



Adorable Puppy Dog?



OR CRIMINAL MASTERMIND?

The answer shouldn't surprise you at all.
It's clearly a dog.

THIS JUST IN

Meteorologists Say Spring is Here to Stay

By: Dan King
Springer Fan

The country's top meteorologists have come out with a joint statement letting America know that "Spring has arrived, and we believe it is here to stay."

The statement continues "We aren't sure how or why, but we believe that the inevitable onslaught of the seasons has been stopped and that our world will exist in perpetual springtime for the rest of eternity."

The news that spring would be here forever has lead to jubilation across Vanderbilt's campus. Emilee Porter, A&S sophomore says she is excited for "Perpetual sundress weather! I'm super excited because I get to wear my favorite dresses, spend time out in the sun, and smell all the blooming flowers. I'm glad that spring will never be going away."

The Slant was able to talk to one student, John Jablonowski who reacted to the news by setting fire to all his long pants. "Won't be needing these any more!" Jablonowski shouted. "Now that spring

is here I can finally wear my shorts. And because spring will never be going away, I'll never have to stop."

Students all around campus are excited for the permanent arrival of spring. Nicole Rose says "I treat every single change of the seasons like it is permanent. It's nice to know that I'm actually right about it this time."

Meteorologist 'Rainstorm' McAllister says that he is just as surprised as anyone that spring will never be leaving us. "Obviously, whenever the seasons change, we all assume it will be permanent. And then when the season changes again, we're all terribly surprised. But this time... this time we really think this stuff is here to stay."

Not everyone is pleased with the perpetual springtime, though. Vanderbilt's Association of Allergic Students, or AA, says that they are terrified at the prospect of never-ending pollen spores in the air forever. AA president Erin Illdiore says she "May have to move up north to somewhere without trees because (sneezes) I can not handle this."

2,000 Different Rappers Currently Claiming Title of "Best Rapper Alive"

By: Richard McGee
Murder Man

A report released by the Institute for Hip-Hop Studies at New York University has found that no fewer than 2,000 rappers across the United States are currently claiming to be the "Best Rapper Alive."

Many rap fans are shocked by the results of this study. These results fly in the face of conventional wisdom which says that fans can trust all the things that rappers say on stage.

Rodney Poundstone, who has been listening to rap music for several decades, says he was shocked and disappointed to read this study. "As a rap fan, I expect a lot of these performers. The only way for me to enjoy this music is if they respect that bond of trust. If I can't trust a rapper to be honest about his status as 'best rapper alive,' then what's next? Are you going to tell me that Lil Wayne doesn't really have a big penis that women like to put in their mouths?"

Other rap fans have been similarly devastated by what many are calling rap music's "Watergate moment." One

fan, Kyle Bond, said "Clearly at least 1,999 of these rappers are lying about being the best. I just don't know how I can take anything they say seriously now."

The Slant was able to interview MC 2 Much, one of the 2,000 rappers identified by name in the study. Mr. Much did attempt to justify his claim to the title, saying "I don't know what these other rappers are talking about, but according to all the research I've done, I am the best rapper alive. I can't be held responsible for it if other people don't believe me."

In the wake of this news, some have begun to call for government oversight of the rap community. An oversight body would be able to verify or deny claims of rapping prowess, and would also be able to research similar claims regarding time spent selling drugs and/or in jail.

Not everyone wants oversight, though. Lil Wayne, a New Orleans-based rapper, was unusually candid with *The Slant*, saying "I've made a living making crazy claims that nobody can possibly research. If y'all start looking into this stuff now, I'm gonna be out of a job real quick."

Sorority Girl Reports Feeling a Bit Uneasy All Weekend; Unable to Put a Finger on Why

By: Jessica Ayers
Minority Minor

Vanderbilt Kappa, Scarlett O'Hara, sought out a *Slant* reporter after she was unable to determine why she was on edge this past weekend. She said the sense began to creep in as early as 7pm on Wednesday, but got especially potent during Saturday and Sunday.

"I don't know, it's just this looming sense that something was a little... off," O'Hara said. "It's nothing I could really put my finger on. I mean, Rand was a little more crowded, and there was a longer wait at Chili's, but there wasn't anything special going on this weekend."

"I thought perhaps it had to do with allergies. Or, people have been really stressed out about school lately; that could have been it."

Smartly, O'Hara took precautions against the feeling of uncertainty by having her BETA boyfriend walk her home after a "bitchin' rager" Friday night. "He didn't want to at first, because he said the girls were way hotter last

weekend or something, but he agreed to, finally."

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that O'Hara's heebie-jeebies were not an isolated incident. The PCC reported several instances of heightened anxiety. They are treating O'Hara as "patient zero" and using her to determine the commonalities between reported cases.

"It seemed to be some sort of 24 hour flu, thankfully," a PCC doctor reported. "However, it is important we try and understand why such reports are given."

People have reported this sense of unease after performing such everyday actions as walking on West End, lounging on Alumni Lawn, and studying at the library.

In unrelated news, the visitors of Mosaic weekend seemed to enjoy Vanderbilt. On their list of pros includes: beautiful greenery, rigorous academics, and a good party scene. Their only real con was a complaint that there seemed to be a lot of nervous looking blonde girls.

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Local Man Knows Plot to "Game of Thrones" Better Than Own Life



This Guy... Definitely Something about This Guy



Smell Indicates Area Tree Belongs to Area Dog

FROM THE EDITOR



DAN KING

Usually I like to make a big joke of this column by blatantly plagiarizing it from some other person. But for this issue I'm going change things up and instead speak from my heart about our most recent issue.

As I'm sure many of you know, this issue was pulled from the racks because of its offensive cover. Our organization has faced a lot of criticism concerning that cover, and all of it was deserved. It is clear to our entire staff that running that cover was a serious mistake.

As much as I'd like to (especially in this instance), I can not change the past. But I can take this opportunity to bring up some important questions about what we do here.

See, there are a lot of people in the comedy world who pride themselves on their ability to make jokes about serious topics. They adopt an attitude where anyone who is offended by their humor 'just doesn't get the joke,' or 'needs to loosen up.'

Over the past few weeks I've spent a lot of time thinking about this kind of humor. And it seems to me that these people don't fully understand the power present in our language and in our laughter. This attitude assumes that because something is a joke, it has no power. As someone who spends a considerable amount of his free time crafting jokes, I simply can not accept this premise.

There is power in humor, and power in laughter. The things we choose to laugh at show who we are as people, and reflect our values as a society.

So, what does that mean? How can we use humor to reflect the values we feel are important?

Do we as humor creators get to claim that our jokes are just jokes and are not meant to cause a stir or advance our agenda? I think not. Just look at our February 27th cover, which was clearly meant to get students thinking about the rights of religious student organizations.

But by that same token, does every joke we write need to have some sort of political or social implication? How can writer be funny if they're always being serious?

These questions don't have easy answers, they're ones that we at *The Slant* need to deal with every time we make an issue.

Well, that's the end of my real talk. Now it's time to get back to the serious business of humor and satire.

Fucked Image



Just a friendly heads-up from the bio lab: our experiment didn't exactly work out as planned. So keep an eye out for this little guy growing on some trees.

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CULTURE CORNER!

God Sends Pre-Spring Break Hailstorm in Attempt to Prevent Debauchery

By: Sam Mallick
Theometeorologist

In a recent press conference, God stated that he sent near-apocalyptic weather to Nashville as most students were leaving for spring break in an attempt to prevent rampant debauchery.

God stated that He did not want to interrupt anyone's travel plans, but simply remind them that He was out there and He was watching.

"Every once in a while, you humans need a little reminder," God said. "The tornado and hail were just my way of letting you know that I am out there and I'm willing to use My omnipotence."

