

Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

APRIL 15 - APRIL 21, 2009 VOL. 47, No. 13

SETH ROGEN

talks to Versus about "Observe and Report," how he gets into character and what it's like not to have a grand plan. Check out page 9 for the whole story.

Run with Bulls' Brad Sample thought we were cool enough to meet at Fido. We think he's cool right back. Flip to page 6 for the interview.

Everything you need to know about Rites of Spring is on page 8. Seriously.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Urban Acoustic League — Edgehill Studios Cafe

The Urban Acoustic League was founded as a place for songwriters and acoustic instrumentalists to unite and hone their craft. The League aims to overturn today's overproduced, commercialized music scene with a return to attention to artistry and craft in music. (Free, 7 p.m., 1201 Villa Place)

Musical Petting Zoo — Richland Park Branch Library

Although there are no animals involved, the Country Music Hall of Fame's Musical Petting Zoo can still be fun for all ages. Visitors to the Zoo can try out a variety of musical instruments and receive on-site instruction. The program will kick off with a demonstration on how to play the mandolin. (Free, 4 p.m., 4711 Charlotte Ave.)

Greta Gaines, Stacie Collins and Tonya Watts — The Basement

Three star-studded and original artists are set to light up the stage at The Basement. Although they are both influenced by rock and country, Greta Gaines and Stacie Collins each showcase their own style, and third performer Tonya Watts has a love for her music that comes through in every performance. (\$5, 9 p.m.)

Deric Ruttan — 12th and Porter

With his new album, "First Time in a Long Time," Ruttan reminds audiences of just what they've been missing. Ruttan's confidence and charisma carry through in this album, signaling just the comeback that Ruttan fans have been craving. (Free, 6 p.m.)

Family Force 5, The Maine, 3OH!3 plus Hit the Lights and A Rocket To The Moon — Rockettown

The Alternative Press Tour 2009 roars through town with a line-up to please the pop-punk rocker in all of us. Hosted by Music City Booking and Rockstar Energy Drink, the AP Tour has become known as one of the premier tours to catch today's best alternative/pop-punk rock acts. (\$15, 6 p.m., 401 Sixth Ave. South)

Belty Betty with Foundry Field Recordings — The End

Indie-pop rockers Foundry Field Recordings come to Nashville to shoegaze and play with Belty Betty, an eccentric female singer-songwriter whose unusual vocals and lyrics will be sure to entertain any audience. (\$6, 9 p.m.)

Shelly Fairchild and The People with Cade Doyle and Margaret Durante — 3rd and Lindsley

With musical influences ranging from Madonna to Dolly Parton, Shelly Fairchild is a fascinating artist whose music is gaining attention on both local and national levels. (\$10, 7 p.m.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

T.I., Q-Tip, Santigold and more — Vanderbilt University

With Rites of Spring weekend finally upon us, what better way to kick it off than heading over to Alumni lawn for a great afternoon/evening of performances?! Apart from the always swagger-tastic Q-Tip and T.I., crowd pleasers like Santigold, Okkervil River and K'NAAN will be on campus to rock you Friday. (\$20, 3:20 p.m.)

Ben Vereen — Schermerhorn Symphony Center

Singing in a versatile, yet diligently perfected, style for tasteful music listeners like you, Ben Vereen will be presenting the unmistakable music of Sammy Davis Jr. on Friday night as part of Pepsi's Pop Series with the Nashville Symphony. (\$40, 8 p.m., 1 Symphony Place)

Chiari Benefit Concert — Exit/In

Come listen to some great tunes in the name of a great cause. Exciting acts such as Sunset Tragedy, The Lesser Light and Call the Armada will be performing, with all proceeds donated to the Neurology Department at the Mayo Clinic. When you consider the benefits, five bucks isn't much to ask for. (\$5, 9 p.m.)

Tennessee Mafia Jug Band — Station Inn

If you're in the mood to experience a bit of Tennessee's ramblin' past, check out this group of hoot n' hollerin' boys straight from the boondocks of Goodlettsville. Accompanied onstage by a scrub board, a joy for music and nostalgia for yesteryear, the Tennessee Mafia Jug Band may just be your cup of tea. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

Craig Nies and Leah Bowes — Blair School of Music

If you feel like staying on campus Friday night, but don't like that gangster rap music all those dang kids got on blast these days, head over to Blair for a free piano showcase featuring performances of Schubert's "Grand Duo in C Major" and Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances." (Free, 8 p.m.)

The Compromise, Abandon Kansas, R.T. Gentlemen and more — The End

An ensemble of acts reflective of the fact that all the good band names have been taken, The Compromise, Abandon Kansas, R.T. Gentlemen, The Michigan City Vandals and Shanghai Gesture will be rocking out at The End Friday night, trying to prove that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. (\$5, 9 p.m.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

supre X — The Rutledge

With just enough misspelling and strange capitalization style to irritate me infinitely, as well as weird song names like "Traenor" and "Stunkuf," this is one of those bands that will probably cater to those who are much more hip and emo and all that than I am. You crazy kids will definitely enjoy this rock and/or roll music. (\$5, 8 p.m., 410 Fourth Ave. South)

Kids Rock! — Nashville Symphony

Haha, made you look. What at first appears to be a sketchy-looking yet still Grammy-winning artist is actually a tribute to children's musical accomplishments. The children in question are not Mouseketeers and the like, but instead pieces composed by Mozart and his ilk in their early years. Not to be all depressing, but they probably did better work as an 8-year-old than you could do in an entire life of study. And for less than \$20, you can enjoy this shout out to the prodigies of yesteryear. (\$12.50-25, 11 a.m., 1 Symphony Place)

Mellow Down Easy — Exit/In

If you're stressing out right before the end of the semester, maybe a study break is in order. Come chill out with Mellow Down Easy, maybe have a drink or two and brace yourself for the end of the year. Also, Old Union is playing, which sounds pretty sweet — they do Southern rock and the like, if you're into that kind of thing. Overall it should be a good show. (STBD, 10 p.m.)

Rascal Flatts — Grand Ole Opry

Rascal Flatts is kind of a big deal in the country music world. They're actually a pretty big deal in the general music world, too. Even though they'll only be playing a song or two for the Opry broadcast, it could be totally worth it, especially if you've never seen them live. Whether you liked their last CD or not, might as well catch them here. You know, unless there's some sort of big concert somewhere closer to you that's significantly cheaper or something. (\$36-53, 7 p.m., 2804 Opryland Drive)

The Flaming Lips — Alumni Lawn

I don't know if you've heard, but there's this concert on Saturday here on campus called Rites of Spring. The music really isn't as big of a deal as the experience, apparently. If you didn't get whatever you like on Friday, do you realize that there's another headliner Saturday night that battles pink robots? Yeah, sounds weird, I know. But you probably won't be coherent enough to care anyway, so don't worry about it. Let's be honest—everyone's going to be out here, so the listings besides this are irrelevant. Just don't forget to pick up your ticket this week. (\$10, 10 p.m., Alumni Lawn)

The Regulars

THE RUTLEDGE
410 Fourth Ave. South 37201
782-6858

THE 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. South 37203
255-3307

THE BASEMENT
1604 Eighth Ave. South 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. South 37210
259-9891

CAFE COCO
210 Louise Ave. 37203
321-2626



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FROM THE EDITOR



It happens to everyone: the minor inconveniences caused by the people around us. Someone drinks part of your tasty beverage, the next day their hair is clogging the shower drain and the final straw comes when they eat your food. Yeah, you know you've been there when someone has gone too far. It's time for blood.

