

Versus

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

JANUARY 14—JANUARY 20, 2008 VOL. 47, No. 1

LORD T & ELOISE

They're on a mission to save rap music. (No, really. They are.)

We've got the best backside. Why? It's got your Wednesday crossword, sudoku and horoscopes!!

And the award for most hideous outfit of the night goes to ... Renee Zellweger. More from the Golden Globes on page 3.

We picked some new tunes for you to groove to in '09. Flip to page 4.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

John Garrett & The Bottom Line Band — Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar

Louisiana blues artist John Garrett has been peddling his unique sound to audiences since 2004. An experienced touring artist, Garrett and his Bottom Line Band are bringing the bayou blues to Nashville's Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar. (Tickets TBA, 9 p.m., 220 Printers Alley)

Gypsy Hombres — 12 South Taproom and Grill

With a contemporary take on the classic "Django" gypsy sound, Gypsy Hombres continue to revisit and revise the classic sound of the "Quintet of the Hot Club of France." With a founder hailing from Memphis, the Hombres return to Tennessee to play Nashville's 12 South Taproom and Grill. (Free, 8 p.m., 2312 12th Ave. South)

Peter Moon Band — Sambuca

Peter Moon Band features a classic and contemporary rock 'n' roll sound that appeals to audiences both old and young. Having played every venue from clubs to colleges to casinos, the Peter Moon Band has experienced artists that are sure to bring an enjoyable show to Sambuca. (Free, 7 p.m., 601 12th Ave. South)

The Big Pink Wow — Dan McGuinness Irish Pub

Head over to Vanderbilt favorite Dan McGuinness to see Thursday's house band, The Big Pink Wow. There's no cover at this 21+ bar, so for a night of great music and Vandy company head down to Demonbreun to start off your weekend. (Free, 10 p.m., 1538 Demonbreun St.)

Destroy Destroy Destroy, Inferi, Gone City and the Protomen — Exit/In

Put on your riot gear and get ready to mosh: metal gods Destroy Destroy Destroy are dishing up a set of sonic destruction. This show is not for the faint of heart. Inferi, Gone City and the Protomen open. (Cover TBA, 9 p.m.)

The Felt Shims — Station Inn

The Felt Shims sweep into Nashville on Tuesday to blast the Station Inn with life-changing acoustics influenced by the likes of Old Crow Medicine Show, The Beatles, The Carter Family and The Louvin Brothers. Try not to get too comfortable — they'll kick you out after the show! (\$8, 9 p.m.)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

How I Became the Bomb, Protomen, Shoot the Mountain, Eureka Gold, and more — Mercy Lounge/Cannery Ballroom

One of a string of events put on as part of Mercy Lounge's sixth year anniversary, this show features acclaimed Tennessee group How I Became the Bomb, known for a unique brand of alternative rock, and fellow indie acts Protomen and Shoot the Mountain, among a slew of other entertainers. (Free, 8 p.m.)

Reel Big Fish, Street Light Manefesto and Tip the Van — Exit/In

Come energized and ready to get your skank on listening to California punks Reel Big Fish previewing their new cover album "Fame, Fortune and Fornication." Streetlight Manefesto and Tip the Van will start the night. (\$15, 9 p.m.)

Josh Garret & The Bottom Line Band — Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar

A Louisiana native, Garret and his ensemble play their own variety of blues, blending styles from around L.A., New Orleans and the South. On the road for much of the last five years, the group is ready to rock Nashville, which begs the question: are you ready? (Cover TBA, 9 p.m.)

Wess Floyd and the Daisy Cutters, 500 Miles to Memphis and Sons of Roswell — The Basement.

Group Wess Floyd and the Daisy Cutters, who call themselves "Nashville's Own Southern-Bar-Pop Pioneers," bring some hard-hitting, sometimes soulful rock and roll to The Basement. Cincinnati natives 500 Miles to Memphis and Sons of Roswell, out of Alabama, open. (\$7, 10 p.m.)

Dave Duncan and Friends — Douglas Corner Cafe

Holder of two gold records, songwriter Dave Duncan is a master of his craft. He's been on the road most his life with acts such as Johnny Westerns and Hans Olson, playing at rodeos and in concert halls alike. He recently landed back in Nashville and is sure to be an aural treat. No promises on his friends. (Cover TBA, 8:30 p.m., 2106 8th Avenue S.)

The Candace Randolph Band — Station Inn

Writing bluegrass hits since the ripe age of 12, Candace Randolph is a giant in her field. Ralph Stanley, The Nashville Bluegrass Band and The Dry Branch Fire Squad are just a few of the acts that have trusted her lyrical prowess to make their tunes popular. She's definitely worth the cash. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

The Grand Ole Opry — Ryman Auditorium

Come see where country music was born and still thrives: the Grand Ole Opry! This week features acts such as Mel Tillis, Marty Stuart, Ashton Shepherd, Point of Grace and more! (\$38-\$53, 7 p.m.)

Rob Robinson, Jack Williams and Gary Ciramelli — Puckett's Grocery & Restaurant

Rob Robinson is one of the best-kept secrets of Mississippi. His career launched when he started writing songs for a little band called The Who. Since then, he's been producing, writing and working with guys like Toby Keith. Some see what this music legend has to offer. (\$10, 8 p.m., 4142 Old Hillsboro Rd.)

Six Year Anniversary Week — Mercy Lounge/Cannery Ballroom

Mercy Lounge is embracing the Number of the Beast with their six-year anniversary party! On Saturday, they're featuring The Features, AutoVaughn, Pico vs. Island Trees, Jeremy Lister, Ricky Young, Elle Macho and Brenn. (Free, 9 p.m., 21+)

Roland White Band — Station Inn

Roland White Band is a bit of an anomaly. They're quite eclectic: embracing both the old and the new of bluegrass hits, they play classic country ballads and do it all with dobroes and banjos. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

Look What I Did with Ill Patriot and The Trampskirts — The End

Have you ever wondered what info-punk-revolution music sounds like? Look What I Did is a leading name in the genre, and they seek to combine punk, grunge, jazz, metal, hardcore and rock. Prepare to be amazed. (\$5, 9 p.m., 2219 Elliston Place)

David Bromberg and Chris Janson — 3rd and Lindsley Bar and Grill

David Bromberg goes the distance. He's done everything from the big band scene to playing solo acoustic guitar. He likes to play pieces from Stephen Foster and dabbles in everything from Texas swing to Chicago blues. Check out this show for what is sure to be a magical mystery tour. (\$18, 7 p.m.)

Lovers and Liars and Sans Seraph — The Rutledge

Stacy Hogan from Spout has a new pet project, Lovers and Liars. They describe themselves as an "outside the box" approach to new rock. Piano is the real force of the band and complements their infectious hooks perfectly. Look for something between Nine Inch Nails and Blue October. (\$10, 9 p.m.)

The Regulars

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251-3020

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255-3307

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254-1604

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FROM THE EDITOR



It's a new day here at Versus. Our illustrious Editor emeritus, Darcy Newell, has left us in pursuit of greener pastures and I have been handed the reins in her wake. For those of you who don't know me:

Hey, I'm Chris. It's nice to meet you.

2008 was a heck of a year, and we're creeping up on the anniversary of the glory you hold in your hands, Versus Magazine. Oh, what a year it was. We laughed, we cried we even interviewed Lil Jon and Girl Talk. But let's not focus on the past, but instead cast our thoughts toward the future.

We're kicking the New Year off with a bang as we continue to bring you the best in the modern zeitgeist. We share our thoughts on the Golden Globes on page 3 with all the surprises and upsets of the night. You can get a glimpse of the music that you'll be listening to in a few months with our Most Anticipated Albums of 2009 feature on page 4. And let's not forget our New Year's theme on page 6. Not seeing what you like in the mirror? We got you. Curious what everyone chose for their New Year's resolutions? You're covered. Losing sleep over how to rekindle the flame with a pre-break beau? Yeah, you're set.

