



SEMESTER IN REVIEW: Part two of a look back at the fall's biggest news. SEE PAGE 3

WARREN: Editor contemplates a semester of change for paper, Web site. SEE PAGE 4

Serving up soup at semester's end



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students in "The Social Collective Art Practice", a first-year writing seminar, hosted All You Need is Soup Monday evening in the Commons Center. The course's semester-concluding project involved gathering an assortment of soup recipes to bring the comfort of home to the Commons. Working with Vanderbilt Dining, the students selected a handful of homemade soups, collected from members of the class of 2012, to be served during a special "Fourth Meal" event.

ADMINISTRATION

Dever named dean of the College of Arts and Science

Vanderbilt News Service

Carolyn Dever has been named dean of the College of Arts and Science after serving in an interim position since May.



DEVER

"Carolyn is an outstanding and respected scholar and teacher who will boldly lead the College of Arts and Science into the future," said Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos.

Dever was offered the position after a national search to replace Richard McCarty, named provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs at Vanderbilt last May.

"It was the considered opinion of the search committee that Dean Dever clearly stood out from an impressive group of candidates based on her record of scholarly accomplishments and her leadership skills, breadth of experience and vision for Arts and Science," said McCarty.

The search committee was chaired by Ned Porter, Stevenson professor of chemistry and chair of the department.

"We are deeply grateful to the members of the search committee who worked tirelessly and effectively to ensure this happy outcome for the university," Porter said. "Carolyn has been a superb leader in the Office of the Dean for more than four years."

Dever served for two years as the first associate dean for graduate education in the College of Arts and

Science, then returned after a yearlong research sabbatical as executive dean of Arts and Science with responsibilities for faculty and research. She was appointed interim dean in June.

"The College of Arts and Science has never been stronger, thanks to the dedication of the faculty, students and staff, and the leadership of the university," Dever said. "I am honored by the opportunity to lead Arts and Science into the next phase of its distinguished history." ■

LEADERSHIP

Wilmer, Gearing new division heads

by HANNAH TWILLMAN
News Contributor



WILMER



GEARING

On Monday evening, the Vanderbilt Student Communications Inc. board hired junior Sydney Wilmer and senior Chris Gearing as division heads for The Vanderbilt Hustler and Versus Magazine, respectively.

Gearing has worked with Versus since it was first redesigned into its current form, serving as both managing and features editor.

"He is the ideal person to carry (Versus) forward as editor next semester," said board Chairman Bruce Barry.

The decision for the editor in chief of the Hustler and InsideVandy.com was much more difficult, however.

"Both students who sought to lead the Hustler/InsideVandy division ... were very strong candidates who impressed the board," Barry said. "It was among the most difficult choices for division head that I can recall in my several years on the VSC board."

Ultimately, Wilmer was selected because she seemed best suited for "thinking strategically and creatively about the long-run potential for the Hustler and InsideVandy," Barry said. ■

SPORTS

Commodores look forward to playing in Nashville bowl

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist



Exactly 26 years after their last bowl appearance, Vanderbilt will be a part of postseason play yet again at the Music City Bowl on Dec. 31.

"It has been a long time and an awful lot of hard work," said Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson. "We are excited about playing in Nashville. We think this city is one of the best cities in the country."

Vanderbilt's last appearance in bowl play was Dec. 31, 1982 in the Hall of Fame Bowl, a 36-28 loss to Air Force. Their last bowl win was in 1955, a 25-13 triumph over Auburn in the Gator Bowl.

Playing football in December has been an unusual sensation for the Commodores, who are normally used to using the month to prepare for the next season.

"Being able to practice in December means a lot," said senior kicker Bryant Hahnfeldt, a native of Nashville. "Obviously I was upset about losing to Tennessee being the last game at Vanderbilt Stadium, but it was OK knowing that we had a postseason."

"It's a little different," said redshirt freshman receiver Jamie Graham, also of Nashville. "I'm used to playing basketball around this time."

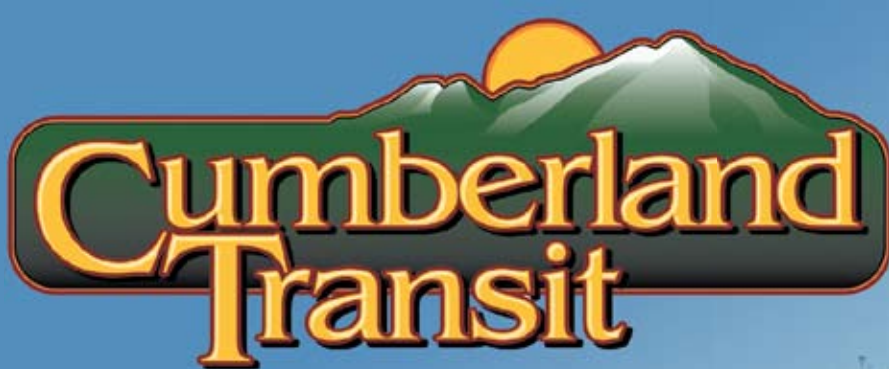
The Southeastern Conference's only athlete who plays both football and basketball will have to put his shooting guard duties on hold for the time being. Playing in his local town is an extra bonus to being on a team that had endured 26 years of bowl futility before breaking through in 2008.

With Nashville being the home of the large majority of the program's fan base, the Commodores can expect heavy crowd support when they take on Boston College.

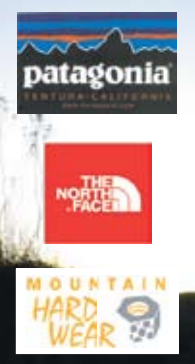
"It's going to be fun," Graham said. "We get to have all our fans here. I get to have some guys from the community to come up. Some of the younger kids will get to actually see me play in person, because I'm giving some of my tickets to some of (the kids I mentor)."