But on the contrary, we're a non-confrontational society so, a lot of us write notes spelling out our frustrations. For an exhibition in the best of this unsung art, visit passiveaggressivenotes.com. You'll find some of the creme de la creme of passive aggression (and maybe some ideas for the next time you're pissed off). It ranges from such simple fare as "Clean the fridge please" spelled out in colored Easter eggs to the more exotic like a note at a diner reading "We waited 30 min NO SERVICE." Oh, it was also written over the entire counter in ketchup and mustard.

My personal favorites are the passive-aggressive note wars. It starts with a simple shot across the bow: someone laying down the law or making a request that gets a response. This usually spins out of control. For example, there is series of pictures of an original note that's covered by a response that's subsequently covered in Post-its. Crazy.

However, Versus is never a source of passive aggression we usually just rock the arts and entertainment scene right out in the open. For instance, this week we've got a preview of the best movies coming out this summer; an interview with Run With Bulls (they're playing at Rites) and our exclusive and incredibly useful guide to Rites of Spring (i.e., a schedule of the bands, entrances to the lawn, what booths are there and why, all the other information you may need, etc.). We're pretty adorable, right? Oh, and did I mention we interviewed Seth Rogen? Yeah, THAT Seth Rogen.

Take that, other arts and entertainment publications.

Stay Legendary,
Chris Gearing

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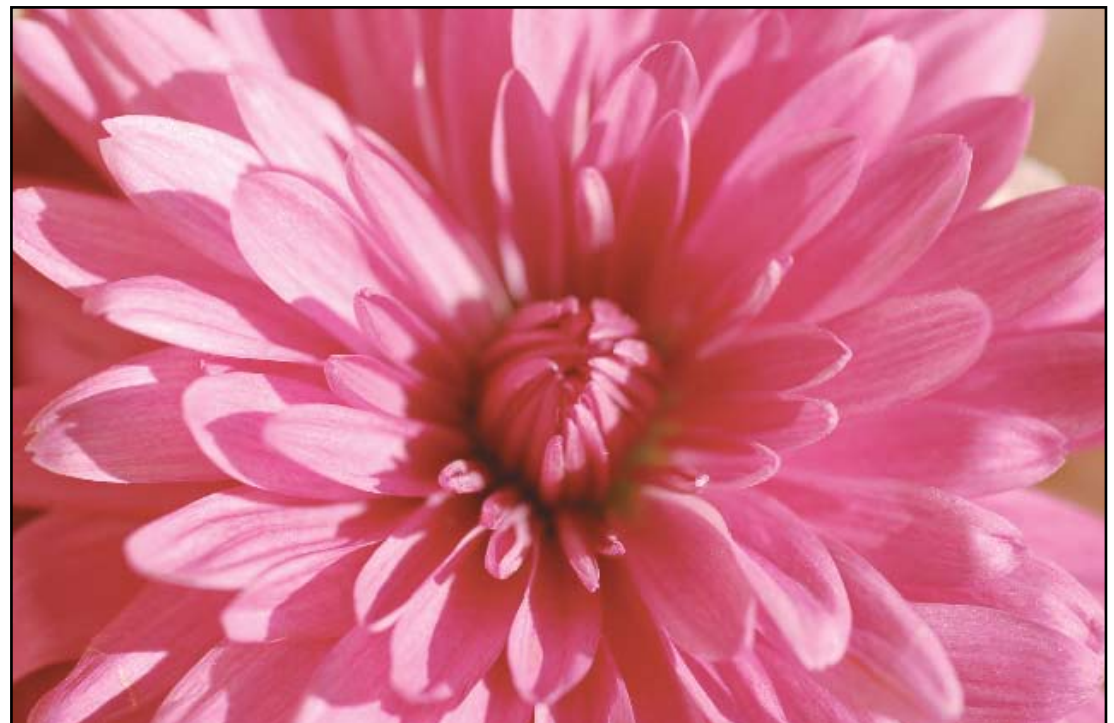
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PIC OF THE WEEK



NICOLE MANDEL / VERSUS MAGAZINE

BITS & PIECES

If you fear making anyone mad, then you ultimately probe for the lowest common denominator of human achievement.
— President Jimmy Carter



HOROSCOPES



ARIES 3/21-4/19: This week, pose as a prospective student around campus and see how many sketchy people hit on you.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20: No matter how hard you try, you will never be as good at anything as Tiger Woods is at golf.



GEMINI 5/21-6/21: Horoscopes are a lot like "Deep Thoughts by Jack Handey." Except that I'll have a REAL job someday. Take that, big funny man.



CANCER 6/22-7/22: E-mail is the most personal form of communication. Be sure to use it for all sensitive conversations.



LEO 7/23-8/22: The tornado siren serves less as a warning of impending doom, but more as a punishment for all the drinking you did the night before. Going to the basement won't help that.



VIRGO 8/23-9/22: Your attempts at speaking only in sports metaphors will fail worse than that time you tried to actually play real sports.



LIBRA 9/23-10/22: "Manning up" always seems to involve doing something irrational, dangerous and barely legal. Still, quit being such a girl.



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21: Puns used to be the highest form of comedy. Now, people just think you're stupid.



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21: A sad realization comes this week when you realize you're closer to having a child than being one.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19: Things don't have to make sense in order to be right. You have to make cents in order to eat, though, so you might want to look into getting a job.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18: Metaprocrastination is where you procrastinate on your procrastination. It's not on Wikipedia yet — I looked for like a half hour. Maybe you should add it.



PISCES 2/19-3/20: This week, renegotiate so that one of our rights of spring can be weather above 65 degrees.

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

Just livin' your life
Going to Rites with convicts.
Now THAT is real rap.

Since there are no jobs
All those MRS degrees
Aren't looking so bad ...

OVERHEARD

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

Compiled from the Facebook group "Overheard at Vanderbilt"



Girl: "If our professor wasn't already married, I would totally go lesbian for her!"



Rando: "Gucci underwear is more comfortable on the loins."



Guy: "Yeah, that's weird. Our nannies were always registered."

Rando: "The ideal level of fattiness is to have every idea what you did and no idea who you did it with the morning after. Perfection. Glorious night."