Not enough to get you pumped for this issue? How about this.

First, take orchestra-infused hip-hop beats that live somewhere between the Knux and Kanye. Add smooth hooks and unconventional themes. Then mix it in a big bowl with a pre-French Revolutionary aristocratic aesthetic and gold paint. Bake. Let it cool, and you'll have the tremendous Lord T and Eloise. We interviewed these farfetched rappers on their upcoming tour, the struggles of being a gold skinned rapper and their recent invention of a time machine. You can't make this stuff up. See what these unorthodox rappers had to say on page 8.

Oh yeah, we're back in business.

Stay Legendary,
Chris Gearing

THIS ISSUE



3

Fiction

- "Drastically Plastic," 2
- Overheard at Vanderbilt, 2
- Words to live by in 17 syllables, 2

Entertainment

- The stars! The gowns! The Golden Globes! 3
- There ain't no doubt about "Doubt," 3

Music

- 2009 will have some new musical rhymes from artists of our time, 4
- Britney's back! 5
- Taylor's back, too! 5

Art

- "The City" is cooler than "The Hills," 6
- Fading flame? Rekindle the romance, 6
- We're into practical new year's advice, 6
- How to lose weight! 6

Features

- Q+A with Lord T & Eloise, 7
- Letter from an Angry WASP, 7



6



7

PIC OF THE WEEK



NICOLE MANDEL/VERSUS MAGAZINE

FICTION



"I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING, THEN SIT THERE AND DON'T DO IT, BUT DON'T EXPECT PEOPLE TO HAND YOU A CORN BEEF SANDWICH AND WASH YOUR SOCKS FOR YOU AND UNZIP YOUR FLY FOR YOU."
— **SHEL SILVERSTEIN**

Songs of Entitlement

Lord T & Eloise

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 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've got a jam from feature interview band Lord T & Eloise.

COURTNEY ROGERS
Features Editor

Drastically Plastic. Those were her only thoughts, standing there.

Disappointment is not intangible, at least not anymore. It's in the wrinkle across the satin dress. She sees it in the ellipsis of mascara darting across the soft skin of her eyelid. Even the shoes from the pink box have a scuff on the heel. In the floor-length mirror, the mark looks like a white island across the shiny patent leather. Everywhere her eyes dart, chaos and disorder overtake attempts to make a smooth, shiny shell.

Her mother told her that no one would notice, but she knows that's not true. What's true is that the dress looked better pinned on a mannequin in the department store. And the makeup should have stayed on the model. Even the shoes should leap back onto the glossy page because she can't make them perfect. She scuffs and wrinkles and ages these beautiful things. In spite of the powders and creams and potions, tiredness overwhelms her eyes and she knows that the person in the mirror has never looked so hollow and brittle.

She's breathing faster and she tilts her head up to the fluorescent light to halt the tears. She doesn't have time to redo the eyeliner. The door handle is smooth when she closes it and the click of the lock is secure and certain. She realizes that she forgot lipstick. Down the hall, a voice calls out a compliment. Smiling is never more painful than when it's expected.

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

With rounds over now,
When can I get my work done?
Not on Thursday nights ...

One more week of Bush
Then our problems disappear!!
It works like that, right??

OVERHEARD

Some people on this campus just don't think before they speak. Sometimes we are lucky enough to overhear what they say.

Compiled from the Facebook group "Overheard at Vanderbilt"

Girl 1: "I like to treat myself."
Girl 2: "You like to treat Jeffrey."
Girl 1: "Yeah, but when I treat him I treat myself, too."

Rando: "So, I wouldn't normally do this for you, but there are no 12-year-olds here."

Girl: "Wow, two years and no sex. That's worse than being single!"

Guy: "Finals make people asexual."

Girl: "He knows more about my body than I do!"

Girl: "Why do they expect me to think so much? Just because I have a brain doesn't mean I have to use it!"

Guy: "Dang! You got rid of the big fluffy things on the side of your face!"



PHOTOS: www.flickr.com

ENTERTAINMENT

A guide to reading the

Golden Globes

The Golden Globes are among the forefront of the Hollywood community's awards season and precursor to the most prestigious presentation — the Academy Awards. While the nominees are honored by the Hollywood Foreign Press a month before the Oscars, the Golden Globes are generally viewed as little more than an illegitimate sibling of the Oscars. However, the winners at the Globes tend to predict trends in the forthcoming ceremonies.

The Globes were held last Sunday. And the winners are ...

BEN GRIMWOOD
Staff Writer

BEST PICTURE (DRAMA)

- * **"Slumdog Millionaire"**
- * "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- * "Frost/Nixon"
- * "The Reader"
- * "Revolutionary Road"



VillageVoice.com

While I have been biased toward "Revolutionary Road" for some time now, it is hard to deny the power "Slumdog" has had over critics. It is the second British-made film in a row (after "Atonement") to win Best Picture (Drama) at the Globes.

BEST PICTURE (COMEDY OR MUSICAL)

- * **"Vicky Cristina Barcelona"**
- * "Burn After Reading"
- * "Happy-Go-Lucky"
- * "In Bruges"
- * "Mamma Mia!"

Iconic director Woody Allen's "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" snatches the prize. Unfortunately for the Coen Brothers, their follow-up to "No Country For Old Men" didn't win this time. However, do not expect to see any of these films on the Academy's list in a few weeks.



content6.flitxer.com

BEST ACTOR (DRAMA)

- * **Mickey Rourke** — "The Wrestler"
- * Leonardo DiCaprio — "Revolutionary Road"
- * Frank Langella — "Frost/Nixon"
- * Sean Penn — "Milk"
- * Brad Pitt — "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"

While DiCaprio or Penn were expected to pick up the award here, Rourke's performance in "The Wrestler" is undeniable. Expect a repeat at the Oscars.



ROB HILL / MusicCityPhotos.com

BEST ACTOR (COMEDY OR MUSICAL)

- * **Colin Farrell** — "In Bruges"
- * Javier Bardem — "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"
- * James Franco — "Pineapple Express"
- * Brendan Gleeson — "In Bruges"
- * Dustin Hoffman — "Last Chance Harvey"

In a weak category, Colin Farrell gets the Globe. Expect him to fade back into oblivion.



Laineygossip.com

BEST ACTRESS (DRAMA)

- * **Kate Winslet** — "Revolutionary Road"
- * Anne Hathaway — "Rachel Getting Married"
- * Angelina Jolie — "Changeling"
- * Meryl Streep — "Doubt"
- * Kristin Scott Thomas — "I've Loved You So Long (Il y a longtemps que je t'aime)"

Winslet is undeniably the greatest actress of our generation (on the heels of fellow nominee, Meryl Streep), and I have long expected her to win Best Actress. With her lack of trophies at both the Globes and the Oscars, I knew a role such as the one in "Revolutionary Road" would finally get her the prize.



nscpcdn.com

BEST ACTRESS (COMEDY OR MUSICAL)

- * **Sally Hawkins** — "Happy-Go-Lucky"
- * Rebecca Hall — "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"
- * Frances McDormand — "Burn After Reading"
- * Meryl Streep — "Mamma Mia!"
- * Emma Thompson — "Last Chance Harvey"

Hawkins deservedly nabs the award here for her effervescent role in "Happy-Go-Lucky." Her emotional outpouring during her acceptance speech was understandable, considering she was nominated against three



images.theage.com

Oscar winners.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

- * **Heath Ledger** — "The Dark Knight"
- * Tom Cruise — "Tropic Thunder"
- * Robert Downey Jr. — "Tropic Thunder"
- * Ralph Fiennes — "The Duchess"
- * Philip Seymour Hoffman — "Doubt"

Ledger was on his way to become one of the greatest actors of our generation. Most critics praised his performance in "The Dark Knight" as the Joker, but I must unfortunately be the bad guy and call his win the sympathy vote. Think about it — who was the last actor from a superhero film that you saw take home an award? That's right — keep thinking. Regardless, his posthumous win is commendable.



