

Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

APRIL 7—APRIL 13, 2010 VOL. 48, N^o. 11



BEN HARPER & RELENTLESS7

Ben Harper talks with Versus about his new band, the group's new album and their upcoming performance at Rites of Spring.

Get a sample of Nashville's taste of Thai on page 3.

Attention, gentlemen! Check out our best suggestions for mens-wear on page 6.

Vampire Weekend's first visit to Music City: Our thoughts on page 7.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

The Original Cast presents "Make Me Feel" — Langford Auditorium

The Original Cast, Vanderbilt's premier Broadway revue company, will take the stage at the Langford Auditorium this Thursday evening, kicking off a three day residency of their spring 2010 show, "Make Me Feel." Featuring selections from Broadway mainstays such as "Aida," "The Wedding Singer," "Next to Normal" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie," this spring's show is sure to have something for everyone. For your own sake, embrace some of Vanderbilt's most talented performers and catch a performance. (\$10, 8 p.m., Langford Auditorium)

The El Dorados — Wild Beaver

After a two week hiatus and an appearance as the cover story for Versus Magazine, the El Dorados return to the stage this week in a big way. Continuing their "tour" of the Nashville bar scene, The El Ds will play at the delightfully trashy Wild Beaver this Thursday night. With a set list of old favorites as well as a line-up of as-of-yet unheard new songs, the band is set to entertain you all night long. This Thursday, if debauchery and sing-alongs are your thing, look no further than the Wild Beaver. (\$5, 10:30 p.m., 212 Commerce St.)

Danny Salazar and Trova Urbana — Mercy Lounge

Looking for something with a little more cultural flair this Thursday? Drop by the Mercy Lounge (recently voted by Versus Magazine as the top small-sized venue in Nashville) for their Latin.Rock.Soul. Roots. event. Featuring Danny Salazar and his band Trova Urbana, the Mercy Lounge will play host to a audio orgy tonight, mixing rock and traditional Latin music that will make you want to dance. (\$8, 9 p.m., 1 Cannery Row)

Whiskey Myers and Matt Moore — Exit/In

Not in the mood to spend a lot of money this Thursday night? Or perhaps you simply want to save the cash for other "activities" later that evening? The nearby Exit/In has the perfect fix for you: Bluesy southern rockers Whiskey Myers perform a free show tonight. As the band explains, "Whiskey Myers' musical style was forged from several different genres of music from several different eras. Whiskey Myers takes the blues rock genre and mixes it with modern day Texas Country such as Reckless Kelly, Randy Rogers and Cross Canadian Ragweed to derive a new sound that is sure to take concert listeners on an atmospheric roller coaster." (Free, 8 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Gorilla Zoe — Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

In order to properly celebrate their fraternity's recent rechartering, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta have booked renowned Atlanta rapper Gorilla Zoe to play this Friday night. One of the hottest, most on-the-rise rappers of the last several years, Zoe first made a name for himself as a member of the rap collaborative "Boyz In Da Hood" (in which he replaced Young Jeezy) and later in guest appearances in the Yung Joc songs "Coffee Shop" and "Bottle Poppin'." His first solo album, "Welcome to the Zoo," climbed as high as No. 18 on the Billboard 200 while his second release, "Don't Feed Da Animals" climbed to No. 8. Most recently, Zoe released a new mixtape every day of February (28 tapes) and is ready to release his third album, "King Kong" this week. (Free, 10 p.m., Phi Delta Theta house.)

Lightning 100's Music City Mayhem 2010 — Exit/In

Local independent radio station Lightning 100 is back with their very own version of the Big Dance! Lightning100's Music City Mayhem gives 32 local bands a chance to compete online for a chance to win it all. All this week listeners and supporters have the chance to call in and vote online, and the last four bands standing will compete head-to-head at a Final Four showcase this Friday night at the Exit/In for the chance to win a live broadcast, regular rotation of their music and more. (Free, 9 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

Who's Bad — The Cannery Ballroom

Billing themselves as the ultimate Michael Jackson tribute group, Who's Bad returns to Nashville this evening for a show at the Cannery Ballroom. The band describes their sound as "an infectious party production that takes audiences on a musical expedition spanning three decades of Michael Jackson's chart-cresting music. From 'ABC' to 'You Rock My World,' no song is forgotten in this electrifying revival of Pop Music's Royal Highness." (\$12 in advance, \$15 day of show, 9 p.m., 1 Cannery Row)

Kathleen Madigan — Zanies Comedy Night Club

While Nashville may be known as Music City, Zanies does a fantastic job of consistently bringing in some of the biggest names in comedy for performances. Kathleen Madigan kicks off her six-show weekend residency this Friday night. Madigan has been universally praised by critics and comics alike, earning over \$1 million in ticket sales in the last decade while being heralded as "The Funniest Woman in America." (\$23, 7 & 9 p.m., 2025 8th Ave. South)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Matt Urmy with Jonathon Sexton and The Big Love Choir — 3rd and Lindsley

Nashville transplant Matt Urmy, a man with a self proclaimed "troubadour spirit," brings his acclaimed style of American to 3rd and Lindsley this Saturday night. As both a poet and a singer/songwriter, Urmy merges his two passions into one, creating "his folk-blues style of storytelling and singing." Also performing are Jonathon Sexton and the Big Love Choir. (\$7, 10 p.m., 818 3rd Ave.)

Same As It Ever Was: A Tribute to the Talking Heads — Exit/In

This local collection of musicians from Knoxville loves to rock. They love to rock almost as much as they enjoy the music of '80s new-wave legends Talking Heads. Their music is invigorating, fun to bust a move to and also layered and innovative. Coming together in the summer of 2005, Same As It Ever Was was motivated by the transcendent qualities of the Talking Heads' music to bring "these songs to life on stage with the passion and skill, never fail[ing] to fill up the dance floor." (\$10, 8 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

The Metamorphosis — Nashville School of the Arts

Franz Kafka's revolutionary novella about metaphorical transformation and societal alienation is revered as one of the most imaginative works of the 20th century. Its complexity has proven a challenge for students and scholars for nearly a century. Now, the adventurous students from the Nashville School of the Arts are going to take their turn. This challenging work promises to "transform" your evening into something out of the ordinary. (\$7, 7 p.m., 1250 Foster Ave.)

Look What I Did with ILL Patriot and more — The End

Innovative local band Look What I Did tops off this stop of their Civil Disobedience Tour at The End on Saturday. On their MySpace, they declare themselves "uncompromising," determined "to resurrect the creative spirit that embodied punk, grunge, jazz" and other rock genres. They boast their shows as unpredictable and absurdist, a veritable "declaration of war against the status quo." Angst filled and ambitious, Look What I Did ensures a blaringly loud and unpredictable night. Also on this lineup will be local products ILL Patriot, as well as Modern Hell and Bad Cop. Be sure to check out this innovative and interesting show just a stop away from campus! (\$5, 9 p.m., 2219 Elliston Place)

The Regulars

THE RUTLEDGE
410 Fourth Ave. South 37201
782-6858

THE MERCY LOUNGE/CANNERY BALLROOM
1 Cannery Row 37203
251-3020

BLUEBIRD CAFE
4104 Hillsboro Road 37215
383-1461

EXIT/IN
2208 Elliston Place 37203
321-3340

STATION INN
402 12th Ave. South 37203
255-3307

THE BASEMENT
1604 Eighth Ave. South 37203
254-1604

F. SCOTT'S RESTAURANT AND JAZZ BAR
2210 Crestmoor Road 37215
269-5861

SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER
1 Symphony Place 37201
687-6500

3RD AND LINDSLEY
818 Third Ave. South 37210
259-9891

CAFE COCO
210 Louise Ave. 37203
321-2626

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Versus

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Versus Magazine

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Party and Bullshit



1. Jessica Munoz, Alex Binder, Philip White, Madeleine Kent and Missy Grello at Hot Dog Formal **2.** Members of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and friends at spring formal in Panama City Beach **3.** Members of Pi Kappa Alpha and friends look on as Zack Bland takes a digger off a cooler in Panama City Beach **4.** Lauren Izard and Megan Eddings at Kappa Alpha "Old South" **4.** Carli Roth and Kelsey Gerber in Panama City Beach.

