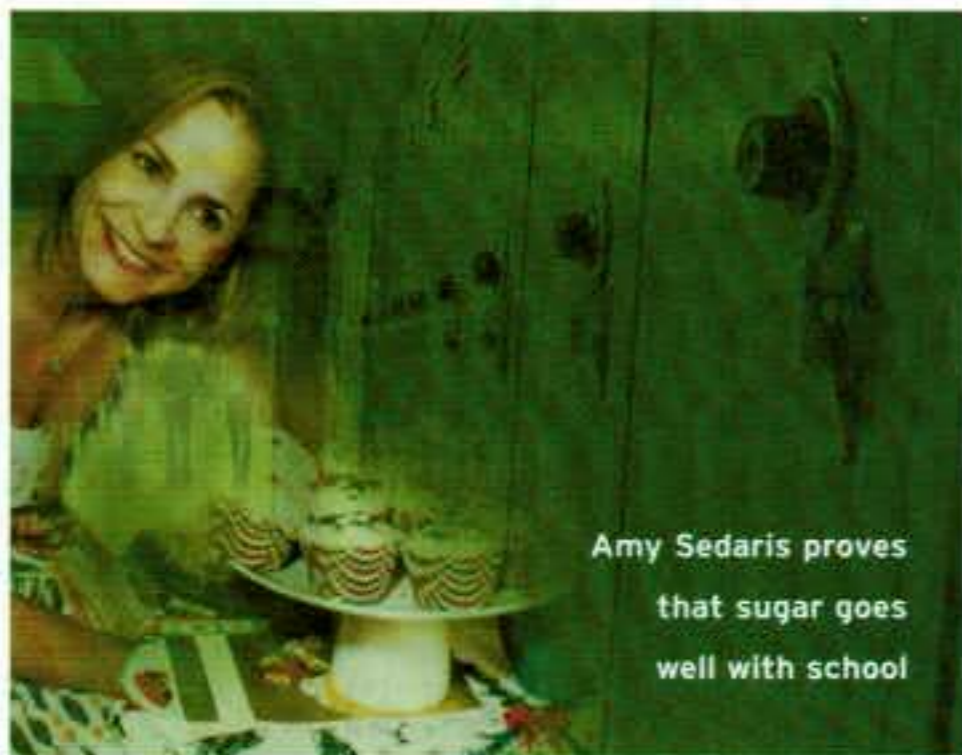


**STRANGERS WITH CANDY**

DIR. PAUL DINELLO (THINKFILM COMPANY)

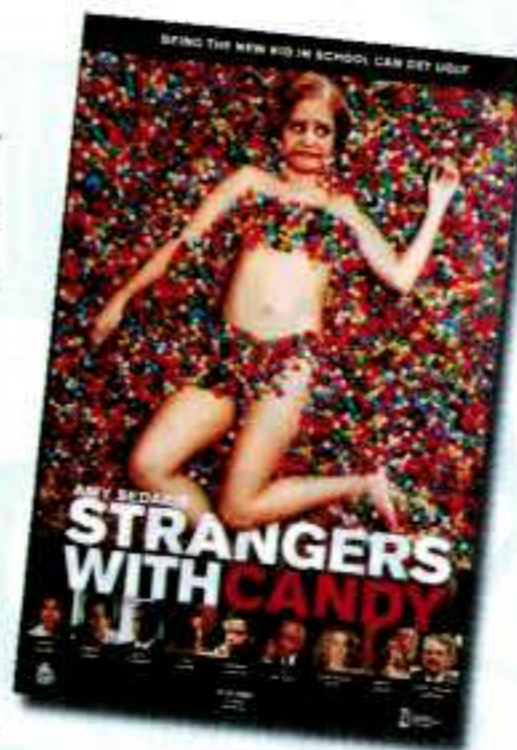
The film version of the hit Comedy Central show takes a hilariously irreverent stab at after-school specials and high school itself. Jerri Blank (Amy Sedaris) is a 47-year-old junkie/prostitute/degenerate who returns home from prison to find her father in a coma. Desperate to give him a reason to regain consciousness, she resolves to turn her life around and head back to high school. Jerri sets her scattered sights on winning the



Amy Sedaris proves that sugar goes well with school

Science Fair and quickly finds her allegiances torn between the well meaning but uncool kids and the popular crowd, who won't hesitate to use Jerri's need to feel accepted against her. Sedaris makes Jerri completely believable as both a borderline psychopath and an emotionally challenged creature who just wants to be accepted (weren't we all a bit of both in high school?). Reprising their roles from the show are Stephen Colbert as an evolution-disavowing science teacher, Paul

Dinello (who also directs) as the sensitive art teacher, and Greg Hollimon as Principal Blackman, who needs his school to win the Science Fair so the district will unfreeze his discretionary spending account. Cameos include Matthew Broderick as a narcissistic Science Fair producer and Sarah Jessica Parker as a grief counselor with a timer and a tip jar. The DVD features commentary by Dinello and Colbert that proves as entertaining as the film itself. **JEN KOGLER**



**SCARECROW VIDEO'S TOP RENTALS FOR OCTOBER**

1. "Lost": Season 2
2. "Arrested Development": Season 3
3. "The Office" (US): Season 2
4. Water (Deepa Mehta)
5. Battlestar Galactica 2.5
6. Grey's Anatomy: Season 2
7. Nip/Tuck: Season 3
8. The Wire: Season 3
9. Inside Man (Spike Lee)
10. Brick (Rian Johnson)