ROB HILL / MusicCityPhotos.com

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- * **Kate Winslet** — "The Reader"
- * Amy Adams — "Doubt"
- * Penelope Cruz — "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"
- * Viola Davis — "Doubt"
- * Marisa Tomei — "The Wrestler"

Not only does Winslet finally win an award, she wins two! She achieves this history-making feat by evading double nominations from "Doubt," including Davis.



katewinslet.com

BEST DIRECTOR

- * **Danny Boyle** — "Slumdog Millionaire"
- * Stephen Daldry — "The Reader"
- * David Fincher — "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
- * Ron Howard — "Frost/Nixon"
- * Sam Mendes — "Revolutionary Road"

Usually, the director of the year's Best Picture picks up this award. With the winner being Danny Boyle, all is well in the world.



slashfilm.com

There's no 'Doubt' about a great film

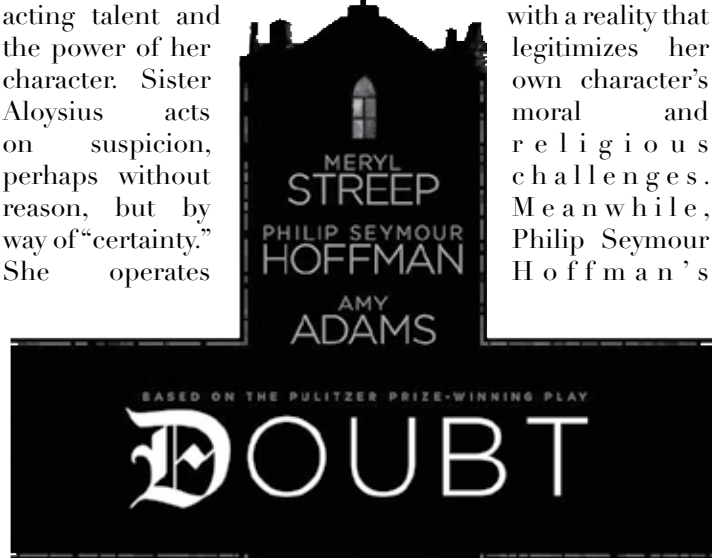
BEN GRIMWOOD
Staff Writer

For those who practice religion, religious texts govern their morals. In this case, the characters in "Doubt" need to re-examine those sources. The central conflict of "Doubt" concerns what happens when gossip goes so far as to damage the reputation of an innocent ... or is he?

In the 1960s, things are well in one Catholic church until Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman) delivers a sermon about doubt, which leads stuffy, strict Sister Aloysius (Meryl Streep) to question its foundation. As she hunts for some — any — reason for misconduct, young, naive Sister James (Amy Adams) provides her with the basis she requires to make her assumptions. Sister James is concerned when a young, black student is called to Father Flynn's rectory alone and returns troubled, and with the special attention Sister Aloysius notices him receiving, she questions Flynn's motives and accuses him of sexual misconduct. The rest of the film then focuses on the question: Did he do it? Or didn't he?

The acting in "Doubt" is undeniably its greatest strength. Even when the plot feels like it has lost some

thrust, the titanic talents of the four main actors yield astonishing, even explosive results. Streep shines, as usual, as Aloysius, and her dry, "holier-than-thou" approach to her character tells tales of both her already recognizable acting talent and the power of her character. Sister Aloysius acts on suspicion, perhaps without reason, but by way of "certainty." She operates



against the words of the Bible by gossiping and proclaiming herself better than others, but she justifies her work as done for the "greater good." Viewers learn little about her past or why she thinks the way she does, but what is clear is her sizable wariness of Flynn.

Meanwhile, Amy Adams plays Sister James well,

with a splendid character development that nods to her own talent. Though I have noticed Adams' tendency to be cast in "nice" roles, such as recent roles in Disney's "Enchanted" and her Oscar-nominated role in "Junebug," she acts with a reality that legitimizes her own character's moral and religious challenges. Meanwhile, Philip Seymour Hoffman's

Flynn holds his own, and his impressive facial acting reveals the presence of his secrets without actually revealing what they are. Particularly fascinating in the film is the juxtaposition of the scenes featuring the presentation of his fingernails ("I like them a little long") and dinner with the other

priests (featuring red meat). This combination says a great deal about his gender representation. This nudges viewers to consider him as a possible homosexual, and this supposition leads them to consider his possible indiscretions.

Last but not least, Viola Davis is the surprise of the film, leaving a mark so emotionally resonant that she is perhaps the film's greatest cannon. Consider: What kind of actress picks a fight with Streep's character and wins? Davis does it, tears and all, and her affect moves viewers as all she wants to do is protect her son.

Finally, the best thing about the film is that it does not remove the doubt that surrounds it. While some films would elect to reveal everything in the end, "Doubt" refuses to do so, keeping viewers guessing until the last seconds and even beyond. Did Father Flynn touch Donald? What is the real story? Clearly, "Doubt" will spark controversy with its concentration on the already touchy subject of priestly indiscretions in the Catholic Church, but since the play on which the film is based is titled "Doubt: A Parable," perhaps this would be the film's final words for viewers. ☞

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6:00		6:00		6:00		
9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	
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MUSIC

*"But, you know, I'm not like a crazy perfectionist. Wait, yes I am."
— The Rocket Summer*



SETLIST

TODAY

Are you itchin' to strap on those dancing shoes and hit the floor? Or perhaps you prefer to stand and listen to **Carolyn Martin's** swinging tunes at the Nashville Palace? Either way, check it out starting at 8:30 p.m. — it's free.

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

Do you enjoy death, sibling rivalry and ... hunchbacks? Then check out the Nashville Shakespeare Festival's rendition of **"Richard III"** at Trout Theatre. Take a drink every time of Rich kills a child. The show starts at 7:30 p.m., and tickets start at \$10.

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

The **Grand Ole Opry** returns to its original home, Ryman Auditorium, for a twang-packed evening of rabble-rousing country music! Though the ticket price (starting at \$38) may turn you away, don't let it! The show kicks off at 8 p.m.

Most Anticipated Albums of 2009

Score in the 2009 with Beirut

LAURA PICARD
Staff Writer

It's only been 15 months since Beirut released their sophomore album, "The Flying Cup Club," but it seems like their latest release is barely arriving in time for everyone's gypsy-punk fix. Drawing influence from world music and eastern European tradition, Zach Condon's 10-piece band has concocted "March of the Zapotec and Realpeople Holland," a double EP that was inspired by the frontman's ventures into the southern regions of Mexico.

The Jimenez Band, a 17-piece group that Condon met on his travels will back him and Beirut in the first half of the project. Consisting of five tracks, the latter EP is rumored to have a heavily electronic sound, replacing the band's characteristically organic timbre. Although

this may come as a shock to the average fan, Condon has recently stated in an interview with Pitchfork Media that he actually spent "years and years doing electronic music," and that "the acoustic stuff" is actually "a very new thing." But if an electronic departure doesn't sound enticing, have no fear: "March of the Zapotec" is said to sound much more similar to the older albums, with tracks characterized by a dense, rich and brassy sound.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of this new double EP is that it comes after a six-month hermitage of Condon and the band. After pulling out of the scheduled summer tour, many skeptics doubted the stellar band's speedy return. However, it is crystal clear that their retreat into the rural areas of Oaxaca gave them the inspiration they needed to come out with an album that will surely be as superbly executed as the last. Beirut, we're counting on you. ☘



media.collegepublisher.com

Hits kept in the Fiction Family

CHRISTOPHER RAY
Staff Writer

Two musicians from other bands get together and cut an album in someone's house. We've heard the story before but rarely are the members as successful as the two guys who make up Fiction Family. Jon Foreman's and Sean Watkins's new project is releasing their first album, the self-titled "Fiction Family," this January in what is easily one of the most exciting records of 2009.

