

Versu

The Vanderbilt Hustler's Arts & Entertainment

APRIL 22—APRIL 28, 2009 VOL. 47, No. 14

We're
"Obsessed"
with

**ALI
LARTER**

Rites of Spring coverage for anyone who can't quite remember the weekend on pages 6 and 7, check it out.

Blueskyreality is too cool for spaces between words. So are we. Flip to page 8.

Flip to page 9 for more on her new movie, fighting Beyonce, and the fun of playing a femme fatale.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Peelander-Z — Exit/In

Peelander-Z is a self-described "Japanese Action Comic Punk Band." Composed of three members, Peelander-Yellow, Peelander-Red and Peelander-Green, Peelander-Z originated from the Z area of the planet Peelander. The group will be performing a variety of their material on Thursday at the Exit/In in what is sure to be an entertaining show. (\$8, 9 p.m.)

John Birdsong — Criallo's Bistro and Bar

Head over to Franklin to witness the musical prowess of John Birdsong, one of Nashville's hottest upright bass players. He has been praised by Grammy-nominated artists for knowing just how to lay down a groove, and his soulful stylings are sure to please all audiences. (Free, 6:30 p.m., 1935 Mallory Lane, Franklin, Tenn.)

Maura O'Connell — Station Inn

Maura O'Connell is well respected in the local Nashville area for her ability to carry her soul deep into the depths of each song she creates. After more than 20 years of experience as a singer-songwriter, O'Connell's newly confident sound is one that is sure to carry her audience along on her own personal musical voyage. (\$15, 9 p.m.)

Tony Youngblood, The Branded Sons and Antiverse — The 5 Spot

The 5 Spot hosts an evening of up-and-coming artists in our own local Nashville scene. The music featured is mainly rock, including such artists as Tony Youngblood and The Branded Sons. With the rust-rock music created by Youngblood and the loyal following carried by The Branded Sons, this local showcase should be one to remember. (Cover TBA, 9 p.m., 1006 Forrest Ave.)

Gospel Music Association Dove Awards — Grand Ole Opry House

The Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards unites top artists from all corners of the gospel music genre to celebrate and recognize the year's most successful artists. The awards were founded in 1969 and is the most prestigious ceremony honoring achievement in Christian and Gospel music. (\$55-\$200, 4:30 p.m., 2802 Opryland Drive)

The Non-Commissioned Officers — The Mercy Lounge/Cannery Ballroom

The Non-Commissioned Officers was formed to perform the music of Make-Out with Violence, a film created by the Deagol Brothers (local Nashville filmmakers). The show celebrates the release of the soundtrack. The film was released last Sunday as a part of the Nashville Film Festival. (\$5 or free with Make-Out With Violence ticket stub or Nashville Film Festival badge, 9 p.m.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Brenn, Umbrella Tree, Shoot the Mountain and more — Cannery Ballroom/Mercy Lounge

Everyone's favorite independent radio station, Lighting 100, presents the second annual Miller Made Music Showcase featuring many of Nashville's best acts. Brenn, Umbrella Tree, Shoot the Mountain, Philos and others are bound to rock your Friday night like never before. (Free, 9 p.m.)

KingBilly — 12th and Porter

Unfazed by the critics and naysayers, KingBilly continues their resolved march toward music industry dominance Friday night, with a stop at Nashville hotspot 12th and Porter. Never sacrificing the quality of their music for superficial success, KingBilly will certainly entertain. (Free, 8 p.m.)

Back Alley Saints — The Rutledge

As their ominous name may suggest, Back Alley Saints is a crew of no-nonsense rock gods, ready to bring some sound into your world, whether you like it or not. For a quick \$5 pop, you'll gain access to a never-surrendering performance, a demonstration of force at its finest. (\$5, 7 p.m.)

Immuzikation — Exit/In

Have you ever wanted to see Daft Punk live? Well here's the next best thing! This Friday night, Exit/In will present Very Disco, a tribute by Immuzikation, which will play entrancing tunes of the European techno gods. If you want to get your fill of electro, strobes and trippy costumes this week, check out this show. (\$10, 11 p.m.)

Double Reed Festival — Lipscomb University

If you're anything like me, you've been jonesin' for your fill of woodwinds lately. What better way to get your fix than at the Double Reed Festival, featuring performances by two prominent oboists and bassoonists. The rousing acts go down at 3901 Granny White Pike — or just follow the sound of beautiful music. (Free, 8 p.m.)

Elevation, Harrison Hudson and Modern Society — The End

Resounding with classic rock influences, the music of Elevation truly brings listeners to a higher level. Experience the profound sound of this emerging group, complimented by openers Harrison Hudson and Modern Society, Friday night at The End. (\$5, 9 p.m.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Dave Matthews Band with Jason Mraz — Vanderbilt Stadium

As if Rites wasn't enough for you, how about another on campus show that's ridiculous? Oh, right. DMB. And Jason Mraz. Not a big deal at all. Oh and also, there's a brand new CD that they're releasing. And the songs from it will be performed for the first time at this concert. Need any other reason to go? I didn't think so. Of course, you probably already bought your tickets months ago. Enjoy. (\$39.50-75, 6 p.m.)

