

- [College Publisher Network](#)
- [Join the College Publisher Network](#)
- [Advertise Across the Network](#)
- [View Network Affiliates](#)

- [Select your search method](#)
- [Search](#)

- Search This Paper
- Search Google

- [Top National College News](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Job Search](#)
- [Movies](#)



[Home](#) > [Undefined Section](#)

Top 10s of 2004

Pop Arts staff

Issue date: 1/20/05 **Section:** [Undefined Section](#)

Originally published: 1/20/05 at 12:00 AM EST **Last update:** 1/30/06 at 11:16 AM EST

Top 10s of 2004

2004, thank you for being so generous. You were by far one of the biggest years for releasing lots and lots of entertainment product. Although you gave us lots of things we wanted, like a new U2 album, a new Nintendo game system and movie sequels aplenty, you also gave us a few we didn't want, like Ashlee Simpson, William Hung and Surviving Christmas. Luckily, the Pop Arts staff has chosen to only focus on the best of the year in everything from music to movies to comic books.

Andrew Hampp's Top 10 Movies:

1. *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* —Think what you will about a love story starring Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet. Then see the year's most original film, featuring a mind-blowing screenplay by Charlie Kaufman. With top-notch acting all around (especially from Carrey and Winslet) and the brilliant Michel Gondry at the director's helm, *Eternal Sunshine* was 2004's film to beat in virtually every category.

1. (tie) Mean Girls — Think what you will about a teen movie starring Lindsay Lohan. Then see the year's most witty film, featuring classic dialogue penned by SNL's Tina Fey, who also stars as the wisecracking Ms. Norbury. It's a breath of life into the rapidly decaying teen film genre. Or, as Gretchen Wieners would say, so fetch!
3. Garden State — A remarkable debut feature from "Scrubs" Zach Braff, who wrote, directed and starred. A touching love story about the importance of finding a place to call home, a theme that should ring especially true for most college students. Natalie Portman, playing Sam, gives one of her two outstanding performances of the year.
4. The Incredibles — The movie that solidified Pixar as the most consistently great movie studio in existence. Further blurring the line between quality children's and adult entertainment, Incredibles was that rare movie, animated or otherwise, that literally appealed to all who watched it. And let's hear it for director Brad Bird, who also voiced the fabulous Edna Mode.
5. Kill Bill, Vol. 2 — Quentin Tarantino's ultraviolent Vol. 1 was followed up by this brilliant, quieter, character-driven sequel featuring an award-worthy performance by Uma Thurman and the creepiest live-burial sequence ever. Although the body count was far lower this time around, the excitement sure wasn't.
6. Closer — Brutally honest. Mike Nichols expertly directs a cast comprised solely of Julia Roberts, Clive Owen, Jude Law and Natalie Portman, all of whom shine in this morality tale about truth and fidelity. Portman delivers knockout performance No. 2 as stripper/waitress Alice.
7. 13 Going on 30 — The guiltless pleasure of the year. Despite shamelessly ripping Big's plotline, 13 Going on 30 featured a dazzling performance by Jennifer Garner, a heartfelt script and the best dance sequence of the year to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." If only more films could be as satisfying as this. A fat-free snack of a chick flick.
8. Spider-Man 2 — Effortlessly avoiding the sophomore slump (ditto Shrek 2), Sam Raimi's blockbuster sequel did an amazing job of further fleshing out the man behind the mask. Tobey Maguire, in what could be his career-defining role, is a perfect mix of shy and courageous, and Kirsten Dunst is really coming into her own as Mary Jane. And how about that cliffhanger ending with the Green Goblin?!
9. Finding Neverland — Contractually shelved to make way for last year's lackluster Peter Pan, Neverland was worth the two-year wait. An acting triumph. Johnny Depp admirably sheds all layers of creepiness in a truly heartwarming portrayal of Pan author J.M. Barrie, while Kate Winslet, Freddie Highmore, Radha Mitchell and Julie Christie all impress with their dazzling supporting performances.
10. The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou — Wes Anderson took a risk for his fourth film with a bigger budget and a new writing partner. Luckily, he still succeeded with this imaginative love letter to sea exploration. Although star Owen Wilson is sorely missed in the film's screenplay, he makes up for it with an affecting role as Bill Murray's estranged son.

