

# Versus

Entertainment & Culture at Vanderbilt

SEPTEMBER 17—SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 No. 16

## SISTER HAZEL

ROCK BAND SISTER HAZEL IS FINALLY GOING TO "COME AROUND"

36 flavors of cupcakes?! Satisfy your sweet tooth on page 3.

Tune into our breakup playlist on page 5.

The Ting Tings? The Fratellis? Flip to page 4.



## PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

### Xavier Rudd — City Hall

Australian singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist (he even plays the didgeridoo) Xavier Rudd brings his unique brand of socially conscious, psychedelic music to City Hall for what promises to be an unforgettable experience. (\$16, 8 p.m.)

### The Eagles — Sommet Center

Classic rock legends The Eagles make a stop in Nashville on their Long Road Out of Eden tour, celebrating the band's first studio album in 28 years. (Start at \$37.50, 8 p.m., 501 Broadway)

### Laura Cantrell, Malcolm Holcombe, Luke Doucet and Melissa McClelland — The Basement

As a part of the Americana Music Festival Showcase, a weeklong celebration of everything Americana is taking place at five downtown venues; The Basement hosts some of the genres' brightest newcomers. (\$35 for a festival wristband, 10 p.m.)

### Mary Wilson of The Supremes — Schermerhorn Symphony Center

Mary Wilson, a founding member of The Supremes, one of the most successful female pop groups in history, will perform at the Nashville Symphony every night this weekend for what will definitely be three memorable performances. (Tickets TBA, 7 p.m. on Thursday, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday)

### The Felice Brothers with AA Bondy — Exit/In

Americana New York natives The Felice Brothers have been garnering attention and accolades for their virtuosic and soulful sound. See what all the buzz is about at Exit/In. (\$10, 8 p.m.)

### Asleep at the Wheel — Wildhorse Saloon

A career spanning 37 years, nine Grammy awards and the title "the post-modern kings of Western swing" are three big reasons to catch Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel at Wildhorse. (\$15-35, 6 p.m. 120 2nd Ave. North)

### Beegie Adair — F.Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar

Jazz pianist Beegie Adair has been called "elegant" by the Los Angeles Times and "one of the finest piano players in the world" by Entertainment News. Need another reason to check out this show? It's free! (Free, 7 p.m.)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

### Slippery When Wet: The Ultimate Bon Jovi Tribute — Exit/In

True classic rock fans should head to the Exit/In on Friday to witness the rock-fest that is Slippery When Wet. Formed by a Bon Jovi fan who was constantly mistaken for the rock legend, Slippery When Wet are sure to provide an energetic show full of everyone's favorite Bon Jovi classics. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

### Americana Music Festival featuring Cross Canadian Ragweed — The Cannery Ballroom

This night of classic American music kicks off with opener Shurman, followed by country-influenced rockers Cross Canadian Ragweed. The Oklahoma band cites influences such as Lynyrd Skynyrd and AC/DC and enjoyed Billboard top-100 success with their album, "Mission California." (\$35 for a wristband, 9 p.m.)

### Angie Aparo — 12th & Porter

Singer/songwriter Angie Aparo brings his contemporary, adult-alternative music to town. His approaching album will be produced by country music legend Tim McGraw and is scheduled for release sometime in 2008. (\$15, 9 p.m.)

### Grupo Fantasma — Vanderbilt University

Great Performances brings Grupo Fantasma, a Latin-American orchestra. The group is highly acclaimed in their hometown of Austin, Texas. (\$5, 8 p.m.)

### Americana Music Festival featuring The Gougers and James McMurtry — The Mercy Lounge

Experience the best America has to offer with Nashville's Americana Music Festival. Friday at Mercy Lounge will feature acts including The Gougers, James McMurtry, Paul Thorn and Girls Guns and Glory. Headliner The Gougers favor a traditional American folk sound, while James McMurtry is best known for a bluesy style. (\$35/wristband, 8 p.m.)

### Americana Music Festival featuring Jim Lauderdale — The Station Inn

Grammy award-winning bluegrass/country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale headlines the Americana Music Festival at The Station Inn. Openers include Dave Peterson & His Old Time Country Review and Kathy Mattea. (\$35 for a festival wristband, 8 p.m.)

### Chicks with Picks — Edgehill Studios Cafe

All-ladies writers' night Chicks with Picks is an intimate singer/songwriter performance night featuring three artists per night. The relaxed, smoke-free environment makes Chicks with Picks a great event to hit for an easygoing night out on the town. (Free, 6:30 p.m.)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

### Americana Music Festival — 3rd and Lindsley

This year the Americana Music Festival is celebrating its ninth year of bringing both established and up and coming Americana acts to Nashville. This showcase will feature Chuck Mead, Randall Bramblett, Folk Uke, John Cowan Band, and Kylie Harris. (\$35 for a wristband, 8 p.m.)

### Damien Horne — Exit/In

If you're looking for a pick me up come see Damien Horne play his soulful music that mixes hip-hop, soul and rock to create an uplifting and signature sound. (Cover TBA, 9 p.m.)

### Minnie Murphy — Sambuca

Armed only with a keyboard and a smooth voice Minnie Murphy has managed to create a live performance that captivates and inspires. (Free, 7 p.m.)

### 12 South Concert Series — Sevier Park

Where do blankets, picnic baskets and music unite? At the 12 South Concert Series, of course. Stonehoney, Jason White and Allen Thompson will all be performing. (Free, 5 p.m., 3000 Granny White Park)

### Kill The City — 12th & Porter

Punk makes a comeback with Kill The City a band that mixes a classic punk sound with softer rock undertones that make the band truly original. The simple lyrics and the strong power chords will take you back to the days of such greats as The Ramones. (\$5, 9 p.m.)

### Y-Jams Benefit — Bluebird Cafe

If you want to enjoy music and help underprivileged children at the same time, then you should come out to see Lari White, Randy Sharp and Maia Sharp perform to raise funds for the YMCA Downtown Youth Development Center and Program Endowment. (\$12, 9:30 p.m.)

### Synapse Trap — Cafe Coco

Electronica fans will enjoy this artist. Synapse Trap has been producing innovative beats for some time now and is bringing her unique sound to Nashville. (Free, 11 p.m.)

