



ADMINISTRATION: Columbia administrator Stalcup appointed vice chancellor. SEE PAGE 3

YANG: Mumbai attacks mean India must renew its own role in war on terrorism. SEE PAGE 6

Mumbai details emerge

Police: Mumbai gunmen came by sea from Pakistan

Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP)—The gunmen who attacked Mumbai set out by boat from the Pakistani port of Karachi, then later hijacked an Indian fishing trawler that carried them toward this financial capital on their suicide mission, a top police official said Tuesday.

As evidence of the militants' links to Pakistan mounted, Mumbai police commissioner Hasan Ghafoor said ex-Pakistani army officers trained the group — some for up to 18 months — and denied reports the men had been planning to escape the city.

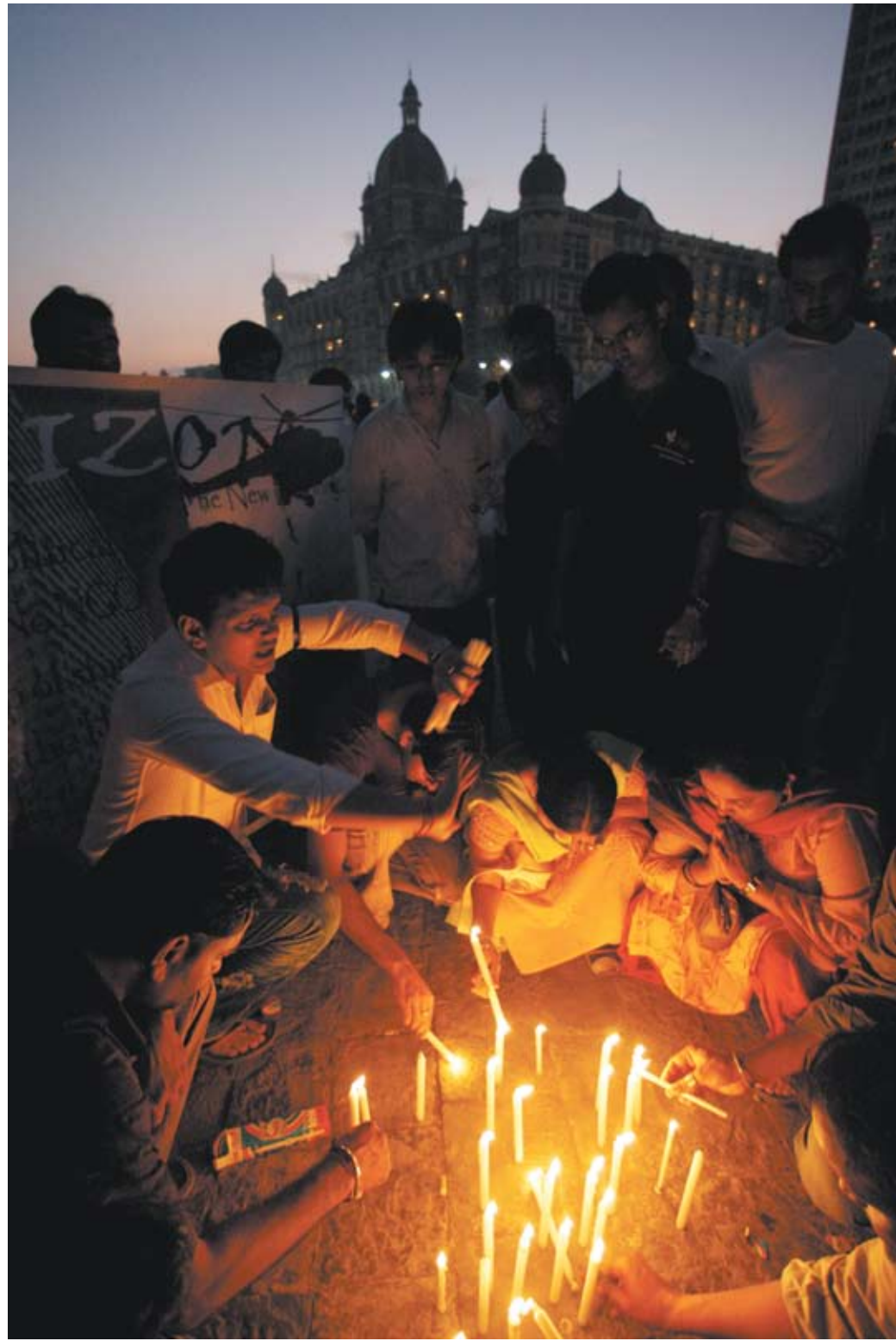
"It appears that it was a suicide attack," Ghafoor said, providing no other details about when the gunmen left Karachi, or when they hijacked the trawler.

The revelations came as a senior U.S. official said India received a warning from the United States that militants were plotting a waterborne assault on Mumbai. The Bush administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of intelligence information, would not elaborate on the timing or details of the U.S. warning.

The Indian government is already facing intense public accusations of security and intelligence failures after suspected Muslim militants carried out the three-day attack across Mumbai last week, killing at least 172 people and wounding 239.

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee also said his country gave a list of about 20 people — including India's most-wanted man — to Pakistan's high commissioner to New Delhi on Monday.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is to arrive Wednesday, and the U.S. is pressuring Islamabad to cooperate in the investigation of the siege that paralyzed Mumbai and left six Americans dead. ■



SAURABH DAS / AP photo

Local residents light candles in front of the Taj Mahal hotel in memory of those who died in the attacks last week in Mumbai, India, Monday, Dec. 1, 2008. Soldiers removed the remaining bodies from the shattered Taj Mahal hotel on Monday, searching each room in the labyrinthine building and defusing booby-traps and bombs left by the gunmen who killed 172 people during three days of terror.

Chabad Jewish student group to hold memorial

by EVE ATTERMANN
News Contributor

The Chabad Jewish Student Group will hold a memorial tonight for those slain in the Chabad house in Mumbai. The memorial will be held at the Chabad House from 7 to 8 p.m.

The memorial is open to all students but will be exploring the Jewish response to the tragedy through the lens of Jewish practice.

"We are going to be understanding this tragedy through what happened at the Chabad House, taking the time to remember the

victims, look at the good," said Chabad Rabbi Shlomo Rothstein. "The tragedy equals darkness, and the goal is to bring a little light in the world."

The Chabad House is located at 436 Village At Vanderbilt, behind Sutherland House. ■



This week Versus sits down with The Knux, the newest duo to be making waves in the hip hop community. Also check out the reviews of the new Kanye and Coldplay albums.

FULL SECTION INSIDE

SPORTS

Ogilvy named MVP as team wins Cancun Challenge

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist

Despite a depleted lineup, the men's basketball team returned from south of the border as champions. The Commodores defeated Drake in the Cancun Challenge semifinals and Virginia Commonwealth in the finals to capture the title.

Sophomore center A.J. Ogilvy was named the tournament Most Valuable Player, and junior point guard Jermaine Beal was named to the All-Tournament team.

The Commodores (5-1) defeated VCU 71-66 in the final Sunday night after cruising to a 72-57 win over Drake in the semifinals earlier in the weekend. Vanderbilt was without forwards Andre Walker, Lance Goulbourne, Steve Tchiengang and center Festus Ezeli for both games.

Walker will miss the rest of the season after suffering a torn ACL in his right knee on Nov. 24 against Middle Tennessee State. Goulbourne was out with mono, Tchiengang was serving the final game of his suspension for violations of NCAA rules stemming from his stay with a host family in the United States and Ezeli was unable to leave the country because of problems with his visa.

Ogilvy scored 25 points



CHRIS PHARE / the Vanderbilt Hustler

to lead Vanderbilt against VCU, including hitting two 3-pointers. Beal continued his steady play at point guard, adding 14 points, and freshman guard Brad Tinsley hit a critical 3-pointer with three minutes remaining to help hold off a VCU comeback. He finished with 13.

Vanderbilt led by as much as 16 in the second half before the Rams (3-3) stormed back with a ferocious full-court press, forcing several Commodore turnovers and cutting the lead to two. The Commodores never relinquished their advantage though, knocking down 26-30 free throws to keep the Rams at bay.

Ogilvy had 13 points in the victory over Drake. Beal had a combined 28 points and 11 assists against just three turnovers in the two games while playing nearly all of both contests.

Vanderbilt returns to action Wednesday night at 7 p.m. at Memorial Gym, hosting Illinois-Chicago. ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Sexual misconduct policy updated to reflect judicial standards

by EVE ATTERMANN
News Contributor

and SAMANTHA SMITH
News Contributor

A Dean of Students convened committee has modified a new sexual misconduct policy, making significant changes to the student handbook.

The new policy expands areas previously consolidated into a more generalized charge of "sexual misconduct," refines and

clarifies definitions of consent, shifts the burden of proof in sexual misconduct cases to a "more likely than not" standard and provides a hearing body with clear guiding questions to help determine responsibility.

"Input from various hearing bodies tasked with upholding the policy suggested the need for a more educational and informative sexual misconduct policy," said Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Director Daniel Swinton. "One

that would both help educate students as to appropriate and expected behavior, and facilitate the proper disciplinary processes."

The charge of "sexual misconduct" will now be expanded into three overlapping realms: non-consensual sexual intercourse, non-consensual sexual contact and other forms of sexual misconduct. The idea of "consent" is also clarified, especially in relation to substance abuse, incapacitation

and sexual misconduct.

The handbook explains the burden of determining the capacity of a potential sexual partner is on the person wishing to engage in the sexual activity. Furthermore, the handbook stresses that intoxication is not the equivalent of incapacitation and cannot be used as an "excuse for a violation of sexual misconduct policy."

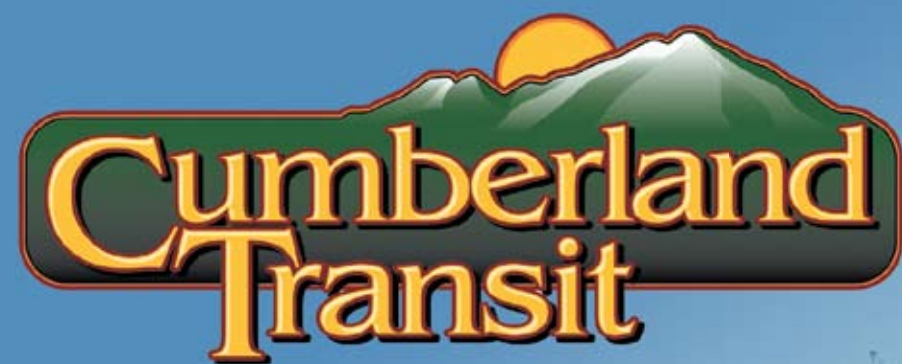
"There wasn't one specific incident that directly caused the changes," Swinton said.

Some students are worried about the changes in policy, specifically the limited immunity policy that allows witnesses of violations to testify without being punished for alcohol violations. While the policy does not say anything about the importance of the testimony from an intoxicated witness, senior Clare Fernandez said it might be an issue of reliability.

"If you're intoxicated, you can't verify it's true. When you're drunk, you could be

seeing Michael Jackson," said Fernandez. "You might put someone who didn't do anything under a lot of negative controversy."

Dean of Students Mark Bandas appointed Julie Sandine, assistant dean of the Vanderbilt Law School, and Lucius Outlaw, associate provost for undergraduate education, to co-chair the committee that reviewed the sexual misconduct policy. The committee consisted of faculty, staff and students. ■



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by HANNAH TWILLMAN

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THURSDAY



HIGH **40**, LOW **26**
Partly Cloudy

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SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES
Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

GOP's Chambliss wins Senate runoff

ATLANTA (AP)—Georgia Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss handed the GOP a firewall against Democrats eager to flex their newfound political muscle in Washington, winning a bruising runoff battle Tuesday night that had captured the national limelight.

Chambliss' victory thwarted Democrats' hopes of winning a 60 seat filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. It came after a bitter month long runoff against Democrat Jim Martin that drew political luminaries from both parties to the state and flooded the airwaves with fresh attack ads weeks after campaigns elsewhere had ended.

Minnesota — where a recount is under way — now remains the only unresolved Senate contest in the country. But the stakes there are significantly lower now that Georgia has put a 60-seat Democratic supermajority out of reach.

With 70 percent of the precincts reporting, Chambliss captured 60 percent to Martin's 40 percent. Chambliss' win is a rare bright spot for Republicans in a year where they lost the White House as well as seats in the House and the Senate.

"It's been a hard and tough four weeks," Chambliss said at a victory party in Cobb County. "We had a hardcore campaign on both sides and while things look good right now, we're going to continue to follow the returns as they come in."

Gates: Military looks to accelerate Iraq pullout in new administration

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates signaled a willingness Tuesday to forge ahead with two key priorities for the incoming Obama administration: accelerating the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and shutting down the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

As the only Republican Cabinet member asked to stay on by President-elect Barack Obama, Gates told reporters that military commanders are looking at ways to more quickly pull troops out of Iraq in light of the 16-month timetable that was a centerpiece of the Democrat's campaign.

He also said it will be a high priority to work with the new Congress on legislation that will enable the U.S. to close the detention center at the U.S. naval base in Cuba, where about 250 terrorism suspects are still being held.

In a blunt and occasionally personal briefing, Gates acknowledged his unique position in the new Democratic administration — a job he said he did not want or seek but felt he could not turn down.

"I guess I would say that I was engaged in my own form of strategic deterrence," said Gates, who for the past two years has talked only of his desire to return home to Washington state. "It was my hope that if I made enough noise about how much I did not want to stay here and how much I wanted to go back to the Northwest that I wouldn't have to worry about the question ever being asked."

But Obama asked, and Gates said there was no way he could say no. And while there has been much speculation that his tenure might be somewhat short, in an effort to ease the transition during wartime, Gates said his agreement to stay on at the Pentagon is "open-ended" and that there is no timeline for his departure.

Divorce rate up in Army, Marine Corps

WASHINGTON (AP)—The divorce rate among soldiers and Marines increased last year as military marriages suffered continuing stress from America's two ongoing wars.

There were an estimated 10,200 failed marriages in the active duty Army and 3,077 among Marines, according to figures obtained by the Associated Press for the budget year ended Sept. 30.

That's a divorce rate of 3.5 percent among more than 287,000 married troops in the Army, up from 3.3 percent in the previous fiscal year, according to Defense Department figures.

"With increasing demands placed on Army families and soldiers — including frequent deployments and relocations — intimate relationships are tested," said Army spokesman Paul Boyce.

The new data shows 3.7 percent of more than 84,000 married Marines divorced in fiscal year 2008, up from 3.3 percent in 2007. The Marine Corps called the increase statistically small and said officials would need to examine them farther.

Chained teen shows up at Calif. gym; 2 arrested in connection

TRACY, Calif. (AP)—A Girl Scout leader and her husband were arrested after an emaciated, terrified and nearly naked 17-year-old showed up at a gym with a chain locked to his ankle, saying he had just fled his captors, authorities said Tuesday.

Police were also seeking the boy's aunt and had an outstanding felony warrant against her for an earlier alleged assault against the teen.

The boy, who authorities said ran away from a Sacramento foster home last year, came into the In-Shape Sports Club in Tracy on Monday wearing only boxer briefs and covered in what appeared to be soot, gym manager Chuck Ellis said. Tracy is about 70 miles south of Sacramento.

Ellis said the teen was scared someone was going to come after him and asked to be hidden.

"He said, 'Don't let them get me, don't let them get me,'" Ellis said. "He was totally terrified."

The boy said he had been held captive for nearly a year, said Ellis, adding that he looked as if he were only 10 to 12 years old.

