

Mixtape downloads keep hip hop fresh

I have two guilty pleasures. One: I excessively check hip-hop Web sites. I'm talking at least five times a day. And two: I download mixtapes off these same Web sites. It's gotten to where I've had to delete lecture-necessity solitaire to make room on my hard drive. Frequenting these sites makes it inevitable that I'll run into a decent portion of seething blogs. Usually they just proclaim the bereavement of urban music or something along those lines. I usually can turn a blind eye to such comments, knowing that paying any mind to them would be an effort wasted debating people with less insight than I. But this one time, dude tried to say the mixtape died when DJ Drama's — of *Gangsta Grillz* fame — Atlanta headquarters were raided by the Feds on racketeering charges for not including necessary information on albums, thus deeming them "bootleg." I was madder than the rapper on *Life After Death*. Unless you're trying to get into the much larger dialogue of how the CD is going the way of the dinosaur, this might have been the most insensible argument I had come across in a very, very long time. The mixtape is alive and thriving via the World Wide Web.



BENN WINEKA
WACKTOSE INTOLERANT

I'd even go as far to say that the DJ Drama and Don Cannon fiasco reinvigorated this indispensable facet of hip-hop music. Since the January 2007 incident, notable mixtape producers, including Mick Boogie and Clinton Sparks, have begun offering their entire catalogs of past and present (and presumably future) releases free for download on their Web sites. Other sites like DatPiff offer a bevy of new mixtapes seven days a week and an archive that's even fatter. New artists also push downloads on MySpace, and underground MCs hype their tapes as though they are new albums. Let me reiterate that all of this is free if you have an Internet connection. What makes these sites even better is many offer streaming feeds of each mixtape. Many also provide the option of purchasing hard copies if you'd like to increase the size of your disc collection. These are both pluses, because you won't waste money on artists

you're unsure about when their LP actually finds its way onto store shelves. And then there's the fact that finding stores that stock mixtapes is even harder. The Internet mixtape network has graced me with new favorite artists like Wale (D.C. represent) and reminded me of my dislike for Lil Wayne (I said it). Mixtapes are more viable now than they have been in the past thanks to online forums and download hosts, and they don't require as much monetary strain on people, such as myself, to enjoy them. Now the only price is spending hours ruining my retinas by staring at my laptop.

Contact Benn Wineka at wgbennet@email.unc.edu.

'Penelope' a charming tale

BY RACHEL BRODY
STAFF WRITER

In the modern fairy tale, "Penelope," the title character — as countless princesses before her — must wait for a prince, or at least a blue-blooded heir, to agree to marry her so the horrible curse upon her can be lifted. Unfortunately for Penelope (Christina Ricci), her curse is nothing like napping in a tower all day. She was born with the snout of a pig. And her parents, all while waiting for the day their daughter will become less of a swine, hide Penelope from the unforgiving outside world, protecting her from the relentless media. Catherine O'Hara gives an excellent performance as Penelope's overbearing mother, who is in desperate search of a suitor who doesn't mind if his bride is a bit of a boar. But while having the face of a pig does sound problematic, Penelope comes across as nothing more than

MOVIE REVIEW
PENELOPE



a charming girl with a cute, turned-up nose. Her face alone does not seem as though it would be enough motivation to spur countless numbers of men to jump out of windows to escape her ugliness. Ricci fails to provide Penelope's persona with some of the freakishness it needs to be entirely convincing, but at least the scenery in the film is lovely. The film achieves a beautiful blend of fantasy imagery into the modern urban world. The movie's costume design and set architecture create a world reminiscent of scenes from childhood tales while still maintaining a contemporary flare. The camera shows the unexpected beauty in a crowded city as Penelope sees it all for the first time.