### The Regulars

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782-6858

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1 Cannery Row 37203  
251-3020

BLUEBIRD CAFE  
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383-1461

EXIT/IN  
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321-3340

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

THE BASEMENT  
1604 Eighth Ave. S. 37203  
254-1604

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

SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER  
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# Versus

SEPTEMBER 17—SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 No. 16

## Versus Magazine

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## FROM THE EDITOR



Let me take you back in time. It was the spring of 2003. Sister Hazel concert. Hammerstein Ballroom. New York City. The venue was small and intimate; after a good fight, my girlfriends and I ended up only about 20 feet away from the front. Sister Hazel took the stage; it was magic. We knew every word to every song from the band's album "Chasing Daylight"; in fact, Sister Hazel was one of a few bands that provided the soundtrack to my high school experience. "Nobody understands me like you do, Sister Hazel!" As I belted out the words to one of my favorites, "Champagne High," (one of the lesser-known Sister Hazel power ballads) lead guitarist Ryan Newell (hey, look at that!) made eye contact with me. I must have been singing with a noticeable, albeit embarrassing amount of ferocity. He smiled, and pointed his finger right at me.

I. Died. Right. There.

Fast-forward five years to today. I'd like to think my music tastes have evolved, expanded and matured, due likely to my time spent in Nashville, the Blair music history classes I have taken and the time I spend at BET.com. And yet, when it comes to Sister Hazel, I'm still right there with my 17-year-old self.

The Gainesville, Fla., natives are still recording their warm and soulful brand of pop and southern rock. Their new stuff is as good, if not better, than the songs that made them famous years ago. And though hearing some of those classics like "Hard to Say" and "Your Winter" immediately bring me back to who and where I was when I first heard them, I nevertheless play them often and enjoy them.

Long story short, I chatted with Mark Trojanowski, the band's drummer, over the weekend, and it was everything I had hoped for and more. I know I'm going to be at Greek Week, front row, shouting the lyrics to "Champagne High" with all my might. Will you?

Darcy Newell

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## PIC OF THE WEEK



ZACHARY HARDY/VERSUS MAGAZINE

## FICTION

"LIFE IS FAR TOO IMPORTANT A THING EVER TO TALK SERIOUSLY ABOUT."  
— OSCAR WILDE



## Songs of Entitlement

One of the great things about the arts is when you can find a way to synergistically combine different avenues of expression. Here at Versus, we're trying something new: Every week, we're going to take the name of a song by a featured artist and have one of our writers turn it into a short story. This week we're starting it off with "Everything Else Disappears" by Sister Hazel.

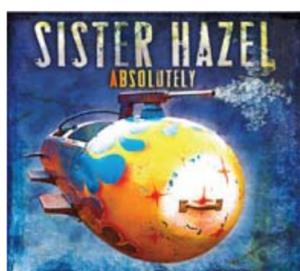
CHRIS GEARING  
Features Editor

"Everything else disappears" was scrawled in black sharpie on the stall next to me. What the hell? Who was writing drivel like that in the bathroom stall at the quaint dive bar on the corner? My bar. What a dick. As the booze surged through my veins, it must have jarred a random memory from my college philosophy class on Descartes. The odd relationship between being and experiencing, between reality and perception. I hated that class, but still. I couldn't help but remember one of professor's favorite lines: "Atoms are 80 percent space, so you're currently sitting mostly on space."

Now, I don't know why I had decided to finish off that "special brownie" Gabe had made before class, but somehow everything began to make sense. Maybe we are all sitting on space. Maybe I am nothing but a collection of protons and electrodes. Maybe reality is a myth, and intellect is all we have. Maybe it's just

"DUDE, John! Get your ass back out here for shots."

I zipped up and skipped out the door.



### HAIKUS

## Words to live by in seventeen syllables

Did you know Lil' Wayne  
Really used to be Big Wayne?  
Yeah. Liposuction.

Missing Quake for chem.?  
The sacrifices start now.  
Welcome to pre-med.

## Only in Dreams

Tormented by confusing dreams?  
Wondering what it all means? Send your most puzzling dreams in to our extremely qualified, expert dream technicians at VersusVU@gmail.com



**In my dream:** So I was running around this place with a giant golden sword, and I was chopping people up. They were dying left and right, man. Blood EVERYWHERE. They kept trying to chop me back, and it hurt but I never died. Then I woke up. Help!

### Why you're crazy:

This is just excessively violent. I mean, I don't think we really need to get into symbolism here. Pretty straight up what was going on. That's right, murder. How about a few more trips to the gym this week? Buy a punching bag? Study for that test? See a movie? For real, bro. You need a vacation.

Best,  
Dream Doctor

## yo whassup?

Do you have prose in different area codes? Want your own 35 seconds of fame? Submit your poetry, prose, haikus and photography to appear on the fiction page! Send submissions to the fiction editor at

VersusVU@gmail.com

# ENTERTAINMENT

## FOOD

# Gigi's takes the (cup)cake

STEPHANIE BAEZA  
Staff Writer

Whoever said happiness can't be bought has never been to Gigi's Cupcakes.

This Nashville treasure, located just a couple blocks from campus on the corner of 19th Avenue and Broadway, boasts 36 varieties of artfully decorated and delicious cupcakes made from the freshest ingredients available.

Many of the recipes are passed down from the great-great aunts of the owner, Gigi Butler, who received her culinary training by watching and helping her mother and grandmother bake. Butler was inspired to start this cupcake boutique by her brother, who waited over an hour to get a cupcake at New York City's famous Magnolia Bakery (where Sarah Jessica Parker got her cupcakes in "Sex and the City") and found that his sister's cupcakes were much better.

Every day at Gigi's features a special menu of cupcakes that are baked fresh at 4 a.m. Among their most popular flavors are midnight magic (devil's food cake baked with chocolate chips, topped with dark chocolate or white buttercream frosting, and chocolate chips), Scarlett's velvet (red velvet cake, vanilla filling and cream cheese frosting), hunka chunka banana (banana nut cake with chocolate chunks, topped with chocolate ganache frosting), lemon dream supreme (lemon cake with lemon filling topped with lemon butter cream frosting) and birthday cake (white cake with pink butter cream frosting).

Chocoholics have plenty of sinful options, such as German sweet chocolate, chocolate malt, rocky road, Texas milk chocolate, cookies and cream, and top hat, which is devil's food cake topped with butter cream frosting and dipped in chocolate ganache.