"Being from here, being able to do it now, especially at Vanderbilt, being in a bowl game, it's a step in the right direction for us and it'll be fun," Hahnfeldt said. ■

SPORTS: Bowl-bound Commodores have exciting season that included ESPN and beating South Carolina. SEE PAGE 6



2807 West End Ave
Nashville TN 37213
615-321-4069



SNAPSHOTS

compiled by MICHAEL WARREN

WEATHER

WEATHER.COM

TODAY



HIGH **45**, LOW **33**
Morning Showers

THURSDAY



HIGH **44**, LOW **27**
Showers

STAFF

- Editor **Michael Warren**
michael.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu
- Day Managers
Hannah Twillman
hannah.t.twillman@vanderbilt.edu
- Eve Attermann**
eve.a.attermann@vanderbilt.edu
- Janelle Stokes**
janelle.k.stokes@vanderbilt.edu
- Opinion Editor **Thomas Shattuck**
thomas.w.shattuck@vanderbilt.edu
- Senior Copy Editor **Hannah Twillman**
hannah.t.twillman@vanderbilt.edu
- Academics Specialist **Judy Wang**
zhu.wang@vanderbilt.edu
- Administration Specialist **Eve Attermann**
eve.a.attermann@vanderbilt.edu
- Campus Living Specialist **Norah Scanlan**
norah.o.scanlan@vanderbilt.edu
- Leadership Specialist **Lily Chen**
lily.z.chen@vanderbilt.edu
- Greek Scene Specialist **Janelle Stokes**
janelle.k.stokes@vanderbilt.edu
- Science and Medicine Specialist **Allie Morris**
allison.d.morris@vanderbilt.edu
- Sports Specialist **David Rutz**
david.c.rutz@vanderbilt.edu
- Election Project Director **Katherine Miller**
katherine.m.miller@vanderbilt.edu
- Art Director **Matt Radford**
matt@vscmedia.org
- Photo Editor **Chris Phare**
chris.phare@vanderbilt.edu
- Journalist-in-Residence **Tim Ghianni**
tim.c.ghianni@vanderbilt.edu

SERVICE GUIDE

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the academic year except for during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break.

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each.

The Vanderbilt Hustler is a division of Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. Copyright © 2008 Vanderbilt Student Communications.

LOCATION
The Hustler offices are in 130 Sarratt Student Center on the Vanderbilt University Campus. Address postal mail to 2301 Vanderbilt Place, VU Station B 351504, Nashville, Tenn. 37235-1504.

AFFILIATIONS
The Hustler is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers, Southern University Newspapers and the Southeastern Journalism Conference and is an associate member of the Associated Press.

TO ADVERTISE
Display ads: (615) 322-4237 or e-mail advertising@vanderbilthustler.com
Display fax: (615) 322-3762
Office hours are 9 a.m. — 4 p.m., Monday — Friday
Visit us online at <http://www.vsc-media.org/advertising.html>

TO REPORT A NEWS ITEM
Campus news: Call 322-2424 or e-mail news@vanderbilthustler.com
Entertainment news: Call 343-0967 or e-mail vibe@vanderbilthustler.com
Sports results: Call 343-0967 or e-mail sports@vanderbilthustler.com

CORRECTIONS
The Hustler strives for accuracy and fairness and will correct errors of substance. See our correction policy on the Opinion page for information about notifying us.

PRINTER
The Hustler is printed at Franklin Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Subscriptions are available for \$125 per semester or \$200 per year. Checks should be made payable to The Vanderbilt Hustler. A pdf subscription order form is available at <http://www.vscmedia.org/hustler.html>

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Illinois gov. Blagojevich released on own recognizance after arrest

CHICAGO (AP)—A federal judge in Chicago has ordered Governor Rod Blagojevich released on his own recognizance after the Democrat was hit with federal corruption charges.

The governor was arrested at his home Tuesday on charges he conspired to sell or trade President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder.

U.S. District Judge Nan Nolan said "Good afternoon, governor" in greeting Blagojevich at the afternoon bond hearing. The governor was wearing sweat pants, gym shoes and an athletic shirt.

He was released on a signature bond that specifies that he'll forfeit \$4,500 bond if he doesn't appear in court. Blagojevich also was ordered to relinquish his passport and his firearm owner's identification car.

Commodores face Alabama A&M; team hopes to break losing streak

The Vanderbilt men's basketball team plays tonight against Alabama A&M at Memorial Gym in hopes of snapping its first two-game losing streak since January.

The Commodores (5-3) come off a 63-51 loss to Georgia Tech where they shot 32.0 percent from the floor and were out-rebounded 48-33. The 51-point output was the team's lowest over the last four seasons. The performance followed a home loss to Illinois-Chicago on Nov. 29.

"Our energy was good," coach Kevin Stallings said of his team's play against the Yellow Jackets. "We defended hard but we just didn't rebound."

Alabama A&M (1-3) notched its first win of the season against Tuskegee last Saturday after dropping its first three contests. The teams tip off tonight at 7 p.m.

Clashes, looting rock Greek cities for 4th night after police shooting

ATHEN, Greece (AP)—Masked youths and looters marauded through Greek cities for a fourth night Tuesday, in an explosion of rage triggered by the police shooting of a teenager that has unleashed the most violent riots in a quarter century.

The nightly scenes of burning street barricades, looted stores and overturned cars have threatened to topple the country's increasingly unpopular conservative government, which faces mounting calls for Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis to resign.

Police fired tear gas at protesters following the funeral of 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos, who was laid to rest in an Athens burial attended by about 6,000 people.

Violence calmed before dawn Wednesday, but police were braced for more trouble later in the day when labor unions planned rallies during a nationwide strike called to protest the government's economic policies.

Deal seems near, but talks on auto bailout drag on in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Weary Democratic congressional leaders and White House officials pushed to clear the final obstacles to a \$15 billion bailout of U.S. automakers Tuesday night, but the rescue plan faced new snags as Republicans raised deep concerns.

Top Democrats said they were still hopeful of a deal by Wednesday — with a final vote to follow by the end of the week — though sticking points remained regarding the package, which would place a "car czar" named by President George W. Bush in charge of an auto industry restructuring in return for emergency government loans.

"We've had very productive discussions about legislation consistent with the president's principles," said Joel Kaplan, Bush's deputy chief of staff, emerging from an evening meeting with congressional aides where they were hammering out legislative language.

Records sought on jet type that killed 4 in crash in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A high-ranking congressman called on the Marine Corps on Tuesday to release the maintenance records of all fighter jets of the type that lost power and crashed into a San Diego neighborhood, killing four members of a family.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, the ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, said the fiery crash Monday of the F/A-18D Hornet fighter as it approached Marine Corps Air Station Miramar was apparently caused by power failure.

