

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

HOUSE ORGAN

www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/houseorgan

February 2010

Pets 2010



**Gilda the Great Dane,
pet therapy star**

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE HOWELL

Same as the old Boss

BY WAYNE WOOD

Come here to praise Bruce Springsteen, but first: there are several things about his song-writing that annoy me: specifically I dislike his overreliance on a few familiar phrases and concepts, among them:

- "Little girl," usually not meant to mean "female child," but instead "girlfriend or person I would like to be my girlfriend." When you start paying attention to this, it takes on the quality of a weird verbal tic. This phrase is used more than 100 times in his songs.

- "Night." Think of just some of his song titles: "Spirit in the Night," "Prove it All Night," "Because the Night," "Drive All Night," "Open All Night," "Rosalita (Come Out Tonight)," "Something in the Night," "Restless Nights," and, uh, what was that song on side one of *Born to Run*? Oh, yeah: "Night." Some of these are great songs, but still. That's an awful lot of night.

- "Day." Possibly for equal time reasons, he has also written "Glory Days," "Better Days," "Independence Day," "Lonesome Day," "Light of Day," "Kingdom of Days," "Waitin' on a Sunny Day," and "My Lucky Day."

- "Rivers." They may be muddy, black, clear or cold, but he stocks his songs liberally with them. Lots and lots of rivers being crossed, flowing by, being used as a meeting place, and generally filling in lyrical holes in songs.

- And, as my colleague and fellow Springsteenophile Kathy Whitney noted when I got off on this rant one day with her: "Roads." Here's Kathy's list: "Backstreets," "Does This Bus Stop At 82nd Street?" "Further On (Up The Road)," "Highway 29," "Highway Patrolman," "Incident On 57th Street," "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out," The E

continued on page 12



Dingle. Erin Dietrich, *Human Resources*.

Pets of the Medical Center 2010

Every year we ask for your favorite pictures of your dogs, cats, and other assorted beasts. We get several hundred. And then we select some of the best to feature. Go to the House Organ Web site at <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/houseorgan/> to vote for your favorites in the Dog, Cat, and Group or Duo categories, and also see a lot more photos of pets that we didn't have room for in the print edition.

Gilda the Great

Great Dane, that is. Gilda is a pet therapy dog who comes to the Pediatric Rehabilitation area at Vanderbilt Health One Hundred Oaks, and doesn't mind when children rub her, lie against her or even paint her toenails.



Writing Contest, 2010: Call for Entries

Are you a poet or writer walking around disguised as a regular person? Enter the *House Organ* Writing Contest and come one day this summer you can be forwarding the link to your story or poem around to all your envious friends.

On Facebook?

Become a fan of VUMC *House Organ* and post comments about the pet issue. Connect at the House Organ Web site at <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/houseorgan>



On Twitter?

Comment on the issue or the pet poll using the hashtag #vandypets

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Hope. Judy Arena, Clinical Nutrition Services

Pets of the Medical Center 2010

Vote online for the Medical Center Dog, Cat, and Group or Duo of the Year

Ten things about the Pets of the Medical Center 2010.

- More than 500 entries poured in after the contest was announced in September.
- One of the best ways to describe the overall effect is “A bonanza of cuteness.”
- For budget reasons, fewer pages of pets are included in the print version than in previous years; to make up for this, many more pets are featured on the *House Organ* Web site, <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/houseorgan/>
- The pets in the print version represent 10 dogs, 10 cats, and 10 groups or duos of friends.
- Also at the *House Organ* site, there is a link to the 2010 *House Organ* Pet Poll, which allows readers to vote on favorites, one vote per computer per category.
- Those attempting to circumvent the voting process by automatic votes or other means will be disqualified.
- The categories and pets in the poll are the same as those in the print version—10 dogs, 10 cats, and 10 groups or duos.
- Voting begins at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, and concludes at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18.
- Top vote getters in each category will be announced on the *House Organ* site, and will also be featured in the March 2010 issue, which will be posted online Friday, March 5.
- Those who missed the deadline for entry for this pet contest should look for the call for entries in the September 2010 issue of *House Organ*.

