasis guitarist Noel Gallagher was attacked by a fan at Toronto's Virgin Festival. Britney Spears wins three VMA awards, including female video, pop video and video of the year.

**\_KINGS\_OF\_LEON\_**  
**\_IN\_CONCERT\_**

**\_SPECIAL\_GUESTS: We are Scientists THE WHIGGS**

**NOVEMBER 19**  
**TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY AT 10 AM!**

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THANKS FOR VOTING US NASHVILLE'S BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC AGAIN THIS YEAR!

**NISSAN CONCERT SERIES**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**  
**O.A.R.** WITH SPECIAL GUEST **MATT WERTZ**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
**Conor Oberst** and the Mystic Valley Band with **Jenny Lewis**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**  
**DAVID BYRNE**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**  
**THE SWELL SEASON**  
OSCAR® WINNERS FOR BEST ORIGINAL SONG FROM "ONCE" with **BILL CALLAHAN**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
**THE BLACK KEYS**  
with special guest **ROYAL BANGS**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10**  
**OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW**  
with **Carolina Chocolate Drops**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**  
**SARA BAREILLES** with **MARC BROUSSARD** and **RAINING JANE**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**  
**ROBERT EARL KEEN**  
with **Todd Snider**  
**TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY AT 10 AM**

Tickets available at all **ticketmaster** outlets, Kroger, the Ryman Box Office, **ryman.com**, or (615) 255-9600.  
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## ART

## A behind the seams look at VH1

A day with stylist Alana Kelen.

COURTNEY ROGERS  
Culture Editor

Even the most fashionable among us have trouble deciding what to wear for their big days.

Whether it's that special date or a big interview, getting dressed and finding the right ensemble for the occasion isn't always easy. Though the general public must struggle on their own quests for a chic look, the stars of VH1 shows such as "Top 20 Countdown" have their own fashion fairy godmother to take the hassle out of what to wear on camera: Alana Kelen.

Upon meeting Kelen in her New York office, it wasn't hard to see that fashion was her career. Wearing a brown, printed day dress, heels and the ultimate accessory — a Fendi spy bag — Kelen led the way through the maze of the VH1 office. She explained that VH1 was in the process of moving to a new office with bigger studios down in SoHo. At the Broadway location, the wardrobe office and Kelen's office melded into one, with clothes occupying shelves and racks that could easily fill a Branscomb double.

The road to a career in style isn't always a glamorous or easy road. A Fairfield, Conn., native, Kelen started college at Arizona State for a business degree. When she found the school to be too big and realized business wasn't what she really wanted, she transferred to the Fashion



Lights, camera, fashion. Clockwise from top left: The InStyle clothing closet with the run-through outfits hanging on the trellis; Helping organize the day's accessories; Shoes galore in the VH1 wardrobe department; Shirts and accessories for shows like "Top 20 Countdown"; A glimpse of the hallowed halls of the VH1 offices and studios.

Institute of Technology to pursue fashion. While earning her bachelor's degree, she saw an internship in styling with MTV Networks. She's been at VH1 for the past eight years and has also worked as a freelance stylist for NBC and InStyle.

When styling for "Top 20 Countdown," Kelen says the most important thing to keep in mind is the demographic of the show. She tends to use clothes and silhouettes that are accessible to "middle America" rather than more avant-garde or trendy looks. It's important the host doesn't look too styled, and he or she can't wear a big logo, since that could conflict with advertising

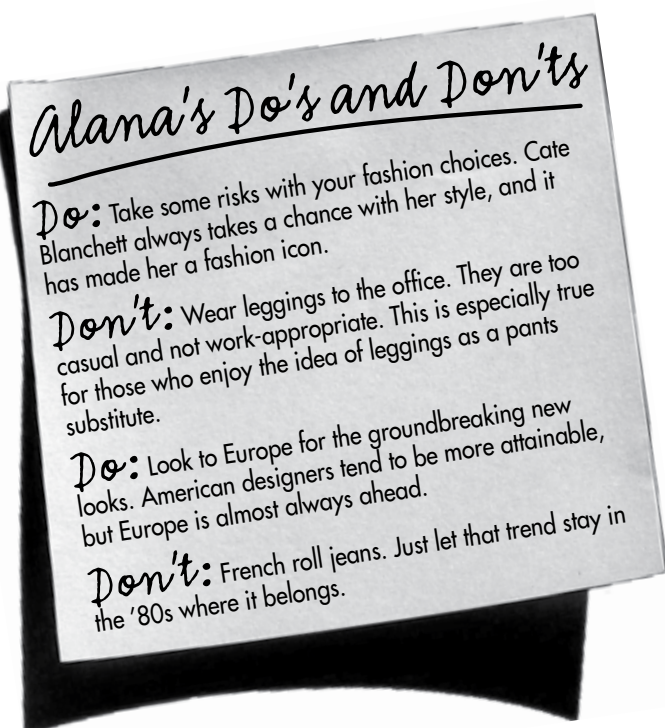
during the program.

