

## DINNER & A MOVIE

Lisa McChristian

Editor in Chief

### Here on Earth

A ripped off plot + horrific acting + bad editing + directing by a guy just begging to make a Lifetime movie of the week = "Here on Earth."

"Here on Earth" struggles to mix the teensplotation romance flicks that have been so popular of late, with genuine drama. The end result is 96 minutes of blank looks, posturing, and cheesy dialogue.

Rich boy Kelley (Chris Klein) meets poor girl Sam (Leelee Sobieski), who already has a boyfriend. Despite warnings from their friends, parents and her significant other, the two manage to get together. Just when happiness looms in the horizon, girl tells boy she's dying of cancer.

Sounds like a decent plot, no? Well it was in the 1970 romantic drama "Love Story" starring Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw. Rich boy meets poor girl in college. The boy risks disinheritance and poverty to be with the love of his life. When the two find out the girl has cancer, the audience weeps for the couple.

When Sam tells Kelley that she has cancer, groans filled the audience. "Oh god, what are they going to do next" and "That's it, I'm asking for my money back" were just a few comments overheard in the theatre. Every scene felt contrived and the phoned in acting from Sobieski and Klein

didn't help audience members feel any sympathy or compassion for the couple.

### Jaspers

Located three minutes from the Raleigh Sports Arena, Jaspers provides fine cuisine at affordable prices. Delectable Americana and seafood meals make the 45-minute drive worthwhile.

The expansive restaurant has plenty of seating. The booths and tables are arranged on levels through the restaurant so patrons can look into the glass-surrounded kitchen. Jaspers has another level away from the main restaurant that leads to a sports bar.

The wait staff works in teams, meaning you are served by a series of waiters throughout the evening. If waiter X is busy serving drinks to another table, waiter Y is serving you fresh baked bread with a sugary sweet butter. The tag-team style service takes a huge chunk out of wait time.

For light eaters I suggest the creamy shrimp bisque with a garden salad. The bisque is great to warm you up on a cold day and the salad comes with ample fresh greens and home-made dressings.

Those looking for something more hearty should try the chicken alfredo. The dish comes almost overflowing with three types of pasta noodles mixed with rich cream sauce, spinach and juicy chunks of chicken breast.

## Pat McGee Band at Ziggy's tonight

Samiha Khanna

A&E Editor

In light of last week's article on Vertical Horizon's overnight success, I find the need to advise those who haven't already been touched by the Pat McGee Band fever to jump on the bandwagon while they can.

Their sound has spoken for itself through the college radio circuit, live festivals and many college appearances. They have frequently been compared to Dave Matthews Band, and people from Virginia tell all their friends that they have to hear this band. Their dedication to touring is incomparable—this band has put in an average of 250 shows a year since they first formed in 1996.

If you are lucky enough to have heard the legendary six-member band at the Bayou in D.C. be-

fore it closed down in 1998, or some Saturday night when they packed the Birchmere in Alexandria, VA, count your blessings. It won't be long before you'll be fighting for the chance to see them anywhere.

After releasing three independently produced albums, PMB is jumping into mainstream radioland with "Shine," their first major-label release, produced by the famed former Talking Head, Jerry Harrison, who has worked with Live, the Verve Pipe and Stroke 9.

It won't be long before songs from "Shine" will be as pervasive as Vertical Horizon's "Everything You Want."

A word to the wise: go see PMB tonight at Ziggy's. Experiencing their overflowing, mellifluous sound and their stage antics—you won't ever forget it.

## Underrated lyricist shows off his talent

Patrick Collins

The Pendulum

Chicago's Common is often considered one of rap's most talented but underrated lyricists—his music and subject matter positive and poetic.

His fourth album, "Like Water for Chocolate," taken from the novel and film of the same name, is similarly introspective as his 1996 release, "One Day It'll All Make Sense," but is more advanced in its production and sequencing.

