

# STUDENT LIFE

## Fall Out Boy hits new highs on latest album

*"I'm a leading man/And the lies I weave are oh-so intricate/Oh-so intricate"*

Fall Out Boy- "This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race"

By Josh Lane  
student life editor

If you're a fan of Fall Out Boy it should come as no big surprise that the first voice you hear on their newest album *Infinity on High* is not their lead singer Patrick Stump, but is actually their label boss Jay-Z. He takes the liberty of opening the album with his usual pre-track howling, only he ditches the usual, "I need more snare in the headphones" line that usually precedes every track on his albums, and instead gives a shout out to the long time FOB supporters saying, "To the fans that held us down till everybody came around. Welcome, it's here."

And Jay-Z couldn't be more right. It is all here. You get the ridiculously long titles of their songs i.e., "I'm Like A Lawyer With The Way I'm Always Trying To Get You Off (Me and You)." Yes that is an actual song title, yes we get it. It's clever. You get that same FOB humor and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fall Out Boy's *Infinity On High* hits stores February 6. The first single is "This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race"

wordplay throughout all of their songs. But still, something feels different.

In this album FOB matures and makes a departure from their multi-platinum album *From Under The Cork Tree*. They show no fear with their first single, "This Ain't a Scene, It's

an Arms Race." The track opens with layers of abstract synth sounds and heavy electronic drum loops that make the song sound like it could be an early nineties Top 40 hit, that is until the guitars burst in for the chorus. Other songs on the album, like "Thanks Fr Th Mmrs"

sound like they're straight out of a musical. The track "Golden" is stripped down to just a piano and singer Patrick Stump's crooning voice that builds layers until it feels like an entire church choir.

It's not just their musicianship that's grown since their last record, but also the writing. Writer-bassist Pete Wentz shows us a little (just a little) more maturity on this album. Wentz writes more songs about dealing with their sudden superstardom than with teenage love problems. We get lines like, "Make us poster boys in your scene/ But we are not making an acceptance speech." Or the chorus from the first single, "I'm a leading man/ And the lies I weave are oh-so intricate/ oh-so intricate."

There are only two ways people feel about Fall Out Boy; you either like them or you hate them. No one ever says Fall Out Boy is "alright." So if you like Fall Out Boy, go and pick this one up on February 6. You're going to enjoy this album a lot. If you hate them, well this one won't make you change your mind.

## A major musical hangover

By Ryan Gallagher  
contributing writer

After glancing at the top five best-selling albums of 2006, I got a feeling similar to when I wake up most mornings. To experience this same feeling, either take a quick glance at the charts or drink one-fifth of cheap whiskey with a roommate until two in the morning, whichever sounds more appealing.

I have not had the opportunity to listen to the soundtrack from "High School Musical," however I did notice that below its position at number one, sits Rascal Flatts, Carrie Underwood, and Nickelback. Now I understand that some people enjoy country because they were raised in farmish/country surroundings, and that was all they knew. That's fine. However, the last time I checked, the entire country of America was not raised on the farm, so why don't we support some music that uses a little more variety. If you've heard one country song, you've heard them all.

And isn't it a bit strange that country band sounds an awful lot like contraband? Chris LaFuria made me aware of this the other day and I had a good five minute guffaw.

But let's put the country music aside and get down to brass tacks. In case you weren't reading to your fullest potential, the number four position was filled by Nickelback.

Do not get me wrong here, I have enjoyed many drunken nights listening to my old roommate do outstanding impressions of Nickelback's work. But any day now, I am waiting for lead-singer/guitarist Chad Kroeger to come out and laugh in America's face, revealing that the whole project was a joke that he got rich off of.

I have yet to figure out why 2.7 million people paid good money for the band's latest "All the Right Reasons" in 2006. To make an attempt at

solving this mystery, I unfortunately had to sit down and listen to the band the other night and had to turn every song off as soon as the vocals began. This doesn't mean the music was good until the singing started; it just means that I could tolerate it until my ears were bombed with a combination of the most unbearable voice in rock music today and lyrics that actually made me laugh out loud.

The fact that there's a record label out there that even gave these guys a chance disgusts me and makes me wonder if we'll ever hear music comparable to the works of artists such as Frank Sinatra, the Beatles, Bob Dylan, the Pixies, etc. These legends contributed some of the finest music to the world that is continued to be exploited in entertainment to this day.

Last and certainly not least, we have Justin Timberlake bringing up the rear. I'm not quite sure how this happened, considering you can't go a day without hearing his voice, whether it's via radio, television, nightclubs, etc. So why are people spending money to listen to this music to the fullest extent and when are they listening to it? All it is good for is dancing, if you enjoy dancing in that style, so this just leads me to believe that there are actually people out there that would classify their life as a constant dance party.

The problem is that every form of respectable music has already been originated, so now we're inventing music just to invent it. It doesn't have to be worthy; it just has to satisfy the tastes of a growing number of teens and college students.

I keep getting this picture in my head that 20 years from now, this kind of music can be considered classics from our generation. As far as I can tell, music is doomed from here on out, so please go out and take some advice from musicians and listen to something that wouldn't necessarily be found on the radio or on the charts. It would be great for you.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Justin Timberlake, always on the radio

## Auditions

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## Billboard top 10 singles

1. Beyoncé – Irreplaceable
2. Fall Out Boy – This Ain't a Scene, It's an Arms Race
3. Nelly Furtado – Say It Right
4. Akon ft. Snoop Dogg – I Wanna Love You
5. Jim Jones – We Fly High
6. Daughtry – It's Not Over
7. Fergie – Fergalicious
8. Akon ft. Eminem – Smack That
9. The Fray – How To Save a Life
10. My Chemical Romance – Welcome to The Black Parade

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