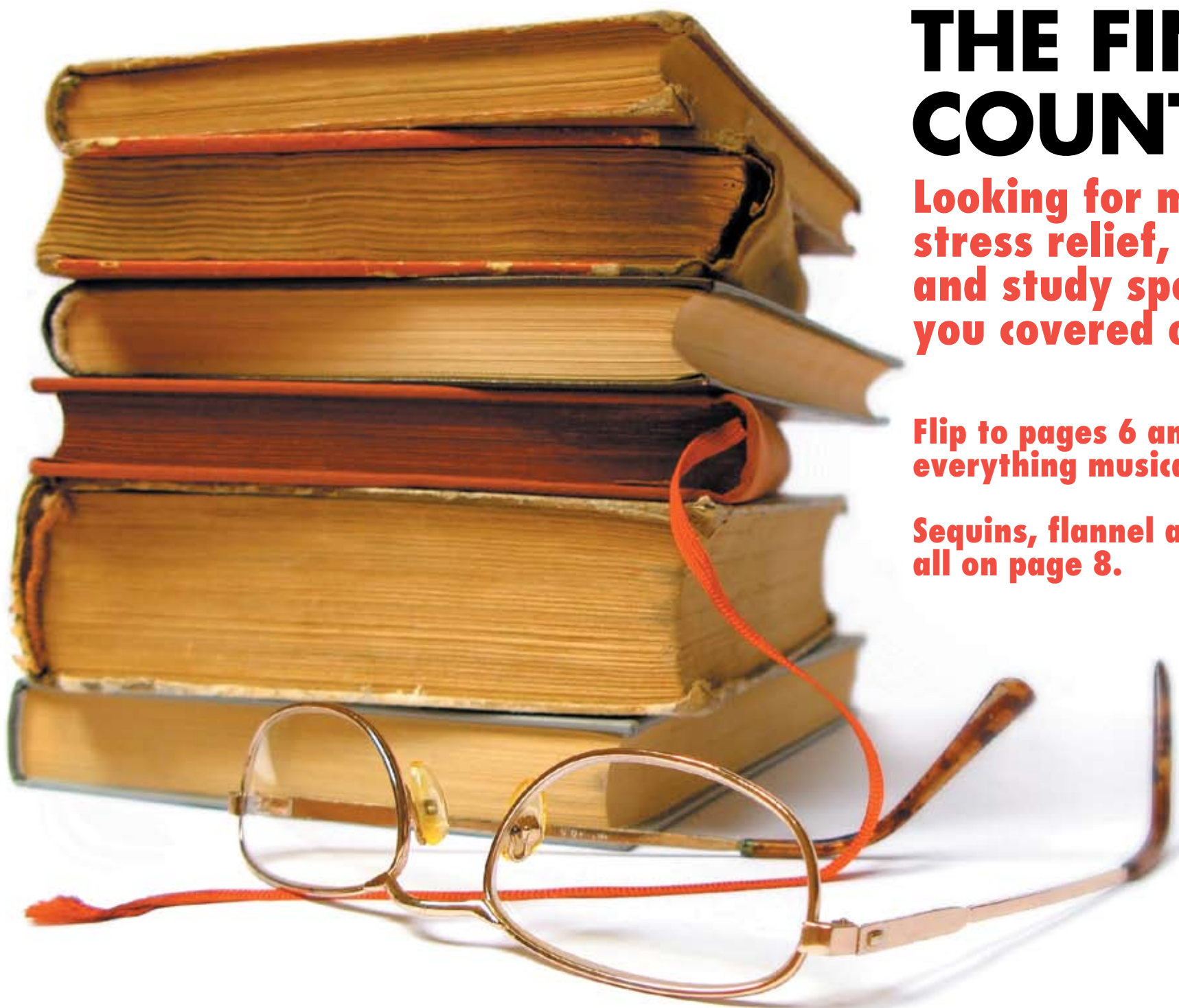


Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

DECEMBER 9—DECEMBER 15, 2009 VOL. 47, No. 28

INSIDE EXCLUSIVE:
Free Aderral!
The Slant



THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Looking for motivation, stress relief, baked goods and study spots? We've got you covered on page 9.

Flip to pages 6 and 7 for the best of everything musical from 2009.

Sequins, flannel and Blair Waldorf are all on page 8.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Ghostland Observatory – Cannery Ballroom

The Austin, TX based electro-punk duo Ghostland Observatory hits the stage at the Cannery Ballroom for a night of upbeat electronic grooves and extreme lights. Ghostland draws on influences like Daft Punk, David Bowie, and Prince but certainly puts their own spin on it. Hits like "Sad Sad City" and "Silver City" (yes, they are two different songs) will lull the crowd into a trance, while the unbelievable light show complete with lasers and fog make the experience complete. Ghostland will for sure put on a high energy, sweaty show and bring down the house at Cannery. (\$20, 9 p.m.)

Jason Michael Carroll – Exit/In

Touring his sophomore album "Growing Up is Getting Old," Jason Michael Carroll is starting to take the country music world by storm. His hit song "Where I'm From" is heard frequently on country radio and from the speakers of student's computers alike. Carroll sings the simple lyrics that often accompany the genre's music effectively, and his voice is solid and mainstream. At the Exit/In he will join the likes of Hank Williams Jr., Johnny Cash, and Kris Kristofferson to name a few who have played the historic venue. (\$15, 9 p.m.)

Nathan Angelo – 12th and Porter

A soul/rock singer with a pop voice, Nathan Angelo braves through the inundated market of singer-songwriters on a piano well. His sound falls somewhere between a Jason Mraz and the increasingly popular Eric Hutchinson. "Love Sucks" is a clever, though self explanatory song on top of a catchy piano chord progression. The guy holds nothing back on vocals and while some songs fall short in the "suck-in-your-head" quality, creativity and solid songwriting prevail. His soulful vocals will certainly shine at a live performance. (\$10, 8 p.m.)

Daikaju w/ Dirty Holidays and Rae Hering – The Basement

Self described rock/psychedelic/surf band Daikaju will make their way to The Basement this Thursday. With that description one is thinking something between Pink Floyd and maybe the Beach Boys. Interestingly enough, minus the absence of vocals, that is a fair start. Daikaju combines heavy reverb guitars with fast paced drums and bass that sound like something out of a bad chase scene in a movie, but with a cool, kind of trippy effect. If nothing else, there are only so many bands that can pull something like this off, and how often will they come through Nashville? Answer – not very often. (\$5, 9 p.m.)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Works Progress Administration – Exit/In

The supergroup Works Progress Administration (or WPA for short), featuring Glen Phillips (of Toad the Wet Sprocket), Sean Watkins (of Nickel Creek), and Luke Bulla (of Lyle Lovett), takes its name from FDR's New Deal program of the same title. Unlike the 1939 group, this WPA "was born out of the musical community surrounding the legendary LA club, Largo. The members of the band had known and admired each other for years, and found themselves with a strong batch of unrecorded songs, a little down time, and a collective feeling that it might be a good idea to put something on tape." And it's a good thing they ran with the idea – now groups like Fleetwood Mac and The Band are championing their cause. (\$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, 8:00 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

Southern Culture on the Skids – Mercy Lounge

Take a short cab ride down to the Mercy Lounge and join Southern Culture on the Skids for an evening of quirky, raw southern/country-fied rock n' roll. Embracing a theme the band refers to as "countrytropolitan," they explain, "Countrytropolitan transcends music. It's a lifestyle, not a category of music. It's where rural and urban sensibilities meet... It's when you see trucker hats being sold in Beverly Hills' boutiques or notice folks eating pork... drinking a glass of merlot." As you may already be able to tell, this band is, well, strange. Sometimes described as a fusion of Dick Dale and Hank Williams, Southern Culture on the Skids truly is out of this world. (\$15, 9:00 p.m., One Cannery Row)

12 Against Nature – 3rd and Lindsley

A dozen, yes a dozen, musicians will pack the stage of 3rd and Lindsley to bring you "back to a time when music meant everything and image meant close to nothing." This Steely Dan tribute band has more than just a nice ring to it. With everything from serious electric guitar to a more melodious acoustic sound to the trombones and saxophones, 12 Against Nature assure that "you won't leave disappointed." For those who have not had the privilege of any Steely Dan in their lives, this could be a fun way to get introduced. (Price not listed, 7 p.m.)

Rascal Flatts – Ryman Auditorium

One of the premier acts in the Country Music scene today, Rascal Flatts will grace the stage of the historic Ryman Auditorium in front of a sure to be sold out crowd. Interestingly enough, the enormously commercially successful country band (which often puts more of an emphasis on image rather than music) could fill up the Sommet Center but will show some Music City respect to the Ryman, and deservedly so. For any fan of the band, this is a unique opportunity to see them in an intimate venue at a place everyone should visit while in Nashville. Tickets are seemingly impossible to find online, the best bet may be to head downtown with a wad of cash. (Price not listed, 8 p.m.)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Corey Chisel and Brendan Benson – Exit/In

Singer-songwriter Brendan Benson will return home to Nashville this Saturday night for a show at the nearby Exit/In. Benson, a Nashville transplant and musician of all trades is best known for his work with Jack White in The Raconteurs but is a fantastic solo musician in his own right. With a style that is a fusion of power-pop and rock, Benson has released four solo albums including his most recent release, "My Old, Familiar Friend." His style and depth of talent really provides something for everyone, making him a true crowd-pleaser. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of Nashville's finest musicians.