Jon Foreman is best known as the leader of Switchfoot. But to fans, his solo work proves he is capable of doing more than dominating Christian rock. Switchfoot is one of the biggest bands on the Christian music scene, but Foreman wasn't content with just churning out pop-rock hits like "Dare You to Move." His solo work reveals a more sensitive singer-songwriter capable of producing beautiful acoustic music. "Fiction Family" is most likely going to

sound more like Foreman's "Seasons" EP than Switchfoot's huge rock sound.

Watkins may be the less-known of the duo, but his work in Nickel Creek has earned him a dedicated following nonetheless. This pint-sized guitarist is not only known as one of the best flatpickers in modern bluegrass, but he has also written some of Nickel Creek's most well-known songs and established a successful solo career. Songs like "Speak" and "Somebody More Like You" demonstrate his songwriting prowess and offer a preview of what we can expect from "Fiction Family."

"Fiction Family" promises to be a gem. Two singer-songwriter virtuosos can't go wrong, as their first single "When She's Near" proves. Foreman and Watkins, already leaders in other genres, have taken a bold step in exploring new territory, and we're sure to be entertained by the results.

"Fiction Family" is out Jan. 20. Be sure to check out the duo's live set at the Belcourt on Jan. 30. ☘

Look out for Third Eye Blind

CHRIS MCDONALD
Staff Writer

2009 is sure to be a year that will be remembered. In just days our nation will witness the historic inauguration of Barack Obama, the world will watch as CERN's (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) Large Hadron Collider goes back online in an attempt to discover the "God Particle," and we will nervously watch as economists and politicians scramble in an attempt to jumpstart the devastated economy. But one event overshadows all: I am referring, of course, to Third Eye Blind's triumphant return.

While it's been almost six long years since 3EB released their critically praised but commercially unsuccessful third album, "Out of the Vein," frontman Stephen Jenkins has been hard at work writing new material for the band's full-length, fourth album, "Ursa Major." Though songs for the album have been recorded and completed from as early as 2005, Jenkins has been frequently plagued with writer's block, repeatedly grinding progress to a halt. In spring 2007, the band hit the road for an extensive tour in

the hopes that they might find the inspiration they needed to finish the album, a successful quest that ultimately led to their re-entering the studio and finishing the project.

In anticipation of their new album, 3EB released a three-track EP, "Red Star," on Nov. 18, 2008, lending credibility to the rumors that "Ursa Major" was completed or at least near completion. Now, nearly two-months after the EP was released, there is an abundance of rumors and speculation surrounding the details of "Ursa Major." The band has given no specific release date, instead opting only to acknowledge a tentative spring 2009 release. Similarly, upwards of 20 songs are rumored to be possibilities for the album, while no track listing has been released.

Despite all of the uncertainties and probable further delays, "Ursa Major" is already one of the most anticipated and talked-about albums of 2009. With plans for a follow-up, "Ursa Minor," already publicized, fans can expect an incredible array of new material to come in the future. So sure, the wait has been long. But if 3EB's past releases are any indication of the future, I can't wait to see what's in store. ☘

The LupE.N.D. of the line?

ALLEN BERRY
Staff Writer

So I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that lyrical genius Lupe Fiasco's junior album is set to come out later this year. The bad news? Well, Fiasco is claiming this will be his final album. I'll let you have a moment so that can sink in.

All hope is not lost. Even though Lupe is saying "sayonara" to his rapping career, the music biz is not losing its underground hero. He will stick around to run his label (1st & 15th), which will feature such up-and-comers as Matthew Santos (from "Superstar" fame), Gemini and Sarah Green. But Lupe is going out with a bang. "LupE.N.D.," the third and final album from Mr. Fiasco, will be a trifecta of his lyrical prowess. Three CDs, one album and a whole host of socially conscious hooks will cause

"LupE.N.D." to be the culmination that has made Fiasco the thinking man's rapper of choice.

Fiasco is a man of concepts, as can be seen from his elaborate stories in previous critically acclaimed albums such as "Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor" and "Lupe Fiasco's The Cool." "LupE.N.D." will be a conceptual masterpiece, with each part of the album telling part of the story. The three parts, respectively entitled "Everywhere," "Nowhere" and "Down here," will make up the "E.N.D." of "LupE.N.D."

You may be asking yourselves, "If Lupe is this great, why stop? Why is he giving himself only one more album when he may have six more under his belt?" According to Fiasco, by this third album, he'll have said all he needs to say. If that's true, then I can't wait to hear what he has to say at the end of his career. ☘



mymoodismusic.files.wordpress.com

The Rebirth Brass Band Refreshes the Holidays

ZAC HUNTER
Staff Writer

The holiday season was filled with great music around the country, and Christmas night in New Orleans was no exception. The Rebirth Brass Band with Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue concert kicked off the solid local music lineup for the days preceding New Year's Eve (Dr. John, Better than Ezra and Galactic were among the featured artists of the week).

Troy "Trombone Shorty"

Andrews (listed as one of Versus' up-and-coming artists to watch) opened with a fun, loud set that started around 11:15 p.m. His upbeat jazz/funk and rock tunes captivated the packed crowd already in the spirit of the day. Andrews stands out among his bandmates as a musician, either blasting away on the trombone or lulling the crowd with a rendition of classic fan favorite, Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On." But he can also lay down his

instrument, turn around and conduct total improv jams with the rest of his seven-piece band. You could see him telling one sax player to play a "high E" and the other to play a "low C," and then he'd look at the guitarist and drummer and yell who knows-what. He'd raise his hands and then drop them fast. All of the sudden the slow ballad would turn into a raging funk jam, and then he'd do it all over again, bringing everything back full circle.

After the hour-plus opener, Shorty stood at the front of the stage to introduce New Orleans' famous Rebirth Brass Band. Rebirth is notorious for loud, Mardi Gras-like performances, which make it impossible not to dance. It is a band composed of two trombones, three trumpets, a saxophone, a tuba and two drummers. The group has the ability to fill a room with the sound of a full marching band, as well as improvise and harmonize with each

other completely in tune at full volume, no small feat for a horn section.

The music was great, but it was all just a small contribution to the atmosphere and experience. Christmas night, \$15 and a pair of great local brass bands in the increasingly hip warehouse district in New Orleans composed the perfect evening. You don't always need the Rolling Stones or Jay-Z — sometimes Shorty and Rebirth will do just fine. ☘



blog.nola.com

Animal Collective: Merriweather Post Pavilion

CHRIS MCDONALD
Staff Writer

Never strangers to strange, renowned music cooperative Animal Collective return to form with their eighth studio album, "Merriweather Post Pavilion." Already critically heralded by such sources as Pitchfork Media (who gave "Merriweather" an incredible 9.6/10 rating), the album takes a familiar path, blending trippy, psychedelic electronics with catchy, unusual beats and swirling vocals. While this formula may lead one to believe

that the album is really nothing more than an avant-garde collection of noise, it is precisely the formula that Animal Collective has perfected, achieving a more polished sound on each subsequent album.

Taken as a whole, "Merriweather" is an incredible collection of songs that all fit together beautifully — a trippy array of interesting tunes that no other band could do justice. Despite this, however, the album does have a few tracks that clearly stand above the rest. "Summertime Clothes"



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sticks out as more memorable largely because it takes a

more conventional approach to songwriting, with more discernable lyrics as well as a catchy chorus. For those just testing the waters of Animal Collective's sound, the song serves as the perfect introduction — familiar (though quirky) enough to feel comfortable but foreign enough to use as a diving board for stranger waters. "Lion in a Coma" similarly serves as a strong mix of styles, incorporating world music with rather standard indie/electro-pop music, while "No More Runnin'" stands out as one of the most relaxing though sad tracks on the album, with little more

than piano, bass and dreamy vocals.

