Calling all elven clerics

This weekend it’s the one, the only, DragonCon, the only place on the whole planet where you can discuss, in full view of the public, just how many dragons your dwarven warrior has slain. The event takes place at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta starting Friday at 1 p.m. and runs until 5 p.m. Saturday. Tickets cost $60-$70 in advance and $85 at the door.

Wind through MAiZE of corn

Because it’s too weird to pass up, why not spend your Labor Day Weekend wandering around a labyrinth of corn? The MAiZE at Cagle’s is open weekends from Sept. 4 to Nov. 21, Fridays 5:30 to 11 p.m.; Saturdays 10 to 11 p.m.; Sundays 1 to 6 p.m. The maze is at Cagle’s Dairy, 362 Stringer Road, Canton. Tickets cost $8.

Party with blues and barbecue

Come see Mudcat, The Breeze Boys, Blues Boy Slim and many others this weekend at the Masquerade and enjoy some tasty fare while you’re at it. The party kicks off at 11 a.m. and tickets will cost $15 for adults. The show is free for children under 12.

Egypt exhibit visits High

Through September 19, the High Museum of Art is showcasing a collection of more than 200 pieces of Egyptian art from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Items in the exhibit range over 4,200 years from the third millennium B.C. to the fourth century A.D. Tickets cost $8 for you students and $10 for the rest of you unwashed heathens. Kids 6 to 17 are $6. Kids under 6 are free.

Poker? Poke ‘em back!

Every Tuesday, Fado Irish Pub & Restaurant hosts a Texas Hold ‘em tournament at 7 p.m. So if you’re in the mood for a little drink, a little poker and fancy the tin-whistle as a viable musical instrument, you might want to stop by. Fado is across the street from ENZEN Zone at 2974 Grandview Ave NE in Buckhead.

See lasers over Stone Mountain

Every day this Labor Day Weekend at 9:30 p.m., Stone Mountain Park off of U.S. Highway 78 East is hosting a laser light and music show. Pack a blanket and a picnic and head out to the show. The cost is $7 per vehicle for admission and parking.

Twelve Girls Band plays Variety on U.S. tour

Centuries ago, during the Tang Dynasty, all-female ensembles called Yue Fang played in the royal courts of ancient China. Xiaoqing Wang, the man who is known as the father of Chinese rock, was inspired by the idea of Yue Fang and created an all-female ensemble of traditional Chinese musicians.

The result was Twelve Girls Band, a group of 12 conservatory-trained instrumentalists in their twenties who play a variety of ancient Chinese musical instruments.

Wang knew from the inception of his idea that the band would have to have 12 members. Twelve is a very important number in Chinese numerology and is considered to be lucky. If the band’s success so far is any indication, they have indeed been very lucky.

In Japan alone their debut album sold over two million copies and spent 30 weeks at the top of the charts. Twelve Girls Band released their first album in the US, Eastern Harmony, in 1995. Their second album, Live It Up, was released in 1998 and has sold over two million copies.

Happily, the band’s third album, Try To Believe, was released in 2000 and has been receiving critical acclaim from listeners around the world.

Twelve Girls Band is an instrumental ensemble from the People’s Republic of China. The members play traditional and ancient Chinese instruments and perform a wide variety of tunes ranging from the music that is traditionally played on their instruments to popular songs like Coldplay’s “Clocks.”

Dysfunction, laughs abound in Battle

Trudy Habersham (Deborah Childs) and Azalea Wieuca (Anna House) catch a glimpse of Ansley (Mike Clements) with fiancée Tiffani Storrs (Toi Mekhi). Trudy Habersham...and the strained relationship she has with her dysfunctional family.

Twelve, page 29
Tech’s aspiring comedians got in their share of laughs at Under the Couch last Friday with jokes about GPS-guided sex, squirrels on fire and the easily-targeted Richard Simmons.

They were the self-proclaimed nerds of the Institute, whose proud lack of women, among other scarcities, was aptly used as punch-line material.

Of the dozens of students in the audience (which was largely composed of the performers’ buds), the number of women was a handful at most.

Pete Ludovice was apparently bothered by this lack of female presence, because he repeatedly reminded the men of the audience of this sad fact.

