

# Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

APRIL 14—APRIL 20, 2010 VOL. 48, No. 12

## JULIAN CASABLANCAS

THE STROKES' LEAD SINGER JULIAN CASABLANCAS TALKS WITH VERSUS ABOUT HIS NEW SOLO ALBUM, TOURING AND UPCOMING WORK WITH THE STROKES.

The great debate: Apple's iPad, page 3

Kick-off World Cup fever with the sounds of South Africa on page 6

Page 8: Fashion for the frugalista

## PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

### Ingram Hill — 12th and Porter

Making the short trip up I-40 this evening is Memphis, Tenn's alternative/pop rock band Ingram Hill. Though the group formed back in 2000, it was not until 2004 with the release of their full-length debut album, "June's Picture Show" that Ingram Hill really exploded in popularity. With songs like "Will I Ever Make It Home" and "She's Almost Perfect," the band left a major mark on the radio waves with their catchy hooks and harmless, love-sick lyrics. Having shared the stage will heavyweights like Hootie & The Blowfish, Maroon 5, Guster and Better Than Ezra, Ingram Hill knows how to work a crowd, from festivals to small venues like 12th & Porter. (TBA, 8 p.m., 114 12th Ave. South)

### Alternative Press Tour — Rocketown

The Alternative Press Tour returns to Nashville this Thursday night, making a one day stop at Rocketown. This year's tour will be headlined by NeverShoutNever!, the stage name of 19 year old acoustic pop musician Christofer Ingle. Ingle will be joined on tour with Florida's power-pop/pop punk band Hey Monday, as well as fellow pop/punk rockers The Cab, Early Avenue and The Summer Set. For just \$15, you can catch performances from all of these bands and get your weekend kicked off in a high-energy way. Tickets are sure to sell out, so get yours while they last. (\$15, 5:30 p.m., 401 6th Ave. South)

### Galactic — Exit/In

On the heels of their latest release, "Ya-Ka-May," Galactic has hit the road once more, bringing their unique fusion sound to Nashville this Thursday night. Their new album intertwines a mix of New Orleans sounds, "From jazz to brass band to funk and far beyond. With this release, the five-man group comprised of drummer Stanton Moore, bassist Robert Mercurio, saxophonist/harmonica player Ben Elman, keyboardist Richard Vogel, and guitarist Jeff Raines reaffirms their status as one of the funkier outfits in the known universe." (\$19 in advance, \$21 day of, 8 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

### Rock for Ovaries 2 — Mercy Lounge

Salon Ya Ya, in conjunction with Pureology Hair Care and The Mercy Lounge, is hosting the 2nd annual Rock for Ovaries benefit, a charity show raising money for the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. The benefit consists of a fashion show, a silent auction and concerts by The Protomen, Cassino, Jonell Mosser and Leticia Wolf. For just \$10 you can help raise money and awareness. (\$10, 7:30 p.m., 1 Cannery Row)

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

### Highballs & Hydrangeas — Cheekwood Botanical Gardens

Every once in a while an event comes along that just sounds like a downright ball to attend. Designed to introduce Nashville's downtown media/art/music/film denizens, art collectors, and urbane professionals to a modern, hipper side of Cheekwood, this Friday's night cocktail fling is one such an event. It will be an indoor and outdoor event with live music by the acclaimed Pat Patrick Band. There will be a cash bar with high-end cocktails and classy hors d'oeuvres from Nashville Originals' member restaurants. Yes please. (\$15 advance/\$20 at the door, 7 p.m., 1200 Forrest Park Drive)

### Holly Cormier in Concert — Edgehill Studios Cafe

Start your Friday night with a free Shot of Expression in Edgehill Village, the new Hillsboro Village-esque hotspot right off of Edgehill Ave and 16th Ave South where Cormier will be making her professional debut at the relaxing and ambient Edgehill Cafe. Ever since she won the "Reality Star Idol" competition at the young age of 13, she has gone on to win top national songwriting and performance awards in competitions such as the 2009 "Songwriter Universe" and "Atlanta Fest 2007." Her debut album has been acclaimed as an "emotional labor of love." (Free, 6:30 p.m., 1201 Villa Place)

### Blair Signature Series: Craig Nies performs Liszt and Beethoven — Blair Ingram Hall

Piano maestro Craig Nies will perform his sixth piano concert in his Bach concert series. The program will include Franz Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor and Beethoven's Eroica Variations, Opus 35. Composed in 1854 by Liszt in dedication for Robert Schumann, the Sonata in B minor is a piece that is often regarded as Liszt's greatest composition for solo piano. Composed in 1802 by Beethoven, the Eroica Variations are a series of 15 variations of one of Beethoven's most beloved themes. (Free, 8 p.m., 2400 Blakemore Ave.)

### Dave Barnes — Exit/In

This singer-songwriter first gained notice among the likes of Amy Grant, Vince Gill and John Mayer after his 2004 LP "Brother, Bring The Sun" received critical praise. Drawing influence from Stevie Wonder, Steeley Dan and everyone between, his acoustic sound has both depth and groove. Barnes recalls, "There I was, three years ago in a room just writing a song because it needed to be written [MTSU], and here I am today in a room in front of 500 to 1,000 people with everybody singing it. And that's a weird feeling." Catch his show at Exit/In this Friday. (\$15, 9 p.m., 2208 Elliston Place)

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

### Lord T & Eloise — Mercy Lounge

A wise music guru once said, "I crunk, therefore I am." These powerful words serve as the guide for the aristocratic rap duo Lord T. and Eloise and their trademark "aristocrunk" rap style. Hailing from Memphis, Tenn., Lord T, who dresses like an 18th century aristocrat but with Ray Ban shades, and Eloise, who wears a tuxedo and flaunts his "24-karat" gold skin, have cemented their status as the most outrageous crunk masters in the game today. Their hugely entertaining party rap has earned them the cred to tour with artists like Al Kapone, The Ying Yang Twins and Mickey Avalon, and their hilarious lyrical genius has landed them features in VH1's Best Week Ever, Blender Magazine, and Radar Magazine. (\$8 Advance/\$10 at the door, 9 p.m., 1 Cannery Row)

### Scheherazade — Schermerhorn Symphony Center

Remember how Disney's Aladdin was your favorite movie back in the day? Well, now that you're all grown up, isn't it about time you experience the sophisticated orchestral re-telling of that classic story from The Thousand and One Nights? Composed by Rimsky-Korsakov, Scheherazade, Op. 35 will let you relive all the timeless tales from Nights including "Aladdin's Lamp" and the legendary story "Sinbad the Sailor." The Nashville Symphony will perform, and The Enchantment Theatre Company will provide beautiful costumes, masks, puppets and stage magic to create the illusion of distant lands where many adventures await. (\$27.50, 11 a.m., 1 Symphony Place)

### Roy Clark — Nashville Municipal Auditorium

Country Music Hall of Fame member Roy Clark is one of country music's most iconic symbols. In the '70s he was a frequent guest host for Johnny Carson on The Tonight Show, and eventually became well known for hosting his own show Hee Haw, a nationally televised variety show that enjoyed 30 million viewers per week. He has performed his hit songs "Yesterday, When I Was Young" and "Thank God and Greyhound" in locales as diverse as Las Vegas, Atlantic City and the Grand Ole Opry. (\$25, 8 p.m., 417 4th Ave. North)

### Y2K with Coach & Hands Off Sam — 12th and Porter

Looking for some sweet electronic jams to dance to Saturday night? 12th and Porter's DJ regulars Y2K and Coach have you covered. Enjoy cocktails at the bar and lose yourself in the strobes, lasers and thick electronic synth with all of Nashville's ragers. With two dance floors, comfy lounge sofas, a private indoor balcony and a chill outdoor sidewalk hangout spot to people watch and socialize, 12th and Porter has all the makings of a fun night. (\$1, 10 p.m., 114 12th Ave. North)

### 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 37203  
259-9891

**CAFE COCO**  
210 Louise Ave. 37203  
321-2626



Service & Quality Since 1947  
**10% off (Vandy ID)**  
Voted Best Cab Company in Nashville...

## CHECKER CAB

615-256-7000

Safe, Clean & New Vehicles; respectful drivers; GPS Dispatch;  
Handicap Accessible; Online reservation...