For "Top 20" regulars like Alison Becker, Kelen uses a lot of clothing from Urban Outfitters and H&M. She is also in charge of styling celebrities who come to VH1 for shows. One of her more memorable and fun encounters was dressing John Mayer in a captain's costume for a series of commercials last year. Kelen knew him from growing up in Fairfield, and in addition to penning heart-breaking lyrics, she said he is quite the comedian.

When asked about how to break into the fashion industry, Kelen stressed the importance of networking and making contacts



HADLEY GREEN/Neriad



## ART

## Artist Profile: Marilyn Murphy

MURIELLE WYMAN  
Staff Writer

**Background:** Bachelor's of fine arts from Oklahoma State University, master's of fine arts from the University of Oklahoma

**What is your favorite medium to use?**

Graphite on paper and of course oil paint on canvas, as well. I also just recently got back into using colored pencils, so that's exciting — I'm going to be teaching a whole course on it next fall! I also do prints occasionally.

**What is the primary subject matter of your work? What are some inspirations?**

In a really broad sense it's the human condition — but I also like the sense of mystery that comes along with images of power such as fire and wind. I think it stems from a fascination with the mechanics of machinery and the world in general. In my earlier works I would put people in relation to machines, but that kind of moved into depicting them with the natural motif of power. It moved from mechanical power to natural power.

**Who are your favorite artists? Do they in any way influence your art?**

Ron Porter! We've got some amazing artists here in the department who create really beautiful, thoughtful works. I would also say Marcel Duchamp because of his interesting approach to art and his use of ideas. I love writers too — Gaston Bachelard is one. He wrote "Air and Songs" and "The Poetics of Space." He died before I started painting, but after reading "The Poetics of Space" in particular, I thought it could have been written about my paintings. In it he talks about how we perceive space and some of the things he wrote about put my images to words almost exactly.

**What else has helped to influence your art?**

Machines, travel, conversations with my friends, interesting books — it's usually everyday life and the adventures that come with it. I also used to live in Oklahoma, which is what I call the buckle of the tornado belt, and I used to witness some incredible storms — which has had an enormous influence on my art.

**Carl Hammer, with whom you did an exhibit last year, says of your works, "Murphy's intriguing visual scenarios are magical in their improbability yet scorchingly insightful, challenging the viewer to rethink the reality of any given situation." Was this your intention for your works?**

Yes. Art should do that, though.

**After observing several of your pieces, I realized that of the figures depicted, none of their faces are ever shown. Was this intentional?**

Oh yes. When you put a face into a piece, it becomes about that person — what I'm most interested in is what it is that that person is doing. I want that action to be more important than that identity.

**Do you have any upcoming exhibits that we should be on the lookout for?**

Yes — there's one coming up in October. It begins on Oct. 18 at the Cumberland Gallery here in Nashville. In it you'll see some of my new works — including some new colored pencil drawings. They are really large desserts in curious situations (one of which is shown here).

If you're interested in finding out more about Marilyn Murphy, you can check out some of her works at the Cumberland Gallery or you can take one of her art classes at Vanderbilt. ☞

## FASHION

## Fashion tries on a new color by going green

KATY FINNERAN  
Staff Writer

When I think of environmentalists, I think Al Gore — not Anna Wintour.

But environmental issues are paramount in all realms of society — including fashion. Eco-friendly fashion is a large social, political and cultural trend, one that transcends every level of fashion from design and production to corporate social responsibility to retail and consumer education.

What changes are designers making to cater toward an environmentally savvy consumer? Designers are increasingly including materials such as organic cotton, bamboo, hemp and recycled fabric in their clothing. For many of us, words such as "hemp" and "bamboo" conjure an image of granola, hiking boots and wilderness — perhaps the anti-thesis of fashion.

However, designers, determined to balance environmentalism with aesthetic, prove these fabrics do offer an element of glamour. Brands such as C&C, Theory, Primp, Joe's Jeans, Seven for All Mankind and Timberland are incorporating the eco-friendly options of organic cotton and bamboo in their lines while maintaining their style and popularity.

An inherently negative consequence of eco-friendly fashion is higher prices. Just as organic fruit is more expensive at Whole Foods than non-organic at Kroger, so too is organic cotton pricier than conventional cotton. Although eco-friendly designers face the immediate set back of a higher price tag, an educated consumer can look beyond the short-term expense and recognize the substantial long-term benefits.