Ludovice is a man of an interesting combination of talents, showcasing his outspokenness with a clean delivery of blasé lines..."

Apparently the Jacks can’t appreciate a good ol’ hackneyed cousin-marrying joke when they hear one. There goes the whistling bomb.

Perhaps what made the premature exit of Mr. McKrosky all the more painful were the popsicle wrapper comic standing up.

"Ludovice is a man of an interesting combination of talents, showcasing his outspokenness with a clean delivery of blasé lines..."

"...with a clean delivery of blasé lines..."

The winners will get another chance to showcase their stuff on September 17th at the Nerd Comedy Jam, which will feature female comedian Grandma Lee of Last Comic Standing fame. Ludovice would approve.

Under the Couch is located on West Campus under the Couch Building.

The winners were awarded $20 for third place (Mark Peterson), $30 for second place (Echezona Ukah) and $50 for first place (Mark Peterson). The winners will get another chance to showcase their stuff on September 17th at the Nerd Comedy Jam, which will feature female comedian Grandma Lee of Last Comic Standing fame. Ludovice would approve.

Under the Couch is located on West Campus under the Couch Building.

Live in Atlanta

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www.masqueradeatlanta.com
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9/3 Charles Feggall
Sonny Perdue, Zell Miller and Clark Howard are also the butt of numerous jokes.

Native Atlantas will notice the smart use of street names as character names (Holcomb, Wieuca and Habersham) and will get a kick out of the stereotypes made of cities outside of the posh perimeter.

The two-hour play sailed smoothly and quickly, and the only weakness I could easily spot was some over-acting by a few prominent main characters.

This could also just be interpreted as an accurate exaggeration of the types of stereotypes they are mocking, but a few take their roles a little too far.

The shallow and rapid Trudy worries more about the proper career and bone injections than the feelings of her children. She even refuses to admit that her eldest son is actually gay, even though he had a life partner of eight years who recently died.

Outspoken, snobby and self-indulgent, Trudy runs her household with an air of ease, that is, until she meets her match in her future daughter-in-law, Tiffani Storr.

The unassuming bride-to-be is not afraid of Trudy and her vicious verbal attacks and serves [her] an extra-spicy platter of hot wing style and attitude.

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The cast of eight accurately portrays the exaggerations of their respective characters but sometimes they are too top over the top even for this satire.

Gibson and Morris co-wrote Peachtree Battle and filled it to the brim with clever (and often insensitive) one-liners and witty jabs at stereotypes they are mocking, but a few take their roles a little too far.

Tickets are $23.50 each, or $21.50 for groups of twenty or more. No student discounts are offered. Performances are held weekly every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. Visit www.ansleyparkplayhouse.com for more information and to purchase tickets in advance, or call the box office at (404) 875-1193 to reserve seats.

Sherwood Habersham (Shields Upchurch) offers his son Ansley some fatherly advice on relationships.

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Peach

from page 21

a celebration held in honor of the newest addition to their family, the youngest son’s fiancée, an African-American Hoosiers waitress!

Apart from the expected initial shock of her favorite son’s plans to marry this “outsider,” Trudy vows to fix the problem before it begins with no regard to her son’s happiness.

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between the remaining characters and the “snake orgy” mentioned in the trailer. And for whatever it’s worth, I did a little research and found that the “mating ball” that the anacondas form in the film is based at least loosely on fact. The snake attacks look rather weak thanks to CGI that doesn’t seem to have progressed much since the first film. However, Little wisely shows as little as possible and uses sound effectively to keep the action engaging. Also, the reptiles here are about a million times faster than the ones we met last time, which ups the intensity considerably.

The movie works also thanks to Johnny Messner’s performance as Johnson. Basically a poor man’s Henry Rollins, Messner delivers every speech with bulging eyes and over the top conviction. It’s actually possible that he made it through the whole ordeal without blinking.

In the end, “Anacondas” doesn’t pull many punches, so viewers will know whether they’ll enjoy it before entering the theater. Most likely, many felt sure they were above it after reading the title. The film probably won’t change this expectation. However, for open-minded audiences sick of mediocre Hollywood fare that’s never quite good, but never quite bad enough to really laugh at, the film is a hilarious, thrilling ride over in a little speed-trap known as Newellton, Louisiana. The whole ordeal was a complete crock and the cop who wrote me the ticket was an utter buffoon of the highest order.