Fellow singer-songwriter Corey Chisel opens for Benson tonight. Unlike the headliner, however, Chisel takes a more folksy approach to his music. Having just released his latest album ("Death Won't Send A Letter") with his backing band The Wandering Sons in September, Chisel has been hard at work trying to make a name for himself with a larger audience. Such a personal show at the Exit/In is the perfect chance to get to know this tremendously talented musician. (\$15, 9:00 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

Elmwood – 2nd Avenue Live

Stop by Nashville's newest music venue 2nd Avenue Live tonight for a concert by rock/jam band Elmwood. Having just completed a tour with O.A.R., Elmwood has now embarked on a headlining tour of their own, capitalizing on their recent successes while traveling across North America. This is sure to be a very up-close-and-personal show (the stage is only about a foot off the ground) so will be a wonderful chance to hear the band in the most intimate setting possible. (STBA, 7:30 p.m., 154 2nd Ave. N.)

Marcus Foster – 3rd and Lindsley

Coming all the way from across the pond to the stage of 3rd and Lindsley is London's own Marcus Foster. Foster plays a style of music in the same vein as other folksy, acoustic artists such as Joshua Radin, Cary Brothers, or Francis Dunnery. Foster has been touring the United States since August and will continue to do so until he returns to Europe in January. While still an unsigned artist, Foster hit his first major break when he co-wrote "Let Me Sign," the hit song from the "Twilight Soundtrack." If you are looking to unwind during the most stressful time of the school year, look no further than this show. (\$10, 10:00 p.m., 818 3rd Ave. S.)

Mike Farris – Mercy Lounge

Nashville's own bluesy rocker Mike Farris returns home tonight for a Christmas themed show at the Mercy Lounge. Farris has stormed into critical acclaim thanks to his heartfelt, jaw-droppingly soulful performances at such venues as SXSW, Bonnaroo, and Austin City Limits. His music, much like his emotionally charged lyrics, is both raw and moving. Farris himself explains, "It pumps through our veins. It's simple and straightforward. That's one reason why, especially in times like these, we need it. This old music draws us in and warms us up like nothing else." (\$12, 9:00 p.m., One Cannery Row)

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



Dear Readers,

I am baffled, shocked, flabbergasted and just flat out astonished that this is the last Versus of 2009. I am also very disappointed that lack of time travel technology and wizarding Time-Turners will make it impossible for me to continue on as the fearless editor-in-chief of this fair publication. But as the saying goes, all good things and amazing semesters must come to an end.

In my absence, readers, I hope I can count on you to remember all of the fun times we've had over the past months. We've taigated, debated the eternal question of what is a Vandy girl heck, we even tried our hand at organic cooking. We also got to talk to some pretty cool cats like Randy Rogers, Hanson and O.A.R. So readers, don't cry because our semester together is over, smile because it happened. We'll always have InsideVandy.

Before I get too carried away strolling down memory lane, let's focus on the present, a.k.a. the lovely issue you now hold in your hands. For your procrastinating pleasure, we've assembled 10 pages of fun that will have you forgetting about all of those term papers and final exams in no time. Need a new challenging but fun activity to do during the last day of class? Try our MadLibs with a friend and prepare to laugh. Looking for entertainment as a well deserved study break? Check out page 4 for the TV shows, movies and YouTube. And while we've all been busy trying to wrap up our school work for this semester, our music editors have been hard at work summing up the best of this year including songs, shows and a breakout artist.

Well, the time is here for me to sign off. It's almost like being on the airport runway in Casablanca, except I envision myself in my vintage cape and pillbox hat instead of a khaki trench. Nonetheless, here's looking at you, readers. Good luck on exams, have a great second semester and I'll see you in August!

Later Alligator,
Courtney Rogers

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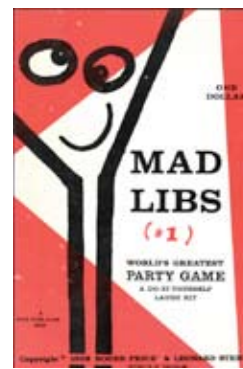
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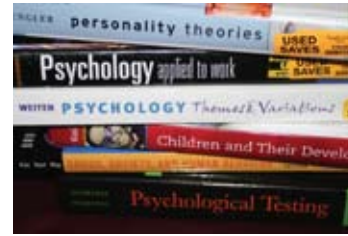
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PIC OF THE WEEK



Nikky Okoro/Versus Magazine

BITS & PIECES



The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page.
—Saint Augustine

HOROSCOPES



VIRGO 8/23-9/22: You will fail all of your finals because of a virus you absorb through your fingertips after reading an infected arts and entertainment magazine. In related news, my plan worked.



LIBRA 9/23-10/22: You will fail all of your finals because you are not smart.



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21: Pat yourself on the back, you've nearly completed another semester at Vandy. You so smart.



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21: I see the number 95 imprinted on your final grade. Then again, it might be a 59.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19: Some papers are written better drunk.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18: Christmas will come early for you this year, mostly because you're Jewish.



PISCES 2/19-3/20: This week, take Thursday night off and study instead. Your grades (and body) will thank you.



ARIES 3/21-4/19: A bit of exam-time advice: If you can't learn to do something well, at least enjoy doing it poorly.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20: Alright, scratch what I said last week. If sleeping with your TA will get you the grade you need, it's now or never.



GEMINI 5/21-6/21: Remember all those classes you decided to skip on Friday mornings? Well, now's the time your teacher gets to say "I told you so...." Enjoy learning the subject on your own.



CANCER 6/22-7/22: God created the Earth in seven days. He had much more work than you do right now. Man up.



LEO 7/23-8/22: Don't mistake temptation for opportunity.

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

Santa will give bad kids wind this year, to lower his carbon footprint.

Finals week is like rehab, but worse. No booze, but no new friends either.

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 outside of Rand: Does it count as commando if you're wearing tights?

Girls getting read to go out: OMG you can't wear a turtleneck? What if some guy wants to kiss your neck?

Professor : Learn to die!

Guy: Well, the first time I got really drunk, I took ten shots... and woke up the next morning in a bathtub next to a topless girl.

Guy 1: You know what, I'm going to get a hooker. How much do you think that would cost?

Guy 2: Well after taxes, probably just your soul.



CULTURE

Kien Giang will add flavor to finals week

ALEX DALY
Staff Writer

Back home there is a great Vietnamese restaurant that my family frequents all the time. When I came to Vanderbilt, it was actually something that I really missed. Due to my food homesickness, I remember going on a hunt to find one freshman year. Basically, I failed. I tried to find a Thai restaurant, too — again, failure. Let's admit it, Nashville really lacks in the Asian cuisine category. So when my friend Andrew told me that he knew of an amazing Vietnamese restaurant, I couldn't wait to check it out.

Drive down Charlotte Pike until you start getting a little weirded out by the warehouses, cop cars and sketchy characters and you will find Kien Giang. I will tell you straight up — the restaurant décor will not impress you. Basically, if you are not into

fish tanks, tacky wall art, awkward waiters and utensils packaged in plastic, you might be a bit turned off. But don't judge a book by its cover — you have to give this hidden gem a chance. Because if you are into delicious cheap food, you will not be disappointed.

Andrew and I shared fried spring rolls with minced vegetables, pork and shrimp. The rolls were crispy and the right type of warm, packing a great crunch with every bite. We also shared summer rolls, which were vegetables, noodles, pork and mint wrapped in cold rice paper. These were my favorite of the two apps, because they were extremely fresh and accompanied by a creamy, sweet peanut sauce for my double dipping



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pleasure. For our main course we both had the traditional "pho" (this is pronounced "pha"), a smooth, tasty broth accompanied by a meat of your choice, rice noodles, limes, basil and sprouts. I had the pho ga, the chicken version, and Andrew had the one with beef. My pho was delicious; although it was big enough for potential leftovers. I was practically licking the bowl dry. The chicken was tender and the noodles were light with a

great texture. Plus there were so many sauces — hoisin, chili pepper, etc — and I am a condiment queen. Andrew ordered "banh mi," a fat pork sandwich, to go (because it is less than \$3!) but he couldn't resist and ate it on the spot (mind you the bread itself tasted like a hundred bucks, mmmm). Andrew got a dessert too, a strawberry kind of milkshake with small pieces of juicy jelly cubes and fruit. I was a little skeptical of the funky look of the drink but I of course gave it a try — it was so yummy!