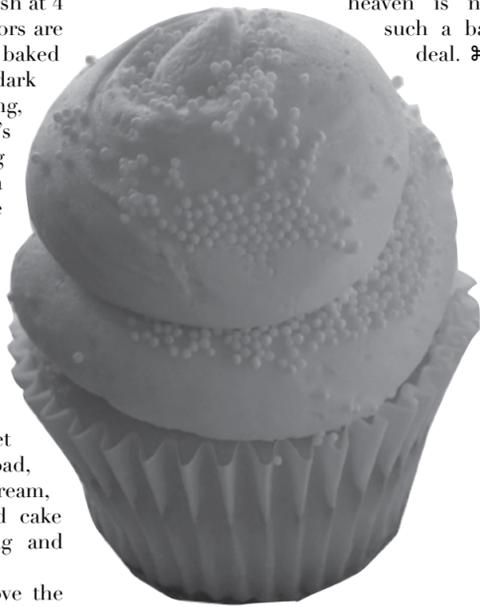
Those with simpler tastes will love the

wedding cake cupcake: soft white wedding cake with vanilla frosting and sprinkles. Just in case your mouth isn't watering already, you can check out a full menu and daily specials on their Web site, [gigiscupcakesusa.com](http://gigiscupcakesusa.com).

As soon as you walk into Gigi's, the adorable pink walls and smiling faces are ready to put some pep in your day. The variety of flavors is astounding, and every cupcake is a gem, so no one leaves the shop disappointed. You can also complement your cupcake with a cup of Gigi's coffee, a special blend created for them by Bongo Java.

But what really makes this place special? "These cupcakes really are made with love, like Gigi always says" one manager said, "and she cares about you not only when you're in the store, but outside it too."

Gigi's proves that happiness can be bought, and \$3 for a delicious piece of heaven is not such a bad deal. ☘



## EVENTS

# Surviving the State Fair

MATT POPKIN  
Staff Writer

Meet Randy Richey. Randy Richey is a very large man. Randy Richey looks like he could crush your head between his biceps.

He is also in charge of the Omega Force Strength Team, a group of "Christian strongmen with an attitude for Christ." He is preparing to carry a 316 pound cross (for John 3:16), while dragging 600 pounds of chains labeled "unrepented sins," to which Vanderbilt students reply, "That's all they weigh?"

Where else would you find Randy but at the Tennessee State Fair, the one place where going to this fine university has ill prepared you for the task at hand, which is to not get swindled out of your hard-earned cash. Smooth-talking carnies appeal to Vanderbilt chivalry, and three dart throws and \$5 later, our best and brightest win something you would find dumpster diving at the dollar store.

But just in case you don't like religious people, rigged games or sketchy rides, the

Tennessee State Fair also has food. You can buy catfish on a stick, shrimp on a stick, fried pickles (on a stick?), chocolate-covered bananas (definitely on a stick), or the most unhealthy and delicious of them all: deep-fried Oreos (no stick, sorry).

The holy grail of fair food, though, is the hot beef sundae. To quote the vender, this concoction consists of "golden mashed potatoes covered with a generous portion of our roasted and seasoned-to-perfection top round beef. Then aged cheddar cheese, more golden mashed potatoes smothered with our special beef gravy, more aged cheddar cheese, a slice of buttered toast and a cherry tomato on top."

Or, in other words, a triple bypass waiting to happen. Just make sure to eat the tomato. That way you'll have covered all the major food groups.

Seriously though, if Randy Richey is going to squat a 805 pound log for Christ, the least you could do is go watch. (But you'll have to wait until next year. Turns out you probably missed the fair this fall.) ☘

## FOOD

# Heaven on earth at Tin Angel

EVE ATTERMANN  
Staff Writer

It could have been the warm focaccia rolls or the hundred-year-old dark wooden tables, romantically lit by the dim glow of candles and strategically placed track lighting. Whatever it was, my companions and I left Tin Angel, a nouveaux-Southern- and Italian-influenced eatery located on West End, satisfied to the core and convinced that it was one of the best restaurants in the area.

Open for 15 years, Tin Angel's beautiful metal ceilings, mirrored bar and varied seating options should appeal to those on second or third dates, foodies willing to splurge (though not very hard: diners in my group who opted not to order wine on average paid \$25 for their meals), or those who simply want a more understated and elegant atmosphere for their nights out.

Which is not to say that the food is understated. The fried green tomatoes we ordered as an appetizer came hot, crispy and triumphantly under-greased, and the horseradish sauce was a delightful accompaniment to the tomatoes. The cha-

cha chicken was a healthy alternative to some of the more waist-expanding options on the menu and came with perfectly sauteed string beans and an apple chutney, which brought out the peppery notes of the grilled chicken.

But the high point of the meal came undeniably at the end of it, with the most delicious and, sigh of relief, simple dessert menu I have ever come across in Nashville. Cappuccino cheesecake was conservatively sweetened and incredibly complex. Dark chocolate lent a sophisticated air to a basic brownie a la mode, and was offset by a sticky and sweet caramel sauce. An apple crumble was a fruit and diet lover's dream, light on the crumble, heavy on the apple, served warm and with a dollop of melting cinnamon ice cream.

Though Tin Angel is not perfect, an order of pan-seared rainbow trout was served over-buttered, over-salted and with wilted vegetables, and the wine list is low on options for those who would like to order by the glass, overall it is a delicious and classy alternative to the more brassy and obvious choices in the area. ☘

## MOVIES

# Coen brothers fuel the fire with 'Burn'

ALEX GOLDBERG  
Staff Writer

"What a great, great movie" was my initial reaction to "Burn After Reading."

Some may call it stupid. Some might have called it confusing. Some may even say it's inconclusive. I call it genius.

"Burn After Reading," the latest motion picture from the Coen brothers (Academy Award-winning filmmakers of "No Country for Old Men," "Fargo" and "The Big Lebowski"), is unlike all of the other comedies we've endured this past summer.

"Burn," which was No. 1 at the box office last weekend, tells the story of two shallow workout enthusiasts (Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand) who stumble across what appear to be classified CIA documents. Hilarity ensues in a tangled plot filled with brilliant comedic performances by John Malkovich and George Clooney. Pitt's performance as a dimwitted trainer constantly sporting an iPod who thinks he knows how to successfully blackmail a CIA agent creates some of the film's best scenes. In general, the movie is an analysis of our society's stupidity — and what better place to evaluate America's simplicity than our very own Central Intelligence Agency. The Coen brothers successfully displayed their motive while entertaining their audience.

