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# THE MIX

THEY SAID IT

ALBERT EINSTEIN: "The important thing is to not stop questioning."

## Tuning up S.C.'s bandwidth

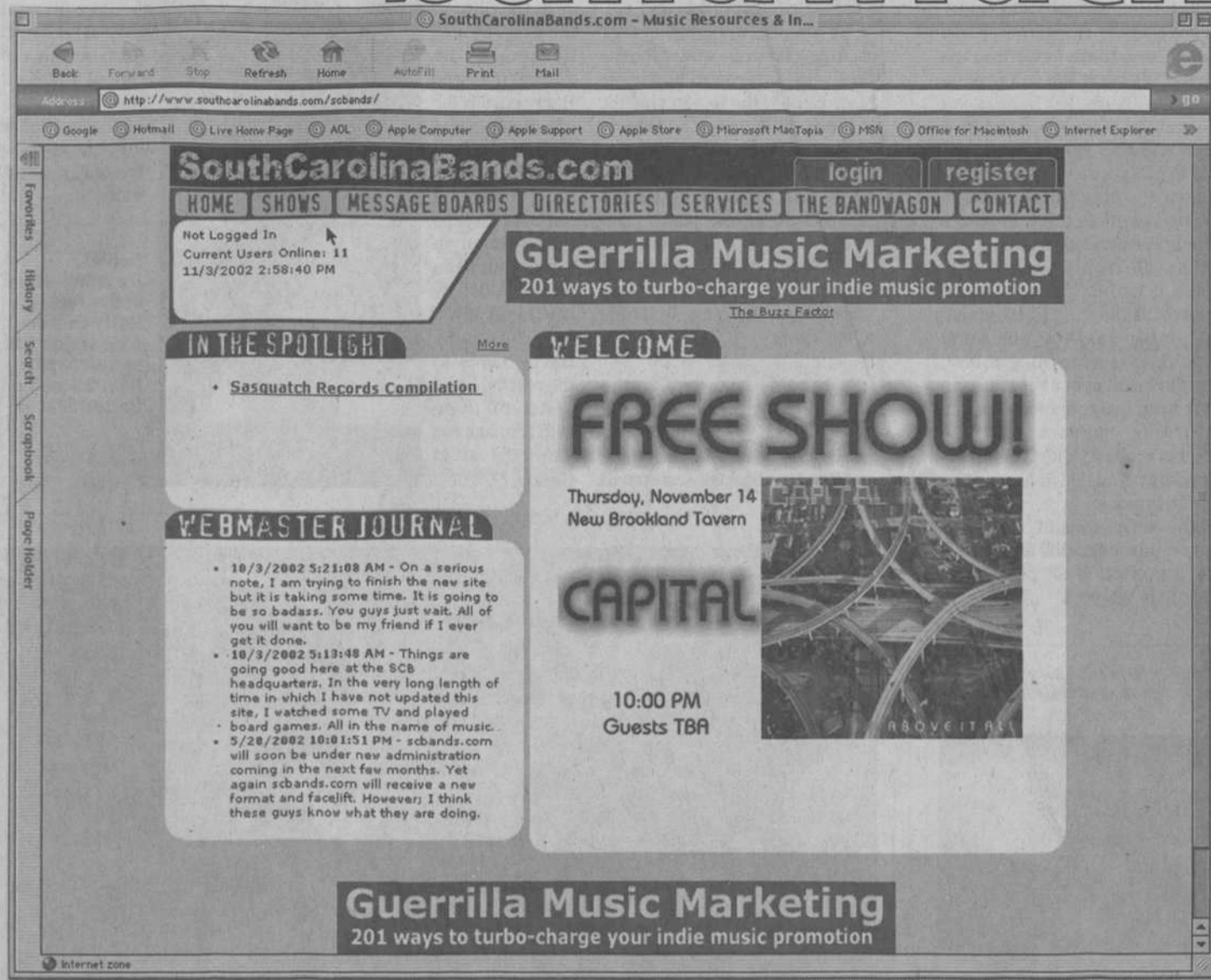


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF SOUTHCAROLINABANDS.COM

### More reviews, search functions on the way for music Web site

BY CHARLES TOMLINSON

The Web site [www.southcarolinabands.com](http://www.southcarolinabands.com) makes a plethora of resources available to any musician in South Carolina with an Internet connection, and those resources are about to become even more plentiful. Eric "Nilla" Maddox, webmaster and one-man driving force behind the site since its inception two years ago, is planning a major update for the South Carolina music Web site. He is reworking the coding for the entire site, using a lot of the "geek stuff" he said he's learned lately to improve the site and make it easier to use. He said he hopes the changes will be in place within the next two months. Part of Maddox's plan is to enhance the message boards on the site, which are places for musicians and fans to exchange opinions about music and even find people to form a band with. "The message board's definite-