Vote for your favorite DOG



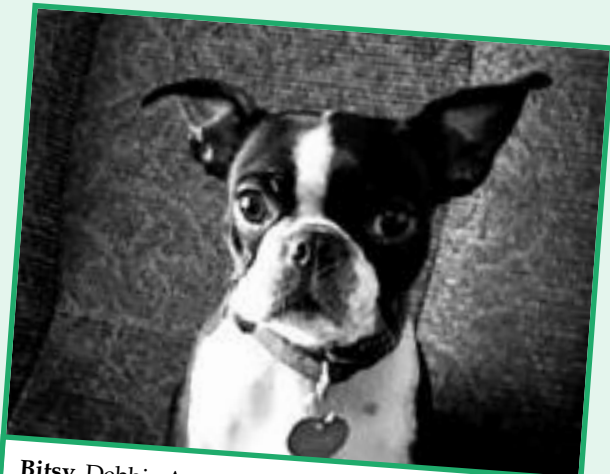
Lucy. Lauren Ferzoco, NICU.



Nick. Vicki Gann, Liver Transplant.



Bella Grace. Evie Carroll, Perioperative Services.



Bitsy. Debbie Arnow, Nursing Education.



Mocha. Sandy Yoder, Vaccine Center. "A friend gave her the snazzy black party dress and I put it on her to model it."



Zeus. Shelley Sadler, *Clinical Staffing Resource Center.*



Riley. Vicki Scala, *Bill Wilkerson Center.*



Buster Douglas. Misty Sumner, *Human Resources.*



Macy. Laura Williams, *Pediatric Surgery.*



Hanna. Annette Ehrhart, *Center for Health Services.* "Every morning she has to go get the newspaper from the end of the driveway. Neither rain, thunderstorms, nor snow keeps her from her duty."

Vote online at
www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/houseorgan

Vote

for your favorite

CAT



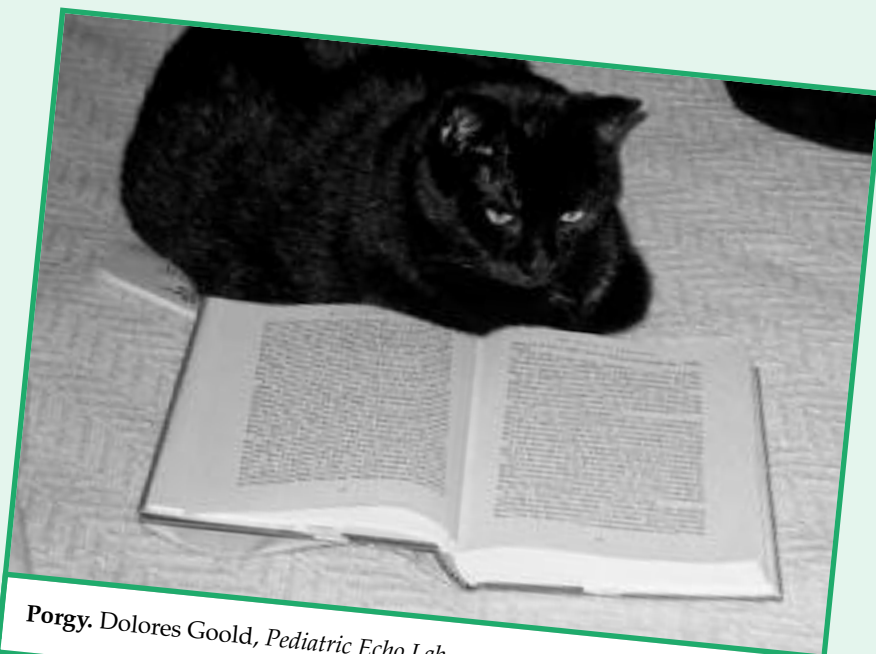
Lilly Belle. Kathleen Mandato, VMG Training.



