

# Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

OCTOBER 14—OCTOBER 20, 2009 VOL. 47, No. 21



**Backstreet's back? The verdict: just all right. Check it out on page 7.**

**Psst: We know where to find the best cupcakes in town. Flip to page 3.**

**Who's that chick that's rocking kicks? Find out on page 8.**

**Drummer Chris Culos chats with Versus about Nashville, touring moments and lasagna on page 9.**

photos courtesy of PFA Media

## PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

#### Deer Tick – The Basement

Despite what their MySpace might say, this is no "Christian Rap" group. Deer Tick is a four piece band that plays tasteful blues with a southern rock feel. With catchy vocals and mellow instrumentals, this is a band of easy listening – perhaps an alternative to your usual Thursday night shenanigans. Deer Tick is currently on a massive college tour with this stop in Nashville sandwiched between Oxford, MS and Athens, GA. (Ticket price not listed, 9 p.m.)

#### Drivin' n' Cryin' – Exit/In

This Atlanta born hard rock/southern rock band whose career has been going for over 20 years finds itself back in the small club scene from which it came. Drivin' n' Cryin has had many members throughout the years but has always been led by Kevin Kinney. The band went back to the studio and laid down some tracks on wax for the first time in 12 years and are currently touring "Whatever Happened To The Great American Bubble Factory," released this year. (\$15, 9 p.m.)

#### Matt Kearney – Cannery Ballroom

This Nashville native pop rock crooner has made big waves beyond the Music City and is making a home town return in the midst of a massive coast to coast national tour. Kearney's music is undeniably catchy (funny he has a song called undeniable) and substantive. This promises to be one of the better shows of the week, and that's saying something. (\$23, 8 p.m.)

#### Mirah – Mercy Lounge

On the other side of the wall from Matt Kearney at the Cannery will be indie rocker Mirah. She will strum an acoustic guitar and whisper quiet, calming vocals as accompaniment. While a lot of indie rockers with this M.O. get lost in the crowd, Mirah will stand out with noticeable talent. Try "Don't Die in Me" for a taste before the show. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

#### Quake – Memorial Gym

The Vandy Music Group caught a lot of heat for the lineup this year, but now that we can all expect great things in November, it's probably time to ease up and enjoy the music that most of us really do like anyway. If nothing else, O.A.R and Pitbull will make a combination unlike many others, and both artist's music will inspire a fun-filled Thursday night. Embrace it and rock out. (Free for Vandy Students, 7:25 p.m.)

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

#### Corey Smith – Cannery Ballroom

A college-town favorite for as long as we can remember, Corey Smith brings a smile, a beer, and some good stories to every show he plays. Though every year he finds himself a bit further removed from the college scene, he never seems to fail to identify with our type, making this a great option for a Friday night. He finds himself a midist big names this weekend, but he'll hold his own and likely draw a significant crowd (\$18 advance, \$23 day of, 9 p.m.)

#### Kings of Leon – Sommet Center

This is the biggest act of a weekend, and is filled to the brim with great music. The Tennessee natives who are enjoying their ever-increasing national and international success will play on the biggest stage in Nashville. Hits like "Use Somebody," "Sex On Fire," and "Knocked Up" can surely be expected. Unfortunately, remaining tickets are scarce and expensive and anything decent will be going for well above face value. (\$33.50 - \$43.50, 8 p.m.)

#### White Lies – Sommet Center

Though just the opening act to Kings, White Lies deserves a line of its own with respect to their show this Friday. Features editor Avery Spofford interviewed the band this past week. It is a group on the rise in the rock and roll music scene and one that is well respected for their past accomplishments as well as for their future potential. Seeing them would be a great show in itself so don't get there late. (\$33.50 - \$43.50, 8 p.m.)

#### Timothy B. Schmit – The Basement

Bassist and songwriter Timothy B. Schmit will make his way to the Basement on Friday as he tours his upcoming album "Expando" (Oct. 20). Schmit is most well known for his work with the Eagles (he was on the "Hotel California" tour) and since their break up has had a fairly successful solo career. (Ticket Price not listed, 8 p.m.)

#### Off The Wagon – The Station Inn

The self-proclaimed "World's tallest bluegrass band" hits the historic stage of the Station Inn on a coveted Friday night slot. According to their MySpace page "OFF THE WAGON delivers a hard driving, no nonsense brand of bluegrass music... the way it was meant to be played." The Station Inn has a knack for scouting talent, and this should be no exception. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

#### Dane Cook – Sommet Center

Join funnyman Dane Cook when he makes a stop in Nashville as part of his "Isolated Incident" tour. Having sold out venues such as Madison Square Garden, this stand-up comedian will bring his high-octane performance to the Sommet Center downtown. Ever since his Comedy Central Special exploded in popularity, Cook has been a tour-de-force in the comedy world, selling out tours and appearing in numerous movies. "Combining energetic physical comedy, clever wordplay and trenchant observations about human behavior," Cook's sidesplitting show will be sure to leave you in tears. (\$32.50, 62.50, 102.50, 8 p.m., 501 Broadway)

#### Drummer & Royal Bangs – Mercy Lounge

Drummer is new side project of the Black Keys' drummer Patrick Carney. Recruiting four other drummers from various bands, Carney finally had a complete roster for his new idea — a band comprised only of drummers, playing every other instrument. From this idea comes the strikingly simple name — Drummer. With a mission to make "feel good music," the band has created a unique sound, a hybrid of raq rock and shoegaze that is very unlike anything the Black Keys have done. Drummer plays tonight at the Mercy Lounge in support of their recent debut album, "Feel Good Together," released September 29th. (\$10, 9 p.m., One Cannery Row)

#### Fundamental Elements – The Basement

In the dingy basement beneath Grimey's New and Preloved Music, Saint Louis band Fundamental Elements takes the stage for an evening of soul-fused pop music. With a sound that can be best described as a hybrid of Gavin Degraw and Maroon 5, Fundamental Elements have mastered the art of crafting saccharine sweet, catchy pop songs, writing about women, love, and loss, and everything in between. With catchy keyboards and organs, tight guitar work, and a danceable rhythm section, the Elements will be sure to get the crowd moving. (\$5, 9 p.m., 1604 8th Avenue S.)

#### Monotonix – Exit/In

Israeli rock band Monotonix take the stage at the Exit/In tonight for an evening of absolute chaos. Legendarily banned from performing at over half the live music venues in Israel, perhaps the band could best be described as "demented pandemonium," with harsh vocals, loud, heavy guitars, and thrashing drums. Their live show is not to be missed, especially as this is their last show on the North American tour before touring Europe. Expect plenty of crowd surfing (even from the drummer himself) and crazed fans. (\$12, 9 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

### 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

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# Versus

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## Versus Magazine

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## FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

It's time to chill out. You've already taken the first step by opening this week's issue, and I want to reassure you that you deserve a break. It's that point in the semester that we've all been dreading since we got those brand new syllabi: midterms. Our calendars are choked with tests, quizzes and papers, and with every deadline that approaches, things like sleep, sanity and fun tend to go by the wayside.

As important as it is to take our classes seriously, think of this week's issue as a manifesto in defense of fun. It's so easy to hole up in your room or the Baseball Glove Lounge and forget that there's a world out there that's filled with more than organic chemistry or ancient drains. I'm not saying you shouldn't study, but sometimes you just need to know when to take a break.

This week is homecoming, which of course brings with it one of the most anticipated musical events of the Vandy calendar: Commodore Quake. As we reported earlier, O.A.R., Pitbull and Asher Roth will be performing in Memorial Gymnasium tomorrow. We interviewed O.A.R.'s Chris Culos and asked his thoughts on everything from his favorite performance moments to his favorite color.

Of course, the fun doesn't stop at there. In music, check out our review of the Backstreet Boys new album and relive those tween glory days. On page 3, we found some great stress relieving activities for your amusement. Whether you're into art, ice skating or even frozen yogurt, we've got some great places for you to check out. Plus, cupcake fanatics, rejoice! We've got a comprehensive guide to the best of the best for sugary treats.

Have a great week and please, don't stress too much about those tests. Make it your goal to do something fun for yourself and stick with it. Trust us, you've earned it.

Later Alligator,  
Courtney Rogers

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## PIC OF THE WEEK



NIKKY OKORO / VERSUS MAGAZINE

## BITS & PIECES



It's all happening.

