

Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

JANUARY 20—JANUARY 26, 2010 VOL. 48, No. 1

NASHVILLE NATIVES



JUSTIN TOWNES
EARLE



JUSTIN
RASE

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

Agent Orange – The Muse

Legendary surf/punk rock band Agent Orange roll into Nashville this Thursday night for a show at The Muse. Such a high-energy, adrenaline-fueled show will be explosive at a venue as small and intimate as The Muse. Formed in 1979, Agent Orange was the first band to actually fuse punk and surf rock, creating a very interesting sound that came to help define the Southern California scene and influenced the genre that came to be known as skate punk.

(\$15, 7 p.m., 835 4th Avenue South)

The Dirty Dozen Brass Band – Exit/In

Since highlighting them in a recent Plug Your Scene feature, it seems that we can't escape the Dirty Dozen Brass Band. This Jazz and Funk band out of New Orleans brings passion, excitement, and a damn good time to wherever they end up. "Better yet, the show is only a block away from campus at the Exit/In, so you really have no excuse NOT to go.

(\$15, 7 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

Sugar Glyder – The Rutledge

Indie/alternative rock band Sugar Glyder return to Nashville tonight, taking the stage at the famous Rutledge. The Charlotte natives have become renowned for the depth and variety of sound, drawing comparisons of Blind Melon, Remy Zero, Radiohead, and even Peter Gabriel. If you're looking for something new to add to your iPod, give this band a shot and you're sure to find at least something you like.

(\$ TBD, 8 p.m., 410 4th Avenue South)

Trip Bare & Southbound – 2nd Avenue Live

Join Trip Bare & Southbound as they kick off a new college night series at Nashville's newest club and bar, 2nd Avenue Live. With a lineup boasting several Vandy grads (remember the student band 4 Play 7?) who have temporarily postponed grad school in favor of pursuing music, Southbound is as true a hometown band as any, highlighting the essence of Nashville. Having just opened for national touring country artist Trent Tomlinson, Southbound is now headlining a show of their own in order to introduce their sound to more and more people.

(\$5, 10 p.m., 154 2nd Avenue North)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

JEFF the Brotherhood with MARJ & SPECIAL SECRET GUEST – The End

The brothers Jake and Jamin Orrall guarantee to rock your face off as they take The End by storm this Friday. Embarking on the band's biggest tour yet, prepare yourself for melting riffs and surging metal guitar. Also, prepare yourself for MARJ, an "angry" band born in "the bowels of Nashville's digestive system." Have fun, and don't forget your brass knuckles.

(\$5, 9 p.m., 2219 Elliston Place)

The Breakfast Club – Exit/In

Serving up all your favorite '80s hits, The Breakfast Club, the self-proclaimed "most well-respected, well-traveled, longest-established '80s music tribute band in the USA," allows you to throw on your jean jackets and spandex. A local favorite, step into their time machine of rock this Friday night at the Exit/In.

(\$10, 8 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

Rachel Pearl w/ Kristin Porter & Annie Sellikind – The Rutledge

Want a relaxing evening filled with blues and jazz? Look no further than The Rutledge. Renowned up and coming jazz vocalist Rachel Pearl graces the stage, offering up 20th century classics from the likes of Ella Fitzgerald and many of Pearl's own original tunes.

(\$10, 7 p.m., 410 4th Ave. South)

Mercy Lounge 7th Anniversary Celebration:

The Non-Commissioned Officers, De Novo Dahl & MUCH MORE! – The Mercy Lounge

Nashville native indie rockers The Non-Commissioned Officers take the stage at the annual Mercy Lounge bash. With cool tunes like "You Don't Even Know Her" and "No Means No" the band, led by brothers Eric and Jordan Lehning, ensure an electric performance. Also, be sure to check out the "sometimes glammy, sometimes retro" rockers De Novo Dahl.

(Free for 21+, 9 p.m., 1 Cannery Row)

Point of Grace – The Ryman

Christian contemporary band Point of Grace bring a new spirit to Music City with their unique sound. With two platinum and five gold records, as well as 27 consecutive No. 1 hits, this all-female group is worth checking out.

(Tickets TBA, 116 5th Avenue North)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

The Claire Lynch Band – Station Inn

Boasting the No. 1 bluegrass album in the country, The Claire Lynch Band has proven to be a force in the bluegrass community. Touting a voice that Sara Watkins called "clean and clear as mountain water," Claire Lynch offers an evening of bluegrass classics and originals. For true bluegrass fans or those just looking to get their feet wet in the genre, this band provides the perfect performance. Get your fill of twangy banjo this Saturday at the Station Inn.

(\$12, time TBA, 402 12th Ave. South)

Lovedrug w/ All the Day Holiday & Empires – Exit/In

Exit/In provides audiences with a night full of fresh sounds. Enjoy the newly invented music form, "cloud rock," as Lovedrug rocks out. Also, be sure not to miss All the Day Holiday, one of Rolling Stone's 2009 bands to watch, and the cool music of The Empires, a Chicago band fresh off their debut album. With a lineup like this, it might be worth the short trip behind campus to check out the show.

(\$12, 8 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

Black Diamond Heavies w/ Silver Lions 20/20, & Charvelle Swank – The 5 Spot

Bluesy rockers Black Diamond Heavies will be performing Saturday at The 5 Spot. The greasy cigarette-charred duo provides an ideal soundtrack for a night of heavy drinking. Grab a friend or two and head over to East Nashville — Reax Magazine described the band's sound as "whiskey sliding down the pulsating human hatch, and hitting an empty stomach with a discomforting thud." What could possibly be more persuasive than that?

(\$5, 9 p.m., 1006 Forrest Ave.)

Mercy Lounge 7th Anniversary Celebration:

Space Capone, Heypenny, The Protomen, How I Became the Bomb, Tallest Trees & Armed Forces

An army of Nashville heavy hitters is slated to cap off the second-to-last night of The Mercy Lounge's weeklong celebration. As the venue's website asserts, it will be a night of "indisputable awesomeness." Known for fun and entertaining performances, How I Became the Bomb is sure to blow your mind. R&B up-and-comers Space Capone and the rough and tumble Protomen guarantee that this is one event you do not want to miss.

(Free for 21+, 9 p.m., 1 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

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818 Third Ave. South 37210
259-9891

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Versus

JANUARY 20—JANUARY 26, 2010 VOL. 48, N^o. 1

Versus Magazine

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PARTY PICS



1. Kappa Kappa Gamma bid day **2.** Taryn Shipley and Courtney Goldman **3.** Lauren Steinberg, Allie Goodchild, Alexandra Pearson, Lauren Fung, Nikki Bogopolskaya and Megan Schwinger **4.** Madison Akerblom, Sarah Corsaro and Rachel Hesling. **5.** Members of Delta Delta Delta sorority.

From the Editor



"I have no alcohol left, and this could pose a serious problem to me."

A concerned citizen

As I write, arguably the greatest day of the spring semester is upon us. While students at other universities across the nation celebrate the life and work of one of the greatest civil rights activists of all time, Martin Luther King, Jr., our campus will be deep in the throes of a different holiday: Black Monday (no pun intended).

The widespread blackouts (hence the name), hospitalizations, walks-of-shame and general misbehavior inspired by this day should come as no surprise—it seems, in fact, that our administration has conspired to the express purpose of creating such a day.

I read somewhere that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

After a week of every Greek or would-be Greek woman being on a Panhel-imposed social lockdown (the first week back from Winter Break, no less!), strictly prohibited from having any fun whatsoever (or, more specifically, from drinking or going out to bars or frats), the backlash is bound to be vicious and unpredictable.

And, by the same rule of physics, Tuesday's hangover experience should be equally unmerciful. Large numbers of our student population may, in fact, still be hung over as they read this on Wednesday. And so it is with you in mind, dear reader, that I present the semester's first issue of Versus. Grab a copy, crawl back into bed and do our crossword. If you're feeling ambitious, maybe check out our new Fashion section, with a feature on the Rodarte for Target line, or read our review of Vampire Weekend's new album. Check out our new party pics section (to the left), and hope that your evening's festivities don't land you there next week.

Happy Holidays,

Avery Spofford
Editor-in-Chief

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

What's the difference
Between a pledge and "Pledge" house
Cleaner? One is free.