From the Editor



You may remember that last week's letter was about my deep hatred for the exercise craze that fraternity formals inspire and my refusal to partake (despite the lapse in judgment that led to my near-death morning jog experience). What I neglected to share in my last letter is that this brief foray into fitness was inspired by last week's unpleasant and sudden addition of not two, not five, but TEN pounds to my scale number. I'm not big on numbers, but this was quite the nasty shock. After a week of giving up an assortment of delicious goodies (including attempting to forsake margaritas and Gin Collins in favor of toxic vodka tonics), I hopped on the scale and ... immediately got back off, weight unchanged. Bowing my head in defeat, I looked down to see the needle pointing to 10 instead of zero. My scale is broken. This was confirmed by my suitemate: "Oh, yeah, first it was just pointing to zero, then five, now it's on 10 for some reason. I thought you knew!" Funny. In spite of how annoying this was, the end result is great: I lost 10 pounds yesterday! Let the candy feasting and margarita drinking begin (or, actually, resume).

This recent discovery of my not-fatassness comes just in time for one of my favorite times of the year: the week after Easter. Like many students on campus, I hold the passing of the holiday in great reverence. But while some recognize Christ's resurrection and the end of Lent with hours upon hours spent in church, I plan to celebrate in my own unique way: By eating as much leftover Easter candy as humanly possible (the term "humanly possible," while cliché, develops a whole new meaning when it comes to my capacity for candy consumption). Aside from the obvious desirability of chocolate bunnies and jelly beans, what makes this week so appropriate for me to Hoover package upon package of the sweet stuff is the fact that all Easter candy goes on crazy sale immediately after Sunday. Based upon these aggressive markdowns, I assume most consumers do not share my subscription to the timelessness of Peeps. This seems, at the very least, rather tasteless. Sugar coated in sugar never goes out of style, people.

Religious preference aside, whether you've recently celebrated Passover, Easter or another holiday altogether, take a moment this week to appreciate 70 percent markdowns on Easter-themed Godiva chocolate and any candy that comes packaged with a plush rabbit or Easter egg imagery. For Easter candy purchasing advice, you can find me in the holiday aisle at CVS with a basket full of Peeps and a new bathroom scale.

Avery Spofford

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

I used to play sports
When the weather got warmer
Now I just day frat.

It would be a lot
Cheaper to go to Vandy
If Natty cost less.

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 in Calhoun: "I just washed my sheets for the first time since October; it feels so good to go to sleep!"

Girl: "If you can face off Fabiani, you can take over the world!"

Professor: "I always wanted to be a werewolf when I was younger."

Girl 1: "Let's do a healthcare dance!"
Girl 2: "Yeah, and if we throw our backs out, Congress will pay for it!"

Horoscopes

- ♈ ARIES 3/21-4/19**
Finals are three weeks away. I know, it shocked me, too.
- ♉ TAURUS 4/20-5/20**
Summer internships aren't everything; just the only thing preventing your parents from detaining you in the house for 90 days.
- ♊ GEMINI 5/21-6/21**
No, YES will not work. Just wait until it crashes consistently for the next three weeks.
- ♋ CANCER 6/22-7/22**
Day frat every day of the week except Sunday (that's just poor form).
- ♌ LEO 7/23-8/22**
Magic markers are not appropriate cooler-decorating tools.
- ♍ VIRGO 8/23-9/22**
This week, you will perfect your cornhole and dizzybat skills.
- ♎ LIBRA 9/23-10/22**
Time to get rid of that pasty complexion. Grab a blanket, an iPod and some sunglasses and catch some sun out on Alumni Lawn.
- ♏ SCORPIO 10/23-11/21**
A couch is an acceptable alternative to sharing a bed with your creepy formal date.
- ♐ SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21**
Rome wasn't built in a day. But that 10-page paper about Rome? You'll be fine.
- ♑ CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19**
Best part of the weather getting warm again? Fro-Yo is fun again!
- ♒ AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18**
Goal for this week: Get a photo of Officer Don putting you in handcuffs.
- ♓ PISCES 2/19-3/20**
Just because you may be interning in New York this summer does not mean you can live your life like a Gossip Girl character.



CULTURE

'Cool' and the gang

EMILIE HALL
Staff Writer

By now you are no doubt aware, girls of Vanderbilt, that in the event that you are asked to go to a fraternity formal weekend, you must buy, decorate and fill a cooler for your manfriend. You may well have had a similar reaction to my own upon first hearing of this expectation, namely, "No way am I doing that shit." Remain calm. In time you too will learn to accept and maybe even excel (nay, thrive!) in this time-honored tradition like I have. Let me be your guide to cooler etiquette and I promise that this year yours will be the ... coolest (had to).

1) Unless you have great taste in music (and have had this confirmed by people other than yourself and 102.5 The Party), do not write song lyrics on your cooler. If you even get a hint of an urge to write some kind of Dave Matthews quote, step away from the cooler. This isn't your yearbook. Grow up.



2) I don't want to sound like a snob (much ...) but try to buy brands of alcohol that are at least one price-point up from industrial piss. Your date will think you're classy, which will help if you plan to act trashy.

3) If you're not that great at art, don't be too ambitious with your designs. It will be demoralizing if your date says, "And what exactly is that supposed to be?" I once made the mistake of trying to draw a state crest and ended up having to make it into a big smiley face. I almost went and bought a new cooler ... but then I remembered that he could damn well get over it.

4) Don't buy a styro-foam cooler. That's lazy and bad for the environment, girl. Might as well bring your clothes in a trash bag, because it sends the same message: "I'm a bum."

5) Relax! When you get to the beach, I promise there will not be a Westminster Dog Show of Coolers. If you want to feel bad about your cooler, go to the Facebook group called "Cooler Connection." If you want to feel good about yourself, remember that those girls have no lives. ☹

Health tip of the week: Greek yogurt

TAYLOR BACKUS
Staff Writer

The fat-free 0% Fage Greek yogurt (conveniently sold at the Munchie Mart) is the best diet discovery of all time. It may be obvious that yogurt is great for slenderizing yourself, but not all yogurt is created equal. This yogurt has under 100 calories but is thicker and richer than any of the standard fat-free yogurts (which usually have closer to 150 calories too) and it is natural and more importantly filling.

If it's too plain, throw in some berries or a little bit of honey

(instead of getting the higher fat kind that comes with honey) and enjoy (just avoid granola, its a secret diet sabotager)!

(Bonus cooking tip: Use it as a replacement for sour cream on a baked potato or mayo in tuna or chicken salad!) ☹



farm3.static.flickr.com

Let them drink tea

THOMAS SHATTUCK
Hustler Opinion Editor

Don't get me wrong, I don't hate coffee. I drink it all the time and, in fact I'm drinking some as I write this. But if I had my druthers, I'd be sipping on tea and relaxing on a porch. As it is, I'm drinking lukewarm, low-quality coffee and sitting underground despite the pleasant weather.

What makes *camellia sinensis* (tea leaves) so alluring? How can tea draw such a diverse crowd of fans? It is currently the most consumed beverage after water and

can be found in most restaurants around the world. The varieties are, well, varied. There's the dark and mysterious black, refreshing green and exotic pu-erh — and that's only the non-blended options.

As I mentioned, I drink coffee and I drink a lot of it, keeping me wired and somewhat jittery for hours. It's an unpleasant way to keep oneself awake. As Bilbo Baggins once said, you start to feel "sort of stretched, like ... butter scraped over too much bread." Tea, on the other hand, keeps you up without being jumpy. It's soothing but energizing at the same time.