Girl: "What does a brain tumor feel like? Cause I think I have one."

PHOTOS: flickr.com

WE WANT YOU IN THE YEARBOOK



submitted by Catherine Muller



submitted by Danielle Gantt



submitted by Brittany Hoag

submitted by Lillian Lam



02/01/2009

submitted by Jeanette Lugo

Don't let your digital photos fade into oblivion. Submit your favorite photos from 2008-09 online at **VanderbiltCommodore.com**, and they could be published in the Scrapbook section of the Commodore yearbook. The Scrapbook section is a unique record of this year at Vandy, created entirely with photos submitted by students like you.

SEND IN ...
pics of you and your friends, interesting shots capturing life on campus, team and organization group photos, images of parties and events



submitted by Laura Calabrese

VanderbiltCommodore.com

If you haven't already ordered your 2009 Commodore yearbook, order online today.

Project Safe, Peer Educators of Project Safe, Every2Minutes, Vanderbilt Athletes Against Assault Task Force and The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center Proudly Sponsor this Petition to Raise Awareness and End Violence.

The following names represent those who support the statement:

"As a member of the Vanderbilt Community, in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), I support the efforts to raise awareness about and to end violence against women."

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Samantha Lee Lawrence
Amy Beth Lazarov
Judy Jinju Lee
Jodie Kathleen Leeka
Colette Kyla Lelchuk
Kimberly Hannah Lesnick
Tori Elan Levine
Jordan Elizabeth Levy
Feylyn Mercedes Lewis
Ashley Elizabeth Magrane
Caitlyn Elizabeth Majeika
Catherine Elizabeth Majors
Samantha Audrey Martin
Merissa Brooke Mayo
Holly Robin Meehl
Melissa Barbara Meier
Chelsea Annette Meiners
Elizabeth Kate Melendez
Rebecca Elaine Metry
Lauren Elizabeth Mitchell
Annalise Masae Miyashiro
Anna Laura Molinari
Anna Laura Muenchrath
Darcy Clayton Newell
Sara Morton Nour
Brittanny Alexis O'Meara
Clare Amanda Osborne
Sarah Ashley Osborne
Charlotte Grace Owen
Jessica Leigh Owens
Blythe Holland Pardue
Shira Rose Paul
Ima Paydar
Melissa Suzanne Peck
Allison Leigh Piazza
Kathleen Hastings Pollock
Rebecca Cahill Price
Audrey D'Ann Pyle
Elizabeth Marie Riker
Emily Ward Roberts
Rachel C Robison
Meghan Elizabeth Rose
Katherine Frances Ruddy
Catherine Ruelens
Vicky Elise Ruleman
Sara Mills Safan
Katharine Marie Sagan
Virginia Stevens Savage
Jamie Gordon Scheiman
Dawn Elizabeth Schmidt
Tiffany Nicole Schoen
Mary Alicia Sells
Janell Nicole Senda
Katherine Elizabeth Sloan
Samantha Courtney Sloane
Mallorie Justine Smith
Kelley Allison Smith
Samantha Evan Smith
Melanie Nicole Spector
Martyna Magdalena Stomski
Lauren Nicole Tamarokin
Maura Michelle Thoenes
Leah Sawyer Vanderwerp
Valarie Marie Vara
Veronica Marie Venezia
Amy Elizabeth Venit
Sarah Marie Walker
Jessica Marie Wamsley
Margaret Sweeney Ward
Rebecca Ellen Weiss
Emily Susan Whitaker
Sarah Anne Williams
Carli Michelle Wittgrove
Melissa Johnson Wright
Lindsay Erin Wuller

ENTERTAINMENT

Top movies of summer 2009

TRIP COTHREN
Culture Editor

Summer 2009 is bringing some great looking movies with it. Hopefully this little writeup will give you an opportunity to become aware of some of the most anticipated films of the summer.



blogs.e-rockford.com

"X-Men Origins: Wolverine"

We all know what we are getting here. Hugh "Jacked" man returns as the buff metal-skeleton mutant that we all love and cheer for. In this movie we can expect to see how he came to be and learn about some new characters: Gambit, Deadpool and Sabretooth!

"Star Trek"

This one could be really fun. Writer/producer of

"Lost" and "Fringe," J.J. Abrams, puts another spin on the sci-fi classic. With an all-new cast reminiscent of "The O.C." or "90210," this one should be fun.

"Angels and Demons"

Robert Langdon is back! Tom Hanks and Ron Howard match up again for the story from the author of "The Da Vinci Code." Looks like we will get more of the same problem-solving skills from Hanks and some more conspiracy!



risestudio.com

"Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen"

Duh. All I need to say about this is: Meghan Fox, Optimus Prime and explosions. Done.

"Terminator: Salvation"

Christian Bale does not take breaks. If you have heard the Bale rant when he goes off on a guy walking through the set of this movie, then you know the intensity with which this guy operates. With a supposed brief Arnold scene in this one and Bale's awesome everything, I will be going on opening day to see this movie.



popculturenerd.files.wordpress.com

"Public Enemies"

Johnny Depp. Christian Bale. In the same movie. It really does not matter what the movie is about or who else is in it. However, it is about John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd and their gangster lives in the 1930s. Depp is playing Dillinger and Bale is the FBI

agent chasing him, Melvin Purvis. Billy Crudup will play J. Edgar Hoover. The trailer for this movie really teases with some great looking scenes with some intense lines and obvious great acting.

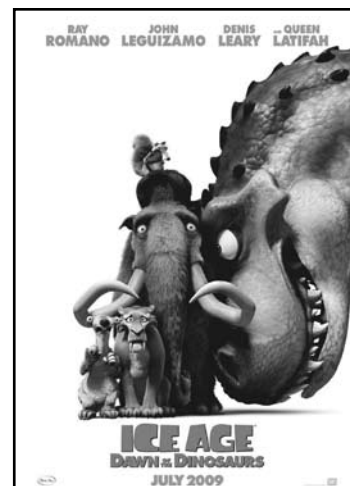


coffeedrunk.com

"G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra"

If you saw the preview that aired during the Super Bowl then you are as excited for this as I am. If not, then I am positive that you played with G.I. Joe's at some point and you are excited! Either way with some really great looking action sequences, this August release could

be the cap to the summer season that I want.



cinemaemporugues.files.wordpress.com

"Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs"

Um, yes please! Denis Leary, Ray Romano and John Leguizamo all return to give us some more of our favorite extinct creatures. This time, as the title suggests, we will be getting some new characters that will be, well, dinosaurs.

"Bruno"

Sacha Baron Cohen brings another "Borat"-type movie where he plays a gay, Austrian host of a fashion show. He

goes around America making people uncomfortable and doing horrible things. From the trailer, I have seen that he will be very, very, openly gay and try to make anyone and everyone as uncomfortable as possible due to that fact. Should be more of the same as "Borat."

