

# Versus

Entertainment & Culture at Vanderbilt

DECEMBER 10—DECEMBER 16, 2008 VOL. 46, No. 27



Looking for cooler people than your high school friends to spend New Year's Eve with? Look no further than page 4!

Our gift-guiding guy gives great giving ... ideas. Get in the spirit on page 6.

Bill Burr is funny. So are our Christmas haikus. Please turn the page now?

# KEANE

These English boys have been jamming on the piano and rocking our lives for a few years now — and now they've got "Perfect Symmetry."

## PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

**Jim Rooney's Irregulars — Station Inn**  
The Station Inn's weekly offering features Jim Rooney's Irregulars with all the fiddles, banjos and Dobros you can handle. Take it from us, you won't regret letting the bluegrass of Nashville wash over you. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

**The 17th Floor — Exit/In**  
The 17th Floor has been touring the Midwest and college scenes for years, and they even had a stints with TLC, M.C. Hammer and Boyz II Men. They play a mix of covers and originals that will tickle your eardrums with delight. (\$8, 8 p.m.)

**Steve Conn with Joe and Kristen Sins — Douglas Corner Cafe**  
Steve Conn's mix of piano-driven rock and blues will sooth your soul while you tinkle your palette at the Douglas Corner Cafe. Good food and good music — both guarantee a good night. (TBA, 5:30, 2106 A Eighth Ave. South)

**An Evening with MelDiBurPho — The Bluebird Cafe**  
What's the deal with the funny name of MelDiBurPho? It's a composite of all the last names of the members of the band! On top of that, they'll be playing some of their greatest songs including "What Mattered Most," "Wink" and "Fishin' In the Dark." Merry Christmas! (\$12, 9 p.m.)

**Early Show — The Basement**  
The Early Show this week features The Abrams Brothers, and this young trio definitely brings the heat. Their most recent album features covers of works by Dylan and Guthrie, and every single track captures the down-to-earth essence of the originals with a bluegrass gospel twist. (Free, 6 p.m.)

**Canadian Brass Christmas — Nashville Symphony**  
Make sure you don't miss one of the world's best brass ensembles as they play holiday music in their own classical and jazz styles. They've been together for 35 seasons and have polished their act to perfection. (Price TBA, 7 p.m., 1 Symphony Place)

**Benefit Concert for MusiCares — 12th and Porter**  
A group of artists and musicians (calling themselves MusiCares) are donating their time and abilities to raise money for their foundation benefiting the community. They will be performing the entirety of Elton John's classic "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" with performers Don Henry, Edwin McCain and more. (Price TBA, 8 p.m., 114 12th Ave. North)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

**Ra Ra Riot with Princeton and So Many Dynamos — Exit/In**  
Syracuse, N.Y. natives Ra Ra Riot have toured extensively both in the United States and abroad. Their debut LP, *The Rhumb Line*, was released in August of this year and quickly cracked the Billboard 200. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

**Disturbed — Sommet Center**  
Disturbed, one of today's pre-eminent heavy metal bands, has sold over 10 million albums worldwide and released three No. 1 albums in a row. The group comes to Nashville's Sommet Center to support their most recent release, "Indestructible." (\$32.50, 7 p.m., 501 Broadway)

**Totally Snake with So Many Dynamos and Princeton — The Basement**  
With a name like Totally Snake, how could you not attend their show? The group features a rock sound and an upbeat show that is sure to please. (\$10, 8 p.m.)

**Uberphonics — 12 South Taproom and Grill**  
Instrumental trio Uberphonics can best be described as an eclectic blend of a jam band and a jazz group. Their music manages to be simultaneously complex and approachable, making their shows enjoyable for both the average listener and discerning musicians. (Free, 10 p.m., 2312 12th Ave. South)

**KingBilly is Your Friend Night — 12th and Porter**  
Inspired by the behavior and attitude of billy goats, KingBilly is a group that bases their musical stylings on friendship and innovation. Head to the 12th and Porter to check out what is sure to be a unique evening. Special guest Richard Marx kicks things off. (Free, 8 p.m., 114 12th Ave. North)

**Pam Daley CD Release Show — Station Inn**  
Pan Daley and her group Beyond the Blue play in a style that ranges from Americana to gospel to bluegrass. As one of the founding members of influential New York bluegrass group Cornerstone, Daley is one of today's most popular bluegrass artists. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

**Stacy Mitchhart and the B.B. King Allstars — B.B. King's Blues Club**  
For a night of great food and great music, check out Stacy Mitchhart and the B.B. King Allstars at B.B. King's Blues Club. The group strives to bring back a classic blues sound reminiscent of an era. (\$5-\$10, 7:30 p.m., 152 Second Ave. North)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

**Nashville Bluegrass Band — Station Inn**  
This cleverly named group has garnered two Grammy awards and two Entertainer of the Year awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association and has performed with Lyle Lovett and Mary Chapin Carpenter. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

**Young Jeezy — The Wildhorse Saloon**  
Jay Jenkins, or Young Jeezy as he is known in the hip-hop community, is a Georgia-based rapper that has collaborated with Usher and Kanye and won numerous awards, including a Grammy for his single "Put On" and numerous BET Awards. (\$45-\$75, 10:30 p.m., 120 Second Ave. North)

**Hip-Hop Night with E.T. and Z Soul — Cafe Coco**  
Looking for a more low key night of hip-hop? Come out to Cafe Coco to hear the rhymes of local and touring rap artists. Break dancing and delicious food complete the night. (\$5, 8 p.m.)

**Moderately Sauced — Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar**  
Stray from your usual Saturday nightspots to check out this bluesy bar in Printers Alley. Moderately Sauced has been called Nashville's No. 1 party band and promises an energetic live show at every performance. (Price TBA, 9 p.m., 220 Printers Alley)

**Mellow Downs Easy, Brennan Hunt and Back Alley Saints — The Rutledge**  
Soul-infused indie trio Mellow Downs Easy have been compared to the White Stripes and Lenny Kravitz and are heralded for their incredible live show all over the world. (Price TBA, Time TBA, 410 Fourth Ave. South)

**Diggy Band — Sambuca**  
The band members of Nashville-based rock band Diggy Band have diverse accolades, including performing with Emmylou Harris, producing and performing music for the movie "That Thing You Do." Combine their classic sound with Sambuca's delicious food for a memorable night. (Free, 7 p.m., 601 12th Ave. South)

**Interview with Lyrecia Williams Hoover — Country Music Hall of Fame**  
Daughter of Audrey Williams, stepdaughter to Hank Williams and sister of Hank Williams Jr. tells all about one of the most famous families in country music in this unique opportunity. (\$16.15 for students, 1:30 p.m., 222 Fifth Ave. South)

### 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. 37203  
259-9891

**CAFE COCO**  
210 Louise Ave. 37203  
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# Versus

DECEMBER 10—DECEMBER 16, 2008 VOL. 46, No. 27

## Versus Magazine

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## FROM THE EDITOR



We at Versus are pretty selfless. Instead of dedicating ourselves to our studies like the rest of the student body, we are neglecting our academic pursuits and working feverishly to producing a final issue before Christmas break. This issue, if I can say so myself, is one of our best, complete with seasonal stories to get you in the holiday spirit (including a list of the top 10 Christmas movies of all time that is sure to inspire heated debates and potential rioting) and an interview with the British alternative rock powerhouse Keane. If nothing else, sporadically reward your mentally fatigued self with some clever haikus and horoscopes.

