



FOR YOUR AURAL PLEASURE . . .

Because movies are just pretty pictures set to music

Erin McMillan
Charger Staff

2004 was a year with endless possibilities. It brought us Britney Spears' multiple marriages, the Hilary Duff - Lindsay Lohan feud, court dates for Courtney Love and sex scandals for Michael Jackson. Fortunately, it also spawned the return of some good bands on the radio (read: The Killers, Franz Ferdinand) and several top of the line soundtracks. With the *Spongebob Squarepants*, *Wicker Park* and *Garden State* soundtracks being made, and the producers of *The OC* shoveling out collections faster than the featured artists can rock out on the show, a musical overload almost comes into play. Add this to the *Lost in Translation* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* soundtracks, and it is enough to make anyone



say, "Oy! Enough with the music already!"

First up is the surprisingly good *Spongebob Squarepants* soundtrack. Although it starts off weakly with Avril Lavigne singing the Spongebob theme, it quickly snowballs into excellence. Where else are you going to find a CD with, among others, Wilco, The Flaming Lips, The Shins and Ween on it? Who ever thought a little yellow sponge would provide an ocean of reasons to buy a CD?

The second on the list of top 2004 soundtracks is the compilation album for *Wicker Park*. Yeah, so the movie was a complete flop, do not hold it against the music. Both The Postal Service and The Shins have "rare non album tracks" and Death Cab for Cutie contributed with an acoustic version of "Movie Script Ending." Stereophonics, Mogwai, Mates of State and Mazzy Star (remember them?) are also featured.

The third, and personal favorite, soundtrack of last year is that of *Garden State*. Coldplay, Iron and

Wine (last issue's feature artist) and Nick Drake all offer up tracks for the collection, and The Shins (who were, apparently, on every good soundtrack of 2004) strengthen the CD with two songs from their 2001 release, *Oh, Inverted World*. Frou Frou contribute "Let Go," the film's closing song, and the CD even has Simon and Garfunkel on the bandwagon.

Moving away from movie soundtracks and on to television, *The OC* has to be mentioned. When the new season began, the producers felt the need to have a 90201 "Peach Pit" tribute with "The Bait Shop." Since then, they have had their favorite bands on the show each week to be introduced to all the world. Bands include The Killers, Death Cab for Cutie, The Walkman, Keane and the oh-so-popular Nada Surf.

While these were the best soundtracks of last year, there are several honorable mentions. The *Lost in Translation* soundtrack comes

highly recommended with songs from The Jesus and Mary Chain and Kevin Shields.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind boasts Beck and The Polyphonic Spree and, therefore, is also worth looking at. With Pete Yorn, Frou Frou, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Eels and Tom Waits, even the *Shrek 2* soundtrack contributed to 2004 being a great year for the soundtrack.

Soundtracks are a powerful thing. They enhance every scene of every movie. They can occasionally save a movie from total ruin, even when the plot is paper thin. They are the perfect showcase for bands of all types to come together, in harmony, and make beautiful music, and what could be better than that? Except maybe the disappearance of Good Charlotte from the modern music scene.

photos courtesy of amazon.com

Metal Gear Solid 3 arrives

Whitney Johnson
Charger Staff

When Konami Computer Entertainment Japan promised to deliver its biggest and best game as the third and final chapter of its *Metal Gear Solid* series, fan anticipation began to rise as the game's November release date approached. The series debuted fifteen years ago, and since the first game's release for the PlayStation console, the series has sold more than 14.6 million copies worldwide.

The *Metal Gear Solid* series is an action/adventure drama with stealth missions at its tactical center. The different chapters are renowned for their realistic battle system, awesome graphics and mind-bending plot twists.

As with most Konami games, each comes with its own unique brand of weirdness. Fans have loved these games from Seoul to Seattle, and after receiving critical acclaim for over a decade, promising to raise the bar was no small feat. Yet it would seem that Konami and director Hideo Kojima have done just that. *Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater* is a single-player action game created in the first- and third- person styles of Nintendo's *Golden Eye 007*. Fans of the first two games will find themselves in familiar

territory as far as gameplay goes, but the actual physical territory of the game is in an entirely different era. This time, the player finds himself dropped in the middle of tense Cold War politics playing as a new agent codenamed "Naked Snake."