ly what everybody goes there for," he said. "There are definitely going to be enhancements on the message boards and things for more interaction there." A chat room might be among the enhancements for the Southcarolinabands.com community, Maddox said. But he doesn't want the site to be a forum for musicians only. "It sort of seems to lean toward just musicians right now, and I'd like to get people who are just interested in music to come there," Maddox said. "And to come there more than just once; to keep coming back and keeping up with stuff." He said he thinks album and show reviews will lure music fans, especially those who are new to Columbia and want to see what the local scene has to offer. The site recently acquired a reviewer, Michael Jones, and other writers have also shown interest, Maddox said. Bands that send CDs to Jones will get their recordings reviewed on the site. Jones has already reviewed CDs by such local bands as Hot Lava Monster, Winged DNA and the Lesser Light. Maddox and other Columbia band members also "bombed" USC students with fliers for local

concerts on move-in day in August, Maddox said. He said that Southcarolinabands.com wants to get freshmen "involved in the scene, instead of them going out to booty clubs." He said he wants to introduce a newsletter with the new Web site, as well as a calendar that constantly runs on computer desktops and automatically updates each time the computer restarts. "We're gonna pound some show dates into people's heads," he said. The revamped Web site will also include a search function that allows visitors to look for South Carolina bands, band members, or musicians to play and form bands with. The search will locate Southcarolinabands.com's articles, reviews and any other information about a particular local band. Also, Maddox said, the search function will let users search for bands by influence. He said that, for example, if someone searches for Queens of the Stone Age, the search function will display bands that are influenced by or sound like that band. But not only existing local bands will be featured on Southcarolinabands.com; defunct bands will also be included. And



Eric "Nilla" Maddox, the site webmaster, is in the process of adding features to his site for S.C. musicians and music fans.

through listing these late bands, the Web site will provide a history of South Carolina music, Maddox said. A photo directory might be another new feature, and would allow bands to upload their press photos and pictures from live shows. Maddox said this feature could be useful because, although people might not like to admit it, many people judge bands on the way they look. But even without the improvements, Maddox's Web site has been quite a helping hand to some Columbia bands. Jason Kirincich, vocalist for Columbia band Tykes With Guns, credits [southcarolinabands.com](http://southcarolinabands.com) with getting his band its first show. He said the band Super Bike, for which Maddox formerly played

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MOVIE REVIEW

## Odd pair makes 'I Spy' amusing



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK  
Owen Wilson, left, and Eddie Murphy star in "I Spy." The chemistry between the two actors saves this film from its formulaic plot and lackluster cast of bad guys.

"I SPY"  
Starring Owen Wilson and Eddie Murphy  
★★★ out of ★★★★★

BY BEN ANGSTADT  
THE GAMECOCK

"I Spy" seems like a high-risk movie before it even begins. When the headlining cast consists of one actor still trying to establish himself as a star and another whose best role in recent memory was voicing an animated donkey, there's no way to predict what's coming. But somehow, despite its apparent cast shortcomings with the odd couple of Owen Wilson and Eddie Murphy, "I Spy" still manages to be a lot of fun. Wilson plays American spy Alex Scott, a less-than-super agent who's trying to move up on the spy food chain. After a botched mission in Russia, he gets assigned to track down the Switchblade, a stealth plane that was stolen from the American military and taken to Budapest, Hungary, where the international bad guys plan to auction it off to the highest bidder. By some amazing coincidence, the auction is to take place at a party the night before World Middleweight Boxing champion Kelly Robinson (Murphy) defends his title in Budapest. The only logical option is for Scott to recruit Robinson and use him as a cover so that Scott can sneak into the party, get the information about the stolen plane and fly it back to America. The brash, pompous Robinson has no desire to work with the nerdy spy Scott, but once he sees all the great spy gadgets, his interest is piqued and he can't turn the job down. From then on, everything follows the standard buddy-come-dy formula: a by-the-book professional gets teamed up with a rookie who does things his own way; sparks fly between them; they begrudgingly work together; they have a falling out; and by the end of the film, they're the

♦ 'I SPY,' SEE PAGE 6

DVD REVIEW

## 'Spider-Man' DVD spins out



"SPIDER-MAN" Starring Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst  
★★★ out of ★★★★★