Jenny Gillespie — Cafe Coco

Okay, honestly I don't know much about Jenny Gillespie. She's sort of a standard folk rock type and has a decent voice too. BUT, she's playing at Cafe Coco, and they have excellent hummus and grilled cheese. And doesn't that sound great? This show is only \$5, so if you never bought that ticket for Dave, perhaps you can come chill out and have a listen. (\$5, 8 p.m.)

Carl Stewart and the B.B. Kingsmen — B.B. King's Blues Club and Restaurant

While this is only a house band, I seriously recommend going to B.B. King's at least once before you graduate. The ambience is incredible, it's cheap to get in and the food is actually pretty good. If you haven't been a blues fan in the past, you might be surprised by how much you like it. Give it a try, and you probably won't be disappointed. If you are, sorry. (\$5, 6 p.m., 152 Second Ave. North)

Webb Wilder — 3rd and Lindsley

Without even knowing anything about his music, you could be entertained by Webb Wilder just because he's such a character. Claiming to be "The Last of the Full Grown Men," he's not only on a never-ending world tour, but has also starred in cult classic movies (three short films called "Corn Flicks"). He's been around for a while, but he's not slowing down. Come out and enjoy it. (\$10, 7 p.m.)

Sex and Patriotism — Music City Bar

Besides rock 'n' roll, what could be a better combination than sex and patriotism? Oh, what about if you could get it all for free? Yeah, that'd be pretty awesome. Oh wait, you CAN get all of it? Yes, you can. Saturday night. Music City Bar. Free. Be there. (Free, 9 p.m., 2416 Music Valley Drive)

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FROM THE EDITOR



Well, we're finally here. The end of the semester (and for me, my college tenure). This is always a time of reflection for all of us here at Versus. In this spirit, I've decided to honor the memory of some things in the form of short obituaries in my last letter ...

My innocence, 18, finally died during its first night on Vanderbilt's Greek row. It had fought a long battle with Curiosity, and finally gasped its last breath after a keg stand.

My faith in justice, 5 and a half, died suddenly after reading an e-mail from Chancellor Gee announcing his move back to OSU. It (unlike he) will be sorely missed.

Dreams of medical school, 15, lived a long life with its friends Hope and Aspirations. It died in the middle of a freshman Chemistry lecture.

Lack of faith in Vanderbilt's football team, 3, began after Jay Cutler's last season and died this past December to the cries of "Vanderbilt Wins!"

The Economy, 13, was killed last September in a sudden crash with The Job Market. It is survived by "Living In My Parent's Basement."

My unhealthy lifestyle, 4, subsisted on Quiznos, beer and 4 hours of sleep a night. It died after moving back home and living with its parents. See above.

The Class of 2009, 4, passed on after their last exams. They leave behind a legacy of debauchery, alcoholism and moral depravity (among other things). Their parents were very proud.

We also saved the best for last, dear Versus readers. This week we've got our full Rites coverage (with amazing photography to boot), our thoughts on the new movie "State of Play" and an interview with Blueskyreality. Oh, and we talked to Ali Larter, the star of the new movie "Obsessed." We here at Versus decided to end the year with a bang.

Godspeed, Vanderbilt. Keep it real.

Stay Legendary,
Chris Gearing

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PIC OF THE WEEK



NICOLE MANDEL / VERSUS MAGAZINE

BITS & PIECES



Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential.
— President Barack Obama

HOROSCOPES



ARIES 3/21-4/19: If life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Then mix with vodka and you've got a party.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20: To save money for the holidays, you could go to a semi-formal. That means putting on a collared shirt and going to Chili's. Classy.



GEMINI 5/21-6/21: When you write for a publication, they're not stalkers, they're fans.



CANCER 6/22-7/22: Showing up at someone's suite after locating it on People Finder is not creepy, it's romantic. GOD! Someday you'll understand.



LEO 7/23-8/22: Grooming is a sign of affection. But still, quit touching me.



VIRGO 8/23-9/22: If you believe in horoscopes, then your sign is not Virgo. It's Heathen.



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



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21: A great way to get into someone's pants is to steal them from the laundry room.



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21: They say that all journeys begin with a single step. This week, you'll find that the most epic ones begin with a stumble.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19: If you have to say "trust me," it probably isn't a good idea. Trust me.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18: What if when you said you were getting in touch with your inner child there actually WAS a child inside you?? Then you'd be pregnant, idiot.



PISCES 2/19-3/20: Watch your semantics while traveling. Consider: in a developing country, is "Get Well Soon" a card or a to-do list?

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

From what I recall
Rites was great. From what I can't
I KNOW that it was.

We all must grow up
I just wish that it didn't
Have to be so soon.

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"



Rando: "It makes me want to FML all over myself."

Dude: "Watching The Flaming Lips made me feel like a 5-year-old, AND like doing ecstasy or LSD."

Guy: "I'm cold, I'm wet and I have a boner."

Girl: "You can't survive on an all-sperm diet."

Guy: "I can't suck on something for an hour and a half."

Rando: "I haven't gotten any work done all day because I've been trying to figure out how to become T-Pain."

Girl: "Do YOU know what giraffe sex looks like?"

PHOTOS: flickr.com

WE WANT YOU IN THE YEARBOOK



submitted by Gustavo De Pena



submitted by Danielle Gantt



submitted by Katie Emerson

submitted by Lillian Lam



02/01/2009

submitted by Jeanette Lugo

Don't let your digital photos fade into oblivion. Submit your favorite photos from 2008-09 online at **VanderbiltCommodore.com**, and they could be published in the Scrapbook section of the Commodore yearbook. The Scrapbook section is a unique record of this year at Vandy, created entirely with photos submitted by students like you.