Nixon records show aides dishing dirt on critics in press, academia

WASHINGTON (AP)—In Richard Nixon's time, all the president's men fretted about threats on every front: disquiet out on the streets, disloyalty inside the administration and trouble from political opponents who had to be discredited at any cost.

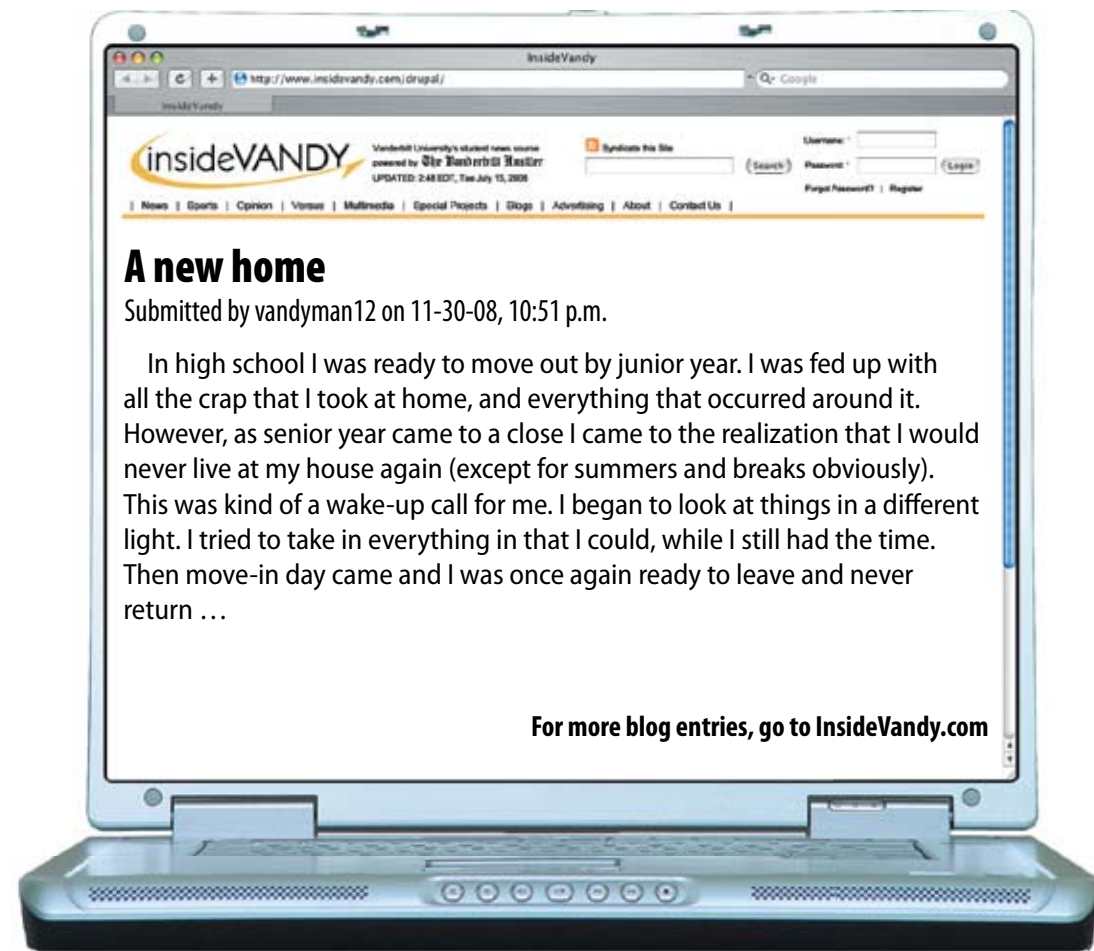
Documents and recordings released Tuesday show Nixon's operatives dishing dirt on the president's critics and public figures, including their marital, mental and drinking problems, and struggling to contain growing public unrest over the war in Vietnam. The president starkly set that tone.

"Never forget," Nixon tells national security adviser Henry Kissinger in a taped Oval Office conversation revealed Tuesday. "The press is the enemy. The establishment is the enemy. The professors are the enemy."

"Professors are the enemy," he repeated. "Write that on a blackboard 100 times and never forget it."

The conversation was on Dec. 14, 1972, four days before the U.S. unleashed a massive bombing campaign on Hanoi and Haiphong aimed at getting North Vietnam to negotiate more seriously in peace talks.

FROM THE BLOG



A new home

Submitted by vandyman12 on 11-30-08, 10:51 p.m.

In high school I was ready to move out by junior year. I was fed up with all the crap that I took at home, and everything that occurred around it. However, as senior year came to a close I came to the realization that I would never live at my house again (except for summers and breaks obviously). This was kind of a wake-up call for me. I began to look at things in a different light. I tried to take in everything in that I could, while I still had the time. Then move-in day came and I was once again ready to leave and never return ...

For more blog entries, go to InsideVandy.com

SNAPSHOT

HOLIDAY ARTS FESTIVAL



Sophomore Lysandra Ferrer peruses art at Sarratt's Holiday Art Festival, an exhibit that includes a silent auction and live performances.

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ADMINISTRATION

Stalcup named vice chancellor for development and alumni relations

Vanderbilt News Service

Susie Stalcup, the chief fundraising officer for Columbia University Medical Center, has been appointed vice chancellor for development and alumni relations, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos announced Tuesday.

"Given Vanderbilt's momentum and stature, this position commanded extraordinary interest, and Susie distinguished herself from the most sought-after candidates in the country," Zeppos said.

Stalcup's appointment, which followed a national search, is effective Jan. 1, 2009.

At Vanderbilt she will work to complete the \$1.75 billion Shape the Future Campaign, which is scheduled to conclude in 2010. She will oversee development and alumni activities throughout Vanderbilt, including the medical center and all schools and programs in the university.

As vice president for development at Columbia University's Medical Center in New York City since 2004, Stalcup

has led all aspects of CUMC's \$1 billion capital campaign, which met its goal two and a half years before the scheduled December 2011 conclusion.

As vice chancellor for development and alumni relations, Stalcup assumes responsibility for one of several positions held by Zeppos before he was named Vanderbilt chancellor in March 2008.

"I am very impressed with Vanderbilt's bold vision and the collegial, dynamic, new leadership team," Stalcup said. "I look forward to partnering

with the administration, faculty, development team, Board of Trust, alumni and students in the furtherance of Vanderbilt's ambitious, strategic initiatives. This is a wonderful opportunity and an endeavor that I am eager to undertake."

Jeffrey Balser, chair of the search committee and associate vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the Vanderbilt School of Medicine said, "It is clear that Susie Stalcup is the extraordinary person we've been searching for — she has all the right qualities to lead

development and alumni affairs at Vanderbilt. As a person she reflects our culture, and as a professional she will creatively project our impact as a leading research university across the globe."

Stalcup joined CUMC in 2002 as deputy vice president for development after directing a successful campaign at Baylor College of Medicine. From 1991 to 1996 she was senior director of planned giving at Rice University.

Before entering higher education advancement,

Stalcup worked for more than 15 years in finance and estate planning, first at Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith in Oklahoma City and New York City and later as senior vice president for trusts and bank investments at First Financial Bank Holdings in Abilene, Texas.

She became a certified financial planner after attending Wheaton College in Illinois and graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Oklahoma. ■

CAMPUS LIVING

'Think Gold, Act Green' student initiative promotes sustainability

by LAUREN KOENIG
News Contributor

Student groups united to "go green" on Tuesday at Sarratt Student Center. An innovative collaboration of Vanderbilt Student Government, several student groups and administration handed out free T-shirts, pizza and low energy light

bulbs. In turn, students signed a banner promising to "Think Gold, Act Green."

Senior Fabiani Duarte, VSG Speaker of the Senate, originally thought of the project. "The administration promoted energy saving but students were not included in the campaign," said Duarte. "I am very excited to

realize this idea for the campus."

In addition, Steve Gild from the Environmental Health and Safety Sustainability and Environmental Management Office said the initiative's main goal was to make students aware of different environmentally friendly programs going on around campus.

"Our job is to tie all these

initiatives together and offer a place where people can go get environmental info and ask environmental questions," said Gild.

First-year student Chelsey Feldman further explained the uniqueness of the project.

"All these environmental groups on campus promote sustainability

separately. This is a coalition of all the members," she said.

The students intend to promote recycling at sports events, place stickers on light switches in academic rooms reminding people to turn off the lights when they leave, create an eco summit for all campus partners and place recycling bins in Highland and

Towers dorms.

"People can be sustainable if you empower them to be," Duarte said.

The members and sponsors of the consolidation are VSG, VUcept, SustainVU, SPEAR, the Office of Greek Life, LDIA, WilSkills, OACS, Net Impact, Residential Education and the Dean of Students. ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Policy spoils holiday spirit for housekeepers

by ETHEL MICKEY
News Contributor

Student residents must come up with creative ways to thank their housekeepers this holiday season due to a strict policy in housekeepers' contracts.

The policy, which forbids housekeepers from receiving any gifts from students, was implemented over 20 years ago. According to Lenon Coleman, interim chief human resources officer, the policy

aims to protect both Vanderbilt employees and students.

"(The restrictions are intended to prevent) the intimidation of students by housekeepers through the delivery of services conditional on gifts of money or personal items (and) the unauthorized removal of student items without permission and subsequent claim of items being gifts," Coleman said.

Coleman said human resources did not want

housekeepers abused by students' tipping habits and the policy was meant "to prevent the possibility of students 'tipping' for preferential treatment from housekeepers."

While all of this seems fair to students, many are still troubled they cannot show housekeepers their appreciation.

"It's unfortunate that we cannot thank the housekeepers for cleaning our halls and bathrooms all year," said first-

year student Kristi Skala.

"I don't think a small gift, even a homemade one, would hurt," said first year Tara Westlund.

Residents are scrambling during the final weeks of the semester to find ways around the policy to express their gratitude. Members of Gillette House plan to make cards on each floor of the house and are hosting a luncheon for their housekeeping staff, catered by Panera. ■

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LEADERSHIP

Kappa Alpha Psi educates students about AIDS

by JANELLE STOKES
Greek Specialist

Vanderbilt students are raising awareness this week about AIDS and its prevention.

The men of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity are hosting a series of events to give students a reality check and give the global issue a local perspective.

Junior and treasurer of Kappa Alpha Psi Chris Griffin said he thinks college-aged students know the statistics and the complications that arise from the disease but are contradictory in their actions.

"I think everyone knows

that it's out there," said Griffin. "But I don't think that people are putting into effect the things they need to do in order to avoid the virus. I'm pretty sure there is a lot of unprotected sex going on and that doesn't need to happen."

In addition to handing out pamphlets and contraceptives and offering free AIDS testing, the fraternity is hosting a luncheon on Friday at noon in the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center.

At the luncheon, giveaways will include a Code Red iPod Nano and raffle tickets for donors. Money from the raffle will benefit a local AIDS

organization.

"We chose to focus on a local organization because national ones get money from everywhere," Griffin said. "These local places are the ones who really need this money."

The men of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity hope individuals will get a lot out of the week of programming because of the emphasis on practical ways to avoid AIDS instead of the usual "scare tactics."

"I think they need to be aware of what they are doing rather than actually be scared," Griffin said. "They know that (AIDS) is there, they just need to do something about it." ■

Students organizations promote World AIDS Day

by COURTNEY TOWNER
News Contributor

This past Monday, organizations and people all over the world celebrated the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day was created to bring awareness to the global AIDS epidemic.

Vanderbilt students have continued the recognition of AIDS through a week of programming.

On Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Nashville's Metro Public Health will

be providing free HIV screening in the Community Partnership House. Sponsors of this event include OACS, Face AIDS, Vanderbilt CARES, RADR, Global Health Council and the American Red Cross.

Vanderbilt CARES will display an AIDS memorial quilt on Alumni Lawn on Dec. 4.

Face AIDS is hosting its second annual World AIDS Day Benefit on Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Life Center. The benefit will feature Vanderbilt's African

Drumming Ensemble, a guest speaker, student speakers, a student-made documentary, craft sales and food from local restaurants.

All proceeds go to Partners in Health, which supports and builds healthcare in Rwanda, and NACOA, an HIV-positive women's coalition in Uganda.

Individual tickets are available on the card at Sarratt Student Center for \$12 and on the Wall or at the door for \$10 cash. ■

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ACADEMICS

First-year students present solution to music piracy

by TAYLOR DAVIS
News Contributor

and LILY CHEN
News Contributor

Students in a first-year seminar on music piracy held end of the year presentations yesterday in which students outlined their solutions to a prominent student issue.

This is the first year "Stealing in Music City" has been offered to students. Faculty members Holling Smith-Borne and Sara Manus said the goal was to expose students to various perspectives in the music industry from copyright lawyers to musicians.

"(Piracy) is a hot topic in our culture. We thought the class would attract students," said Smith-Borne, the director of the music library at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music.

Three student groups presented, proposing solutions ranging from revisions in the copyright law to re-establishing the market for music and involving influential celebrities to raise money for piracy education.

Because of the class, first-year student Sarah Barr is considering interning with publishing company Bug Music.

"(My group members and I) became closer because we put so much so much effort into the project," said Barr. "It was a really eye-opening experience."

The first group's plan involved a collective licensing plan in which customers could pay a certain amount of money a month for music use, among other things. The second group proposed using government action to determine how many times a track is song is

shared through using modern technology. The third and final group proposed increased education to teach students about piracy as an ethical problem and register with peer-to-peer networks.

First-year student Dan Astrachan felt the class was an interesting experience.

"I'm glad I took it, otherwise I wouldn't know there were so many people involved in the music industry and hear multiple perspectives from people in the field. I took away with me a better ability to work in groups."

Manus, education and outreach librarian, believes the class offers more than just education about the industry.

"This class allows students to understand ethically how this affects musicians, people who will be out of work in the music industry," said Manus. ■

ACADEMICS

Project analyzes democracy in Latin America

by AIMEE SOBHANI
News Contributor

Though most Latin American countries have democratic governments, support for democracy in the region is more abstract than it is practical, a Vanderbilt study suggests.

The Vanderbilt-based Latin American Public Opinion Project recently released its 2008 study. Conducted every two years, AmericasBarometer compiles public opinion data from 23 nations in the Caribbean, North, South and Central America.

This year's survey focused on

the "impact of governance on the democratic political culture," said Elizabeth Zechmeister, the assistant director of LAPOP.

According to the surveys, most Latin Americans still grapple with their recent undemocratic pasts. Political scientists working on AmericasBarometer hope to learn the extent to which democratic values have become entrenched in the region.

Through the survey, researchers have discovered that Latin Americans' support of democracy is quite complex.

"We find much greater support for democracy in the abstract than democracy in

practice," Zechmeister said.

LAPOP, directed by Centennial Professor of Political Science Mitchell A. Seligson, was started in the 1970s and includes collaborations from faculty members and graduate students from other universities.

The project is funded by grants from the United States Agency for International Development, Inter-America Development Bank and United Nations Development. These organizations, along with Latin American governments, have used the studies to promote democracy in Latin America. ■

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Elections

Spring 2009 Student Media Leader Elections

The Vanderbilt Student Communications Board of Directors is seeking applications for the following Student Media Leadership positions:

The Vanderbilt Hustler/InsideVandy.com
Division Head (Spring 2009 Academic Semester)

Versus

Division Head (Spring 2009 Academic Semester)

Applications are due Thursday, December 4 at Noon.

Division Head Applications are available at www.vscmedia.org

Elections will be held during the VSC Board of Directors meeting at
3 p.m., Monday, December 8 in Sarratt 189.