Of course, with a modern setting comes an enlightened set of morals that extends beyond advising girls to wait for true love's kiss to solve everything. But the value in the story gets stuck and proves to lack the imagination that — fortunately — the scenery and costumes manage to provide in its place. But one thing "Penelope" does attempt is making a mildly interesting comment on sensationalized media. Penelope's snout is plastered all over the papers and magazines the way Britney's bald head was not too long ago. She even becomes the most popular Halloween costume of the season. The film doesn't stray far from the cliché call to "be yourself," but at least the strong characters and fun fantasy world the film creates can make for an entertaining story.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

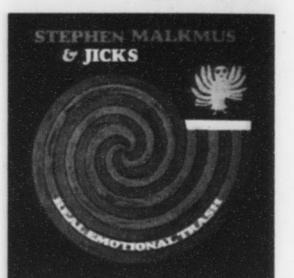
Malkmus meanders through frustrating LP

BY JAMIE WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT DIVERSIONS EDITOR

Stephen Malkmus doesn't want to be a hero. "I am not a present to be opened up and parcelled out at will," he sings on "Gardenia," *Real Emotional Trash's* most unabashedly pop tune. There is, of course, plenty of irony in Malkmus' self-characterization. As leader of the now defunct,

ever-influential band Pavement, Malkmus became just that to a lot of college music fans — back before "indie rock" became a catch-all for anything that falls between Top-40 radio's buttery fingers. On his second record as a full-fledged Jick, though, Malkmus strives for the sounds that got him to this point, all while expanding in sometimes unwelcome directions. The guitars still crunch, and

Malkmus still has the stoner drawl that made him famous. Most important, he still has a penchant for engaging songwriting. On *Real Emotional Trash*, the writing leans more toward intriguing character development than consistent themes. The most obvious example is "Hopscotch Willie," an innocent man accused of murder, whom Malkmus paints as the "classic example of a fall guy."



MUSIC REVIEW
STEPHEN MALKMUS AND THE JICKS
REAL EMOTIONAL TRASH
INDIE ROCK



But as the story and song progress into the seven minute range, it loses some of the coherence that provides the charm for the song's opening verse. This is indicative of the album's most distinct element, that also doubles as its biggest flaw. Malkmus and the Jicks just take it a little too far at times. They aren't afraid to stretch songs past seven minutes — one even hits 10 — in an effort to show off all the players' amazing talent. Malkmus is one helluva guitarist, and Janet Weiss (ex Sleater-Kinney) pounds the drums as a woman possessed, but as several of the tracks stretch, the listener finds himself looking at his watch, wondering when everything will make its way back to the quirky charac-

ters and more melodic sensibilities that make the songs exhilarating for a time. In the end, this comes off sounding like the type of record that took a lot of time to arrange, with Malkmus carefully tinkering until everything was exactly in place. Of course, this is the opposite of the aesthetic that made him a hero in the first place.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

Join Us at **East End** for the **Carolina vs. Duke Game**

Doors open at 7pm, Deep End opens at 8pm

Watch the game on our 3 new LCD TVs and 84" screen!

25¢ drafts at Deep End and other great drink specials!

Open Nightly 8-Close

201 E. Franklin Street * Chapel Hill, NC 27514 * 929.0024

CRAWDADDY'S
Cajun Cafe

Lunch Mon-Fri 11:30-2:30
Dinner Mon-Sat 5:30-10:00
302-B E. Main Street • 932-5103
(in front of the Arts Center & the Cat's Cradle)

\$5.00 OFF
any \$20.00 food purchase

Dine in only. One coupon per table. Expires 3/20/08

CAT'S CRADLE

919-967-9053
300 E. Main Street - Carrboro

MARCH	APRIL
6TH MATT COSTA w/ Johnathan Rice** (\$10/\$12)	1TU CARIBOU** (\$10/\$12)
7FR CHATHAM COUNTY LINE CD RELEASE PARTY w/ Special Guest EVERYBODYFELDS (\$12/\$15)	2WE SAY ANYTHING, Manchester Orchestra, More! ** (\$16/\$18)
8SA WRITTEN IN RED/ Hadwynn/ Powers for Faye	4FR GARY LOUIS w/ Veltiver** (\$16/\$18)
10MO MESH-HELL INDEGECCO w/ TROXIE WHITLEY** (\$23/\$25)	8TU BASSNECTAR w/ DJ Blot Upp** (\$10/\$12)
14FR WOODS SCHOOL BENEFIT: HOBEX, GREAT BIG GONE, Lynn Blakey and Eckl Heins	9WE WEAKERTHANS w/ AA Bondy** (\$13/\$15)
15SA DJ Forge Dance Party	10TH BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME
16SU FLICKER (BOB MOULD show CANCELLED)	15TU DAVE BARNES** (\$14)
17MO THE UNSEEN/ A WILHELM SCREAM** (\$10/\$12)	16WE SUSAN TEDESCHI** (\$20/\$22)
18TU SONS AND DAUGHTERS w/ Bodies of Water	20SU ESLEY** (\$12/\$14)
20TH HOTEL CAFE TOUR** (\$13/\$15)	23WE ANTI-FLAG, STREET DOGS, Briggs, more
21FR DEL THE FUNKY HOMOSAPIEN w/ Bukue One**	25FR BOMBADIL CD Release Party
22SA CHERRY BOMB, COUNTRY KINGS, Miss Mary Warrin, Rachel Riot** (\$10/\$12)	26SA WHO'S BAD??
24MO BROTHER ALL, BK ONE, ABSTRAKT RUDE, TOKI WRIGHT** (\$10/\$12)	27SU DESTROYER w/ Andre Ethier** (\$12)
27TH BADFISH: A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME w/ Scothy Don't and High And Mighties** (\$15/\$18)	28MO MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO** (\$15/\$18)
28FR WAYC 80S DANCE	30WE JOSH RITTER** (\$15/\$17)
29SA 14 Families Benefit (DirtyStinky)	
31MO MIKE DOUGHTY'S BAND w/ Panderes** (\$15)	