Overall, a perfect meal. Great for a friendly dinner or cheap date. When the check came, I couldn't be happier. I paid \$9 for all of it — you can't beat that! ☺

How to keep those New Years Resolutions

MATT SHELTON
Staff Writer

I'm going to lose 15 pounds (regain those abs of steel), conquer that 4.0 and save Africa this year. Honestly, New Year's resolutions seem like such a way to turn your life around with one simple sentence, a pledge of faith in one self. Shed off last year's skin, rise from the ashes of your former self reborn. But this phoenix story is frequently far from the truth. Two weeks later I'm still slamming Natty's down like I'm LeBron James with a Basketball; the six pack getting pushed further back in the fridge. I'm not alone, as no one I know maintains their New Year's resolution past January. By Valentine's Day, you've even forgotten what they were. This year will be different, I promise. Here's why. I Googled some tips on how to keep this year's resolutions. Out of the 10 websites I looked at, here's a list of the top 5 suggestions.



I feel like nothing's been resolved.

1. **Be realistic with your goals.** Don't expect any drastic changes to occur over a short period of time. (Damn, already guilty, maybe I'll just save Africa next year.)

2. **Outline your goals, write them down and plan how you are going to achieve them.** Create a list of short goals to help make sure that you are on target for the overarching ones. (Another strike.)

3. **Talk about it.** Make sure that other people around you: your family, your friends, significant other, etc. all know about your goals. It is easy to cheat yourself, but those around you will help you hold yourself accountable for your actions.

4. **Track your progress and reward yourself along the way.** By making the outline, you have made intermediate goals. Choose specific, small rewards for following the rules to keep you motivated.

5. **Most importantly, don't beat yourself up.** Feeling bad for the occasional slip up won't accomplish anything. Take it day by day.

67% of people make three or more resolutions, 7% of people keep them. Maybe this year will be different. ☺



Formal Party Shenanigans

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Entertainment Editor

This weekend sure was _____ (adjective) !!! I was invited to a date party by this _____ (noun) who told me I was _____ (adjective). I wore a snazzy _____ (noun), but everyone looked at me like I was from _____ (noun, place). Oh well! Dinner was _____ (adjective), because my date's teeth had _____ (noun) stuck in them the entire time! After splitting a bottle of _____ (noun), we were _____ (verb) like two _____ (noun, plural). Things got pretty _____ (adjective), to say the least. The end of the night got pretty awkward, when I realized I didn't have a _____ (noun). But that's ok, because we just _____ (verb) instead. The next morning, I woke up feeling like _____ (noun, famous person).



The Great Debate: Where to Study

COURTNEY ROGERS
Versus Editor-in-Chief

Oh my gosh, I have so many _____ (noun plural) coming up, I'm so stressed _____ (preposition). My _____ (noun, plural) and I are looking for the perfect place to _____ (verb) but everyone has a different opinion. One loves the _____ (noun) lounge but I think it's the worst! It's so _____ (adjective) you can hear a _____ (noun) drop. Our central _____ (noun) creeps me out; I'm pretty sure it's haunted. So this _____ (time of day), I'm heading to _____ (noun). It's not the most _____ (adjective) place, but at least they have great _____ (drink plural) for when we need to take a study _____ (noun).

Popsicle Humor

1. What do you call a boat that has a lot of room?

2. What do cobras study in college?

3. Why did the computer go to the chiropractor?

4. What do vegetables say at church?

5. What did the grape do when it got stepped on?

6. What did the banana say to the other banana?

Answers: 1. Spaciouship. 2. Hiss-ship. 3. It had a shipped disc. 4. Lettuce pray. 5. It let out a little whine. 6. I find you a peeling.



Write For Versus!

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ENTERTAINMENT

FILMS THAT DEFINED 2009

MOST CONTROVERSIAL TRANSFORMERS 2



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BENJAMIN RIES

Staff Writer

What is the best movie of 2009? I have no idea, and I'm not going to until I see at least most of December's slew of Oscar-potentials (so far "Up," "The Hurt Locker" and "Paranormal Activity"—yes—"Paranormal Activity," are the stand-outs).

What I can name is the most divisive film of the year, a little movie called "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen." Director Michael Bay's \$200 million, 150 minute epic sparked the most ferocious, widespread and exciting debate in recent memory. Is "Revenge of the Fallen" a magnificent action flick or a candidate for the worst film of all time?

I, for one, am in the camp that considers "ROTFL" to be an appropriate acronym, and most of the critical community had similarly negative reactions. Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times bluntly labeled it a "horrible experience of unbearable length." Rolling Stone's Peter Travers described the movie as "beyond bad, it carves out its own category of godawfulness" before claiming it "has a shot at the title Worst Movie of the Decade." The outcries go on.

The general public, however, cared less than usual. According to Box Office Mojo, "ROTFL" grossed over \$400 million domestically, the highest of the year so far (by comparison, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" earned just over \$300

million). Most people I know who saw it had a great time.

Never before has a movie been so thoroughly popular with audiences and unpopular with critics (there are still many exceptions on both sides, of course), begging the question, 'have critics become irrelevant?' Jim Emerson examined that question in his "Scanners" blog, pointing out that "ROTFL" prompted "fans who don't usually read movie critics to howl with inarticulate rage about movie critics who don't like their movie." Indeed, after posting my scorching review of the film on the Internet Movie Database I received my first piece of hate-mail ("It's Transformers, Damn it! ENJOY IT!" cried the writer).

Going back to Jim Emerson's article, huge numbers of people saw "ROTFL" just like huge numbers of people saw "The Dark Knight" (2008). Sure, "The Dark Knight" was embraced by audiences and the film community alike, but it was primarily its gargantuan marketing campaign that drew viewers; many people had decided to see it months before its premiere.

The reason I bring this up now is the implication: are we entering an age of hype? If so, is that even a bad thing? I don't know — all I can say for sure is that I'm seeing "Transformers 3" when it premieres in July 2011. ☞

MOST AWESOME INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

STUART BRYAN

Staff Writer

Only Quentin Tarantino could mix together Brad Pitt with a ridiculous Tennessee accent, eight Jewish-American soldiers determined to annihilate every single Nazi, and a complete disregard for actual historical facts and create the best movie of 2009.

Harkening back to Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction," "Inglourious Basterds" tells multiple different interconnected stories that in the end come together to create an insane bloodbath that kills nearly every single character in the movie, including Hitler himself. Two separate plans to assassinate Adolf Hitler and other Nazi elite, one from a young French woman who runs a movie theatre and the other by the "basterds" themselves, commanded by Brad Pitt's character (nicknamed "Aldo the Apache"), encompass the heart of the story.

The movie's greatness manifests through its homage to the spaghetti westerns of the 1960s, such as "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," and its World War II twist. Tarantino's ability to combine an engaging story, outrageous action and laugh-out-loud humor make "Inglourious Basterds" a movie that you crave to see again and again. Brad Pitt gives an outstanding performance that exemplifies his ability to deliver clever and subtle humor in a believable way. The true scene-stealer of the movie, however, is Christoph Waltz, who plays Nazi Colonel Hans Landa, A.K.A "The Jew Hunter." Most deserving of an Oscar, Waltz manages to create the most evil and hated character in a movie involving Adolf Hitler.

Needless to say, any doubts about Quentin Tarantino and his ability to make great films quickly disappeared with "Inglourious Basterds." Honestly, anyone who can make Ryan, the temp from "The Office" played by B.J. Novak, scary, and make a guy nicknamed "The Bear Jew" the most feared person in Nazi Germany deserves a medal. Keep up the great work, Mr. Tarantino. ☞



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BEST TV

MOST REAL TOP CHEF

MATT SHELTON

Staff Writer

Reality TV the flash word that brings out a mental montage of a "Survivor," "Big Brother," "True Life," "Real World" and slowly descends to VH1 filth, Tila Tequila and MTV's recent helping of "Jersey Shore."

A bitter taste has floated over the genre, with dating shows that range from "Who Wants to Marry My Dad?" to a spinoff dating show with a coked-out unintelligible Daisy de la Hoya, aptly named "Daisy of Love." Even "Survivor," "Bachelor" and other "firsts" in the genre are seeing shrinking shares; people are just getting bored with the concept. Season 10 is just a little less entertaining than season 1 when you don't switch things up enough.

But one show continually re-invents and maintains its creativity: Bravo's "Top Chef." Because it alone stands out in a decaying genre, and for its consistent ability to keep its food and fans fresh, it deserves to be named Show of the Year for 2009. While most shows

suffer from a lack of good contestants after a few seasons, the top chefs on the show only become more and more prestigious, each knowing their art better than the last. They implement techniques such as molecular gastronomy and far-out techniques to create dishes that look like they could be sculptures in a museum.

Even someone who completely lacks any culinary ability, such as myself, can be shocked by the presentation and flavor combinations that the contestants pull off during the show. When competing with other cooking shows where the audience can only watch a personality perfectly present a dish, the chaos of "Top Chef" also adds to its glory. Throwing around ingredients, wiping plates, seeing the agony of their mistakes, and the triumph of their last-second choices add to the mystique that is "Top Chef."

