

Record industry sues Audiogalaxy

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas — A group of recording and music publishing companies have filed suit against Austin-based Audio-galaxy Inc., alleging the company was "knowingly, willfully and intentionally designed" to enable its users to unlawfully copy millions of copyrighted songs.

Audiogalaxy allows its users to share music files over the Internet using technology similar to Napster's. University of Texas graduate Michael Merhej founded the company in 1998. Napster, a peer-to-peer music-file sharing service, was forced to shut down in 2001 under legal pressure from the music industry.

The Recording Industry Association of America and the National Music Publishers Association filed the lawsuit representing numerous record labels, including Sony music, Motown Records and Interscope Records.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court

in New York City, asks for \$150,000 for each title shared and requests a court order to stop Audiogalaxy from enabling the trading of copyrighted songs. Merhej is also named as a defendant in the suit.

Matt Oppenheim, senior vice president of business and legal affairs for the RIAA, said the litigation was a last resort.

"Audiogalaxy and Napster are cut from the same cloth," Oppenheim said in a written statement.

Audiogalaxy has a filter in place to block copyrighted songs, but Oppenheim alleges this filter is "totally ineffective."

The suit also accuses Audiogalaxy of enabling its users to download entire albums, cover art and software.

"Audiogalaxy's system is even more egregious than that of Napster," the complaint said.

Audiogalaxy did not return calls. — *The Daily Texan*

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Mother

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that her husband had cheated on her, Luisa asks if she may join them on the trip.

On the surface, the film only seems like an excuse to watch the characters pee and try to get laid. The film is billed as a romantic comedy, but there is nothing romantic about watching the boys spanking their monkeys by the poolside or prematurely ejaculating when trying to get it on with Luisa. Although it is kind of funny.

Some Internet reviewers have even criticized this film as being racist, showing Mexicans as stereotypically uneducated, sex-crazed, drugged-up party animals. But then again, that is a commonly accepted stereotype of teenage behavior.

The three travelers develop their friendship while on the road toward the fictional beach. Then Luisa seduces both boys, sparking arguments between them that reveal a long history of past cheating with each other's girlfriends.

Luisa is an intriguing, multifaceted character. She shows both strength and weakness in the film. While she is with the boys, she sets the rules and instigates the erotic interludes with Julio and Tenoch, but she hides the pain of leaving her cheating husband.

Luisa also remains a bit of a mystery throughout the film. The boys are shallow characters, and we learn all there is to know about them. But Luisa's character has a depth that is never fully explored. Although we learn a lot of informa-

tion about her, there seems to be more to her story. The audience can't help but laugh as the boys stumble through the awkwardness of learning about life and sex. But the film also touches on the seriousness of issues such as discovering one's sexuality, the importance of friendship and the suffering of a poverty-stricken nation. However, the characters are so caught up in their own problems that they drive through poor, desolate areas of Mexico oblivious of the poverty that surrounds them.

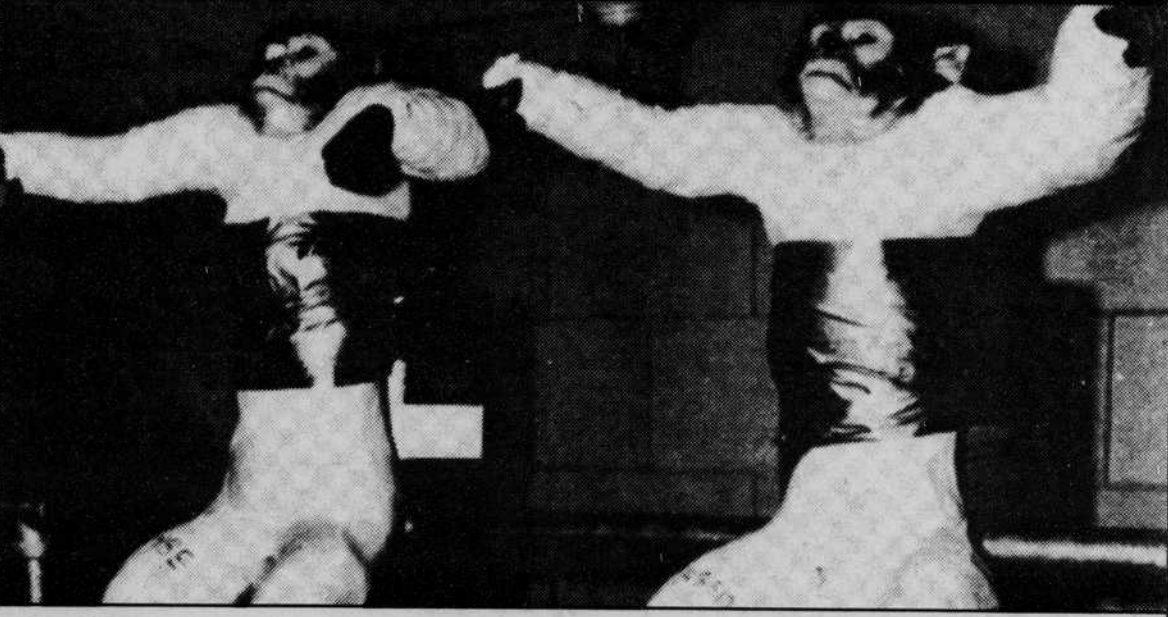
Unlike the characters, the audience sees both the rich and poor side of Mexico. While driving through the military check points on the way to the beach, the boys warn each other not to look out the windows at the armed officers. But the camera follows the long lines of Mexicans as they trudge along the side of the road with everything they own on their backs. Luisa and the boys turn a blind eye to the poverty of their nation, and they seem to be unaware of the surprising generosity of people who have so little to give.

Although audiences may laugh through most of the movie, they are left with a touch of sadness at the end of the film. The weird mixture of the characters' self-absorption against a backdrop of larger life issues makes the film seem unbalanced, yet real at the same time.

"Y Tu Mamá También" is showing at the Bijou Art Cinemas. The film is in Spanish with English subtitles.

E-mail reporter Jen West at jenwest@dailyemerald.com.

Ex-Animal Researcher speaks today at the EMU Amphitheater



Don Barnes was an animal researcher for the School of Aerospace Medicine and is now an animal rights activist who has seen what really goes on behind closed doors. The talk will cover this issue and others ranging from factory farming to vegetarianism. Don has been in the animal rights movement for 20 years and has spoken at Yale, Berkeley and UCLA. He has also appeared on Larry King Live. In between his talks, student activists will share facts, quotes and short stories surrounding the three main issues of factory farming: human health, the environment and animal welfare.

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