According to recent studies, cotton requires the most chemicals per unit of any crop and is responsible for 16 percent of the world's pesticides. On a personal level, the chemicals in conventional cotton are more likely to cause rashes, irritation and discomfort for the consumer. On a grand scale, the chemicals in conventional cotton cause air and cotton pollution.

A pioneer brand in the eco-friendly wave is Patagonia. In 1993, Patagonia began using recycled plastic bottles to produce fleece. Now, 15 years later, Patagonia has initiated

Center, the InStyle offices were the site of Kelen's biggest appointment of the day: a run-through.

For those who are neither fashion junkies nor aficionados of the film "The Devil Wears Prada," a run-through is when a stylist gathers together racks of clothes, shoes and accessories and an editor makes the final picks for a look. While helping set up for the run-through, a fashion emergency struck. Suddenly, it was up to Hadley, a fellow fashionista from Connecticut, and myself to locate a black turtleneck to complete the look. Though sorting the expanses of precious jewelry

and Moschino handbags was dreamy, there's nothing like solving a crisis to make you feel like a real stylist. And, in case you were wondering, if you ever need to find a black turtleneck in August in Manhattan, the 10th floor of Saks is the place to go.

So what is on the fashion forecast for fall? According to Kelen, pieces to look for include dark florals and romantic lace details. Bell-bottoms and long hair are also a part of the fall look, and for accessories; tights are still a hit in funky colors as well as chunky shoes. To learn more style tips from Kelen, check out the list of Alana's Do's and Don'ts. ☞





# O.A.R.

**Benj Gershman has been groovin' with O.A.R. since most of us were in middle school, and he and his band are bringing O.A.R.'s unique brand of college rock to Nashville on Sept. 15. Before he rolled into town, Gershman talked to Music Editor Avery Spofford about living the college life, being on the road and commandeering the occasional golf cart.**



**VERSUS MAGAZINE:** *The band has been together since 1996. What made you all come together to form O.A.R.?*

**BENJ GERSHMAN:** In 1996 I was lifeguarding with Chris Culos, our drummer, and all summer we talked about music. At the end of the summer we realized that his band was looking for a bass player and that I was a bass player looking for a band, and at the very beginning of that school year we had our first practice. It was just an instant fit, it felt right, and we enjoyed playing together. We ended up rehearsing and writing music every Tuesday and Thursday that year.

**VM:** How do you think that developing your music while the band members were enrolled in college influenced the band's sound?

**BG:** I'm a year younger than the other guys, but everyone else went to Ohio State in 1997. It was a decision we made together in order to do everything we could to keep the band going. Going to the biggest school in the country just seemed to make sense if we were going to do that. I think that being in school provides a lot of different cultural influences and people who you can be exposed to music from or through, so I think we became more diverse as far as what influenced us individually and as a band. It really helped bolster our love for music and playing music together.

**VM:** Your latest studio release, "All Sides," is in stores now and is your best-charted album yet. What do you think it is about this album that has made it so popular?

**BG:** I think there's a lot about the album that's appealing. I think that our first single, "Shattered," is the first song we have that really seems to make sense on the radio as far as the way it is recorded and produced, which I think is going to help the album be successful on the mainstream level. I also think that the album as a whole has a lot of great music and will stand the test of time — it represents all sides of O.A.R. and all sides of our music and influences, both individually and as a band. I just think there's a lot there, and hopefully the album will speak for itself and I won't have to say too much.

**VM:** How has the band's sound changed with this latest release?

**BG:** I think that we're really maturing as a band in a lot of ways. We're realizing what needs to happen for the overall sound to come out unified and direct and like O.A.R., the O.A.R. that we want to be. I think that we're at a point where we understand that, and that's what's making us grow.

**VM:** Do you think that your emphasis on live performances and albums is better for the band, for the fans or both?

**BG:** The live part of O.A.R. is essential to O.A.R. That's who we are. The studio stuff is a representation of that and a part of that. It's a moment in time displaying that. But I think that the live thing is so essential, the most essential.

**VM:** You just wrapped up the first leg of your tour, and you guys are already heading back out. What's it like being on the road for such long stretches of time?

**BG:** Tiring. Being on the road is not easy. We're lucky enough to have a bus and travel comfortably in that regard, but it's still a lot of work and not the easiest thing to do for months at a time. We realize that's the nature of the business we're in, so we make the most of it and try to stay healthy. Exercising, eating right and doing other things that seem commonplace can really add to life on the road.