Checker Cab your green cab!  
[www.nashvillecheckercab.com](http://www.nashvillecheckercab.com)

# Versus

APRIL 14—APRIL 20, 2010 VOL. 48, No. 12

## Versus Magazine

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief  
**Avery Spofford**

Life Editor  
**Chris McDonald**

Culture Editor  
**Matt Shelton**

Entertainment Editor  
**Charlie Kesslering**

Music Editor  
**Grant Darwin**

Fashion Editor  
**Lauren Junge**

Art Director  
**Matt Radford**

Designers  
**Irene Hukkelhoven**  
**Kat Miller**

Marketing Director  
**George Fischer**

Advertising Manager  
**Carolyn Fisher**

VSC Director  
**Chris Carroll**

Assistant VSC  
Directors  
**Jeff Breaux**  
**Paige Clancy**

Journalism Fellow  
**Erin Prah**

## Party and Bullshit



**1.** Members of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and dates dressed as the 13 original colonies **2.** Pete Wild and Ross Shahinian at the Catalina Wine Mixer **3.** Members of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity on a boat at Saturday's Catalina Wine Mixer **4.** Rob Munro, Sasha Munn, Harriet Feid, Stephen Silverman, David Webb, Kari Matulewicz, Jefferson Deming and Jon Braun at JFK of MSTRKRFT

## From the Editor



I'm not writing your stupid letter this week. I was up until 7 a.m. in Stevenson writing papers, and I'm going back in a few hours for round two. You want to know what I did this weekend? You want to know what life lessons I learned? Well, I'll tell you:



Most importantly, I learned not to neglect 25 pages of writing in order to day frat, even if it is "the fucking Catalina Wine Mixer."

*Avery Spofford*

## Words to live by in seventeen syllables

Life's like a box of Chocolates, by the end, you're bound To be sick and fat.

If the Haikus are Not up to snuff next week, blame Panama City.

## 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"



A drunk girl at Quiznos: "Can I have a chocolate chip cookie sandwich?"

A girl outside of Eskind: "I can't tell if he's homeless or pre-med."

Professor: "At this point, the catalyst particle is all coked out — pause — you know what I mean."

Guy in Rand: "Her skirt ripped in half so I gave her my pirate coat to wear home."

Girl 1: "Why doesn't my brain work?!"  
Girl 2: "I'll tell you in a stanza and a half."



## Horoscopes



**ARIES 3/21-4/19**

Have your cake and eat it too — unless you're going on formal.



**TAURUS 4/20-5/20**

Your girlfriend doesn't appreciate the ghetto slang. Call her "darling" this week, not "shawty" or "boo."



**GEMINI 5/21-6/21**

You'll get drunk and stop cars on West End and ask for them to pay a \$1 toll. You won't make much money, but plenty of new friends.



**CANCER 6/22-7/22**

If you left a pregnancy test on the floor of Wilson, it was positive. Congratulations!



**LEO 7/23-8/22**

Do not hesitate to perm your hair.



**VIRGO 8/23-9/22**

Invest in Adderall: During finals, it is a good way to study the economics of commodities trading.



**LIBRA 9/23-10/22**

If you are a freshman, come to terms with the fact that you aren't special anymore. The Commons has had its way with you, and it is ready to move on.



**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21**

Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.



**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21**

Have no friends not equal to yourself.



**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19**

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.



**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18**

He doesn't like your cooler, but there's no way in Hell he's going to tell you that until after this weekend.



**PISCES 2/19-3/20**

No, it is not appropriate to pregame your Spanish exam, even if you are drinking sangria.

# CULTURE

## the great debate: Apple iPad

### Pro: Apple scores again with a different vowel

MATT SHELTON  
Culture Editor

Many skeptics debate the actual function of the iPad. In a realm of netbooks, laptops and smart phones, where does the flattened-out iPhone fit into the media-junky's library? While I'll admit the iPad's appearance is not much more than an iPod under a steamroller, within a year everyone will once again be singing Apple's praises for its evolutionary practices. The iPad comes out in a time where there is a technological confusion amongst even the most ardent tech heads.

I have a laptop that could run a third world country with its computing power. The downside: Its 17" screen and nine pound weight make it cumbersome, like carrying a dumbbell to class. It's not too discreet, either; its pleasantly plump exterior nearly hides my whole face when I open it

in class. While there is no better machine to have 13 tabs in three windows open, I bemoan its portability. When I'm on the run, or in class, I need something that is like a pad of paper: discreet and portable, but able to hold all of my notes in one place mixed with a laptop, an internet-utilizing, application-running way to stay connected even as your teacher drones on about the philosophy of plant growth.

What Apple did was simple: Take a laptop, rip off the top part, and put all the hardware in it. Does it have the three gig processor in it? No. Do you need anything close to that to run 97% of the applications and programs you have? Absolutely not. Apple gives you a functioning netbook without the two-piece build, an aesthetic upgrade that differentiates it enough to make designers' heads turn. Couple this with Apple's future plans to integrate

magazine and newspaper subscriptions into its portable device and you



tipb.com

have the perfect combo of a computer and Kindle, all on one pad-sized, brushed silver model.

Though not necessarily revolutionary, the iPad is definitely evolutionary. ☿

### Con: Padding old hardware on a new toy

KEVIN JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Of the people who own

And then there's the iPad. Physically, the iPad looks like an enlarged iPhone. The operating system is the same Apple operating system you see on the iPhone or iPod. It's a bit too large and heavy to carry around without it becoming an added encumbrance. You are forced to carry the iPad around with the same delicacy of a laptop, yet it does not offer nearly the same functionality.

One thing which the iPad is well, even debatably the best, suited for is an eBook reader. However, reportedly the iPad's screen is difficult to see in the sunlight, making reading outside difficult or impossible. Furthermore, you can buy an Amazon Kindle which gets the same job done for half of the price.

Don't get me wrong, the iPad sounds interesting. It's a photo album, which is eerily similar to iPhoto on the MacBook. It's a

music player, which is eerily similar to iTunes on the MacBook and the iPod function of the iPhone. Its e-mail and video functions are also eerily similar to applications on the iPhone or MacBook. You get my point: almost all of the functions on the iPad are, to say the least, eerily similar to functions most apple users already have. While it does offer an extremely different experience than an iPhone or a MacBook, there is not any added functionality which makes buying an iPad worth it.

At this point the iPad is a novelty. There is plenty of potential to make this device relative for the future, but the current device is not relevant enough. Unless you have roughly \$600 in your pocket, which is starting to weigh you down, it would be better to satiate your curiosity by looking at one in the store. ☿

## Hitting the books

### Best study spots on campus

ALEX GOLDBERG  
Staff Writer

Go through the main doors of Central Library, walk through the leisure reading room to the elevators. Go up two levels to the sixth floor and make a left when exiting the elevator. When you reach the wall, make a right. About twenty feet ahead lies a group of six carrels to your left; You have hit the jackpot.

What makes these six carrels better than the Peabody Fireside Reading Room and the 24-hour Stevenson is their size. Each carrel is about two feet deep and four to five feet wide, allowing you to lay all of your resources next to your computer rather than making piles upon piles of books. The carrels also have two outlets so that you can plug in your laptop and phone at the same time. Moreover, its hidden nature, the "Secret Garden" effect, allows you to avoid the hustle and bustle of the rest of campus and shotgun through your work finish what you need to.

So head on over to the sixth floor of Central and take on exams by their horns. ☿

CHRIS MCDONALD  
Life Editor

Without question, the best place to study on campus is Stevenson. No, not the chemistry or biology rooms, and not the recitation rooms either. In order to truly reap the benefits Stevenson has to offer studiers, you have to take a trip downstairs.

Two stories below the math building, there wait for you two gems (close to the geology rooms). While one is filled with the chair-table combo's, the larger room is full of desks, affording even the most cluttered studier more room than he could ever need. No matter how many pages of notes you have, this cavernous space is more than accommodating. And with plenty of outlets and a strong internet signal, it is the perfect place to finish that research paper.

The remote location serves a dual purpose. As it is so far away, it is empty the majority of the time (especially late at night). But more importantly, two stories underground, you get no cell coverage, regardless of carrier. No coverage, no distractions.