These chefs aren't on the show to find true love, win a million dollars or regain their D-list celebrity status. They are there to cook, and it shows. ☞

MOST PEPPY GLEE

COURTNEY ROGERS

Versus Editor-in-Chief

"Glee" had me hooked after episode one, where the cast covered Journey's "Don't Stop Believing," and I have yet to be disappointed by this delightful new comedy.

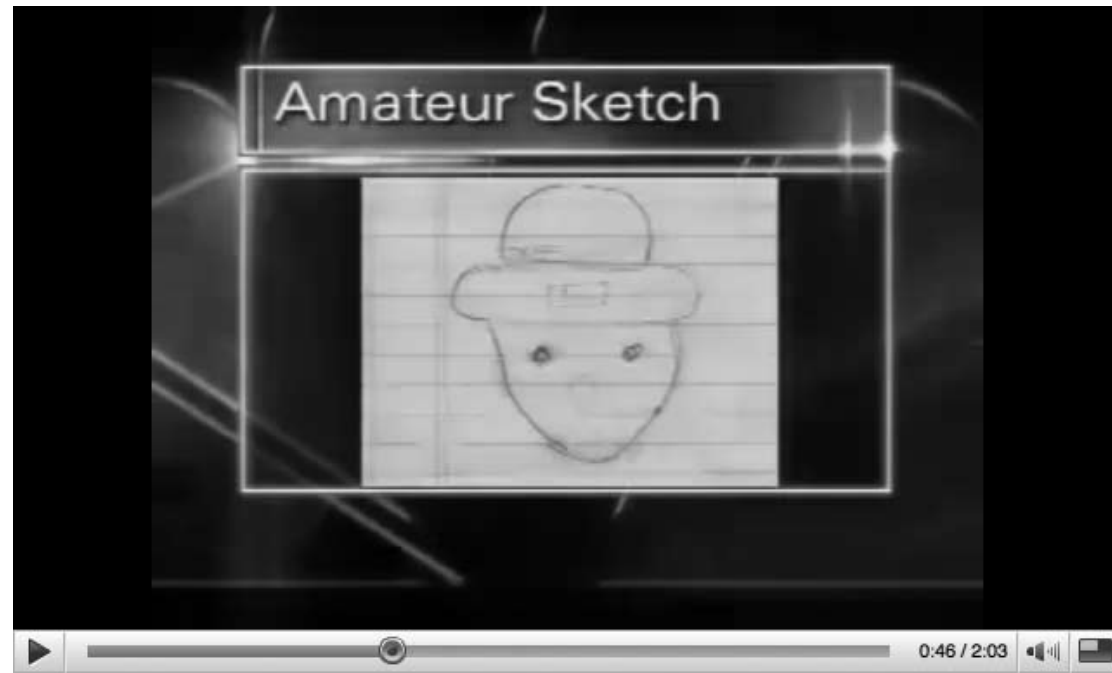
Centered around a high school glee club, Fox's freshman sitcom features multiple musical numbers in every episode, but this is not a recycled "High School Musical." In place of tweens hopped up on pixie sticks and breaking out into choreographed dance moves on cafeteria tables, "Glee" features a range of music from Beyonce to REO Speedwagon and the actors of the glee club can really sing. Their renditions of songs have topped the iTunes charts all Fall and I don't think I'm alone in admitting that I often prefer the "Glee" version of such songs to their originals.

What makes "Glee" remarkable amidst the reality shows and dramas that have gone on seasons past their prime is that it's something different. This season, I officially gave up on "Grey's Anatomy" because I've

run out of patience for keeping up with the latest dramatics of that hospital. Seriously, people, stop sneaking into that "on call" room and start being doctors.

But back to "Glee." Fox took a risk with a show with a musical bent and many speculated that America only wanted to see musical performances in a reality show format, a la "American Idol." It looks like that risk is paying off, with consistently strong ratings each week and a soundtrack CD that debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard Top 200. Though music is an integral part of the show's appeal, it also contains wickedly funny humor and wonderful characters, especially Sue Sylvester. A ruthless cheerleading coach who is set on destroying the glee club, Sue delivers lines such as, "I'm all about empowerment. I empower my Cheerios to live in a state of constant fear by creating an environment of irrational, random terror."

So whether you are a fan of comedies, musical, or just looking to watch something new, check out "Glee" every Wednesday on Fox. ☞



Perhaps the finest YouTube video ever, the Leprechaun in Alabama, has brought joy to many a Vanderbilt student. Also nuggets of humor worth your while: "BANGS Take U To Da Movies" and "Special Girl".

PROCRASTINATION: YOUTUBING IT UP

JOE AGUIRRE

Staff Writer

It's that time of the season at Vanderbilt, a time of change and solemnity.

It's now exam week, and students everywhere must go forth and burrow into tiny crannies of Central Library or Stevenson previously undiscovered by humankind, hibernating in remote carrels for survival. As the weight of academics falls upon the school, even the most hardened fratstars hit the books, looking busy and even skipping the Wednesday night rager for some studiousness. This climate is hostile, and survival in it is no laughing matter. Or is it?

In fact, laughter is the best medicine for this season and its contagious diligence, and what better place to find humor than on the Internet? Another question for you: What spreads faster than a virus through a population of students? The answer: A viral video. Nothing is a better response to the overbearing work ethic of exam season than the sending and receiving of videos that are humorous, appalling, amazing or just a bit odd.

Personally, I am known among my few friends as the guy who sends constant emails or Facebook posts with the latest bit

of awesome I've uncovered on the web. By taking a few quick hours every day to troll YouTube, I can usually come up with a few winners, and people have even told me I have links like a golf course. Ha.

But all that aside, take some time to forward something to a friend this exam season. It provides a moment of levity in a grim period of your year; and it can bring a smile to someone you care about. Who knows, your quick link on that person's wall could become the next "Chocolate Rain" and bring an anonymous YouTuber fame and fortune!

Speaking of the Tube, check it from time to time. The Most Popular category usually has a couple things worth watching, and the more you peruse, the more accurate your Recommended For You category becomes. If those wacky Youtube vids just aren't how you roll, surf over to a news site and find a link to an interesting story.

Posting it on your friend's wall seems dubiously more scholarly than a strange video. Beyond that, it makes you seem either politically active or socially conscious, both of which are sexy.

Good luck surviving your exams, and may they be successful and occasionally interrupted by laughter. ☞

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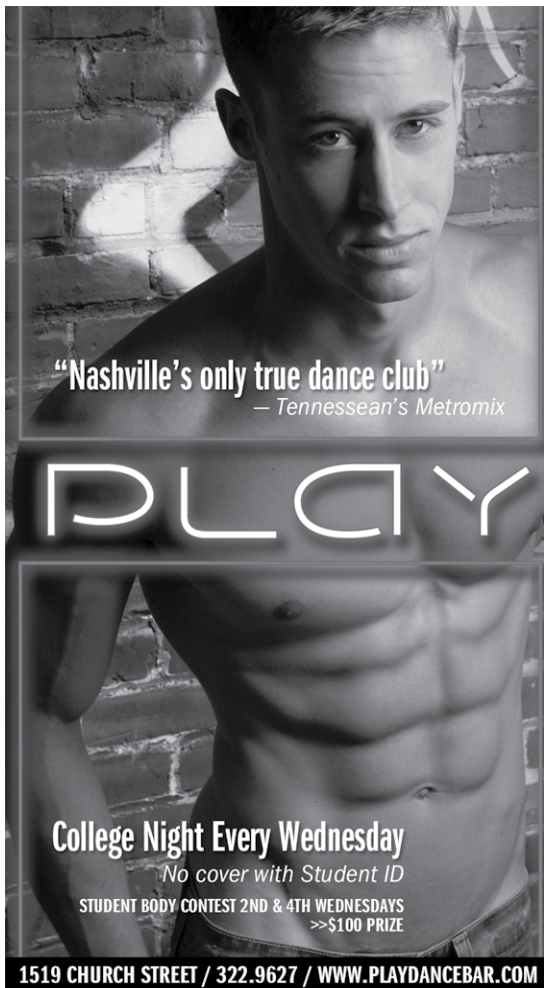
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MUSIC



"People say I wear heels because I'm short. I wear heels because the women like 'em." - Prince

SETLIST

TODAY

Playing a style of music described as "Anti Folk Basement Rock," Elizabeth Powell's band **Land of Talk** takes the stage tonight at the Exit/In. Influenced by artists like PJ. Harvey and Dinosaur Jr., Land of Talk is a brings raw energy to their concerts. Kick off the remainder of the week with this 8:00 p.m. show. Tickets are only \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

Experimental, electro-rock band **Ghostland Observatory** storm into Nashville this Thursday night for a concert at the Cannery Ballroom. If you are looking to unwind and blow your mind right before studying for the next two weeks, don't miss this show. Tickets may be a little steep at \$20, but can you really put a price on a trippy good time?