BY ERIN CLINE  
THE GAMECOCK  
A summer blockbuster movie should also have blockbuster DVD features. But that's not the case with the just-released "Spider-Man" DVD. It just doesn't hold up to the responsibilities of a megahit. The movie, which was released in theaters in the summer of 2002,

features Tobey Maguire as Peter Parker; Kirsten Dunst as his crush, Mary Jane Watson; Willem Dafoe as scientist Norman Osborn; and James Franco as his son, Harry Osborn. The movie follows the obstacles faced by Peter, who is on a field trip with his high-school class when he gets bitten by a genetically modified spider. He soon develops acute senses, the capacity to shoot webs and the ability to climb walls. Peter uses his spider characteristics for money at first, but then uses his powers to fight evil after his uncle gets killed. Meanwhile, Norman, a scientist, turns himself into Spider-Man's nemesis, the Green Goblin. The movie is two hours of fight after fight between Spider-Man and the Green Goblin, while Peter competes with Harry for the affection of Mary Jane. It's the classic comic book turned big-screen movie, with the hint of a sequel. "Spider-Man" comes packaged as a two-DVD set. The actual movie has a grainy quality at times, but overall, the images are close to those from the theater. The menus for the two disks can be hard to navigate and control,

however, and that could easily deter those not as interested in learning everything possible about Spider-Man. The first disk contains the standard behind-the-scenes commentary by director Sam Raimi and a few members of the cast. Of course, they have nothing but praise for the movie, and it's tedious to watch that over and over. Also on the first disk are the 11 commercials that ran for the movie, even the one that endorsed a phone company. Wow, is that overkill necessary? The music video for Chad Kroeger's "Hero" is also on this disk, as if it wasn't overplayed enough during the months after the movie's theater release. The second disk is loaded with all the Spider-Man stuff anyone can stand. Viewers get, yet again, more looks behind the scenes. The HBO special, the E! Entertainment special and a profile of Raimi add up to more than an hour's worth of overplayed Spidermania. With the gag reel, the DVD offers one glimpse of hope, but fails. The chosen outtakes are disappointing and not funny at all. One thing of

♦ 'SPIDER-MAN,' SEE PAGE 6

CD REVIEW

## Album gets mired in mystery



"()" Sigur Ros  
★★ out of ★★★★★

BY WILLIAM MILLS  
THE GAMECOCK

Sigur Ros succeeds in dazzling fans with the obscurity of its latest album, "()." This is one release, however, that fans can't sing along to; the album is as mysterious as it is pretentious. These Icelandic dream-rockers don't include a single word, track title or clear picture in the liner notes, but even if they did, it probably wouldn't be in English, anyway. Sigur Ros sings in a made-up language, called Hopelandish, somewhere between Icelandic

and fantasy. "()" is the band's third album since its beginning in 1994. Sigur Ros has since toured with such popular artists as fellow Icelander Bjork and Thom Yorke, who specifically requested the band. If its goal is to make beautiful sleep-inducing music to play for toddlers just before bedtime, then Sigur Ros is ahead of its time. But it'll take a little more than the occasional whale sound and light piano to bring this album down from the secluded mountaintop in Iceland where it rests from the first untitled song to the last. Although the album contains only eight songs, they all clock in at between six and 13 minutes, and the album clears 70 minutes. "()" is bursting with beautifully raw keyboard crescendos and resonant guitars, but by the end of the album, the dreaminess has departed and listeners are left with something completely confusing. Although the cosmic super-whiney epic songs seem incredibly emotional and moving in the beginning, that fades away by the final track. But Sigur Ros — Jon Thor Birgisson (vocals, guitar), Georg

Holm (bass), Kjortan Sveinsson (keyboard, guitar) and Orri Pall Dyrason (drums) — do provide a valuable service. These cosmic blizzard-rockers allow listeners to derive their own meaning from the songs. The songs act like an inkblot test in which listeners can twist and reconstruct the incoherent words to build their own castles of melancholy. Furthermore, "()" just seems like one of those albums that all of the indie kids scrambling for something different and untainted latch on to. Sigur Ros definitely tries to be different and inventive. Birgisson plays his guitar with a bow instead of the traditional pick, producing a symphonic whine. This sound is augmented by his unstable, high-pitched voice and layered over the backdrop of slow keyboards and slower drumbeats. The end result of the album is confusion. This is either the music of the stars or pretentious nonsense. If the future of obscure rock is drawn-out lyrics about nothing, music fans should invent a time machine. Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecockmixeditor@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockmixeditor@hotmail.com)