So next time you are hard-pressed to finish an assignment, take a chance and head below ground. ☿

### Worst study spots on campus

AVERY SPOFFORD  
Editor-in-Chief

Stevenson Library: Honestly, why even bother? You might as well post up in a corner booth at Dan McGuinness and try to get your final paper done there. Stevenson is a great place to download someone else's entire music library from Mojo or get your hands on study drugs or find yourself a formal date, but definitely not a legitimate work space. The carrels are always full, and there are just too many social people packed into this library for it to even really qualify as a "library." I once found an empty bottle of Skyy in the girls' restroom. Apparently Stevenson subscribes to the Vandy work hard, play hard philosophy.

Rand: It's a cafeteria, not a library. Great for group projects, but in terms of solo study time, Rand is really not your best bet. It's loud. It's busy. There's food everywhere. I get the people who go to Rand to work on presentations or for group meetings, but

as far as that random kid in the corner furiously studying for his electrical engineering exam, I just can't relate. Try the Biomed? Buttrick? Even Stevenson is probably a better option than this "study spot."

Your dorm room or suite: "Man, I really have to get started on this ten-page paper. It's due tomorrow. I'm such a slacker. Here we go, got my books, Medieval ... My room is SO dirty. I probably should put away my clothes and re-organize my shoes. Really should vacuum, too. I mean, I can't be expected to work in this environment! I'll be ready to start once I'm all organized. Hey, I wonder if I still have that leftover Chinese food? Better check that out. Hmm, man, there's a lot of alcohol left in the fridge from formal weekend. Gotta do something about that. Oh, whoa, my suitemates are all watching TV in the living room ... So much more interesting than Medieval ... I really need to start that paper." ☿



hedgeco.net



blogs.ajc.com

## Health tip of the week: Eat eggs

TAYLOR BACKUS  
Staff Writer

Perhaps it's just my own personal obsession with eggs, but I am convinced that there is no more fulfilling, healthy, delicious, high-protein, low-calorie food out there. There are only about 70 – 80 calories in a single egg, making a full meal of two eggs under 200 calories, or even three eggs just over. Eggs won't put you in a diet boredom slump because there are so many ways to eat them (scrambled, poached, sunny side up, over-easy, deviled, hard-boiled, soft-boiled, frittata), and with so few calories, so many things you can put in them without feeling any diet guilt.

Unfortunately, to get your egg fix at Vandy, you have to get your ass out of bed in the morning and hike over to Rand (unless you're lucky enough to live in housing with a kitchen), but it's totally worth it. You can also throw some egg on your salad at lunch or make the journey to nearby restaurants like Cafe Coco (they have great make-your-own omelet options) or Noshville.

Egg white tip: If you really want to cut calories or cholesterol (especially if you're an everyday egg eater), go for egg whites, which have practically no calories and are still delicious if you throw in some veggies, ham or cheese. ☿



z.about.com

## HOT YOGA NASHVILLE

COOLEST THING IN FITNESS!

APRIL 15 - MAY 30, 2010

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
AM	6:00 ☿	*6:00 ☿	6:00 ☿	*6:00 ☿	6:00 ☿	*7:30 ☿	*7:30 ☿
	9:30 ☿	9:30 ☿	9:30 ☿	9:30 ☿	9:30 ☿	9:30 ☿	9:30 ☿
PM	12 ☿	12 ☿	12 ☿	12 ☿	12 ☿	12 ☿	
						*2:00 ☿	*2:00 ☿
	4:30 ☿	4:30 ☿	4:30 ☿	4:30 ☿	4:30 ☿	4:30 ☿	4:30 ☿
	6:15 ☿	6:15 ☿	6:15 ☿	6:15 ☿			6:15 ☿
	7:45 ☿	7:45 ☿	7:45 ☿				

\* those marked are temporary classes and are on a \$10 cash only basis

2214 Elliston Place (1 Block from Campus) 615.321.8828  
www.HotYogaNashville.com

# ENTERTAINMENT

## EVERYDAY ENTERTAINMENT: DAY FRATTING

NIKKI BOGOPOLSKAYA  
Staff Writer

Warm and sunny summer weather means all sorts of good things. For children, it is time to frolic on the playground and chase the ice cream truck. For parents, it is time to lower the dose on their Xanax because their children are out of the house and are causing them considerably less stress as thoughts of violence are fewer and farther between.

For Vanderbilt students, it is time to embrace and frolic in our own playground — the frat porch.

This past Saturday found Nashville at 78 degrees and without a cloud in the sky. Fraternity social chairs had anticipated this weather (clever boys!) and planned all sorts of wonderful events — outdoor concerts, slip-and-slides and “wine mixers” (read: Franzia and a vandalized boat).



AVERY SPOFFORD / Versus Magazine

Sorority shades donned, sundress selected and not-so-premium vodka and Crystal Light mixture stirred, I found myself happily gallivanting down frat row engaging in respectable and mature activities including but not limited to: Pushing scantily clad males down muddy pieces of tarp they have deemed a “slip-and-slide,” spraining my wrist while engaged in a fist-pumping contest with a

particularly aggressive stranger, being hoisted atop fratstar’s shoulders to rock to the familiar and beloved tune of “Wagon Wheel,” helping a friend put freshly-grilled hot dogs in her purse “for later” and yes, chasing an actual ice cream truck down Kensington Place. And demanding to pay with the Vandy Card. Note to partiers: The ice cream truck does not take the Vandy Card. In the midst of these

activities, while whipping out my phone to check on updates from friends (“Porehh HHHhh...yoOouu UuU?”), I was lucky enough to receive a (personalized) email from our dear Entertainment Editor asking if I would be interested in writing an article about day fratting. (Thanks for thinking of me, Charlie). Blackberry in one hand and Natty Light in the other, I

scoured the party asking friends and interesting-looking strangers for their insight. The questions? “What is your favorite thing about day fratting or your best day fratting memory?” Somehow the friends who were more than willing to be quoted yesterday now wish to remain anonymous, but I think with some educated guesses we can identify

several culprits. A collection of favorite answers:

“I am forgoing running the half marathon I have been training for all semester to go to SAE Crawfish Boil.”

“BETA LUAU!”

“It really has no boundaries ... you can do whatever you want. There’s sunshine, beer, beautiful women in sundresses and cowboy boots [pronounced wink] ... Vanderbilt wouldn’t be the same without it.”

“Anything that Jack Butler does.”

“The fact that you can drink before 5 p.m. and no one calls you an alcoholic ... Nik ... do you think I’m an alcoholic?”

“Big Daddy’s naked ass peeing over the ledge mid-party.”

And the truest answer of all:

“Babe ... I don’t day frat to make memories.”☞



AVERY SPOFFORD / Versus Magazine

## PREVIEW REVIEWS

MATT SHELTON  
Culture Editor

### 'Dinner for Schmucks'

Just when you thought that the era of bro-mance was over, Paul Roach, mastermind behind “Meet the Parents” and “Meet the Fockers,” comes back courting two veterans of man-love, Paul Rudd and Steve Carell, to combo in their comedic genre of choice to form “Dinner for Schmucks.” While the preview is mildly entertaining, both lead actors don’t step too far outside of their stereotypical personality roles in order to achieve humor, leaving this film seemingly an amalgamation of “The 40 Year old Virgin” meets “I Love You, Man.”

Paul Rudd plays a highly successful businessman on the verge of partner status. The last thing on his promotional bucket list is an awkward tradition of inviting the “weirdest person you know” to a company dinner his boss puts on every month. Once he literally runs into an awkward 40-something Steve Carell in his Porsche, the movie falls into place.