And, of course, since we live in the South, iced tea is always a pleasant springtime option. Sure, they sell iced coffee at fancy places like Starbucks, but, damn it, it's not the same thing. It's harsh and muddled down with milk. It's not awful, I suppose, but it's not that good either. In the end, you end up covering the flavor with sugar and chocolate and vanilla and whatnot. That's not coffee, that's a frappuccino. Tea can hold its own without flavor reinforcement — hot or cold.

So the next time you go to get a mocha, whipped, low-fat, caramel machiatoremember that there's a better, simpler option. *Camellia sinensis* is a brew for morning, noon and night, through the coldest winter and the warmest summer. ☹



LATimesBlogs.LATimes.com

Thai adventures in Nashville

NIKKI BOGOPOLSKAYA
Staff Writer

Over the course of the past few years, Nashville's burgeoning restaurant scene has expanded to offer even those of us with the most eclectic palates a vast array of sauces, spices and accompanying cocktails for every taste. Specialty Italian, Indian, Japanese and Vegetarian restaurants have been opening, expanding and re-opening, to the delight of this New Yorker's wide array of food interests. Most recently, I have been exploring Nashville's Thai food options. Quality Thai food, like Chinese, is hard to fake. That is, those who make it best tend not to be the gourmet, trendy restaurants with tasting menus and waits for reservations but rather those hole-in-the-wall, middle-of-nowhere spots with a mere five tables and ethnic dialects being shouted from the kitchen. Nashville has several delicious options in both categories.

Most Vanderbilt students' experience with Thai food is limited to Satay. Located in a plaza within a three minute walk of Towers (at 2412 Elliston Place), Satay is a perfectly acceptable Thai choice for those interested in food that is quick, cheap and, most importantly, on the Vandy card. The Pad Thai (chicken, shrimp, beef or veggie) runs \$7.95 (or, you know, on the Vandy Card, so, free), and the Spring Rolls (\$1.95) and assortments of soups (\$2.95) are inoffensive choices of appetizer.

For the more adventurous eater, however, I recommend grabbing your credit card and driving ten minutes to The Smiling Elephant at 2213 8th Avenue South. For a few dollars more, you can get a heaping of authentic and delicious Pad Thai, served up in a cozy atmosphere of wooden tables and chairs, bamboo-clad walls and yes, several statues

of smiling elephants. The Shrimp Pad Thai (\$10.95, \$12.95 if you want it served with a delicious sweet and sour vegan soup and fruity dessert) blends classic Thai seasonings perfectly in an incredibly generous portion and plates such as Vegetable Stir Fry and Curry With Rice (all \$10.95 for the plate or \$12.95 for the platter) let the less ambitious diner munch on traditional Asian flavorings. The Smiling Elephant doesn't serve alcohol but has a delicious selection of teas, bubble teas and Thai smoothies.

Formoreofanightout,IrecommendBelmont student favorite PM, located a five minute drive from campus at 2017 Belmont Boulevard.

Considerably less authentic than The Smiling Elephant, PM has a chill and relaxing vibe and a much larger variety of food. Although some enjoy the restaurant for its sushi, this eater believes the Thai and Asian Fusion plates are far superior. The Glass Noodle Pad Thai (\$13) and Ginger



z.About.com

Lump Crab Fried Rice (\$18) offer unique takes on traditional dishes by using rare noodles and seasonings. Appetizers such as Peanut Sauce Fondue (\$7) and Madras Chicken Lettuce Wraps (\$8) are perfect for sharing over drinks like The Cucumber Martini (\$11) or The Sexy Sumo (\$15) and certainly big enough for two or more. PM has an extensive menu but it is really its Thai selections that stand out. I recommend going on a Monday or Tuesday night — the restaurant gets busy early and stays busy late, and reservations aren't accepted.

Next on my list of Thai ventures is Thai Phooket. Located in East Nashville in a trailer with a handmade sign (207 Woodland Avenue), foodie websites such as UrbanSpoon, CitySearch and more claim this is the best Thai food in Nashville at the lowest price — as East Nashville venues often are. ☹



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ENTERTAINMENT

GREAT FILMS, BETTER SCENES: Writers recall their favorite movie moments

'Heavyweights'

ALEX GOLDBERG
Staff Writer

Not even the idea of Butler beating Duke, or even Cinderella herself could outshine the Cinderella story of the Chipmunks of Camp Hope overcoming their fitness-obsessed camp director Tony Perkis in the 20-mile hike scene in "Heavyweights."

The scene's premise is that as a punishment for cheating while on the Perkis System, 20 "portly adolescents" have to endure a 20-mile hike. It's the kind of day that separates the men from the boys. During a yoga break, however, the kids come up with a scheme to lock up their camp director

and take a stand for what is right.

Not only is the scene inspirational, teaching the common man that



imdb.com

anything is possible if you set your mind to it and follow through, but it's incredibly entertaining. It introduced me to what a rocky mountain sit-up was while also proving that it is possible to do a sit-up if you can't see or hear. The scene

offers an alternative version of the story of Icarus, and also contains some pretty cool stunts; I don't think that any other movie has Ben Stiller jumping off of a cliff onto a skinny tree branch in an effort to show kids what fun is.

The scene separates itself from others in the fact that not only does it give you chills when the kids reach the proverbial "point of no return," but it does so in an entertaining fashion that results in the viewer laughing out loud and quoting lines daily. As thousands of viewers (portly and otherwise) have discovered, the whole movie is worth taking a look at. ☞

'On the Waterfront'

STUART BRYAN
Staff Writer

When most people hear the name Marlon Brando, they immediately think of his classic, award-winning role as Vito Corleone in 1972's "The Godfather." Brando, however, was dropping jaws with his acting chops on the big screen nearly 20 years earlier, when he portrayed Terry Malloy in Elia Kazan's "On the Waterfront."

"On the Waterfront" tells the story of one man, Terry Malloy, and his struggle to combat mob corruption in order to escape the wretched and failed life in which he has found himself.

The movie's most

memorable scene comes when Terry, a washed up boxer, and his brother Charlie, a mobster played by Rod



media.photobucket.com

Steiger, have an increasingly heated argument over Terry's involvement in the mob business. As Charlie threatens Terry at gunpoint to take a dirty job working for the mob, Charlie's guilt overtakes him and he reminisces about Terry's former potential as a

champion boxer. Then, Brando, wrought with strife and anguish, proceeds to deliver one of the most moving and famous monologues in all of movie history, proclaiming, "You don't understand! I coulda had class. I coulda been a contender. I coulda been somebody!" Brando's acting evokes an intense feeling of empathy within the viewer, each one feeling the weight of his or her own past opportunities missed. The scene ends with each brother unable to look at one another, one face full of guilt and the other full of heart-wrenched longing and pain.

Although this scene soars above the rest, the entirety of "On the Waterfront" is most certainly worth your time. ☞

YouTube distractions of the week:

'Single Ladies Devastation'



YouTube.com

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Entertainment Editor

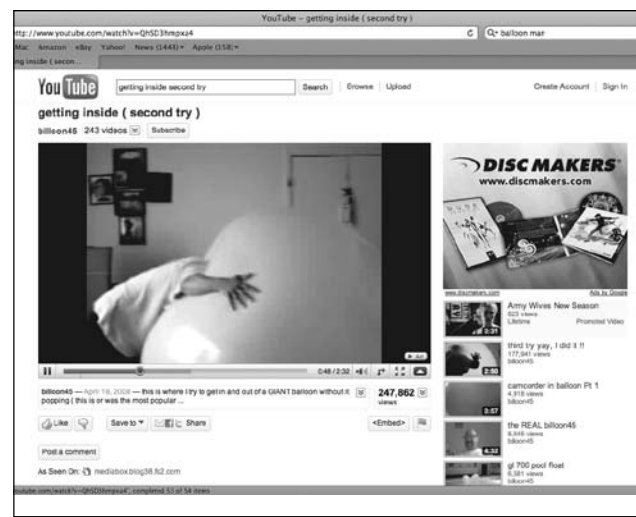
Note to loving fathers: If your little boy wants to be a "Single Lady," just let him — if only for the duration of one passionate sing-along.