God's efforts to deter rampant sin on the beaches of Florida were not completely successful, though.

"It was just hail, bro," said Robert Sutcliffe, a member of Beta Rho Omicron fraternity. "And, like a tornado. So what if it was a sign from God? I wasn't going to let that stop me from drinking Nattys and hooking up with bitches."

While many ignored the sign, some did take heed and repent.

"I was on my way to PCB to rage with my bros," admitted Dalton Cooper, a member of Eta Phi fraternity. "But when I saw hail the size of my fist raining from the sky, I realized there were greater powers in the universe, and that devoting my existence to numbing my feelings and satisfying physical desires

makes me insignificant in the greater scheme of things. So I didn't rage with my bros."

Cooper said that his whole outlook on life was changed by the inclement weather.

"It was so scary," Cooper said. "I knew I needed to change my ways, so I spent my whole break reading to the elderly. It was boring as hell and I don't think they really appreciated it, but I guess that's how God wanted me to spend my break."

Skeptics, however, claim that God only took credit for the weather after the fact and had nothing to do with it.

"He's usually really hands-off and very quiet," agnostic Lyle Burns said. "And now, all of a sudden, he's piping up and taking credit for weird weather. If it was any other city, I might believe it, but Nashville weather is so crazy anyway that I think we should just chalk this one up to chance."

God said that on the whole he was happy with the results of His warning.

"If I rain fire and brimstone on the earth and convince one person to be afraid of me, it's worth the effort," God said.

God said that He has other plans in the works to keep Vanderbilt students from excessive sinning this semester.

"I let them have a bye on Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day, because technically those are religious holidays and I didn't want to send mixed signals," God said. "But I'm planning big things for the Rites-4/20 combination. Right now I'm thinking drenching rain and maybe some seismic activity, but that's just a rough plan."



God isn't very specific with his aim.

MASTHEAD



Stunting like our daddies do . . . since 1886.

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PLACERE CONTENDIT

Other times God has used the weather to prevent partying:

- The Flood: 3,000 BC. God told Noah to put his family and a lot of animals on a boat. God then sent rain for forty days and nights, covering the earth with water and drowning everything not on the ark. God really laid the smack down with this one.
- Emperor Caligula hit in nuts by horse: 40 AD. Caligula was known for being into some pretty messed up fetish stuff. God wanted to put an end to this and commanded Caligula's horse to kick him in the nuts, forcing him to take a break from his imperial agenda of screwing everything that moves and several things that don't.
- SAE runs out of beer: 1948 AD. SAE was throwing their annual "Marshal Plan Bros and Communist Hoes" party, and it was getting really out of hand. Seeing this, God decided to make their kegs leak. When the fraternity members realized there was no beer left, the party ended early and everyone left only slightly tipsy.
- God strikes down the New England Patriots: 2008 AD. After a perfect season and a successful run-up to the Super Bowl, the New England Patriots were the most hated team in the history of sports. Known across America as "those douches," their post-victory celebration was going to be the most out-of-hand party of all time. God stepped in at the last minute to crush the heathens and stop the celebration before it started.

Bastard Confession



"I'm gonna be honest, guys, I've been pretty high the past few weeks. Not really sure why everyone is suddenly talking about me. Also, did I decide to run for office or something?"

--Joseph Kony

Taylor, Goulbourne Named Quiznos Customers of the Year

By: Clay Christain
Quiznos Quizzer

SEC Men's Basketball champions Jeff Taylor and Lance Goulbourne brought home another piece of hardware to the Vanderbilt campus as they were given the Quiznos Most Valuable Customer award for the 2011-2012 season. Having frequented at least two locations since the beginning of the school year, Taylor and Goulbourne proved to deliver the same winning results on the sandwich line that they have shown on the basketball court.

"It has really just been amazing what these young men have been able to do with quality ingredients," Quiznos CEO Greg Brenneman said. "We have been serving up the absolute best in

sandwich material since 1981, but never before have we seen such poise when ordering, eating, enjoying a premium beverage and finishing up – all key phases of the game."

When asked about his approach to taking on the menu, Taylor and Goulbourne revealed their revolutionary strategies.

"You can't get the same thing every time," Taylor said. "That's like giving the other team your game plan before tipoff."

"The secret is banana peppers," Goulbourne said. "It will turn even the most basic Honey Bourbon Chicken into a standout performance."

Although most Quiznos enthusiasts praise the pair, some holdouts remain as opposition.

"I been eating Quiznos for 31 years, and I never done got any stinkin' peppers," quoth

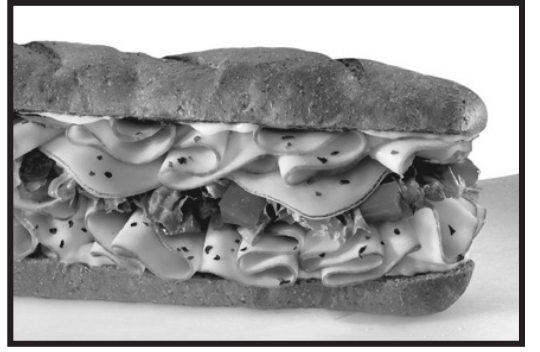
1985 Quiznos Hall of Famer Tony Gambinorino. "These boys weren't even around for the great wheat crisis of '82. I took down every Classic Italian that came my way, because that's all we had back then."

Richard Schaden, Quiznos founder, was complimentary of the new champions.

"These bright young men have a great future ahead of them in the fast service sandwich eating league," Schaden said. "Their greatness in college will only be eclipsed by their professional work. Vanderbilt is now forever a hotbed for future sandwich enjoying talent across the globe."

The Quiznos trophy, the Golden Wheat Bun, will reside in the McGugin athletic center. Students are discouraged from celebrating at Quiznos, as it will make the line take forever and

cause the drink machine to run out of iced tea.



Both men made sure to thank their mouths during the acceptance speech.

Vanderbilt Alum Receives Pub Order from 1997

By: Nate Braman
Funny Foodie

Prominent Nashville lawyer and former Vanderbilt undergrad Timothy Marshalls received a chicken Caesar wrap with fries last Tuesday, 15 years after the order was placed. Marshalls ordered the meal in his junior year at Vanderbilt, during the Clinton administration.

Marshalls spoke to *The Slant* about his delayed dinner, voicing his displeasure with the Pub's service. "I just kept waiting for them to call order number '6827'. At first, things looked promising. They called '6825', then '6826', but then all of a sudden they were at '7549'. The fuck is that? Where the hell did those sandwiches go? I want answers. 700 sandwiches unaccounted for. Also, the ketchup dispenser was low and it squirted out weird and I got some on my hand."

"It was a difficult 15 years," Marshalls confessed. "I was super hungry."

Marshalls did, however, remark that "although the sandwich was older than my two kids, combined, the fries were really good and stuff." He told *The Slant* that he would most likely order there again in the near future, presumably receiving that order in the substantially more distant future.

Eric McHenry, the chef who prepared Marshalls' meal, spoke to *The Slant*, decrying the criticism as "outrageous."

"Every meal here is a work of art. In the case



Upon receiving his order Marshalls simply replied "Oh, I wanted that to go..."

of Mr. Marshalls' meal, I spent years sketching his food, discovering the divine proportions of a chicken Caesar wrap. I travelled to Italy, admiring the work of the masters. Hell, I wasn't even able to start cooking 'til 2003."

"In 2008, I had a brief spat of disillusionment with the commercialism of modern day fast food artistry, and spent the next year and a half in utter isolation. But after some much needed soul searching, I was right back to work. I completed Marshalls' wrap, which was to be my crowning achievement, in early 2010. The sandwich then sorta sat on that big metal table in the back for a couple years, until someone noticed it and it was delivered to him."