Survival is a key element of the game, earning its name as you battle your way through a jungle located in the southern Soviet Union. Your mission, as briefed amidst real filmstrips of President Johnson and Khrushchev, is to infiltrate enemy strongholds and rescue a nuclear weapons scientist before his project is finished. If you fail, the earth will be propelled one step closer to nuclear armageddon.

Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater is more exciting, intense and much more realistic than its predecessors. It features top of the line PS2 graphics, enhanced sound and voice-acting against a mind-blowing soundtrack straight from the 1960's. *Metal Gear Solid* veterans will be glad to know that the game also hosts a variety of fascinating new characters along with a few familiar faces. *Metal Gear Solid 3* can be found in Cookeville at video stores like Sam Goody or Game Crazy for \$49.99.



SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST
-- Snake prepares to save Amer-



MUSIC FROM THE MOVIE AND MORE...

Oceia's
Jewelry Gifts and Accessories

M-F 10-6 and Sat. 10-5
"Where the unusual is expected."

We have all the latest in Prom accessories.

1655 D South Jefferson Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38506
931-526-9668

Brenda Saylor
Owner

Richard W. Dycus, D. D. S.

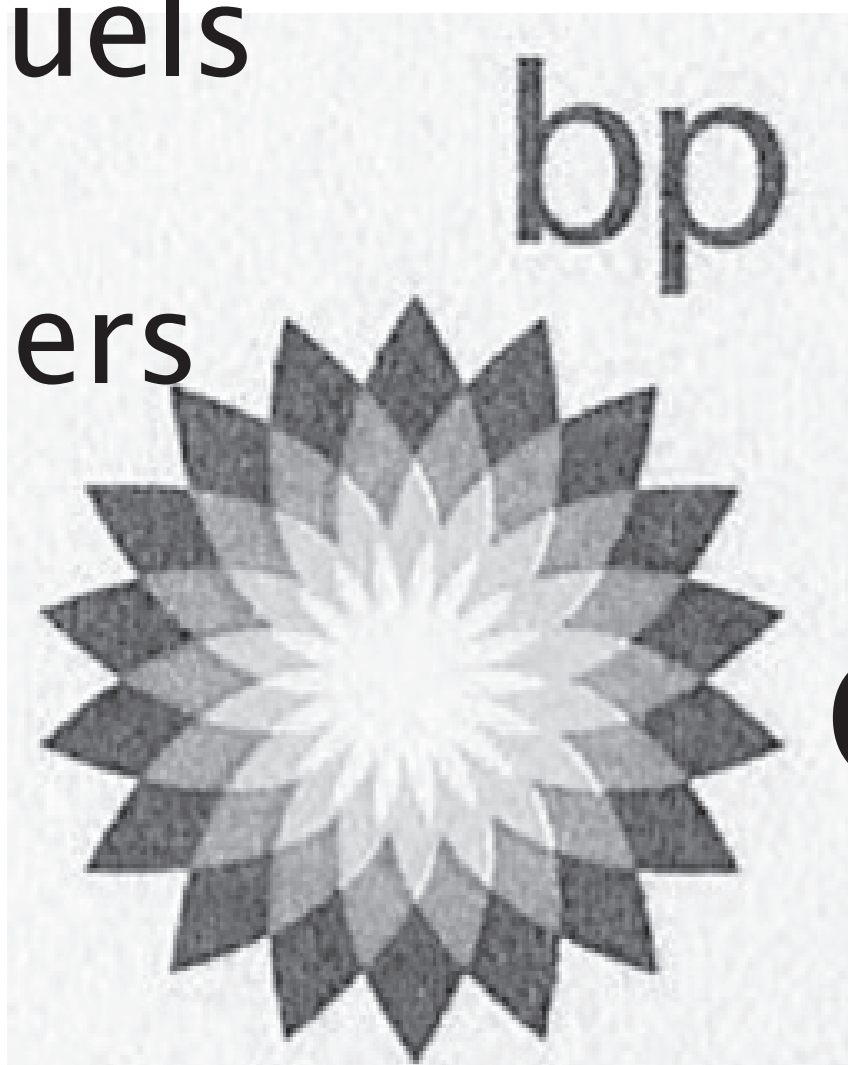
390 South Lowe Avenue, Suite 6
Cookeville, TN 38501

528-7977

Lamb Oil Company

879 W. Jackson St.
Cookeville, TN
931-526-1626

BP/Amoco Fuels
Rated #1
by Consumers



Go
Cavaliers!