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Hmong immigration

Mai Lee Yang Sr.
Staff Writer

There are approximately 15,000 Hmong people coming to the United States this month. This will be the largest U.S. resettlement of Hmong refugee since Thailand closed its Ban Napho refugee camp in 1997. The United States will accept 800-900 Hmong refugees each month, with no conditions attached, to total the expected 15,000. The rest of the refugees will stay in Thailand and continue to be cared for by their government. Most are expected to settle in Minnesota and California. At this time roughly 195,000 Hmong and 135,000 low land Lao live in the United States.

The reason for this large wave of Hmong people being allowed into the U.S. is the relationship they had with the United States government during the Vietnam war. Dur-

ing the war, Hmong mountain people worked closely with the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) They helped rescue American pilots who crashed in Laos, they fought Lao and North Vietnamese troops with the U.S., and some watched over mountain and jungle areas to help the U.S.

Then, in 1975, after the communist Pathet Lao took over their country, several hundred thousand pro-American Hmong fled their country to go to Thailand and were placed in refugee camps (treatment by communists.) Many of these people went to the United States, but many others didn't go because relatives in the U.S. told them stories that scared them into not going. At that time, the U.S. government offered amnesty
HMONG Continued On 7

New fraquetball season

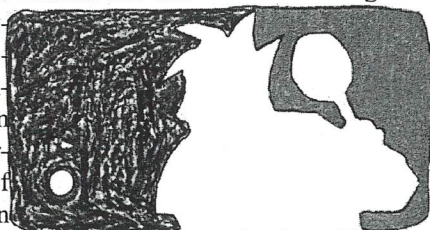
Andrew

The third season of Fraquetball was kicked off on in January. Sixteen teams signed up. Teams were organized into two conferences -- the Northern and the Eastern -- with two four-team divisions in each.

Many new teams were formed this season, some of the more interesting additions include: Aggressive Tendencies, (math teacher Tom Totushek, who plays a particularly physical brand of fraquetball, and Aaron Izaksonas-Smith); Devlin Byrne is back with newcomer Zachary Gilliland in Byrning Gilliland; Webster's Dictionary is the newest female team (Serena Anderson and Rachel Dauner); Spic Nasty and Spic 2 Mik (Antonio Rosario and Alex Johnson); and the newest all teacher team, The Foreigners (Physi-

cal Education teacher Matt Walker and computer lab supervisor Volodymyr Kucherenko).

There are also several experienced teams returning in hopes of settling a score or at least breaking in the new teams. The Jes-



son 5 (Nathan Jesson and Doug Anderson) is back to defend its title, the Gentle Giants (Sean Keith and Cameron Beitler) are anxious to regain its championship form, The Lovable Little People (Jaime Avila and Andrew Hoaglund) looks to challenge in the playoffs, Los Geezers (Tim and Leo) hope to challenge again for the title, and The Realists (Brandon Moore and Ed Malone) --coming off an upset of the Little
SEASON 2 Continued on 7

My Ruin

Cami Rosas
Staff Columnist

Metal Edge recently put out an issue with Evanescence's Amy Lee on the cover. They claimed she was "leading the new wave of female superstars." I read this and thought, "god, I hope not." The issue also had interviews from other female-fronted bands like My Ruin, Lacuna Coil, and Arch Enemy.

After getting excited that, finally, some of my favorite bands were getting covered, I soon felt very disgusted with Metal Edge. I mean, there have always been women who rock even if they aren't necessarily in rock, but they haven't gotten a lot of credit for it. And now that Evanescence gets big they act as if all these great bands just began their careers.

What's so great about Amy Lee that makes her the leader of women rockers anyway? She's pretty, I guess. She wears "cool" clothes and her music videos get aired on MTV all the time. (Fake enthusiastic gasp) She MUST be the Messiah! The first and
RUIN Continued on 7

Doug puts in his two cents about the new Strokes CD: page 4

Hmong movie tastes: Goncole picks a top four: page 5

Along Came Polly, see Chloe's comments : page 6

The Purple Press Staff

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Adult to Blame

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D.I. Tournament Dates:

Come support our school's Destination Imagination teams at the regional and state tournaments.

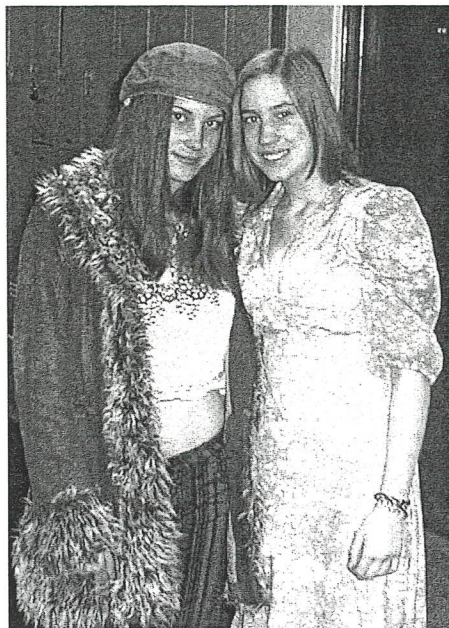
The East Metro Regional Tournament will be held Saturday, March 6th at Harding High School.

The State Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 17th at Blaine High School.
Good Luck Teams!

College Corner

Most seniors are eagerly waiting early April to see which colleges will accept them, although some colleges have already sent out acceptance letters. Sierra Blakely has already been accepted to University of Minnesota Morris and the University of Montana- Missoula, and is putting her packet together for graduation. Gus Olsen-Stone has been accepted to Winona State University and is putting his graduation packet together in hopes of qualifying for a scholarship. Aaron Izaksonas-Smith got accepted to the University of Minnesota Morris, and is eagerly awaiting more acceptance letters. Clara Iwaszek has been accepted at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and is also working on her packet. Lizzie Shramko has become the first senior this year to graduate, and has applied to New York University, as well as the University of Puget Sound, Occidental, and Macalester. Congratulations Lizzie, and good luck seniors!