**VM:** Do you have any funny stories from touring life that our college readers might enjoy?

**BG:** Our first summer, we played a festival at a venue in Boston. We were all kids just out of college having fun, really not taking what we were doing too seriously, and we managed to commandeer a golf cart. I was taking it for a little ride, and I ended up flipping the cart after the show. . . . Fortunately, no one was hurt, but it was a fun memory.

**VM:** You guys just played Bonnaroo, and now you are coming back to our area on Sept. 15 to play at the Ryman. How do you feel about performing in a more conventional venue such as the Ryman versus at a huge outdoor festival like Bonnaroo?

**BG:** We welcome it; we look forward to it. It's a great thing to do. Bands have to perform in different types of venues all the time, and for us it's a really good thing to switch it up like that; it keeps us on our toes. The Ryman is a historic venue, and there are only so many places you can play that have genuine history, so it's exciting to be coming back to one that has so much.

**VM:** The band has come up with a new way to offer music to fans: through a USB bracelet. What exactly do you have planned with this new innovation?

**BG:** The USB bracelets are a new way of purchasing O.A.R.'s music. Basically, it's a rubber bracelet that has a USB drive with our new album, "All Sides," on it. This summer we had our live shows available as well, so fans who purchased the bracelet got both the album and the show they attended. We're adding some extras to it, and it's basically just another way that people can purchase our music and have an experience with it. It's also a marketing tool — if people wear the bracelet, someone might see it and ask about it. There are a few different sides to it.

**VM:** This time last year, the band did a U.S.O. tour of Kuwait and Iraq. How was the trip, and how did it affect the band?

**BG:** The trip itself was life changing. It was very meaningful to be there. I've never felt like our music was more appreciated — the people we met over there were so genuinely happy to receive our music and have us there. Whether they knew our band or not, they were just happy to be entertained for an hour or two, which was really a cool feeling for us and reminded us why we're so lucky to be entertainers for a living. Marc (Roberge) and Richard (On) wrote a song for the album called "War Song," which is about what soldiers go through and how we think they should be treated when they get home from serving our country, and I think that they were affected personally by it. There's a lot to it.

**VM:** What is something that the band struggles with in the industry today?

**BG:** Staying current. From the biggest band to the smallest band, everybody wants to stay current in the music industry today and stay on top of things. Everyone wants to have people be aware of their music while maintaining their art in the way that they want to be represented. I think that's just something we push for and that we try to make happen — staying current with our music and with who we are as a band.

**VM:** Which bands, new or old, do you most enjoy seeing live?

**BG:** I just saw Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers for the first time at the Mile High Music Festival in Denver, Colo., and they were ridiculous. It was such a great show. I caught the Foo Fighters at (Madison Square) Garden a little while ago, which was also unbelievable. There's a band we toured with called Ozomatli, and they have one of the coolest and most energetic live shows on planet Earth. It's really great music with sounds from all over the world. If you can't enjoy their show and their music, there's just something wrong with you.

**VM:** Which bands are you listening to right now?

**BG:** The new Coldplay is pretty cool, and I've been listening to the Fleet Foxes a little bit. I also like to throw on some old school Beastie Boys, some older stuff like that.

**VM:** If O.A.R.'s music could serve as a soundtrack for any movie, which would it be?

**BG:** "Old School," maybe? I don't know. . . . That's a good question. A documentary about O.A.R.?

**VM:** What does the band have planned from here?

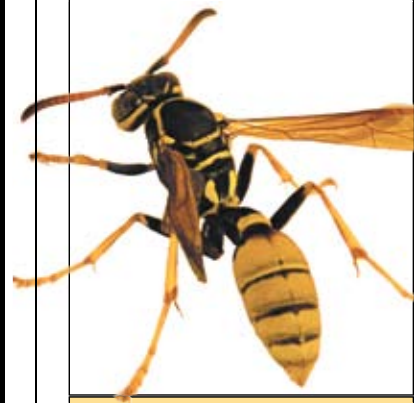
**BG:** We're just going to keep touring, playing music and writing music, trying to just be a band. We're just going to be a band for as long as humanly possible. ☿



photos by BENJ GERSHMAN / OfARevolution.com

## LETTER FROM AN ANGRY WASP

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



**Dear bike riders,**

Seriously now. I should NOT have to move out of the way just because you want to stay on the pavement. Every time I hear that little clanking from the spokes of your death machine, my life not only flashes before my eyes but actually projects out a little bit too.

Look, there's seriously NO reason you should have a bike here. Does it take more than 15 minutes to walk anywhere on campus? No, it doesn't. You can be in Kissam and it takes no longer than 15 minutes to walk to Blair (if you were so inclined). So why would you EVER need a bike?