SEND IN ... pics of you and your friends, interesting shots capturing life on campus, team and organization group photos, images of parties and events



submitted by Laura Calabrese

VanderbiltCommodore.com

If you haven't already ordered your 2009 Commodore yearbook, order online today.

ENTERTAINMENT

Style spotted: Romeo at Rites

NIKKY OKORO
SHEMSI FREZEL
Staff Writers

This year's Rites of Spring music festival was full of warm weather vibes and trendy attire. In addition, there was no doubt that the scheduled artists to perform helped to influence the style of students and visitors on campus. Standing out among this crowd was this week's Style Spotter pick: junior and fervent Pharrell aficionado Michael Romeo. Describing his style as "retro, visual and discounted," Michael is able to successfully emulate the celebrity style icon while still putting his own verve into an outfit. While doing this and taking the time to interview with us, he was still also able to find the time to perform



NIKKY OKORO

at this year's opening Rites performance of Battle of the Bands. Keep on reading below to find out more about Michael and his affinity for certain styles and brands.

—Who are your favorite designers?
Stussy, Ralph Lauren, Pharrell and Nigo.

—Who are your favorite style icons?
Fonzworth Bentley, Shepard Fairey and also Pharrell.

—Who do you dress to impress?
No one.

—Favorite Stores?
ASOS, BAPE, Yesstyle and Nashville thrift stores (like Goodwill).

—Most disliked Vandy trend?
The "sweats and T-shirt" look, even though everyone does it eventually.

—City or country that most exudes your style?
My hometown, Brooklyn, N.Y.

—If your closet was burning and you could only save one item, what would that be?
My BBC (Billionaire Boys Club) shirt.

—Artist you're most excited to see at Rites?
N.E.R.D.

—And most importantly, what are you wearing right now?
Pants from Yesstyle, shoes and chain from ASOS, BBC shirt and BBC "Ice Cream" hat. ☹



NIKKY OKORO



NIKKY OKORO

Pay attention to the 'State of Play'

CHRIS GEARING
Versus Editor-in-Chief

There have been a lot of these kinds of movies

recently. The intrigue-in-Washington-international-conspiracy movie has seen some action recently, as it tends to happen around

election years. However, this latest Russell Crowe vehicle has some legs.

When the head researcher for a congressional case against a defense contract company is killed, it hits the fan. Congressman Stephen Collins (Ben Affleck) is the head of a congressional committee and investigation, and he turns out to be having an affair with the aforementioned researcher. With the world falling down around him, he turns to his college roommate and local reporter, Cal McAffrey (Crowe). However, as Cal investigates the company and Congressman Collins,

he finds more than he bargained for.

A movie like this is built on its twists and turns, so that's all the detail you'll get from this article. However, the all-star cast does an excellent job portraying the various personal interests, cover-ups and conspiracies of Washington, D.C. Crowe was particularly charming and plays well with Rachel McAdams and all of his character's quips and witticisms. Ben Affleck does an especially good job of being the square-jawed congressman, but he plays him with depth, shame and personality. It is by far his

most memorable part since "Good Will Hunting" and this is definitely one of the best performances of his career.

The movie is fantastic, and tumbling down the rabbit hole is quite enjoyable and

intriguing. The only qualm with the film is it's last few minutes where it has to have just one more twist. It should have just let it go. Otherwise, it's fantastically made and acted, and it is definitely worth the price of admission. ☹



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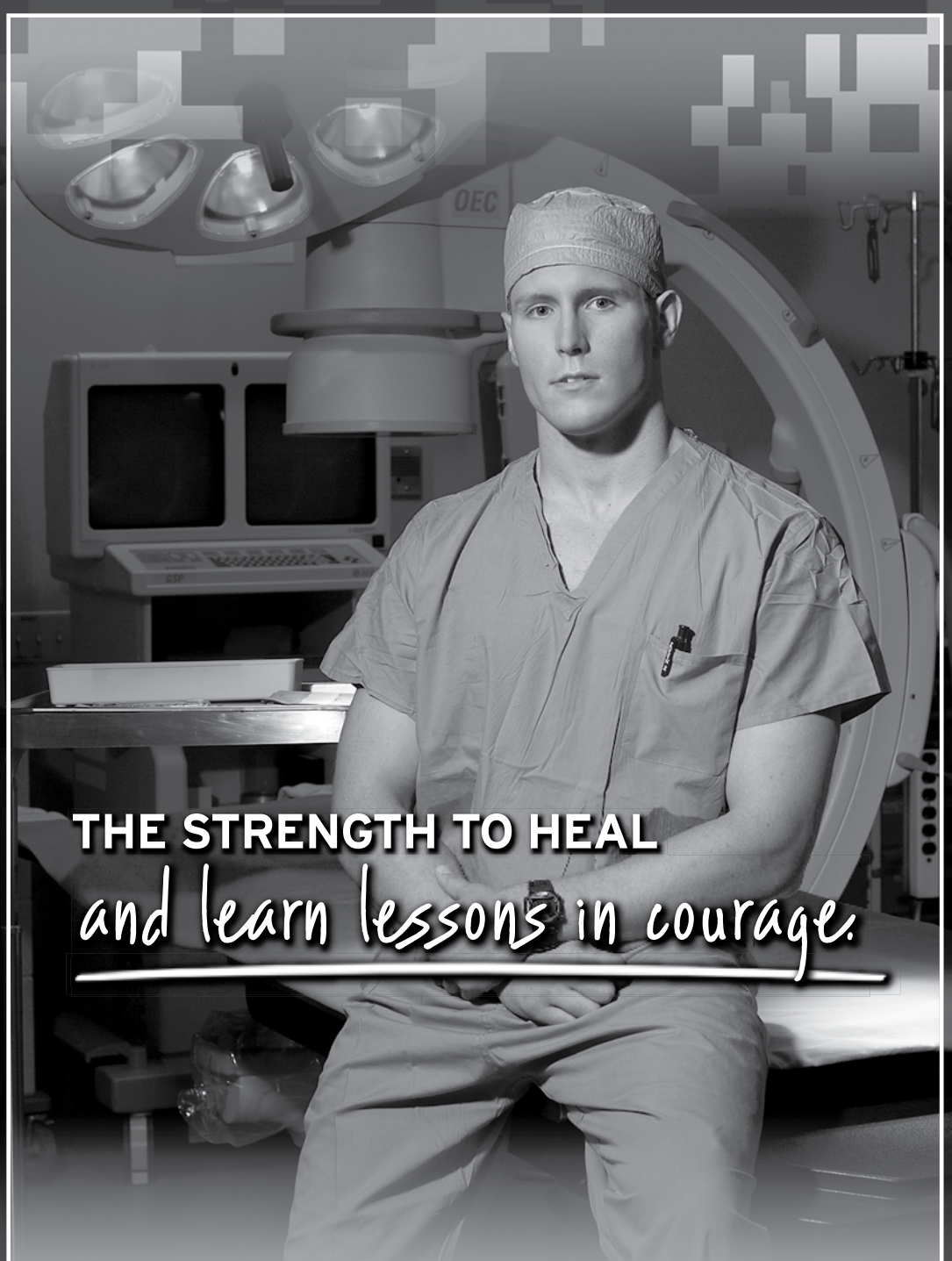
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ARMY STRONG.®

Five ways to stay sane during exam time

HOLLY MEEHL
Culture Editor

So exams and term papers are upon us and let's face it, we're all going a little crazy. Obviously none of us did any work during Rites of Spring weekend so it is crunch time — no more five-hour Facebook chat distractions or endless FML story readings. It's time to pull it together, grab that textbook and triple shot latte and head to your favorite study spot. But let's be honest, we all need a study break at some point. So step away from that chemistry book or 20-page English paper — you can do it, back away slowly — and check out some of these ways to de-stress, even if it's only for 10 minutes.

1. Go get lunch (or breakfast) at Elliston Soda Shop!

Step into the past and far away from your exams at this old-school soda shop where little has changed since it

opened over 60 years ago. If you're hungry for breakfast you can find delicious ham, biscuits and eggs. But when I venture to this heavenly '50s dinner I go for the milkshake and burger combo. The milkshakes here are some of the best I've ever had, thick and creamy. They are the ultimate reward for the physics exam that just melted your brain.



farm1.static.flickr.com

2. Watch Susan Boyle on YouTube!

This is a quick de-stressor, but is still that bit of procrastination fuel you need to go on and crank out those last five pages of your research paper. This video will make anyone smile as frumpy yet adorable Susan Boyle leaves the audience and judges of "Britain's Got Talent" in awe. And by the

look of Simon's goofy grin during her performance, even he is in love.

3. Go see "17 Again"

Zac Efron's puppy dog smile? Leslie Mann's witty banter? Do I even have to sell this study break idea? Watch Mathew Perry as he transforms into Zac Efron and becomes a 37-year-old trapped in a 17-year-old's body and the comedic drama that ensues.



richardwillisuk.files.wordpress.com

4. Have brunch at BrickTops!

So this idea is bit pricier but totally worth it! On Saturday and Sunday,



thomonthenet.com

this brunch splendor are the homemade bite-sized donuts you can order served with three savory dipping sauces. Yum!

5. And finally ... breathe!

Even if you think you are for sure going to fail your medieval literature final, don't sweat it. These are just grades, they are not the sole indicators of your future! You can survive a C, a D even an F! Stress is what you make it, so just keep telling yourself that life will go on. Go outside, breathe in that Nashville air that is finally starting to warm up a bit, lay out on Alumni Lawn, press play on your iPod and just chill. ☘



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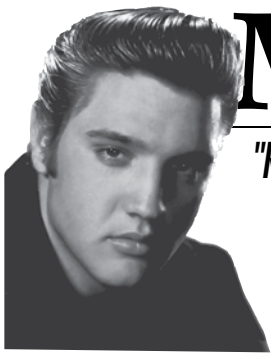
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MOH1



MUSIC

"Rock and roll music, if you like it, if you feel it, you can't help but move to it."
—Elvis Presley



The Somalians aren't the only pirates facing the harsh consequences for their actions these days. A Swedish court sentenced each of the four founders of sharing site Pirate Bay to a year in prison Friday.



RITES OF SPRING



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

T.I. fails to dispel 'haters' with disappointing show

CHARLES KESSLERING
Music Editor

On Friday night, T.I. took to the stage huffing and puffing. Unfortunately, he couldn't blow the crowd away.

Tragically misjudging his audience, the rapper spent much of his set dismissing his critics and "haters" (malicious naysayers, often found in barber shops or chat rooms) instead of investing all his energy in the songs his overwhelming straight-laced crowd — who could care less about hip-hop beef — paid

big moola to hear. At times pompous, at times angry, T.I. focused less of his efforts on music than the promotion of his ambiguous "movement," unnecessarily watering down an otherwise strong performance.

Adding to the distractions was T.I.'s entourage, a space-wasting crew to boot. Joined on stage by Young Buck, Pee-Wee (a wayward youth to whom T.I. has taught many life lessons except, seemingly, how to hold up his pants) and a slew of posse

members who undoubtedly possessed similarly fascinating nicknames, the rapper's talent struggled to emerge uncorrupted by the sea of talentless.

In the end, T.I. did perform the hits — "Live Your Life," "Whatever You Like," "What You Know" and more — but only after 30 minutes of chorus medleys and verses cut short, old and forgotten songs, and pretentious rants. Sadly, one of his last performances before prison was, quite simply, a disappointment. ☹

Despite rain, The Flaming Lips do everything but smolder

ALEX GOLDBERG
Staff Writer

"To be honest, I only know a few of their songs. I'm just really glad to finally get to see the legends," said sophomore Chris McDonald during an epic guitar solo. Indeed, The Music Group gave us an epic weekend by bringing The Flaming Lips to campus.

I didn't feel like I was standing on Alumni Lawn sandwiched between Alumni and Tolman Halls. Rather, I felt like I was transported to Lewis Carroll's ideal dream. The balloons floating in the

air, the confetti bursting into the crowd and Wayne Cohen's shadow in front of the video on the screen really gave me a sense of what The Lips is known for. They performed like no other Rites of Spring act I have ever seen.

Of course, there was the music. While The Flaming Lips did not play every song I was hoping they would play, they did do a great job of spreading out the hits. "Race for the Prize" and "She Don't Use Jelly" were two songs that really showcased theatrics and sounded similar to the album

versions. The slower versions of "Fight Test" and "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots" were absolutely beautiful with the light rain and the Vanderbilt community coming together to lend their vocals, which is what Rites of Spring is really about.

Another plus about this set was the lack of onstage talking. I appreciated the lack of propaganda and personal accounts and the maximization of music played. The Flaming Lips concert was one that I will remember, and I'm sure everyone else will, too. ☹



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears ignite the stage

CHARLES KESSLERING
Music Editor

Turning a lackadaisical Saturday evening into a rabble-rousing good time, Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears emerged triumphant in the quest to entertain.

Hitting the stage like venue veterans, the fledgling group brought an unyielding enthusiasm largely unrivaled during the performances of Rites of Spring, even among the

headliners.

In a long-thought-gone move stolen straight out of the annals of Motown, the sax players effortlessly two-stepped to the beat; the well-dressed drummer slammed his heart and soul into his set; Black Joe ripped melodies out of his harmonica as if it were the end of days. After hearing the Honeybears, that would've been just fine. ☹



JUSTIN MENESTRINA / The Vanderbilt Hustler

K'naan steals the show in true Somali style

HOLLY MEEHL
Culture Editor

Before the madness of Santigold, Q-Tip and T.I., a less famous musician, K'naan, lit up the Rites stage. But his performance was just as entertaining as the later shows Friday night. K'naan, with his unique sound, which borders both hip-hop and rap, had the audience dancing and waving their hands to music from his older album "The Dusty

Foot Philosopher" and his newest release "Troubadour." He started with "In the Beginning," and immediately pumped out an energetic beat that made people leave the Chik-fil-A stand to see who was performing. By his last song, "Waving Flag," the whole audience was engaged in K'naan's soulful rap. With his charismatic stage presence, we will definitely be seeing more of K'naan in the future. ☹



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Grand Ole Party ditches conservatism for a liberal dose of entertainment

KELLY HUGHES
Staff Writer

One of the Rites highlights on Saturday was rock-trio Grand Ole Party from San Diego, Calif. Lead singer Kristin Gundred was front and center behind the drum kit. The band opted not to play songs from their debut album "Humanimals,"

but to try out new songs that they're currently recording instead. Kristin's powerful singing sounds very reminiscent of Jack White's vocal style, and the band led the audience through an enjoyable set of alternative songs. They may not be a household name yet, but Grand Ole Party definitely has the potential to become one. ☹

Everyone can breathe a big sigh of relief. Allegedly having chased his estranged wife on the freeway, Nate Dogg, the rapper of many-a-chorus fame, has been cleared of all stalking charges.



Rapper and producer Sean "Diddy" Combs will soon step into a different kind of spotlight, starring in a Judd Apatow-produced film. Going out on a limb, Combs will play a record label executive in the "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" spin-off.



N.E.R.D. aces S.A.T. night

SHEMSI FREZEL
Staff Writer

As was to be expected, N.E.R.D.'s performance on Saturday night was full of energy. Pahrrell Williams and Shay Haley kept the crowd alert and engaged with the music, while Chad Hugo retained his low key status in the group by

remaining virtually silent behind his keyboard. In between belting out songs, Williams catered to the crowd by shouting out the academic achievements of Vanderbilt students. In a surprising turn of events, rapperWale appeared from seemingly thin air to join N.E.R.D.'s show. Their set

concluded with a spirited performance of "She Wants to Move" where true to form, Williams made dreams come true by inviting some ladies from the audience to dance on stage. N.E.R.D.'s performance not only lived up to but exceeded expectations. ☼



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

All that glitters is Santigold

NIKKY OKORO
Staff Writer

There's absolutely no doubt that the artist line-up for this past weekend's Rites of Spring 2009 was perfectly superior in both talent and popularity. Even more impressive was the up-and-coming artist Santigold, who

definitely brought both power and creativity to all aspects of her performance. Originally hailing from Philadelphia, Penn., Santigold still performed like she was at home in Tennessee's Music City. There was no doubt that the crowd was able to feel

the energy in the powerful beats and unique lyrics. She even went so far to invite students on stage to dance to the unique remixes of her song. After such a great live performance, her fan base on campus is sure to be as gold. ☼



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Q-Tip relentlessly rocks the crowd

CHARLIE KESSLERING
Music Editor

A man most obviously in love with hip-hop, Q-Tip blessed Rites' Friday crowd with an unabashed excitement for music.

Despite technical difficulties and an audience composed largely of unacquainted listeners,

the former A Tribe Called Quest frontman bequeathed an infectious energy upon the festival.

Just as eccentric, lively and brazen as he appears in music videos and studio recordings, Q-Tip climbed stage equipment, told jokes and sweated profusely,

all in an attempt to give Vanderbilt its money's worth.

Not as inspirational as K'naan or as confrontational at TL, the hip-hop veteran relied upon his unyielding charisma and appealing tracks, both new and old, to carry his set to success. They did just that. ☼



ERIC GLASSER / The Vanderbilt Hustler

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. "RACE FOR THE PRIZE"
The Flaming Lips
2. "SHE WANTS TO MOVE"
N.E.R.D.
3. "L.E.S. ARTISTES"
Santigold
4. "COUSIN RANDY"
Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears
5. "BLOW (FEAT. DRE)"
Rick Ross
6. "99 PROBLEMS WITH BUDDY HOLLY"
Jay-Zeezer
7. "YOSHIMI BATTLES THE PINK ROBOTS"
The Flaming Lips
8. "SWEETNESS"
Jimmy Eat World
9. "SWAGGER LIKE US (FEAT. KANYE WEST, JAY-Z, LIL' WAYNE)"
T.I.
10. "I FEEL LIKE DYING"
Lil' Wayne

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MORE MUSIC

Q+A with the guys of Blueskyreality

The city of Los Angeles has always been a competitive breeding ground for new artists and in 2006 yet another talented group emerged from the city. Staff Writer Shemi Frezel sat down with the band, which consists of five ambitious young guys, Zak, Nick, Jake, John and Philip, who are ready to share their music with as many listeners as possible. Shortly before taking the stage at Rites they sat down for an interview with Versus.

Versus Magazine: Is there any special meaning to the name Blueskyreality?

Nick: The band's name has its origins in a garage band that I started in eighth grade and then senior year of high school, I recruited Zak to play with the band. The name has to do with never knowing the true color of the sky because of the reflection of the ocean.

VM: How would any of you describe the band's sound and who are some of your musical influences?

Zak: It's soul-rock — rock music that keeps coming back to elements of soul as far as harmonies and melodies. I really love soul singers like Marvin Gaye, Musiq Soul Child, Anthony Hamilton and Brian McKnight — that was the first concert I ever went to, a Brian McKnight concert. We also really love pop music from the '90s.

VM: Speaking of '90s pop music, Blueskyreality is about to go on tour with Third Eye Blind. How excited are you all about that?

Philip: When we first started out, getting a tour was more important than actually being signed, so we're really excited to go out and tour, especially with a band like Third Eye Blind.

VM: Do any of y'all have favorite Third Eye Blind songs?

Jake: You know the song "Graduate"? It was like the second song on the soundtrack for the movie "Can't Hardly Wait." That's a great song and a great movie.

Philip: "Faster"

Zak: The other day we heard a cover of the song "I Want You," and I was pretty sure it was a Third Eye Blind song so I Shazamed



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it — you know with the iPhone. That's a great song.

Nick: Pretty much anything from the Third Eye Blind album.

VM: How does Blueskyreality usually go about the writing process?

Jake: Someone usually comes in with a riff or like a chorus and verse and we build from there.

Zak: Yeah, Jake usually does the lyrics and I'm pretty simple, but John is really good at pulling things apart and making them more interesting. And Phil, he makes things funky. He's like the spice; he really spices things up.

VM: You guys are all college-aged. Did any of y'all go (to college) or was music always first?

John: I'm actually in my final semester now. I'm finishing up my last credit hour and I'm suppose to graduate next year, but with the band's busy schedule I don't know when I'll have time to finish.

Philip: You can always take classes online.

VM: How does being from L.A. influence your music?

Zak: I think it makes us work harder because there is so much competition. L.A. is where people go to act, model and get into music, so they're so many talented people there — it really makes us work harder.

Jake: Yeah in L.A. there is so much going on it's hard to get even your friends to come out to shows because the social scene is

just so saturated.

Nick: We end up doing a lot of self-marketing and take any opportunity to showcase our music. We want to show people that we bring something new and fresh to music.