**BLACKALICIOUS**

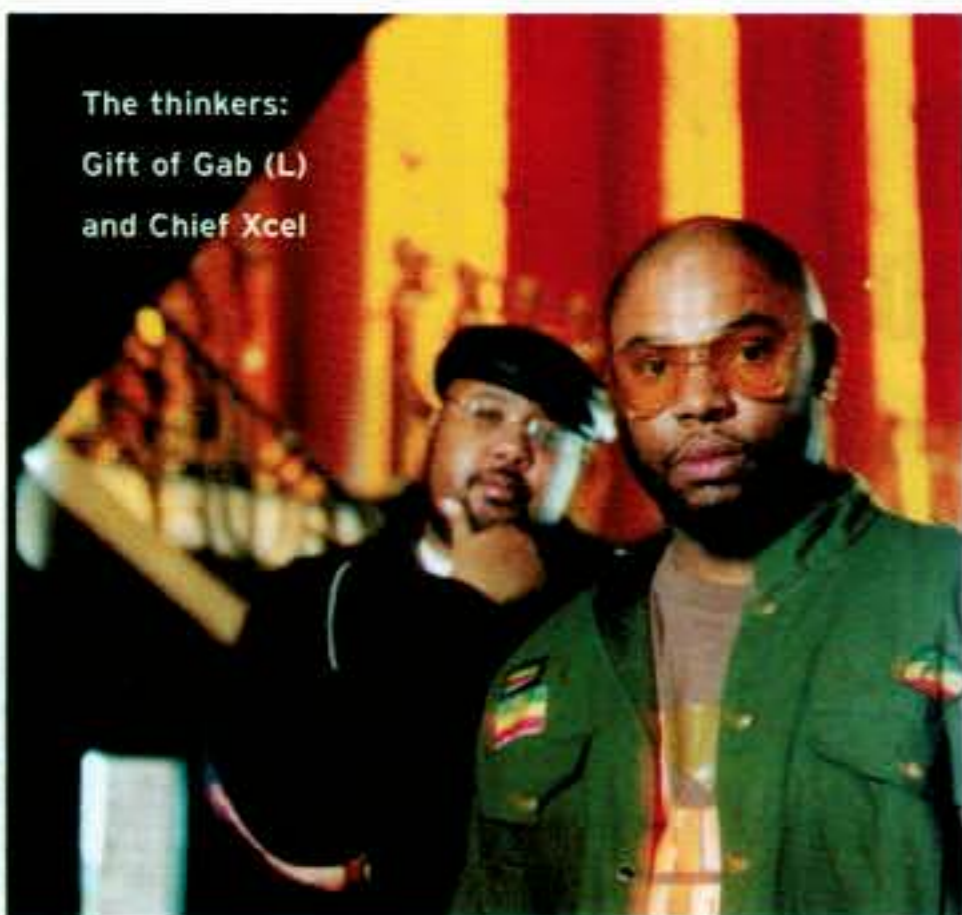
4/20 LIVE IN SEATTLE (MUSIC VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS)

It sounds like an ideal concert DVD: arguably the most accomplished hip-hop act in the business today comes to our biggest rock club on the April date cherished by weed-smokers for the myth of its symbolically laden numerology. The night the Showbox hosted this bill was a memorable one, and anyone there could tell you how well emcee Gift of Gab's matchless wordsmithery dropped atop turntablist Chief Xcel's ever-driving beat-down. The backing vocalists and one instrumentalist (who mercilessly attacked his keyboard as if it were a set of hand drums) added welcome textures, and the audience itself played utility man to the energy onstage. For the finale, the supporting acts—fellow Quannum-ist Pigeon John, Fatlip (formerly of the



Pharcyde), and Portland's own Lifesavas—joined in the fun for a semi-freestyle that left everyone wanting more.

Now more arrives, but it's a bit of a let-down. Sure, that night Blackalicious' hit on a number of the duo's most studied and gymnastic works ("Chemical Calisthenics," "Alphabet Aerobics," "Paragraph President," "Excellent/Pad & Pen"), but aside from these, most songs ended just as they were really taking off. The DVD then rather clumsily punctuates the set list with short interviews in which Gab and Xcel talk primarily about their musical influences against a backdrop of the Showbox bar. Tour interviews provide the only extras, and in all, the whole show suggests that any fan or curious listener's 20 bucks might be better



The thinkers: Gift of Gab (L) and Chief Xcel

spent picking up as much of the used Blackalicious back catalogue as possible. Yet as an artifact, 4/20 bears testament to Seattle's more or less recent resurgence as a national hip-hop nexus, another welcome notch, however niche-y, in the city's cultural bedpost. **JASON KIRK**

**Five releases Scarecrow Video looks forward to in November:**

1. *Double Life of Veronique*—Krzysztof Kieslowski's (Red, White, Blue) directs a tale two women unknowingly living parallel lives. (11/21, criterionco.com)
2. *LoudQUIETLoud: A Film about the Pixies*—Behind the scenes documentary of the band's 2004 reunion tour. (11/7, mvddistribution.com)
3. *An Inconvenient Truth*—You know it's bad when polar bears start drowning. Get a bus pass, already. (11/21, homevideo.paramount.com)
4. *Wassup Rockers*—Larry Clark (*Kids*) takes a gentler than usual approach to the plight of teen Latino punks in South Central L.A. (11/21, flp.com)
5. *William S. Burroughs, A Junky's Christmas*—Part live action, part Claymation, this is Burroughs' story, narrated by the author. Includes the short films *Traveling Light* and *Ironbound*. (11/7, kochvision.com)

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY JEN KOGLER