I can’t even imagine what could have been going through this guy’s tallow-clogged mind when he decided that I was 38 years old, especially given that he had already written down my birth date correctly to within two years (oh for God’s sake). But judging from the gravitational forces emanating from his belly, I’d be willing to wager that it involved eating something deep-fat-fried that really had no business being that way, perhaps a whole, live pig. Something on that order of ridiculous magnitude."

Anyway, I called them the other day to find out how much I was supposed to pay for my fine because apparently, officers of the law can’t be expected to do basic math on the spot like that.

Though get this: there wasn’t anyone there.

At the police department there was nobody home. That’s somewhere in the same range of terrifyingly horrible as an air traffic controller taking a weed nap.

This is, of course, unless my little cautionary tale about the good officer turns out to be more prophetic than I would have liked. If the whole town is overrun by undead, flesh-eating zombies, then more than likely you’ll wanna keep on going. And probably roll up your windows, too.

“At this point, I’d like to point out that, usually, I don’t hold with fat jokes, being that I’ve been referred to, on more than one past occasion, as ‘lunch box.’"

But the way I see it, if your job is to stand against and (God help this poor bastard) periodically chase down the forces of chaos and evil, and you manage while you’re doing it, your fat-ass is fair game.
Indie-rocker Butch Walker releases sophomore album, *Letters*

By Hailey Espy
Contributing Writer

Laced with intricate piano passages and tinged with raw emotion, Butch Walker breaks the boundaries of his indie-rocker, guitar-laden stereotype with the release of his second solo album, *Letters*. The Epic Records release hit stores Tuesday, Aug. 24.

The week held much excitement for Walker and the city of Atlanta with a CD release party last Tuesday and a sold-out show at Variety Playhouse August 27th.

In conjunction with 99X, Tower Records in Buckhead hosted a live performance and CD signing at 7 p.m. last Tuesday.

The line to meet Butch Walker at the release party wrapped around the entire building, and fans turned out in droves Friday night to catch the inimitable live performance with American Hi-Fi.

Like his first solo album, *Left of Self Centered*, Walker wrote, performed, produced and sang all of his own material.

*Letters* moves away from the remnants and rants of hometown drama and of the rocker lifestyle to reveal a more introspective view of personal relationships and his personal struggle with the Los Angeles music scene.

Walker’s sophomore album emulates a mature sound with simple melodic patterns and heartfelt lyrics.

Jennifer Grabowski, a third-year Biology major, commented how much Walker’s music transcends distant rocker tirades to relate to individual struggles, “The album seems more personal—as if he’s speaking to me.”

The first single, “Mixtape,” typifies the mellow acoustic vibe carried throughout the entire album.

“Promise” highlights a classic Butch Walker jazzy, punk rock feel, and “Best Thing You Never Had” rides a roller coaster of emotion through the rock ballad.

Each song on the album pulls together a theme of honesty and personal experience conveyed with a fairly down-to-earth acoustic feel fused with Butch’s distinct indie-punk rock sound.

By Hailey Espy
Contributing Writer

Butch Walker just celebrated the release of his latest album, *Letters*, with a release party last Tuesday. He then played to a sold-out crowd at Variety Playhouse that Friday.
ACROSS

1. Airline connection points
5. Island off Venezuela
10. Rum cake
14. Belt
19. Novelist - Waugh
20. Stand-offish one
21. Race-track shape
22. Type predecessor
23. Whiz
24. Diacritical mark
25. Satiate
26. Soundtrack
27. 1991 Cusack-Spader film
29. Bridges, of a sort
31. Diner
32. - Paulo
33. Actor - Perlman
34. Nailed at an angle
35. Manhattan campus
37. Has-been
39. Pale
40. Ben Gurion arrival
44. Mode of salute
48. Corrida star
51. Make up for
52. Physicians' org.
53. Mickelson's game
55. Restrict
56. Puts up
57. "Hooking Up" author
59. Swiss canton
61. Hill dweller
62. Necklace piece
63. Name in 2000 headlines
64. Environmentalist - Carson
67. " - h Romantic?"
68. Provide with hands
69. Test format