"My understanding ... is that the engines failed, causing the aircraft to lose thrust," said Hunter spokesman Joe Kasper.

The crash was probably unrelated to the previous discovery of cracks in hinges on the wings of more than a dozen of the \$57 million aircraft, the San Diego-area congressman said.

Ethics panel expands Rangel tax fraud investigation

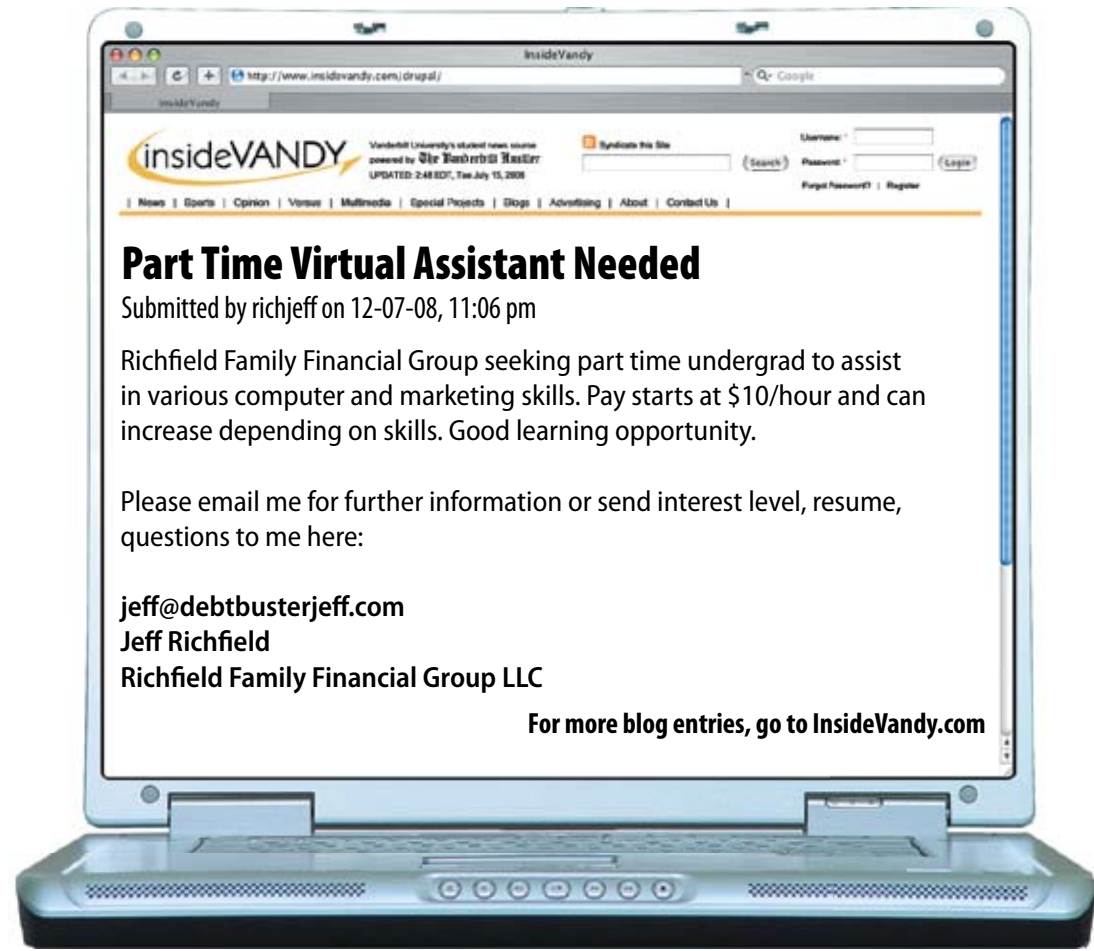
WASHINGTON (AP)—The House ethics committee is expanding an investigation of Rep. Charles Rangel, chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

The ethics panel issued a statement Tuesday saying it had voted to expand an already far-ranging probe into the New York Democrat to examine whether he protected an oil drilling company from a big tax bill when the head of that company pledged a \$1 million donation to a college center named after the congressman.

The move means the Rangel inquiry will likely stretch well past early January, when House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., had previously said she expected the matter to be resolved.

Republicans have called for Rangel to step down from his chairmanship of the powerful Ways and Means panel during the investigation. The expanding investigation means the ethics cloud hanging over Rangel is likely to follow him and Democratic leaders into the next Congress as they seek to pass major stimulus legislation and buoy the sinking economy.

FROM THE BLOG



SNAPSHOT

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT



Dr. David Williams conducts the Vanderbilt University Concert Choir during their Christmas Concert on Sunday December 7, 2008.

TOP DOLLAR

FOR TEXTBOOKS

WE BUY OVER 500,000 TITLES.

December 11-18

9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Qdoba

On the corner of
21st Ave. & W. End Ave.

BURRITO BARGAIN

RECEIVE A COUPON FOR ONE FREE CHICKEN BURRITO WHEN YOU SELL US YOUR BOOKS*
*LIMIT ONE PER TRANSACTION, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SEMESTER IN REVIEW

LEADERSHIP SEMESTER IN REVIEW

by LILY CHEN

Upperclassmen experience new Move Crew Program

Upperclassmen started the new school year by helping freshmen move into The Commons by participating in Move Crew. This semester's Move Crew experience involved not only helping freshmen move in but also participating in a leadership camp to develop team-building and leadership skills.

VSG makes changes to VandyVans

Vanderbilt Student Government kicked off the year with changes to the VandyVan routes, making them more efficient and convenient for students.

Williams-Smith platform underway for upcoming year

The newly-elected officers of VSG helped to get restaurants like T.G.I. Friday's on the card and also began working on their other proposed improvements such as online course syllabi and card access policies.

Gulf Coast evacuates up North

Another hurricane season was underway as many students from Tulane University fled to Vanderbilt to escape Gustav. Students were out of school for about a week, stayed with friends and complimented how accommodating Vanderbilt had been.

