

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

- ▶ Manage your account
- ▶ Click for special *Star* rates
- ▶ Subscribe to digital E★Star

KansasCity.com

Current: 92°
95° / 72°
Complete Forecast

BOTOX[®] Cosmetic
Click here for more details.
MONARCH

COMPLIMENTARY SUNROOF WHEN YOU BUY OR LEASE A 2007 HUMMER. 0% APR FOR ALL QUALIFIED BUYERS.
CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS
HUMMER
LIKE NOTHING ELSE.
Length of contract limited. Take delivery by 7/03/07. See dealer for details. © General Motors Corporation, 2007.

Search KansasCity.com Archives Web for

Welcome Guest
[Login](#) | [Register](#) | [Sign in to Classifieds](#)

- ▶ Top Jobs
- ▶ Cars
- ▶ Real Estate
- ▶ Rentals
- ▶ Local Shopping
 - KC Auto Deals
 - ShopLocal
 - Newspaper Ads
- ▶ All Classifieds
 - Create an Ad
 - Find an Ad
 - Pets

- News
- Columnists
- Sports
- Entertainment
 - Books
 - Calendar
 - Columnists
 - Comics & Games
 - Community Faces
 - Dating in KC
 - Dear Abby
 - Horoscopes
 - KC Menus
 - Movies
 - Music
 - Performing Arts
 - Preview Extra
 - Restaurants
 - TeenStar
 - TV listings
 - Visual Arts
- Business
- FYI/Living
- Star Magazine
- Opinion

- EXTRAS
- Press Release Central
- Past Articles
- The Star's Front Page
- Coffee Break
- Local Traffic
- Maps & Directions
- Yellow Pages
- Local Coupons
- Discussion Boards
- Visitor's Guide
- Weddings
- Hemingway
- The Star in Education

- SERVICES
- RSS
- Place an Ad
- Contact Us
- Advertise
- About The Star
- Code of Ethics
- Star Speakers Bureau

Entertainment > Events

Thursday, Aug 23, 2007

Events

Posted on Thu, Aug. 23, 2007 10:37 AM

- email
- print
- reprint or license
- AIM
- del.icio.us
- Digg it

Eternally Weird

By RICHARD HARRINGTON
The Washington Post

A quarter-century into his reign as king of parody, "Weird Al" Yankovic had his biggest chart success ever with the autobiographical "White & Nerdy," a stylistic doppelganger of rapper Chamillionaire's mega hit "Ridin' Dirty."



"First in my class here at MIT / Got skills, I'm a champion at D&D / M.C. Escher, that's my favorite M.C. / Keep your 40, I'll just have an Earl Grey tea / My rims never spin, to the contrary / You'll find that they're quite stationary ..."

Prince is one of the few major artists who has never allowed Weird Al to parody his songs.



The video — Yankovic's first big-budget, live-action video in seven years — was so spot on that Chamillionaire bogarted it for his MySpace page before Yankovic could get it on his.

"At first I was, 'Hey, I'm gonna world premiere that myself!' Then I thought, how cool is it that Chamillionaire himself wanted to put it on his page," Yankovic said. Chamillionaire told *Rolling Stone* that Yankovic is "actually rapping pretty good on it. ... I didn't know he could rap like that."

"White & Nerdy" got 6 million hits in its first three weeks, and "the video has been seen 30 million times from MySpace and YouTube alone," Yankovic said. That helped "White & Nerdy" become Yankovic's first Top 10 single (and only his second gold single after 1984's "Eat It"). It's probably responsible for the accompanying album, "Straight Outta Lynwood," debuting at No. 10 — Yankovic's highest chart debut ever — earlier this year. And yes, Lynwood is the California town where he grew up.

The album includes Yankovic originals, the obligatory polka medley ("Polkarama!" serves up 50 Cent, Black Eyed Peas, Pussycat Dolls, the Killers, Modest Mouse in straight-ahead, sped-up polka style), and parodies of Usher, Taylor Hicks ("Do I Creep You Out?") and Green Day.

It also unveiled what may be one of his finest — certainly lengthiest — achievements:

"Trapped in the Drive-Thru," an 11-minute animated parody of R. Kelly's overwrought sex epic, "Trapped in the Closet," describing in hilariously banal detail a couple's attempts to decide on and then pick up their dinner. (R. Kelly's 12-chapter original was so ridiculous it seemed itself a parody — and he has just released chapters 13-22!)

"I wouldn't want to do an edit," Yankovic explains. "Part of the joke is how interminably long it is — it just goes on forever — high drama of the mundane for 11 minutes."

Yankovic always gets permission, though he isn't legally required to do so, from the original writers of the songs he parodies. Most Yankovic parodies consist of the original song's music with his lyrics, so it's politic to maintain good relationships with artists and writers (particularly since Yankovic gets songwriter credits and royalties as the writer of new lyrics).

There have been a few exceptions: The prince of parodies has never been able to parody

Mobile to Home Calling
Mobile TV
Email & Web

Feel at home anywhere.

pivot

TIME WARNER CABLE | Sprint

go >

See full disclosure at MyPivot.com.

Star Speakers Bureau
Star Tours
The Kansas City Store

Prince, who has turned Yankovic down repeatedly. The first single from "Straight Outta Lynwood" was supposed to be "You're Pitiful," a parody of James Blunt's smash hit "You're Beautiful." Blunt himself agreed, but after "You're Pitiful" was recorded his label, Atlantic, nixed it, reportedly on the grounds it was "too early" in Blunt's career for a parody. Don't worry, "You're Pitiful" is available for free download on Yankovic's Web site, www.weirdal.com.

REGISTER TO WIN

PRIZES!

KansasCity.com

- Movie Passes: 'Shoot 'em Up'
- KansasCity.com
- CareerBuilder: \$100 Gas Card

[Next page >](#)

Get *The Star* **99¢** /week +TAX
 now for only **99¢** /week +TAX
[Click here for this special offer >](#) ★



2-1-1
Get Help. Give Help.

TheKansasCityStore



Kansas City books,
music, gifts and more

[Moustache Vs Motorcycle](#)

Indian Man Pulls Motorcycle With Moustache. Watch It First On CNN.
www.cnn.com

[Weird Al Yankovic Tones](#)

Get Weird Al Yankovic ringtones Get them complimentary!
WeirdAlYankovic.ToneTunes4u.com

[Listen to any Artist](#)

Unlimited access to over 3,000,000 songs. Free trial, no strings!
www.real.com

[Home](#) | [Local](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Shop Local](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)



[news](#) | [business](#) | [sports](#) | [entertainment](#) | [living](#) | [shop local](#) | [classicals](#) | [jobs](#) | [cars](#) | [movies](#)
[About www.kansascity.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#)
[Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [Copyright](#)