Why did the chicken
Cross the road? She got cut from
One of the top three.

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"



Random girl: "If you ask a Korean person if they are a Japanese person, they will stab you."

Philosophy Professor: "This class is like an intellectual condom."

Girl at Rand: "OMG! Your salad is SO cute!!!"

Math Professor: "This class is about 2/3 probability and 1/2 statistics."

Boy on the phone: "Mom, let me call you right back, I need to potty."

Someone at Rand: "Australia must be like an all-bro continent ... like a brontinent."



scrapetv.com

Horoscopes



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19

Due to your acceptance of a bid, you will accidentally become a slut this week. Whoopsie.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18

Just because you're in a sorority doesn't mean you should eat the food they give you.



PISCES 2/19-3/20

So sorry you didn't get into the sorority you wanted, maybe next time.



ARIES 3/21-4/19

Even though OASIS' crash ruined your schedule this semester, that Western Bolivian Feminist Politics of the 19th century class won't be that bad.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20

So there aren't any cute girls in your class; it's a good thing, you need to work on your GPA anyways in this economy.



GEMINI 5/21-6/21

Enjoying the warm weather? Well, beware ... The day you choose to forgo wearing a coat, it's sure to get cold again.



CANCER 6/22-7/22

How's that new year's resolution going for you? Oh, you already broke it? Shame on you. It's going to be a loooooong year.



LEO 7/23-8/22

Add/Drop period ends today ... Bet you wish you had dropped that 9 a.m. MWF by now, huh?



VIRGO 8/23-9/22

Do not send out that YouTube video of "David at the Dentist." Seriously, everyone has seen it. Stop. Take your mouse off the send button.



LIBRA 9/23-10/22

You still won't be able to find the Droids you're looking for.



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21

Challenge yourself to fit as many text-type hearts <3 as possible when changing your Facebook status to I LOVE MY BABY__.



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21

Accomplish #156 on your bucket list. Trust me, its time to cross that one off.

CULTURE

Finding the gizmos and gadgets for 2010 at CES

MATT SHELTON
Culture Editor

A perennial powerhouse, CES (Consumer Electronic Show) begins the year with a Las Vegas-esque explosion of gadgets and tech that would put a present day Sherlock Holmes to shame. This year was no different, and a multitude of gizmos were presented to the public that

will make it onto shelves soon to be swept up by Vanderbilt in only a few short months. These are my top three, based on innovation, and relevance to Vanderbilt culture.

• The Google Nexus One. Apple is so “cool” right now that a counterculture is bound to form eventually: a trek back to the brands that deliver much more than brushed chrome. Apple’s

stranglehold on the Smart phone market may take a big hit with last week’s release of the Nexus One, introduced by none other than the world’s most lovable corporation, Google. The phone, boasting processor and internet speeds that dwarf the iPhone, supplemented with the seamless integration of its other products (anyone know how complicated it is to sync VUGmail to their default E-mail on the iPhone?), Gmail, search engine, maps, etc., make this a powerful competitor in the market. The final note: it’s an unlocked phone. You can take the Nexus One to any service provider and pick a plan that suits you, not the over-priced AT&T plans that drop service once you enter the Rec.

• One of the most

intriguing technologies to come out of CES was the proliferation of 3D TVs. While these expensive TVs may not make it into any dorm rooms any time soon, look for Greek Row to adopt them early. Why? The Toshiba ZX900 CELL TV comes packed with more than ten times the power of a normal TV, equipped with a CELL processor that is so powerful it converts 2D TV into 3D in real time. Sporting events, movies and any other



winarco.com

media frats cram into the basement to see will now be telecast in 3D, “Avatar Style.” While expensive, no brother will mind the spike in dues (that their parents pay anyway) for the opportunity.

• A group of girls gather awkwardly around a friend’s digital camera to see the hilarious pictures from last night. As they play hot potato passing around the camera when a particularly “epic” pic is found, each girl watches the one with the camera to gauge her reaction. While

Nikon may not have had “pictures from last night” in their minds when they created their new Cool Pix S100 PJ model, they played into every sorority girl’s hand. “OMG, you did THAT?!” she cries as she

presses the next button on the camera. A loud murmur begins in the gaggle of girls, each wanting to see the alluded to picture. The girl with the camera presses a button and a 40” projection of the picture flashes on the wall, with all the quality of the little screen. All the girls share a laugh as one of their friends chugs a bottle of champagne on top of the bar during New Year’s. Yes, Nikon packaged a projector to a mid-priced phone for the sole purpose of sharing pics with your friends. “Epic.” ☼

nexus one

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Spring break 2010: A Versus Guide

JOE AGUIRRE
Staff Writer

The new year and a new semester are well underway. Classes have begun and weekly raging has begun to settle into familiar patterns. With so much to look forward to, it can be easy to overlook the most important week of the year: Spring Break. That’s right, Commodore Nation, it’s time to begin planning for this most glorious epoch in the party calendar. If you haven’t sorted out your plans, here are some quality options to get you started.

First of all, nothing’s better than a good old-fashioned party in the USA. Conventional wisdom dictates that a stay on America’s southern coast is a refreshingly sunny break from the chill of Cashville. Numerous houses at excellent prices can be found at the appropriately named www.beachhouse.com. While surfing the site, I found accommodations

in South Carolina, Florida, California and Alabama all averaging under \$500 per person for groups of 10-20. This option is certainly affordable, since Vanderbilt’s Spring Break technically falls outside of peak season pricing for most rental companies, thus allowing discounted rates.

Feeling more adventurous and ready to see the world? Trips to Mexico, the Bahamas and beyond can offer the experience of a lifetime. However, these options generally tend to be more expensive than fun in the states.

Searching for trips on www.studentcity.com, I found all-inclusive 5-night trips to Nassau in the Bahamas or Cancun, Mexico that ranged from \$800-\$1200, including flights. Other similarly priced options include stays in Acapulco and Puerto Vallarta in Mexico, Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic and Negril, Jamaica. These popular student destinations

offer wild revelry, but be warned that cheaper arrangements can be unsafe or uncomfortable.

Less conventional options are worth exploring, as well. If you want a break from beach destinations, think about a ski trip or a backpacking trip in Europe. Considering my own potential plans, I priced flights to Dublin and Glasgow. Using www.expedia.com, I found round-trip flights for \$800, but a travel agent informed me that rates would drop as the break approached. www.dublin-bnb.com is one of many sites that can be used to find discounted bed and breakfasts throughout Ireland and can be invaluable in building a trip. With a little foresight, a Spring Break trip in Europe can be comparable in cost to a stay in more conventional beach destinations.

Be open to the experiences Spring Break may hold for you. With some creativity and a healthy amount of cash, anything is possible. ☼

Everyone can learn something from kanyeuniversecity



stupiddope.files.wordpress.com

GRANT DARWIN
Music Editor

Kanye West has certainly made it painful to give him credit for anything. Self-absorption aside, if Kanye lives on the cutting edge, his blog, kanyeuniversecity.com is the razor. While he does, at times, use the site to promote his record label, G.O.O.D Records, posting free tracks and music videos, it seems he is more concerned with passing on his enthusiasm for refined culture to his myriad of followers. Averaging about two posts a day, everything from a Lego kitchen island to an Architectural Digest style layout of luxurious tropical mansions can be found, often

accompanied by taglines like, “THIS SPREAD IS DOPE AS HELL!!” It’s remarkable how well the blog manages to encompass Mr. West’s persona. Yes, it is certainly egomaniacal. Kanye readily flaunts his media accolades on the site. Yet, simultaneously it is clear that he finds inspiration in the vibrant sculpture and peculiar Japanese music videos that litter the blog’s pages. Postings are sometimes funny, like a Dolce and Gabbana shoot of Madonna with the tag “MILE,” and at times serious, like a PBS video about a 14-year-old stock investor with a single-parent mother. Kanye’s ego has birthed a captive

audience readily awaiting his next post and, delightfully, readers are never sure what to expect. Although there are assertions that the site employs a ghost writer to pen postings on the artist’s behalf, nonetheless, it is remarkable how this blog has exposed a vast hip-hop community to the type of artistry often reserved for bourgeois-urbanite magazines. Just because not all readers may be able to afford what’s on display doesn’t mean that all cannot learn to appreciate it. Whether truly written by Kanye or not, his blog has the tools to inspire readers, college educated, drop-out or otherwise, to value his edge. ☼



springbreakfla.com

Google™ steals the decade

STUART BRYAN
Staff Writer

Unless you haven’t operated a computer in the last ten years, you may have noticed that Google has become one of the most well-known and powerful brands in the world. Not only does nearly everyone on the internet use Google.com as their go-to search engine and Fortune Magazine consistently rank Google as one of the top few companies to work for — now the company can boast that the American Dialect Society voted its name “Word

of the Decade.”