"I understand his frustration, but how would the Sistene Chapel have turned out if Michelangelo had had to get it done in fifteen minutes because the Pope had a 7 P.M. exam?"

John Legend Mistaken for MOSAIC Propsey

By: Peter Linck
Mosaic Maker

During his visit to Vanderbilt last Friday, popular singer John Legend was mistaken by everyone for a prospective student in the MOSAIC program. The confusion seems to have stemmed from Legend's physical appearance. "He looked confused. And black. So naturally I assumed he was a MOSAIC student," commented John Gaines, admissions counselor for Hawaii. Legend also sported a t-shirt from his high school and a large lanyard of keys, further confusing everyone.

"God forbid I have some high-school school



That's what you get for wearing a high school shirt around this campus, John.

spirit. And I always lose my keys. And this campus is huge. Give me a break," said Legend.

The confusion sent the campus into a general tizzy. Texts circulated talking of a "hawt propsey who looks like the guy who sings that Ordinary People song." News of Legend's presence on campus was even mistaken by many as a joke. "I heard he was giving a talk but I didn't believe that the university would book him to lecture rather than play Rites or Quake. That's just silly," noted actual John Legend fan and sophomore, Jeriel Johnson.

John Legend's pubescent appearance also caused problems when he went to the Vanderbilt Pub before his lecture and was denied a beer by dining workers. "We expect all prospective Vanderbilt students to follow our campus alcohol policy even if they resemble platinum recording artists," said Pub manager, Corey Choate. Insulted by the ignorance of everyone, Legend responded by vehemently repeating "No really, I'm John Legend."

The high-schooler then proceeded to the Student Life Center Ballroom to try and steal the real John Legend's spot. MOSAIC volunteers demanded he prove his identity but remained unconvinced even after he played most of John Legend's discography. When the real John Legend failed to show up, MOSAIC officials gave the look-alike the green light to perform, hoping the excited crowd wouldn't notice the difference. And they didn't.

Harvard Students Regarding Basketball Loss: "We can't wait to be your bosses someday."

By: Dan King
Ballin' Boss

Following their basketball team's loss to Vanderbilt in the NCAA tournament last week, several Harvard University students have come out expressing a lack of concern over the game. The Harvard students all seem to agree that while Vanderbilt has a better basketball team, Harvard is a better university and that "We [Harvard students] can't wait to be your bosses some day."

That quote comes from Harvard student body president Rick Cunningham. Rick held a press conference following the game to express his overall feelings about Vanderbilt. Cunningham cited the higher SAT and ACT scores of Harvard's incoming freshman class, the higher pay achieved by Harvard alumni, and the eight presidents who are Harvard graduates as reasons that "We're not going to lose any sleep over this basketball game."

Harvard head coach Tommy Amaker mentioned the academic gap in his post-game comments. "Oh sure, it's easy to win basketball games at a place like Vanderbilt, where any Tom, Dick, and Harry with a 3.7 and good extra-curriculars

can get in. But at Harvard we've got higher standards than that. And one of the results is that it's tougher for us to field a team. [shrugging] What're you gonna do? Some schools are good at basketball. Other schools are good at being schools. We've made our decision."

Other students echoed the sentiment following the game. Nicole McCallan was present at the game and talked to *Slant* reporters following the loss. "Sure, today Vanderbilt beat us at basketball. But tomorrow ours will still be one of the top two universities in the country. What will Vanderbilt be? Top 20? What is that?"

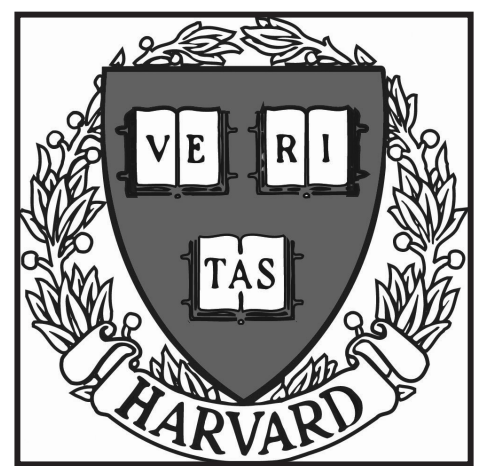
Digs about Vanderbilt's academic strength were flying fast and furious during the game as well. One group of Harvard students at the game held up a scathing sign that read, in part, "What do a Harvard student and a Vanderbilt student have in common? They both applied to Harvard."

Many Vanderbilt fans were angered by these remarks. Donald Allen, A&S sophomore, says he hates the stereotype that "Everyone here at Vanderbilt is a dumb jock. I mean sure, we like to party and play sports, but that doesn't mean our school isn't just as academically rigorous as Harvard. Give us some credit, guys."

When informed of this comment, Rick Cunningham laughed out loud for a full five minutes before simply remarking, "That's adorable. Please tell me you have video of him saying that."

Chancellor Nick Zeppos attempted to weigh in on the conflict by reminding students that "Vanderbilt has always prided itself on its high academic standards. As a matter of fact, you might even say that Vanderbilt is the Harvard of the South."

This comment seemed to enrage Harvard President Drew Faust. In an unusually candid press conference Mr. Faust said "Alright, let's get a few things straight here: one, we never gave you guys permission to use our name in all your admissions material, so you all need to cut that 'Harvard of the South' shit out right now. Second, I don't think you realize that by using our name like that, you're essentially ceding the point that our university is both better known and better respected than yours. That's just sad. At least try to build your own name. Third, being 'the Harvard of the South' would only be impressive if the South were known for having high quality universities. It isn't. You know what part of the country is known for having a lot of high quality universities? The Northeast, where



"See, this is our seal, and that word, oh gosh, do you guys know Latin? I didn't think so," says Cunningham, regarding the Harvard seal.

we are. All this slogan does is remind people that better universities exist and that most of them are in a better part of the country. Please, for your sake and ours, stop using it."

While Vanderbilt students report being hurt and downright offended by these comments from Harvard students, that hasn't stopped Vanderbilt students from saying these exact same comments about Wisconsin University.

Report: Barack Obama Worst Black President We've Ever Had

By: Richard McGee
President Preferer

A report released by Arizona State University last week has conclusively determined that by every measurable metric, Barack Obama is officially the worst black president our country has ever had.

The report reads, in part, "Mr. Obama's presidency has so far seen more jobs lost, higher gas prices, and more public debt than any other black president in history. While we recognize that Mr. Obama does technically still have time left in his first term and could possibly reduce some of these trends, we feel that nothing he

does will change these facts."

Dr. Michael Fortin, head of the ASU political science department, was the driving force behind this study. He says that his team took great pains to try and make a conclusive statement about Obama's overall ranking as a black president.

Says Fortin: "We adjusted all numbers for inflation and for percentage of GDP to make sure we were judging everyone on fair terms. But there's just no way around [this conclusion]. No matter how you slice it, you have to admit Obama is the worst black president we've ever had."

Fortin went on to describe some of the more unusual metrics the team used to gain a more

complete understanding of this complex question. "We measured how many Osama Bin Ladens each black president killed and it turns out that, after adjusting for inflation, Obama hasn't killed any more Bin Ladens than any other black president, so that one was a wash."

Many on the left side of the aisle have taken offense to this survey. Senate majority leader Harry Reid says while he can't deny that Obama is "The worst black president we've had so far," it hardly seems fair to judge him so harshly. "I mean, this man inherited a lot of problems from George Bush. No other black president in history has ever had to work under that kind of duress. I don't think that ASU has fully taken into

account the unique circumstances surrounding Obama's presidency."