— Penny Lane

## HOROSCOPES



**VIRGO 8/23-9/22:** Sleeping in twenty minute increments throughout the day does not add up to a full night's sleep.



**LIBRA 9/23-10/22:** Barack Obama will bring peace to your life this week. Just kidding. That prize was completely undeserved.



**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21:** If life gives you lemons, make a garnish. Put one sugar cube in a tumbler glass. Add three dashes of Angostura bitters. Three shots bourbon. Voila, a delicious Old Fashioned.



**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21:** We won't judge if you decide to do a happy dance around Rand after you finish the third midterm you've had in two days.



**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19:** If you are having trouble doing something well, just learn to enjoy doing it poorly.



**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18:** You think you're hiding your hangover in Friday morning classes, but your professors will know what you were up to on Thursday.



**PISCES 2/19-3/20:** Don't ride in vans with strangers, no matter how enticing their offers may be.



**ARIES 3/21-4/19:** Be wary of squirrels this week. They are just as unhappy about the cold weather as you are, but much more aggressive about it.



**TAURUS 4/20-5/20:** You better go get that rash looked at. Like, now.



**GEMINI 5/21-6/21:** Reading Versus this week will make you healthy, wealthy and wise.



**CANCER 6/22-7/22:** Tired of wating in the Randwich line? Try yelling, "I have swine flu!" The line should move a little faster.



**LEO 7/23-8/22:** Watch out for mass texts this weekend.

## HAIKUS

### Words to live by in seventeen syllables

My next book: If you  
Give a rush a natty, he's  
Gonna ask for more.

I have decided  
To christen my first born son  
Frugal MacDoogal.

## 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"



*Guy texting his suitemate:* **Don't turn on the oven... there may be a case of beer in there.**

*Guy 1:* **I'm not just some drunk jackass, I'm THE drunk jackass!**

*Guy 2:* **So, you're saying you're Tucker Max?**

*Student:* **Did you know that there's now a Ninja Restaurant in New York?**  
*Professor:* **How did you find it?**

*Guy:* **I generally have bad gaydar, but even he made my needle move a little.**



PHOTOS: flickr.com

# CULTURE

## It's fun to have fun, but you have to know how

It's midterm time, which can only mean one thing: stress. We drink a cup of a coffee an hour, have flashcards glued to our hands, and hide under baseball caps to cover up our sleep deprived faces. Basically, this time of year sucks and we struggle through to the light at the end of the tunnel that is Fall Break. But everyone needs a distraction from the insanity of college tests and papers and what

better way to relax your mind than by acting like a kid again? Because, let's face it, unlike us, kids don't stress. So push the books aside and fall while ice skating, get paint on your fingers, and bite into something sweet. Be a kid for a few hours and your brain will thank you later.

**-Dr. Seuss**

## Chill out with friends at Centennial Sportsplex

**COURTNEY ROGERS**  
Versus Editor-in-Chief

Sometimes the best way to indulge your inner child is to schedule some time in your inevitably busy day to do something completely random and fun. Last week, a friend and I took a short walk to Centennial Sportsplex for the two-hour public skate at the ice rink. For eight dollars (including skate rental), we both left our phones, upcoming tests and other dramatics on the bench and skated off to do something we hadn't done in a long time: goof off.

The rink was not crowded on Wednesday afternoon and skill levels ranged from total beginners, adults and children alike, to people like my friend who effortlessly spun around and jumped as though they were in the Olympic trials. As skill level

goes, I would place myself solidly in the middle. A skating school dropout somewhere along the ISI testing chain, I can skate forwards and backwards but my backwards



Dreamstime.com

technique is not exactly textbook or graceful. Though I cannot do the fancy moves, I found that the easiest way to look like you know what you're doing on the ice is to do over-the-top arm motions whenever you try a spin. A shameless effort to distract the onlookers from my lack of technique? Guilty.

It was hard not to envy the

better skaters on the rink, but with the right attitude you can have fun no matter how good you are. Laughter echoed off the walls as each group wobbled along and even when I was struggling to master the art of spinning, I couldn't help but smile.

Out on the ice, you feel miles away from the pressure of the Vandy bubble. Though the end of the public skate was sad because it meant that I had to get back to reality, meetings and studying, I felt so refreshed and happy that I was ready to conquer the rest of the week. Even if you don't think skating is your thing, give it a try the next time you're stressing out. Bring a friend and your coziest winter sweater and get ready to have some good clean fun. I'll even let you wear leggings as pants.☘

## Field Trip Flashback

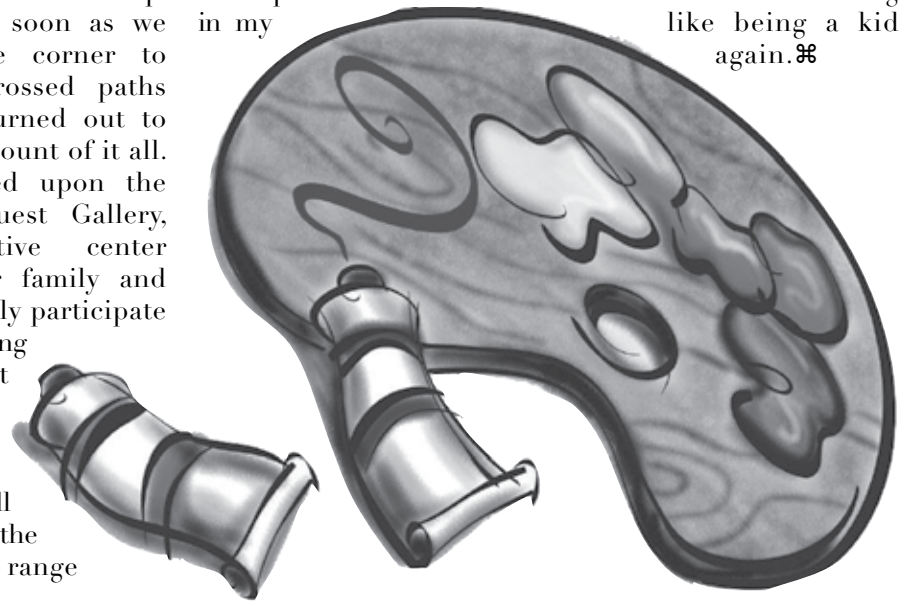
**NIKKY OKORO**  
Fashion Editor

Surreal. It's the only word that could describe my recent visit to the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in downtown Nashville. As is expected from any gallery, there were classic pieces of fine art perfectly positioned on the walls for the "Twilight Visions: Surrealism, Photography and Paris Exhibit." On a field trip visit with my Digital Imaging class, I was excited to witness the highly acclaimed photographs of Man Ray and Brassai and after walking through all the displays I was pleasantly surprised. The work attained by the Frist flawlessly fits together and would gratify any photo buff looking for their photo fix. Yet, there still seemed to be some type of void left in me and my fellow classmates, something we still needed to truly complete our trip. And just as soon as we rounded the corner to leave, we crossed paths with what turned out to be the paramount of it all. We happened upon the Frist's ArtQuest Gallery, an interactive center designed for family and kids to actively participate in creating the very art hanging around in the gallery. Clearly, we all were not in the proper age range

to take part in it all, yet the glimmer of the watercolors and shiny printmaking tools were all too enticing. To the slight dismay of my professor, the entire class jumped on the opportunity to be able to sketch and paint with tools too small for our hands and on tables no bigger than our backs. It was like a mental flashback to an elementary art class, with unlimited supplies and an entire room of activities. Minutes into it all, I stepped back and chuckled at the fact that I actually was intensely taking my time to paper-mache a proper sunset with my Crayola glue stick in hand. Silly? Yes. Senseless? Never.

As a college student, I constantly think back to when I was younger and the things I used to do and the games I used to play. And then, I get upset because I become fixated on trying to determine the point

life when I began playing the "grown up card." I get frustrated, because all I want to do is go back to the days of Nickelodeon re-runs and jump-rope battles. But finally I stop and realize that by sitting around and worrying about the past, I'm obviously not living out my present. So if happiness comes in the form of a trivial watercolor print, then let it be; there's nothing like getting dirty in the form of finger-painting. With Thursday and Friday nights free for college students, the Frist is the perfect spot to spend time and reminisce. Most recently, I suggest checking out the new Georgia O'Keeffe Exhibition of American Modernism. And if for some reason you find yourself "accidentally" wandering towards the upper level hall, then feel free to satisfy your urge to print, paint and play because there's nothing like being a kid again.☘



## Crazy for cup-cakes? Your guide to the perfect treat

**TORI WYCOFF**  
Staff Writer

### CUPCAKE COLLECTION:



Located in historic Germantown, this shop is inside the home of the Francois family. As you walk into the bakery, which is located in their old living room, you are greeted by warm, smiling faces that instantly brighten your day. Mignon, the owner, stands next to the register and personally greets every guest. Daily flavors include my personal favorite, Red Velvet, with many more flavors on rotation, all sold for \$1.75.