Beating out words like “blog,” “text” and even “9/11,” the verb “google” continues the trend started by the 1990s’ Word of the Decade, “web,” of Internet and technology-related words. “Google,” which means to search for information on the web, has enhanced people’s access to web content and has opened new avenues of the job and technology market. The win by the word “google” helps to silence some senile critics who have claimed for years that the Internet

is merely a dying fad. By googling the word “google,” I even discovered that there existed an older use of the word dating back to before it was officially added to the dictionary in 2006. The Oxford English Dictionary lists an alternate definition of “google” as throwing or bowling a googly in the game of cricket. Words of advice: Next time a British friend uses the word “google,” be sure to clarify his or her meaning as he or she could be avid cricket player.

The American Dialect

Society also named “tweet” word of the year for 2009. The word refers to the social networking and blog site Twitter that allows users to post short messages called “tweets.” Unlike “googling,” however, where you can learn any possible interesting fact, by reading “tweets” you can only learn the daily thoughts of B-list celebrities like Ashton Kutcher, Ryan Seacrest and Kim Kardashian ... Here’s hoping that “tweet” doesn’t become as relevant as this score’s word of the decade. ☼

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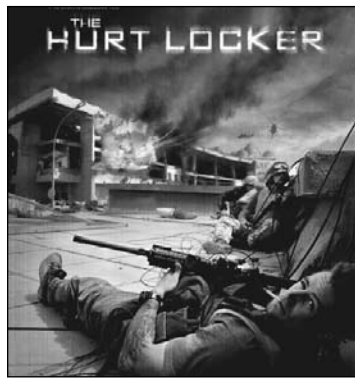
ENTERTAINMENT

OSCAR WATCH: Our picks

BEN RIES
Staff Writer

Best Picture – “The Hurt Locker”

Kathryn Bigelow’s masterpiece “The Hurt Locker” centers on Staff Sergeant William James (Jeremy Renner), the new leader of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team operating in Iraq. The immersive character study shows as Sergeant James, often clad in a clumsy bomb suite, slowly dissects active bombs in scenes of riveting intensity. “The Hurt Locker” is a movie that sticks with you— in the end, you find the aisles of an American supermarket just as dumbfounding and overwhelming as James.



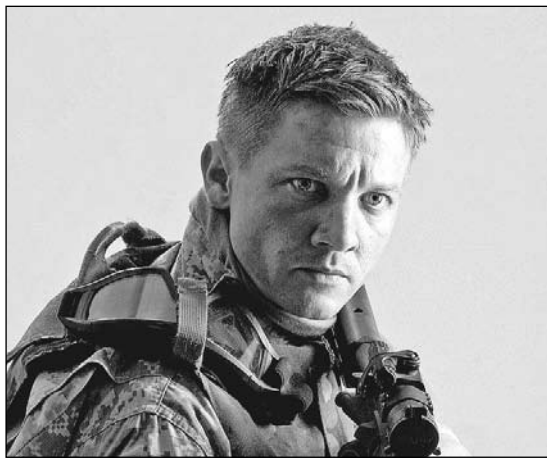
theblackboxoffice.com

Best Director – Wes Anderson, “Fantastic Mr. Fox”

The hilarious stop-motion romp “Fantastic Mr. Fox” further solidifies Wes Anderson’s status as a reliable creator of high-quality character-based comedies. Here, Anderson defies Hollywood’s reliance on purely digital effects, creating sets of rare imagination inhabited by

lovable possums, mice, badgers and foxes. George Clooney voices the perfectly suave title character whose thievery from nearby farmers sets the plot in motion. The script, animation and voice acting combine to create possibly the most delightful film of the past year.

Best Actor – Jeremy Renner, “The Hurt Locker”



wetprints.files.wordpress.com

“The Hurt Locker” opens with a jarring quotation — “The rush of battle is a potent and often lethal addiction, for war is a drug.” The statement applies to Renner’s Sergeant James, whose obsession with danger drives him to repeatedly put his own life — and eventually the lives of his fellow squad members — at risk. Renner excels in his first notable starring role, delivering a performance of riveting complexity that perfectly conveys Sergeant James’ paradoxical personality. We see him adrift in everyday conversation, enveloped by the process of defusing a bomb, and triumphant after each narrow success.

Best Actress – Marion Cotillard, “Public Enemies”

Those frustrated by Johnny Depp’s seemingly enigmatic portrayal of infamous bank robber John Dillinger in Michael Mann’s “Public Enemies” need to take a closer look at Marion Cotillard’s performance as Billie Frechette, a waitress who becomes Dillinger’s lover and the key to his character. “Public Enemies” pits Dillinger’s gang of cold-blooded criminals against an equally brutal police force, leaving Cotillard to carry the emotional weight of the story. Cotillard won a Best Actress Oscar just two years ago for *La Vie en Rose* (2007), but she is likely to be overlooked for “Public Enemies” — a real pity considering the depth she adds to the movie.



moviewallpaper.net

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Entertainment Editor

Best Picture – “The Hurt Locker”

A remarkable ride, this Iraq War drama packs an unparalleled cinematic punch. A sensory experience to rival “Avatar,” the film is set in a world as strikingly foreign as James Cameron’s “Pandora,” a desert purring with bullets and riddled with bombs — bombs

on the roadside, bombs in the market, bombs stuffed into the bowels of human carcasses. “The Hurt Locker” is two hours of on-the-edge-of-your-seat movie magic — a brilliant, stomach-turning portrayal of an American bomb squad’s hellish reality.

Best Director – James Cameron, “Avatar”

While his screenplay (“Pocahontas” sans the adorable raccoon) deserves no Oscar for originality, Cameron’s most recent masterpiece smacks of directorial genius. Not only did Cameron pioneer the 3D medium in the feature market, but he did it with a directorial finesse and prowess unrivaled in his field of contemporaries and reflective of a decade-long quest for perfection.



movieset.com

Best Actor – George Clooney, “Up In the Air”



stanzedidnema.files.wordpress.com

Perhaps he’s played this guy five times before. Perhaps he’s just playing himself. Or maybe, just maybe, these things don’t matter at all. What matters is his ability to entrance viewers, that unmistakable presence, that natural swagger that’s so refreshingly anti-Daniel Day-Lewis. “Up In the Air” puts these things on beautiful display. Perhaps George Clooney is one of the reasons people still go to the movies, still search through listings and reviews for a rare gem worth ten bucks, worth a Friday night. Perhaps that’s worth an Oscar.

Best Actress – Mo’Nique, “Precious”

Though the Academy may ultimately plunk this remarkable feat of masquerade into the “Supporting Actress” category, Mo’Nique’s shocking performance nonetheless deserves a statuette and then some. Portraying an abusive, destructive and entirely deranged mom bent on making her daughter as pitifully reliant upon welfare as herself, she screams, curses and, ultimately, cries her way through the year’s most heartbreaking film. However, the biggest achievement of Mo’Nique’s portrayal doesn’t lie in her ability to play the character convincingly, but to make the viewer think — believe — any mother could be so damn cruel to her child.



sagawards.com

A PRESUMPTUOUS REVIEW

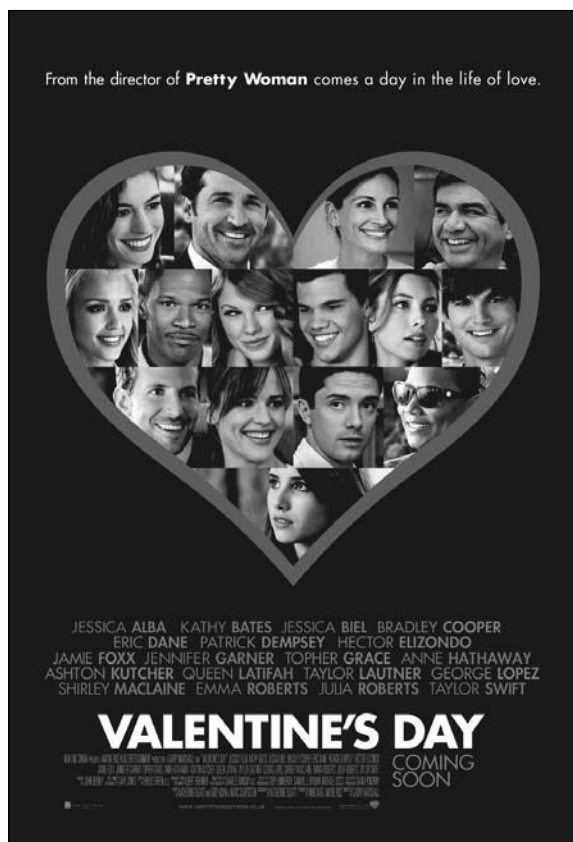
A predictive preview of the year in film

MATT SHELTON
Culture Editor

Many didn’t think that 2010 could even begin to compare to the worldwide success of movies during the worldwide recession in 2009. But it did.