"The Taking of Pelham 123"

OK, this one is very interesting. John Travolta and Denzel Washington team up in this hijack/negotiator flick. Travolta is the bad guy, awesome. Washington is the city employee in charge of the subway system in New York City. Travolta hijacks a subway and wants money, we think, they then go round and round. Looks very fun — check out the trailer on imdb.com.

Honorable Mentions:

"Up," Pixar's next big movie. New "Harry Potter" movie, meh.

"Night at the Museum 2"

"Year One," Jack Black's new comedy effort.

"Land of the Lost," Will Ferrell's next bust, probably. ☹

The A.P.C.s of style with senior Abe Hanson

SHEMSI FREZEL

Staff Writer

Last Thursday I sat down to talk personal style with senior Abe Hanson. As our conversation carried on I noticed a reoccurring theme: the importance of a good pair of jeans. When I asked what item he would (hypothetically) salvage from his burning closet he said jeans. When I asked what one thing he thought everyone should have in



Shemsi Frezel/Versus Magazine

the wardrobe his response was a great pair of denim. As it happens, Hanson worked at the Denim Bar

in the Washington, D.C., area some time ago; there he fostered his love for raw denim. The term raw denim refers to denim that has not been pre-washed or processed in any way — it is denim in its purest form. Brands like A.P.C., Earnest Sewn and even Levis offer this stiffer style of denim.

A.P.C., a Parisian-based company specializing in raw denim, is Hanson's

brand of choice. The company's jeans are known for their clean, slim cuts with unadorned designs. The styles are so austere that many of the styles are gender neutral and can be worn by both men and women. This basic approach fits in with Hanson's overall style philosophy. He believes that investing in interchangeable basics like button-up shirts, V-neck



Shemsi Frezel/Versus Magazine

T-shirts, cardigans and of course raw denim, can simplify getting dressed. Not surprising for someone

who expresses a love of Scandinavian silhouettes and sites Portland, Ore., and Copenhagen, Denmark, as the cities which most correlate with his style. He enjoys the cut and lines of clothes found in Copenhagen, but he likens his love of color to the hipster look of Portland. Hanson's style is all about the adept mixing of purity and clean lines — an A.P.C. formula. ☹

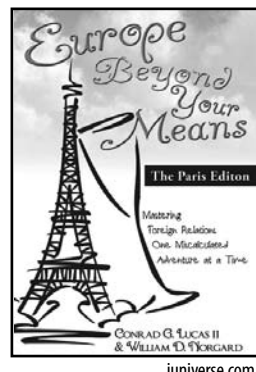
Paris may (or may not) be beyond your means

CHRIS GEARING

Editor-in-Chief

Ever wanted to plan your perfect trip to Paris but have no idea where to start? Especially being an American in Europe, things can be a little hectic and confusing. But now, there's a guide to planning your Paris trip that has all your essential information coupled with wit and charm — and the best part? It's written by a Vanderbilt alum!

Pick up a copy of "Europe Beyond Your Means: The Paris Edition" by Conrad Lucas and William Norgard. Lucas graduated from Vanderbilt in 2003 and has been working on his doctorate in Nashville ever since. It begins with some tips on French culture, how to plan your trip and how to blend in with the Parisians and not look like a total American (a faux pas in Paris, no?).



Beyond all this sage advice and wisdom, there's a ton of hilarious stories and ridiculous anecdotes to keep you chuckling as you read along. The authors are obviously fun loving individuals who love Paris and want to make you love it just as much as they do. Plus, at a cool 150 pages it's a fast and easy read. Pick it up at your local bookstore (yes, all the major ones) and even the Vanderbilt bookstore. It's the perfect guide for your perfect Parisian vacation. ☹

Pregame Rites with a little dance

ALLEN BERRY

Staff Writer

You're looking around this Thursday night for something to do. Rites of Spring is the next day, and we all know you're not going to be working on that 12-page paper that's due next week. You definitely don't feel like staying in your room, but what is there to do ...?

Lucky for you, Vanderbilt Programming Board's Great Performances series is presenting Ronald K. Brown in Ingram Hall on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Brown's signature fusion of African and contemporary dance is presented by "Evidence in One Shot," a multimedia tribute to the great

black photographer "Teenie" Harris. Through dance and photography, the work captures the vibrant environment of the Harlem renaissance of Pittsburgh, Penn. If you want more information about the company, visit evidencedance.com; if you want more information about the show or getting tickets, visit the Sarratt Box Office or ticketmaster.com.

So get up, get out and see what culture there is here on campus. I mean, when someone asks you on Monday, "Hey, what'd you do this weekend?" don't you want to be the one person that has something more original to say than, "Hung around at Rites. You?" I thought so. ☹

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MUSIC

"I used to think anyone doing anything weird was weird. Now I know that it is the people that call others weird that are weird."
—Paul McCartney



Green Day has signed on to play a show in a small New York City club, the Bowery Ballroom, on May 18 — just three days after the long-anticipated release of the stadium-filling group's new album, "21st Century Breakdown."



rtvchannel.tv

Q+A with Brad Sample from Rites group Run with Bulls

Last Wednesday, Features Editor Courtney Rogers and Culture Editor Holly Meehl headed to our beloved cafe, Fido, to chat with Run with Bulls front man Brad Sample. In this hip enclave, they talked about how the band formed, their name, and even swapped stories from Oktoberfest and Panama City. An up-and-coming Nashville band, Run with Bulls will perform on the Rites stage on Friday afternoon. They're pretty excited about it, and after our conversation we're pretty excited to have them.

Versus Magazine: When did your band start? Did you meet in college?

Brad Sample: Officially, we all came together Nov. 17, 2007. Chris James, our bass player, was in a band called the Joshuas and they were touring with Ryan Adams and the Strokes. Then he started playing with this band called Roswell with my old drummer, Dustin. Dustin tried to get him to play for us for, oh geez, I don't even know how long and I always told him "No way in hell." But this one practice we were really hard up for a bass player so Dustin called this guy without telling me. He showed up to our rehearsal space and he was great.

His tone was awesome and it just fit. Dustin quit a couple years ago and we were hard up for a drummer. I went to go hang out with a buddy of mine and Phil was there so we hired him on the spot. Initially the band was called Brad Sample but I didn't like naming the band after myself. I thought that sounded kind of arrogant.

VM: How did you guys come up with the name?

BS: I don't know if this is a newsworthy story. Phil and I went on this long run and we got home and started watching "America's Funniest Home Videos." And there was this clip of this guy getting chased off of a dock by a bull and the bull ended up running off the dock. It was funny because at first it was this squirrely guy trying to get out of the way but it got really intense because the bull started bearing down on the guy. I turned to Phil and I said, "Man, we've got to run with the bulls someday. That looks awesome." And he said, "Run with bulls, that's a great band name." It ended up being something cool because no one thought that Brad Sample was fitting and the name kind of grew on everyone. Phil said it and I said, "Oh man, we're going with it." We're pretty stoked about it, and I think it fits us well.



myspace.com

VM: How would you describe your style of music?