By no stretch is "Merriweather Post Pavilion" a massive step away from previous Animal Collective, but it is just another step toward a more successful, smooth and refined collaboration of such wildly different styles of music and sounds.

Certainly, however, the album is Animal Collective's best so far (a notion echoed by the band members themselves), setting the stakes even higher for the future. ☘

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

Mercy Lounge has slated **The Features**, a powerfully poppy Nashville group, **AutoVaughn**, **Pico vs. Island Trees** and others to bring a rambunctious close to their week long sixth anniversary celebration. Doors open at 8 p.m.; admission is free!

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

If Saturday night didn't take too much out of you and you find yourself in the mood for performing munchkins (when aren't you?), check out TPAC's matinee performance of **"The Wizard of Oz."** Tickets start at \$22.50 for the 1 p.m. curtain call.

MONDAY, JAN. 19

Celebrate the great man that was Martin Luther King Jr. at the TSU-hosted daylong celebration. Saxophonist/vocalist **Charlene Robinson** will perform, along with many others. The event is free and begins at 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

Been spinning some old Duran Duran records and crave some live new wave? **Michele Ari** hits Exit/In's stage at 8 p.m., playing tracks off her acclaimed debut "85th and Nowhere." Guess what? It's free!

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. **"INCE AGAIN"**
A Tribe Called Quest
2. **"MY GIRLS"**
Animal Collective
3. **"THE INSTRUMENTAL"**
Lupe Fiasco
4. **"FLUME"**
Bon Iver
5. **"DEAD PRESIDENTS II"**
Jay-Z
6. **"GIRLS"**
Walter Meego
7. **"BIG GIRL (YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL)"**
Mika
8. **"RISE ABOVE"**
Dirty Projectors
9. **"POKER FACE"**
Lady GaGa
10. **"MAPS"**
Yeah Yeah Yeahs

Taylor Swift croons about love, loss

KRIS STENSLAND
Fiction Editor

It's really hard to determine what the best part of Taylor Swift's newest album, "Fearless," is. At first I thought it would be the song that I have been longingly singing to anyone who will listen, "Love Story," despite the fact that I think Taylor doesn't realize that Romeo and Juliet die in the end. But listening to the rest of the album kept

opening my eyes to the many amazing offerings that Swift brings to the world.

Consider first the depth and breadth of the lyrics and subject matter: everything from wanting a new love, to wanting an old love, to wanting a current love. Beyond that, the lyrical diversity and complexity continues to astound me. What exactly does she mean by "you belong with me," or "you're not sorry" or "it's



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too late for you?" We may never know.

But all joking aside, "Fearless" is ridiculously catchy. You can't help but sing "Love Story" again and again, and the rest of the album has that perfect contemporary country sound that will keep you listening until the next Taylor CD comes out. Other favorites wouldn't be complete without teen-makeover-movie-style "You Belong With Me," the tear-at-your-heartstrings "Forever and Always" or the creepily

nostalgic "Fifteen." With an excellent mix of depressed songwriting and teenage angst, the recently single recording artist has hit it right on the spot. As it turns out, the greatest contribution to the music industry by the Jonas Brothers was breaking up with Taylor Swift. Thanks, Joe.

If you're a hardcore Taylor fan like me, then you'll love the new CD. If you're not, you should still give it a listen. Trust me. ☼

No free samples for Coldplay, Lil' Wayne

ALLENA BERRY
Staff Writer

"Sampling" — which is when an artist uses bits and pieces from another artist's previously recorded song — seems to be just a part of the music industry lately. Whether it is the result of creativity, laziness or a deep desire to subscribe to modernist ideals, taking something from the old and making it "new" again is common in today's popular music. But when does the line cross from simply sampling to outright stealing? When does it stop being OK to borrow?

Many of today's artists — most notably Lil' Wayne and Coldplay — are coming under attack for their alleged use of illegal sampling. The somewhat critically acclaimed "lyricist" Lil' Wayne is being sued by South African Karma Ann Swanepoel for the use of her voice in his song, "I Feel Like Dying" (the irony of being sued by a woman named Karma is duly noted). Weezy is no stranger to using other voices, beats or even direct lyrics to achieve the proverbial "hook," but this time, Wayne borrowed

without bartering. Even though Lil' Wayne's people are now in the process of discussing terms for the use of the South African's song "Once," Lil' Wayne has continued to use the song in various media outlets. Although nothing has been set in stone, it is very likely that folk singer Swanepoel will receive a handsome settlement (or at least some free publicity) from the whole debacle.

And a little band that grew up in Brooklyn is trying to take down Coldplay, the formidable Brits, for what they claim to be a stolen melody.

Creaky Boards, from this side of the pond, allege that Coldplay frontman Chris Martin was spotted at one of their gigs and used the melody from their song "Songs I Didn't Write" for Coldplay's immensely famous "Viva la Vida," an iTunes commercial fame. Most will agree that the two songs have similarities, but the case of the stolen melody is still up for debate.

So what constitutes stealing — is the term up for negotiation, dependent upon who's calling whom a thief? Or is the little musician thrown at the mercies of the music

moguls who have already cornered the market? But then again, the little musician might score their 15 minutes by pointing a finger at an unsuspecting established group. There are laws meant to protect both parties on either side of the issue, but in a world where YouTube clips and music mashing put any song up for grabs, can those laws really protect anyone? Even though imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the line gets blurred when imitation becomes a carbon copy. Maybe the music biz could use an honor code. ☼

Britney Spears gives the unexpected: A comeback

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Music Editor

For the better part of a decade, Britney Spears has enchanted onlookers with her gradual breakdown — the brilliant combustion of a star into a supernova. Recently, however, she seems to be turning the corner, without a single child in her lap.

For a fleeting moment at the onset 2004, after annulling her ill-fated 55-hour marriage to Jason Alexander after a mixture of booze, sloppy signatures and hopeless idealism had brought the union about, it appeared Spears knew the difference between smart and downright stupid (or at least when she was sober). However, eight months and one man-child of a husband later (oops ... she did it again?), a proud Mrs. Federline proved the s h e e r volatility of her

judgment to the world.

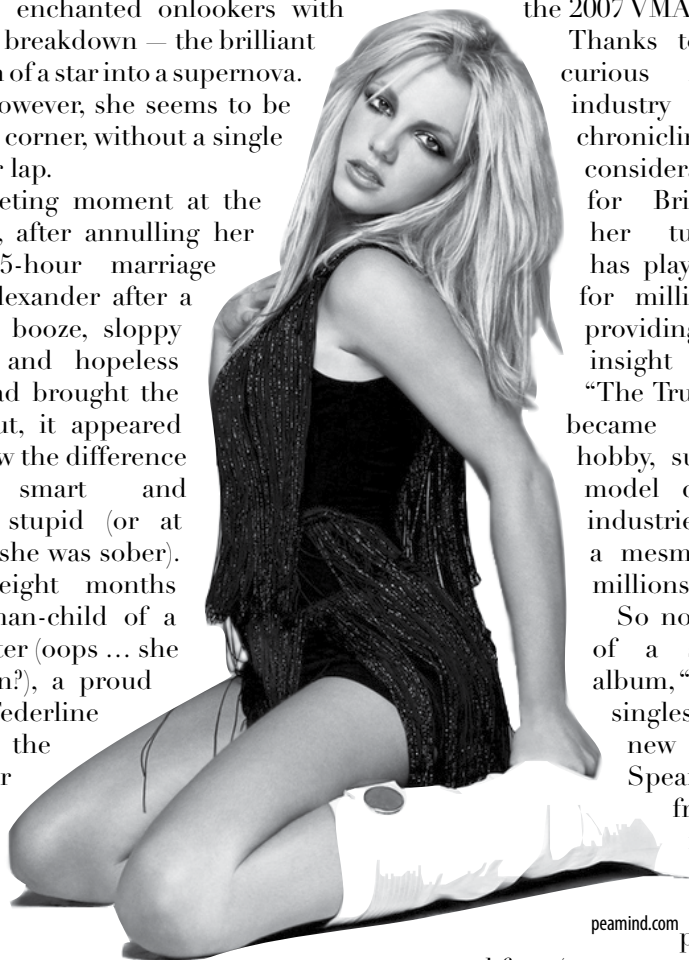
After this second s h o t g u n wedding, and until only recently, it seemed as though Britney had seated herself for a round of Milton Bradley's "Game of Life" with the intention of losing in every way possible. She helped extend Kevin Federline's bloodline (against the law in seven states), put one of their infant spawn in her lap while operating a motor vehicle (against the law in every state), turned herself into Mr. Clean with the

help of an electric razor and more than a pinch of crazy, treated rehab like a revolving door, and stumbled and mumbled her way through an attempted comeback at the 2007 VMAs.