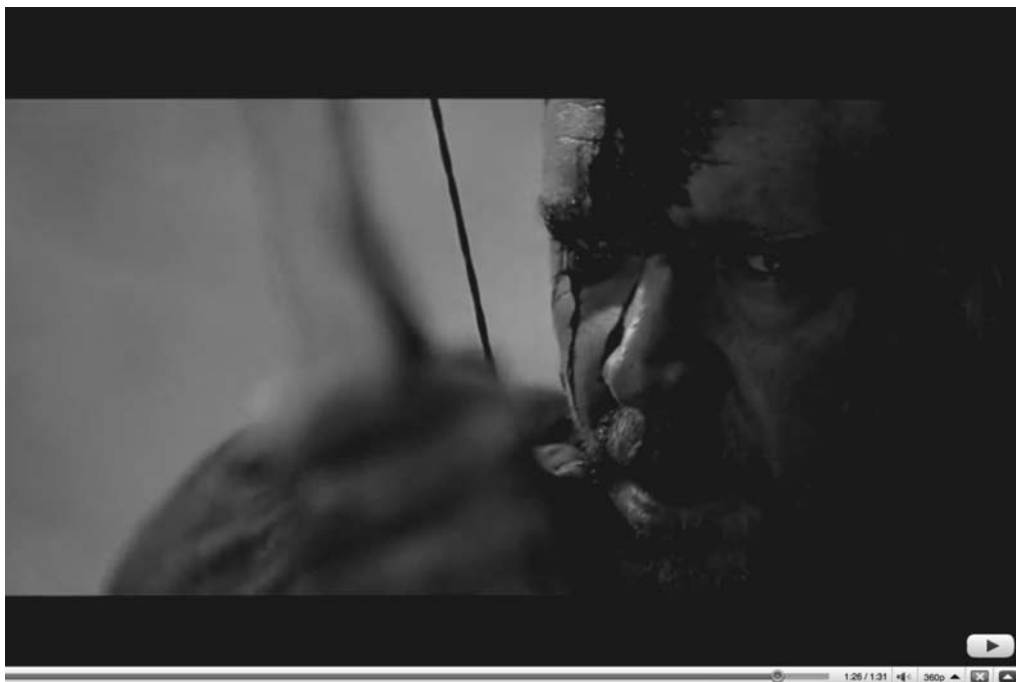


YouTube.com

### 'Robin Hood'

“Rise, rise again, until lambs become lions,” Russell Crowe mutters as his newest machismo badass title character, Robin (of the) Hood. It has been too long since men had a historical action piece to quote incessantly at their girlfriend’s annoyance. Ridley Scott thought so, too, and returns with his gladiatorial champion, Crowe, for a new period piece in Robin Hood.

Attempting to tell the un-Disney cartoon version of the tale, Scott bloodies up the scenery with a refreshingly gritty



YouTube.com

brutality that will impress Oscar judges and make this film a fierce competitor for the golden statue this year. After the re-emergence of the bow this

While maybe not the most original character creation, the originality of this comedy will make it worth the \$10 admission on a lazy summer day.☞

summer, look for a 300 percent increase in archery clubs next year.☞

### THE ENDORSEMENT



longviewcurrent.files.wordpress.com

### 'Zombieland'

TAYLOR BACKUS  
Staff Writer

I personally snubbed “Zombieland” when it was in theaters — I think we all get a bit sick of the zombie and vampire mania that is taking over. It looked a bit stupid to be worth my \$10 (money that could be put toward something better, like the drinks I could be out having instead of watching the film). However, I terribly misjudged and underestimated this movie. Sure, it’s stupid and a lot of things in it have been done before, but there is something understatedly hilarious about “Zombieland.”

Jesse Eisenberg plays his usual awkward, Michael Cera-esque character, but with this being played off of Woody Harrelson’s drastically different humor it somehow doesn’t get old. Instead, Eisenberg is very believably naive and virginal in a lovably pathetic way that compels you to watch, hoping he may grow a pair, conquer some zombies and actually get the girl.

The zombieness of the movie stays far away from any classic horror movies or the more recent theme of inter-creature love affairs (“Twilight,” “True Blood,” those crappy new vampire TV shows, etc). Instead, it just makes killing zombies look like the most amazingly fun and productively violent thing ever. In fact, the only thing that bothered me about the movie, besides the fact that Abigail Breslin and Emma Stone (Superbad) looked overly made-up and impossibly clean (come on, they’re killing zombies—they’re going to be a bit dirty) was that there was no theme park where I could go and murk some zombies with Woody Harrelson.

“Zombieland 2” is in the works, and it’s rumored it will be in 3D, which, combined with my newfound respect for zombie-slaying film, will definitely be enough to get me to the theater.☞

## Sarratt Art Gallery: Skulls, crabs and irrelevance

ALEXIS TABAK  
Staff Writer

For the last Sarratt Art Gallery display of the semester, the Student Visual Arts Committee installed a printmaking exhibit created by several artists. “Etched and Pulled,” on display through May 15, shows the works of seven Georgian artists who used traditional

printmaking combined with projected digital animation to create unique pieces.

The works are meant to explore the search for meaning and self-identification in a world where nothing is definite. The paintings, (quite strange in my opinion), juxtapose images of skulls and natural settings with flowers, leaves and butterflies.

The most interesting piece is a light projection of a crab. The artist made a print of a crab and then used shadows and light fixtures to project the image onto the floor of Sarratt.

The exhibit’s primarily featured artist, Rebekah Tolley, is known for her skills as a traditional printmaker. However, for the Sarratt

collection, she combined her prints with digitally created images projected onto sculptural forms, creating something out of the ordinary for both the artist and the average viewer.

I find it much more interesting when the Arts Committee chooses artists directly related to, or whose projects are inspired by,

the Vanderbilt community. Last year’s final display, called “Rhapsody in Black and White,” featured black and white photographs by Charles Harris. The collection, which can still be viewed online at [www.vanderbilt.edu/sarrattgallery](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sarrattgallery), was the inspiration for Great Performances at Vanderbilt’s presentation of “One Shot”

by Ronald K. Brown’s dance company. This display was perhaps more appropriate, as it directly related to the students on campus.

While the Sarratt Gallery is a wonderful addition to the Sarratt Center, I argue it would have more popularity if the art displays related more specifically to the students.☞

The Class of 2013 Student Alumni Board presents...

# OLD FISH, NEW FISH: First-Year/Senior dinner



**Wednesday, April 21  
6-7:30pm**

**Commons multi-purpose room  
Mix and mingle, then casual fajita dinner**

**\*Insider tips to help you navigate your VU experience\***

- What seniors wish they knew as first-year students
- What you don't want to miss
- What you want to avoid

**Get great senior advice on a variety of topics, including:**

- Classes to take
- Internships
- Grad school
- Studying abroad
- Making the most of your summer break
- Student activities

*Space is limited so RSVP today! Email [christina.barnes@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:christina.barnes@vanderbilt.edu)*

# Get your photos published in the yearbook!



Whether it's hanging out in your dorm, spring break, celebrating with a group or club, or anything you want to remember, please ... **Submit Your Pics!**

The yearbook staff wants to include your pics from 2009-10 in the Commodore yearbook. Check out this sample of the photos we've already received.

It's fast and easy: Please visit [www.VanderbiltCommodore.com](http://www.VanderbiltCommodore.com) to submit your favorite photos from this year.

Visit [www.VanderbiltCommodore.com](http://www.VanderbiltCommodore.com) to order your copy of the 2010 yearbook.

## MUSIC

## Sounds of summer

The best festivals you haven't heard of

ANDREW NATHAN  
Staff Writer**Hangout Music Festival**  
Gulf Shores, ALMay 14 – 16  
\$160 for 3-day pass

This is a non-camping festival with a pretty good lineup, and “hanging out” in Gulf Shores for a few days of good music can’t be a bad way to start the summer. Some of the bigger names have been Rites of Spring performers, so if Ben Harper and The Flaming Lips are your style then this is a great festival to attend. Girl Talk will be there, and this is one of the few concerts that Guster will play this summer. The schedule has already been released and they are offering a limited number of single-day passes, thus, there is no obligation to stay the weekend if you are only interested in a select few bands.

**Camp Bisco 9**  
Mariaville, NYJuly 15 – 17  
\$155 for 3-day pass

The Disco Biscuits’ 9th summer festival is shaping up to be one of its best ever. LCD Soundsystem is coming out with a new album and will be playing, and Rusko, one of the leaders of the dubstep movement, will be there, too. The focus is clearly on electronic acts, but Gift of Gab (of Blackalicious) and SOJA add some hip-hop and reggae to the mix. Camp Bisco is a little bit out of the way, but that always makes for a great road trip, especially one that will spice things up in the middle of a long summer.



upload.wikimedia.org



upload.wikimedia.org

**Electric Daisy Carnival**  
Los Angeles, CAJune 25 – 26  
About \$80 for both days

The lineup has yet to be released, but if electronic music is your thing, this is the place to be. One of the biggest electronic festivals in the US, EDC always draws the best DJs from around the world. Look for Deadmau5 to headline — he’s the festival whore of the electronic music world this summer.