Student Media
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OPINION

More guns, please



CAROLYN PIPPEN
Columnist

Earlier this month, the Students for Concealed Carry on Campus had their “Pitch to the People” week, and copies of the group’s official handbook circulated various campus organizations. Until now, I have always held the simplistic and criminally naive moral standard of “guns = bad.” As it turns out, I was entirely wrong.

Apparently the rights of students to carry concealed weapons on campus will not make our campus more dangerous. In fact, the imminent threat of an area in which people are permitted to carry guns will create a level of intimidation, preventing those who intend to commit violent crimes from doing so. So it’s not so much that guns aren’t dangerous; they are very dangerous. And it’s the fact they are so dangerous that prevents them from creating danger.

And you thought this was going to be illogical.

The real genius of the idea, however, lies in its implications beyond the realm of violent crime. Students of professors whom they know to be carrying guns will be far less likely to make idiotic comments in class or plagiarize their term papers. They will never again complain to the possibly armed janitor about the lack of toilet paper. Just imagine how well contained fraternity parties would be if Kristen Torrey were packing heat.

Weapons on campus would also implement behavioral improvements from our students. In response to the concerns about the presence of firearms in an area with an average BAC of .39, the SCCC handbook contends that the rules prohibiting licensed holders from carrying weapons while under the influence would not be changed. As such legalities have proven to be so effective in eliminating alcohol consumption on college campuses in the past, this technical point appears to eliminate the danger altogether. In fact, if the possession of a weapon ensures a student will not consume alcohol, we should simply distribute them in an effort to curb substance abuse. Koala Week becomes Handgun Week, and AA’s 12-step program culminates in Step 13: Buy a gun! You’ll never drink again!

The other commonly held misconception regarding concealed weapons is that the training process is inadequate. In actuality, some licensing procedures require training to last almost an entire day. Certainly this is enough time for a 21-year-old to learn how to effectively utilize his own personal deadly weapon for, and only for, the purposes of self-defense.

In fact, I believe we as a society have become absurdly demanding when it comes to preparing its citizens for tasks not nearly as volatile as this one. If I can be adequately trained to use a handgun responsibly in a matter of hours, there is no reason why it should take more than 30 minutes to learn to drive a car or any more than a week to become a licensed physician. Once all of these ridiculous requirements have been laid aside, we as a people will have far more time to devote to not drinking.

I came into this issue a bit skeptical, but I am never one to ignore solid logic, and the arguments have moved me. If you yourself are not yet convinced, simply look at the student sitting closest to you. You may not know him, or his personality, or his criminal record, or what floors of which dorm his ID can access, but wouldn’t you feel much safer as a Vanderbilt student and resident if you knew for a fact he was concealing a gun?

—Carolyn Phippen is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at carolyn.m.pippen@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

Finals time means extra effort

Undergraduate students coming fresh off the Thanksgiving break were met this week with the sobering reality of finals and the end of a semester. For many, this may have been a rude wake-up call that those term papers and looming final exams were not as far away as they seemed. As early as Sunday night, students began holing themselves up in libraries, study rooms and the Baseball Glove Lounge with their books and notes.

This semiannual time of loads of stress and little sleep can be overwhelming for freshmen and seniors alike. Faced with this daunting task, students run the risk of either pushing themselves too hard or consigning themselves to failure.

Instead, we should make sure to spend these next two weeks of studying and finals working hard while maintaining at least a modicum of sanity. A delicate balancing act, this will require focus, patience and perhaps several cups of coffee daily. What students should avoid is the temptation to decelerate before reaching the finish line. After

all the hard work and time each one of us have put into our classes and activities over the last semester, these final days are not the time to take it easy.

On the other hand, study overkill can lead to fatigue and a lapse in comprehension. Spending too much uninterrupted time hitting the books may do more harm than good. All-nighters may be necessary to meet paper deadlines, but better time management and more efficient studying tactics can make them avoidable. Not even 30 hours of studying can beat a good night’s sleep. Students should be confident in their own knowledge and skills, particularly if they have been studious over the last few months.

So, take a healthy study break occasionally, spend a little time with friends, sleep when the opportunity arises and stick it out until the very end. The lesson in endurance may be the most beneficial Vanderbilt has to offer.

— Michael Warren

No guns, more problems

To the Editor:

A set of articles was published in the most recent edition of The Vanderbilt Torch that weighed the pros and cons of allowing concealed carry on campus. Douglas Kurdziel headed up the pro-gun control side of the debate with his article “Mo’ Guns, Mo’ Problems.” It revealed many of the common misunderstandings about the legalization of concealed carry on college campuses.

Kurdziel claimed the pro-concealed carry argument “goes too far in assuming that all Vanderbilt students would be responsible enough to use a firearm only in appropriate situations.” He failed to acknowledge that the carry rate in the general population is only 1 percent, and since applicants must be 21 or older, there would only be around 30 armed students among the 6,000 undergraduates. Secondly, the background check for a concealed carry permit is not the “instant” check that is performed at gun stores, but a much deeper examination performed by the FBI which includes a mental health evaluation.

Kurdziel claimed, “The goal of concealed carry legislation is to prevent (events) like Virginia Tech ... an extremely rare occurrence.” This just isn’t true. Concealed carry is a form of self-defense, and the legislation is intended to allow students to defend themselves from any sort of criminal.

This includes everything from would-be rapists to armed burglars waiting outside a parking garage. While campus shootings are rare, other crimes are much more common.

Contrary to Kurdziel’s belief, students wouldn’t be able to carry handguns “whenever they wanted.” Of the three places he listed, “class time, football tailgates ... and drunken Saturday nights at the frats,” concealed carry is legal at one, as the distribution of alcohol at the others would make carrying a concealed weapon illegal. Carry is also illegal at public events like football games, so you needn’t be worried about a deranged fan’s emotional distress.

Finally, he asked if “you trust the police department, Vanderbilt’s emergency notification system and other safety measures to protect you on a day-to-day basis”? Although I can’t speak for everyone, the answer is clearly “no.” Setting aside the years of court decisions and legislation emancipating the police from any specific duty or responsibility to protect you, there is one thing these services have in common that makes them ineffective for personal protection. They are all reactionary. They cannot protect us from every threat.

Erik Soderstrom
Freshman
College of Arts and Science

The value of vacationing



JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

There are very few things that feel better than coming off of a week of doing nothing. Especially if part of that nothing involves eating large amounts of turkey and pumpkin pie. Which brings me to a curious sidebar — where are spring’s seasonal foods?

There are the harvest foods of fall, the barbecue of summer and winter’s soul-warming comfort foods. If spring wants to step it up and be able to contend on the highest seasonal level, it needs to bring in some unique flavor to the game, and it needs to be more than Easter chiclets and herbal tea. Spring is missing that extra dimension of delicious flavors that would bolster its fairly unimpressive repertoire of flowers, rain and lent. But that’s not what I want to talk about today.

As you might discern from the 100th person you run into before Thanksgiving and Christmas who says, “I really need this break,” vacation is valuable. And while I also understand the saying “I had a really nice vacation” is about as fresh and controversial as a Neily Todd article, I want to examine vacation from a slightly more nuanced angle.

Just think about today. How many mental vacations have you already taken during class or while reading this article? We have to do it. It’s an essential daily human necessity, just like shelter, or checking your cell phone. What about skipping classes? That’s a vacation in itself —

sometimes planned, sometimes booked at the last minute. Or where you find yourself desperately procrastinating work by surfing Facebook or Googling your own name.

There’s one piece of uniting advice I have about any and all vacations — schedule them as much as possible and earn your time off. Once you get into the working world, this is something everyone has to do far in advance. But let’s take it at a smaller level; I would suggest you schedule one day off or at least a light day in every week. For me and many others, for religious reasons, this day comes each Sunday. I completely refuse to engage in any activity outside going to church, watching football, eating pizza and maybe catching some of Fox’s Sunday night schedule.

But any day of the week will work just as well in terms of vacation — many of us use Friday or Saturday. If you’re going to skip class, do your best to plan this ahead as well. It will give you something to look forward to during the week. Do your best to plan even your mental vacations. In a boring class? Block these once every 10 or 15 minutes. Talking to a freshman sorority rush? Maybe once every other sentence. The point is, half the fun of anything is preparation plus anticipation. In order to compose your vacations for maximum value, plan ahead and don’t taint these escapes with streaks of work or reality, otherwise it’s not a vacation at all.

—Justin Poythress is a senior in Peabody College. He can be reached at j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu.

A long road ahead



SOO YANG
Columnist

What happened in Mumbai was more than terrorism — it was war. By targeting multiple sites in the heart of India’s financial capital, the attackers were determined to destabilize an entire city. The Indian security forces, in response, organized a military operation to kill remaining jihadists and rescue civilian hostages. Although the city and the surrounding region have endured similar, but less coordinated, attacks in the past, the scene of the iconic Taj Mahal Hotel engulfed in towering smoke will mark a beginning of a new political reality for India.

As the final death toll and structural damage are becoming clear, the identity and the motive of the attackers are also beginning to surface. Despite a claim of responsibility from an unknown terrorist organization, Deccan Mujahideen, there is growing evidence that the suspects received training and support in Pakistan from radical Islamic groups associated with violence and political instability in the Kashmir territory. The connection between the militants and Pakistani terror networks suggest the attacks might have been motivated by the ongoing Kashmir conflict between India and Pakistan. Some sources, however, claim the Hindi-speaking suspects were radical Indian Muslims angry with the Hindu majority in India. Despite the uncertainty surrounding the attackers’ identity and the motive, it is clear the extremist elements wanted to undermine secular, free-market modernity and ethno-religious plurality by targeting Mumbai. Now, India has a renewed responsibility to fight extremism and a chance to effectively eradicate terrorism by learning from the mistakes of President George W. Bush’s administration’s ongoing war on terror.

First, India must continue to protect the rights of its citizens and respect international agreements in its fight against terrorism. The government should implement anti-terrorism programs, such as federal spying and wiretapping techniques that defend individual privacy and prevent future terrorism. Effective surveillance programs and respect for civil liberties are not mutually exclusive. Likewise, the government should adhere to the Geneva Conventions and avoid torture, such as water boarding. It is important to remember war on terror is a larger struggle between barbarism and civility, and India should not compromise its core values.

Second, elected officials should consult closely with military leadership, its intelligence community and regional neighbors before authorizing military action outside its borders. Any unilateral military strike on its neighboring countries, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, will only destabilize the already extremely volatile region and alienate potential allies. It is equally important for a military operation to be well researched, well funded and well planned. By cooperating with different parts of the government as well as its allies, India can effectively contain terrorist elements in the short run.

For a long-term solution, India should work with its neighbors to invest in the economies of poverty-stricken regions. Filled with terrorist training camps and recruitment centers, these remote, poor villages serve as a breeding ground for terror networks. Private and public construction programs could employ the villagers to build roads, factories, schools and other critical infrastructure necessary for a stable community. By replacing propaganda with education and religious fanaticism with human capital, India can help stabilize the regional economy and fight terrorism by destroying its roots.

In short, India has a burden and an opportunity to effectively eradicate extremist elements in its own country and the surrounding region. By using a thoughtful yet forceful approach, India can set a new example of how to fight terrorism with common sense and dignity.

—Soo Yang is a junior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at soo.yang@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. 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. 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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U.S. Sen. Bob Corker
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Rep. Jim Cooper
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11/21/08 SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Rent contracts
 - Reunion grp.
 - Pass out cards
 - To each one
 - Old card game
 - Fashion of the moment
 - Soldier's collection
 - Jillian or Landers
 - Largest continent
 - Get out of here!
 - Jerry's sitcom
 - Mote
 - Data on jackets
 - Clodhopper
 - Letters on Cardinal caps
 - Pro's foe
 - Rhythmic throb
 - Consciousness
 - Time periods
 - Painter Hals
 - Market or collar lead-in
 - Spanish horseman
 - Handbill
 - Mare's tidbit
 - Star quality
 - Hot spring
 - Least likely to appear
 - Garbage emanations
 - Mileage recorder
 - Hoodwinked
 - Off-quoted Berra
 - Ernie of the links
 - On cloud nine
 - Promote criminal activity
 - ___ Paulo, Brazil
 - Antonin of the Supreme Court
 - Camera's eye
 - Spike TV, once
 - Messenger

- DOWN**
- Mary's follower
 - Fencing sword
 - Rice/John musical
 - Bleachers, e.g.
 - Solar event

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12/3/08

11/21/08 SOLUTIONS

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- 6 Last part of a sonnet
7 Liquor container
8 Top-drawer
9 Computer screens
10 Air current
11 Atelier stand
12 Catlike
13 Starring roles
22 Inch Nails
24 Red table wine
26 Well-oiled grp.?
27 Mystique
28 Loose weight?
30 Went by dugout
32 Retirement grp.
34 Open hostilities
35 Org. of Raiders and Vikings
36 Yale grads
37 Ooze
38 Poet Teasdale
40 Most level
43 Suffer defeat
44 A single time
47 Children's card game
- 49 Of a monarch
50 Clay brick
51 Seth of "Superbad"
52 Gives off
53 Bean or Welles
- 54 Battery type
56 Zest
58 "Damn Yankees" role
59 Bad to the bone
60 Bereft of sensation

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— Core Survey, 2008

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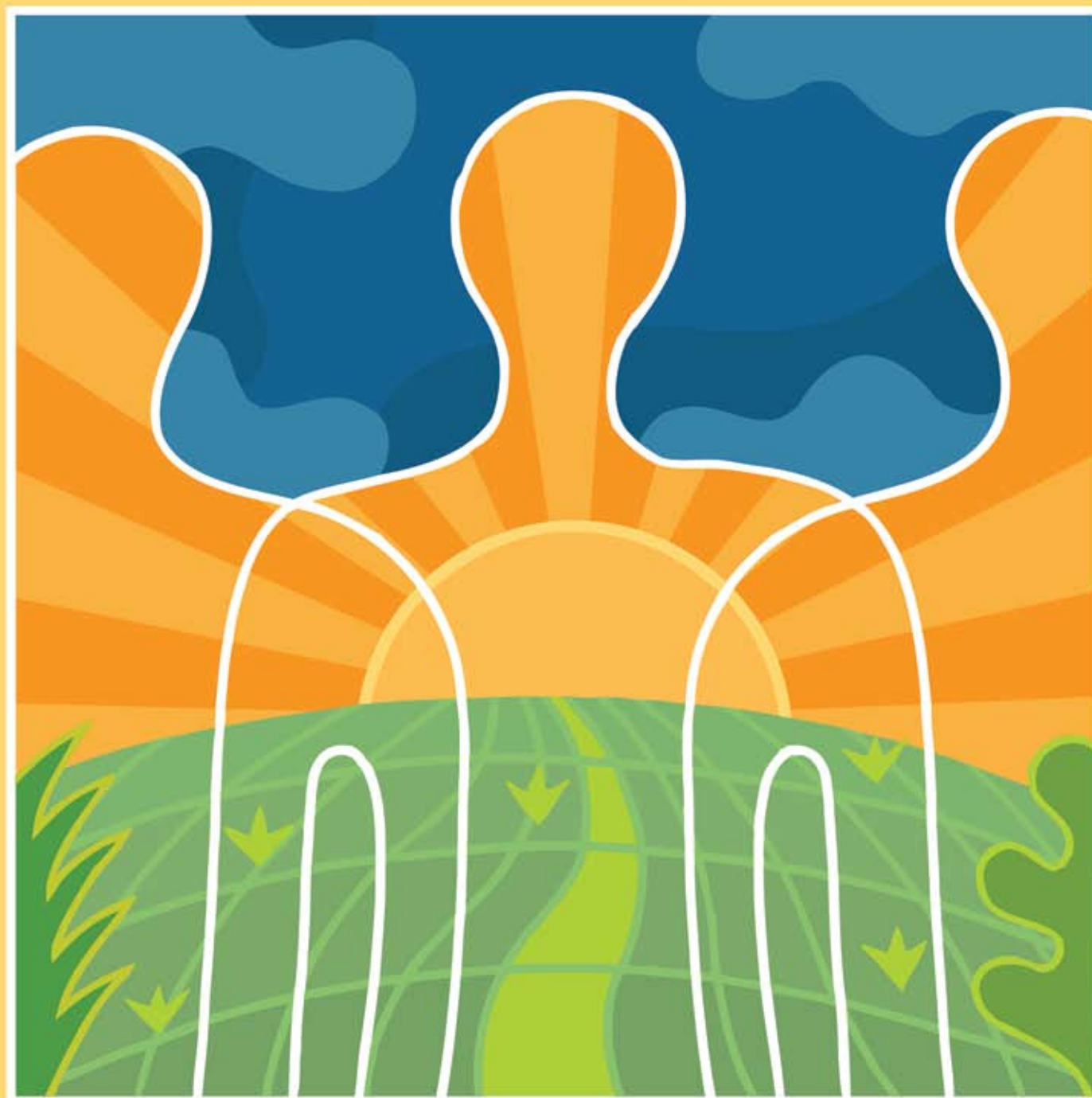
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SPORTS

Was the 2008 football season a success?