Robert Taylor's Top 10 TV Shows:

1. "Desperate Housewives" — Endlessly witty, laugh-out-loud funny and never too smart for its own good, Desperate Housewives continues to be the high point of my television week month in and month out. The four leading ladies all personify their characters perfectly, and the ever-expanding supporting cast is juggled just right. We all know learning about other people's dirty laundry is fun, but this is just plain wicked!

2. “Wonderfalls” — What do you mean you never watched this gem? Okay, so Fox only aired four episodes last March, but that is no excuse to overlook this relentlessly original, achingly hilarious show about a woman who finds that inanimate objects are telling her to do things. It’s “Joan of Arcadia” with style, good acting and less corniness. But don’t worry, the DVD is coming out soon, so I’ll forgive you if you pick that up.
3. “Lost” — What is endlessly surprising about this series is how easily you can find yourself drawn into the mysteries of the island and how fun it is to see just how screwed up all the characters really are when their pasts are revealed (that brother-sister make out scene? Icky!). This is the most addictive show on television, hands down, so what if it’ll be season 6 before we get through all the characters?
4. “The Amazing Race” — It’s the only reason to turn on reality TV ... ever. We’ve had two amazing (pardon the pun) seasons so far this year that work for entirely different reasons, yet they both worked so well that you can’t help but come back week after week. Last season it was about watching the underdogs like Chip and Kim and The Bowling Moms persevere and this season it’s just about waiting for Jonathan to lose! The Alpha males this season are actually nice guys (Hellboy...er...Adam not withstanding) who I enjoy rooting for, but Jonathan is the kind of villain who will be whispered about by frightened reality producers for decades to come.
5. “Angel”— The Buffy universe went out on a high note, giving fans everything they could have hoped for and more. The show has ended but, as always, “Angel’s” battle for redemption continues.
6. “24” — After a so-so start to the third season it kicked into high gear for the last 12 hours, giving viewers just what they needed and had been lacking since the middle of season 2: characters we care about in situations that are suspenseful and frightening.
7. “The O.C.” — It’s a soap-opera that actually works! We’ve got another big ensemble cast on our hands here, one that was juggled perfectly, never forced but never boring.
8. “Veronica Mars” — It’s Nancy Drew meets Harry Hamlin! This teen sleuth tackles really adult issues (rape, drug issues, the death of her best friend, abortion) that would bog down any other show to the point of cheesy melodrama, but here it is just a jumping point for us to become invested in Veronica’s quirky character.
9. “Monk” — The mysteries are cheesy as always (a monkey supposedly kills a record producer in his panic room), but as always Tony Shalhoub and Bitty Schram drive the series with their grounded and emotional performances. Shalhoub never goes too far into comedy to make us not sympathize with his plight, and Schram provides the perfect anchor to his OCD. With Schram’s firing from the series, I’m not holding out much hope for 2005, but 2004 was a year to remember.
10. “I Love The ’90s!” — Hey, I actually remember some of this stuff! The many guests work their magic mojo on the material, as always, but this time even the strategically placed “big name” stars (Maroon 5, Dominic Monaghan) have something interesting to say.

Allan Lamb’s Top 10 Movies:

1. House of Flying Daggers — Director Zhang Yimou’s second film to be released in the U.S. is a visual masterpiece. Vivid colors and beautiful displays of natural scenery accentuate the story of two star-crossed lovers (Zhang Ziyi and Takeshi Kaneshiro) in the midst of internal conflicts both within their nation and within their hearts.