Even though the new album will hardly mark his commercial breakthrough, it marks his consistency as an artist. Varying in socially relevant lyrical material and thick in soulful instrumentals and traditional hip-hop production, "Like Water for Chocolate" is a nightmare for commercial radio that profits from materialistic "jiggy" singles, but is a haven for hip-hop heads fed up with industry-made rappers and just desperate for talent.

The introduction, "Time Travelin,'" lays down Common's wandering mind as well as sets you up for what to expect for the next

fifteen tracks—that being tight production from the Soulquarians, a collective of D'Angelo, James Poyser, Jay Dee for the Ummah, and The Roots' Questlove.

Tracks such as the first single, "The Sixth Sense," the only song produced by the omniscient DJ Premier, says it all about the innovation and lyrical creativity that Common is known for. Even deeper, though, is Common's sincere love affirmation on "The Light," where he speaks on family, commitment and abstinence.

He also paints a vivid visual on the track, "A Song for Assata," which demonstrates his storytelling ability through a dedication to former Black Panther Assata Shakur, who currently lives in political asylum in Cuba. "Assata" shines Common as an introvert as well as an extrovert for musical revolution.

All in all, "Like Water for Chocolate" can be considered a classic, not in that it will own the charts or that its tracks will be featured

twice an hour on the radio, but that it is what music is supposed to be—creative.

Neither East Coast nor West, "Like Water For Chocolate" is far



Common's "Like Water for Chocolate"

from common. Instead it is an album that hip-hop heads, soul lovers, as well as fans of live instrumentation can appreciate and add to their collection of projects to remember.

As Common himself made clear on his first single, "The revolution will not be televised—the revolution is here."

## Chamberlain pleases fans with three area shows

Tom Mullen

The Pendulum

Indiana, nestled in the Midwest, is known for Hoosier basketball and John Mellencamp. Chamberlain knows a few things about the life out in the Midwest. Their melodies talk of loneliness, past mistakes and promise for a new beginning. This past weekend Chamberlain took their passion on the road and came out to play three dates in North Carolina.

Keeping time on the melodies and guitar work is Adam Rubanstien and with his twang and prick and prodding at the guitar. Passion is released through his fingers and through the body onto you: the listener. A lot of hard work came into play to get Chamberlain to come to North Carolina. It seemed they fell off the earth after their release of "The Moon My Saddle" in 1998. Only playing select dates there was never a tour that seemed to satisfy the kids. Having known them as Split Lip in the earlier days many people weren't ready for their latest album. A complete turnaround (changed name to Chamberlain) and re-evaluation by the band had them turning farther inward and choosing to only play select Split Lip and even older Chamberlain songs.

In each of the three shows, first in Winston-Salem, then at a house show in Greensboro and Durham, Chamberlain were flawless in their attack on the crowd to play the songs to know the story too well. You were forced to sing along as loud as you could and watch lead



photo courtesy of www.chamberlain1.com

singer David Moore swoon the crowd with his lyrics. "I'm the one who reached for love and missed, so can you come down to me? I'll be waiting with that same look on my face."

Elon Student Megan Jones emailed Chamberlain's booking agent to try to get them to the area. After two months of waiting and getting all the kinks worked out, they came. It seemed unbelievable that her hard work and passion for their music got a band to come.

It was a dream come true and not only that but for many other people in the area that wanted to see them as well. Chamberlain is one of those bands that people can relate to as they sit at home on their stereo crying about a past mistake or a life that once was. Chamberlain was so

appreciative of everything everyone did for them while they were here. For three days kids gave them their floor to sleep on, food to eat and thanks for playing this area.

I really wish more people had the drive like Megan to get a band they like to this area.

You have the chance to see this deserving band one more time in North Carolina at King's Lounge in Raleigh on April 7. Then they are off, leaving their stories, memories and laughs that many people will remember for some time. Thanks Chamberlain.

"If the sky falls tonight, we'll all run outside and kick stars in the streetlight."