**Summer Camp Festival**  
Chillicothe, ILMay 28 – 30  
\$170 for 3-day pass

With Rothbury unable to put on a festival this year, summer Camp looks to fill the hippie fest void. A camping festival with a jam band focus in the heart of Illinois, “Scamp” has a very underrated lineup — not many huge names, but the bands attending are known to put on awesome shows. Slightly Stoopid and Public

Enemy have recently been added to the bill and round out an unusually eclectic lineup. One of the coolest aspects of Summer Camp are the Late Night Shows in the Barn. I’m personally looking forward to STS9 and Pretty Lights on Saturday night. If you haven’t been to a camping festival, this might be the one to try, since a 3-day pass won’t break the bank.

**Wakarusa Music Festival**  
Ozark, ARJune 3 – 6  
\$151 for 3-day pass

Wakarusa is the South’s version of Summer Camp. The lineup is very similar, although there are some names that make this Arkansas event stand out. John Butler Trio and The Machine performing Pink Floyd are sure to be highlights. If you’ve been stackin’ cheddar, have lots of time to kill and want to look really hardcore, you might want to attempt the trifecta of Summer Camp, Wakarusa and Bonnaroo. Three festivals. Three weekends. (NOTE: Serious post trip de-tox required if you live through all three). ☞

All eyes and ears turn to  
Cape Town, South AfricaGRANT DARWIN  
ALEXIS TABAK  
Staff Writers

Starting on June 11, the whole world will focus in on Cape Town, South Africa as the 2010 World Cup kicks off. However, it is not soccer alone that will be on display. The people of South Africa are eager to show off their vibrant culture, especially their own musical styling.

Early South African music can be split into two categories, gospel and marabi. Marabi developed within impoverished black communities affected by apartheid. Local musicians in illegal bars would accompany pianos with makeshift maracas using pebble-filled cans. Over time, guitars, banjos, and the influences of American swing were incorporated, yielding African Jazz and Jive. Emerging during the 1930s, the Zulu style of a cappella music, particularly the genres of isicathamiya and mbube, grew in popularity. The Token’s 1961 hit “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” is a great example of this sound, and the well-known group Ladysmith Black Mambazo is renowned for their command of these forms. Today, South Africa has compounded imported music from abroad with ethnic sounds. Both Disco and Techno have spent time as the preferred genres of South Africans during recent decades.

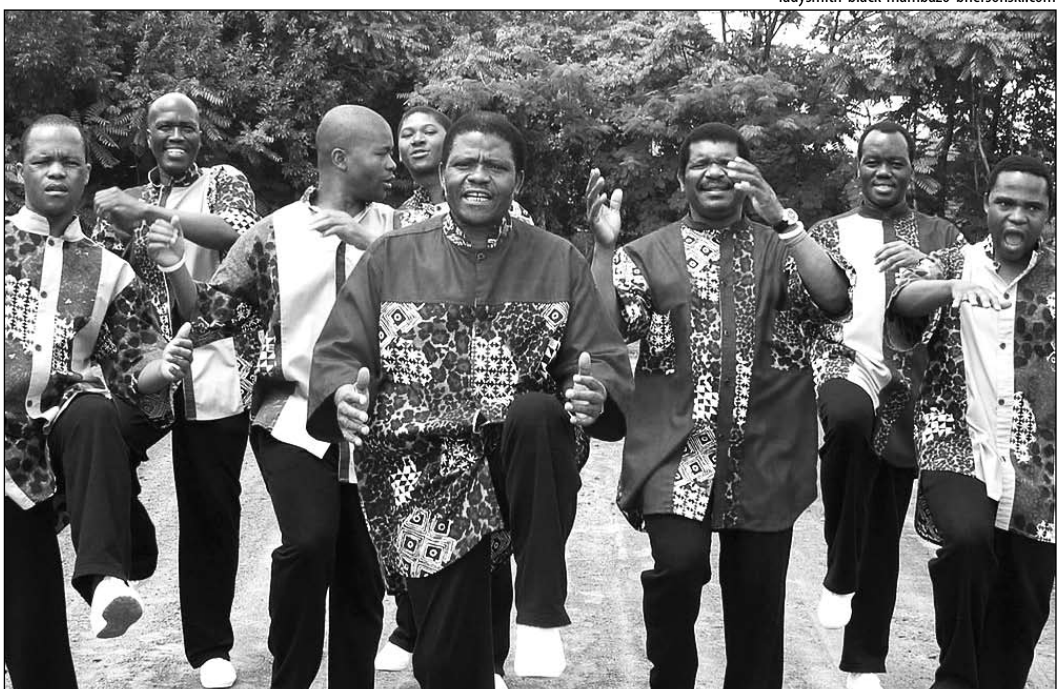
Yet it is the innovation of Kwaito, a sound

born of the political and social turmoil of the 1990s, which is most interesting. Taking its cues from American hip-hop and European house, Kwaito is slow tempo electronic music infused with melodious looped African samples. The hit “Don’t Call Me Kaffir” by Arthur Majakote is noted as one of the most influential songs in recent South African music, particularly given the political statement it makes about the word kaffir, a derogatory term for blacks used during apartheid.

Today, stars like Bongo Maffin, Bravo, Zola, Big Nuz and DJ Cleo command the airwaves of Johannesburg and Cape Town. However, pop music also has its share of the spotlight. Singer Simphiwe Dana has become quite popular through her fusion of jazz pop and traditional South African sounds, and artist Verity Price can be likened to a South African Alicia Keys. In recent years there has been resurgence in Afrikaans music, the music of the formerly dominant white minority. Afrikaans music has been fused with genres ranging from European dance to punk rock to take on a decidedly more modern style.

A nation that is still in the infant stages of crafting an independent cultural identity, South Africa is a veritable laboratory for the mixing and mashing of musical styles. With this sports spectacle getting underway in a matter of weeks, take a break from the bicycle kicks and headers to open your ears to the distinctive sounds of the Rainbow Nation. ☞

ladysmith-black-mambazo-bhersonski.com

LIFE-CHANGING  
ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Death Cab for Cutie

## 'Transatlanticism'

CAITLIN MEYER  
Staff Writer

Washington’s Death Cab for Cutie has been an institution in the indie scene for over a decade. Songs like “Soul Meets Body”, “I Will Follow You Into the Dark” and, most recently, “Meet Me at the Equinox” from the New Moon soundtrack have breached the mainstream airwaves, but the majority of their work and, frankly, their best work has gone unscathed by the masses — case and point, 2003’s “Transatlanticism.”

Each song merits mention, each demonstrating the best of Death Cab’s ability and Ben Gibbard’s impeccable lyricism. The album ranges from perfect driving songs to breathtaking ballads, most notably the track that shares the album’s title, “Transatlanticism.” The song starts out meandering through a story of sorts, builds to a chilling and beautiful repetition of “I need you so much closer” to a chorus singing “come on” on repeat until its conclusion — a song so powerful that the band concludes the encore of nearly every live show they play with an extended version of it.

That being said, all 11 tracks of the album are capable of that effect, each contributing something thought-provoking, from the various tempos,

emotions and musical styles they exemplify.

The album reads like a novel — opening with “So this is the new year, and I don’t feel any different,” ending with “This is fact not fiction, for the first time in years,” telling a story of love plagued by distance and the consequent struggle, with captivating honesty. Each song picks up where the last one left off, leaving “Transatlanticism” feeling as if it could be one 45 minute song. It is the seamless continuity and rebirth of the idea of the album as opposed to the single that makes this album so special. Modern music too often forgets the importance of the album in today’s world of iTunes and digital distribution, whose focus is generally on hit singles and radio popularity, yet Death

Cab retains their integrity with long, not exactly radio-friendly tracks and cohesive albums.