Obama's portrait is also the worst one a black president has ever taken.

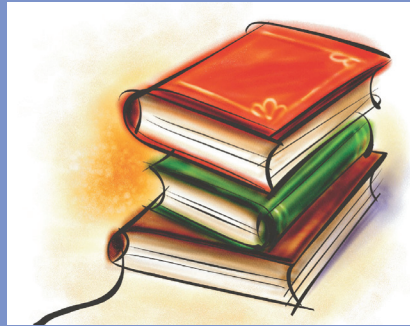
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NO MORE BLACK PLAGUE



As a society, we've pretty well kicked the Black Plague. Sure, it still happens, but cases are few and far between. And even then it's surprisingly curable. Eliminating the Black Plague may be the single greatest accomplishment of humanity in the last 1,000 years--thanks to the third of Europe who died so that we could be stronger as a human race.

WRITTEN LANGUAGE



Let's be honest, written language is pretty fucking badass. Just think about all the fucking sweet ass words that we all have access to at all fucking times. Words like "fuck" for instance, which has fucking meaning. And there are a fucking infinite amount of words, and you get to pick whichever fucking one you want. How fucking awesome is that?

For this issue we've decided to take some time out of our usual merry-making to take stock of our culture. See, when I was growing up, I used to have self esteem issues. One thing that helped me get through the tough times was this little exercise: I'd sit down and write a list of all the things about myself that I was truly, genuinely, undeniably proud of. By the time I finished writing the list, I always felt better about whatever was bothering me.

This technique always helped me raise my self esteem. But this article isn't about self esteem; it's about society-esteem. See, for the past few weeks, we here at *The Slant* have been feeling a bit down about ourselves as a society.

I trace the source of the problem to a few months ago when I read a recent study about the communication abilities of dolphins. It turns out that dolphins have a fairly advanced system of communication based on speech. It's amazing. Scientists even found that dolphins have names for each other, and that two dolphins can use these names to talk about a third dolphin who isn't there. The study said that dolphin society was so advanced that it probably won't be long before we all recognize dolphins not as animals but as "Marine-based humans."

This got us all a little down, because suddenly we realized

JAMES DYSON PROBLEM SOLVER



Humanity really knocked it out of the park when we created Bill Dyson. That man just flat out solves problems. Vacuums aren't perfect? Hah, now they are! You say fans could be better? Or hand dryers? Well, with Bill Dyson on the case, perfection is always within reach. Now we just need someone to get him to think about AIDS research...

ORANGES ARE ORANGE



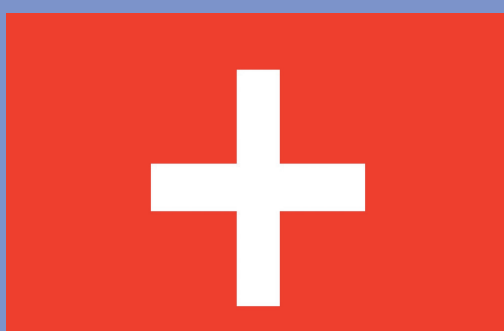
Oranges are orange. Whoever named both of those things wasn't very creative but doesn't that give a real sense of order to the universe? The world is a confusing place, but there is one thing that makes sense. Oranges are orange. Plain and simple. It makes the world seem like a harmonious place.

SEX FOR PLEASURE



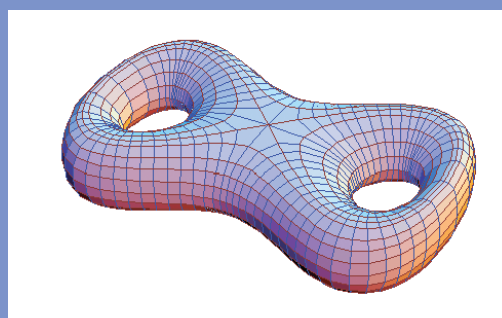
Humans are among the few species that have sex for pleasure. While some others, like dolphins, do it too, we've perfected it. We have built whole industries around taking the reproduction out of sex.

SWITZERLAND



Switzerland. That place is some kind of utopian society. There's no war, no pollution, and the place is freaking beautiful. While the rest of the world is obsessed with fighting and putting names on their bank accounts, the Swiss just hang back and chill out. They are the "Dude" of countries.

MATH IT MAKES SENSE AND WE'RE GOOD AT IT



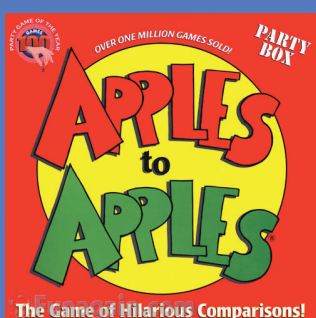
We're pretty good at math. You know those seven "Millennium Problems?" The ones that were supposed to be solved by the year 2000? We've solved one of them! So yay us! Us average folk don't really understand it, but the fact that someone out there has tackled one of them makes us feel good.

MISS UNIVERSE PERFECT RECORD



The winner of the Miss Universe Pageant is almost always beautiful and almost always a woman. That's a big deal because it's an intergalactic competition and Earth has never lost. Really, we haven't. You'd think that we'd lose at least once or twice to some other planet, but we don't. Even Canada has won a World Series.

HELLEN KELLER APPLES TO APPLES TRUMP CARD



The Helen Keller card always wins in Apples to Apples. The world is an inconsistent place but we can always count on the Helen Keller card. It's comforting to know that there's a trump card in every Apples to Apples deck, just waiting to be drawn by some lucky player. The best adjectives to play Helen Keller on? "Sensual" and "touchy-feely."

LUCKY PENNIES



Pennies are still lucky. Sure, it's only when they're heads up, but that's half of the time. So if you have a glass-half-full outlook on life, pennies are a good thing. You can wish for whatever you want if you find a lucky penny. That shining bit of copper on the ground is a world of opportunities. The downside is they're basically worthless.

HUMANS ARE AWARE OF OWN MORTALITY



Humanity is aware of its mortality. Sure, this sounds morbid, but isn't it nice that we're at least conscious of our fleeting nature? Doesn't that make every moment precious? "Suck it" to all the animals who have no idea that death is constantly lurking around the corner.

& The Worst Humanity

that ours is not the only society on this planet. I mean, really when talks with the dolphins begin to open up, we're going to have to decide which of us is the dominant species. And the only peaceful way to do this would be to compare societies.

Anyway, that's where these two pages come in. On the left here we have gathered the top 11 things that we as a species can all be proud of. We did our best to look for problems we've dealt with and the epitome of human thought and achievement.

However, we didn't feel quite right just presenting the good, so on the right side of the page we've presented the top 11 things that we as a society should be ashamed of. These things represent the depths of our ineptitude and the height of our collective stupidity.

We present both of these to you along with a simple question: how are we doing so far? Do you think humans have a ton to be proud of? Are we going to feel comfortable walking the first dolphin tourists around the world we've built?

After creating both sides of this list, this editor honestly doesn't know anymore.

Maybe it'd be best if we all start learning to speak dolphin. E-e-e-eeee---eee-e-eee-e-eee-eeee.

CELEBRITY IS INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO TALENT



Celebrity popularity is inverse to talent. Think about the most popular celebrities in the world. Paris Hilton. Kim Kardashian. Snookie. They have literally no talent and yet they're on the cover of more magazines than the president. Think about the most talented people in the world: classically-trained artists. How many of them can you name?