Snow Days 04'



Prom plans

Sreyleak Khorn
Staff Writer

This year's prom is going to be held at The Kelly Inn Hotel, near Sears in St. Paul On April 30th.

"It's a nice ballroom setting, and will be fabulously decorated by student government," said student government advisor Jeff Caulum. "There will be a great food spread as well as a dance floor, tables, and a photographer."

The theme is going to be One in a Million and the colors are baby blue and lavender. The plan for music is to hire a DJ, though no one has been hired yet.

The cost for renting the hotel is \$1,000. Money will be raised mainly through a Krispy Kreme fundraiser -- forms will go out in the February newsletter. Every dozen donuts sold will earn a \$1.00 discount off a prom ticket. So if you sell 20 dozen donuts, your prom ticket is FREE!

Prom will cost the same as last year: \$20.00 -- much cheaper than other school area. Plus, if you do Krispy Kreme fundraising, it's even cheaper.

Last year's prom was held at The Caves of Wabasha. It cost \$3,000 to stage prom, including all costs: rental, catering, security, decorations and invitations.◊

Open abroad

Cameron Beitler
Staff Writer

Italy, yes that is where the next OEA (Open Education Abroad) trip is aiming for. The trip is scheduled to take place next October, over MEA. The trip that Bridget wants to go on is called Northern Italian Classics, which will take the kids through Florence, Venice, Milan, and Rome. The trip will be much less oriented around fundraising and require the children to fork over a lot more of the money.

Math teacher Tom Totushek has expressed interest in chaperoning along with Bridget. Tom went with the kids to Spain this fall. The trip will cost around \$1,700 and will last 11 days. Bridget expects this trip to draw a large crowd of students, many of whom went to Spain. People are already getting excited to go on another trip and many are happy that the next trip is happening so soon.



Shmuel Blyly-Strauss

Years at Open: 6 years

Extracurricular activities: Martial Arts, And Frisbee

Senior Profile



What are you planning to do next year?

Eh, go to college somewhere.

What will you miss most about Open?

How everybody knows you.

What is your favorite book, movie, or TV. show?

A book of Five Rings, by Miyamoto Musashi

What is your favorite class in high school?

Creative Problem Solving, probably

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

Super Swordsmanship

What is one job you would like to have as an adult?

Either Marital Arts Instructor, or a tech guy

If you could meet one person dead or alive, who would it be?

Miyamoto Musashi

Hmong movie tastes: a top four list

Goncoley Her
Staff Writer

Hmong people love movies. Most Hmong women like romance, while the guys tend to like comedy, action and martial arts. Our parents like movies about the Vietnam War. While Hmong tastes aren't completely different, they do tend to favor films with Asian connections, or at least a lot of fighting scenes. Here is a list of four movies Hmong students consider to be some of the best.

1. Shaolin Soccer - Chinese

Shaolin Soccer, written and directed by Stephen Chow, is a comedy based on soccer, kung fu, magic, martial arts and romance -- a perfect Hmong combination.

Fung is a former soccer star known as "Golden Leg" who lost a game after injuring his leg in an "accident" arranged by another jealous player. Twenty years later, Fung is now working for a soccer player that he used to pick on. He runs his "evil soccer team" and treats Fung like dirt. One day, Fung meets up with a Shaolin Kung Fu master, Sing (Stephen Chow) and after seeing Sing fight off some aggressors by kicking

soccer balls at them, he gets the idea of putting together a kung fu soccer team. Sing gathers his Shaolin brothers and they start on their quest to become a championship team. Sing also meets a girl named Mei (Vicki Zhao), a shy, charming, but hideous-looking girl who uses her Tai Chi skills to



make the best steamed bread in the world. *Shaolin Soccer* is probably one of the most unforgettable films you will see, ever. Like many soccer games, most players get badly hurt, but in this movie, they get hurt even worse. It is crazy and whacked out, but in a good way that you can't help thinking about constantly. There's a scene where Sing throws an egg away and it goes into one of his brother's mouths and one of his other brothers comes and starts eating the egg right

out of his mouth! This film is a wacky comedy that is pure fun to watch. It is the perfect film when you want to sit down, have a laugh, and have some fun.

2. LOTR: Return of the King - American

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King, the last movie of Lord of the Rings trilogy, starts off explaining how Smeagol, who later becomes Gollum, came to possess the ring. It then resumes with Frodo, Sam, and Gollum as they continue on the journey to destroy the ring in the land of Mordor. It is in Mordor that Gollum and the ring almost end the strong friendship between Frodo and Sam. They also encounter a new enemy - an ugly giant spider. The hobbit pair courageously travels on to the heart of Mordor, to Mount Doom, where the ring can be destroyed. Meanwhile, the rest of the fellowship, led by Aragorn, travel to Minas Tirith, an ancient city. Soon, Aragorn is revealed as the

MOVIES Continued on 8

Strokes: first album better

Doug Anderson
Staff Writer

There has been a lot of buzz around New York rock band The Strokes these days. They have recently released a new album, which they are on tour in Europe promoting. They have been on the cover of Rolling Stone, and were on Late Night with Conan O'Brien every Tuesday night for a month back in November. There has also been a lot of hype

around their new album titled *Room On Fire*, which, as far as I had heard, was very promising.

The Strokes is made up of five real cool cats. Julian Casablancas, the vocalist, (whose father, might I add, owns a modeling agency), Nick Valensi and Albert Hammond, Jr., on guitar, Nikolai Fraiture on bass, and Fab Moretti on drums. Casablancas, Moretti, and Valensi met at the Dwight Institute High School, dropped out in succession, and decided to form a band, to which they later added Fraiture and Hammond, Jr. They be-

came friends with Ryan Gentles, the booker at the Mercury Lounge, a New York City club. He landed them some gigs, and they performed up to snuff. Word gets around, and not long after they were able to record the album *Is This It?*, their first LP. They followed up *Is This It?* with their recently released album *Room On Fire*, which left me

asking, is this it?

