

## STUDENT LIFE

## Eager fans enter Cartel's bubble



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Cartel has recently released their second full-length studio album.

first single from their album *Chroma* was "Honestly," and, from the opening of the song to the ending note, it is filled with gripping lyrics but still remains catchy.

Another major difference between the new CD and their first record is that the tempo is slowed down a lot in the new CD, and lead singer Will Pugh's voice is showcased more than in the first album. The up-tempo melodies of the first album are much better suited for Cartel's style of play and Will's voice. Even though I don't believe the album stands up to their first album. It is definitely not a flop and is still better than many of the other records that come out in their genre. For example, the song "The Fortunate" features great lyrics and a very catchy hook, and the melody keeps you listening. The song that follows it is called "Georgia," and really can't be compared to any of Cartel's previous songs. It is slow-paced and driven by really powerful lyrics about the state where the band grew up, and how they gave up their home to follow their dreams.

When it comes down to it, if you are a fan of the pop-rock genre, I would say you should definitely pick up this album, and if you are not, give it a shot anyway. It could easily turn you into a fan.

On May 24, Cartel was locked inside a giant transparent bubble on Pier 54 in Manhattan. They were challenged to write, record and produce a full-length album in 20 days while fans were allowed to access 23 strategically placed web cameras at all times while the band was in the bubble.

The bubble housed a state-of-the-art recording studio, kitchen, dining area, bathroom, lounge and giant sleeping pod with bunk beds for each band member. The whole process was sponsored by Dr. Pepper and there was a reality show on MTV showcasing the issues faced by the band.

On June 12, the Band in a Bubble left to perform a free concert on the Hudson River, and the album was complete. Producing an album from start to finish in 20 days is a very impressive task, but it is clear after listening to the album that it was rushed in order to make the deadline. In their first full-length album, the songs are fueled by strong lyrics, but in the new album it is obvious the main objective was to be catchy with the refrains and therefore not enough work was done writing the verses. For example, the first single from the new album, "Love, It" is pretty much two minutes of chorus with 30 seconds of actual verse. In contrast, the

## Box Office Breakdown

August 24-26, 2007

1	Superbad	\$18,044,369
2	The Bourne Ultimatum	\$12,472,215
3	Rush Hour 3	\$11,706,643
4	Mr. Bean's Holiday	\$9,889,780
5	W A R	\$9,820,089
6	The Nanny Diaries	\$7,480,927
7	The Simpsons Movie	\$4,317,689
8	Stardust	\$3,872,560
9	Hairspray (2007)	\$3,265,384
10.	The Invasion	\$3,093,428
11.	Underdog	\$2,516,604
12	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	\$2,402,412
13	I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry	\$2,033,570
14	Becoming Jane	\$1,911,867
15	Resurrecting the Champ	\$1,659,756
16	Illegal Tender	\$1,425,915
17	No Reservations	\$1,273,404
18	Ratatouille	\$1,168,729
19	Transformers	\$1,148,876
20	Death at a Funeral	\$1,080,827

\*Statistics courtesy of BoxOfficeMojo.com

## Question of the week:

Who is your favorite sibling acting duo?

- A) Owen and Luke Wilson
- B) Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen
- C) The Wayans Brothers
- D) The Affleck Brothers
- E) Other

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## "Top Five Favorite Summer Movies"

By Sam Levine

5. *The Simpsons Movie*4. *Transformers*3. *1408*2. *Superbad*1. *The Bourne Ultimatum*

## "Top Five Cereals of All Time"

By Andy McLachlan

5. Reese's Puffs

4. Coco Puffs

3. Honey Nut Cheerios

2. Fruit Loops

1. Cinnamon Toast Crunch

## Protest songs raise political awareness among college students

By Scott Muska  
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Since the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001, the collective population of the United States has become increasingly politically aware. The country has become divided on many different topics, but the most fervently debated has been the war in Iraq.

An increasingly popular way for these arguments and opinions to be voiced to a vast audience has been through music recordings and performances, and such songs have been dubbed "protest songs."

Protest songs are currently making their way into mainstream pop culture in a way that mirrors the Vietnam War era, when they reached an astounding popularity and influenced the minds and opinions of youths all over the country. Now, just as then, they have to do mainly with the current war and the alleged lack of justification for it.

Neil Young and John Lennon were some of the more popularized advocates of protest songs in the '60s and '70s, and they are still impacting the genre today. Last year, Young released an album titled

*Living With War* that was basically an entire protest record on which he attacked the Bush administration over many of the highly-debated current political topics. He included the Iraq War, steroids in baseball, the destruction of New Orleans as a result of Hurricane Katrina, the Patriot Act, and other supposed fallacies.

Lennon became known as one of the most politically aware musicians of his or any other time, and his work with The Beatles and as a solo artist live on with much popularity to this day. A cover album of some of Lennon's songs, called *Instant Karma*, was recently released as part of Amnesty International's effort to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. It includes covers by such popular artists as Christina Aguilera, Green Day, U2, REM, and Snow Patrol. Along with many of the other songs, Green Day's cover of "Working Class Hero" has garnered immense publicity, and its video features Sudanese refugees speaking about

life in Darfur and the hardships their countrymen endure.

The vast majority of the protest songs that are coming out have a very pacifistic tone, and they often attack George Bush in very merciless ways. The single from Neil Young's *Living With War* is titled "Let's Impeach the President," and the increasingly popular Conor Oberst of Bright Eyes has come out with a song called, "When the President Talks to God." Maroon 5 has admitted that they are speaking out against President Bush at times in their newly released album, *It Won't Be Soon Before Long*, and Rage Against the Machine guitarist, Tom Morello, has recently released a solo album under the name *The Nightwatchman* called *One Man Revolution* on which he vehemently denounces the government.

Not only are artists penning protest songs, they

are also speaking out between songs during concerts and events about the way they feel things are being mishandled. Shortly after Hurricane Katrina, Kanye West said that George Bush "doesn't care about black people," and Dave Matthews has spoken out openly against the treatment of the soldiers in Iraq and the war in general saying that he "fears that our true motivation is about oil and our own failing economy; about the failure to destroy Al Qaeda and about revenge."

Whether the war in Iraq is justified or not is an extremely debatable issue that has become subject to many schools of thought. Whether the artists who put out these songs are inherently right or not has become an afterthought. What has come to the forefront of the protest songs as of late has not been that the ideals presented through them are sound or righteous, but that political opinion is being spread in the popular culture mainstream, which is getting more of the nation involved in deciding its political direction. This will grow increasingly more important in the coming year, when a new president will be elected and the direction of the nation will definitely change.



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Tom Morello performs solo.