See, it's just simple math: If it takes you two and a half minutes to unlock your bike and the same to relock it, and it takes you five minutes to walk to class from wherever you park your bike to where your class is, and five minutes to go down the elevator and get to your bike to begin with, then guess what? Fifteen minutes. What's that? Oh yeah, those are equal amounts of time.

And if it takes you more than 15 minutes to walk that distance, you probably actually need the walking time. Or, you know, you could just leave the extra five minutes early. And what's wrong with spending the time walking to class with friends and being, you know, social? It's time to just slow down a little bit.

So really, until you all decide to turn in your two-wheeled terrors, the rest of us will walk scared. Can you bike scared? I didn't think so. WORTHLESS.

**Sincerely,  
An Angry WASP**



# FLIP SIDE

## OVERHEARD

Some people on this campus just don't think before they speak. Sometimes we are lucky enough to overhear what they say.

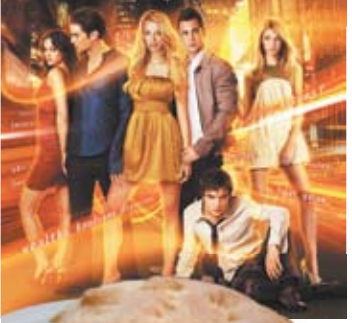


Compiled from the Facebook group "Overheard at Vanderbilt"



After receiving a handout on bat echolocation:  
**Girl:** "I thought this said 'electrocution bats.' I was gonna be like, 'Hell YEAH!'"

**Guy:** "You know what really pisses me off? SOUTHERN SECESSIONISTS!"



Walking back from the football game:  
**Fratstar No. 1 (speaking to Fratstar No. 2):** "Yo! Did you see the first episode of 'Gossip Girls'?"



At the freshman tailgate before the Vanderbilt vs. South Carolina game:  
**Student No. 1:** "Yo, man, Sarah Palin is pretty good looking."  
**Student No. 2:** "Yeah, man, she's a V.P.I.L.F."



In a residence hall stairwell:  
**Guy:** "This roll tastes a lot like a biscuit."  
**Girl:** (pause) "It IS a biscuit."

**Girl No. 1:** "Ew! He smelled like smoke!"  
**Girl No. 2:** "It's Tennessee — that's what blue collar workers smell like."

**Professor:** "If you can't mate ... then what's the point?"



Overheard at a milkshake discussion:  
**"I don't like spooning. I just like to suck."**

**"Kissam is like the elephant graveyard in 'Lion King.'"**

**"I feel like there's no difference between Vanderbilt boys' dorms and medieval streets. I mean, people would throw buckets of urine if they could."**

PHOTOS: www.sk.hu

## HOROSCOPES



**VIRGO 8/23-9/22**

Just because your windows are up doesn't mean we can't see you belting out "One Step at a Time" in your ride. A word of advice? Maybe ... don't.



**LIBRA 9/23-10/22:**

"Wayne's World" said it best: "I say hurl. If you blow chunks and she comes back, she's yours. But if you spew and she bolts, then it was never meant to be."



**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21:**

That last Long Island Iced Tea will be your demise tonight. Unless you're into that kind of thing, the stars suggest a Bud Light.



**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21:**

Use caution when throwing away your soda can in the trash bins near Rand. Those things are a haven for feisty woodland creatures.



**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19:**

You can count on me waiting for you in the parking lot. Be there.



**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18:**

Recently popular bumper stickers on Facebook, page three, bottom row, middle sticker. That's you in a nutshell.



**PISCES 2/19-3/20:**

Your roommate is a trifling ho.



**ARIES 3/21-4/19:**

The suspect, lumpy chicken from Quiznos won't kill you. But we advise against it anyway.



**TAURUS 4/20-5/20:**

You're totally right. Lying on the couch for hours, unwashed, watching "The Price is Right" will find you a great job. Just keep doing that.



**GEMINI 5/21-6/21:**

If you're avoiding someone, don't go to Bread & Co.



**CANCER 6/22-7/22:**

Not picking up her phone to answer your call is as sure a sign as we have ever seen that she likes you.



**LEO 7/23-8/22:**

Sitting in the front row of your Human Sexuality lecture today would ultimately be a bad decision, as you WILL be the teacher's volunteer, leading to both humiliation and shame.

# FREE PARTY IN THE STREET!



Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - 6pm  
 DEMONBREUN STREET (near Tin Roof and Dan McGuinness)

featuring:  
**TRACE ADKINS**  
 DARIUS RUCKER, LUKE BRYAN, EMILY WEST

Special thanks to our sponsors:

