

Playboy On The Scene

WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHERE IT'S HAPPENING AND WHO'S MAKING IT HAPPEN



Clean Air Act

A pair of socially responsible entrepreneurs shows the big boys how it's done

Attached to such buzzwords as *Chapter 11* and *global warming*, the reputation of the airline industry has recently taken a beating. So it comes as a surprise when a carrier not only is expanding and turning a profit but is also environmentally sound. In 1991 eco-entrepreneurs Alexi Huntley and Alex Khajavi bought a struggling Costa Rican airline that consisted of one turboprop and \$1 million of debt. They recast it as NatureAir, grew the fleet to eight low-emission aircraft that jump between exotic points in Central America

and have managed to increase profits by 35 percent each year. The company is also considered the world's first zero-emissions airline: By funding conservation projects in Costa Rica, NatureAir compensates for whatever carbon dioxide it emits in a given year. "The forests we're saving sequester the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere," Huntley explains. "We get calls from carriers in the U.S. and Europe asking how we do this." If the winged behemoths establish similar programs of their own, we may all breathe a little easier.



Redemption Songs

Michael Franti smart-bombs Iraq and Palestine

I didn't want to make a film that is a critique of the U.S. government or uncover some conspiracy," says Michael Franti, founder of hip-hop-funk-rock-reggae band Spearhead. "I just wanted to show what war does to everyday life for people." Franti's talking about his documentary, *I Know I'm Not Alone*, which chronicles his travels in 2004 and 2005 through Iraq, Israel and Palestine. Released on the art-house circuit in July, the film, along with Spearhead's excellent new album, *Yell Fire!*, provides a moving demonstration of music's power to connect people and bridge barriers. During his emotionally affecting journey Franti plays for children in hospitals and off-duty soldiers in Baghdad bars. Walking through the streets, he meets musicians and is invited into people's homes, where his hosts open up with remarkable honesty over tea. "I'm holding a guitar, and I'm the first American they've ever met who isn't holding an M16," he says. "I feel the best case against war is not a political argument or an economic one. It's to show what the human cost of war really is." For more information go to spearheadvibrations.com.