MONEY



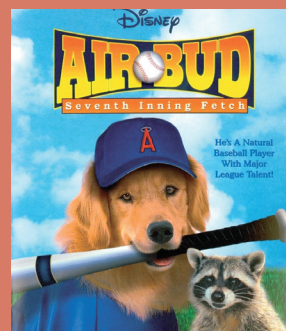
Ummmm, am I the only one who notices that money is just paper with fancy pictures printed on it? The pictures are pretty, don't get me wrong. But... we fight wars over this stuff. Wars. Plural. Who decided money was a thing? That guy screwed up, really bad. If I could meet him... I would get mad at him for that. Screw that guy. Money doesn't exist.

JOHN STAMOS SELLS GREEK YOGURT



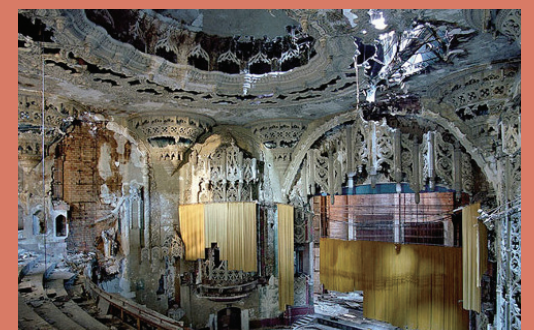
This is just plain sad. Hearing that cool Uncle Jesse has been reduced to hawking cheap dairy to sorority girls just killed my whole childhood. It was even worse than the day I found out that Kel Mitchell actually works at a Goodburger now. He does. It's in Birmingham, AL, and his soul dies a little bit every day there.

DOGS ARE BETTER THAN US AT MOST SPORTS



Human beings aren't the best at any sport despite the fact that we invented all of them. There's this Golden Retriever that kicks our ass at every single one of them. There's a whole bunch of documentaries about him. His name is Air Bud and he makes Michael Jordan look like a four-foot tall asthmatic kid with a peg leg. He plays baseball and soccer too.

DETROIT



Detroit. We fucked up. Big time. That place is a total shit hole. If we want to make any progress as a society, we should just level that God-forsaken, crime-ridden armpit of a city. And it's basically in Canada. The auto industry is dead and the city is a cultural wasteland. If we're lucky, maybe the whole sumbitch will sink into Lake Michigan.

MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT



There's such a thing as the Miss Universe Pageant. Why do we have to come together and decide which woman is the best? Can't we just be comfortable with the idea that they're all unique in their own special ways? Nope. It's way easier to annually hold a massive contest to figure out which woman is best. That's not horrifying at all! (Note the sarcasm)

YOUR BRACKET



Your March Madness bracket is fucked. Mizzou or Duke totally screwed you over. There's not even a point to caring about the tournament any more. And all your friends think you're a dumbass for doing so horribly in your bracket pool. Your March Madness bracket is just one more reminder that you are a failure as a human being.

GARY BUSEY



It isn't fair to try and pin Gary Busey's existence on any one person. The fact is that we as a society created everything that is this horrible man. We should all be ashamed to participate in a societal system that allows things like him to grow and thrive.

CELL PHONE BATTERIES ARE AWARE OF THEIR OWN MORTALITY



Our cell phone batteries are dying constantly. It's the most frustrating thing in the world. Fuck those emaciated African children, my iPhone is always out of battery, which means I have to walk all the way across my dorm room to update my Twitter account.

STARBUCKS IS TOO EXPENSIVE



Starbucks is really expensive. As wonderful as a vanilla latte is, shelling out \$5 for it is physically painful. How can we be expected to be an upper-middle class society if Starbucks, an essential part of upper-middle class identity, is so expensive?

HERPES

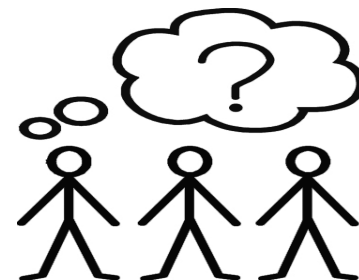


Herpes. It's a bitch and it never ever goes away. And people who have it never tell people who don't. Think about it. If people with herpes stopped fucking people without it, it would just go away.



Opinions!

Welcome to The Slant's Opinion section, with the most opinionated opinions this side of the Snake River.



My Opinion of Afghan Killings Has Totally Changed Now

By: Michael Woods
Uber Understanding

After finding out that Sgt. Robert Bales was just an overstressed family man, I completely changed my mind about his "murderous rampage."

Originally, when I heard about the seemingly senseless killings of unarmed, sleeping Afghan women and children, I was pretty upset. I asked myself, "What sort of monster could do such a horrible thing?" I even wrote a few editorials about what I regretfully then called, "Psychotic Murders." Now I realize that soldiers are under a lot of stress, and there's no need to hold them accountable for the horrible actions they've committed; they're suffering enough already.

Think about it. If you're under that kind of stress all the time, you're going to need to blow off some steam every now and then. Who's to say that going to the gym is better than going

on a killing spree in the middle of the night? Not me. Besides, keeping this country safe is worth every life.

Sgt. Robert Bales is not just an incredible American hero dedicated to American lives. Once you read about his work with special needs children and his "happy-go-lucky" high-school football days, you'll understand that "He is not some psychopath," as Army Capt. Chris Alexander put it, "he's just a regular guy trying to deal with losing his second home and getting passed over for a promotion. Then when you take into account his trouble with the law, the hit-and-run accident and the assault on his girlfriend, it all seems to culminate to this one desperate act, that you know he regrets. Just put yourself in his shoes for a second.

Even if you can't completely relate, try to imagine the horror of having murdered and set on fire nine completely innocent children. How could you live with yourself after that? Sgt. Bales is just that courageous.

I Can't Wait to See Katniss and Peeta Both Survive at The End of the Hunger Games Movie!

By: Richard McGee
Senior Film Critic

I don't know about you guys, but I am incredibly excited to see the release *The Hunger Games* on the big screen! The idea of seeing Katniss and Peeta thwart authority and both survive the Games together has me so giddy with anticipation that I can hardly handle it!

I haven't been this excited about a film since *Spiderman 2*! Like when Katniss volunteers to take her sister's place in the Games, or when she backflips over Thresh and garrotes him right after the games start - this movie is going to be packed with action! Of course there are sad moments too, like when Rue lies dying in Katniss' arms!

Seriously, the Rue thing was so sad! The way she acts as a surrogate sister for Katniss and gives her comfort at night, how she motivates Katniss with her little song, and how she beheads Clove will be so adorable! Not to mention how she unintentionally baits Marvel to his death at Katniss' hands by getting killed by his spear!

And then there's the sexual tension! Gale is so hot, but is essentially friendzoned, and the tension is never resolved! Peeta is also quite attractive, pronounces his love for Katniss on national television, and the two end up kissing and fucking throughout the Games in order to get their mentor, Haymitch, to send them supplies! But she never admits to truly loving him, either, and he leaves just as heartbroken as Gale, who had to watch all that promiscuity

daily on television!

The ending will be so spectacular! When Katniss and Peeta are the only two tributes left alive, and the realization that one will have to kill the other is becoming too real, the intensity will be tangible! Then Katniss will hand Peeta the poison berries, the ones she used to kill the foxface tribute from district seven earlier, the two will act like they're about to commit simultaneous suicide, and the capitol will have no choice but to declare them both winners! Hunger Games history!

This movie is going to be a hit! If I haven't convinced you to go see it by now, something must be wrong with you! Go pay money to see all of the twists and turns of the plot of one of the year's best stories!



Problem?

Letters to the Editor

Dear Slant,

Everyone's getting really suspicious. I mean, we all turned a blind eye when you never had a date to any dances in high school and when you had that disco phase. And then you started wearing loafers and accessorizing, but we thought it was just what all the kids were into nowadays.