2. Kill Bill, Vol. 2 — Uma Thurman is back again as “The Bride” in the second part of the Kill Bill franchise. The dialogue exposing the relationship between “The Bride” and her boss-turned-lover-turned-nemesis, Bill (David Carradine), is just as enveloping as the well-choreographed fight scenes of Vol. 1. Michael Madsen and Daryl Hannah also give notable performances.
3. Fahrenheit 9/11 — Michael Moore puts out his ballsy-est documentary yet. After taking shots at GM outsourcings and the gun problem in our country, he takes one giant leap towards the Bush administration and the “War on Terror.” Once again combining his sense of humor along with his sense of humanity, he exposes a lot of the greedy activities within our federal government and their clandestine relationships with billion dollar corporations, the Saudi royalty and the Bin Laden family.
4. Hero —The only thing wrong with this film is that some people got confused and thought it was directed by Quentin Tarantino. He had no hand in the production, he’s only the American distributor. However, the film does share some Tarantino-esque characteristics such as elaborate martial arts sequences and showing different sides to the same story. Jet Li stars, but the best acting comes from Tony Leung and Maggie Cheung. The best fight scene is the first one between Jet Li and Donnie Yen.
5. Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story —Vince Vaughn finds his true calling once again as a comedic leading man, as does Ben Stiller as a narcissistic body builder. Rip Torn’s role as a burned out dodgeball champion is probably his funniest ever. Office Space alumni Gary Cole and Stephen Root also have supporting roles.
6. Troy — The mediocre performance by Orlando Bloom is overshadowed by those of Eric Bana and Brad Pitt. Pitt is perfectly cast as the legendary Achilles, the man no one could kill, but Bana steals the show as Hector, prince of Troy. For those not into drama, the excellent cinematography and the truly epic, and gory, battle scenes are what make this one worth a thousand views.
7. Spider-Man 2 — The cast from the 2002 blockbuster returns to perfect their roles, minus Willem Dafoe’s Green Goblin, replaced by Alfred Molina’s Doctor Octopus as the mad scientist villain. The action is more frequent and more exciting which makes up for the repeated formula from the first. There’s also a cameo by director Sam Raimi’s long-time collaborator Bruce Campbell.
8. Super-Size Me — We’ve always known that McDonald’s is not a health food restaurant, but Morgan Spurlock goes deeper into it and shows us that the health effects go beyond gaining weight. He demonstrates this very well by explaining the role fast food plays in our society and playing guinea pig to show the negative effects by eating nothing but McDonald’s every day for a month and not exercising because the average American doesn’t.
9. Mean Girls — What looked like the next in the long line of teen comedies turned out to be one of the most hilarious films of the year. SNL Weekend Update anchorwoman Tina Fey penned this witty farce on high school typecastes.
10. Saved! — Aside from being a pretentious message movie, this commentary on religious zeal does well in exposing the hypocrisy in fundamentalism. And with the political mood of this year’s election, Saved! finds some significance, however short lived.

Walter Kneeland’s Top 10 Comic Books:

1. Superman: Secret Identity # 1 — Kurt Busiek and Stuart Immonen compose a story focused on a boy with the unfortunate name of Clark Kent who just happens to have Superman's powers. This first issue kicked off the 4-issue series, starting on an extremely high note.

2. JLA/Avengers # 4 (conclusion) —This conclusion to the long-awaited DC/Marvel crossover boasts wonderful art, and in various scenes of “alternate realities,” serves up glimpses both into recent as well as classic stories. Makes for a good read in general and fantastic for long-time comic readers.
3. Identity Crisis # 3 (Deathstroke vs. JLA) —Writer Brad Meltzer restores an older character — Deathstroke — to the forefront as one of the most dangerous combatants in the DC Universe as he takes down the JLA in 8 seconds. This issue was part 3 of a 7-part miniseries.
4. Astonishing X-Men # 4 (the Return of Colossus) — Joss Whedon re-introduces X-Man Colossus in his introductory arc on the title.
5. Tales of the TMNT # 5 — Jim Lawson's story of Leonardo vs. a Foot Elite Guardsman provides a powerful story of the Ninja Turtle, who must fight blind against a deadly foe. The art's all-silhouette style conveys the blindness while giving the reader visual imagery.
6. Legion of Super-Heroes # 1 — Mark Waid & Barry Kitson's revamp of the Legion kicked off in December with a re-introduction of classic characters in a new context. The series features 8 extra pages at no extra cost, adding to its reading value.
7. GI Joe # 32 — Though there may not be a lot one can do with licensed properties, Devil's Due writer Brandon Jerwa offered a shocking moment, as both Cobra Commander (leader of Cobra) and Hawk (Leader of the G.I. Joe team) were both shot and left for dead.
8. Green Lantern: Rebirth # 1 — Geoff Johns kicks off a story that will restore Hal Jordan to his heroic status story that many fans have been waiting for since the character's fall in the early 1990s.
9. Teen Titans #s 17-19 ("Titans Tomorrow") — Johns offers a glimpse 10 years into the future of the teen heroes, where the heroes seem worse than the villains. It plays off of recent storylines in other DC titles.
10. Conan # 8 ("Born on a Battlefield") —This Dark Horse series has been offering a well-written modern version of the character, based on the original Robert E. Howard stories. This issue tells the story of Conan's birth.

Jeremy Porter's Top 10 Hip Hop Albums:

1. Alchemist - 1st Infantry — 1st Infantry is an album that Alchemist produced and it features over a dozen MCs. This CD includes Mobb Deep, The Game, Llyod Banks, The Lox, T.I., Nas, Devin The Dude, and others. The production from Alchemist shines the most on “Dead Bodies” with Prodigy and The Game, “The Essence” with the Lox, “Hold U Down” with Prodigy, Illa Ghee, “Tic Toc” with Prodigy and Nas, “Boost the Crime Rate” with Sheek and J-Hood, and “Bangers” by Lloyd Banks.
2. Camron - Purple Haze — Purple Haze gets a loud and abrupt, “Chea!” when asked if it’s good or not. Camron spits out the flamboyant style Dip Set fans recognize. The song with Kanye West, “Down and Out,” is one of the best on the album. “Killa Cam” is a great song also that Camron described as, “...the realest since Koom-bi-ya.”
3. Cormega - Legal Hustle — Cormega’s third album isn’t exactly his own project. Legal Hustle is more of a compilation with his record label mates and guests, but he’s in 15 out of 17 songs. The solo songs “A Beautiful Mind,” “Bring it Back” and “Stay Up” bring out Cormega’s luminosity and original flow. This album is a small dosage of Cormega’s talent until The Testament hits stores in February.

4. Ghostface Killah - Pretty Tony — Shaolin's finest is back with his new album, Pretty Tony. Ghostface Killah delivers the witty, unpredictable, talented and unnatural game Wu Tang heads enjoy. Ghostface implemented '70s music samples in most of the beats, but the imagination in his lyrics brings out the best in this album. This album was slept on too hard last year and deserves to be in this top ten.
5. Jim Jones - Ambitionz of a Gangster — Ambitionz of a Gangster features Juelz Santana like Raekwon featured Ghostface Killah on the purple tape album, Cuban Linx. This mixtape has hot songs like "Crunk Music," "Meet the Parents" and "We Be." There are 25 tracks on this mixtape and there is a big bonus included: the controversial interview with rapper Mase vs. Jim Jones and Camron on LIVE on Hot 97 Radio.
6. Lil Scrappy and Trillville - King of Crunk and BME Recordings Present: Lil Scrappy & Trillville —The crunkest album of the year. It comes equipped with hard beats and great production from Lil Jon, repetitive chants with an average rap flow from Lil Scrappy and Trillville, and some funny skits. It's a great album for clubs and sub woofers. The best song from Lil Scrappy was the creative "F.I.L.A." and the best from Trillville was "Get Some Crunk in Yo System".
7. Lil' Wayne - Tha Carter — Lil' Wayne is in his prime with Tha Carter. This album is slicker than butter and fly like gator shoes. "Go DJ" is making itself a classic hit in the clubs and all these other hot songs make this album close to perfection. This album has good lyrics from Lil' Wayne along with great production from Mannie Fresh.
8. Mobb Deep - Amerika's Nightmare — Amerika's Nightmare is a strong comeback from Prodigy and Havoc. It contains fish scale rawness in songs like "Amerika's Nightmare," "Flood the Block," "When You Hear The," and "Shorty Whop." The most creative songs were "Win or Lose" and "We Up." Mobb Deep did it right with this album and it got slept on, because of minimal promotion from their record label.
9. Nas - Street's Disciple — A great album from Nas with versatile lyrics, positive messages and knowledge. Nas talks about marriage, living life to the fullest, problems in America and other topics on this double disc album. Nas is leading the way to make a positive change in the world through hip hop and this album is his best attempt.
10. T.I. - Urban Legend — The third album from T.I. has become his most successful work. With 17 tracks and no skits this album brings nothing but good songs. Urban Legend could be played on random and there wouldn't be a song I would want to skip. It has great production and high lyrical confidence.

Jason LeRoy's Top 10 CDs:

1. Rilo Kiley - More Adventurous — One of the most enchanting and addictive indie/folk/pop records you're ever likely to hear. Vocalist Jenny Lewis and company will leave you gagging for more with tracks like "Does He Love You?" and "I Never." Challenging lyrics meet musical innovation with glorious results.
2. Patty Griffin - Impossible Dream —Discover the breathtakingly emotive bluesy alto of singer/songwriter Patty Griffin and you will never look back. This bittersweet yet hope-giving collection is Griffin's most full-bodied work yet, varying from the foot-tapping blues of "Love Throw A Line" to the deep melancholy of "Top of the World." Essential.
3. Allison Moorer - The Duel —Moorer has been recording cinematic country music for several years now, but here she leaves behind the twang of her earlier efforts for a rugged, confident, driving folk-rock sound that leaves a brutal

impression on the listener. If you're looking for chills, check out the soul-baring honesty of the title track.