Jake. Donna De Pasquale, Office of Research.



Oreo. Tom Faircloth, Perioperative Informatics and Computing.



Porgy. Dolores Goold, Pediatric Echo Lab.



Barney. David M. DiPersio, Pharmacy.



Poppey. Michele Stratton, *Radiology.*



Mr. Head. Louise Warren, 11 North Myelosuppression. "Our once untouchable, malnourished stray [is] now a fat, sassy lap cat."



Maggie, Ginger Ketschke, Social Work (Orthopaedics & Urology). "Maggie was a failure to thrive kitten, adopted from the Williamson County Animal Shelter. She currently weighs in at 21 pounds."



Sydney. Sally Lindsey, *Rehabilitation Services.*



Smuckers. Debbie Pounders, *Insurance Management.*

Vote online at
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Vote

for your favorite

GROUP OR DUO



Morgan and Tess. Judy Arena, *Clinical Nutrition Services.*



"Colonel the English Bulldog protecting grandson, Preston." Kathy Wehmeyer, *Pediatric Primary Care Clinic.*



Hank and Molly. Diane Kolb, *Biostatistics.* "Hank and Molly were cast offs from other families and ended up in rescue. Though not sister and brother, you cannot separate the two of them."



"Midnight, Sydney & Charlie Brown." Ronald Emeson, *Pharmacology.*



Smalls and Minnie. Bryana Andrews, VMG Clinic Pharmacy.
"They sleep like this every night and follow each other around like they are stuck at the hip."



Stella and Tess. Shawn Scarbrough, VMG Coding and Charge Entry.



Bella (miniature Vietnamese potbellied pig) and Bo. Lisa Sisk, Clinical Staffing Resource Center. *"I just happened to snap this pic of their first meeting nose to nose as they explored each other."*



Gypsy, Kess and Mocha Bits. Mary C. Stevenson, Pediatric Endocrinology.



Sylvester and Rascal. Beth Braswell, Neurosurgery.



Preston and my daughter, Cameron. Timothy Cox, Systems Support.

Vote online at

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A GREAT Friend

Gilda the Great Dane provides a gentle presence for children at Pediatric Rehab

BY CAROLE BARTOO

Gilda the Great Dane is getting dressed to visit the children in the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation Services at Vanderbilt Health. She puts on a T-shirt—covered in signatures from her many fans—and a pink tutu. She trots down the hallway at Vanderbilt Health One Hundred Oaks, and is stopped by an employee who wants to give her a kiss. This happens all the time. Gilda reaches up with her cavernous snout to give her fan a little love back.

Gilda manages to be both a big, lumbering dog and precious, tender caregiver at the same time. She and her handler, Sarah Rizhaupt, prove that love knows no bounds: not ability level, or size, or even species.

"She's amazing, I like the way she interacts with the kids. She's humble, as big as she is," said Travis Frierson, whose 10-year-old son Travis Jr. sees Gilda on Mondays at his pediatric rehabilitation appointments.

Frierson watches as the Great Dane and Rizhaupt get Travis into a coloring project in the waiting room. Gilda lies serenely while Rizhaupt encourages the boy to draw a birthday cake on Gilda's T-shirt. It's Gilda's fourth birthday. Travis asks if he can draw on Gilda's huge, black toenails. No problem. Out comes the yellow marker for a doggy pedicure. The Dane lifts her huge head to peek at the artist for a moment before lumping her head right into his lap.

"Loving, very loving personality. She loves kids like Travis. She was lying on Travis. I'm like, 'OK, Travis wants to take her home,'" chuckled Frierson, adding "but that's good."