Call it another tear-stained victory of nature over nurture. The kid, jamming out as best he could in a restrictive car seat, just wanted to belt Beyoncé's mega-hit with his sisters. That's all. He wasn't asking for parental judgment, prejudice from the peanut gallery

or a lecture on gender identity. Just a few minutes to bask in the freedom of the single life, to shake his fists at the modern idea of commitment, to shout at the world, damnit, you lost your chance "to put a ring on it." That's all.

But his dad wouldn't stand for it. With a simple rebuke — "You're not a single lady, buddy" — the boy was broken, and the next two-thirds of this 50 second, flip-phone clip chronicle his fitful fall from grace. There are no words ... but 'hilarious' gets pretty damn close. ☞

'Balloon Man'



YouTube.com

ANDREW NATHAN
Staff Writer

I may just be easily amused, but billoon45's "Getting Inside (second try)" is one of the more satisfying YouTube videos I have seen in a while. The man is oddly intent on fitting himself inside a very large white balloon in a fashion similar to Wayne Coyne (of the Flaming Lips) but is clearly a bit more amateur. While giving us the play-by-play of

his attempt, he manages to get everything but his lower legs inside before the whole thing deflates and traps him inside. You'll have to tune in to see how he manages to get out — I will say that it is a bit disturbing. The whole scene is weird, but weird is an understatement when you realize that the guy has a whole collection of videos of giant balloons and things he does with them. Creepy fetish? I think so. ☞

THE ENDORSEMENT



lagartixas.files.wordpress.com

'Sons of Anarchy'

JACK MANIRE
Staff Writer

While not quite as popular or well-known as "Entourage," "Lost" and others, FX's original series "Sons of Anarchy" is, without a doubt, one of the greatest shows on TV today.

The show focuses on the Sons of Anarchy biker gang (aka SAMCRO) in the fictional town of Charming, California. In Charming, the Sons run almost everything. Charming PD is basically in SAMCRO's control and lets the gang carry out illegal operations without giving them much trouble (the police chief's name is Unser, which means "ours" in German). The gang runs a few legitimate businesses, like an auto body shop and a porn studio, but it makes most of its money from illegal enterprises such as smuggling guns into the country and subsequently selling them to gangs in other cities with whom they have a peaceful relationship. SAMCRO lives in constant fear of investigation by the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) and also clashes with rival gangs. As you might be able to guess, everything about SAMCRO, especially what it does to its enemies and sometimes to its own members, is exceedingly badass. Every episode of this show has entertaining action revolving around the affairs of the club, and the show also gives the viewer a deep look into the way motorcycle gangs operate.

"Sons of Anarchy" is not a show that relies on action to drive every plot point. Every character within the storyline is extremely well developed. The main character is Jax Teller, Vice President of SAMCRO and step-son of the club's President, Clay Morrow. The show often focuses on the difficulties he faces trying to balance family with the club and also exhibits his internal struggle between his desire to be a good man and his nature as a violent criminal. The characters are all well-acted, especially Jax (Charlie Hunnam), his mom Gemma (Katey Sagal), his girlfriend Tara (Maggie Siff) and Clay Morrow (Ron Perlman).

The only reason someone wouldn't enjoy the show is probably because of the violence. But, if you have the stomach for the occasional bloody scene, you will fall in love with the show immediately. While "Sons" isn't quite as good as "The Sopranos," it's the closest thing you can find on TV today. If that sounds like high praise, that's because it is. If you're still not sure whether this show's for you or not, then I'll leave you with this promise: If you watch "Sons of Anarchy" and don't like it, I'll give you back every penny you paid for this newspaper. ☞

Production to paint 'Rainbow' of drama

IMANI ELLIS
Staff Writer

If the interesting title of this play isn't enough to stop you in your tracks, the inspiring message it delivers will definitely do the job. Written in 1975 and performed on Broadway the following year, Ntozake Shange's award-winning chore poem "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Entuf" has captured readers and audiences for years. Now, for its 35th anniversary, the Black Student Alliance and director Tremaine Price bring this riveting production to Vanderbilt University. The play features the talents of

seven women, each known only by a color of the rainbow, whose interwoven stories culminate to establish the need for connection between the human heart and the human spirit. This production marks the second presentation of the play at Vanderbilt University — the first performance was over 10 years ago, when Mason Richards wanted to bring diversity to the theater program at Vandy and the greater Nashville community. Over a decade later, this production, along with many others, tells the stories of the African American community through the dramatic arts. Although Black women narrate the stories throughout the play, the content they discuss

and overall message is relevant to all, and transcends race, gender, age and region. The theme for the production is "Connected through our humanity. Connected through our stories. Connected through our triumph." This production is for anyone who has ever doubted him or herself, gone on a quest for self-discovery or wanted to know where to get the strength to overcome life's most difficult challenges.

The play debuts April 17 in Sarratt Cinema at 7 p.m and tickets are \$5. Proceeds go to benefit the VSA Arts of Tennessee, a non-profit organization that promotes the arts and arts education for children with disabilities. ☞

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Get them while they're hot: April album reviews

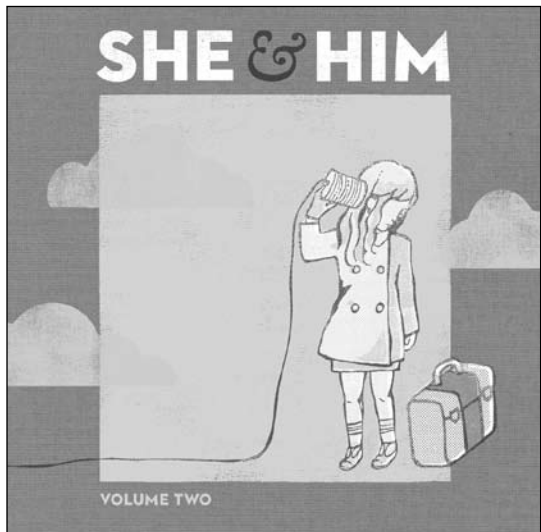
CHRIS MCDONALD
Life Editor

"Volume 2" She & Him

Indie-folk demigods M. Ward and Zoëy Deschanel are back for their second full-length release as She & Him. The follow-up effort to their critically acclaimed debut album, "Volume 1," "Volume 2" offers listeners more of what they have come to expect from both Ward and Deschanel (a relative newcomer to the music scene): understated guitar work with a twist of folk/country (banjos, steel guitars and more) with smoochy smooth vocals. This album soothes listeners while simultaneously tugging at their hearts. "Volume 2" debuted at No. 6 on the Billboard 200 and has been accurately labeled by some as "the audio equivalent of a spring breeze that wafts in at a perfect time."



Songs of note:
"Thieves"
"Ridin' in My Car"



zeitgeistmanagement.com

"Congratulations" MGMT

Easily one of the most anticipated albums of the year, MGMT's sophomore effort, "Congratulations," has finally arrived, providing a rush of psychedelic wonders in a concise yet ambitious nine track package. While the anticipation was certainly well deserved, it must be understood that this is not just a repeat of "Time to Pretend" or "Oracular Spectacular." Instead, MGMT has taken a major step in their careers, opting for darker, more complex and multi-dimensional songs instead of the lighter, poppier tracks many fans continue to expect. Simply put, "Congratulations" is as great an album as you'll find today. From start to finish, the listener is kept on his or her toes, completely uncertain of what's to come next.