4. Tilly and the Wall - Wild Like Children — Wanna talk about unconventional bands? Tilly and the Wall is comprised of five members (two male, three

female), none of whom play percussion, all of whom shout, clap and stomp, one of which tap-dances to make up for the lack of percussion. This ridiculously joyful CD is the most fun you can have without chemical enhancement.

5. Franz Ferdinand - Franz Ferdinand — Speaking of fun, Franz Ferdinand's debut CD is the most delightful and consistent rock record of the year. There's not a dud song in the bunch; every track is electrifying. Don't let all the hype dissuade you from discovering this truly remarkable album.

6. Loretta Lynn - Van Lear Rose — For once, the major music comeback story of the year was not Cher. No, this time it was country matriarch Lynn, making a much-welcomed return after a decade or two of family life and sporadic recording. With a

little help from Jack White, the coal miner's daughter shows all these country-pop bitches what's up.

7. Courtney Love - America's Sweetheart — Of the many tragic things that come to mind when I think of Courtney Love, perhaps the saddest is that for all of her blustery public notoriety, she is frequently written off as a no-talent hack (I dare you to say that to her face). With this, her first solo album, Love created a gloriously dirty rock record

ballsy enough to make all the emo boys piss their pants.

8. Gwen Stefani - Love, Angel, Music, Baby — Certainly the guilty pleasure album of the year, this groove-crazy cornucopia of pop, dance, and rap (all of the 1985 variety) is guaranteed to rock your ass. Ms. Stefani unashamedly embraces her inner 80's pop star, collaborating with Pharrell Williams to make "Hollaback Girl," the catchiest song since "Hey Ya."

9. Rachael Yamagata - Happenstance — While we all wait for Sony to come to its senses and release Fiona Apple's long-delayed third album, we can enjoy this debut release from this similarly smoky-voiced, piano-seducing chanteuse. While you may

have heard the catchy single, "Worn Me Down," check out the jazzy mood pieces on the rest of the album.

10. Mindy Smith - One Moment More — This charming collection of mid-tempo folk-rock will warm the ever-chilly cuckolds of your heart. From the stirring opener, "Come to Jesus," to the stunning remake of Dolly Parton's classic, "Jolene" (with Parton herself harmonizing), this is one of the most genuine and heartfelt albums of the year.

Jon Dieringer's Top 5 CDs:

1. The Streets - A Grand Don't Come For Free — A concept album about everyday life from a white British rapper/producer might not sound like your cup of tea, but as the iPod slowly kills the album format, Mike Skinner's impeccably constructed drama about everything from returning DVDs to rating girls' bodies in the fast food line is a charmingly lax death throe.

2. The Pixies - DiscLive series, "Bam Thowk" iTunes single — It seemed unlikely that the second-greatest

band of all time (lest we forget The Velvet Underground) would ever reunite, but pigs flew with the release of “Bam Thwok,” The Pixies’ newly-recorded single that should have been the pop hit of the year, and an outstanding tour that didn’t disappoint documented with live albums from virtually every stop.

3. Drive By Truckers - The Dirty South — The Truckers look back with anger and affection as they deconstruct the mythical south. More intelligent and less pretentious than Wilco, but rocking to the full potential of their Skynyrd-inspired three-guitar attack, DBT is one of a small handful of rock bands today that actually matters.

4. Jay-Z and Danger Mouse - The Grey Album — Despite some outstanding tracks, The Black Album was an underwhelming farewell album from a brilliant artist who seemed too anxious to enjoy his millions of dollars and millionaire friends. Danger Mouse gave it the life and innovation that it lacked, all the while writing an unforgettable chapter in hip-hop history.

5. Mission of Burma - ONoffON — Twenty-two years after their debut album Vs., Burma finally recorded the long-overdue follow-up. They’ve been called “art punk,” and the label certainly fits the moody, cerebral quality the band can lend to three chords, but there was no better balls-out rock song in 2004 than “Dirt.” Check it out, and play it loud.