There were times when I found myself bursting out with laughter, and there were

other times when I could not stop laughing simply due to many scenes' absurdity. It is a story that only two guys like the Coen brothers can think of. In particular, the ending is unlike anything I have previously seen in the history of cinema and, to be honest, made the film so enjoyable.

Some critics have censured the movie because of its jumbled story and unclear characters. To all those critics, my only advice for them is to enjoy the film for what it is. The film's greatness lies in the one-liners that my friends and I have been constantly repeating since the viewing and the dynamic characters that aren't found in any Judd Apatow or Ben Stiller comedy.

There may not be a deep or inspiring message, but it certainly does not force laughter because the laughter comes naturally. A movie like "Burn After Reading" only comes around once every couple of years, and I would advise everyone to enjoy this cinematic triumph. ☘



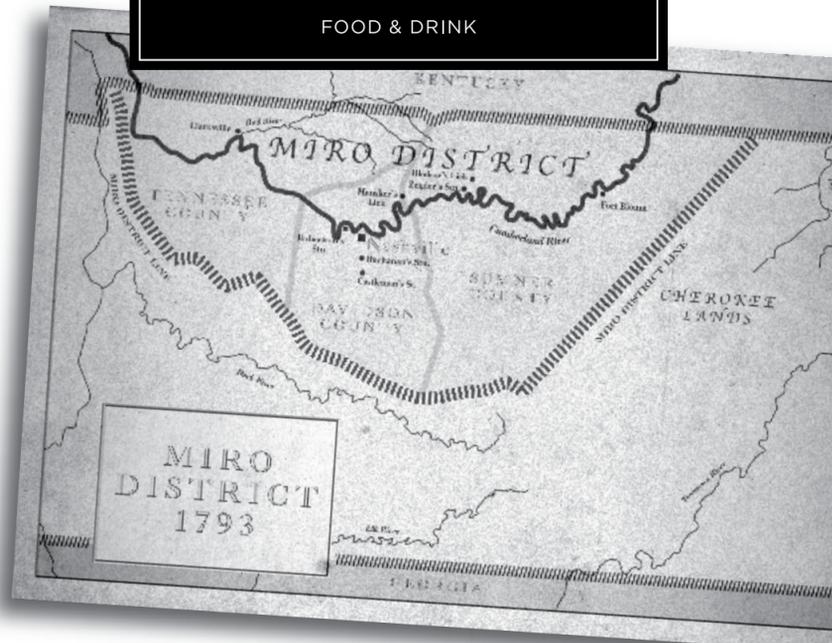
VERSUS MOVIE RATING: ★★★★★

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# MUSIC

*"My music isn't just music; it's medicine."*

—Kanye West



## TODAY

If you enjoy the soulful singing of such greats as Aretha Franklin and Tina Turner, you should come out to The Rutledge and see **Jackie Wilson**, a Nashville native who sings with soul and heart. Tickets are \$7, and the show starts at 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

If you love Americana then you will be on top of the world this week when the Americana Music Association brings the Americana Music Festival to Nashville. Come out to Station Inn at 10 p.m. and see **Ben Sollee, Crooked Still** and **Diana Jones** play their Americana hits. Wristbands are \$35.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Want to experience a funky Latin-American orchestra but don't want to go far from campus? You are in luck because **Grupo Fantasma** is playing at the Langford Auditorium and is bringing with them a sound that includes cumbia, salsa and psychedelic influences. The show starts at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$5 for students.

# BREAKOUT ARTISTS OF SEPTEMBER

## The Ting Tings 'Started Nothing?' We disagree.

CHRISTOPHER RAY  
Staff Writer

If you think a garage band consisting of a pair of musicians sick of music can't cut a good record, The Ting Tings' debut proves you wrong. "We Started Nothing" is a solid effort, especially considering the strange chain of events that led to the band's formation.

Jules de Martino and

Katie White, both fresh from disappointing outings with other bands, decided on a whim to start writing together. White, who didn't actually play an instrument at the time, picked up a guitar, played one chord for a few hours, and the album's insanely popular track "Great DJ" was born. The whole album retains the same level of freshness. Most of White's vocals are intentionally unspectacular yet undeniably catchy — I'd like to see anyone get "Shut Up and Let Me Go" (yeah, the one from the iPod commercial) out of their head.

Most of the album consists of



fun, up-tempo dance songs ("That's Not My Name" and "Fruit Machine"), but the band keeps things interesting by mixing in the best elevator music you'll ever hear ("Traffic Light"), switching into gibberish for "Impacilla Carpisung" and jamming ad infinitum on the title track.

"We Started Nothing" is an impressive first album for such an odd pair. Every song features delicious hooks and a refreshingly carefree vibe. The Ting Tings are definitely a group to keep an eye on in the upcoming months. ☘



## The Fratellis leave fans buzzed and begging for more

GRANT DARWIN  
Staff Writer

Whether it is the feeling of a drunken escapade or puking your brains out the next morning and not knowing what happened, The Fratellis provide the perfect soundtrack for a crazy night. On their first album, "Costello Music," the Scottish alt-rock band bestow upon listeners

blaring anthems like "Chelsea Dagger," "Baby Fratelli" and "Henrietta."

The crashing cymbals of drummer Mince Fratelli and deep humming base of Barry Fratelli provide the foundation for a slew of catchy guitar tunes by lead guitarist/vocalist Jon Fratelli. This boisterous embrace of fun brilliantly contrasts with less intense (but still notably upbeat) songs like "Ole Black and Blue Eyes" and "Whistle for the Choir," which accentuate Jon's cigarette-charred voice. On "Flathead" the boys sing an ode to a rough and tumble girl: "everybody knows you're the one to call, when the girls get ugly at the back of the wall." Catchy but simple lyrics allow listeners to sing along despite their inebriation.

On their second album, "Here We Stand," the Scots

display a newfound maturity.



The band illustrates their growth in "Acid Jazz Singer" and "Babydoll," combining relaxed vocals with a toned-down musical intensity. However, the track "Tell Me a Lie" reignites the pub fight sounds of their first album. The sheer energetic glee and recklessness of The Fratellis lay out the road map to a great time, striking a particular chord with what it means to live life to the fullest. ☘



## Keep an eye — and an ear — out for K'naan

HOLLY MEEHL  
Staff Writer

One of my favorite artists at Bonnaroo this summer wasn't a big name.