New LGBTQI center opens for student use

This new resource was created to build a sense of community on campus. The K.C. Potter Center's goal is to raise awareness about gender and sexuality issues, providing various resources such as a full-time staff.

VSG proposal to aid students studying abroad in summer

The Global Summer Fellows Program proposed by VSG now helps students deal with the price of studying abroad by setting aside \$250,000 to distribute among students going abroad during the summer who demonstrate need.

VSG teams with Charles Davis Foundation to Sponsor Angel Tree

VSG concluded the year with the philanthropy event Angel Tree, sponsoring over 400 children to whom they gave toys and clothing. Chicago Bulls player Charles Davis was present as well, reaching out to the community and to the children.

ADMINISTRATION WRAP-UP

by EVE ATTERMANN

Position shifts, new financial aid color semester

This semester's administration news stories have been marked by innovation and overturn. Five positions have been permanently filled after national searches, four of which were internal appointments, and a new debt-free financial aid initiative promises to ameliorate the effects of a devastating national recession.

"It has been a semester of community, change and challenge for America and Vanderbilt," said Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos.

The debt-free initiative, which was announced by The Vanderbilt Hustler and a Vanderbilt press release on Oct. 1, will replace all need-based student loans with grant and scholarship assistance. The initiative begins next semester with the class of 2009, and all other students will be able to benefit from the package next year.

"This new expanded financial aid program propels Vanderbilt to the next level of success," said Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen. "Clearly with the economic conditions it has become increasingly more important as we think about access for all students."

"Our commitment is simple — we seek the most accomplished students in the country to attend Vanderbilt and we make admissions decisions without considering financial need," said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty.

On Monday, Zeppos announced that the financial aid program had received a major boost with a \$20 million gift from an anonymous donor.

The four internal appointments were filled after national searches, and in the past three weeks Zeppos has approved three major appointments. On Tuesday, Carolyn Dever, a former faculty member in the English department who has also been both the associate dean of graduate education and the executive dean of Arts and Science, was appointed the dean of Arts and Science.

"Carolyn was the top choice of the search committee following an exhaustive national search," said McCarty.

Former Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Beth Fortune was appointed vice chancellor for public affairs, a position that became vacant when Michael Schoenfeld left for Duke University in June.

Susie Stalcup, the chief fundraising officer for Columbia University Medical Center, was appointed vice chancellor for development and alumni relations.

Additionally, former Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Jeff Balsler was appointed the 11th dean of the School of Medicine on Oct. 10.

GREEK SCENE ROUND UP FALL 2008

by JANELLE STOKES

NPHC fraternities move to new house

As the fall semester began and students settled into residence halls, National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities moved houses again.

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi and Phi Beta Sigma fraternities, who occupied the Kappa Sigma house during the last school year, moved into a four-bedroom house.

This move was caused by the return of Kappa Sigma colony to campus after a suspension in 2006. Kappa Sigma colony is the reincarnated Nu Society, which formed after Sigma Nu fraternity left campus. Director of Greek Life Kristin Torrey approved of the former Nu Society's return to campus.

"They wanted to be involved on campus and in the community service and philanthropy," said Torrey. "I think that they made a conscious choice in doing that and (made sure) that it was in everyone's best interest to do that."

While the NPHC fraternities do not have a house, they hope that in the future they can obtain a permanent residence.

"If we have a house where we can all meet, have fun, study and do a plethora of things together, it would make us have a stronger community in ourselves that hopefully reflects upon the entire Vanderbilt community," said NPHC President junior Chris Griffin.

Sigma Chi arrests

In late September, Sigma Chi fraternity experienced a situation involving an off-campus recruitment event, fireworks, underage drinking and disorderly conduct in Polk County, Tenn. Their behavior resulted in the arrests of 51 students, including many members of Sigma Chi fraternity. The men appeared in court in October, where they paid \$50 in fines and \$200 in court fees.

Chapters prepare for new members

As the fall semester ends, Panhellenic sororities and Interfraternity Council fraternities prepare themselves for new members in the spring. While NPHC organizations have a different membership intake process, they welcomed new members to Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, Zeta Phi Beta sorority and Sigma Lambda Gamma colony through three separate probates.

LOOKING BACK AT SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

by ALLIE MORRIS

Med Center expansions

This semester was all about expansion and evolution at the Vanderbilt Medical Center. Beginning Sept. 1, the Vanderbilt University Medical Center implemented a smoking ban that prohibits smoking on any part of the campus. This ban will extend to the newest addition to the Med Center, a clinic facility at the 100 Oaks Mall complex. The new facility will include 19 clinics and revolutionary technology like check-in kiosks and pagers that will allow patients to peruse the mall while waiting for their appointment. The first set of clinics is set to move in February 2009. With new space opening up on the Medical Center main campus and a \$20 million dollar gift from the Carell family, the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital will begin an expansion in 2009 that will roughly double the hospital's accommodations.

Innovative science programs

Meanwhile, Vanderbilt University continued to improve its international standing in science. The physics department's participation in research being conducted at CERN, a facility that houses the Large Hadron Collider, placed Vanderbilt at the cutting edge of physics experimentation with dark matter and extra dimensions. The Vanderbilt-Fisk Ph.D. bridge program is set to make Vanderbilt the No. 1 producer of minority Ph.D.s in the country by 2011. Vanderbilt also established the new Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and Environment, which will offer an interdisciplinary graduate degree that combines Earth and environmental studies with civil engineering.

SHOPPING 101... YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR DESIGNER BRANDS AT DISCOUNT PRICES

PUMA | ADIDAS | STEVE MADDEN | SKECHERS | ROCKET DOG
MUDD | COLUMBIA | SPERRY | GUESS | NINE WEST | BEARPAW

Take an additional **20% OFF** any single item
at our Tennessee area locations with this coupon #13215
OFF BROADWAY SHOE WAREHOUSE
expires: 12/22/2008

BEARPAW
Eva
\$39.90

Downtown 615.254.6242 | Opry Mills 615.514.0290 | Cool Springs 615.309.8939
The Avenue at Murfreesboro 615.494.5048
www.offbroadwayshoes.com

Business or Economics Major?

**Invest in You
Invest Now**

Substantial **scholarships**, up to full-tuition, are now being awarded to top applicants for a new one-year **Master's Program in Finance** beginning Fall 2009.