But ever since you asked for *27 Dresses* and *Devil Wears Prada* on DVD for Christmas, everyone's been gossiping. Your parents are confused as hell about the glitter in the bathroom. You should probably just tell the family before it gets any worse than it already is. Besides, it's only Grandma and Pop-Pop who won't love you anymore.

All the Best,
Your Favorite Second Cousin
Tony Bologna XII
Eau Claire, WI

Dear Slant,

I took some Viagra earlier, and my erection's lasted longer than four hours. I know you're not a doctor or anything, but I don't have health insurance and we all know *The Hustler's* not gonna help.

I tried standing on my head, slapping it, and having sex a bunch but it's still really hard. This is just my luck. Any suggestions? It's getting inconvenient.

Please hurry. I'm getting lightheaded.

From,
Stephen Banning
Long Island, New York

ELECTION HQ

It looks like, despite the inevitability of Mitt Romney's eventual win, the GOP primaries are going to continue to be meaningful for the foreseeable future. None of the candidates had planned to still be campaigning this late in the game, so we've decided to run down some good strategies to deploy in several of the states which have upcoming primaries.

But first, here's some good advice to any candidate running anywhere. Never forget that all politics are local politics. And local politics are all about one thing: PANDERING. There's no reason to ever not be eating a local delicacy in your

photo opportunities. Whatever the people closest to you want to hear, for the love of God, say it! Whichever candidate panders most effectively will win themselves a one-way ticket to the White House, where a team of security guards are paid to keep the people outside and off your lawn. So you'll never actually have to own up to any of this junk. Knowing this, it only makes sense for you to go for broke every time. The people in Colorado want you to declare each one of them kings? Go ahead, tell them it'll happen! Maine wants flying cars? Sure! Tell them what you have to, and then get ready to backpedal hard once the inauguration is over.

Don't forget that in Montana, mountains are allowed to vote in primaries.

In his later years, Reagan once said, "As Pennsylvania goes, so goes Pennsylvania." That guy really lost it towards the end.

Look up how to pronounce Conneticut BEFORE giving speeches here.

Rick Santorum will not do well in New York because of its large population of literate people.

We're excited to see Mitt Romney try to surf and act like it's something he enjoys doing.

There's a guy in Maryland who's offering his vote to the first candidate to pay him fifteen dollars, which is a pretty good deal when you think about it.

Expect at least one candidate to attempt to use all the Spanish they learned in fourth grade during a speech here.

West Virginia will probably be a stuck-up bitch and end up voting for some douche with a motorcycle and a leather jacket.

The fastest way to a Nebraskan's heart is not through their veins. Those bad boys are clogged with a TON of cholesterol.

When the candidates come to Kentucky, they'll all have to pretend to be sad that the 'Cats didn't win the NCAA tournament.

Texans don't like murderers, so Gingrich is gonna want to keep that incident quiet until after the Texas primary.

Five bonus points to any candidate who takes Louisiana without trying to pretend they like gumbo.

Wiz Khalifa Drops Out of Rites to Be Replaced by Tribute Band

By: Michael Wheelock
Music Master

Khiz Walifa, Manhattan's #2 Wiz Khalifa tribute band (just behind the chart-topper Le Wiz), is set to headline Vanderbilt's spring music festival after the actual artist announced that he's "actually probably going to be busy" on that date.

Other Wiz Khalifa replacements were considered, explained Stacy Williams, head of the Vanderbilt Programming Board Executive Council. "We actually asked Nickelback to make an appearance, but then the bomb threats started coming in, so we reconsidered." Other artists and bands considered were Creed, Britney Spears, Rage Against the Machine, Shaggy, The Wu-Tang Clan, and The Jackson Three reunion, but these were all ultimately passed over for "one of the top three Wiz Khalifa cover bands we've heard this month."

When asked, Khiz Walifa said "we're super-psyched to be playing this show; we've never been to Kentucky before."

Chancellor Zeppos apparently played a large role in the booking of this band, as his brother is the second bassist and percussion understudy. He commented, "I'm really excited to see Kyle—he's been committed to this band for nearly a decade, and I'm glad they're finally letting him play at a show."

Not everyone on campus is so enthusias-



The toughest part of being in a Wiz Khalifa cover band? Getting the tattoos exactly right.

tic about the pick. The Chemistry and Latin American Studies departments had been backing U2 ever since their St. Patrick's Day faculty party. "I think it's outrageous. I've been telling my classes to look forward to hearing 'Pride (In the Name of Love)' since the day I heard that Wiz Khalifa canceled," complained one organic chemistry instructor. Administrators are hoping, however, that this neutral pick will alleviate the tensions between these departments and the law school, which has been trying to use Rites of Spring to get Aerosmith and Run DMC back together for years.

Many people, though not upset about the new headliner, were simply baffled as to why Khalifa withdrew from the line-up. When *The Slant* asked him about the cancelation, he explained that he felt uncomfortable sharing a stage with soul/indie pop giants Fitz & the Tantrums, who he claims often mock him for his weak stage presence and lack of saxophone. "Besides," he said, "Vanderbilt just goes too hard in the paint for my taste. I prefer a mellower audience."

The two leading candidates for the upcoming Vanderbilt Student Government presidential election have made their personal reactions to the situation a large part of their respective campaign rhetorics. Adam Meyer was quoted as declaring, "As president, I would encourage many more cover and tribute bands, like Vitamin String Quartet (famous for their Fall Out Boy and Avenged Sevenfold tribute albums), who exemplify the entrepreneurial attitude that so desperately needs encouragement within America's small business community." A dissident student responded, saying, "While we support small businesses, we don't want to punish artists like Wiz Khalifa or Kid Cudi for being successful. These people are the job-creators who keep the culture industry running."

Though featuring a controversial choice for a headline replacement, this year's Rites of Spring promises to satisfy every possible Vanderbilt taste in music ever.

CDC Scientists Isolate Bacterium Responsible for March Madness

By: Andrew Snow
Expert Infector

Microbiologists with the Centers for Disease Control have announced that they have successfully isolated the bacterium responsible for the so-called March Madness spectrum of disorders.

The paper, which appeared in the March 15th issue of *Nature*, identifies the causal mechanism through which a newly discovered strain of *P. Anaerosius*, tentatively named Marchromatium, infects the brainstem and induces the temporary delirium.

Epidemiologists estimate that over 10 million Americans suffer from the debilitating condition each March. Because of the short time-frame during which symptoms present, the disease has become known colloquially as the March Madness, a reference to the mad March Hare of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*.

The severity of symptoms associated with condition vary widely: from developing strong, quickly changing opinions about the cultures of parts of the country they've never visited, to skipping important life events, like the birth of a child, in order to watch two teams they have

never heard of play. Nearly all of the affected report inflated beliefs about their ability to perform complex statistical analysis to determine likely outcomes of the games.

For some sufferers, like Chris Leary, 38, the disease is much more than a label. Having contracted the condition in early childhood, his symptoms have progressed to the point where he is now compelled to watch all 63 games, buying special cable packages just to experience the event.

Last year, his wife of 15 years left him. She told *The Slant* that she "just couldn't stand to watch him watch those games, anymore. It was just too hard to see him develop a stronger emotional connection to the 600 players of each year's tournament than to his own family." Chris reportedly did not notice the absence of his wife or children until after the championship game.

Now that scientists have identified the cause of the March Madness, there is a sense of renewed hope of a cure for people like Chris, but whether or not it will be enough to allow sufferers rebuild their shattered lives remains to be seen.