### GIGI'S:



Every Vandy girl is aware of the little cupcake haven located a couple blocks from campus on the corner of 19th and Broadway. This cute shop is full of colors and many different flavors of cupcakes piled toweringly high with icing. Gigi's conveniently posts a daily menu online and sells their cupcakes for \$3.00 each. In my opinion, the best flavors are Top Hats and Chocolate Malt, but Gigi's offers a cupcake for every taste bud ranging from Merry Margarita to Coconut Snowball.

### CAKES BY SHARA:



Shara Lunn, a graduate of the Gaylord Opryland Culinary Institute, sells her cupcakes at Fresh By CarryAnn, a florist in nearby Mt. Juliet, Tenn. These cupcakes are incredibly fresh and are topped with incredible buttercream icing. The only reason these are not ranked higher is simply because they are a bit hard to procure unless you want to place a special order.

### DULCE DESSERTS:



This bakery is located close to Peabody on Villa Place and they offer cupcakes, cakes and cookies. Dulce prides itself on using only real ingredients without additives or shortening which makes for a very rich cupcake. These delights are sold for \$2.00 apiece, but there are only a few types in the store since it is a full-scale bakery.☘

## Naticakes: Another delectable flavor of Franklin

**LISA KARVELLAS**  
Staff Writer

Delicately decorated, charmingly portioned for one, and comprised of the timeless cake/icing marriage, cupcakes may be one of the most perfect desserts ever invented, and Naticakes may be the most perfect place to eat them. The delicate crystal chandeliers, shabby chic furniture, and vintage framed placards hanging on the exposed brick wall



Fortheloveofcupcakes.wordpress.com

add a cozy charm, reminiscent of a storybook bakery. The lacy logo, "Naticakes, Making Life a Little Sweeter," invites you to indulge in one of the best cupcakes you'll ever taste. (Trust me, it's worth the drive to beautiful Franklin.)

The menu boasts 35 flavors total, most of which rotate daily. There are, however some menu staples — and trust us, it's for a reason. Little girls love The Pretty Princess, a strawberry cake finished with fluffy strawberry icing and sprinkled with pink sugar, while young boys typically opt for the 'Dirt and Worms' with a glass of ice-cold milk. Undoubtedly, Naticakes passes the kid's taste test, however it satisfies the harder-to-please adult palate as well by offering cappuccinos and lattes, along with flavors like Chocolate Salted Caramel: devil's food cake topped with Italian buttercream frosting, a soft sprinkle of grey sea salt and dark chocolate shavings.

Each cupcake has a light, yet dense cake, reminiscent of pound cake, an exceptional filling (that in the case of Dulce de Leche, takes up to four hours to make), and a light, airy and not-too-sweet buttercream frosting that doesn't overpower the cake, (a common mistake at most other cupcake joints.)

Although the cupcakes are divine, owner Nicole Sloan admits that the baking aspect of Naticakes was not the passion fueling her. Her real inspiration comes from her niece, Natalie (affectionately called Nati), who died suddenly at age two several years back. Since then, Nati's parents started the Natalie Wynn Carter Foundation that is "committed to improving the lives of children throughout the world." So, yet again, Naticakes gets a little sweeter: 10% of all proceeds go to the foundation, as Sloan's ultimate goal is for a piece of her niece to live on through Naticakes.

So now instead of feeling guilty about housing that decadent treat in 30 seconds flat, you can justify it knowing that you made a child's life "a little sweeter." Sign me up.☘

## Sweet Cece's: a fro-yo lover's paradise

**LAUREN MARGOLIS**  
Staff Writer

The world is split into two groups: those who love frozen yogurt and those who rag on it as the college girl's diet treat. If you're part of the former group, prepare for some exciting news; if you're one of the latter, well ... read on; you may be tempted to throw your previous notions of fro-yo out the window. Sweet Cece's is Nashville's newest addition to the frozen yogurt scene, and it's by far the closest thing you're going to get to New York's beloved Pinkberry. Those craving a taste of the New York classic can fill their cups with tart yogurt, while those wanting something a little more adventurous can sample flavors like pineapple or s'mores. It's do-it-yourself service, meaning you can mix and match any of the eight ever-changing flavors, and fill your cup to the brim. Such possibilities undoubtedly outdo Tasti D'Lite's limited options

and the double-decker toppings bar puts Yogurt Oasis to shame. The giant selection makes you feel like a kid in a candy store — there's your standard chocolate sauce, whipped cream and sprinkles, but also cookie dough, animal crackers, chocolate covered almonds, gummy worms and more. If you're erring on the healthy side, there's also a station with seasonal fruit like blueberries and diced kiwi (but don't be afraid to put a little sliced pound cake on the side.) The atmosphere of Sweet Cece's gives credit to its name — pink painted walls and white bar stools fashion a charming little store. There are also a few tables outside to enjoy your dessert and gaze across the massive Publix parking lot. With so many combinations awaiting your creation, you'll be craving more Cece's in no time, so be sure to pick up a frequent member's card on your way out to receive your 13th cup free.☘

## HOT YOGA NASHVILLE

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AM	6:00 ☺		6:00 ☺		6:00 ☺		
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PM	12 ☺	12 ☺	12 ☺	12 ☺	12 ☺	12 ☺	
	4:30 ☺	4:30 ☺	4:30 ☺	4:30 ☺	4:30 ☺	4:30 ☺	4:30 ☺
	6:15 ☺	6:15 ☺	6:15 ☺	6:15 ☺			6:15 ☺
	7:45 ☺	7:45 ☺	7:45 ☺				

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## A DECADE OF MOVIES

Staff Writer Benjamin Ries kicks off his series, a look back at the most notable films of the past ten years, with a reminder of some cinematic tours-de-force.

BENJAMIN RIES  
Staff Writer

This may come as a shock, but the decade is coming to an end. Perhaps the reason so few people seem to have noticed stems from the fact that nobody has been able to name it — I'm using 'the double-ohs.' It's easy to forget how far we've come since the corresponding decade of the twentieth century, when silent movies delighted audiences as much as today's blockbusters.

The first feature-length narrative film, the Australian production "The Story of the Kelly Gang," premiered in late 1906. Heath Ledger and Orlando Bloom, two stars of the double-ohs, starred in the loose remake "Ned Kelly" in 2003. 1907's "The Unwritten Law: A Thrilling Drama Based on the Thaw-White Tragedy" related the true story of the murder of Stanford White, the renowned architect responsible for the design of Vanderbilt's Peabody Campus. In the movie, a showgirl who created the love triangle leading to the murder played herself. And we thought the 21st Century was scandalous!

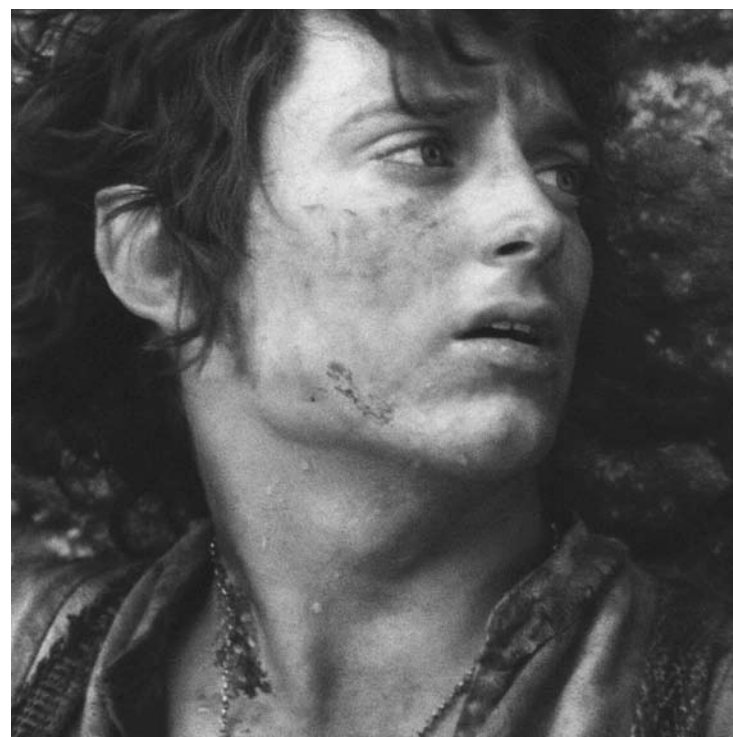
I think the best place to start a series on the last decade of cinema is with the celebration of the irreplaceable moments at the movie theatre where the members of the audience reacted together to the film playing on the big screen. As Andy Rooney said in reference to the other audience members in a December 2006 "60 Minutes" segment, "You don't know them, but you laugh or cry when they laugh or cry. You bond

with a lot of strangers."