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

Exit/In plays host to the **Works Progress Administration** tonight at 8 p.m. Not to be confused with FDR's New Deal organization, this WPA is a musical collective founded by various members of Nickel Creek, Toad the Wet Sprocket, and Lyle Lovett and include a rotation of other musicians. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door.

Best Show Quite an Atmosphere

ZAC HUNTER
Music Editor

This year, 2009, was again a year blessed by captivating live music everywhere from New Orleans to Miami to Nashville with artists of every genre. I saw Galactic play 'til four in the morning on the Saturday before Mardi Gras. I saw Widespread Panic open for The Allman Brothers at a five-hour concert. Pretty Lights and Randy Rogers at the Exit/In, Kermit Ruffins on Frenchman Street, backstage at Umphrey's McGee on a lake outside in Miami and Jay-Z! Jay-Z played at Vandy's own Memorial Gym! That's quite a year. All the shows were great; however, one act stands out among these giants, and it was not the one I expected.

Atmosphere, the Minneapolis-based rap group led by master of ceremonies Slug and DJ Ant, blew the roof off of the House of Blues New Orleans. Ant's beats are well crafted and catchy, while Slug's lyrics are super smart and his flow unstoppable. The

group was touring their latest album "When Life Gives You Lemons, You Paint That Shit Gold" (great name), and sampled work from previous albums, mostly "God Loves Ugly." Along with Slug and Ant were a guitarist, female vocalist and bass player (this kind of live instrumentation



flickr.com

is increasingly popular in the hip-hop world as it gives the heavily produced music an organic feel).

The sound is unique, layered with everything from basic drums to saxophone and live crowd noises like that heard on "Full Moon" – a song about Slug's love for performing, which is unquestionable in person. As we have come to realize, a good hip-hop show is difficult to put on. Generally, people want to hear the hook, and then they

(and apparently the rappers too) get sick of it and change songs after a verse or two. Not Atmosphere. The group has strong enough material to play all the way through songs without losing the audience.

Perhaps the reason why Atmosphere stands out as a great live show in retrospect is simply that they captured me. I listen to their music now because of that show. I turn on the hilarious "The Things That Hate Us," or the beautifully sad rap-ballad "Not Another Day" because Slug's delivery and Ant's presence (he sat behind the DJ booth and chain smoked cigarettes literally the entire evening) intoxicated me more than the beer in my hand. The front row balcony tickets and waitress hook up through a friend didn't hurt either, but on a Sunday night when all I could think about was getting rid of my headache from a day in the sun, Atmosphere hit me with shock and awe, replacing my headache with a head bob. ☘

Best Breakout Artist The Year of KiD CuDi

CHRIS MCDONALD
Music Editor

Hands down, 2009 was the year of KiD CuDi. Though CuDi was no newcomer per se, it was with his hit single "Day 'n' Night" and full-length debut album "Man on the Moon: The End of Day" that send him soaring in popularity.

Coming out of Cleveland, Ohio, KiD CuDi (aka Scott Mescudi) first rose to popularity with the release of his 2008 mixtape, "A Kid Named Cudi." Featuring samples from artists such as OutKast, Band of Horses, Paul Simon, and Rataat, the mixtape was a refreshing take on rap, opting for a more unique, more eloquent style as opposed to the cookie-cutter rap that continues to dominate the charts. "A Kid..." not only introduced CuDi to our ears, but it proved that this Kid had serious talent. From his more fast-paced, angry flow on tracks like "Down and Out," to his soothing, slow vocals on "The Funeral," the tape displays a depth of style and range that is largely unparalleled in the genre today.

Despite the mixtape's positive reception, news of it largely remained unheard of... until this year. Though the

track dropped and began to gain popularity in 2008, "Day 'n' Night" exploded into the world this year, dominating the charts and enjoying consistent radio and video play for months. Soon after hype began to build about the rapper's forthcoming debut album. In addition to "Day 'n' Night," preceding the album's release was the wildly popular single "Make Her Say," an overtly sexual song featuring a sample of Lady Gaga's poker face.

After a long and anxious wait, "Man on the Moon" was released on September 15, 2009, instantly garnering positive reviews. A highly structured concept album, "Man on the Moon" is more of a rap *opera* than rap album, featuring five fully developed acts narrated by Common. While the story as a whole is thoroughly entertaining, the songs do more than justice alone. In the truest sense, "Man..." is absolutely packed full of fantastic songs. From the incredibly crafted "Pursuit of Happiness" featuring Rataat and MGMT to "Soundtrack 2 My Life," from "Alive" to "CuDi Zone," CuDi has played to his strengths and created some of the most memorable songs of the last several years.

C u D i has spent the year w o w i n g both new and old fans, h i s



headlessgiant.com

singles and album hitting the top 10 in multiple charts worldwide. Most recently, the rapper was honored with three Grammy nominations: Best Solo Performance, Best Rap Song, and Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group. Though he may not win over heavy hitters like Jay-Z, Eminem, and T.I., the nominations prove that CuDi has made it.

So congratulations to KiD CuDi, who has made 2009 his own. ☘

Editors Picks of 2009

Best Album

'White Lies for Dark Times'

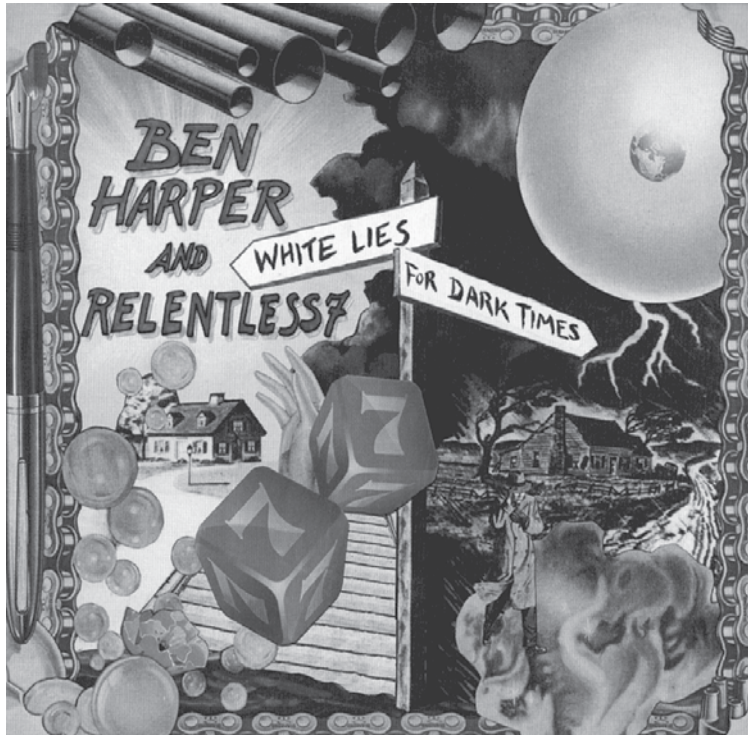
ZAC HUNTER
Music Editor

Ben Harper decided to play with a new band this year, taking a break from touring and recording with Innocent Criminals. While their work was nothing to balk at, we should be thankful for his new team – Ben Harper and Relentless 7. The new rock band honed their sound by playing small club gigs around the country, and teased us with some tunes on their MySpace a little earlier in the year. On May 5, 2009 they released "White Lies for Dark Times," my vote for best new album of the year.

"White Lies" is, as Harper one described it, "unapologetic rock." Mean guitar and hard drum kicks on fast paced "Why Must You Always Dress In Black" define the sound, and the lyrics are Harper at his best. Sometimes associated with the singer-songwriter genre that claims Jack Johnson and colleagues, Harper reminds people of his range

on "White Lies. The guy is a real rocker. The opening three "Number With No Name," "Up To You Now," and "Shimmer and Shine" speak to this as well and transition into one another beautifully.

The songwriter does not totally abandon his softer



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roots, though. Tunes like "Skin Thin" (the best of the record) find Harper serenading on top of pretty acoustic guitar and simple piano. The vocal harmonies are fantastic as well. Uplifting and catchy, the track "Fly One Time" follows with an incessant heavy drum kick that beats like a heart through the entirety of the soulful rock ballad.

As a new, untested band's

debut album, "White Lies For Dark Times" is simply exceptional. The band clearly has plenty of room to grow, but this is as strong a first production as you will see. Harper has been able to carry his exceptional, multi-layered musicianship from his work with the

Innocent Criminals to that with Relentless 7. His music, as all good music is supposed to, truly makes you feel something – a gracious and articulate form of self-expression. It feels as though the rockers are playing what they've always wanted; they are playing what they used to play in their parents basement.

Despite the strong showing of songs that did appear, the biggest disappointment of this highly anticipated album was the missing powerful cover of "Purple Rain" that we were teased with online before its release. You should have heard him wail. Ah well, maybe on the next one. ☘

Best Songs

End of the year playlist

CHRIS MCDONALD
Music Editor

Kid Cudi ft. MGMT & Rataat – "Pursuit of Happiness"
"Man On The Moon: The End of Day"

One of the hottest young rappers singing alongside MGMT over a Rataat produced track? Recipe for an overwhelming success. "Pursuit of Happiness" is a veritable blueprint for carefree, stress-free living courtesy of KiD CuDi.