Jon Dieringer’s Top 5 Movies:

1. Sideways — This endearing tragicomedy effectively portrays a man who is unable to separate his obsessions with wine and literature from his humanity. But forget that it’s widely acknowledged as the best movie of the year—this casually unfolding, virtually plotless film is best appreciated without the hype.

2. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind — Writer Charlie Kaufman has established himself as the preeminent idea man of modern cinema, each of his films being so congested with food for thought that it’s easy to miss the main idea. That’s not so with Eternal Sunshine, which asks whether the obstacles that eventually confront any couple outweigh their innate connectedness.

3. The Aviator — Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio have created a dangerous thrill ride out of the American dream with considerable allegiance to the Hughs’ life. Yes, it’ll be a shame if this film, which is somewhat uncharacteristic of Scorsese’s work, is the one that finally earns him the Oscar. But that doesn’t make it any less of a great movie.

4. Collateral — The most taut crime thriller of the decade gives viewers a palpable sense of anxiety as Jamie Foxx and Tom Cruise take them on a tour of Los Angeles at night gone incredibly awry. Another Michael Mann film, another modern classic—but that’s no surprise.

5. Shaun of the Dead — This love letter to zombie films ranks among the best of them, and I get giddy thinking about the excitement that the horror geeks of tomorrow will feel when they see it for the first time. A hilarious and moving cult classic for the ages.

Seth Roy’s Top 10 Movies:

1. Collateral — Tom Cruise as a hit man. Golden. Jamie Foxx gives his first great performance of the year (to be followed up by his portrayal of Ray Charles). Collateral is fast-paced and exciting.

2. *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* — Amazing. Charlie Kaufman might just be the best screenwriter out there. Jim Carrey is wonderful in his role.
3. *Shaun of the Dead* — Scary. Hilarious. Bloody. British. Zombie. Comedy. Guts (literally). Fart jokes. What more could you want from a movie?
4. *Man on Fire* — A classic story of revenge that includes explosions and precision killing. The story is well-told. The cast was perfectly selected, with Dakota Fanning stealing the show away from Denzel.
5. *Big Fish* — Tim Burton can do no wrong. A fantastic romp through the vivid imagination of a dying father.
6. *Hellboy* — What a year for comic book heroes! *Hellboy* was surprisingly (at least to me) witty and action-packed.
7. *Spiderman 2* — Even better than the first. Am I being redundant?
8. *Shrek 2* — Even better than the first. Is Mike Myers gold for hilarious movies and sequels, or what? First, there was *Wayne's World*, then *Austin Powers*, and now *Shrek*.
9. *50 First Dates* — Funny, light-hearted comedy that reunites Adam Sandler with Drew Barrymore.
10. *Dodgeball* — I was caught off guard by this one. It was funny and didn't disappoint.

Seth Roy's Top 10 CDs:

1. *Taking Back Sunday - Where You Want To Be* — Wow. The ultimate emo album, and so much more. *Taking Back Sunday* proves that they are perfectly fine without the song-writing genius of John Nolan. The album flows from song to song while dragging the listener along for the tumultuous ride. It is the perfect follow-up album to *Tell All Your Friends*, and puts to rest the myth of the sophomore slump.
2. *The Used - In Love and Death* — Where can *The Used* go from here? This album has everything. Pop hooks, hardcore riffs, R&B grooves and raw emotion. Bert McCracken proves that he is one of the best, most versatile singers in rock today.
3. *Usher - Confessions* — My guilty pleasure of the year. On some level, every guy can relate to at least some of the songs on the album. And the best part: *Confessions* can set the "mood", if you catch my drift.
4. *My Chemical Romance - Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge* — Awesome album and song titles, even better lyrics. A lead singer with an unmistakable voice and a genre-defying style of music.
5. *The Killers - Hot Fuss* — "Mr. Brightside" is one of my favorite songs of all time. The rest of the album is heavy on synthesizers and pop hooks. Also, a choir's appearance on "All These Things That I've Done" is the best single moment on an all-around great album.
6. *Straylight Run - Straylight Run* — Debut from former *Taking Back Sunday* guitarist and back-up singer John Nolan's new band. The album is poppy and fun, while letting Nolan showcase his musical talent and song-writing ability.
7. *Green Day - American Idiot* — The best album by *Green Day* since *Dookie*, *American Idiot* is *Green Day's* musical masterpiece; a fast-paced romp through adolescence.