VM: What songs are y'all looking forward to doing live?

Jake: We're doing a lot of new songs.

Nick: I'm definitely looking forward to doing "Doing Alright."

VM: The band Twitters. What do you all see as the point of that?

Jake: We use it as a marketing tool to allow people to follow us. We just want people to know that we are approachable and just because we play music doesn't mean that we have a stuck up attitude. We're just everyday guys and we try to stay true to that.

VM: Lastly, I can't help but ask after seeing you all in person, does the band have a specific fashion philosophy?

Zak: Talk to Nick, he's the fashion guy.

Nick: We just wear whatever we feel comfortable in, before a show we usually say, "Wear something that looks nice that you can play in."

John: I stick to V-necks because they're easier to wear when I'm drumming.

Zak: It's not a forced look. We're just normal guys who wear what we like, but we do like to look nice on stage. ☺



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Rites opener got the weekend off to a running start

COURTNEY ROGERS

Features Editor

Friday afternoon under clear and sunny skies, Run With Bulls helped kick off Rites weekend by rocking out on Alumni Lawn. Though many Vandy kids were still over on Kensington enjoying the sun, the band drew a mellow crowd and everyone sunbathed while enjoying the music. As Brad Sample promised, Run With Bulls brought out their favorite songs such as "Shotgun" and "Jealousy." Their sound was a blend of rock 'n' roll and country flair and their set combined with the sunny weather like peanut butter and jelly. The best part? When I got lost during Q-Tip, I saw Brad on the periphery and we talked about how excited Run with Bulls was to play at Rites. Losing your friends in a giant crowd of people isn't usually fun, unless you happen to know someone in a rock band. ☺



Justin Menestrina/The Vanderbilt Hustler

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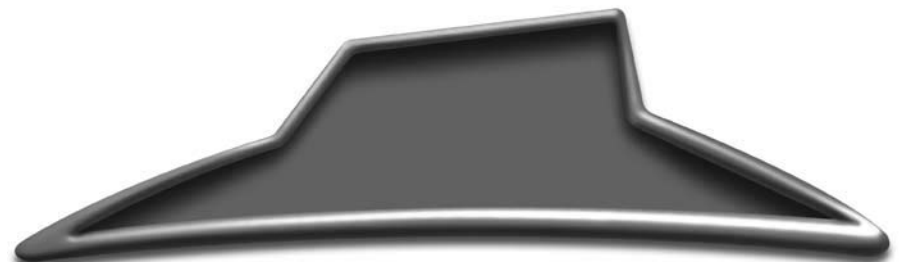
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ALI LARTER

This week, Features Editor Courtney Rogers caught up with Ali Larter, star of the new movie "Obsessed." In the film, she plays a femme fatale who goes "Fatal Attraction" on her co-worker. We don't know how it ends, but we can promise some serious cat fights between Larter and Beyonce. In addition to the movie, Larter told us about her upcoming projects, finding your dream job, and the classic trauma of waiting for the phone to ring. Check it out.

Versus Magazine: How does this movie differ from your other acting experiences and what made you want to be in this movie?

Ali Larter: I'm usually the one beating people up, so this movie humbled me a bit. I had to take one for the team. This movie differs because my character is in the vein of the classic femme fatale, and that is what drew me to this movie. Also, the fact that she really gets lost in her psychosis and believes one thing when something else is probably true. For me, it was interesting to figure out the complexities of her and what makes her tick. And then, it's really a three-hander in this — you get to see three points of view of people in the same situation. Also, the movie is colorblind. Not once is race mentioned and that's one thing I found really appealing.

VM: What kind of training did you do to prepare?

AL: We do a lot of physical stuff on "Heroes." It seems that I always get in some kind of fight no matter what role I'm playing. We start off by getting the best stunt doubles we can find and I have an amazing girl that I work with. But I also like to do as much as I can, I think that you can really tell when the actor is in there. We spent about a week breaking it down, we had a joy in it. For me, watching Beyonce charge me was one of my favorite moments. I hope that that comes across on the screen, that people see that we tried to make it believable and avoid cliches but also deliver what the movie promises to deliver.

VM: How does it feel to play this kind of sexy character?

AL: I love playing sexy characters. This character is definitely a femme fatale — she's a woman who uses whatever she has to get what she wants. She's in love with this man and she has fun with herself, she doesn't take herself too seriously. For me, that was a really fun role and I loved playing her.

VM: What was the most challenging part of this movie?

AL: The most difficult thing was that I was shooting "Heroes" at the same time, so for a couple months I was working seven days a week, 12 hours a day. That was by far the most trying thing, because I would be going from one character and one tone and hopping into another one and sometimes I would be driving from one set to the next. It was also that I was so excited to play a take on the femme fatale. I love watching these movies and being an audience in those sexy thrillers like, "Hand that Rocks the Cradle" and "Fatal Attraction." This movie is really an homage to those. To get to play her, she's really a character that is delusional. Figuring out how to keep a mystery to her while also finding a way to make the audience feel for this girl was great. For her, it was only about love and things that people say can be misinterpreted. To me, that's the point of this movie — it's an imaginary office romance that has disastrous consequences. We tried to dissect the three points of view and show how each person reacts to it.

VM: What past experiences did you draw on for this character?