In other news, I fear that this is my last letter from the editor, as I am passing on the reins of this artsy mag to my capable peers. I have mixed feelings about this — on the upside, I can finally take this red and black jersey off. But I fear that my separation from this magazine will have a sort of post-partem effect on my life. What will I do with all this impending free time?

Still, I think I can move on. I have spent an insurmountable amount of time trying to pick a movie quote with which to close this letter. After weighing the merits of several choices with Venn diagrams and flow charts and such and considering numerous award winning films, I have decided on the witty banter that transpires between Wayne and Garth in one of my favorite films of all time, "Wayne's World."

"Go then."  
"I'm gone."  
"Go then."  
"Well, I am."

Thanks for reading.

Darcy Newell

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## PIC OF THE WEEK



AMELIA SPINNEY/VERSUS MAGAZINE

## FICTION

**I'VE BEEN TO A LOT OF PLACES AND DONE A LOT OF THINGS, BUT WRITING WAS ALWAYS FIRST. IT'S A KIND OF PAIN I CAN'T DO WITHOUT.**

—ROBERT PENN WARREN



## Songs of Entitlement

Keane

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 Keane.

**CHRIS GEARING**  
Features Editor

"The Frog Prince" was quite confused. I had done my job, paid my dues. Sometimes I speak in the third person, but does that really matter? I've been sitting on this rock for ages now, and no one has come. Where was that freakin' hussie? I was supposed to be sitting in the castle, living the good life and counting my money. Instead I'm hopping around looking for flies and trying to stave off the toad population. They're getting a little big for their britches out in the marsh.

Being a frog prince hasn't been all bad, though. The other frogs look up to me. They're really curious how I keep a cape and crown on without opposable thumbs (it's glue). In awe of my greatness, they made me the leader of the pond. Now, I get my breakfast-on-lilly pad every day, I spend my days swimming around the pond and the ladies — well, let's just say, it's good to be the prince.

Gotta tell ya, though. I can't wait to be a human again. Ears were cool. Plus, I'm getting tired of having to stay vigilant for hawks. Talons coming out of nowhere, haunting my dreams. Awful.

However, today of all days — I decided to take a nap on my "Bachelor Pad." But when I woke up, I looked to shore to see a princess throwing flower petals into the pond. I hurriedly fixed my crown and cape and dashed to shore, hopped up on the biggest rock I could find and belted out the best "Ribbit" I could muster. And what does she say? "Oh my gosh, disgusting!" and runs off.

Story of my life, man.

## HAIKUS

## Words to live by in seventeen syllables

My absolute fav  
Is "Ghost of Christmas Presents."  
Isn't that the point?

If some fat rando  
Slid down my chimney sometime  
I think I'd shoot him.

**KRIS STENSLAND**  
Fiction Editor

"Gingerbread" lined the walls of the place, and I couldn't get enough of it. The fake snow and rows of candy canes were intoxicating, despite the unseasonable heat that somehow filled the artificial grotto. It hasn't always been this pleasant, but this is what I was trained for. Just got to make it through a few more weeks of Christmas season and I'm home free. It seemed like a good enough gig at the time — wear a comfy pair of red pajamas and sit all day — basically what I do now. And I can even keep my unemployment belly on. It really seems like being a mall Santa would be the sweetest job in the world. But now I can't wait for it to be over.

Sure, there are days I wish I could quit. A bruised lap and an annoyingly bearded existence somehow don't seem like perks. And in all honesty, elves really creep me out. I mean, the curly green shoes and hats are okay — but I swear every time a pint-sized creeper with striped legs and pointy ears brings a new kid up to give me their Christmas wish list, my heart skips a few beats. Which at my age (and weight) isn't really a marvelous feeling.

But I've got to persevere. Some would say the work of a mall Santa is never done. I like to think that it'll be done as soon as the Valentine's candy goes into stores on Dec. 28. Either way, only two more weeks of irritated laps, fussing parents with unnecessary flash photography, and trying unsuccessfully to name all the reindeer. Then it's time to start training for being the Easter Bunny ...

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

E-mail the Versus editors at [versusvu@gmail.com](mailto:versusvu@gmail.com)!

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Q&A WITH STAND-UP COMEDIAN BILL BURR



comedycentral.com

Bill Burr has been cracking jokes for a living since his college days, and recently the Boston funny guy sat down with Features Editor Chris Gearing to share his stories about being booed onstage, working on different shows and being a champion for average-looking women.

**Versus Magazine:** Tell me a little bit about your infamous rant in your stand-up routine in Philadelphia?

**Bill Burr:** That was the Opie and Anthony Traveling Virus show in Camden, N.J. It's an outdoor venue and there were about 10,000 people there. The crowd was tailgating before the show like they were getting ready for an Eagles playoff game. Basically they booed the first guy off stage and I went on about three hours later. So by the time I got out there it was a mob mentality. They started to boo me, and I was looking at some of their faces and I just sort of snapped. I was kind of thinking, "I'm going to get booed off by THESE people? Look at them! They're a mess and their city sucks." At that point I looked down at the clock and saw that I had about 12 minutes left and I just decided that I wasn't going to leave. I knew I couldn't do my act so I just attacked anything that I knew they loved, like their mothers, the Eagles, their city, etc.

**VM:** How did growing up in Canton, Mass., affect your comedy?

**BB:** Getting to start as a comedian in Boston was probably the luckiest break I've received as a comedian. The headliners in Boston were beasts. Kevin Knox used to host a show at Nick's Comedy Stop on Sunday nights and we used to all joke that he wasn't hosting, he was taking breaks from killing. He'd bring you up and you had to hang on for dear life and try and ride his wave without doing a face plant. The city of Boston is also a big sports town with a blue-collar vibe, and for my money those kinds of people are the funniest dudes on the planet. I grew up around a lot of funny people and I know that must have helped me in some subconscious way.

**VM:** What's been your favorite job so far (i.e., stand-up comedy, radio shows, "Chappelle's Show," etc.)?

**BB:** I love not preparing, so stand-up comedy and doing the radio have been my favorite jobs so far. With both gigs, there is a small amount of preparation and the rest is just in the moment running of the mouth. The Opie and Anthony show reminds me of when I used to work in warehousing and all anybody did all day was break balls and try to make everyone laugh. I've recently discovered how to have fun like that as an actor, but it's so much more work!

**VM:** How was it to make your one-hour comedy special, "Why Do I Do This"?

**BB:** "Why Do I Do This?" was a great learning experience. That's the first time I had to make decisions when taping a special. Up until that point, the only thing I had to worry about was what shirt I was going to wear and what jokes was I going to tell. With "Why Do I Do This" we were shooting that ourselves, and I got to sit down with Art & Industry and talk about camera angles, the background, the number of crowd shots. ... It was pretty amazing to be that involved in something. ... It's also great as an artist to own your own special. I love to do that for the rest of my career.

**VM:** Tell me a bit about your appearances on "The Opie and Anthony Show."

**BB:** The only thing I miss about New York is doing "The Opie and Anthony Show." Jim Norton hooked me up with those guys in 2005 and it was a huge break for my career. I've seen some things on that show that I can't quite explain, and I'd have to say that their eggnog drinking contest is the closest thing to pure genius that I've ever seen. What I love about that show is they never seem to ask the question, "What if this were to happen?" They just come up with a bit and let it unfold naturally. Everyone adds to it, and the next thing you know some unexplainable moment happens. For example, Google "Opie and Anthony baby bird 139."