Now don't get me wrong, I do like this album. It is a good album.

But, when compared to *Is This It?*, it is soo much better! There was so much hype surrounding *Room On Fire*, and many people were comparing it to *Is This It?*, saying it was even better... But then I listened to it for the first time, and they were WRONG. Horribly WRONG. I was left with a feeling of nothing, a gaping void of nothing in the pit of my stomach. How great.

My only real problem with the album is
THE STROKES Continued on 7



Controversial ICP calling it quits

Angie Hauslanden
Staff Writer

The Dark Carnival has finally come to an end. The epic saga which thousands of Juggalos and Juggalettes have followed for years is over. The last piece of the six jokers card has almost fallen, showing us the end of time itself.

Insane Clown Posse started out as a Detroit band and has always stayed true to its roots. They have had a lot of problems with picketers and others trying to stop them from making their music, but they have never stopped, no matter what the public does to try and stop them.

Insane Clown Posse has announced the end of their music career. They've said since the beginning of the Carnival of Carnage, the first of the jokers cards, which is what they call their albums, that 6 jokers cards would be released with hidden messages, and now the time has finally come for the last card to drop and an era to stop.

The Wraith: Hells Pit will be released in November and make good on ICP's promise to release every joker card to the world.

At the beginning, most people refused to accept this carnival freak show, but ICP slowly found people who were left out of everything and could relate. These fans are called The Juggalos and Juggalettes.

The music ICP plays is a little over the top many have accused the band of devil worship but as told in The Wraith Shangri-La, they too follow God. Their performance is unique. The moment they get on stage, they start spraying Faygo, a cheap detroit brand of soda, all over the crowd. When they enter the stage, they tend to make a big entrance. Once they came out chained to trolleys and there was a count down to when they unlocked the chains.

To say that Insane Clown Posse is one of the most hated groups ever is not an overstatement, yet they are also the most loved by its fans. In fact, they hold a Gathering, a three day event where they play music and have many activities such as play basketball, play paint ball, wrestle lots of wres-

INSANE CLOWNS Continued On 8

Top Rock 03'

Gus Olsen
Staff Writer

Over the past year we have seen some truly excellent rock releases. Now in '04, it's time to look back reflectively to learn a lesson. Listen closely as an inner voice tells you, THE BEST ROCK ALBUMS OF 2003.

5. *Vital Remains - Dechristianize*

Vital Remains has been around for a while, and has gone through many line up changes, yet until '03 they hadn't created a definitive release. *Dechristianize*, from Olympic records, is not only a definitive release for the band, but also a definitive album for death metal in general. "This is like the best album ever!" proclaimed the clerk who sold it to me. The combination of the power metal lead guitar of Dave Suzuki and the grinding heavy rhythm guitar of Tony Lazaro is devastating. Though I don't know who the live band consists of, *Dechristianize* has Glenn Benton on vocals. With this line up you can't go wrong.

4. *Mando Diao - Bring 'Em In*

Just in time for '03 some new kids throw their hats into the ring. They play a variety of retro styles, some comparable to the Beatles. This is the very first full-length album from Mando Diao, and it's fantastic. "It's an excellent achievement in music," said Sophomore Cameron Beitler.

"They are from Sweden," said junior Geoff Freeman. Personally, I hope to see more albums like *Bring 'Em In* in the future.

3. *Dimmu Borgir - Deathcult Armageddon*

Forged by Dimmu Borgir and wrought upon the earth by Nuclear Blast records, this was possibly the most anticipated metal album of last year. Dimmu Borgir, backed by a whole orchestra, could there be any thing more intense? "Oh Yeah!" said senior Joe Anderson.

"*Death Cult Armageddon* will vanquish the lords of old," said Creative Arts High School student, Marcos Richardson. If you have the internet at home, I recommend you listen to "*Progenies of the Great Apocalypse*" on www.nuclearblast.com. This song is a perfect example of the avant garde style of *Death Cult Armageddon*, the most epic release of last year.

2. *Iron Maiden - Dance of Death* **BEST MUSIC** Continued On 9

Eyedeade & Abilities speaks

Antonio Rosario
Staff Writer

Eyedeade and Abilities, for people who know them, are a dynamic duo in hip hop. With Eyedeade on the mic, and Abilities on the ones-and-twos, they can do whatever they want. But their new album, self-titled E&A, really pushes the musical envelope. But who else to tell us about the album, then the man himself, Eyedeade.

"Really the idea for the new Eyedeade and Abilities record was creating the musical scape as complete as possible and then putting the words to it. I think that that way, I became more of an intelligent writer," stated Eyedeade.

How does Eyedeade feel about his performance on E&A?

"I feel like my delivery, my words, my word choices are at their maximum right now and the little that I see passed it is what I'm gonna use for the next stuff. Now I'm on some whole other trip. I want to actually sit down and write the music from start to finish...no samples. Nothing. Just write the chords, write the progressions and straight up make Hip Hop ballads. We touched it on this new record, we touched it at least three times. Those three songs are both me and Max's (Abilities) favorite songs. Everything else, we're like "Yeah, it's good." But there are three which poke through and think that they're touching on something else that we

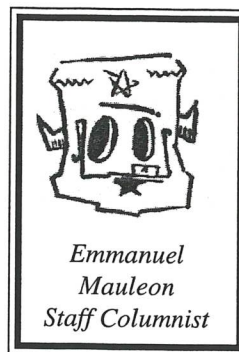
haven't really messed with yet."

And what can we expect on the new E&A album?