Songs of note:
"Flash Delirium"
"I Found a Whistle"



onethirtybpm.com

"All In Good Time" Barenaked Ladies

For everyone who thought that the Barenaked Ladies disappeared after "Pinch Me," think again. With "All in Good Time," BnL have released their 12th full-length album, ensuring their existence and relevancy in the new century. While the album contains the same approachable pop/rock that listeners have become accustomed to, there is one noticeable change: The departure of guitarist and singer Steven Page. Page, who split lead vocal duties with co-founder Ed Robertson, left the band in 2009 after 20 years of dedication to pursue a solo career. With Page leaving the band, many of the jokes and moments of tongue-in-cheek humor disappeared, leaving "All In Good Time" a testament to the band's increasing maturity.



Songs of note:
"Another Heartbreak"
"You Run Away"



barenakedladies.com

"New Amerykah Part Two (Return of the Ankh)" Erykah Badu

Erykah Badu, the so-called "First Lady of Neo-Soul" is back with "New Amerykah Part Two (Return of the Ankh)," the follow-up to her lauded 2008 release "New Amerykah Part One (4th World War)." While "Part One" was a masterful blend of complex music and biting socio-political commentary, "Part Two" marks a departure for Badu, featuring more danceable, less challenging music and simpler lyrics surrounding themes of love and happiness. Despite this change of pace, Badu has proven to be controversial nonetheless thanks to the video for the single "Window Seat" which depicts her stripping nude and pretending to be shot at the site of JFK's assassination. Love her or hate her, Badu keeps things interesting at every turn. ☞



Songs of note:
"Window Seat"
"Agitation"



industrysoul.files.wordpress.com

This Symphony is anything but bittersweet

ALEXIS TABAK
Staff Writer

Recently, I attended the Nashville Symphony with a music aficionado friend to hear the program "Brahms and Big Sur." The Nashville Symphony began in 1920 as the "Symphony Society" and, as its popularity increased, developed into the Nashville Symphony.

The Schermerhorn Symphony Center, the home of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, is incredibly accessible — just a five-minute cab ride away from campus and located in the heart of the downtown area. Also, to its credit, the symphony encourages college audiences to come enjoy classical music by charging students only \$10 for seats that are normally priced at \$80.

The concert was simply splendid; one of the best classical music performances I have heard. I don't know if it was the music itself, the good company, the Andre or the ambiance of the concert, but I found myself immersed in the experience before, during and after the actual performance.

The first piece was Brahms' Symphony No. 3 in F major. A classic Brahms piece, Symphony No. 3 is both rich and varied in melody, featuring a wide range of

instruments including two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, one contra bassoon, four horns, two trumpets and three French horns. It is known to be one of Brahms' greatest successes because of the mix of heroism balanced by quieter, more reflective segments.

The next piece, "The Dharma at Big Sur for Electric Violin and Orchestra," composed by John Adams, although not nearly as well known was still quite intriguing. The piece uses an electric guitar, which provides a spiritual and ethereal sound unique to the symphony. Adams was inspired by Jack Kerouac's novel "The Big Sur" and Buddhist music, giving a spiritual and modern feel to the performance.

The evening's final piece was Alberto Ginastera's "Estancia: Four Dances, Op 8a." Drawing upon his South American heritage, the composer's objective was for the audience to call to mind images of cowboys in Argentina riding through the vast prairies. This piece, which was originally written in 1941 as a ballet, had the audience wide awake and ready to dance.

Overall, the experience at the symphony was inexpensive, educational and a fun alternative for a Friday night. ☞

thelobby.com



LIFE-CHANGING ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Spice Girls 'Spice World'

ALEXIS TABAK
Staff Writer

Without a doubt, my most life-changing album was the Spice Girls' "Spice World." Why did it make such an impact on me? At the age of nine, I began to see the effect that music had on my friends, family and popular culture as a whole, and this album was no exception. The Spice Girls helped me formulate my identity and understand what it means to be a woman in our modern world — In fact, I don't know a single woman who grew up in the '90s and doesn't still know every single word to the "Spice World" album (or at least a few songs), can't tell you which Spice Girl she was in her group of friends or can't give you her opinion on why Ginger Spice left the group.

The Spice Girls made it incredibly cool to be British and cool to celebrate multiple identities — Baby, Sporty, Posh, Scary and Ginger all represented a part of young girls' personalities as we embarked on the journey of discovering our own sexuality. The Spice Girls changed the pop music genre to something more than just a space for commercial gain and bubblegum girl groups — The Spice Girls were a group that stood for sticking up for friends and enjoying life as a girl.

With their first foray into the music industry, the Girls' beauty, spunk, sex appeal and "Girl Power" seduced the entire world as everything became Spice-ified. Young women (and men ... see the Entertainment section's modern take with our analysis of YouTube sensation "Single ladies devastation") were inundated with clothing lines, accessories, lollipops, dolls and films, all of which became indispensable to being cool in grade school. Through merchandise, music and their Girl Power message, the Spice Girls transformed young women's identities and spread the message that it was hip to just be yourself.

Why it was most life changing for me, however, was because listening to the music still makes me want to dance, spice up my life and pause to ask myself what it means to "zig a zig ahhh." When Geri left and the Spice Girls tried to continue

the group without her, it was clear that they were nothing without each other. As sad as it was, the Spice magic was no longer there without Ginger, demonstrating to young women everywhere that if you leave your friends in the dark the repercussions can be devastating.

While the Spice Girls' chart-topping popularity was short-lived, the impression they had was long lasting and, arguably, continues to this day. ☞



babble.com

"I believe in a long, prolonged, derangement of the senses in order to obtain the unknown."
— Jim Morrison

Vampire Weekend electrifies Ryman in first-ever Music City performance

JOE AGUIRRE
STUART BRYAN
Staff Writers

In the city where country music reigns supreme, Vampire Weekend proved that even a quirky indie rock band from New York City can make the Nashville faithful get down and boogie.

Making their first trip to, as lead singer Ezra Koenig called it, NashVegas, the band strolled into the sold out Ryman Auditorium with a warm reception from a crowd comprised mostly of high school and college kids. Drummer Chris Tomson received a particularly grand ovation from yours truly thanks to his long sideburns, Burt Reynolds-style mustache and giant cowboy hat. With everyone else decked out in tight jeans and sneakers, the band went to work, opening with "White Sky" from their latest album, "Contra," released in January of this year.

The crowd, slow to get on their feet, eventually began to bob their heads

about and what can only be described as "convulse" (the closest thing that white people can seem to get to actual dancing) as Ezra's honey-like singing filled the auditorium.

The boys followed up with the pulsating "Holiday," also from "Contra," and then quickly delivered four songs from their self-titled debut album, including "I Stand Corrected," "M79" and "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa."

Keyboardist and guitarist Rostam Batmanglij, Vampire Weekend's resident cool customer, spent the night switching back and forth between his two instruments of choice, proving himself to be arguably the most skilled musician in the band. Bass guitarist Chris Baio quickly worked up quite a sweat as he danced about the stage in a style that I would dub ... uniquely his own.

With the band rapidly running through the 18-song set list, Koenig gave the audience a taste of his auto-tuner on

"California English." Koenig, as well as the entire band, sounded incredibly crisp and nearly plucked straight from the album. On "A-punk," a two-minute toe tapper about a girl named Johanna and a silver ring, Ezra managed to get everyone in the Ryman jumping up and down, while on "One (Blake's Got a New Face)," the audience helped belt out the call-and-response style chorus.

Vampire Weekend finished up what seemed to be the end of their set with crowd favorites "Giving up the Gun," "Campus" and "Oxford Comma," which electrified the crowd and had almost everyone singing along. Finally, the group exited the stage as roadies came out and began fiddling with equipment. After a few minutes of heavy clapping and cheering, however, the band appeared through the curtains and played three songs, "Horchata," "Mansford Roof" and finally "Walcott," for their encore. With the entire audience's musical appetite satiated, the band exited with waves and smiles.