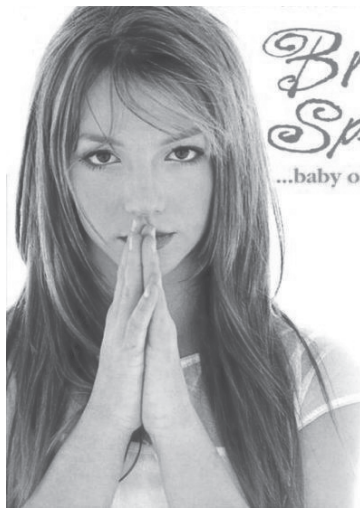
Thanks to the unabashedly curious American tabloid industry (both for their chronicling of and considerable responsibility for Britney's devolution), her turbulent existence has played out in real-time for millions of Americans, providing a breadth of insight similar to that in "The Truman Show." Spears became many a person's hobby, surely damaging the model car and racketball industries, filling the void for a mesmerizing collapse in millions of lives.

So now, amid the release of a seemingly popular album, "Circus," a slew of hit singles and an impending new fragrance, it seems Spears hopes to emerge from the annals of infamy to reclaim fame: the fame of MTV interviews, pin-up posters and actual fans (not voyeurs) she once enjoyed. She just may obtain her goal: In September, her single "Womanizer" became her first No. 1 hit since 1999's "Baby One More Time," due to the track's appeal to independent women, broken-hearted girls, and lighthearted boys, and her recent guest appearance on "How I Met Your Mother" was well-received.

If nothing else, Americans love to dole out second chances — and it doesn't hurt that she's attractive and can sing and dance. ☼



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Britney Spears
...baby one more time

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THE NEW YEAR

The City: glitz, glam, and drama go bi-coastal

COURTNEY ROGERS
Features Editor

For anyone with aspirations to claw their way to an internship at a magazine like Teen Vogue, “reality” shows like The Hills hit a raw nerve. With their fabulous apartments, glittering social lives, and amazing internships for which many “cast members” are less than qualified, it’s so easy to love to hate those girls. Back in season one, I remember watching L.C. turn down a summer in, get this, Paris in favor of spending the summer lounging at the beach with her boyfriend. I got so frustrated that I wanted to smack L.C. If someone at Teen Vogue had come to me with that kind of offer, I would have packed my bags in record time and left a note for Joe Jonas saying “See you in the fall, I’m off to Paris!” Though watching L.C. fumble opportunities of a lifetime was a constant source of personal chagrin, there was a character on the show who I came to love: Whitney Port.

Unlike L.C., Whitney went to Paris in Lauren’s place and The Hills has since chronicled her rise through the world of fashion. She became an employee for Teen Vogue and then left to work for a fashion public relations company, The People’s Revolution. Her latest career move has taken her from the sunny shores of California to New York, New York. And the cameras are along for the ride for a new show, The City.

As a resident of the East Coast who lives in close proximity to the city that never sleeps, I have to say that it’s about time. I know that California has the sunshine and

the palm trees, but if you want to be at the epicenter of American fashion, there’s no better place to be. The City is shot in the same style as The Hills with scenes of shopping, trendy cafes and the usual drama. But where Lauren and her crew on the West Coast were getting a little tiresome in terms of the web of friends and frenemies, Whitney’s transition into the city has brought in some new blood. There’s the conniving and pushy coworker, the boy who can’t commit to the title of Whitney’s boyfriend, and the longtime friend who seems much sweeter than Audrina, Heidi, and L.C. combined. What really shines through, though, is Whitney’s personality. For all of the fame and exposure she’s gotten, she still seems to be down to earth and eager to avoid the drama that L.C. thrived on. My recommendation: give The City a chance. At least it’s marginally more realistic than Gossip Girl. ☼



Rekindle the flame

TRIP COTHREN
Culture Editor

This past semester has been an interesting one if your life is anything like mine. Let’s just say this past fall had its ups and downs. Anyway, this article is here to try and help. So grab a pint of Ben and Jerry’s, put on “Love Actually” and let’s get to this.

First off, you’ve been texting this lovely/handsome girl or guy and you want to know the next step. It was a long break with many texts and you wonder if he/she is interested enough for some actual face time. Well, here’s the test: send the “So, break was lonely...” text. This is a sure thing. If they respond with “yeah me too” or “I hope you mean without me,” then you’re golden! Now, if they do not respond, you may want to count your losses and look at it as learning experience.

Next, move for the date night. On-campus dinner isn’t always necessarily bad. Quiznos can be quite the romantic hotspot if Tom is in the building. But really, dinner at The Pub or even a quick bite at CT West can be enough to get the ball rolling in the right direction. Do not fear the on campus outing. This is a good first step, promise!

Now, if you and your love interest are past the whole playing games portion, it’s time for the trek to Green Hills for dinner and a

movie. I know it’s the typical outing, but it’s also a lot of fun. Guys, take her shopping. Girls, let him get the bill. This can be a very fun place to go on a date. Dinner at California Pizza Kitchen or even The Cheesecake Factory can be the perfect off-campus eatery. Movie-wise you cannot go wrong. Just agree on something. “My Bloody Valentine 3D” comes out on Jan. 16 and looks promising, if you’re into the whole bloody gore and sex thing. No big deal.

You’re past all this, huh? Then maybe you should write for Versus. But really, if you guys are at the cusp of becoming boyfriend/girlfriend, then I propose “the movie at my place” followed by the obligatory spooning. Spooning can put you on the fast track to success with relationships. Just have that talk in a way that isn’t too forceful and doesn’t sound too needy. You’ll know when you get there. Hopefully, this will give you people some after-break comfort in knowing that all hope is not lost and you can still get that guy or girl. ☼

New Year’s Weight Loss headline here

KRIS STENSLAND
Fiction Editor

It’s pretty standard to gain a little extra weight over the holidays. With the combination of delicious home cooking, the absence of the Rec and even just not walking around campus, avoiding a few new year pounds is pretty difficult. But just because you’ve gained a few doesn’t mean you can’t lose them, and quickly at that. With a few minor adjustments, you can scale back on those holiday gifts you never asked for.

A big misconception is that you have to exercise for hours and hours to burn off a ton of calories. But actually, if your goal is just general fitness and weight loss, a half-hour or less a day can work wonders.

Even if you don’t want to get huge muscles, lifting weights is a great way to kick up your metabolism. After you lift, your body will be burning extra calories for two days. It doesn’t even have to be a

complex plan — if you don’t have much time, hitting the major muscle groups will be enough to start getting you back in shape. Try doing a basic lifting routine of pushups, squats and pull-ups (if you can’t do a pull-up, do the lat-pull-down machine). Two or three sets of 10 to 15 reps will be plenty to get your muscles going, and start your metabolic fire burning.