"The basic point of this record was to take the turntables and make them an instrument, make them part of it. I'd say I'm rapping on about 60%, the rest is scratching. It's a lot of back and forth. He plays the role of what would traditionally be played by another rapper in the group. It's almost like there are two rappers; two front men. And that's awesome. The record is self titled, it's called "E & A," we just wanted it to show that this is a developed piece of music that we can stand on. The two guest appearances are a rapper named Karnage from the Twin Cities. He's also on the '*Oliver Hart*' record, and DJ Infamous...I'm not gonna say nothing about it now, but the song that they do together - I'm not even on it. It's just the two of them, it's f%^&in' crazy. What they do has never been done."

The album is scheduled to drop anywhere from March 23rd, so any hip hop fans should go get this. Because if everything he's hyping up is true, this is going to be an A+ album. Even if you're a Radio K listener, I suggest you get this when it comes out. This is going to be something we've never heard before...◇

Hurricanes?



Britney Spears was reportedly very nervous while she signed the binding documentation. She was now married. The lucky man? A childhood sweetheart from her home of Louisiana. Witnesses say that she was shaking,

and was dressed in ripped jeans at her Las Vegas wedding. It was annulled 56 hours later, a hurricane of a celebrity marriage.

Hurricanes, as many of you know, aren't just a term for something that was a disaster. Oh no my friends.

"Hurricanes are tropical storms that take place in the Western Hemisphere, because if it's in the Eastern Hemisphere, it is known as a 'Typhoon.' They are generated off the west coast of Africa, and they come to the United States on ocean current. Most of their energy comes from moisture, so that is why they usually die out on land," shared science teacher Julie Doble. "They rotate counter-clockwise, and have extremely low air pressure."

Other interesting facts about hurricanes are they have an "eye" of low pressure in the center of all the spinning. They usually last 2 to 14 days, move east to west at about 10 to 30 miles per hour, and can be anywhere from 50 to 100 miles wide.

But we all know this right? We want to dig deeper, right? Who is this Hurricane?

"If a song were made about hurricane, I would sing along, because I like water!" said tenth grader Jaleel White.

Guess what Jaleel, you are in luck! There is a song about your hero Hurricane!

"Yeah, 'Here I Am, Rock Me Like A Hurricane!' " informed Jessé Erdman, ninth grader.

"I like that song, 'Rock Me Like A Hurricane.' No, I don't like hurricanes, but I like Byron, he's HOT! We're gonna rock and ride a hurricane of love!"

Well, I guess Mr. H. is less attractive than Byron, but he's still one tough (sunshine) dude. How tough?

"Hurricane is a wimp, I could kick his (sunshine)! No, I don't think I could live through a hurricane," said ninth grader Glen DeVore.

WOODEN SPOON Continued on 10

Alicia Keys nails album #2

Christian McGee
Staff Writer

"Baby! Baby! Baby!" screams Alicia Keys in the hit single, "You Don't Know My Name," on her newly released second album, *The Diary of Alicia Keys*.

She released her first album in 2001 at the age of 19. Raised in New York, she began playing the piano at the age of four. Much like her first album, "*Songs in A Minor*," she sings about the ups and downs of love. In "*If I Ain't Got You*" she belts out "...some people want it all, but I don't want nothin' at all, if it ain't you baby." Then in "*Dragon Days*" she sings of a crush. In "*Wake Up*" she speaks on the issue of being shady in a relationship and not realizing you're in love.

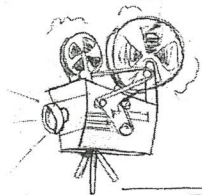
She expresses her feelings through excellent metaphors and phrases. In "*If I Was Your Woman/Walk On By*," she says, "You're

like a diamond, but she treats you like glass." Her experience and skills have been well polished over the years, as you can see on this album.

Overall, she does a bang up job on this comeback album. After two years she's back, stronger than ever. With help from producers like Clive Davis and Kanye West, She mixes soulful R & B/ Hip Hop and 80's Funk. combined with her amazing vocals this cd is fabulous. "Something special 'bout you, I must really like you, 'cuz not allotta guys are worth my time," she sings in "You Don't Know My name."

This CD is perfect for anybody who likes soulful jazz, R & B, Hip Hop, and Funk. This album is very emotional and upbeat. On a \$1 - \$20 scale, I'd pay \$18.◇

Polly, ferret, earn laughs



Chloe Taipale
Staff Writer

What, my friends, could be a better way to kick off 2004 than a movie with a ferret in a sweater, a French scuba instructor, and hand-embroidered towels? There are none, silly. Universal's new movie, *Along Came Polly*, offers all this and so much more.

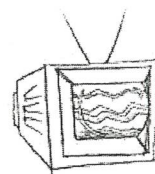
Along Came Polly is about Reuben (Ben Stiller), a risk-assessment agent-y guy who is what some -- no wait, everybody -- would call a rather stick-in-the-mud kind of fellow. He tries to avoid danger at all costs, and knows weird tidbits of information, like his chances of falling through a subway grate and the many, many dangers of eating mixed nuts at a bar. He marries Lisa (Debra Messing), but on the first day of their honeymoon she gets pretty "familiar" (and so will the whole movie theater audience, as you'll see) with the oh-so-sexy French scuba instructor Claude (Hank Azaria).

So Reuben leaves her and goes back to

New York. His best friend Sandy (Philip Seymour Hoffman) was a child star, and is now in some "honk if you love Jesus" play at the community theater. Reuben and Sandy go to an art gallery thing (full of those "modern art" sculptures, which really aren't art, just lazy middle-aged guys who wanted to be artists but found out that they have no talent whatsoever, so they take the easy way out and sit there mashing up a ball of clay and calling it "despair," or something. Honestly, I saw one of those paintings that had just a box and a line on it, and it was declared "exquisite art," and it was super expensive, and don't say I don't appreciate that aspect of the different expressions of the art or some crap like that, it's just NOT ART), and he sees his old middle school buddy Polly (Jennifer Aniston). They're having a nice conversation, when Polly is pulled

CRACKER *Continued On 9*

The O.C.