The Hustler Sports Staff discusses

After blazing to a 5-0 start, its best in 65 years, Vanderbilt stumbled down the stretch, losing six of seven to finish 6-6. Still, the team did reach bowl eligibility for the first time in 26 years. So, was the season a success?

Commodores far exceeded expectations

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor



SAM KIM/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Redshirt freshman linebacker Chris Marve (13) was one of many Vanderbilt players who emerged as stars in getting the team to six wins.

While it always hurts to stumble through the second half of the season like the Commodores did this year, one must look at the season as a whole to truly understand how successful it was.

In preseason media polls, Vanderbilt was predicted to finish dead last in the Southeastern Conference. These opinions were not unfounded; the Commodores were expected to struggle through a major rebuilding year after losing stars such as Earl Bennett, Chris Williams and Jonathan Goff from a 5-7 team that was supposed to be the best team that had been fielded in Nashville in a long time.

The team returned only 10 starters and needed to replace the entire offensive line while sorely lacking depth and experience on the defensive line and linebacking corps.

In short, no one expected the Commodores to even come close to bowl eligibility this year, much less attain it after 26 years of futility. At very best, this team was expected to be a year or two away from finally ending their bowl-less streak.

But this young team managed to succeed despite the doubts of most outside of the program, consistently winning as the underdog against teams like Auburn and South Carolina who have traditionally had Vanderbilt's number on the playing field.

Granted, the team did not finish strong, stumbling through six losses in their final seven games, but it must be emphasized that this team finally achieved that elusive sixth win, something not even Jay Cutler could accomplish in his time for the black and gold.

If nothing else, coach Bobby Johnson's Commodores finally got the monkey off of their backs, which could set the tone for some very special seasons in the next few years as this young team matures and gains more experience.

With the Commodores bringing back nearly all of their key contributors next year, expectations should be sky high for the team to build off of this season and begin a new streak of success. ■

Good season, but could have been much better

by NICK GALLO
Sports Contributor



CHRIS PHARE/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Chris Nickson (3) and the Vanderbilt offense sputtered in the second half of the season, scoring 14 points or less six times in their last seven games.

At face value, the Vanderbilt football season was a success. The team finished 6-6, a better record than any Commodore team since 1982. The team will most likely be in a bowl game later this winter, and by most college's standards, had a very solid year.

Vanderbilt, a private school with just less than 7,000 undergrads, went up against large public Southeastern Conference schools all season and came away with a 4-4 SEC record. Most other colleges in the country couldn't have pulled off that feat. The Commodores were also ranked in the top 25 this season, defeated Auburn in a high-profile, exciting contest that followed ESPN's "College GameDay," which was hosted live at The Commons.

All of those positives, combined with a 5-0 record to start the season, make it seem like the Commodores had an extremely successful season in comparison to past seasons. It is true this was the best season for Vanderbilt in over two decades, but most Vanderbilt players and students must have a bad taste in their mouth because of the way the season ended. After that amazing 5-0 start, the Commodores ended the year 1-6, including home losses to Duke, the perennial doormat of the Atlantic Coast Conference, and arch-rival Tennessee, who had a down year.

The bane of the Commodores down the stretch was its offense, which was held to 14 points or less in seven of their last eight games. The defense was the strength of this team all season, but when the offense sputters, its defense can only keep the team in the game for so long. At the end of the year when the level of competition increased, Vanderbilt's abysmal offense dragged it down, and turned a promising season into a lackluster one.

Vanderbilt does have plenty to be proud of after this year, and its bowl appearance will be a great opportunity to offset some of the negatives from the season. If, however, the Commodores don't win their bowl game, the season will be seen as a major letdown. Vanderbilt had plenty of talent, confidence and momentum, but simply couldn't get the job done against both powerful and weak opponents at the end of the year. ■

2008 created a positive vibe for Vanderbilt

by DAVID NAMM
Sports Contributor



CHRIS PHARE/The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson and his staff have worked hard to assemble SEC-caliber talent and 2008 was the fruition of those efforts.

In a regular season filled with ups and downs, it is only fitting the Commodores finished it stuck in neutral. In a stretch filled with touchdowns and turnovers, promise and disappointment, magic and mishaps, Vanderbilt football in 2008 (6-6, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) can be remembered for a red-hot start followed by perhaps an even cooler finish. Thus, in a season when the Commodores believed in themselves and taught us to believe in them and was a mediocre finish enough to warrant calling the season a success? Here are a few reasons you can.

Vanderbilt Stadium gave the Commodores a solid home-field advantage to start.

In the past, the Commodores' big victories have come on the road, like last year's victory at South Carolina and two years ago at Georgia. In spite of the late season swoon leading to a string of losses, Vanderbilt beat two ranked teams in Nashville this season (Auburn and South Carolina), a rather unfamiliar feat for the Commodore faithful.

The talent level is there.

Does Vanderbilt have a seemingly endless stash of blue-chip prospects programs like Florida and Georgia can boast? Not at this point. Even so, the Commodores have been able to bring in enough credible talent to thanks to coach Bobby Johnson to have at least one player who can take over a game when called upon. A few years ago, it was Jay Cutler. Last year, it was Earl Bennett. This year, it was perhaps the most versatile of them all, D.J. Moore. The junior cornerback, wide receiver and return specialist nabbed six interceptions, two touchdown catches and gave the Commodore offense solid field position countless times on punts and kickoffs. In short, Moore can do it all, and his presence as a difference-maker is one of the reasons the Commodores got to six wins.

The Commodores are bowl eligible.

This automatically makes this season the best product in terms of wins Vanderbilt has put on the field since 1982. Give a lot of the credit here to Johnson, who has done a remarkable job creating a positive vibe around a program that was consistently the SEC's laughingstock cellar dweller. ■

SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by Brian Linhares

	1. Florida 11-1 (7-1 SEC) Arguably the hottest team in the country, the Gators have outscored opponents by nearly 40 points per game since the loss to Ole Miss. A win over the Crimson Tide in the SEC Championship game will have the Gators within one victory of a second BCS national championship in three years.
	2. Alabama 12-0 (8-0) Prior to Saturday, standout freshman receiver Julio Jones was in the sixth grade during the last Crimson Tide victory in the Iron Bowl. Nick Saban has certainly made his mark on the program in just two years; the top-ranked Tide are the only undefeated team of the six major conferences.
	3. Mississippi 8-4 (5-3) The impressive Rebels finished the season with five consecutive victories after a 3-4 start, earning a likely trip to the Cotton Bowl and humiliating rivals LSU and Mississippi State in the process.
	4. Georgia 9-3 (6-2) The preseason No. 1 Bulldogs are now second in the state of Georgia following last week's defeat at the hands of Georgia Tech, the first loss in the series for the Dawgs since 2000.
	5. LSU 7-5 (3-5) Despite a 2-4 finish (albeit with close losses to top-ranked Alabama and Arkansas), the Tigers may still receive an invite to the Outback Bowl.
	6. Vanderbilt 6-6 (4-4) The Commodores avoided complete collapse with a victory in Lexington several weeks ago but had ugly losses to Tennessee and Wake Forest; in all likelihood, they will stay in Nashville for the Music City Bowl or go to Memphis for the Liberty Bowl.
	7. South Carolina 7-5 (4-4) In Brian Linhares' power rankings, a head-to-head loss counts (unlike the BCS), dropping the Ol' Ball Coach's squad below Bobby Johnson's.
	8. Tennessee 5-7 (3-5) Approximately three-fourths of the world is covered by water. Sophomore Eric Berry takes care of the rest.
	9. Kentucky 6-6 (2-6) The Wildcats started undefeated in a rigorous non-conference schedule including Middle Tennessee State University, Norfolk State and Western Kentucky. The SEC slate didn't turn out as well.
	10. Arkansas 5-7 (2-6) A 1-point victory over Louisiana State on Friday served fitting, as Bobby Petrino's squad endured crushing losses to South Carolina, Mississippi State and Ole Miss by three points or less.
	11. Auburn 5-7 (2-6) In a stunner, the Tigers nearly pulled off the upset, falling just short of Alabama by a score of 36-0, to cap off a 2-7 finish to the season.
	12. Mississippi State 4-8 (2-6) After a 21-38 record over five seasons (and the worst loss in the Egg Bowl since 1971), the Sylvester Croom era came to a close within hours of the Ole Miss debacle where the Bulldogs lost to their archrivals in the Egg Bowl, 45-0.

Commodore baseball signs ten recruits

by MIKE KRANZLER
Sports Contributor

The Vanderbilt baseball team signed 10 high school recruits to National Letters of Intent during the early signing period, as reported by VandySports.com.

Coach Tim Corbin has signed many players who excel at several positions, and only time will tell where they will see playing time at Vanderbilt.

The team will welcome two pitchers from Illinois in lefty Nathan Dorris and righty Jack DeAno, along with lefthanders Keenan Kolinsky out of Knoxville and Samuel Selman from Texas. Kolinsky is also a very capable first-baseman and outfielder.

Two players with strong baseball bloodlines will be joining the outfield in Andover's Michael Yastrzemski and Regan Flaherty. Yastrzemski is the grandson of Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski, who starred for the Boston Red Sox for 23 years and was baseball's last winner of the Triple Crown, an award given for leading the league in home runs, runs batted in

and batting average in the same year.

Flaherty is the younger brother of former Commodore Ryan Flaherty, who was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the Supplemental First Round in the 2008 Amateur Baseball Draft. Both of these players are also capable of pitching or playing first base if necessary. Houston's Conner Harrell will also be joining them in the outfield.

In the infield, Knoxville's Curt Powell will be joined by Anthony Gomez from New Jersey and Nathan Gonzalez from Florida. Powell can play several positions in the middle infield, while Gomez can play shortstop and third base. Gonzalez is primarily a catcher but can also play outfield and first base.

As with any baseball recruiting class, it is possible some of these athletes will choose to join the professional ranks if their names are called in the major league draft on June 9 and 10.

The spring signing period occurs between April 8 and Aug. 1, and it is possible that more recruits will join the fold at that time. ■

VANDERBILT BASKETBALL



Christina Wirth



Jermaine Beal

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Vanderbilt vs. Eastern Kentucky

No. 17 Vanderbilt handily defeated Radford Tuesday night, 78-41. The Commodores (7-1) led the whole way, playing smothering defense that held Radford to just 14 first-half points en route to a third straight win.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Vanderbilt vs. Illinois-Chicago

Coming off a triumph in the Cancun Challenge that saw Jermaine Beal named to the All-Tournament team, the Commodores return to Memorial Gym tonight to take on Illinois-Chicago. Vanderbilt (5-1) and the Flames tip off at 7 p.m.

Versus

Entertainment & Culture at Vanderbilt

DECEMBER 3—DECEMBER 9, 2008 VOL. 46, N° 26

“Abstract Progressive” rapping duo **The Knux** are giving **Vincent Chase** his **soundtrack** and **garnering accolades** for their debut album **“Remind Me in Three Days.”** Check out our **exclusive interview** on **page 7.**

We saw a lot of movies over break. We weigh in on which to see and ... from which to flee.

“80s and Heartbreaks” is really good. Hey, Kanye, hey.

The KNUX

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Harley Allen Band — Station Inn

The go-to joint for bluegrass in the Music City features Harley Allen, a well-known song writer who's worked with Garth Brooks, Dierks Bentley and Gary Allan to name a few. Make sure to see this living legend in action. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

Roman Candle — The Mercy Lounge

Mercy Lounge is putting on an in-the-round featuring Roman Candle and the Deep Vibration, Keegan DeWitt and Mikky Ekko. Why would they do this? To celebrate the release of Roman Candle's EP, of course! (\$7, 8 p.m.)

Golden Animals and Nite Nite — Exit/In

Have you ever wanted to see a two-person rock band covered in gold sparkles? Look no further than Linda from Sweden and Tommy from Baltimore, aka Golden Animals and Nite Nite. (TBA, 8 p.m.)

Safetysuit with Radioactive Candy — 12th and Porter

Add one part neo-pop grooves, three parts “wall of sound” and two parts of the musical majesty and magic of bands like U2 and you'll have Safetysuit. That sounds delicious. (\$10, 8 p.m., 114 12th Ave. North)

In The Row — The Bluebird Cafe

Bluebird's weekly showcase of upcoming songwriting talent features Elizabeth Marlow, Sonia Leigh, Ladd Smith and Tom Bohn. Get a preview of the music you'll be listening in the next few years. (Free, 6 p.m., 4104 Hillsboro Road)

Carissa Lee Broadwater's Going Away Party — The Basement

That's right, Carissa is leaving us. But to say goodbye, she's having her friends FreshPack, Brian Ritchey, Jon Byrd, Christy Fields, Matt Haley, Justin Collins, Mando Saenz, Molly Thomas and others play at her party. That's a bunch of music for not too much money. Sweet deal. (\$7, 8 p.m.)

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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Parachute Musical and KinderCastle with Noises 10 — The Mercy Lounge and Cannery Ballroom

Part of the Mercy Lounge's Winter of Dreamz musical showcase, Friday's event showcases Parachute Musical and KinderCastle along with opener Noises 10. Head to the Mercy Lounge to enjoy some live local music and \$2.50 pints courtesy of Winter of Dreamz co-presenter Sweetwater 420. (\$7 advance/\$10 at door, 9 p.m.)

Guerrilla Radio and Behind The Sun — Exit/In

Rage Against the Machine tribute band Guerilla Radio joins Behind the Sun, a Red Hot Chili Peppers tribute band, for a night full of everyone's favorite '90s throwbacks. These two are the closest you can get without seeing the real thing! (\$10, 9 p.m.)

Bill Monroe Appreciation Night — Station Inn

Known as “the father of bluegrass music,” Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys pioneered the bluegrass genre. It went on to help found many other styles, including western swing, honky-tonk and even rock 'n' roll. The Station Inn is hosting a night of artists influenced by Monroe in honor of his being elected into the Country Music and Rock and Roll halls of fame. (\$12, 7 p.m.)