The Avett Brothers – "I And Love And You"
"I And Love And You"

The title track from the Avett Brothers' first major-label release is easily the most moving, heartfelt ballad of the year. A slow, piano driven, it lacks much of the folks, Southern tinge that their past work basks in but still manages to tug at your heart.

Jay-Z ft. Alicia Keys – "Empire State of Mind"
"The Blueprint 3"

One of the top tracks off

of one of the most highly anticipated albums of the last several years, "Empire State of Mind" features Hova at his prime. And with a sick hook from piano-playing soulstress Alicia Keys, the song will stick in your heads for weeks.

Chiddy Bang – "All Things Go"
"The Swelly Express"

The mixtape kings of Philly put out a gem in their latest release "The Swelly Express." Though perhaps best known for their MGMT remix, "The Opposite of Adults," the Sufjan Stevens remix "All Things Go" stands out as the best track.

Passion Pit – "Sleepyhead"
"Manners"

While the song was included on Passion Pit's 2008 EP, "Sleepyhead" exploded in popularity after the group released their debut album in May. The song is an unforgettable, otherworldly medley of driving synthesizers, falsetto vocals, and danceable beats.



americansongwriter.com



scarletpage.com

Cage the Elephant – "Ain't No Rest for the Wicked"

"Cage the Elephant" A sinfully good bluesy, raw rock song, "Ain't No Rest for the Wicked" features drawing, mostly spoken lyrics over some dirty slide guitar. If nothing else, the song proves that sometimes it just pays to be bad.

The Decemberists – "The Wanting Comes in Waves/Repaid"

"The Hazards of Love" Off of the band's concept album "The Hazards of Love," this track displays a depth of talent and variety that the band had never exposed before. Featuring heavy guitar riffs that are reminiscent of Led Zeppelin, uplifting choruses and guest vocals, "The Wanting..." truly astounds the unsuspecting listener.

Jason Derulo – "Whatcha Say"
"Whatcha Say EP"

And here's the guilty pleasure of the bunch. Sampling Imogen Heap's "Hide and Seek," Jason Derulo's number one hit "Whatcha Say" is an extraordinarily catchy song that gets the listener moving. ☘

SATURDAY, DEC. 12

Join Nashville's own singersongwriter **Brendan Benson** as he brings his powerpop and rock sound back to town. Just a short walk away at the Exit/In, Benson is continuing to tour in support of his recent album "My Old, Familiar Friend," his fourth album as a solo artist and first since his work with Jack White in The Raconteurs. For \$15, this show is a must-see.

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

The Indiana based soul/rock group **The Elms** makes their way to 3rd and Lindsley at 8 p.m. Sunday night. Their newest single "This Is How The World Will End" has had success online, and the band is on an impressively extensive national tour for the better part of December. Enjoy the smooth sounds of this soulful four-piece.

MONDAY, DEC. 14

Monday night the B.B. King club downtown will feature **Stacy Mitchhart**, a badass blues guitarist who plays originals and classic blues/rock covers alike. Stacy is a great performer who has been in Nashville since 1996 without looking back. Always a reliable last resort in the Music City, Stacy will doubtlessly deliver.

TUESDAY, DEC. 15

Always a great goto performance when nothing else is going on in Nashville (believe us tonight is BARE), the **Mashville Brigade** will fill the room of the Station Inn with the upbeat bluegrass that they do so well. The rotating group of local musicians is back by popular demand every Tuesday night for a show that everyone needs to see before leaving Nashville.

Top 10 New Year's Eve concerts everywhere

ZAC HUNTER
Music Editor

In our last publication of 2009, the Versus music section returns with the second annual Top 10 New Year's Eve concerts around the country. As one of the High Holidays of live music, New Year's Eve plays host to some of the best performances, by the best bands, at the best venues. So instead of going to the same old house party you've gone to every year since high school, pop a bottle at the show and get your jam on. Cheers.

1. Phish – American Airlines Arena, Miami

The legendary jam band will conclude a giant four night set in Miami and an even bigger year on New Year's Eve with a promised three set show. Phish reunited in 2009 after a five-year break up that left live music fans devastated. Now, back on top of the world, Phish will jam its way into 2010 with its own label of musical champagne.

2. Gov't Mule – Beacon Theater, New York

Warren Haynes will take a break from playing with his other band, the Allman Brothers (you might have heard of them), and shred guitar with his own band, Gov't Mule. The band plays a blend of blues-inspired rock with some of the most soulful vocals around. Haynes is simply virtuosic on the guitar and has a booming voice capable of sending shivers down your spine. Long-winded jams and high crowd energy will render this a New Year's Eve spectacular.

3. Galactic – Tipitina's, New Orleans

The funk/jazz fusion jam band anchored by world-renowned drummer Stanton Moore will continue their long-standing tradition of the New Year's Eve show at Tip's in the heart of the Big Easy. Tickets sell out quickly and the house is always packed. Galactic will likely bring out guests and play into the wee hours of the morning with a sound uniquely their own.

4. John Mayer Trio – The Joint, Las Vegas

Playing with the trio (John Mayer, Pino Paladino, Steve Jordan) is a special treat for John Mayer fans as he breaks away from the acoustic-pop side of his musical personality and picks up the Fender for a night of string bending, amp screaming blues rock. Mayer is as good as it gets on the guitar and his live album "Try!" with the trio was nominated for a Grammy for best rock album of the year for its inspired old-fashioned blues jams. Expect some kickass covers as well as original material.

5. Old Crow Medicine Show – Ryman Auditorium, Nashville

Nash-vegas steps up to the plate on December 31st this year with country-folk favorites Old Crow Medicine Show. At the historic Ryman, Old Crow will bring you back to the days of Dylan or Peter, Paul and Mary with a country-inspired but classic folk sound complete with fiddle and wailing harmonies.

6. The Flaming Lips – Cox Business Services Convention Center, Oklahoma City

Always a spectacle live, one can only imagine what the Lips have in store for a New Year's Eve performance. Wayne Coyne will roll out into the crowd in his blow up ball, the lights will be crazy, the music will be secondary to the stage antics – all par for the course at a Flaming Lips show. What else will go on? Check it out and let us know.

7. Yonder Mountain String Band – The Fillmore Auditorium, Denver

The bluegrass kings will be closer than "40 miles from Denver" on New Year's Eve this year. Actually, they'll be right smack in the middle of it, playing their 2009 finale at the Fillmore Auditorium. No one does the bluegrass/jam thing better than YMSB and their new album "The Show" (released this year) has taken them in a slightly new direction, adding some percussion to the sweet sounds of guitar and mandolin. Should be a great concert.

8. Widespread Panic – Phillips Arena, Atlanta

Panic is another band that has a tradition of playing their New Year's Eve gig at the same place annually, and for good reason. This is one of the most popular concerts in the South every year, as the southern-rock jam band is known play for hours and hours with guests and big smiles all around.

9. Umphrey's McGee – Aragon Ballroom, Chicago

The Chicago jam band will conclude their two nights at the Aragon Ballroom as part of their traditional New Year's Eve homecoming. Umphrey's is one of the best improvisational bands around, with a prog-rock style that can span an array of musical genres. The band plays everything from heavy hitting metal to Michael Jackson covers with unmatched technical expertise.

10. EOTO and Ghostland Observatory – Concourse Exhibition Center, San Francisco

The Bay City always seems to offer the most experimental and off the wall options on the night of December 31st. EOTO played the Exit/In here in Nashville just a few nights ago, and the rumors about the band comprised of the former percussionists of The String Cheese Incident have been nothing but positive. And then there's Ghostland. Wow. There might not be a more fitting band to ring in the New Year than this strange and energetic electronica-dance duo. If nothing else, it ought to send 2010 in an interesting direction.☿



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JAY BLAKESBERG



BRENT LARSON

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. "CUDDERISBACK" **KiD CuDi**
2. "HYPOCRITE'S PLEA" **Justin Gordon**
3. "GOOD" **Better than Ezra**
4. "ORANGE SHIRT" **Discovery**
5. "HELTER SKELTER" **The Beatles**
6. "WHATEVER YOU LIKE (T.I. COVER)" **Anya Marina**
7. "TACOBEL CANON" **Ratatat**
8. "ONE MORE NIGHT" **Stars**
9. "KILLING IN THE NAME OF" **Rage Against the Machine**
10. "NOT ANOTHER DAY" **Atmosphere**

2009: The year in review

ZAC HUNTER
Music Editor

Despite the dissolution that America's most difficult economic year in recent history caused, music, as always, managed to bring people together in happiness and distract people from their troubles, even if just for a moment. Here's my run down of the music of 2009.

As you might have noticed on your iTunes home page throughout the year, some of the biggest artists of 2009 were Kings of Leon, Lady Gaga, and Miley Cyrus. With their fourth studio album, *Only by the Night*, Kings of Leon transformed from a successful but widely unknown Tennessee rock n' roll band into one of the biggest selling and most world-renown bands of the year, winning countless awards, among them their first Grammy.