I have witnessed a burst of spontaneous applause in the theater in this decade on only four occasions, and I have Peter Jackson to thank for three of them. Each entry in his adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" (2001-2003) provoked the same level of cheering in the audience. Jackson captured the majesty of Tolkien's meticulously detailed world without losing any of the wonder of his elaborately diverse cast of characters, accomplishing the seemingly impossible task of pleasing die-hard fans and general audiences alike. The result was beautiful: strangers stood united.

The fourth movie to achieve this feat was 2008's "Slumdog Millionaire," which I actually saw in Nashville as a high school student visiting Vanderbilt. The theater was large and packed, and the clapping was universal. I worked at a movie theatre in my hometown at the time, and, judging by the reactions of the exiting audience members, three of whom took it upon themselves to tell me, "That was a great movie," I think it's safe to say that Slumdog Millionaire created appreciative applause from delighted fans across the world.

The double-ohs have brought us a wide variety of superb films, but these live audience reactions are, for me, the true highlights. Who knows, as Netflix and the home entertainment systems continue to promote private viewing, maybe the films of our time will be studied in 2100 as relics from an age where strangers in theatres experienced movies together and, on rare occasions, stood up and applauded. ☼



starstore.com



danielmontgomery.wordpress.com

## "Get that well-dressed man!" Newest documentary leaves viewers wanting Moore



vimeo.com

JOE HOGAN  
Staff Writer

"I'm here to make a citizen's arrest," proclaims doctrinaire demagogue Michael Moore, striding boldly into the belly of the beast, Goldman Sachs' New York office.

Ever the poster-boy for righteous left-wing political theater, Moore lasts about 30 seconds before a hail of security guards unloads on him, mindlessly repeating their catch phrase, "Let's just step outside, OK?" Only it is not OK; in fact, it is profoundly sick, both the system itself and the fact that its victims so jingoistically flock to its aid.

"Capitalism: A Love Story" is in many ways no different from Moore's other films; it's irritating, mostly unfounded, almost certainly wrong and very funny. But there is a new urgency, as well as a certain triumphalism, that has been absent from Moore's previous two movies, "Fahrenheit 911" and "Sicko," which marks a return to the style that made "Bowling For Columbine" and "Roger and Me" so excellent. Though it is presented through anecdotes, "Capitalism" deals not in details but in broad strokes, and while he tends to overstate the case, Moore is compelling and, in his own misguided way, ever so right.

So what is wrong with capitalism? Though the Greenspans and Paulsons

of the world (not to mention their feeble-minded branch officers, the Boyles and Warrens) would have us believe that it is too much regulation and taxes; that is an answer to a different question. Too often "what is wrong with capitalism" is re-interpreted as "what is holding back the plutocracy." And that re-interpretation, in the most succinct terms, is what is wrong with capitalism. Moore, however, knows better. He visits the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to examine the constitution, and notes the absence of the word "capitalism" and the surprising preponderance of terms like "national welfare" and "union."

He also gets his hands (somehow) on such thoroughly embarrassing documents as a Citigroup memo to HNW individuals about the coming "plutonomy" (Government of, by, and for the rich) and threats of a peasant's rebellion, as well as a long list of extremely favorable interest-free loans made by a special division of Countrywide Financial to people labeled FOAs, Friends of Angelo (Mozillo, CEO). These FOAs are primarily congressmen and financial regulators, although Moore also manages to find and interview several uncorrupted government personnel. After watching the movie one imagines it took some searching.

So where is all this

political theater going to get us? The answer, obviously, is nowhere. Just as "Columbine," "911" and "Sicko" failed to deliver gun control, impeachment or universal healthcare (and lets not be naive, it's never coming), "Capitalism" will fail in its quest for union rights, equitable taxation, or anything remotely resembling justice. Moore seems to know it, too, and his gallant charges into GM headquarters or the NYSE are less heartfelt activism than hollow trinkets tossed to adoring fans, like late-period Zeppelin begrudgingly appeasing the crowd's request for "Stairway."

Moore also hints that this will be his last film, and asks that we carry on his fight for him (I would, but as an aspiring plutocrat I face a conflict of interest). So is this a tired movie for masochists, a "Saw III" for liberal intellectuals? Of course, and people who enjoy the uncomplicated illusion of their idyllic gated community should remain at the clubhouse. But Moore's dystopia is really here, and seeing as we are ruled by what Gore Vidal called "the Property Party, with two right wings," it's likely here for good.

I saw this movie for the same reason all those rednecks turn out for Sarah Palin rallies: It feels good to imagine someone famous is aiding your cause, even if they're really not. ☼

## ABC reinvents 'Family' sitcom

ALEX GOLDBERG  
Staff Writer

Jay, a grumpy grandfather, marries a much younger and upbeat Columbian woman, Gloria, who has an 11-year-old son who turns all of his emotions into a song. Claire, Jay's daughter, freaks out every time her daughter's boyfriend comes over to the house while her husband, Phil, is too busy trying to be the "cool dad" to care that his son is using his BB gun to shoot other kids in the neighborhood. Jay's son, Mitchell, just returned from Vietnam where he adopted a baby girl with his overly dramatic and enthusiastic partner, Cameron. This family

is the subject of ABC's latest comedy, "Modern Family."

"Modern Family" takes the mockumentary style of comedy, proven to be so successful with "The Office," to the suburbs. The show is a celebration of different cultures, lifestyles, and parenting techniques, capturing the reality of American family life today. It is the return of Ed O'Neill, whose character Al Bundy was a symbol of American television throughout the '90s on "Married ... with Children." He plays Jay, the patriarch of this diverse yet close family, and he does it like no other actor can.

The show is capable of both making you laugh and

touching your heart. You will laugh when Phil talks to his daughter's boyfriend like he's writing a text message and when Mitchell fills up three push carts during a quick trip to Costco to buy diapers.

But you can't help but say "aww" when Jay takes his stepson to Disney World or when he tells Phil and Cameron that he's glad they've become a part of his family. "Modern Family" is a change of pace from the typical family sitcoms that ABC has regurgitated over the past few years. Its dynamic characters, interesting and ironic situations and distinct style really make it a show worth watching. ☼



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# FASHION

## Trend of the Week: The Updated Cardigan

IMANI ELLIS  
Staff Writer

It's hard to ignore the scent of change in the air, the quickened darkening of the day, and the sudden urge to drink hot tea. It's official: Fall is here. With the debut of a new season upon us, it's also hard to ignore a trend that is everywhere on campus: the cardigan. This classic cover up is essential to every college girl's closet because it not only provides warmth over that 'cute sleeveless dress,' but it also

can be worn over a button-downed oxford, paired with a colorful scarf or even worn over a simple tank.

This fall, the cardigan can be seen displaying a few distinct changes. Pushing the envelope of creativity, cardigans are appearing in animal, floral and patterned prints. The color choices have become more brilliant than ever before, with cardigans even being found in an array of fluorescent neon colors. Former sophomore Paige Donnell described cardigans as "easy and cute

— especially the ones with printed patterns. Everyone has gotten tired of wearing boring, black cardigans all the time. It's all about animal prints and bright colors ... it's like a competition to see who can find the cutest one." And there does seem to be a little unspoken competition to find that 'creative' cover up no one else has. Numerous girls have been spotted rocking vintage cardigans, the kind that can't be found in your typical Forever 21. In addition, this article of clothing is an excellent

complement to the colder fall weather; it's light enough to wear when the sun is out and to also not burn you up throughout the day. Plus, the more creative the cardigan, the less work you need to spend on the rest of your ensemble. A fitted floral cardigan can be worn over a plain colored tank with skinny jeans and boots. However if the cardigan is a solid color, you can spice up the outfit by wearing a printed or floral shirt underneath, along with the perfect piece of vintage jewelry. Cardigans are fun



www.flickr.com

— they can be worn in so many ways and for so many occasions. As we embrace the change that comes with fall, make sure you embrace another change that is upon us: the newly improved cardigan. ☼

## askFASHION: Faux or No?

Dear Versus,

I really love one of this fall's fashion trends—fur. The problem is that the idea of killing animals for their fur bothers me. (A mink coat is also out of my college budget.) What is a good option for me? Is leather an alternative? Help!