**VM:** How do you feel about Nashville and Zanies Comedy Club?

**BB:** I love Zanies Comedy Club. It's one the classics and is run by Brian Dorfman, who is straight shooter, which is rare with club owners! The club itself has a great set up — the balcony, the bar in back and all the old headshots on the wall. There's no other way to explain it other than it's an old-school comedy club. It's one of

the places I'm always going to play if they let me. As far as Nashville goes, it's a great place. The music scene is obviously incredible. Even if you're not into country music you'll still have a good time. I always end up down town, by Jack's Bar-B-Que sort of people watching. The only thing I don't like about Nashville is that evil looking skyscraper that dominates the skyline.

**VM:** Do you have any crazy stories from the road and from performing stand up?

**BB:** I have plenty of crazy stories, but the older I get the more they kind of fade away. ... In my career I've been hit by a dinner roll, ice, dental floss and a doughnut hole. The doughnut hole video is actually up on my MySpace page. I don't know why any of those things happened. Actually, the ice thing happened cause I told a good-looking drunk girl to stop talking. Good-looking drunk women are the worst. They're hot, so no one has really told them to shut up before, so when you do it they have this look of shock and indignation. It's almost like they can't believe that on any level they could ever be capable of being an asshole. I blame the guys who buy them drinks all night. Bring these women back down to earth: Buy average girls drinks!

**VM:** How did you get into comedy?

**BB:** I entered a contest to find Boston's funniest college student.

**VM:** How was it working on "Chappelle's Show"?

**BB:** "Chappelle's Show" was an incredible ride. I got on the second season, the show blew up and then it was over. It was amazing to be a small part of something that got that big. And getting to work with Dave and Neal was a great education on how to run a show. If they thought it was funny, they went ahead and did it. They didn't seem to let anyone stop them once they had an idea for a sketch.

**VM:** What's next for Bill Burr?

**BB:** I'm shooting a pilot for Comedy Central, and I'm going to tape another special at the end of next year. Also I plan to continue to do my weekly Monday Morning Podcast that you can listen to on [www.billburr.com](http://www.billburr.com). People e-mail questions that I answer each week. It's just a way to give people a laugh at the beginning of the work week. It's been taking off, and I really enjoy it cause there's no preparation! ☘

## 'Bolt' is a jolt of joy and comedy in the midst of finals

COURTNEY ROGERS

Culture Editor

"Wait, so what movie are you going to see?" It was the question on many of my hallmates' minds as I attempted to locate my clutch and Vandy card.

"Um, I think we're going to see 'Bolt.'"

"What?"

"OK, it's the new Disney movie about the talking dog!"

Silence.

I admit it. I saw the movie "Bolt" over the weekend. I know — it's completely geared toward children more than a decade younger than me and is also popular among the Hannah Montana crowd because Miley Cyrus voices Bolt's owner, Penny. But I'm not embarrassed anymore because guess what? I liked it, and it made me laugh almost to the point that I was able to forget about the massive amounts of work that I have to do this week. If you're a movie snob who refuses to see films that don't have a 13 after the PG, then feel free to stop reading. However, if you can channel your inner child and sense of humor, "Bolt" could be just the movie to kick the doldrums and give you a reason to explore life beyond the library this week.

I mentioned earlier that Bolt is a talking dog. However, he is no ordinary talking dog. He is the star of a television series in which he plays a superdog that protects his owner, Penny, from the evil green-eyed man. Bolt



ROB HILL / MusicCityPhotos.com

is the star, but he is completely unaware that he is an actor. The set and his life have been expertly coordinated so that he has no idea he's acting when he rescues Penny. He believes that he has a super bark and amazing powers. It's basically a fantastical "Truman Show" scenario for dogs. In one particular episode, the studio needs a plot twist, so Penny is captured and no one lets her see Bolt to let him know she's alright. He escapes from his trailer, and through a series of missteps he is shipped in a box from Hollywood to New

York City. Bolt is determined to save Penny and finds an interesting crew to help him including a sassy alley cat named Mittens and an enthusiastic hamster named Rhino.

Instead of ruining the ending, which I'm sure you cannot guess, here are some of the highlights. First, this is a funny movie. I would love to hang out with the people who wrote the screenplay because their ideas were hilarious. From the ambitious agent who tells everyone to "Put a pin in that question. Boop!" to the entourage of pigeons, "Go get

me some bread crumbs. And whole grain this time. Whole wheat and whole grain are not the same thing. And no pumpnickel!" my friends and I were cracking up. Also, the animation is truly top notch. Pixar and Disney go together like peanut butter and Nutella, and the advances they've made in computer animation are striking. Compared to the original "Toy Story," technology has come a long way, and the animators of this film should definitely be proud of their work.

Of course, no film is ever perfect. The most striking fault was the recycled plot, and I'm not even talking about the "everyone's happy in the end" ending. While I was watching the Milo and Otis-esque relationship develop between Bolt and Mittens, I had a revelation. Disney/Pixar basically copied and pasted the "Toy Story 2" plot into "Bolt." Beloved toy/pet separated from its owner? Check. Abandoned secondary character that tries to convince the toy/pet that humans could care less? Check. Mittens the abandoned cat is a fuzzier version of Jessie the Cowgirl who was given to a Goodwill-type donation center. Aside from rehashing the trauma that "Toy Story 2" impressed upon me when it came to giving away my stuffed animals, I was just not impressed that Disney/Pixar couldn't come up with something more original for a story that was otherwise very creative and unique.

That issue aside, "Bolt" was a lot of fun and just the thing to help me shake the exam-time blues, at least for an hour and a half. ☘



# MUSIC

*I would like to be called an inspiration to people, not a role model — because I make mistakes like everybody else. When I'm offstage, I'm just like everybody else.*  
— Britney Spears

## SETLIST

### TODAY

For a good ol' fashioned dose of '50s flavor, check out **Kenny and the Krooners** at the KOA Music Theater. Widely respected as one of the South's most authentic oldies shows, Kenny and the Krooners will put you back in the days of poodle skirts and sock hops. Tickets are \$21, and the show starts at 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 11

Vanderbilt favorite **The 17th Floor** is coming to nearby Exit/In for a fun evening blending popular covers and original material. The group has shared the stage with artists such as TLC, M.C. Hammer and Boyz II Men and are sure to turn the night into a party. Head down to Elliston Place at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$8.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 12

Native Nashville group **Stateliner** draws influences from both classic rock and bluegrass. Their unique sound is sometimes described as "roots rock" and always translates to an entertaining show. Check them out at The Rutledge at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5, and the show is 18+.



# Best of 2008



## Best albums

### '80s & Heartbreak'

**CHRIS GEARING**  
Features Editor

We all saw it coming. As soon as Kanye debuted his epic "Love Lockdown" in early September, we all knew he was working on something special. His back-to-basics sound with limited instrumentation and haunting voice were taking music to a place beyond what most rappers can fathom. Beyond how he's changed the genre, Kanye completely redefined his sound, his tone and his majesty in the music industry.

You may already know the story of Kanye's terrible year. First, he lost his mother tragically on the operating table. On top of that, his girlfriend and fiancée Alexis Phifer ended their relationship of six years. Yeah, and you thought you had

a rough year. It makes sense that the album was named "80s & Heartbreak" — he's kind of dealing with some stuff.

The album is also one of his best. If you didn't read Mr. Kesslering's review, Kanye brought the lyrical fire and, as previously mentioned, the music is right on. The tone focuses on Kanye's broken heart and the haunting melodies and robotic sounds of the

album really drive home how Kanye is feeling. Although one may view this album as "therapy in a studio booth," I think everyone can find something they'll love on this album.