- Acquire the expertise you will need to succeed in the market place of the future.
- Leverage a dedicated career specialist and extensive alumni network in entering the market.
- Build your leadership potential in the co-curricular program and meet with distinguished speakers.

For more information, or to apply, please visit www.claremontmckenna.edu/rdsgraduate, or contact us at rdsadmission@claremontmckenna.edu.

THE ROBERT DAY SCHOOL
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

500 E. NINTH STREET, CLAREMONT, CA 91711 TEL: 909-607-3347

***85%**

OF VU UNDERGRADS do NOT drive after drinking.

— Core Survey, 2008

Office of ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & OTHER DRUG PREVENTION
Info and support • 343-4740
www.vanderbilt.edu/alcohol

*December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DEAN OF STUDENTS

THE BACK PAGE

Hustler and Versus can be read online at InsideVandy.com

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

SEE THE PRINT VERSIONS OF
THE HUSTLER
STUDENT NEWSPAPER
AND VERSUS
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE



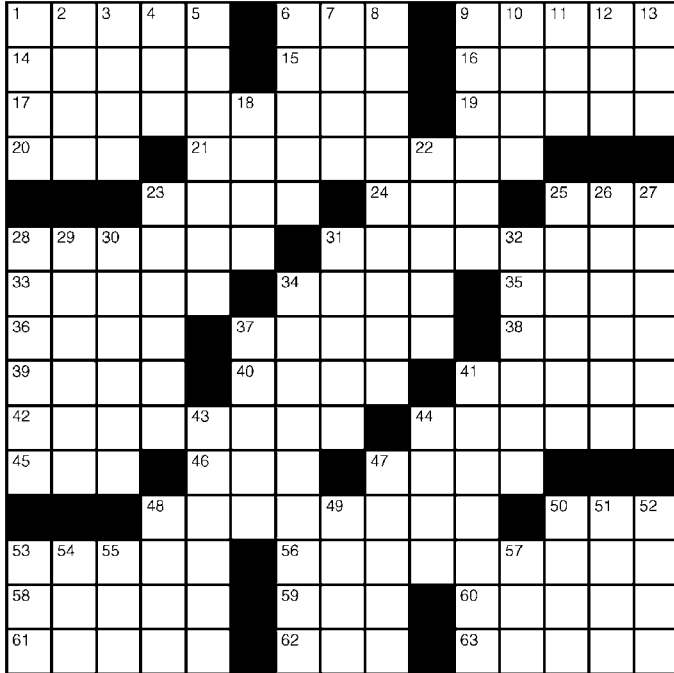
mAmbu
restaurant and bar
1806 Hayes Street
eatdrinkmambu.com
Anita
615-329-1293

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY NOW

Let Anita and her award winning staff take the stress out of your holiday planning

DIRECTIONS FROM VANDY:
Travel heading toward downtown, go to 19th Avenue and take a left, take a right on Hayes Street and Mambu is on the left between 18th and 19th Avenue.

CROSSWORD



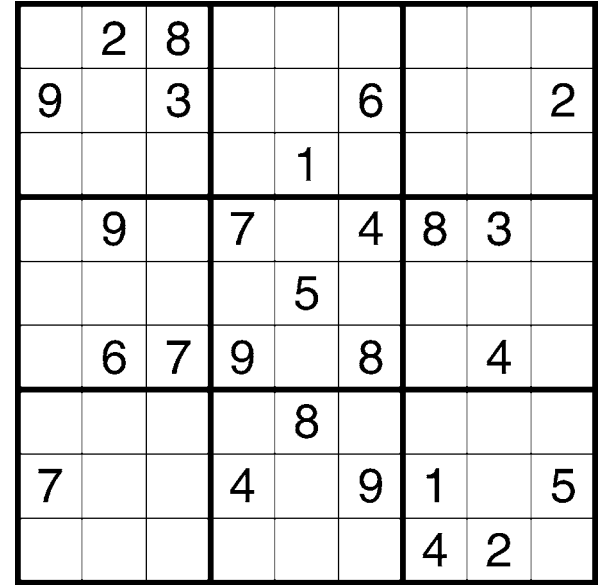
12/8/08 SOLUTIONS

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

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

12/8/08 SOLUTIONS

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



© 2008 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

12/10/08

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Valerie Harper sitcom | 1 Satellite of Saturn |
| 6 Game pieces | 2 "Airplane!" star Robert |
| 9 Hottie's money | 3 Bullring shouts |
| 14 Barbara and Nathan | 4 ___ Moines, IA |
| 15 Wrath | 5 Compounds of gurus |
| 16 Narrow crest | 6 Golden-touch king |
| 17 Facial cosmetic | 7 Aphrodite's son |
| 19 Remove a hem | 8 Pennsylvania city |
| 20 Silly billy | 9 Having dark hair |
| 21 Go back up | 10 Orange coat? |
| 23 Asian nation | 11 News chiefs, for short |
| 24 Woodshed item | 12 Long, long time |
| 25 Silver or Wood | 13 Lawn moisture |
| 28 Gravely impressive | 18 Very long time |
| 31 So to speak | 22 Departs |
| 33 Small songbirds | 23 Optics |
| 34 Groening or Damon | 25 Put in new padding |
| 35 "M*A*S*H" star | 26 Tough trial |
| 36 Intentions | 27 In good order |
| 37 Some nobles | 28 Cloth sample |
| 38 Set out to lose | 29 Baltimore pro |
| | 30 Actor Jack |
| | 31 Burr or Copland |
| | 32 Walking in water |
| | 34 Feigns illness |
| | 37 Cromwell's earldom |
| | 41 Fido's front foot |
| | 43 Fled to wed |
| | 44 Dolly of "Hello, Dolly!" |
| | 47 Carried, as on the wind |
| | 48 Roll up |
| | 49 Feast on Oahu |
| | 50 Biblical garden |
| | 51 Pinochle display |
| | 52 Manipulattess |
| | 53 Ordinance |
| | 54 Ruckus |
| | 55 Never ___ mind! |
| | 57 Actress Lupino |

verizon wireless

Give the gifts that give more, for less.

With phones that can do it all.