On the surface, “Transatlanticism” is merely another semi-pretentious pop album characterized by unnecessary angst and inner turmoil set to catchy melodies. It is different, though. Its collection of phenomenal individual songs that come together for an even greater whole are a rare occurrence, and upon a second or third listen, this album reveals itself to be pure, heart-wrenching genius, and a glorious demonstration of all that is good in indie music. ☞



musiciteka.net

"I'm not playing for other musicians. We're trying to reach the guy who works all day and wants to spend a buck at night. We'll keep him happy."  
— Nat King Cole

## Q&A with Band of Skulls

CHRIS MCDONALD  
Life Editor

On Wednesday, April 10, the Exit/In played host to the loudest show in Music City as Southern alt-rockers The Whigs and British newcomers Band of Skulls took the stage. Lesser known than the Whigs, Band of Skulls is currently touring to promote their critically lauded debut album, "Baby Darling Doll Face Honey." While the album has been out for a little over a year now, the Skulls' churning, bluesy rock 'n' roll has really exploded within the last six months. Life Editor Chris McDonald had a chance to talk with guitarist/singer Russell Marsden after the show.

CHRIS MCDONALD / Versus Magazine



**Versus Magazine:** What did you think of the show? How was the Nashville crowd tonight?

**Russell Marsden:** This was the second show we've played Nashville, and it's especially special to have had such a warm welcome in a city with such a rich musical history.

**VM:** How long has Band of Skulls been touring with the Whigs?

**RM:** We have played five shows now with the Whigs. Before that we were on tour with Black Rebel Motorcycle Club.

**VM:** How was touring with the Whigs been in comparison? Which have you preferred?

**RM:** It's been totally different this time around. What's been great though is that we're touring with a group of friends.

**VM:** So do your bands share a special connection?

**RM:** We met the guys [from The Whigs] some time last year and really just hit it off. So playing with them now, it's more like a group of friends than just another band.

**VM:** Though your debut album, "Baby Darling Doll Face Honey," came out about a year ago (actually a year ago to the day), it took a little while longer to catch on. Once it did, however, it exploded. How have things been since it really took off?

**RM:** The album came out a year ago, but yeah, it took like, six months to really catch on. Since then though, it's been great. America has been a very steady ride for us — really we've consistently been bigger here than back home. But after we started to get so much bigger here, the same things started to happen back home as well. That's the thing that's so special for us, really. At home, people began to pay attention to what was happening here and as a result started paying more attention to us, as well. What's so special is the fact that it's happening the same way in both places.

**VM:** What's next for you on the tour? Will you be hitting the festival circuit this summer?

**RM:** Right now we are just zig-zagging our way to California. We'll play a few more shows and then [next] Saturday we're playing at Coachella, so this upcoming week is pretty insane for us. From there we'll play a few more shows in the US and then we're heading up into Canada. After that we're heading back to England.

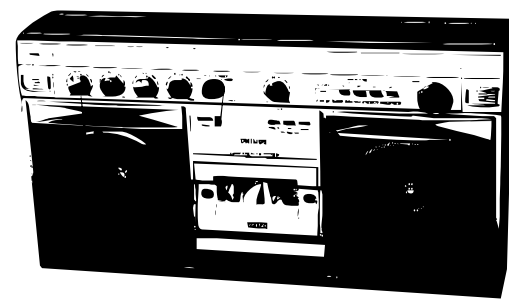
**VM:** After touring, what does the band have planned? Are you working on a new album any time soon?

**RM:** Right now we're just really enjoying this tour. After we finish doing the British festival circuit, we'll probably head up a mountain for a while.

**VM:** A mountain?

**RM:** Yeah, after everything finishes up, we'll probably go up to the top of a mountain for a while and just hole up. A friend owns this place outside of Montreal, so we'll probably just hang out there to write and record and get things set for our next album. ☘

## 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. "New People" — Blue Scholars
2. "Driving Me Crazy" — Sam Adams
3. "Like a G6" — Far East Movement
4. "My Stupid Mouth" — John Mayer
5. "I Feel It in My Bones" — Tiesto (Ft. Tegan & Sara)
6. "Heaven and Earth" — Blitzen Trapper
7. "Lights" — All Out
8. "I Box Up All the Butterflies" — Boy Least Likely To
9. "Body Bounce" — Kardinal Offishall (ft. Akon)
10. "Beautiful Morning Light" — Fruit Bats

## Registration on Oasis

March 29 - April 21

[www.vanderbilt.edu/summersessions](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/summersessions)

COURSE REQUEST PERIOD AND ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR

**SUMMER SESSIONS**

AND MAYMASTERS AT VANDERBILT

MARCH 29 - APRIL 21

[WWW.VANDERBILT.EDU / SUMMERSESSIONS](http://WWW.VANDERBILT.EDU / SUMMERSESSIONS)

© 2009 HATCH SHOW PRINT # 74

## ABBOTT WEST SELF STORAGE



**SUMMER STORAGE ONLY \$19 !!!**  
**BOXES...ANY 5 FOR \$12 !!!**  
**MOVING HELP AVAILABLE !!!**

- GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE !!!
- ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU !!!

**ABBOTT WEST SELF STORAGE**  
**615-320-5700**

[www.absolutemgmt.com/abbottwest](http://www.absolutemgmt.com/abbottwest)  
[abbottselfstorage@att.net](mailto:abbottselfstorage@att.net)

# FASHION

## SHOPPING ON A BUDGET

LAUREN JUNGE  
Fashion Editor

Staying stylish without breaking the bank is definitely difficult, so this week we bring you some of the best tactics for shopping on a dime, from surfing the web for designer discounts to getting runway style for the right price. Plus, this week we kick off our new column, Nashville Store Review, with the best cut-rate vintage digs around. So embrace your inner bargain-hunter and hit the stores — and hey, maybe even pick up our other new column's suggestion for Best Buy of the Week. ☼

## DESIGNER COLLABORATION: ZAC POSEN FOR TARGET

LAUREN JUNGE  
Fashion Editor

ALEXIS TABAK  
Staff Writer

Designer collaborations allow consumers to sport the labels of their favorite high-end designers at an affordable cost. Stores like H&M have brought some of the best collabs (such as Jimmy Choo and Sonia Rykiel for H&M) to the market. Better known are the Go International lines Target creates, which have made designers like Rodarte accessible to the public. Now, Target brings us Zac Posen's line Z Spoke, which will be in stores (and online) from April 25 to May 30. Posen, who is only 29 years old yet is one of the most successful American designers today, has been called the fashion world's latest prodigy. New York Times writer Guy Trebay said in 2002 that the designer "occupies an important symbolic position in the fashion system one hears so much about. He is the future." His clothes are classic and elegant with a youthful touch, often inspired by his native Manhattan's energy, colors and



<http://www.collegefashion.net>

vibrancy. Now, he is bringing the same fun, edgy approach to his Target line. Posen used the media to promote his upcoming collection at Target, asking Gia Coppola and indie band The iLike to create a short video to help gather press for his collection. His is the first Go International line to release a gown; the rest of the collection includes anything and everything from a tuxedo to swimwear. For his line, Posen revisited some of his own iconic pieces such as the trumpet dress he made for Naomi Campbell in 2001. "That was the dress that started my business," he says. Another Posen classic, his snap dress, also makes an appearance on the line, allowing the wearer to "self-drape and self-create." This two-piece ruffled dress can be worn three ways; Posen describes these detachable ruffles as being "like a Judy Garland apron." Plus, the line features fun prints with a flair such as safety-pin, tiger, tie-dye and polka-dot prints. And the best part is: Prices range from \$16.99 to \$199.99, making this line one of the best options for shopping on a budget. ☼

## BEST BUY OF THE WEEK

LAUREN JUNGE  
Fashion Editor

Remember those carefree summer days of your childhood when your favorite accessories were a towering ice cream cone and your cherished purple jelly sandals? Well, thanks for Forever 21, those days are back again — along with those treasured sandals, which now have an updated big-girl look. Forever 21's Jelly Strap Sandal, which is only \$6.80, comes in shiny black (and for those of you wishing to hold on to your inner child, they also come in bright hot

pink). These sandals, with their Velcro-strap and ankle closure, are definitely playground approved, so go ahead and hit the monkey bars with these fun, flexible jellies. ☼