Highlights beyond the singles include the lyrical prowess of "Amazing," the beats and energy of "Paranoid," the quiet desperation and sadness of "Streetlights," and the pain and ferocity of "See You In My Nightmare."

There's a crucial point to discern Kanye's album from the ever-popular "emo" genre — instead of focusing on "me and my feelings," Kanye's talking directly to "you" (and by that, he's mostly excoriating and yelling at Ms. Phifer). He's pissed, and he's letting her and you know. Buy this album now! ☞



wikipedia.com

### 'Fleet Foxes'

**CHARLIE KESSLERING**  
Staff Writer

Fleet Foxes' self-titled debut, an aural testament to the deep inspiration afforded by the bearded life in Seattle, Wash., deserves the accolade of 2008's best album.

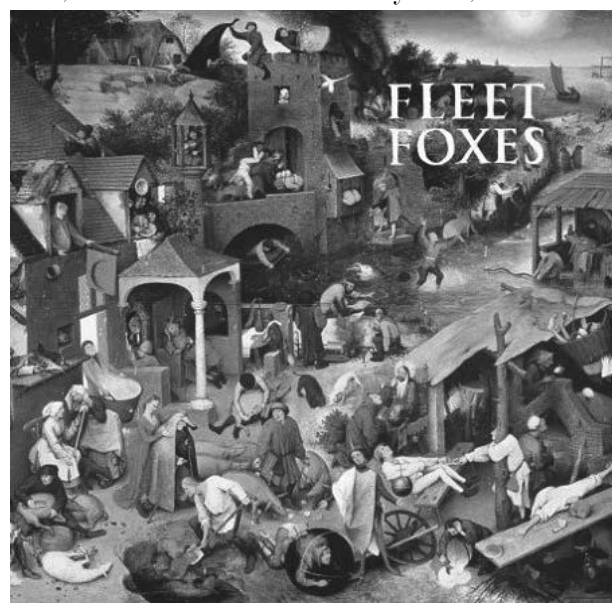
Sure, Lil' Wayne, that capri-wearing shawty (rumored to be, in fact, the third Wayne brother), lit up the summer months with verbal fire and hot beats. Vampire Weekend and Girl Talk certainly gave my days a kick in an interesting, if not the right, direction. However, only the Fleet Foxes captured the essence of life, love, wonder and winter in a single album

— a harmonized, holy 40 minutes.

"Fleet Foxes," the five-piece act's first full-length album, released in June after their EP "Sun Giant" received pleasant reviews earlier this year, resounds with authenticity, a sense of true emotion perpetuated by true talent. Listening to tracks like "White Winter Hymnal,"

"Tiger Mountain Pleasant Song" and "Oliver James" is equitable to reading a good Robert Frost poem: Despite subtly conveyed sentiment, one can feel the work's innate conveyance of the human experience.

Seeing the band perform in July at the Pitchfork Music Festival in Chicago, I found myself, along with most of the hipsters and cool kids around me, completely in awe. I hadn't heard their music prior to the show, but didn't listen to anything else for a good while afterwards. Fleet Foxes' songs, like those on the best album of 2008, are an amalgamation of soft acoustic, hollow drum, shamelles tambourine and heartfelt vocal noises that no one should miss. ☞



991.com

## Best live performance

### My Morning Jacket rocks out in NYC

**ZAC HUNTER**  
Staff Writer

It was under my nose the whole time, but it took me until June 20, 2008 to realize that "One Big Holiday," the only track in my library from the Louisville-native band My Morning Jacket, could have opened the doors to music heaven.

This summer my brother and I ditched our parents on vacation in NYC and ran to Radio City. I didn't quite know what I was going to, but I'm not one to pass up a chance to see a rock concert in one of the most famous venues of all time. Initially blown away by Radio City itself, I hoped only that MMJ could do it justice. They came through. As I reflect

on and re-listen to it, I can safely say that it is one of the best concerts I've ever attended, and certainly takes my pick for the best 2008 show.

My Morning Jacket walked on stage with the house stereo playing a familiar '50s cheesy jazz tune and jumped right into "Evil Urges," the title track of the album released this year, and a great concert opener. The song is perfect as it summarizes this eclectic band with its own true rock and roll sound. Beginning with lead singer and guitarist Jim James (great rock 'n' roll name) wailing out falsetto reminiscent of Freddie Mercury himself, "Evil Urges" taps a calm and steady rising beat into the heart of the audience, builds up until

explosion, and then stops and breaks down in a mean way. It has the kind of suspense and delivery that makes MMJ what it is.

The band continued through the night with hits like "I'm Amazed," "Highly Suspicious" and "Smokin' From Shooting," highlighted by an impressive run by James up the box seats so he could rock out in the faces of those in the first balcony. After the first two-hour-plus set, he walked back on stage for an acoustic solo rendition of "Bermuda Highway." Clearly touched by the atmosphere, James admitted his deep pleasure to be performing on the same stage where he saw Aretha Franklin sing only months before, calling the venue "one of the most spiritual places on earth." The encore

concluded with the one song I knew. "One Big Holiday" had everyone chanting along, and evident in the collective voice was the dread of the impending conclusion of a spectacular musical experience.

Now I can't stop listening to them. All of the major-label studio recordings are solid, but I spend most of my time listening to the show I attended (courtesy of archive.org). Though it has been a good year concert-wise (two Lupe Fiasco shows, three Umphrey's McGee, Jay-Z, and Widespread Panic), Jacket takes the cake. Bolstered by the release of "Evil Urges" earlier this year, the concert at Radio City on June 20 ranks among the best. ☞



austincitylimits.com

## Best breakout artist

### Solange: The second sister syndrome

**ALLENA BERRY**  
Staff Writer



insidehoops.com

Jessica and Ashlee. Lindsay and Ali. Britney and Jamie Lynn. These sisters have more in common than their genetic code. One sister rose to fame by her talent, physique or lovably crazy personality, and the second sister rose to fame on the coattails of the other. When I heard that Solange Knowles, the overshadowed younger sibling of

bootylicious Beyoncé, was coming out with an album, all I could remember about her is that she had gotten pregnant and there was a media frenzy. (If you can't remember that far back, see the Jamie Lynn Spears debacle for an idea of what it was like.) I figured that Solange was itching for some more publicity. So I expected something similar to the club-esque, pop infused, three minute

selections that have established her sister's solid love affair with the radio in her album "Sol-Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams." I got something quite different.

Even though it was her sister in the critically acclaimed "Dream Girls," the story of a the trials and triumphs of an African-American singing trio in the heart of the civil rights movement, Solange

is really the one who has channeled the era's sound. Think Tammy Terrell, Diana Ross, Chaka Khan and all the great girl groups of the 1960s (I suggest you look them up the next time you hear Kanye West sample one of their songs). "Sandcastle Disco" and "I Decided" are as sweet as songs get. But Solange has the edge that makes her and her songs interesting — I dare you to listen to

"God Given Name" or "This Bird" and not think, "Wait, what? Did she really just say that?!"