Thanks to the studios’ careful eye to only release movies with a chance at success, big budget films once again came out with a healthy showing. Reboots and TV conversions were again a trend, with “Iron Man 2,” “The Green Hornet” and the “A-Team” all debuting in 2010 with little critical, but a sea of commercial, success. Of these crossovers, the greatest letdown was M. Night Shyamalan’s “Avatar: The Last Airbender.” After an amazing “The Sixth Sense,” critics and fans gave Night chance after chance until he turned this 120 million budgeted “Avatar” into another blunder. While it saw commercial success, critics attributed it to audiences’ confusion, thinking that the title meant the film was a sequel to the world’s top grossing movie ever, James Cameron’s “Avatar.”

The Oscar for best film was a close race, with three director-actor combos



impawards.com

facing off against each other. After the success of “The Departed,” Scorsese had found his new DeNiro in Leonardo DiCaprio. After having the release of “Shutter Island” pushed from awards season 2009 to 2010, audiences grew weary until they finally went to see the film. Its eerie mood was grabbing, and DiCaprio captured a best Actor nod for his performance.

The second film saw Ridley Scott return to his

champion, Russell Crowe, in his shocking departure from a fairy tale interpretation of “Robin Hood,” an instant testosterone classic. It wasn’t shocking that the National Association of Archery tripled in membership in 2010. Finally on the ballot was the 3-D Spectacular “Alice in Wonderland,” in which Tim Burton combined an A-list cast (filled with Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway and more) with a purely imaginative

interpretation of a dark childhood classic. I wasn’t shocked when it won, but felt bad for Leonardo until he won Best Actor for “Inception” (what a year he had huh?).

Pixar, which, it seems, can do no wrong, is floated on the success of “Up” and released one of the most anticipated children-movie-crossovers in “Toy Story 3” to a box office of over 300 million domestically, making it the top grosser of the year and winning in its category. A close second was Garry Marshall’s “Valentine’s Day,” which filled theatres weeks after the holiday. It also saw the largest DVD sale of the year, second of all time next to “The Dark Knight.” Perhaps the most successful low-budget shock came with the “anyone can be a superhero”-themed “Kick-Ass,” which found indie-cult love instantly after its release.

With twenty-ten wrapped up, one wonders if 2011’s schedule will produce as the past 2’s have. Will “Smurfs 3D,” the final installment of “Harry Potter” and a new “Pirates of the Caribbean” deliver the same quality as 2010’s reboots or leave the audience tired of the creative decay? Only time will tell.☹

THE ENDORSEMENT



handstosoul.wordpress.com

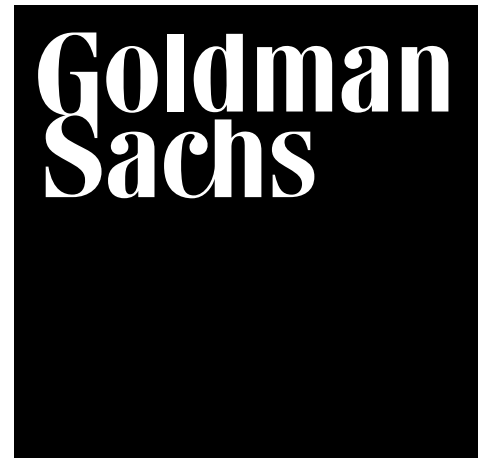
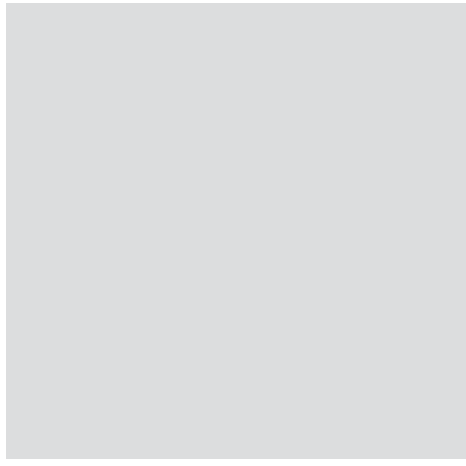
‘Community’ Thursdays at 7 p.m. on NBC

GRANT DARWIN
Music Editor

NBC’s “Community” thrusts ex-lawyer/bullshit artist Jeff Winger (The Soup’s Joe McHale) into the demeaning throes of Greendale Community College after it is discovered that his law degree does not come from Columbia University but, rather, from Colombia.

Aiding Winger on his quest for mediocrity is a unique collaboration of seven pitiful, but lovable, individuals who come together to form a study group. Included are Pierce (Chevy Chase), a semi-racist dirty old man; Trey (Donald Glover of YouTube sensation “Derrick Comedy”), a naive former jock; Annie (Allison Brie of “Mad Men”), a nervous

wreck over-achiever; Shirley (Yvette Brown of Nick’s “Drake and Josh”), an aggressively maternal divorcee with rejection issues; Abed (newcomer Danny Pudi), an idiot-savant who believes his life is a sitcom, and Brita (Gillian Jacobs), Winger’s pseudo-hippie love interest. Incredibly original plots and witty dialogue chronicle desperate efforts of a group trying to save one another from themselves. If that’s not enough, John Oliver (“Daily Show”) plays a delusional physics professor and Ken Jeong (“The Hangover”) is a volatile Spanish teacher. At times touching, but mostly side-splitting, “Community” is the best show on TV that you aren’t watching.☹



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MUSIC

Album reviews

MUSIC STAFF
Versus Magazine

"Ghosts on the Boardwalk" Bouncing Souls



New Jersey alternative rockers Bouncing Souls released their ninth studio album this month. Complete with blaring power chords and crashing drums, what the album lacks in sophistication it more than makes up for in nonsensical fun.

RATING: ★★☆☆

Songs of note:
"Gasoline"
"The Mental Bits"

"Before I Self Destruct - Selects" 50 Cent



50 re-released selections from his most recent album in late December. Bland and generic beats and monotonous lyrics remind listeners why they did not buy the G-unit head honcho's album in the first place.

RATING: ★★☆☆

Songs of note:
"Psycho (feat. Eminem)"
"Death to my Enemies"

"Y Not" Ringo Starr



In many ways it is everything you would expect from Ringo. Namely, calls for world peace and allusions to John Lennon. Although a little corny at times, this album proves that the aging drummer still has something to offer. With fun upbeat melodies and solid vocals, "Y Not" give it a listen.