Some of you may not love the weight room — it can be pretty intimidating. Alternatively, doing interval training will not only save you time, but will also burn more calories for longer than doing a standard endurance workout. Instead of going for a low intensity run for a half hour, try doing sets of sprints or stairs. It doesn’t sound wonderful at first, but when you’re done after 15 minutes you’ll feel much better. All you need to do is alternate between high intensity and low intensity — try a minute at high speed and a minute at low speed (after a warm-up of course) for five or six sets. And don’t forget to stretch after.

Besides abandoning salad dressing and Coke (yes, even your beloved DC), you probably don’t need to change much about your eating to lose some weight. Try starting your meals with protein — like peanut butter, eggs, nuts, anything — and you’ll feel fuller faster. This works especially well if you have some protein about 45 minutes before lunch or dinner. You won’t be as hungry to begin with so it’ll be easier to eat less, and you’ll be fuller so you won’t feel the need to finish your plate. Good luck, and a happy new year! ☼

Top 5 new year’s resolutions

over their budget in all regards. Pinching pennies seems so easy and wise. Yet, after adding up all those taxi rides downtown, late night pizza binges and random online shopping sprees we know it is never going to happen.

3. Exercise regularly. Who says exercise has to be performed at the Rec? Forget promising to run at least every other day — it will probably end up being too much of a hassle anyways. Plus, everyone knows the walk from your room to the Munchie Mart is “strenuous” enough.

4. Take it easy on your weekend outings. False. Once again, this is Vanderbilt University. No matter which type of social activities you may partake in, there is no need to sacrifice some extra fun for anything. Plus, you only have four years in college — take advantage of it.

5. Eat healthier. You know it is humanly impossible to avoid Tortellini Tuesday every week. Plus, it sounds so much more appealing that a new year should include all the guilty pleasures that the meal plan can offer. So, go ahead and reach for extra dessert. No one’s watching. ☼

NIKKY OKORO
Staff Writer

It’s that time of year again. It’s a new year, a new semester and a new start to kick old habits. Everyone seems to make the same resolutions each year, only to succumb to the pressure of breaking them in less than a month. So, why worry yourself with the anxiety of it all? Just take a look at some examples you shouldn’t even bother considering...

1. Stop procrastinating. Let’s be honest: we’re all smart. We go to Vanderbilt after all. But sometimes it can be just so easy to forget what it means to do all that academic work on time. Everyone always thinks it’s possible that first week of class ... until we realize, “Why do something today that we can put off for much later?” (2 a.m., preferably)

2. Spend less money. The holidays are over, and it’s safe to say that everyone went way

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LORD T & ELOISE



CHRIS McDONALD
Staff Writer

Recently, Staff Writer Chris McDonald had the chance to chat with Memphis rappers Lord Treadwell I and Maurice Eloise XIII, (more commonly known as Lord T & Eloise), the so-called saviors of rap music and the world's first purveyors of Aristocrunk.

Versus Magazine: You have an extremely unique style that you have labeled "Aristocrunk." For the benefit of the readers who may not have seen or heard of you already, would you mind in your own words describing just what this means.

Lord T: Well it means to harbor both sophistication and a sense of wildness. A sense of true crunk. In short, it's a lifestyle as well as a music style that go hand-in-hand together.

VM: Would you say that your living and working in Memphis, TN affects this, as it is one of the hubs (and one of the birthplaces of) of the southern, crunk movement?

Lord T: Well Memphis has always been a hub for revolutionary forms of music, and certainly this is the case here. We studied under some of the founders of crunk here in Memphis, which has been a great asset to us. We have of course studied under many other poets in different areas, however. But Memphis has a unique flavor and a rap style that is all it's own.

Eloise: It certainly brings something perhaps that's a bit different to the genre of rap as a whole, being schooled in the arts of poetry and rich literature, and in addition to that, the classical composers. Some of our songs have string sections, timpani rolls, and other classical elements mixed with traditional 808 drums, which are often heard on 'dirty south' records.

VM: On your last two releases, you collaborated with some of the finest musicians and artists in Memphis. What really strikes me, however, is the variety that is displayed in these collaborations: you have songs featuring rappers Al Kapone and 8ball, songs with hip-hop group Free Sol. There are tracks featuring drummer Cody Dickinson, of North Mississippi Allstars and Hill Country Revue, and even renowned opera singer Kallen Esperian. Is there anyone you are hoping to work with in the future, either local or national talents.

Lord T: I certainly know that in the future we are going to be working with Triple Six Mafia (Three 6 Mafia) if we get the chance, which will be very likely here soon. Also, we hope to work with Yo Gotti, an up-and-coming Memphis rapper who was just signed to Universal. I plan on actually taking our time-machine back and picking up Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and bringing him to the early 90's where we will reconnoiter with Wu-Tang clan and do a collab with Mozart and ODB (Ole Dirty Bastard).

VM: Now you mention Yo Gotti... as I recall a few years back, Eloise, didn't you call out Yo Gotti, challenging him to a freestyle battle? Did that ever come to fruition?

Eloise: It's interesting that you should say that. That was part of a more general call to all rappers to join in a freestyle rap battle. That never happened, and I don't want to single out Yo Gotti as much as to try maybe to use this platform here to call out to all rappers to join in a freestyle rap battle with us.... In a nice way. It's all in the purpore of perpetuating the art. Plato and Socrates were known for their improvisational repartee with their students and with their compatriots. So we wish the world were more like that.

Lord T: Let me also go back to the previous question about who we'd like to collaborate with. The Cool Kids and Santogold would be at the top of our list.

Eloise: I used to date M.I.A. or I'd beg her...

VM: When listening to your songs it's clear that you each have your own personal styles. What do you each believe you bring to the table, in background, methods, and experience?

Eloise: Well, we are twin brothers... with genetic mutations. And being gold skinned and the older of the two twins, I would say that I played around with rhymes and poetry my whole life, so that's really what I bring. I'm a poet. I'm a trained poet and I'm a businessman, and I bring these skills to the rap game, and they are integral to the rap game. And let me also tell you, that in terms of my style, I've developed it over a long period of time, and it's very adept.

Lord T: To answer that question I have to hark back to one of the reasons why we came to Memphis, TN — it was part of my family's international, corporate empire. We actually own a studio and a record label here, Young Avenue Sound, in which we've not only honed our craft on our records "Aristocrunk" and "Chairmen of the Bored," but also worked with some of the many artists mentioned earlier. And by virtue of my associations with this business, I would say that what I bring to the table is some experience on the business side of things, with regards to the game, if you will. So the knowledge and connections are there. In terms of the style of my rapping, there is some Snoop Dogg there... sometimes exponentially so if the moment calls for it. But there are of course many others.

VM: On a more serious note, there has often been talk of the difficulties of white artists successfully breaking into the rap/hip-hop industry. Granted, one of you is indeed gold, but how do you perceive this, maybe in terms of your own successes through rapping about the joys of wealth, status, nobility, etc, particularly in the face of a genre whose roots are found in poverty, hardship, and adversity?

Eloise: Well that is a multi-part question, but let me first address the issue of being a white rapper, which actually I can't do that, as you well know, but Lord T is well able. I can tell you from the perspective of a gold man, it is very difficult. You do get a lot of looks, people do provoke you more, especially in rap battles or even in public. But also I would say that in terms of what we represent in the rap game and what this genre represents juxtaposed with who we are, I really don't see that. I see music not representing an economic demographic, but as a vehicle to represent all perspectives, and that is truly what we are doing here. But I don't see it as a specific genre of music dictating certain outlets of a culture.