So, it is in my humble opinion, that for the shock value of stepping out from her tycoon Big Sis' shadow and the fact that the girl's got talent, Solange Knowles deserves a spot in the Best of Music 2008. Perhaps she can teach little Jamie Lynn a thing or two. ☞

**SATURDAY, DEC. 13**

Internationally renowned bluegrass group **Nashville Bluegrass Band** has won two Grammy awards and two Entertainer of the Year honors from the International Bluegrass Music Association. Check them out at the Station Inn for a \$10 cover. The show kicks off at 10 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 14**

Multi-platinum artist **Harry Connick Jr.** brings **His Big Band** to the Ryman. As the recipient of multiple awards including Grammy, Tony and Emmy awards, Connick is a performer you don't want to miss. Tickets range from \$40 to \$65.50, and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, DEC. 15**

Get in the holiday spirit with Christmas carols at 12th and Porter! Bands including **Jill Kinsey & CherryStone**, **Oakleaf Josh Flint** and **The Mercy Birds** will perform old favorites as well as original material. Ticket prices are TBA, and sleigh bells start ringing at 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 16**

"Yankee Redneck" **John Karl** is the house artist at Nashville's famous Wildhorse Saloon. An artist on the rise with an expansive touring history, Karl is sure to put on a show well worth the cover charge. Ticket prices are TBA, and the show starts at 7 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. "GOT YOUR MONEY (GINGY REMIX)"  
ODB
2. "RICH GIRLS (REMIX)"  
Beatards
3. "HEARTLESS"  
Kanye West
4. "AND I WAS A BOY FROM SCHOOL"  
Hot Chip
5. "TOO YOUNG"  
Phoenix
6. "HAPPINESS IS A WARM GUN"  
The Beatles
7. "RED YELLOW & BLUE"  
Born Ruffians
8. "BLUE LIGHT"  
Bloc Party
9. "DO THE PANIC"  
Phantom Planet
10. "NIGHT MOVES"  
Bob Seger

**Top 10 New Year's Eve concerts around the country**

ZAC HUNTER  
Staff Writer

This year do something different for New Year's Eve. You're in college now, forget the backyard parties in high school (yeah, they were fun) and do something more ... sophisticated? Go see live music. It is everywhere, and it's all deadly. Here's a list of the best of New Year's Eve concerts around the country.

1. **Galactic (Tipitina's, New Orleans)**  
Galactic is a New Orleans funk/jazz living legend and a nationally recognized band in the inner circles of the music world. They are a Tipitina's (world famous music club and bar) favorite and play an annual New Year's Eve bash with press that draws tourists and locals alike. Tickets are \$55.
2. **My Morning Jacket (Madison Square Garden, NYC)**  
Jacket's show at Radio City made my list of best music of 2008, so I'm recommending them again to ring in 2009. Even if they play just a five song set after midnight, that may make at run at the best of 2009. Tickets start at \$49.50.
3. **Snoop Dogg (House of Blues Sunset Strip, Hollywood)**  
For those with a big budget, there's Snoop Dogg in LA. I'm not really sure what to expect from this one, but I'm sure Snoop is one to do New Year's Eve right. Tickets are \$115.
4. **Umphey's McGee (Auditorium Theater, Chicago)**  
This is historically one of Umphey's best shows. Not only will the audience get the extra energy from the band because they are home, but on New Year's Eve, Umphey's will surely rock later into the night than almost anyone. Expect to see the sunrise. Tickets range from \$63 to \$73.
5. **The Dynamites (Exit/In, Nashville)**  
Nashville is not boasting a strong line-up for 12/31. However, The Dynamites, an old school funk band with a sound like Sly and the Family Stone, will make a great band to party and dance to. Tickets are \$20.
6. **Robert Randolph and the Family Band (9:30 Club, Washington, D.C.)**  
Party, party, party. That's what Randolph delivers from the strings of his steel-peddle guitar night after night. He'll make you jump, he'll make you scream, and he'll even show you how to march. Go to the show and you'll understand. Tickets are \$55.
7. **Soulive (Paradise Rock Club, Boston)**  
Boston's best will be Soulive, the progressive jazz/jam band that always delivers a great live performance. You may not know Soulive, but for those with a New Year's resolution to find new, better music, this could be a terrific start. Tickets start at \$40.
8. **Pnuma Trio/ Sound Tribe Sector 9 (The Tabernacle, Atlanta)**  
Because this is my list, this electronica-jam duo gets the nod over Lil' Wayne (he plays with T-Pain and others at Phillips arena the same night). Pnuma Trio and STS9 will just be one big party. Again, not for the faint of heart, as the show will likely carry on into the wee hours of the morning. Tickets are \$67.50.
9. **Virginia Coalition (Jammin' Java, Vienna, Va.)**  
Virginia Coalition is one of the best little-known live acts around. With an eclectic sound that will range from country/rock to funk and beyond, VACO captivates audiences like none other. A hometown New Year's Eve show would be a blast. Tickets are \$75 with a \$25 bar option.
10. **Thievery Corporation and Bassnecta (Sea of Dreams, San Francisco)**  
For those who want to see a couple great disc jockeys spin the night away into the New Year, this is for you. Both artists are beginning to dominate the electronic/dance genre, and those who attend their NYE bash will be ahead of the curve. Judging from the venue's description of the party, things might get weird. Right on. Tickets are \$79. ☿



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vanderbilt.edu



virginiacoalition.com



mycho.com

**The Auto-Tune effect**

SHEMSI FREZEL  
Staff Writer

When Cher used Antares Auto-Tune in 1998 for her song "Believe," few R&B or hip-hop artists paid much attention. When T-Pain used Auto-Tune in 2005 for his song "I'm Sprung," he became a trendsetter in hip-hop music. In 2008 the Auto-Tune bandwagon swelled with artists eager to get a crack at using

what has become known as the "T-Pain Machine." This year has seen an increase in the use of the technology by some of today's most popular artists; Rihanna, Chris Brown, 50 Cent, and Diddy have all experimented with the synthesized sound.

Auto-Tune reached new heights in hip-hop once two of the game's heavy hitters, Lil' Wayne and Kanye West, decided to add the effect to their repertoires. Both Lil' Wayne and Kanye, along with rappers like Snoop Dogg, prove that rappers often use vocoders when they attempt singing. Lil' Wayne released "Lollipop" in March, and it topped Billboard charts for weeks. However, Kanye one-upped his peers with his Auto-Tune saturated album, "808 & Heartbreaks." In interviews the ever-confident Kanye credits T-Pain for spreading Auto-Tune to the masses while noting that his 2004 album "The College



z.about.com

Dropout," made use of Auto-Tune. Kanye's pre-trend use of the synthesizer could be yet another sign of his occasionally ignored artistic brilliance.

As the year comes to a close and artists look to the future of music, I hope hip-hop leaves the Auto-Tune trend in 2008. While the sound has become a trademark for T-Pain, who will most likely never sing without its aid, it should be left to him and him alone. The creativity and thrill of using the technology have both been exhausted, and now everything is beginning to sound robotic. It is time to put the Auto-Tune effect to rest. ☿



kevmuzik.com

**RETRACTION:**

The Kings of Leon concert review in the Dec. 3 issue of Versus was published as the work of Natalie Fritz, Staff Writer. The actual writer of that piece is Hannah Fasick, Staff Writer. The editorial staff sincerely apologizes for the error and will continue to strive for accuracy in the future.

**Schwinn Sale this Weekend**

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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## The most wonderful time of the year for movies

Here's a top 10 guide to some seasonal classics — think of it as our gift to you.

### 1. "Miracle on 34th Street" (the original)

Young Susan (Natalie Wood) is brought up to believe in the practical rather than the imaginary. But when she encounters Chris Cringle, a jolly old man who plays the Santa at Macy's but also appears to be the real deal, her skepticism fades. This story is the ultimate tale of faith and a belief in something greater than yourself.

