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# Pulse *Excite*

**On Tuesday**  
Pack your bags and check  
your pulse – it's time for travel.



Thursday, March 6, 2003

## Foreign import: Handle with care

**Mason West**  
Movies/Music/TV Columnist

Last week I learned by means of Total Request Live that HBO has produced an American version of the Ali G Show, the interview platform that brought British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen the kind of fame that Adam Carolla dreams of.

If you missed Carson's lackluster interview, the only other place you've possibly seen Ali G is as the limo driver in Madonna's "Music" video. But judging him on that merit would be a mistake.

As Ali G pranced around the MTV studio in his fire-engine yellow jumpsuit, my excitement was dulled by concern for what America would do to my European homie.

Let me back up. I was introduced to the hilarity that is Ali G in London last spring in the flood of promotion for his movie "Ali G Indahouse." The character became film-worthy after a successful interview show that worked off the same premise as Comedy Central's Prime-time Glick. Both host characters are grossly underqualified and potentially volatile, yet they interview celebrities and important figures.

However, in more Tom Green fashion, much of Ali G's humor came from his subjects not knowing what they were getting into. According to an *itv.com* article from earlier this year, once people knew how to deal with Ali G, the show got stale. "Indahouse" marked the end of Ali G's pudding train.

But, as the innocent American tourist, Ali G was new and intelligent and Hee-larious. His satirical ridicule of white suburbanite "gangstas" rang as true in the States as it did in the United Kingdom. Though much of his England-specific humor was lost on me, it was charming — like Mini Coopers (thank you, Peter Hockaday).

The best way to understand this is by hearing what I call "G Speak." But a close substitute is reading the phonetic nightmare that is G Speak.

"Me woz born in da heart off da Staines ghetto. I has lived wiv me Nan in Staines ... from da day me woz born, coz wiv both me parents havin' been smoked, dere weren't no one else around to look afta her."

This quote was taken off the HBO show site, but it reads like an instruction manual compared to his book,



**Mason West**  
Selling out

**Ali G was new and intelligent and Hee-larious. His satirical ridicule of white suburbanite "gangstas" rang as true in the States as it did in the United Kingdom. Though much of his England-specific humor was lost on me, it was charming.**

"The Gospel According to Ali G." Check out an excerpt at [www.alig.com/dagospel](http://www.alig.com/dagospel), but expect to be offended.

The G Speak has such kitsch factor, both glossaries and translators are easily found online (check out [www.whoisalig.com](http://www.whoisalig.com)). And if you peep the Emerald site, you will find this entire column so translated. Respeck.

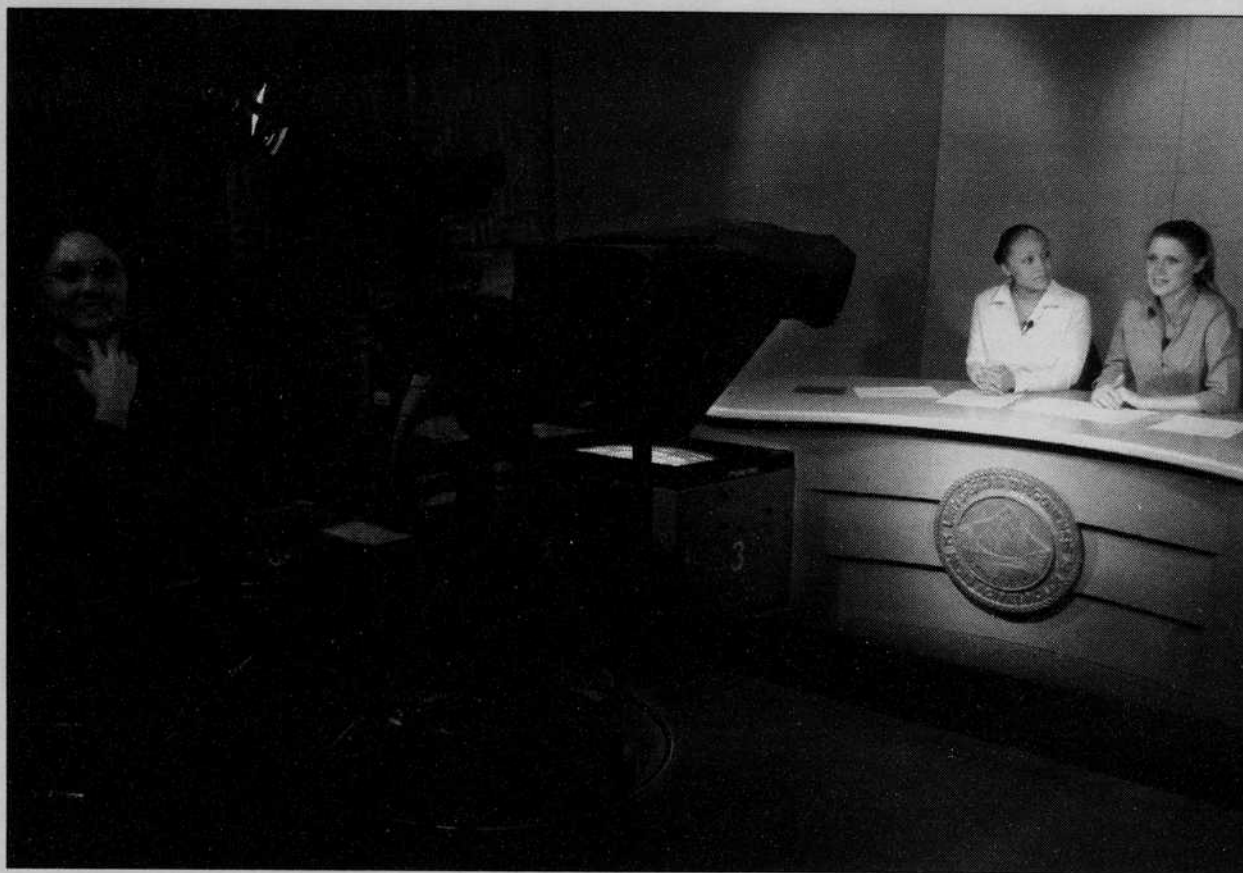
But Ali seemed uneasy in the MTV studio, and his mannerisms seemed toned down and trimmed of their English charm. I fear this will be the case with his show. HBO is stepping cautiously, giving him only a six-episode run at success. But they didn't hold back on the guest list, letting him sit down with Newt Gingrich, Buzz Aldrin and Eugene favorite Ralph Nader.