Jelly Strap Sandal, Forever 21, \$6.80

<http://www.forever21.com>

## Nashville store review: Venus & Mars Showroom

MARIA CRIST  
Staff Writer

2009 Belmont Boulevard  
[www.venusandmarsvintage.com](http://www.venusandmarsvintage.com)

Some of the best shopping on a budget can be done at vintage and consignment stores, where one-of-a-kind pieces are easy to find for cut-rate prices. Nashville's best vintage shopping is in Venus & Mars, located in a bugalow-style setting steps away from Belmont's campus. Owners Karen Elson, supermodel and the former face of Yves St. Laurent, and Amy Patterson, a Nashville stylist, fill the racks of their two-year-old store with items they've accumulated themselves and from friends. The rich

history of the high-end couture garments is apparent at Venus & Mars, and the destination is a shopper's dream. My favorite part of the store is the upstairs dress room, a pink-walled paradise, featuring dresses for all occasions. The dresses are available to try on, which can make a Saturday afternoon pass very quickly, so head down to this funky establishment and start hunting for your next treasured vintage find! ☼



## Online Discount Shops

ALEXIS TABAK  
Staff Writer

Online discount shops are some of the best sources for getting great finds at reasonable prices. Making a serious dent in the retail business, these sites are every fashion-conscious shopper's favorite hidden gem; here is the low down on some of the best ones:

**RueLaLa.com:** The site is invitation-only shopping. Joining is free, but someone who is already part of the Rue must invite you. The site just partnered with Elle.com, so subscribers will be granted access. The website has sales on over 350 luxury brands, but the sales only last 36 hours. Rue La La gets overstocked inventory from high-end retailers and offers it at reduced prices to members.

**RentTheRunway.com:** RTR's slogan "love, wear, return" pretty much sums up the process of this website, which allows its shoppers to

browse through clothes and literally rent an outfit. The outfit comes delivered to your doorstep in two different sizes. They also give you a pre-paid mailing box to send your outfit back.

**Gilt.com:** You have to be a member to shop Gilt Groupe, which stages online 'flash' sales, offering women's, men's and children's apparel as well as travel packages and home goods at discounted prices (normally up to 70% off); each sale lasts from 36 to 48 hours and is first come first serve. The site has recently featured designers the likes of Alexander McQueen, Burberry and Ralph Lauren Purple Label. This website is organized, easy to navigate and showcases hand-selected items from each designer.

**ShopItToMe.com:** This website is sort of like your free personal online shopper. You simply fill out a personal profile, where you check off

your favorite designers and sizes, and the website works to scour the Web to find items you would love. From there, the site sends you personalized e-mail alerts (called SaleMail) featuring the latest markdowns, secret promotion codes and VIP sales events.

**ShopYop.com:** This is another great online discount store where shoppers do not have to be a member. The website's aesthetics are not as pleasing as the others, but it is easy to navigate and the prices are still very low.

**SmartBargains.com:** This site not only has designer clothes at low prices but also has jewelry, and interior decorating items. ☼



[www.ShopItToMe.com](http://www.ShopItToMe.com)

## askFASHION:

Women's runway style at an affordable price

Dear Versus,  
I saw in a recent issue that there were suggestions for getting men's runway looks at affordable prices; but what about affordable runway looks for women?

— Frugal Fashionista

ALEXIS TABAK  
Staff Writer

While runway clothes are great to look at and a fun way to observe the upcoming trends, it can be hard to mirror the look without breaking the bank. While some think that the recession is over and the term recessionista is officially passe, most of us

do not have thousands of dollars to drop on a new wardrobe. The best resource for getting runway looks at low cost is the website [runwayrundown.com](http://runwayrundown.com), which features a hot runway look and then breaks it down with nearly identical items for a fraction of the price. I suggest employing the website's philosophy in your shopping regime: Buy pieces that look expensive but are actually inexpensive. For example, Karl Lagerfeld's Chanel A/W 2010 collection showcased a hot pink mini dress; because the price of the dress was upon request, which is code for "you don't want to see it," I

suggest checking out stores like Posh or Pangea for fun, strapless dresses in vibrant colors (or, Debenhams.com and Lulus.com has some great hot pink short strapless dresses right now). Plus, check out stores like H&M, which feature a lot of knock-off styles at a reasonable price and tend to be a tier above other low-end stores like Forever 21 in terms of quality. I suggest picking new pieces to incorporate in an outfit with some more expensive pieces — by mixing high and low, no one will ever know what the price point of each piece is. So grab a chic, bargain-buy mini dress and pair it with your hottest heels and hit the town! ☼



# JULIAN CASABLANCAS

Though you may know him as the mysteriously captivating frontman of The Strokes, lately Julian Casablancas has been exploding in popularity on the heels of the recent release of his debut solo album, "Phrazes for the Young." Reflecting the dynamic tastes of Casablancas himself, "Phrazes" is an incendiary mix of rock, electronic, and new wave, providing a platform for elaborately theatrical stage shows. In anticipation of his upcoming April 27th show in Nashville, Versus staff writer Alex Daly had the chance to sit down and talk with Julian about his new sound, his influences, and his love of working the crowd.

**VERSUS MAGAZINE:** How does it feel to be back on tour again?

**JULIAN CASABLANCAS:** Feels great, we were on tour before ... It's not like it just started; we toured about six months ago.

**VM:** Oh ... Well, I meant like, after you hadn't for awhile?

**JC:** (Laughs) No, I figured that's what you meant. It's basically been the most fun I've ever had on the road, to be honest.

**VM:** Awesome. What's been the most memorable performance you've done so far?

**JC:** Actually, probably last night. We played Minneapolis. This town used to be really tough. I have played this venue many times; I've always thought the crowds were really tough. I was expecting the worst but it was just the best show of the tour. Everyone was going nuts; it was awesome.

**VM:** Has it felt good to go solo? Exciting? Scary? Do you like doing your own thing?

**JC:** It's fun and challenging. It's akin to the early days of the Strokes. I feel like I'm starting up again ... It's actually my favorite kind of show — you have to charm the crowd. A lot of people come, but they don't really know what to expect. They come and are like, "How is this going to work?"

**VM:** Do you mean they come with more of an open mind, then?

**JC:** No, it's the difference between the beginning of the show — when [the crowd] is just standing and watching, ready to judge — and the end, when they are going nuts. It's been really awesome. I just feel like with all of this [new music] going on, people don't know what to expect live. It was a challenge to work that out, but we did. To experience everyone playing all these interlocking sounds live is pretty exciting.

**VM:** Did you have any musical influences — bands, genres — that impacted you while you were making "Phrazes?"

**JC:** Definitely. Like Hot Chip. I dig their rhythmic vibe.

**VM:** Hot Chip is really cool. Their new stuff is great.

**JC:** Yeah they're rad. And in terms of production stuff — '80s. Late '70s, like Queen, Michael Jackson. Big production — I wanted some of that clarity.

**VM:** Yeah. I have been listening to "11th Dimension;" I like that track. It's really cool and catchy. I was really intrigued by it because it's a song you can dance and rock out to but once you listen to the lyrics, there's a heavy sentimentality there. I was wondering if this is more of an emotional record? At least more than people may think ... Perhaps because people are so drawn to the sound that they don't catch the sentimentality behind it.

**JC:** That's cool you say that. The main point is that you want to work on both levels. You listen to a song lightly — you want something fun and catchy; you don't want to think too much. There's that, and, well, if you like paying attention to the lyrics, trying to get some sort of a deeper meaning, there's that too.

**VM:** Yeah. I picked that up from "Ludlow St." I could sense that there is this desire to move forward and progress. Is the song talking about change? Like how things were back with the Strokes and how they are now? Overall, does this song reflect your outlook right now? (Laughing). Sorry. I'm a Philosophy Major.

**JC:** What aspect of it are you asking about? If you don't mind. I thought the lyrics got really greedy, meaning-wise. And I wanted to work on like three different levels (laughing).

**VM:** (Still laughing). Here it goes. I might be completely wrong. What I got out of it was this desire to progress, like there's the New York City party scene but also there's another aspect to it — trying to enjoy that, but also getting something deeper out of the music itself ... I'm completely off, right?