### 2. "Home Alone"

Who doesn't love 5-year-old Macaulay Culkin? He's cute, charming and thinks the best gift for Christmas would be to get rid of his family. His wish comes true when they forget him at home on their way to the airport. The pranks, gangster impersonations and iconic look of shock involving a slap to the face with aftershave makes this Christmas movie a holiday favorite.

### 3. "Love Actually"

This film is everything you could hope for in a Christmas movie. It links the stories of several strangers who find love in the places they'd least expect it. Complete with a crazed rock star and, as unbelievable as it sounds, Hugh Grant playing the prime minister, this movie will make anyone's grinch-sized heart grow twice in size.

### 4. "The Santa Clause"

This is the Christmas film of our generation with Tim Allen as Santa Claus and little elves with sparkles on their cheeks. But make sure only to watch the first one — the sequels are just twisted.

### 5. "Elf"

Who knew Will Ferrell as an elf would be the greatest idea ever? This movie is filled with overwhelming holiday cheer as Ferrell plays a grown man addicted to Christmas as if it were crack. It's a must-see if you find yourself at a loss for yuletide cheer.

HOLLY MEEHL  
Staff Writer

One of the best parts about the holiday season is getting to re-watch all your favorite Christmas movies. With a hot cup of cocoa and Santa Claus cookies by your side, nothing can bring more holiday cheer than watching one of these top 10 Christmas flicks.



### 6. "A Christmas Story"

This film shows Christmas in the simpler era of the 1950s by telling the story of little boy Ralphie. All he wants is a Red Ryder BB gun but faces the consistent response of, "You'll shoot your eye out!" His and his family's misadventures, including Christmas dinner at a Chinese restaurant, make this movie a holiday favorite.

### 7. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

Forget Jim Carrey, I'm talking about the original animated classic. This short film tells the real Dr. Seuss story of the Grinch and his tiny heart, which grows in size at his realization of true holiday spirit.

### 8. "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"

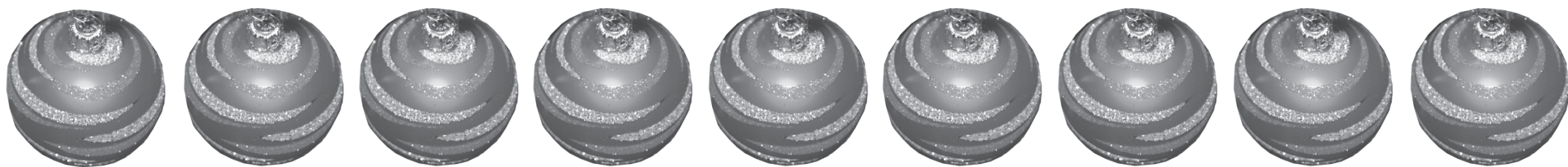
Christmas isn't complete without those classic clay figurines dancing on your TV screen. Great characters such as the elf that wants to be a dentist and the island of misfit toys makes this movie the best cinematic tale of our favorite rejected red-nosed reindeer.

### 9. "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"

This holiday movie will have you snorting eggnog out your nose. Chevy Chase is hilarious and shows just how crazy a Christmas with the whole family can be. Randy Quaid's performance as Cousin Eddie will guarantee laughter for years to come.

### 10. "It's A Wonderful Life"

This Christmas classic, starring James Stewart, illustrates how terrible life can be if you were never born. This movie shows you how important it is to value the people who love you.



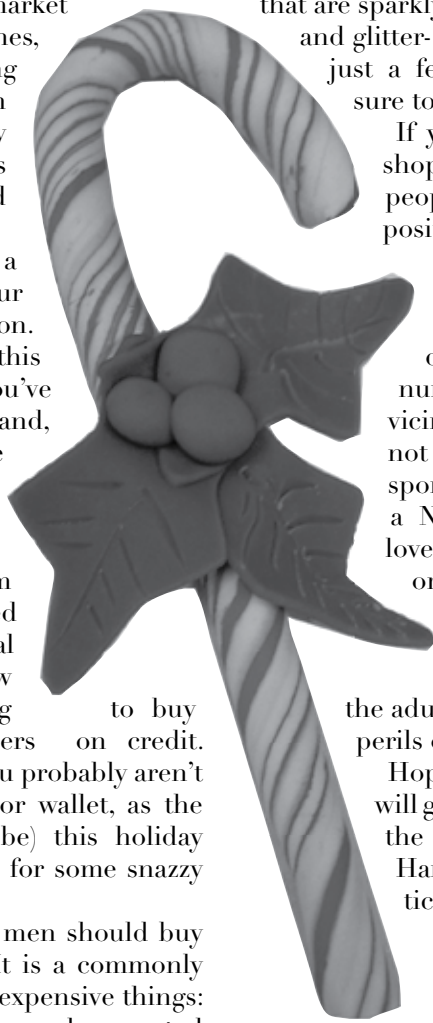
## Holidays on a budget: the best kind

CHARLIE KESSLERING  
Staff Writer

Certainly, with the stock market currently walking on crutches, the thought of spending money this holiday season may make you shiver. Lucky for you, plenty of great gifts require but a mere \$20 and some creativity.

You may possess one of a slew of reasons to pinch your pennies this holiday season. Perhaps, caught up in this nuisance of an economy, you've lost most of your net worth and, feasibly, can no longer use money as a synonym for love. Or maybe you have a moral standard to upkeep. As reckless consumerism seems to have contributed to the current financial crisis ravaging your fellow citizens, you find it wrong to buy your brother a set of spinners on credit. Whatever your situation, you probably aren't as heavy in the handbag (or wallet, as the non-alliterative case may be) this holiday season and should read on for some snazzy low-budget gift ideas.

First, let's consider what men should buy the women in their lives. It is a commonly held myth that women like expensive things: cars, jewelry, diamonds — diamond-encrusted



cars and jewelry. However, this conclusion is false. In actuality, women simply enjoy gifts that are sparkly. Snow globes, glass bottles, and glitter-showered arts and crafts are just a few of the low-cost options sure to make her eyes widen.

If you happen to be a woman shopping for a guy (I hear some people find themselves in this position), allow me to help you out. Forever in the mindset of a wayward toddler, a man's comfort level is directly proportional to the number of toys in his immediate vicinity. And these toys need not be expensive nor display sporting events. Something like a Newton's Cradle (that well-loved, ever-distracting desk ornament with five metal balls that bounce back and forth), a simple and fun toy that can distract the adult child in your life from the perils of the real world, will do.

Hopefully, these helpful hints will get your train moving towards the merry Christmas (or happy Hanukkah) station. At least the ticket will cost less. ☞

## Even more holiday gift guides!

KRIS STENSLAND  
Fiction Editor

I'm slightly offended by the notion, even put forth by our own publication, that "men are the worst gift-givers." Sure, sometimes we can miss the mark on the holidays, but that's just because there's so much pressure on us to deliver that perfect gift. But you girls get to transfer all the attention off your own gifts for us by getting us to worry about what we've got for you. I think it's only fair that you all try just as hard. Of course, I realize that won't always happen. So instead, for some last minute ideas that are also on the card, here are some decent choices from the bookstore.