She's a natural

Not all young patients want to take the Great Dane home. Some are simply afraid of dogs, so Gilda and Sarah are careful to stay away. Other children might grab at her or try to climb up for a ride, but no matter what the reaction from young patients, Gilda stands calmly as Rizhaupt and the therapists work with the children.

Lessons are learned about proper touching and respect for

animals. Sometimes children are more confident with a hand on the big dog than they might be holding an adult's hand. The children and the adults are doing serious work here and Gilda plays her part with great patience and trust. She is a natural.

Rizhaupt says she could see Gilda was special right from the start. A few years ago, after losing her first beloved Great Dane to bone cancer, she went looking for another. The only requirement was that the dog had to have a calm personality. Gilda was up for adoption, after her owners had retired her from a budding career as a show dog, when a slight heart murmur was discovered. As a groomer, Rizhaupt has seen all types. She knew Gilda was the one.

"Gilda is the gentlest dog I have ever known," says Rizhaupt. "At home she doesn't even get up or bark at strangers. One time a strange guy showed up at my back door with a clipboard. Gilda came around the corner and he took one look and just ran off without even saying anything. I thought—'If he only knew.'"



Gilda gets a kiss from her owner Sarah Rizhaupt at One Hundred Oaks after volunteering with children in Pediatric Rehab.



Cheyann Dillard, 3, shares a laugh with Gilda and her owner Sarah Rizhaupt.

Rizhaupt wanted to find a way for Gilda to use her gentle spirit with children. An intensive Delta Animal Assistance course followed for both Rizhaupt and Gilda. Gilda is a Delta registered Great Dane, which means she has met the standards of the Delta Society, a group which trains and registers pet therapy animals and handlers. Then they found the volunteer opportunities at Vanderbilt about eight months ago.

Sarah completed the Vanderbilt Volunteer Services volunteer requirements, which parallel the process to become an employee at Vanderbilt. It was no small task with an interview, trainings, immunizations, and a background check—all are necessary steps to serve at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. But it has turned out to be a perfect fit.

Come on, Eileen

"Her middle name is 'Eileen.' That's what Sarah says, because she just comes up and does 'the lean' into everyone she meets. I think that Gilda recognizes how each patient is feeling intuitively," said Laurie Kush, volunteer coordinator for Vanderbilt One Hundred Oaks.

Kush says the Delta Animal Assistance teams are among the most dedicated, and popular volunteers. Gilda even has her own fan club.

"A Delta Team takes a patient's mind off of perhaps the worst day of their life. Just to have a non-judgmental set of eyes and a soft coat to touch really defuses anxiety. The dogs provide stress relief for everyone at One Hundred Oaks—our patients, families and staff," Kush said.

On this typically-rewarding Monday, after two hours of loving children and their families, and employees and everyone else, Gilda and Rizhaupt head home. On the way to the car, it doesn't matter how many times people stop them in the long hallway at One Hundred Oaks; Gilda always has the patience to stop, and absorb a little petting with a wag of a tail.

"It is really awesome to be Gilda's mom and handler but the best part is to see us together improving human health," Rizhaupt said.

To see a video about Vanderbilt volunteers, including Gilda, go to: www.vanderbiltchildrens.org/interior.php?mid=6296&video_id=71

Sometimes children are more confident with a hand on the **big dog** than they might be holding an adult's hand.

Street Shuffle," "Thunder Road," "Two For The Road," "Working On The Highway" and "Wreck On The Highway."

Please note what I said above. Bruce Springsteen is one of my favorites, and I'm grateful for the company his music has provided me through the last 35 years or so of my life. Really, when I was 16 I was running around my high school telling people how great he was, when he was unknown—possibly the only time in my life I've been ahead of a major trend. Unless you count that unfortunate haircut from the fourth grade, which, in its own way, set the stage for the punk movement.