Swing Latino — Cafe Bella

A free salsa class will be hosted at Cafe Bella, followed by a performance by local Latin musicians Swing Latino. Salsa, merengue and cha-cha are just a few of the genres that Swing Latino will perform. Following Swing Latino, disc jockeys will spin Latin tracks for a late-night party. (\$10, 10 p.m., 606 Ninth Ave. South)

Alice Clark Art Showcase — Rocketown

For a night of great art accompanied by great music, head over to Rocketown. Works by local artist Alice Clark will be showcased, along with accompanying music from From The Pawn, Burn This City, Goodbye Apathy, Dissect the Coroner, Demeanor, Adelaide, None Shall Pass, Colby & TomTom, So To Speak, The Castle Is a Tomb, Eve Of Shadows and Acrasia. (\$6, 7 p.m., 401 Sixth Ave. South)

Forget Cassettes with The Sincerity Guild and Nite Nite — The End

Core Cassettes Beth Cameron and Doni Schroader are back and leading their band with a revamped sound. The group has just finished putting together a new album, and they're ready to jam to their mellow rock at The End. (\$7, 9 p.m., 2219 Elliston Place)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Carols & Cocoa — Barnes and Noble, Cool Springs

Need to get into the Christmas spirit? The Battle Ground Academy Middle School Chorus will lead you in some of your favorite seasonal carols as you enjoy delicious hot chocolate. (Free, 11 a.m., 1701 Mallory Lane, Brentwood)

Winter of Dreamz featuring Space Capone and Kyle Andrews with Elle Macho — The Mercy Lounge and Cannery Ballroom

Some of Nashville's most interesting new bands will share the stage tonight at the Mercy Lounge's special event, during which attendees can enjoy \$2.50 pints of Sweetwater 420. Space Capone will bring a new take on classic funk, while Kyle Andrews' alternative funk will provide a welcomed break from the ordinary. (\$7 advance/\$10 at the door, 9 p.m.)

John Karl — Wildhorse Saloon

House musician and self-declared Yankee redneck John Karl has been touring nonstop for the past three years all across the country, but calls the Wildhorse his home. (TBA, 7 p.m.)

Christina Watson — F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar

Vocalist Christina Watson's soaring voice has been likened to that of Carmen McRae, Bessie Smith and Diana Krall, and she transitions between jazz and funk and soul seamlessly. (Free, 7:30 p.m.)

American Bang with Modoc and The Tits — The Basement

This Nashville-based rock band describes itself to be “Southern-fried garage rock.” Check out the band's MySpace for a preview of the energetic, rock-infused show that American Bang is sure to bring to The Basement. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

Karyn Rochelle and Friends — The Listening Room Cafe

Nashville native and country singer-songwriter Karyn Rochelle has penned numerous hits for fellow country crooners Kellie Pickler and Trisha Yearwood, including Yearwood's “Georgia Rain,” which earned Rochelle a BMI award for being one of the most performed country songs of 2005. (TBA, 9 p.m., 209 10th Ave. South, Suite 200)

Copland for Organ — Nashville Symphony

Looking for something unexpected? SunTrust Classical Series presents this special program, featuring the Nashville Symphony. Eighty musicians and 3,568 organ pipes combine for a huge, audience-encompassing sound. (Tickets TBD, 8 p.m.)

The Regulars

THE RUTLEDGE
410 Fourth Ave. S. 37201
782-6858

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

BLUEBIRD CAFE
4104 Hillsboro Road 37215
383-1461

EXIT/IN
2208 Elliston Place 37203
321-3340

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

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

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

SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER
1 Symphony Place 37201
687-6500

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

CAFE COCO
210 Louise Ave. 37203
321-2626



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Versus

DECEMBER 3—DECEMBER 3, 2008 VOL. 46, Nº. 26

Versus Magazine

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FROM THE EDITOR



As we tend to do, Versus is making history this week. We are ahead of the curve. We are breaking news. How, you ask? You see those goofball brothers The Knux on the cover of the issue? Well, I am here to tell you that they just happen to be The Next Big Thing. And because we are ahead of the curve, ergo, you are ahead of the curve. You music hipster, you.

New Orleans-hailing brothers Kintrell, 26, and Alvin, 24, Lindsey (or if you are more comfortable with their stage names, "Krisby Kream" and "Rah Almillio," respectively) are making waves in the hip-hop community and earning themselves some well-deserved buzz. The duo has been playing music together for over a decade, as they were both in the marching band and jazz lessons as kids. However, with influences like the Wu-Tang Clan and the Gravediggaz, it didn't take long for the brothers' sound to evolve past the trumpet. With the upcoming release of their debut album "Remind Me in Three Days..." looming, they call themselves "abstract-progressive." I call them cool.

The brothers' sound is definitely rap, but the duo's rhymes are backed by layers of twangy, rock 'n' roll-influenced instrumentals, and the result is b-a-d-a-s-s. Need proof? HBO's "Entourage" used The Knux's song "Cappuccino" in a recent episode. Hey if Vincent Chase jams to it, I am definitely down.

Where else have we been? The movie theaters across America, apparently. Subsequently, we are devoting an entire page to the weekend's big releases, from "Twilight" to "The Boy in Striped Pajamas" to "Milk" just in time to distract you from studying for that looming nutrition final. Ugh. Remind me in three days.

Darcy Newell

THIS ISSUE

7 Fiction

- "Playboys," 2
- "Life in a Cage," 2
- Words to live by in 17 syllables, 2

Entertainment

- We like movies, 3
- We really like movies, 3
- We saw a lot of movies, 3

Music

- Go Trombone Shorty, it's your birthday, 4
- Kanye West, you sure sound different, 4
- Broken Social Scene defies expectations, 5

Art

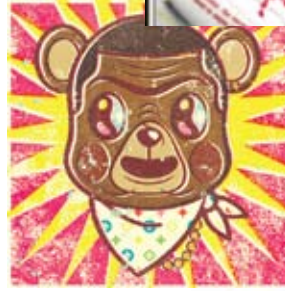
- What not to wear at semi-formal, 6
- Starbucks is the happiest place on earth, 6
- Black Friday, my favorite holiday, 6

Features

- Q+A with The Knux, 7
- Letter from an Angry WASP, 7



6

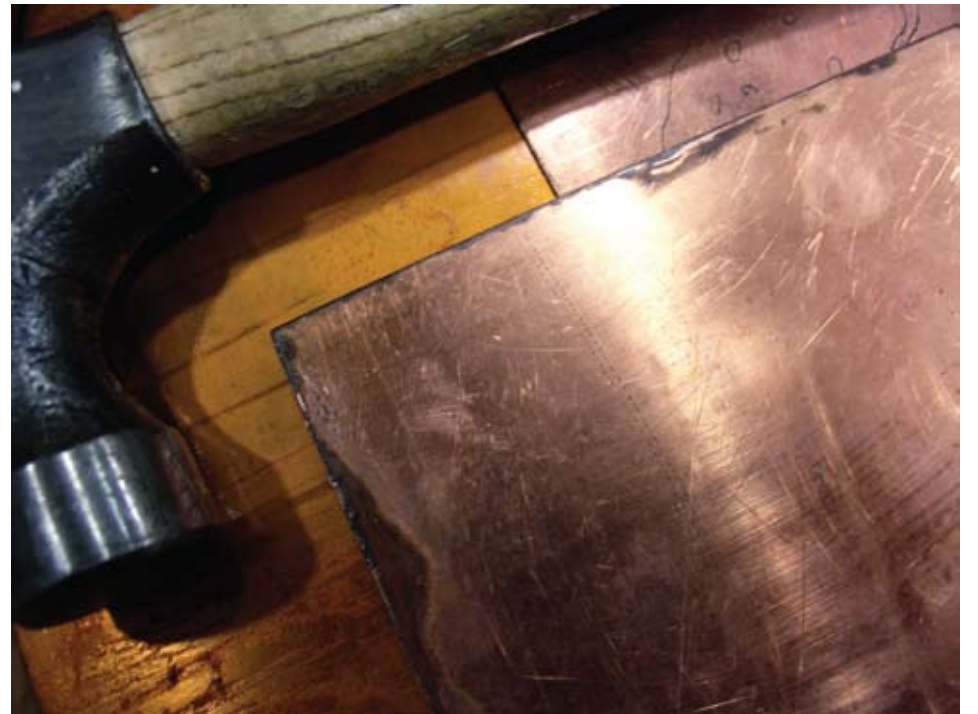


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6



PIC OF THE WEEK



AMELIA SPINNEY/VERSUS MAGAZINE

FICTION

CHILDREN AREN'T COLORING BOOKS. YOU DON'T GET TO FILL THEM WITH YOUR FAVORITE COLORS."

— **KHALED HOSSEINI**

Songs of Entitlement

The Knux

One of the great things about the arts is when you can find a way to synergistically combine different avenues of expression. Here at Versus, we're trying something new: Every week, we take the name of a song by a featured artist and have one of our writers turn it into a short story. This week we're giving you twice the bang for your buck with two songs from feature interview band The Knux.

CHRIS GEARING
Features Editor

"Playboys" were strewn about as I cautiously stepped into the room. The ash smell of cigars filled the room and overwhelmed my nostrils as my eyes tried to make some sense of the scene in front of me. The very best of Hugh Hefner wasn't even the weirdest thing on the burgundy shag carpet. A busted lava lamp was oozing in the corner, a full set of monopoly was set up (seemingly in mid-game) in the middle of the nudie magazines, an open pack of diapers with a cabbage patch kid spread eagle next to it, a still-burning cigarette in an ash tray in the shape of a dragon on the side table apparently from the '60s, various stuffed animals torn to bits with their stuffing all over the room. These were only a few of the things that lay about the scene. "Mark? Are you here?" I ventured.

I heard a sputter in the bathroom, kind of a relieved sigh muffled by the surrounding sea-foam green tile. As I jumped from island to island in the carpet, I wondered what the hell had happened here. Was he robbed? Was this the product of a 72-hour bender of Nyquil, Speed and Dr. Pepper? Or was Mark just the victim of a tragically misbalanced mix of Cheeseballs and Pixy Stix? Honestly, that crossed my mind.

I made it to the bathroom and slid onto the tile. The tub was overflowing with cloudy water and Mark lay face down in the toilet bowl in only a cheetah print cowboy hat and his Hello Kitty boxers. "What the hell happened to you?"

He slowly lifted his bruised head, "Oh man, where to begin? Remember that broad from the bar last night? Turns out she's a working lady, if ya know what I mean..."

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

"I hate apple pie"
Is the worst possible phrase
I have ever heard.

Should we be thankful
That we've only three weeks left
Or sad they'll be gone?

KRIS STENSLAND
Fiction Editor

"Life In A Cage" really isn't as bad as you'd think. I have a meal plan of my own, you know. And without those pesky taste buds like you all have, I don't have to worry about variety, so a few of those nice brownish pebbles every day keeps me pretty solid.

I've really got everything you could ever want, and oftentimes I'm even better off than you are. My sweet wheel is way better than a treadmill, and they definitely don't make plastic balls big enough for you to fit in. Besides, my water bottle with the little ball bearing is way more fun than any satiating device you could ever come up with for yourself.

Further, there's no such thing as an emo hamster. There's no such thing as hamster loneliness. I have no girl-hamster problems because I don't have any feelings. Besides, you know, terrible fear. But generally it's just feeling like eating or running or making hamster babies (when the situation presents itself). So none of us have to worry about being remorseful, or being depressed or any of that. Which is great. Any time I start to feel down, I just bury myself in wood chips and all is right in the world.

Some would say that the Vanderbubble is like a big hamster cage. They're wrong.

Interested in writing a Song of Entitlement?
Interested in writing anything at all?

E-mail the Versus editors at versusvu@gmail.com!

ENTERTAINMENT

VERSUS MOVIE MADNESS

“FOUR CHRISTMASSES”

“SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE”

“BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS”

“TWILIGHT”

“MILK”

‘Four Christmases’ not four stars

CHRIS GEARING

Features Editor

It's that time of year again — Christmas time. It's the time for caroling, overeating and the odd Christmas movie. Past years have seen some classics including “Elf” and “Love Actually,” but 2008 is still searching for its Christmas glory. In search of such a prize, Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon have united this holiday season for “Four Christmases.”

The film follows the odd romance of Vaughn and Witherspoon as it is put to the greatest test of all: their families. Both sets of parents have divorced and are holding separate Christmas celebrations in different parts of town. Ergo, they must visit four Christmases. Clever, no?

Let's make something very clear — there is absolutely no on-screen chemistry between Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn. None. Zip. Zilch. Witherspoon's sophisticated,

somewhat prissy approach (as she has done in most of her latest roles) does not mesh with Vaughn's motor-mouthed, somewhat crazy portrayal of Brad. Think “Wedding Crashers” without Owen Wilson, and you'll have an idea of the kind of banter Vaughn rattles off (it is absolutely glorious). With that said, “Four Christmases” is a gem of a holiday movie. It does not try to be anything other than a fluffy, entertaining Christmas story. Its love story is believable, but “Casablanca” it is not. The laughs are easy and ever present (thanks mostly to the antics of Vaughn), and you'll find yourself leaving the theater with a smile.

It's not going to win any Oscars, but that is not what “Four Christmases” is trying to accomplish. It only wants your eight bucks and to entertain you for a little while. Definitely worth the money. ☞

‘Milk’ is good for you

CHRIS GEARING

Features Editor

There are countless unsung heroes in American history. You may never have heard of Harvey Milk in textbooks, history class or even on PBS specials, but this is a name you should know. It is a name that should jump to mind when one mentions the fight for universal human rights. Harvey Milk is a legitimate American hero, and this film proves it with gusto, class and inspiration.

Sean Penn tackles the role of Milk in Gus Van Sant's new biopic “Milk.” Milk was ashamed of his homosexuality when he lived in New York. When he turned 40, he decided to make a change. He moved to San Francisco and soon became a leader in the fight for homosexual rights, not just in San Francisco but also across the world. Harvey Milk was the first openly homosexual man to hold a major public office. However, his life was ended in a tragic and degrading fashion

by a bullet fired by a man named Dan White (Josh Brolin).

Van Sant has always been known as an auteur of film, and his newest film further testifies to his incredible gift with film. Penn will most likely win an Oscar for his portrayal of Milk, and the supporting cast is absolutely perfect. Few films have taken on such a hot-button issue at a time of political polarization (gay marriage was rated as the No. 1 issue determining voting patterns in the 2004 presidential election). The film's timing is no mistake, and it brings to light one of the foremost heroes in the fight for homosexual rights. This movie portrays a champion of one of the chief political movements of our generation. See this movie as soon as you can. You'll find a new hero in Harvey Milk. ☞

‘Twilight’ is amazing ... if you're a ‘Twilight’ fan

COURTNEY ROGERS

Culture Editor

I feel the need to preface this review with my complicated relationship with “Twilight.”

There's one part of me that loves the books. I read them all over the summer and finished “New Moon” in a single night only to wake up for work at 7 a.m. wondering what I was thinking. But in spite of how easily the “Twilight” series lures me in, I often find myself very frustrated by the entire plot. Yes, I love that Bella and Edward are so in love with one another, but sometimes it gets so over the top that I just want to yell at Bella and tell her to get a life beyond her hunky vampire. So it was with these conflicting emotions that I headed to the Green Hills movie theatre for the 12:01 a.m. screening of “Twilight.”