8. Senses Fail - Let it Enfold You — Second release from New Jersey hardcore emo group, Let it Enfold You is dark, yet vibrant and serious, yet funny.
9. Action Action - Don't Cut Your Fabric to this Year's Fashion — The debut from former The Reunion Show frontman and his new band. Poppy melodies and introspective lyrics. It's a dance-along album with lyrics that actually mean something.
10. Danger Mouse - The Grey Album — A unique blend of Jay-Z's Black Album and The Beatles' White Album, The Grey Album is a rare treasure. Plus, it caused quite a stir in the music industry.

Lindsay Breece's Top 10 Movies:

1. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind — We all have memories we'd like to forget, but could you erase someone from your mind? One company gives an anguished couple that opportunity after a painful breakup. This movie gives viewers an original and thought-provoking look at the good and bad emotions in relationships.
2. Garden State — A quirky and mellow film that takes a look at reconnecting with old friends, family, and yourself. This movie takes a lot of risks, but it's a winner because of its originality and honesty.
3. Fahrenheit 9/11 — Michael Moore delivered again with what was arguably the most controversial film of the year. This agenda-pushing, no-apologies look at the current government left everyone talking. Whether you thought this film was fact or fiction, one thing is for sure—it's a hit.
4. Super Size Me — Morgan Spurlock, how did you do it? This man risked his life just to prove that fast food is bad. If you need a little motivation to steer clear of fast food, this documentary will make you want to eat organic food for the rest of your life.
5. Saved! — A funny and satirical look at high school, religion and choices. The movie avoided being mundane by addressing issues that all young people face: sex, drugs, pregnancy, peer pressure and acceptance.
6. Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events — This film is a break from traditional children's movies. It keeps viewers guessing and avoids the cliché of a happily-ever-after ending.
7. The Incredibles — This film was proof that computer geeks and artists everywhere are slowly taking over the world. This animated feature is smart, funny, original and appeals to young and old alike.
8. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban — Another magical addition to the Harry Potter series that leaves old and young alike wishing they could grab their wands and transport themselves to Hogwarts.
9. Mean Girls — The preps, the jocks, the freaks. This could've been another played out teen movie. Instead, it offered viewers a witty, hilarious and refreshing look at what it's like to navigate the drama that is high school.
10. The Terminal — It's sappy, corny and a little bit dorky, but it's still a classic. Tom Hanks gives a stellar performance as Viktor Navorski, a lovable and confused immigrant forced to live in a JFK airport after airport officials deny his entrance to the US.

Erika Kreider's Top 10 DVDs:

1. Garden State — This fresh story line unfolds to be an addictive movie that makes the audience deeply feel the emotions the characters feel. It is a classic love tale, yet the movie is not watered down with love, making it ultra-captivating. Everyone can relate to, at the least, one scene in the movie. Plus, the awesome soundtrack is the sprinkle on the cake of an amazingly scripted movie.
2. Mean Girls — The popular, cool, mean girl stereotype of highschool is the inspiration of this movie. Yet, a witty plot and repeatable one-liners make this film worth the time and money to watch it. The movie throws in a twist about the main character, and makes you love and hate her at the same time.
3. Anchorman — This hilarious movie is Murphy Brown, but in the 2000's...and starring Will Ferrell. This definitely has the spark Will Ferrell leaves in his movies. So, if you like his movies, you will love this. It leaves the audience wondering what they just heard, but loving it and laughing hard.
4. Napoleon Dynamite — If you're not ready for a surprise, this movie is not for you. This movie will undoubtedly remind you of that special '80s-loving friend. Napoleon Dynamite has made nerds cool, and has also renewed Jamiroquai's career. It will definitely leave you snickering the next time you say, "Gosh!"
5. Dodgeball — This movie sets itself apart from the clichéd, boring, inspirational sports movie genre. Even though it is a tale about underdogs beating the bad guys, it leaves room to find something new every time you watch it. The plot is a little weaker than expected, but my stomach was a little stronger than expected after watching it from laughing so hard.
6. Shrek 2 — This was one of the best sequels of the year, hands down. The classic love story plot is also seen here, but with twists, turns, and a lot of witty humor. Pop culture swarms this movie as jokes circle around it, making Shrek 2 one to remember for years to come. The soundtrack goes with the movie like diamonds go with Tiffany & Co.
7. Nip/Tuck Season 1 — Even if you haven't seen the show, the DVD is a perfect place to start. This addicting show circles around drama, sex, and scandals of two plastic surgeons. Not only does it have an amazing plot, but it has twists that will throw the audience off with scream-out-loud scandalous surprises.
8. Spiderman 2 — Spiderman 1 was great, but Spiderman 2 was okay. The romantic part of the plot seemed forced too much, but the action more than made up for it. The time spent watching it is worthwhile though, because the special effects are just that...pretty special.
9. Seinfeld Season 1 and 2 — This classic TV show about nothing makes simple and hilarious connections to everyday life. Either someone loves this show or they hate it. The bonus features show how the show started and some behind-the-scenes with the actors. Too bad this footage was aired on TV around Thanksgiving.
10. Fahrenheit 9/11 — Michael Moore unveiled this political documentary at the right time, but obviously not in the right way. The movie proved many great points and left anyone uninvolved in politics in shock and entertained. Too bad Fahrenheit did not make the political impact Moore wanted to prove with it.