BS: We all grew up on everything. We love country music, rock 'n' roll, anything from Pink Floyd to Tom York. We like a lot of stuff and we try to keep it as focused as we can on Nashville rock 'n' roll. There's a lot of country music in it and a lot of rock 'n' roll in it, and I think we grab a lot from the blues and stuff like that. The best way I could describe it is really honest Nashville rock 'n' roll. There's enough rock 'n' roll in it to keep you straight and enough Nashville in it to keep you humble.

VM: What inspires you most when you're writing songs?

BS: Aside from saying something terrible like life, I think every song is different. We have a song called Munich that I wrote because my friend and I were in Munich for Oktoberfest. This is a terrible first story, but it was Oktoberfest and, I mean, it's Oktoberfest and they were bringing out these giant steins of beer. And I just had way too much. There's this thing called the Hill, it's this legendary giant hill outside the fairgrounds where everyone goes to pass out or throw up. We couldn't get to it, it was about 11 at night and there was no end in sight of drunken people stumbling to the hill. It was my birthday, in Munich, during Oktoberfest so it was the perfect storm of belligerent drunkenness. But that song is about a real story. We try to write as many songs as we can together. Phil is



myspace.com



myspace.com

a really musical drummer so he'll come up with these grooves that are already singing a little on their own. A lot of times we'll have a song just about done before lyrics are ever down. A lot of it is just talking to people and reading books. People say the most brilliant things that they just pass over, these fantastic, beautiful, awesome, horrible, hard, mean, loving words just come out of people's mouths without them thinking about it. It just strikes me as awesome when you can hone in on something like that and build a piece of art around it.

We love playing the Old Crow Medicine Show cover of "Wagon Wheel," and we have another song called "Jealousy" that's kind of a bluesy song. It starts down pretty low and then gets epic. It's pretty fun because people get off on it so much and I like seeing people connected with it.

VM: How is the Nashville music scene, is there a lot of camaraderie?

BS: It's kind of tough in Nashville because it can get to where a show is an apple and everyone is trying to get the biggest chunk. It can get competitive, but for the most part, if you're hooked up with the right bands (we like the Eastern Block and the Telecommunicators), it's a neat community and it gets a small-town feel really fast. For the most part, as long as everyone keeps their heads out of their asses and it's good music, people seem to be pretty awesome about it.

VM: Are you guys excited to play at Rites?

BS: Yeah, we really are. I can't wait to hear Santigold, I love her stuff. ☼

Soulja Boy pleases listeners with astounding level of terrible

CHARLIE KESSLERING

Music Editor

Long branded hip-hop's grim reaper, Soulja Boy Tell 'Em has never let critics slow his accrual of failures. His latest effort, "Kiss Me Thru the Phone," may just put the nail in rap's coffin while securing the artist eternal life.

Though its noise lasts little more than three minutes, the song represents something much lengthier: a rapper's eternal struggle against taste. Peaking at No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100, "Kiss Me" has assaulted the American mainstream with utter disregard for quality, like "Crank Dat" and "Ya Trick Ya" before it.

Unfortunately, its aural appeal, driven mostly by a catchy chorus, has lifted the track from its rightful status of homemade Kidz Bop to that of a true, blue radio hit.

If you haven't heard the song (consider yourself lucky), it fleetingly chronicles the woes of a wayward youth, as he longs for the sweet rewards of his girlfriend's face ("I miss you, I miss you/I really want to kiss you, but I can't). Helpless, the story's rapping protagonist resorts to the touch of an unfeeling chunk of technology, and demands that his boo kiss him through the phone (phone pecks?).

Seemingly an easily relatable tale of adolescent love, Soulja Boy butchers the innocent sentiment with finesse that only someone the exact opposite of talented could achieve. Containing no wordplay, little rhyming and a vocabulary rivaling that of "Oscar" the talking boxer, Soulja's bars sound more like a 13-year-old's stream of consciousness than a legitimate attempt at recording.

Though Soulja Boy essentially raps about

nothing at all, his gratuitously lengthy verses only serve to improve the rest of the song. By comparison, Soulja's lack of insight into anything ("Baby you're so sexy/your voice is so lovely, I love your complexion") makes Sammie's elementary chorus sound more intellectual than a Michael Crichton book on tape. After his

rapping compadre finishes a string of seemingly unrelated words, Sammie sounds like he's literally singing the cure for cancer.

Sure, Soulja Boy likely has more dough than anyone reading this article. Here's to hoping he makes no more — for your, my and hip-hop's sake. ☼



wooha.com



allthetests.com



brownsugarpages.files.wordpress.com

Guns N' Roses has become the most recent in a slew of groups to jump on the rock band-wagon. Thirteen tracks off their 2008 release "Chinese Democracy" will be available for players to download on April 14.



a0qz76.dsl.pipex.com

Kanye West is continuing his march towards world domination (or at least he thinks so). Recently, it has been announced that the rapper, producer and connoisseur of all things tasteful will soon launch an energy drink and men's fragrance.



mashfest.com

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. "AND THE WORLD SPINS MADLY ON"
The Weepies
2. "CHEAP AND CHEERFUL"
The Kills
3. "TUFF N STUFF (PIRATE STEREO REMIX)"
Yes Giantess
4. "AIRPLANES"
Local Natives
5. "THUNDERSTRUCK (CROOKERS REMIX)"
ACDC
6. "UNFINISHED BUSINESS"
White Lies
7. "LITTLE SHADOW"
Yeah Yeah Yeahs
8. "HUM DRUM (FEAT. FUTURE-COPI)"
Theophilus London
9. "RECKONER (THE TWELVES REMIX)"
Radiohead
10. "THE EXPLORERS"
CFCF

50 Cent joins the Fall Out Boy tour

ANNA ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

"Joining forces with Fall Out Boy, one of the most dynamic rock bands in the industry, will be an exciting and historic event for rock and hip-hop," 50 Cent said in an interview with MTV News.