-Freezing in Furman



www.shopstyle.com

OLIVIA KUPFER  
Staff Writer

Dear "Freezing",  
Fur for fall is one of the season's hottest trends—from the bohemian, 70's-inspired fur vests popularized by celebrity stylist Rachel Zoë, to fur trim on motorcycle jackets and shearling gloves. Forget about white fur out of the 80s, or long coats that look nouveau riche: this season, if you want to stay warm through Nashville's mild winter and look chic on the way to Calculus class, throw on a fur accent.

Why should you wear fur? Because fur is polished and sophisticated; because you will be able to withstand an Alberta Clipper should the jet stream dip as far south as Vanderbilt this winter; and because you can instantly look foxy by wearing fox.

Why shouldn't you wear real fur? Candidly, it is barbaric to slaughter an animal for its pelt. Foxes, mink, chinchillas and other animals bred for their pelts are subjected to inhumane conditions before they are slaughtered.

These animals are raised on fur farms until maturity, when they are slaughtered to yield maximum profit for their coat. Operators of fur farms keep overhead down by housing the animals in tiny cages, which makes the animals anxious. In addition, mink, which accounts for the majority of fur on the market, is selectively bred to yield unique, unnatural coat colors. The animals pay the price of these intentional genetic mutations, which cause other genetic defects.

What's the alternative? Go faux or go home! Faux fur is a great way to invest in a fur coat without killing animals in the name of fashion. A good "faux" doesn't look synthetic or cheap—look to Juicy this season to nail the trend; the brand carries sleek faux coyote vests and coats. This season, a peacoat for fall is passé, and the motorcycle jacket has been done (plus, leather sparks another ethical debate). Remember: Fur for fall is fierce, but only if it's faux. ☼

## "Infat-shoe-ation"



NIKKY OKORO /VERSUS MAGAZINE

NIKKY OKORO  
Fashion Editor

Nothing catches your eye like a great pair of shoes, which is evident in this new feature entitled: "infat-shoe-ation".

Though not pictured here in color, Sophomore Rachel Rodriguez proudly holds her own in her new pair of Nike sneakers, which possess the perfect amount of "cool" and "color". Citing Zebra Fruit

Stripe Gum as her inspiration and motive for purchasing the pair, Rachel's Nike shoes go great with blue denim and are the perfect way to brighten up any day during the dreary weather transition to Fall. ☼

## Leave it to the Lumberjack

NIKKY OKORO  
Fashion Editor

For a college student, it seems like each day of the week has its own purpose. Sunday is for relaxing, Monday is for complaining, Wednesday is the glorious half-way mark, and Thursday through Saturday are usually just a late-night blur. But what about Tuesday? Is there no justice for having some sort of celebration during this awkward semi-start day of the week? No fear and no tears because Tuesdays will soon officially become your favorite day of the week with a little festivity I like to call "Lumberjack Tuesdays". Created on a whim and slightly out of my pure boredom, it's been around since last year ever since the flannel print trend and pride came about. To be completely honest, I created it as a way of defending my thrift-store purchased plaid shirt from my friends who thought it might be a tad bit too extreme to wear around campus. Yet, little did they know how quickly my red and black pattern would catch on with the student body. The rules are straight-

forward—simply wear your favorite lumberjack-inspired shirt once a month. If you're lacking a shirt, check out Nashville's *Southern Thrift* which boasts a ridiculously large collection of lumberjack shirts in any color and for either gender. And if it means anything to you (as it should), The Notorious B.I.G. would have even approved as heard from his lyrics when he once stated "way back when I had the red and black lumberjack with the hat to match".

I personally prefer purchasing these priceless shirts in large sizes since it feels best to comfortably wear with leggings and a pair of riding boots. Interestingly enough, even after coining the term solely among my group of friends, it seems like everyone still knows when Lumberjack Tuesday has come around. From the looks of Rand at lunchtime and all the Lumberjacks and Lumberjanes, flannel is for fall weather and autumn spirits. And who knows which day will be bestowed with the next best trend? (I personally am a fan of Cosby Sweater Saturdays...) ☼



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# O | A | R

BECCA DENNY  
Staff Writer

Last week, Versus talked to OAR's drummer, Chris Culos. In true Versus fashion, the conversation ranged from playing for a college audience to pterodactyls. Culos talked about the band's journey, OAR's musical influences and the meanings behind some of their songs. Read on to find out more about touring, embarrassing moments and how they're feeling about tomorrow's performance. Hint: they're excited and so are we.

**VERSUS MAGAZINE:** *Is a college audience different from your typical audience, and if so are you going to tailor your performance to that kind of atmosphere?*

**CHRIS CULOS:** I mean, I think a college is one of our, they are just instrumental to our success, They are pretty much the epitome of the OAR fan. Our audience is great, we tour around the country pretty much year round, Summer is always the biggest for us and for most bands, its kind of concert season, but when we come to colleges we have so much fun because there is just that concert vibe that everyone is excited about. [College students] are pretty much just the exact definition of what the OAR audience looks like. We are really excited.

**VM:** *What are your favorite songs to perform?*

**CC:** I think my favorite song to play is "About Mr. Brown." I don't want to make this a sad story but the story is we had a buddy of ours that passed away a few years ago and he was always in the front row even when we were just making our start. The songs not about him or anything but it was his favorite so whenever we play it we say "Hey this one's for our good friend Michael." It's just something about that that gives me goose-bumps and I'm pretty fired up to play it every night, thinking of him and stuff like that. You know, a lot of our songs are about home and family and friends and how to sort of take that with you when you are traveling away or go off to college or whatever it is that you do. For me, that's the biggest thing, just reconnecting and remembering the good times, and family and friends.

**VM:** *Speaking of emotional songs, I just listened to your song "War Song," inspired by your trip to Iraq and Kuwait in 2007. Can you describe what it feels like to play for our soldiers both at home and abroad?*

**CC:** It's a total honor, it really is. We have done a lot of things for our troops this year where we've gotten to perform and be involved in a couple things. We went to Walter Reid and met with some injured soldiers and that was amazing because its difficult to see, you know. These men and women were so inspiring. They were sitting there with some serious injuries, almost mind blowing injuries, and they are sitting there telling you their story and how excited they are that you're there hanging out and how its nice to meet you. Just so cool. It was so inspiring to hear their stories and see how they have stood by their fellow men and women in the army. We went over to Iraq and Kuwait and played for the troops and that was pretty much life changing and a couple other things. We definitely feel a connection to it. We wrote the song. It's not written to be a political statement. It's not about the war or anything about that, but Marc our singer, who wrote the song, said it's about the warriors, the people we met over there, so it's pretty amazing to play that song any night, let alone for the troops.

**VM:** *How have things changed for you and the band since "Shattered," got so much radio play and publicity?*

**CC:** I don't know if a lot of stuff has changed inside the band but I think it's really cool that the song has gotten so much success, that it's brought a lot more awareness to the band and who we are. It's brought more people out to the shows, which is honestly the reason we were excited to have a song like that go to radio. We were really proud of the song and we saw a little bit of success with the song we had called "Love and Memories" and we just were really behind the song and we thought, we want to tour and we want to write music and we want to do this and be

in OAR for as long as possible but we want to do it on our terms. One of the ways is to continue to get it out to more people. You know, for us, we're really excited about recording the next record. It's always on to the next thing, always looking to get the band out to more people looking to get the music in more peoples' hands and getting more music into peoples' iPods.

