

Calling All Bachelors ... Singer/Songwriter Aimee Mann releases her long-delayed album, *Bachelor #2*, hot off the heels of the "Magnolia" soundtrack. ... [page 7](#)

Brazil via Chapel Hill ... On his new EP as Portastatic, Mac McCaughan of Chapel Hill's Superchunk performs five Brazilian pop classics in his own indie style. ... [page 7](#)

Viva Rock Vegas Bet you always wanted to find out how the Flintstones and the Rubbles got together. The new live-action Flintstones prequel, "The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas," will fill you in on the scoop. ... [page 8](#)

DIVERSIONS

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ROAD *Trippin'*

Writer Hits Hollywood, Lets Loose With Stars

By JUSTIN WINTERS
Staff Writer

"Hey dude, are you feeling a little under the weather this morning?"

That was the wake-up call I got the morning after a late-night party at a South-Cali brewery with the cast of the new



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS SKG

MTV mainstay Tom Green demonstrates proper means for mouse-eating in "Road Trip."

college movie "Road Trip" and a few other Hollywood bigwigs.

"Uh, yeah, I'll be up there in a second," I said, as I meditated upon how my California pseudo-road trip had delivered me a severely funky case of jet lag/hang-over.

How did I end up thousands of miles away from the safe confines of UNC-Chapel Hill, in a posh L.A. hotel room the first weekend of April?

Dreamworks SKG, the movie studio partly owned by some guy named Steven Spielberg, had offered to pay my airfare, room, food and drinks for a press junket for the new flick starring Tom Green. How could I disappoint Steve and not go? It was my journalistic duty.

So, with my suitcase, some reading material, a handheld recorder, and some snazzy California-looking gear, I set out on an early morning plane ride to L.A., via Atlanta. I had even bought a pair of wide-frame glasses to show California I wasn't afraid of being hip.

Fast forward 24 hours later, to my hotel bedroom and an unwelcome call interrupting my beauty sleep. I had somehow braved a screening jam-packed with college-age journalists and one kickin' late-night party with an open bar provided by Mr. Spielberg. As my best friend Tim used to say, "You, man, will be feelin' the hurt."

The studio had furnished breakfast, but I had conveniently missed it. The roundtable interviews had begun. A roundtable interview, in junket jargon, means that each star of the movie is seated at a table with five or six journalists as they ask him/her poignant questions like "How was making the movie?" "Have you been on road trips?" "How cool was Tom Green?"



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS SKG

College guys with raging hormones and a penchant for pilsners try to live out their fantasies in "Road Trip," Dreamworks Pictures' 1,800-mile-long comedy featuring Tom Green.

"Have you ever been on a road trip?" the loud guy next to me asked as he shoved his intricate microphone-doo-hicky into actor D.J. Qualls' face. "When I first had to come to L.A., I had to get from my hometown to here in two days and it sucked," he said with a smile. "I pretty much had my car packed, I wouldn't sleep but for 5 hours at a time."

After 15 minutes of quizzing Qualls on his next movie, "Cherry Falls," and his recent Prada modeling campaign, he was whisked away by his publicist and replaced with the film's roguish director Todd Phillips.

"It's great that y'all get to come out here," he said. "I didn't know they did this kind of stuff for movies." Phillips, relatively new to the Hollywood scene, created the controversial HBO documentary "Frat House" a few years back.

After divulging the secret that Tom Green (who did not

attend the junket) is not as crazy off-camera as he is on, a journalist from Florida University asked, "Do you feel that people might just see your movie as another 'American Pie'?"

"I thought 'American Pie' was more of a romantic comedy," Phillips said with a laugh. "Everyone is trying to push the envelope in some way, but I like real comedies."

As Phillips graciously thanked us again for coming out to California, the protagonist of "Trip" walked into the room with a swagger that implied that he might have attended a late-night party of his own the night before.

"Test, test, one-two-three," Breckin Meyer ("Clueless") joked as he lined up all the microphones in front of him. "Whoa, what if I just switch them all around so y'all don't

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'Road Trip' Offers Lewd Comedy

Latest Dreamworks production stretches the boundaries of bawdy humor and collegiate antics.

By JUSTIN WINTERS
Staff Writer

For the older folks who remember seeing "Porky's" and "Animal House" on the big screen and the younger ones who loved "American Pie," the latest raunch fest, "Road Trip," promises to impress those looking for a minimal plot with maximum laughs.

Director/screenwriter Todd Phillips, in his feature film debut, has joined forces Voltron-style with executive producer Ivan Reitman ("Ghostbusters") to bring the college-age crowd a movie that will surely offend many.

The flick revolves around the flimsy story of a group of guys from Ithaca College who venture on a 1,800-mile road trip from New York to Austin,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS SKG

Testing their knowledge of the physics of speed and trajectory versus a collapsed bridge, the film's adventurers take a leap of faith in Dreamworks Pictures' "Road Trip."

Texas, in hopes of retrieving a video that one of them (Breckin Meyer of "Go") had accidentally mailed to his girlfriend (Rachel Blanchard of TV's "Clueless") after taping a late-night tryst with a blond co-ed (Amy Smart of "Varsity Blues").

The protagonist (Meyer) tows three of his buddies along for the ride: D.J. Qualls, the nerd with the car; Paulo

Constanzo, the stoner-intellectual and Seann William Scott of "American Pie," the smart-aleck ladies' man.

While some might see surface comparisons to last summer's hit "Pie" right away, "Trip" succeeds somewhat in distancing itself from that as a movie that holds nothing back in its attempt for a higher laugh ratio.

The actors, the funniest of which are

newcomers Qualls and Scott, show vibrant chemistry in scenes which include humorous stops at a black fraternity house, the home of one guy's grandparents and a sperm bank.

The movie even features a drop-dead funny turn by MTV's Tom Green as the story's narrator (still in college after eight

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On the Road

Got some spare time on your hands this summer? Try taking a road trip to one of these exciting destinations, all within a few hours drive of Chapel Hill.

Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tenn. — It's like Myrtle Beach in the mountains — neon lights, kids cruising the strip, outlet shopping, miniature golf and of course, Dollywood.
Distance from Chapel Hill: 5 hours.

Natural Bridge, Va. — Home to Natural Bridge, one of the seven Natural Wonders of the World. Enjoy the accompanying cave and historical wax museum.
Distance from Chapel Hill: 3.5 hours.

South of the Border, S.C. — Off I-95 in South Carolina. A monument to aggressive advertising and bad taste. A self-contained village of fiberglass animals, cheap souvenirs, giant sombreros and the most neon this side of Las Vegas.
Distance from Chapel Hill: 3 hours.

Mystery Hill and Tweetsie Railroad, Blowing Rock — A railroad, a petting zoo and a houseful of physics mysteries. Be a kid again. Get excited about stupid stuff.
Distance from Chapel Hill: 3 hours.

World's Largest Chest of Drawers, High Point — A highboy chest 85 feet high and 40 feet wide. In front of the Furnitureland Southmart.
Distance from Chapel Hill: 1.5 hours.

The Andy Griffith Museum, Mt. Airy — The world's largest collection of Andy Griffith memorabilia, plus the Snappy Lunch and its world-famous pork chop sandwich.
Distance from Chapel Hill: 2 hours

City Stages Music Festival, Birmingham, Ala. — A music festival with 250 acts performing at Linn Park June 16-18. The event will include bands playing rock, R & B, country, urban, alternative, gospel, jazz, bluegrass, classical and local. Performers include Chicago, Jethro Tull, James Brown, Collapsis and the Supremes. Weekend tickets are \$25 if purchased by May 17.
Distance from Chapel Hill: 11 hours