It's surely an unprecedented moment for the music artists. Fall Out Boy made no hesitation once

50 Cent proposed the idea to them for their 2009 tour: Believers Never Die, Part Deux.

The rapper will perform at four more of the scheduled FOB concerts:

April 17 — Grand Prairie, Texas, at Nokia Theater

April 18 — Houston, Texas, at The Showgrounds at Sam Houston Race Park

April 24 — Charlotte, N.C., at

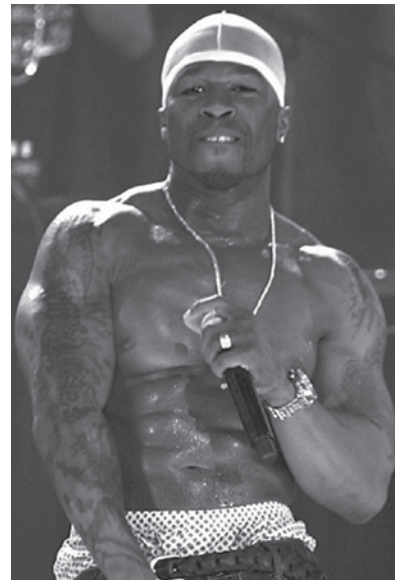
Bojangles Coliseum **April 25** — Columbia, Md., at Merrivether Post Pavilion

Some have asked the group about the possibility of an on-stage collaboration. FOB vocal lead Patrick Stump, in an interview with Billboard, doesn't rule out the suggestion.

"I think a tour kind of has a life of its own," he said. "... By the last day you have your group of friends and you've figured yourself out, so who knows? It may happen." Hopefully, it will because really, who does know? The result might be as big as the Jay-Z and Linkin Park mix.

Not everyone, however, is quite pleased. Despite the punk rock band's excitement over the new addition to their show, several fans have expressed their disappointment.

In response, Stump also told Billboard, "I think that you should challenge your audience a little bit. ... If you don't like 50 Cent, if you're that stuck-up that you're going to stand there



img.dailymail.com

and hate him actively, then go to the concession stand during (his set). Go get a T-shirt or go to the bathroom if that's how you feel. Otherwise, challenge yourself."

Other opening acts include: Metro Station, All Time Low and Hey Monday. With a line-up like this, buying a ticket (if there are any left) should be an automatic. ☿



allaroundphilly.com

Sara Watkins presents: Sara Watkins

ALLENA BERRY
Staff Writer

Eclectic indie-rock band? Check. Hip-hop fusion? Check. Soon-to-be incarcerated rap music mogul? Check. It seems that Rites '09 has all the fixins of a truly superb musical mash up ... or does

it? Where is the country? Aren't we in the Heart O' Dixieland, and we couldn't book one country act?! For shame, Vanderbilt. For shame.

But wait just a second ... I may have to bite my tongue and wag my finger of judgment. Sara Watkins (of Nickel Creek fame) is on the line-up. Is she the country artist the weekend needs?

Well, yes and no. While she does have the fiddle licks that remind one of the good ole boys of down-home country, her raspy, unmodified voice is more Ingrid Michaelson, less Kellie Pickler. However, in this crazy, mixed-up world, who says our country singers have to be big-haired with booming voices? I, for one, appreciate her authenticity. And putting her best foot forward is her self-titled solo project, "Sara Watkins." I encourage you to check

it out before the weekend festivities.

Her album is chalk-full of fun jam sessions, such as the "Long Hot Summer Days," which sounds like it came straight from the porch of a backwater fiddle band. Some purely instrumental tracks, like "Freiderick," showcase Watkins' talent as a fiddler. And, lastly, but most certainly not the least, is her rendition of the old hymnal "Give Me Jesus," which is eerily reminiscent of a Grand Ole Opry act circa 1930. In other words, the girl's got chops.

The moral of this story is that Sara Watkins' set this upcoming weekend will be the balance to the Flaming Lips eccentricity, the N.E.R.D. rock 'n' roll/rap union, and Q-Tip's old-school flow — basically, a smorgasbord of entertainment. Bring your lighters. Watkins has got the music covered. ☿



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RONALD K. BROWN:
EVIDENCE, A DANCE COMPANY

THU
APR
16

ONE SHOT

7:30 p.m. • Ingram Hall

Catch Ronald K. Brown's company, EVIDENCE in *One Shot*, a multimedia tribute to the historic photojournalist Charles "Teenie" Harris who captured the Harlem Renaissance of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

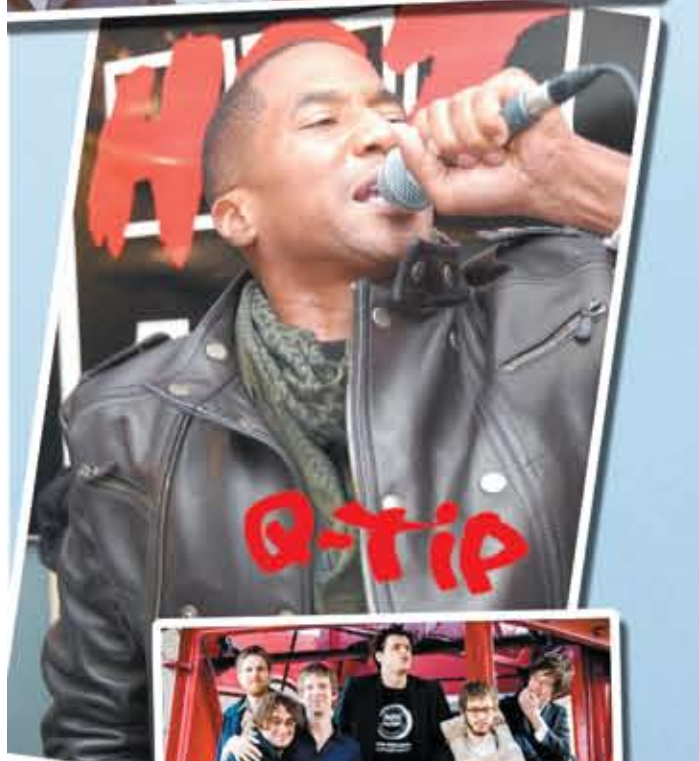
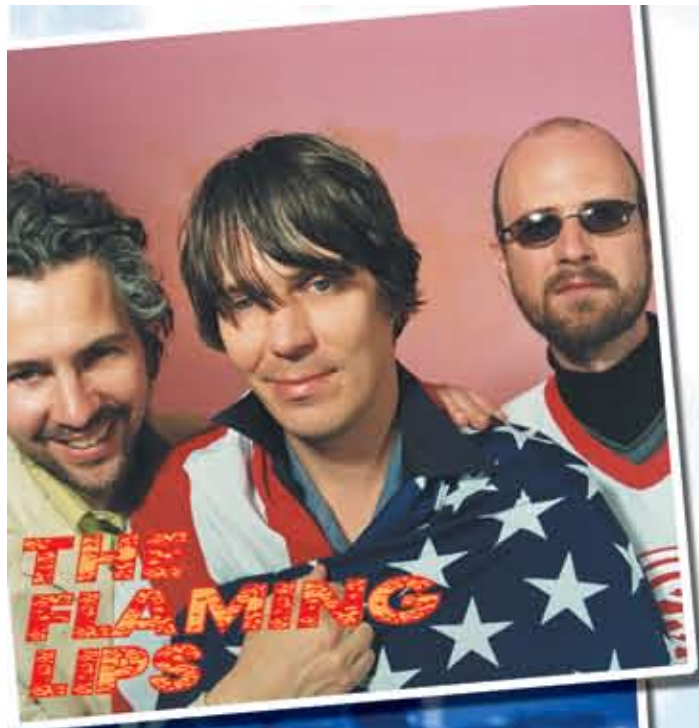
TEENIE HARRIS
RHAPSODY IN BLACK AND WHITE
photographs

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RITES OF SPRING



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The tickets will be exchanged at the gate for a wristband each day. Each student will be allowed to purchase one ticket at this price on the Vandy card. Vanderbilt Students will be required to show their student i.d. with their ticket for entry. Vanderbilt students will purchase two tickets and will be exchanged for a wristband each day for entry. Upon entry, students who are bringing in alcohol will have their attendance wrist band hole punched.