**VM:** *What's your most embarrassing moment on stage?*

**CC:** I definitely have a couple that's for sure and that hasn't happened for a while because I don't drink on stage anymore. We used to be like, 'Alright, we're playing, it's Friday night.' I'd be out at the bars anyway in college so it's like, have a couple drinks that was always fun but you listen back to the tapes and I was like 'ooh.' I knew I was having fun, but it doesn't sound anywhere near as good as what I thought it was sounding like. So a few years ago, I definitely had a couple too many cocktails and tripped when I was walking on stage to my drum set, just fell in front of everyone, kind of like out a dream, fall in front of a couple hundred people. But, whatever, things are good now. I slowed down. I take it seriously so things that are embarrassing now are more embarrassing for me. Like, maybe if I mess up a part on stage. It's one thing for a guitar player to mess up or hit a wrong note because the rest of the band is just chugging along but if the drums drop out, it is totally noticeable. That's the only downside, so I've messed up a couple times where it's just been a train wreck.

**VM:** *Who's the craziest performer you've ever worked with?*

**CC:** I don't know what you mean in terms of crazy. It's always fun to watch Robert Randolph on stage as far as a musician. It's as crazy as you get. He's channeling Jimmy Hendrix or something, but I'm trying to think who we've worked with that's like ... mostly it's like behind the scenes guys that you wouldn't even know about who do pranks on everybody. A lot of the stage managers, production managers, tour managers, things like that. I wish I had a more exciting answer for you but the stories are really good. We always prank bands at the end of the tour. If we have a band opening up for us, we always prank them on the last day. There have been some pretty funny ones along the way.

**VM:** *What has been your best prank do you think?*

**CC:** A couple goods ones. The one that's popping out to me is the one when we put a fog machine inside of one of the bands van and filled it up with smoke. We came running out when they had just finished their set and said that their van was on fire.

**VM:** *Have you ever been to Nashville before?*

**CC:** Yeah, many times.

**VM:** *What are your favorite places to visit while in town?*

**CC:** Just the fact that we've gotten to play at the Ryman is awesome. Just checking out the Ryman is awesome. Going on Broadway is pretty fun. I know it's pretty touristy and all that, but I think the most fun I've had in Nashville was 3 years ago. I took my wife down there to Fan Fair, a country music festival that happens in June. She's the biggest country music fan, so we had an awesome time.

**VM:** *So besides your love of Pearl Jam, which brought you together in 8th grade ...*

**CC:** Oh, nice you did a little research.

**VM:** *Who are some of your other musical influences?*

**CC:** Definitely you've got the Pearl Jam one down. That, without a doubt inspired us to start a band when we were in 8th grade. "Pearl Jam: Unplugged" came on and we were like, 'That's it we have to do this.' Another big inspiration, especially back in the day, kind of surprising, when we were in elementary school Marc our singer had a bunch of older brothers who had a concert of Genesis. It was the coolest thing ever. I swear it sounds like it wasn't, but Phil Collins and the drummer would do this huge drum solo together. It was these two massive drum sets and they were just going off and we would watch that all the time. So a little bit of that, that islandy stuff kind of crept into it when we discovered Bob Marley a little bit. Not that we play reggae music, but we sort of took a little bit of that islandy vibe and brought that in. Bob Dylan along the way was a big inspiration as far as the story based songs, not so much the song and his style of music, but just that he told a whole story and I think that when we first started writing. A lot of what Marc was writing was through different characters' eyes, and stuff like that, rather than just your personal love song. And now, man we just listen to so many different bands. I think one of the things that I like about the band is that we can be rock music one song and the next is reggae-ish and the next song is light and the next song is dark and one's fast and one's slow. You know, we've got a little bit of everything and I think that's because we have so many different influences. You know I listen to all different kinds of music, the band listens to so many different kinds of music. You've got Chili Peppers on one side and Led Zeppelin on the other, you've got jazz influences on the other side. It's just kind of a whole mix together.

**VM:** *What artists or songs are on your most played list on your iPod?*

**CC:** That's a good question. It used to be Paul's Boutique from the Beastie Boys was my favorite album of all time and now I've gotten into Wally. Wally and Drake are my new thing. I've kind of been in a little hip-hop kick, but as far as classics go—Paul's Boutique for sure, and Blond on Blond by Bob Dylan is probably my second favorite.

**VM:** *If you had to eat only one food for the rest of your life ..*

**CC:** Lasagna.

**VM:** *If you could be any animal, which would you choose and why?*

**CC:** Well, birds freak me out, they terrify me for some reason because they fly. It's the creepiest thing ever, but if I wanted to be something maybe I would want to fly.

**VM:** *Then you could scare people so there you go.*

**CC:** Yes, I'd be a freaking pterodactyl and really scare some people.

**VM:** *I saved the easiest question for last. What's your favorite color?*

**CC:** Green. ☺



# FLIP SIDE

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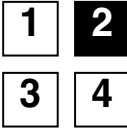
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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10/14/09

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## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Made a disapproving sound
- 6 Witticism
- 10 Highlander
- 14 Cop ... bargain in court
- 15 Healing plant
- 16 Oregon Treaty president
- 17 Trembling
- 18 Having all one's marbles
- 19 Word processing reversal
- 20 Big Southwestern trombones?
- 23 Ending for "ranch"
- 24 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
- 25 Thing
- 27 Madame, in Madrid
- 30 Wide shoe size
- 31 Geese flight pattern
- 32 Actress Greer who received five consecutive Oscar nominations
- 35 At the ready
- 37 Refined trombones?
- 40 Made on a loom
- 41 Imitation
- 42 Med or law lead-in
- 43 Command ctrs.
- 45 Musical beat
- 49 Wells's "The Island of Dr. ..."

- 51 Fill with wonder
- 53 Jr.'s son
- 54 Continuously-playing trombones?
- 58 Clenched weapon
- 59 Mechanical memorization
- 60 Remark to the audience
- 61 To ... perfectly
- 62 Sporty sunroof
- 63 Baseball card brand
- 64 Wall St.'s "Big Board"
- 65 Clownish
- 66 Shore birds

### DOWN

- 1 Samples a bit of
- 2 Ball
- 3 Loud auto honker of yore
- 4 "... mouse!"
- 5 Weekly septet
- 6 Argonauts' leader
- 7 Large antelope
- 8 Tune
- 9 Dainty laugh
- 10 Sudden gushing
- 11 Conspires (with)
- 12 Octogenarians, e.g.
- 13 Boxing ref's decision
- 21 Whopper creators
- 22 Lord's Prayer words following "Thy will be done"
- 26 Thus far
- 28 Eye unsubtly

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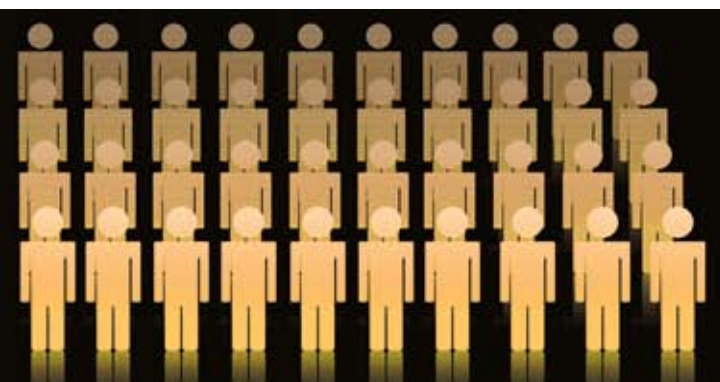
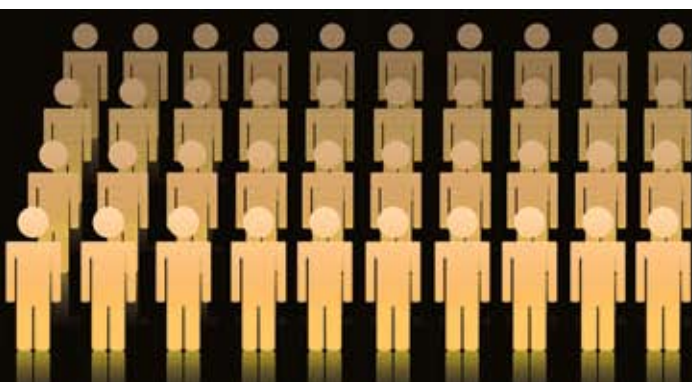
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# MUSIC

*"I love coconut, because when you think you're done eating coconut, 25 minutes later, a little piece of coconut comes out of the back of your mouth, and then you say, 'Hey! It's more coconut!'"*

— John Mayer

## SETLIST

### TODAY

Can you take me higher? Well, Creed sure can and tonight they will. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, you read correctly. Over-the-top arena rockers **Creed** come to town this evening to play at the Sommet Center. Join front man Scott Stapp as he struggles to get his career back on track. Tickets start at just \$15 and the show starts at 7:30.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 15

Hometown artist **Mat Kearney** plays the Cannery Ballroom tonight at 8:00 p.m. in support of his latest album, "City of Black & White." Kearney himself explains that, "At its core, this record is about community - finding it and losing it." Given this theme, this homecoming show should be one of his most memorable and personal. \$23-25.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 16

Rock superstars **Kings of Leon** return to Nashville tonight for a night of high-octane, southern-fused rock 'n roll at the Sommet Center. This veritable family band (comprised of three brothers and one cousin) first exploded with the release of their 2008 album "Only by the Night" and have been riding this wave of success and popularity ever since.