Aaron Schutjer
Staff Writer

The OC is the new "numba 1" super fantastic hit from Fox, and I'm here to tell you all about it. The O.C. (Orange County) is about the exploits of a young ex-hoodlum, Ryan and his new found family. Ryan (played by Benjamin McKenzie), is an out-cast of sorts in the rich county of California. He was in trouble with the cops in his hometown of Chino and Sandy Cohen, a court appointed public defender (played by Peter Gallagher), comes to him offering help. Ryan refuses, but when he goes home, his screaming mother makes him leave. Looking for a bed, Ryan calls Sandy and he offers him a place to stay, and that's how Ryan comes to live in the O.C.

This show is the best new network series on the air. There is more to this show than you might think. Right now, you're probably all saying "Gee Aaron, isn't this gonna be like every other young



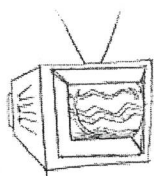
romantic / comedy / drama." Well it isn't, and you guys should shut up, because Fox will definitely not pull it off like they did Pasadena, if they know what's good for them.

One of the best things about this hot, steamy show, is the sets, beautiful lush California, oceans, big houses with pools and hot tubs. There are also a lot of beautiful people. I don't think I've ever seen more attractive people on one show. I'd say most of the actors could probably model professionally to say the least.

Now I joined in on the viewing of this show about 4 or 5 episodes into the season, which focuses mostly on the romantic interests of Ryan and Seth. Soon after Ryan starts living with Sandy and his family, he hooks up with Marissa, the tall, big lipped blonde who appears to be a good girl.

ORANGE COUNTY *Continued On 9*

Reality TV's latest trip



Allie Costello
Staff Writer

A new spin on reality dating has come to the Fox Network. *My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiancé* is about a woman trying to convince her parents that she is marrying the most obnoxious man I have ever seen in my life.

What she doesn't know is that he is being paid to act obnoxious toward her and her family. In order to get a million dollars, she must go through with the marriage no matter how obnoxious he is being and no matter how much her family disagrees.

The whole time her family is falling for her practical joke, she is falling for the show's practical joke. Her "fiancé" is a hired

professional actor working on his improve skills. Not only is he scamming her, his "family" is in on it. The cameras will cover everything from the engagement party to the actual wedding ceremony.

The episode I saw involved her meeting her fiancé for the first time. Randi, a first grade teacher, had no contact with her family for three weeks. For those three weeks



her family was told that she was on a reality show. She must be able to get affectionate with Steve, the fiancé, in front of her family and friends. The deal was sealed when Steve got on one knee and asked her to marry him and she said

yes. The so called couple were shown around their new home, for the time being.

In order to get the money she has to get her entire family and all her friends to show

REALITY TV *Continued on 8*

HMONG From 1

in the U.S. because they helped out in the time of war and deserved the opportunity.

The Thai government had plans to move the rest of the Hmong to an isolated military zone. They have been wanting to get rid of the Lao Hmong people to improve its relations with Laos. The Lao people say that the Hmong use Thailand as base for their armies and the Hmong say the Lao government is mean to their people.

To come to the U.S., the state department said that the Hmong had to be registered at the temple in August. They will also have to pass medical exams and back ground checks. Interviews with those wanting to move to the U.S. will start in February. They will need to show that they have a fear of being punished or harassed due to their culture if they go back to Laos. However, a spokesperson for the state department said that there has always been a very high amount of approval in letting Hmong people come to the U.S.

Ying Vang, Executive Director of Lao Family, said, "I think about 3,000 to 5,000 will settle in the Saint Paul area." "The

Hmong people well need role models and good guidance from those that have been in the U.S. for many years to help them live successfully in the U.S.

Jeff Caulum, ELL teacher, said, "The schools would need more ELL classes and the older Hmong kids might not get ELL anymore." Jeff feels that the U.S. should let refugees from any culture come to the U.S. if they do not feel safe in their country or because, he says, "MN is made of immigrants from all over the world so why stop now."

Junior, Xiong Pao Thao Open School students thinks that some people may be upset with such a large number of Hmong being allowed to resettle in the U.S. because he says, "People's taxes might go up." Several Hmong students at open School think they have relatives coming.

Senior, Phang Thor said, "I have some relatives but I don't know who they are. My mom and dad does."

Junior, Mai Lee Yang said, "I have a sister coming here with her husband and kids."◇

RUIN From 1

creator of all women in metal!

Excuse me if I don't buy into this pile of bolshevic, but I would not file Evanescence's music under metal. No way. Nor would I say that they rock. And don't think that I'm judging this book by its cover because, believe it or not, I own their cd. And as soon as I brought it home and listened to it I felt drenched in shame because it was nothing more than a POP-sicle of the same old "I'm so depressed and I cut myself, blah blah blah," sappy, repetitive, teen-anger crap. Oh, and not to forget the distorted guitars. The very brilliance of them is so mind-numbing that it actually hurts to listen to it. I'm sure they might be talented in some ways, but rockin' is NOT one of them.

Now, if I had my own rock magazine, the all-time reigning queen and leader of metal, in general, would be Miss Tairrie B. of My Ruin. She's been singing, screaming, and speaking her mind for 14 years! You know she deserves the crown more than Amy Lee, when she's actually been rocking for more than half of her age. Miss B. is not a teen, and she's not in her 20's either. She's 39 years-old and she's still the most beautiful rock n' roll vamp I've ever seen. Most women over 30 wouldn't dare tell the truth about their age, but Tairrie openly states it in her interviews.

But set aside her age and appearance -- even thought that's all that really matters nowadays, right? -- and what you still have left of Miss B. is an awesome force, a mind of poetry and revenge, and a woman who screams truth, love, hate, and blood. A lot of writers in the U.K. call her the "blasphemous girl" or even the "Madonna of rock," which is absurd because Madonna was NEVER a real person. Some writers even went as far as to compare My Ruin to other female-fronted bands like Kittie, Arch Enemy, or Otep. That's an idiotic judgment as well, because none of those bands sound similar to each other at all. They don't sound like girl bands, they sound like guy bands, only better because they're women. And each of those bands, like any other band, have their own uniqueness to them, whether it's: how they sound, how they look, or what their live experience is like that makes them good.