### Rock Band

At first, the notion of buying video games for your boyfriend might seem like a horrible idea — he should be focusing his attention on you, right? Therein lies the beauty of Rock Band: If you not only buy him it but also offer to play with him (and actually do it), you will instantly be an amazing girlfriend. You can spend time together doing something he likes — which you can later parlay into doing something you like. Plus, Rock Band 2 just came out, which is totally awesome.

### Fossil watch

Every guy should have a good-looking watch. Whether your guy has one or not, he can always use another one — look for the different colored faces and band patterns

from what he already has. As an added bonus, he'll think of you every time he wears it (if you want to believe that). Or, you can suggest he wear his new classy accessory when he takes you out for a nice Christmas dinner.

### Vanderbilt briefcase or bag

For those older guys, having a nice-looking briefcase would be a great addition to the standard interview wardrobe. Not only does it seem better to pull a resume out of a leather case, but for those off-campus interviews: it flashes the Vandy name once more. For the younger guys, you can get your boyfriend to stop carrying around that ratty old backpack by getting him a new bag to take to class.

### Sunglasses

Believe it or not, there is a small sunglass display in the upstairs portion of the bookstore. Sunny days still occur during the wintertime, and you can prep your boy with a pair of fratty sunglasses. Pair it with Croakies if you like that sort of thing, or leave them off. Either way, you can get a good-looking pair of sunglasses to protect his eyes AND keep him looking only at you.

### Vanderbilt clothes

There's a plethora of options for clothes in the bookstore. A new hoodie, a hat or a Vandy tie are all decent options, but you can also take this opportunity to branch out with his wardrobe. You know the strategy: If you get him something and then tell him he looks really good in it, he'll be more inclined to wear it. In a way, it's a gift for you too ... right? ☞

## Tucker Max delivers non-stop laughter

EILEEN BEGLEY  
Staff Writer

While wandering aimlessly through Barnes & Noble with a friend, I stumbled across "I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell" by Tucker Max. The title was very appealing, and I was also attracted to "The New York Times Bestseller" scrolled above the title. After I purchased it, I received an interesting reaction from my friend. "You're going to read that? I read it and my respect for women completely changed. You're going to be completely disgusted, but you'll enjoy it," he said. I shrugged and still bought the book, and it quickly became my airplane reading material.

Tucker Max, a University of Chicago undergraduate and Duke University Law School graduate, wrote this collection of drunken sexual adventures after friends persuaded him to create an online dating application. Later, he began to blog about his weekends, alcohol intake and his sexual partners, one of which could have been a man. His blog began to gain popularity, and he was soon offered a book deal (which he has since parlayed into an upcoming movie). His 27 hilarious short stories in "I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell" involve the most ridiculous characters, adventures and in Tucker Max-style, lots of vodka and Red Bull.

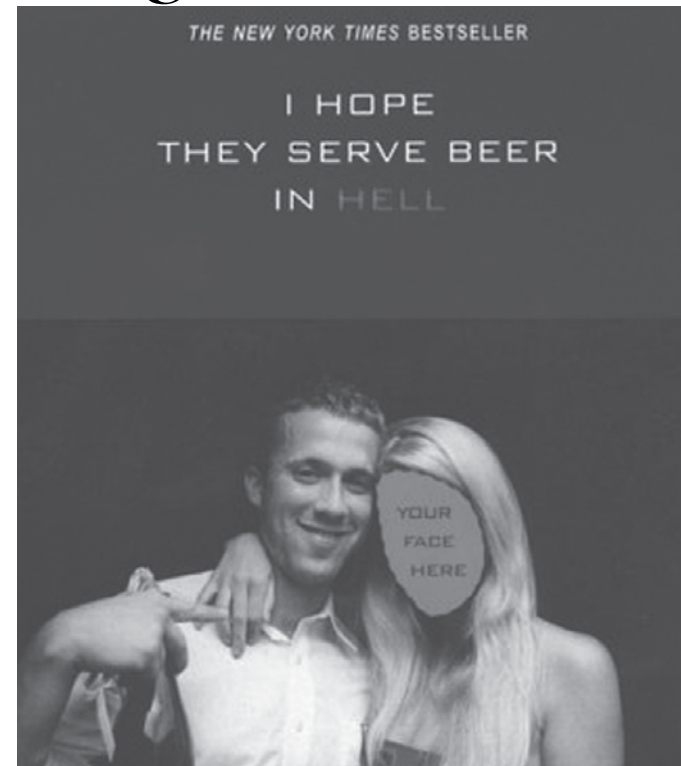
The first story in the book, "The Famous Sushi Pants Story," is my favorite. While living in Boca Raton, Fla., after college,

Max decided to bring a portable alcohol breathalyzer out with him. After every drink, he would blow into the breathalyzer and continued to drink. Max then describes multiple situations that would only happen to the self-described asshole. Many of his other stories follow the same trend and wind up with a girl in his bed, like "Tucker tries buttsex; hilarity does not ensue," which is one of his most memorable tales. His stories may seem unbelievable, but as Max says, "How could I make this shit up?"

While reading the graphic and very descriptive stories, I could not help but laugh. Max, who declares that females will do anything to sleep with him, may be offending to other women, but I was amused instead. These stories show Max's good times, but they also reveal his insecurity. I never pitied the women who were exploited in the stories. Rather, I felt bad for Max and his ingenuity because sooner than later this 30 year-old's sexual appeal will fade.

This book is a great addition to the Christmas list if you enjoy reading books with lots of alcohol and sex. His stories are geared to appeal to college fraternity guys. If you want to sample his writing, check out his blog at [www.tuckermax.com](http://www.tuckermax.com).

But his cocky and aggressive attitude and opinions may be too much for readers who lean toward romance. I laughed non-stop, but if you're someone who does not swear like a sailor, this is not the book for you. ☞



# KEANE

The piano-rock grooving Keane has been playing songs to our hearts for a while now (think “Somewhere Only We Know” and “Everybody’s Changing”), and lately Culture Editor Courtney Rogers got to sit down with drummer Richard Hughes to find out more about these English boys. They talked about everything from the basics of starting out as a small-town band to “Perfect Symmetry” and his love of udon noodles.

**Versus Magazine:** So how is your tour going in Europe?

**Richard Hughes:** It’s been really good. We’ve been having a lot of fun. This new record is really enjoyable to play. There’s a lot of up-tempo songs and we get to rock out a lot.

**VM:** I’ve been listening to your new album “Perfect Symmetry” and it’s clearly very different from your previous recordings. What motivated you to change your sound?

**RH:** Basically it just sort of comes naturally to us. We’ve always admired artists who do that like David Bowie or The Beatles who just pushed themselves to be more experimental or creative or to try and write songs about different things. We’ve always felt that that is an important thing to make yourself do, and we tried to do that with this record. You can hear that on our second album as well — it’s a very different album from the first one. It’s just the way we want to be as a band; we always want to surprise people, and it’s kind of cool that people don’t really know what we’re going to do next.

**VM:** What’s your favorite song to perform from the new album?

**RH:** “Spiraling” has been going down really well, and that was the first song that was released a free download. It’s a really fun song to play — I get to go, “Wool!”

**VM:** I read that “Perfect Symmetry” will be released as the next single. What sets this song apart to be designated a single and a title track?