After the sweeping success of their show at the Ryman, it would appear that Vampire Weekend have earned free reign and welcome to come back and perform in the Music City anytime they should so desire. For everyone's sake, let's just hope their second visit here doesn't take as long to happen as their first. ☼

coppelstudentmedia.com



jtecomx.com

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. "Top of The World"
— XV
2. "Bright House"
— Seabear
3. "Hot Like Fire"
— The XX
4. "Childish Games"
— Consequence (ft. Asher Roth)
5. "White Walls"
— Archaeology
6. "Surfin' USA"
— The Beach Boys
7. "Walking on the Moon"
— The-Dream (ft. Kanye West)
8. "I've Seen Enough"
— Cold War Kids
9. "Paper"
— Rafter
10. "It's Tricky"
— Run DMC

Lucky you...

Adam Bieber
Adriana Oliver
Alex Binder
Alex Holman
Alex Hormozi
Alex Roorda
Alex Rothman
Alli Hyatt
Andrew Giobbi
Andrew Luksik
Anthony Fran
Ashley McElvany
Austen Packer
Austin Schiff
Ben Pelz
Ben Scott
Benjamin Woods
Billy Whitner
Bobby Falconer
Brad Groebe
Brad Wolfson
Brian Mayrsohn
Caitlin O'Leary
Casey Howards
Charlie Fishman
Chase Houghton
Chris Knochel

Clay Skipper
Clint Anderson
Collier Calandruccio
Daniel Naturman
David Etnenson
David Jogwe
David Krauss
David Lewin
David Sidari
Doug Woodcock
Elliot Cole
Emily Mitchell
Eric Fischer
Ethan Lazar
Fadi Pulous
Grant Taylor
Greg Billinger
Greg Larson
Greg Webber
Gus Harwood
Harvis Laughrey
Harry Breakstone
Helen Lindemann
Jack Manire
Jackie Wong
Jake Masters
Jason Kanoff

Jason Lee
Jason Levine
Jeff Baxt
Joe Petty
Joe Webster
Joel McManness
John Cole
John del Piero
John Wathen
Jonathan Kokot
Jonathan Kurzner
Jonathan Pridgen
Josh Hansel
Josh Rogan
Julie Zisfein
Karissa Hammer
Kate Williams
Katie Bakas
Kevin Hisey
Laura Willwerth
Lauren Stair
Lauren Steinberg
Louis Danastorg
Manny de Zarraga
Mark Harber
Mark Madden
Martin Bloemenkranz

Matt Brauch
Matt Casas
Matt Karp
Max Gollobin
Melanie Broder
Melissa Monaghan
Merrill Hendrickson
Michael Paster
Michelle Robertson
Mike Landau
Miron Klimkowski
Morgan Roach
"Mrs. Schneider"
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Ryan Rau

Sam Kurtzman
Sam Novakowski
Sam Weiner
Sarah Lane
Scott Halperin
Scott Singer
Scott French
Shane Kaster
Shannon Fleming
Spencer Blye
Stanley Twarog
Stephanie Karwallas
Steven Groover
Taylor Pruitt
Teddy Weaver
Tim Foomey
Trevor Breen
Tyler Frazier
Van Gambrell
Watson Folk
Will Parks
Woody Klemmer
Wyatt Smith
Xavier Rathlev
Jeremy Kirvoshey
Zach Roth
Zach Molnar

...you've been crushed!

You're Invited:
Kappa Delta Crush Party Ozziest
Friday April 9th, 9 p.m.

FASHION

FASHION FOR THE FELLAS

LAUREN JUNGE
Fashion Editor

Whether it's the suit you sport (to formal perhaps?) or the underwear beneath, we've got you covered this week with the best fashion advice for guys, by guys. Before I leave your soon-to-be-rejuvenated fashion sense in the hands of our most esteemed male writers, I'll throw in my two cents: The one piece of men's fashion advice my father instilled in me is that "a tie should never enter a room before you do." So, boys, I suggest you leave those loud, animal-print ties of your tailgate days behind — from now on, just let your true Vandy boy charm do all the work. Oh, and a nice suit wouldn't hurt either. ☞

TIMELESSLY TASTEFUL: A GUY'S GUIDE TO SUITS

BARTON KING
Staff Writer

A Gentlemen's Quarterly piece said it best: "A suit should fit a man like a suit of armor." Meaning, a suit should move with the man wearing it in a strategic and subtle manner, rather than the man seeming to actually move (or swim) within the suit itself. Such the right effect comes from a trim fit, which has been, is, and always will be the way to go. However, this is not to be confused with a slim fit. When you think of trim, picture Pierce Brosnan in GoldenEye—versus when you think of slim, any Jonas Brothers red carpet appearance should pop into your head. Unfortunately, many "professionals" in the industry from clothing warehouses or department stores to menswear boutiques will often try to insist upon generic and often oversized options—such advice should always be taken, at best, with a grain of salt. Chances are, if you want a great fit you are going to have to pay a substantial premium for a bespoke design or make some negligible investments into your off the rack purchase at a local tailor.

So when you make such an important purchase, you need to keep some serious suiting rules in mind.

Starting at the northernmost point, the shoulders of your suit should fall naturally and extend just past the horizontal range of your deltoids. In other words, something you should always avoid is a suit size that creates the pointed, extended width shoulder effect, as this is one of the easiest ways to throw off an ensemble. A healthy, diagonal descent angle from neck to deltoid is often indicative of a well-cut suit, and should be embraced. In terms of the lapels, attractive options are currently available in both peak and notch variants, and should only be evaluated in terms of their jacket depth, the extent which the lapel extends down each side of the jacket, and their width. With regard to these, generally the deeper the better, and medium width lapels should be preferred to those of the particularly wide or narrow versions.

Getting to the overall style of jacket, it is absolutely imperative that you opt for a two-button suit. Do yourself a favor and block out contemporary campaigns to proliferate the spread of three button designs. Quite simply, they look awful. A two-button jacket allows your shirt and tie assortment to be clearly displayed and not veiled by unnecessary jacket coverage creeping up your torso that is found by three button suit types. All classically designed suits,



<http://www.gq.com>

as well as classic style icons have implemented two-button designs, and this will not change anytime soon. The choice between single or double jacket venting is up to you, but double venting is particularly helpful for gentlemen that are tall or have long midsections. In terms of jacket length, your jacket tails should roughly reach the palm/wrist intersection when your arms are held down at your side. Pay close attention to this as an overly long jacket is one of the fastest ways to ruin a suit.

Your suit pants should, just as your jacket, be trim, and move well with the silhouette of your lower body. Well-fitting suit pants seem to move in a minimal manner due to a

close to the body cut and silhouette-esque fit. With near the amount of enthusiasm as was shown with the two-button jacket choice, unless you are considerably overweight, your suit pants should be flat front, and have little to no break in the hem. Meaning, your pant openings should just barely graze your shoes, or only a trivial amount of excess pant length should be present. Just like a long jacket, excessively long pants are a sure way to muck up a good suit. However, when going for a traditional look, opt for a French cuff with a double-breasted jacket whereas when sporting a single-breasted jacket, straight legs are recommended.

Finally, a good suit is nothing without great accessories. Wingtip or cap toe (not to be confused with square toed) shoes in brown and black should be in every man's closet, as should numerous solid colored pocket squares (a white one is a necessity). A belt is optional, but if worn, should always match his shoes. Dress shirts should fit

one's body type with little excess in the cut and should have 1/4 inch of the cuff showing while wearing the suit jacket, and should have a moderately spread collar to accommodate a stylized tie—however, when wearing a formal suit, wear an understated tie and keep your louder ties for a jeans and blazer look.

In terms of where to find such a suit and accessories, I would advise looking into the offerings of H&M and Banana Republic for value shoppers, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger for those in the midrange, and finally, for those without a budget, the pinnacle of such description can be found in Ralph Lauren's Black Label Collection. My advice, however, would be to first learn your body type, and don't be afraid to try on as many suits as possible to see what works and does not for you. Additionally, everybody needs a mentor, and although Pierce Brosnan wasn't the finest Bond, the man knows how to wear a suit. ☞

The art of the man-cessory: Shirt necessities

MATT SHELTON
Culture Editor

Any man can have his mother buy him a good suit. But it takes a real fashionisto to put together a full look complete with the proper accessories. Recent trends suggest the rebirth of the man-cessory: Forcing one to detail his outfit more so than a tie and watch. For those looking to round out their wardrobe, try one or all of the following.