A *Newsweek* article about the show eased my fears by quoting some of the program's material. Because I am not some manner of royalty, I am not afforded luxuries such as HBO and I am left with the picked over remains of other publications.

But just knowing Ali is staying true to himself doesn't mean the thick Yanks will get it. So if you find yourself sitting on your throne at 12:30 a.m. Saturday morning give me main man a chance, aiight?

Contact the Pulse columnist at [masonwest@dailyemerald.com](mailto:masonwest@dailyemerald.com). His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

## On the air



Mark McCambridge Emerald

'Duck U' camera operator Lindsay Acree checks the overhead video screen, as anchorwomen Quyona Anderson and Emily Scriven rehearse their broadcast for the University's first completely student-run TV show.

## On the air with 'Duck U'

The University's first entirely student-run television show airs every Wednesday at 10 p.m. on cable channel 23

**Ryan Bornheimer**  
Senior Pulse Reporter

Students have found a new and indispensable venue for exercising their talents, and audiences have an opportunity to see firsthand reports of campus issues and student interests.

"Duck U," the University's first completely student-run television show, airs on cable channel 23 every Wednesday night at 10 p.m. Premiering last fall, this cable access program

examines everything from current events and sports to dorm life and movies.

Executive producers Jessica Cohoon and Emily Scriven said students have attempted to start a program before, but "Duck U" is the first to air.

Since the show's start, the "Duck U" crew has grown from a meager 10 to the nearly 60 students currently working on the show.

Among the segments featured on "Duck U" are the run-and-gun antics of "Hanging with Nate Jackson," which offers a unique look at Eugene happenings. In what could be characterized as an "on the town" segment, Jackson and crew hit the city, looking for enter-

taining moments, places, events and, of course, people.

"We look for people who are energetic and confident with a real camera presence," Jackson said.

Jackson credits the entire "Duck U" staff and crew with what hopefully emerges as an entertaining show.

"There really is no individual. We all motivate each other to create the best show we can," Jackson said.

Co-host Robin Winfield said Jackson is the perfect person for the shoot-from-the-hip segment.

"Nate is just a little kid in a big body," Winfield said.

In prior episodes, Jackson has

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## 'No War' spurs creative activism



Courtesy

Jarrett Arnold's painting, "Consume, Consume, but at What Cost?" will appear in the 'No War' art show.

The group show Saturday exhibits art as a powerful medium and is meant to encourage discussion surrounding Bush's actions abroad

**Helen Schumacher**  
Pulse Reporter

During the Vietnam War, The New Zone art collective hosted an anti-war exhibit to give community members an alternative way of showing their opposition to the fighting. Thirty years later, the group is once again providing a space for creative anti-war activism.

A group art show entitled "No War" will have its opening Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The New Zone art space, located at 1 E. Broadway.

The free event will include a puppet show about the pending war on Iraq by Vermont puppet company The Insurrectionary Landscapers. Interactive exhibits and video installations will also be part of the entertainment.

Eugene do-it-yourself arts venue My House, along with several other student and community groups, will host the event, which was conceived by Marc Moscato, one of the My House coordinators.

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