If you've heard one "chick band" you HAVEN'T heard them all. So if you're looking for a good metal mother to base your opinion on women in rock, take my advice, and check out My Ruin. For the love of god and all things holy, put the Avril Laspleen and Smelly Osbourne cds down and walk away. And don't make the mistake of trust-

RUIN Continued on 8

SEASON 2 From 1

People -- are looking to break through and make the playoffs for the first time.

Early season action saw The Mexico City Sombreros get beat by Geek 2 Chic 7-9, Whitey's Revenge won against Spik 2 Mik 7-1. The Jesson 5 began their title defense by thumping the Foreigners 7-2, and The Lovable Little People beat Aggressive Tendencies 7-4.

The run to the championship should be interesting. Los Geezers and the Jesson 5 both look like contenders, but it's hard to overlook the indomitable Giants, who have already beat the Geezers 7-4 this season.

Over all, most participants are happy about the season so far and crowds have been good. The top four teams in each division will advance to the playoffs, and fraquetball commisioner Nathan Jesson points out that no teams have been mathematically eliminated yet.◇

THE STROKES From 4

that it was so much worse than Is This It?, while everyone said it was better. I don't know why I like Is This It? more, seeing as the albums sound almost the same. Which presents another problem. The Strokes have done very little in the way of digresion with this album, so if you put all the songs of both albums on one CD, it would sound like on CD, And still only be about 70 minutes long. This is not a huge deal, because it sounds good, but it does get a little repetitive.

So why do I like Is This It? so much more if they sound the same? It's a tough call. Is This It? just had better songs. "Someday" and "Last Nite" are probably the two best songs the Strokes have recorded, and nearly every other song on Is This It? is around or above that quality level. That's not to say that Room on Fire did not have good songs. "Automatic Stop" is an extremely good song, in my opinion the best song on the album. "12:51" gets the most radio play, but in my opinion is overrated. It still is a good song. I would say "What ever Happened" is up there with 'Automatic Stop', but none of the other songs are nearly as good as those two. All of the songs are good, and I recommend purchasing this album if you haven't already, seeing as it was released like five months ago. On a scale of 1.00 dollah to 20.00 Dollaz, I would pay around 12 Dollaz and fifty cents.

RUIN From 7

ing MTV's opinion on all things rock. All you'll get is the gross results of that "Let's Make a Girl Band" show that no one watched. What was it? Lillix?

Moving on, I would hate myself (just a tad bit more) if I left out the other people in My Ruin. The guitarist, Mick Murphy, is a southern guy with all the charm and none of the accent. He also happens to be Tairrie B.'s boyfriend so, sorry dolls, he's spoken for. Mick is a brilliant guitarist (not mind-numbingly painful to hear, by the way) with a side project called Neanderthal. also, Mick and Tairrie have another side project called the LVRS, which is like that Celebrity Secrets thing on Conan O'Brien, except it's Miss B's...seeecrets. The whole album has a Twin Peaks eeriness about it that makes it great.

Then there's the drummer named Yael, with no last name, like Cher. She is possibly the best female drummer ever and I know that might not be saying a lot, but in her case it's meant as a compliment. She plays drums like Michael Jackson grabs his crotch and molests little boys. It must be an art or something. I'm sorry, I mean well but with a

brother who drums I've forgotten how to give them kudos rather than shield my ears from going deaf. She rocks, let's leave it at that.

My Ruin also has a bassist, unlike some bands these days (odd), and her name is Meghan Mattox. I don't know all that much about her. Maybe it's because she's the bassist and they're usually the mysterious ones. Oh well, you don't need a profile to rock and rock she does. (Yoda, I am not) It's like Gene Simmons and Twiggy Ramirez found a way to reproduce and gave birth to Miss Mattox. Paints a vibrant picture, huh?

Anyway, now that I've informed you all, once again, about My Ruin, I leave it up to you to decide what to do with this knowledge. They're a life-changing band and if you've gotten their cd and are otherwise unimpressed, I say listen to it more. Your arrogance will wear out soon.

Also, to all the ladies in the house, if you've got something to say, then shine on you crazy diamonds. Don't let "the man" get you down. You are women, now let's hear you roar! Unless all you'll talk about is love. Then you can just go chirp somewhere else you stupid gir.◊

INSANE CLOWNS From 4

tlings, and pretty much what ever they want to do every year. It is called Gathering of the Juggalos. All the Juggalos from across the world gather to hear their favorite group and get sprayed with faygo.

ICP, started out with the first jokers card, Carnival of Carnage back in the early 1990's. The next card that came out was The Ringmaster followed by The Riddle box, The Great Milenko, The Amazing Jeckle Brothers, and the last one that comes in 2 parts The Wraith Shangri-la, and The Wraith Hell's Pit. The Wraith Shangri-la has already been released to the public yet The Wraith Hell's Pit has yet to come, it was scheduled for November 2003 but didn't come out then. Now we are just waiting for any sign of it's release.

Besides the joker's cards, ICP has released some other albums with other artists including Psychopathics from outer space Volume 1 and 2, Bizarre, Bizaare, Wizard of the hood from Violent J one half of the juggling duo, Forgotten Freshness, and Tunnel of Love.

They have had a long struggle through many different record labels, but their official record label is and will always be Psychopathic Records, an alternative record la-

INSANE CLOWNS Contined on 9

REALITY TV From 6

up to the wedding and there can't be any interruptions during the ceremony. When morning came around Steve started to tell Randi about his family, Randi started to fear for her life. With the crazy tales of his sister chasing him down the street with a butcher knife, their wedding invitations had arrived. Randi afraid of what her friends would say when they received their invitations she got a little teary eyed.