Lady Gaga burst onto the scene early in 2009 and grabbed hold of the music industry with multiple

hugely successful singles like Just Dance and Poker Face. Evoking memories of David Bowie and Madonna, Lady Gaga's success brought back a dramatic glam style that had been lost since the early 90s.

It wouldn't be fair to talk about the music of 2009 without mentioning Miley Cyrus and her single, "Party in the U.S.A." Played numerous times at every fraternity party and local bar, "Party in the U.S.A." got girls more excited than even a Robert Pattinson sighting. There hasn't been a song this sinfully addictive since Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer."

Not to be forgotten, Britney Spears gets my "Come Back Artist of the Year" award thanks to her hugely successful album, *Circus*, an unbelievable extravagant world tour, and a complete image overhaul. Britney Spears is once again hot; world order has been restored.

In the world of country,



kennedykm.wordpress.com

Taylor Swift solidified herself as the queen of pop country and Darius Rucker proved that you can still teach an old dog new tricks, transitioning from rock n' roll to country just as smoothly as his sweet crooning rolls down your ear drum.

Lastly, Jay-Z is still Jay-Z, Animal Collective created the most oddly addictive album of the year, and I pray that Shakira never stops making music videos. So congratulations America on a great year in music.☿

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FASHION

STYLE SPOTTER:

Paige Donnell

IMANI ELLIS
Versus Writer

Classy, sexy, cool, Paige Donnell proves to be a great, final pick for this semester's Style Spotter. Laid back yet still very chic, Paige loves layering, jewelry, and anything designer. Paige keeps her style simple and elegant by pairing elaborate shirts with comfy jeans or spicing up a relatively simple outfit with the newest Steve Madden pumps. Always put together and comfortable, Paige love of fashion is also shines true with her love of shopping and Bravo TV.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE STORES?

I like Express, Studio 615, and Bebe

WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE STYLE ICONS?

I love Beyonce, Jessica Simpson, Kim Kardashian and Rihanna's style of dress, and I love that Rihanna brought 'black' back.

MOST DISLIKED VANDY TREND?

Those huge fake glasses that aren't even prescription. I hate those.

IF YOUR CLOSET WAS BURNING AND YOU COULD ONLY SAVE ONE ITEM, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

My Uggs! They are too comfortable to perish!

FAVORITE TREND OF THE WINTER?

Detailed and elaborate scarves and turtlenecks.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SHOES TO WEAR?

I love anything Coach and Uggs.

AND LASTLY, IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Simple, relaxed, and cute.

If you know of anyone that you think deserves to be in "Style Spotter", nominate them through emailing versusou@gmail.com.



NIKKY OKORO /Versus Magazine

Summing Up '09 Style

NIKKY OKORO
Fashion Editor

Simply said, this semester has been both colorful and fun in the realm of style. Whether it's been reading Matt Shelton's clever commentary on a guy's point of view of the trends, learning the harsh laws of leggings, or appreciating those rightfully chosen to be in Style Spotter, the fashion section has tried and hopefully succeeded in providing you and all on campus with the necessary statements of style.

Yet, as we wrap up both the semester and year, it's important to take note of some of the most memorable and ridiculous trends and style icons of 2009...



www.justjared.buzznet.com

1. Lady Gaga goes past the deep end. No one in their right minds could create a list such as this without mentioning the queen of combining both creativity and crazy. You truly never know what you're going to get when it comes "Ms. Paparazzi". Her most interesting outfit to date was this year's 2009 VMA Music Video Award ensemble-not only did

it turn heads but it also made us wonder whether or not her eccentricity could make her this generation's "Madonna".



www.lacroixthebeautyblog.blogspot.com

2. Alexander McQueen's elusive "Aliens". For his Spring 2010 runway show, the designer put on a show full of space galactic-inspired looks, and unleashed shoes which caused frenzy among all fashion followers. The shape of what was to be called "Alien" shoes were almost animal-like and came in a variety of peculiar shades and textures. Though not comfortable, these shoes portray the ability of a designer to put less emphasis on practicality and more on aesthetics.



www.nymag.com

3. Michelle Obama puts contemporary elegance back into the White House. Despite whichever political party or perspective you hold, there's no doubt that First Lady Michelle Obama brought back a refreshed, and more modern feel of elegance to D.C. From Jason Wu's stunning

Inauguration dress, to Oscar de la Renta's perfect "go-to" shift dress, Mrs. Obama seemed to always wear it all well. NY Mag's online fashion section even went as far as to include an entire lookbook dedicated to her style.



www.collegefashion.net

4. The Blair Waldorf Obsession. Patterned tights and pretty headband bows were everywhere thanks to the inevitable and understandable rise of "Gossip Girl." The entire cast of characters, both boys and girls, provide viewers with an outlet for preppy and tailored. However, Blair Waldorf's character gave everyone a reason to dress as sweet as they wanted to, while still holding onto their potentially backstabbing ways.

In the end, style is a personal definition of one's personality and should be exercised as freely as desired. In other words, stay conscious and creative while still wearing what makes you happy. In the wise words of William Battie, "style is when they're running you out of town and you make it look like you're leading the parade." So, march on and march proudly. ☼

askFASHION

OLIVIA KUPFER
Versus Writer

Dear Versus,

I begin finals next week, but I'm stressed about what to wear to my exams—I don't want to scare everyone in my lecture hall by looking like a haggard ex-model (oversize baggy t-shirt, leggings and dark sunglasses to hide the bags under my eyes). I want to dress fashionably, but still be comfortable for exams. Help!

Help,

Style-Seeking Student

Dear Student,

Fact: completing finals is the last impression you make before the end of the semester so it's probably a careless, although convenient, idea to wear a Juicy velour ensemble inspired by MTV's Jersey Shore.

Yet, do not fear: there is a way to look fashionable, albeit bundled up, in this weather, and not find yourself fidgeting throughout your two-hour exam.

A plea to those of you considering wearing leggings every day of finals: put down the black leggings; I would even concede and endorse jean leggings for finals. Unless you want to look like a clone in your 200-person lecture (i.e. you choose to don black leggings, a sorority t-shirt and a pashmina scarf), I suggest that you heed this advice...

1. Avoid Stress. Pick out all of your outfits before finals week; that way, you can focus on more important things the morning of your exam. Additionally, you won't risk walking out of your dorm room in something inappropriate.

2. Stick to Basics. This season, why not layer a cashmere cardigan in order to indulge and stay warm? Featherweight t-shirts and super-soft cashmere are both excellent ways to stay comfortable and breathable during a long exam, and both pieces can be worn together.



www.fashiontribes.typepad.com

Try American Apparel's Unisex "Sexuali-Tee" and stick to neutral colors, i.e. black, cream, navy, to look polished. Nothing says "late night in Stevenson" like a busy patterned or bright t-shirt.

3. You will be prepared if you feel confident in your outfit. One of my high school teachers imparted this wisdom, but I'll always believed this to be an eternal truth: you'll feel more confident during your exam if you don't look like the morning-after girl.

4. Your Go-To Outfit: A comfortable metallic ballet flat with a dark wash skinny jean and this season's tailored, men's-inspired flannel shirt. *Avoid:* a structured, constricting blazer, shirts that double as dresses and riding boots which, unfortunately, are too warm for indoor test taking. You should be comfortable, but polished at the same time; the "Go-To" outfit accomplishes both of those feats.

Following these simple style suggestions is a guarantee that you'll ace your exams or, at the very least, you'll look good trying. ☼

'Tis the season to be flashy

IMANI ELLIS
Versus Writer

Sequins are definitely one of my favorite accessories of the season. How can you resist the temptation of anything shimmering or sparkly? Although most of us wouldn't dare wear sequin embroidered dresses year round, Christmas and New Year's Eve give special permission for Plane Jane to become Incredible Imani. We haven't seen this much sparkle since the 1980s, yet sequins are once again making their way on a plethora of dresses, tanks, hats and cardigans. Three of my favorite stores, Arden B, BeBe and Forver 21, are all carrying dozens of sequin covered items this season, and just in time for the holidays. Gone are the days where a solid colored dress

with a cute pair of shoes was enough to promote the 'wow factor' most of us seek. Today, everyone is looking to be the girl wearing the cutest, most creative and flashiest dress, and what better way to be flashy than by adding sequins into the mix? Whether you are club hopping with your friends or counting down the New Year with your Romeo, sequins seem to scream "I'm ready for fun!" If ever there was a time to branch out of the normalcy of your usual wardrobe and become a dazzling diva, this is definitely it. You can make the bold statement of wearing your sequin covered dress with funky tights and pumps or be more conservatively covering your dress with a trendy coat and allowing the sequins to appear from underneath. Try as you may, you can run but you can't hide from the



www.forever21.com

sequin sensation dominating the world of fashion today. In honor of the holidays, purchase a 'wow factor' dress, because everyone knows a little sparkle can go a long way. ☼

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THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Remember last week when we said it was the most wonderful time of the year? Well, some of that winter cheer is waning this week because we've now entered the most stressful time of the year: final exams. Although your schedule for the next week may seem like a mythical hydra where every time you get one thing done, two more assignments crop up, here are some ways tips on how to make it through.