Tie Clip: Growing up in the flat Midwest, flapping ties are always a pet peeve of mine. The simple solution: a tie clip. Clipping your dress shirt to your tie, these clips are not only stylish but also pragmatic. Add metallic/military flair to your suit by adding a clip. I'd suggest buying a silver clip as opposed to gold; it will be more versatile. For a classic option, check in to David Donahue.

Tie Pin: A smaller version of the tie clip, this "earring for a man" is studded to a tie, performing the same job as the clip. These pieces are not mute statements of fashion, but blatant displays of wealth or high fashion. Made with studded gemstones, pearls or gold/platinum, these pins are usually hand-me-downs from grandpa. For those looking to get one without waiting on the will, get one monogrammed to add the old-world feel without dropping four digits.

Tie Chain: For those who want that "I'm an Italian mob boss and want everyone to see my chains even if I'm in a suit" look, try a tie chain. Again fastening the tie to the shirt, the tie chain adds an extra layer of texture to a bland suit. As an added bonus,

they allow the tie to move slightly, so for a less stiff feel, try the chain.

Cufflinks: French cuffs are back in, which means the only way to keep them in tact is by using cufflinks. One of the most versatile and complementary man-cessories, cufflinks come in all shapes sizes and colors. Make sure that it is the same metal as your watch, as conflicting colors on pieces so close is a faux-pas even a drunk frat star would call you out on. If you opt for the no watch look, make sure to spice up the cufflinks, as they are now the only wrist-down bling you will be sporting. For those looking to add them to your everyday wardrobe, try the cloth versions, which run at only \$5 — \$20 and come in every color combination imaginable. ☞



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BOXERS OR BRIEFS? GETTING THE RIGHT PROTECTION

BARTON KING
Staff Writer

A man should protect those things most important to him. I challenge you to find something more essential to a collegiate man than protecting his masculinity's livelihood. Thus, protecting the physical manifestation of this masculinity should be of prime importance. Now that we've all left behind those Fruit Of The Looms of our childhood and plaid Hanes boxers of our 12 year-old days, we are faced with an overwhelming variety of choice when it comes to our most basic garment selection.

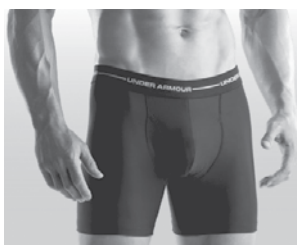
I've gone through numerous cuts of Calvin Klein boxer-brief styles, with varied levels of satisfaction, until one day, it hit me like a divine sign: Under Armour makes boxer briefs for the same price (and sometimes for even less) as other luxury underwear manufacturers, and with superior

material. Imagine the same game-changing material that constructs their ingenious line of T-shirts, tanks, and shorts, and put that to use in men's underwear. Features you won't find anywhere else for the price include the revolutionary material, durability, anti-odor technology within the fabric and finally, the all but magical Performance Pouch, ensuring the ventilated comfort of every man's most prized possession.

Now, Under Armour has introduced a new line of performance underwear for 2010: the M series. Although the original HeatGear line is still available for purchase, this new line takes a less athletically inspired but equally performance driven approach on boxer-briefs. While anti-odor and ventilation zone technology are still a thing, this line uses a new four-way stretch material

with Flatlock seams that ensure a new level of comfort for extended periods of wear. Each model line comes in 3", 6" and 9" inseam variants, with a choice of basic color combinations. If you are pushing 6'7" like myself (or just simply above the 6'3" mark), go for the 9" option; heights below that benchmark should opt for the 6" inseam to promote a proper look and fit.

Gentlemen, we are mature now. It's time we start buying underwear that show this. After all, you never know when you're going to be caught with your pants down or, better yet, who's going to see you that way. Women, if you want \$20 to go a long way for your man, snag him a pair of these; or, if you're single, check out the women's line — you may just be surprised. ☞



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AM	6:00 w		6:00 w		6:00 w	7:30 w	
	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w	9:30 w
PM	12 w	12 w	12 w	12 w	12 w	12 w	
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	7:45 w	7:45 w	7:45 w				

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BEN HARPER

& RELENTLESS7

Since his debut release in 1994, roots-rocker Ben Harper has provided countless listeners with some of the most well-crafted, moving songwriting and brilliant musicianship available today. In anticipation of his headlining performance at Vanderbilt's Rites of Spring music festival, Versus writer Andrew Nathan recently had a chance to sit down and speak with Harper about his new band, his artistic influences, Relentless7's upcoming new record and his love for Nashville.



ANDREW NATHAN
Staff Writer

Versus Magazine: *What did you initially hope to (or continue to hope to) accomplish with your music?*

Ben Harper: You know, what I wanted to accomplish with my music, I feel strongly that it has been accomplished. It represents different things, different emotions for different people. But I've always set out to make the music I want to make with no compromise. And thanks to the fans out there and thanks to Virgin Records, I've been allowed and able to do that completely unhindered. I'm super excited about how that's been reflected into the world, and when I do shows, I am proud and excited to be playing in front of the people that I am. It's a great group of non-conformists and it's great to be a part of it.

VM: *You've sold out arenas around the world, but you keep coming back to smaller venues. What brings you back to those smaller places?*

BH: I'll tell you what, at times, I've sold out arenas and at other times I have struggled to sell even a hundred tickets. I'm just all over the map, you know. And I'm proud of it — it keeps me humble, for one, and it keeps me working hard. I wouldn't want the type of success that enables me to A) make bad music, or B) rest on my laurels and accomplishments. I like always staying hungry and keeping what I do urgent at all times. Not that I'm a masochist or a complete failure by any means, it's just that I'm very appreciative of my trajectory as far as where I've come with the music that I make. I mean, I'm a slide guitar player. I'm just glad to have the hustle at all.

VM: *It seems like you had a pretty interesting upbringing. How did this influence your music and where you are today?*

BH: Musically, socially and politically, my family is the foundation of where I've come to. My mom is a songwriter, singer and guitar player, my dad was a musician (a drummer), my grandmother used to teach autoharp, dulcimer, guitar and banjo, and I was raised in a music store in Claremont, Calif. around the Claremont colleges. My grandfather was a poet and published books ... But I know people who came from absolute creative silences in their homes that are incredible musicians, so it doesn't take any specific pedigree for it. It's a calling. It's an issue of whether or not you're going to find your way to it, I believe. But in my case, I was raised around it. I have always had a love of music and the artistic creativity around music.

VM: *How do you feel your music has changed throughout your career?*

BH: It has changed a lot, and sometimes it feels that it has gone full circle and arrived back where it started ... Even the furthest out I have gotten from my original sound, my original

sound is still the foundation of that. I mean, I haven't made my drums 'n' bass record yet, I haven't made my rap record yet, so even a solo acoustic song isn't that far removed from any number of songs from the songs on "White Lies for Dark Times."

VM: *On "White Lies for Dark Times," you seem to in large part ditch your acoustic sound in favor of more of a rock sound. Has working with your new band changed your approach?*

BH: It hasn't necessarily changed my approach, but it's definitely enlivened it and brought a lot to it that I couldn't have got to otherwise. Relentless7 definitely amps things up at times, but I don't want that to be at the expense of missing the acoustic stuff as well. I think that right now Relentless7 is just defining what its sound is going to be, and I think it's going to take a couple of records to get there, and it will be both acoustic and electric.

VM: *You're known for your fantastic live performances. What do you consider to be a great night on stage?*

BH: For me, a great night on stage is when you can walk offstage and have no questions, where you just know that you did what you came to do. I'll take it even further — a great night is when you can walk offstage and the questions that you may have end up being questions about musical risks you took in a live setting, and when you hear them played back the risks paid off. I do review my live shows in the name of growing, making them better and going places that I might not have gone before or stop going places where I should no longer go.