Actually, K'naan was hidden away in of the smallest tents at the festival, but his energy and ability to draw in the crowd surpassed any of the other performers I saw there, and I realized he was someone to watch out for.

K'naan is from Somalia and spent much of his

childhood enduring the harsh effects of a civil war. As could be expected, such experiences helped to shape him as an artist and became the fuel for his music. Eventually, K'naan was able to escape the civil war he lived in and move to America.

Once in the U.S., he began to rap at open mic nights. He produced his first album in 2005, titled "The Dusty Foot Philosopher," which in 2006 won the Juno Award for rap recording of the year.

K'naan's lyrics and musical style are most like protest poetry. His music has an African influence, with drums beating in the background of many of his songs. His voice is strong and distinct and could be compared to that of Eminem, but with a very different style. In his songs

he often raps about the harsh cruelties of the war he was surrounded with during his childhood. Some notable tracks include "In the Beginning," "Stabbed by Satan" and "What's Hardcore."

He most recently put out an album called "The Dusty Foot on the Road," which features songs from his recent world tour with Wrasse Records. K'naan puts his entire soul into his music and gives his listeners an audio picture of a world they could never imagine. ☘



## Smooth sailing with Okkervil River

CHARLIE ARUTT  
Staff Writer

gently plucked guitar mixed with lush orchestration juxtaposed to energetic blasts of energy, all led by singer Will Sheff's lyrics.

"The Stage Names" followed in 2007, building on what "Black Sheep Boy" had laid out before. Along with more consistency came elements of a story that immediately engaged the listener — their guitars started jumping out in front of the songs and driving them to more and more excitement. On Sept. 9, Okkervil River released their latest album, titled "The Stand Ins," to positive reviews. Sheff's way with words continually allows everyone to relate to the songs. The new record even adds some new elements not previously heard within Okkervil River's music. ☘

Okkervil River has been touring almost constantly for the past two years, both opening for larger bands and headlining their own tours. The coming months are no different, as the group continues to tour the world. Unfortunately, Okkervil River does not have any dates currently scheduled for Nashville, though the band played here in April, opening for The New Pornographers. That being said, keep on the look out for a show by them and for

Okkervil River's banks just keep growing wider. Taking its name from a short story by Tatyana Tolstaya, Okkervil River has been a staple of the national indie music scene ever since they released their critically acclaimed full-length album "Black Sheep Boy" on Jagjaguwar Records in 2005. The album consisted of many softer moments of



# Gaining admission to the Indie League

SHEMSI FREZEL  
Staff Writer

There now exists a new narrative in independent music.

Gone are the days of a rough-around-the-edges band emerging from obscurity and achieving stardom — today indie groups are meeting at some of the country's most elite universities and slowly gaining recognition. These graduates of the Ivy League are helping to reinvigorate music by providing a unique perspective.

Chester French, a group of Harvard alums, and Kidz in the Hall, graduates of the University of Pennsylvania, are helping to enrich today's music. While at first it may seem like a waste of a prestigious education to pursue music after college, these two duos prove their intellect is not wasted.



Both duos exhibit a historical appreciation for music, reflected in their respective sounds. D.A. Wallach and Maxwell Drummey of Chester French fuse 1960s pop and 1970s funk with their own futuristic sound. Their interest in multiple genres

is evident as they dabble in country and hip-hop.

Hip-hop is the most influential genre for Naledge and Double-O of Kidz in the Hall. Naledge is a rapper, while Double-O creates the enthralling beats. Their use of storytelling to spread a positive message is reminiscent of predecessors like A Tribe Called Quest.

The slow but steady introduction of these two acts to the mainstream signals not only change in the music industry but one in the post-graduate plans of college students. The work of Chester French and Kidz in the Hall proves that an Ivy League education can foster both intellect and creativity. ☘



### Songs to Hear:

"She Loves Everybody" — Chester French

"Drivin' Down the Block" — Kidz in the Hall

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
Self-taught musicians always have a personal flair to their music, and **Nicholas Megalis** is no exception. This self-taught pianist and guitarist is playing his brooding music at Exit/In at 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
It's time for a battle. Jam Solid Productions is bringing some of the best local musicians to an epic battle of the bands at The End. The show starts at 4 p.m., and tickets are \$10.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**  
Have you ever been listening to The Beatles and come to the sad realization that you will never be able to see them perform? Well never fear, the **WannaBeatles** are here. The Beatles cover band will be playing The Beatles greatest hits at Sambuca at 7 p.m. — and it's free!

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**  
Come out to the Bluebird Cafe and check out the NSAI Songposium if you want to experience the acoustic jams of the **Rodney Crowell Trio**. After years performing and more than one Grammy, Crowell is still playing beautiful music. The show starts at 9 p.m., and tickets are \$20.

## SOUNDTRACK TO THE ISSUE



*We at Versus have excellent taste in music. Below, the editors share what tracks we've been spinning as we create the glory you're holding in your hands.*

1. "SHAME" *Sister Hazel*
2. "MY LIFE" *The Game featuring Lil' Wayne*
3. "LUPE BROWN" *The Fratellis*
4. "LAST NAME" *Carrie Underwood*
5. "THE SEED 2.0" *The Roots*
6. "AMERICAN BOY" *Estelle featuring Kanye West*
7. "HURRICANE JANE" *Black Kids*
8. "SLEEPYHEAD" *Passion Pit*
9. "ELECTRIC FEEL (JUSTICE REMIX)" *MGMT*
10. "COOKIE JAR" *Gym Class Heroes*