RATING: ★★☆☆

Songs of note:
"Time"
"Walk With You"

"Transference" Spoon

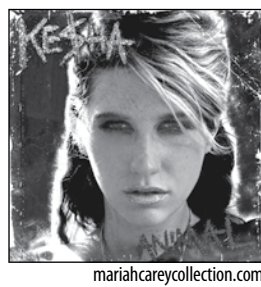


Building off the success of their hit album "Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga," Spoon returns with sharp lyrical hooks, progressive drums and precise rhythmic arrangements on guitar and bass. As with most standard Spoon affairs, the production and execution on "Transference" remains relatively minimalist. The album has a stripped-down and immediate feeling to it. Sure to appeal to diehard fans, it does not offer nearly as much to a casual listener. (For more on this album from Oliver Han, visit InsideVandy.com)

RATING: ★★☆☆

Songs of note:
"Mystery Zone"
"Got Nuffin"

"Animal" Ke\$ha



Laying claim to the number one album on the Billboard 200 and the top selling song on iTunes, pop starlet Ke\$ha has kicked 2010 off with a bang. Her debut album unloads the ideal soundtrack for a night of spontaneous and carefree fun. With fist pumping, high energy tracks like "Tik Tok," this album inspires listeners to get tipsy and have fun. (For more on this album from Imani Ellis, visit InsideVandy.com)

RATING: ★★☆☆

Songs of note:
"Backstabbers"
"Stephen"



Vampire Weekend bites back with "Contra"

ALEX DALY
Staff Writer

I first heard Vampire Weekend's second album debut on Letterman, when they performed their funky-sharp, soulfully charged single "Cousins" — a performance executed with perfect delivery and boundless energy. The song highlights the band's transition to embracing all that is eccentric, all that is brave — although it's clear that they are still holding on to those pumping Afro beats and ska-inspired tunes, the indie band's sound exhibits a new kind of vitality; it represents a newly born musical life. Unlike their last album, which was comfortably sweet and delightful to the ear, "Cousins" is jarring and fast-paced. It's lacking that sense of leveled control, but in a good way. Lead singer Ezra Koenig speaks of his success, tracing back through his paternal history: "Dad was a risk taker/ His was a shoe maker/You, greatest hits 2006, little list-maker." But his commentary isn't arrogant — it's humble. Instead of dwelling on the band's quick rise to power, he talks about their passion for music and the ambition he feels in his blood: "You were born with ten fingers and you're gonna use them all." Koenig is aware of his gift and he's not afraid of using it.

This counterintuitive sense of modesty is accompanied by the band's intelligent sound. The album kicks off with "Horchata," a melodic, gentle tune that sucks you in with a feeling of fairytale, happy holiday cheer (much like the airy, smooth second track, "White Sky"). But, even more important than the sound, the listener is blown away by the lyrics themselves. They rhyme such words as "horchata" with "balaclava," "aranciata," and "masada" (wait, what?). And although all you haters out there think these very smart dudes write such lyrics in a snobby, "we-went-to-an-Ivy" kind of way, instead they represent how being nerdy can be so cool. Again, their intelligence doesn't come off as self-righteous, but rather as subtle and modest. In fact, the band condemns rich kids' superficial elitism: in "California English" the band denounces fakeness and embraces the basics by concentrating on what's real.

Ultimately, "Contra" roots for all that is substantial, authentic and creative. This is clear in the beautifully orchestrated "Giving up a Gun" — a song dedicated to Koenig's nostalgia for being young and just jamming on the guitar. This is also clear in the band's embrace of new sounds, ranging from electronic to reggae to just straight up weird. But, most importantly, it is obvious in the way that the band sticks to what they believe in. In "I Think Ur a Contra," a perfect ending to a great album, Koenig reemphasizes his passion for music, his love for it all, and for us especially: "But I just wanted you, I just wanted you." ☞



What you need to know to be IN the know.

January 11th

A new studio album entitled "Valleys of Neptune" featuring an hour of previously unavailable Jimi Hendrix recordings will be released in early March.

January 14th

Memphis punk rock legend Jay Reatard was found dead in his home at the age of 29. The cause of death is still unknown. Reatard was considered by many to be one of the most prolific punk rock musicians of the 1990s.

January 14th

The music community said goodbye to R&B legend Teddy Pendergrass at the age of 59, as he lost his long

battle colon cancer. During his career the Philadelphia native was nominated for five Grammys and had had ten platinum-selling albums.

January 15th

Weezer frontman Rivers Cuomo was cleared by doctors to return to performing a month after breaking five ribs and injuring his lungs in a tour bus accident.

January 15th

According to Rolling Stone Magazine, Lady Gaga cancelled a recent show at Purdue University at the very last minute, citing an irregular heartbeat (the result of exhaustion and dehydration). Further reports indicate that the pop star

has cancelled more concerts in an effort to recover in time for an upcoming three-month international tour.

January 15th

Rapper Mystikal was released from Louisiana State Prison after serving a 6-year sentence for felony extortion charges.

January 18th

World Entertainment News Network reports that Child Abuse Prevention advocates are furious with the choice of classic rock legends The Who to perform as this year's Super Bowl half time entertainment. Lead guitarist Pete Townshend was arrested in 2003 for under the suspicion of possessing child pornography. ☞

"Rock 'n' Roll is the most brutal, ugly, vicious form of expression – sly, lewd, in plain fact, dirty ... rancid smelling, aphrodisiac ... the martial music of every delinquent on the face of the earth." – Frank Sinatra

Alpha Tau Omega kicks off the semester with a Chiddy Bang

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Entertainment Editor

This Friday night, ATO will host "Ballers and Dollars" featuring a rap group you've likely never heard of. Don't let that fool you.

Not to be confused with the 1968 British cinema classic of a similar name, Chiddy Bang brings fly tracks to the scene, not flying cars. Composed of two Drexel undergrads, emcee Proto (born Chidera Anamege) and producer Xaphoon Jones, the duo is no stranger to campus venues. Raiding the Northeast college scene over the past year, they've ferried their crafty blend of techno and hip-hop down the ear canals of countless coeds. After releasing their debut mixtape, "The Swelly Express," this past October, their popularity spread virally from Philly; they gained wider national appeal, eventually catching the ear of Vandy students.

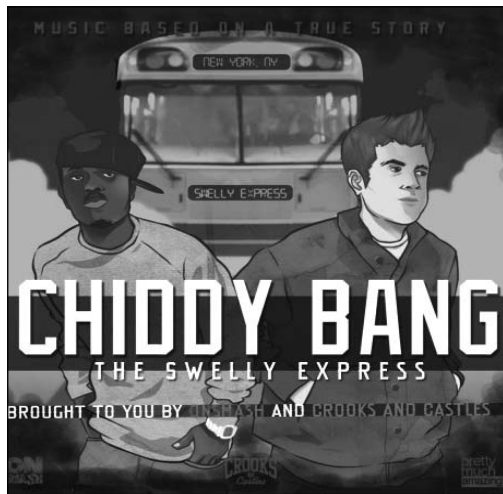
According to ATO Social Chairman David Webster, the decision to book Chiddy Bang was a simple one. "My friend from Villanova [in Philadelphia] sent a YouTube link to me of one of their songs ... It sounded like they would make a good live act," he said. A good act indeed: an intriguing concoction of upbeat production and synth samples (from Passion Pit and MGMT, for example) topped off with intelligent rhymes. Chiddy's sound wages war on commercial hip-hop yet smacks of pop appeal. In the same vein as KiD CuDi, the duo creates soul music – more operatic than gangster, more uplifting than cynical, more accessible than beguiling.

Fancying himself a poet, Proto stuffs each track with enough word play to make Talib Kweli jealous. On "Never," the young rapper spits, "I got more gigs than an Apple store/And yo you wildin' boy, you ain't even smilin' boy/It's like I'm on a boat, feelin' lonely on this island, boy."

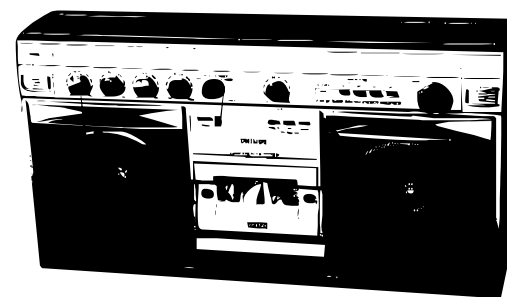
Throughout the "Swelly" mixtape, likely to be the bulk of Friday night's set list, such quality flows unabated, as Anamege spits everything from boastful rhymes on "Fresh Like Us" to longing lyrics on "All Things Go" (featuring a creative Sufjan Stevens sample).

Certain to rival blowout frat row concerts of last semester, Chiddy brings together the eclectic, electric appeal of Super Mash Bros. and Milkman and the swagger of Nappy Roots, producing a surplus of party-ready bangers to boot.

In short, cancel your Friday night plans. ATO's doors open at 10 p.m. ☿



SOUNDTRACK TO THE ISSUE



Below, the editors share what tracks we've been spinning as we create the glory you're holding in your hands.