To say that the scene I beheld at midnight was overwhelming is a huge understatement. There were teenage girls everywhere. Some were in slippers and pajamas. Some were wearing hand-decorated T-shirts displaying messages along the lines of “Mrs. Edward Cullen” or “Team Jacob.” Seeing these eager fans made me more than a little embarrassed by my enthusiasm to see this movie the minute it opened, and as I waited in line for overpriced popcorn I hoped that I would not be put in the same fanatical category as them. But as my friends and I found our seats in the crowded theater, I dropped the too cool for “Twilight” act and allowed myself to get excited.

For those of you who don't know, “Twilight” is the story of a girl named Bella (Kristen Stewart) who falls in love with

a mysterious boy at her new high school, a vampire named Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson). Their dangerous romance leads them into an epic battle while also including copious amounts of smoldering looks and teenage angst along the way.

I'll start off with the good, which mostly involves Pattinson. You may remember him as Cedric Diggory from “Harry Potter,” and let me tell you, he makes an even more attractive vampire than he did a quidditch martyr. From his first appearance on screen with his gravity-defying hair style and

brooding expressions, I knew I would enjoy the movie at least from a purely superficial standpoint. The film also tries very hard to stay true to the book, and by and large it succeeds. Of course, if you're a fan of the books you're going to point out every scene that they cut, but that is the case with any book adaptation on the silver screen.

My first criticism of the movie has got to be the special effects. I understand that “Twilight” had a much smaller budget than most movies, but seriously those effects took away from the entire film. At one point, Edward explains why he can't go out in the sun by showing Bella what happens to his skin in the light and he is supposed to be so bright and radiant that it would be impossible for him to go out in public without being noticed. However, in the film his skin just gets kind of multicolored and the only way to understand that its supposed to be sparkly is by the little windchime sounds that play. It just looked lame, and it made Pattinson look like a slightly sweaty prism. The same goes for the scenes of Edward running — it just looked unrealistic and contrived. I questioned some of the characterization as well, especially when Edward shows up wearing Ray Bans at school and is all happy and smiley. He's a brooding Victorian vampire, not Mr. High School. It was over the top and too different from the rest of his character.

Overall, I'm still conflicted over my “Twilight” feelings, but despite all of my criticisms of its shortcomings I really did enjoy it. It's definitely a movie that I would see again in theaters, and I'll most likely buy the DVD if only for Pattinson. ☞



flickr.com

‘Striped Pajamas’ is tired

CHRIS GEARING

Features Editor

Studying the Holocaust is one of the most important lessons in modern history. George Santayana once said, “Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Indeed, one of the greatest crimes against humanity in world history deserves as much attention as possible. However, “The Boy In The Striped Pajamas” tackles the subject in a somewhat trite or cliché manner — presenting an important topic in a tired way.

The movie focuses on the story of a young boy whose father is a German SS officer in charge of a concentration camp. However, our protagonist (played by the charming Asa Butterfield) does not understand the underlying “principles” of Germany's persecution of Jews. In his travels, he befriends a young boy sitting by the fence of his father's camp. He grows closer to the boy and begins to question the wisdom of his father's persecution of Jews.

Do not get me wrong, the Holocaust is one of the most heartbreaking tragedies in world history. However, this film is not one of the best portrayals of this dreadful time in human history. It's quite predictable and feels a little tired, however there are a few interesting

elements. The film portrays the dissent among Germans against the persecution of Jews and the mission of Hitler, a refreshing reminder that not all of Germany was evil from 1938 to 1945. Indeed, “Striped Pajamas” even touches on the duties and fears of being a soldier in the Third Reich.

“The Boy In The Striped Pajamas” was not a bad film, but it was also not a great one. If you want a moving depiction of the Holocaust, rent “Schindler's List” or “Life is Beautiful.” Both movies won numerous Oscars (and for good reasons) and portray the Holocaust in a much more original and accurate way. In comparison, “Striped Pajamas” just isn't nearly as good. ☞



boyinthestripedpajamas.com

Who wants to be a ‘Slumdog Millionaire’?

CHRIS GEARING

Features Editor

Few movies can claim to effectively tackle the topic of destiny. Most feel clunky or just plain silly (a notable exception being “The Matrix”), but Danny Boyle's (director of the legendary “Tranpotting”) latest release handles destiny with class and panache, and it may even make your skin tingle before the credits roll.

“Slumdog Millionaire” opens with Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) in the hot seat of the Indian version of “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?” He is just one question away from winning the ultimate prize of 20 million rupees, and no one can quite understand how this kid from the slums of Mumbai, India, could have gotten so far on the quiz show. Heck, lawyers and doctors don't get past 60 thousand rupees. However, we soon find out that Jamal's tragic story informs every single one of his answers on the show and guides him to fame and fortune. Indeed, one could even say that it is his destiny.

I know what you're thinking, “This

sounds super cheesy. Some rags to riches kid winning millions of dollars on a game show. Right.” Most of the time, I would agree with you. However, this film presents itself in a fresh way and really crafts a fine story. It feels extremely real and believable, and the actual story of Jamal is very well written and interesting. Boyle's direction is also a welcome change from what could have been a boring exercise in cinematography. Even the music is fantastic and rife with Indian artists and songs inspired by Indian music (expect a lot of M.I.A.). Plus, this film has some excellent footage of Mumbai, the latest victim of terrorist violence. Due to this, you may be seeing the city in the news with increasing regularity and this is an excellent introduction to the city and Indian culture at large.

“Slumdog Millionaire” is never boring, and its enthralling story is sure to keep you interested. It may just revive your faith in destiny. ☞

MUSIC



"I've had the honor of working with some of the greatest artists in black music, and I can't help but be a better artist as a result of it."
—John Legend

SETLIST

TODAY

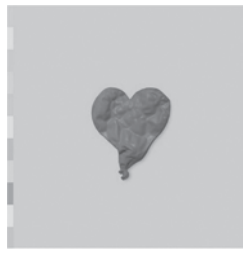
Jim Heath, a.k.a. **The Reverend Horton Heat**, brings his band and their brand of gritty, down-and-dirty punkabilly to Cannery Ballroom. The Texas three-piece group mixes country, punk, rockabilly and other musical genres to create a unique sound that has generated a cult following as well as mainstream success. Tickets are \$20, and opener **Nashville Pussy** kick the show off at 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

The four members of alternative rock band **Safetysuit** have been friends since before the band's founding, and their camaraderie shows through in their energetic live show. Catch the group's grandiose rock performance at 8 p.m. at 12th and Porter. Tickets range from \$10 to \$12.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

Nashville's historic Grand Ole Opry features country artists of all ages, styles and sounds. Head to the Ryman Auditorium this Friday to see performances by **Emmylou Harris**, **Marty Stuart**, **Del McCoury Band** and more in an evening reminiscent of old-school countrified Nashville. Tickets start at \$26, and the show kicks off at 8 p.m.



"808s and Heartbreak"

Kanye and Coldplay battle for most anticipated album



"Prospekt's March"

'808s and Heartbreak': Get Your Fix

CHARLES KESSERLING
Staff Writer

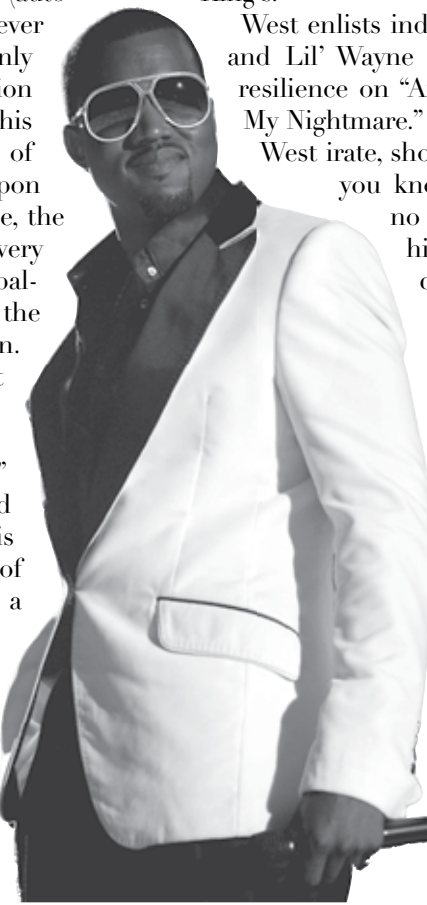
Kanye West isn't happy. Fortunately for us, though, his displeasure with life inspired "808s and Heartbreak," an emotional success.

The album, 52 minutes of aural sentiment ranging from subdued bitterness to tumultuous rage, radically redefines West as an artist. Only recently achieving his potential as a rapper, West chooses to express his anger and anguish, spurred on by the death of his mother and separation from his fiancée, exclusively with his singing voice.

Aided entirely by the trendy production effect Auto-Tune, he belts out (auto-croons?) his problems for whoever will listen. While West is certainly no T-Pain, the genuine emotion in his voice and creativity of his words make up for any lack of vocal talent. Also, West relies upon the Roland 808 drum machine, the album's partial namesake, for every track, using rudimentary, tribal-esque beats to help convey the disc's deep, ever-present passion.

Heartfelt at times, hateful at others, the album navigates the many manifestations of heartbreak. "Heartless," "Coldest Winter" and "Bad News" represent West at his lowest, a mournful victim of tragedy. In "Coldest Winter," a heavy tribute to his deceased mentor, manager and mother, Donda West, the artist questions "Will I ever love again?" utterly unsure of the answer.

The record's hidden track, a six-minute freestyle recorded live in Singapore,



mtvpress.com

and "Welcome to Heartbreak" resound with the same sense of despondence. Both detail West's wish to "be a real boy," free from the pressure, exposure and pain of celebrity. In his freestyle, the artist explains he "sacrificed a real life for all the fame and flashing lights," a sharp shift in perspective since cheerfully flaunting his "Good Life" last year.

"808s and Heartbreak" peaks in quality when West becomes spiteful, reacting to his failed relationship with lyrical resentment and retribution. In "RoboCop," among the few upbeat cuts on the album, West slights his ex (assumedly) repeatedly, calling her "a drama queen that would turn his life into Steven King's."

West enlists industry friends Young Jeezy and Lil' Wayne to help him express his resilience on "Amazing" and "See You In My Nightmare." In fact, "Nightmare" finds West irate, shouting "tell everybody that you know, that I don't love you no mo'!" while Weezy makes his cohort's feelings just as clear: "We were once a fairy tale, but this is farewell."

"Say You Will," "Love Lockdown," and "Paranoid" all flawlessly explore what could have been, at three different tempos.

Certainly the result of emotional necessity, "808s and Heartbreak" exists because Kanye West needed musical therapy, not more fans. However, even if your life hasn't been ruined lately, snag a copy and vibe — if for no other reason than to hear West sing falsetto. ☘

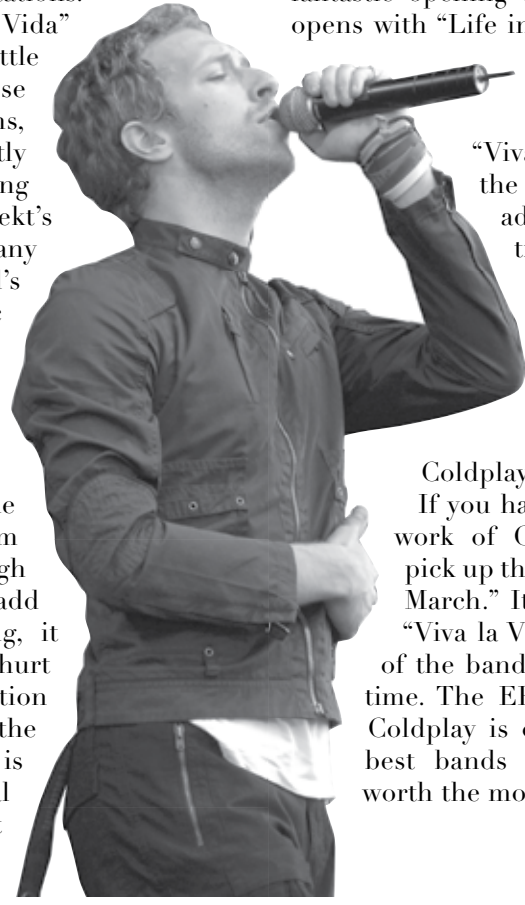
It's a 'March' of good 'Prospekts'

CHRIS GEARING
Features Editor

Coldplay sure does talk a big game. Chris Martin, the frontman and singer of Coldplay, claimed earlier this year that their latest album, "Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends," would be the best album ever made. To be honest, Chris, it was good, but it was not THAT good. In fact, it wasn't even the best of Coldplay. None of the songs recaptured the magic of "Clocks," "Yellow" or even "In My Place," and, frankly, it was a little disappointing. This is not to say that the album was bad, but it certainly did not meet or exceed expectations.

Indeed, "Viva la Vida" always felt a little incomplete. In response to such allegations, Coldplay has recently released an eight-song EP titled "Prospekt's March" that quells any doubts about the band's prowess or virtuosic ability.

The EP has some notable additions, including a remix of "Lost!" entitled "Lost+" with some fresh rhymes from Jay-Z himself. Although it doesn't really add anything to the song, it certainly does not hurt it. Indeed, the addition of rap on top of the music of Coldplay is an interesting musical experiment, and it may even find an audience somewhere.



live8live.com

Other notables include the tracks "Glass of Water" and "Rainy Day," which are both reminiscent of the glory days of Coldplay (think of the lyrics of "Parachutes" mixed with the musicality of "A Rush Of Blood To The Head"). Other tracks include a remix of "Lovers in Japan" that virtually sounds the same as the original besides a few background vocals and couple tweaks. The title track "Prospekt's March" is a slow melodic exploration of symbolism and imagery, but the haunting melodies and vague lyrics never really go anywhere. The less-than-a-minute track "Postcards From Far Away" is a nice piano break after the fantastic opening track. However, the EP opens with "Life in Technicolor II," which

you could think is just an expanded version of the opening track of "Viva la Vida." Fortunately, the band also decided to add some lyrics to the track that really make it shine. It's exactly the kind of thing that "Viva la Vida" was missing. If you buy this EP for no other reason, get it for this track. It's one of Coldplay's finest.

If you have any affection for the work of Coldplay, make sure to pick up their latest EP, "Prospekt's March." It's the missing piece to "Viva la Vida" and contains some of the band's finest work in a long time. The EP will remind you why Coldplay is often called one of the best bands around. Trust me, it's worth the money. ☘

Nashville royals, Kings of Leon, rock its hometown

NATALIE FRITZ
Staff Writer

Equipped with gorgeous Gibson guitars and clad in skinny black pants, cowboy boot loafers, flannel shirts and leather jackets, the boys of Kings of Leon certainly knew how to play the part of southern rockers. Their distinctive style has been compared to a Strokes and Lynyrd Skynyrd love child. They came back to their hometown for their final stop on this leg of their American tour, after which they will head over the pond to England, where they have sold 10 times as many albums.

The venue, Nashville Municipal Auditorium, was very open, essentially a large general admission pit with stadium seating on the side, much like Memorial Gym's set up for



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Quake. The tour is in promotion of their freshly dropped fourth record, "Only By The Night." Kings Of Leon's new single, "Sex on Fire," is climbing the billboard charts after it was featured on the popular TV show "Gossip Girl," and the Kings just booked their largest

show ever — at the famed Madison Square Garden in January.