Baked Good Bliss

HOLLY MEEHL
Culture Editor

The slew of final papers and exam cramming that accompanies this time of year can be rough. I manage to keep my mind functioning into the wee hours of the night with the help of a sweet indulgence. Here are the top five treats around campus to aid your studying agony.

1. Brookie:

The blending of two heavy weight champions of baked goods, the brownie and the cookie, yields a match made in heaven. More chocolaty brownie than cookie, this scrumptious snack can be found throughout Rand. Take a break from that bookey and experience fudgy bliss while biting into a Brookie.

2. Cookies at Grins

I tried to pinpoint the ultimate Grins cookie, but the truth is, they're all worthy. From classic Chocolate Chip, to sinfully sweet Snickerdoodle, to creatively flavorful Peanut butter and Molasses, all of these cookies will turn your finals frown upside down.

3. Gingerbread Loaf at Starbucks

The ultimate pairing with your late night coffee fix, this cheery holiday sweet is sure to satisfy. Zesty gingerbread topped with fluffy cream cheese icing will remind you that Christmas break is right around the corner.

4. Divinity Cafe Baked Goods

A holy treasure of Vanderbilt dining, the Divinity Cafe offers a selection of indulgent worthy treats. From chocolate chip brownies to face-sized oatmeal cookies, not to mention a selection of tasty banana bread loafs and muffins, this bakery hideaway provides an eclectic mix for all to enjoy.

5. Low-fat Chocolate Decadence Cake at Bread and Co.

Trying to watch your weight before holiday food overload? You can still indulge! Bread and Co.'s rich chocolate cake is a dieter's dream as a satisfying slice is low-cal and low-fat. So don't try and get through that paper with carrot sticks by your side, enjoy a piece of cake so guilt-free, you can even pair it with a glass of milk.

Finals Survival

COURTNEY ROGERS
Editor-in-Chief

Bake something delicious

You could go the easy route and sample any of the lovely baked goods we've listed out on campus, but there's just something about actually baking that alleviates stress. Whisking icing and cracking eggs are productive ways to channel your frustration at all of those papers you have to write and once you're done, you've got a great snack. Added bonus: Baking will put you in the holiday spirit, make your kitchen smell great, and make you the most popular person in your suite or study group.

Listen to white noise

If exam stress is turning you into a vampire-esque sleep devoid creature, try listening to white noise. In the past, the best option for white noise was investing in a sound machine, but thanks to technology there are new, creative options for stressed out insomniacs. Smartphone users can download free applications such as Sleepmaker Waves for iPhone. Looking for relaxation on your computer? Go to whitenoisemp3.com for sounds that range from healing storm to empty conference room.

Be cultured

Drag yourself away from the clutches of the baseball glove lounge and take a study break that's slightly more sophisticated than textsfromlastnight.com by checking out a student art exhibitions. After recharging with a pick-me-up treat from Starbucks, go to the E. Bronson Ingram Studio Art Center. Inside you'll find sculptures, paintings and more by our own talented classmates and some art appreciation might be just the thing you need after too many hours researching or doing problem sets.

A Motivational Statement

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Entertainment Editor

I know it's hard. I know it's boring. Tedious, tiresome, mind-numbing, worse than when you had to watch your grandmother knit a sweater depicting a grandmother knitting a sweater. Whatever, thesaurus master. Just do it. Because before you know it, you'll be hugging your mom, kissing your dad, brushing your sister's hair and high-fiving your dog, laughing uproariously about the time you had to write that 20 page paper with one hand and that study outline with the other.

But, I know, that time's now. And goddamnit, you're not sure whether to cry or to fake your own suicide, and disappear into the mountains with the sexy thing in the carrel behind you. I get it. I've been there. They will find you, and they will make you take your finals anyway. So chug that peppermint mocha, slap yourself in the face, and give it a college try.

These are the moments that separate the college students from the community without which you'd just be a community college student. These are the hours, the dimly lit, claustrophobic, awful hours that will make your degree worth more than all 98 of Nick Lachey's. This is your final chance to prove (to pretend) the semester has been more than a reckless orgy of Jack, undignified costumes and Miley Cyrus on repeat. And remember, there's Natural Light at the end of the tunnel.

Best places to Study on Campus

NIKKY OKORO
Fashion Editor

When finals come around, it seems like the entire campus becomes a battleground. It's important to mark your territory so that you have enough space for your books, laptop, food stash and also space to sleep. It's important to know which places will provide both comfort and concentration, while not driving you crazy at the same time. Check out the following list to learn more about the top spots...

1. Central Library-8th Floor

Don't ask why the eighth floor specifically provides one of the most suitable places to study, because I honestly wouldn't be able to tell you. Maybe it's the calming sense of Vanderbilt's legacy on the bookshelves...or the eeriness of the old, creaking halls.

2. Baseball Glove Lounge

Though the Baseball Glove Lounge is a more than popular spot for all Vanderbilt students, it's one of the only places to study where silence truly is golden. Let out the slightest peep and you will be shunned.

3. Law School Library

The law school proves to be one of the lesser-known and used facilities on campus by undergraduates. Its location near Furman Hall makes it convenient for mostly those living in Kissam Quad. It possesses both a comfortable and refined atmosphere, full of future lawyers. The only downside would be undergraduates' inability to enter the building after hours (boo!).

4. Starbucks on 21st Avenue

If you're looking for a place close by and need an excuse to somewhat escape the Vanderbubble, try your local Starbucks off of 21st Avenue. The coffeehouse aura is always a plus, and there are always plenty of comfy couches and seats to lounge on.

5. Dorm Room

If all else fails, just try giving your dorm room a try. Even if your roommate insists on watching a movie at full volume or even having a party each night, finishing your homework and studying for two exams should be your main goal. (Maybe next time you'll sign up for a single...?)



FLIP SIDE

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

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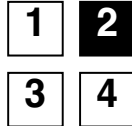
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5								9
				5		1		
			8	1	2			3
	8							9
	1					4	8	
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			1	5				
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2				3				4

Level:



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

12/7/09 SOLUTIONS

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

12/9/09

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Hurts with a horn
- 6 Trudge
- 10 Where E.T. came from?
- 14 As vertical as possible, as an embedded anchor
- 15 Anchor attachment
- 16 Charm
- 17 Bassist for the Sex Pistols
- 19 Run off at the mouth
- 20 Made the trip
- 21 Uncommonly big
- 23 Had a bite
- 24 Distress letters
- 25 Most irritated
- 28 Friend you probably never met
- 30 Spread with cocktails
- 32 Fish eggs
- 33 Leopardlike critter
- 35 Sky of film
- 36 Muttley's evil master in Hanna-Barbera cartoons
- 40 Like many a 45-Across
- 41 Hitchcock classic
- 42 Swing voter. Abbr.
- 43 Singer Feliciano
- 45 Underground room
- 49 '50s Kenyan revolutionary
- 51 PBS funder
- 52 Mimic
- 53 Cancin coins
- 56 Hebrew prophet
- 57 Fast filers

DOWN

- 1 It's replaced after a fill-up
- 2 Sedative
- 3 St. John's athletes, until 1994
- 4 Gutter site
- 5 Go downhill fast?
- 6 Toyota hybrid
- 7 Pirate's haul
- 8 Music with a number
- 9 Stop
- 10 The color of honey
- 11 Nonsense
- 12 Steely Dan album pronounced like a continent
- 13 Stick up
- 18 Air-conditioned
- 22 Ballet-dancing Muppet
- 24 Pass rusher's success maker
- 26 VAIO computer
- 27 Golfer's gismo
- 29 Childhood disease mark
- 30 Rapper's entourage
- 31 Mem. of the bar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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61						62				63			
64						65				66			

12/9/09

12/7/09 Solutions

P	R	O	P	S	A	U	N	A	S	M	I	U	G	
H	E	R	O	C	A	N	A	L	C	O	N	E		
A	D	E	S	A	R	I	S	E	R	O	D	E		
S	A	L	T	I	N	G	T	H	E	M	I	N	E	
E	N	S	N	T	H	U	M	B	R	A	F			
S	T	E	A	D	S	N	A	G	B	E	L	F		
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P	L	O	W	I	S	P	I	E	R	B	A	I	T	
A	T	T	A	R	E	G	G	S	K	A	V	A	K	
A	T	T	A	R	E	G	G	S	K	A	V	A	K	
L	I	F	I	T	E	C	A	R	D	M	O	N	T	E
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	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.
PM	12 p.m.	12 p.m.	12 p.m.	12 p.m.	12 p.m.	12 p.m.	
	4:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
	6:15 p.m.	6:15 p.m.	6:15 p.m.	6:15 p.m.			6:15 p.m.
	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.				

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