Some important symptoms of March Madness to look out for:

- Skipping work, school, and important life events to watch amateur basketball games
- Forgetting that the outcomes of these games will have little to no material impact on the human condition as a whole
- Listening to a lot of music by John Phillip Sousa
- Regular madness may be a precursor to March Madness
- Time between basketball games spent reading H.P. Lovecraft
- Apparent spike in knowledge of relative quality of entire universities and/or parts of the country
- Increased appreciation for the physique of 18- and 19-year-old men
- Strong desire to watch Mike Krzyzewski cry like a little girl
- Inner monologue suddenly Dick Vitale's voice
- Gambling

[TFLVP: Texts from Last Vandy Party Remembering what you said when you can't.

- (569): Wow, I had no idea you could have sex like this.
- (899): Dude, focus. We're still doing it.
- (327): New drinking game. Don't wear green to the party and take a shot every time someone pinches you.
- (299): Challenge accepted.
- (345): is it mrder if ur really sorry?
- (763): from now on, i only pre-game at places where they don't call it a pre-game
- (566): dood loan me 20 bucks
- (434): how about 20 byx?
- (743): Yo this girl is bangin' but she looks like she could be in High School...
- (920): Careful man, it is MOSAIC weekend

AROUND the loop

Tell me everything you know about faster-than-light neutrinos!

Vanderbilt Professor



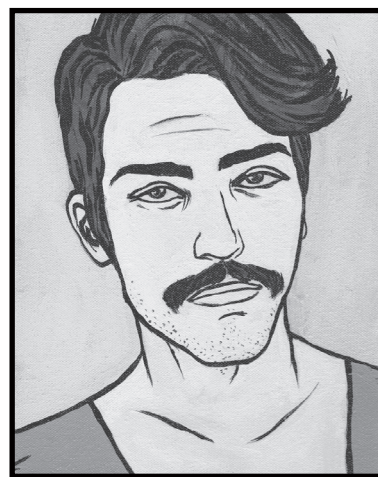
Take my class, pay hundreds of dollars for my books, and I'll tell you my biased opinion.

Insane Clown Posse



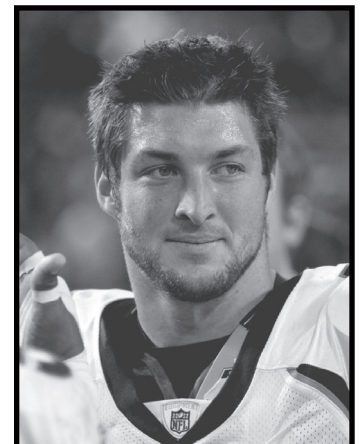
We told you those scientists be lyin'!

Hipster



I saw them at Exit/In a couple weeks back.... kinda meh.

Tim Tebow



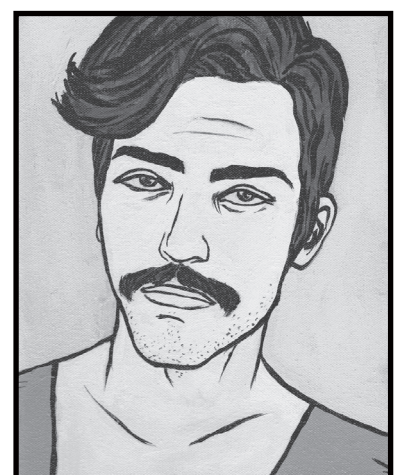
I'm going to reserve comment, since God hasn't told me if they're for real or not yet.

OPERA Scientists



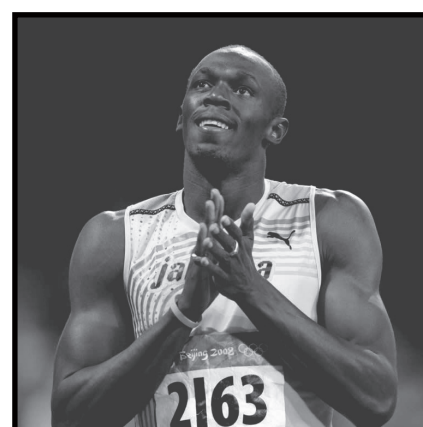
Huh, apparently not much.

Philosophy Major



Well, according to Nietzsche... (Sorry, readers, the Slant reporter's attention drifted off here)

Usain Bolt



They ain't so fast.

Papa John's Employee



Would you like to try any large pizza Monday through Wednesday for only \$9.99?

TOP TEN
Feelings You Can Have

- 10 That white-hot rage burning inside you that makes you want to stab some random person on the street, even though you don't because that's wrong.
- 9 That moment of sheer glee when you recover what you thought to be your long-lost favorite porn video.
- 8 Feeling the heartbeat of your newborn son.
- 7 The pure joy of finding the exact book or CD you want for a really low price at McKay Used Books.
- 6 The annoying, nagging feeling that you could have just pirated it for free.
- 5 A great piss after a long day.
- 4 The relief when the doctor confirms that you don't have a baby in your belly or an STD in your loins.
- 3 That crushing, existential dread that even though your life is perfectly comfortable, you'll never be able to escape its ultimately meaningless presence.
- 2 That feeling... man, I don't think I can do this any more.
- 1 No really, I'm done. I'm going to go hug my pillow and cry myself to sleep.

Vanderbilt Narrowly Misses Sweet 16

By: R. H. Illan
Ranking Ruler

In the most recent US News and World Report ranking for the top colleges and universities in the nation, Vanderbilt University finished in 17th place, missing out on the coveted 'Sweet Sixteen' block of the most truly elite American universities by one spot. A disappointed Nick Zeppos had this to say about the decision: "We here at Vanderbilt would be lying if we said we weren't a bit disappointed." He added, "We felt that our combination of world class academics with the many social opportunities on campus, from the Greek system to the LLCs to great programs like ASB, would have earned us a higher spot."

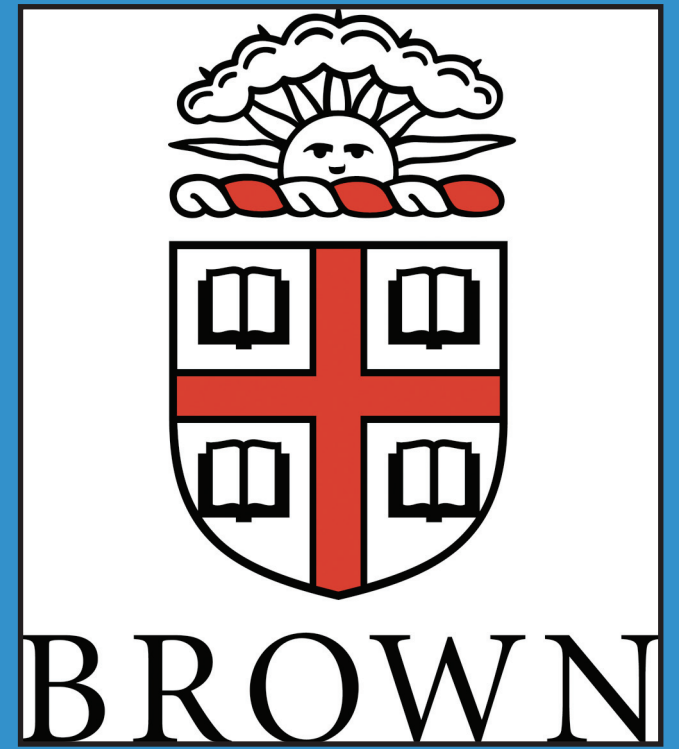
Students are less than thrilled. Junior Arts and Science student James Ferguson said, "Where else can you watch SEC football on Saturdays and get a Harvard level education during the week? No where! Barstool.com rated us the number one frat-tiest school in America! Vanderbilt just offers so much to the student so many opportunities outside the classroom that other top institutions just can't."