**JC:** I mean, no. It's anything you want to get out of it. If it's enjoyable, inspiring, it's right. What I think right now is maybe different from what I thought a year ago. One of the things I do think is that there's always a fork in the road and I'm just a hopeful dude. It seems like things can go two ways — they can spiral out of control, or you can learn from the lessons of the past and try to make things work. That's one of the general themes, perhaps.

**VM:** Are there any other tracks on album that mean something to you — that you feel really connected to?

**JC:** I don't know about connected ... I do have a lot of fun playing "River of Brakelights." Definitely one of my faves. Each song has a different theme. I mean, I hear them so much and I play them so much that it kind of becomes dead to me, melodically and meaning wise. I don't think they are doing what they are intending to do, for me at least, anymore, because I have listened to [every song] lik, 2,000 times.

**VM:** Has that become a problem, so far, with the album?

**JC:** Not a problem; it's just like that with everything. When you first play music, it's fun. You get that immediate enjoyment of playing something cool. But then when you go on the road and perform things that you write, you get sick of stuff. It's the nature of it.

**VM:** Back to the album's musicality: It has this kind of poppy, synth-pumped sound, which is very different from the Strokes. What made you go in this direction?

**JC:** I was actually talking to a producer a few years back — I hadn't even really thought of a solo record at that point — and I was talking about Michael Jackson's "Thriller," because I really wanted to capture that [in our music]. And he said if the Strokes played "Thriller" it would still sound like the Strokes. And that kind of bummed me out, actually ... So I think the songwriting process was the same for me. I could have just used guitars, but I knew starting out that I wanted complex drum rhythms, like two drum beats. And I knew I wanted to go overboard with the dueling melodies. And I knew I would use some keyboard. It's kind of a similar process, it's just the arrangement of it. I really had a lot of freedom to do whatever so I'd go kind of left field, which was pretty fun.

**VM:** Cool. Did you enjoy that — in terms of going solo — the freedom to do what you want creatively and artistically?

**JC:** I have that freedom in the Strokes — I had. I mean, yeah, I had more of the freedom to work without having to convince or debate. That was the most pleasurable thing about it.

**VM:** But [The Strokes] are joining up again, right ...

**JC:** Yeah.

**VM:** Are you excited about that? Have you guys been recording?

**JC:** Sure.

**VM:** Are you putting your solo career on hold or will you try to juggle both?

**JC:** No, kind of juggling both. I'll be pretty much done by then, doing the solo touring for this record. It should be fine.

**VM:** When you guys broke up a few years back, did you know that you wanted to do the solo career or did that happen organically?

**JC:** I didn't really want to. I was trying to figure out what to do. I had pulled back so far, just trying to invite happiness and collaboration within the band. It was tough. I think people just needed to get it out of their systems: To work outside of the Strokes, before they could bring songs back to the Strokes.

**VM:** Do you think it's going to be difficult, now that some of the band members have done the solo thing, to re-collaborate?

**JC:** No, I think it's finally time. Now that they have done their solo records, they are coming back with songs too. Back then, they didn't do that; I was a little confused. You know, we share everything five ways. I wrote a lot of it back in the day, but I didn't care — everything was cool with me. But, like I said, when they would write a song, they didn't bring it to the Strokes — they made solo records. At this point, though, this is all stuff we have taken care of. Everything is cool now. I'm just stringing you along with a little history. Back then, we would get together and they didn't seem very interested in working on songs. Meanwhile, they were doing solo records, and like I said, we share everything. I was like, I don't feel like I really have a choice. The Strokes weren't spiritually ready to do a record. But that was then. It was good for everyone to get that out of their system — to feel confidence, or whatever they needed. And then we worked on the record for five or six months; I'm arranging all the stuff. All is good!

**VM:** Are you excited to come to Nashville? Have you ever been here before?

**JC:** Yeah, I have been there quite a few times. I'm psyched. It's a great music town. Hopefully they will enjoy. ☺



# FLIP SIDE

Hustler and Versus can be read online at [InsideVandy.com](http://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 Mepham Group

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

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

For the solution to today's puzzle, please go to the bottom of the homepage at [www.OutsideVandy.com](http://www.OutsideVandy.com)

4/14/10 © 2010 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Media Services. All rights reserved.



WHO SEES THIS AD?  
**11,500 STUDENTS**  
and many faculty/staff,  
parents and alumni

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Talk back to
  - 5 Super Bowl XXXIV winners
  - 9 Dance move
  - 13 Super stars?
  - 14 Singer Brickell
  - 15 Land of the Incas
  - 16 Ingredient in some glazed chicken wings
  - 18 Bring in
  - 19 Land a plane
  - 20 Charlie of "Two and a Half Men"
  - 22 Morales of "Jericho"
  - 23 Classified letters
  - 25 Ming things
  - 28 Throat problem
  - 30 Dashboard tuner
  - 33 Hood's "piece"
  - 35 Drum effect
  - 36 That, in Toledo
  - 37 1982 McCartney/Wonder hit
  - 41 Carte lead-in
  - 42 Sanctuary section
  - 43 Elongated swimmer
  - 44 It became Ghana in 1957
  - 47 American revolutionary who recruited Lafayette
  - 51 Conductor Previn
  - 52 Rice or Curry
  - 54 War deity
  - 55 Chicago Eight defendant Bobby
- DOWN**
- 1 Hurting the most
  - 2 2009 film set in 2154
  - 3 City known for its zoo
  - 4 Bell-shaped lily
  - 5 Nine Inch Nails founder Trent
  - 6 Punch cousin
  - 7 Overlook
  - 8 Father of Enos
  - 9 Large ranch, say
  - 10 More minuscule
  - 11 Significant time
  - 12 Litter yipper
  - 13 They're rubbed in Eskimo kissing
  - 17 Lea lady
  - 21 Slowly developed
  - 24 Heartfelt
  - 26 "Piece of cake!"
  - 27 \_\_\_-no replay
  - 29 It'll cure anything
  - 31 Pentagon tenant, briefly
  - 32 "Would \_\_\_?"
  - 58 Gold diggers?
  - 60 "NFL Live" aier
  - 62 One of two in a Christmas song
  - 64 Political group
  - 65 Bond's first movie foe
  - 66 Fax predecessor
  - 67 Bad thing to take in Vegas?
  - 68 This puzzle's theme
  - 69 Ladies in Mex.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14				15			
16				17				18			
19				20		21					
22			23	24		25			26	27	
28			29	30		31	32				
		33	34	35				36			
	37	38		39				40			
41			42			43					
44		45			46	47		48	49	50	
51				52	53		54				
	55		56	57	58	59					
60	61			62	63						
64				65				66			
67				68				69			

4/14/10

For the solution to today's puzzle, please go to the bottom of the homepage at [www.OutsideVandy.com](http://www.OutsideVandy.com)

## SALON FX



**20% OFF ALL SERVICES WITH VANDY ID**

Men's haircuts starting at \$29  
Women's haircuts starting at \$39

Hair • Nails • Skin Care • Med Spa Services • Makeup • Waxing



salonfxspa.com  
**615-321-0901**  
1915 Broadway • Nashville  
gift certificates available



PAUL MITCHELL

Bumble and bumble

## BODIES HUMAN

ANATOMY IN MOTION

**Save 33%**  
Use your Vanderbilt discount:

[www.BodiesHuman.com/vdblt.html](http://www.BodiesHuman.com/vdblt.html)

Display of **Real Human Bodies**  
See yourself from the inside out

**Last Month Ends May 1**

**RiverGate Mall (next to Sears)**  
**615-859-6333**

[www.BodiesHuman.com](http://www.BodiesHuman.com)



WHERE HOME

and CAMPUS LIFE COME TOGETHER

### WEST END LUXURY APARTMENTS

Just steps away from Vanderbilt University is luxury that you can call home. 20 & Grand offers:

- Spacious one & two bedroom floorplans
- Full-size washer/dryers
- Huge closets
- Dual phone lines & cable-ready outlets
- Reserved covered parking
- State-of-the-art 24-hour fitness facility
- Controlled access entrances & visitor entry system
- Onsite management & 24-hour maintenance



615.327.1377  
2000 GRAND AVENUE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
INFO@TWENTY-GRAND.COM