DOWN

1. Waste maker?
2. Extremist
3. Outstanding example
4. Multiplex count
5. Choir member
6. Churns
7. Pour out one’s feelings
8. Boudoir
9. Aggressive deity
10. Big success
11. Of the birds
12. Arroz partner
13. Of a stellar team
14. Freshet
15. Crime mag
16. Took the bus
17. Fighting
18. Milne’s Winnie the -
20. Refrigerant
30. Geologist's reckoning
33. From memory
35. Established custom
41. Canal feature
42. Get in the game
43. - we forget
44. Hemmed and -
45. Soap plant
46. Actress - shine
47. Brief snowfall
49. Sorento neighbor
50. Racket
51. "Peace and War" author
54. Herr’s partner
55. Otherwise
58. Fraud
60. Add frosting
61. Jungfrau, for one
63. Deep cut
64. 1970s political issue
65. Foreman
66. Mountain debris
67. U.N. member since
1949
69. Subscribe to
70. Jungfrau, for one
71. Sediment
73. - voce
74. Free-for-all
75. Man-made fiber
77. Healthy
79. Rio playground
80. Injury’s aftermath
81. Vegetarian’s purchase
82. Downfall
83. Blemish
84. Baseball’s - Ripken
85. Fashion in the forum
86. B&B
87. Fashion’s - Claiborne
88. Menu feature
89. Fashion in the forum
90. Eglantine
91. Tiny fish
92. Grammarian’s advice
93. Gymnast - Comaneci
94. Worshipper’s place
95. Mid-Atlantic resort
96. Devilish
97. Ford offering
98. Norse character
99. Norse character
100. Expert
101. Newsman - Cronkite
102. Newman - Cronkite
103. July 1945 event in N.M.
104. Of the birds
105. July 1945 event in N.M.
106. Eglantine
107. Tiny fish
108. Greek letter
109. Grammarian’s advice
110. Youth org.
111. Gymnast - Comaneci
112. Waste allowances
113. Crush
114. Skier’s trolley
115. Ancient empire
116. "QB VII" author
117. Gumbo
118. "The Prairie" composer
119. Sword for sport

See Solutions, page 37
It might be expected that a group so large as 12 would have quite a stage presence, but nothing could have prepared me for the way that this ensemble lit the stage on fire with their energy.

Throughout the performance, each of the girls took time between songs to introduce her instrument.

"...It seems that this band has wide appeal and is quickly gaining fans and admirers all over the country."

Some of those instruments included a pear-shaped lute with four strings called a pipa, a two-string fiddle known as an erhu and a dizi, or bamboo flute, among others.

Each of the girls introduced herself in careful English and then proceeded to explain her instrument in Chinese. The explanations were then translated into English. No translation was needed, however, for the extraordinary performance.

The show closed with a pair of very upbeat tunes that inspired a standing ovation and a call for an encore. The encore was the liveliest of all of the songs played that night. The audience clapped along and then gave another standing ovation at the end.

There is simply nothing like this ensemble in any genre. Twelve Girls Band is not just another fusion novelty or world music craze. They are something different altogether.

Judging by the diversity of Sunday’s crowd, it seems that this band has wide appeal and is quickly gaining fans and admirers all over the country.

I found myself completely awestruck by every aspect of the Twelve Girls Band’s performance. From their appearance on stage in coordinating black-and-white outfits to the sheer mastery each girl had of her instrument to simply how moving each song was, it became apparent why they have been so successful.

The tour brought them to Variety Playhouse in L5P on Sunday where they played to a full house. It almost seems unexpected that such a niche band would have such a draw, but once they started to play, it was apparent as to why their music has such appeal.

The 90-minute set that they played encompassed a wide variety of styles. Played entirely on classical Chinese instruments with pre-recorded accompaniment, the songs ranged from traditional and popular Chinese songs to popular western music. Notable covers that they performed were Coldplay’s “Clocks” and “Only Time” by Enya.

The instruments that were played by the band members produced beautiful and exotic tones that brought new and unusual life to songs that are otherwise somewhat cliché in the realms of world and classical music.