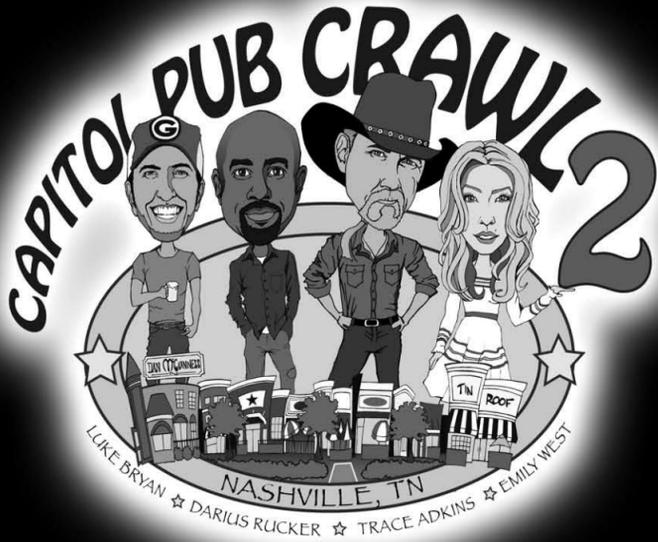
## Versus' top 10 breakup songs

TRIP COTHREN  
Staff Writer



10. "She Hates Me" **Puddle of Mudd**  
From Puddle of Mudd's debut album, "Come Clean," we have this vulgar expression of heartbreak. This song starts off the list with angry lyrics and a monstrous guitar riff.
9. "I Will Survive" **Gloria Gaynor**  
If you've seen "The Replacements," then you agree with me on this one; if you haven't, sorry. Gaynor explores the ultimate women-have-the-power idea.
8. "Heartbreak Hotel" **Elvis Presley**  
Any list of this magnitude that does not include The King is a sham. "Heartbreak Hotel" is the primo '50s/'60s "I'm down in the dumps, and I hate life" song.
7. "I Heard it Through the Grapevine" **Marvin Gaye**  
Essentially, Marvin Gaye is telling his woman, "Yo, I got eyes on you!" Why cheat? You are going to get caught.
6. "Go Your Own Way" **Fleetwood Mac**  
After handmates Lindsey Buckingham (man) and Stevie Nicks (woman) called it quits, Lindsey wrote a little ditty for Stevie. A line about "shacking up" pissed off Stevie and she insisted the line be removed. Lindsey said no. What a guy.
5. "Song for the Dumped" **Ben Folds**  
In the familiar Ben Folds style, he basically tells some girl he wants his stuff back. He expresses his contempt for women in general, and he really just wants to be reimbursed for expenditures. Sounds reasonable to me!
4. "No Woman No Cry" **Bob Marley**  
The live version of this track is probably the most familiar to us, as frat-hopping all-stars. This quintessential last-call song is one that tells us that leaving at the end of the night — but "No Woman" really should not lead to crying.
3. "Dammit" **Blink-182**  
The track is a 16-year-old's remarkable soliloquy to his lost girlfriend. Mark Hoppus basically whines the whole way through and explains how stupid it is that his ex-girlfriend is already with another dude. So eighth grade, but so good!
2. "Ain't No Sunshine" **Bill Withers**  
I may or may not have listened to this song more than a few hundred times. Albeit very short, this song really hits the spot for any broken heart.
1. "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" **Hank Williams**  
So, here we are: the cream of the crop. I feel the pain when I hear this one. Listen to this one, and you will begin to question your own emotions.

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**Conor Oberst** and the Mystic Valley Band  
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

**DAVID BYRNE**



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

**THE BLACK KEYS**  
with special guest ROYAL BANGS



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

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with Carolina Chocolate Drops



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

**DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS & THE HOLD STEADY**  
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

**SARA BAREILLES**  
with MARC BROUSSARD and RAINING JANE



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

**ROBERT EARL KEEN**  
with Todd Snider



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**IRON AND WINE**  
with Blitzen Trapper



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# ART

## FASHION

# The fashionable life

OLIVIA KUPFER  
Staff Writer

“Work hard, play hard” is Vandy’s mantra, but after graduation the reality sets in: In the real world, it’s all about work. Which got me thinking: There must be a career in which one can work and play at the same time.

Well, I’ve found just the career. If you are fortunate enough to work in fashion then you get to spend one week a year being paid to party with rock stars, gossip with famous models and drink cocktails with fashion’s elite. But it’s not just any week of the year, it’s the biggest week in fashion — New York Fall Fashion Week.

“If your name isn’t on the list, you can’t be admitted to the after-party.” That was my mantra last week when I worked the fashion week after-parties. Yes, I did wear a headset (a la Lauren Conrad on “The Hills”), but my job was real. I was fortunate to have interned during fashion week for the production company Radar Entertainment.



Flickr.com

really imagine attending a party where the music sucks and the liquor runs out?

This year Radar produced the after-parties at an event space at 10th Avenue and 34th Street, making certain that celebrities and the “right people” were in attendance. One night it was an MGMT concert on the roof, overlooking the Hudson River, attended by Mary-Kate Olsen and the “Gossip Girl” cast; another night, the party honored the iconic ’60s fashion model Veruschka, complete with fashion editors, the legendary Diane

Von Furstenberg and Agness Deyn, today’s hottest model and the face of the Burberry campaign. Of course, I have to mention the Rock & Republic and Prada parties that Radar produced, which were two of the most important events of the week.

For those of you who missed it, I’ll summarize the spring 2009 collection at the Rock & Republic show. For this spring hemlines are very short, the palette is strictly the classic black and white, and in true Rock & Republic style, the clothing is all

sophisticated but revealing.

Radar plans, organizes and produces the fashion week after-parties and, this year, the Rock & Republic fashion show. Pre-party work includes lining up a disc jockey, selecting a guest list, picking a venue and designing the party space. You may scoff that this seems like casual preparation for your summer house party, but it’s harder work than you think. Hours are devoted to making the after-parties a success. Can you

It wasn’t all glamour and glitz; I did have to work standing for eight hours every night. But I also had elite access to one of the year’s best weeks of fashion. My advice is that if you too want to go to the fashion week after-parties (the best part of fashion week itself), you better get your name on a guest list, preferably as a VIP. As we all know, it’s all about the party. ☘

## ART

# Fall at the Frist features diverse displays

STEPHANIE BAEZA  
Staff Writer

If you’re feeling a little culturally deprived as tailgating season kicks into gear, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts is offering plenty of exhibits this fall to satisfy a wide range of artistic tastes, from the abstract to the classical, from painting to sculpture to photography.

“Color as Field: American Painting 1950-1975,” on display until Sept. 21, features “color field” paintings, an abstract style originating in the 1950s and characterized by solid areas of color across the entire canvas. It’s aimed at eliciting deep emotional responses in the viewer. The Frist is featuring 41 works by big names in color field painting, such as Mark Rothko, Helen Frankenthaler, Morris Louis, Kenneth Noland, Jules Olitski, Larry Poons and Frank Stella.