AL: For me, Lisa Sheridan definitely is a bit delusional — she becomes a bit of a psychopath. But you can't play it that way — you have to play it from the rational point of view because she thinks that what she's doing is rational. There's a linear line of her experiences and why she does the things she does. I tried to draw on things from my own life and combine it with those circumstances and understand how I would act if that happened to me. A lot of substitution went into this role because you have to make it believable.

When you watch this movie, the movie fails if you don't believe that she's in love with this man and that the things she tells herself are real. I did everything I could to make sure people saw those characteristics in her and make people understand that this woman is in love with this man.

VM: What kind of message do you think "Obsessed" is trying to give the audience?

AL: This movie is in the vein of those really fun, sexy thrillers. This is a more modern take on it because we take it into an office and we're also in a new world of technology. There are different ways that you can have an affair. Is it inappropriate to send an e-mail? Is it inappropriate to iChat with someone? If someone hits you with an iChat at 10:30, is that inappropriate? This shows the different levels that technology has taken us to. People go to work and they spend more time with their co-workers than they do with their families. I think this movie plays on some of those fears that live in us about what happens when they leave the house and go into that office.

VM: Could you expand on how difficult it was to balance the schedule of shooting "Heroes" and "Obsessed" at the same time?

AL: The hardest part of this business to me is that you can't plan everything. ... So I got the opportunity to shoot this movie and I really wanted to do it — it looked like so much fun to me. I love playing these dark, complex women. I'm so drawn to them. "Heroes" was generous enough to work out this schedule where I was shooting "Obsessed" four to five days a week and "Heroes" two to three. It's one of those things where you just need to know that there's an end date. I just went for it — I was as organized as I could be. Some of the time, I was so tired that it actually fed into the delusion that I was feeling when I was playing Lisa Sheridan. One thing about a television show is that you've created a family at that point. Everyone was so supportive and you go into it knowing the character you're playing.

VM: Did you ever find it difficult to act out some of the very crazy scenes with your character?

AL: Every time I go into this and I have those scenes coming up I'm petrified. I'm sure I can't do it and I break myself down, it's a terrible cycle. But you just show up that day and you bring everything you have. I'm such a normal human being; I have the same fears and stresses, so I try to channel that into what my character is feeling. ... It's challenging, but for some reason, I love these women and I love getting a chance to play female characters who have a hunger and a desire for life, an intensity to them.

VM: What are you working on now?

AL: I'm about to start a movie with Ed Burns, which I'm very excited about. ... In the future, I would love to do a comedy — I would love to laugh. When you're on the set of movies like this, days when we're shooting the fight scenes we're having a blast. But on days when we're shooting scenes with intense altercations between me and Derrick it's very intense. They're painful. So there's two sides of it, and I think I'm ready to lighten up a bit, maybe get a little romance and some lightness.

VM: What advice do you have for college students going out and finding their first job?

AL: Just do what you love. Find what you love to do and find a way to make money at it. We spend so much time in our work and for me, acting and making my living acting is the great passion of my life. It's something that I love so much. It scares me, it inspires me, it definitely keeps me on my toes. That's the kind of life that keeps me in the present and keeps me excited to go to work each day. On the other hand, there's not a lot of stability. You never know if you're going to have another job, but that lifestyle suits my personality. It's all about figuring out what you want to do and just going for it. I've always been one who believes that you have to go after your dreams. You're going to hear no along the way, but you just keep charging forward and you don't let people deter you from going after your goals. Write letters to the people you want to meet, keep calling if there's a job where they said no, keep going after it. If that's what you want I do believe you'll get there.

VM: Do you have any obsessions?

AL: I definitely remember when I was younger, and a couple other girls I've talked to experienced this too, where you'll sit by the phone all night long waiting for the guy to call you. This was more when I was in high school. I would have done anything to will that phone to ring. It's those kinds of games that we play in our heads that we tried to tap into with this movie. For her, she definitely takes it a little too far, but the obsessions are the stories that you tell yourself. Someone may say one thing, but it's how you misinterpret that to hear what you want to hear. I love Wheaton terriers, I love to cook, I love to watch old movies. I'm obsessed with trying to live every moment to the fullest. ☼

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 Everyone,

Well Vanderbilt, it's been a good run. I thought for my last column perhaps I'd instead think of all the good things we've accomplished. Then, I later thought and decided that would be really stupid. So, here it is: my last rant.

First, good luck getting someone as angry and WASPy as me next year. Admit it: you probably only religiously read the horoscopes, overheard and the WASP. The rest is just filler.

Next, have any of you been reading what I've written? Because seriously, spread the news. Riding bikes, walking in four-person lines, sniffing in class ... it KILLS me. I always think, "Man, someone should say something." And then I remember... oh yeah, I did!

Finally, while perhaps it is somewhat hypocritical, but I believe my last point will be about people who complain too much. Realistically, complaining at all is pretty lame. When you consider how legendary of a year this has been, and how every year will just get better and better, you don't have much footing. It's fun to joke about little annoyances, but do you realize how unattractive constant complaining is? Whether that's a passive-aggressive Facebook status or your whiny voice talking about how hard that final paper is going to be, just can it for a bit. We're among the most privileged people in the world, so start acknowledging it. Thanks.

And so with that, I sign off for the last time. Farewell, annoying aspects of Vanderbilt.

Sincerely,
An Angry WASP



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