Opening indie rock bands The Whigs and We Are Scientists set the stage for the Kings, after which the headliners kicked off their set with a rousing track called "Crawl" from the new album. Now with a dimensional repertoire, the band made use of a variety of their material. The set was incredible, showcasing 24 songs. Old favorites like "Taper Jean Girl," "California Waiting," "The Bucket," and "Slow Night So Long" were full of bravado and their familiar youthful energy. Lead Singer Caleb Followill, who spoke minimally, modestly explained, "We just want y'all to know, me and my brother, we started writing songs in this town a long time ago. And we weren't very good at it either and everyone in town

told us that too. But I think we got better at it, so ... I'd like to thank y'all." The sophistication of new tracks such as "Cold Desert" and "Use Somebody" created an intriguing contrast to the simplicity of their earlier work. The enthusiastic hipster audience couldn't get enough, and everywhere one turned fans were belting out the words and scating bass lines, even to songs from the new album.

After the initial set and a brief break, the band remerged for the encore, which began with a shout out to the audience and the band's momma, followed by the defiant and soulful ballad "Knocked Up." The finale "Black Thumbail" was an appropriate farewell: "From runways to the road I ramble along." Let's hope the Kings ramble by again soon. ☘

Broken Social Scene steals the show — by performing

AVERY SPOFFORD
Music Editor

Some bands seem to treat their live shows like a tedious desk job — get the day's work done, and do it in time get the heck out before rush hour. With late arrivals, shortened sets and a lack of interaction with the audience, even (and perhaps especially) some of today's most popular groups seem to drag their heels when it comes to bringing their music to audiences in a live setting. Rarely does a band give an audience what it expects and deserves in a live performance.

However, whenever I start to grumble about this deplorable state, to mope about "what the industry has come to," a band steps in to restore my faith in the popular live music experience. Broken Social Scene, Canada's premier indie rock band, slapped me in the face last week with their outstanding live performance at the Cannery Ballroom and reminded me that, even in an era where Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers rule the

charts, real music and live performances still exist for real music fans.

Opener Land of Talk set the tone for the evening with their listenable but complex songs, quickly impressing the audience and holding its attention throughout their set. As my friends and I started to listen, what began as an aimless stroll around the half-empty Cannery Ballroom turned into a frantic scramble to find out the group's name and more about it. I was equally, if not more, impressed by Land of Talk as I was by Broken Social Scene, and fully expect them to follow in Broken Social Scene's footsteps to become another of Canada's great indie rock groups.

Having missed the first half of Land of Talk's set, we didn't have to wait long before Broken Social Scene took the stage. With a large variety and number of instruments and band members (at least six playing on stage at all times), Broken Social Scene's stage setup resembled that of an orchestra more than that of a rock band. The expansive lineup paid off, however, allowing the group to deliver a rich and textured sound that

brought out the intricacies of each song. The acoustics and sound quality of the Cannery Ballroom were fantastic, as well, contributing further to Broken Social Scene's professional, flawless sound.

Broken Social Scene must have known they sounded good, too, because they just didn't want to get off the stage. The group switched instruments, faked the crowd out with crescendo after crescendo, and played for a full 40 minutes longer than their slated set time. The band members were obviously having fun and enjoying themselves, and the audience enjoyed the performance in turn. Although a few stragglers from the audience wandered off as the group continued to rock into the wee hours of the morning, most of the crowd remained, no one really minding that the band seemed like they would never stop playing. Even the staff of the Cannery was confused — "I don't know what's going on, they were supposed to go off like 40 minutes ago," said the manager of the venue, Andrew Mischke.



jamoo.com

I'll admit it — before their show in Nashville, I didn't even listen to Broken Social Scene. After Tuesday, however, that's changed. Even for someone who isn't a Broken Social Scene devotee, the show was a fantastic display of musicianship and true love of performance. The show instills hope that there are still bands out there that strive to put on a great show and connect with their audiences, and musicians who enjoy the experience of performing rather than waiting for the end of a set time limit. ☘

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Head to the nearby Exit/In on Saturday evening to catch four bands for the price of one! **The Royce, Lovers and Liars, Beautifully Crude** and **Hollowday** all show off their unique styles this weekend at the local venue. Ticket prices are TBA, and the doors open at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Every true country fan in Nashville should be at the Sommet Center this Sunday to catch performances by Grammy Award winner and multi-platinum artist **Carrie Underwood** and opener **Little Big Town**. Ticket costs range from \$32.50 to \$52.50, and Little Big Town sets things off right at 7:30.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

Western swing band **The Time Jumpers** are heading to the Station Inn to show Nashville a good time. Comprised of Nashville's best studio musicians, The Time Jumpers combine classic influences as well as new material to appeal to a wide variety of audiences. Tickets are \$10, and The Time Jumpers start swingin' at 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

Up-and-comers **Thriving Ivory** bring their alternative rock sound to local venue Rockettown. Hailed by VH1 as one of the year's hottest artists "you oughta know," Thriving Ivory cite diverse influences throughout the rock genre and are an act to catch before they blow up. Tickets are \$12, and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

SOUNDTRACK TO THE ISSUE



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

1. "SEX ON FIRE" *Kings of Leon*
2. "STREETLIGHTS" *Kanye West*
3. "PELICAN BAY" *Jenny Lewis*
4. "WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG" *The Killers*
5. "MOTHER CRIES WOLF" *Amie Miriello*
6. "JOHNNY AND JUNE" *Heidi Newfield*
7. "MANNEQUIN" *Britney Spears*
8. "I'M GOOD, I'M GONE (Metronomy Remix)" *Lykke Li*
9. "GHOSTWRITER (Remix)" *RJD2*
10. "LIGHTS AND MUSIC" *Cut Copy*

UnLabel helps bands who are unable

EILEEN BEGLEY
Staff Reporter

Sleeping Naked was a problem for bandmates Craig Tallent and Holden Seguso. After forming their band, Sleeping Naked, the two members left their Florida high school and headed in two different directions, but Sleeping Naked left them with a strong desire to share their pop-funk sound with the world.

Tallent, now a junior, headed to Nashville to play golf at Vanderbilt University, and Seguso left to play tennis at the University of California at Los Angeles. Even though Tallent and Seguso coincidentally live in two heavily music-influenced cities, Sleeping Naked still had a problem.

"He's in the West and I'm in the East, so we can't play live shows and can't have that exposure together," explains Tallent. Then Sleeping Naked learned about Pennsylvania-based MilkBoy Recording and their new

record label, the UnLabel.

MilkBoy Recording co-owners Tommy Joyner and Jamie Lokoff noticed artists recording their songs but leaving their studio without a way to publicize their musical accomplishment. And with many artists going independent and not signing to major record labels, they recognized a future business: a record label that does not sign artists but still produces and promotes singers and bands. The recent creation of the UnLabel allows recording artists to manage their own careers, artistically and financially. And, in the case of Sleeping Naked, also explore other opportunities simultaneously.

The UnLabel easily allows bands from all over the country to access their a la carte services. They offer three different categories of services: creative, marketing and business. If a band decides to purchase business cards and flyers, their graphic design artist will design the band's logo. If Web design and Facebook is not a singer's forte, the UnLabel

will create and design their Web page. If a songwriter would like to copyright a song, the UnLabel helps guide the songwriter through the copyrighting process. Basically, for a fee the UnLabel staff will produce, promote and publicize your band.

For Sleeping Naked, finding the UnLabel was the solution to their bi-coastal problem. The UnLabel allows Tallent and Seguso to continue their collegiate athletic careers by helping create the Sleeping Naked penguin logo and marketing their music on the Internet and iTunes. "MilkBoy is doing things we can't do now," says Tallent. The UnLabel is even trying to set up a small summer tour that help will accommodate the band and their need to practice at driving ranges and tennis courts.

For a price, Sleeping Naked can now fall asleep in California and Tennessee knowing that their songs will become known to the world, thanks to MilkBoy and the UnLabel. ☼

Trombone Shorty stars with his sound

ZAC HUNTER
Staff Writer

For those looking to add something different to their iTunes library, check out Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews. Trombone Shorty is a jazz virtuoso on both the trombone and the trumpet. His sound is unique and comes from his background as a native of one of the most musical neighborhoods in New Orleans and a graduate of the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, which boasts one of the best high school music programs in the country. Andrews has been leading Mardi Gras marching bands since he could walk, is coming off a fairly recent world tour

with Lenny Kravitz, and is developing into one of the finest wind instrumentalists in the music world today.

He is one of those guys who can do anything on the horn. Whether he is playing in the Troy Andrews Quintet, a group with a classic (albiet sometimes boring) "New Orleans Jazz" sound, or if he is blasting his trombone on stage with his band "Trombone Shorty and Orleans Ave," this young superstar will blow you away. Shorty rocks anything from his original funk/rock/hip-hop songs like "Frontin'" to covers like AC/DC's "Back in Black." He also plays Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get it On" on the trumpet as one of the most impressive displays of musicianship I've

ever seen. Everything he does is with careful musical consideration and taste, but never sounds overly polished or produced.

While his recordings ("Orleans and Claiborne," "The End of the Beginning") give a good general look at his work, the best part of Trombone Shorty's music is the live performance, which often features him holding a couple of notes continuously for at least two or three minutes with only one breath. Unfortunately most of us probably missed his show at the Exit/In over Thanksgiving break. So, for a new artist to look for in the concert listings and some new albums to add to your mundane library, look up Troy, and you won't be disappointed. ☼

Refreshing lyrics lead to unexpected fame for Noah and the Whale

ANA ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

British band Noah and the Whale has previously claimed to have no real ambition in the music world. Besides continual performances at local venues, they saw no real future until the release of their 2008 debut album, "Peaceful, The World Lays Me Down." Singles such as "Shape of My Heart" and "5 Years Time" have inadvertently caught the attention of many listeners. Their schedule of gigs and interviews has grown nonstop alongside their fame.

The band formed in 2006 in London, England, and members include Charlie Fink (vocals, guitar), Doug Fink (drums), Tom Hobden (fiddle) and Matt "Urby Whale" Owens (bass). Writer and musician Charlie Fink comes up with most of the lyrics to their music, which is described both as folk and punk rock. Often, he gets inspiration from his own past experiences and philosophies on life, as well as his ex-girlfriend and former band member, Laura Marling. Colorful clothing may constitute half of their signature style, but the other half lies in the simplicity and sincerity of Noah and the Whale's lyrics.

"Shape of My Heart" discusses the advantage of having a calloused and bent heart. The positive angle is that a person loses the ability to be affected by adverse situations or daily struggles. By avoiding any sort of

growth or show of emotion, the speaker leads a passable sort of life. The problem is that in order to change and live, a person has to feel what it is to suffer and die. An undercurrent of sadness pervades the song, but Fink leaves a positive message for his listeners. A person must accept hardships in order to improve his character.

"5 Years Time" is about a fictitious yet universal relationship between two people. Fink avoids the generic love song by adding small details such as going to the zoo, making jokes and smoking. Because of these personal touches, the song becomes both original and relatable to all sorts of audiences. The most memorable phrase is when Fink says he no longer feels like he has to be James Dean in order to catch her attention. He lists the worst that could happen to the relationship toward the end of the song:

They may no longer be on speaking terms, they might not know each other or get along, yet he believes that "in five years time, you just might prove me wrong." There is a chance it might

all turn out OK. This spark of hope adds a special flavor to the song. Despite its sad undertones, Fink leaves something happy for the audience to hold on to, which is part of what makes their music so appealing.

So far, Noah and the Whale has appeared in many festivals, including Leeds, Latitude, SXSW, V Festival and Glastonbury. "5 Years Time" has also been used in both Topshop and Starbucks advertisement campaigns. The band had planned a 2008 tour of the United States, but timing and the development of a new record forced them to cancel. It was to take place around the time of Lollapalooza. Perhaps spring 2009 will see the arrival of this up and coming band — stay tuned! ☼



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ART

Formal Dressing 101 OLIVIA KUPFER
Staff Writer

There is no time of the year more stressful than the holiday season. First there's final exams, then those family obligations and finally there's the question of finding that perfect formal frock. What can be more anxiety provoking than finding the perfect holiday cocktail dress for all of these momentous occasions? OK, this may be a slight exaggeration because you don't have to dress up for finals (even though I believe you test better when you feel and look great). But exams aside, if you do have to dress for a formal and are in desperate need of fashion advice, you need look no further than this list. This holiday season, I'm replacing the dressing room hassle with the click of a button (thank you online shopping). With this guide to the hottest holiday fashion trends, selecting the perfect cocktail dress for formals should be a snap.

Silver bells — A major trend for this year's holiday dresses is silver. What color is more elegant, festive and winter-appropriate than silver? Metallic

is perfect for the winter season because its sheen helps you look less pasty and tries to mimic that summery glow. Pick any silver shade, from gunmetal to pewter which looks very flattering on those with fair skin or even bright metallic silver for those blessed with the appearance of year-round tans. This season's popular strapless cut is a good choice for a silver dress. The look is young and fresh and a great option for a formal affair.

Holiday goddess — If you're a free spirited neo-hippie who values effortless chic clothing over a restrictive, cinched-waist dress, try a draped and Greek goddess-inspired gown. Channel your inner-goddess in a one shoulder, knee-length dress that accentuates your clavicle while still leaving something to the imagination. One shoulder is the season's perfect neckline because it's seductive but sophisticated. Try T-bags' colorblock one-shoulder dress for a modern take on the Grecian goddess look.

Unique wrapping — All holiday cocktail dresses rely on dramatic fabrics, materials and embellishments in order to compliment the festive holiday season. That means that this winter, even if you wear a black dress to formal, try one of the season's fashion trends as an accent. Some popular accents this season include feathers, a pronounced, oversized bow, or tiered ruffles on a cocktail dress. An oversized bow on the typical little black dress looks festive and unique, rather than trite and predictable. By pairing this holiday season's mini-dress with girlish

and feminine details, you'll add fashion and fun to a piece that could otherwise veer into the categories of boring, or worse, classless.

Sequins galore — In the event that you can't find a dress that corresponds to any of the trends mentioned above, pick an all-sequined mini-dress. A fitted, tastefully short, jewel-toned sequin dress is guaranteed to make you a showstopper. And at any kind of formal, that's obviously the desired result. ❧

Cat Deeley wearing a one-shoulder.
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Go on — embrace the Black Friday bonanza

HOLLY MEEHL
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is over, but the holiday season is just beginning — and with it comes holiday shopping. It starts with a day that makes many people cringe, yet has bargain hunters drooling: the dreaded, the anticipated, the Black Friday.

We all have most likely experienced Black Friday's craziness at least once. For some, the experience of being a 7-year-old dragged

along by our sale-rabid mom eliminated the possibility of ever entering a mall on Black Friday. For others, Black Friday may be their favorite shopping day of the year with the 50 percent-off posters or the "buy one get one free" chant many retailers promote. Personally, I try to avoid the mall during this particular Friday, and I instead choose to watch various Christmas movies from my comfortable couch. However, this year I decided to take to my local

mall and do a little research about Black Friday. Would the shopping go so smoothly with the economy going so poorly?

I drove to the mall in the afternoon (I wasn't about to wake up at 4 in the morning like many), though I quickly found myself regretting that choice as I looked upon the overflowing parking lot. I had to circle for 15 minutes before I found a spot, and I even witnessed a collision between an SUV and sedan trying to get to the sales a little too quickly. Happy that I avoided such a Black Friday fate, I entered the mall eager to chat with some store managers about how their sales had been going. What I found is that no one really wanted to talk to me.

At last I came upon one surprisingly calm sales representative in Gap Kids who told me his take on this year's Black Friday, "The way I see it, we're having more shoppers than ever, but people are spending less." So paradoxically, people are swarming to the shopping malls to get some of the great deals because they don't want to be spending much money at all.

Who knows for sure, but I learned that Black Friday at the mall is way too hectic a place for me. Despite all the great deals, I'll be doing my Christmas shopping a little bit later when the bargain hunters and sales reps won't add onto mounting holiday stress. ❧

Christmas starts early this year for Starbucks lovers

New Starbucks flavors arrive on time for winter.