Plus, get a 10% student and 19% faculty/staff discount.
On monthly access on calling plans \$39.99 or higher.

Buy any phone \$29.99 or higher and get up to 3 **FREE** LG VX5500 camera phones
\$79.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. Requires new 2-yr. activation per phone.

ALL NEW! LG Voyager™ in Titanium \$99.99
\$149.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. Requires a Nationwide Calling Plan and new 2-yr. activation.

ALL NEW! LG Dare™ \$129.99
Our lowest price ever! \$179.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. Requires a Nationwide Calling Plan and new 2-yr. activation.

LG enV®2 \$79.99
\$129.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. Requires new 2-yr. activation.

They do all this and so much more!

- Media Center capable**
Download games, ringtones and more.
- GPS Navigation**
Add VZ Navigator™ for directions.
- Digital camera**
Snap and send pics and video.

Official Wireless Provider of Vanderbilt Athletics

HOT YOGA

NASHVILLE

COOLEST THING IN FITNESS!

30 classes a week 6am-9pm
10% off anything with this ad!

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

SuperShuttle
800-Blue Van
Vanderbilt University

Do You "Need A Lift" to the Airport?

Book Online at Supershuttle.com
To Receive A Discount!
Discount Code: F4BHE

Hotel to Airport Ride • 24 hour service
Call: (615) 275-4310

© 2007 SUPERSHUTTLE INTERNATIONAL, INC.
VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION

WORK FOR THE HUSTLER

E-mail:
michael.r.warren@vanderbilt.edu

Call:
615.322.2424

Stop by:
Sarratt 130

Call 1.888.VZW.4BIZ (899.4249) Click 24/7 verizonwireless.com Shop extended Holiday store hours!

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES Open 7 days a week. Technicians available at select locations.

ANTIOCH 5325 Hickory Hollow Ln. 615-731-1055	GALLATIN 1152 Nashville Pike 615-452-7800	MURFREESBORO 580 N. Thompson Ln. 615-896-2355
BRENTWOOD Maryland Farms 615-832-2355	HENDERSONVILLE 223 Indian Lake Blvd. 615-822-1128	NASHVILLE 4044 Hillsboro Pike 615-385-1910
COLUMBIA 375 S. James Campbell Blvd. 931-381-0898	LEBANON 1424 W. Main St. 615-443-2355	NEW! 6800 Charlotte Pike 615-353-2112
DICKSON 100 Lowe's Dr. 615-446-2355	MADISON 1915 Gallatin Pike 615-859-2355	SMYRNA 480 Sam Ridley Pkwy. W. 615-355-6560
FRANKLIN 420 Cool Springs Blvd. 615-771-6448	MT. JULIET 401 S. Mt. Juliet Rd. 615-773-1900	

In Collaboration with **Alcatel-Lucent**

Visit the Verizon Wireless Store inside one of the area's Circuit City locations

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS 1-800-899-4249

Our Surcharges (incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 11.4% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 7¢ Regulatory & 85¢ Administrative/line/mo., & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 6%-27% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35.
IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee/line & other charges. Offers and coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 weeks & expires in 12 months. Voyager is a trademark of Plantronics, Inc. used under license by Verizon Wireless. MONOPOLY,™, & © 2008 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Coverage not available everywhere. Limited-time offers. While supplies last. Network details and coverage maps at verizonwireless.com. © 2008 Verizon Wireless. GTGT

SPORTS

2008 Vanderbilt football season in review

Vanderbilt had its most successful regular season in 26 years and earned an invitation to the Music City Bowl. Here's a look back at some of the highlights of a memorable year for Commodore football.

Top Moments



MIKE RAPP / VandySports.com

SOUTH CAROLINA, SEPT. 4, 2008

Receiver Chris Reinert broke his leg in a collision in the fourth quarter against South Carolina, but he wasn't finished just yet. As he was carted off the field, the hard-working walk-on waved his arms in the air to pump up the Vanderbilt faithful. As the crowd roared, Jared Hawkins rumbled for a 14-yard touchdown run on the next play for the winning points in the 24-17 victory.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

RICE, SEPT. 13, 2008

Up 31-21 against Rice, D.J. Moore (17) had a dazzling 67-yard punt return to the 1-yard line of the Owls, setting up a touchdown sneak by Nickson to put the game away for the Commodores.



ROGELIO V. SOLIS / AP photo

OLE MISS, SEPT. 20, 2008

With Ole Miss on the brink of scoring a late touchdown to take the lead, Chris Marve (13) stripped the Rebels' Dexter McCluster of the football at the 2-yard line, allowing D.J. Moore to recover and Vanderbilt to escape with the 23-17 victory that moved the Commodores to 4-0.



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

"COLLEGE GAMEDAY," OCT. 4, 2008

Lee Corso tosses the Commodore head away on "College GameDay," putting on an Auburn helmet to show who he thought would win, drawing boos from the Vanderbilt fans. We know what happened next. Oh yeah, and "College GameDay" came to Vanderbilt. No biggie.



STAN JONES / VU Media Relations

KENTUCKY, Nov. 15, 2008

Co-captains Brad Vierling (60) and Reshard Langford (33) embrace after Vanderbilt clinched bowl eligibility for the first time since 1982 with a 31-24 victory over Kentucky. "A lot of people told them they couldn't do it," said coach Bobby Johnson of his players. "I'm very happy for them."

Memorable performances



NICOLE MANDEL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

DUKE, OCT. 25, 2008

There wasn't much to cheer about Vanderbilt's 10-7 loss to Duke on Homecoming, but redshirt freshman linebacker Chris Marve (13) put on a show. Marve had 16 tackles, a sack and a forced fumble that was recovered in the red zone to help Vanderbilt stay in striking distance.



STAN JONES / VU Media Relations

KENTUCKY, Nov. 15, 2008

Junior D.J. Moore (17) willed Vanderbilt to its first bowl eligibility in 26 years on both sides of the ball in a 31-24 win over Kentucky, catching two touchdown passes from Nickson at receiver and intercepting two passes at cornerback, including one with 2:03 left to seal the victory.