MAY

2FR PRESSURE BOYS Reunion Show!!**
4SU MAN MAN w/ YEASAYER**
6TU BRITISH SEA POWER/ ROSEBUDS
10SA POLVO** (\$10)
13/14TU/WE DRIVE BY TRUCKERS** (\$20/\$22)
26MO CLINIC** (\$13/\$15)

JUNE

10TU MUDHONEY w/ Birds of Avalon** (\$15)
28SA IRIS DEMENTI** (\$28/\$30)

WE ARE ALSO PRESENTING...

SHOWS @ Local 506	4/12 JASON COLLETT** (\$12/\$15)
3/16 BLACK LIPS, QUINTRON/ PUSSYCAT, Gondoliers	4/23 NICK LOWE w/ Ron Sexsmith** (\$25)
3/17 TILLY AND THE WALL, Capgun Coup, Midtown Dickers	4/30 AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB** (\$12/\$14)
4/2 HANDSOME FURS w/ Vialens	SHOW @ The Brewery (Raleigh)
SHOW @ Carolina Theatre (Durham)	3/14 STRIKE ANYWHERE w/ Riverboat Gambler** (\$10/\$12)
3/22 TIF MERRITT w/ Sara Watkins (of Nickel Creek)** (\$21/\$24)	SHOW @ Memorial Hall (UNC)
SHOWS @ The Arts Center (Carrboro)	4/15 IRON AND WINE (SOLD OUT)
3/16 DAVID WILCOX** (\$20/\$23)	SHOW @ Lincoln Theatre (Raleigh)
3/22 Greg Brown w/ Sara Lee Guthrie & Johnny Iton** (\$28/\$30)	4/24 SON VOLT w/ Bobby Bare Jr.
	SHOW @ Meymandi Hall (Raleigh)
	5/15 THE SWELL SEASON

Serving CAROLINA BREWERY Beers on Tap!

**Advance ticket sales at Schoolkids Records (Chapel Hill, Raleigh), CD Alley (Chapel Hill), Bul City Records (Durham). Buy tickets on-line @ www.etc.com For credit card orders, call 919-967-9053

MONDAY, MARCH 17 THE UNSEEN	MONDAY, MARCH 24 BROTHER ALI
MONDAY, MARCH 30 MIKE DOUGHTY'S BAND	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 SAY ANYTHING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 SUSAN TEDESCHI	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 ANTI-FLAG
MONDAY, APRIL 28 MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO	SATURDAY, APRIL 12 JASON COLLETT

LSAT PREP COURSE INSTRUCTOR FROM GUILFORD COLLEGE IS COMING TO CHAPEL HILL TO OFFER

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LSAT AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD

Instructor: Katherine Lambert-Scronce

What past students have said:

"Katherine has been both an instructor and mentor during the past month. She helped me overcome some of my testing anxiety."

"Instructor very informative regarding exam."

"Katherine and the class were extremely helpful! I'm very pleased I took this class as opposed to the [competitor] class."

SPRING DATES:
Four Saturdays 9 AM to 1PM
April 2008 - 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th
Cost: \$449 including books

Call 336-908-5910 for more information/ registration. Also, ask about GRE/GMAT prep courses beginning this summer.