RULES

Items Allowed into the event:

- One factory sealed bottled water (non-glass containers)
- Chairs (must sit less than 1 ft off the ground)
- Blankets
- Purses/Bags- subject to search
- Backpacks-subject to search
- Up to six 12 oz aluminum cans of beer per person 21 years of age

Items Not Allowed into the event:

- No weapons of any kind
- No fireworks
- No illegal substances
- No glass containers
- No video cameras
- No hula hoops
- No Frisbees
- No professional photography equipment
- No food or drinks - other than factory sealed water bottles and small snacks for dietary needs.
- NO PETS

LINEUP AND SET TIMES

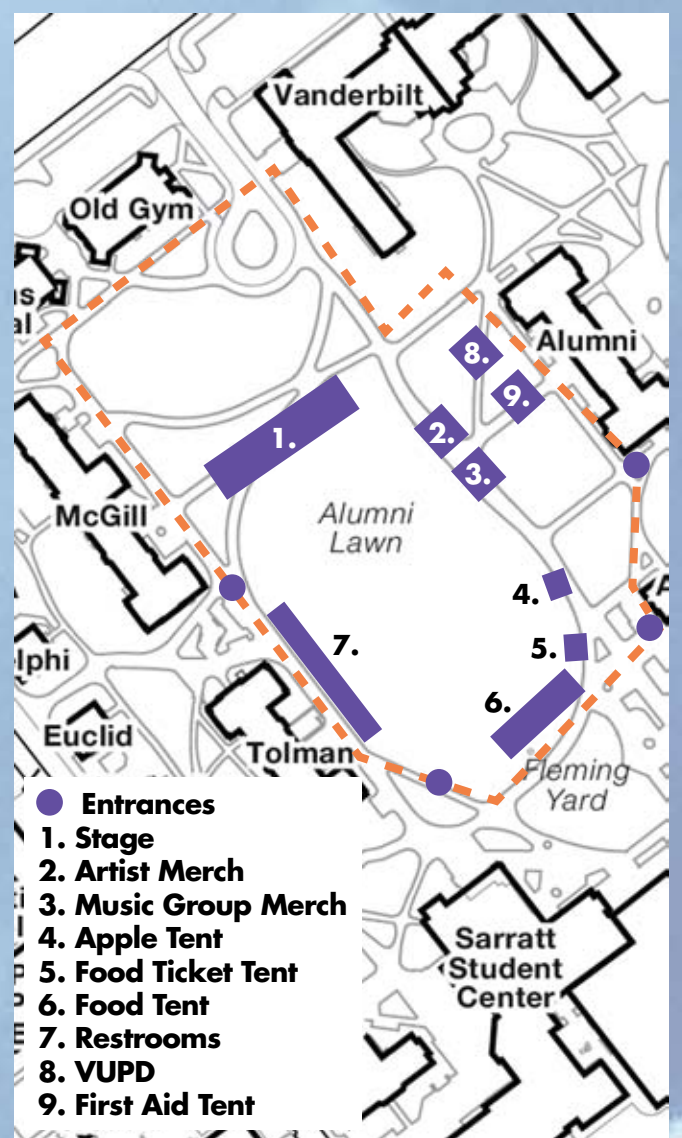
FRIDAY, APRIL 17

- Battle of the Bands**
3:20-3:40 p.m.
- Battle of the Bands**
4:00-4:20 p.m.
- Run With Bulls**
4:40-5:10 p.m.
- Blueskyreality**
5:30-6:00 p.m.
- K'NAAN**
6:20-7:05 p.m.
- Okkervil River**
7:25-8:10 p.m.
- Santigold**
8:30-9:10 p.m.
- Q-Tip**
9:30-10:30 p.m.
- T.I.**
11:00-12:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

- Pico vs. Island Trees**
3:20-3:50p.m.
- Stardeath and White Dwarfs:**
4:05-4:35p.m.
- Erick Baker:**
4:50-5:20p.m.
- Sara Watkins**
5:40-6:10p.m.
- Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears:**
6:30-7:10p.m.
- Grand Ole Party:**
7:30-8:10p.m.
- N.E.R.D.:**
8:40-9:55p.m.
- The Flaming Lips**
10:30-12:00 a.m.

MAP



SETH ROGEN

TRIP COTHREN
Culture Editor

Funny guy Seth Rogen talked to Culture Editor Trip Cothren about his new movie, "Observe and Report." His laid-back style of comedy came across in his laissez-faire approach to getting into character, his proud announcement of a lack of a "grand plan" for his career and his response to comparisons between "Observe and Report," with "Paul Blart: Mall Cop." Read on to find out his thoughts on everything from how to make it big on YouTube to Canadian pride.

Versus Magazine: What genre of character would you like to play that differs from the characters you've already played?

Seth Rogen: Honestly, I don't really think of it in those terms. It's more just a movie-by-movie basis. If I read a script and think that's a kind of movie I would go see then I do it. But I don't have any kind of grand plan beyond that.

VM: What did you have to do to get ready to play this character? Did you do any research about mall security guards?

SR: I really did absolutely nothing like that. It's pretty much all in the script, I'm not really the kind of actor who does research or anything like that. I did actually talk to one security guard for like five minutes, but I didn't really gather all that much from it. It was all kind of created by Jody and me.

VM: What was it like working with Ray Liotta?

SR: It was really awesome. You know, it was a little frightening at first but he's a nice guy. He's super collaborative and easy to work with. I think anyone who has worked a long time has a particular way they like to do things and I think he's a very good one. It was fun to watch him.

VM: What was the most fun aspect of acting in "Observe and Report," and what made it unique?

SR: More than any movie I've done, it felt like a little independent film being shot by a bunch of friends. A lot of them went to film school together, Jody and the camera guys and the sound mixer and the boom operator who was also the composer and lots of the actors, etc. I've known these guys for a while now, a few years now, and we were really friends before we even talked about working with one another. So it really felt like a group of friends making a movie. We really felt like we were making a crazy movie, the exact one we wanted to make. It was a lot of fun. We felt like we had just stolen a bunch of movie cameras and film and somehow they let us make this movie in this mall. No one really came by and asked us questions so it felt like a little student film.