DANNY KLIMENTZ / The Daily Mississippian

OLE MISS, SEPT. 20, 2008

Redshirt junior safety Ryan Hamilton (2) was huge in the 23-17 win over the Rebels, intercepting three passes, including one for a touchdown, recovered a fumble and had a goal-line tackle on fourth down to stop Ole Miss from scoring a go-ahead touchdown.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

AUBURN, OCT. 4, 2008

Redshirt junior quarterback Mackenzi Adams had his best game of 2008 against then-No. 13 Auburn, throwing for 153 yards and two touchdowns to rally the Commodores to a 14-13 win. He also rushed for 54 yards to help keep the ball away from the Tigers late.

Quotable Commodores

"It was my way of saying, 'Guys, forget about me — think about winning this game.' I just wanted to get everyone and the team back to being excited about the game."

—Chris Reinert on pumping up the crowd as he was carted off the field with a broken leg against South Carolina

"God Almighty,"

—Bobby Johnson can't believe it when a reporter's cell phone goes off while being interviewed at practice and the ring tone is none other than "Rocky Top," the Tennessee fight song.

"(Lee) Corso will pick us as the underdog or the winner, and it doesn't matter to us. It's nice to get respect as a team, but we never worry about what other people think."

—Sean Walker on "College GameDay" coming to Vanderbilt

"This is what coaches live for!"

—Johnson after the 14-13 win over Auburn on the players' jubilation in the locker room

"It's like anything else in life. When you have a setback you have to climb over the obstacle. You have to progress and that's what we're going to try to do."

—Linebacker Chris Marve after Vanderbilt's 10-7 loss to Duke, its third in a row

"We went into this game thinking we could beat Florida. If you go into a game and you think you're going to lose, you might as well not even put the uniform on. Plain and simple."

—Center Brad Vierling after the Commodores fell 42-14 to Florida

"It's an unbelievable feeling, and the best way to describe it right now would be 'wow.'"

—Quarterback Chris Nickson after Vanderbilt clinched bowl eligibility with a 31-24 win over Kentucky

FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Good luck with finals!

Be on the lookout this week for goodie bags from the Class of 2012 Student Alumni Board! They'll have bags full of candy and some with Starbucks gift cards!



Brought to you by:



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 stint 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
321-2626



Vandy/College Night
Thursday nights!
\$2 domestic and imports all night!
18 and up.
Available for Private parties

HOLLYWOOD DISCO
NASHVILLE
1907 Division Street ★ 615-320-DISCO
HollywoodDiscoNashville.com

Versus

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

Versus Magazine

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor in Chief
Darcy Newell

Managing Editor
Sara Gast

Features Editor
Chris Gearing

Culture Editors
Brandon Heriford
Courtney Rogers

Fiction Editor
Kris Stensland

Music Editor
Avery Spofford

Art Director
Matt Radford

Designers
Irene Hukkelhoven
Morgan Webb

Marketing Director
George Fischer

Advertising Manager
Angela Booker

VSC Director
Chris Carroll

Assistant VSC
Director
Jeff Breaux

Journalist in
Residence
Tim Ghianni

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

THIS ISSUE

3



Fiction

- 'Frog Ribbets,' 2
- 'Gingerbread,' 2
- Words to live by in 17 syllables, 2

Entertainment

- Q+A with Burr. It's cold in here. 3
- 'Bolt' is a jolt of fun, 3

5



Music

- 2008 was great, 4
- It was a good year for Auto-Tune, 4
- Rock out on New Year's, 5

Christmas

- Top 10 Christmas movies for the top 12 days of Christmas, 6
- Bookstore buys: Cheap Xmas gifts for your guy(s) and girl(s)! 6

Features

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

6



7

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!

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. 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.

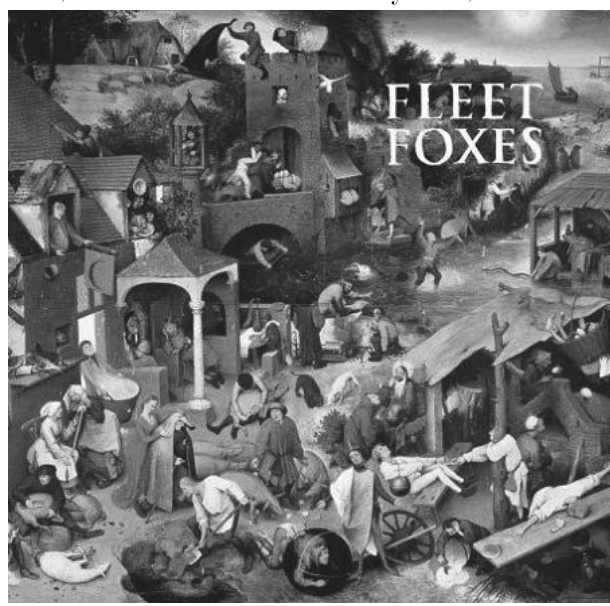
Sure, Lil' Wayne, that capri-wearing shawty (rumored to be, in fact, the third Wayne brother), lit up the summer months with verbal fire and hot beats. Vampire Weekend and Girl Talk certainly gave my days a kick in an interesting, if not the right, direction. However, only the Fleet Foxes captured the 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 curtails of the other. When I heard that Solange Knowles, the overshadowed younger sibling of

bootylicious Beyonce, 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. ☿



blogs.renters.com



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

We're out to move you

\$1599*
Laguna 50cc
#ML0179

\$1699*
Sport 50cc
#MS0112

\$1799*
Newport 50cc
#N0113

\$2399*
Valo 150cc
#MV1655

BRING IN THIS AD FOR \$100 TOWARD YOUR PURCHASE!

BEAMAN MOTORSPORTS
2300 Franklin RD
Nashville, TN 37204
(615) 383-8080
Beamanmotorsports.com

*Price plus tax title and license and includes \$99.50 processing fee

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"

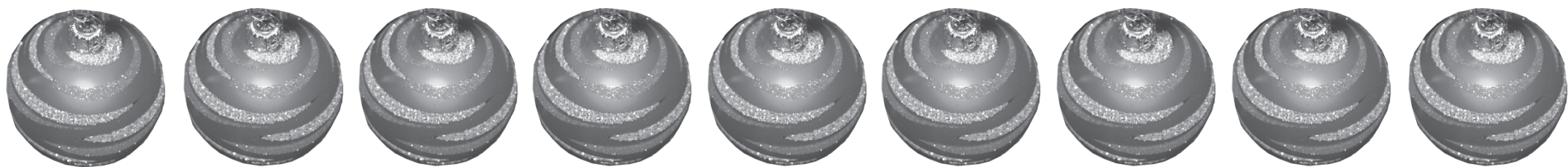
Christmas isn't complete without those classic clay figurines dancing on your TV screen. Great characters such as the elf that wants to be a dentist and the island of misfit toys makes this movie the best cinematic tale of our favorite rejected red-nosed reindeer.