To contrast the bursting color palette of “Color as Field,” the Frist is also exhibiting “Shades of Gray: Four Artists of the Southeast,” a muted collection of art in black, white and gray by four artists of the Southeastern College Art Conference. It’s on display until Sept. 21.

Those with more classical tastes will enjoy “Rodin: A Magnificent Obsession,”

Sculpture from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation,” on display until Jan. 4. The exhibit features 60 sculptures spanning the prolific artist’s career, including “The Thinker” and “The Kiss.” It also includes paper works, photographs and a demonstration of Rodin’s preferred sculptural reproduction method.

On Oct. 10, the Frist is opening two photography exhibits that will be on display until Jan. 25: “The Best of Photography and



About.com

“Flood” by Helen Frankenthaler. This painting is a part of the “Color as a Field” exhibit on display until Sept. 21.



Film from George Eastman House Collection” will feature iconic works in photography and film including Matthew Brady’s portrait of Abraham Lincoln and works by Ansel Adams, while “Indelible: The Photographs of Lalla Essaydi” will feature the Moroccan artist’s photographs of women in traditional Islamic attire, covered in writing that depicts the repressive silence often imposed on these women and expresses the artist’s struggle with her dual East-West identity.

Experiencing these exhibits doesn’t even have to cost you a thing. Every Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. the Frist offers free admission to college students, so you can wander the exhibits, listen to the live music in the lobby and not feel too guilty when you enjoy the cafe or wine bar. ☘

# Who are you wearing?

HOLLY MEEHL  
Staff Writer

Ryan Fusella  
(Freshman)

Who are you wearing?

The top is from H&M and the shoes are from Urban Outfitters.

Favorite brands or stores?

Free People, Nordstrom, Madewell.



Mills Weinmann  
(Sophomore)

Who are you wearing?

The coat is “burberry” but not the actual label; I got it from a silk market in Beijing. The boots are Burberry.

Favorite brands or stores?

Burberry, Anthropologie, J. Crew.



Vanessa Newton  
(Senior)

Who are you wearing?

It’s a dress from a boutique next to Calypso. A Belgian lady owns it (the boutique).

Favorite brands or stores?

Just clothes from the Belgian lady. I’ve been shopping there since I was a freshman.



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# SISTER HAZEL

**As revered pop/Southern rockers Sister Hazel gear up for their performance at next weekend's Greek Week finale, drummer Mark Trojanowski takes time out to chat with Editor in Chief Darcy Newell. Read on to find out what the name Sister Hazel actually means, how he feels about online music sharing and what exactly is a "Hazelnut."**

**VERSUS MAGAZINE:** I read that the band is named after Sister Hazel Williams, a nun who ran a homeless shelter in Gainesville in the '70s and '80s. Can you talk a little bit about why you chose this name and why she was significant to you?

**MARK TROJANOWSKI:** Our lead singer, Ken, grew up in Gainesville and still lives there, and back in the '70s he used to see commercials for her mission that she used to run; she thought everyone needed a good place to stay and a meal, so she would give them that. A lot of the positive messages she was portraying had a lot of similarities with the early songs Ken was writing, so when he was putting the band together he kind of thought that her message stood for the things he was trying to convey, so he named the band after her.

**VM:** Charity seems to be at the core of what Sister Hazel is about. Can you talk a little bit about your commitment to helping others and how you go about it?

**MT:** Once we got to the situation where we were able to do these charitable things, Ken formed Lyrics for Life, which is a charity based on cancer. His little brother died when he was 18, and so we started Lyrics for Life, which generates money through artists writing lyrics on different items, whether it's a surf board or an airline propeller — you know, some people surf, some people fly airplanes — so we do that and have silent auctions to raise money that way. We also have concerts throughout the year where singer/songwriters perform their songs in a storyteller environment and use the proceeds to stop children's cancer through research, as well as providing for the families. It's something we all felt strongly about because we've all, in some way, been affected by cancer.

**VM:** You've been recording and performing for almost 15 years. Did you have a big break moment when everything changed?

**MT:** You know, I think it's kind of been the same situation for us since the beginning. We go out there and tour and record records and we've had success via radio and media in the late '90s and 2000s, but we haven't really changed the way we make our records. We left the major label back in the early 2000s because we wanted to put out more music; whenever we wanted and whatever songs we wanted. So that was a pretty big change for us, because since then we've been putting out records pretty much every year, which we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. We can control our career a little bit more now.

**VM:** Which album of yours are you most proud of or is the most meaningful to you?

**MT:** I think that in each album there is always something endearing to each person, and I think all of them are kind of like your children, there's a part of every album you're drawn to. I really like our "Fortress" album; it took the longest time to make, but I really like the songs on that record. You know, there are a bunch of them — "Chasing Daylight" is a really good record of ours — so it's hard to say. There is something on every record that's special, but "Fortress" is the record I like the most in terms of playing the songs live.

**VM:** Live music and touring are still a big part of who Sister Hazel is. What is the most rewarding part of performing live? What's the most difficult thing about being on the road?

**MT:** The coolest thing about performing live, at least over the years, is that all the people that have been with us for many years are still coming out to see shows, but we continue to play college shows every year, and there are always people 18-22 years old singing the words to "All For You" and "Come Around" and "Change Your Mind." These kids were a lot younger when these songs came out, so it's really cool that our music has bridged the gap to another generation that really wasn't around when our music was out and nationally exposed. The hardest part about it is being away from families and friends, being 3,000 miles away from our wives and kids. I have a new 5-month-old baby, first child for me, so it's very difficult to not be home.

**VM:** Your big fans call themselves Hazelnuts. Do you have any funny stories about how fans have shown their love for you and your music?

**MT:** There was one summer when about 20 fans got together and traveled to 15 shows in the middle of the summer; they took their families; it was their vacation. Another time they made this little block for our lead singer who's name was Ken Block, sent the block all around the country to all the Hazelnuts and they all signed it and then sent it to Ken. They have a fan base Web site where they communicate with each other outside even of our Sister Hazel Web site. It's something that we didn't start; they started it themselves; they call themselves that. So it's a pretty cool thing.

**VM:** What challenges do you face as a musician today? How do you stay current?

**MT:** We don't try to listen to what's on the radio and write songs like that and put that out. The way we try to stay current is trying to play as many college shows and major market shows to keep our fan base growing so that there is people listening to us, from 13 to 50 years old; there is something in our music for everyone. We are up on all the digital download sites and have embraced that since it became legal — using those as a tool, that's how bands are getting themselves out there. It's not an MTV-driven world anymore. It's all about blogs and the Internet.