If you liked the movie *Dumb and Dumber* you will like this show. Compared to all the other reality shows this one is very entertaining. With its grotesque humor and obnoxious behavior this show tops them all.◊

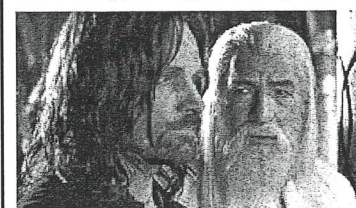


MOVIES From 3

lost king of Gondor, and it is he who leads human kind, along with elves, to fight off Sauron, as well as divert attention away from Frodo and Sam so that they can destroy the ring.

The final part of the trilogy was the best. The first and second parts were also great, but this last part surpassed its predecessors. The movie is full of new action and suspense. Although it had about six different endings, it was satisfying and left the viewers content.

There are several reasons why this film is liked by so many people. The movie has a wide variety of romance, action, horror, and humor, appealing to a large audience. Most



girls love this movie because of one person - Legolas,

the Elven prince, or better known as Orlando Bloom. Some like it because of the variety of characters and types of creatures, such as hobbits, men, elves, and dwarves. Others like it simply because it is good versus evil. Because the movie has a bit of everything, the movie an all-time favorite. LOTR: was also named as Best Drama Film of the Year by People's Choice.

3. Meteor Garden - Taiwanese

The story is set in a college in Taiwan, where the four most popular and affluent boys, who call themselves F4 (Flower 4), meet up with a poor but strong-headed girl name Shan Cai. These four boys develop a love-hate relationship with Shan Cai, but also learn what happiness means from her, at least Dao Ming Si does. Mainly it tells a heart-tugging tale of Dao Ming Si's effort to win Shan Cai's heart. But Shan Cai has her eyes on Hua Ze Lei instead. Dao Ming Si and Shan Cai are two people from completely different social classes. The constant misunderstanding between them is the highlight of the show. Both Shan Cai and Dao Ming Si face challenging obstacles before finally coming together.

This movie is very exciting, funny, and leaves you wanting more. The ending is not very good, but that's because there's a part two. You definitely have to see part two also. It's really interesting to see a guy falling in love with a girl, not because of her looks, but because of her brave and courageous personality, and the girl disliking him because

MOVIES Continued on 10

ORANGE COUNTY From 6

Marissa is not what she seems because after a few episodes, we see her drinking like a fish and stealing a watch. Seth is a little different than Ryan though, he was never big into girls because girls were never big into him, he's supposed to be the nerd kid of the show but it's so confusing because even he has dashing good looks. Things soon change for Seth too, because he finds himself in a love triangle with a sometimes bad-hearted brunette, Summer. The cute artsy, Anna who is also in the triangle is a friend of Seth's but now she's looking for a little more.

What makes this show better than other beautiful people shows is that the actors were a little better, and the dialogue was more interesting. Although no teenagers IZ know deal with the kind of stuff they do, there wouldn't be a show without it. I think the California setting also helps the show. If I could compare it to an show, it would be Pasadena except without all the stupid mystery.

If you're not interested yet, there's probably something wrong with you, and it'd be a good idea to seek professional help, but if you need a little more convincing on how cool this show is just ask the king of cool, senior John Hendrickson. "The O.C makes my wednesday not suck. It's awesome."

Mai Lee Yang Junior, a junior, also agrees "I like the guy, Ryan, and it's a really good show."

Well there you go folks, the school spoke and the verdict is in; the O.C rocks. I know all of you have one more question though, "When is this 'thang' on?" Well, the answer to that is Wednesdays at 8:00 on Fox channel 9. Be sure to catch it then, I guarantee you'll like it.◊

INSANE CLOWNS From 8

bel with the distinctive logo, the hatchet man. Psychopathic Records is also the home to many other wicked rappers/singers including Twizted, Esham, Blaze Ya Dead Homie, Anybody Killa, Jumpsteady, Zug Izland, Dark Lotus, and the entire hatchet family.

In the beginning of their career ICP didn't have a lot of support, but now their fan base has grown so much that their cd's almost always go platinum. Yes, it's true, the Juggalos and Juggalettes of the world are finally taking over. To all the Juggalos out there, the wicked clowns will never die. We will all be down with the clowns for life.◊

CRACKER From 6

away, and Reuben has to leave, because Sandy has just committed the sick, unholy crime of "sharting" (I'd go into detail here, but I'm already feeling nauseous).

Reuben later gets Polly's number thanks to your friend the phone book, one thing leads to another, and they end up going out to dinner. Polly picks some Indian restaurant, which doesn't sit too well with Reuben, who

has Irritable Bowel Syndrome. He's stupid and eats the food anyway, and gets just a wee bit queasy. They go back to Polly's house, where we meet Rudolpho the half-blind ferret, my new buddy. Reuben

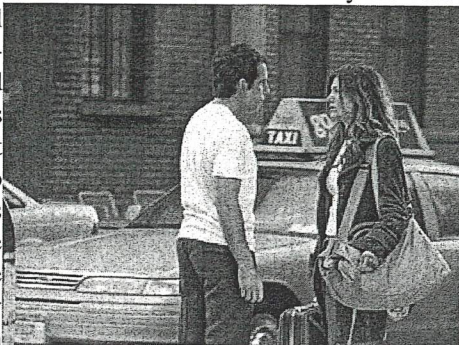
has to use Polly's bathroom with a burning, burning passion, and ends up flooding it when he runs out of toilet paper and uses a towel Polly's grandmother embroidered for a less than tidy purpose.

Reuben and Polly still click, and all's going pretty well until Lisa comes back, wanting to get back together with Reuben. Polly has this whole fear of commitment thing going on, so she get freaked out since Reuben is looking for something more long-term. They have a big fight, and Reuben

won't get back together with Lisa, so suddenly he's so, so... alone.

Reuben now really has to think about who he really wants to be with, and when he decides Polly's the one, he finds out she's leaving New York (a concept never before used in a romantic comedy).