ANA ALVAREZ
Staff Reporter

As a resident of Miami, I'm always searching for a way to keep warm during the Nashville winter season. Whether it's inside my 80-degree dorm room or underneath layers of clothing, I always find a way to stay cozy. One solution I've found to combat the cold is Starbucks.

I never lose an opportunity to buy a cup and feel the soothing warmth of the coffee after every sumptuous sip. That rich, earthy smell of coffee in the morning is the little bit of heaven I need to keep me awake for the rest of the day.

Recently, I tried the gingersnap latte that Starbucks serves almost every Christmas season. "But we just celebrated Thanksgiving!" you may exclaim. What's with all the commercialism? I have to say, back in November I thought it was pretty early for Starbucks to be selling coffee in those famous "red cups." But as temperatures drop and the holiday season rolls our way, the time seems right to promote that toasty, homey feeling.

Ashley Young, general supervisor at the Starbucks in the Student Life Center, said if students thought the holiday cups appeared earlier this year, they were right.

"This year, we started selling the cups on Nov. 4 rather than Nov. 27 as in previous years. There is no real reason behind it that I've heard of," she says.

Each year, Starbucks presents artwork on the cups that follows a holiday theme.

"The cups are always different. We like to focus on the artwork more than anything, which is why they don't have quotes like the regular cups." Young said. "If there is an increase in sales, it's usually attributed to people getting into the season and wanting to take some home to their families. People usually buy somatic types of coffee, but they get into the themes and the new blends."

The first Christmas blend ever was released in 1984. It features a mix of Latin American and Asian/Pacific coffee along with rare and aged Indonesian beans. The exotic and spicy lure of the blend made customers want to buy it by the pound. Today, new flavors such as the gingersnap latte, peppermint mocha twist and espresso truffle are popular drinks as customers look for alternatives to the traditional combination.

With so many new holiday offerings, it can be difficult to choose the right drink for that chilly day. Each is very different, so when you're trying to choose, consider what kind of flavor you're looking for in your steamy beverage. If you are in the market for a creamy drink with the added kick of crystallized ginger, go for the gingersnap latte. Prefer the taste of mint, bittersweet chocolate and coffee flavor? Then the peppermint mocha twist is for you. If you need that early morning eye-opener to make it through the last full week of early classes, try espresso with Starbucks' European-style cocoa. Whichever one you choose, these holiday delights leave little room for disappointment. ❧



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Christmas shopping at the bookstore

EILEEN BEGLEY
Staff Writer

It is officially the holidays, a favorite time of the year for college students, especially for girls. We have already made our Christmas lists in hopes that our dads, brothers and boyfriends will buy us a Tiffany necklace or cashmere sweater. But they don't, because men are the worst gift-givers since Aunt Betty and her monogrammed hats.

So for all the men in Nashville, I found some gifts that you can buy at the bookstore on the Card for your favorite female. Here's your cheat sheet:

An animal sound alarm clock

As someone who sleeps through many a fire alarm, I would definitely love this pink pig alarm clock. Almost every girl loves the color pink and there's a cute pig on it. The

best part about this adorable gift is that it oinks. Now, she'll never have an excuse when she's late to meet you. It also comes as a dog or rooster alarm clock for only \$19.95.

Vanderbilt sweatshirt

Your girlfriend's closet may be full of Vanderbilt apparel, but your mom's closet is always ready for another Vanderbilt sweatshirt. Every Vandy mom loves to show off her child's school. Another sweatshirt is just another reason to tell the world that her child is a Commodore. And if your parents live above the Mason-Dixon line, the perennial cold weather will guarantee that she

will wear your gift all the time. Vanderbilt sweatshirts come in all sorts of styles, colors and prices.

Teddy bears or any other stuffed animal

I wouldn't call myself a stuffed animal fanatic, but I would be more than pleased with these pink-garbed teddy bears. Who can't resist a cute teddy bear or a stuffed giraffe? This is the perfect gift for your girlfriend, little sister or niece. It is something soft and cuddly that will always remind her of her favorite guy. Like sweatshirts, the bookstore has many different kinds of stuffed animals who wear many different outfits. And they're also cheap at \$15.



global-b2b-network.com

Vera Bradley ID Case/Wristlet

If you go to the bookstore often, you'll notice that near the women's section there is a huge display of quilted bags. If you're a guy, you probably immediately disregard it and head right upstairs to buy souvenir shot glasses and beer mugs. But whenever my friends and I explore the bookstore, we always stop by the Vera Bradley section. Almost every time my friend says, "I would love that ID holder so much. I finally would stop losing my ID and key."

If you know a girl who always misplaces her ID card after a night of holiday frat parties, buy her this gift! It will save her \$10 each time she goes to the Card office to buy a new one. Plus, you'll never have to hear her complain at brunch the next morning about not having her Card to use.



marshalljewelry.com

Jewelry

The bookstore is a place where you buy textbooks, endless amounts of Vanderbilt apparel and school supplies. But did you also know they sell jewelry? And it is not Vanderbilt-themed jewelry. On the second floor, behind the greeting cards section, a mecca of jewelry exists. The jewelry comes in all sorts of varieties from simple earrings to artistic necklaces. There are pearl stud earrings for a middle school-aged sister and brightly colored necklaces for your outgoing girlfriend. ❧

The KNUX

CHRIS GEARING
Features Editor

New Orleans may not be the city that jumps to mind when someone mentions rap, but the Big Easy is home to two of the best rappers on the hip-hop scene today. They are The Knux, and they use instruments to craft their own brand of rap (in opposition to say T-Pain or Lil' Wayne). One of the brothers, Rah Almillio, sat down with Features Editor Chris Gearing to discuss Hurricane Katrina, positive messages and fighting with the crowd at live shows.

Versus Magazine: How did you guys get into music?

Rah Almillio: We've been doing music since we were like 12 or 13. We used to play in jazz band and we started off playing brass instruments, reading and writing sheet music, and stuff like that. We've always been into hip-hop just being young and black and in the hood, you know what I mean? We started real, real young.

VM: What are your top three musical influences?

RA: I cannot name that. Too many artists in too many genres, virtually impossible.

VM: OK, well how about what's currently playing on your iPod?

RA: My brother, Krispy, is currently listening to, I think ... I think it was like some old album. I am currently listening to the new Portishead record, which I didn't like at first but now I like. It was putting me to sleep, but now it's starting to grow on me a little bit. Oh yeah, the new Beck is crazy too. Danger Mouse did his thing on that motherf**ker. For real.

VM: You guys describe yourselves as being from "Hollywood-via-New Orleans." What does that mean and how has it affected your music?

RA: It just means we moved from New Orleans to Hollywood (laughs). We moved out there a couple of years ago. They embraced us in Hollywood, and we used that New Orleans hustle and muscle. So it became like our second home, you know? It didn't really influence the music, but it influenced the album. It's definitely a Hollywood album.

VM: Where did the name "The Knux" come from?

RA: Knux is short for "The Knuckleheads." Back in New Orleans, we used to be a big ass group called The Knuckleheads, and it's just shortened down to me and my brother. The other guys weren't around, but me and my brother were the only rappers. We shortened it due to some copyrighting s**t, and due to everyone in the industry with short d**n names. We've been in the industry for a while — we used to write hooks and s**t. I was 18, 19 and my brother was like 20-something — we used to write songs and produce. People were like, "We're with The Knux!" and we were like "Motherf**cker, we're The Knuckleheads!" Everyone called us The Knux around LA, and so we were like, "F**k it." Plus, it sounds like a crazy ass punk band.

VM: Songs like "Bang Bang" and "Cappuccino" have some very interesting lyrics — how do you guys write your song lyrics?

RA: Y'know, writing songs ... you know what's crazy, a lot of the songs start off with just the music. Being that we're producers, we'd start just jamming out, just kind of going for it. That's why the album sounds like that — we produce so many genres of music. When we do something, it won't necessarily be for The Knux. Then we put some lyrics on it, and it's one of our songs. It's never like, "Let's do a rock song!" You know what I mean? If it just sounds like Knux material, then we put it under that umbrella. We didn't contrive none of that. Basically, lyrics come after the music. You can just hear it, the music kind of speaks. This sounds like this, and this sounds like that.

"Bang Bang" was just like crazy, "Yo, I can just hear guns blazing." You can hear it, y'know?

After you hear it, it makes perfect sense. It's just the feeling.

We have a pretty deep message in our songs — we cover it up with our catchy s**t. Every last one of our songs has a message to it, but we try to do it without being corny. "Put the guns down! Be positive!" Trying not to kill the art of it. "Cappuccino" was just like, we had a coffee shop under our apartment. If everyone knows Sunset and Vine in Hollywood, there's like a Borders there. I got coffee in the morning, and one morning I came in and I was doing this riff on the guitar. I had coffee in my hand, and Krispy was just like, "Yo, I need a fresh cappuccino with a mocha twist." I was like, "That's pretty ill." We played it for some people, and they said like, "That s**t is crazy." When we made the lyrics we made it pretty abstract. He came from one perspective and I came from mine. We want everyone to take something from the music, not just box it in with lyrics. Some people think of women with that song, but it's just coffee.

VM: I know you guys were in New Orleans around the time that Katrina hit. How has that experience affected you?

RA: We came back from a writing session and the day of, we came back to an evacuation. We only had the things we packed in LA, and they said we had to leave the city. Nobody ever leaves for the hurricanes, so something this time made us say, "Well, let's just leave." So we went to Dallas, and we came back and we found that we couldn't get back into the city. A good six months of not being able to come back with only the belongings we had from LA. So it was pretty crazy. When we finally got back into the city, we found our apartment burned down so we didn't have anything. We pretty much had to start over from scratch. But it's cool.

VM: Where did the idea for the music video for "Bang Bang" come from?

RA: I wrote that. I actually have a production company, and I'm actually going to start putting out indie films and s**t like that. I wrote the treatment for that video, and I approached the director and was just like, "Yo man, I know you have a track record but I can't have it any other way." He read it and didn't even want to add to it. I was thinking about how the song sounded. I listened to it and was like, "Let's put these two gangs together." They're fighting without guns, but I don't know if you've seen the dramatic one where the kid dies at the end. He gets shot and when the gun shot rings out it's like "Oh s**t!"

These gangs have been fighting for so long it doesn't matter anymore after this kid dies. It's kind of the message in the song, too. It's something we had to deal with in New Orleans. We didn't want to take it to the hood. People are tired of seeing the same s**t. People are tired of seeing the same videos over and over. They want to see something entertaining. Every video we do will be something different, we won't do anything with a f**king green screen. No "look how cool I am, one pose" the entire video.

VM: It seems like you guys mix a lot of traditional instruments (guitars, drums, etc.) instead of using prefabricated beats or synthesized music like other rappers. Why's that?

RA: We have beats, we have break beats. But we play so many different instruments, it would've killed us if we had done anything less. We didn't try to do it, but we have so many instruments. We couldn't count on our lyrical ability. We wanted to just please ourselves — we wouldn't have been satisfied with just beats and rapping. We like to consider ourselves producers as opposed to "beat makers." Production versus "Oh cool, that's a cool beat." We need to get clear about who's a beat maker and who's a producer.

VM: I hear that you have really crazy live shows — any good stories?

RA: Oh, I have crazy stories. (laughs) It's like punk shows, we talk to hip-hop guys and we wear dirty Chuck Taylors all day cause we get dirty. If you don't want to get your s**t f**ked up, don't come to our shows. But one time, I tried to do the f**king stage dive s**t. The whole Johnny Rotten, but when I jumped I tripped over my cord and fell like f**king mad. The stage was so high I feel between the barricade and the stage. But I got back up and I had hit my head. I picked up the mic and went right back into it. Another time, Wesley kicked somebody's ass and then rocked the show right after, just murdered the show. The energy was so high after that fight — we just want to bring a raw element to hip-hop. Live shows right now are so blah. Not entertaining at all. I come from a fan's point of view and try to give everyone what they paid for — a show. ☹

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 Awkward Airport Conversations,

You know those little awkward exchanges in the airport where you see somebody you know when you're flying somewhere and you feel like you should say something, but then once you do you realize that you really don't know them that well, but you've now initiated conversation so you have to say something more than hello? Yeah, well, to that conversation: I hate you.

You happen to pop up at the most susceptible times — right when I've got nowhere to go, sitting in the terminal waiting for my flight. It takes me a minute to decide whether I could have a meaningful talk with someone who I kind of know, maybe that girl who I have class with or that person I recognize from the time at the place with the people. You know the one. Anyway, you just have this way of popping up when eye contact and recognition is made.

Here on campus, a simple "hello" would be fine, because we already acknowledge that we go to Vanderbilt. But in a different city's airport, you become necessary out of the, "Oh isn't this weird we're so far away from campus." And that's about where your conversing material begins and ends. And so it inevitably ends with the oh-so-solid, "So ... you looking forward to coming back?" after starting with the, "So ... how was your break?" And even though I know that this is not a meaningful conversation, and I know it's just as awkward for the other person, somehow I just can't keep from bringing you back time and time again.

So please, awkward airport conversations, here are your new options: Give me something to work with. Let me run into somebody I know better. Or would like to know better. Or better yet, let me travel in peace.

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"



Professor: "Abstinence makes the heart grow fonder."

Girl 1: "What's that on your eye? Is that from airplane turbulence?"

Girl 2: "Um, it's a hickie."

(In a discussion regarding Islam)

Guy: "Yeah, and didn't Mohammed like fly his carpet over the mountains?"

Girl: "Um ... I think that was Aladdin."

Professor: "This is not a sexy argument."

Guy: "So, I had the weirdest dream. I dreamt that all of the pathways at Vanderbilt were covered in marinara sauce. And the only thing that I could think of was where I could find some bread sticks. Is that a normal dream?"

Girl: "C.T. West. ... Is that in Towers East or Towers West?"

Girl 1: "I'm going to marry him."

Girl 2: "But isn't he already married?"

Girl 1: "Well, yeah ... but car accidents happen!"

Professor: "Let's talk about bad decisions. This morning I blew my nose on my towel."

Girl: "Having sex with a ghost ... that's definitely a new fantasy of mine."



PHOTOS: www.flickr.com

HOROSCOPES



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21: You get no special rights because it's "your birthday month." Sorry.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19: If you have to say "trust me," it probably isn't a good idea. Trust me.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18: You'd better give Sagittarius some tips, man.



PISCES 2/19-3/20: My favorite is apple pisces.



ARIES 3/21-4/19: Your string of bad luck will come to an end. If you stop asking us to make your horoscopes better, that is.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20: To save money, you could go to a semi-semi-formal. That means putting on a collared shirt and going to Chili's. Classy.



GEMINI 5/21-6/21: You need to find somebody for whom "all I want for Christmas is you" is true. That way, you can save a lot of money on presents.



CANCER 6/22-7/22: In the spirit of Christmas, you should volunteer somewhere new this week. It will make you feel better about all the drinking you've been doing.



LEO 7/23-8/22:

You may want to be a vampire, but don't do it. It sucks. Like this joke, but literally.



VIRGO 8/23-9/22:

Christmas is the best season for songwriting. If you run out of words, you can just put in a good "falalalala" and you'll make millions.



LIBRA 9/23-10/22: The online love horoscope is giving you zero out of three hearts for this weekend. Grab some ice cream and depressing movies on your way back from the library Friday night.



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21: "Love Actually," though set at Christmastime, is not a Christmas movie. But you'll still watch it five times this month.



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