**RH:** We think it’s the best song that we’ve ever written or recorded. It’s pretty epic, and it sums up a lot of the things we feel about what the whole album is trying to say, that there’s a big gap between what we aspire to achieve and what actually is happening out there. Coming from the U.K., we’re fully signed up to a couple of wars that your country is also involved in, and it just seems very strange to us that people are still resorting to death and destruction as a way of supposedly solving problems. When you talk to most people, what they want at the end of the day is peace and love. It sounds like the joke, sort of hipster ideals of the late ‘60s, but the bottom line for most people is that is how they would like to live their lives. I think we feel as a band that if you

try to do something positive you get a positive reaction, and if you do something negative you get a negative reaction, and that’s the kind of symmetry we’re talking about in that song.

**VM:** What inspires you most when you’re writing a song?

**RH:** I think we just tend to write about the things that are on our minds. The songs we write are always quite direct from the heart. The first two records were coined sort of inward looking, and with this album, I don’t know if we’re just getting older but I guess it’s us looking in on the world and becoming more and more aware of what’s going on in the world and feeling like we should try and be a positive force.

**VM:** Could you describe how the band got together?

**RH:** Basically, we grew up in the same tiny little town in East Sussex. I met Tim when I was about 3, and I think Tom was born later that year. Tim’s dad was my doctor and Tom’s dad was my teacher. It’s just a tiny little town and we were friends at school. We got into music and we would sit around the piano and work out how Beatles songs went and argue about what the words were. And gradually music just took over, I guess, and on the school holidays we would go around to each others’ houses and just play music. We played our first show in London in 1998 and that was us playing our own songs. They were probably pretty mopey, but it was just the thing we wanted to do with our lives, so we just kept going and never gave up and eventually someone heard the demo tape and gave us a chance.

**VM:** How did you pick the name Keane?

**RH:** It’s the surname of a friend of Tom’s family who was called Cherry Keane. We initially called ourselves Cherry Keane because we thought it was a very cool and unusual name. But people kept getting it mixed up with the Native American Cherokee, so we just left it as Keane.

**VM:** Unlike most bands, the piano is your lead instrument. How does this help set your music apart?

**RH:** Tim writes a lot of the songs on the piano, so I think that’s where it originated. A lot of our

songs just seem to sound good on the piano and are based around it. It’s a wonderfully dynamic instrument but at the same time a lot of our new songs have quite a lot of guitar on them, so we’re just using any instrument that we feel is necessary. We’re using all kinds of percussion and strange keyboards as well as guitar base and drums and voice. What we do is we have some musical instincts as to what sounds good. We’d use any instrument as long as it sounds good.

**VM:** Right now you’re on a very busy tour of Europe. When will you be heading stateside, and what are your plans for after the tour?

**RH:** We do. We are coming over to do some stuff in Los Angeles in December, possibly a television show or two. Hopefully a proper tour in the first half of next year. We’ve done 11 tours, and we absolutely love doing it. We can’t wait to get over and get back in the tour bus and start traveling again. It’s probably the one thing that a small-town band in England dreams of doing, just getting on the tour bus and driving around America.

**VM:** Any chance you’ll be stopping by Nashville?

**RH:** We have played at the Ryman Auditorium a couple of years ago, which was wonderful. I have the poster up. It’s one of those things that you’ve heard about in England. I have the poster up from that gig in my house. I hope so.

**VM:** What is your favorite color and why is it your favorite?

**RH:** I’m actually color blind. I take a lot of photos in black and white, so black and white are my favorite colors.

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

**RH:** Udon noodles. There’s a place in London called Tokyo Diner. I go there all the time — it’s my favorite place.

**VM:** If you could be one animal, what animal would you be?

**RH:** Oh wow. That’s a difficult question to answer. I just got a couple of cats so I think I’d like to experience what it’s like to be a cat. It would probably make me a better cat owner. ☹

## LETTER FROM A MERRY WASP

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



Dear Vanderbilt,

Oh, it has been a long semester. Granted, there could be a lot to complain about — lord knows, I’ve had my share. But like any good WASP, I like to get into the spirit of Christmas. Nobody should be a grinch around the holidays, so here are some brief notes I’ve compiled about things that are going well.

First, it would be far too easy to talk about Vanderbilt football, but would also be a horrible omission. Sure, I could rant about how stupid it is to come back to campus and tailgate in the freezing cold only a few miles away and miss all the exciting trips we could be going on instead, but the raw awesome (rawsome, if you will) of being in a bowl overrules all of that.

Second, I feel like people are responding to our complaints. The Pub changed dinner back to the good way, it’s cold enough that many smokers can’t stand to be outside so much, and I even saw somebody crash their obnoxious and unnecessary bike right in front of me the other day. It’s like Christmas come early!

Third, we’re cashing in a lot of our karma at the moment. With all this good that’s happening now, you KNOW that we’ll have plenty to complain about next semester, right? This may not seem like a good thing to many of you — but when you make your livelihood writing angry letters about things, it’s definitely a good outlook for your future.

I realize you may be disappointed in my lack of anger — but hey, it’s Christmastime. Let’s all be nice for a little bit. Because after New Year’s, it’s back to being relentless.

Happy Holidays!  
A Merry 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"



**Girl 1:** "We had like a really big fight yesterday."

**Girl 2:** "Oh no, what about?"

**Girl 1:** "Candy canes."

**Girl:** "Wait, you went to dinner sober?!"

**Guy 1:** "So I was hammered at the wedding and I'm grinding up on this girl who looks like she's 18, too, and it turns out that she's my cousin's friend and she's 14."

**Guy 2:** "It's not your fault dude."

**Guy 3:** "Yeah, what could you have done?"

**Guy:** "I'm still astonished that the cab drivers here speak English."

**Girl:** "It's cold. I feel like the grass."

A discussion about the Britney concert in Atlanta: "I mean helping people is good. But Britney Spears is f\*\*king AMAZING!"

**Girl:** "I seriously look homeless right now. Look, I don't even match."

**Girl with pillows on either side of her head:** "Does my head look like a sandwich?"

**Girl:** "So people who are born on leap years age normally ... right?"

**Professor:** "Forget about professional wrestling, I'd rather you watch pornography."

PHOTOS: www.flickr.com

## HOROSCOPES



**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21:** We know you don't want to since that one fateful night, but you should.



**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19:** You share a sign with Jesus! Too bad astrology is a sin.



**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18:** You should join Twitter. If Kanye does it, it must be right ... right?



**PISCES 2/19-3/20:** Why would you buy a \$50 ticket from vucommodores.com when you can get one for \$15 on musiccitybowl.com?



**ARIES 3/21-4/19:** Dear Aries, have a great day. Everybody gets one.



**TAURUS 4/20-5/20:** How's "Mistake: the Sequel" working out for you?



**GEMINI 5/21-6/21:** This Christmas season, wearing mittens will prevent anyone from seeing you giving them the finger.



**CANCER 6/22-7/22:** All I want for Christmas is you. And your roommate ... wink wink.



**LEO 7/23-8/22:** While home for the holidays, don't make this an "ex-Mas." You don't have to settle.



**VIRGO 8/23-9/22:** If you refer to the exam period as the "Twelve Days of Rage-mas," you won't even care about failing them all.



**LIBRA 9/23-10/22:** Do you remember "Dick in a Box?" That was funny last year, so stop quoting it.



**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21:** In today's energy-dependent economy, getting lumps of coal doesn't sound so bad anymore, does it?



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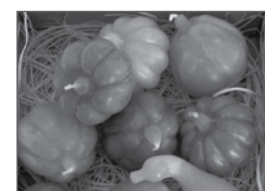
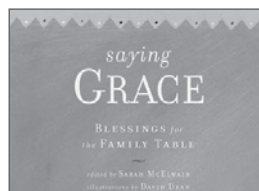
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