## PLUG YOUR SCENE

## NEW ORLEANS

ZAC HUNTER  
Music Editor

Last week Plug Your Scene highlighted some of the venues in New Orleans that make it a truly unique music town. From Frenchman Street to Tipitina's and beyond, live music dominates the Big Easy. This week, Versus will show you the artists whose music fills the clubs, carries into the streets and seeps between the cracks in the sidewalk all over town. Rebirth Brass Band and Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews are two favorite local acts. Check 'em out.



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### ALBUMS

*Rebirth Kickin' It Live  
Feel Like Funkin' It Up*

### KEY TRACKS

*Do Watcha Wanna  
(I Feel Like) Bustin' Loose*

## Rebirth Brass Band

Jazz/Mardi Gras Mambo

Few others can capture the quintessential sound of New Orleans music quite like Rebirth. Comprised of two trombones, two trumpets, a saxophone, a sousaphone and a snare and bass drum, this band may confuse some, but not for long. First and foremost, Rebirth plays LOUD. And while usually the louder a horn is played the more vulnerable it is to falling out of tune, these skilled musicians keep themselves in check and bounce complex harmonies off each other with ease. Tuesday nights at the Maple Leaf are the regular Rebirth gig and it is always, always packed. Expect to leave with your ears still ringing and a shirt covered in sweat. Although they do have some good studio recordings, this is a band that should be seen live.



media.decider.com

### ALBUMS

*Live at Jazzfest 2007  
Orleans and Claiborne*

### KEY TRACKS

*Let's Get It On  
Orleans and Claiborne*

## Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews and Orleans Ave.

Jazz/Funk/Rock

Shorty and his crew were in Versus last year as an artist to watch, and we stand by the claim today. With a sound that mixes rap, rock, funk and jazz, this young rising group dazzles in live performances big and small. Troy is a product of New Orleans' finest creative arts school (NOCCA) and is regarded by established peers as one of the premier up and coming musicians on the local scene. He has toured with Lenny Kravitz and on his own. Don't let the name deceive you, though — Shorty plays the trumpet as well, and in fact may be better at it than the trombone (though both are great). Hopefully when you see him he'll bust out Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" on the trumpet, a truly beautiful rendition. Watch out for Trombone Shorty to make some moves on the larger music scene if his sound can catch on.

# Sky's the Limit in Austin

ALEX DALY  
Staff Writer

It's around 8 P.M but it's been dark for hours. It's been pouring for hours. You have been drinking for hours. But you charge on. The rain doesn't faze you, nor does the screaming crowd: there's just too much love amidst the music, mud and happy hippies.

You hear loud, twisted noises and a high pitched voice screeching through a microphone. You decide to stop bouncing for a hot minute to look up and take your best mental note of Ghostland Observatory performing "Sad, Sad City." It's an experience that is so surreal, it is hard to verbalize.

The next thing you know, you are best friends with some dude wearing a Darth Vader mask. You dance with him amidst the insane sounds and light being emitted from under his trash bag before grabbing other randos to break it down in the mud. Everyone is in love with everyone: holding hands, rubbing heads, and jumping up and down as the music seeps out of the speakers and floods the drenched masses.

Are you in hipster heaven? No, it's called Austin City Limits.

Located in the open fields of Zilker Park, ACL thoroughly delivered in the music department. Headliner's included, Kings of Leon, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Dave Matthews Band, Ghostland Observatory, Ben Harper, Pearl Jam. Countless other bands made appearances, such as Thievery Corporation, Them Crooked Vultures, John Legend, Phoenix, Citizen Cope, Mos Def, STS9, Bon Iver, The Dead Weather,



ALEX DALY / Versus Magazine

Arctic Monkeys, Girls Talk, Passion Pit, etc, etc. The list goes on.

The festival, in all its greatness, can only be defined by moments: most of the weekend is a wet blur to me. But those moments, which will be forever imprinted in my mind, were amazing. Like watching Phoenix's lead singer, Thomas Mars, jump off the stage to swim through devoted, screaming fans, or seeing some crazy chicks break dance in the mud during STS9, or listening to Bon Iver's Justin Vernon pour out his singing soul to the point where a couple of people were actually crying (and some silent hippies told us to "stop talking and actually feel the music, man"). And I will never forget how a belly dancer came out to shake her stuff during a kickass show by my new obsession, Thievery Corporation, or listening to Mos Def cover Radiohead's "All I Need," or sitting on the ground amongst thousands to wait for the

## AUSTIN CITY LIMITS

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much anticipated and much loved Kings of Leon.

But what made ACL so great was not just the festival but also the city itself. It's hard not to become thoroughly obsessed with Austin, especially when you are surrounded by people who love good music. At some point during the show, Kings of Leon lead singer Caleb Followill expressed his love for Austin, saying that it "is one of the best cities in the world." Mr. Followill, I second that. ☘



blog.digitalcontentproducer.com

# ?uestlove and The Roots back on point with "How I Got Over"

BRIAN BIEDERMAN  
Staff Writer

Philly's best is back with their ninth, and rumored-to-be final, studio album "How I Got Over," which hit stores yesterday.

It comes as no surprise that the new album is yet another overtly political one, this time commenting on the Bush and Obama administrations. The band continues their socio-musical commentary, citing obvious musical influences ranging from traditional New Orleans Second Line Jazz to the music of Frank Zappa. The Roots pay homage to the late Zappa, with their own arrangement of his "Peaches en Regalia."

As always, ?uestlove is on point, driving the band not only from behind the kit but behind the soundboard as well, reprising his role as producer for the ninth time in a row. His unique blend of musical herbs and spices give "How I Got Over" a very original flavor; each track representing a variety of musical genres.

Tariq Trotter, better known as Black Thought, also managed to step up his game, this time incorporating unique gospel undertones reminiscent of the 1950s/60s American civil rights movement. The album's title is taken



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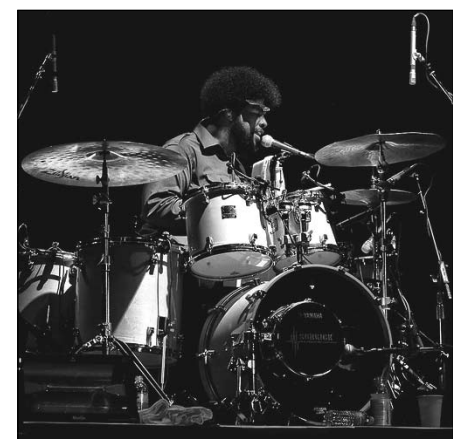


theroots.com

from the Clara Ward gospel hymn of the same name, made famous by African American singer and civil rights activist Mahalia Jackson. "How I Got Over" was one of the foremost anthems of the black civil rights movement of the '60s, and it is no wonder why The Roots chose this as the title of their new album.

The Roots vary their collaborative efforts, employing Icelandic singer Patty Crash as well as past collaborator Cody Chestnut, perhaps hoping to top the success of the international billboard topper "The Seed (2.0)" with the song "Serve This Royalty." Chestnut's indie singer-songwriter vibe enhances the track by providing his silky-smooth vocals, and sensual R&B/New Wave hip-hop beat. If Marvin Gaye collab'd with The Roots, it would sound like "Serve This Royalty."