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.

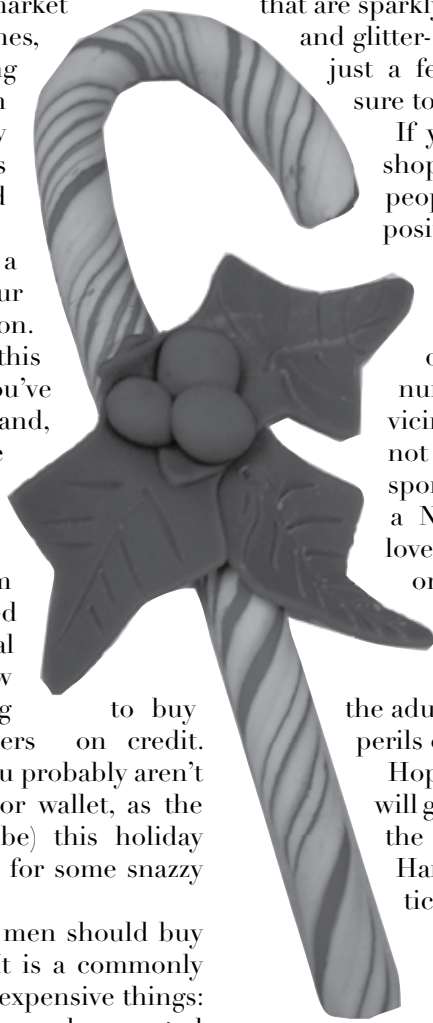
You may possess one of a slew of reasons to pinch your pennies this holiday season. Perhaps, caught up in this nuisance of an economy, you've lost most of your net worth and, feasibly, can no longer use money as a synonym for love. Or maybe you have a moral standard to upkeep. As reckless consumerism 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.

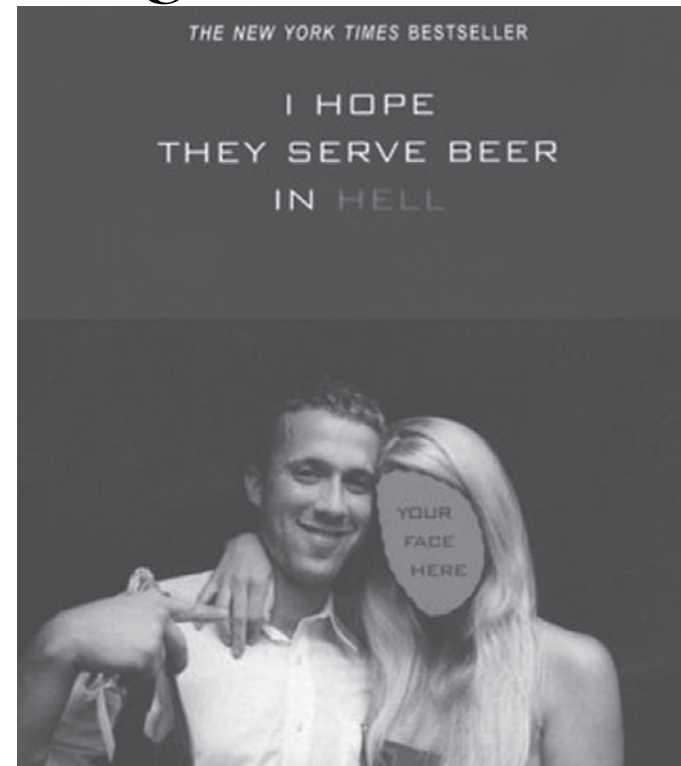
The first story in the book, "The Famous Sushi Pants Story," is my favorite. While living in Boca Raton, Fla., after college,

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.

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"



PHOTOS: www.flickr.com

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."

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?



2127 Belcourt Ave
Sun-Thurs 11am-10 pm,
Fri and Sat until midnight
615-292-2204

VANDY'S HOT DOG HEADQUARTERS
★ AUTHENTIC CHICAGO STYLE DOGS
★ TURKEY AND VEGGIE DOGS
★ \$10 BUCKETS OF DOMESTIC BEER AFTER 7PM WITH STUDENT ID



PANGAEA
jewelry ~ clothing ~ gifts



NASHVILLE'S PREMIERE BODY WAXING STUDIO!

A FULL SERVICE WAXING AND SKINCARE SHOP FOR MEN AND WOMEN
CALL 356-0919 OR BOOK ONLINE AT WAXNASHVILLE.COM
6600 HWY 100 IN BELLE MEADE

\$10 OFF ANY SERVICE

"Best New Restaurant"

- Nashville Scene 2007 Best of Nashville

"Best New Concept"

- Nashville Scene 2007 Editorial Pick

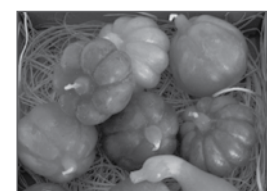
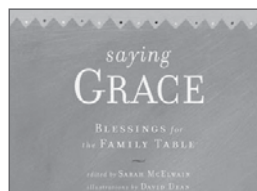
~ Owned and operated by Vanderbilt Alumni! ~

FLYTE
WORLD DINING
AND WINE

718 DIVISION STREET • 615-255-6200
WWW.FLYTENASHVILLE.COM

Social Graces

STATIONERY • GIFTS • INVITATIONS



all things holiday

Come in today to see the latest shipments.
HALLOWEEN • THANKSGIVING • CHRISTMAS
10% off Christmas card orders before October 27.

615.383.1911 SOCIALGRACESONLINE.COM
HILLSBORO VILLAGE | 1704 21ST AVE SO.