Chairman of the selection committee, Wallace Hawthorne, defended the ranking. He explained "While Vanderbilt's academic prestige and campus life are unquestionable, they really lost points in the alumni donations category. Only 18 percent of alumni give money back to the school. That just doesn't scream that people are extremely proud to have gone there. Certainly not 'Sweet Sixteen' proud."

Chancellor Zeppos urged students to give back, no matter what the amount. "I don't care who you are, everyone has part of their cost of going to Vanderbilt covered from the endowment fund. Everyone should give back to keep the University affordable to all students and to ensure its furthered excellence. Plus, it helps us in the rankings." He also added that it

was somewhat personal: "Do you know how embarrassing it is when I meet the chancellor or president of a 'Sweet Sixteen' school? They're such dicks about it! They have secret pool parties and don't invite me! I'm all like, 'come on guys, what's one more spot?' but they have none of it."

All heads of top sixteen rated schools condescendingly declined comment.



Brown gets top 16 and not us? They're barely even an Ivy!

Sundance Vets LMFAO Come out with New Shorts

By: Elizabeth Wheelock
Senior Film Critic

LMFAO, the wildly popular two-man filmmaking team known for their Sundance successes of the past two years, "Party Rock Anthem" and "Sexy and I Know It," has recently released a short film that is intended to serve as a prequel to their previous work and elaborate on the more lighthearted aspects of the ongoing exploration of modern culture in their series of films.

In this latest piece, "Sorry for Party Rocking," the duo explores the generational conflicts that arise between the carefree, expressive youth and the embittered, out-of-touch adults who envy the innocent way in which the young people are able to express themselves totally and without fear of others' censure. The juxtaposition of the party rock dreamscape and the ebullient party scene adds a feverish tone to the festivities, which foreshadows the party's uncertain and tragic ending. Following a heart-warming breakdown of social barriers that unites the townspeople, individuals from all walks of life, in their escape from their earthly worries, such as one policeman's dead-end job or a neighbor's unfulfilling marriage, the film takes a sobering twist that results in Redfoo's removal from the party by means of an ambulance.

That this film is a prequel to the pair's "Party Rock Anthem" becomes slowly apparent by means of the subtle details intertwined with the plot—Redfoo's phone, lost in the rescue attempt, is discovered by a character the viewer immediately recognizes as the first zombie-like figure seen in that earlier post-apocalyptic drama. With an almost imperceptible flash-forward to the other film's first scene, the thought of a prequel becomes firmly cemented in the viewer's mind and raises disturbing questions as to what occurs in this idyllic setting during the characters' absence to transform it into the hellish dystopia recognizable in "Party Rock Anthem."

While a far cry from their grittier works, such as the Gothic horror masterpiece "Champagne Showers" or the tragic "Sexy and I Know It," filled with Redfoo's painful attempt to reconcile himself with his own body and learn to celebrate the male form, "Sorry for Party Rocking" manages to explore humankind's passions and common struggles with a much more positive outlook on the possibility of finding contentment. It is this optimistic attitude for which we, as viewers, want to remember Redfoo and Sky Blu, not their later disenchantment. LMFAO has once again done it—they have created a film both gripping artistically and relevant to our modern-day culture.



Are these two "Oscar bound?" I think so.

Whoever's Seen the Leprechaun Say Yeah: Celebrating Six Years in Crichton, AL

By: Kelley Hines
Senior Film Critic

This past Saturday commemorated the 6th anniversary of the famous Leprechaun sightings in Crichton, Alabama. In response, the residents of Crichton have dubbed the Leprechaun their community good luck charm, and his presence can be seen throughout the town. To celebrate last year's anniversary, the local high school chose to change their mascot from the Wildcats to the Leprechauns in a 207 to six town hall vote.

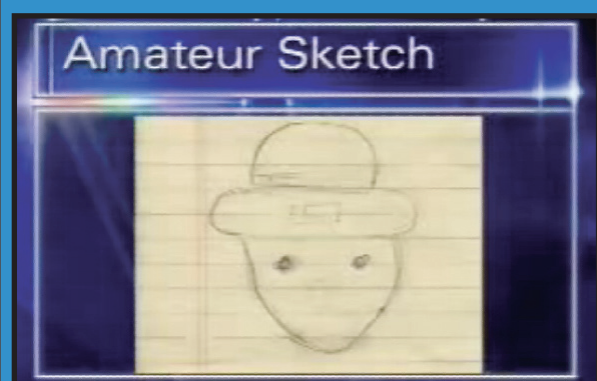
This year, Crichton's citizens have pooled their funds to erect a statue in the town's central playground. Since the residents are still unable to locate any photographs of the famed Leprechaun, the famed amateur sketch featured on the NBC news report will be used as a design. The base of the statue will reportedly be embossed with the phrase, "I want the gold. Give me the gold!"

Local auto salesman and businessman, Tyrone McClannay, commented to reporters, "Man, I'm tellin' you, I got da best prices fa Hondas anywhere in Alabama, ya heard? Need

a loan? I gotchu. We do custom rims, too, man. Need customized decals? Man, say no mo', I gotchu. Dawg, whatever you need, fa sho, we got it." In relation to the Leprechaun, McClannay stated, "Oh, yeah, that. It seems great for the kids."

Local leader, Rev. Randy Thomas Walter Brown III, the pastor of Mt. Olive Calvary Missionary Episcopal Zionist Baptist Church, stated that the congregation even has plans to commission a stain glass panel depicting the Leprechaun. The Reverend feels that the presence of the poorly drawn, probably non-existent Leprechaun will inspire the congregation to be more pious and stop stealing from the collection plate.

Finally, what may be the most beneficial aspect of the Leprechaun sightings is the establishment of a lucrative tourist economy in Crichton. People now travel from across the United States to buy memorabilia and take photos of the Leprechaun's fabled tree-home. Visiting tourist, Sandy Milton, commented while visiting with family, "I literally cannot wait to get my very own Leprechaun flute. Move."



The statue was made based on this amateur sketch of the leprechaun.

Student Mistakes Random Black Guy for Black Friend

By: Sam Mallick
Friendly Fellow

An awkward incident occurred Wednesday on Alumni Lawn when junior Kenneth Carlson waved and said hello to an African American student who he believed to be his friend Tom Smith but was in fact just some random black dude.

Onlookers report that Carlson was cutting across Alumni Lawn near Neely Auditorium when he waved and shouted, "Hey, Tom!" to a person roughly fifteen yards away.

"I thought it was strange when Tom didn't wave back," Carlson said. "When I got closer and saw that it wasn't him, it was the most awkward moment of my life."

Mason Wilkes, the random black dude who Carlson mistook for Smith, said that the incident was slightly uncomfortable for him, too.

"I felt a little weird about it," Wilkes said. "At first I thought it was someone from my VUcept group, but then he called me Tom and I realized how incredibly awkward the situation was."

Adding to the awkwardness was the fact that Wilkes and Smith actually look nothing alike. "Mason is way darker than Tom," said Mike

Thompson, an African-American mutual friend of Smith and Wilkes. "And, like, half a foot taller with a shaved head and glasses. They look completely different."

Carlson said that he felt bad about causing the incident and that he tried to make it better by saying, "Sorry man, I bet you get that all the time," and chuckling uncomfortably as he passed Wilkes.

"I thought that maybe people called him Tom all the time," Carlson said. "But later I found out that the random black guy didn't even know who Tom was. I couldn't believe they didn't know each other. I mean, I thought they all knew each other!"

Wilkes said that he feels confident that everyone involved will eventually be able to emerge from the awkwardness of this incident and move on with their lives.

"It was uncomfortable, sure, but I'm not mad," Wilkes said. "I totally understand what that guy went through. I'm friends with a Chinese guy and I say 'hi' to random Asians I've never met all the time."



I swear, man; you look just like him. This isn't a race thing.