**VM:** Do you feel the need to reinvent your sound as popular music changes, or do you try to stay true to the sound and the music that your fans know and love?

**MT:** I think at this point we just try to write really good songs that people can relate their lives to. We try to tell our stories and put out really good, positive messages that people can listen to and enjoy.

**VM:** We've seen a big decline in record sales and a surge of online music sharing and music communities. Do you think these trends are ultimately beneficial to musicians and to the music industry?

**MT:** Well, I think as long as it's through a legitimate Web site like iTunes and now Napster, as long as peer-to-peer sharing goes away and those people are penalized, and more sites come up that are paying the artists, it's great and protects us as artists and musicians. When Napster first came out, we were one of the bands that definitely suffered with our "Fortress" album because so many people got our record for free. The only problem I have with the digital situation is that I'm kind of an audio file snob, so when you pay 99 cents or \$9.99 for a record, you really aren't getting CD quality, you're getting MP3 quality, which people say is good, but it's really not the same. We're in a society where people want it and want it now and they don't care, so that's the only thing that's kind of sad for me.

**VM:** Tell me about "Before the Amplifiers." Was this your first live acoustic album?

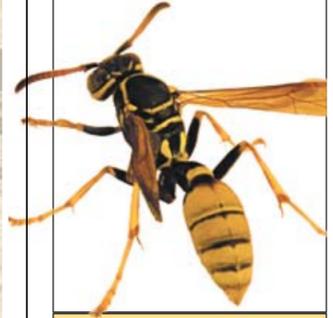
**MT:** Yeah it was. People really wanted an acoustic record for us, and we have tried a couple times before to do it live. We got a recording studio where we were able to put in a live audience, and we had one night, and it was really the best of both worlds. We had really good sound because it was in a recording studio, but at the same time we had a live audience, so we're pretty excited about the record and pretty proud of it.

**VM:** What's next for Sister Hazel?

**MT:** Well after we come up there for the show in Nashville we are coming back to Nashville in October to start our next studio record, so we'll finish that this year and put it out next year. We also have about 20 of our songs charted out for a symphony orchestra; we have been playing with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for several years and hopefully we're going to find a way to make a record kind of like Metallica did with the San Francisco Symphony where we'll get a record with the symphony and Sister Hazel, and that will come out in either '09 or 2010. ☿

## LETTER FROM AN ANGRY WASP

Each week, our resident Angry WASP sounds off on things that make him buzz. (see what we did there?)



### Dear Towers facilities,

Thanks for functioning perfectly. Since we have to pay well over the standard monthly rent, I really appreciate you making sure every aspect of my suite is working all the time. Oh wait — that's not true at all.

First, I bet you're really happy with all your security measures. Not only do I have to swipe my card (well, swipe it five times before it registers) just to get inside my building (which is open to everyone to buy food, by the way), but then I have to swipe my card in the elevator to get up to my floor. Or, I would if the card readers in the elevators were reliable. My favorite thing in the world is getting all the way up to my floor and then having the elevator stop and then go all the way back to the lobby. Just awesome. Or the time when it went all Tower of Terror on me and dropped multiple floors at a time. Oh, real safe, Vanderbilt.

So yeah, once I eventually get back into my room, I'm welcomed by a perfectly clean and nice apartment, right? Nope. The air conditioner's broken about 60 percent of the time (and the 40 percent it's working is the wintertime, so it's awesomely frigid), so it's about 90 degrees inside. Oh, and because it broke it's also been leaking fluid onto the floor, so it smells like a buffet dinner at the Pub. All this makes me want to take a shower — oh, but I can't because the water pressure is down today.

If only there were a more affordable option. Like if the standard rate for an apartment around Vanderbilt campus were something less than \$1,000 a month. Oh, wait ...

Sincerely,  
An Angry WASP



# FLIP SIDE

## 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"

### PUB At Overcup Oak



About the tire race during the football game:  
Guy: "Well, there are only three of them, so I had a 50/50 chance of winning with green."

Guy: "What does the Pub have going for it anymore?"  
Pub worker: "Not much, man."

Guy: "If you hook up with a blind girl, you never have to dress up!"

In a distillation lab, talking about angled receiver tubes

Guy No. 1: "Dude, why does yours hang straighter than mine?"  
Guy No. 2: "I dunno. Genetics?"

Girl: "I've been pregnant for two years now."

Professor: "Who's that rapper again? Quarter? Penny?"  
Class: "Um ... 50 Cent?"

Girl: "Ugh, I know; he's such a man-whore. Like, when we play 'never have I ever' you could say, 'Never have I ever hooked up — on a rooftop during the full moon while wearing a pink blouse,' and still, like, 12 girls will sit down."

Fratstar: "Sometimes I wish I was a virgin just for the sake of 'never have I ever.'"

Girl No. 1: "I am just having the worst day!"  
Girl No. 2: "Did you get stereotyped again?"

Girl No. 1: "Doesn't Florida have a lot of senators?"  
Girl No. 2: "I think most states have two."

PHOTOS: www.sk.hu

## HOROSCOPES



**VIRGO 8/23-9/22:**  
Check your mail this Wednesday. Trust me.



**LIBRA 9/23-10/22:**  
The power of positive thinking can't make up for that terrible smell.



**SCORPIO 10/23-11/21:**  
Wouldn't it be awesome if your sign was just "Rufio?" Think about it.



**SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21:**  
Spend all day talking to hot chicks online.



**CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19:**  
Find a capri-CORNucopia of love today. See what I did there?



**AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18:**  
Don't look to me for help, man. You already burned that bridge. This is what happens!



**PISCES 2/19-3/20:**  
Your roommate is STILL a trifling ho.



**ARIES 3/21-4/19:**  
Start a dialogue with a stranger today. Or maybe a tri-ologue? Wait, can you have a poly-logue?



**TAURUS 4/20-5/20:**  
We don't have what you're looking for here — turn to the whoroscopes.



**GEMINI 5/21-6/21:**  
Unless you want to feel bad about yourself, don't go to the Rec. Ever.



**CANCER 6/22-7/22:**  
Do it.



**LEO 7/23-8/22:**  
Eat a balanced breakfast today. That's not a horoscope — that's just a good idea. Don't forget, rich in grains!

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