I honestly like this movie. Rudolpho is obviously the best character, but I am a little



worried about how well he's taken care of. I mean, he's running into trees and walls and stuff, and Polly really doesn't seem to care. If my ferret ever ran head-on into a wall (and believe me, he has) I'd stop and make

sure he was okay, I wouldn't just laugh or keep walking. That's just cruel and wrong.

But anyway, aside from the heartbreaking neglect and abuse experienced by Rudolpho, this movie's good. I heart Claude, because well, he's French, he's a scuba instructor, he talks about hippos and stuff, what's not to love? The movie's funny, and the occasional backside-al nudity keeps one interested. I give *Along Came Polly* 3 stars. So go see it. Now.◊

BEST MUSIC From 4

Finally, an album that combines the guitar work of Murry, Smith, and Janic Gers. Maiden is back, and with three guitarists they have increased the level of intricacy for their riffs, achieving an almost Thor-like complexity. Don't think this is some sort of over done, prog-show off CD; no, **Dance of**

Death is as sweet to the ears as it is to the mind. From "Montsegur," which will remind you of the days of yore with its constantly-progressing structure, to "Journeyman," a classic low tempo ballad.

The only complaint I have is the cover art. Derek Riggs' excellent artwork has been replaced by badly done computer graphics. *1. Murder City Devils - R.I.P.*

The amazing musical growth the Murder City Devils showed in the Thelema EP made me anxious for a full release. So I was all the more devastated on October 19 2001,

right before the end of the Murder City Devils' set at First Avenue, when Spencer Moody said that this would be their last show in Minneapolis, due to the fact that they were breaking up. This release from Sub Pop Records is sure to please all past fans and will most likely make new ones. "It's the



grittiest live album ever released, but it's really tight," said student government president Sean Keith. Yes, **R.I.P.** has all the grittiness of a live performance. Mics and amps shorting out on "Idle Hands" and "That's

What You Get." Gory vocals are screamed out on "Press Gang" and "Broken Glass." Lyrics are forgotten on almost every track. **R.I.P.** will be remembered as the greatest rock album of '03.◊

WOODEN SPOON From 5

"Let's just say, I would not let Hurricane into my crib," said eleventh grader Dustin Kleingartner.

"Hurricane is a (ray of sunshine). I'd shove my foot up his eye! I owe him money, I'm not going to pay him," said tenth grader Doug Anderson.

Well, Doug, that's your choice, but even though Hurricane may appear friendly, you still should cower in his awesomeness!

"They remind me of flowers. I think they're cool, cause they are extreme, and I like extremes. But they are bad if they kill people," said senior Sierra Blakely.

"If a hurricane tore down my house, I'd say 'Oh no! But at least everyone's alive!' If they were dead, I'd be hysterical, of course. Some of the worst damage is from flooding. And obviously wind damage," added Julie.

That's right Julie, hurricanes are terrifying, but I wouldn't fret about it too much, I don't think we'll experience any here soon, ya' silly goose.

"Living in Minnesota, no, I do not fear hurricanes... or Jesus," said Duane Buck, tenth grader.

"I've never been in the south eastern part of the United States during hurricane season, however, once I was in Mexico after hurricane season, and all the palm trees were gone," said Julie.

So boys and fine (sunshine), hurricane, we've learned, is a powerful man, and has a tough agenda, but as long as you stay your (hurricanes) out the eastern seaboard, you'll be fine. And, if you're careful, you can enjoy the fine pleasures of a hurricane.

Wanna know how to make a hurricane. Here's grandma's recipe:

1. Ocean water temperatures of at least eighty degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Low wind shear from the top to the bottom of the atmosphere.
3. Something to get the tropical wave spinning (I suggest a large wooden spoon.)

"Britney doesn't really seem phased by this 48 hour marriage, I think it was supposed to be a big joke, but if it was a joke they should've had more fun with it, no one was laughing."

Cardboard box away!◇

MOVIES From 8

of his personality. This movie is really sweet and romantic.

Meteor Garden was inspired by the Manga, "Hana Yori Dango," better known as, "Boys Over Flowers." That's also the reason

After *Meteor Garden* was finally devel-



oped and came out on TV, fans couldn't get enough of it. Most people prefer this version to the real version, although it's very similar.

4. *Loving You* - Korean

A year ago (2002), in a terrible storm, Yoo Jin saved Park Yong Ha from drowning. On that same day, people told Yoo Jin that her father committed suicide and died. Now, a year later, Yoo Jin and Park Yong Ha don't remember each other and are always arguing. Like many Asian movies, the rich and the poor don't get along. Of course, the poor people always have cell phones. Later on, Yoo Jin and Park Yong Ha then realize that they like each other. Park Yong Ha, who is the eldest son of this family owns a big company, works in a farm and does nothing else because he feels guilty that he survived the drowning accident while his friend died. Lee

Yoo Ri, a girl going for a rich guy, dumps Park Yong Ha's stepbrother, Lee Dong Ok, when she realizes that Park Yong Ha is the eldest son. She then tries to interfere and break Park Yong Ha and Yoo Jin's relationship. Meanwhile, Yoo Jin also realizes that her dad didn't commit suicide. He was murdered and Park Yong Ha's father was behind it. Through many interference and hidden truths, Yoo Jin and Park Yong Ha stick together and face the difficulties in their love, but the more difficult the obstacles get, the stronger their love becomes.

The story line in this movie isn't really good in my opinion. In some scenes, it takes a long time for everything to happen and then instead of having the urge to keep watching it, it gets really boring. Other than that, the movie is all right.

Many Hmong people here in the US en-



isn't the best Korean movie, it has made Hmong top four. Another reason why this movie is watched is because of the Korean singer, Eugene, who plays the leading role as Yoo Jin.◇

Leo and Tim outside of school.



Leo in the pack at the Mora Vasaloppet.



Tim finishing strong down Main Street at the Mora Vasaloppet.