Though "How I Got Over" is by no means The Roots' best album, it would be impossible to resist the temptation to bounce your head and



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thump your bass. Supposedly, "How I Got Over" is The Roots' final studio album, but my gut tells me they are far from over — since the late 1980's The Roots have served up cut after cut of the freshest, musically-eclectic, lyrically-astounding tracks, and it will be a long while before anybody manages to overthrow the kingdom built upon the bone and blood of South Philly's Roots. ☘

## NEW RELEASES

THIS WEEK'S LATEST ALBUMS



\***BOWLING FOR SOUP, "Sorry for Partying"**

**BOB DYLAN, "Christmas In the Heart"**

\*\***THE ROOTS, "How I Got Over"**

\***THE FLAMING LIPS, "Embryonic"**

**SHAKIRA, "She Wolf"**

\* Indicates that the album will be reviewed in next week's issue  
\*\* Reviewed in today's issue

**SATURDAY, OCT. 17**

**Drummer**, the side project from Patrick Carney (drummer of the Black Keys) takes the stage at the Mercy Lounge tonight at 9:00. Comprised of Carney and four other drummers (hence the name) playing different instruments, the band has crafted a unique blend of pure rock and shoegaze. Tickets are only \$10 at the door.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 18**

Good music is never far away in the Music City, and even closer when it's on Vandy campus. The **Blair Brass Chamber Ensembles** will perform at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon at the Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall. The concert is free for Vandy students.

**MONDAY, OCT. 19**

Nashville native **Bonnie Bishop** will bring her Americana/soul music to the Basement Monday night. Accompanied by budding rock artist **JD Simo**, she will provide the best musical option on a relatively empty night in Nashville. Show starts at 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 20**

Rock star **James McMurty** is touring his latest album "Just Us Kids." With new political and social messages on the backbone of the same kick-ass music, the twelve new tracks show development as an artist. Tickets are \$10 advance \$12 day of the show with a 9 p.m. start.

**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. **"SLEEPYTIME IN THE WESTERN WORLD"**  
*Blitzen Trapper*
2. **"MURDER IN THE CITY"**  
*The Avett Brothers*
3. **"BONFIRE"**  
*Third Eye Blind*
4. **"AMERICAN HEARTS"**  
*A. A. Bondy*
5. **"BIG CITY LIFE"**  
*Mattafix*
6. **"SHOOK ME ALL NIGHT LONG"**  
*AC/DC*
7. **"FINALLY MOVING (REMIX)"**  
*Pretty Lights*
8. **"WORDLESS CHORUS"**  
*My Morning Jacket*
9. **"AIN'T LIFE GRAND"**  
*Widespread Panic*
10. **"ARIZONA"**  
*Kings of Leon*

**Backstreet Boys return, fans do not**

**CHARLIE KESSLERING**  
Entertainment Editor

Their voices wary of silence, faces too pretty for anonymity, the Backstreet Boys have emerged from the shadows to craft another boring record. Shame on them.

Ah, Backstreet. The paper of our sisters' walls, essence of our junior high dances. Five guys forever singing the soundtrack to our nostalgia. They taught a generation how to sit on stools, how to frost their hair, and that sometimes, most of the time, solo careers fail miserably (but turn that frown upside-down, because you'll always have your bros).

In their prime, they packed arenas in countries George Bush has never heard of, sold more discs than Frisbee and connected the country with their tracks to an extent Union Pacific Railroad would envy. And all the while, they donned atrocious goatees — a feat of laudable

proportions. They wanted it that way and, Goddamnit, we did too.

The group toured the world as a synchronized dancing machine, a dynamo only as strong as each of its parts. Nick was always the ladies' man, the show-off, tapping his feet and tipping his hat as if to say, "I wish I were Justin Timberlake, too." Brian and A.J. acted as perfect foils, one a God-fearing momma's boy, the other a badass, tattooed momma's boy.

Kevin exuded maturity, possessing a wealth of wise anecdotes (I can only assume) and an affinity for trench coats and skullcaps. A mentor, perhaps, disguised as a magician. And, last and not least, good ol' Howie, the fifth-wheel, no one's favorite, the redheaded stepchild, whatever — always the stumper in climactic rounds of "Name that Backstreet Boy." Yes, the Backstreet Boys existed as a synchronized dancing machine, poised to boogie into history.

But boogie they will not. Despite a fan base that has grown tired of angelic harmonies and the slow but sure devastation of the boy-band as a genre, they continue fight for their share of an imaginary market.

So now, to quote a phrase that I first heard an unfathomable 12 years ago: Backstreet's back. Though maimed of one member (Kevin again reveals his wisdom), the group has returned.

With last week's release, "This Is Us," they toss another bucket of chum into the sea of mediocrity, hoping for some bites. Bottom-feeders, take notice. Backstreet

has mastered the art of creating astonishingly average pop music. Neither good nor bad, the disc consists of less-than-catchy love ballads and watered-down Lady Gaga jams that get your head bobbing but inspire little else.

To the ardent fan, the album's title may prove less ironic than depressing, a branded reminder of just how far the group has fallen. That was us then — filthily famous, masters of a brilliant spectacle, conjurers of preteen ecstasy. "This Is Us" now. Boring.

So here's to the Boys spending more time with their families — for our sakes. ☹



blog.banjin.net



thebackstreetboys.com



thebackstreetboys.com

**Bringin' Back the '80s**

**MATT SHELTON**  
Staff Writer

Self-described as "Metal, Metal, and comedy," Steel Panther mocks near-every legendary '80s hair band to carry a hair curler in their overnight bag. To describe the Steel Panther's level of obscenity, one needs to look no further than their most popular songs. In "Community Service," a mock monster ballad, lead singer Michael Starr attempts to explain his love for his steady girl. "My heart belongs to you, but my dong is community property," he croons to his woman.

But don't think that Steel Panther is a ballad-only band. Their riff-heavy "Turn Out the Lights" shows the heavier side of Steel Panther's sexuality. The theme of the song, turning out the lights when having sex so he doesn't have to see your face, really highlights the lyrical depth of Steel Panther: "Looks like someone beat you with an ugly stick. Turn out the lights..." Steel Panther's overt sexuality pervades almost every line of every song. It is so over-the-top that many of the situations Starr sings of cause fits of fraternal laughter when their music is played at a pregame.

Beyond their comedic innuendos, in an ode to the '80s, their instrumentation is actually

quite impressive. While definitely employing the musical motifs of the hair metal era: the pump-up song, the monster ballad and the party-time drinking melody, their in-your-face metal shows true musicianship. Their fame has spread because of their live performance; again, a nod back to the coked-out skid row bars of the '80s. Bringing more energy than the bunny with a drum, Steel Panther head bangs and fist pumps the hell out of the audience. Although a self-professed mock-'80s band, Steel Panther genuinely attempts to bring back the party culture that was the '80s, something sorely missed in today's T-Pain, Britney Spears pop world. ☹



lasvagias-nv.com

**Coping Just Fine at 'Live'**

**JOE HOGAN**  
Staff Writer

Thursday night the Live on the Green concert series concluded in downtown Nashville with a performance by Clarence Greenwood aka Citizen Cope. True to his moniker, Cope Nation's first citizen seems to be doing fine, just fine, and delivered a pleasant and thoroughly unsurprising show on one of this year's last available warm summer evenings. Mr. Greenwood opened with "Bullet and a Target" and "Hurricane Waters" for his 2nd and 3rd songs, closed with "Son's Gonna Rise," and filled in the gap with assorted other placid anonymous numbers.

Don't get me wrong, I like Citizen Cope, and especially the three songs mentioned. He has a very nice sound— his problem is that he has but one very nice sound, and it gets used on every tune. Over the course of two hours, this becomes a little tiring, considering that his trademark style is even-keel, middle-of-the-road, and impassive. Oh

how I craved for Mr. Greenwood to suddenly say, "Cut the &%#\*- it's time to rock out!" and reveal that in fact his piano player had been hiding a massive double-necked guitar under his bench. I sensed that the crowd seemed to crave it as well, as the initial crowd-surfing (some of which ended disastrously, if you can imagine Thursday night downtown Nashville at its best) eventually gave way to appreciative head-bobbing and tempo-appropriate shuffling.

But the band stayed true to its easy-going, stolid and very subtly island-y folk-rock, a style that falls sonically somewhere in between reggae and Coldplay but captures the excitement of neither. I also would have preferred that Cope play his reggae cover of "Karma Police" (obviously), an unusual recasting that manages to simultaneously pep-up and chill-out a song that fairly begs for both. Nevertheless, for a free concert put on by a sub-par radio station, Citizen Cope was perfectly acceptable material, and proved an apt soundtrack for whiling away a pleasant evening. ☹

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