



New releases: war games, Pinback, and Halo 3



WATCH **EASTERN PROMISES** (Focus

Features) Consider this gut-twister of a film, about London's gangster underground, crib notes for any negotiation. Study actor Viggo Mortensen's coldas-ice glare, and then ask for that raise or confront your neighbor about his overhanging branches.

INTO THE WILD

(Paramount) Author Jon Krakauer's captivating true story of adventurer Christopher McCandless shows a reckless but resourceful kid

traipsing to Alaska without much food or protection. Actor Emile Hirsch brings McCandless to life in this bia-screen version, showing how freedom from the grid can be a deadly aphrodisiac. Watch this; then toss your BlackBerry.

READ **WHO HATES WHOM BY BOB HARRIS**

(Three Rivers) Find yourself mixing up warring countries? This faux textbook illustrates the world's wars with basic multicolored maps. It's sarcastic at face value but useful in its simplicity.

THE NINE BY JEFFREY TOORIN

(Doubleday) Skip the next Grisham novel. Toohin's unparalleled access to the Supreme Court vields a riveting exposé of the struggles among the goalies of U.S. justice.

LISTEN GRADUATION **KANYE WEST** (Island Def

Jam) Good hip-hop stirs a fire in your stomach, and Kanve West has honed the art of building emotional momentum with this music. This is the kind of CD that inspires big dreams in the smallest of places: when

you're stuck

in a packed subway car or marching in place on a treadmill.

AUTUMN OF THE SERAPHS PINBACK (Quarterstick

Records) If you've never meandered from the musical mainstream, then make this CD your maiden voyage. Autumn of the Seraphs is indie rock at its finest: It's intricate without being indulgent, unique but not pretentious, and melodic without being saccharine.

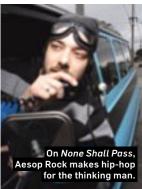
PLAY SKATE (EA Black Box; PS3, Xbox 360) Most skate games aren't

as fluid or fun

to control as an actual skateboard. Here, your fingers actually feel like extensions of the skater: Instead of punching plastic to create combos or add flair to a ride, you simply flick the miniature joystick for slick kickflips. ollies, and pop shuv-its. Tt's scab-free fun for armchair extremists.

HALO₃ (Bungie: Xbox 360)

The third Halo features a smart replay function that lets you record and play back (in slow motion) boastworthy beatdowns of opposing players. It's the perfect game for bringing friends together...so they can blow each other apart.



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Into the Wild chills

Who Hates Whom

(above); The Nine and

(right) explain the world.