

# PULSE

January • 15 • 2004



Talking with Israelis during a trip there teaches lessons about “stupid American tourists” and cultural conflicts with Arabs

After five days of blitzing Israel from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and partying from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. (the drinking age is 18), my bus — stocked with 34 students from the University of Oregon and University of Washington — was getting a bit punchy.

People were getting sick. One kid had run out of clothes and in desperation had washed the contents of his small suitcase and strung up his damp clothes from the overhead bins of the coach. People were generally getting on each other's nerves.

Everyone looked like hell, but the prospect of having some Israeli soldiers and students join us for a few days on the bus and travel

## Playing the tourist

By Steven Neuman | Freelance Reporter

Photographs by Jason McLean

with us had everyone excited — mostly the girls, who had developed teeny-bopperish crushes on the young male soldiers we had seen roaming the country.

Turn to **TOURIST**, page 6



### contents

#### Columns

- Celebrities .....11
- 2003 CDs .....12

#### CD Reviews

- Missy Elliott .....7
- Milton Mapes .....10
- Eisley/Yeltsin .....11
- Fitehouse .....12

#### Movie Reviews

- 'The Cooler' .....8
- 'The Open Road' ...10

- Pulse Briefs .....8

Cover photo: The reporter visits the Dead Sea. At 1,320 feet below sea level, it is the lowest place in the world. The sea's water is so salty and mineral-laden that swimmers float in the water, and its mud is used as a cosmetic mask for its therapeutic qualities.

Small photos, top to bottom: Israel's youngest and most modern city, Tel Aviv, boasts a luxurious beachfront location on the Mediterranean. The city was founded more than 100 years ago on sand dunes outside the port city of Jaffa. • The stunning terraced gardens of the domed Ba'hai Temple in Haifa, seen here from the top of the hill, climb the steep hills of the industrial but beautiful port city. • Tourists and residents walk through the Jewish quarter of the old Jerusalem (photo by Steven Neuman).