I bought his first two albums and drove my parents crazy playing them over and over on the Capehart console stereo in the living room. I couldn't wait to buy *Born to Run* when it was released, and the night I got it home I played it all the way through, from start to finish, twice, reading the lyric sheet as it went. I decided my favorite was "Jungleland." I was a kid with good taste.

The first time he came to my hometown, Knoxville, I was there. I went

with my girlfriend, Sharon. Coincidentally, Sharon has been with me every other time I've seen Springsteen over the years. Funny how that worked out.

Anyway, when he played Nashville a few weeks ago, we were in the audience again. It's a good thing, because I had trouble believing what I was seeing.

Fact one: Bruce Springsteen is 60 years old.

Fact two: The first time I saw him he was in his 20s.

Incredible fact three: He seems to have more energy now than he did then.

I'm not kidding. The music was great, the E Street Band was somehow tight and loose at the same time, and the energy in the Sommet Center was such that a to-remain-nameless middle-aged white guy was loudly singing along to "Thunder Road" and didn't care who knew.

And then there was the moment we were all talking about the next day. During the song "Darlington County," a group of young women on the front row, most of whom were sporting pink cowboy hats, were invited up on stage to dance. And I

had this moment of instant recognition: *I knew one of them*. It was my Division of Public Affairs colleague Beth Fox (who happens to be Kathy Whitney's sister—love of the Boss is a family trait). And, after dancing, as Beth was about to leave the stage, she realized she had been standing right beside Bruce Springsteen and had not, of all the ridiculous oversights, kissed him. So she ran back and did.

Really. You can see all this on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Epu-tzESK00> Beth is the one in the blue scarf.

The entire concert, even to those of us who did not get to share the stage with the band, was, to borrow the title of a recent Springsteen album, magic. Springsteen produces music that matters to me, music that could seem both profound and joyful when I first experienced it as a teenager. We're all older now, but that cold night at the Sommet Center was proof that the joy still remains.

I'll forgive him, even if he writes a song about taking the highway down to the river to meet his little girl one night. If he hasn't already.

Call for Entries: *House Organ* Writing Contest

26th Annual *House Organ* Writing Contest Deadline May 10

■ For the 26th year, the July *House Organ* will be the Summer Reading Issue, filled with the winners of the *House Organ* Writing Contest—poems, short stories and nonfiction pieces contributed by Vanderbilt staff, faculty and students.

Every year demonstrates that Vanderbilt has a lot of people with literary talent walking around disguised as regular people, and the *House Organ* Writing Contest is a chance to show everybody what you can do.

The rules are pretty simple.

There are three categories: poetry, fiction and nonfiction.

There are no length restrictions in the poetry category.

The fiction category is limited to 4,000 words.

The nonfiction category, which encompasses journalistic writing, memoirs, feature stories, historical pieces, profiles of interesting people, or any-

thing else that's true, also has a 4,000-word limit.

Please indicate the category of your entry; sometimes it's a little hard for the judges to figure out what is fiction and what is nonfiction.

All Vanderbilt staff and faculty, except those who work in News and Communications, are eligible. Medical, nursing and graduate students are also eligible.

Submissions are limited to three per category. Each entry must be submitted online as an attachment in Microsoft Word (or other compatible format), and have the author's name, place of employment or school, and a phone number at the top of the first page. Entries may be sent to wayne.wood@vanderbilt.edu. Please put "writing contest entry" in the subject line.

Entries may be edited for space, clarity or style before publication.

Deadline for entry is Monday, May 10.

Please push the send button before midnight on that day.

The winners will be published in *House Organ*. In past years, it has also been possible to publish some honorable mentions.

Address any questions to the editor, Wayne Wood, at 322-4747, or at the e-mail address above.

Checklist for entries:

- Author information: Name, department or school, address and phone number on first page.
- Entry information: Category—fiction, nonfiction or poetry. Check to be sure your work is within the length requirement.
- Entries must be sent as an attachment in Microsoft Word (or other compatible format).
- Deadline is May 10.