Lord T: I think that indeed, rap music from its conception... actually if you go back to the beginning, some of the early pioneers of the genre were three young Jewish men from Brooklyn, which was unusual at the time. And certainly, they went on to huge successes. Today, I think that you see so much more diversity in the genre, and many different artists are continually pushing the boundaries as to what can be defined as rap or hip-hop. Whether you are M.I.A., who is Sri-Lankan, whether you are the Teriyaki Boys, who is a group out of Japan produced by Pharrell... it is certainly [evident] that hip-hop has become the dominant, cultural, musical art form internationally. And by virtue of that, in the last few years, it's spreading itself and expanding itself to encompass everyone from gold rappers to 17th century aristocrats who are born with white hair and blue rings.

Eloise: I believe as long, and this is the case with any genre, including the one in which we are presently engaged, as long as you are true to yourself, as long as you are true to the game, just accept that it is hip-hop.

VM: Now you have each spoken a bit about your own backgrounds and styles and what you each bring to the table, but as anyone who has seen you perform or has even heard your songs could tell you, there is another very prominent member of your group — MysterE. Where does he fit into the equation for you?

Eloise: MysterE is an elusive character. He oftentimes is found performing with us live at our venue-shows across the nation. And really, he was our man on the ground here before we arrived.

Lord T: He's sort of a middle man between us and the general population in many ways. He helps introduce us to the musicality of rap and is quite experimental in his own right within the genre. He was the first to fuse symphonic melody with crunk beat. He does produce many of our tracks and he, along with a long list of other Society members, travels the countryside, spreading the revolution.

Eloise: Because of over-indulgences in red wine, fine cheese, and rich chocolate, I actually have gout. Because of this, I cannot sing and only can rap, so MysterE certainly makes up for that with his ability to sing on some of the hooks of our songs.

VM: You're now signed with Progressive Global Agency, the same booking and management agency that R.E.M., The Dynamites, Widespread Panic, and Dead Confederate are all signed to. Any plans for a major tour in the near future?

Eloise: We are in the process of orchestrating a national tour as we speak, and you will be able to catch us all across the U.S. pretty soon. Progressive is doing a nice job for us, and R.E.M. is a nice, small band and they have trod a nice path for us, that we are going to follow.

VM: Any plans on who might support you on that tour?

Eloise: It is still at the planning phase. It will probably include a rotating cast of Memphis crunk legends, some of whom actually appear on our records.

VM: As long as we are talking about the future here, are there any preliminary plans for a new album to follow up "Chairmen of the Bored," or are you just enjoying the fruits of your labor for the time being?

Eloise: Well it is funny that you should mention the future. Lord T and I are men of means, but you already know that. We have, with a team of scientists, helped create, develop, orchestrate, and build a team that — well, I don't want to call it a time machine, but let's go ahead and do that. And we are using it to record our next record, but that's pretty much all I can say.

VM: Eloise, last year you crashed the red carpet at the Grammy's drawing all sorts of attention and intrigue as to who the man in gold was. Any similar plans for this year's show?

Eloise: I will be in attendance at the Grammy's this year, but after all of the hoopla that occurred last year, I will be entering through the back door and watching from the shadows. Lord T, on the other hand, has a few interviews that he is scheduled to do on the red carpet. So you may see him mingling with the other rappers, stars, and starlets.

VM: Well, it's been an absolute pleasure speaking with you both. Thank you so much for your time, and I greatly look forward to your upcoming show at the Mercy Lounge on January 24th. ☺

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 People With Only Two Days of Class,

Yes, I too am thrilled that you have four-day weekends. Every weekend. For the whole semester. Could you tell me again? Yeah, while I have class all day. What's that? You can drink on both Thursday AND Sunday nights now? Wow, that's so great.

And ... shut up. I don't care that every weekend is like Fall Break. I really don't.

Or how awesome it is that you really don't have any homework to do since you just have to barely pass History of Rock and that really easy engineering class — MT 244? — in order to graduate. Or how you'll be sleeping off your hangover while I'm getting ready for class, or playing Wii while I'm struggling to pay attention in lectures.

Has it ever crossed your mind that you're paying \$25,000 to do basically nothing? It's like getting a minor in laziness. And a major in bragging about it. Could we maybe talk about how bad your Tuesdays and Thursdays are? No? Didn't think so.

Seriously — it just gets worse as the semester goes on. At least the Peabody kids know not to make a huge deal out of not having Friday class (although I still question whether many of them realize that the rest of us do, or that Friday is technically part of the work week), but you just keep driving it home again and again.

So really. Just because you get done with class in a condensed period and have plenty of time to enjoy your college years five days a week doesn't ... mean ...

You know actually, come to think of it, that sounds pretty sweet. Maybe next year I'll make all my classes Tuesday and Thursday, too. Thanks guys.

Sincerely,
An Angry WASP

FLIP SIDE

Accelerator Vanderbilt Summer Business Institute
 OWEN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
 Learn business by *doing* business this summer.

Information Session
 Wednesday, January 14, 2009
 Owen Graduate School of Management
 6:00pm - Averbuch Auditorium
 RSVP - 615.343.6291 or accelerator@owen.vanderbilt.edu
 owen.vanderbilt.edu/accelerator



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

SUDOKU: To solve, fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

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1/12/09 SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
 1 Lamerter's cry
 5 Aberdeen breed
 10 Jazz singing
 14 Badgered
 15 Demi of "Ghost"
 16 Walk the floor
 17 Highlands group
 18 Mont in the Alps
 19 Killer whale
 20 Scenery chowers
 21 Morays
 22 Web locations
 23 Turns, as milk
 25 Moses or Karl
 26 cotta
 28 Bottom deposits
 31 Faces the day
 33 Word before X or PG
 34 Catch red-handed
 35 Die down
 37 Mechanical linkage device
 40 Stable denizens
 42 Antonin of the Supreme Court
 45 Intensifies
 49 Cartoonist Tex
 50 Lemieux and Cuomo
 51 Less colored
 53 Knife feature
 54 Beach bird
 56 Sacred service
 59 Lo-cal
 60 Attribute
 61 Caustic solution
- DOWN**
 1 Crafty
 2 The Kinks classic hit
 3 Tracy/Hepburn comedy
 4 Detectors
 5 Caution light color
 6 At least as much as
 7 Point of soccer
 8 Diner brewers
 9 Jiffy
 10 Ruined
 11 Shipping box
 12 Stress
 13 Mocks in fun
 22 Ditto
 24 Abu Dhabi loc.
 25 Little pests
 26 "Saving Fish from Drowning" author
 27 Time period
 29 Record over
 30 CD's competition
 32 Gilbert and Teasdale
 36 Make a wager
 37 Office job category

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1/14/09

1/12/09 SOLUTIONS

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HOROSCOPES

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19: Only a month until Valentine's Day, champ. Better find someone soon. Or buy a new video game. Or a case of Natty. Or both. Or all three!

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18: Wouldn't it be weird if that secret love you always Facebook stalked was stalking you back? Yeah, that'll never happen. Sorry to get your hopes up.

PISCES 2/19-3/20: You'll be judged if you wear slippers to class. But you should still do it.

ARIES 3/21-4/19: It's time to make some goals for the new year. Like "having goals," for example.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20: You can set a personal record on riding a mechanical bull this week.

GEMINI 5/21-6/21: Laughter is the best medicine, they say. But I still think you should get that looked at.

CANCER 6/22-7/22: Did you ever wonder if Toucan Sam followed his nose to cocaine? Regardless, don't do drugs this week.

LEO 7/23-8/22: I know what you're thinking, and consider the following: do it.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22: You really shouldn't use "epic" or "legendary" unless it actually will be epic or legendary.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22: Your plan to build a hot tub in your common room is both EPIC and LEGENDARY. Make it happen!

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21: Is it still called a mixed tape if it's on a CD? And does it hold the same implications? Even if it doesn't, don't make one.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21: If an apple a day keeps a doctor away, maybe you should stop eating so many of them so you can get into med school.

MEMORIAL MADNESS

01.14.09

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