

Rap around the world

most rap singers need a recording contract and a promoter to get their songs played on the radio. For Nate Domingue '06 and Robert Moore '06, all it took was a 200-level English class and a Web site.

The two engineering students created a satirical rap song for a first semester course called "Dirty Words: Satire, Slander, and Society." The original single, entitled "Generic Rap Song," lampoons popular rappers such as 50 Cent, Ja Rule, P. Diddy, and Snoop Dogg. While the song was a joke, Domingue and Moore insist the course was not. They each wrote detailed papers explaining the subtleties of their satire for those not initiated into the rap scene.

In December, Moore posted the song and an accompanying music video on his Web site (www.princeton.edu/~rmoore/punit). Friends and newfound fans soon were linking to the track from Internet message boards. When a program director at Q106.1 FM in Jefferson City, Missouri, heard the song, he played it on the air and set up an interview with Domingue and Moore for the station's morning show.

Nate Domingue '06, left, and Robert Moore '06 hit the Internet big-time with their "Generic Rap Song."

Through mid-February, Moore's site had drawn more than 125,000 hits, averaging about 1,000 different visitors a day. Frequent downloads of the music video file occupied up to 80 percent of the University's daily bandwidth, forcing Moore to seek out other sites to "mirror" the file. Domingue and Moore say the logical follow-up to "Generic Rap Song," would be a generic remix, but with a new semester in full swing, they have little time for recording. "It's difficult to justify doing the things you enjoy when there's so much work to do," Moore says. "Doing it for a class made it a lot easier." By B.T.

From Russia with love



Three paintings recently donated to the Art Museum are on display through July 11. Two, portraits of Tsarevich Paul (left), and his wife, Maria Fedorovna, are by Alexander Roslin, who was invited by Empress Catherine II to St. Petersburg in 1775 to paint members of the Russian nobility. The third, a portrait of Maria Theresa of Austria, was painted by Martin van Meytens in the 1740s.

LECTURE CIRCUIT

As society becomes increasingly diverse, are citizens enjoying less equality and community than before? According to **ROBERT PUTNAM**, public policy professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and author of the headline-making *Bowling Alone* (2000), the answer is an emphatic yes.

The relationship between diversity and community is a major problem for the 21st century, he said, and "we must understand how to foster both."

Speaking February 12, Putnam presented unpublished results suggesting that ethnic and socioeconomic diversity may be a factor in the recent decline of civic engagement. "Civic disengagement in America and how we can reverse it is a challenge that will occupy all of us in the coming decades," he said.

The experience of suffering has been dehumanized by modern medicine, says **ARTHUR KLEINMAN**, professor of anthropology at Harvard. Kleinman, a leading researcher in crosscultural psychiatry, said February 16 that we are in the midst of a "shifting cultural representation" of mental illness and suffering. The "vast phenomenon of medicalization" that characterizes technological medicine has encouraged society to view people's mental and social conditions as pathology. "Suffering has been stripped of its human element and converted into an object of pharmacological and technical intervention," he said. By Jordan Paul Amadio '05



Web talks

www.princeton.edu/webmedia/lectures

K. ANTHONY APPIAH, Princeton professor of philosophy: "Ethics of Identity." December 10, 2003.

ELIZABETH FOX-GENOVESE, professor of the humanities, Emory University: "Marriage on Trial, Marriage 101, Marriage 102." December 2003.

VERA RUBIN, Carnegie Institution of Washington: "Telling Stories about the Universe." December 4, 2003.