Erika Kreider's Top 10 Songs:

1. "Let's Get Retarded" - The Black Eyed Peas — How can someone listen to this song and not want to dance? This song is the ultimate workout song starting with the awesome beat and lyrics of, "Runnin, runnin, runnin...". Even though the lyrics might not be the most politically correct, there is the other version "Let's

Get It Started.” The beat and lyrics are fresh and this song should definitely be on everyone’s iPod.

2. “Take Me Out” - Franz Ferdinand — This British band busts into the U.S. with a great hit song. I am so glad a band took risks in songwriting and was able to land on the Top 40 chart. The rhythm of this song is addicting and will hook someone from the first listen. For anyone who has not heard this song, go find someone who has it, buy the CD, anything. Just listen to it.

3. “Clocks” - Coldplay — The demonstration of Coldplay’s talent shines through in this song. The beautiful piano intro hooks the listener from the beginning, and leaves them in awe. This song is the gateway song to their album A Rush of Blood To The Head, but is just a taste of the talent they have unleashed in their music.

4. “Chocolate” - Snow Patrol — This breakthrough band reaches acoustic music fans who love fresh lyrics. The Irish band weaves great lyrics in and out of wonderfully arranged guitar chords and drum beats. Do not be scared of listening to this new band, give them a try today!

5. “Ocean Breathes Salty” - Modest Mouse — This song will undoubtedly hook anyone who has not heard of Modest Mouse yet. Even though “Float On” got more play, this song demonstrates just a taste of the band’s ability. For the original fans of Modest Mouse this is a new twist, a little more pop than usual, but still has is a great song in all aspects.

6. “American Idiot” - Green Day — After not releasing a song in forever, this is a great unleashing of the renewal of Green Day’s career. This politically angry song will fire up anyone remotely politically involved or has a punk mindframe towards politics. This song will put anyone in a good mood despite the honestly mean lyrics.

7. “Pass That Dutch” - Missy Elliott — How many times has someone heard this song in the background of a show or movie? Countless, probably. There is a reason for all that play. The beat is enough to get stuck in someone’s head for about three days nonstop. The witty lyrics will make someone snicker, yet hold back at the same time so they can hear more.

8. “Smile Like You Mean It” - The Killers — The Killers rush into the soundtracks of our lives just like it does on The O.C. This sing-songy tune will lift anyone’s mood no matter what it is. This band takes risks musically, but lyrically they could fit into any pop song.

9. “She Wants to Move” - N.E.R.D — Dancing to this song burns so many calories because the beat literally makes someone move. Even though the beat is edgy, the lyrics are just like any cliched popish-hip-hop hybrid song: a man singing about a girl.

10. “My Prerogative” - Britney Spears — This has to be one of the best remakes of the year. Not only does Spears manipulate the lyrics to make it sound like they were written especially for her, she complements it with an edgy, should-be-PG-13-rated music video.

Page 1 of 1

Article Tools

Share:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Blogger](#)

- del.icio.us
- [digg](http://digg.com)
- [newsvine](http://newsvine.com)

Subscribe:

- [My Yahoo!](#)
- [Google](#)

Be the first to comment on this story

- Name: (required)
- Email: (required)
- NOTE: Email address will not be published
- Website:

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

Type your comment below (html not allowed)

I am not posting spam. I understand posting spam or other comments that are unrelated to this article will cause my comment to be flagged for deletion and possibly cause my IP address to be permanently banned from this server.

Post

[National College Advertising and Marketing](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) [Article Syndication](#) [RSS Terms of Use](#)