VM: What advice do you have for young comedians and actors?

SR: I would just say try to make something funny and put it on YouTube. I've seen that work for people. We've hired people we've seen in funny videos on YouTube. So I can say first-hand that works. If it's funny people will watch it, and I think that's a good thing to do.

VM: How would you differentiate it from "Paul Blart"?

SR: I honestly haven't seen "Paul Blart," so I don't know how I would differentiate it. I want to see it. I'm friends with the guy who made it — I've just been too busy.

VM: Do you see any similarities between your character and yourself?

SR: No, not really. I would say pretty much none. A fascination with guns perhaps.

VM: Was there a lot of ad-libbing in this movie?

SR: There was a lot of ad-libbing in this movie. I think that what exactly qualifies as ad-libbing is kind of hard to say. Jody as the writer-director comes up with stuff during filming and he tells us to say stuff and that makes other people think of other things. So it's kind of hard to qualify as something that was spontaneously conceived on film before your very eyes or something that was discussed five minutes before hand. But it's a very fluid, open process.

VM: When people see you being goofy in the trailers, are you worried that audiences will dismiss this as another Seth Rogen film or are you hoping your film persona will become more identifiable? What does that mean in terms of your career?

SR: I don't know. I don't think about it in those terms. We try to make the trailers represent the movie to the best of our ability and beyond that, that's the best that we can do. I've never ended up playing the roles that we've written for me in the movies so that just throws another monkey wrench into our grand plan, which we don't have much of, anyways. I never sit down and say, "The next phase in my career must have this kind of work in it." Who did that? Van Gogh? Picasso? Who had the blue period? This is my blue period.

VM: I read that you signed on to the film really early after seeing one of Jody Hill's movies. What made you particularly eager to sign on?

SR: It was just really funny. I don't know if you've seen "The Foot Fist Way" but it's a very small, thrown-together, independent movie, and those are the exact movies I never like. I just generally never think those movies are very funny. But this one, I just watched it and it blew me away. It had such a strong comedic voice and perspective and it made me laugh my ass off. I recommend people go see it.

VM: What do directors like David Gordon Green and Jody Hill bring to Hollywood comedies?

SR: I think they bring a very different sensibility. I just think, for me, we're looking for people who are smarter than us. There's a reason we don't direct the movies ourselves because we don't think we are the best-skilled people to do it. So we look at people whose previous movies we've liked and we meet with them. If we get along then we hire them. Those are the directors we like.

VM: What was the hardest scene to film?

SR: Definitely the scene where I fight all those cops in the mall. It's one pretty long shot, and I crack around 14 people in the head in that shot. It looks really messy but there's actually extremely specific choreography to that and we did not have much time to rehearse. So we kind of had to figure it out as we shot it. I was extremely out of shape and the air in Albuquerque is very thin because of its elevation. That was a real <expletive> to shoot.

VM: How does it feel to be recognizable in comedy?

SR: I don't know. On a career level it's been great. We're getting to make the movies that we want to make and that's all we ever wanted, to make movies that we would want to see as movie fans. And this is the exact type of movie I would want to go see.

VM: Your character is kind of a far cry from the loveable stoner type you usually play. Where were you looking for inspiration to play a more disturbed character?

SR: Nowhere really. Inspiration is not a word that comes up a lot in my acting process. I approach it far more technically, I approach it more like a writer really. I read the script, sometimes I did write it, so I think, "If I were the writer, what would I want this thing to do?" That's how I approach it.

VM: A lot of your movies have a lot of male nudity. Is this a trend you're trying to start and why is there so much male nudity going on?

SR: I guess my ass is in "Knocked Up." OK, you've got me. It's just funny. I think you've got to push it a bit. We've got to shock people, surprise people. We're not proud of it, but we're doing it.

VM: What's the best way to pick up a girl at the mall?

SR: I think you just masturbate in front of them, if this movie teaches you anything.

VM: I see you have a new superhero movie in the works that you're writing and starring in. What can we expect from this? Is it going to be an action comedy?

SR: That's hard to qualify. When we make these movies, we try to make them new and it's hard to explain what we're going for. In retrospect, it's always a little easier when they're done but it's hard to explain. Me and Evan are writing it. There's a lot of action, there's jokes — I can't explain it much better than that.

VM: How important is it for you to be distinguished as a Canadian in Hollywood?

SR: I'm proud to be Canadian. I don't get up in arms about it. I don't know how many people know I'm Canadian. I always try to make it clear — I'm glad when people distinguish as that. But I'm not militant.

LETTER FROM AN ANGRY WASP

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



Dear People Who Have Their Lives Figured Out,

Yes, I'm very happy that now you don't have to worry about school. I really enjoy hearing about you going out every night of the week because hey — you've already got a job, or are into grad school, or are doing Teach for America ... good for you! Now shut up already!

I realize that perhaps I should have had a back-up plan. But who thought that with a Vandy degree it could be so hard to get a job? Thanks a lot, economy. And way to put more pressure on getting into grad schools, for which I had to start preparing roughly a week ago.

But anyway, back on track: whatever happened to actually finishing college? Or at least being quiet about your conquest of the "future" market? That's great that you're successful blah blah blah, but is it really acceptable to celebrate for multiple months? What happened to the work ethic that got you here?

Further, thanks for never commiserating with everyone else's situation. It really shows what a great friend you are that you can take that extra five minutes to offer a condolence — I totally appreciate it. You're really too good to me.

I don't mind a little bit of celebration — sure, you've earned it. But rubbing it in all of our faces during a recession where nobody is hiring ... douches.

Haha, just kidding — I'm totally into med school and have been raging since February. Margaritas anyone?

Sincerely,
An Angry WASP



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4/13/09 SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
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 6 Gulp of whiskey
 10 "___ three ships come sailing in..."
 14 ___ ball; enjoy oneself
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 16 Space flight agcy.
 17 Links items
 18 Old map abbr.
 19 Roll up tightly
 20 Enjoyment
 22 Fished with net
 24 Coin
 25 Weather forecast
 26 Declare
 29 Veranda
 30 Item for sitters only
 31 Cylindrical towers
 33 Horned animals
 37 Parched
 39 Inventories
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 49 Entertained
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 2 Countess' hubby
 3 Bacchanals' cry
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 5 Smart-alecky kids
 6 Brief burst of energy
 7 Sage
 8 Contraction
 9 Actress Greer
 10 Endless
 11 Resort offering
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 21 Up to
 23 Historical divisions
 25 Sample
 26 King or Ladd
 27 Traditional garment
 28 Short auto ride
 29 One who seems doomed to failure
 32 Cocktail garnishes
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- 64 Unwanted spots
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4/15/09

4/13/09 SOLUTIONS

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