1. "Fake Empire" – The National
2. "Nothing On You" – B.O.B.
3. "White Sky" – Vampire Weekend
4. "All the Young Dudes" – Mott the Hoople
5. "Everywhere" – Fleetwood Mac
6. "Up, Up and Away" – KiD CuDi
7. "6th Avenue Heartache" – The Wallflowers
8. "Imagination" – Earth Wind & Fire
9. "I'm Beaming" – Lupe Fiasco
10. "Who's Got the Hooch" – Sublime

Q&A with Dee Goodz

Local emcee kicks some knowledge on life, liberty and the pursuit of a deal

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Entertainment Editor

Nashville, Tennessee: Country music capital of the world. Not the spot you'd expect to find a well-armed rhyme-slinger hoping to make a name for himself in the fire-fight of the hip-hop industry ... right? Wrong.

Meet Dee Goodz, born Donald Goode, a Music City local and Alabama A&M graduate with the Ameri-can-do attitude to make such a dream come true. Fresh off the release of his debut mixtape "College Kids & Dropouts, Volume

1," he sat down with Entertainment Editor Charlie Kesslering to drop some knowledge.

Versus Magazine: What artists have influenced your style/sound? You've probably drawn comparisons to Lil' Wayne ...

Dee Goodz: Ha! Wow! Wayne? Really? I take that as a huge compliment, but I just love music. I think we both share that common factor: I'm really a fan of '90s east coast hip-hop. I try to pay a tad bit of homage in my music. But, if I could sum it up ... I'd want Kanye's emotion, keep it playa like T.I., the swagger of a Fabolous, business mind of Jay-Z, creativity of Andre 3000 and be lyrically inclined as a Lupe.

VM: How do you feel about the state of rap these days?

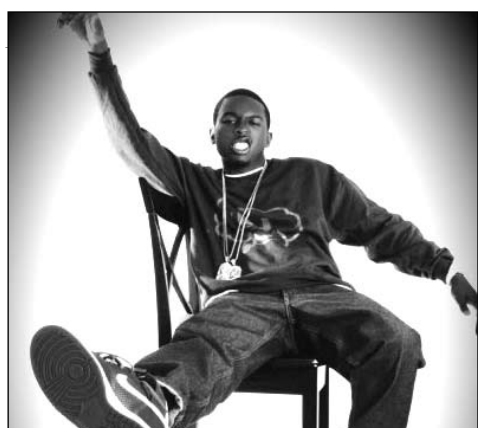
DG: Kinda glad the way it is, for the simple fact that people will hopefully start doing music for the love and not for revenue. Money has saturated and killed the creativity in hip-hop. If I could, I would do music even if I made no income off of it. I love it that much. Music changed my entire outlook on life.

VM: Why did you bring your dream to Nashville?

DG: I'm, in a sense, from here. Been here since high school. I feel that the city is ready, just needs someone to act as the martyr.

VM: Does Nashville have a solid hip-hop scene? Or are you trying to build one?

DG: Yeah, it's a rap scene. I'm not knocking what's been here, just trying to put my mark in the game. I feel I have something to bring to the table. ☿



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FASHION

Rodarte for Target and the thrill of the hunt

LAUREN JUNGE
Fashion Editor

Despite the world of waspdom that surrounds me, I have never been hunting. As a vegetarian, I find something terribly ironic in throwing on a pair of Wellies to hunt quail. Despite my aversion to hunting, however, I truly appreciate 'the hunt' — except, I sniff out leopard print belts rather than the real thing. This love for the chase presented itself over this past winter break as I found myself hunting down piece after piece of the Rodarte for Target collection.

As if to tease the hordes of salivating shoppers, someone at Target decided to release the collection a day early. Originally, the collection was supposed to hit stores on December 20th, but to my dismay, a friend frantically bimed me the day before that yes, she was in fact standing in a Target surrounded by the collection and there was hardly anything left in her size. This news reached out from my Blackberry and shattered my hopes.

Although this news definitely dampened my determination, I still managed to acquire 23 of the 55 pieces available. Although it took visits to six different Targets in two different boroughs across two states, I had done it — stylish success! So, why go to such extremes for the collection? To answer, one needs to know more about the masterminds behind Rodarte.

Kate and Laura Mulleavy, the sisters who created the line, cite films like "Harold and Maude" as the inspiration for their Target collaboration. You can see a hint of the young Harold's outerwear in the faux lambskin vest or glimpse his fascination with death in the sequined skeletal dress. Alongside such pieces are eccentric essentials such as polyester slip dresses, a demure black lace dress

and lace cardigans. Also available are fun accessories like bow belts, an array of bathing suits, a patterned raincoat and lace tights.

Prices for this collection offer high fashion at a low price. With clothes beginning at \$9.99 for cutout knee socks and reaching \$39.99 for most dresses and \$79.99 for the faux-leopard pea coat, the Rodarte sisters have truly created a high-low collection.



CollegeFashion.net

Such prices are possible thanks to the Target GO International program, which aims to provide affordable fashion by world-renowned designers to women everywhere. Since 2006, GO International has focused on up-and-coming designers such as Rogan, Thakoon and Tracy Feith.

Though initially each designer's collection was available for three months, now each is in stores for just 45 days. Despite this length, collections are actually scooped up within the first week of sales. These limited edition releases also offer reasoning behind my madness. For example, I still wear a Luella for Target dress I purchased back in 2006 and I know I will have the same devotion towards my new leopard-print Rodarte dress.

Overall, the Rodarte collection is tantalizing mix of feminine and modern, patterns and fabrics and pretty much anything else. The collection is full of pieces that can stand alone or be worn together, creating endless possibilities. Personally, I'll be gushing over the priceless (yet price-appropriate) pieces I managed to hunt down for years to come.

So, embrace your inner huntress, immerse yourself in the fashion jungle, visit a Target or two (or three or four...), sniff out, hunt down, and capture a piece of the fleeting Rodarte collection before it's too late! ☘

Editors' picks for 2010

1. Faux Fur

Avery Spofford, Editor-in-Chief

Worn right, fur can add a touch of glamour to an outfit. Worn wrong, and images of Snoop Dogg, Cruella Deville and shag carpet come to mind. A faux fur vest is a good way to dip into this trend with little risk of overdoing it — shop vintage stores to get

your hands on a one-of-a-kind piece or find faux fur for less at trend-maniac chains Forever 21 and H&M. Stick to the fake stuff unless you're shopping vintage or inherited your grandmother's winter coat — new (real) fur is gratuitous and tacky, not to mention inhumane.



Mizposh.com

2. Geek Glasses

Lauren Junge, Fashion Editor



SeaOfShoes.com

Normally reserved for the likes of scene nerds or Kanye West, Ray-Ban Wayfarer-style geek glasses are no longer stuck on the long list of 'stuff scene kids like.' Instead, these glasses have become the ultimate pair of sunglasses, party accessory and even real life glasses (formally known as 'prescription lenses') for everyone — on, and off, the scenester list. The days of four-eyed kids being picked on for wearing glasses are over — these

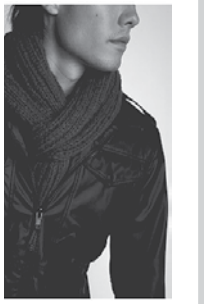
new 'it' specs have managed to fuse the line between nerd and natty. However, glasses are meant to be more than just a sweet accessory to spice up your look in your latest default, so I suggest taking these fab frames a step further — actually get your prescription lenses put in! But, if you find yourself blessed with 20/20 vision, go ahead and imposter it up with this scenester staple, which can be found at any Ray-Ban retailer or at the knock-off superstore Urban Outfitters.

3. The Man Scarf

Chris McDonald, Life Editor

Too long has the scarf been regarded as the ultimate accessory for women, children and hipsters. And snowmen. But recently, more and more men are finding that you don't have to look and act like the guy from "Rent" to successfully pull off the scarf. Whether it's the understated, conservative dark

gray/black scarf or a bright and colorful one, this accessory is fast on its way to becoming commonplace. Dress up a suit with an overcoat and scarf to look like something out of the pages of GQ, or just wrap one up under your winter jacket for an added layer of warmth — with the man scarf trend on the rise this winter, you can't go wrong.



encyclojdia.blogspot.com

4. The Casual Sport Coat

Charlie Kesslering, Entertainment Editor



thesartorialist.blogspot.com

The blazer — the suit's cooler half brother, your khakis' faithful spouse, long relegated to the dressed-up debauchery of a fall Saturday afternoon, forced to

serve as less of a fashion statement than a sorority sticker collage. This year, take a page out of Italy's style guide, and introduce your sports coat to main campus — dress down this tailgate staple with a v-neck and jeans to create a casual yet conscious look.