VM: *You briefly mentioned earlier that you have another album coming out later this year. Could you speak a bit about that and what we should expect?*

BH: It's going to be myself and Relentless7 again, and it's going to be called "Give 'Til It's Gone." We have just two

more songs to mix until it's done. And hopefully it will be out this summer.

VM: *Is the sound going to be any different than on "White Lies?"*

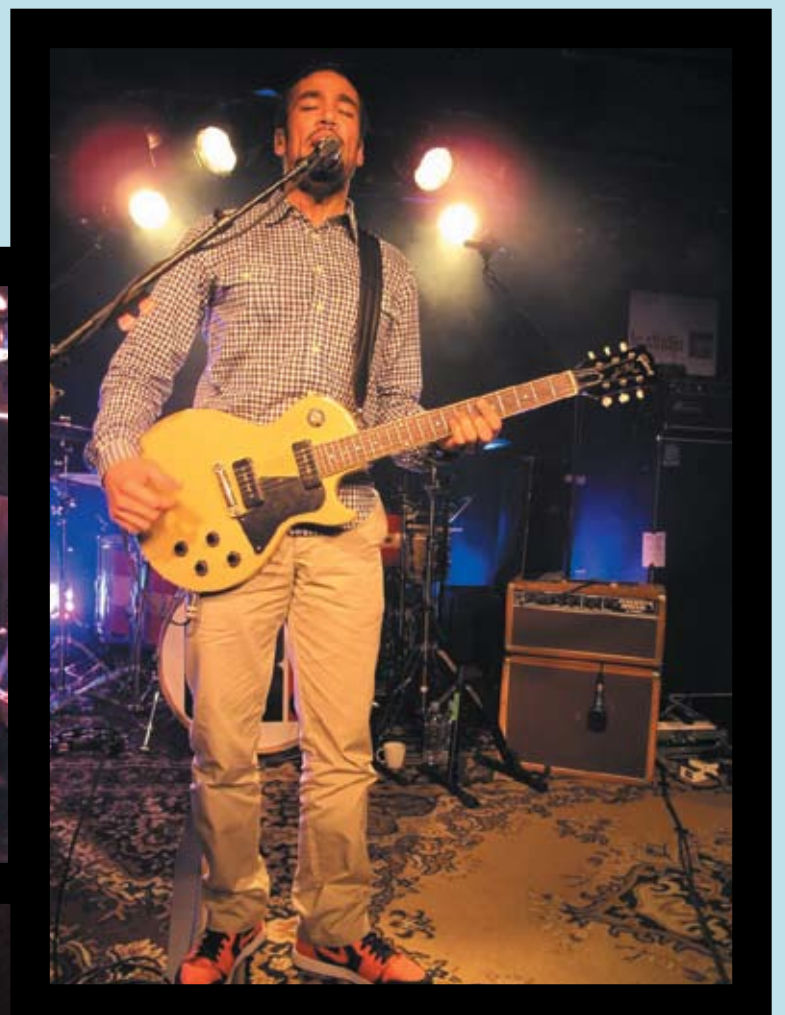
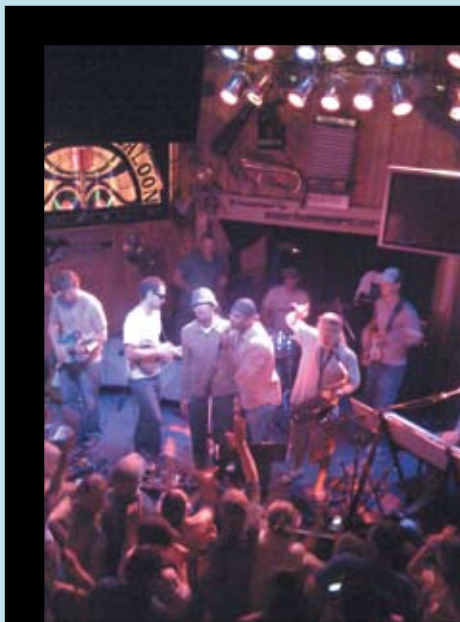
BH: It is, because on "White Lies" we weren't a band yet — we were just four guys in a room making music together that became a band. This record is made as a band, and I truly think that comes out in the sound and in the connectedness of not only the playing but also in the songs.

VM: *You have been on the road touring extensively for almost a year now. Does it ever get tiring or old?*

BH: Man, it can get tiring, but it's way more fulfilling than it is tiring. I try to keep a clear perspective on the road and stay super healthy so every show feels fresh. And that's a crucial part of touring: staying healthy, eating right, getting your rest. That makes every show grow from the last one.

VM: *We here at Vandy are all excited for you to headline our Rites of Spring festival in a few weeks. What do you think of playing in Nashville?*

BH: We have played the Ryman quite a bit, and love Nashville and Tennessee, period. We have never had a bad show in Tennessee. Not one! It's always tremendous for us, and we can't wait to get there. And we're going to mix it up, too. We're going to play some newer songs off the record coming out later this year, some songs off "White Lies," mix it up from other records as well, and play some acoustic stuff as well, because it's been so important to what I do. ☿



WWW.BENHARPER.COM



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

Level:

1 2
 3 4

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

						6	9
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

For the solution to today's puzzle, please go to the bottom of the homepage at www.OutsideVandy.com

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parents and alumni

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Date with an MD
- 5 Horse of a certain color
- 9 One of the March girls
- 13 Runny fromage
- 14 "La ___ è mobile": "Rigoletto" aria
- 15 Declare openly
- 16 Extremely defensive state of mind
- 19 Pablo Neruda work
- 20 Landlocked Asian sea
- 21 Spats spots
- 22 Trial in simulated conditions
- 24 Short orders in a luncheonette?
- 25 Giant Mel
- 26 Retired Cunard liner, briefly
- 27 '60s protest gp.
- 30 Physical play
- 34 Joint problem
- 35 Pig Latin refusal
- 36 Precipitous start?
- 37 Limoges product
- 38 Gardener's areas
- 39 Abstinent one
- 41 Caps or Cat precursor
- 42 Seedless bit of flora
- 43 Channel where Susan Lucci hawks her jewelry line
- 44 Funny Fey
- 45 Ghoulish
- 49 ___ rod: powerful Old Testament tool
- 52 Luminous glow
- 53 Objective
- 54 Sam-I-Am's story
- 57 Margarine
- 58 Condos, e.g.
- 59 Like Cheerios
- 60 This puzzle's theme—according to Twain, it's "a good walk spoiled"
- 61 Insignificant
- 62 Prejudice

DOWN

- 1 Monk's superior
- 2 Bluenose
- 3 Sappy trees
- 4 Drug in Shatner novels
- 5 Like I, in some cases
- 6 Turf work about first-year law students
- 7 Political commentator Coulter
- 8 Hollywood's Wood
- 9 Goofs on the mound
- 10 Activity from below?
- 11 Schlep
- 12 Major rtes.
- 14 Diminutive celeb sexologist
- 17 Like garden smells
- 18 Not behind
- 23 Frat party garb
- 24 Assailed
- 26 Part of
- 26-Across
- 27 Dirty
- 28 Beach sight
- 29 Headline (in)
- 30 Teases
- 31 Beasts of burden
- 32 Word processor command
- 33 La Scala production
- 34 Togo neighbor
- 37 Medical imaging proc.
- 39 Stiffen
- 40 They held Tara's title
- 42 Helsinki native
- 44 "... newt and ___ frog": "Macbeth"
- 45 Like some basements
- 46 Religion founded in 19th-century Persia
- 47 Cowboy's rope
- 48 Small-screen awards
- 49 Wide-eyed
- 50 Woody's offspring
- 51 Fishing gear
- 52 Not fer
- 55 Wildebeest
- 56 Driver's lic. info

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