Embrace a fashion faux pas (sometimes)



LAUREN JUNGE / polyvore.com

Bean-shaped hard clutch, Emilio Pucci (in navy); bow bracelet, J. W. Anderson (in navy and gold); earrings, Chanel (in black and gold); Tribtoo pumps, Yves Saint Laurent (in black patent); light-weight denim leggings, J Brand (in black); sunglasses, H&M (in black); paint-splattered denim blazer, Alexander McQueen (in navy); loose-fit jersey tank top, L'Agence (in navy); stud dome gold-plated ring, Stephen Webster (in gold); bow bracelet, J.W. Anderson (in black and gold).

IMANI NAOMI ELLIS
Staff Writer

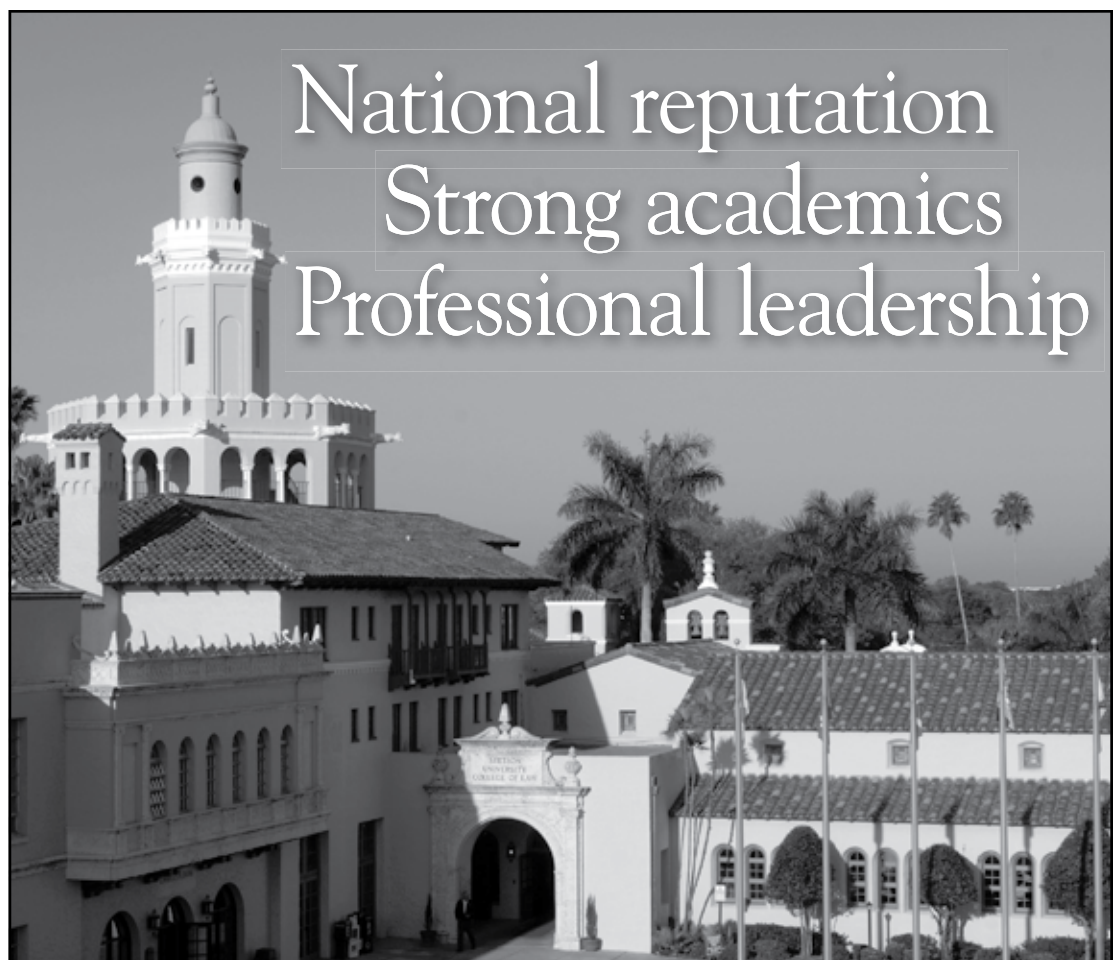
When I was 14 years old, my fashionista mentor gave me a piece of advice that has stuck with me to this day: "Don't wear black and brown in the same outfit ... ever." I wasn't quite sure why I shouldn't wear black and brown together, but she assured me that this was a fashion no-no and I would thank her later. In years to come I found this rule grew increasingly hard to follow. For example, cheetah and leopard had its season and I became aware of one of two things: Either no one else had received the 'no mixing black and brown' memo, or my fashionable mentor was in fact a wee bit off

base. In recent years, I've noticed an array of examples where brown and black can actually compliment each other — therefore, I have come to realize that sometimes it is perfectly fine to embrace a fashion faux pas.

Wearing black and blue, another traditional fashion faux pas, doesn't necessarily have to be a bad thing. It really depends what pieces are worn, what shades of color are used, and how the overall look is put together. However, this does not mean that every fashion faux pas should be explored. I am perfectly fine leaving fashion fatalities such as tights with open-toed shoes, socks with thong flip-flops and '90s-esque hair scrunchies as permanent fashion

'don'ts.' Instead of being constricted by a million different fashion faux pas, you should realize that fashion is completely opinionated. Although there are definite lines that should never be crossed, there is still a lot of room for creativity. Everything you wear doesn't have to match to a T. For example, often times bright colors can compliment each other, or compliment a duller color. Mixing textures, spicing up an outfit or thinking outside the box will often generate more compliments than expected. The basis of fashion is understanding what you like and trying to find ways to radiate the image of who you really are. ☘

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— Sarah Hanafin, 2L

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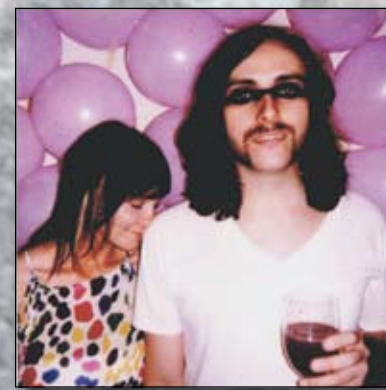


www.myspace.com/justintownesearle



CHRIS McDONALD
Life Editor

JUSTIN KASE



www.myspace.com/justinkase



VERSUS MAGAZINE: You're playing a show in Nashville on January 27th. What do you most look forward to about playing a hometown crowd?

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE: Hometown shows are always curses and blessings at the same time. It's always great to get in front of a hometown crowd, but you have to shelter yourself a little bit better at a hometown show, because everybody comes crawling out of the woodwork: friends of yours from second grade who you haven't talked to in twenty years suddenly want backstage passes, everybody is trying to get into the dressing room, etc. So it comes with its ups and its downs, but I do love playing in Nashville. I love the hometown crowd, and I love being able to go out and hang out with old friends after the show.

VM: How have your experiences in Nashville influenced you and crafted your music?

JTE: Well, I was born and raised in Nashville, so it definitely shaped me in many ways, but I had a very hard time there. Nashville was very tough on me, and I was tough on myself in Nashville. I damn near killed myself in the streets of Nashville. So it holds a very troubled past for me.

VM: Let's talk about your latest record, "Midnight at the Movies." Listening to the album, it seems to have a much more accessible, much smoother feel to it. Was this intentional?

JTE: It definitely is a much more atmospheric record — there's a lot of ambiance going on, and that was definitely intentional. Me and Skylar Wilson, my right hand man in the studio, we are very surgical about how we make records, so everything is in its place. What we do is make records that represent the songs in the best way. I'm not a country songwriter, I'm not a hillbilly songwriter — I'm a songwriter. Period. The best way to describe what I do is that I'm a "Southern Music Preservationist." But I was born in the '80s and grew up in the '80s and '90s, so along with your Charlie Pool and your Carter Family influences, you're going to get some George Jones, some Elvis Costello, some George Strait ... It goes all over the place, and I add all my little flavors where I can fit them.

VM: As a songwriter, do you ever or have you ever written for anyone else, or do you exclusively write for yourself?

JTE: I exclusively write for myself. There's been talk of some other people recording some of my songs, and if they do that's fine. I mean, anybody can record my songs, because I'll be happy to be the businessman and take the paycheck. But no, nobody ever tells me what to write and who to write for. I don't play the fucking Music Row assembly line game. That's bullshit, not art. Don't get me wrong, there are a lot of great songwriters that are down there on the Row. But, you know, it's very rare. You put five people in a room and tell them to write a song about a fucking tractor, and you're going to get a soulless piece of shit.

VM: So, I guess this attitude goes back to your feelings on Big Country in general?

JTE: You know, it's a hard thing about country music, because people have a misconception of what country music is. Everybody needs to make no bones about it, but when Hank Williams, Sr. was at his height at the Grand Ole Opry, he was a fucking pop star. He was the biggest pop culture phenomenon that the world had seen at that point. And that's what Nashville has always been, since its induction as a music city. But now, pop music has just gotten bad, and it seems that Nashville is just following pop music into the hole. Hopefully pop music will come out of it, and hopefully Nashville will come out of it too. But, it's like everyone says — every country act that comes out now sounds like a bad Bon Jovi cover band with a fiddle player.

VM: Given what you think country has become and given the difficulty most people have trying to define your sound, how would you describe yourself?

JTE: I don't try to avoid labels, I just manage to dance around them. My goal is to basically do what Dylan did, which is take the bones that Woodie Guthrie left us and bring them into a new time and update them a bit. That's the idea — you need about 90% old and 10% new. Again, I'm a Southern Music Preservationist. ☘

VERSUS MAGAZINE: I'd really like to talk with you about your relationship with Nashville. How has it been as a DJ and electronic artist on the rise in a city so renowned for really any other genre but your own?

JUSTIN KASE: I love Nashville; I think that we have a great community of electronic artists that really love what they're doing. You know, it's small, but even for the parties that we throw on Saturdays, there are DJs that come from other cities and have loved it, more so than even their own hometown sometimes. I think it's amazing — I really love this city. It's a small scene but it's a healthy scene and is always flourishing.

VM: So Nashville might not have the biggest scene, but does it feel like the community just really wants it more? Is there more of a connection here?

JK: Really, it seems like this year, everything kind of broke. When I was asked that kind of question before, stuff was really starting to pick up and now it's ... I don't know. When I left for this tour and Jeremy [DJ Coach] took over full time for CvK (the Coach vs. Kase series), it was kind of on the turn. And now, we don't really even have to promote it and the party blows up every week. A lot has changed in the past year.

VM: You are currently touring as Ke\$ha's DJ. How has the tour with her been going?

JK: It's everything I wish it could be. Right now, we have the top two singles on iTunes, the number one record in the country, the fastest selling single of a female artist in history... and it all went from a small van tour to what we are doing right now in literally almost ten months.

VM: When DJing a live set, how do you select which tracks to use?

JK: It's totally spur of the moment. I think as a DJ, you can't plan a set. You can't go in expecting to play something. I mean, you can have an idea that the song is great and you want to test it out, but that's really all it is. You always have to test new tracks out, see what works, and see what doesn't. Every night is different. Some nights, people are really feeling the disco stuff and other nights people just really want to hear more of the worldly, Latin and African stuff. Really, you just have to read a crowd.

VM: More and more, DJs and remixers are gaining notoriety through blogs. Whether through introducing new music or finding new music to use, it seems blogs are extremely important to your art.

JK: The big blog-house boom about three or four years back really changed everything. It really made any kind of sound acceptable for house and really spread the genre out. There wasn't such a formulated kind of sound. There are so many different influences coming from different angles, but they all ended up being house music. Because of what happened, there is a different style today.

VM: So what do you think is next for the electronic genre? Do you feel that more and more you and your peers are trying to break away from the concept that they are all so similar?

JK: I think that with any good artist, whether it's electronica or in anything else, it's all about evolving and moving around. I don't think anybody should ever hold on to any sort of dead horse. The electro thing is slowly becoming something different and becoming more pop music, which is amazing. It's sort of becoming a genre of its own, outside of dance music even. Every time I feel like I'm going to call a trend, sometimes it comes, sometimes it doesn't, and sometimes my tastes are just a little to extreme for the mainstream. I think right now stuff like Major Lazer or more of the African or Latin influenced house music is kind of setting the tone for 2010.

VM: Any last thoughts you'd like to leave us with?

JK: I think Nashville is a very special place to be for DJs and electronic artists. There's something that was brewing there a year ago that's brewing even more now, and people are just eating it up and loving it. And there are a lot of kids that are younger and coming up in the city that are really talented. I'm really looking forward to seeing what Nashville has to offer in the future. ☘

FLIP SIDE

Hustler and Versus can be read online at InsideVandy.com



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

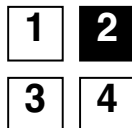


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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

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

1/18/10 SOLUTIONS

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

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

1/20/10

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Caesar's reproach
- 5 Plays a trump card, in bridge
- 10 #2
- 14 Caution
- 15 1946 high-tech unveiling at the Univ. of Pennsylvania
- 16 On Hollywood Blvd., say
- 17 Way out
- 18 Mizuno Corporation headquarters
- 19 Sty resident?
- 20 Microprocessors
- 23 Poet Lowell
- 25 Tennyson's twilight
- 26 Beginning
- 27 Shipping things used as a filler
- 32 Persian Gulf ship
- 33 Roll call response
- 34 Court response
- 35 With 63-Across, this puzzle's theme
- 37 Water color
- 41 Grammy winner Braxton
- 42 Subjects for searching or saving
- 43 Bits of user information created by Web sites
- 48 "Me, too!"
- 49 Buddy List co.
- 50 Eastern discipline
- 51 Contortionists
- 56 "Back ___ hour": store sign

- 57 Budapest-born conductor
- 58 "Good heavens!"
- 61 15th century date
- 62 Place for a bracelet
- 63 See 35-Across
- 64 Wet expanses
- 65 Shocking weapon
- 66 Rare bills

DOWN

- 1 Farm mom
- 2 It's based on purchase price
- 3 Scooter kin
- 4 "Do ___ others ..."
- 5 Get back in business
- 6 Like heroes who deserve more credit
- 7 Italian automaker
- 8 Counterfeit
- 9 Fight memento
- 10 Hindu god incarnated as Krishna
- 11 Join the Army
- 12 Runs off to wed
- 13 Beer with a blue ribbon logo
- 21 Subject of the play "Gilda's Balcony"
- 22 Ice cream holder
- 23 Per unit
- 24 E or G follower
- 28 Mauna ___
- 29 "Why Can't I?" singer Liz
- 30 Common Market letters
- 31 Biblical refuge

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

1/20/10

1/18/10 Solutions

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

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- **Landon Gibbs** (BS'04): Director of Health Care Initiatives, Clayton Associates; Executive Director and Co-Founder of SHOUT America
- **Anu Pardeshi** (MBA'04): Director of Special Projects, DaVita Inc.

Wednesday, January 20, 5:30-6:30pm
 (networking immediately following)

Commons Center, Multipurpose Room (2nd floor)
Business Casual

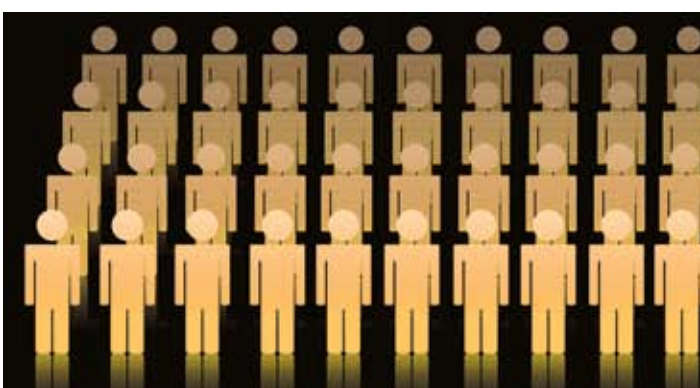
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